



## DeWitt Chamber & Development Company Newsletter

April 2020

### Letter from the Executive Director - Your Choice!

This last month has been challenging, to say the least. Each of us are experiencing the impact of COVID-19 in different, but very real ways. Thankfully, Clinton County has not been hit as hard with positive cases as others in our state. Even so, many of us have friends or family with first-hand experience fighting the virus. The impact of social distancing and mandated closures have impacted so many businesses, organizations, and lives. These measures have flattened the curve, while also setting the stage for what may be our new "normal" as medical leaders work to find a treatment and vaccine.



As I listened to Governor Reynolds layout her plan to begin to open up our retail shops, restaurants, churches, and some medical clinics; I wondered if it was or wasn't the right time? Speaking with many of you over the last weeks and days, I know you wonder as well. We are all anxious to return to a life that includes more than staying at home. I think that uncertainty is fair for all of us to feel.

What's important to remember is that we get to choose how we are going to interact with others. You can choose to carry out your favorite dinner, or dine in. Maybe it takes you a week or two to decide you want to sit in your favorite booth, that's OK. You can also choose to visit a retailer to shop for a Mother's Day gift, or you can call them and they'll be more than happy to do a virtual shopping tour with you. Your choice. And it's a glorious choice to be able to make!

Though we all wish to return to our regular lives, we must take necessary precautions during this time. Continue to practice social distancing, hand washing, and stay home if you don't feel well. When you feel confident, join me (6 feet away) as I shop our beautiful downtown, grab a meal, and Look Local First!

I'm proud of how all of you have come together to support one another, and hopefully in a few weeks, more of our businesses will open. (95% of you really need a haircut!) I am

confident that our community will reopen, and we'll be better than ever because of the choices all of you have made throughout the last 6 weeks.

We are all in this together, if you have a question or need help, call me.

Sincerely,



## Note These Dates

Stay tuned, below events may be cancelled or moved to an online format:

- May 21 - [Revive After Five at First Central State Bank](#) - Watch your emails for details on this event!!
- June 4 - [DeWitt's Wine Walk](#)
- June 13 - [Family Movie Night in the Park](#)
- ~~June 19-21 - [Come Home 2020: All Class Reunion Weekend](#)~~ **RESCHEDULED TO JUNE 19, 2021**
- June 25 - [DCDC Year in Review: Annual Meeting](#)
- July 11 - [Family Movie Night in the Park](#)
- July 23 - [DCDC 101](#)
- July 30 - [DCDC Golf Bash](#)
- August 8 - [Family Movie Night in the Park](#)

## Membership News

### "WE'RE OPEN" SIGNS



In support of Governor Reynolds beginning to open selected businesses and our ongoing love of encouraging residents, employees, and visitors to "Look Local First", the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company is providing businesses a "We're Open!" sign to put in your window or on a yard stake in front of your business. There is a space for you to put your hours, and to update them as your able.

**We wanted to create an eye-catching sign for DeWitt Businesses and residents to celebrate the gradual reopening of our amazing businesses!** Whatever our new Covid-19 "normal" is going to be, we want to celebrate that we will survive and thrive as a community!

Please [Email Molly](#) if you would like to pick one up at the DCDC office starting on



## CHAMBER BUCKS



### Chamber Bucks e-Gift Cards

Is your business signed up to redeem Chamber Bucks eGift Cards yet? With all the social distancing and limited office hours, our Chamber Bucks eGift Cards are selling now more than ever! Now is the time to get registered to redeem!

**Do you have questions on this program? Are you ready to sign up?**

[Email April](#) and she will send you all the information!

You can buy Chamber Bucks e-Gift Cards [here!](#)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER!



### WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

#### [Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive](#)

The Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive invites you to come to Fulton County, Illinois and enjoy the natural wonders of the Spoon River Valley. Join us for our Fall Festival that has been going strong for 50 years!

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more!

## MEMBER EVENTS



### Revive After Five

Thank you to everyone that attended our First Virtual Revive After Five with host Beth Hughes from [Sashollie!](#) We had drinks, snacks, games, the opportunity to shop and, of course, GREAT PRIZES!

Stay tuned for updated details about our May **Revive After Five**, **currently** scheduled for Thursday, May 21 from 5-7 PM at [First Central State Bank!](#)

[Complete 2020 Revive After Five schedule is here!!](#)



### DCDC 101

This month we hosted our first Virtual DCDC 101!

Each quarter we host a DCDC 101 event. We gather together with prospective and new members and new contacts at existing member businesses to share coffee and the benefits of DCDC membership.

We know that each member values different DCDC benefits and activities, so we try to give an overview of all areas of our work plan; from how to utilize the marketing tools

on our website, to how to volunteer in meaningful ways, to how the DCDC works to keep DeWitt vibrant and thriving.

This month's event was held virtually! We had a great time zooming with such a diverse group of business owners and business representatives. We at the DCDC miss socializing face to face but we are so glad that we can "see" our contacts with the help of a little technology!

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## Things everyone needs to know...

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### DeWitt's Wine Walk!!

The DeWitt Chamber & Development Company is excited to announce we are working on a new event for this summer!

On Thursday, June 4th, we will be hosting our very first "DeWitt's Wine Walk!" The event will take place along 6th Ave. and the surrounding side streets from 5 to 7 pm!

We are looking forward to give residents, visitors and employees of DeWitt the opportunity to shop and experience Downtown 6th Ave, while enjoying FREE beverages provided by participating businesses!

### [PRE-REGISTER YOUR GROUP HERE!](#)

Pre-registration is \$10 per person. Or \$15 when you register the day of the event. Individuals must register in order to obtain an event "Passport" as well as receive their souvenir wine glass! Everyone will receive their "Passports" and wine glasses at check-in the day of the event!

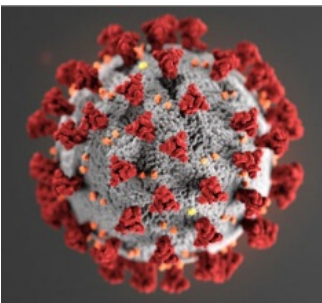
#### **Rules to participate:**

- Each individual must be over 21 years of age and will be required to show their identification when checking into the event.
- Each individual must finish or discard their wine/beverage sample before being permitted to leave that business and move onto the next business.
- Each individual **MUST** register in order to participate in the event!

**Businesses:** [CLICK HERE](#) for sponsorship opportunities!

**Look for more fun details to come about the DeWitt Wine Walk!**

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### COVID-19 Information Page

The DCDC has created a web page with [COVID-19 information and resources](#) for community members and businesses. There is a lot of information coming out very quickly and we are doing our best to share the most important information, while not filling up your email inbox. The page will be updated as we get information in. As always, if you have any questions, please contact our office.

We are also working to keep the community aware of businesses that are staying open during this trying time. Here is the most recent list of [retailers](#) and [restaurants](#) opening in the coming days!

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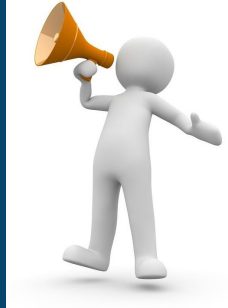


## JOIN OUR TEAM

### Are you hiring?

Post your available positions on the DCDC website for free. They'll be shared on our social media pages, in our weekly "What's Happening" e-newsletter and in this monthly newsletter.

[View current employment opportunities here!](#)



[Click here to check out "Read About It" articles posted by members!](#)

Do you have exciting news about your company you would like to share? Have you hired a new staff member, been recognized in your industry, or expanded your products & services? [Login to the Member Information Center \(MIC\)](#) and add your news in News Release section!

VOL NTEER  
*all that's missing is U!*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you like to have fun? Are you interested in sharing your ideas to make the DCDC even better?

Join one of our committees today!

[Email Angela](#) or call 659-8500 for more information.

## LOOK LOCAL FIRST



Now, more than ever, it is important to keep Looking Local First!

Looking for a gift for someone?  
Looking for someone else to cook for you?  
Look Local First!

Check out our [Membership Directory](#) for all your local options!! Lots of our local businesses are doing business a little differently these days - but they are still doing it! Call or find your favorites on Facebook to see what options they have! Many retailers are offering virtual shopping options, curbside pick up or free shipping!!

Watch Facebook for our LIVE Look Local First drawings that will be catching us up on the months we have missed while social distancing! The girls will all be back in the office soon and can't wait to give away some Chamber Bucks!

## DCDC Summer Movies in the Park

The DCDC is excited to team up with the DeWitt Parks & Recreation Department again this summer to put on the 3rd annual, **Family Movie Night in the Park Series!**

Schedule below!! All movies will be shown at dusk!  
Some snacks available for purchase or bring your own!

Plan to bring your family and friends, its going to be a great way to enjoy a free night out in DeWitt!



[June 13th - Secret Life of Pets 2](#)



[July 11th - The Lion King](#)



[August 8th - Toy Story 4](#)

## DeWitt Delivers Blog



### [Making the Most of Our Rural Landscape](#)

Hi, DeWitt! My name is Jenna Stevens and for the past two years, I have had the privilege of working with our county youth as an Ag in the Classroom Consultant. Ag in the Classroom is a program sponsored by the [Clinton County Farm Bureau](#) with the goal of making sure students know where their food comes from and who is doing the hard work to produce that food.

[<<<READ MORE>>>](#)



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