

Chamber Highlights

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Support YOUR Chamber . . . Buy from Chamber Members

MAY 2013

In this Issue:

- Omelet Breakfast
- City Wide Garage Sales
- Gold Star Honor
- May Hi-Fives
- Activity Calendar



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*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.

Chamber of Commerce Member Omelet Appreciation Breakfast

It's back!

Come and enjoy delicious omelets at the Chamber Member & Employee

Omelet Appreciation Breakfast!

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Congregate Meal Site in the restored Depot

FREE OMELETS

For All Chamber members and their employees

Creston Crazy Summer Sales Days

Please remember that Creston Crazy Summer Sales Days Promotion will be held citywide on June 28th and 29th. **This is a citywide event and it is hoped that many of you will participate over the two days.** It is a Crazy Day (s) event, and the more stores and businesses we have participate the better for the shoppers and the more fun it will be.

The Chamber will be doing radio and newspaper advertising in addition to what you might be planning for the event to let people know about the where & when's of Crazy Summer Sales Days. All of the streets will remain open during the two day event. We are asking retailers to put your Crazy items on the sidewalk or in parking lot areas.

Please plan on getting involved to make this a truly Crazy Summer Sale.

Be Part of the Newcomer Program

The Chamber, in our continuing effort to reach out to those who are new to Creston, have partnered with the Creston Water Office to let our new arrivals know about our Newcomer Program. We are hoping with this partnership, we will be able to reach more people.

If you have items that you would like to have in our newcomer bags please bring approximately 30 items/pieces to the Chamber and we shall include them as part of the package.

Please call the Chamber with any questions.

Citywide Garage Sale Planned

The Annual Citywide Garage Sale is planned for June 8th in Creston. The official hours will be from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Any individuals, organizations and/or businesses can participate. The Chamber will be handling the major advertising for the event including our area and region. You can include the information about the event in your own business advertising. Individuals and organizations will need to do their own specific advertising.

Businesses might think about putting their garage sale items outside and handle somewhat like Crazy Days.

We are hoping that this will again bring many people to Creston and discover what a great place Creston is.

2013 Executive Board

- President**, Roger Lanning
First Federal Savings Bank
- First Vice President**, Mike McCullough
Wellman Dynamics Corp
- Second Vice President**, Barb Coenen
Maple Street Memories
- Treasurer**, Adam Snodgrass
Iowa State Savings Bank
- Past President**, Jeanette Gildsig
Vernie's Drapery Shop
- Executive Director**, Ellen Gerharz

Board of Directors -

- Tracy Davis
Southwestern Community College
- Chuck Irelan
Hy-Vee
- Mike Coen
Coen's Furniture, Inc.
- Darin Goins
Walmart Super Center
- Ellen Kearney
Greater Regional Medical Center
- Bill Messerole
Creston Community Schools
- Ron Bernard
Creston Super 8
- Rhonda Miller
Bunn-O-Matic
- Ken Callahan
Callahan Real Estate
- Melissa Driskell
Winterstien Construction
- Mary Saxton
First National Bank
- Teresa Cheers
Teresa's Fine Floral
- Matt Higgins
Alliant Energy
- Devon Leith
Tyler Insurance
- Tony Stuart
Hi-Crest Auto/United Super Wash
- Marsha Wilson
Creston City Council Liaison
- Britany Irelan
Ex Officio, Creston High School
- Levi Eblen
Ex Officio, Creston High School

Thoughts from the Director

The Chamber Annual Report has just recently arrived in the April 24th Creston News Advertiser. This report gives the Chamber the opportunity to highlight our activities, accomplishments and membership. The Chamber truly appreciates the commitment to Creston of our members. We look forward to this yearly opportunity to acknowledge all of you. The Chamber understands your importance to our great community. Our Chamber Membership helps us to promote and showcase Creston. We are truly fortunate. Thank you.

Ellen

Creston Animal Rescue Effort Vendor Show/ Silent Auction

Saturday, May 4th

Creston Supertel Inn Conference Center

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Vendors of every form: jewelry, crafts, gifts and a silent auction will be on display. C.A.R.E. works out of the Creston City Pound and helps find loving homes and cares for stray/abandoned and neglected animals. All funds raised will go to helping these animals.

Still Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

Do you have a few hours a week to volunteer or do you know of someone who might? I know just the spot. The Creston/Union County Visitors Center is still looking for a few good men and women to volunteer.

If you would be interested or need a little more information please call the Chamber Office. We will be more than happy to provide you the information you need.

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Five Things Merchants Can Do To Improve Sales

Gift Reminder Notices - Give customers a form and ask them for up to five people and dates that they want to be reminded of. Have them complete the form by supplying general information about each person, including relationship, age, interests, the occasion(s) and the amount(s) that they wish to spend. Mail or email reminders with gift suggestions at least four weeks before each date specified.

Frequent Buyer Programs - give away one free item with a predetermined number of similar items purchased over time. Supply the customer with a card to be punched for each successive purchase, until the total is reached. Be realistic in the numbers of items required relative to the value of the free item.

Discount on Total Sales - Modernize the old register tape or trading stamp idea. Offer a free item or a percentage off the total merchandise purchased above a certain dollar amount - such as \$20 worth of merchandise (or gift certificate) with every \$100 purchased over a prescribed period.

Sale Announcements - Create your own flyers with announcements of future sales. if the customer brings in this flyer during the sale, he is entitled to an additional discount. Spell this out in the flyer.

Bag Stuffers - Use the idea of a free prize in a box of cereal or Cracker jacks to your advantage.

Stuff a free sample or an inexpensive, yet appropriate, trinket in your bags with each purchase. You can also give away goodie bags at different events as well as area festivals. This is a great way to reach potential customers.

Thank you

The Chamber would like to thank **Mike Duckworth** for helping us out on our "clever" ideas.

Thank you to **Mike Baker** and **Mike Bruce** for their help out at the Creston/Union County Visitor Center.

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 May Show will feature the, "The Creston High School Student Art". The Gallery Reception will be held on May 3rd from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information please call 1-641-247-1663.

Chamber Members Spotlight

The Elms Club, 108 North Elm Street – Creston

"at the Elms Club in Creston, we are always happy to greet people with our friendly and efficient staff. We truly appreciate the business we receive from our customers.

Our Most recent "claim to fame" is a nomination as 1 of 10 finalists for Iowa's Best Burger Contest 2013. It included over 6420 nominations from over 300 restaurants throughout the State. We use a very hands on approach for our customers are always attended to.

Beef has a huge impact on our area and the Union County Cattleman Association is important to the beef industry growth in our area. As you can well imagine, hamburger is an important item on our menu. Pork has a special spot too, as our pork loin has also received top state honors—

At the Elms Club we are happy to keep a clean environment and our Saturday night "Double Bubble" is a feature in itself.

In addition to basketball, football and a baseball "fan haven", we add karaoke and entertainment on special occasions (you won't want to miss St. Pat's) to become a well rounded venue for young and old alike.

...we are proud to be an active part of Creston and Union County.....THANK YOU for your business...We couldn't do it without you!"



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Chamber Summer Golf Outing

The Chamber Summer Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, July 13th at Crestmoor Golf Club and Pine Valley Golf Course. Mark your calendars if you have not already done so. Plans are now underway for the event. Please look for registration information in the June Newsletter.

Vanmark Equipment LLC Honored

Congratulations to **Vanmark Equipment LLC** for recently being honored with the 2013 Global Iowa Excellence in Exporting Award.

**5th Annual SWCC
Smart Business
Conference &
Expo
June 10th
Instructional Center,
SWCC**

SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNIZES BOARD MEMBERS

The Creston Community School District is joining with other communities throughout Iowa this spring to honor its elected school board members during Iowa School Board Recognition Month during May. This year's theme — "Building Brighter Futures"—recognizes that Iowa's volunteer school board members are providing leadership, through responsibilities ranging from strong financial stewardship to ensuring high-quality curriculum, to make sure all students are prepared for a "brighter future" when they graduate.

Serving on the local school board are Sharon Snodgrass, President; Galen Zumbach, Vice President; Ron Dunphy; Rich Flynn and Rick Fyock, Board Members.

The Board Appreciation Coffee will be held Friday, May 10, in the Board Room located at 801 N. Elm. Meet at the Board Room to tour the AEA addition at 10:00 a.m. The coffee will be held immediately following the tour. With the construction, please park on the side streets where possible. Thank you!!

Union County: A Skilled Iowa Future

IowaWORKS along with the Creston Chamber of Commerce and Union County Development Association proudly announces the presentation of the National Career Readiness Certifications awarded to NCRC High School Testers in Union County, Iowa. At the same time businesses that have supported the Skilled Iowa Initiative will be recognized.

The public and local businesses are encouraged and invited to attend in support of our local youth and future job seekers. The event will be held on May 7, 2013, from 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m. in Room 220 at SWCC.

Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds will be in attendance to present the awards and recognitions.

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.



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On April 9th the Creston Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors held a Ribbon Cutting at Arnold Motor Supply, 502 West Adams.

May Gold Star Business Honor

Congratulations to:

Phillips' Floors

635 New York Ave.,
Highway 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.

Become a Fan of the Creston Chamber of Commerce on Facebook

To Chamber Members who use Facebook, please become a Fan of the Creston Chamber of Commerce.

MAY INSERT

Creston Park & Recreation

Union County Visitors Center to Open Soon

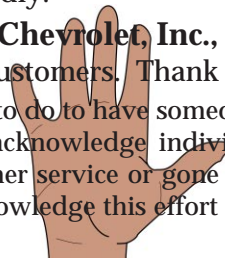
The Union County Visitors Center, located at 636 New York Avenue/ Hwy 34 West, will open for the 2013 season on May 13th and remain open until October 5th. The Visitors Center hours are from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. If you would like to visit when it is not open please call the Chamber to schedule an appointment.

May Hi-Fives For Great Service

Quality Glass for, "their top notch service. They are so accommodating and friendly."

Don Pelzer, Stalker Chevrolet, Inc., for, "being so thoughtful and considerate of your customers. Thank you."

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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Chamber Members in 2013

A special **thank you** to the following businesses, organizations and individuals who are part of the Creston Chamber of Commerce in 2013:

(• Denotes New or Returning Chamber Members)

- Mila's Attic
- Kiki's Graphics
- DURANGO Mexican Restaurant
- Taste of Italy
- Hotel Greenfield
- Strand Theatre
- Sumner Lesson Studios
- Elm's Club
- Big Boyz Toyz
- Elizabeth Waigand, IowaWORKS
- Casey's Store Hwy 25
- Casey's Store Hwy 34
- Southern Iowa Trolley
- Crago Carpet Care
- Sas's Boutique
- Creston: Arts
- The Lobby
- Creston Apartments
- Adams Street Country Lodge
Bed & Breakfast
- Advance Services Inc.
- Advanced Restoration Services
- A & G Pizza & Steakhouse
- Akin Building Center
- Alliant Energy
- American Family Insurance,
Turner Insurance Agency
- American Home Design Center
- American Homes by Dave Long
- Area XIV Agency on Aging
- Arlan Biere
- Arnold Motor Supply, LLP
- Barker Implement
- Bill Fastenow
- B.M. Sales
- Bob & Betty Jungst
- Bob & Freida Berning
- Boyd Appliance Center
- Buena Vista University
- Built Networks by
Dennis LaMasters
- Bunn-O-Matic Corporation
- BNSF Railway Co.
- Callahan Real Estate
- Carroll Family Chiropractic
- Carter Agency, Inc.
- Casey's Store East
- Casey's Store West
- Casey's Store North
- Casey's Store South
- Casey Wireless, LLC/iWireless
- Central Iowa Power Cooperative
- Charlie Brown Auto Ltd
- Chat Mobility/Radio Shack
- City of Creston
- Coen's Furniture Inc.
- Cook Video & Appliance
- Cornerstone Financial Group
- Country Court RV Park
- Crest Haven Care Centre
- Crestmoor Golf Club, Inc.
- Creston Audiology &
Hearing Aid Center
- Creston Automotive
- Creston Chiropractic P.C.
- Creston Farm & Home Supply
- Creston Farmers Market
- Creston Livestock Auction
- Creston Medical Clinic, P.C.
- Creston Nursing & Rehab Center
- Creston Community Schools
- Creston Publishing Company
- Creston Super 8 Motel
- Creston True Value
- Creston Veterinary Clinic
- Creston Vision Clinic, P.C.
- Crop Production Services
- Curves
- Dairy Queen of Creston
- Delmer Brown
- Dick & Peg Anderson
- Di Miller, at 3's Company
- Dr. Al & Pat Pokorny
- Dr. Brian Kinkade, O.D.
- Dr. Dan Coen
- Dr. Dave Buck
- Dr. Steve Tilley
- Dr. William Todd Scott
- Draper, Snodgrass, Mikkelsen & Co.
- Eblen Accounting & Tax
- Eby's Auto
- Edward Jones Investments
- Echo Electric
- F & M Body Shop
- Family Shoe Store
- Family Vision Center
- Ferrara Candy Company
- First Federal Savings Bank
- First National Bank
- Fredricksen Memorials
- Garden & Associates Ltd.
- Gavilon Grain, LLC
- Gay Lynn Owens, Stewart Realty
- Graphic Displays
- Grapevine Staffing, LLC
- Great Western Bank
- Greater Regional Medical Center
- Green Valley Chemical
- Green Valley Pest & Lawn Care
- Green Valley Realty
- Hahn Roofing
- Hair House
- Hair Tech School of Cosmetology
- Hammer Medical Supply
- Heartland Tire & Auto Center
- Hi-Crest Auto & United Super Wash
- Hometown Insurance
- Hometown Realty
- Hulett & Son Auto Salvage
- Hy Vee Food Store
- I Think I Can Child Care Center
- Innovative Industries, Inc.
- Internal Medicine Consultants
- Iowa Focus
- Iowa State Savings Bank
- Iowa Tool & Manufacturing Inc.
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Service
- J & A Flooring
- James Law Office, P.C.

2013 Creston Chamber of Commerce Investments

A special **thank you** to the following businesses, organizations and individuals who are part of the Creston Chamber of Commerce in 2013:

(• Denotes New or Returning Chamber Members)

Jane's Headquarters	Plentiful Harvest	Timberview B & B
Jane Lowe, Stewart Realty	Pokorny BP & Automotive Service	Tyler Insurance Services, Inc.
Java J's	Powers Funeral Home	Union County Abstract
Jo Anne Duckworth, Union County Emergency Management	Prairie View Assisted Living	Union County Extension & Outreach
Kawa Construction	Precast Concrete	U.S. Cellular
Kay Ritter	Precision Optical Group	U-Haul
Ken Hudson	Punky's	Vanmark Equipment LLC
Ken's Barber Shop	Quality Glass Company	Vernie's Drapery Shop
Kenyon & Nielsen, P.C.	Ralph & Marilyn Edwards	Vickers Programming & Service
Kilgore's Enterprises, Inc.	R.E. Lewis Refrigeration	Walmart Super Center
Kilgore's Rental & Lease LLC	R Realty	Waste Management of Creston
Kilgore's RV Sales & Service	Rhine Body Repair	Windrow Restaurant & Sports Bar
Kinkade Industries	Rieman Music	Windstream Communications
KSIB Radio	Roger Saxton, Stewart Realty	Winterstien Construction, LLC
Leslie's Dance Emporium	Rural Iowa Crisis Center	
Linda A. Green, Accountant	Sharon Bennett	
M & M Motors	Sister Chicks Catering	
Maple Street Memories	Snark Publishing Inc.	
MATURA	Southern Hills Veterinary Services, Inc	
McDonald's of Creston	Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority	
Medicap Pharmacy	Southern Iowa Resources for Families	
Mid-State Surveying & Consulting	Southern Iowa Rural Water Association	
Midwest Carbonic Inc	Southern Prairie YMCA	
Midwest Opportunities, Inc.	Southwestern Community College	
Moberg Iowa Realty	Southwestern IA Chapter of SHRM	
Morning Star Internal Medicine Clinic	St. Malachy Foundation	
Mullin Mullin and Harvey	St. Malachy School	
NAPA-Creston	Stalker Car Wash	
Mediacom	Stalker Chevrolet Inc.	
Newbury Management Co/ Summit House	Stalker Rentals	
New Life Family Medicine P.C.	State Farm Insurance, Ben Adamson	
Nishna Valley Credit Union	State Savings Bank	
Office Machines Company	Stewart Realty	
Pearson Family Funeral Service	Subway - Hwy 34	
Petznick Printing Company	Subway - Super Walmart	
Phillips' Floors	Supertel Inn & Conference Center	
Pine Valley Golf & Bowl	Taco John's	
Piper Sign Art	Taylor Financial	
Pizza Ranch	Teresa's Fine Floral	
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland	three C design	

Maurice's is Now Open

Maurice's has now opened temporarily at 602 Sheldon, Suite B, the former Stage Building, while their former location is being re-done from the fire.

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.

8. *Chamber Highlights* - Creston Chamber of Commerce

**Creston
Chamber of Commerce
Activities**

May 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Chamber Member Omelet Appreciation Breakfast, Congregate Mealsite, 7 to 8:30 a.m.	2 Chamber Radio Grapevine Visit, 9 a.m. Southern Prairie YMCA Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m., YMCA	3 Kustom Kakerly Event Center Ribbon Cutting, 3 pm., 124 N. Mapale Creston Arts: Artist Reception, 6 to 8 p.m., Restored Depot	4 YMCA Healthy Kids Day, 9 a.m. to Noon Creston Animal Rescue Vendor Show/ Silent Auction, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Supertel Inn Conference Center
5	6 Around Town Meeting, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Quilts & other Notions Creative Center	7 Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers NCRC High School Presentation, 1 – 2:30 p.m., SWCC Rm 220	8	9	10 Creston Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Chamber Office Creston School Board Appreciation Coffee & Tour, 10 a.m., 801 N. Elm SWCC Commencement 7:30 p.m.	11 YMCA Spring 5K Fun Run, 8 a.m. National Train Day, 10 a.m. to Noon, Restored Depot
12 Happy Mother's Day	13 Visitor Center Opens for the Season	14 Family Development Center Open House, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 300 E. Montgomery St 3	15 Creston Nursing & Rehab Chamber Coffee 1001 Cottonwood 10 a.m.	16 Women in Business Meeting, 8 a.m., R Realty, 114 N. Elm	17 Image Enhancement Committee Meeting, 7 a.m., Windrow Restaurant iWireless Ribbon Cutting, 200 N. Elm, 10 a.m.	18 iWireless Grand Opening Celebration, 200 N. Elm
19 CHS Graduation	20	21 Advance Services Inc. Chamber Coffee, 10 a.m., 302 E. Taylor, Hwy 34 East Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31 Leslie's Dance Recital	

JUNE

All Iowa Shop Hop, June 1 - June 20

- 1 Leslie's Dance Recital
KSIB Tractor Drive
Prairie View Assisted Living 5 Year Anniversary & Open House
- 2 Leslie's Dance Recital
- 3 Creston Farmers Market, 4 - 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park
- 4 Chamber Radio Grapevine Visit, 9 a.m.
Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
- 7 Greater Regional Auxiliary Foundation Golf Event
Creston Arts: Artist Reception, 6 to 8 p.m., Restored Depot
- 8 Creston Citywide Garage Sale, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- 10 5th Annual Southwestern Regional Business Conference & Expo, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., SWCC
Creston Farmers Market, 4 - 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park
- 14 Creston Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Chamber Office
Relay for Life, 6 p.m., CHS Track
- 16 Happy Father's Day
- 17 Creston Farmers Market, 4 - 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park
- 18 Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
- 20 Women in Business Meeting, 8 a.m., R Realty, 114 N. Elm
- 21 Image Enhancement Committee Meeting, 7 a.m., Windrow Restaurant
First Day of Summer
- 22 Friends of the Library Garden Walk, 1 to 4 p.m.
Party in the Park, 5 p.m., McKinley Park
- 24 Creston Farmers Market, 4 - 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park
- 28 Crazy Summer Sales Days
Elm's Club 5th Annual Bike Night 2013, Elm's Club
- 29 Crazy Summer Sales Days
SW Iowa Home Builders Alliance Home Show
Community Churches Fun Day, 2 to 5 p.m., 702 W. Prairie

Creston Chamber of Commerce
Box 471
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on – Ellen)
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