



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com



December 2013

2014 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN...

It's the time of year when the West Union Chamber continues work on their 2014 Membership Campaign. We have worked hard this past year as the Chamber Board, Staff and Retail Committees have coordinated, sponsored, and been involved in many activities and promotions this past year. All of our 2013 members should have received information about what those activities were and their impact. Our Board Members and Staff welcome any questions or feedback you might have. Please remember to return your data form with your 2014 Membership Dues so we can update the West Union website with your current information!

As always, our members are invited to attend all board meetings which are held monthly on the second Tuesday, 8:00 am, at the Chamber Office. Our December meeting will be on the 10th. Also all members are invited to join the Retail Committee as they plan events and promotions. Meetings are held the Thursday prior to the Chamber Board Meeting, at 7:00 am in the Chamber office. The next Retail Committee Meeting is December 5th.



THE WEST UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS INVITING AREA CHILDREN TO BRING THEIR LETTERS TO SANTA AND PUT THEM IN OUR "SANTA'S MAILBOX" FOR SPECIAL DELIVERY TO THE NORTH POLE! WHEN CHILDREN BRING IN THEIR LETTER, THEY ARE INVITED TO TAKE A CANDY CANE FROM OUR CHRISTMAS TREE AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT!



THE BOX IS LOCATED IN THE WEST UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE WHICH IS OPEN FROM 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM, MONDAY THRU FRIDAY.

COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET ~ JANUARY 18TH

THE ANNUAL WEST UNION COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH AT THE ECHO VALLEY BANQUET & RECEPTION CENTER. THIS BANQUET HONORS LOCAL VOLUNTEERS WHO FREELY GIVE OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO HELP MAKE WEST UNION A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE! INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS A NOMINATION FORM FOR VOLUNTEERS IN 5 CATEGORIES: RELIGION, COMMUNITY SERVICE, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, AND YOUTH. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE ASKING THAT ALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND RESIDENTS TAKE A MOMENT TO NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU FEEL IS A DESERVING CANDIDATE. ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION, EVEN PREVIOUS WINNERS.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO THE CHAMBER OFFICE BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2013. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL SELECT THE AWARDEES FROM THE NOMINATIONS THAT ARE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAMBER OFFICE. ADDITIONAL FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHAMBER OFFICE OR ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE, WWW.WESTUNION.COM, UNDER THE CHAMBER EVENTS TAB. PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO NOMINATE SOMEONE WHO YOU THINK GIVES BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY AND DESERVES TO BE RECOGNIZED! COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE ON DECEMBER 16TH! MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND THIS WONDERFUL COMMUNITY EVENT!

Inside This Issue:

Elves for the Elderly	2
Green Pilot Updates	3
Chamber Bits...	3
A Word From Your Chamber	4
Award Nomination Form	Insert
Walking School Bus Information	Insert
Donations for Prairie View Sought	Insert
Business Hours	Insert
Calendar	Insert

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melody Patrick	President
Ryan Hoey	Vice-President
Jenni Elsbernd	Secretary/Treasurer
Judd Swensen	
Laurie Kreul	
Robin Martin	

COORDINATOR

Melissa Fagle

Light up the Holiday... Punch Card Promotion Continues

The West Union Chamber of Commerce is once again sponsoring the Annual Holiday Punch Card Promotion. The promotion continues through December 24th. This year's participating merchants are: McJ's Embroidery Accents, China Kitchen, Tap't Out Stein-N-Dine, Moonlight Stitching Studio, Sims TV & Electronics, Saboe Jewelry, Moore's Foods, West Union Hardware & Curious Goose Gift Shop, NAPA Auto Parts, Dessel-Roach Furniture & Floors, Moss Service Center, Spahn & Rose Lumber Company, Norby's Farm Fleet, Union Drug, Unionland Feed & Supply, Old Mill Floral, Loomis Plumbing & Heating, NuCara Pharmacy, Spirits & Such, J & W Auto Body, Phone Connection/US Cellular, All Stop, and The Fayette County Union. Additional prize sponsors include: the City of West Union, Palmer Lutheran Health Center, Bank 1st, Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank, and Best Rest Inn & Suites. Prize winners of local gift certificates continue to be drawn at the Chamber office each Monday morning. The final drawing will be held on December 26th for 5 winners of \$100 in WU Script money and 2- \$50 water bill credits from the City of West Union. **Participating businesses are reminded to bring their completed punch cards to the Chamber office every Friday before 4:00 pm.**



November Prize Winners!



Lisa Carey, West Union - \$25 Phone Connection/US Cellular Gift Certificate
Jackie Knapp, Hawkeye - \$25 Tap't Out Stein-N-Dine Gift Certificate

Laura Durscher, West Union - \$25 Loomis Plumbing & Heating Gift Certificate
Linda M. Upton, West Union - \$25 McJ's Embroidery Accents Gift Certificate



"Elves for the Elderly"

Often, the elderly don't have any family members to spend the Holidays with, or even to give them a gift. The Good Samaritan Society "Elves" will be reaching out to seniors by making gift bags for them and delivering them the week before Christmas. You can make a difference this Holiday season by joining us.

Elves for the Elderly is a simple program: donate items such as blankets, slippers, warm socks or gloves. Other items to donate are large print crossword puzzle and seek-a-word books, large print novels, and full sized bottles of body and hand lotion, shower and bath gel. Donations can be taken to the Good Samaritan Society - Postville, 400 Hardin Drive Postville, IA 52162, the

Good Samaritan Society-West Union, 201 Hall Street, West Union, or to several of the donation boxes in the local communities through December 15th.

Anyone interested in helping wrap the gifts may come to the "Elf Wrapping Party" at the West Union Good Samaritan Society on Monday, December 16th at 7 pm. All gifts will be distributed anonymously to area seniors by Meals on Wheels volunteers the week before Christmas.

If you would like to donate, have questions about the Elves for the Elderly program, or would like to get involved please contact Melody Patrick, Community Relations Director for the Good Samaritan Society of West Union and Postville at 563-422-9686 or email at mpatrick@good-sam.com.



Join the Walking School Bus This Spring or Become a Sponsor!

Starting the first week of March 2014, the West Union Walking School Bus will walk Wednesday and Friday mornings through the end of the school year. Routes start around 7:15am and arrive to school by 7:40am to accommodate shuttle buses and breakfast. Volunteers are needed to help with Wednesday mornings, Friday mornings or both. Interested in volunteering? Interested in having your student(s) join a Walking School Bus? Contact Ashley Christensen, Regional Safe Routes to School Liaison, at achristensen@uerpc.org or 563-382-6171.

Want to help with the Walking School Bus, but can't fit it in every week? That's okay! Become a Walking School Bus "Sponsor" instead! West Union businesses and organizations are invited to "sponsor" a week of the Walking School Bus this spring. "Sponsoring" a week means that your employees or members would help other volunteers walk students to school on the Wednesday and Friday morning of that week. Your sponsorship will be a great opportunity to promote your business or organization, give back to your community and act as a positive role model for youth. Please see the attached Sponsorship Letter and Sponsorship Form for more information or contact Ashley Christensen at achristensen@uerpc.org or 563-382-6171. See inserts for more information!



GREEN PILOT UPDATE



DISTRICT GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM:

Buildings making the conversion to the new district-wide geothermal system have signed a contract with Jim Bear of Tri-County Refrigeration who was the low bidder on the project. Mr. Bear will also serve as the third party operator of the system and has over 30 years experience in geothermal work. Work began on November 14th and will be completed by January 15th.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROJECT:

Work continues on the three buildings that are a part of the Multi-Family housing project. Plumbing and electrical work, structural support, and new roofing have been completed. Stud walls and new stairways have also been completed. Anyone interested in receiving information on renting these new apartments should contact the Main Street West Union office.

FAÇADE MASTER PLAN UPDATE:

Construction is well underway on the Façade project with masonry work on a few buildings and storefront reconstruction taking place at the Bank Block building. Special enclosures have been constructed to allow the crews to work during less than favorable weather conditions. We appreciate your patience as we make these improvements. The project should be complete by June 1, 2014.

Chamber Bits...



Want to give a gift that gives back to our community? Have a hard-to-buy-for person on your list? Nieces, nephews, grandparents, aunts and uncles? Want to thank your employees for a job well done?

Then we are your one-stop Holiday Shop! Chamber Scrip Money is a great gift! We can customize each certificate for your individual needs and they come in any amount you desire. The best thing about giving them as gifts is that your money stays here within our community, supporting your fellow businesses! Studies show that purchases made with locally-owned small businesses allow more money to stay in the LOCAL economy.

All businesses are reminded that you can redeem your scrip money spent in your business, either directly through our two local banks or by bringing it to the Chamber Office. Thank you for accepting these local certificates during the holidays and all year long!

**Prairie-Merry Holiday Open House
at Prairie View
Sunday, December 8th
2:00 - 3:30 pm**

**Radio Advertising Benefits all Businesses
in West Union!**

Double the impact for West Union! Any West Union business participating in the "Light Up Your Holiday..." Punch Card Promotion who chooses to further promote their own business for the Holidays on KDEC radio will have their ad value "MATCHED" by KDEC for use by the West Union Chamber! Through this partnership, the West Union Chamber promotes the entire punch card program to all listeners on KDEC radio out of Decorah! A special "Thank You" to our businesses who have already chosen to participate! If you would like to be part of this 'West Union Chamber/KDEC' partnership, contact your account representative at KDEC, Shirley Vermace, at 563.419.2999 or shirley@kdecradio.net.

The Chamber Office will be closed December 24th and 25th and January 1st for the Holidays

**Annual Last Chance
Christmas Shopping
Craft & Vendor Show**

**Sunday, December 1st
11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Dance Pavilion
Fayette County Fairgrounds**



Old Mill Floral invites you to Like us on Facebook and watch for our mischievous elf, Figgy! He will be moving about the store and dropping prices! A different item will be on sale daily starting December 1st and you have to come in that day to get that special! Refreshments will be served every Saturday in December and new items will be added weekly.
<https://www.facebook.com/OldMillFloral>

Reserve your booth NOW for the KDEC "Home, Sport and Garden Show!"

It will be held Sunday, March 2, 2014 at the newly renovated Decorah High School. To reserve your booth call KDEC Account Executive Shirley Vermace at 563.419.2999.



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



www.westunion.com



WESTUNION

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

As this year comes to a close, we want to thank you for your membership. We continue to follow our Mission Statement as we plan for the coming year. Our Mission in this community has been defined as this:

The West Union Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary group of area businesses affiliated for the purpose of furthering the growth and development of West Union. Primary among the purpose of this organization is:

- *Fostering cooperation and mutual support among the members.*
- *Using the collective expertise of the members to provide guidance and direction to policy makers as it pertains to Chamber members.*
- *Working consistently to enhance the long-term competitive posture of the community.*
- *Providing the means for members to informally exchange ideas and development techniques.*
- *Affording members the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, expertise, confidence, and professionalism through a varied program of educational activities.*
- *Promote community involvement through Chamber sponsored recreational, promotional and retail activities.*

In the past year, the Chamber Board and staff have worked to fulfill this mission for its members and for the benefit of West Union and the surrounding communities. Going forward into 2014 we will continue to keep our Mission in the forefront as we look to see what we can provide to our members that will continue to bring them growth, knowledge and success.