

# A Great Year to Come

*by Brian Buethe, President/CEO, Grimes Chamber & Economic Development*

Towards the end of last year, I couldn't avoid the many negative comments people expressed regarding their feelings about celebrity deaths, international events, and politics. I certainly don't begrudge people their right to have and express emotions. In fact, if someone is truly upset, depressed, angry, concerned, etc., it is probably therapeutic in some way to express those feelings as opposed to bottling those thoughts up and perpetuating the corresponding stress. But 2016 is in the books and a new year is upon us, and we here at Grimes Chamber & Economic Development think it's going to be a great year!



Now, we don't have a crystal ball that allows us to predict the future. That would be too easy. But if you haven't noticed, most of the news you see coming from our organization is generally positive. That's not because we don't experience negative circumstances. We see, feel, and recognize all of the adverse things that impact our community, state, nation and world, as much as anyone. The difference, we hope, is one of attitude and perspective. We choose to make a big deal about the good stuff that happens, deal with the not good stuff quietly, and work every day to maximize the positive and mitigate the negative...for our members and the community at large.

We take a long-term view of our future and our past, which we believe gives us a better perspective on where we stand in the world today and where we might be tomorrow. Our perspective is often based upon comparative analysis. In other words, we compare ourselves against our neighbors and contemporaries both regionally and beyond. Furthermore, we do our best to balance being visionary and realistic.

For example, by comparison to other communities of our size in Iowa and around the nation, we have it pretty good here in Grimes, Iowa. Unemployment is low, crime is low, we are well educated, we have better than average incomes, the vast majority of our housing stock is owner-occupied, and we are in a community that most likely will continue to see growth and new opportunity for the foreseeable future. That doesn't mean that everyone has a great job they love, or that no crime exists, or that everyone has a college degree, and that nothing bad ever happens. It just means that relatively speaking, we have it pretty good, and that is something worth celebrating.

We are well positioned, as a community, to take advantage of a few things we as Americans cherish. We have life, we have liberty, and we have the opportunity to pursue happiness as individuals and as a community. Because we are all in this big old boat together, we encourage you to brush off the dust of the past, live in the present, and look to the future. If we all do that, it will be a great year in Grimes, Iowa!

*Learn more about Grimes Chamber & Economic Development, its many members, and its mission, and its planned community trip to Italy this coming November by visiting [www.GrimesIowa.gov](http://www.GrimesIowa.gov).*

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