

October 2023

Ready Or Not, It's Time To Start Thinking About The Holidays

I've already seen a few holiday decorations in some of the larger retail businesses when I was in "the City" earlier this month. One of my friends posted on her Facebook wall that she has seen Christmas commercials playing on the television. For me, I feel like the holidays are already here because my friends want to plan a "girls' day" for Christmas shopping.

For many retail business owners, running a business leaves little time to prepare and plan for the holiday rush. All is not lost, you still have time to get every aspect of your business ready to reap the most benefit from the upcoming holiday season. The more you do now to ready your business for holiday shoppers, the more profits you'll reap by the end of this year. Here are a few things to think about in the coming days and weeks.

Make sure your staff is "product knowledgeable" and well prepared to best represent your products and services.

Before you open your doors for business, take a moment to walk around your store and look at your business with the eyes of a customer. Remember to take notes as you walk around. This will be very helpful to you.

Create gift packages of your products, place stocking stuffer items near your cash register and create gifts for long time customers. When all is said and done, the businesses that succeed during the holidays are the ones that have relevant products, smart gift ideas and take the time to treat their customers with a "less than crazed" holiday shopping experience.



Club Level Members

Platinum Plus Club Members

City of Harlan
Harlan Municipal Utilities
Shelby County

Harlan Industrial Foundation
Myrtue Medical Center
SCSB

Platinum Club Members

Conductix-Wampfler **Monogram Prepared Meats, LLC**

Gold Club Members

The Agency Insurance **Essentia Protein Solutions** **FMCTC**
Farmers Trust & Savings Bank **Midstates Bank**

Silver Club Members

Elm Crest Senior Living Community **Panama Transfer**
Markham Family Dental Associates, Inc.

Bronze Club Members

CDS Global **Cyclone Lanes** **Fareway Stores, Inc.**
Farm Service Cooperative **Harlan Community School District**
Harlan Golf & Country Club
The Harlan Newspapers **Hy-Vee** **Keast Auto Center**
KNOD Radio Station **Molded Products**
Nishnabotna Valley REC **Pauley Jones Funeral Home**
Pitts Family & Sports Chiropractic Center, PC
Smitty Bee Honey, Inc. **Subway**
Town & Country Credit Union **Visual Edge IT Midwest Counsel**



Good Things Come To Those Who Shop Local
Keep It In Shelby County



Send Us Your Events

The Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry is gathering event information for the remainder of 2023 and for 2024. We post Shelby County and surrounding area events on our [website calendar](#) for free. This information is also used in our weekly “Did You Know” emails and on our Facebook page. We can help to be sure locals and tourists can find you. Contact the Chamber office at 712-755-2114 or [email us](#).

SCCCI Mission Statement: To create a climate of opportunity for business growth, economic development, and a high standard of living throughout Shelby County.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Dollar Tree/Family Dollar, Harlan, IA
Friday, October 13, 2023. Photo Courtesy of Harlan Newspapers



Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Myrtue Medical Center Auxilliary
Unique Boutique, Harlan, IA
October 24, 2023. Photo Courtesy of Harlan Newspapers

Celebrate Your Business - Host An Ambassador Visit, Open House, Ribbon Cutting, Or Groundbreaking Ceremony

The Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry is always ready to help its members celebrate their success with an ambassador visit, open house, ribbon cutting, or groundbreaking ceremony. Whether you are a new or existing member the Chamber and its members will join you marking your momentous occasions. It gives the owner or manager a chance to say a few words to those gathered and the opportunity to talk about what their business does.

Whatever you choose, your event will be posted on our online event's calendar, in our weekly Did You Know email, that goes out every Friday, listed in our monthly Business Voice newsletter, and posted on the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Shelby County Information and Ideas Facebook pages.

Then there's the great photo opportunity. A photo will be taken and emailed to you to share on your social media. The photo will also appear in the Harlan Newspapers, the Chamber's monthly newsletter, and on Facebook.

To schedule your ambassador visit, open house, ribbon cutting, or groundbreaking ceremony with the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry, call us at 712-755-2114 or email [Carol](#) or [Debbie](#).

Why Sponsor A Chamber Event?

Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry events are the perfect outlet for your company to gain the publicity and brand recognition that every business desires. Through sponsorships, our Chamber strives to create a partnership that is valuable to all involved.

Just as membership is not a one size fits all, our sponsorship opportunities offer you a choice for your engagement. Sponsoring events and programs gives your company:

- Publicity and brand recognition you need in a positive and receptive environment.
- A unique form of advertising.
- Access to new business relationships.

Upcoming Chamber events: Holiday Lighting Ceremony, Saturday, November 25 (Small Business Saturday) and Santa Claus Is Coming To Town, Saturday, December 9. For more information about sponsoring an event, contact the Chamber office at 712-755-2114 or email [Carol](#).



Welcome New SCCCI Members

Harlan Social Energy & Nutrition - Harlan . Joined October 9, 2023

SCCCI Membership Renewals

The Chamber wishes to thank the following members who renewed their membership in September & October 2023

Deren, Schenck, Gross, Swain & Argotsinger, PC.
Elm Crest Senior Living Community
Farm Credit Services of America
Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Co.
Floral Elegance & 6th Street Emporium
Hough & Zaccone Investments, LLC.
Living Well Home Care, LLC.
Myrtue Medical Center
Pauley Jones Funeral Home
Pexton Pharmacy
Shelby County Historical Museum
Stowe Red-E-Mix, LLC.

**All Chamber Membership Renewals
Are Sent Electronically Through
Our Website 30 - 60 Days Prior
To Their Due Date. You Can Also Renew
Your Membership Online Via Our Website.**

2023-2024 Board of Directors

President

Jeff Sundholm
Myrtue Medical Center

Vice President

Jahde Osborn
Courtside Marketing

Treasurer

Gervas Mgonja
Town & Country Credit
Union

Past President

Steve Ineson
Four Seasons Travel

Board Member

Janet Buman
SCSB

Board Member

Steve Kenkel
Shelby County Board
of Supervisors

Board Member

Amanda Miller
St. Croix Hospice

Board Member

Darin Turner
Hy-Vee

Chamber Team

Todd Valline

Executive Director

Carol McHugh

Administrative Assistant

Debbie Stendrup

Membership/Events
Coordinator

Meet The Woman Behind The Shelby County Welcome Bags



Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Membership & Events Coordinator
Debbie Stendrup

For the past five years, our own Debbie Stendrup has been delivering Shelby County Welcome Bags to new residents in Harlan. From January through September 2023, Debbie delivered 81 welcome bags. Since May of 2018, she has delivered a total of 831 welcome bags. We are very proud to have her on our team!

Remember, you can still donate items throughout the year. You can drop off your items at our office, 1901 Hawkeye Avenue, Harlan, or we can make arrangements to pick them up.

HARVEST FEST

CELEBRATE THE SEASON • 2023



Brick Wall Gallery Pumpkin Patch



Spooky Story Time
Harlan Community Library

The 2023 Scarecrow Showdown Winners



First Place
Shelby Count Monument



Second Place
Hansen House Senior Living

Chamber Gift Certificates

The holiday gift giving season will be here soon. Are you wondering what to buy that hard to shop for person on your holiday gift list? The Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry has an answer – Chamber gift certificates. Chamber gift certificates are a wonderful gift for employees, teachers, coaches, friends and family. Gift certificates can be purchased in any denomination and used throughout Shelby County. There is no minimum purchase required and they no longer have expiration dates. All major credit cards, checks and cash accepted.

Certificates are easy to purchase. On our [website](#), call the office 712-755-2114, [email](#), or stop by and see us.



Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry Holiday Hours

During the Thanksgiving holiday, our office will be closed Thursday, November 23 (Thanksgiving) and Friday, November 24.

During the Christmas holiday, we will be closing at noon on Friday, December 23. We will resume regular business hours on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Master Gardeners of Shelby County Sponsorship Opportunities

Master Gardeners of Shelby County – Grow Another Row. What do the gardeners do with all that produce that has been grown in their gardens? Their families can only eat so much! The Master Gardeners of Shelby County, through the Iowa State Extension and Outreach Office, has a program offering a self-serve vegetable/fruit unit that can be set up in a convenient location in your town. The program is called **Grow Another Row**. This program gives gardeners a way to distribute the extra produce that is beyond their family's use and help those with food insecurities. If your town would like to explore setting up a unit, please contact [Connie Peterson](#) or [Jan Easton](#) by November 15, 2023.

Event Info

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Cookbook Club Elk Horn Public Library	3	4 18 th Annual The Forgotten Artist – The Artists, Harlan Shelby Co Catholic School's Tribute to Harvest, St. Mary's Parish Hall, Panama
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends	6 After School STEAM Harlan Community Library GriefShare Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	7 Election Day	8 MMC Auxiliary Unique Boutique Holiday Open House Auble Room, Harlan	9 MMC Auxiliary Unique Boutique Holiday Open House Auble Room, Harlan Homemade Candles Harlan Community Library	10	11 Veteran's Day Winter Greens Workshop, Milk & Honey, Harlan
12 Veterans Breakfast, Vet's Building, Harlan Santa Wood Sign Milk & Honey, Harlan	13 After School STEAM Harlan Community Library Harlan Lions Club Community Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner First Baptist Church GriefShare Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	14 Library & Lunch Harlan Community Library Miniature Junk Journals, Elk Horn Public Library The Parent Network MMC	15 Classic Movie Morning, Harlan Community Library	16 Brown Bag Lunch Program, Museum of Danish America Elk Horn Caregiver Support Group, Harlan Community Library	17 Winter Greens Workshop, Milk & Honey, Harlan HGCC Holiday Sip & Shop Harlan Comm Theatre present Lend Me A Tenor, CG Therkildsen Center Thru 11/20	18
19	20 After School STEAM Harlan Community Library GriefShare Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	21 Blood Drive Vet's Building SCCCI Board of Directors Meeting Chamber Conference Room	22	23 Thanksgiving Chamber Office Closed	24 Family Day Chamber Office Closed Julefest in Elk Horn & Kimballton	25 Julefest in Elk Horn & Kimballton Holiday Lighting Ceremony, Historic Downtown Harlan Square
26	27 After School STEAM Harlan Community Library GriefShare Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	28 5 O'Clock Somewhere Book Club, Harlan Community Library The Parent Network, MMC	29	30		

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Saturday Stroll Prairie Rose State Park, Harlan
3	4 GriefShare Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	5 SPARK – Hygge Holiday, Museum of Danish America Elk Horn	6 BSA Big Give Breakfast, Omaha	7 Santa in the Cabins Shelby Co Historical Museum, Harlan	8	9 Santa Claus is Coming to Town Participating Shelby Co. Communities
10	11 GriefShare Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	12 The Parent Network, MMC	13 WCCA Adopt A Family Program Shelby Co Chamber Atrium	14 WCCA Adopt A Family Program Shelby Co Chamber Atrium Brown Bag Lunch Program, Museum of Danish America Elk Horn Stagazing, Prairie Rose State Park Harlan	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice Shelby Co Chamber Holiday Open House	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Chamber Office Closed thru January 1, 2024	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						