



DeWitt Chamber & Development Company Newsletter

June 2020

Letter from the Executive Director -

As a combined Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Organization, the DCDC focuses our efforts on supporting existing business, attracting new business and assisting in enhancing the quality of life in our community. I absolutely LOVE that mission; it empowers us to be supportive of so many great community initiatives as well as leading our own program or work.



Last week the DCDC held our annual Year in Review and Member Choice Awards via Zoom due to COVID-19, social distancing recommendations, and in recognition that this event is usually near 150 people! In my comments, I noted that 2019-2020 has been an interesting year, for so many reasons. The first 3 quarters of the fiscal year were a lot of business as usual. The last quarter, well we all know how crazy and unique things have been!

We emailed the attendees our 2019-2020 Annual Report, click [here](#) to view it. We've highlighted some of this year's accomplishments that we are proudest of. Some of the numbers decreased from last year due to COVID-19 restrictions on hosting in person events.

What I'm most excited to share is that despite the unique challenges of the last few months, many of these metrics increased! We promoted more community events, welcomed more members, and saw a 450% increase in views of our Employment/Volunteer Opportunities page on our website. The first part of the year we were experiencing record low unemployment numbers. Business was booming and it seemed like everyone was hiring!

This past year we welcomed 19 new members, and saw a 93% retention rate. To me, this really illustrates the broad and ongoing support the DCDC has compared to national average of 87% for chambers our size. Our Board of Directors has chosen to delay asking our membership for renewals until later this summer. We hope that all our 250 members can rebound from the effects of the pandemic, but realistically we know some will be challenged to do so. If financial adversity from the pandemic prevents you from maintaining your DCDC

membership, please contact me to discuss your situation.

[Click here for lots more comments from the night ...](#)

Due to COVID-19, my forecast for our 2020-2021 is a bit unclear, as I'm sure it is for all of you. Just as our community and businesses are adapting to doing business in a new COVID-19 world, so will the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company. That being said, I am confident we will continue with our current program of work, plus more!

I was recently asked how my job has changed since the pandemic. My answer was that it hadn't changed very much. I'm still supporting and promoting our members and community. The ways the DCDC is doing that has just evolved to fit the needs of our members. Just as all of you are pivoting on how you are running your businesses, so is the DCDC.

I'm looking forward to navigating these new waters with all of you!

Sincerely,



Note These Dates



- **July 11** - [Family Movie Night in the Park](#), showing The Lion King
- **July 23** - [DCDC 101](#)
- **July 30** - [DCDC Golf Bash](#)
- **August 8** - [Family Movie Night in the Park](#) - showing Toy Story 4
- **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!](#)

The DCDC office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of the Fourth of July holiday.

We wish you a safe and fun holiday filled with family and friends.

We will reopen on Monday, July 6th at 9 am.

Membership News

2020 DCDC GOLF BASH FUNDRAISER

[DCDC Golf Bash Fundraiser](#) is back on Thursday, July 30th at [Springbrook Country Club](#).



Watch for emails with more info about the event!

[Want to Sponsor?? Email Molly!](#)

[Want to Play?? CLICK HERE!](#)

[Check out photos from last years Golf Bash here!](#)

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

[DeWitt Theatre Company](#)

The DeWitt Theater Company is a community nonprofit led by a board of directors dedicated to the preservation and sustainability of the DeWitt Operahouse Theatre.

[Hometown Pride - Francis Boggus](#)

Hometown Pride enhances long-term community cultural and economic vitality ? strengthening the community and increasing its chance for not simply survival, but growth with increased pride.

DCDC MEMBER CHOICE AWARDS

The 7th Annual DCDC Member's Choice Awards were awarded in each category at the annual DCDC Year In Review!

Congratulations to all of our WINNERS!

[Click here to read each award's criteria and a comment about the winners.](#)

2020 Member Choice Award Winners

<p>Excellence in Social Media Central DeWitt School District</p>	<p>Excellence in Customer Service Murphy's Pub</p>	<p>Best Workplace Genesis Medical Center-DeWitt</p>	<p>Most Promising New Business DQ Grill & Chill</p>
<p>Non-Profit of the Year The Referral Center</p>	<p>Friend of the Year Matt McGuire-First Central State Bank</p>	<p>Business of the Year Emma Rae's Antiques & Uniques</p>	

DCDC Year in Review - Annual Meeting

DCDC Year in Review - Virtual Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, June 25, 2020. The DCDC staff welcomed nearly 100 participants and a couple watch parties on our Zoom event.



Due to COVID-19 restrictions and in an effort to practice safe social distancing, this year's event was held virtually. But we still got to celebrate and reflect on a great year supporting the growth and vibrancy of our business community! Even though the pandemic has made doing business more challenging, as a community we continue to be supportive and positive.

[Click here to view the 2019-2020 DCDC Year in Review Annual Report.](#)

Thank you to everyone who was able to zoom with us and celebrate what a great year we had and all the exciting things to come!

Thank You to our Title and Gold sponsors!



Things everyone needs to know...

Summer Movie Night 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!**

Join us on [July 11th for The Lion King](#)

Plan to bring your family and friends, blankets or chairs, and snacks!

It's a great way to enjoy a free night out in DeWitt!

Sponsored By:

[David Linder - State Farm](#)
[Edward Jones Investments - Will Froeschle](#)
[Smilee's Ice Cream and More](#)

[Join us again on August 8th for Toy Story 4!](#)

Wine Walk Wrap Up



On Thursday, June 4th, the DCDC hosted the very first "DeWitt's Wine Walk!" The event took place from 5-7 pm along 6th Ave. and the adjoining side streets. We welcomed over 200 participants to visit over 20 locations in our downtown!

We were excited to welcome residents, visitors, and employees of DeWitt the opportunity to shop and experience Downtown 6th Ave, while enjoying FREE beverages provided by participating businesses! To see downtown DeWitt full of pedestrians was a welcome sight after a long couple of months of closures!

[Click here to see photos from DeWitt's Wine Walk!](#)

COVID-19 Grant and Loan Updates!

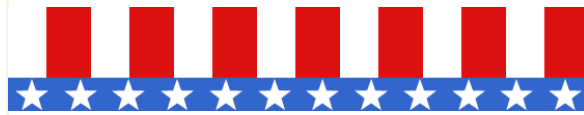
EIDL Program Reopened Again

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced they have reopened the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance program portal to all eligible applicants, including U.S. small businesses and nonprofits. After funds for the program were replenished in April, the SBA limited access to these funds to agricultural businesses, only. We are pleased to announce that they have opened applications back up to other industries in need of relief. For more information on EIDL programs, please reference the U.S. Travel Association [fact sheet](#).

Updates to PPP

The new [Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020](#) made several enhancements to the [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#). This new change in the law gives companies more time and flexibility to spend the PPP funds in order to achieve as much loan forgiveness as possible.

Be sure to reach out to your local lender with questions about your PPP loan.



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

[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



VOLUNTEER
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.

Happening" e-newsletter
and in this monthly
newsletter.

[View current
employment
opportunities here!](#)

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!

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!

**Congratulations to our May Look Local First Drawing
Winner - Monica Soppe!
Monica won \$50 in Chamber Bucks!!**

Watch Facebook for our LIVE Look Local First drawings the last business day of the month.

Watch for details of our Look Local First Summer Promotion!



**DeWitt
Chamber &
Development
Company**

**1010 6th Ave
DeWitt IA 52742**

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