



# DeWitt *Delivers*

## DeWitt Delivers

- Engaged Citizens
- Safe and Clean Neighborhoods
- Thriving Businesses
- Excellence in Education
- Award-Winning Health Care

# Welcome

## *to DeWitt!*



# Thank you to our DCDC Member Investors!



DeWitt Aquatics Center



DeWitt Lanes



Grand Mound Communications Co.



The Observer



Welcome new DeWitt resident,

Thank you for choosing DeWitt as your new home! On behalf of the DeWitt Chamber and Development Company (DCDC), I would like to officially welcome you to this great community.

The DCDC is a business organization that recognizes that the ***success of our community is dependent on the support of those that live, work and visit DeWitt.*** With that in mind, we have created a *Welcome to DeWitt Kit* for new residents. You will find an abundance of useful information about the community; everything from important contacts, how to get involved and what businesses you can find in DeWitt. Many of our DCDC members have contributed to the enclosed "Business Showcase" by providing a brochure, coupon or promotional item for you.

We encourage you to ***Look Local First!*** Take a walk on the Paul Skeffington trails, take in a movie at the Operahouse Theatre, open a bank account, shop to decorate your new home, find your new stylist/barber, or enjoy a meal, just to mention a few.

We are confident you are going to love your new community! Please remember, if you have questions, need a referral or just want to say hello, the staff at the DCDC is here to be a resource for you!

Again, thank you for choosing DeWitt!



Angela Rheingans  
DCDC Executive Director



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***#dewittdelivers***



**Make the most of these online tools and stay connected  
with the DCDC and the DeWitt community!**

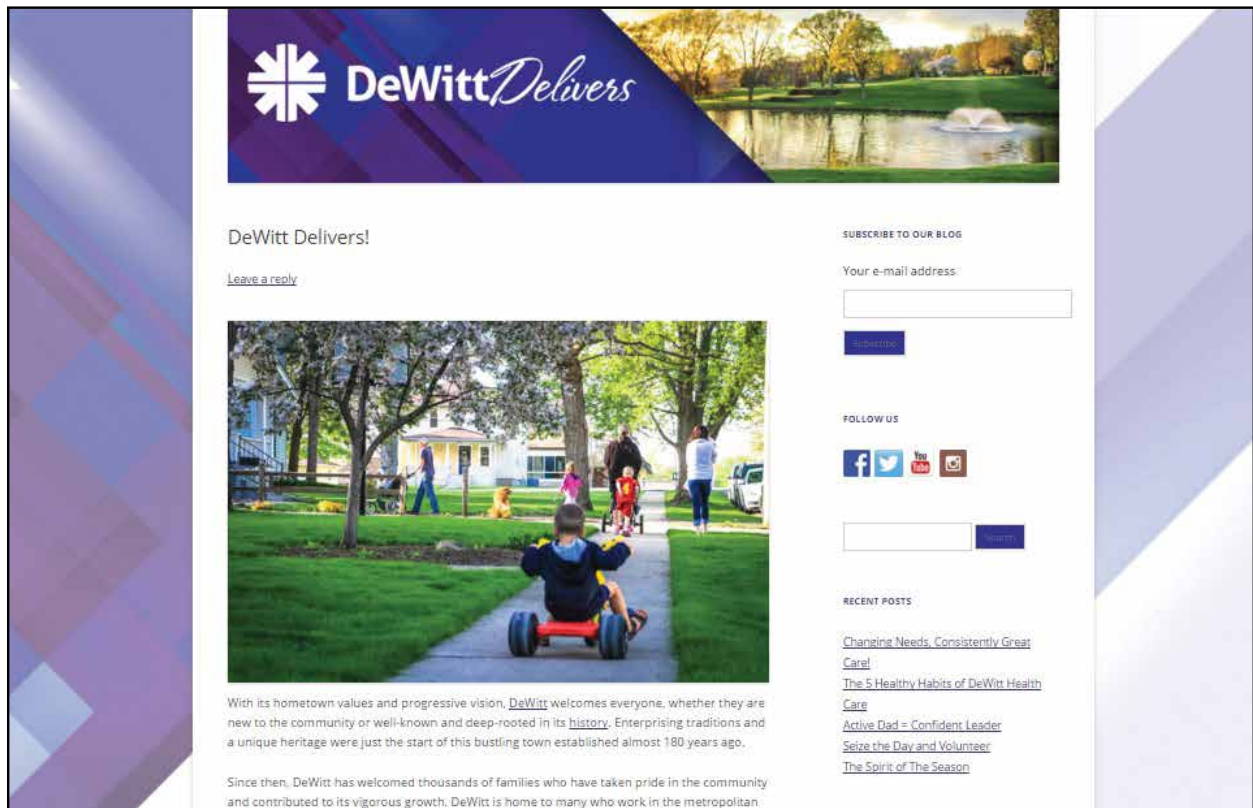


## **DeWitt Chamber & Development Company (DCDC) Website** *[www.dewittiowa.org](http://www.dewittiowa.org)*

Some of the helpful tool for you on the DCDC site:

- **Community Calendar** with up to date happenings in DeWitt.
- **Hot Deals** from local businesses and retailers.
- **Job Postings** from local employers.
- **Membership Directory** with over 200 local business' information.
- The **Explore DeWitt** tab is a great resource! Lots of information about the community can be found, from outdoor amenities to places of worship and everything in-between.
- Sign up for our weekly "**What's Happening**" email. Sign up can be found in the top right corner of our website homepage.
- **And more!**





## DeWitt Community Blog

[www.dewittdelivers.com](http://www.dewittdelivers.com)

Read how exceptional of a community DeWitt is... right from our very own residents! Subscribe to the community blog and get notified via email as new entries are posted.



## DCDC Social Media

[#dewittdelivers](https://twitter.com/dewittdelivers)

Get Social and link up with the DCDC!

You can connect with us on social media easily through our website!



DeWitt *Delivers*

# A Vibrant Community



## Opportunities For All Ages

**W**ith its hometown values and progressive vision, DeWitt welcomes everyone, whether they are new to the community or well-known and deep-rooted in its history.

Enterprising traditions and a unique heritage were just the start of this bustling town established almost 180 years ago. Since then, DeWitt has welcomed thousands of families who have taken pride in the community and contributed to its vigorous growth.

DeWitt is home to many who work in the metropolitan area, yet offers so much more that it could never be called a mere bedroom community. DeWitt is vibrant and thriving and home to more than 5,300 people who choose to live, work and play here. Community festivals, expansive recreational activities, prosperous industries, and a wide variety of local shops and restaurants provide opportunities for all ages.

DeWitt ranks 14th out of the best Iowa communities to live in, according to the 2015 Niche Rankings.

At the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company (DCDC), we tend to agree. We want to spread the good news about DeWitt to those who already live here and to those who may choose to make it their home.

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**DeWitt ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of the best communities in Iowa to live in.**

– 2015 Niche Rankings

Now is the time to celebrate all that ***DeWitt Delivers***:

- A top-notch education system
- Thriving businesses and industries
- Safe and clean neighborhoods
- A diverse faith community
- Award-winning health care options
- Extensive housing selections
- Engaged community members

As you discover DeWitt, be encouraged to get involved, meet new people, and celebrate all that DeWitt offers. Take pride in what ***DeWitt Delivers!***



## Did you know?

**DeWitt ranks as the 30th safest Iowa community to live in, according to the 2014 Safewise.com report.**



DeWitt *Delivers*

**Excellence in Education**



## A Community Committed to Learning

**D**eWitt provides outstanding educational opportunities for all ages, from preschoolers to adults. As a community, we know education comes from many places and is a lifelong journey of learning through new experiences.

Central Community School District provides nearly 1,500 DeWitt, Grand Mound, Low Moor, and Welton students with a rigorous, innovative education. St. Joseph Catholic School, with its 150-year history, offers the freedom to share faith in the context of academics.

Cutting-edge teaching practices, 1:1 computer availability, college credit classes, and award-winning academic and extracurricular programs have caused standardized assessment scores to rise well above national averages. Opportunities for student success are further enhanced by partnerships between the schools and local businesses.

Central's graduation rate stands at a remarkable 99 percent, and 90 percent of graduates further their education. More than 60 post-secondary institutions exist within a 90-mile radius of DeWitt.

Opportunities for educational advancement exist beyond school buildings, too. Within 20 minutes of DeWitt are seven Eastern Iowa Community College sites offering continuing education opportunities and career preparation for area adults. Iowa State University's Extension and Outreach office in DeWitt carries the university's

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**Central's graduation rate stands at a remarkable 99%, and 90% of graduates further their education.**

land-grant mission beyond the Ames campus with research-based educational programs offered locally.

Besides print and digital books, Frances Banta Waggoner Library provides its patrons with practical classes on topics such as technology and genealogy and maintains learning sites and inter-library loan facilities. When it comes to education, *DeWitt Delivers!*

## Did you know?

**Central High School offers their students 38 college credit courses taught by local teachers, right here in DeWitt.**







DeWitt*Delivers* Real Estate



## DeWitt Neighborhoods Reflect Growth

If you've driven around the northwestern landscape in DeWitt, it's no doubt you've noticed the fresh new homes springing up in the last few years. Developments, such as Cobblestone, Hickory Bend and the newest, Jacobsen Farms - offer diverse homes with price values from \$200,000 to \$500,000. These snappy new neighborhoods have driven 61 new home building permits from the City in the last five years.

they currently own) their house then becomes available for someone seeking an affordable, high-quality home.

Take a drive around the established neighborhoods in DeWitt and you'll notice the homes standing at attention on well-maintained properties. Over 400 permits have been issued for property improvements since the beginning of 2014 - a direct reflection of the pride of ownership people display in DeWitt.

**61 new home building permits** have  
**been issued in the last five years and over**  
**400 property improvement permits**  
**have been issued since 2014.**

This refreshing growth generates affordable homes in DeWitt. By influencing move-up buyers (someone who buys a house larger or more expensive than the house

In 2014 it was estimated that 828 people chose to live and work in DeWitt while 2,163 people lived in DeWitt and commuted to a different community for work. The people who ultimately drive the real estate in DeWitt are those who are allured by the great quality of life. An impressive illustration of this can be found in every neighborhood, on every block, in all of DeWitt. Take a

drive. See it for yourself.

Working to create diversity and affordability in housing - this is how ***DeWitt Delivers Real Estate!***



## Did you know?

**56 DeWitt properties** sold during the first half of 2015,  
**a 6% increase** compared to the first half of 2014.





DeWitt*Delivers*

# Manufacturing



## Steady Success on the South Side

A child's Little Tikes® basketball set. A Ragbrai bike tag. Glass on the NYC Freedom Tower. What do all these things have in common? They are just a few of the thousands of products manufactured here in DeWitt.

Manufacturers. The 15 silent neighbors who stand with influence on the south end of town. Standing on local, international and global reputations for championing innovative products with worldwide impact.

Sustaining a thriving manufacturing community is important to the strength of DeWitt's local economy. The nearly 1,000 people who work in the industrial park buy goods and services, rent or buy homes, and enjoy recreational amenities right here in DeWitt.

Industrial and commercial property taxes are revenues for the City and help to fund services such as the police and fire departments, library, community center and trail systems - as well as infrastructure and street projects.

These giants of vitality were drawn to DeWitt because of the loyalty of the local labor market, the close proximity to lines of transportation, major markets and raw materials, the available space for future growth, and the pro-business tax climate.

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DeWitt is home to **15 manufacturers**  
that employ nearly **1,000 people.**

In 2014, Iowa ranked 8th in the United States for lowest cost of doing business. In addition, DeWitt encourages growth by extending a Tax Increment Financing Program for companies adding value to their property.

A strong local labor market, outstanding location and pro-business tax climate - this is how ***DeWitt Delivers Manufacturing!***

## Did you know?

Guardian Industries' DeWitt plant produces enough float glass to make a 10 foot wide ribbon from DeWitt to Grand Mound and back, each day.





DeWitt*Delivers*

# Health & Wellness



## Award-Winning, Reliable Options

**W**hen it comes to healthcare, DeWitt exceeds the standard. Home to one of the nation's "Top 20 Hospitals for Quality of Care," out of nearly 1,300 critical access hospitals nationwide, Genesis Medical Center - DeWitt is an award winning example of best practices in delivering

options continue to open their doors.

DeWitt is home to two family practice clinics, two elderly care facilities, three physical rehabilitation centers, two dental offices, five chiropractic practices, two eye clinics and four massage therapy centers. And even three veterinarian clinics for your four-legged or winged friends' healthcare.

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### **DeWitt is home to one of the nation's Top 20 Hospitals for Quality of Care out of nearly 1,300 critical access hospitals nationwide.**

high quality and compassionate care. Patients have more convenience and less travel with a combination of cutting edge equipment, elite specialists, and outstanding in-patient, out-patient and emergency care.

This high-standard for healthcare is long-standing in DeWitt. Loyal health leaders like Dental Associates, Hill Chiropractic, DeWitt Eye Care, and GMC-DeWitt have served DeWitt for over 35 years. And additional

In certain cases, when a surgery or specialized procedure is not offered locally, healthcare professionals easily guide clients to trusted associations to ensure the best care.

Preventative health care is important and made possible because of places

like the DeWitt Fitness Center, Snap Fitness, Stress Solutions Unlimited and Natural Elements Massage Therapy. Maintaining optimal health through nutrition, physical activity and stress reduction are top priorities at these prominent centers.

Even when your health is changing, the dependability of healthcare in DeWitt remains strong. Providing you with award-winning facilities, passionate experts in their field and reliable healthcare options – this is how *DeWitt Delivers Healthcare.*



## Did you know?

**Genesis received the 2014-2015 Women's Choice Award  
for Best Heart Care Hospitals in America.**





DeWitt*Delivers*

# Active Volunteers



## Engaged Citizens Committed to Service

**V**olunteers. Well-known community champions - seen day-to-day leading committee meetings, serving at sloppy joe dinners and helping in the schools. The quiet heroes - who stuff envelopes at home, drive the elderly to the store, and make phone calls to arrange meals for shut-ins. They strengthen our community. They connect people together. They influence our way of life.

One of the earliest volunteer organizations in DeWitt helped women gain the right to vote. Since then, volunteer clubs have built a hospital, saved the opera house, honored our veterans and expanded our school facilities. They continue to develop and mentor our children, fight fires, grow our churches, and hold the hands of the terminally ill.

Today, there are at least sixty-one volunteer organizations in DeWitt. Organizations which were developed over time to fulfill the needs of our community. From faith-based organizations and social groups, to educational outreach and civic groups - there is a variety of appeal - for youth, working adults and retirees.

Time is one of the greatest gifts of a volunteer.

In 2014, Iowa was rated 2nd in volunteering with Iowans reported giving 93.7 million hours of their time to community service.

However, the real value of volunteering comes from sharing life experiences, learning new skills, connecting with community members across generations, and furthering a meaningful cause.

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**Today, there are at least 61 volunteer organizations in the DeWitt community.**

Be an engaged citizen – get involved in DeWitt!

61 volunteer organizations strengthening our community – this is how ***DeWitt Delivers Volunteers!***

For a current list of volunteer organizations, contact [info@dewittiowa.org](mailto:info@dewittiowa.org).

## Did you know?

In 2014, the Clinton County Master Gardener program recorded almost **23,000** volunteer service hours.





DeWitt*Delivers*

# Shopping & Dining



## Small Town Service, Big City Variety

**D**eWitt retailers and restaurants present an extensive menu ranging from office supplies to antiques and take-out fajitas to lasagna. An appealing blend of small-town, knowledgeable service and a unique variety of choice, the vibrant Downtown District (6th Ave) and the Old Lincoln Highway District (11th St), present big-city retail and restaurant options. Fortunately, it's just around the corner.

A regular shopping trip to a larger city is at minimum 50-miles round-trip from DeWitt. Based on the 2015 government business mileage rate at 57.5 cents per mile, the trip alone will cost \$28.75. By changing course and being aware of how DeWitt's stores and restaurants cater to most daily needs, dollars can be redirected to preserving our progressive and thriving community.

Buying from local retail stores and restaurants improves a community by helping a local store owner put food on the table and pay a mortgage versus

helping a CEO buy a third vacation home. Studies show independent retailers return more than three times as much money per dollar of sales to the local economy than big box competitors.

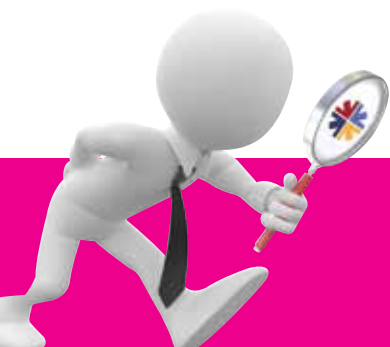
Keeping dollars in DeWitt is easy with the purchase of Chamber Bucks, a local currency which works like a check at over 200 locations in town and is great for

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**Studies show independent retailers *return more than 3X* as much money per dollar to the local economy than big box competitors.**

gift-giving, awards or corporate incentives. Chamber Bucks can be purchased at DeWitt Bank & Trust Company, DeWitt Chamber & Development Company (DCDC), Dot's Hallmark, First Central State Bank, and Whisk Away Café and Bakery.

Small-town service with big-city variety - and Chamber Bucks to make it easy - this is how *DeWitt Delivers Shopping and Dining!*



## Did you know?

Necker's Jewelers donates a portion of their sales to a local charity every month. Just one example of DeWitt's philanthropic-minded store owners.





DeWitt *Delivers*

# Professional Services



## Look Local First for Your Professional Service Needs

**E**xperienced professionals. Genuine service. Regional influence. Rooted in DeWitt are nearly 50 professional service companies who provide us with the advantage of their expertise every day.

An impressive list of local service professions ranges from plumbers, accountants, bankers and printers, to mechanics, electricians, hair stylists and insurance agents. Countless other professional services populate the DeWitt landscape, which means you have many options to look local first. Solutions are right around the corner.

There is a wide selection of financial institutions who provide reputable financial services for every financial stage in life; including, accounting, trust, investment, loans, tax, business and personal banking.

Custom Art and Signs offers 27 years of experience in custom design work to put on vehicles, buildings and t-shirts. Similarly, Hansen Monuments and DeWitt Memorial Company pride themselves in experience, but it's the genuine connection with their clients which matters most. DeWitt is a welcoming community for these businesses to grow. While offering services locally, many companies stretch their territory to a large part of

Midwest zip codes. Sandry Fire Supply not only provides gear and equipment to many surrounding states' fire departments, but also provides emergency car-cutting training to places in South Africa and Europe. Kirby Water Conditioning and Jansen Electric both service a 60-mile radius from DeWitt. Grace Lutheran Camp and the Clinton County Fairgrounds literally keep themselves

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**Reliable problem-solvers with dependable service are located right around the corner in DeWitt.**

local; however, they service people from all over the region with their extensive community rental facilities.

These reliable problem-solvers with dependable service are highly trained and price competitive. Look local first. It's all here, right around the corner. This is how ***DeWitt Delivers Professional Services.***

## Did you know?

**More than 10 financial institutions** provide accounting, trust, investment, loans, tax, business and personal banking services right here in DeWitt!





# DeWitt *Delivers* Agriculture



## Prime Location. Profound Impact.

**D**ivestock Managers. Agronomists. Scientists. Business owners. These are the many hats of a farmer, the champions of agriculture found on 1,244 farms in Clinton County.

Farming is a global business. Agriculture related businesses in DeWitt provide valuable cutting-edge technologies and education based on proven scientific research. Tractors with GPS systems. Drones capturing photos and video of crop health. Nutritional systems that address the basic science of plant and soil health. Farmers depend on these local business services to offer high-tech equipment and new technology to increase crop yields and efficiency. An essential outcome when agriculture is responsible for feeding today's world population of 7.3 billion people.

The economic impact of agriculture in Clinton County is significant; 8,887 jobs, producing \$524 million in wages and over \$4.8 million in total sales in 2012.

Area farmers have the benefit of Iowa's rich, deep soil

and long growing seasons for more profitable crops. They also have the advantage of location. DeWitt's crossroads allow farmers the ease to export their harvest and livestock by truck, rail or river to local and global processing plants, which are used across the world for food, fuel, fiber and feed.

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**The economic impact from agriculture in Clinton County is significant; 8,887 jobs, producing \$524 million in wages and over \$4.8 million in total sales.**

The next time you grill steaks for dinner, order edamame on a tapas menu, use plastic utensils at a picnic or fill your gas tank with a premium fuel blend, consider the fact it may have come from the 417,189 acres of farm land, right here in Clinton County.

Unending dedication to their land, innovative farm management, precision in technology, profound economic impact, and a premier location. This is how ***DeWitt Delivers Agriculture!***



## Did you know?

**There are 1,244 farms in Clinton County, covering land the size of 542,345 football fields.**





DeWitt *Delivers*

**Civil Servants**



## At Your Service, Day and Night

**D**evoted, highly-skilled and passionate leaders. Firefighters, police officers, elected city officials and councilmembers. Working to serve, protect and lead the city of DeWitt with pride, professionalism and partnership.

Weaved throughout these civil servants is family tradition and a calling to serve. DeWitt's 30-person volunteer fire department responds at any hour. They commit to generous hours of training for certifications, enhancing skill, competency, and strengthening the department. Additional annual training, including live fire training, adds an average of 45 hours each year, doubling the hours required by the state of Iowa. Champions of hard work and bravery.

The resolute mission of the DeWitt Police Department – to serve and protect. Pledged by eleven sworn in Police Officers and nine volunteer Police Reserve Officers. Partners in the safety of our community - illustrated through proactive programming, including an on-campus School Resource Officer at the Central DeWitt Community School District, enhancing a safe and healthy school environment. Accredited by CALEA - the gold standard for public safety, awarded based on merits such as

professionalism, consistency, objectivity, accountability, knowledge and collaboration. Valuable qualities, granting a peace of mind for the DeWitt community.

City councilmembers, the mayor and administrative staff – visionary leaders of the City of DeWitt. Guardians of prudent standards and exceptional conduct, constantly working to minimize risk by anticipating the needs of the community. An impact not always seen, but felt in this safe, thriving and vibrant city.

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**DeWitt's 30 volunteer firefighters**  
**put in double the amount of training**  
**required by the state of Iowa each year.**

Whether it is the devotion of these courageous volunteers, the elite training of these highly-skilled professionals or the passion of these valiant leaders; the effects of their integrity makes a notable impression on this community.

This is how ***DeWitt Delivers***  
***Civil Servants.***

## Did you know?

**DeWitt's Police Department has 11 sworn in Police Officers and 9 volunteer Police Reserve Officers.**





# DeWitt*Delivers* Recreation



## On Your Marks...Get Set...Go!

**W**ater volleyball at DeWitt Fitness Center in the morning. A leisurely walk on the paved trails in the afternoon. Mountain biking at Westbrook Park in the evening.

Recreation in DeWitt is abundant. It is visible in the six parks overflowing with soccer fields, ball diamonds and playground equipment. In Westbrook Park's 100 acres, there are over five miles of 10' wide multi-purpose trails, nearly five miles of single-track mountain bike trails, an 18-hole disc golf course, four ball diamonds, 6.3 acres of soccer fields and even two dog runs.

Exceptional recreational attractions offer a variety of activities. The DeWitt Fitness Center offers 50 exercise classes, such as boot camp, yoga and indoor cycling. Ten different levels of swim classes can be taken at the Aquatic Center, and an 18-hole, 70-par golf course offers an exceptional golfing experience at Springbrook Country Club.

Getting involved is easy. The Parks and Recreation Department offers 20 different organized programs ranging from basketball to Tae Kwon Do. Groups such as the

DeWitt Running Club, Disc Golf and Pickleball Leagues have a healthy following and welcome all levels of experience.

Annual race events such as the Skeffington Memorial Race and the First Central Crossroads Triathlon, draw people from all over the region. For the first time this

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**Westbrook Park has over 5 miles of walking trails, nearly 5 miles of mountain bike trails, an 18-hole disc golf course, 4 ball diamonds, 6.3 acres of soccer fields and even two dog runs.**

year, a Live Healthy Iowa 5K Race will culminate the annual Get Fit DeWitt 10-week health and wellness challenge.

With a bounty of recreational amenities, a vast range of fitness classes and multi-leveled sport programs to join, DeWitt continues to show a commitment for a healthier, fit community. This is how ***DeWitt Delivers Recreation.***



## Did you know?

**Springbrook Country Club is celebrating its Centennial year in DeWitt and is still going strong!**





# DeWitt*Delivers* Attractions



## Culture, History & Entertainment

**A**llured by the culture, history and events, people are drawn to the area to explore the rich attractions DeWitt has to offer.

On a sight-seeing tour through the historic downtown district, visit the Central Community Historical Society & Museum which captures DeWitt's culture and 150 years of history through permanent and rotating displays. Enjoy the 1878 Operahouse Theatre which hosts popular box office movies and the DeWitt Noon Lions Travelogue Series. The Regionalist art of the celebrated DeWitt native, John Bloom, can be admired in a notable life-size mural and several Bloom replications throughout the downtown area.

Adventure north to see the placard marking the historic crossing of the two original transnational highways, giving salute to the city's "Crossroads to Opportunity" slogan. While you are there, visit the relocated and reassembled 1727 German Hausbarn Museum, originally built in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany showcasing the history of migration of Schleswig-Holstein Germans in America and to DeWitt. This local landmark is also the home of our DeWitt Chamber and Development Company. A few blocks north of the Crossroads stands

the distinctive DeWitt Area Veterans Memorial, honoring individuals from DeWitt and surrounding areas who served their country through military service.

Partake in community fun throughout the year at popular DeWitt events such as the 4th of July parade, John Bloom Arts Festival, Autumn Fest, Hometown Christmas and many more. Attend performances throughout the

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**DeWitt boasts the historic crossing of  
the *two original transnational*  
highways, giving salute to the city's  
"Crossroads to Opportunity."**

year at the Central DeWitt Performing Arts Center (CDPAC), the premier regional stop for performing artists and home for the new DeWitt community theater group, On The Edge Productions.

Whether it's the culture, the history, or the enjoyable community events - DeWitt is sure to charm your interests. This is how *DeWitt Delivers Attractions!*

## Did you know?

The Operahouse Theatre is **138 years** young, hosts a variety of events and features the First Central Art Gallery.



## Notes

(Keep track of important names, numbers and notions as you get to know DeWitt!)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.





# Did you know?



**DeWitt continues to grow.**

The population has increased by 5.4% and the footprint has expanded by 500 acres since 2000.

DeWitt has at least 61 volunteer organizations.

40% of Central DeWitt Community School District teachers hold a Master's Degree

Many DeWitt retailers place individual orders for customers for items not in the store – at no extra cost.

DeWitt is home to more than 300 businesses and organizations.

The average property for-sale price in DeWitt is \$152,400.

10% of taxes paid to the City of DeWitt are from manufacturing businesses.

\$30,000 was spent on Chamber Bucks in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. A direct boost to DeWitt's economy.