



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com



July 2012

*Join us at the
West Union
Recreation Center
on July 4th!*

JULY 4TH EVENTS

Fun Walk at Rec Center- 8:00-10:00 am

Aquatic Center Carnival- 1:00-6:00 pm

Kiddie Train Rides- around 5:00 pm

Highway 52 Bluegrass Band- 7:00-9:30 pm

Crowning Miss West Union- 8:00 pm

Food Vendors- Brats, Hotdogs,
Walking Tacos, Milkshakes, Treats,
Popcorn, and Beverages

Fireworks- Dusk
(fireworks rain date- Sat., July 7th)



*Highway 52 Bluegrass Band
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm*

Sponsored by Lilac Plaza businesses:

Pleggenkuhle Chiropractic

Alco

West Union Hardware

Pizza Palace

State Farm Insurance

Union Drug

Anytime Fitness

Moore's Foods

**In case of rain, Band and Miss WU Crowning will be held
at the Fayette County Fairgrounds Dance Pavilion!**

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Miller	President
Melody Patrick	Vice President
Jenni Elsbernd	Secretary/Treasurer
Ryan Hoey	
Brent Parker	
Judd Swensen	
Bridget Parker	Administrative Assistant

Chamber Spotlight: Signs by Design

High quality vinyl for anything you can imagine! Advertising, promotions, business identification, vehicles, equipment, commercial, industrial, recreational and personal!

Signs by Design in West Union has been owned and operated by Jodi and Cam Granger for 16 years. They produce and sell computer-aided, vinyl signage and graphics including substrate material and installation of various signs produced. Jodi boasts that everything is custom to what the customer needs! She offers preview design samples and quotes so customers know what they are getting and can make final changes before their order is produced.

Seeking a customer's input on the design, Jodi works with them until they find that perfect design, sign or logo. She does all the design and vinyl work while her husband, Cam, helps her with the larger projects and installations.

Signs by Design has seen changes over the years. When the business first started out, the type of sign produced was cut vinyl. Now digitally printed products make it possible to print almost anything on vinyl! In the future, Jodi would like to expand sales of screen and flexo printed promotional products that she offers.



These are just a few samples of what Signs by Design can do! To see more, visit their website- www.vinylsignsbydesign.com

SIGNS *By Design* Est. 1996

Thank you Signs by Design for your Chamber membership and support!

Playin on the Plaza

Main Street West Union's Promotions Committee is kicking off a new FREE summer concert series called "Playin' on the Plaza" beginning on July 11th. The series will provide free live musical entertainment at the West Union Rec Center every Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

The schedule of performers is as follows:

July 11	Chad Elliott
July 18	Done Doin' Laundry
July 25	No Concert – Fayette County Fair
August 1	Local talent night
August 8	Michelle Lynn
August 15	Patsy Wellman
August 22	Kindred Minds
August 29	Fusion

Anyone interested in performing on Local Talent Night is encouraged to call Amie Johansen at 422-3908 or Robin Bostrom at 422-3070. All types of talent are welcome.

JULY 4TH SALE!

K & K Gardens in Hawkeye is holding a July 4th Sale. There will be sales on EVERYTHING, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Wednesday, July 4th. Kids Bouncy castle and games from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Enjoy your holiday at this Northeast Iowa garden destination!

Have a safe and happy 4th of July holiday!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The West Union Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome these recent new members:

Natural Elements- Owners Bob and Chris Smith do horse training and dog boarding and grooming.

The Brain Freezer- Owner Adam Keller sells over 20 flavors of shaved ice, perfect for a hot summer day!

Spirits & Such- Congratulations to new owners of this long standing West Union business, Joe and Karla Organist!

Unique Memories by Rachel- Rachel now has a convenient location on the corner across from Old Mill Floral. Visit her for a Unique Memory today!

TC Macs- Owner Casey McDermott owns the convenience store, All Stop, located on the corner of North Vine and Highway 18. The store also sells Godfather's Pizza.

Check out these business listings on www.westunion.com for more information!

A special THANK YOU to ALL of you who have chosen to be Chamber members in 2012! The following are additional new members in 2012: Barrel Drive In, City of West Union, Curves, Edward Jones, Gundersen Lutheran, Kaleidoscope Kids, North Fayette Animal Clinic, Schwan's, Signs by Design, Swensen Chiropractic, Traditions, and Z&M Farm.



GREEN PILOT UPDATE

FAÇADE MASTER PLAN PROGRAM:

The City of West Union is awaiting the contract for the recently awarded Façade Master Plan Program. The City was awarded \$500,000 dollars in Community Development Block Grant funding for the program that will assist in renovating 21 downtown building facades. Once the contract is received, the City will need to begin the next steps needed including environmental reviews on all 21 buildings and securing a design/architect firm. No work can

begin on the buildings until these services are secured. Participants in the program will receive additional information via direct mail in the next week or two. If you have questions on the program, please contact City Hall or the Main Street West Union office.

BELOW MARKET INTEREST RATE PROGRAM:

Main Street West Union in conjunction with First National Bank and Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank has established a new loan program to assist West Union businesses who are making improvements to their buildings. The Below Market Interest Rate Program is designed to provide competitive financing for businesses participating in the Façade Master Plan program, the Geothermal program, or the upper-story housing program. The program is designed to promote the Main Street concepts of historic preservation and economically rehabilitate commercial businesses within the Main Street West Union District. Loan requests for commercial properties outside of the Main Street District, and/or building improvements other than the approved projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

A summary of the basic program includes:

- Loan amounts are available in any amount up to \$100,000. Loan amounts over the \$100,000 amount will be subject to the current market rates.
- As of June 1, 2012 the interest rate is 3.75% (WSJ Prime of 3.25% plus 0.5%).
- Rates may change Daily and are not locked until the loan is approved. The initial amortization on the loan may be from 1 to 25 years. However, for loans with an initial term greater than 5 years, the loan will balloon in a maximum period of 5 years. At the end of the 5 year period any remaining balance may be renegotiated with the banks under their standard rates and terms at the time.
- All applications for a loan under this program are subject to the bank's normal underwriting guidelines.
- All applications from within the Main Street District must be accompanied by a recommendation from the Main Street West Union Board.
- Building owners must have a cash investment in the project of at least 10%.
- The initial application period is open until December 31, 2012 but is subject to early termination or extension at the bank's discretion.

This information is only a summary and is subject to change as the need may arise. For additional information please contact Derek Heins at First National Bank at 563-422-3883 or Gregory Ptacek at Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank at 563-422-6072, or the Main Street West Union office at 563-422-3070.



GOOD SAM QUILT RAFFLE

The West Union Good Samaritan Society is holding a quilt raffle. The quilt being raffled is purple and cream in color and was made by former resident Lavonne Feulner. It is on display at the First National Bank. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and are available until August 29th. To purchase tickets, please contact Marie Monroe or Sharon Shaffer at 422-3814.



4th Annual I-Ride!

The Good Samaritan Society is holding its 4th annual I-Ride, motorcycle ride on Saturday, July 21st. The ride will begin in Waukon with stops at Good Samaritan Societies in Waukon, Postville and West Union. Registration begins at 8:00 am and the ride will start at 9:00 am. The \$25 registration fee includes: t-shirt, breakfast, lunch, snacks, and door prizes! All proceeds go to the "Bucket List" wishes of our residents.

A very special THANK YOU to all that have donated to the fireworks fund and to Marge Crandall for her fundraising efforts! The annual fireworks display would not be possible without your generosity! Also thank you to those volunteers who are helping with the 4th of July Community Celebration!



FIRE DEPARTMENT BLOOD DRIVE

The West Union Fire Department will be hosting a community blood drive on Tuesday, July 3rd from 12:30 to 6:00 pm at the local fire station. As part of the blood drive, there will be a friendly competition between "The Pumpers" led by Brian Dunt and "The Tankers" led by LeRoy Soppe. Participants will donate in the name of one of the two teams. A list of team members will be provided at the blood drive.



JULY 2012

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«City», «State» «Zip»

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Dear Membership –

On June 30th I step down as West Union's Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, and on July 1st, Fayette County Economic Development begins providing administrative support to the Chamber. What does this mean for the membership? For the most part, the Chamber functions will continue and the change will be transparent to both the users and membership. FCED continues to operate and rent space from the Chamber in their building. FCED has entered into an agreement with the Chamber to provide 15 hours of administrative support per week with duties as specified per contract. We will provide front line representation of the Chamber to the public and the membership. The main point of contact for Chamber related issues will now be FCED Administrative Assistant, Bridget Parker. She may be contacted at the regular Chamber email and phone and also at admin@fayettedcountyia.com.

There are many aspects to a successful Chamber program. An Executive Director may or may not be a part of that. The most important aspect is full support of members to achieve the Chamber's missions and goals. This is the time for Chamber members to provide feedback to their Board of Directors on where they want the Chamber to be in the future.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my nine months as Chamber Director. I have learned so many things about West Union and its businesses. It was an incredibly positive experience and I look forward to using the knowledge gained to help me concentrate on the overall County Economic Development of which the Chamber is an important part.

Respectfully,



Bill Ziegler

159TH FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR

The annual Fayette County Fair will be held in West Union July 24th through the 28th. Grandstand entertainment includes: Impact Pro Wrestling, band "Seven Bridges Road", Fair Queen coronation, Fair Queen Pie Auction, Animal Scramble, band "Lockren", Corn Belt Clash Late Model Series, and Bus races. In addition, the Fair will once again have a carnival, petting zoo, animal exhibits, commercial building, food, games and fun to be had by all! For more detailed information please contact the Fayette County Fair Office.