



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!



FEBRUARY 2010

WEST UNION IS HOSTING GREEN BUILDING TRAINING

West Union continues to host a series of 10 workshops on affordable green building for both professional contractors and city officials and will kick-off a series of 3 sessions for the homeowner this month. The workshops are part of a state-wide effort that empowers individuals and communities to make everyday decisions that promote sustainability, resulting in higher standards of living. The Center for Sustainable Communities (COSC) is the lead sponsor for these workshops. Funding for this effort is made possible through grant funds from the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Additional support is provided by Alliant Energy, Wells Fargo, Fayette County Economic Development, Main Street West Union, and Northeast Iowa Community Action.

Due to an increase in those attending the workshops, a larger location was needed to meet the demand. All sessions will now be held in the upper level meeting room at TAP'T Out Stein-n-Dine. There is no fee to attend the workshop, but you must preregister via email to Leslie@cosc.com or by calling (515) 707-2787.

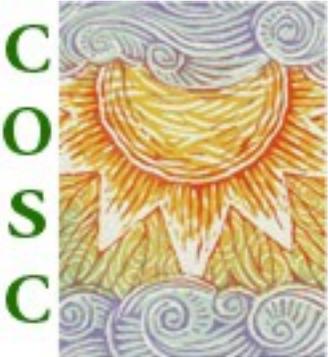
A special series for homeowners will begin this Saturday, Feb-

ruary 6th and focus on Green Building Basics. Additional sessions will be held on March 6th and April 3rd. All sessions are FREE and lunch is provided. Homeowners must also preregister at the above numbers.

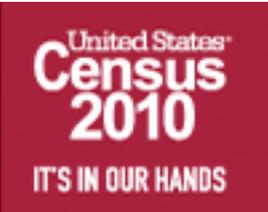
The training instructor for both series is Jacob Kvinlaug, a consultant and contractor with 30 years experience in the green building industry. He has developed over 200 energy efficient residences, commercial buildings and remodeling projects.

Many of the techniques being discussed in the workshops are being put into practice in the Northeast Iowa Community Action home currently being built on South Pine Street here in West Union.

West Union was chosen as the site of these workshops as part of their Green Pilot Project with the State of Iowa.



GET READY FOR THE CENSUS 2010



Very soon all residents in the United States will be asked to take part in Census 2010. The first census took place in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The census was also created to gain a better understanding of where people lived. The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States—both citizens and non-citizens. Census questionnaires will begin arriving in March either by U.S. mail or hand delivery. Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data. Census data also determines boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts. With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete, and the Census Bureau

cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. The Chamber of Commerce is a Census 2010 Partner and will be distributing Census promotional materials during the month of February.

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VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America

VISTA'S CORNER

Hello West Union Chamber members, I hope everyone is more excited than dismayed about the streetscape project. With Mr. Games taking early retirement, the project lost an experienced asset. And the suddenness of his departure underscores how fast things can change. On a project like this Green Pilot, a few people will affect a lot of change. Now is an opportunity for fresh sets of eyes to



look at the problems of the past, understand the innovative approach that West Union is pursuing, and move forward.

Our grants continue to move through their review processes, and more funding seems likely to appear. Upper Explorer Land will be working with the council on the accountability that the grants require. Their experience is valuable, and is a piece that fits into the puzzle. You are another piece. Your insight and experience as a Chamber Member and resident will be valued

long after the last grant dollar.

It is no easy thing being the first. We don't have another town's experience to guide us through this process, but we can become the guide for future towns. What we learn as we go along will be educational for everyone who visits and admires. And yet, being a pioneer in a new paradigm is something to get excited about!

You can't be neutral on a moving train.

-Howard Zinn

HAVE A HEART FOR HAITI

The earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12th has been on the hearts and minds of many around the world as we see the devastation that has hit this small country. Students at North Fayette High School are planning a special event to raise funds for the relief effort for Haiti's residents, called "Have a Heart for Haiti", to be held on Sunday, February 14th at the high school. The event kicks off with a candle-light dinner featuring roast pork loin and all the trimmings from 5:00—7:00 p.m. Tickets to the dinner are \$10 per person. A special talent show featuring high school groups and local residents will be held following the dinner in the North Fayette Performing Arts Center. Admission will be a free will donation. All proceeds from the evening will go to relief efforts for the earthquake victims in Haiti.



ENTRE FEST! IS FEBRUARY 25-26

The University of Northern Iowa's Regional Business Center, along with many state partners, will host the 2010 *EntreFest!* on February 25-26 at the West Des Moines Marriot. *EntreFest!* is a state-wide event geared toward learning, sharing, and celebrating the Entrepreneurial spirit. This is the third year for the event which brings together small business owners and resource providers for two days of workshops and networking. This year's event will include sessions on the following:

- Facebook, Google Ads, Blogging: You know what it is, we'll help you USE them for your business!
- Marketing Must-Do's for every generation
- Finding Opportunity in Change—Why now's a great time to start or expand your business
- Hear from two nationally acclaimed entrepreneurs—including Al Lautenslager, best selling author of "Guerrilla Marketing in 30 Days"



EntreFest! will offer valuable information for a wide audience. Small business owners, new business owners, community leaders, and students alike will all benefit from the knowledge shared by experienced presenters including exciting keynote speakers, entrepreneurs and some of Iowa's premier service providers! Registration for the event is \$79. For more information on partners, exhibiting, sponsors and registration, visit www.entrefest.com.

GREEN PILOT UPDATE



GRANT UPDATES: The City of West Union received a Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant in the amount of \$100,000 in a special ceremony in Des Moines on Saturday, January 23rd. Several representatives from West Union attended the ceremony held at the Des Moines Botanical Center. The grant funds will be used for building hook-ups for the district-wide geothermal heating and cooling system. This brings the total grant funding received to date to \$ 4.7 million. Grant funds do not have to be repaid and reduce the amount of local funding needed for the project. The City of West Union has also been invited to make a presentation to the Vision Iowa board for their CAT application for \$1.125 million on Wednesday, February 10th in Des Moines.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANTS: The Iowa Office of Energy Independence has just released information on a new funding source, via a competitive grant process, to assist local governments in creating & improving energy efficiency in buildings. Up to \$8,634,400 of funding will be available in 6 categories including the retrofits of existing facilities for nonprofit and governmental agencies. This would include projects such as the district-wide geothermal heating and cooling system planned for West Union. This funding is part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Fayette County Economic Development will be researching this opportunity for Fayette County.

What's Happenin' in WU...

Barn Quilts Bake Sale

Support the Fayette County Barn Quilt Project by eating! The Barn Quilts committee is planning a bake sale at First National Bank in West Union on February 12th. Get there early so you don't miss out! All of the funds raised go to pay the expenses related to building, installing and marketing the Barn Quilt Project.



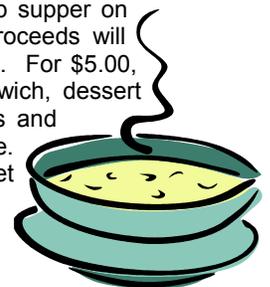
Troop Soup Supper!

Boy Scout Troop 54 will hold their annual fundraising soup supper on Sunday, February 28th at Holy Name Catholic Church from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The scouts will be serving home made chicken noodle soup or chili, milk or coffee, and bars for dessert. Admission is \$5.00 (ages 5 and under free). Come out and support our troop!



VCC Soup Supper

Victory Christian Church is hosting a soup supper on February 19th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Proceeds will support their children and youth ministries. For \$5.00, enjoy chicken noodle soup or chili, sandwich, dessert and a drink. Discounts apply for couples and families. Carry outs will also be available. Stop by for supper at 112 South Pine Street or call 563-422-3358 for more information.



Habitat for Humanity Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Sunday, February 7, 2010

The Fayette County Habitat for Humanity committee will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast at North Fayette High School cafeteria on Sunday, February 7th. Tickets are just \$5.00 and will include pancakes, sausage, eggs, milk and coffee. There will also be a bake sale held during the breakfast. Serving will be from 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Habitat for Humanity house planned for West Union.



Thank you to all who attended the Community Awards Banquet on January 16th. Congratulations to all our volunteer award winners and to Citizen of the Year Deb Chensvold. Special thanks to the many Troop 54 Eagle Scouts who helped make this year's banquet an extra-special celebration. Because of these many volunteers, West Union is a better place to live, work & play!

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Check us out at www.westunion.com !

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| 1 WU City Council Meeting | 14 NF Mini Fine Arts Festival |
| 2 Turkey River Rec Corridor meeting | Have a Heart for Haiti Fundraiser |
| 3 MSWU Organization Committee meeting | 15 WU City Council Meeting |
| 5 Affordable Green Building Workshop | 16 West Union Public Art Committee Meeting |
| 6 Green Building Basics for Home-owners Workshop | MSWU Design Committee meeting |
| 7 Habitat for Humanity Pancake Breakfast | 17 Iowa Great Places Workshop |
| 8 Lions Club Meeting | 18 Iowa Great Places Legislative Breakfast |
| MSWU Promotions Committee meeting | 19 Affordable Green Building Workshop |
| 9 Chamber Board Meeting | 22 MSWU ICN Training |
| MSWU Board Meeting | UIU Wellness Extravaganza |
| 10 CAT Presentation to Vision Iowa Board | Lions Club Meeting |
| MSWU Business Improvement Committee Meeting | 23 FCED Board Meeting at UIU |
| 11 Streetscape Design Meeting with CDF | MSWU Board Retreat in Clermont |
| 12 Barn Quilts Bake Sale | 24 Barn Quilts of Fayette County meeting |
| | 25 Streetscape Design Meeting with CDF |
| | EntreFest—West Des Moines |



Educational Opportunities

- Affordable Green Building Workshops—see story on page 1
- EntreFest—February 25 & 26, West Des Moines Marriott Hotel