



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com

Want a delicious way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?



Join our area businesses and organizations as they serve up some scrumptious chocolate treats on Friday, March 21st from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday, March 22nd from 9:00 am to Noon!



Pick up a card at a participating location, grab a tasty bite of chocolate, get your card stamped, and spend a little time browsing. Proceed to each participating location to sample a different kind of chocolate and get your card stamped.



Completed cards may be brought into the Chamber office on Friday or left with one of the participants on either day. Cards that are 2/3 filled with stamps will be eligible for the grand prize drawing of a "Chocolate Lover's" gift basket filled to the brim with all sorts of chocolate items! This year children can participate as well by getting their card stamped and enter in the drawing for a bag filled with chocolate & children's items!



Participants include: the Fayette County Historical Center, McJ's Embroidery, Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat, Old Mill Floral, Union Drug, Saboe Jewelry, Spirits & Such, Napa Auto Parts, Curves, Just Relax Massage & Wellness, the Fayette County Union, Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank, Sims TV & Electronics, West Union Hardware, Traditions of West Union and Bank 1st (during regular hours at the Main Bank). If your business would like to participate, fill out & return the form on page 4 to Melissa at the Chamber Office.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DIVA DAYS SHOPPING EVENT...

Ladies ~ Get ready to shake off those winter blues with a special weekend for all Divas! The 5th annual Chamber sponsored "Diva Days" retail event is coming to West Union on Friday and Saturday, April 11th and 12th! Businesses will be holding spring specials and will be featuring their new items for the season. Refreshments will be served and drawings will be held!

The weekend event will kick-off on Thursday evening, April 10th as the Main Street West Union Promotions Committee hosts their annual "Divas & Dining" event at Echo Valley Banquet Center. The "Divas on the Dock" themed evening begins at 5:00 pm.

Attendees can browse boutique tables and enjoy a wonderful meal. Special highlights included this year will be male waiters, prize drawings, tropical drink specials, an appetizer bar, a Spring Style Show, and goodie bags, sponsored by the Chamber, for the first 100 ladies who arrive at "the dock!"

Tickets for the event are \$16 (\$20 at the door) and are available at the MSWU office or Chamber office beginning March 3rd.

Anyone interested in having a boutique at the event should contact Robin Bostrom at 422-8655 [mainstreetwu@gmail.com] or Amie Johansen at 422-7052. The vendor fee will be \$25 and includes one 6 foot table, with additional tables for \$10 each. (Meal tickets must be purchased separately)

Any Chamber business can have items in our goodie bags, including logo merchandise, pens, samples, flyers about special events happening in your business, etc. If you are interested in contributing to the goodie bags, please contact the Chamber office or bring your items to the office by 4:30 pm on THURSDAY, MARCH 27th to have them included in the bags. The Chamber will be making coupon booklets to put in goodie bags again this year. Please let the Chamber office know if you have a coupon you'd like to have included no later than THURSDAY, MARCH 20th.

This is a great opportunity to promote your business!



Chamber Spotlight: Black Hills Energy

Black Hills Energy has provided West Union with safe, reliable natural gas service for more than 50 years. In addition to locally trained and qualified employees, they have a network of support personnel who work to maintain natural gas service 24/7. Black Hills also has 24-hour phone numbers for customer service and emergencies.

24 Hour Customer Service: 888-890-5554
24 Hour Emergency Service : 800-694-8989

Through a division of Black Hills Energy called Service Guard, they also offer repair services and protection plans for natural gas and electric appliances.

They strive to be a good community partner and part of that partnership includes offering a variety of programs to assist their customers and communities. Those programs include economic development assistance, community giving (see our easy online application for 501c3 organizations), Power of Trees (offering grants for community groups to plant trees) and a scholarship program. You'll find information about these and other programs on their website: www.blackhillsenergy.com



Black Hills also encourages you to save energy whenever you can. They provide all kinds of energy-efficiency programs to help you save money and energy. They offer several kinds of rebates on all kinds of energy products and tips on how you can lower your energy costs, make your home or business more comfortable and reduce your energy use.

It is important to Black Hills Energy to understand what the citizens in our communities are thinking. They want to know the citizens attitudes, perceptions and needs so they can better serve us. For that reason, they invite your business to have a representative on their West Union Citizen Advisory Council (CAC.) CAC's are a proven, effective means of receiving valuable feedback regarding concerns, needs and perceptions, allowing Black Hills Energy to pinpoint and resolve potential problems, thereby continuously improving their quality of service.

Their next CAC meeting will be **Tuesday, April 29 @ noon in the West Union Public Library**. A light lunch will be provided and the speaker will be their corporate Market Research Analyst, Kristina Carlson. She would like to share information about their recent customer survey and get your feedback, as well. To RSVP, please contact Laura Roussel, Sr Program Manager, at 563-585-4022 or by email at laura.roussel@blackhillscorp.com. They look forward to having you join them and hearing from our West Union community business members.

Thank you to Black Hills Energy for your Chamber membership and support!

Chamber Bits...



- ▶ CONCEPT BY IOWA HEARING AID CENTERS
- ▶ TRADITIONS OF WEST UNION



The Fayette County Historical Society will be hosting a Bake Sale on Friday, March 21st in conjunction with the St. Patrick's Day Chocolate Walk! 10 am to 3 pm
Stop in and pick up some treats for the weekend!



St. Patrick's Day Chocolate Walk

March 21st 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

March 22nd 9:00 am to Noon



March 9th
Remember to set your clocks ahead!

The ISU Extension will host a Free Workshop on understanding and making choices about health insurance on Thursday, March 6th at the West Union Library from 1 to 3 pm. Call 425-3331 to pre-register.



Annual Lenten Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus Council #4287 will offer its annual Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 14th at the Holy Name Parish Center. They will be serving from 4:30 to 8:00 pm. Advance tickets are \$9.00 and tickets at the door will be \$9.50. Carry-outs available.

Good Samaritan Society

5K Glow Walk/Run

Saturday, April 5th
Check-In at 7:15pm
Start at 8:00pm



Registration is \$25/person and registration forms need to be returned by March 15th to receive a T-shirt and other glow walk/run items.

Forms can be picked up at Good Samaritan Society, Anytime Fitness, Curves, NFV Schools, NICC, local banks, the Chamber Office or call 422-3814.



Upcoming Dairy Sales at the Fayette County Fairgrounds

March 8th	Brown Swiss State Sale
March 15th	Holstein State Sale
March 22nd	Jersey/Ayrshire State Sale
March 29th	NICC Dairy Science Club

FAYETTE COUNTY 4-H OMELET/PANCAKE BRUNCH

Sunday, March 16
9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Dance Pavilion
Fayette Co. Fairgrounds, West Union

Menu includes: made-to-order omelet, pancakes, applesauce, coffee, and milk

\$7.00 ticket (purchased from 4-H member)
\$8.00 at the door
Preschool & younger — free

 IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

GREEN PILOT UPDATE



MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROJECT:

Work continues on the three buildings that are a part of the Multi-Family housing project. HVAC and electrical work is almost complete and sheet rock has been installed. New structural support beams have been installed along with roof and floor support work. New windows will soon be installed. Heavy equipment will be needed to complete the window replacement and support beam work which will mean parking spots will be blocked off to allow for safe use of this equipment. Please be aware of these areas and park in alternate areas. Thank you!

FAÇADE MASTER PLAN UPDATE:

Work continues on several downtown buildings which are a part of this program.. The enclosures on the front of the buildings allow the construction company to continue working through this chilly weather. Please use caution as you navigate around these areas. We appreciate everyone's patience as work continues to complete this project as quickly as possible.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM:

Businesses located within the Downtown Urban Renewal area are reminded that they may be eligible for rebates related to energy improvements made to their building. About \$25,000 remains in this grant program which will expire on March 31, 2014. Eligible improvements should be installed prior to February 28th and all paperwork turned into the Main Street West Union office. This will allow enough time to process rebates before the grant closing date of March 31st. If you think you may qualify to receive a rebate and need assistance completing the paperwork, please contact the MSWU office at 422-8655.



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www.westunion.com

St. Patrick's Day Chocolate Walk



Friday, March 21st & Saturday, March 22nd

If you would like to participate in the Chocolate Walk, fill out and return this form ASAP. Each participating merchant is asked to provide one "Chocolate" item, either for the adult gift basket or for the kids gift basket to be given to two drawing winners. Items can be chocolate colored, flavored, or anything that fits in with the theme!

Please select one:

_____ We will donate to the Adult Basket or

_____ We will donate to the Kids Basket or

_____ We will donate to whichever Basket you need items for



Business Name: _____

Authorized Signature: _____