



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com

May 2011

WEST UNION FEST IS JUNE 4th!

West Union Fest (formerly Dairy Day) is fast approaching on Saturday, June 4th. The annual event will feature an afternoon of fun for the whole family. Free entertainment featuring the West Union Just For Kix dancers and the North Fayette Danceline will kick things off downtown at 11:30 a.m. All events will be held on Elm Street and Walnut Street due to the construction on Vine Street. The parade will begin at noon and travel north on Walnut Street from Spahn & Rose to Holy Name Catholic Church. Miss West Union will be crowned following the parade and the giant ice cream sundae will be served. Numerous kids games and contests will be held in the afternoon including Mr. Nick with his balloon art, a Cake Walk spon-

sored by Main Street West Union, a duck pond, bouncy toys, relays, and more. Kids of all ages can purchase a wrist band for \$1 and play the games all afternoon.

Local businesses are invited to help sponsor the numerous events planned for the day, and a sponsorship form is included with this newsletter. Businesses are also encouraged to sponsor a young lady in the Miss West Union contest which awards a \$500 scholarship to the yearly winner. Entry forms for the parade are available at the Chamber office and all businesses, churches, and civic organizations are encouraged to have an entry in the parade. This year's theme is "Family Fun". Any business or

organization who would like to have a food booth should contact food committee chair Jackie Loomis or pick up a form at the Chamber office. Watch the Fayette County Union for a full schedule of the days events as details are finalized.



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CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON CHAMBER BUILDING

Construction continues on the rehab project at the Chamber office with the rear meeting room nearing completion. Several energy efficiency measures have been taken following recommendations from the whole-building energy audit done on the building. Midwestern Energy Solutions conducted a blower-door test on the building to identify air leaks and areas that should be improved. Open cell blown insulation was added to the roof and upper wall portions of the rear meeting space which will greatly improve the R-value of the building. Early May will see the rear west wall being repaired and the new front entrance work beginning. The Chamber office will remain open during the project and staff will be relocated to the rear of the building for about 6 weeks. Customers should use the side entrance and enter through the apartment entrance to the rear meeting room.

The final work on the office will include removing the metal siding and replacing it with a stucco finish similar to that found on the upper portion of the building. A green roof will be added to the lower portion of the rear of the building later this summer and new decking added once the new sidewalks are complete. An open house is planned for Chamber members for later this fall when all the work is complete.



WEST UNION CHOSEN FOR MINI-DOCUMENTARY FILM

The community of West Union and the Green Pilot Project will be featured in a short documentary film project being done for the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The Chamber/Main Street office participated in a conference call on April 27th with staff from IDED, CDF, and Native Sun Productions to learn more about the project which will be filmed here in mid-May.

In an effort to highlight the benefits of sustainable community design, IDED has hired Native Sun Productions to produce the short film highlighting the work done

in West Union so far. Native Sun Productions has created numerous documentaries for the History Channel and PBS, and was involved in the creation of programming for the History Channel during its beginning.

The filming will involve a full day of shooting video in the community as well as interviews with business owners, community leaders, and project engineers. The film will be used to help promote sustainable community design across Iowa and the Midwest, and can also be used by the community to re-

cruit new business and industry. The entire cost of the project is being funded by the Iowa Department of Economic Development through their Sustainable Community funding. The short film will be shared with the community once it is complete later this summer. If you would like to view clips of films from Native Sun Productions please follow this link:

<http://www.nativesunproductions.com/#!video>

WEST UNION TO HOST CHAD ELLIOTT



Main Street West Union's Promotions Committee will be hosting three free music concerts this summer to promote the future Civic Plaza that will soon become a reality on the Court House Square. The event, called "Playing on the Plaza" will be held on Thursday, June 9th in the shelter at the West Union Rec Center. The first performer will be Chad Elliott who brought his "One Horse Town Tour" to West Union last summer. Chad will again be

visiting small towns across Iowa sharing his original music with fellow Iowans. The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. and Main Street West Union will be selling brats and beverages. Residents are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy an evening of live music. A free-will offering will be taken.

GREEN PILOT UPDATE



STREETSCAPE WEBCAM: Be sure to check out the progress on the streetscape project on the web-cam that is recording all the progress currently taking place on South Pine Street. Check it out at

**GREEN
STREETSCAPE
PILOT PROGRAM**

WHOLE BUILDING ENERGY AUDITS: Business owners are reminded that they can sign up by May 15th to have an in-depth, whole building energy audit done on their building. The audit will include a blower door test, infrared photos showing air leakage, and a full report of recommended ways to improve the energy efficiency of your building. The cost of the audit varies by building and is based on the square footage of your building. Rebates are currently available from the Energy Efficiency Grant Program to cover 75% of the audit costs. Businesses interested in hooking up to the district geothermal system are strongly encouraged to have an audit done on their building. Rebates are also available for several energy efficiency improvements such as new energy star windows and doors, insulation, lighting upgrades, and more. The rebates will expire on December 31, 2011. To learn more about what rebates are available, please stop by the Chamber/Main Street office or visit the website under the Green Pilot tab.

STREETSCAPE WORK CONTINUES: Water and sewer work continues on South Pine Street between Plum and Elm streets. All sidewalks are open to all businesses and parking is available in several locations. After this work is complete they will begin to lay the street pavers hopefully by late May.

OLD STREET BRICKS FOR SALE: The city will be offering the historic bricks from the street for sale to anyone wishing to purchase them for reuse. The bricks will sell for \$.25 each and will be available on a date in May and throughout the summer and fall. Five bricks equal a square foot and would make great paving material for landscaping projects. Watch the Fayette County Union for the exact date to purchase the bricks. Five cents from each brick sold will benefit the local boy scout troop who will assist in counting and loading the bricks on the sale dates. For additional information, please contact City Hall and watch the Fayette County Union for the upcoming sale dates.



YARD WASTE PICK UP DAY

It is spring clean-up time in West Union! The spring yard waste collection day is set for Monday, May 9th. Residents should have their yard waste placed at the curb by 8:00 a.m. All waste should be in the approved bags which can be purchased for \$.75 at either City Hall or the Chamber office.

**WEST UNION TO HOST
CURBSIDE RECYCLING**



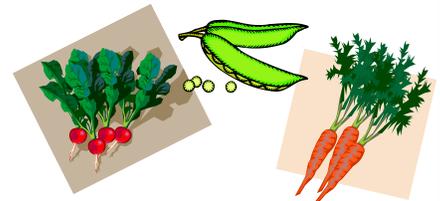
The city of West Union has partnered with Environmental Services of Iowa to offer a curbside recycling program

on May 12th. Residents can purchase stickers at City Hall to place on items such as old appliances and electronics, and then place those items at the curb to be picked up on May 12th. Please stop at the Chamber office or City Hall to pick up a list of acceptable items. A list can also be found on the city website under the City tab.



CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES

The Fayette County Union is sponsoring the annual city wide garage sales on May 6 & 7 in West Union. Contact the Union to place your ad to maximize your sales! The Goodwill Truck will be available at Lilac Plaza to accept donations as well.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Community Garden spots are again available for rent at the Fayette County Fairgrounds for \$15 each. Art Wolfs will serve as the garden manager this year and will coordinate the public garden spaces and the maintenance for them. Anyone interested in a 10 x 12 spot, should fill out a form at the Chamber office.

May 2011

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«City», «State» «Zip»

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MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 4-H Chicken Dinner at fairgrounds | 23 | National Main Streets Conference |
| 3 | Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting | 24 | National Main Streets Conference |
| | Fayette County Tourism Meeting-Wadena | 25 | National Main Streets Conference |
| | NFHS Spring Concert, PAC | 30 | Memorial Day |
| 4 | MSWU Organization Committee | | |
| 5 | SMART Economic Development Conference, Des Moines | | |
| 6 | City-wide Garage Sales | | |
| 7 | City-wide Garage Sales | | |
| 8 | Happy Mother's Day | | |
| 9 | Yard Waste Pick-up Day | | |
| 10 | Chamber Board Meeting | | |
| | MSWU Board Meeting | | |
| 12 | Retail Committee meeting | | |
| | Curbside Recycling Pick-up Day | | |
| 14 | Mobile Food Pantry at fairgrounds | | |
| 17 | NF Senior Awards Night | | |
| | MSWU Design Committee | | |
| 19 | MSWU Promotions Committee | | |
| 22 | NFHS Graduation | | |

FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for July 3rd for the annual Fireworks celebration to be held at the West Union Rec Center

Add a fireworks graphic here

In honor of Memorial Day, the Chamber of Commerce Office will be CLOSED on Monday, May 30, 2011.