



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com

January 2014

Patriotic Theme Planned for Community Awards Banquet

A Star Spangled West Union Community Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 18th beginning at 6:00 pm at the Echo Valley Banquet & Reception Center. This wonderful event sponsored by the Chamber will honor many of our local volunteers who make West Union a great place to live!

The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors have chosen this year's award winners from the nominees that were submitted by members of the community. Award winners have been chosen in the categories of Health, Youth, Education, Community Service, and Religion. The Fayette County Union's "Citizen of the Year" will also be honored at the Banquet, as well as Main Street West Union's "Volunteer of the Year."



This year's patriotic theme "The Stars & Stripes of Our Community" will provide attendees with the chance to enjoy great food, festive entertainment by the North Fayette Valley Drill Team, and a fun celebration. Tickets are now on sale at the Chamber office for \$20 each. We encourage everyone to purchase their tickets in advance! Cost at the door will be \$25 each.

We have had some generous businesses already step forward to sponsor appetizers and we continue to look for more sponsors. If your business would like to sponsor an appetizer, please contact the Chamber.

This year we are excited to hold two Raffles, both benefitting West Union's 4th of July Celebration. Deb Thies from Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat has generously donated a beautiful patriotic quilt to raffle, and we will also sell tickets for an exciting 50/50 Raffle! Raffle tickets will be available for purchase the evening of the Banquet.

For more information about any of the evening's events, please contact the Chamber office at 422-3070 or stop by to get your ticket today!

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melody Patrick	President
Ryan Hoey	Vice-President
Jenni Elsbernd	Secretary/Treasurer
Judd Swensen	
Laurie Kreul	
Robin Martin	
Amy Christensen - New in 2014 - WELCOME TO THE BOARD!	
Gail Hackman - New in 2014 - WELCOME TO THE BOARD!	
Carolyn Havenstrite - New in 2014 - WELCOME TO THE BOARD!	

COORDINATOR

Melissa Fagle

Chamber Spotlight: Just Relax Massage & Wellness



Just Relax Massage & Wellness truly believes everyone can benefit from massage!

At Just Relax Massage & Wellness, their mission is to provide a relaxing and therapeutic service in a calming and comforting atmosphere while providing excellent customer service. Some of the many benefits of massage include reduced pain, support for healing of injuries, strengthening the immune system, reduced anxiety, improved mobility, relieved muscle tension, increased sense of well-being, improved circulation, detoxification, relaxation, stress reduction and an increased sense of peace.

Karen Tieskoetter, owner and licensed massage therapist of Just Relax Massage & Wellness, graduated from Windemere Institute of Healing Arts in Decorah, IA in December 2012. After passing her State Boards in March of this year, Karen decided that beautiful, downtown Fayette would be a great place to open her new business. With the many friends and acquaintances she has met through working at Big Rock Country Club over the past 10 years, and Upper Iowa University and their support, her decision has been a good one.

When you come to Just Relax Massage & Wellness, you will be welcomed by wonderful aromas and peaceful surroundings. Sessions are made up of a unique blend of therapies that are tailored to meet your therapeutic needs as well as deep relaxation. Karen will customize your session to meet your needs as she has been trained in the many modalities of massage including Swedish Circulatory, Lomi Lomi Hawaiian, Hot Stone Massage, Deep Tissue, Marma Point Therapy, Reflexology, Reiki Energy Healing and Chakra Cleansing.

Just Relax Massage & Wellness sessions come in ½ hour, 1 hour, or 1 ½ hour periods. You will receive \$5 off your first introductory session and after 5 paid sessions you will receive 1 FREE massage session. You can also purchase a 3, 6 or 12 month membership and receive your massage sessions at discounted rates, along with perks such as family advantages, free gift sessions, splitting and rollovers. You can get more information for memberships by contacting Karen.

Karen has also developed her own line of Just Relax Spa Products. She has bath salts, body lotions, massage oils, shower gels, foot creams, and bar soaps. All of her spa products are hand-blended with essential oils that are designed to help you relax and relieve stress and tension.

Please contact Just Relax Massage & Wellness at 641-229-5545 for more information or to make your appointments. Just Relax is located at 112 S. Main Street in Fayette. You can also visit Just Relax at www.justrelaxmassageandwellness.com and keep up to date on Facebook for news, specials and contests. Karen looks forward to hearing from you. Just Relax Massage & Wellness... "What your body & soul deserves!"



Just Relax has their own line of spa products, as well as membership packages available!



Thank you to Just Relax Massage & Wellness for your Chamber membership and support!

THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY PUNCH CARD PROMOTION A GREAT SUCCESS!

The Annual Holiday Punch Card Promotion continues to grow every year and 2013 was another successful year! We would like to thank all the participating merchants and sponsors and also to the retail committee members for their hard work on the promotion.

Special thanks to those who helped get the trees ready and decorated! As always, we appreciate any feedback or ideas you may have for next year's Punch Card Promotion. Please call our office at 422-3070 or email wuchamber@alpinecom.net.



The grand prize winners of \$100 in West Union scrip money were: Amy Ihde, West Union; John Pape, Clermont; Chad Ingels, Randalia; Bill Strein, Castalia; and Nancy Stanbrough, Fayette. These lucky winners will continue to enjoy shopping locally into the new year! In addition, the City of West Union gave \$50 water bill credits to 2 lucky winners - Allen Stahr and Gordon Pape!

We are in the process of counting the tons of completed cards that were turned in and have hopes of exceeding last year's total dollars spent! 24 weekly winners were each awarded gift certificates to participating businesses and we had the pleasure to surprise and reward people for shopping locally again this year.

GREEN PILOT UPDATE



DISTRICT GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM:

Conversions to the new district geothermal system are currently underway with Tri-County Refrigeration receiving the bid on installation for five buildings. Installations are expected to be completed in January. Any downtown building that is interested in connecting to the system should contact the West Union Energy District for information on the requirements to connect to the system. All buildings receiving DOE grant funding must have their work completed by January 15, 2014.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROJECT:

Work continues on the three buildings that are a part of the Multi-Family housing project. Additional structural work is currently underway as well as new window and door specs. Mechanical systems are currently being installed with sheet rocking set to begin in January. Anyone interested in learning more about rental opportunities in any of these buildings is asked to contact the Main Street West Union office. Twelve new apartments will be available for rent by the summer of 2014.

FAÇADE MASTER PLAN UPDATE:

Construction is well underway on the Façade project with masonry work on a few buildings and storefront reconstruction taking place at the Bank Block building. Asbestos removal took place last month, which was at a very minimal level. Due to cold winter weather conditions, most exterior work will be put on hold until warmer weather arrives. Work will continue on window and door replacements. All businesses are still open in all of the buildings receiving work. All work should be completed by May 1, 2014.

BUSINESS INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANT:

Main Street West Union is researching the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with marketing for the business community through a new grant available to Main Street communities across Iowa. The grant allows for business recruitment and marketing efforts and requires a dollar for dollar local match. Communities could receive up to \$20,000 to be used for approved projects. An informational meeting was held on December 4th with additional meetings to follow. Any property or business owner interested in learning more on how this program could benefit the West Union community should contact the Main Street West Union office. The application would be due on February 14, 2014.

Chamber Bits...

2014 CHAMBER MEMBERSHIPS

A very special "Thank You" to our businesses and individuals that have paid their 2014 membership dues. During the months of January and February, Chamber staff will be working to update the business directory on the West Union website. If you see a change is needed to your listing, please feel free to contact the office. We will also be out soon to deliver 2014 stickers for your Chamber Plaques. If you have not yet paid your 2014 membership, please remit your payment as soon as possible to the Chamber office to continue all your Membership benefits without interruption!
Thank you!

Iowa Businesses need to be Proactive to receive Iowa Commercial Property Taxes Credits

As you recall this past legislative session, Iowa passed and the Governor signed, into law Senate File 295 that pertains to the commercial property taxes. The law, now codified as Iowa Code Chapter 426C, involves a number of changes to the property tax system, especially for commercial and industrial property. It includes: a business property tax credit and roll-backs for commercial and industrial property. The portion related to Business Property Tax Credit allows for a credit against taxes based on valuation for commercial, industrial, and railroad classed property units. It is to be deducted from the property taxes owed and will be shown on the property tax statement, starting in the fall of 2014. **To receive the credit an application must be filed with the County Assessor's office in which the qualifying property is located by January 15, 2014.** Contact Fayette County Assessor's office (563-422-3397) for more information.

**Community Awards Banquet
Honoring the "Stars & Stripes of the Community"**

Saturday, January 18th
Echo Valley Banquet & Reception Center,
10201 Harding Road, West Union
6:00 pm Social Hour
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Awards Ceremony



Tickets are \$20 each in advance at the Chamber Office
Cost is \$25 at the door

GOOD LUCK! We wish Good Luck to Bob & Jessica Sadler of McJ's Embroidery as they pitch their "Dream Big" idea in front of the local committee on January 23rd! They were one of the top 3 vote winners in Northeast Iowa Business Network's "Dream Big, Grow Here" local contest and will vie for \$5,000!

Tap't Out is now 122!

The Chamber would like to congratulate Travis Rovang on his recent purchase of Tap't Out Stein & Dine! The business has changed names to 122 and is open from 6am to 2am Monday through Saturday, and 6am to 2pm on Sunday. Please help us welcome him to our West Union business community!

Any business or potential business interested in setting up an appt. on January 7th with the Regional Small Business Counselor, please contact FCED 563-422-5073

Beginning in February: In an effort to save printing costs, the Chamber will begin emailing newsletters to all who have given an email address.



WEST UNION
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Letters to
Santa



In December, the Chamber invited area children to bring their letters for Santa to our office to be delivered to the North Pole.

Here are a couple pictures of the classes of children who brought in letters!

