



# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

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**May 2012**

## ON THE MOVE!

In conjunction with the National Prader-Willi campaign, "On the Move", Prairie View Community Based Services will be holding a 1.5 mile walk which will begin at Moore's Grocery Store in Lilac Plaza and end at the Prader-Willi house on Washington Street. The cost to participate is \$5.00. Registration for the event will be from 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm in Moore's parking lot. All proceeds from the events will go to benefit the Prader-Willi Association Iowa Chapter.

The Chamber of Commerce is providing walkers with punch cards showing participating merchants on it. As walkers go along the route, they can have their card punched at the merchants and completed punch cards will be eligible for a drawing at Washington House. Please use this opportunity to check out what our local businesses have to offer!



The community members and businesses are being asked to join Prairie View Community Based Services to celebrate at an Open House for their newest Prader-Willi house, **Washington House, located at 102 Washington Street** in West Union. The home provides specialized services for people with Prader-Willi Syndrome and other food related issues. **Please join them from 1 pm to 4 pm on May 4th!**



## MISS WEST UNION CANDIDATES SOUGHT

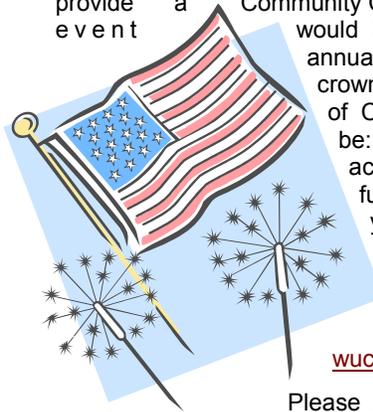
The West Union Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for candidates for Miss West Union 2012. Any young lady with a West Union mailing address can vie for the chance to represent the community and earn a \$500 college scholarship. Miss West Union serves as an ambassador for the community and can be a junior or senior in high school at North Fayette. Candidates will be judged on Leadership & Citizenship, Attitude & Awareness, and Community Involvement. Local businesses are encouraged to sponsor a candidate which includes a \$20 sponsorship fee. Applications can be picked up at the high school guidance office or from the Chamber of Commerce office. Applications are due by **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**.

Miss West Union will be crowned on July 4<sup>th</sup> at the West Union Recreation Complex. For additional information please contact Miss West Union chairperson Jenni Elsbernd at (563) 422-9768.



## 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The West Union Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is seeking input from community groups, organizations, businesses, and individuals who might be interested in helping to provide a Community Celebration for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This event



would be held in conjunction with the annual Miss West Union contest and crowning sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Possible ideas would be: food vendors, entertainment and activities for adults and kids, and fundraising opportunities. If you or your group would be interested in participating or providing a monetary donation, please contact the West Union Chamber of Commerce at 422-3070 or [wuchamber@alpinecom.net](mailto:wuchamber@alpinecom.net).

Please keep in mind that any monetary donations for such event would be entirely separate from the annual fund drive for the West Union fireworks display. Donations will still be needed for the annual fireworks display!

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Lisa Miller</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Melody Patrick</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Jenni Elsbernd</b>	<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>
<b>Ryan Hoey</b>	
<b>Brent Parker</b>	
<b>Judd Swensen</b>	
<b>Bill Ziegler</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>

### Chamber Spotlight: Baumler Implements

Baumler Implements has been in business since 1961 when brothers Melvin & Reynold Baumler co-founded Baumler Farm Supply. Initially, the business was located on Franklin Street in West Union. In 1966, Melvin assumed sole ownership and in 1975, Baumler Implements Inc. was formed. As farm equipment developed, more space was required. So in 1976, the business moved to its current location south of West Union. In 2004 Melvin passed away and now the business is owned and operated by his sons, Don and Mark Baumler. In 2007, Baumler Implements expanded its service shop to add an overhead crane and internal wash bay.

Along with agriculture equipment, Baumler Implements sells lawn and garden equipment. Their factory trained technicians work in the service shop or out in the field to service everything they sell. They maintain a large inventory of parts to make sure they have the part that the customer needs, when they need it! They also ship and sell parts across the United States. Baumler Implement offers several solutions for machinery guidance systems for precision farming.



Thank you Baumler Implements, for your Chamber membership and support!

In 2011, Baumler Implements marked a major milestone, celebrating 50 years of service! Since opening the doors more than fifty years ago, a lot has changed. They have learned to adapt with changes in agriculture. The way farmers raise crops and livestock has changed with new products and technology for the large or small operation. Using the internet, Baumler Implements has sold used equipment to farmers in Maine, Canada, South Dakota, and states between!

With 11 employees and a total of 220 years of experience, Baumler Implements continues to see growth and their priority is customer satisfaction. They are a family owned, third generation, single location dealership that foresees itself being in business, here in West Union, for years to come!

### Playin on the Plaza

Main Street West Union's Promotions Committee is kicking off a new FREE summer concert series called "Playin' on the Plaza" beginning on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The series will provide free live musical entertainment on the new Civic Plaza located on the Court House Square every Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

A special local talent night will be held on August 1<sup>st</sup> to showcase area performers. Anyone interested in performing on the local talent night is asked to contact Amie Johansen at City Hall or Robin Bostrom at the Main Street West Union office (422-3070). Local businesses and civic organizations can serve as an event sponsor for \$60.

**The Chamber Office will be closed Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day**

### GREAT SUMMER GIVEAWAY!

KDEC Broadcasting in Decorah (100.5FM and 1240AM) will again be sponsoring a GREAT SUMMER GIVEAWAY contest. If your business would like to be involved in any way, be sure to contact your KDEC Account Executive Shirley Vermace at (563) 382-4251 or shirley@kdecradio.com. Thank you!

### PEACOCK CLASSIC GOLF OUTING

The 17th Annual Peacock Classic Golf Outing will be held on Friday, June 15th at the Big Rock Country Club in Fayette. Join Peacock alumni, fans and supporters! Visit with Upper Iowa University President Dr. Alan Walker, University Vice President's & Administration, and Peacock Athletics coaches and staff. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams in each of 3 flights, along with prizes at numerous holes on the course.

Cost: \$100 for Peacock Club Members

\$110 for Non-Members

\$500 for Hole Sponsorship & Business Foursome

\$150 for Hole Sponsorship Only

Entry fee includes: participant gift, boxed lunch, 18 holes with cart, and catered dinner. Register soon as numbers will be capped for the outing! For more information on participating or sponsorships, contact Brock Wissmiller at (563) 425-5700 or wissmillerb@uiu.edu.



### Homebuyer's Workshop

Homestead Iowa Realty will be hosting a free Homebuyer's Workshop on Thursday, May 3rd from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at their office in West Union. Several topics for buyers will be covered and a light supper will be served. Seating is limited, reserve your spot by calling (563) 422-3277!



### GREEN PILOT UPDATE

#### **FAÇADE MASTER PLAN PROGRAM:**

The City of West Union has submitted a full application for the Façade Master Plan program. A total of 21 businesses are participating in the application. We will know by May if we have been chosen to receive \$500,000 to assist with façade improvements within the downtown district. Thanks to all of the participating building owners who worked to secure detailed estimates for their projects.

#### **STREET BRICKS FOR SALE:**

Do you have a landscaping project in the works for this summer? Would you like to add a bit of West Union's history to that project? If so, consider using some of the historic street bricks in your project. The City of West Union is selling the bricks for 25 cents each. Five bricks make up a square foot resulting in a very economical paving product. Simply contact City Hall at 422-3908 to arrange a time to pick up the bricks and they will make sure someone is there to help you count and load your purchase.

#### **ENERGY REBATES AVAILABLE:**

Spring and summer are the perfect time to think about ways to tighten up your building so all that air conditioning isn't creeping outside instead of cooling your business. Main Street West Union's Energy Efficiency Grant Program can provide up to a \$3,000 rebate per property for improvements such as energy star windows and doors, insulation, caulking, or replacing aging equipment such as air conditioning units. For more information, please contact Robin Bostrom, Program Director at 563-422-3070.

#### **WU HOSTS WATER IMPROVEMENT REVIEW BOARD:**

The City of West Union hosted the State WIRB Board on April 20<sup>th</sup> for their quarterly board meeting. Six board members spent the evening in West Union and held their meeting at the Chamber/Main Street office. Following the meeting the group toured the downtown streetscape project. This group provided \$500,000 in funding for the project which has a strong focus on storm water management practices. They were very interested in seeing the construction in progress to understand how such integrated systems are constructed as well as touring the South block of Vine Street to see a completed area.



### NEW UTILITIES DROP BOX

The City of West Union has put a new, permanent utilities drop box in the lobby of the First National Bank on North Vine Street. The box had previously been located on the light pole in front of the Chamber building. There is also another drop box at City Hall.

### FLOWER BARRELS

Flowers for the barrels have been ordered and will be planted by Chamber volunteers on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please have your flower planter out and ready prior to that date to help the time allotted by volunteers go smoothly! Thank you!

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

Please contact the Chamber/Main Street office if you are interested in having a plot in the Community Garden located at the fairgrounds. Art Wolfs will serve as the coordinator this season. Plots are 10 ft by 15 ft and are \$15. There are a couple remaining plots.



### City-Wide Garage Sales

**May 3rd, 4th & 5th**

West Union residents will be hosting garage sales on May 3rd, 4th and 5th.

The local Knights of Columbus and Troop 54 Boy Scouts will sponsor a Goodwill truck in the Lilac Plaza parking lot on Saturday, May 5th from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, May 6th from 10 am to 4 pm.

### Script Money

West Union Script Money makes a great gift for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and more! Support our local businesses by using Script Money for your gift giving! Available at the West Union Chamber of Commerce. We can even customize the design for special occasions!

### FIREWORKS CAN COLLECTION



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. As you clean out the garage this spring, why not donate those cans to good cause? Thanks for your contribution!!

Downtown business owners and employees are asked to please try to leave parking on Vine Street for customers. Parking is available on the North and East sides of the courthouse square during the construction. Your assistance is appreciated!

MAY 2012

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«City», «State» «Zip»

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As a participant in the All Iowa Shop Hop 2012, local business, **One Block Over**, will welcome 2 busses traveling to Northeast Iowa from Northwest Iowa on June 1st and 2nd. One of these busses will overnight in West Union! About 100 people total are anticipated. Northeast Iowa shops participating in this year's event are:

Waverly--- Moose Patch

New Hampton--- Quilters Window & Material Magic

Decorah--- Pine Needles

Waukon--- Country Stitchin

Postville--- Forest Mills

West Union--- One Block Over

Elkader--- The Backstitch

Manchester--- The Quiltmaker's Shoppe

Oelwein--- Lou Ann's Quilt Garden

Jesup--- Merry's Stitchins

#### MARKETING OPPORTUNITY

As an effort to welcome this group and take full advantage of a wonderful opportunity to promote West Union, the West Union Chamber of Commerce will be putting together gift bags or packets to be given away at One Block Over.

This is a fabulous chance to promote your business with direct marketing! If you have flyers, logo merchandise, anything that will help this group of people remember our town, please provide 100 of the items to the Chamber office by **May 25th**.

The volunteers and staff will put the bags together prior to June 1st. Please contact Bill or Bridget at the Chamber if you have any questions.

**Please use this opportunity to your full advantage! This is a wonderful low-cost marketing opportunity for Chamber Members!**