



# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

[www.westunion.com](http://www.westunion.com)

**February 2012**

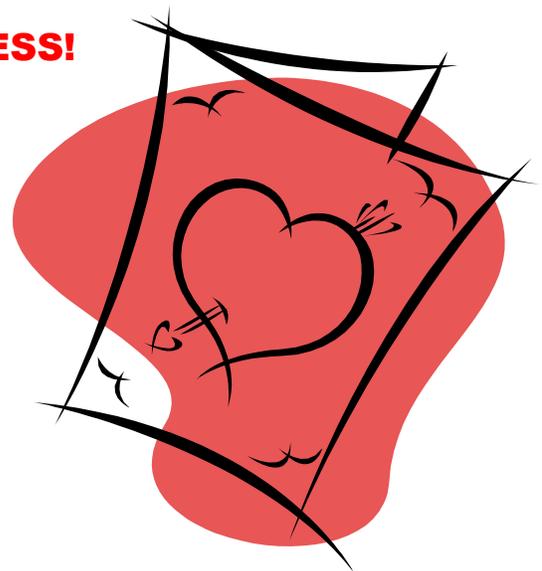
## COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET A GREAT SUCCESS!

The annual Community Awards Banquet held on Saturday, January 21st was a great success yet again this year. We had 159 attendees helping us celebrate our "Local Treasures" during a fun filled evening at the West Union Country Club. The individuals who were nominated by the community and chosen by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to receive awards this year were: Lyndee Gage- Health, Doug & Leslie Poppen- Education, Morgan Lauer-Youth, Sharon Schroyer- Community Service, and Norma Kerr- Religion. Congratulations on your well deserved awards!

Also recognized during the evening were Citizen of the Year- Merlin Dunt and Main Street West Union's Volunteer of the Year- Dick Woodard.

The Chamber Board held a raffle this year. Participants were given a key in hopes it would unlock the treasure chest which held over \$350 worth of prizes! Dennis Bond was the lucky winner. The Chamber would like to thank those who donated prizes for the raffle: Moore's, Old Mill Floral, Shell Express, Union Drug, Imperial Roof Systems, Edge FX Salon, and Log Cabin Gifts. We appreciate your generosity and help in making a memorable evening for all.

Finally a big thank you to: the West Union Chamber Board of Directors, Miss West Union Alycia Jacobsen, Main Street West Union, the West Union Country Club and the Fayette County Union for all their efforts that made for a successful celebration again this year!



### Thank You Banquet Sponsors!

The Chamber of Commerce would like to give a big "Shout Out" to this year's appetizer/dessert sponsors! Your contributions help ensure the low cost of tickets for our community members. Your willingness to give generously for this and other events throughout the community is so very greatly appreciated!

### 2012 Sponsors

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Palmer Lutheran Health Center                | First National Bank            |
| Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank                 | Homestead Iowa Realty          |
| Edge FX Salon                                | Schwan's                       |
| Imperial Roof Systems                        | Z & M Farm                     |
| McJ's Embroidery Accents                     | Anytime Fitness                |
| Old Mill Floral                              | Lauer & Lauer Insurance Agency |
| Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat |                                |

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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>Bill Ziegler</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>

### Chamber Spotlight: McJ's Embroidery Accents

Owners Mel Metcalf, Carolyn Havenstrite, and Jane Blumhagen opened McJ's Embroidery Accents in 1993. They share a building with Haven Electronics at 121 North Vine Street.

All 3 women have sewing ability and sew for their own families. While that is an important attribute to the business, computer skills and creativity also are essential for the designs the store offers. McJ's primarily sells computerized designs which are embroidered on just about any product you can imagine: garments, bags, towels, caps, blankets, even dog collars, horse blankets and collapsible chairs! They can customize and personalize gifts for students, babies, weddings and anniversaries.

The business currently has one part-time employee, Jessica Sadler and although Jane works in the store full-time, all 3 owners play a large part in the business. When asked about changes over the years, Jane says they do more in-house designing than they used to and that people are looking for more individualized designs. They have no minimum or maximum and will design for 1 or for 100!

The demand for machine embroidery continues to grow, and McJ's Embroidery Accents plans to grow with it. They are a valued business to West Union, bringing a unique product and customer base to town! Stop in today and see what McJ's has for you!



McJ's owners: Mel, Carolyn and Jane, for whom the business name is attributed, pose for a picture with some of their product samples, their computerized machine and the wide array of thread used in the embroidery process.

Thank you McJ's, for your continued Chamber membership and support!

### PLAY4KAY BASKETBALL at UIU

On February 17th Upper Iowa University is hosting "Play4Kay Basketball" in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. UIU will play Minnesota-Crookston at 6 pm in Dorman Gym on the Upper Iowa Campus. Wear Pink to the game for receive \$1 admission! Donations will also be taken to benefit the Kay Yow Cancer Fund.

### Chamber Building Improvements

Recent improvements and activities include flooring, painting and trim work. We have a beautiful new front counter and cabinets and have received some nice compliments. We have also finally relocated to the front part of the office, it's nice to be able to see activity on the street once again! Please feel free to stop by and check out the changes!

### Woo-Hoo Wednesdays at the Library



Each Wednesday in February, the West Union Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting Woo-Hoo parties from 10 am to 3 pm at the West Union Library. These parties will allow West Union residents the chance to go online and vote in the Readers Digest "We Hear You" Contest.

West Union was submitted for the grant program in hopes to receive funding dollars to be put toward the purchase of new Christmas decorations for the new Streetscape. There will be a representative available to help people with the voting process. Please contact Kathy Guyer at (563) 380-8496 with any questions.

### ICE SKATING

Looking for something to do outside this Winter? Take the family to the ice skating rink in Hawkeye! The rink is open anytime the water is frozen and it has a warming house with heat and power to plug in crocks, ect. Skate rentals are available from K&K Gardens and cost is \$5 for 24 hour rental. They have figure and hockey skates for all ages. They also rent sticks and pucks for hockey. Please contact Keith Kovarik at (563) 427-5373 or (563) 380-4610 with any questions!





**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>.

**FAÇADE MASTER PLAN PROGRAM:**

The City of West Union has submitted a pre-application to the Façade Master Plan program with the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Funding for the program comes from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Eighteen downtown businesses have submitted letters of commitment to participate in the program. If the pre-application is accepted by the State, the City will be asked to submit a full application within 60 days.

**ENERGY EFFICIENT GRANT FUNDING:**

The first round of Energy Efficiency Grant funding saw \$35,000 in rebates awarded to West Union businesses who made energy efficient improvements prior to December 31, 2011. Phase II of the Energy Efficient Grant Program is now available! Main Street West Union will administer the program and information is available at the Chamber/Main Street office. Businesses participating in the Façade Master Plan Program will be able to utilize these programs as well. For more information, please contact MSWU Program Director Robin Bostrom.

**DOE FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE:**

The City of West Union received \$100,000 from the Department of Energy to create a mini-grant program to assist downtown businesses with energy efficient upgrades. The goal of the grant program is to assist small business owners in making improvements to their buildings that will reduce their energy needs and ultimately, reduce the out of pocket costs they pay for energy usage. Businesses are eligible for up to \$5,000/per business or \$10,000 per/business if they are making the conversion to the district geothermal system. You can pick up informational packets at City Hall or the Main Street West Union office.



**2012 Memberships are now due! Please remit your payment to the Chamber office to continue all your Membership benefits without interruption! Thank you!**



**Traditions Valentine Party**

Tradition's Assisted Living of West Union is hosting a Valentine's Day Party on Tuesday, February 7th from 2 pm to 4 pm. Chris Von Arx will be playing music from 2:30-3:30. Refreshments and snacks will be provided!

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**March 24th-** Main Street West Union's 5th Anniversary Celebration at the Fayette County Fairgrounds

**April 12th-** Divas & Dining at the West Union Country Club, 5:30 pm

**April 13th & 14th-** Ladies Weekend Retail Event

**Mid-Winter Gala  
February 25th, 2012  
7 pm to 11 pm  
Fayette Opera House  
Tickets: \$20 & \$25**

For tickets contact any Fayette Lions or Opera House Board member or Dusty Dunn at (563) 425-4154 or Fred/Arlene Klatt at (563) 425-4526. Formal or semi-formal attire please. Sponsored by the Fayette Lions Club & the Fayette Opera House Foundation.

**SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST**

WU Park & Rec is once again holding the Subway Snow Sculpture Contest. Please contact Parks & Rec at (563) 380-8496 to have a picture taken of your sculpture and get entered in the contest. First place is a \$25 gift certificate at Subway. Second place is \$15 and third place is \$10.



**Can Collection for Fireworks**

The can collection bin for the annual fireworks celebration is now 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 in anticipation for all those holiday guests, why not donate those cans to good cause? Thanks for your contribution!!

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«Mailing Address»  
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### **WEST UNION CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The start of a new year means many changes for the West Union Chamber Board of Directors. We had 3 members who completed their 3 year terms at the end of 2011: Jackie Loomis, Deb Merrill, and Justin Steinlage. Special thanks to you for your service to our Chamber Members and the community. You have volunteered countless hours of time for the many events and projects the Chamber of Commerce puts on during the year. You will be missed!

**2012 Chamber Officers:**

**Lisa Miller- President**

**Melody Patrick- Vice-President**

**Jenni Elsbernd- Secretary/Treasurer**

These folks represent you, so please welcome them and give them a call with your suggestions, questions, or concerns. The Chamber Board still has open seats and we are looking for some volunteers who would be willing to serve the Chamber and the Community by joining the Board. Please contact the Chamber office at 422-3070 if you are interested!

### **Jerry Frasier- Interactive Comic Magician**

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a wonderful show for families! Jerry Frasier will be performing a high energy, clean and electric comedy magic show on February 12th at the North Fayette Performing Arts Center. Show starts at 2 pm! Ticket price is \$5.00 per person and ages 4 and under are free. Tickets are available for purchase at First National Bank of West Union and from any K.C. member. Show sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

