



# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

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

**APRIL 2013**

## DIVA DAYS SHOPPING EVENT, APRIL 12TH & 13TH

The West Union Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee is sponsoring the 4th annual "Diva Days" retail event on April 12th and 13th. The ladies shopping event will encourage visitors and members of the community to check out all the new Spring merchandise arriving in West Union's stores! An opportunity to showcase their services and merchandise, many of the participants will be offering special savings, yummy refreshments and samples, free services, and educational demonstrations. Shoppers may also register in each business for a chance to win a gift certificate or gift from that business. The more stores you hit, the better the chances of winning!

Merchants participating in this year's event are: Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat, Old Mill Floral, West Union Hardware, McJ's Embroidery Accents, the Fayette County Union, Moore's Foods, Norbys Farm Fleet, Union Drug, Curves, and Dessel-Roach Furniture & Floors.



### Chocolate Walk Winner!

Congratulations to Arlene Molokken of West Union for winning the "Chocolate Lovers" gift basket grand prize for participating in the St. Patrick's Day Chocolate Walk!

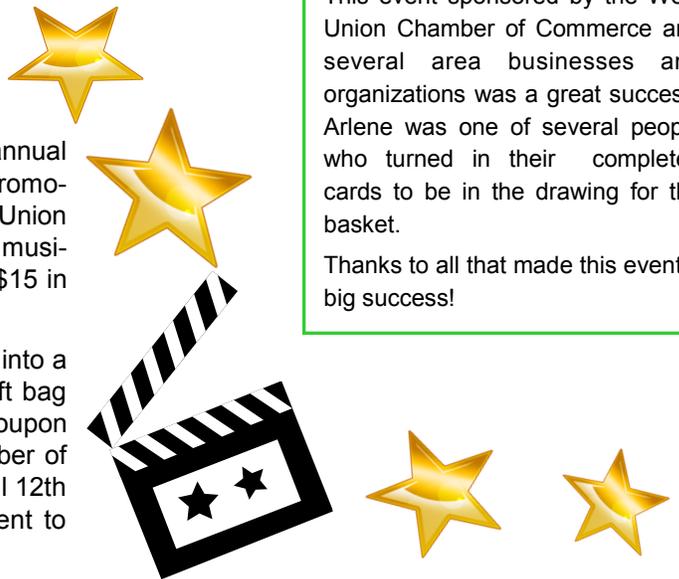
This event sponsored by the West Union Chamber of Commerce and several area businesses and organizations was a great success! Arlene was one of several people who turned in their completed cards to be in the drawing for the basket.

Thanks to all that made this event a big success!

## DIVAS & DINING TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Tickets are now available at the Main Street office for the annual "Divas & Dining" event sponsored by Main Street West Union's Promotion Committee. The event will be held on April 11th at the West Union Country Club and features table-top shopping, a delicious meal, musical entertainment, and lots of fun for all the ladies! Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

Ladies who purchase their tickets before April 2<sup>nd</sup> will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 salon gift certificate and will also receive a gift bag provided by the West Union Chamber Retail Committee. Coupon books are included in the bags with special deals for the Chamber of Commerce Retail Event, Diva Days, on Friday and Saturday, April 12th & 13th. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's event to help you "get Your Glam On"!



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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Melody Patrick</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Ryan Hoey</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Jenni Elsbernd</b>	<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>
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<b>Bridget Parker</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>



### Chamber Spotlight: Homestead Iowa Realty

Real Estate Broker Debbie Merrill purchased Homestead-Iowa Realty in 1995. The Iowa Realty franchise is the largest real estate company in the state.. As a part of Iowa Realty, Homestead benefits in many ways such as: name recognition, working with referrals, and legal staff availability.

Debbie's first office is where China Kitchen is now located but her All American model home was located out on Highway 150. To her it made sense to be closer to her model home so, resourceful as ever, she bought the property and built an office allowing for much more visibility and accessibility. Business soon picked up for Homestead! The office has 3 full time Real Estate Brokers in the office. Together Deb Merrill, Lisa Wescott, and Janet Stahr have over 60 years of real estate experience. Marlys Anderson works as the office manager and keeps the gals on track!

Homestead-Iowa Realty sells existing real estate and also modular homes for 2 companies- All American Homes and Stratford Homes. Deb is proud to say she has built over 135 homes in the area! Stop by to see the two model homes on display, guaranteed you will be impressed with the quality!

One of the biggest changes for Homestead has been technology. A large portion of their business comes from the internet. The brokers in the office can help you buy or sell a home, help with financing, do a market analysis, or help you relocate. They are a full time, full service agency and look forward to working with you in the future. Check out [www.HomesteadIowaRealty.com](http://www.HomesteadIowaRealty.com) today!



Thank you Homestead Iowa Realty for your Chamber membership and support!

Deb is pictured above with Janet & Marlys

### BUSINESS CLASSES IN THE WEST UNION AREA

**LinkedIn for Business: Introduction** Course #: 21428  
**Tuesday, April 2 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Harness the power of connections for your business in the world's largest professional network! Identify how to create a LinkedIn profile, visit job boards, research companies, stay current with others' projects, & establish your company's own web-based identity. Note: Bring an e-mail address and password to set up a LinkedIn account.

**Facebook for Business: Introduction** Course #: 21427  
**Wednesday, April 17 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Facebook: It's Not Just For Friends, It's For Businesses Too! This class will provide step-by-step instructions on how to create a dynamic Facebook business page, post examples, link with other social media sites, respond to others' comments, upload photos and videos, plus provide helpful tricks and tips to optimize your profile. Note: Bring an e-mail address and password to set up a Facebook account.

**Fee:** \$25 per session for West Union Chamber Members, \$30 per session for Non-Members

**To register:** Call 800.728.2256, ext. 399, and be sure to let them know you are a Chamber member to receive the discounted rate!

**Location:** UIU | Liberal Arts Building | Room 111 | Fayette

**Instructor:** Iroc Web Design Services

**\*Class Size Limited! \* Laptops provided \* Refreshments\***

Contact FCED at (563) 422-5073 for more information

This project is partially funded by a \$44,000 grant issued to the North-east Iowa Community College Foundation from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. This is an Equal Opportunity Program. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law.

### QuickBooks 2012 Series – in West Union

**Setup and Basic Use** Course #: 21451  
**Tuesday, April 30 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Students will define how to set up a company and accounting system, financial statements, the chart of accounts, generate and read reports; plus basic features: writing checks, making deposits and reconciling bank accounts.

**Vendors, Purchase Invoices & Payments** Course #: 21453  
**Tuesday, May 7 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Focuses on the vendor center; adding and editing vendors, entering bills, writing checks, paying bills, and setting up and paying sales taxes.

**Customers, Sales Invoices & Receipts** Course #: 21455  
**Tuesday, May 14 from 1:00- 4:00 p.m.**

The target of this session is the customer center; adding and editing customers, recording of sales through invoices, sales receipts or statement charges, creating statements, receiving payments and entering deposits.

**Payroll** Course #: 21457  
**Tuesday, May 21 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

This session will review the setting up of QuickBooks payroll to customize a company's payroll situation, including how employees are paid and various benefit plans a company may offer. The session will also review how to create and edit employees in the system, prepare payroll, record and pay payroll taxes/liabilities and reporting to various government agencies.

**Fee:** \$15 per session (no discount available)

**Location:** Fayette County Historical Center | 100 North Walnut Street | West Union, Iowa

**Instructor:** Andy Batstone, CPA

**\*Class Size Limited! \* Laptops provided \* Refreshments\***

**To register:** Call 800.728.2256, ext. 399 or go to [www.nicc.edu](http://www.nicc.edu)

**GREEN PILOT UPDATE**



**TREES FOREVER GRANT AWARDS:**

The City of West Union has been awarded grant funding to plant trees within the downtown Green Pilot Streetscape Project through a partnership with Trees Forever, Black Hills Energy and Alliant Energy. West Union was awarded a grant of \$4300 from Black Hills *Power of Trees* and \$2450 from Alliant Energy's *Branching Out* program. Planting trees provides more shade and cools the air, helping to lower energy costs and reduce peak electric demand. Trees also provide many other long-term health, economic, social, and environmental benefits to the community.



**PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED FOR WEST UNION MARKETING!**

The Chamber is seeking photographs of West Union to be utilized in various ways to help market our community! We will use these photographs on websites, in brochures and magazines, and possibly advertising. We are looking for photos of people, scenery, events, and businesses. If you have some photos you would be willing to share, please email them to Bridget at [admin@fayettecountyia.com](mailto:admin@fayettecountyia.com). Please note that by emailing your picture you agree to let the chamber use them in publications and/or the City website. Thanks in advance for your participation!



**Help Us Market Fayette County!**

Fayette County Tourism is having their 2013-2014 Membership Campaign. There are many benefits to becoming a member: quarterly newsletters, calendar of events, membership window cling, and invites to tourism board events. In addition, Business and Non-profit memberships receive a listing placement on the Northeast Iowa Regional Tourism website. This would be a great marketing tool for your business or organization! You can check out the website at [www.visitiowa.org](http://www.visitiowa.org).

Included in this newsletter is a membership form. Cost for individuals is just \$25, Businesses/Non-Profits is \$45, and Cities can join for only \$65! Thanks for your support for Fayette County Tourism!

**City Wide Garage Sales are May 2-4**

West Union City Wide Garage Sales will be held Thursday, May 2nd thru 4th. Please contact the Fayette County Union to place an ad and be included on the map! The local Knights of Columbus and Troop 54 Boy Scouts will again sponsor a Goodwill truck in the Lilac Plaza parking lot 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 4, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 5.



**Scrip Money Makes a Great Gift!**

West Union Scrip Money makes a great gift for birthdays, weddings, graduation, anniversaries and more! Support our local businesses by using Scrip Money for your gift giving! Available at the West Union Chamber of Commerce. We can even customize the design for special occasions!

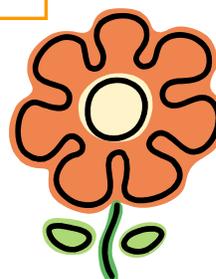
**ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER**

West Union Fire Department will hold it's annual Pancake & Sausage Supper on Thursday, April 18th from 5 pm to 9 pm. Support our local volunteer fire department and enjoy this great community gathering and some yummy pancakes and sausage!



**K&K Gardens "GIVE & GROW" Program**

K&K Gardens will once again offer their "Give & Grow" program to help non-profit organizations raise money. For more information on the program and how to apply to participate, please go to [www.kkgardens.com](http://www.kkgardens.com) or contact Keith Kovarik at (563) 427-5373.



**FLOWER ORDERS**

Your investment in the Chamber provides many benefits and one of them is a FREE flower fill for your summer flower barrels. Included with this newsletter is a reservation form to receive one free fill of 5 assorted flowers for either a sun or shade location. Additional barrel fills can be purchased for \$25 each and all fills will be planted by Chamber volunteers in late May when the chance of frost has passed.

Flowers are purchased locally from a Chamber member business and allow our membership businesses to have a uniform look across the community with matching flowers. Please return your reservation form to the Chamber office by April 22nd, 2013. Please contact Bridget at the Chamber with any questions- (563) 422-3070.



## WESTUNION CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Follow us on Facebook and at [www.westunion.com](http://www.westunion.com)

### Kaleidoscope Campaign Tops \$600,000!

The fundraising campaign to build a new Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center continues with about \$600,000 raised to date in gifts and pledges. "We want to thank all contributors for their generous giving to this wonderful project and campaign," said Campaign Co Chair Barb Heins. "Many area citizens and businesses have made a three year pledge or annual gift and together those gifts have helped us go over \$600,000. The campaign continues as we haven't reached our goal yet but firmly believe we will," Heins said.

About 30 volunteers are working hard to visit with individuals and businesses from throughout the county to explain the need for a new facility and the benefits it will bring to our county. After the education, the volunteer will explain how everyone can financially support this project. Those volunteers are: Marcia and LeRoy Soppe and Barb and Mike Heins as Capital Campaign Co Chairs, Don Mueller and Steve Story as Capital Campaign Honorary Co Chairs, and other campaign volunteers include: Kathy Bauer, Ron Beerman, Courtney Bentley, Robin Bostrom, Tobin Britt, Deb Chensvold, Deb Dessel, John and Sally Falb, Tami Guyer, Carolyn Havenstrite, Kara Johnson, Pastor Scott Kober, Janell McElree, LeAnn Meyer, Steve Murray, Mary O'Kones, Ron and Barb O'Kones, Deb Rovang, Nicole Russler, Bob Vagts, Jessica Wegner, Deb Willhite, and Bill Ziegler.

The campaign team is submitting some foundation grant proposals along with visiting area residents and businesses. "Kaleidoscope is at capacity with 88 children cared for," said Board President LeAnn Meyer. "The new facility will provide care for up to 110 children," Meyer said. Your gift is needed. Please contact a volunteer or call Kaleidoscope at 563-422-5379.



### FIREWORKS CAN COLLECTION

Doing a little Spring Cleaning? Why not donate those redeemable cans to a GREAT cause?? The Chamber of Commerce is continuing to collect cans to help fund the annual fireworks celebration on July 4th. The can collection bin is located at Old Mill Redemption on Highway 150 South by the car wash and Jay's Automotive. Thanks for your contributions!!