



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com

October 2011



Greetings West Union Chamber members and friends of the chamber. I am very excited to be a part of West Union Chamber as your Director and look forward to learning about and helping promote West Union businesses. I have been so impressed by the energy and enthusiasm everyone seems to have and this was echoed by the communities support on the Extreme Makeover home. We are re-

building the Chamber and Fayette County Economic Development office (both physically and in the human resource arena). I have always been a long-term planner and more concerned about sustainability and the long-haul than cosmetics and surface looks. At the same time, there are times that quick fixes are need and this is YOUR chamber, so please do not

hesitate in giving me feedback, any kind of feedback, I am pretty thick skinned so you will never offend me (unless you make fun of my dog!). Please remember each and every one of you is "selling" not only West Union, but Northeast Iowa. Keep up the great work.

With Much Respect, Bill

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jackie Loomis	President
Lisa Miller	Vice President
Deb Merrill	Secretary
Melody Patrick	
Jenni Elsbernd	
Justin Steinlage	
Ryan Hoey	
Brent Parker	

IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS HAPPENING AROUND TOWN

The West Union Chamber building is going through its metamorphous, and you can see the outside work is changing daily. When the Stucco work is done it will be painted by the end of this week. We are waiting on windows for the front, then the Stucco can be completed in front. The Roof is scheduled for the October 22—24 weekend. Interior work is ongoing as electrical work and finishing work will be needed.



MINGLE & JINGLE—HOLIDAY PUNCH CARDS

Last year the Holiday Punch Cards brought in over \$644,000 worth of business into West Union. This year the slogan will be Mingle & Jingle. The dates will be Nov. 3—Dec 24th. Holiday Open House will be November 10th—12th. Sign-up sheets have been sent out by email and hard copies are available.

The price will be the same as last year—cost will be \$75 plus \$25 store gift certificate. You must be a chamber member to participate. I do know a part of my job is to get “out” and meet the members, I will work on that and don’t hesitate to ask me where I am if I have not visited your business.



Newsletter Articles



Newsletter Deadline— Yes, I know this newsletter has had a slow start, but my future goals are articles, events, calendar info in to Chamber by the 25th and the newsletter will go out by the 1st.

Articles of Interest—if you have something of interest, please forward it on to me to be included in the newsletter.

GREEN PILOT UPDATE



**GREEN
STREETSCAPE
PILOT PROGRAM**

STREETSCAPE WEBCAM: Be sure to check out the progress on the streetscape project on the webcam that is recording all the progress currently taking place on South Pine Street. Check it out at <http://www.iowalifechanging.com/community/west-union-camera.aspx>.

STREETSCAPE WORK CONTINUES: Water and sewer work continues on South Pine Street between Plum and Elm streets. All sidewalks are open to all businesses and parking is available in several locations. The heavy rains in late May have slowed progress just a bit. Once water & sewer lines are complete, excavation will begin on the street.. Geothermal lines have been placed on West Plum Street with services on the south block of Vine Street. Grading to allow for curb placement will begin soon. All sidewalks and front business entrances will remain open to pedestrian traffic.

OLD STREET BRICKS FOR SALE: The city will be offering the historic bricks from the street for sale to anyone wishing to purchase them for reuse. The bricks will sell for \$.25 each and will be available on a date in June and throughout the summer and fall. Five bricks equal a square foot and would make great paving material for landscaping projects. Watch the Fayette County Union for the exact date to purchase the bricks. Five cents from each brick sold will benefit the local boy scout troop who will assist in counting and loading the bricks on the sale dates. For additional information, please contact City Hall and watch the Fayette County Union for more information.

NATIVE SUN FILMING: Native Sun Productions will be in West Union on Friday, June 3rd to film for a short documentary film that will feature the community of West Union and the work taking place as part of the Green Pilot Project. Native Sun Productions has done documentary film work for many cable channels including the History Channel and the Science Channel as well as PBS. The Iowa Department of Economic Development and Conservation Design Forum are assisting with the production which will be used to tell the story of the Green Pilot Projects and sustainable development work being done in the state of Iowa. West Union will be able to use the film as a recruitment tool for new business and industry. To view some of the work done by Native Sun Productions, check out their website at <http://www.nativesunproductions.com/#/video>



FCED HIRES NEW ADMIN ASSISTANT

Fayette County Economic Development has hired XXX XXX as their new Administrative Assistant. WELL, I had hoped to have this box filled in with a name. The bottom line, we had 23 applicants, all were very strong. I will be selecting a person today or tomorrow, the interviewee's were outstanding. This person will assist me as needed on Chamber projects and activities.

Halloween—Trick or Treat will be Sunday October 30 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Chamber Banquet will be held January 21, 2012, mark your calendar.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Chamber welcomes LifeServe Blood Center (Pam Wolter), Swensen Chiropractic (Judd Swensen) and HMK Properties (Husna Kahn). LifeService is pleased to be a part of West Union and looks forward to future blood drives, the next one will be November 2nd at Valley View. Judd has taken over Dr. Bigler's practice and chose West Union as their new home because he felt West Union was taking steps to improve itself and invest in it's future. Husna has invested in a downtown building and the future of West Union! Welcome Pam, Judd and Husna.

Photo is of Anytime Fitness Open House



Chamber will support Park & Rec to host Festival of Lights & Santa's Visit

The Chamber will be supporting Park and Recreation in setting up their lights at the Rec Center as well as helping to support Santa's visit (at the Rec Center) which is schedule for November 25th (Friday after Thanksgiving). In addition, we will be placing lights downtown on the Courthouse tree's as in the past. Please look for announcements on dates and time to help out.

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

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Attached word document,
for this month.



Gary Sandholm Departs FCED October 21

Gary will be leaving FCED and his last day will be October 21. He has accepted a job at Hartford Area Development Commission out of Hartford South Dakota. Please stop by and say farewell to Gary and wish him well in his new job.

West Union Chamber of Commerce Business Happenings and More

- **Moore's One Day Meat Sale** October 13, 2011. 7:00-5:30. Thank-you. Jim Corkery.
- **Main Street West Union** Board meeting – October 13 – 6:00 p.m.
- October 13th the fire department will have an open house and give kids rides for **Fire Prevention Week**
- **City of West Union** council meeting Oct 17th. 5:30 pm.
- Main Street West Union 5th Anniversary Celebration – October 27th – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Just a couple of reminders--NEIA Shop Hop is next week--October 13, 14 & 15, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. We feature 20% off specials so even if you don't do the whole Hop, be sure to visit your favorite shops and let them know you appreciate them being in business. For more info check out our website www.oneblockoverquiltshop.com click on the postcard, print it off and bring it with you. Kristi and Lynn, **One Block Over**, A Quilters' Shop
- Upper Iowa Conference **Cross Country Meet** at North Fayette Oct 13 4:00 pm
- Boys and Girls District **Cross Country meet** at North Fayette Oct 20 4:00 pm
- **Good Samaritan Society** - West Union Community Coffee is Tuesday, October 18th in the Dining Room. Program is music by "Daddy's Girl's" Anyone is invited for this time of Fun, Food and Fellowship.
 - Sharon Shaffer, Director of Resource Development, 563-422-9692
- **Civic Club** is selling Holiday greenery (see attached flyer) Order by Oct 29th.
- The **30th Annual KDEC Home, Sport and Garden Show** is **Sunday, March 4th** at the Decorah Middle School.
 - Over 80 vendor booths available for any businesses in Northeast Iowa! \$599 per booth (10'x10', curtained booth, table, two chairs), plus you receive \$599 in total advertising on KDEC 100.5FM, 1240AM, or a combination of both stations to be used sometime during January through April 2012.
 - This show attracts about 2,000 visitors each year. How would you like to have 2,000 potential customers come through your front door in just one day? The **KDEC Home, Sport and Garden Show** provided just that! If you would like to consider having your business in the **30th Annual KDEC Home, Sport and Garden Show**, please contact: Shirley Vermace, KDEC Account Executive, 563.419.2999 or email shirley@kdecradio.com
- **KDEC BIG DEAL** - just in time for the HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON! So far, I've got NAPA Auto Parts, Old Mill Floral, and Saboe Jewelry in West Union on this program. If we add just two more businesses in WU, then West Union can have their

own category on the BIG DEALS online market, which could drive more business into West Union!

- It's a really **BIG DEAL!!** Go to **kdecradio.com** and click on the **BIG DEALS** logo to access **20%, 30% and even 35% OFF gift certificates** to dozens of Northeast Iowa businesses! This new program, sponsored by KDEC Broadcasting, is an effort to encourage people to shop locally! Every dollar spent local retail and food establishments, stays in the local community! If you would like to have your business listed in the kdecradio.com **BIG DEALS** online market, contact Shirley Vermace, KDEC Account Executive, 563.419.2999 or email shirley@kdecradio.com If there are 5 or more West Union businesses in the **BIG DEAL** program, then West Union can have their own "West Union" category on the **BIG DEALS** website. There are already three West Union businesses in the program! Go check them out and start saving! **It's a really BIG DEAL!!**
- **Edge FX** is honoring the 25 years of Breast Cancer Awareness for the entire month of October. All products tied with a pink ribbon are 25 % off, helping everyone fight like a girl.
- **Haunted House/Salon** Oct. 27th. Edge FX is having a haunted Salon on Oct 27th from 5 – 8.
- November 6th is the **Fayette County 4-H Awards Program** 2 pm at the Fayette Opera House. Public is invited.
- **West Union Community Blood Drive** ,Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 12:30-5:30m p.m. Valleyview Center, Thanks, Pam Wolter, LifeServe Blood Center , 800-287-4903, ext 4857
- **Musical Grease** on November 11, 12 and 13 in the PAC.
- **All Welcome to Palmer Memorial Foundation's - Fall Fund Fest**
 - Everyone is welcome to celebrate Palmer Memorial Foundation's annual Fall Fund Fest. This year's event is scheduled for **Thursday, October 20th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Dance Pavilion on the Fayette County Fair Grounds.** Enjoy an evening out while listening to FREE live musical entertainment from Fusion and sampling FREE hors d'ouerves, and desserts.
 - Guests may also view and bid on baskets during a silent basket auction from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. or take part in the Live Auction beginning at 6:30 p.m. Grills Gone Wild, Thanksgiving Feast, Grease, Family Game Night and Mix It Up are just a few examples of the wide variety of themed baskets that will be auctioned during the silent auction. The live auction will offer an autographed Minnesota Vikings Photograph, Hawkeye Football Helmet Autographed by Shonn Greene, Bed and Breakfast Stay and Dinner package for 8, a Coach Purse, Terry Redlin prints, Dinner & Wine Making, Galena Wine & Dine Package and much more.

- If you wish to make a donation, please contact Jenni Elsbernd at (563) 422-3876 ext. 1768 or jelsbernd@palmerlutheran.org. Donations are greatly appreciated.
- All proceeds from this event will be used to fund Community Health and Wellness Projects throughout the area sponsored by Palmer Memorial Foundation. Alliant Energy will be matching a portion of the funds raised to help purchase an alarm and access control system for Palmer's Emergency Department. Jenni Elsbernd, 422-3811, ext. 1768
- October 13th the fire department will have an open house and give kids rides for **Fire Prevention Week**
- **City of West Union** council meeting Oct 17th. 5:30 pm.
- **Good Samaritan Society** – West Union is seeking vendors of home-based businesses for a pre-Christmas Vendor's Fair. There will be no charge for vendors to set up a booth in Cedar Court Senior Apartments on Sat., Nov. 19, when families can start their Christmas shopping in a "one-stop shop." If you are interested in being a vendor, please email Susie at sdiercks@good-sam.com or call Dorinda or Sarah at **422-3814** for more information.

