

WESTUNION
 CHAMBER of COMMERCE
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**LETTERS
 TO
 SANTA**



You might remember that in December, the Chamber and MSWU invited area children to the office to put their letters to Santa in our special mailbox for delivery to the North Pole. We were delighted to be visited by 2 whole preschool classes! Above are some pictures we would like to share with you.

SNOW REMOVAL INFORMATION

With the recent snowfall, we've been asked to pass along information on the type of products that should be used on the new sidewalks and streets. Building owners are also asked to remove their flower pots from the sidewalk to aid in snow removal during the winter season.

Commercial deicers, in moderation, on new pavers. No sand or crushed stone products or similar, whatsoever, on any new pavers. This includes pot ash products or any ash product that could stain or leave a residue.

Commercial deicers, only when absolutely necessary on new concrete for the 2012-2013 winter, then can use commercial deicers as one normally would in subsequent winters. New concrete is subject to damage from deicers during its first winter.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!
www.westunion.com

JANUARY 2013

**West Union Community Awards Banquet
 "Celebrating the Gems of Our Community"
 Saturday, January 19th, 2013
 West Union Country Club**



The annual, Chamber sponsored, West Union Community Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 19th beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the West Union Country Club on Echo Valley Road. This wonderful event will honor many of our local volunteers who make West Union a great place to live!

The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors have chosen from the Nominees that were submitted for this year's award winners. Award winners have been chosen in the categories of: Health, Youth, Education, Community, and Religion. The Fayette County Union's "Citizen of the Year" will also be honored at the Banquet, as well as the Main Street West Union volunteer of the Year.

This year's banquet theme is "Celebrating the Gems of Our Community." Attendees will have a chance to enjoy great food, and a fun celebration. Tickets are now on sale at the Chamber office for \$20 each. We encourage everyone to purchase their tickets in advance! Cost at the door will be \$25 each.

We have had some generous donors step forward already to sponsor appetizers and some have provided raffle prizes! Proceeds from this year's raffle will go to the Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Capital Campaign for a new facility. If you or your business would be interested in sponsoring an appetizer or providing an item for the raffle, please contact the Chamber office! Raffle tickets will be available for purchase the evening of the Banquet for \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

For more information about any of the evening's events, please contact the Chamber office at 422-3070 or stop by to get your ticket today!



With a New Year comes a
 New Look for your
 Chamber of Commerce Newsletter!
 We hope you enjoy the changes and
 wish you a very Happy New Year!

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melody Patrick	President
Ryan Hoey	Vice-President
Jenni Elsbernd	Secretary/Treasurer
Brent Parker	
Judd Swensen	
Bridget Parker	Administrative Assistant



Chamber Spotlight: Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat

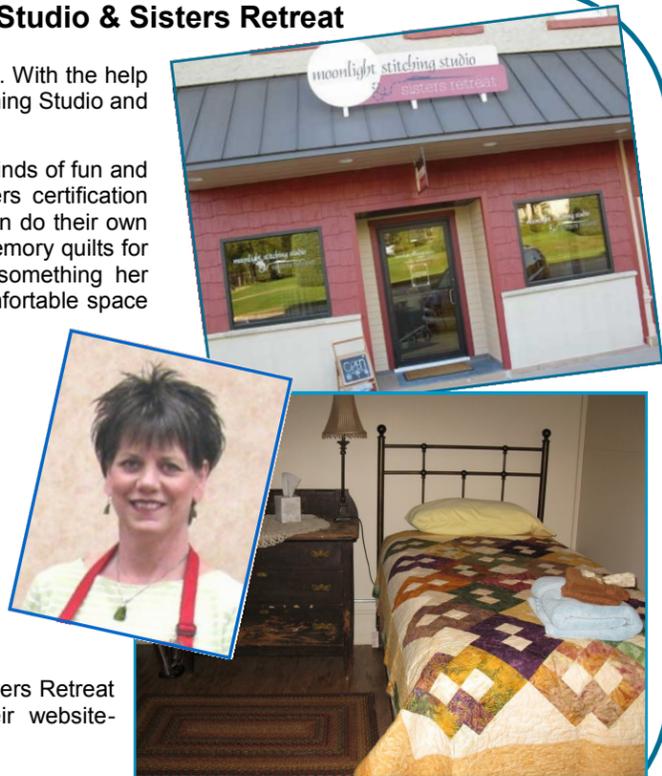
It was April 2010 when Deb Thies was able to realize her dream. With the help of her husband Mark, and after a major remodel, Moonlight Stitching Studio and Sisters Retreat 's doors were opened!

In her store Deb has yarn, fabric, stitching support supplies, all kinds of fun and funky items for sale. She also does longarm quilting and offers certification classes for others to learn the art of longarm quilting so they can do their own quilt finishing. Ever the creative one, Deb also makes custom memory quilts for customers by using clothing from their loved ones to make something her customers can treasure forever! The Stitching Studio offers comfortable space for 24 crafters to work on new or to-be-done projects. The Retreat Facility has room for 20 to sleep, 3 baths, and includes breakfast, bedding and towels.

Since opening, Deb has seen a few changes. There has been growth in the area of yarn art as well as an increase in younger people interested in sewing and crafting. Her retreat business is steadily growing with new and repeat attendees.

The future for Moonlight Stitching is FULL! Deb plans to expand to her lower lever with the longarm quilting and include antiques in her retail space. With a passionate owner and creative soul like Deb around, one can rest assured that this West Union business will be around for a long time!

To find more information about Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat and information on upcoming events, please check out their website- www.moonlightstitching.com.



Thank you Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat or your Chamber membership and support!

Hot Beef for Kids

Sunday, January 13, 2013

11 a.m.—1 p.m.

North Fayette High School



Come enjoy a delicious **HOT BEEF sandwich** prepared by Gus Kapnisis from the **Town House Café**.

All proceeds will benefit the Capital Campaign for the new **Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center**

**Tickets: \$8 in advance
\$10 at the door**

\$5 for kids 12 and under
Includes homemade pie and beverages

Tickets available at the West Union Main Street Office, Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank, First National Bank, & Citizens Savings Bank-Hawkeye

Sponsored by Main Street West Union



HOLIDAY PUNCH CARD A GREAT SUCCESS!

The annual holiday punch card promotion continues to grow every year and 2012 was another successful year. We would like to thank all the participating merchants and sponsors! Thanks to the retail committee members for their hard work on the promotion.

Special thanks to Ron Saboe for cutting out snowmen and to Gail Hackman, LeAnn Larson, Deb Thies, and Jane Blumhagen for their painting, decorating, and sewing talents! As always, we appreciate any feedback or ideas you may have for next year's Punch Card Promotion. Please call our office at 422-3070 or email wuchamber@alpinecom.net.

The grand prize winners of \$100 in West Union scrip money were: Janeane Vorwald, Elgin; Sue Wolf, West Union; Mike Woltzen, West Union; Ashlee Solheim, West Union; and Janet Miller, Hawkeye. These lucky winners will continue to enjoy shopping locally into the new year! In addition, the City of West Union gave \$50 water bill credits to 2 lucky winners- Dean Patrick and Norma Springer!

We are in the process of counting the tons of completed cards that were turned in and have hopes of exceeding last year's total dollars spent! 22 weekly winners were each awarded gift certificates to participating businesses and we had the pleasure to surprise and reward people for shopping locally again this year.



GREEN PILOT UPDATE



FAÇADE MASTER PLAN PROGRAM UPDATE:

Gardner Architecture will meet with participating building owners again on January 3, 2013 to review planned work for improvements to their buildings. Main Street West Union will serve as sub-recipient for this program and will coordinate design work with Gardner Architecture. Tentative plans are to bid the project in early spring.

GEOTHERMAL UPDATE: Businesses interested in converting to the new district geothermal system have taken additional steps by creating a limited liability corporation, West Union Energy District. This new entity will lease the system from the city of West Union and hire the third party operator for the system. Main Street West Union hired an engineering firm to develop the building specs for those making the conversion and those interested are joining forces to bid the project together. Bid specs will be ready for release in mid-January. A meeting of the user group will be held on January 9, 2013.

HISTORIC DISTRICT NOMINATION WORK UNDERWAY: Main Street West Union has hired a consultant to do the paperwork required to have downtown West Union listed as a National Historic District with the National Park Service. This listing will allow any downtown building located within the district to utilize state and federal historic tax credits on building improvement projects, as well as open the door for state historic preservation funding sources. Any building owner who is interested in learning more about the incentive programs available to them should contact the Main Street West Union office at 422-3070.

WEST UNION DOCUMENTARY UPDATE: Work is underway for the 30-minute documentary film on the West Union Green Pilot Project. The film will share the story of how West Union was chosen to participate in the program and lessons learned as they have gone through the process. The film will highlight the many energy efficient improvements made by business owners, the district geothermal system, and the streetscape project. Film crews were in West Union to capture footage of the final construction phase for the streetscape project. The film's producer is currently working on the script development for the project and conducting research for the project. Interviews with local leaders and residents will take place later this spring.

ENERGY EFFICIENT GRANT FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE: Downtown building owners are reminded that there is still funding available to assist with energy efficient improvements to their buildings until June 30, 2013. To see a list of items that qualify for the cash rebates, check out the Green Pilot Tab on the West Union website at www.westunion.com.



NEW OWNERS AT MCJ'S!

The Chamber would like to congratulate Bob and Jessica Sadler for their purchase of long-time West Union business, McJ's Embroidery Accents! The business has moved to their new location at 120 East Elm Street (the former Hawkeye Food-service store). The business, now called McJ's Embroidery, will be open from 9am to 5pm. Bob and Jessica invite all Chamber members to their open house on Friday, January, 18th from 3 to 6 pm. Please help us welcome them to our West Union business community!

THANK YOU!

KDEC wishes to thank all West Union businesses who participated in the "S'now Place Like West Union" advertising campaign through KDEC 100.5FM and 1240AM stations. KDEC radio wishes the community of West Union and surrounding areas a very Happy New Year!

**Community Awards Banquet
"Celebrating the Gems of Our Community"**

Saturday, January 19th
West Union Country Club, Echo Valley Road

6:00 p.m.--Social Hour

7:00 p.m.--Dinner

8:00 p.m.--Awards Ceremony

Tickets are \$20 each in advance at the Chamber Office
Cost is \$25 at the door



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. Thanks for your contribution!!

2013 CHAMBER MEMBERSHIPS

A very special "Thank You" to our businesses and individuals that have paid their 2013 membership dues. During the months of January and February, Chamber staff will be working to update the business directory on the West Union website. If you see a change is needed to your listing, please feel free to contact the office! We will also be out soon to deliver 2013 stickers for your Chamber Plaques.

If you have not yet paid your 2013 membership, please remit your payment as soon as possible to the Chamber office to continue all your Membership benefits without interruption! Thank you!