



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com

MARCH 2013

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CHOCOLATE WALK



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 15th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday, March 16th 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. Only completed cards 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- truffles, wine (must be 21), a handcrafted table runner, ladies scarf, boxed chocolates, plaid hat, and much more!

Participants include: the Fayette County Historical Center, McJ's Embroidery, Spahn & Rose Lumber Co., Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat, Old Mill Floral, Union Drug, West Union Good Samaritan Society, Saboe Jewelry, Spirits & Such, Napa Auto Parts, Curves, the Fayette County Union, Haven Electronics, Norbys Farm Fleet, West Union Hardware, and Bank 1st (during regular hours at the Main Bank).



DIVA DAYS SHOPPING EVENT

Get your Glam on in West Union with special events for all Divas! The 4th annual Chamber sponsored "Diva Days" retail event is coming to West Union on Friday and Saturday, April 12th and 13th! The event will kick-off on Thursday evening, April 11th as the Main Street West Union Promotions Committee hosts their annual "Divas & Dining" event at the West Union Country Club. The evening begins at 5:00 pm. Attendees can browse boutique tables and enjoy a wonderful meal. Special highlights this year include: male waiters, Beyond Logic Barbershop Quartet, and an extended shopping time.

Tickets for the event are \$15 (\$20 at the door) and available at the Chamber/Main Street office beginning March 11th. Purchase your tickets by April 2nd to be in the drawing for a \$50 salon gift certificate (choice of any West Union salon). Anyone interested in having a boutique at the event should contact Robin Bostrom at 422-3070 or Amie Johansen at 422-7052. Table fee is \$20 and includes one dinner ticket. Space is limited to the first 18 paid vendors so reserve a spot today!

Goodie bags will be given away to the first 100 ladies who purchase their ticket in advance for the "Divas & Dining" event. Any Chamber business can have items in the goodie bag, including logo merchandise, pens, samples, flyers about special events happening in your business, etc. **Please contact the Chamber office or bring your items to the office by 4:30 on March 6th to have them included in the bags.** This is a great opportunity to promote your business!



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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: Lauer & Lauer Insurance Agency

Michael Lauer is the 4th generation of his family running Lauer & Lauer Insurance Agency. He began working with his parents 25 years ago. His wife Lynn started working with Michael at the business 12 years ago when the couple took it over from Gordon and Barbara. Lauer & Lauer Insurance has been located at 123 North Vine Street in West Union for the last 12 years.



Assisted by employees Chad Holthaus and Patti Butikofer, the Lauers are able to accommodate their customers as an Independent Insurance agency. They offer property and casualty insurance including: home, automobile, commercial, farm and crop insurance lines. Lauer & Lauer Insurance Agency represents 10 different companies which helps them to provide the very best coverage for their clients!



A significant change to the business has been technology. Over the years, employees and owners at Lauer & Lauer have converted from "hand quoting" policies to everything being done on the computer. Policies and procedures seem to change quite steadily.

You'll always find someone friendly and helpful at Lauer & Lauer Insurance Agency. Michael, Lynn and their staff look forward to continuing to serve the community and their clients well into the future! Check out their website to find out more information- www.lauerins.com.

Thank you Lauer & Lauer Insurance Agency for your Chamber membership and support!

BUSINESS CLASSES IN THE WEST UNION AREA

Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Business and Community Solutions through the Northeast Iowa Advocates for Small Business Grant is offering Social Media classes in Fayette, in partnership with Fayette County Economic Development. All 3 classes are from 5:30 to 8:00 pm and will be held at Upper Iowa University's Liberal Arts Building, Room #111, in Fayette. Class size is limited. Light refreshments will be available.

Twitter for Business: Introduction (#21431)- Thursday, March 14th

LinkedIn for Business: Introduction (#21428)- Tuesday, April 2nd

Facebook for Business: Introduction (#21427)- Wednesday, April 17th

Classes are being instructed by Iroc Web Design Services, located in Calmar, IA. They have been serving customers in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota since 2002. They specialize in innovative web design, website maintenance, e-commerce and database websites, Flash and logo design, web banners, SEO Marketing, PC/Laptops trouble shooting and server/network installation/configuration.

Grant partners include the NICC Foundation, Northeast Iowa Business Network, Small Business Development Center and NICC. This project is partially funded by a \$44,000 grant to the Northeast Iowa Community College Foundation from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. This is an Equal Opportunity Program. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law.

Class size is limited. Cost for Chamber members is \$25 per person per class (regular price \$30). 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 FCED! **To register you or your employees for the classes above, please contact NICC Business and Community Solutions at (563) 562-3263 ext. 399 and let them know you are a Chamber member so you receive the discounted rate.** Contact Bridget at (563) 422-5073 with any questions!

St. Patrick's Day Brunch



March 17, 2013

10:30—1:00

Holy Name Parish Center

Serving a wonderful selection of tasty treats:

- Breakfast Casseroles
- Assorted pastries, muffins, & coffee cakes
- Irish stew, potato soup, & Irish Soda bread
- Corned Beef & Cabbage
- Assorted desserts & beverages



Tickets: \$8 / adults
(\$10 at the door)

\$5 / children 12 & under

**Purchase your tickets at the
Main Street West Union office**

101 North Vine St.

Sponsored by Main Street West Union



GREEN PILOT UPDATE



FAÇADE MASTER PLAN PROGRAM UPDATE:

Martin Gardner Architecture has submitted the design plans for the 19 buildings participating in the Façade program to the State Historic Preservation Office for review. SHPO has 30 days to offer comments on the planned improvements. Once we hear back from SHPO, the design firm will make final changes and prepare the documents to publically bid the project. Construction will take place this summer and be completed by December. Planned renovations range from simple painting projects to full façade restorations.

GEOHERMAL UPDATE:

The West Union Energy District continues to move forward on the geothermal conversion for several downtown buildings. 11 building owners have been awarded DOE grant funds to assist with the conversion to the new system. Any downtown building owner who is interested in connecting to the new system should contact the Main Street Office for additional information. Numerous rebates and tax credit programs are still available to assist in converting to the new system which should be up and running by June of this year.

HISTORIC DISTRICT NOMINATION WORK CONTINUES:

Main Street West Union has submitted an application to the National Park Service to have the downtown business district listed as a National Historic District. Paperwork was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office in February to begin the process. Tallgrass Historians from Iowa City has assisted in the research for the project. Having the downtown district listed as a National Historic District would allow any contributing building to be eligible for state and federal tax credits for improvement projects in the future. If you are interested in any of these programs or would like more information, please contact the Main Street West Union office at 422-3070.



CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to extend a big congratulations to Chamber Board member Judd Swensen and his family on their new arrival! Jack Michael was born on Monday, February 18th!



Alzheimer's Class

The Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter is conducting a free educational workshop entitled "Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's Disease" on Monday, March 4th at Senior Dining Center in West Union located at 107 Armour Street. The program will take place from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and registration is required. To register call 1-800-272-3900.

ISUEO RECOGNITION WEEK

The week of March 24-30 is ISUEO (Iowa State University Extension & Outreach) recognition week. ISU Extension is not just 4-H and farming. We are also your go to place for information and answers for business, family, gardening, and financial questions. The Fayette county Extension & Outreach office is located in Fayette at 201 E. Clark St. Their phone is 563-425-3331. The staff is always willing to help you with your questions and direct you to the experts.

SEVENTH ANNUAL SOCIAL WORK SYMPOSIUM

Prairie View Management is pleased to present "Working with Individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome and Positive Behavioral Supports on Thursday, March 28th at the We Union Library. Participants will identify strategies for working with Prader-Willi Syndrome clients regarding nutrition management and environmental/behavioral issues. For more information call (563) 422-5606.

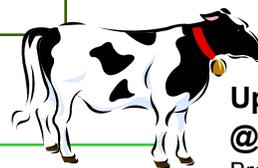
Civic Club Easter Basket Hunt

The Annual West Union CIVIC Club Easter Basket hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30th. Area children can pick up their basket numbers at the Fayette County Historical Center from 9:00 to 10:30 am and have a chance to see the Easter Bunny!



ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY

The Knights of Columbus Council #4287 will offer its annual Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 8th at the Holy Name Parish Center. They will be serving from 4:30 to 8:00 pm. Advance tickets are \$9.00, cost at the door is \$9.50. Children's cost at the door is: Pre-school and under- Free, under 12- \$4.00. Carry outs will be available. Proceeds will aid vocations fund.



Upcoming Livestock Sales @ the F. C. Fairgrounds

Brown Swiss-	March 5-9
Holstein-	March 12-16
Jersey/Ayrshire-	March 19-23
NICC-	April 2-6

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

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Kaleidoscope Kids Capital Campaign Update

The Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Capital Campaign has gone over \$500,000 in gifts and pledges toward building a new Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center! Campaign Co Chairs Barb and Mike Heins, LeRoy and Marcia Soppe, and Board President LeAnn Meyer continue to lead a group of campaign volunteers who are visiting with county wide residents and businesses explaining the benefits this new childcare center will bring for economic development, improve quality of life for current residents, improve childcare for Kaleidoscope children, and help bring residents and businesses to this area.

"We have crosses a milestone of a half million dollars in contributions," said Kaleidoscope Board President LeAnn Meyer. "Our volunteer team is so pleased for the generosity shown by Fayette County residents and businesses. From small gifts to large gifts, all are important to build a new Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center," Meyer said.

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.



**FAYETTE COUNTY 4-H
OMELET BRUNCH**

Sunday, March 17

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dance Pavilion
Fayette County Fairgrounds
West Union

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

\$7.00 per person — \$8.00 at the door

Preschool & younger — free

Contact a 4-H member for tickets

