



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

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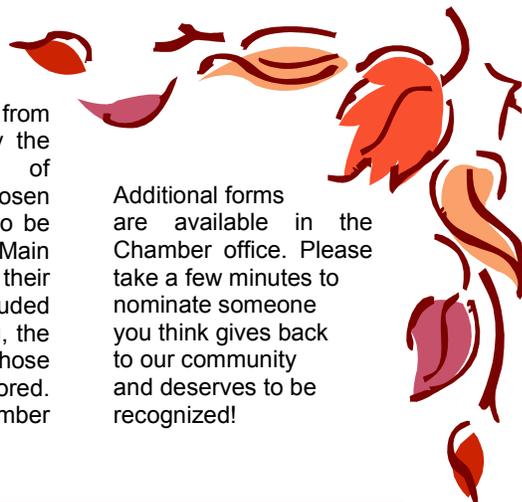
NOVEMBER 2011

VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINEES NEEDED

It's that time of year again when we are thankful for the many blessings that come our way each and every year. As a community we are also thankful for the many volunteers who give of their time and talents to make West Union a great place to live, work, and play. Each year we recognize those individuals at the Community Awards Banquet which will be held on January 21, 2012. There are five categories to choose from in which to honor volunteers. They are: Community Service, Religion, Education, Health, and Youth.

Nominations for these awards come from the community and are selected by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The Citizen of the Year, chosen by the Fayette County Union will also be honored at the annual banquet. Main Street West Union will also honor their volunteers. A nomination form is included with this newsletter to encourage you, the business leaders, to think about those folks you think should be honored. Nominations are due to the Chamber office by December 31, 2011.

Additional forms are available in the Chamber office. Please take a few minutes to nominate someone you think gives back to our community and deserves to be recognized!



JINGLE & MINGLE HOLIDAY PUNCH CARD PROMOTION NOVEMBER 2ND- DECEMBER 24TH

The West Union Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 5th Annual Holiday Punch Card Promotion. Every time a customer makes a \$5 purchase they get a punch. Once their card valued at \$150 is completed, the customer signs their name, address and phone number on the back of the card and then deposits the card in the cans available. Participating businesses are reminded to bring their completed punch cards to the Chamber office every Monday morning before 10:00. Prize winners of local gift certificates will be drawn at the Chamber office each Monday morning beginning November 14th. Winners will be posted at the Chamber and listed in the Union each week. The final drawing of 5 \$100 Chamber Script dollars will be held on Tuesday, December 27th. The more a customer shops locally, the more times they can be entered in the drawings!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES

West Union Business Holiday Open houses will be held November 10-12th.

Many local businesses will be having specials and refreshments at their establishments during these days.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jackie Loomis	President
Lisa Miller	Vice President
Deb Merrill	Secretary/Treasurer
Bill Ziegler	Executive Director
Melody Patrick	
Jenni Elsbernd	
Justin Steinlage	
Ryan Hoey	
Brent Parker	

IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS HAPPENING AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE

Work is continuing to progress on the Chamber building remodeling project. We are expecting to have the front entrance to the building open in the next few weeks. The interior work is close to completion with carpet and front counter soon to be installed. If you have a chance, check out the work that has been completed outside. The building is looking spectacular! The stucco is near completion and the large front window has been installed. We are hoping to hold a holiday open house the first part of December!



CHAMBER SCRIP MONEY MAKES A GREAT GIFT

Do you have a hard-to-buy for person on your holiday gift list? Are you wondering how to reward your employees or thank them for a job well done this holiday season? Want to give a gift that gives back to the community? Then Chamber Scrip money is the gift to choose! We can customize each certificate for your individual needs and they come in any amount you desire. But 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 business allow more money to stay in the local economy.

For every \$100 spent in locally owned independent stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays here. The best way for all of us to help the economy here in West Union is to shop here at home!

All businesses are reminded that you can redeem your scrip money spent in your store, either directly through our two local banks or by bringing it to the Chamber office. Thanks for accepting these local certificates this holiday season and all year long!

2012 CHAMBER OFFICERS

- Lisa Miller.....President
- Melody Patrick....Vice President
- Jenni Elsbernd....Sec./Treas.

If you are interested in serving on the 2012 Chamber board, there will be 4 seats available. Please contact a current board member with your interest!

HOLIDAY ADVERTISING WITH KDEC 100.5FM & 1240AM!

Every dollar you spend in radio advertising with KDEC will be 'matched' by KDEC so that the West Union Chamber can promote the entire Holiday Shopping Season in West Union! If you would like to be part of this promotion on KDEC, please give Shirley Vermace, KDEC Account Executive, a call at 563.419.2999 or email her at shirley@kdecradio.com. This partnership between KDEC Radio and the West Union Chamber for last year's Holiday season really helped get the word out about the punchcard promotion and about keeping the dollars local by shopping in West Union! Shirley Vermace will be in West Union very soon and may be visiting your business about this partnership. Thank you!



GREEN PILOT UPDATE

STREETSCAPE WEBCAM: Be sure to check out the progress on the streetscape project on the webcam that is recording all the progress currently taking place on Vine Street. Check it out at

<http://www.iowalifechanging.com/community/west-union-camera.aspx>.

ENERGY EFFICIENT GRANT FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE:

Funding still remains in the Energy Efficiency Grant program through Main Street West Union. Any business that is thinking about making energy efficiency improvements to their building should check out this program. Currently funding will pay for 75% of a whole building energy audit, which will be required to access the DOE mini grant funding that is now available. If you are interested in learning more about the DOE Mini-grant program, please call the Main Street office. Any business located within the downtown project area is eligible to apply for DOE funding. The program will provide 70% of the funding for energy related improvements. For more information, please contact Robin Bostrom at 422-3070. Information packets are also available at City Hall.

BUSINESS SURVEY: The Iowa Department of Economic Development is conducting a study of the behavioral, attitudinal and economic impacts of the green, sustainable community strategies being implemented in its two Iowa Green Pilot Communities of Woodbine and West Union. To assist in collecting baseline data for this study a survey is currently available for all business owners. Business owners are asked to complete the short 1-page survey which should only take about 5 minutes to complete. Main Street West Union volunteers have begun distributing the survey but you can also pick up a copy at the Chamber/Main Street office or at City Hall. The survey is confidential and will be tabulated by the state. If you have not yet received a copy, please call the Main Street office and we will make sure that you receive a copy. All surveys need to be completed by Thanksgiving.



NFHS PERFORMS THE MUSICAL "GREASE"

Showtimes are scheduled for 7:30 pm on Friday & Saturday, November 11 and 12 as well as 2:00 pm on Sunday, November 13. All shows will be held at the North Fayette Performing Arts Center at the high school.

2012 CHAMBER MEMBER CAMPAIGN

The 2012 Chamber memberships packets are making their way out to new and existing Chamber members. Please review yours and let us know if you have any questions. Return your completed form and dues for 2012 as soon as possible so we can make sure you continue to receive all Chamber information as timely as possible!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit any events, activities, articles of interest, and/or calendar information by November 25 as our goal is to get the December Newsletter out on the 1st of the month. Thank you!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Fayette County Economic Development has hired Bridget Parker of West Union as their new Administrative Assistant. She will be assisting me as needed with Chamber projects and activities.

**FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
CEREMONY & SANTA'S VISIT
5:00 pm on November 25th
West Union Rec Center**

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY

Nov 9- "Donor Appreciation" from 2:30-3:30 in the Dining Room. A short program will be held along with "Kindred Minds" having music. Refreshments will be served

Nov 15- Sock Party! "Fingers and Toes" by Marianne Carolan in the East Room. Footwear, gloves and headwear available for cash & carry. Display starting at 1 pm. All proceeds go toward socks for the residents. Every resident received a pair of socks with last year's proceeds!

Nov 19- Vendor Fair. Home based businesses will be offering cash & carry items at Cedar Court Senior Living Apartments from 9 am to noon.

Nov 23- Pie Bake Delivery/Pick up day. Pumpkin, Dutch Apple and Cherry pies available for only \$8 each. To order call 422.9682 or order online at www.good-sam.com

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«Name»
 «Contact Information»
 «Street Address»
 «City», «State» «Zip»

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Nov 2-Dec 24.....Jingle & Mingle Holiday Punch Card Promo | Nov 17.....Facade Master Plan meeting with Iowa Economic Development Authority & interested building owners |
| Nov 7-9.....Palmer Lutheran Health Center Annual Fall Wellness Screening | Nov 19.....PSAS Craft Show at North Fayette High School, Good Samaritan Society Vendor Fair |
| Nov 8.....Election Day, Chamber Meeting, Holy Name Church Luncheon, MSWU Board Meeting | Nov 21.....City Council Meeting, NF School Board Meeting, Iowa Great Places Banquet in Mason City |
| Nov 9....."Donor Appreciation" at the Good Samaritan Society, MSWU Business Improvement Committee, NF 1:00 dismissal | Nov 23.....Good Samaritan Society Pie Bake Delivery/Pick up day, NF 2:20 dismissal |
| Nov 10.....Retail Committee Meeting, Fayette County Community Foundation Grant Workshop, MSWU Promotions Committee Meeting | Nov 24.....Thanksgiving, No school at North Fayette |
| Nov 10-12.....Business Holiday Open Houses | Nov 25.....Festival of Lights & Santa's Visit at W.U. Recreation Complex, No School at North Fayette |
| Nov 11.....Veterans Day, NFHS Veterans Day Program | Dec 1.....Movie & Coffee for adults at the West Union Library |
| Nov 11-13.....NFHS Performs musical "Grease" at N.F. Performing Arts Center | Dec 3.....Civic Club Santa's Store & Zion Lutheran Church Cookie Walk |
| Nov 12.....American Legion Post 15 Annual Veterans Day Dinner, Mobile Food Pantry | Dec 7.....NF Athletic Booster Club meeting, NF 1:00 dismissal |
| Nov 14.....Healthy Living Program at Boeke-Freed Education Center- 6th Annual Turkey, Tinsel & Tears | Dec 11.....Community Messiah Performance |
| Nov 15.....Good Samaritan Society Sock Party & Community Coffee, NFHS Holiday Concert, MSWU Design Committee | Dec 31.....Deadline for Community Awards Nominations |
| Nov 15-16.....Non-Profit Summit in Ames | Jan 21.....Community Awards Banquet |