



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!



DIVA DAY RETAIL EVENT IS APRIL 17TH

The Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee is planning a special shopping event just for the ladies on April 17th. This day-long special event is geared toward capturing visitors in the community for two other events already scheduled for that day, the Barn Quilts of Fayette County Quilt Show at North Fayette High School and the Antique Appraisal Fair at the Fayette County Historical Center. The goal of the event is to encourage shoppers to come and spend the day in West Union and create some excitement and sales for the retail stores.

The event has been named "DIVA DAY" and will begin with a registration where the first 100 women will receive a West Union shopping bag filled with goodies and information about the days events. Several stores are planning to have mini workshops to encourage customers to stop in

and check out their new spring merchandise or to learn about a service they offer. Examples include ring cleaning and prong checks at Saboe Jewelry, floral arrangements and bow making at Old Mill Floral, and using the Kodak picture kiosks at Union Drug, just to name a few. Other merchants are offering tasty treats or wine tasting. Stores are not required to have a workshop, but it is a great way to draw customers into your location.

Any Chamber Member is welcome to participate if they would like. A fee of \$25 per business will cover the advertising and promotional costs, and a \$25 gift certificate per business will be used for the prize drawings. Each business will have a registration form and the more stores a customer visits, the more chances they have to win a gift certificate. The gift certificates encourage customers to come



back to West Union again and again!

If your business has not yet signed up to be a part of this event, please contact the Chamber Office right away. Then look for the brightly-colored balloons all over town on Saturday, April 17th and plan to stop by those stores for a great day fit for a Diva and all her favorite shopping pals!

NEW BUSINESS OPENING APRIL 17TH

West Union will welcome it's newest business, Moonlight Stitching Studio and Sister's Retreat located at 105 North Vine Street on April 17th. The long-arm quilting and retreat center is owned by Deb & Mark Thies, and will provide professional quilting services and an overnight retreat center for quilters, scrapbookers, or crafters in general. The business will be open Monday and Wednesday evenings from

5:00—10:00 p.m. or by appointment. Retreat Center hours will be 10:00 a.m. on Fridays until 1:00 p.m. on Sundays. The Retreat Center features sleeping accommodations for up to 20 people in the upper level and a large classroom on the main level. Kitchen facilities are available as well. If you would like to schedule an event, please call Deb at 422-8212.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VISTA COMMENTS FROM VOLUNTEER BEN LEWIS



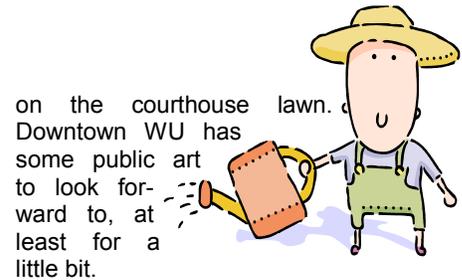
VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America

It's Earth Month again. Thank goodness that the snow has melted! Now it's time to move back outdoors, thaw out, recharge our collective solar batteries and play in the warm breezes (when they don't smell like manure that is). I will tell you briefly about the things that I have planned for the next two months.

First off, the community garden has increased occupancy from last year, and has partnered with the North Fayette Mentoring program. The garden plot will become a living classroom for experienced green thumbs to pass their knowledge to a generation that is not yet as

connected to their food. May 1 will be the official opening of the garden growing season, so anybody interested in a plot is encouraged to contact me here at the Chamber Office.

April 18th is tentatively scheduled as Park Clean-Up Day in conjunction with the WU Park & Recreation. I will be looking for volunteers to help pick up the trash that the receding snow banks left exposed, and tree branches that fell and have littered the grass. Speaking of public spaces, starting in mid-April, Northeast Iowa Community College Yard Art Students will be displaying their pieces



on the courthouse lawn. Downtown WU has some public art to look forward to, at least for a little bit.

It's also time to start thinking about bike month. May will be here in a short while and I've brainstormed some exciting ways to get more people out of their cars. More on that later.

CHAMBER AFTER FIVE IS APRIL 15



Lisa Miller and the staff at Edge FX Salon, 103 South Walnut will be our hosts for the April Chamber After Five event. Lisa is the new owner of the salon taking over ownership this past January. The salon will also be celebrating their 10th anniversary in business! All Chamber members

and their employees are invited to attend beginning at 4:00 p.m. If your business would like to host a Chamber After Five event, please contact the Chamber office at 422-3070 to be added to the schedule.

ORDER YOUR 2010 FLOWER FILL

Order forms for the 2010 flower barrels are included with this month's newsletter and can be submitted to the Chamber office now. Each paid Chamber membership includes one (1) free flower barrel fill for 2010. Sun and shade varieties are available and additional fills can be purchased for \$20.00. Volunteers will plant your flowers in mid-May as the weather allows. Signed order forms are due to the Chamber Office by April 23, 2010.



MAIN STREET WEST UNION PRESENTS:
A HOMETOWN HOEDOWN
SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010
5:00-10:00 AT THE FAYETTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS!

Doors Open at 5:00
Serving Begins at 5:30
Silent Auction Runs Until 8:30
(Over 45 Items to Bid On!)
Band from 7:30 - 10:00

ENJOY A CHILI 'N CORNBREAD COOKIN' CONTEST!

Chili and Cornbread Contestants wanted!
April 2nd Deadline
Cook-Off Winners Announced at 7:00
FREE ADMISSION TO CONTESTANTS!

Ticket Prices:
Children: \$5.00 (age 12 and under)
Adults: \$10.00
Purchase Early - Save \$1.00 per ticket!!

Music By: 

Contact the Main Street Office at 422-3070 for ticket or contestant information

WEST UNION TO HOST REGIONAL CHAMBER TRAINING

The West Union Chamber Board of Directors will be hosting a regional training event for Chamber Board members in West Union on Friday, April 23rd. The event will feature Chamber Executive Steve Horman from Dubuque, who has over 20 years experience in Chamber and community development and will speak on board orientation. West Union business owners are encouraged to share any information about your business with our Chamber colleagues from across Northeast Iowa. Six counties will be attending and it is a great opportunity for them to learn about what West Union has to offer. If you have any promotional items such as note pads, pens, coffee mugs, etc. that you would like us to distribute or just a flyer about your business, please bring them to the Chamber office before April 21st. Our Chamber is excited to be the host for this first event sponsored by the Regional Chamber Executives. The five participating counties include Fayette, Howard, Clayton, Allamakee, and Winneshiek.

GREEN PILOT UPDATE



GRANT UPDATES: On March 29th, the city was awarded \$1.175 million in I-Jobs funding from the flood mitigation program for the storm water management components of the streetscape project. This includes porous pavers, bio-retention features, and the sidewalk portions of the project. The funding was reallocated to those communities that had submitted an I-Jobs application last August but were not funded in the first round of awards in the fall of 2009. Total grant funds awarded to the City of West Union as of March 31, 2010 is \$6,293,029. (Please note: ALL of these grant funds DO NOT have to be paid back.)

COMMUNITY GARDEN: The West Union Community Garden located at the Fayette County Fairgrounds has one plot remaining for rent for the 2010 garden season. Plots are available for \$15 and the garden can be expanded if there is more interest. VISTA volunteer Ben Lewis has already begun preparing the site and hopes to begin planting in early May, weather permitting. Seed Savers in Decorah has donated garden seeds which are available to anyone who has a plot at the community garden. The community garden is also seeking donations of garden tools or landscaping supplies including fencing, garden art, etc. to use at the garden site. If you would like to learn more about this project, or would like a plot this summer, please contact VISTA volunteer Ben Lewis at 422-3070.

GREEN BUILDING WORKSHOPS CONTINUE: The Center on Sustainable Communities continues to offer free green building training here in West Union. The workshops are held in the upper level meeting room at TAP'T Out Stein-n-Dine and are open to all local contractors, do-it-yourselfers, and homeowners. The final session for homeowners will be held on Saturday, April 3rd and will focus on alternative energy options. The sessions are held from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. and include lunch. The general contractors sessions will be held on April 2, 16, and 23. The sessions will focus on the following:

April 2: Heating & Cooling Systems with guest instructor Tim Hanes of Cenergy. Topics will include System sizing and installation, duct leakage, system tuning and balancing, and controls

April 16: Indoor Air Quality & Interior Finishes with guest instructor Julia Fish of Fishaus Craftsman Builders
Topics covered will include Heat Recovery Ventilators and Energy Recovery Ventilators

April 23: Alternative Energy Options with guest instructor James McCain of Innovative Kinetics
Topics covered will include solar domestic hot water systems, solar geothermal, small wind systems, Tax credits, and photosynthesis.

If you would like to attend any of the workshops, please register with COSC by emailing leslie@icosc.com or by calling 515-707-2787. Again, all workshops are **FREE!**



Antiques Appraisal Fair

The Fayette County Historical Center will be hosting an Antique Appraisal Fair on Saturday, April 17th from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. The fundraising event will feature Chuck Wolf from Maquoketa, Iowa, who has over 40 years experience in antique appraisal. Please call the center at 422-5797 to schedule an appointment for your item. Walk-ins will be worked in as the schedule allows. The cost for appraisal is \$5.00. Historical Society volunteers will also be selling lunch and dessert items throughout



YARD WASTE PICK-UP DAY

April 19th is yard waste pick-up day. All items must be in the approved paper collection bags which can be purchased at City Hall or the Chamber Office. Items should be on the curb by 8:00 a.m.



Town-wide Garage Sales April 23-24th

If you would like to have your sale included please contact the Fayette County Union at 422-3888.

Quilt Show!

Barn Quilts of Fayette County will be hosting their 2nd Annual Quilt Show on April 17 & 18 at the North Fayette High School. The show features over 100 handcrafted quilts from all over northeast Iowa. Show admission is just \$5.00 and lunch will be available on Saturday afternoon. Classes and workshops are scheduled for both days of the event. A pork loin dinner will be served on Sunday by the local 4-H clubs. Proceeds from the show support the construction and display of barn quilts all over Fayette County. Show hours are 9:00—5:00 on Saturday and 10:00—4:00 on Sunday. To register for the classes or to donate your quilt for the show, please contact Carol Weidemann at 422-5073.



APRIL 2010

West Union Chamber of Commerce
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Check us out at www.westunion.com !

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Barn Quilts of Fayette County meeting at FCED office | 10 | Fayette County Community Foundation Board Retreat
Main Street West Union Hometown Hoedown & Chili Cook-off at Fayette County Fairgrounds | 17 | Antique Appraisal Fair at Fayette County Historical Center |
| 2 | Affordable Green Building Training at TAP'T Out Stein-n-Dine
Chamber Office CLOSED | 11 | NF Booster Club Pork Loin Dinner at NFHS | 18 | Barn Quilts of Fayette County Quilt Show at NFHS
Pork Loin Dinner at NFHS |
| 3 | CIVIC Club Easter Basket Hunt
Green Building Homeowners Session at TAP'T Out Stein-n-Dine | 12 | NF School Board meeting—5:00 p.m. | 19 | Yard Waste Collection Day
West Union City Council meeting |
| 4 | Happy Easter! | 13 | Chamber Board meeting
Main Street West Union Board meeting | 20 | MSWU Design Committee meeting |
| 5 | West Union City Council meeting | 14 | West Union CAT Presentation in Des Moines | 21 | Fayette County Housing Trust Fund meeting in Fayette
WU Ambassadors Meet & Greet for new city staff at City Hall |
| 6 | Fayette County Tourism meeting
Turkey River Rec meeting, Elgin | 15 | West Union Community Development Board meeting
Edge FX 10th Anniversary celebration | 22 | Fireman's Pancake Supper |
| 7 | MSWU Organization Committee meeting | 16 | Affordable Green Building Workshop
Grand Opening at Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat
Main Street Iowa Awards Celebration in Des Moines | 23 | Affordable Green Building Workshop at TAP'T Out Stein-n-Dine
Town-wide Garage Sales
Regional Chamber Training Event |
| 8 | Barn Quilts of Fayette County meeting
One Day Meat Sale at Moore's Foods
West Union Public Art Committee meeting at Chamber Office
One Block Over Shop Hop | 17 | DIVA DAY Retail Event
Barn Quilts of Fayette County Quilt Show at NFHS | 24 | Town-wide Garage Sales |
| 9 | Chamber Retail Committee meets at Chamber office
One Block Over Shop Hop | | | 27 | NICC Career Fair at Echo Valley Banquet Center
FCED Board meeting at UIU, Fayette |
| | | | | 29 | Fayette County Community Foundation Grant Awards Ceremony |