



Chamber Highlights

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Support YOUR Chamber . . . Buy from Chamber Members

MARCH 2010

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- March Hi-Fives
- Activity Calendar



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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.

Legislative Coffees

During the 2010 Legislative Session the Chamber has provided you an opportunity to ask and listen to our Legislators during the Legislative Coffee's. The next scheduled Legislative Coffee will be held on March 20th and the last one of the 2010 Legislative Season will be held on April 10th. They are scheduled to last for an hour.



Currently Senator Kim Reynolds, Representative Mike Reasoner 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 one or all of the sessions. There is no charge and all coffees are open to the public.

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 or Creston City Offices at 782-2000.

Retail Promotions Committee Meeting Planned

The Retail Promotions Committee will meet on Thursday, March 25th at 5:35 p.m. at the Chamber Office to discuss and plan for upcoming citywide promotions and events. All Chamber Members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Updates Needed

Many clubs, organizations, churches and even businesses elect or name new contact people each year. The Chamber tries to maintain a list of Civic and Service Clubs for the area. If your group or a group you are associated with has made a change please contact the Chamber with this new information. We often get requests for this list and it is important that we keep our records current.

Thank you for your help.

2010 Executive Board

- President**, Ed Ritter
Petznick Printing Company
- First Vice President**, TJ Stalker
Stalker Chevrolet Cadillac, Inc.
- Second Vice President**, Doug Carlson
Hy-Vee
- Treasurer**, Randy Cook
Draper, Snodgrass, Mikkelsen & Co., P.C.
- Past President**, Amy Hook
Creston Super Wal-Mart
- Executive Director**, Ellen Gerharz

Board of Directors -

- Betty Shelton
Creston City Council Liaison
- Tracy Davis
Southwestern Community College
- Jason Davis
Innovative Industries
- Larry Otten
Creston Community Schools
- Jeanette Gildsig
Vernie's Drapery Shop
- Lisa Ross
Greater Regional Medical Center
- Marsha Wilson
Creston City Council Liaison
- Ben Adamson
State Farm Insurance
- Karen Berry
Bunn-O-Matic Corporation
- Roger Lanning
First Federal Savings Bank
- Cathy Lacina
Southern Iowa Rural Water Association
- Andrew Coffelt
First National Bank
- Barb Coenen
Maple Street Memories
- Kate Shafar
Precision Optical
- Cinda Long
Bredeaux Pizza
- Adam Snodgrass
Iowa State Savings Bank
- Mike McCullough
Fansteel Wellman Dynamics

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.

I look forward to your continued support.



Southwestern Community College Employment Fair to be Held April 1st

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 1, 2010, in the gymnasium of the Southwestern 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.

Creston Chamber Newsletter Online

The Creston Chamber of Commerce newsletter can be found on our website at www.crestoniowachamber.com. Anyone interested in receiving the newsletter via email instead of by mail may contact the Chamber Office at 641-782-7021.



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2010 Chamber Investments

A special **thank you** to the following members of the Creston Chamber of Commerce who have returned their investments for 2010 through the third week of February.

We certainly appreciate this show of support by you our membership.

(★ Denotes New Chamber Members)

- ★ Panther Lanes
- ★ Iowa Insurance Consultants LTD
- ★ Southern Iowa Redemption LLC
- ★ Plentiful Harvest
- ★ Iowa Focus
- Delmer Brown, Stewart Realty
- Quik Cash
- Quik Pawn
- Precast Concrete
- Hulett & Son Auto Salvage
- Vernie's Drapery Shop
- Stalker Chevrolet Cadillac Inc
- Charlie Brown Auto
- Roger Saxton, Stewart Realty
- Southern Iowa Rural Water Association
- Southern Prairie YMCA
- Family Vision Center
- Edward Jones Investments
- Draper, Snodgrass, Mikkelsen & Co.
- American Family Insurance /
Katie Strider
- Southern Hills Veterinary Service, Inc.
- Nishna Valley Credit Union
- Arlan & Carolyn Biere
- Midwest Opportunities Inc.
- Powers Funeral Home
- New Life Family Medicine, P.C.
- Creston Livestock Auction
- Union County Abstract
- Dr. Floyd Nesbit
- Carroll Family Chiropractic
- First Federal Savings Bank
- Subway - Hwy 34

- Subway - Super Wal-Mart
- Carter Agency, Inc.
- Mullin Mullin and Harvey
- Garden & Associates, Ltd
- Area XIV Agency on Aging
- Ken Hudson
- City of Creston
- Dr. Al & Pat Pokorny
- Pizza Ranch
- Piper Sign Art
- Farley's and Sathers Candy Company
- Frame It
- Medicap Pharmacy
- Prairie View Assisted Living
- Pokorny BP & Automotive Service
- R.E. Lewis Refrigeration
- Capstone Contracting LLC
- Farm Bureau Financial Service, Chris Lane
- Southwestern Community College
- Dr. Dave Buck
- Rieman Music
- Cornerstone Financial Group
- Rural Iowa Crisis Center
- Alzheimer's Association
- Country Court MH & RV Park
- Iowa Telecom
- City Carton Company, Inc.
- Creston Community Schools
- Moberg Real Estate
- Hahn Roofing
- Crest Haven Care Centre
- Grapevine Staffing
- In The Bag
- Moonlite Motel

- Deb Peterson, Planned Parenthood
- Creston Veterinary Clinic, P.C.
- Tyler Insurance Services, Inc.
- Wishing Well
- East Casey's Store
- North Casey's Store
- South Casey's Store
- West Casey's Store
- Creston Chiropractic, P.C.
- Iowa Tool & Manufacturing Inc.
- Wal-Mart Super Center
- Great Western Bank
- Internal Medicine Consultants
- Ken's Barber Shop
- Green Valley Realty
- Dick & Peg Anderson
- DeBruce Companies
- Southern Iowa Resources for Families
- Iowa State Savings Bank
- KSIB Radio
- Creston True Value
- McDonalds
- First National Bank
- Bunn-O-Matic Corporation
- Summit House/Newbury Management
- Curves
- Casa de Oro
- State Savings Bank
- Snark Publishing, Inc.
- Union County Farm Bureau
- Glen & June Weaver
- Callahan Real Estate
- Green Valley Area Education Agency #14

Continued on page 4



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2010 Chamber Investments Continued

Continued from page 3

Ben Adamson, State Farm Insurance
Bob & Freida Berning
Hometown Insurance & Hometown Realty
Akin Building Center
Waste Management of Creston
NAPA - Creston
Bredeaux Pizza
Maple Street Memories
Kenyon & Nielsen, P.C.
Taco John's
Boyd Appliance Center
Built Networks by Dennis La Masters
Heartland Tire & Auto Center
Mid-State Surveying & Consulting
Precision Optical Group
Phillips' Floors
Crestmoor Golf Club
Todd Scott, DDS
Echo Electric
Southern Iowa
Regional Housing Association
Advance Services Inc.
Dairy Queen of Creston
Central Iowa Power Cooperative
Crop Production Services Inc.
Petznick Printing Co.
Vickers Programming & Service
Hi-Crest Auto & United Super Wash
American Homes by Dave Long
American Home Design Center
Creston Nursing & Rehab Center
James Law Office, P.C.
Chat Mobility/Radio Shack
M & M Motors
DaVita Dialysis of Creston
Green Valley Chemical

Midwest Carbonic Inc.
Family Shoe Store
Jane's Headquarters
Carquest of Creston
Jane Lowe, Stewart Realty
Kilgore's Enterprises, Inc.
Kilgore Rental Cars
Kilgore's RV Sales & Service
Van Gelder Clothing
Jo Anne Duckworth,
Union County Emergency Management
three C design
Kinkade Industries
Eby's Auto
Quilts & Other Notions
U.S. Cellular
Creston Farm & Home Supply
Casey Wireless LLC
Di Miller at 3's Company
Elm's Club
Gay Lynn Owens, Stewart Realty
Kay's Katering
Punky's Putt-Putt
A & G Pizza & Steakhouse
Hammer Medical Supply
KLOX Radio
Green Valley Pest & Lawn Care
Leslie's Dance Emporium
Creston Publishing Company
Eblen Accounting
Office Machines Co., Inc
B.M. Sales
Quality Glass Company
Barker Implement
Rhine Body Repair
Stalker Car Wash
Stewart Realty

Country Hearts
Mufflers Plus/Quik Lube
Pearson, Coen-Beaty Family Funeral Services
MATURA Inc.
Apria Health Care
Dr. Dan Coen
Hy-Vee Food Store
Greater Regional Medical Center
Creston Medical Clinic
Morning Star Internal Medicine Clinic

Tips for Promoting Your Business

- 1) Attend Chamber events regularly to make business contacts.
- 2) Join Chamber committees to benefit your company.
- 3) Introduce yourself and shake hands often at Chamber events.
- 4) Give out business cards generously.
- 5) List products and services on the back of your business card.
- 6) Thank clients openly for their business.
- 7) Promote your business through Chamber publications.
- 8) Do business with fellow Chamber members.
- 9) Call on new Chamber members; they may be prospective customers.
- 10) Periodically review Chamber member benefits to be sure you are taking advantage of every one of them.



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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!!

2010 Southern Exposures Tourism Guides and the 2010 Iowa Travel Guides are now available at the Chamber Office. Stop by and pick up your copies today.

Check out the new Creston/Union Tourism Website at www.unioncountyiowatourism.com

Chamber web statistics, # of page hits for February 2010 were 5198 compared to January 2009 of 5589 compared to January 2008 which was 4152 and January 07 of 3308

March Inserts

PEO Omelette Breakfast
Union County Historical Complex

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Buy/Shop Creston First

Buy Creston First



Have you signed up to be part of Buy/Shop Creston 1st? Pledge forms are available at the Chamber Office or at the Chamber Website.

March Gold Star Business Honor

Congratulations to:

Studio 101

101 West Taylor Street
Hwy 34 West - 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.

March Hi-Fives For Great Customer Service Goes Out To

Lori Fletcher, Creston News Advertiser, for, "being so great to her customers, and for always being there. Thank you."

Dennis Bailey, Creston HyVee, for, "being so patient and helpful and going beyond what one would expect. It was appreciated."

Tabitha Cottrell, Rochelle Barnes and Terry Wallace, Casey's North, for, their honesty and concern for their customer. They went far beyond great customer service. Thank you."

Maxine Davenport, Iowa State Savings Bank, for, "taking the time to help her customers and going the extra mile. It was truly appreciated."

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 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Chamber Radio Grapevine Visit, 9 a.m. Creston City Council Meeting, 6 pm, City Council Chambers	3	4	5	6 YMCA Home & Garden Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Malachy Foundation Auction
7	8	9	10	11	12 Creston Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Chamber Office	13
 14 Daylight Saving Time Begins	15	16 Creston City Council Meeting, 6 pm, City Council Chambers	 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 Women in Business Meeting, 8 a.m., RE/MAX	19 Image Enhancement Committee Meeting, 7 a.m., Windrow Restaurant	20 Legislative Coffee, 8:00 a.m., Congregate Mealsite Crop 4 Kids, call 202-9251 for more information
21	22	23	24	25 Retail Promotions Meeting, 5:35 p.m., Chamber Office	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

- 1 Chamber Radio Grapevine Visit, 9 a.m.
- SWCC Employment Fair, SWCC
- Kiwanis Pancake Day
- 4 Happy Easter
- 6 Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
- 8 Uptown Creston Meeting, Quilts & Other Notions, 5:30 p.m.
- 9 Creston Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Chamber Office
- 10 Legislative Coffee, 8:00 a.m., Congregate Mealsite
- 15 Women in Business Meeting, 8 a.m., RE/MAX
- 16 Image Enhancement Committee Meeting, 7 a.m., Windrow Restaurant
- 17 Healthy Kids Day, YMCA
- 20 Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
- 24 CHS Prom

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