

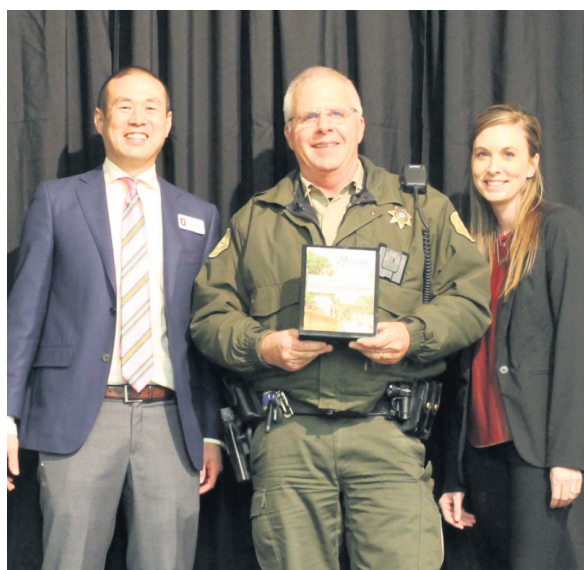


# Mahaska Chamber & Development Group Communicator

## Chamber's Annual Award Winners Announced

On January 29, 2024, the Mahaska Chamber and Development Group hosted their annual Awards Banquet at Nelson Pioneer Farm's Bradbury Hall. Congratulations to all the 2023 winners.

- Acorn Award: Home Plate Sports Cards
- Old Oak Award: Oskaloosa Vision Center
- Golden Dipper Runner-up: Amanda Nelson
- 2023 Golden Dipper: Pam Newendorp
- Retail/Service Business of the Year: Doty's
- Service Business of the Year: db Landscaping
- Industry of the Year: Iowa Wood Preservers
- Business Person of the Year: Matt Sherlock
- Citizen of the Year: Russ Van Renterghem
- Community Improvement: Golden Goose Club
- Educator of the Year: Jason Maddy
- Student of the Year: Addison McKain
- Volunteer of the Year: Mike Broerman
- Up & Comer: Loken Vande Vegte
- Chuck Russell Award: Woodhaven Amphitheater



To read the full award description, visit <https://www.mahaskachamber.org/blog/>. We want to thank the following businesses for helping make this event possible: Silver Elements Events, Hy-Vee, Rosso & Wine, Wood Iron Grille, Nelson Pioneer Farm, NoCoast Beer Co., and Mahaska.

## Coffee & Conversation 2024

Coffee & Conversation, previously known as Eggs and Issues is underway. This engaging series of informative sessions provides Mahaska County residents with invaluable insights into state, county, and local topics, fostering opportunities for community members to meet, learn, and discuss subjects important to community improvement. Join us at Smokey Row (109 S Market St, Oskaloosa) from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM for these enlightening conversations. A special thank you to MidWestOne Bank for sponsoring coffee for all attendees.

The dates for Coffee & Conversation and panel speakers are as follows:

February 10, 2024 – Mahaska County Schools

February 24, 2024 - Iowa Senate #19 Ken Rozenboom and Iowa Senate #44 Adrian Dickey, Iowa House #88 Helena Hayes and Iowa House #37 Barb Kniff-McCulla

March 9, 2024- Mahaska Health, EMA, Sheriff/Police Department

March 23, 2024 - Iowa Senate #19 Ken Rozenboom and Iowa Senate #44 Adrian Dickey, Iowa House #88 Helena Hayes and Iowa House #37 Barb Kniff-McCulla

## Oskaloosa Main Street Celebrates a Successful 2023 Lighted Christmas Parade

The 2023 Lighted Christmas Parade held in downtown Oskaloosa was a huge success. “The festive spirit and enthusiasm from the community made this year’s celebration truly special. The Dancing Lights, Oskaloosa City Band, and vibrant decorations created a magical atmosphere that brought people together in the heart of the town, our city square,” says Oskaloosa Main Street Director Angella Foster. More than 70 floats participated this year and over 17,500 people were in attendance. A study was conducted to estimate the economic impact of the parade, generating more than \$350,000. This number is reflected through dining, lodging, travel expenses, and fuel dollars spent within the community during this one night. What a positive impact on our community.

Now the moment you’ve all been waiting for... the most-voted theme for the 2024 Lighted Christmas parade is ‘Twinkling Christmas’. The Oskaloosa Main Street Lighted Christmas Parade is to be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 7 pm. Bring your imagination to life at a chance to be judged the best by the end of the night.

The week long festivities leading up to the Lighted Christmas Parade include the Young Ambassador Contest, Window Decorating, Home Decorating contests, Gospel Christmas Concert, Merry Little Downtown Christmas, and much, much more. We encourage all to invite family, friends, and visitors to make a trip to Oskaloosa. Grab a cup of hot cocoa, apple cider, or a warm Christmas coffee at the local coffee shop; enter the holiday-decorated Alleys; visit the quaint little bookstore for a Christmas read; or shop unique stops along the square for the perfect Christmas gift.

As before, many events are held throughout Mahaska County in conjunction with the Lighted Parade. As you begin plans for related activities, please contact the Main Street Office to have these events placed in the Holiday Happenings brochure. Many volunteers are needed to make the event a success. If you would like to be a part of the planning, contact the Main Street office of the Chamber at 641-672-2591 or email [chamber@mahaskachamber.org](mailto:chamber@mahaskachamber.org).



Begin planning your special day with us!

**Saturday, February 17**  
**12 – 3PM**

**Bradbury Hall**

Nelson Pioneer Farm  
2211 Nelson Lane, Oskaloosa, IA

**LOCAL VENDORS**  
**COUPLE'S BAGS**  
**DOOR PRIZES**  
No Entry Fee

**NEW  
CHAMBER  
MEMBERS**

**WELCOME**

### Bridget's Public House

208 1st Ave. East, Oskaloosa  
PH: 641.660.3029; Email: [grmabowie@gmail.com](mailto:grmabowie@gmail.com)  
Bridget's Public House is another choice in our community for a gathering place rooted in Irish Traditions and Oskaloosa Charm. Bridget's will offer unique lunch and evening homecooked favorites and Irish traditional favorites. Bridget's will have a full bar and offer various activities while hanging out such as group games, cribbage, chess, etc.

### Nancy Swope

Associate Member offering rentals in Oskaloosa: Street Level commercial, 2nd floor downtown apartments, and a 3rd floor Loft Airbnb. Call 641.226.2003 or [hjswope@q.com](mailto:hjswope@q.com).

### Osky Food Park

Osky Food Park is an outdoor food truck park located in Oskaloosa that hosts a rotating variety of food trucks and vendors from SE/Central Iowa. Their goal is to provide a fun outdoor dining location with a variety of food options. Additionally, they strive to offer consistency and bring food trucks to one easy to find location.

## Tom's Tree Service

[www.BirchmierTrees.com](http://www.BirchmierTrees.com)  
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**641-856-7140**



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Administrator



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