



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

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Back to School Time!

AUGUST 2013

FIREWORKS DONATIONS

A special thank you to all the businesses and private residents who contributed to the annual fireworks celebration in West Union on Thursday, July 4th! Thank you to the West Union Rec Center for again allowing the Chamber of Commerce to hold the event on the park grounds. Many of the areas around the site were full of folks gathering to enjoy great music, food and fun, and to watch the fireworks! Thank you to fundraising chair Marge Crandall for her assistance in helping to raise the \$4300 needed to put on the fireworks display. Donations are accepted year round, so if you would like to make a contribution you can do so at anytime.

Thanks to the following folks who donated to this year's show: Dennis Bond, Easton's Water Conditioning, Hair Designs, Donald & Marilyn Mueller, Garvin's LP Gas, Crop Insurance of NEIA, Bruce & Marge Crandall, Woodard Insurance, George & Iris Woodard, Marge Kilburn, Tap't Out Stein-N-Dine, Jeff Clements, Fayette County Abstract Company, NEIA Appraisal & Real Estate, West Union Rotary, Allen & Deb Chensvold, Dessel-Roach Furniture & Floors, Saboe Jewelry, Gage & Gage Plumbing and Heating, West

Union Lions Club, Moore's Foods, Sally Falb, State Farm Insurance, Bank 1st, Old Mill Floral, Cameron Elmer DDS, Matt & Janell McElree, Baumler Implements, Ward Collision Service, Thomas & Deb Luhman, North Fayette Animal Clinic, Bemiss Distributing, Scott & Shantelle Bohner, Unionland Feed, Spahn & Rose Lumber Co., John O Falb, Moss Service Center, Moss Roofing & Insulation, Kerwin & Marlys Anderson, Don Kamaus CPA, Mihm Oil Company, Ronald & Barb O'Kones, Michael Insurance, Sims TV & Electronics, Joan Vagts, German Mutual Insurance, Kerndt Brothers, Kevin & Susan Brockway, Black Hills Energy, Nucara Pharmacy, Farm Bureau Financial, Harlen & Margaret Anderson, Jim Updegraff, Janet Stahr, Barrel Drive In, Bruce & Donna Fink, Solheim Landscaping, Don & Marsha Leahy, and Mark & Deb Thies.

Without your generous donations the show would not go on. Also, thanks to those who donated their cans out at Old Mill Redemption. A total of \$729.55 was collected in can redemption in the last year.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!

Thanks to Our 4th of July Sponsors!

Thanks to all of you who helped to sponsor the activities for the July 4th Celebration! The following businesses sponsored the Miles Adams Band: Gundersen Clinic West Union, Palmer Lutheran Health Center, Prairie View Management, Traditions of Iowa, West Union Good Samaritan Society, and West Union Chamber of Commerce. The Kiddie Train was sponsored by the CIVIC Club and Osmundson Lawncare and was driven by Ben Martin and Zach Massman. Thank you to Kayla Lueder and Julie Breuer for helping with the face painting. Thanks to our games and inflatables sponsors: West Union Trenching, Leslie Lauer & Sons, Kevin Cline Construction, Imperial Roof Systems, Moss Roofing & Insulation, Scott Weidemann Construction, West Union CIVIC Club, and the West Union Chamber of Commerce. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped with all the set up and tear down. Thanks to the WU Fire Department! We hope everyone enjoyed the event and thanks to anyone we missed!

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Chamber would like to congratulate Julie Breuer, Miss West Union 2013. We know that Julie will represent West Union proudly as she attends area community events. Julie is the daughter of Joe & Carolyn Breuer. She is active in cheerleading, track, Chamber Choir, band and chorus. She is a member of the National Honor Society and works at Nucara and Anytime Fitness. Congratulations Julie!

Inside This Issue:

Chamber Spotlight– Bank 1st	2
Chamber Coordinator Job Opportunity	2
Playin' on the Plaza Concert Series	2
Walking School Bus	2
Green Pilot Updates	3
What's Happening in WU	3
Kaleidoscope Kids Capital Campaign	4

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Bank 1st (formerly First National Bank of West Union) has been in business for 79 years. Originally chartered as a National Bank, the end of 2012 saw the benefit to them and their customers to become a State chartered Bank, hence the name change to Bank 1st. The main bank is in the same location as it started many years ago. However, in 1967 they purchased the Estey Building to the North and expanded thru the inside walls in to what used to be Nancy's Dress Shop. In 1977 they purchased the adjoining building to the south of them which was Duffy's Shoe store at one time, and then Social Services Offices.

1982 saw a major renovation for the bank. A complete new look and their first ATM was installed in the entry along with an elevator to the 2nd floor and lower level. Since then the bank has remodeled several times to accommodate the growth of the Bank and to better serve the needs of their customers.

In 1967 they opened up a new Drive In Facility on West Bradford St/Hwy 18 because they saw the need for their customers to get their banking done quickly and conveniently. It has been an extremely popular service that has continued to grow over the years. In 1977, a Branch Office was opened up in St. Lucas. The building purchased was used as a barber shop in St Lucas and for a short time, John C Mihm, a barber and also a Director for the Bank, continued to cut hair along with their banking practices.

They have always been a locally owned Community bank with local directors and local decisions. They pride themselves on being locally owned and will strive to keep it that way for their customers and the Community. They have 25 employees who take pride in helping their customers' every need, which is a perfect fit for their new Bank 1st logo, **Helping You...Save Time, Save Money, Plan For the Future, Plan for Retirement!** They are proud to say that they have kept pace with their customers' needs noting all the latest technology, such as online banking, Phone banking, E-checking, Bill Pay and Mobile Banking.

"Our Directors, Officers and Employees continue to work hard and plan so that we can remain a viable and sustainable bank with a significant presence in the Community," stated President, John Grimes. **They invite you to stop by the Main Bank on August 16th , for coffee, cupcakes and a visit!**

Thank you Bank 1st for your Chamber membership and support!

Chamber Spotlight: Bank 1st



Job Opening: Seeking Chamber Coordinator

The West Union Chamber of Commerce is seeking a Chamber Coordinator to help carry out the organization's mission. Job Description: Part-time position (approx. 20 hours/week). Duties will include greeting and assisting in the reception area, taking and addressing phone inquiries, following up on general requests for information, office organizing and upkeep, sorting, printing and filing. Applicant should possess knowledge of or a willingness to learn the following technical responsibilities; website updates, publication design, database design, financial reports and other administrative tasks as assigned. Experience working with Microsoft Office Programs and general accounting software is strongly preferred.



Please submit resume to the West Union Chamber of Commerce at wuchamber@alpinecom.net. **Applications will be accepted until August 9th.** Please share this with anyone you know that might be interested!

Playin' on the Plaza

Main Street West Union's Promotions Committee continues "Playin' on the Plaza" during the month of August. The series will provide free live musical entertainment at the Civic Plaza in Downtown West Union every Thursday night at 6:00 p.m.

The schedule of performers is as follows:

- August 1 Chad Elliot
- August 8 Jerry Anderson, Jeff Molokken, & Bill Tillman
- August 15 Patsy Wellman
- August 22 Done Doin' Laundry
- August 29 Dave Rowley

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Looking for a way to help kids in your community?
Volunteer to lead a Walking School Bus!

The West Union Walking School Bus is gearing up for the coming school year and is looking for volunteers to walk to school with students on Wednesday mornings this fall. Interested in volunteering? Want your students to join the Walking School Bus?

Contact Ashley Christensen,
Regional Safe Routes to School Liaison,
at achristensen@uerpc.org or 563-382-6171.



GREEN PILOT UPDATE

DISTRICT GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM:

The City of West Union continues to research options for lease and operating the downtown district geothermal system. The council voted at their July 15th meeting to move forward with developing a lease agreement with the West Union Energy District LLC. A proposed lease agreement is being developed and a draft will be presented at the August 5th council meeting.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROJECT:

Construction will soon begin on three downtown building involved in the Multi-Family Housing Project. Matt Construction of Sumner was awarded the low bid on the project which will include 12 new second floor apartments in three buildings. Contracts were signed in July and construction should be underway in August with a completion date of May 2014. Once completed, the buildings will also offer new retail space and the future home for the Town House Café.

COMMUNITY EFFICIENT & RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP:

West Union will be hosting a state energy workshop here on August 27th at the American Legion building. The workshop will share information on several energy efficient programs taking place across the state including the West Union geothermal project. Topics covered will include project development, examples of local systems, securing users, system operations and maintenance, project funding, and cost and revenue information. The target audience includes utility companies, local government planners, energy efficient service providers, and local decision makers. There is no fee to attend the workshop with funding provided by The Iowa Energy Center, Main Street West Union, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The workshop is part of a grant awarded to Main Street West Union through the Iowa Energy Center to share information about the Green Pilot Project with others across the state. Anyone interested in attending the workshop should contact Jeff Geerts at jeff.geerts@iowa.gov or call 515.725.3069 before August 20, 2013.

THANK YOU:

The planning committee for the Green Pilot Streetscape Grand Opening Celebration would like to thank all the partners who assisted with the event in any way! We appreciate all who attend the special celebration on July 11th and especially thank Deputy City Clerk, Amie Johansen for her assistance with the event.



Back to School!

North Fayette Valley students will begin classes on Wednesday, August 21st. Please be mindful of our area students when traveling in and around town, especially during the before and after school hours. Also be aware of students getting on and off the bus. Have a great school year!

PRAIRIE VIEW LEGISLATIVE EVENT

The Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP), a statewide association of disability, brain injury, mental health and mental illness service providers, is traveling the state this summer, visiting member organizations and connecting those organizations with their local legislators.

On Tuesday August 13th 2013 at 1:00pm, the Executive Director of IACP, Shelly Chandler, IACP policy analyst Kelsey Clark, and area legislators will be making a stop at Full Circle Services in West Union.

Local provider agencies participating in this event are: Full Circle Services of West Union, Prairie View Management of Fayette, and TASC, Inc. of Waukon. The visit will showcase these organizations and will focus on educating and informing local legislators on the services these organizations provide, the individuals they serve and the impact they have on their communities and all across the state.

North Fayette Valley Bike Rodeo this September!

The knowledge, skills and practice for becoming a smart, safe bike rider!

- What:** Bicycle safety education and skills test on obstacle course
- When:** Saturday, September 7th (Rain Date: Saturday, September 14th)
- Time:** 9:00 am-11:00 am
- Where:** Downtown West Union (South Walnut and Main)
- Who:** K-6th grade students

****Remember to bring your bike and helmet****

Students have a chance to win great prizes!

Looking for more information? Interested in helping out?

Contact Ashley Christensen: achristensen@uerpc.org or 563-382-6171



GRAND RE-OPENING

Sims TV & Electronics (formerly Haven Electronics) invites you to their Grand Re-opening of the newly remodeled store located at 121 North Vine Street. The event on Thursday, August 22nd, will kick off with a ribbon cutting at 4:00 pm!



WESTUNION CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Kaleidoscope Campaign Update

Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center has raised over \$1.3 million in our Capital Campaign to date. Claire Britt's recent lemonade stand brought in over \$1,000 in funds! Claire was featured on KWWL's "Someone You Should Know Segment". Congratulations Claire! KKCC appreciates and thanks everyone for their support throughout this project and the continued support in the months ahead as we near construction.

The geotechnical evaluation of the building site was completed and positive results were received. We hope to begin preliminary site work in August pending deed of the land to KKCC from North Fayette Valley Community School District. The new building floor plans have been submitted to the State Fire Marshal for preliminary review. The building committee continues to work on design development drawings to include building exterior façade treatments and materials and review of building interior finishes and casework layouts. The bidding process can start once the preliminary report from the State Fire Marshal has been received.

Anyone interested in making a tax deductible donation can contact Kaleidoscope Board Chair LeAnn Meyer at 319-404-8555 or one of these campaign volunteers: 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, Ron Beermann, 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.

"Your gift is needed today," added Meyer. "You can also call Kaleidoscope at 563-422-5379," she said.

