

DeWitt Chamber & Development Company Newsletter

August 2020

Letter from the Executive Director - Being more like Oak.

Merle Anthony Ocken, known as "Oak" to those that met him, unexpectedly passed away on August 15th, 2020. He left a legacy of leading by example, giving back, and making a positive impact on initiatives you care about.

Oak wasn't a DeWitt native. Following retirement, he moved here with his wife Nancy and quickly got to work putting down roots in his new hometown. He volunteered his time with multiple



community organizations, including the former DeWitt Development Corporation (DDC) and the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company (DCDC), serving on our Board and various committees for 11 years. His outgoing personality, ability to analyze the details of a project, and his infectious smile made him a valued collaborator and beloved Board Member. I appreciated his input and thoroughly enjoyed our discussions on DCDC initiatives and ways to make our community better.

Oak was truly a man to model your choices on how to give back and make a difference. It doesn't matter if you grew up in DeWitt or if you choose to move here and make DeWitt your home, be like Oak and find the organizations that speak to your passions and priorities. They will welcome your thoughts, ideas, and time. Make these community non-profits better for your efforts.

I believe our entire community is better for Oak's involvement. He strengthened our community in ways that we will not realize the true impact of for decades to come. He understood that we all have the ability to make a difference, we just have to be willing to selflessly give of our time and talents.

Thank you to all that are like Oak.

Angla Cheingan

Note These Dates

- September 7 Labor Day, Office CLOSED
- September 17 Revive After Five at Wendling Quarries, Inc.
- September 18 Autumn Fest Movie in the Park showing Frozen 2!!
- September 19 Autumn Fest
- September 22 Eat Lunch & Learn Something Leading with Excellence!
- October 15 Revive After Five at Krieger's of DeWitt

Membership News

EAT LUNCH AND LEARN SOMETHING

Dustin James, Expert in Motivation, Sales and Leadership from Moments Leadership will be sharing tips to "Lead with Excellence!"

When: Tuesday, Sept. 22, check-in 11:30, food at 11:40, program starts at noon!

Where: TBD

Cost: \$12 for DCDC members, \$20 for not-yet members





THANK YOU to our sponsor!

AMBASSADOR NEWS



DQ Grill & Chill - First Dollar

1221 11th St, DeWitt (563) 659-6800



Sophie LuRoo - First Dollar

806 6th Ave, DeWitt (563) 940-9280



Kunau Implement
Company was awarded a
\$2M grant for expansion from
the USDA. We are so excited
to see the finished project!!



Sandry Fire Supply was awarded a Spotlight on Success for their expansion in DeWitt. Congrats on the new building and all the exciting things to come!!



Smilee's Ice Cream and More
was awarded a Spotlight on
Success for their recent
move to a new location! We
love the added space for
seating and the drive thru
window!

EASTERN

IOWA

EASTERN IOWA SHOP WHERE I LIVE

Great news! Our <u>Eastern Iowa Shop Where I Live</u> site is now live! If your business sells products, services, memberships or gift cards - this is for YOU!

Learn more here! Click here to register!

The DCDC has invested in this site for our member businesses to be able to have access to sell online as an added benefit to your annual membership! You can list up to 25 products in your shop at no cost to you, with opportunities to upgrade as needed.

The Shop Where I Live platform will allow customers to shop from local businesses online through a

local marketplace website. **You'll have your own shop** within the platform to sell products, services, gift cards, virtual products, and more.

We hope you will **take advantage of this right away so that we can further promote this resource**to the community. Please register your business at the link above. Please **email April** or call 659-8500 if you have any questions!

MITIGATING COVID-19 AT WORK



Covid-19 recommendations and guidelines continue to evolve. The State of lowa released an updated presentation to help businesses and other organizations mitigate COVID-19 in the workplace.

Follow-up questions may be sent to COVID19Business@iowa.gov.

Click here to view the presentation.

IOWA SMALL BUSINESS UTILITY DISRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAM EXPANDED

Some area businesses who tried to apply for the Iowa Small Business Utility Disruption Prevention Program when it was first made available found that they were not eligible because they did not have overdue utility bills. **The**

program has now been expanded, which means some of you may now qualify for assistance.

Eligibility criteria now includes utility assistance for eligible small businesses and nonprofits for electric or natural gas service provided between March 17, 2020 and October 15, 2020. The program will accept applications through October 31 or until all funds have been exhausted.

Click here to learn more and apply.



If you have questions, feel free to contact Angela or reach out to Iowa Economic Development Authority directly at 1.515.348.6200.

Autumn Fest

<u>AUTUMN FEST MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK</u>



The DCDC PRESENTS:
Frozen 2
on Friday, Sept. 18 at dusk

Sponsored by <u>IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union</u>

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

Social distancing encouraged.

AUTUMN FEST

Autumn Fest is put on by the DCDC with the help of our sponsors as a "THANK YOU" to the community for supporting local businesses!

The 33rd annual Autumn Fest will be held on Saturday,
September 19th and will include: food vendors, live music
from Hap Hazzard, a variety of free children's activities, a classic
car show, chalk square contest and MORE!!

Much like all events happening this year, Autumn Fest will look a little different. The event space is to be spread from the park all the way down 6th Ave towards Mezcal. Many local businesses will be open during Autumn Fest for attendees to stop and shop!



Masks and social distancing are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

HUGE **THANK YOU** to our Title Sponsors!











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!



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



Our July Look Local First winner was Jim Lass!

Congrats to Jim on winning \$50 in Chamber Bucks!

Be sure to keep Looking Local and keep getting your cards punched and turned in at **Randy's Neighborhood Market**, **Scott's Thrifty White Drug Store** or the DCDC office and you could win \$50 in Chamber Bucks!

Watch for us on Facebook - we draw LIVE!



1010 6th Ave DeWitt IA 52742 FOLLOW US





