



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

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November 2010

HOLIDAY PUNCH CARD STARTS NOV. 3

Wednesday, November 3rd marks the beginning of the 5th annual Holiday Punch Card promotion sponsored by the Chamber Retail Committee. This year's theme is "Magical Merriment" and features a jolly snowman decked out in his construction hat. You will find him around town at all participating businesses.

Punch cards are again valued at \$150 each and encourage shoppers to spend their money locally this holiday season. Every \$1 spent locally turns six times in the local economy providing for salaries of local employees, purchases of supplies for local businesses, and tax revenue for our community to fund many city services. The goal this year is to have 5,000 completed punch cards turned in which trans-

lates into \$750,000 spent locally! Weekly drawings will begin the week of November 15th for gift certificates or Chamber Script money from participating businesses. Names stay in the drawing barrel each week, so the more a customer shops the more chances they have to win! The final prize drawing will take place on Monday, December 27th with five lucky winners each winning \$100 in Chamber Scrip money to continue shopping locally into the new year. Other holiday events include town-wide Holiday Open Houses on November 11, 12, & 13 with several merchants offering special deals, open house coupons, and tasty treats. Other special events include Santa's visit to the Fayette County

Court House on Thursday, December 2nd, and two special shopping events, Ladies Night on December 9th and Men's Night on December 16th.

So let the merriment begin as the holidays are kicked off in West Union!



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 22, 2011. 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. 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, 2010. Additional forms are available in the

Chamber office and can also be found on the website under the Chamber tab. Please take a few minutes to nominate someone you think gives back to our community and deserves to be recognized!

Inside this issue:

VISTA Update	2
Fall Computer Workshops	2
Green Pilot Updates	3
What's Happening in WU	3
Calendar of Events	4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VISTA COMMENTS FROM VOLUNTEER BEN LEWIS



VISTA

Volunteers In Service To America

It is hard to believe that my year of service here in West Union is almost at an end. One year in a community is hardly enough time to get settled in, let alone get some meaningful work done. But despite that, I think I have been able, with your help, to get some nice things accomplished. During the summer I instructed a couple of rain barrel workshops so that the beautiful gardens I see in nearly every yard can be supplemented with chlorine free rain water long after the storms have passed. A few folks were shown the benefits of using red wiggler worms to turn kitchen scraps into useful compost and great garden food. I also tried to demonstrate how easy West Union is to bike and walk around by conducting a bicycle skills and safety class as well as a successful fitness walk at North Fayette Schools on International Walk to School Day. Speaking broadly, what I have been try-

ing to do is increase awareness of our impacts on the planet, and show how the conservation elements built into the design of the streetscape are related because they both fall under the umbrella of sustainability. I have tried to show how we can conserve through small changes in our daily habits, whereas the street is an example of how to conserve through renovation and construction projects. When the jackhammers and bulldozers start to dig into the streets next spring, and the dump trucks haul away rock and dirt, semi tractors bring in gravel and pipes, you will be hit with the full complexities of renovation. The noises of construction will be new and loud, but short-lived; as results of years of public input is revealed one block at a time. This is not only a new street for you, but it is truly a new way of thinking that is based on the best ideas of everyone involved, fore and against. This is a

chance to look beneath the curtain, so to speak, and see why this is not an average street. I hope you take that advantage and make it a part of your community.

If I feel a sense of accomplishment after just one year, I hope you feel a greater sense, because the real work has been done by you for you. West Union is full of great volunteers who really embody a pioneer spirit: taking what you know to be true and moving forward to make a better life for everyone that you care about, and even those you disagree with.

Be well,
Ben

Streetscape Groundbreaking Ceremony

Here are some highlights of the Green Pilot Streetscape Groundbreaking Ceremony held on October 21st.



Ambassadors and Officials

Displaying West Union's New Logo

Andrew Wenthe

Elected Officials

Bill Heckroth

Robin Speaking to the Crowd

Mayor D...t

Onlookers

GREEN PILOT UPDATE



STREETSCAPE GROUNDBREAKING: Thank you to all who attended the streetscape groundbreaking ceremony held last month. A good crowd was in attendance as the city officially kicked off the Green Pilot Streetscape project and unveiled the new West Union logo.

WATER & SEWER WORK IS UNDERWAY: Work on the upgrades to water and sewer lines has begun in several areas on the fringes of the streetscape project area. Crews will continue to work as long as the weather permits. Major street work will begin early next spring when the weather allows.

ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM AVAILABLE: Main Street West Union is administering 2 grant programs for the community of West Union. The first grant program is now open and can be used for businesses interested in making energy efficiency improvements to their businesses. This can include energy star rated windows and doors, energy star appliances, insulation, energy efficient lighting, and several other categories. Business owners can get a rebate on qualifying purchases and funding is available on a first-come first served basis. Approximately \$40,000 is available and improvements must be made by December 31, 2010. Rebate forms are available at the Chamber office and on the website under the Green Pilot tab. You can also qualify for rebates from either Alliant Energy or Black Hills Energy depending on the type of equipment installed, and may also qualify for federal tax credits.



Business Survey Breakfast

Fayette County Economic Development and NICC are hosting a breakfast for all Fayette County businesses to share results about the business survey completed this past summer through NICC. The event will be held on Wednesday, November 10th at Country Hills Community Golf Course at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will also include discussion on funding opportunities through the Iowa New Jobs Training Program, Iowa Jobs Training Program, and the Grow Iowa Values Fund that would be available to your company for training needs in areas such as Lean Manufacturing, computer training, time management, communication skills and much more. Please RSVP to the FCED office at 422-5073 by November 8th.



Bake Sale

Friday, November 5th
9:00 a.m.—Noon

Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank

First National Bank

Sponsored by the North Fayette Jr. Class

Post-Prom Fundraising Committee



Can Collection Bin Moving

The can collection bin for the annual fireworks celebration is moving to a new location. Beginning November 1st, the Chamber building will begin construction to repair the south basement foundation wall. This will require the south sidewalk to be removed as repairs are being made. The can collection bin has been moved to Old Mill Redemption Center (located in the front of Jay's Automotive on Hwy 150 south). Donations of cans can be made at this location from now on. The Chamber thanks everyone who contributes to this event by donating their cans and bottles. To date, over \$1800 has been raised toward the fireworks show for 2011!

November Events at Good Samaritan Society

Community Coffee—Tuesday, November 16th—2:00 p.m.

Kenny Aeschliman with the Fayette County Sheriff's Department will present a canine demonstration showing how these animals are used in police work in the county. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Sock Fundraiser—Thursday, November 11th—3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Come do some holiday shopping in the East Room of the West Union Good Samaritan Center in a fundraiser sponsored by the staff. Come check out the "Sock Party" in the East Room and help raise funds to purchase a pair of socks for every resident. Lots of varieties to choose from, and they make great stocking stuffers!



It's a Wonderful Life

Presented by North Fayette High School Drama Department

November 12 & 13—7:30 p.m.

November 14—2:00 p.m.

Tickets available at NF High School.

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

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NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3 Punch Card Promotion Begins
MSI Fall Workshop - Dubuque
- 5 NF Jr. Class Bake Sale
Barn Quilts of Fayette County Meet
- 8 Football Playoffs
- 9 Chamber Board Meeting
- 10 FCED/NICC Business Breakfast at
Country Hills (7:30 a.m.)
- 11 Good Sam Sock Fundraiser 3 - 5
Holiday Open Houses
- 12 Holiday Open Houses
It's A Wonderful Life (PAC)
- 13 Holiday Open Houses
It's A Wonderful Life (PAC)
- 14 It's A Wonderful Life (PAC)
- 17 Fayette County Local Housing Trust
Fund
- 18 Fayette County Community Founda-
tion Grant Workshop 0 7 p.m.
- 19 VISTA Volunteer, Ben Lewis' Last Day
- 20 Parent Share and Support Craft Show
- 25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
Hawkeye Fire Department's Annual
Firemen's Dance

