

Chamber-Main Street News and Knows—January 1, 2025

by Interim Director Jim Davies

I recently accepted the position of director of the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce (GFCCC) on an interim basis until the board of directors hires a permanent replacement.

I think it is important to share the history of the chamber. History is important because it helps us understand the present world by providing context about how our community has evolved over time. History also helps us learn from past mistakes and successes. By studying history, we can better grasp the causes and effects of current events and make informed decisions about the future.

A vision statement outlines an organization's long-term aspirations. GFCCC's vision statement is "unifying the downtown and all businesses in the Greater Franklin County area to become a prosperous destination that embraces our diversity and heritage."

GFCCC has a mission of "working together by supporting and encouraging growth in the downtown district and beyond."

The Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce was founded as a non-profit in June of 1950 and is still the legal name. Doing business as the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce was added in 2011 with a focus on benefiting the entire Franklin County businesses and families.

GFCCC is also a Main Street Iowa Community. Hampton has been a Main Street Community since 1991. Chamber and Main Street merged in 2010. The philosophy of the Main Street Iowa Program is to improve the social and economic well-being of Iowa's communities by assisting selected communities to capitalize on the unique identity, assets, and character of their historic commercial district.

Franklin County Tourism is also a part of the Chamber. In 2003, the Chamber agreed to operate Tourism as a non-profit entity under the auspices of the Chamber with a mission "to encourage tourism in the Franklin County Area through the promotion of the area as a destination for day and overnight visitors."

As the interim director I will focus on recruiting new volunteers, re-energizing current volunteers, and enlisting past volunteers to recommit to and implement the Chamber's mission and Main Street program philosophy.

If you are willing to join me on this journey to improve our quality of life, please call or text me at 641-425-4707.



A Main Street Iowa Community™

**the Chamber**

**Greater Franklin County**

**hamptoniowa.org**