



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com



Happy Holidays from all of us at the West Union Chamber!

DECEMBER 2011



YOUR TOWN DESERVES YOUR VOTE!
West Union, Iowa

VOTE NOW
FOR YOUR TOWN TO WIN \$50,000 PRIZING AND SUPPORT

We want to know: How would \$50,000 make your town an even better place to live? Enter your zip to vote for your town, then tell us--plus get your friends, family and neighbors to vote too. 18 towns will win big, and the town with the most votes wins the grand prize! We do hear you, America.

A campaign has begun to raise money for new Christmas lights to go along with the new Downtown Streetscape and newly installed LED streetlamps. Please go online and vote at ReadersDigest.com/America. Grand prize of \$50,000!

CHAMBER SCRIP MONEY MAKES A GREAT GIFT!



Wondering what to get family, friends, employers or employees for the holidays this year? Then Chamber Scrip money is the gift to choose! They come in any amount you desire and can be customized.



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.

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!

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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	

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

The Fayette County Community Foundation has released their grant applications for the 2012 award cycle. All local civic groups and organizations are encouraged to complete an application for projects happening around Fayette County.

the Foundation will have two funding priorities for 2011: Community Planning/ Long Range Goal Setting, and Recreation Tourism. There is no specific dollar amount set aside for funding projects in these priority areas, but requests for projects aligning with these priorities may be reviewed with favor. Requests not aligning with these priorities may still be submitted.

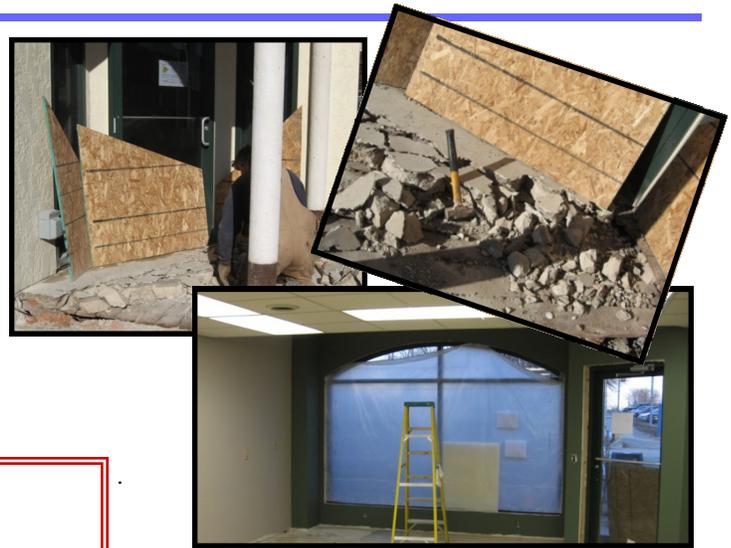


Each year the Foundation awards funds to many different groups for projects in the areas of Art & Culture, Health, Community Affairs & Development, Human Services, Education, Environmental Education & Protection, and Historic Preservation. Following a county-wide survey conducted in 2010,

Applications are due January 17, 2012 and grant awards will be announced in April 2012. Applications are available at the Chamber/Main Street office or online at www.fayeteccf.org.

Chamber Building Improvements

The remodeling of the West Union Chamber of Commerce building continues and nears completion! We recently painted the interior, special thanks to those who helped paint. Cline's Construction is working on the front entryway which will be handicap accessible when it is completed. Once the wall for the front counter is built, carpet can be installed, trim work finished and cabinets installed. Hopefully it's only a couple short weeks before we can relocate back to the front part of the building, get reorganized and reopen the Board Room!



PUNCH CARD WINNERS!!

November 14th:

- Chuck Bushman.... Dessel-Roach Furniture & Floors Gift Certificate
Andy Boyer.....China Kitchen Gift Certificate
Karen Becker.....Edge FX Gift Certificate

November 21st:

- Ron Schroeder.....WU Hardware Gift Certificate
Patricia Hogan.....Unionland Feed & Supply Gift Certificate
Tonya Osterhus.....McJ's Embroidery Gift Certificate

November 28th:

- Jan Baade.....Union Drug Gift Certificate
Amie Johansen.....Saboe Jewelry Gift Certificate
John Fels.....Loomis Plumbing & Heating Gift Certificate

2012 WU 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 or Director Bill Ziegler with your interest!

JINGLE & MINGLE Holiday Punch Card Promotion Continues
November 2nd - December 24th

The West Union Chamber of Commerce is once again sponsoring the 5th Annual Holiday Punch Card Promotion. We have 24 participating merchants this year. 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. The final drawing will be held on December 27th for 5 winners of \$100 in WU Script money. Several merchants have stopped in to get more punch cards already!



Winners will be posted at the Chamber and listed in the Fayette County Union each week. The more a customer shops locally, the more times they can be entered in the drawings!

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:

Many business owners attended the informational meeting held on November 16 & 17 about the Façade Master Plan funding available through the Community Development Block Grant program. This program allows for façade improvements to buildings within a community through a façade easement program with the applicant city. One contractor is selected through a public bidding process to do the façade work for all of the participating buildings. West Union is researching this program and may submit a pre-application in January 2012. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Robin Bostrom with Main Street West Union or West Union City Hall.

ENERGY EFFICIENT GRANT FUNDING:

Final requests for funding for rebates from the Energy Efficiency Grant program are due to the Main Street West Union office by December 31, 2011. Any business that is still interested in an in-depth energy audit has until this date to have the audit complete if they wish to have 75% of the cost covered. Other possible rebates can be submitted for upgrading lighting, new windows and doors, and a whole list of energy efficiency upgrades. You can get additional information on the West Union website, www.westunion.com, under the Green Pilot tab or by contacting the Main Street West Union office.

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 West Union City Hall or the Main Street West Union office.

CHAMBER MEMBER PLAQUES

Please stop in the office if you are in need of a West Union Chamber Member plaque. We hope all our members choose to display this proudly!



THE MESSIAH

The West Union Community Chorus' annual performance of "The Messiah" will be held at West Union United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 11th at 7:00 pm.

2012 CHAMBER MEMBER CAMPAIGN

The 2012 Chamber membership forms have been included with this newsletter for those new and existing Chamber members who have not yet returned their payment/information form. 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! Thanks to those of you who have already sent your payment and info in to the office! If you are a current Chamber Member and know of a fellow business owner or individual who isn't, please tell them the benefits to belonging to the West Union Chamber of Commerce! Encourage them to join! Thank you!

Civic Club Santa Store & Zion Lutheran Church Cookie Walk

The West Union CIVIC Club will be hosting their annual Santa Store at Zion Lutheran Church on Saturday morning, December 3rd from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Area children can shop for Christmas gifts for their family during the annual event. Items range from \$.25 to \$4.00 in price. Children preschool through 5th grade are invited to attend.

Upstairs, shoppers can choose from a large selection of delicious holiday cookies at the Zion Lutheran Church Cookie Walk, 8 am to 1 pm. Cookies are sold by the pound but be sure to get there early for the best selection!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit any events, activities, articles of interest, and/or calendar information by December 27th.

Thank you!

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!!



West Union Chamber of Commerce
101 North Vine St
West Union, IA 52175

Phone: 563-422-3070
Email: wuchamber@alpinecom.net
www.westunion.com

«Name»

«Contact Information»

«Mailing Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

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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. Nomination forms are available at the Chamber office and can also be emailed. Please contact the office at 422-3070 or email wuchamber@alpinecom.net if you are in need of a form.

Nominations are due to the Chamber office by December 31, 2011. Please take a few minutes to nominate someone you think gives back to our community and deserves to be recognized!



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Please join the West Union Chamber of Commerce, Main Street West Union, Fayette County Economic Development and West Union Industrial Development for our holiday open house on Thursday, December 15th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Stop in and enjoy refreshments, mingle, and check out the new building renovations! The Chamber building is located at 101 North Vine Street, West Union.