



Chamber Highlights

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Support YOUR Chamber . . . Buy from Chamber Members

MARCH 2012

In this Issue:

- Support FSA Office
- Legislative Coffee
- Gold Star Honor
- March Hi-Fives
- Activity Calendar



208 W. Taylor
P.O. Box 471
Creston, Iowa 50801
641-782-7021
Fax 641-782-9927
www.crestoniowachamber.com
chamber@crestoniowachamber.com

*Ellen Gerharz,
Executive Director*

*Peggy Van Pelt,
Office Manager*

For further information on Chamber projects and events, call the Chamber office at 641-782-7021.

The Chamber's Mission Statement

To promote and showcase the community, to be a leadership organization which unifies the community, and map a course for Creston's future development.

Letters Written in Support of the Union County FSA Office

The Chamber wishes to thank everyone who wrote letters or sent emails to the State of Iowa FSA Office in support of keeping the Union County FSA Office Open. As of this mailing we have heard nothing on what Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will recommend to Congress.

It would be our recommendation to you, to now contact Senator Grassley and Senator Harkin's offices to express your support. They along with several other Senators from across the country have written or contacted Secretary Vilsack's Office with their concerns on the proposed closures as well. Senator Grassley's number is 202-224-3744 and Senator Harkin's number is 202-224 3254.

4th Annual SWCC Smart Business Conference & Expo

May 14th, Instructional Center
SWCC

Mark your calendars now

Legislative Coffee

During the 2012 Legislative Session the Chamber has provided you an opportunity to ask and or listen to our Legislators during the Legislative Coffee's. The last scheduled Legislative Coffee of the Session will be held on March 24th beginning at 8 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose Room at the Southern Prairie YMCA. They are scheduled to last for an hour. Currently Senator Joni Ernst, Representative Joel Fry and Representative Cecil Dolecheck are planning to attend and information has been sent to Congressman King. Please mark your calendars now and plan on attending. The coffees are free and open to the public.

Ask Us Program

Do your employees get asked questions about our area from visitors? Do they know all the answers? If not, then you need to contact the Chamber. We can come meet with you and your staff or we have information available for you to take back to your business and share. We are willing to work with you.

Tourists and visitors often make the decision for repeat visits to an area based on hospitality. Let's show them that Creston is worth returning to.

**2012 Southern Iowa Tourism Guides
and the 2012 Iowa Travel Guides are
now available at the Chamber Office.
Stop by and pick up your copies today.**

2012 Executive Board

President, Jeanette Gildsig
Vernie's Drapery Shop

First Vice President, Roger Lanning
First Federal Savings Bank

Second Vice President, Mike McCullough
Wellman Dynamics Corp

Treasurer, Adam Snodgrass
Iowa State Savings Bank

Past President, TJ Stalker
Stalker Chevrolet, Inc.

Executive Director, Ellen Gerharz

Board of Directors -

- Tracy Davis
Southwestern Community College
- Barb Coenen
Maple Street Memories
- Kate Shafar
Precision Optical
- Cinda Long
American Home Design Center
- Chuck Irelan
Hy-Vee
- Mike Coen
Coen's Furniture, Inc.
- Darin Goins
Walmart Super Center
- Ellen Kearney
Greater Regional Medical Center
- Jay Slight
Creston Community Schools
- Rob Evans
Crop Production Services, Inc.
- Ron Bernard
Creston Super 8
- Rhonda Miller
Bunn-O-Matic
- Ken Callahan
Callahan Real Estate
- Melissa Driskell
Winterstien Construction
- Mary Saxton
First National Bank
- Betty Shelton
Creston City Council Liaison
- Marsha Wilson
Creston City Council Liaison
- Britany Irelan
Ex Officio, Creston High School

Thoughts from the Director

The Chamber is beginning to gear up for all the many events that will be taking place in the Creston area over the next few months. If you would like to be more involved with one of the committees or upcoming activities, please give Ellen a call at the Chamber. It is always nice to get new ideas, or an extra set of hands.

If you are already pressed for time, but have an idea or suggestion please let me hear from you. We do care about what our membership thinks. The more people we can involve in the Creston Chamber, the stronger our Chamber can be along with our entire community.

The Creston Chamber of Commerce looks forward to your continued support.

Ellen

Member Referrals

Do you have a friend or business associate who is not a member of the Creston Chamber of Commerce or do you know of a new business in town? Refer that business to the Chamber and if they join you get \$50 off of your next membership renewal. What a great way to save yourself money while helping the Chamber increase our member base!!

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Check out the
Creston Chamber Website at
www.crestoniowachamber.com

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2012 Membership Renewals

A special **thank you** to the following members of the Creston Chamber of Commerce who have renewed their investment for 2012 through the third week in February.

We certainly appreciate this show of support by you our membership. (* Denotes New or Returning Chamber Members)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>First Federal Savings Bank
Maple Street Memories
Snark Publishing
Grapevine Staffing
Edward Jones Investments
M & M Motors
Nishna Valley Credit Union
Piper Sign Art
Carter Agency, Inc.
Creston Farm & Home
J & A Flooring
Bob & Betty Jungst
Precast Concrete
Green Valley Pest & Lawn Care
Crest Haven Care Centre
Ken Hudson
Dick & Peg Anderson
Hammer Medical Supply
Midwest Opportunities, Inc.
Stewart Realty
Stalker Chevrolet Inc
Stalker Rentals
* Creston Automotive
* Gits Mfg. Company
* Spotlight School of Dance
* The Iowana/T & L Properties
* The Answer is Chocolate
* Secured Residential Inspections
* Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Greater Regional Medical Center
BUILT Networks
Delmer Brown, Stewart Realty
Quik Pawn
Quik Cash
Southern Prairie YMCA
Rural Iowa Crisis Center
Dr. Al & Pat Pokorny
Charlie Brown Auto
James Law Office, P. C.
Alzheimer's Association
Creston Community Schools
Fredricksen Memorials
Janet & Floyd Nesbit
Dr. Wm. Todd Scott, DDS
Southern Hills Veterinary Services, Inc.
Subway – Hwy 34
Subway – Super Walmart
City of Creston</p> | <p>Mullin, Mullin & Harvey
Roger Saxton
Family Vision Center
Creston Livestock Auction
Country Court Mobile Home & RV Park
Garden & Associates
Cornerstone Financial Group
Tyler Insurance Services Inc.
Pokorny BP & Automotive Service
Winterstien Construction, LLC
Hi-Crest Auto
United Super Wash
Creston Auto Parts/CarQuest
Area XIV Agency on Aging
F & M Body Shop Inc.
MATURA Action Corporation
Iowa Tool & Manufacturing Inc
Medicap Pharmacy
Arlan & Carolyn Biere
Southwestern Community College
Casey Wireless, LLC.
Draper, Snodgrass, Mikkelsen & Co., P.C.
East Casey's Store
North Casey's Store
South Casey's Store
West Casey's Store
Gay Lynn Owens, Stewart Realty
Office Machines Company, Inc
Creston Veterinary Clinic
Callahan Real Estate
First National Bank
Jo Anne Duckworth,
Union County Emergency Management
Taco John's
American Home Design Center
American Homes by Dave Long
Kinkade Industries, Inc.
Eby's Auto
Dr. Tom Young,
Internal Medicine Consultants
Moberg/Iowa Realty
Vanmark Equipment, LLC
Creston Chiropractic, P.C.
Jane Lowe, Stewart Realty
Hometown Insurance
Hometown Realty
Carroll Family Chiropractic
Creston Walmart Super Center
Dr. Dan Coen</p> | <p>Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
Plentiful Harvest
State Savings Bank
Powers Funeral Home
Bob & Freida Berning
Great Western Bank
A & G Pizza & Steakhouse
City Carton Company, Inc.
NAPA – Creston
Precision Optical Group
Vernie's Drapery Shop
Echo Electric
Heartland Tire & Auto Center
Gavilon Grain
Eblen Accounting
Central Iowa Power Cooperative
Curves
Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority
Ken's Barber Shop
Union County Abstract
Crestmoor Golf Club
Green Valley Realty
Adams Street Country Lodge
Mid-State Surveying & Consulting
New Life Family Medicine PC
Waste Management of Creston
BM Sales
Pizza Ranch
Dairy Queen of Creston
Buena Vista University
Creston Vision Clinic, P.C.
American Family Insurance
R Realty
Farley's and Sathers Candy Company
Vicker's Programming & Service
Bunn-O-Matic Corporation
Sister Chicks Catering
Union County Farm Bureau
KSJB Radio
James Law Office, P.C.
Advance Services Inc.
Family Shoe Store
Jane's Headquarters
Innovative Industries, Inc.
Quality Glass Company
Phillips' Floors
Glen Weaver
Petznick Printing Co.</p> | <p>Prairie View Assisted Living
Rhine Body Repair
Punky's Putt-Putt
The Windrow Restaurant & Sports Bar
Van Gelder Clothing
Cook Video & Appliance
U-Haul
Timberview B & B
Quilts & other Notions
Quilts & other Notions Creative Place
Casa de Oro
Creston Farmers Market
three C design
Teresa's Fine Floral
R.E. Lewis Refrigeration
Kay's Catering, Kay Ritter
Dr. Brian Kinkade, O.D.
Kilgore Rental Cars & Lease
Kilgore Enterprises, Inc.
Coen's Furniture Inc.
McDonalds
Hulett & Son Auto Salvage
Iowa State Savings Bank
Green Valley Chemical
Midwest Carbonic, Inc.
Kenyon & Nielsen, P.C.
Di Miller at 3's Company
Southwestern IA Chapter of SHRM
Ben Adamson, State Farm Insurance
Boyd Appliance Center
Creston True Value
Java J's
Windstream Communications
Stalker Car Wash
Kawa Construction
Creston Publishing Company
Dr. Dave Buck
Pine Valley Golf & Bowl
Union County Extension
Creston Nursing & Rehab Center
Ralph & Marilyn Edwards
Barker Implement
Fareway Stores Inc.
Leslie's Dance Emporium
Chat Mobility/Radio Shack
Office of Congressman Steve King
Hahn Roofing
U.S. Cellular</p> |
|---|---|--|--|




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Commercial Tax Abatement Available in the City of Creston

The City of Creston offers a Commercial Tax Abatement on certain types of qualifying improvements. These include new construction on vacant land, additions to existing structures, replacement of existing structures and rehabilitation of existing structures.

There are certain qualifications for eligibility. An overview of the criteria is that improvements must be added during the time the area is designated as a revitalization area – through December 31, 2013; Improvements consisting of rehabilitation or additions to existing buildings must increase the actual value of the property by at least 15%; Improvements must be completed in accordance with all applicable zoning and other regulations of the City and finally the improvements must not be located within an area subject to tax incremental financing (see actual ordinance for specifics).

All applications must be approved by the Creston City Council.

For more detailed information, and or an application please contact the Chamber at 782-7021 or Creston City Offices at 782-2000 ext.4.

Southwestern Community College Employment Fair to be Held April 4th

Plans continue to progress for Southwestern Community College's Annual Employment Fair. This event is being planned for students, graduates, alumni, area high school juniors and seniors and the general public. The Employment Fair will be held April 4, 2012, in the gymnasium of the SWCC Student Center, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Employment Fair will be a time when people can have the opportunity to explore area employment opportunities. It can also be a time for career exploration as there are students who are in the process of making occupation and professional decisions.

If you have any questions, or wish a registration form please contact Pat Butcher at 641-782-1446 or visit their website at www.swcciowa.edu and go to Services and resources from the home page, to Career Services then to the Employment Fair.

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Creston:Arts

Enjoy art in Uptown Creston. Each month Creston:Arts will present a new gallery show in the former Water Office at the Restored Depot in Uptown Creston, 116 West Adams Street. The area will be open Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the public to stop by and enjoy the art. The March Show will feature the, "Arts & Fibers Group" from the area. For more information please call 1-641-247-1663.

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Update on New Shooting Complex Opening in Union County

By mid-summer this year Union County will have a new shooting complex. High Lakes Outdoor Alliance, Union County Conservation, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources have partnered to develop this complex at the north end of 3 Mile Lake. The complex will sit on 80 acres and be located at 2216 130th St. and will house 5 trap fields, 1 skeet field, and a rifle/pistol range. The plan is to have scheduled leagues, registered shoots, and times that the complex is open to the public. This complex will allow area schools to expand or start competitive shooting opportunities through FFA or 4H. Shooting workshops for kids and adults will be held. A membership fee of \$45/year will be available but not necessary to use the facility during times it is open to the public. Safety and environmental issues have been addressed during the planning process. Strict safety rules will be in place and all members will be required to attend a 4 hour safety training session before they can use the facility. During the open times a range manager will be on site and will make sure all safety rules are followed. As for the environmental issues, the area has been designed for reclamation of the lead shot and buffer areas will be established to keep the shot away from 3 Mile Lake. The complex was designed by Garden and Associates using guidelines from Department of Natural Resources and the National Rifle Association.

This first phase of this complex is expected to cost approximately \$145,000.00 and funding has come from Dekko: \$50,000.00, Endow Union County \$22,000.00, Creston Betterment Foundation \$20,000.00, DNR trap grant: \$22,350.00, Union County (road work): \$18,978.00, Union County Conservation: \$5,000.00, and the remaining balance from High Lakes Outdoor Alliance. The second phase will be the construction of a building that will include restrooms, kitchen area, meeting room, and storage area for this complex.

March Gold Star Business Honor

Congratulations to:

Medicap Pharmacy

405 South Sumner - Creston

Each month the Chamber will honor a business or businesses around town that maintain their appearance both inside and out and keep their area clean. The process to nominate a business for a Gold Star Honor is simple. All you need to do is to call the Chamber to acknowledge a business property and tell why you think this business should be a Gold Star Business.

Inserts for March

PEO Omelet Event

YMCA Home & Garden Show

March Hi-Fives For Great Customer Service Goes Out To

Chuck Irelan, Creston HyVee, "For helping a customer in need. It was appreciated."

Dr. Gabe Carroll & Lisa Miller, Carroll Family Chiropractic, for, "going well above and beyond to help me. Thank you so much."

Remember all you need to do to have someone honored with a Hi-Five is to call the Chamber to acknowledge individuals and businesses that have given excellent customer service or gone that extra mile for you the customer. We need to acknowledge this effort and show our appreciation for a job well done.

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6. *Chamber Highlights* - Creston Chamber of Commerce

**Creston
Chamber of Commerce
Activities**

March 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Bridal Cake Tasting The Upper Crust 1-3 p.m. Creston Park & Rec Dinner Comedy, 5:30 p.m., Eagles
4	5	PEO Omelet Buffet, First Christian Church 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Daylight Savings Time Begins				Women in Business Meeting, 8 a.m., Alzheimer's Association Office, 228 N. Pine	Image Enhancement Committee Meeting, 7 a.m., Windrow Restaurant	HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers First Day of Spring				Legislative Coffee, 8:00 a.m., YMCA Multi-purpose Room
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					Nishna Valley Credit Union Ribbon Cutting, 11 a.m., 205 E. Taylor/Hwy 34 E.	YMCA Home & Garden Show 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

APRIL

- 3 Chamber Radio Grapevine Visit, 9 a.m.
- Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
- 4 SWCC Employment Fair, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., SWCC
- 8 Happy Easter
- 10 Kiwanis Pancake Day
- 13 Creston Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Chamber Office
- 14 Healthy Kids Day, 9 a.m. - Noon, YMCA
- 16 SWCC Pay It Forward Week (Feel Good, Do Good!)
Do something nice for Somebody this Week!
- 17 Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
- 19 Women in Business Meeting, 8 a.m., Alzheimer's Association Office, 228 N. Pine
SWCC Awards Ceremony, SWCC Performing Arts Center
- 20 Image Enhancement Committee Meeting, 7 a.m., Windrow Restaurant
- 21 Creston High School Prom
- 23 - 28 Money Smart Week
- 25 Annual Chamber Tab in Creston News Advertiser
- 27 Spotlight School of Dance Season Finale
- 28 Spotlight School of Dance Season Finale

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