



# Chamber Highlights

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Support YOUR Chamber . . . Buy from Chamber Members*

## SEPTEMBER 2013

### *In this Issue:*

- Hot Air Balloon Gear
- Taste of the Town
- Gold Star Honor
- August Hi-Fives
- Activity Calendar



Follow us on Facebook

208 W. Taylor  
P.O. Box 471  
Creston, Iowa 50801  
641-782-7021  
Fax 641-782-9927  
[www.crestoniowachamber.com](http://www.crestoniowachamber.com)  
[chamber@crestoniowachamber.com](mailto: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.

## 36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CRESTON/SW IOWA HOT AIR BALLOON DAYS SEPTEMBER 20, 21 & 22, 2013

Hopefully all of you are making your plans to be part of the upcoming 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Creston/SW Iowa Hot Air Balloon Days activities. The following is a brief listing of some of the events that will be taking place.

**Friday Night Fun Flight:** Plans are underway for the Friday Night Fun Flight of hot air balloons to take place over Creston (weather permitting) beginning around 5:00 p.m. This is a great way to kick-off the weekend festivities.

**Parade:** The parade of bands will be held in Uptown Creston at 10:30 a.m. Bands from the area will be in competition, and the Creston High School Band and Middle School Band will be performing. The balloonists will be in the parade as well.

If you would like to be in the parade with an entry, please come to the corner of Howard and Chestnut on the 21<sup>st</sup> by 10 a.m.

**Creston Hot Air Balloon Days Show & Shine Car Show:** This event will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> in the Kilgore RV lot, corner of Sheldon and Sumner, from Noon to 4 p.m.

**Pet Show:** If you are looking for something a little different go to the pet show and see many "different" pets at this fun event. Proud owners show off their favorite companions. The Show starts at 2:00 p.m.

**Pedal Pull:** The Pedal Pull will again be held this year. This event is enjoyed by the participants and spectators alike. The Pull starts at 2:30 p.m. out at the Airport.

**Parking** at the airport will cost \$1.00 PER CAR PER TIME.

## WHO TV Will Bring RV TV to Creston

Please remember that WHO TV's RV TV will be in Creston on September 9<sup>th</sup> to kick off their weeklong trip to the Iowa/Iowa State Football Game in Ames. Keith and Andy and the group will be doing their 5, 6, and 10 segments live from the Depot Parking lot in Uptown Creston.

We are asking that you and your employees wear clothing supporting either the Hawkeyes or Cyclones on that day. We will leave it up to each business how they wish to handle those who don't support either team, maybe Creston items would be in order.

A Calendar of Events for RV TV is included in this month's Newsletter. Please take a few minutes to review it and if you have any questions, please call the Chamber Office.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend RVTV on September 9<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!

The fun starts at 4 p.m.

### 2013 Executive Board

**President,** Roger Lanning  
*PCSB 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*
- Levi Eblen  
*Ex Officio, Creston High School*

## Director's Thoughts

With less than a month until our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Air Balloon Event, the pace is beginning to quicken here in the office. We already have many balloonists signed up to attend. Yet as I began writing this month's thoughts my mind went to all the people that help make this event happen as well as so many other activities and jobs that get done in Creston by **VOLUNTEERS**.

Have you ever stopped to think where would we be without them? What kind of community would Creston be?

I look at the various groups and boards I am involved with and the number of different people from all walks of life and interests who volunteer their time, many without recognition, but who are willing to help make a difference for Creston is impressive.

We all know those who volunteer countless hours and others just a few, but we need them all. All of these contributions are valuable. These people are what make Creston such a great place to live and call home.

So thank you to all who volunteer, and to those who haven't, there is still time.

Have a great month.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Creston's Taste of the Town.....On the Right Track

On October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Citywide, **Creston's Taste of the Town - On the Right Track** will take place. From last year's success, this is a great opportunity for you to bring customers into your business. The only requirement is that each participating business will have a food goody to provide the public along with the recipe of this item to hand out to the customers.

Any business that is participating is asked to give Ellen their recipes by October 3<sup>rd</sup> so that she can make copies of them and then return them to the business to be handed out.

Anyone having questions about the promotion, please call the Chamber.



500 Industrial Parkway  
Creston, Iowa 50801  
641-782-5380

**DRAPER, SNODGRASS,  
MIKKELSEN & CO., P.C.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

(641) 782-8421  
309 E. MONTGOMERY  
CRESTON, IOWA 50801



## Nominations are needed to Recognize Great Citizens, Volunteers and Youth in Creston

Many individuals work hard to make Creston a great place to live. The Creston Chamber of Commerce and the *Creston News Advertiser* would like to honor these people by once again co-sponsoring the seventeenth annual **Creston Citizen of the Year Award**. Past honorees have included Galen Zumbach (95), Darlene Loudon (96), Fannie Luther (97), Glen Weaver (98), Ralph Edwards (99), Tim Kinkade (00), Ed Ritter (01) Ken Hudson (02), Ron Levine (03), Don Mosman (04), Dr. Robert Kuhl (05), Vaughn Seckington (06), Jack Keuter (07), Flossie Roberts (08), Bob & Betty Jungst (09), Darwin West (10), Martha Musmaker (11) and the 2012 honorees were Gary Borcharding and John Kawa. Ads soliciting nominees for the honor will appear in the *Creston News Advertiser* during the month of September and will also be available at the Chamber Office.

A committee comprised of representatives of the Chamber, the CNA, and the community at-large will select the winner from among the individuals nominated.

The individual chosen for this distinction will be honored at the Chamber's **74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Dinner on November 12<sup>th</sup>**. The Chamber will present the winner with an attractive crystal award and the *Creston News Advertiser* will present a gift of \$100 in the winner's name to his or her favorite local charity.

All Chamber members as well as the public are encouraged to submit nominations. **Special nomination forms and instructions will be available at the Chamber Office or in ads published in the *Creston News Advertiser*.** Nominations for the Citizen of the Year award must be received by **Wednesday, October 4, 2013**.

Another award that will be given by the Chamber of Commerce at the Annual Meeting is the **Volunteer Leadership Award**. This award is to honor an individual for his or her volunteer efforts. Volunteer leadership award entries are judged on the significance of the person's contribution to the betterment of some aspects of community life and his or her record of volunteer service devoted to the growth and improvement of the community.

**To nominate someone for the Volunteer Leadership Award, submit a letter explaining why you feel your nominee deserves this recognition by October 4, 2013, to the Creston Chamber of Commerce.** Include details concerning the nominee's involvement in community affairs, and please include the nominee's name, occupation, address and phone number. The honoree will receive a check for \$100 to their favorite local charity from the *Creston News Advertiser*.

The Chamber will also be honoring a young person in Creston with our **Youth Award**. This award is based on a graduating senior's individual achievement, accomplishments and demonstrated leadership in their home, school and community. To nominate such an individual, please send a letter of recommendation to the Chamber telling why you believe the nominee should be considered for this award. The Creston Chamber of Commerce must receive all nominations by October 4, 2013. The winner will also be honored at the Chamber Annual Meeting. They will also be presented a check for a \$100, which will go to the college or institution they will be attending, from the *Creston News Advertiser*.



OFFICE MACHINES

---

OFFICE MACHINES  
FURNITURE  
&  
SUPPLIES  
641-782-8464  
Web site: [www.officemachinesco.com](http://www.officemachinesco.com)



FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
CRESTON • AFTON  
PHONE: 641.782.2195  
PHONE: 641.347.8423  
WWW.FNBCRESTON.COM  
MEMBER FDIC  
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER  
*Commitment you can bank on.*

See the  
Difference!

(641) 782-1000  
ISSBbank.com



MEMBER FDIC

## Image Enhancement Committee August Yards of the Month, Areas of the Month and Flowerpots of the Month

The Image Enhancement Committee would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following yards that were honored as the August Yards of the Month:

**1718 West Prairie Street**

**408 South Elm Street**

**1016 North Mulberry**

These yards join the July Honorees at 402 West Lucas, 609 North Cherry and 1407 Elm Drive and the June Honorees at 505 McKinley, 1202 West Jefferson and 705 West Irving. Keep up the good work everyone.

The Image Enhancement Committee would also like to recognize and acknowledge flowerpots in Creston that looks great.

Congratulations to:

**Family Shoe Store – 219 West Adams Street**

**Curves – 217 West Adams Street**

Thank you to Creston True Value, Creston Super Walmart and Green Valley Pest & Lawn Care for co-sponsoring the Yards of the Month, Area of the Month and flowerpot of the month with the Chamber.

If you would like to nominate a yard, area or flowerpot to be considered by the Committee for September and October please call the Chamber with the address.

## Creston:Arts

Enjoy art in Uptown Creston. Each month Creston:Arts will present a new exhibit in the Gallery 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. and Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m. for the public to stop by and enjoy the art. The September Show will feature "The Origami of Mei-Ling". The Artist Reception will be held on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information please call 1-641-247-1663.

### **Petznick Printing Co. Commercial Printers**

204 N. Elm, Creston, Iowa  
petznicks@iowatelecom.net

**641-782-2023**  
– COLOR COPIES –

### **American Home Design Center**

**101 Ways to  
Improve Your Home**  
*"Come In – Be Inspired"*

Dave & Cinda Long 101 N. Walnut  
Creston, IA 50801

**782-4193**  
[www.americanhomesbydavelong.com](http://www.americanhomesbydavelong.com)

## Ask Us Program

Do your employees get asked questions about our area from visitors? Do they know most of the answers? If not, then you need to contact the Chamber. We can come meet with you and your staff and make a presentation about Creston and the area, or if need be we have information available for you to take back to your business and share. Please call the Chamber for more information.

## Balloon Tee Shirts, Sweatshirts and Pins Now Available

The 2013 Hot Air Balloon Days tee shirts, sweatshirts and pins are available. Stop by the Chamber to purchase yours or contact a representative of the Junior Class Parents.

Show your support for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Air Balloon Days. Wear your Balloon Gear proudly.

### September Inserts

Creston/SW Iowa Hot Air  
Balloon Days  
Creston RV TV Schedule  
Union County Emergency  
Management Flyer

### CARTER AGENCY

"A Name You Can Trust"

**Real Estate & Insurance**

**We Can Handle Your Insurance  
or Real Estate Needs**

208 N. Maple St.  
Creston, IA 50801

**641-782-8516**

**September  
Gold Star  
Business Honor  
The Lobby**

**301 West Adams Street  
Creston**

Congratulations, you are most deserving.

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. Please call the Chamber to acknowledge a business property.

**September Hi-Fives For Great  
Customer Service Goes Out To**

**Linda Cochran, South Casey's Store**, for, "giving top notch customer service. You go above and beyond to please your customers."

**Stan Mohr, AKIN Building Center**, for, "your patience and thoughtfulness toward your customers."

**Joel Miller, Echo Electric**, for, "listening to your customers and being so helpful."

**Dave Carlisle, Carlisle Automotive Repair**, for, "understanding your customers. Thank you."

**Creston Fire Department**, for, "all you do for Creston. Your hard work and dedication are appreciated."

Congratulations everyone.

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. Please call Ellen at 782-7021 to share your Hi-Five.

**Buy/Shop Creston  
First**

**Buy Creston  
First**



**Halloween Contest Sponsor Needed**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Contest, if it is held, is in need of a sponsor. If you might be interested in sponsoring the event please call Ellen for details.

**Help Your Chamber  
Help You**

**Become a Fan  
of the**

**Creston Chamber of Commerce  
on Facebook**

*"Defining Quality Since 1972"*



**Creston  
Nursing  
& Rehab  
Center**

1001 Cottonwood Road  
Creston, Iowa  
641-782-8511



**OPEN**  
5 a.m.  
to  
12 a.m.

Fresh Produce  
Fresh Deli  
Fresh Bakery  
Fresh Meat

**LOW PRICES  
ALL DAY  
EVERYDAY**

*Full Line Grocery Store*

**CRESTON, IOWA  
782-7023**

**ASinc.net**

**Advance Services**

*"Workforce Solutions"*

**"Putting You First"**

STAFFING FOR THE MIDWEST

302 E. Taylor (Hwy 34)  
Creston, Iowa 50801

**782-3300**

## High Lakes Leadership Initiative

Are you looking to expand your professional and social networks to new community members?

Do you want to connect with local decision makers?

Are you looking for a way to sharpen leadership skills for future management employees?

If you answered “Yes!” to any of the above questions, an opportunity is just around the corner.

The High Lakes Leadership Initiative is now accepting nominations for the Class of 2014. This local leadership development program is now entering into its fifth year of operation. This is a learning opportunity for those who live, work or conduct business in Union County, Iowa.

Nine sessions will be held on a bi-weekly basis starting January 22, 2014 through May 14, 2014. The sessions are held at various locations throughout Union County and focus on learning the community capitals and instilling leadership skills.

Taylor McClellan, Materials Manager at Greater Regional Medical Center (Class of 2012) says this about his experience this past year. *“The High Lakes Leadership Class provided an excellent vehicle for learning about Union County and making the transition from a citizen on the sidelines to an active community leader. The information and networking opportunities made it a worthwhile experience for me as a young person, new to the area, who is interested in becoming involved.”*

To be considered for the class, participants may be nominated by an employer/colleague or are welcome to apply directly. Nominations must be received by September 30 to be eligible for the next year’s class. Nominees will receive a letter of announcement of their nomination no later than October 15 and will be invited to apply for the leadership program. Individuals are notified of their acceptance in early November.

To make a nomination or for more information, please call (641)-782-2003 or visit [www.highlakesleadership.com](http://www.highlakesleadership.com).

## Regional Dream Big, Grow Here Business Plan Competition

The Dream Big Grow Here Business Plan Competition is an opportunity for Iowans to win one regional \$5,000 small business grant and then go on to pitch their business for a shot at a \$10,000 grand prize. The South Central Iowa Area Partnership, Inc. is hosting a regional competition because it believes in an atmosphere which fosters entrepreneurship. This event will help support existing industries and help to spark some new start-ups.

### **Basic Rules:**

- ◆ Business must be located in Decatur, Clarke, Lucas, Ringgold, Union or Wayne counties.
- ◆ Must be 18 or older.
- ◆ Must have 200 or less employees.
- ◆ Must be for profit.

For full contest rules visit [www.DreamBigGrowHere.com](http://www.DreamBigGrowHere.com)

**Timeline:** To participate, entrepreneurs are encouraged to visit the website to determine their eligibility then upload a video, power point or photographs outlining their plans during the contestant entry phase September 1-27th and encourage others to vote for them during October 1-15<sup>th</sup>. The Top 5 companies with the most votes will have a pitch off at Lakeside Casino on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Regional winner will pitch off at the state competition at EntreFest! 2014.

**Submit Your Dream:** September 1-27th

**Dreams Posted:** September 30th

**Voting Begins:** October 1-15th

**Regional Pitch Off:** November 12<sup>th</sup> - Lakeside Casino, Osceola

**Statewide Pitch Off:** EntreFest! 2014

The lead sponsor for Dream Big Grow Here 2013 is the Iowa Bankers Association. Other key statewide sponsors include: University of Northern Iowa MyEntreNet, Iowa Farm Bureau Renew Rural Iowa, Iowa Economic Development Authority, VentureNet, Delta Dental of Iowa and the Technology Association of Iowa.

8. *Chamber Highlights* - Creston Chamber of Commerce

**Creston  
Chamber of Commerce  
Activities**

# September 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Creston Farmers Market, 4 to 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>3</b> Chamber Radio Grapevine Visit, 9:00 a.m. Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Creston Arts: Artist Reception, 6 to 8 p.m., Restored Depot	<b>7</b> Walk to End Alzheimer's
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Creston Farmers Market, 4 to 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park WHO RV TV, Depot Parking Lot in Uptown Creston	<b>10</b> <b>ELECTION DAY</b>	<b>11</b> Creston Audiology & Hearing Aid Center, Chamber Coffee, 10 a.m., 319 W. Adams	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Creston Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Chamber Office	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Creston Farmers Market, 4 to 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park	<b>17</b> Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Kiwanis, Lion's and Rotary Pork Chop Dinner 4:30 - 7 p.m.	<b>20</b> Image Enhancement Committee Meeting, 7 a.m., Windrow Restaurant Hot Air Balloon Days	<b>21</b> Hot Air Balloon Days
<b>22</b> Hot Air Balloon Days	<b>23</b> Creston College Fair, 1 to 2:30 p.m., SWCC Student Center SWCC Smart Start Kickoff 10 a.m. Creston Farmers Market, 4 to 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Community Pep Rally	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Creston High School Homecoming	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Creston Farmers Market, 4 to 6:30 p.m., McKinley Park	<b>September 20 to 22, Creston/SW Iowa 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Air Balloon Days</b>				

## OCTOBER

### SALUTE TO INDUSTRY MONTH

- 1 Chamber Radio Grapevine Visit, 9:00 a.m.
- Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
- October 4 and 5, North Central Fall Camera Clubs Convention
- 5 Creston/Union County Visitor Center closes
- 7 Creston Around the Town Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Quilts & other Notions Creative Center
- 10 High Lakes Outdoor Alliance Banquet & Auction, Three Mile Lake Lodge
- 11 Creston Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Chamber Office
- Creston's Taste of the Town Event
- 12 Creston's Taste of the Town Event
- Southern Prairie YMCA Scholarship Fundraiser, 6 p.m., Supertel Inn & Conference Center
- 15 Creston City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers
- 17 Women in Business Meeting, 8 a.m., R Realty, 114 N. Elm
- 18 Image Enhancement Committee Meeting, 7 a.m., Windrow Restaurant
- 19 Local Food "Crawl"
- 26 Bright Eyes in the Park, McKinley Park, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Holiday to Holiday Extravaganza
- 31 Happy Halloween

Creston Chamber of Commerce  
Box 471  
Creston, IA 50801

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CRESTON, IOWA  
PERMIT NO. 11

(400 Copies from 10-24-03  
on - Ellen)  
(Rotate Ads - First to Last)