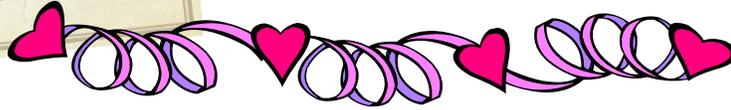




CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

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FEBRUARY 2013

2013 WEST UNION COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET A GREAT SUCCESS!

The annual Community Awards Banquet held on Saturday, January 19th was a great success yet again this year. We had 139 attendees helping us celebrate the "Gems" of our community during a fun filled evening at the West Union Country Club. The individuals who were nominated by the community and chosen by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to receive awards this year were: Dr. Ronald Myrom- Health, Denice Vandersee- Education, Mitchell Ihde- Youth, James Weber- Community Service, and Mike & Kim Boyum- Religion. Congratulations on your well deserved awards!

Also recognized during the evening were Citizen of the Year- Gerald Blue and Main Street West Union's Volunteer of the Year- Gail Hackman.

This year's raffle earned \$500 which was donated to the Kaleidoscope Kids Capital Campaign to build a new facility. The Chamber would like to thank those who donated prizes for the raffle: Miss Drew's Closet, Union Drug, Spirits & Such, Bemiss Distributing, Old Mill Floral, Loomis Plumbing & Heating, Moore's Foods, Napa Auto Parts, Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat, Dessel-Roach Furniture & Floors, West Union Hardware, Imperial Roof Systems, Prairie View Management, Northwestern Mutual, Haven Electronics, All Stop Convenience Store, Lilac Lanes, Fayette County Union, ZM Farms, and Palmer Lutheran Health Center. We appreciate your generosity and help in making a memorable evening for all!

Finally a big thank you to: the West Union Chamber Board of Directors, Miss West Union Kayla Lueder, Main Street West Union, the West Union Country Club, the Chamber Retail Committee, and the Fayette County Union for all their efforts that made for a successful celebration again this year!

Thank You 2013 Banquet Sponsors!

The Chamber of Commerce would like to give a big "Shout Out" to this year's appetizer/dessert sponsors! Your willingness to give generously for this and other events throughout the community is so very greatly appreciated!

Palmer Lutheran Health Center	Bank 1st
Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank	Homestead Iowa Realty
All Stop Convenience Store	Schwan's
Imperial Roof Systems	Old Mill Floral
Lauer & Lauer Insurance Agency	Easton's Water
The City of West Union	Haven Electronics
Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat	



Please join us in welcoming Laurie Kreul to the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors! Laurie came to West Union after being hired as the Gundersen Lutheran Clinic Administrator. We are glad to have her on board! Please feel free to contact any Board Members with suggestions or questions.

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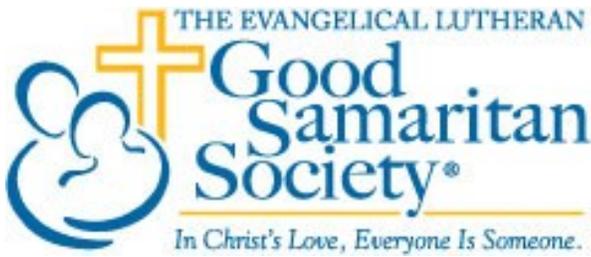
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melody Patrick	President
Ryan Hoey	Vice-President
Jenni Elsbernd	Secretary/Treasurer
Judd Swensen	
Laurie Kreul	
Bridget Parker	Administrative Assistant



Chamber Spotlight: West Union Good Samaritan Society



It was 1949 when the Good Samaritan Society took over operations of the hospital in what is now the Fayette County Historical Center. In 1965 the nursing home was built at its current location on Hall Street in West Union. The West Union Good Samaritan Center is one of 240 locations in the United States. The center is licensed for 71 beds and also operates Cedar Court Senior Living Apartments. Owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society located in Sioux Falls, SD, the center currently has 106 employees.

A skilled nursing facility, the West Union Good Samaritan Center is able to provide rehabilitation and IV therapy for residents. Administrator Dorinda Krueger states that long term care has seen many changes over the years. Good Sam is part of a culture change movement to make the center a more "homelike" environment and much less like a hospital model. Something as simple as removing the clothing protectors or bibs and transitioning to large napkins and linens allows elders to become more dignified.

Dorinda says the facility has so many goals for the future! They were recently awarded the bronze award from the American Health Care Association for their dedication providing quality care. The staff has committed to working toward a silver award next. The dining system is currently a combination buffet line along with short-order cooking, and the next step is to make special diets look like real food by using molds. Realizing that operating a nursing home like they did 20 years ago is not good enough, the West Union Good Samaritan Society is committed to operating more efficiently and effectively, and in the process of updating much of their facility to provide a more modern look. "The relationships we have with our elders are priceless. I think some days they don't realize how much they impact our lives and that we are blessed to serve them each day", say Dorinda. Visit www.good-sam.com to see some great pictures of fun times at West Union Good Sam!

Thank you West Union Good Samaritan Society for your Chamber membership and support!

BUSINESS CLASSES IN THE WEST UNION AREA

Fayette County Economic Development, in a partnership with Northeast Iowa Business Network, will be offering several business classes in West Union and the surrounding area in the next few months. Classes scheduled for February are:

LinkedIn, Social Networking Class- Thursday, February 21st from 5:30 to 8:00 pm on the Upper Iowa Campus in Fayette, room number TBD. Snacks will be provided. The cost for Chamber members is \$25 each. **Registration deadline is by 4:30 pm on Monday, February 18th.** A minimum of 10 attendees is required to hold the class, maximum of 30 students.

CEO of Customer Service- Thursday, February 28th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Fayette County Historical Center. This is a 2 hour session on how we all really are CEO's of Customer Service and every organization (including government and non-profits) and business can review and assess their customer service qualities. A light lunch will be provided. The cost for Chamber members is \$15 each. **Registration deadline is by 4:30 pm on Monday, February 25th.** A minimum of 15 attendees is required to hold the class.

The West Union Chamber highly encourages all our member business owners and their employees to take advantage to this great opportunity at a low cost through our partnership with Fayette County Economic Development! To register you or your employees for the classes above, please contact Bill or Bridget at (563) 422-5073 by the deadlines listed above. Payment is due when you arrive at the class. Watch for these classes in the coming months: QuickBooks (4 weekly sessions), Facebook, and Twitter! Details can be found in the March Chamber Newsletter.

It's Time for the KDEC 30th Annual Home, Sport and Garden Show! Sunday, March 3rd

If any West Union area business would like to participate in the **30th Annual KDEC Home, Sport and Garden Show**, to be held Sunday March 3rd at the Decorah Middle School, be sure to contact your KDEC Account Executive, Shirley Vermace for details. The annual KDEC Home, Sport and Garden attracts approximately 2,000 people each year and creates new clients for its many vendors! Everything from gutters to water conditioning systems, to well service, to interior decorating, to pet care, to party catering, to home siding and windows, to bicycles will be featured at this year's show! And, new this year, win a trip for two to Las Vegas just by attending the show and signing up at each booth! The 30th Annual KDEC Home, Sport and Garden Show, Sunday, March 3rd from 10AM - 3PM at the Decorah Middle School. When was the last time you had 2,000 potential customers or clients walk through your front door in just one day? Call Shirley Vermace soon if you'd like to have a booth for your business in the show! 563.419.2999 or email shirley@kdecradio.net. Hurry, the booths are selling very quickly!



GREEN PILOT UPDATE

FAÇADE MASTER PLAN PROGRAM UPDATE:

Martin Gardner Architecture met with participating building owners on January 3, 2013 to share the first draft of façade improvements and cost estimates. Additional design work continues as they work toward preparing the documents for bid.

GEO THERMAL UPDATE:

The newly created West Union Energy District met on January 9, 2013 and has elected a board of directors which includes Blake Brown, Jon Biederman, Lynn Lauer, Pam Rogers, and Ryan Hoey. The group is moving forward on preparing bid documents for the buildings that will be converting to geothermal, establishing the lease agreement with the City of West Union, and developing the rate structure for the users of the system.

HISTORIC DISTRICT NOMINATION WORK CONTINUES:

Main Street West Union continues work to have downtown West Union listed as a National Historic District with the National Park Service. This listing will allow any downtown building located within the district to utilize state and federal historic tax credits on building improvement projects, as well as open the door for state historic preservation funding sources. Three downtown buildings will be utilizing these programs to assist with renovation projects for the Multi-family Housing project. Any building owner who is interested in learning more about the incentive programs available to them should contact the Main Street West Union office at 422-3070 or the State Historic Preservation Office in Des Moines.

ENERGY GRANT REBATES:

Five West Union businesses utilized the Energy Efficiency Grant Program in 2012 for rebates totaling \$8,794. Rebates were awarded for installing new energy efficient equipment including lighting, furnaces, and windows.



2013 Mid-Winter Gala

Fundraiser for the Fayette Opera House and Fayette Lions Club

A night of dancing, gaming, auctions, and hors d'oervres awaits you at the Fayette Opera House on February 9th from 7:00 to 12:00. Advance tickets for this fundraising event for the Opera House and Fayette Lions Club are \$20 and tickets are available at the door for \$25. Tickets are available from Poor's Automotive or by calling 563-425-4526.

A silent auction will run throughout the evening culminating with the live auction beginning at 10:00 to spend all your Gala Chips Winnings!



ICE SKATING in HAWKEYE

Looking for something to do outside this Winter? Take the family to the ice skating rink in Hawkeye! The rink is open anytime the water is frozen and it has a warming house with heat and power to plug in crocks, ect. Skate rentals are available from K&K Gardens and cost is \$5 for 24 hour rental. They have figure and hockey skates for all ages. They also rent sticks and pucks for hockey. Check out their Facebook Page, Hawkeye Ice Rink or please contact Keith Kovarik at (563) 427-5373 or (563) 380-4610 with any questions!

SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST

WU Park & Rec is once again holding the Subway Snow Sculpture Contest. Please contact Parks & Rec at (563) 380-8496 to have a picture taken of your sculpture and get entered in the contest. First place is a \$25 gift certificate at Subway. Second place is \$15 and third place is \$10.



Important Dates to Remember!

- February 7th-** Retail Committee Meeting, 7:00 am. All Members welcome!
- February 12th-** Chamber Board Meeting, 8:00 am
- February 21st-** Linked In Social Networking Class, see details on page 2
- February 28th-** CEO of Customer Service Class, see details on page 2
- March 15th & 16th-** St. Patrick's Day Chocolate Walk retail event. Watch for details in the March newsletter!
- March 30th-** Civic Club Annual Easter Basket Hunt in West Union
- April 11th-** MSWU "Divas & Dining" Event at the WU Country Club
- April 12th & 13th-** "Diva Days" Ladies Weekend Retail Event

Can Collection for Fireworks

The can collection bin for the annual fireworks celebration is located at Old Mill Redemption Center on Hwy 150 south by the car wash & Jay's Automotive. The Chamber of Commerce is continuing to collect cans to help fund the annual fireworks celebration on July 4th. Thanks for your contribution!!





WESTUNION CHAMBER of COMMERCE

West Union Chamber of Commerce
101 North Vine Street
West Union, IA 52175
Phone: 563-422-3070
Email: wuchamber@alpinecom.net

Follow us on Facebook and at www.westunion.com

Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Campaign for Building Project

Recent fundraisers by the West Union Chamber of Commerce and Main Street West Union, as well as many other donations, have helped the campaign cross the \$450,000 mark in funds raised! The Community Development Block Grant has been submitted with a decision expected by April. Other foundation grant applications are being researched and submitted where appropriate.

KKCC would like to thank all contributors. Campaign gifts and volunteers are still needed! To donate or volunteer, please contact Mary at (563) 422-5379. Gifts made to the campaign fund are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines. Contact LeRoy Soppe or Mike Heins if you would like to discuss an In-Kind gift opportunity.

The Kaleidoscope Building Project is an 8,500 square foot new childcare facility to be built next to the high school at the former swimming pool site. This facility will be built for childcare unlike the current facility, which is the lower level of the United Methodist Church. Bathroom facilities and other structures will be built appropriately sized for children and placed in the classroom which is normal for a childcare facility, air conditioning will be installed since Kaleidoscope is open year-round, and quiet rooms will be located away from active learning areas. Total project costs are estimated at approximately \$1.6 million.

Mike and Barb Heins and LeRoy and Marcia Soppe have volunteered to lead this fundraising effort as Capital Campaign Co Chairs. In addition, Don Mueller and Steve Story have volunteered as Capital Campaign Honorary Co Chairs. Other campaign volunteers include: Kathy Bauer, Kevin Baumler, Ron Beerman, Courtney Bentley, Robin Bostrom, Tobin Britt, Deb Chensvold, Deb Dessel, Al Enyart, John and Sally Falb, Tami Guyer, Carolyn Havenstrite, Kara Johnson, Pastor Scott Kober, Janell McElree, LeAnn Meyer, Steve Murray, Mary O'Kones, Ron and Barb O'Kones, Deb Rovang, Nicole Russler, Bob Vagts, Jessica Wegner, Deb Willhite, and Bill Ziegler.

