

LENOX IOWA



2022-2024

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Cover photo courtesy of Jeanine Lynam
Lenox Promotional Magazine and
various advertising throughout
designed by Heather Samo

"Lenox - Pearl of the Prairie"

Put on your coat and your vest,
Travel east, travel west,
You will find many sights that are grand,
You may search the whole world over,
And think you're in clover,
At the glories of this land,
But to us, this little city,
Is the Pearl of the Prairie, you see-
We have spent our mint in travel,
We've gone and beat the gravel,
But we've come back again,
We sing of memories of long ago,
We sing of loves that fade away,
We sing the songs of our heroes' return,
Cherished by all those who know,
We sing of promises for the future,
We sing of things from which we must part,
But knowing the joys of a memory so deep,
We sing with hope in our hearts,
Put on your coat and your vest,
Travel east, travel west,
You may search for the land that is best,
You may climb the highest mountain,
And gaze at every fountain,
But you'll come home to rest,
For to us, this little city,
Is the Pearl of the Prairie, you see,
There's a pride deep inside us
to which we cling,
Lift your voice on high and sing.

- Margaret Whipp, Lenox Native
Previously published in the "History of
Lenox 1872-1972" Centennial Book.

Always here to help and heal.

Health care is essential to the fabric of a strong community. That's why our medical team is proud to provide high quality care in our hospital and clinics. The friendly expertise you've come to expect continues at CHI Health. Let's stay healthy, together.

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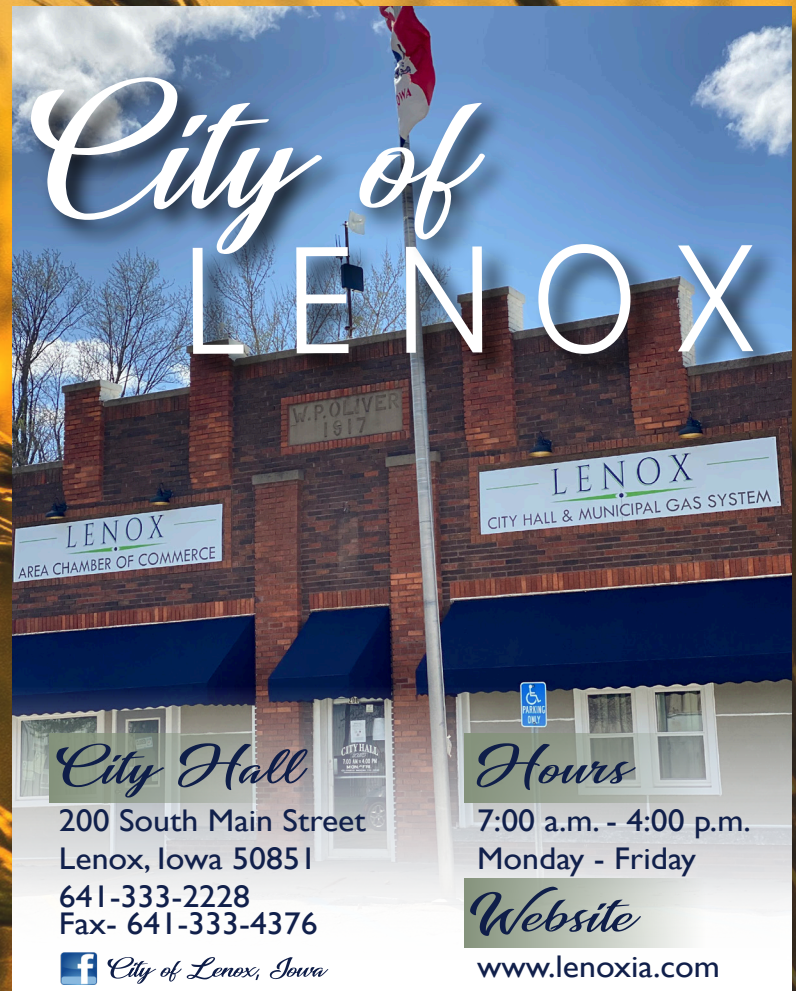
Welcome

Think back to a simpler time, where everyone knows everybody's name. Welcome to Lenox - where you can find small-town living focused on family and friends, with big city amenities not far from reach in Des Moines, Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska, and Kansas City, Missouri.

Together with small businesses, organizations, and individuals, the Lenox Area Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to promoting growth and prosperity for our community.

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that we bring you the official 2022-2024 Lenox Promotional Magazine and Community Guide. Whether you live in the area, own a local business, or are reading this as a prospective resident or business owner, we hope this guide will be an effective resource.

Please use this magazine as a guide to help you shop locally within our area. The money that is spent in our small town helps fund our school, creates more jobs, and strengthens our local economy. Help preserve our small town by visiting our one-of-a-kind businesses!



Lenox, Iowa



This is our town

1. Lenox City Hall
2. Lenox Community School
3. Lenox City Park & Pool
4. Precious People Preschool
5. Vintage Park Apartments
6. Lenox Care Center
7. Sports Complex
8. North Fairview Cemetery
9. Fairview Cemetery
10. West Fairview Cemetery
11. Lenox Municipal Golf Course
12. Tennis, Pickleball, Shuffleboard, Basketball & 4-Square Courts

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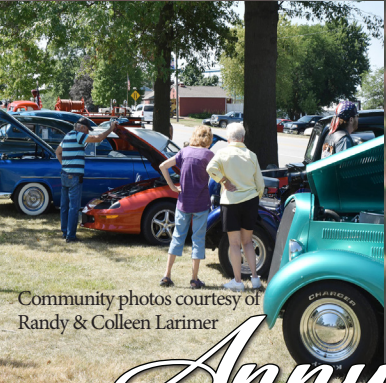
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www.lenoxia.com 5



Community photos courtesy of Randy & Colleen Larimer

Annual Community Activities

Spring

- **Valentine Gift Basket Giveaway-** A drawing for gift baskets filled with various items provided by multiple businesses.
- **Lenox Annual Banquet & Rural/ Urban Ag Day-** A banquet held typically in March, expressing appreciation for the livestock and grain production industry, as well as urban community involvement and celebrating our chamber and businesses in the community.
- **Easter Egg Hunt-** The Saturday before Easter at the Lenox Community School for all area children.
- **Bowl-a-Rama-** An area bowling tournament held at Tiger Lanes, typically in April.
- **Teacher Appreciation-** An event held in April to show our gratitude to the Lenox Community educators.
- **City Wide Cleanup-** Annual town beautification event, sponsored by the city, to assist residents with cleanup of unused items of all sizes
- **Lenox Annual Alumni Banquet-** The Saturday before Memorial Day, this welcoming home of all Lenox graduates takes place in the Lenox High School Building.

- **Old Fashioned Fun Night-** Family fun activities on Main Street before and after the Lenox Rodeo Parade. Food vendors and beverages are available.
- **Lenox Rodeo-** The fourth week in July, and sponsored by the Lenox Stock and Saddle Club, this event attracts thousands to a three night performance (Thursday, Friday & Saturday.)
- **Steel on Wheels Car Show and Activities-** Held in the Lenox city park in August.

Autumn

- **Lenox Community School Homecoming-** This fun-filled day starts with a parade in the afternoon, incorporating school classes, activities, organizations, and community businesses and services, followed by a football game in the evening- *Go Tigers!*
- **Trunk or Treat & Halloween Parade-** This event takes place downtown before trick or treating. Businesses and residents are encouraged to decorate their vehicle's trunk for trunk or treating during the parade. The Lenox Chamber sponsors a light meal after the parade for all area children.

Summer

- **Community Yard Sale Weekend-** The first Saturday in June, including a variety of yard and garage sales. Contact the Lenox Time Table for the current year map of participants.
- **Lenox Chamber Golf Tournaments:**
 - 9 hole par 3 golf tournament-** The third Friday in June.
 - Wine & 9-** Date annually determined.
- **Summer Golf Tournaments-** The Lenox Municipal Golf and Country Club hosts couples, 4 person best shot, and individual tournaments throughout the season.
- **Lenox Rodeo Parade-** The Wednesday night before the Lenox Rodeo, starting at the Lenox Depot, and continuing North on Main Street.

Winter

- **Christmas Carnival-** The Friday after Thanksgiving at the Lenox Community Center. This proves to be a fun afternoon for the kids with a variety of activities including picture taking with Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- **Bright Lights and Shining Hospitality-** Starting the Friday night after Thanksgiving, this festive beginning to the Christmas season commences with the lighting of the beautiful Christmas displays at the Lenox City Park, and continues with the lighting of the Christmas tree on Main Street and decorations at the Lenox Depot.
- **Bright Lights Cruise Night-** The first Wednesday in December when businesses and individuals light up windows and park lighted floats for spectators "cruising" up and down Main Street to enjoy.

Celebrating Our Sesquicentennial

FOUNDED: 1871

NAMED FOR: The daughter of a railroad executive

INCORPORATED: 1875

POST OFFICE: 1872-Present

1880 CENSUS POPULATION: 615

2020 CENSUS POPULATION: 1,339

THE CREATION OF THE TOWN:

In 1870 work was wrapping up on the completion of a Chicago, Burlington and Quincy branch line that ran from Creston to St. Joseph, Missouri. Lenox was platted along this line initially as "Summit," but the name was quickly changed as Summit was already taken. The earliest commercial buildings in town were located between Temple and Ohio on Main Street and included Madden's Dry Goods store and a "Fancy" grocery store with meat market. The established early buildings were primarily Italianate two story in design with corbels and decorative cornices. The depot was located two blocks south at Main and Iowa. The first residents in town were N.J. Allen, A.S. Beymer, and G.L. Brooks.

The first public building in town was a school, built in 1874 with two rooms and 25 students attended in its first term. The number jumped to 62 for the following session. The first brick school was completed in 1880 and by then the pupils numbered over 200. 1886 saw the first high school graduating class.

One of the highlights of the Lenox Centennial book, printed in 1972 was a record of early ordinances in town. The fathers of the town instilled a high sense of morality and dealt with a variety of vices—from traffic to prostitution with the law. Intoxication was a misdemeanor as was gambling. Persons caught wagering on dice or cards were subjected to a fifty dollar fine (a significant amount at the turn of the century). Fines were also imposed for hitching your steed to a tree, beating a "dumb animal," either flying kites or rolling hoops on a street or alley where a horse might get spooked, and if you're a business owner, not having watertight vaults

for your public outhouse. Speed was apparently also an issue and there were various speeding rules dating back to the 1890's—though one wonders how they measured it accurately. My personal favorite was the disturbing the peace ordinance where "noise, false fire alarms, the blowing of horns or instruments, obscene language, quarreling, or fighting," were all subject to a fine not to exceed \$100. For most infractions, the fine could be substituted by hard labor by cleaning up the streets.

There is an unusual urban legend concerning the naming of the town some of the residents claimed that the name was derived from a lazy ox owned by one of the early pioneers. The ox would lean on whatever it could—hence the name "Lean-ox."

One might wonder what kinds of businesses were in Lenox back in the old days. There were many. The Des Moines register reported in 1901 that there were four general stores, two grocers, three drug stores, three shoe stores, a brick yard, the Thompson Mill producing flour, three hotels, three banks, a furniture shop, an undertaker, three bakers, two liverys, two restaurants, two jewelers, a piano and organ dealer, two dentists, four milliners, six doctors, two lumber yards, a wagon maker, bowling alley, photography studio, a cheese factory, two other creameries, a veterinarian, three blacksmiths, four coal yards, seven brokers and realtors, three elevators, and a switchboard office.

Written By Dave Baker, The 29th State
Sesquicentennial Slogan by Sheila O'Riley
and Logo by Heather Samo



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THE LENOX TIME TABLE



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The Lenox Rotary club has existed for over 80 years with the common goal of service before self. Our community service club meets every Monday at noon at Town Center and we always welcome guests. The Lenox Rotary club features business men and women of the community both actively working and in retirement. Our annual projects include, but are not limited to- clean up day, where we pick up trash throughout the town, an academic banquet honoring the top 10 academic seniors each year and their families with a meal and program, new teacher's welcome dinner each fall, and a rotary Christmas program for our community. Our involvement in the community can be consistently spotted throughout various projects, including the Lenox sign off of Highway 34. We also take great pride in participating in Rotary's international work as well. Specifically we have contributed to the fight eradicating polio, providing wells and medical supplies for foreign communities, and providing bikes to families to get to and from jobs and school.



Rotary



www.lenoxia.com 9

Photo courtesy of Debbie Larson

Lenox Community School

The mission of the Lenox District is to provide a safe and challenging environment for student growth in knowledge, character, and life skills.

The Lenox Community School District started in 1978 and has been excelling since. Our student enrollment PK-12 is 500+, and we employ more than 90 individuals. Twenty-five percent of our student enrollment is Hispanic.

The current high school building was built in 1968 while the elementary was located at 301 W. Michigan Street. The elementary joined the high school building in 2005 through the financing of a \$4 million bond referendum that was passed in 2003 and a Physical Plant and Equipment Levy. In 2013, four additional safe room classrooms were added on the west side of the building in response to the 2011 tornado that hit Lenox. The majority of the costs for that addition was state and federally funded.

In 2020, the Lenox community invested \$13 million in the school using a combination of a bond referendum and state-wide sale tax.

(Continued on Page 11)



Progress photos courtesy of Liz Jessen



Photo courtesy of Heather Samo

This allowed the district to replace the elementary roof and high school windows in the main hallway on both the east and west sides of the building. It also allowed the district to add the following spaces:

- Four elementary classrooms (south west corner)
 - CTE area, shop and ag classrooms and industrial tech shop (northeast corner)
 - Auxiliary gym (south of the current high school gym)
 - Locker rooms, weight/fitness area, concessions, lobby, and restrooms (north side of building)
 - Instrument storage, high-density music storage, and an office
- The wrestling/weight rooms have been

transformed into a training room and storage rooms for physical education and sports/activities. The industrial tech shop became the wrestling room.

Also, handicap accessible bleachers on both the guest and visitor sides were installed in the fall of 2021. The crow's nest has four fully-enclosed rooms. The north parking lot is being reconfigured and extended on the north-east side.

As you can see, the Lenox Community School District continues to thrive and grow. It's great to be a Tiger!

Liz Jessen, High School Principal



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Youth Encompassed Clubs & Projects

Lenox Sports Boosters

The Lenox Sports Boosters have a long and proud tradition of successfully supporting athletic programs through monetary donations and volunteer hours. Their role has become even more important as state funding declines for public schools.

Annual membership drives provide the majority of their budget. Other fundraisers throughout the year also help to support Pre-K-12 grade athletic programs. All funds go to purchase or improve athletic training equipment, uniforms, and provide team camp entry fees for all sports.

Past projects include the purchase of a new Tiger mascot costume, double half racks with benches for the weight room, signage for the Tiger Network, and assisted with the purchase and installation of a permanent baseball/softball outfield fence at the Lenox Youth Sports Complex.

Those visiting the Lenox community will note the "L" logo or paw prints on sidewalks and drives to show their support for the Lenox Community School and student activities, another project of the Lenox Sports Boosters.

Lenox PTO

Lenox PTO is a parent-teacher organization which focuses on providing a collaboration between staff and parents at the Lenox Community School.

Each year, the PTO establishes school-wide goals. Some of their funds are used to purchase items to reward students who display positive behaviors through their P.A.W.S (Promote Kindness, Act Responsible, Work Hard, and Show Respect).

They provided Lenox Tiger t-shirts to all students and staff in JK-12 so everyone can display their school spirit on black and gold days as well as on school trips. They also added more swings for the elementary playground and treated staff with food and snacks during the fall and spring parent-teacher conferences.

Some of the PTO fundraisers have included selling metal yard signs featuring the Tiger paw or the Lenox "L" logo on them and is another way the community shows its support for the Lenox Community School, students, and staff.

Lenox Youth Sports Complex

The Lenox Youth Sports Complex is located south of the Lenox Community School. Little league, t-ball, soccer, and baseball and softball games for the younger youth in the community are played on these fields.

Lighting for evening activities, modern restrooms, a concession stand, and bleachers are also a part of the sports complex, making it an ideal setting for tournaments.

Taylor County Endowment grants, along with generous donations of money, time, and equipment from the community, made this complex a reality.

Committees and parents continually work on updates and additions to the complex for more areas for recreational activities.

The walking trail surrounds the Youth Sports Complex, making it an attractive area for families to be active.

Photo- <https://www.facebook.com/LxCSD/>



Lenox Public LIBRARY



Shari Burger, Lenox Library Director

The Lenox Public Library was organized March 17, 1941. It was originally located in two rooms in the Farmers and Merchants Bank building. In 1974, the old First National Bank building, located on the corner of Temple and Main, was donated to the City to be used as a library, by Ralph Zabel and Elmer Bose.

Today the library offers:

- Books, audio books, e-books, large print books, and movies
- Computers, iPads, color printer, scanner, copier, fax machine
- Free internet access
- Community activities - Adult and children's programming
- Taylor County and Lenox history, cemetery records, newspaper archives and school year books
- VHS to DVD conversion, proctoring service, ABCMouse
- Inter-library loan

Hours:

Monday: 10-12 and 1-6

Tuesday through Friday: 10-12 and 1-5:30

Saturday: 9-12

Come visit us!

101 N Main Street Lenox, Iowa 50851

641-333-4411

Fax 641-536-0015



Lenox Public Library

Email: library@lenoxia.com

Website: www.lenox.lib.ia.us



Pictured left, newly renovated exterior

Mission Statement: The Lenox Public Library creates a welcoming environment which nurtures lifelong learning and fosters connections to community and family histories.

La Centre de Danse

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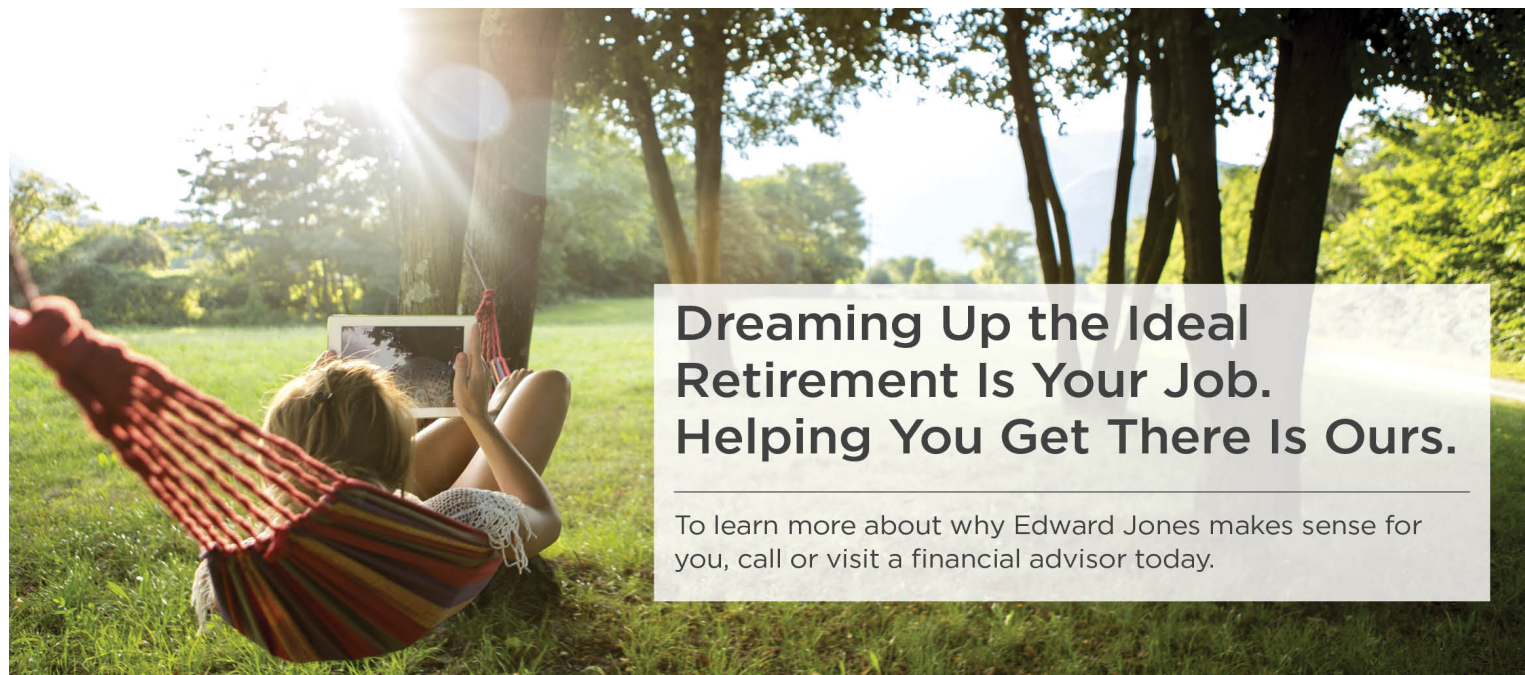
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to your table

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Come Spend Some Time in Lenox

Reasons to shop local

- Local stores are more likely to carry locally produced foods which supports local agriculture
- Local business owners contribute to more local fundraising and non-profit groups
- Local businesses provide a majority of jobs
- Local businesses support other local businesses
- Business community becomes reflective of its unique culture
- Sales tax paid supports the community by fixing roads and purchasing equipment for emergency services
- Competition and diversity result in fair prices and more choices
- Local business owners invest in the community and have vested interest in the future of the community



PLANT YOUR ROOTS HERE

Community Clubs & Organizations

Federated Clubs

Lenox Rotary

Recreational

Women's Bowling League

Men's Bowling League

Lenox Golf and Country Club

Little League Boys & Girls

Tri-Lake Shooters Club

Senior Golf Club

School Organizations

Board of Education

Lenox PTO

Lenox Sports Boosters

Performing Arts Boosters

Peer Helpers

FCCLA

FFA

Church Organizations

Ecumenical Women

Lenox Ministerial Association

Christian Women's Club

Methodist Men's Club

Christian Youth

Other

Ambulance

American Legion Auxiliary

Boy Scouts

Cattlemen's Association

Chamber of Commerce

City Council

Corn Growers Association

Development Corporation

Girl Scouts

Leading Ladies of Lenox

Lenox Fire Department

Lenox Community Trust

Lenox Sorority Sisters

Lenox Stock & Saddle Club

Lenox Tourism

Pork Producers

Soybean Association

Taylor County Reserve Officers

Taylor County Historical Society



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Housing in Lenox

As our town grows, so does the availability of housing for all budget types.

Whether you are in the market to buy or rent, in search of houses or apartments, there are a variety of options available.

Stop by one of the real estate offices in town for more information on available listings and rentals, and "Plant your Roots" in Lenox!

Golden Villa Apartments

301 E Ohio Street

641.782.8585

Lenox Homes

315 S Walnut Street

641.333.4569

Lenox Park Apartments

409 E Ohio Street

641.333.2291

Sunrise Apartments

401 E Ohio Street

641.333.4415



Dalton

A G P R O D U C T S

602 E Van Buren St, Lenox, Iowa



Proud Heritage

Founded in Lenox, we are proud of the deep agricultural roots we have placed in this community. We produce American made products to support American workers.

Bright Future

Our future is full of opportunity, with advancements in our manufacturing systems we are able to provide quality fertilizer application equipment to farmers at an affordable price.



For employment opportunities, please visit DaltonAg.com, call us at 800-342-7498 or stop by our manufacturing facility.

The Lenox

COMMUNITY CENTER

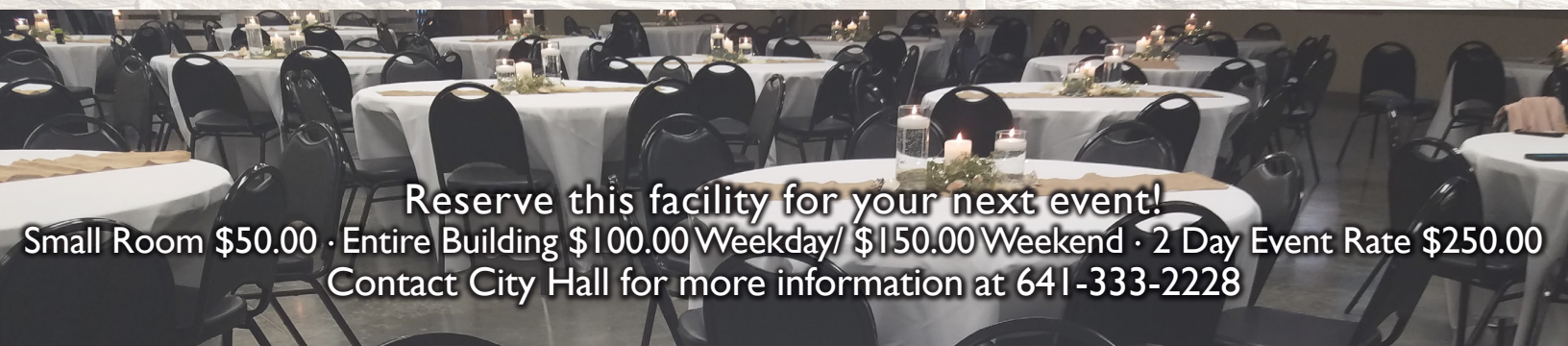
This facility is open to the public & includes the following amenities:

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A P A R T M E N T S

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Our Assisted Living community features five different floor plans ranging from studio apartments to two-bedroom apartments.

Our Memory Care at Vintage Park has created a safe, positive, and calming environment which meets the individualized care needs of Alzheimer's and dementia residents while maintaining the loving touches of home and family.



Amenities

- Community Dining Room
- Salon/Barber Shop
- Complimentary Coffee Shop
- Common Area for Activities
- Laundry Facilities
- Bake Shop/Family Dining for Guests
- Whirlpool Spa Room
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Owners: Cindy & Don Cox

22 Lenox • Plant your Roots Here

American Legion Auxiliary

On November 12, 1919, the newly-organized American Legion in their national convention granted permission for an American Legion Auxiliary. The Lenox ladies were busily making plans and had a local unit already organized by their first official meeting of March 3, 1921. There has been a very active unit in town ever since that date. The original charter contains 22 members. The 2019 membership has a total of 13 junior and 67 senior members. Not all are actively involved because of living in other states or in special residential facilities. Membership eligibility is dependent upon a military relative. The unit possesses all minutes and membership rosters since its inception.

The mission: Advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor the youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security. A few activities involve decorating the cemeteries, Veterans Day Supper, scholarship program, poppy distribution, ro-

deo parade float, Girls State, small donations to local entities plus the Pony Express, communion with the elderly through the bingo games, and facilitating the American Red Cross Bloodmobile.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Parkinson Unit #250, contact President Linda Weeber (641-344-0997) for details.



RITCHIE FUNERAL HOME

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Photo courtesy of Heather Samo

Leading Ladies of Lenox

The Leading Ladies of Lenox organization was founded early in 2019. Cindy Cox and Kristi Ritchie were brainstorming on how women could help revitalize Lenox. They held a kick-off meeting on March 19, 2019, with 20 women in attendance. The women agreed to form an organization and decided members would pay a \$100 fee that would be used as seed money for grants and fundraisers to complete projects in Lenox. In subsequent meetings, the number of members grew to 50. This organization is unique in that the members are very diversified with a diversity of affiliations, experiences, skills, and resources.

One of the first items of business was to come up with a name for the organization. Several names were suggested and voted upon with Leading Ladies of Lenox garnering the most votes. The group decided to focus their efforts on projects that would improve Main Street as they felt this would have the most positive impact on the community.

Their first project was presenting the Lenox Community School with 25 care baskets for the families of disadvantaged students enrolling in school. The value of the baskets was about \$100 each and were compiled and donated by individual Leading Ladies of Lenox members.

Later in 2019, the City of Lenox invited the Wellmark Healthy Hometown initiative representatives to do a “walk-a-bout” in Lenox to evaluate the walk-ability and opportunities for fitness activities. Lenox citizens; organization representatives and students participated. The study showed several practices that could be added to Lenox to improve walk-ability and fitness activities. Two practices were pocket parks; small spaces to relax and gather, and curb bump-outs to add beauty and slow traffic. These practices resonated with the Leading Ladies of Lenox especially, due to the opportunity to transform an unused, dilapidated alley located in mid-Main Street.

Sheila O’Riley applied for many grants and the group solicited donations to complete the first pocket park and curb bump-out on the west side of Main Street. Others on the Pocket Park Committee were Cindy Cox, Diana Maharry,

Becky Smith, and Betty Marxen. The project was completed fall of 2020. The City of Lenox installed an iconic pedestal clock in the curb bump-out. The project went so well, the Leading Ladies of Lenox secured grants and donations to build a sister pocket park with curb bump-outs on the east side of Main Street. It was completed fall of 2021. Both projects were built by Lincoln’s Lawn Care & Landscaping. The City of Lenox and Lenox Municipal Utilities contributed to the projects, as well.

The pocket parks are owned by the City of Lenox and are open continuously to the public as spaces to relax, eat, gather, and hold events. Amenities include picnic tables, benches, raised flower planters, free little library box, customized lighted sculpture, the beautiful clock, and architectural steel header.

Also, in 2020, the Leading Ladies of Lenox secured grants and donations to commission Lenox alumna, Bailey Frey-Schnormier, her husband, and friends to paint the Heritage Mural on the north side of the Ritchie Funeral Home building on Main Street (Pictured left on page 28). They gave the artists artistic freedom with the design. The mural features a girl and horse (Lenox Rodeo heritage), peonies (like grandmas used to grow in the area), poppies (to honor our Veterans) and a pocket watch (indicating the passing of time; past, present, and future). It is very colorful and—well, a work of art!

Their next project, with funds secured, is a second mural on the south side of the east pocket park. Bailey Fry-Schnormier will head-up painting this mural, as well.

These projects have added beauty and function to Main Street. They have inspired other improvements by individual building owners. This is just what the Leading Ladies of Lenox wanted to see--more pride in and usage of Lenox’s Main Street and business areas. The organization has a large list of future projects to consider. We can’t wait to see what they do next!

Written By: Sheila O’Riley

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City of Lenox

Public Pool & Park

City Park :

The City of Lenox Park is located in the heart of Lenox and equipped with a basketball court, which doubles as a volleyball court, a beautiful fountain area with seating, picnic areas with two shelter houses, and modern playground equipment. The park also beautifully showcases a Veteran's memorial statue located at the northwest corner of the park.

Reserving:

To reserve the park shelter houses for your next event, contact City Hall at 641-333-2228.

City Pool :

The Lenox Municipal Swimming Pool is located at the city park. It is heated, and features two slides, a diving board, and a kiddie pool.

Memberships :

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Lenox Community Trail

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Let's get moving in Lenox!

Our town is promoting a more walkable and healthy community by providing safe routes to schools and parks, encouraging outdoor social interaction and fostering active, healthy lifestyles for its citizenry. We are on our way to be the healthiest, most active community in Taylor County.

It all started about 25 years ago when the City of Lenox and partners built the first trail segment on a former rail bed from the depot to just west of the school. This 0.2 mile trail remains today and is part of the present trail system.

Between 2014 and 2016, the City of Lenox built a new youth sports complex (baseball, softball and soccer fields) on the southern edge of the city, just south of the school and extended the trail through that neighborhood. Today, the trail is over one mile in total length and serves as a loop from downtown around the ball fields, soccer fields, the Community Center and the school complex.

The city's project now is to extend this walking trail to connect the existing trail system to the recently renovated tennis courts, the Three Lake Recreation area, which includes the municipal golf course (one of the best in southwest Iowa), RV park, shooting range, fishing ponds, a new housing subdivision, and picturesque open space.

The goal is to connect all of

the different recreational areas in town and provide a great, nearly 3 mile safe walking/biking environment for kids and adults. The Lenox Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2020, established outdoor recreation and a robust quality of life as strategic missions of the community. From this planning effort, a committee was formed to fulfill community desires for a more complete trail system.

Our mission is to encourage the entire community to be active and enjoy all the outdoor activities Lenox offers.

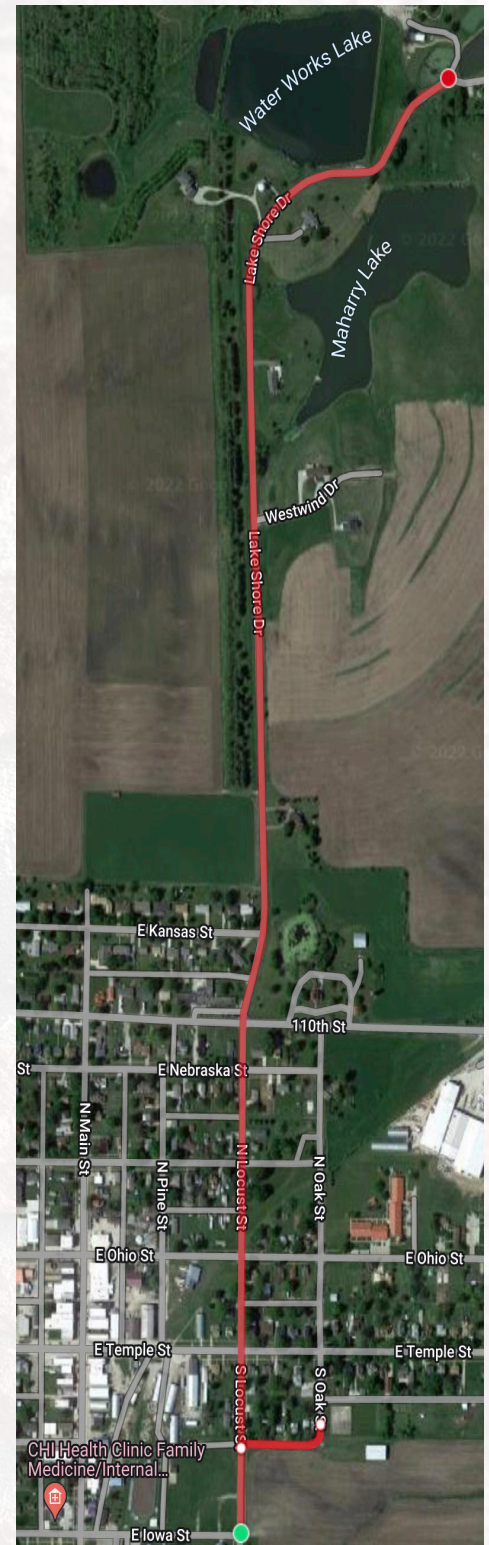
To further address the community's mission, in 2021, the tennis courts were repurposed to be a pickleball, 4 square, shuffleboard, tennis and basketball courts near the school. The master trail system even has a spur to this newly refurbished recreational area with activities for all ages.

This progressive community is always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in our town. Who knows what's the next project for Lenox? With community pride and volunteers, the possibilities are endless.

Come visit our town and see all of the fun recreational opportunities we offer. Go walking, biking, jogging, playing, fishing, and/or camping. ***We're on the move!***

Written by: Jo Adams

Pictured right is the projected three-phase walking trail extension layout



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Wilson Lake COUNTY PARK

Wilson Lake has been a staple for outdoor recreation in Taylor County since 1969. The park is owned and managed by the Taylor County Conservation Board. The park offers plenty of opportunities for visitors which include fishing, camping, and picnicking. If you haven't visited the park or it's been a while, the conservation board has been working arduously to improve the recreational experience for park visitors. Fishing at the lake has always been good, however the lake historically had a population of grass carp that had a negative impact on the fishery and on the water quality of the lake. The grass carp were removed from the lake in the fall of 2015 and the fishery has responded in a very favorable way. The lake now boasts a healthy fish population and water quality has drastically improved.

The conservation board has been actively pursuing grants to help fund new projects at the park. With the help of \$17,500 in Taylor County Endowment Foundation grant funding, a new playground was added next to the campground in 2017 and another new playground on the south side of the lake by the east shelter house in the late summer of 2021. The conservation board has also received two fish habitat grants totaling \$55,971 for improvements of fish habitat of the lake. These projects will start in the summer of 2022. These fish habitat grants will help shape/armor 1,250 feet of shoreline. Armoring will be done with 1,250 tons of class D riprap. Also with the grant money, four pea gravel spawning beds will be installed which will aide in the reproduction of panfish and largemouth bass.

The conservation board will continue to apply for grants for the betterment of the park and lake. Projects that are being considered are upgraded electrical and water for the current campsite and the addition of more campsites for the park. The future for Wilson Lake is bright. If you haven't ever visited the park or it's been a while, please take the time to come see all the beauty of the park and wonderful improvements that have and will be made.

Written by: Nick Fehring

Director of the Taylor County Conservation Board



*Taylor County
Conservation Board*



Photo courtesy of Colleen Larimer



Photo courtesy of Nick Fehring



Photo courtesy of Debbie Larson



Photo courtesy of Debbie Larson



Area Lakes & Parks

1. Wilson Lake & Campground
2. Lake Icaria & Timber Ridge Campground
3. Lake of Three Fires
4. Lenox Municipal Golf Course
5. Green Valley State Park

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Hunting & Recreation in our Area

Each year, Taylor County attracts tourists who join the locals in participating in some of the best hunting, fishing, and camping in the state of Iowa. Taylor County is known for its pheasant, quail, deer, and turkey hunting.

Additionally there are great camping and fishing opportunities throughout the Lenox area. Campgrounds in the immediate Lenox area are offered at Wilson Lake, Lake Icaria, Green Valley State Park, Lake of Three Fires, and the Lenox Golf course.

The Taylor County Conservation Board manages five



Photo courtesy of Nick Fehring

parks and wildlife areas around the county, encompassing over 539 acres.

These parks include:

- French Preserve
2443 Virginia Ave, Bedford
- Sand's Timber Recreation Area
2881 Yellowstone Ave, Blockton
- Siam Tract
2453 300th Street, Bedford
- Wilson Lake
1432 Utah Ave, Lenox
- Windmill Lake
1533 220th Street, New Market

For more information about area hunting and recreation, contact:

The Taylor County Conservation Board
409 State Street
Bedford, Iowa 50833
(712) 523-2852

conservation@taylorcountyiowa.org

Community Churches



There are currently seven active church congregations meeting weekly in the town of Lenox. Four of the seven have been in existence for over 100 years:

- Lenox United Methodist Church
- St. Patrick's Catholic Church
- Lenox United Presbyterian Church
- Lenox Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The other three church congregations are relatively new to Lenox, each having been founded in the last 20 years:

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Country Roads Baptist Church
- Pan del Cielo (Manna from Heaven)

Five of these congregations are active members of the Lenox Area Ministerial Association, which also includes churches in Prescott, Clearfield, Sharpsburg, Guss, Stringtown, and Mercer Center. The remaining two congregations belong to associations in their own denominations. All of the churches currently worship on Sundays, with special services and Bible studies held during the week.

Lenox United Presbyterian Church

401 West Michigan Worship: Sunday 10:30 a.m. 641-333-4214

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

600 West Michigan Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. 641-333-2565

Lenox Christian Church

107 West Temple Worship: Sunday 10:00 a.m. 641-333-4119

Lenox United Methodist Church

103 West Michigan Worship: Sunday 9:30 a.m. 641-333-2860
Parsonage: 641-333-2690

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

702 West Ohio Worship: Sunday 10:00 a.m. 641-333-4631

Country Roads Baptist Church

202 East Temple Worship: Sunday 10:00 a.m. 712-621-6501

Pan del Cielo

401 West Michigan Worship: Sunday 1:00 p.m. 641-333-4214



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LENOX

Photo courtesy of Debbie Larson

The Lenox Depot

A popular place for family get-togethers, class reunions, special occasions, and holiday celebrations is the restored Lenox Depot located at the south end of Main Street in Lenox.

Long gone are the trains and the tracks, but the Lenox Depot serves as a reminder of a time in history not so long ago of a busy train station where farmers came to ship their grain and livestock off to market and where people boarded the train to travel to other communities for a day of shopping and visiting.

Lenox, like many communities across the United States, was settled because of the railroad. With the completion of the railroad, the CB&Q (Chicago, Burlington and Quincy) could run from Creston, Iowa to St. Joseph, Missouri and back in one day. Trains went south through Lenox in the morning and headed back north in the evening. Several other trains went through town during the day.

One train was known as the "Tooterville" train and consisted of an engine, baggage car, and a car for passengers. It would leave Creston in the morning, stop in Lenox, drop off mail and pick up passengers, and go on to St. Joseph. It would return in the evening around 7 p.m. Women would get on the morning train and go to a neighboring community or St. Joseph and shop for the day and come home that evening.

The train stopped running through Lenox in 1981 and, by 1983, all signs of the railroad had been removed with the exception of the depot. The building fell into a state of disrepair until a group of dedicated volunteers with a vision took on the project of restoring it.

The restoration started with a new roof. Volunteers then began working on it little by little and room by room until the depot was restored. Many stepped up to donate material, labor, and money to save this important piece of history. In 1991, restoration was complete and the depot was opened to the public.

The south room has the original terrazzo floor. This room had benches and served as the waiting room for passengers awaiting the next train. The original ticket window at the north end of the room is there today. A cart in this room was once used to haul mail from the depot to the post office and back to the depot. It was found in the basement of the local post office and was donated to the depot. The middle room now serves as a kitchen and was once where the depot agent was located. The telegraph was also located in that room. The north room originally had a dirt floor and was the area where freight was unloaded from the train. A large scale in the middle of the room weighed the freight and it was then placed on a dock on the north side of the building where a dray would pick it up and deliver it. Old photos of a busy train station are displayed today in the depot.

The depot serves as a Welcome Center to visitors from Thanksgiving through Christmas and is open Wednesday through Sunday evenings. Volunteers serve popcorn and hot chocolate to those passing through the depot doors. Beautiful Christmas trees, decorated by local organizations to carry out the chosen theme for the year, can be found throughout the depot.

Long gone is the lonesome sound of a train whistle, but the depot will stand strong into the future of Lenox.

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SPENCER BROWN

Small town to the NFL

Lenox 2016 graduate Spencer Brown was drafted in the third round by the Buffalo Bills on April 30, 2021. As the 93rd overall selection in the NFL draft, Brown became the first professional athlete from the Lenox community.

Brown, the son of Liz Jessen and Kurt Brown (1973 LHS grad), grew up playing football, baseball, basketball, track, and golf. He had two older siblings who also graduated from Lenox, Garrett (2014) and Erica (1997). As a high school senior, he was a 220-pound defensive end and tight end playing eight-man football. His senior post-season honors included being named to the first team All-State after recording 24 receptions (388 yards) and seven touchdowns on offense and tallying 67 tackles. He led the state in sacks with 17.

On an unplanned visit to Lenox, Iowa, Mark Farley, the University of Northern Iowa head coach, offered Brown a full scholarship after a 30-minute meeting that included watching a highlight video that Spencer made himself. Brown went on to redshirt his first year as he moved from tight end to offensive tackle and gained nearly 80 pounds. Brown started the first five games of his redshirt freshman season before his season ended due to injury. As a redshirt junior, Brown started all of the Panthers' games and was named second team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference.

Going into his senior redshirt season, Brown was named a preseason first team FCS All-American by Phil Steele. Due to COVID-19, the season was canceled, which forced Brown to make a decision. While other players were entering the transfer portal, Brown said, "But, it's not Trevor Penning, it's not Nick Ellis, it's not Mason Neisen, it's not Erik Sorenson, it's not those guys I'm playing with or any of (our) other guys. I don't want to go somewhere and have them reap the benefits of what UNI did for me for five years. It just wouldn't sit with

me well. I'm not knocking anyone else that goes in the transfer portal and has to do what they have to do, but that's not my cup of tea. I don't want to be around people that didn't like me from the start." Brown spent the fall preparing for the upcoming draft with Joe Staley, who played his entire career -13 seasons- with the San Francisco 49ers. Additionally, Brown was invited to and participated in the Senior Bowl in Mobile, AL. The Senior Bowl is an all-star game and featured a pre draft opportunity that included working with two NFL coaching staffs and meeting with each of the 32 NFL teams scouting staffs.

Shortly after Brown was drafted by the Bills with approximately 50 family and friends onhand, he moved to Buffalo, New York, which he likens to Des Moines. He participated in Rookie Camp and Team OTAs before the regular season got underway. Ike Boettger, another Iowa native who played collegiately for the Hawkeyes, quickly became Spencer's friend and mentor.

Brown made his first NFL start as right tackle on October 3, 2021, against the Houston Texans with his mother and cousins, Grant Heuett and Tia Samo, in attendance. He went on to start 10 regular season games and both playoff games. While there were many highlights, playing in Kansas City against the Chiefs with many family and friends cheering him on was very special.

Mission 22 is Brown's charity of choice. It's a non-profit organization that supports veterans and their families. His older brother Garrett served in the United States Marine Corps from 2014-2018. Furthermore, in a recent interview, Spencer named Garrett as his role model. Spencer said, "I appreciate the way Garrett carries himself and that when he says he's going to do something, he does it, and he does it his own way."

GO BILLS & Lenox's own, #79!



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75th Anniversary of the Lenox Rodeo

Rodeo photos courtesy of
Randy & Colleen Larimer



A summer in Lenox would not be complete without the Lenox Rodeo. A favorite stop for contestants, the rodeo is celebrating its 77th year in 2022. The three-day event is held the last part of July.

The Lenox Stock and Saddle Club is the brains and the muscle behind the rodeo and won URA Rodeo of the Year in 2021. That honor does not come easy; it takes good rodeo stock combined with appealing pay-outs to contestants to be recognized by the URA.



The club, a non-profit organization, was incorporated in 1947, however they were hosting local horse shows before that. In 1945, they held a one night horse show followed by a two night rodeo and it has continued to grow ever since.

Wright Rodeo Company has been the stock contractor for several years and every performance is a crowd pleaser, from bareback riding and saddle bronc riding to bull riding, calf coping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing.

The rodeo arena, located just one block east of Main Street, has changed over the years. At one time, part of the north end of that land belonged to the railroad and the sale



barn. Several battles took place before the saddle club was able to secure the land. Land was also purchased to the east of the arena which is used for campers and horse trailers during the rodeo. Electrical hookups are available.

New chutes were installed in 1974. During the rodeo, businesses sponsor the chutes which helps to offset the cost of holding a quality rodeo. Businesses also sponsor banners, events, and buckles. The generous support from area businesses keeps the rodeo growing and finances improvements done each year.

Several local families have been generous in donating to the stock and saddle club. The Bradley family built the crow's net in 1977. The east entry into the arena with the overhead sign was donated by the Bauer family and the new gates were donated by the Longfellows. The main entrance to the rodeo grounds was donated by the Marvin Wilson family and handicapped seating was a donation by the Elvin Miller family. Karen Carlson purchased a section of bleacher seats in memory of Stan Carlson. Grants have helped to replace other seating as needed.

Dalton Ag and Lincoln's Lawn Care are continuous supporters in many areas of the arena.

While enjoying the rodeo, don't miss out on a trip to the Cook Shack. The building, erected in 1977, is managed by the saddle club and has grown from a pie and coffee shop to restaurant quality food. A variety of sandwiches and dinner plates are served. All of this is accomplished with volunteers from the members of the Lenox Stock and Saddle Club. Other groups, such as the 4-H and Rotary Club, sell pop, popcorn, and ice cream during the rodeo.

The 4-H also helps with cleanup of the arena following each night's performance. The Rotary Club donates a portion of their proceeds back to the saddle club.

The Barrel Racing Association uses the arena for a six-week spring session and a six-week fall session. This is a very successful event and provides extra income for the club.

Today, the Lenox Stock and Saddle Club has 87 members. Many of those members have been a part of the club for many years. Those members and other volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year to bring the best in rodeo action to Lenox.

Current officers and board members are: president Allen Dukes; vice-president Junior Cordell; secretary Peg Brown; and treasurer Debbie Dukes. Board members are Craig David, Shaun Masilko, Jim Miller, Mark Wilson, and Ryan Wilson.



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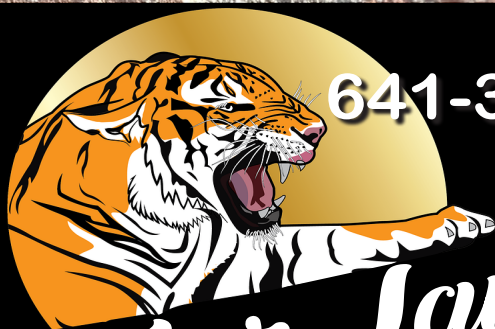
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Bright Lights, Shining Hospitality

For approximately three decades, the city of Lenox has celebrated the holiday season by lighting the town park and Main Street for its “Bright Lights and Shining Hospitality” celebration.

The whole town partakes in decorating homes and businesses to join in on the fun. The city park is the center spectacle of the event, displaying thousands of lights for visitors and community members to enjoy. A committee for the decorations, as well as city employees and student volunteers, work to set up the display following Thanksgiving.

The Lenox Depot hosts a spectacular display of Christmas trees, decorated with a variety of themes, by local organizations and families. A memory wall is displayed as well, honoring community loved ones lost during the year.

Downtown Lenox features a large Christmas tree display at the south end of Main Street, decorated pocket parks in the middle of Main Street, and now has a speaker system to enjoy holiday music during the season. Many businesses partake in decorating their storefronts and planter pots along the street, making it a truly spirited celebration!



Photo by Randy & Colleen Larimer



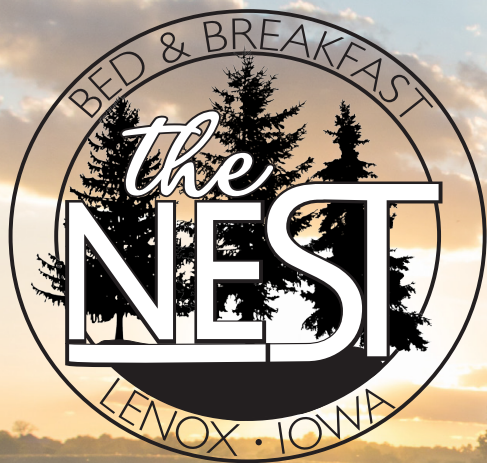
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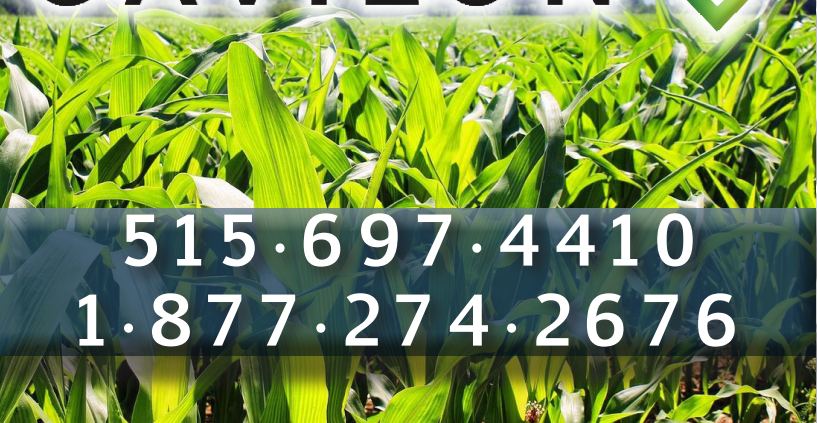


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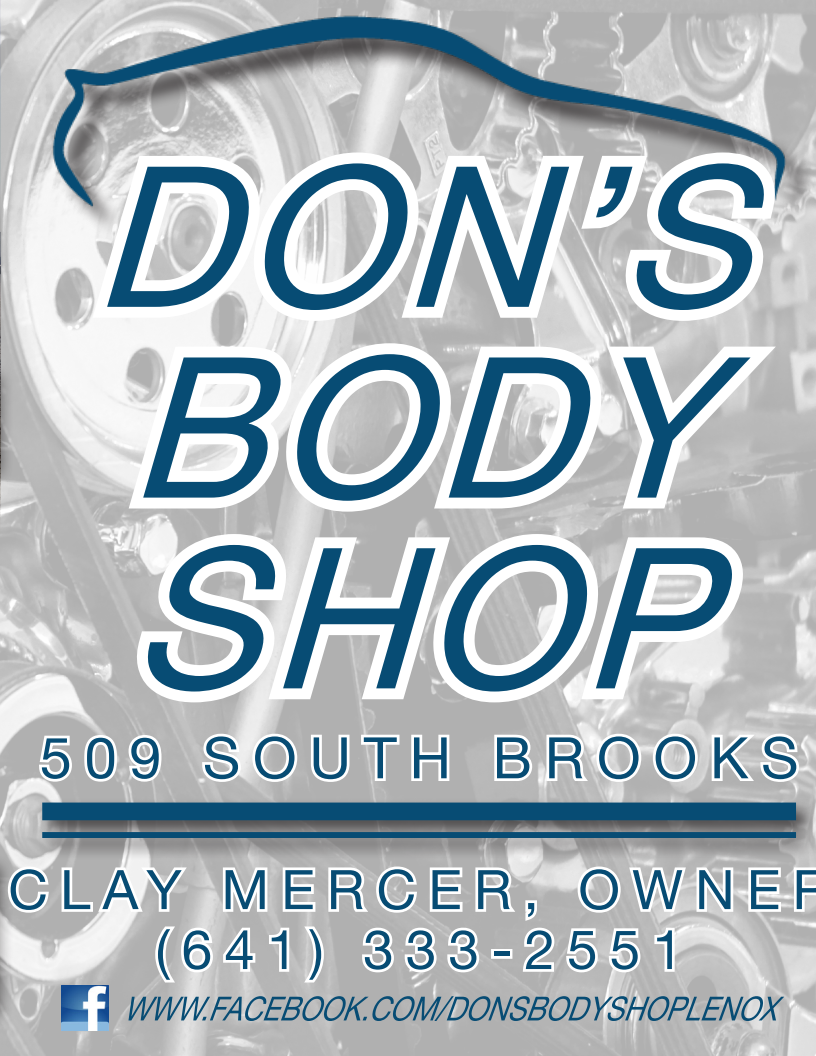


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Lenox Monument
Lenox Municipal Utilities & Communications
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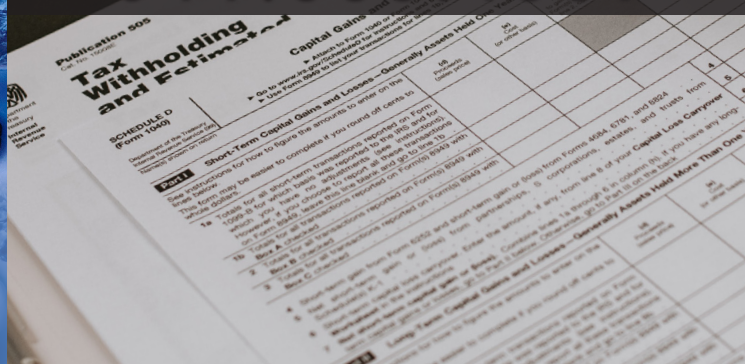
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The Lenox Chamber of Commerce

Our mission is to encourage growth and development, promote Lenox, and the area businesses, and foster a sense of community pride.

The Lenox Area Chamber of Commerce is proud of the community of Lenox and encouraged by our continued growth and dedication. The commitment of the business owners and residents has been tremendous and certainly shows with a thriving Main Street as well as expanded businesses in town.

We continually strive to promote the community, businesses and take great pride in Lenox. *"Together, we can do more"* is not only a motto; but truly how Lenox approaches each day.

The Lenox Area Chamber of Commerce is a team with area farmers, small businesses, families, and industries working together for growth and betterment of our community's services and attractions.

Our greatest asset, our people, have demonstrated their worth by helping each other reach common goals through cooperation- a hallmark of small town living.

The Lenox Area Chamber of Commerce has many different committees involving Chamber members working together to help our community.

For more information on joining the Lenox Area Chamber of Commerce, or joining a project committee, call or stop by our Chamber office today.



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