



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

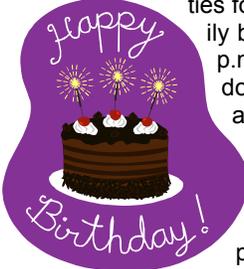


MAY 2009

DAIRY DAY IS JUNE 6

“Happy 160th Birthday West Union!” is the theme for this year’s Dairy Day celebration. The annual festival will be held on Saturday, June 6 in downtown West Union and will feature a parade, family games & entertainment, bingo, food and drink, and a street dance.

The Chamber Board of Directors has put together an afternoon of activities for the whole family beginning at 2:00 p.m. Food vendors, kids events, and a beer garden will start off the activities followed by the parade at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is



encouraged to have an entry in this year’s parade to celebrate West Union’s 160th birthday. Other events scheduled include a Bingo Booth sponsored by Main Street West Union, a sanctioned Kiddie Tractor Pull, Miss West Union contest, and a whole slate of kids games. The celebration will culminate with a street dance featuring the El Caminos beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Included with this newsletter is a sponsorship form if you are interested in making a donation to help fund this year’s celebration. Local businesses and residents can choose from three different levels of sponsorship, but any donation is greatly appreciated.

A parade entry form is also included for your convenience. All forms will also be available on our website.

Local businesses are also reminded that they can sponsor a young lady in the Miss West Union contest. Miss West Union serves as a Junior Ambassador for the city and receives a \$500 scholarship for her efforts. Candidates must be a junior or senior in high school and have a West Union address. Applications can be picked up at the Chamber office or the high school office.

Additional information about the celebration can be found on the website and will be released in the weekly “This Week in WU” email communication.

WEB MARKETING CLASSES OFFERED

We’ve all heard the buzz that the internet is a great way to market your business in a tight economy. Facebook, Twitter, and many other social media sites are very popular with younger shoppers and can present opportunities to communicate with customers. But how do you sort all of this high-tech marketing out to determine what is best for your type of business? How do these sites work, how do you get started, and what is the cost involved?

Fayette County Economic Development has put together 2 events to help you learn more about these new marketing tools. On Tuesday, May 5th, the Fayette County Entrepreneur’s Club will meet at 4:30 at Leo’s Next Generation Lounge in downtown Oelwein. The guest speaker will be Michelle Bloom who will speak about Facebook, Twitter, and other social media options. There is no cost to attend and refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

If you are interested in developing a website for your business for marketing purposes or for online sales, we are welcoming Jason Trout back to West Union on Monday, May 18th. This workshop will be held in the upper meeting room at TAP’T Out from 6:30—8:30 p.m. Jason previously taught classes in West Union about creating a website for your business. For additional information about either of these classes, please contact FCED at 422-5073.

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		Kristine Krivachek	
		Robin Bostrom	Executive Director

EARTH MONTH RECAP

Since April was Earth Month, it seemed fitting to provide ample opportunities to go green. The schedule bustled with activities that focused on decreasing our carbon footprint. Informational seminars on lighting, water management, permeable paving, and roofing were conducted. Harvesting the rain was encouraged in a workshop that walked participants through the process of making their own rain barrel.

NF Middle School students received information about water management with rain gardens.

The presentation inspired them to make their own at the middle school. They broke ground on Earth Day and dug their rain garden plot 2 feet deep, 8 feet wide, and 9 feet long. They will be mixing medium and working with local gardeners to map out native plantings in May.

On Arbor Day the youth also helped clean up, mulch, and plant trees at Clark Park with West Union Parks and Recreation.

Workshops were also held on green roofing and porous paving systems.



Thanks so much to everyone who helped make all the Earth month activities possible!



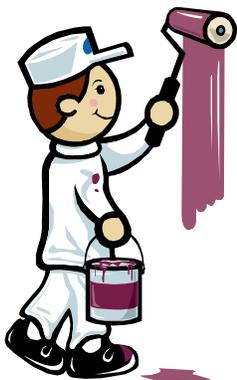
WEST UNION CHOSEN FOR KCRG TV "OUR TOWN" SEGMENT

The Chamber of Commerce office was notified on April 28th that the community of West Union has been chosen to be one of 34 communities that will be a part of the 2009 "Our Town" series road trip for KCRG-TV 9. The communities will receive a visit from the KCRG Tour bus, producers, and crew highlighting great places to visit in Eastern Iowa. West Union will host the crew the morning of Tuesday, June 9th as they tape segments for the special that will air in July. More details will be released when the full schedule is received.



GET READY TO PAINT!

West Union recently received a grant for 40 gallons of exterior paint through the Paint Iowa Beautiful program. VISTA volunteer Michelle Zander wrote the grant and will be assisting those businesses that registered to be a part of the program. A meeting will be held on Monday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Chamber/Main Street office. Participating businesses will learn how much paint they will receive, discuss painters that are available to paint, and review schedules for painting days.



Businesses are also reminded that Main Street West Union has a Façade Grant Program that can assist with the cost of exterior painting, new signage, or new windows and doors. Grant applications can be picked up at the Chamber/Main Street office or you can download an application from the website. Just click on the Main Street West Union tab. If you have questions about any of these programs, please contact the office at 422-3070.

Main Street West Union presents:

"Divas & Dining"

Spend a relaxing evening among friends & engage in some Cocktail Therapy! Call the office for more details!



*Friday, May 29th, 2009
Tap't Out Stein-n-Dine*

GREEN PILOT PROJECT UPDATE



GOING PAPERLESS: If you would like to switch from receiving a paper version in the mail to one delivered to your computer's INBOX, please drop us an email or call the office and we will make the change. This is just another small effort we are making to become a great Green Pilot Community!

WEBSITE: In an effort to reduce the amount of paper used in our office, we have uploaded many forms for Chamber events on the website. If you are in need of a form for a Chamber event, we suggest you check the website first to download what you might need. If you can't find the forms you need, please give the office a call.

ENERGY GRANT FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE: If your business is located within the downtown Main Street district you have a great opportunity to save some green this summer! With all the utility providers announcing rate increases, now is the time to make some changes to help reduce your energy costs. You can get a rebate for installing new windows, doors, or energy efficient lighting. You can also access all the information and an application on the website under the Green Pilot tab. And if you have further questions, give the office a call at 422-3070. \$35,000 in grant funds are available on a first come, first served basis.

STREETScape UPDATE: The City of West Union has received word that we were chosen to submit a full application for the Community Development Block Grant funds. A pre-application was submitted in February and the state received over 70 applications. 12 communities were invited to submit a full application that will be due in approximately 60 days. If received, these grant funds would be used to help fund part of the streetscape project.



YARD WASTE PICK-UP

Monday, May 11

Yard waste should be in the approved bags on the curb by 8:00 a.m.

Bags can be purchased at the Chamber office or City Hall.



Palmer Lutheran Health Center's Run / Walk will be Saturday, May 9 beginning at the hospital. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with the walk/run beginning at 9:00 a.m.

What's Happening in WU:

GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY MAY EVENTS

The West Union Good Samaritan Center will be celebrating Nursing Home Week on May 10th—May 16th.

On May 13th Cedar Court Senior Living Apartments will be hosting the West Union Area Iowa Retired School Personnel Meeting. The guest speaker will be Marva Eck who will be giving a program on her trip to Swaziland, Africa. All retired school personnel are invited!

On May 14th they will host the Community Appreciation Open House at the Center from 2:00—4:00 p.m. The staff and residents at the Good Samaritan Center are grateful for a community that is so supportive of the work they do. They hope you will attend!

Resume Class

FCED will offer a resume class at the West Union Library on May 4th & 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Gates Computer Lab. The computer lab is available for many trainings so please contact the Library for more info!



SALES, SIPS, & SAMPLES

Main Street West Union is hosting an auction and beer tasting on Saturday, May 9th at Echo Valley Banquet Center. The auction begins at 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by a sampling of new products now available through Bemiss Distributing. H&H will also provide samples from their wide selection of appetizers. Tickets for the sampling are just \$5 (auction admission is FREE). If you'd like to donate an item for the auction, please call Dick Woodard or the Main Street office.

Fayette County Tourism Center Opens May 1st!



Flower Barrels will be planted the week of May 18 by our dedicated group of volunteers. Please make sure you have your barrel outside and filled with soil!

West Union Chamber of Commerce
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West Union, IA 52175

Phone: 563-422-3070
Email: wuchamber@alpinecom.net
www.westunion.com

«Business Name»
«Manager»
«Mailing Address»
«City State for Mailing»

Check us out at www.westunion.com!

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|---|---|--|
| 1 Grand Opening at West Union Truck & Trailer Repair | 10 Mother's Day | 25 Memorial Day—OFFICE CLOSED |
| 2 NF Prom & Grand March | 11 Ribbon Cutting for NF Track Complex | 27 Last day of school at North Fayette |
| 4 City Council Meeting | Resume Class at Library | 29 MSWU Ladies Night event at TAP'T Out Stein-n-Dine |
| Resume Class at WU Library | Lawn Waste Pick-up Day | 30 WU Aquatic Center OPENS |
| Paint WUtiful meeting | 12 Chamber Board meeting | |
| 5 Fayette County Entre Club meets at Leo's in Oelwein | HVAC Training | |
| MSWU Business Improvement Committee meeting | MSWU Board meeting | |
| 6 MSWU Organization Committee meeting | 13 HVAC Training | |
| 7 SMART Conference in Des Moines | MSWU State Training in Ottumwa | |
| Fayette County Trails meeting | 14 BREI Conference in Des Moines | |
| 9 MSWU Auction & Sampling Event | 15 WUIDC Board meeting | |
| Palmer Walk / Run | 17 NF Graduation | |
| | 18 City Council meeting | |
| | Jason Trout Website class | |
| | 19 MSWU Design Committee meeting | |
| | 20 Barn Quilts of Fayette County | |
| | Fayette County Local Housing Trust Fund meeting | |

**Mother's Day**

May 10, 2009

