



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

www.westunion.com



April 2012

DIVA DAYS SHOPPING EVENT APRIL 13TH & 14TH

The West Union Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee is sponsoring the 3rd annual "Diva Days" retail event on April 13th and 14th. 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.

Special coupon books with savings from participating stores will be distributed at the Divas & Dining event at the West Union Country Club on Thursday, April 12th, and also available at participating merchants during the promotion. Shoppers 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, Haven Electronics, West Union Hardware, Spirits & Such, Miss Drew's Closet, Saboe Jewelry, McJ's Embroidery Accents, the Fayette County Union, Moore's Foods, Edge FX Salon, One Block Over, Anytime Fitness, Union Drug, and Tap't Out Stein-N-Dine.

Special Events April 13th & 14th

Moonlight Stitching Studio- Crocheted necklaces with trellis yarn demo & cheater scarf demo

Old Mill Floral- Refreshments & samples, Spring Open House

Haven Electronics- How to use your cellular phone demos

Spirits & Such- All day wine tasting both days

Saboe Jewelry- Ring cleaning & prong check

The Fayette County Union- April 14th from 9am to 11am: Photoshop demo with Steve Murray

Anytime Fitness- Free trial of facility & equipment on Friday, April 13th from 10am to 4pm and Saturday, April 13th from 8am to 10am

One Block Over- Thangles & the 1600 Quilt at 11 am and 2 pm both days

Edge FX Salon- Proper products/tools for your hair & how to re-create your hair dressers style at home: Friday 1pm to 3pm and Saturday 10am to Noon.

Tap't Out Stein-N-Dine- "Body by Vi" challenge with Sheila Soppe: Friday night and Saturday afternoon

DIVAS & DINING APRIL 12TH

Diva Days kicks off Thursday evening, April 12th as the Main Street West Union Promotions Committee hosts their annual "Divas & Dining" event at the West Union Country Club. The evening begins with a social hour where ladies can also browse the boutique tables of local businesses and then enjoy a wonderful meal with musical entertainment. The evening concludes with Deb Thies, owner of Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat, as the speaker.

The first 100 guests will get a goodie bag full of fun stuff sponsored by the West Union Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee! Coupons books full of valuable deals to Diva Days participating merchants will also be given away at the event. Tickets for the event are \$15 and available at the Chamber/Main Street office. Purchase your tickets by April 2nd to be in the drawing for a free massage by Audrey Gibbs in her new Extreme Make-over Home.



Inside this issue:

Chamber Spotlight- Barrel Drive In	2
Streetscape Construction	2
Green Pilot Updates	3
What's Happening in WU	3
Prairie View Washington House	4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Miller	President
Melody Patrick	Vice President
Jenni Elsbernd	Secretary/Treasurer
Ryan Hoey	
Brent Parker	
Judd Swensen	
Bill Ziegler	Executive Director

Chamber Spotlight: The Barrel Drive In

It's a sure sign of Spring! The Barrel is open once again for it's 46th season in West Union! Area residents anticipate this day through the cold winter months, waiting for the aroma of Broasted Chicken and homemade onion rings to fill the air each March.

The Barrel Drive In was built by Ed & Lois Kotz in 1965 and opened in 1966. The Kotz's also had a Barrel in Clear Lake and in 1973 built one in Cherokee, Iowa. In 1969, Lynn Kelck came to West Union to help his relatives run the restaurant. Lynn & Bev were married in 1971 and have managed the Barrel since 1972, purchasing it in 1982.

The Barrel is a seasonal Drive-In, open from mid March to mid October. Traditional "carhops" serve customers both in their vehicles and on nice days, at picnic tables, starting at 11 am daily. The Barrel is famous for Hiboy's, onion rings, Broasted Chicken, ice cream and root beer served in a cold mug- YUM! Each season the restaurant employs 30-35 people and has had generations of West Union teenagers work for them. Who doesn't have someone in their family or know of someone who worked at the Barrel?

The Barrel's menu has changed very little over the years. This 50's and 60's style restaurant became obsolete in the 90's with the increased fast food industry. The uniqueness of this restaurant with it's carhop service has stood the test of time and each season people come from miles around to experience the taste of this longstanding family business!



The Kelck's goal for the future of the Barrel is a simple one- keep their customers coming back every season for the same great food and service they have always been known for!

Thank you Barrel Drive In, for your Chamber membership and support!



Construction is once again underway downtown! Work currently going on is: building foundation opening treatments, installation of permanent railings on ramps in the completed portion of the project, geothermal and water line placing, sidewalk grading, and curb placement prep work. Most of this work is centered on East and West Elm Street at this time.

The geothermal well field project will be starting within the next week. Initial work will be mobilization by the contractor to the job site and site removals.

We are asking that employees of downtown businesses not park on Vine Street so that parking spots may remain open for customers. Thank you for walking a short distance so customers can park closer to businesses. Or have a little fun along with getting some exercise- a handful of employees are having a friendly competition to see who can park farther away each day! There is always plenty of parking on the North side of the courthouse if you want to join in the fun!

"GIVE & GROW"

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 <http://www.kkgardens.com/our-community.html>.

FLOWER BARRELS

Thank you to those businesses who returned their reservation forms for a FREE flower barrel fill. If you have not yet returned your form, please do so before April 16th as we will be placing orders for the flowers at that time. Forms were sent out with the March newsletters, please contact the office if you need one or go to the West Union website to print one off. You may choose a sun or shade location and can also purchase additional fills for \$20 each. Flowers will be planted by Chamber volunteers in May.

Peacock Wrestling Banquet

The Upper Iowa Wrestling Legends Dinner will be held on April 28th at 6 pm in the UIU Student Center Ballroom. Tickets are \$30 per person. For more information go to www.upperiowaathletics.com or call (563) 422-5700.





GREEN PILOT UPDATE

FAÇADE MASTER PLAN PROGRAM:

The City of West Union has submitted a full application for the Façade Master Plan program. A total of 23 businesses have submitted letters of intent to participate in the program. If awarded funding, work could begin later this summer on improvements to the facades of these 23 buildings located within the Downtown Urban Renewal area.

ENERGY EFFICIENT GRANT FUNDING:

Phase II of the Energy Efficient Grant Program is now available! Main Street West Union will administer the program and information is available at the Chamber/Main Street office. This program offers rebates up to \$3,000 per property and does not require preapproval. Rebates are awarded on a first come, first serve basis for energy efficient improvements such as lighting, insulation, energy star rated windows and doors, and much more. For a complete listing of what qualifies for a rebate, visit the City of West Union website under the Green Pilot tab.

GEOTHERMAL BUILDING EVALUATIONS:

Main Street West Union on behalf of the City of West Union received USDA funding to assist building owners within the downtown project area analyze their current heating and cooling systems and provide information on the size of system they would need if they chose to convert to the district geothermal system the city is currently installing. KCL Engineering is the firm working on the comparisons and will provide each building owner with a report including individual system designs and cost and funding scenarios. The grant also provides for energy system financial analysis and a business model for the City of West Union. Work is estimated to be complete in mid-April.



QUILT SHOP HOP

Spring has sprung and it's time to hop to your favorite Quilt Shops! Local businesses, One Block Over and Moonlight Stitching Studio & Sisters Retreat are participating in a regional "Shop Hop" Thursday, April 19th thru Saturday, April 21st from 8am to 5pm each day. Contact either of these merchants for more details!



CIVIC CLUB EASTER BASKET HUNT

The West Union CIVIC Club's annual Easter Basket Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 7th. Area children will pick up a number at the Fayette County Historical Center in West Union and hunt to find their basket at participating merchants. The basket hunt will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. (or until all basket numbers have been distributed)

Script Money

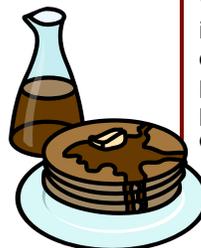
West Union Script Money makes a great gift for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and more! Support our local businesses by using Script Money for your gift giving! Available at the West Union Chamber of Commerce. We can even customize the design for special occasions!

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Please contact the Chamber/Main Street office if you are interested in having a plot in the Community Garden located at the fairgrounds. Art Wolfs will serve as the coordinator this season. Plots are 10 ft by 15 ft and are \$15. There are a couple remaining plots at this time and the garden has already been tilled.

Pancake Supper

West Union Fire Department will hold it's annual Pancake & Sausage Supper on Thursday, April 26th from 5 pm to 9 pm. Pancakes are all-you-can-eat and proceeds will be used for equipping the department's brush buggy.



City-Wide Garage Sales

May 4th & 5th

Please contact the Fayette County Union to place an ad and be included on the map!



FIREWORKS CAN COLLECTION

The can collection bin for the annual fireworks celebration is 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 this spring, why not donate those cans to good cause? Thanks for your contribution!!



APRIL 2012

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»

Follow us on Facebook and at www.westunion.com



WASHINGTON HOUSE
102 Washington Street
West Union, Iowa

The community members and businesses are being asked to join Prairie View Community Based Services to celebrate at an Open House for their newest Prader-Willi house located at 102 Washington Street in West Union. The home provides specialized services for people with Prader-Willi Syndrome and other food related issues.

OPEN HOUSE
Date: May 4th, 2012
Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

ON THE MOVE!!

In conjunction with the National Prader-Willi campaign, "On the Move", Prairie View Community Based Services will be holding a 1.5 mile walk which will begin at Moore's Grocery Store in Lilac Plaza and end at the Prader-Willi house on Washington Street. The cost to participate is \$5.00. Registration for the event will be from 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm in Moore's parking lot. All proceeds from the events will go to benefit the Prader-Willi Association Iowa Chapter.

All participants will receive a Prader-Willi bracelet and other promotional items. The route will be marked and is self guided. The Chamber of Commerce is providing walkers with punch cards showing participating merchants on it. As walkers go along the route, they can have their card punched at the merchants and completed punch cards will be eligible for a drawing at Washington House.

Walkers are encouraged to take an opportunity to purchase items that catch their eye during the walk. Any purchases will be couriered back to Washington House for you and Prairie View will shuttle walkers back to their vehicles at Lilac Plaza. Please contact adm_pvmi@netins.net for more information.