



**DeWitt
Chamber &
Development
Company**

DCDC Monthly

February 2016

Letter from the Executive Director

Advocating for a stronger county

Each year Clinton County leaders travel to Des Moines to meet with our Legislators and State leaders. It's an opportunity to establish new connections, build stronger relationships and most importantly, share the story of what is most important to Clinton County businesses, cities, farmers and residents.

This year, that visit occurred on February 11th. It was my first time on such a trip and it was a great experience. Our delegation included nearly thirty individuals from DeWitt, Camanche, and Clinton. We were well represented and made a significant impression on those we met with; including Governor Branstad, majority and minority leaders of both the house and senate, Senator Hart, and Representatives Wolfe and Mommsen. We discussed topics that impact the success of our entire county including:

- County and Municipal
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Regionalization of Social Services and Human Services
- Education
- Healthcare



2016 Clinton County Day at the Capital

If you have any questions regarding the above topics, or would like to learn more about the trip, let me know. I'd welcome the opportunity to schedule a time to meet.

It is important to share our voice, and express what we need to support our community's growth, development, and overall economic health!

Thank you!

P.S. Want to add your voice? Join us March 5th at our next Legislative Coffee. Mark your calendar for our next Clinton County Day at the Capital, January 24, 2017.

Save the Date

3.5.16 Legislative Coffee at DeWitt Community Center, 11-noon

3.17.16 SBDC Counseling Opportunity at the DCDC

3.17.16 Revive After Five - Holst Construction LLC/Holst Rental [Register Now](#)

4.9.16 Legislative Coffee at DeWitt Community Center, 11-noon

4.21.16 DCDC 101 at the DCDC office [Register Now](#)

4.21.16 SBDC Counseling Opportunity at the DCDC

4.21.16 Revive After Five - Skeffington Memorial Race [Register Now](#)

[Click here to view our Community Events Calendar!](#)

Facade Improvement Grant Applications Due March 11

For the second year, the Downtown DeWitt Improvement District (DDID) and the City of DeWitt are offering a Facade Improvement Grant program to property owners located within the Downtown Improvement District. Grants of up to \$2500 in funds can be awarded to property owners (with a 100% match from the property owner) who want to make visible exterior improvements to their commercial buildings. Examples of projects include paint, signage, and awnings. Applications are due by March 11, 2016. To learn more about the Facade Improvement Grant program and for helpful links to improvement ideas, please visit the City of DeWitt's website at www.cityofdewittiowa.org.



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LEGISLATIVE COFFEE



The coffee offers an opportunity for Clinton County residents to weigh in on important legislation under discussion in Des Moines.

March 5th 11am-Noon

(Note date change-originally scheduled March 12th)

DeWitt Community Center, Small Room

512 10th St., DeWitt

April 9th 11am-Noon

DeWitt Community Center, Small Room

512 10th St., DeWitt

The 2016 Legislative Coffee Program is sponsored by the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company and Clinton County Farm Bureau.



"eat Lunch & Learn something"

Chief Porter with the Dewitt Police Department led a very interactive Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis for businesses during the February 9th "eat Lunch & Learn something" program. Participants took away action items that they plan on implementing within their own businesses. Thank you again to Chief Porter!



The next quarterly "eat Lunch & Learn something" will be on May 17th covering a Personal Assessment of the Traits and Habits (PATH) to Success. This 90 minute workshop will help you better understand your traits and habits through a variety of questions, exercises, and assessments. This program will be presented by Michael Edmondson, Ph.D. Associate Vice President in Career Development with Augustana College. [Register for this program here.](#)

If you are interested in sponsoring a 2016 "eat Lunch & Learn something" program, we have one available. Investment is \$200 and with that you get: 4 free admissions to the program, opportunity to speak to attendees at the beginning of the program to showcase your product/service and your business logo on all marketing materials, including the DCDC website. Contact Emily Schmitt eventscoordinator@dewittiowa.org if you would like to claim this sponsorship.

Visit our [DCDC website community calendar](#) for a full list other DCDC programs & events!

DeWitt Delivers Campaign

Over the course of the next year, a specific DeWitt sector/topic/asset will be highlighted each month on the [CDC website](#), [community blog](#), social media, in [the Observer](#), and throughout the community. The goal of this community-wide DeWitt Delivers Marketing Campaign is to educate our local residents and businesses about these assets and instill a sense to LIVE LOCAL, GET INVOLVED, and BE PROUD of our progressive, vibrant community.

Monthly topics:

July – Community Overview

August -- Education

Sept – Housing

October -- Manufacturing

Nov -- Shopping & Dining

Dec -- Civic organizations / non-profits /
volunteer opportunities

Jan – Healthcare

Feb – Services

March – Agriculture

April -- Recreation

May – Civil Servants (fire, police, city gov't)

June -- Attractions

[See the full February article here](#)

[Click here to see all the "Did you know?" facts about Professional Services](#)

Don't forget to check out and subscribe to the [DeWitt Delivers Community Blog!!!](#)

Member Spotlight: Clinton County Farm Bureau

Clinton County Farm Bureau is the county office of a grassroots, statewide organization that is dedicated to helping farm families prosper and improve their quality of life. More than 159,000 urban and rural families in Iowa, 2665 of those being in Clinton County, are Farm Bureau members, working together to achieve economic growth, educational improvement, and environmental quality in their community. The organization includes both farming and non-farming members. As a grassroots organization, they are the only organization in Iowa with a presence in every county. They have a significant infrastructure in place to reach all Iowans. The Farm Bureau is proud to support Iowa through: State and local youth scholarships of over \$250,000 annually, Clinton County awards \$4000 in scholarships to local students. Teacher training and classroom programs to integrate agriculture into today's curriculum. They hold an Ag in the Classroom day at the Camanche Elementary school each year, poster and writing contests for the county schools, participate in Tunes in Town and are a sponsor of the Clinton County Fair. Sponsorship of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.



Keep Your Information Up-to-Date

Recently, primary representatives for your business were sent an email reminding them to update the information for their business in the Member Information Center (MIC) via the DCDC website. Your DCDC membership provides excellent opportunities for your organization to attract new customers and share information with our community, the region and even internationally. Don't frustrate your customers - make sure everyone has access to complete, up-to-date information! ***Completing your profile is critical to gaining increased visibility and exposure!*** To get you started, click on the links for instructions on how to update your [company profile](#). In addition, here are instructions to [update your personal profile](#), [manage and use events](#) and [add a job posting](#). If you have any questions or need assistance utilizing the MIC, please email admin@dewitiowa.org.





**DeWitt
Chamber &
Development
Company**

Looking to Start a Business or Need Some Existing Business Advice?

What: Free, Confidential and Individualized Counseling Sessions

When: Third Thursday each month

(Appointments are available at 9 & 10:30 am, 1:00 & 2:30 pm)

Where: 1010 6th Ave. DeWitt, IA

(DeWitt Chamber & Development Company Office)

The DCDC has partnered with Joel Youngs, Director of the Eastern Iowa Small Business Development Center, to bring his services to DeWitt on the third Thursday of each month. Joel will be available to meet either existing businesses or individuals looking to start their own business and provide counseling on a variety of topics, including but not limited to:

- New business guidance
- Business planning and modeling
- Loan proposal assistance
- Financing opportunities
- Market research services
- Profitability analysis
- Cash flow projections
- Business growth and succession strategies
- Strategic planning
- Business continuity planning



**To sign up for a free, confidential one-hour session,
please call the SBDC at 563-336-3401 or email
jeyoungs@eicc.edu**

Revive After Five

A big "thank you" to [Clinton County Farm Bureau](#) for hosting the February Revive After Five. Whisk Away created a great spread of appetizers made from locally grown products, they also chose to serve locally made wines and spirits. Farm Bureau board members shared their area of expertise when it came to agriculture with the group. Plan on joining us for the next Revive After Five with [Holst Construction LLC/Holst Rental](#) on March 17th. [CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

All DCDC member employees are welcome and encouraged to attend these worthwhile and relaxing networking events!



Check out more photos from the 2016 Revives on our [Facebook page](#)! Feel free to tag yourself or others in our photos!



2016 Revive After Five Schedule

Revive anytime between 5-7PM on the 3rd Thursday of the month and join other professionals for these "open house" style networking events! Enjoy a variety of great food, beverages and prizes in a laidback setting while getting to know other DCDC members and learning about the hosting business. *All DCDC member employees are welcome and encouraged to attend!*

March 17th - Holst Construction & Rental

April 21st– Skeffington Memorial Race

May 19th - Black Cat Blades

June, July, August -Summer Break

September 15th– THE CROSSROADS Inspired Living

October 20th- Family Resources Inc.

November – LincolnWay Foundation

December - Holiday Break



First Dollar Presentations

In February, the DeWitt Ambassadors welcomed TC's Point After, Valore Sole and Shears to You inside Valore Sole with First Dollar presentations. Congratulations on your new businesses! We wish you years of success!



DeWitt Ambassadors welcome new TC's owner, David Konrardy.



DeWitt Ambassadors welcome Shears to You Inside Valore Sole owner Lyndsey Betts and Valore Sole owner Amanda Moss.

Welcome New DCDC Members!

TC's Point After

719 6th Ave.

DeWitt, IA 52742

(563) 659-8188

T.C's Point After is a little family friendly place in DeWitt, Iowa to enjoy great food with big taste. Ranging from salads and burgers to Prime Rib Steak and Seafood. It's also the home of Chuckie's Iowa famous breaded pork tenderloin. Stop out and enjoy some awesome food and friendly atmosphere.

One Step, Inc

806 W. 4th St.

Davenport, IA 52802

(563) 529-2807

<http://print1step.com/>

One Step, Inc. offers full service marketing programs to our clients. With a variety of solutions including in house digital and offset print, promotional and premiums, complete web and graphic design, mail fulfillment, kitting and warehousing, we create a cohesive brand with printed and digital assets.



DeWitt: Top Place for Families

DeWitt was ranked #11 for the Best Towns In Iowa To Raise A Family recently, a website called Niche released the list. Niche is an online community data source focused specifically on helping students, families, and professionals make major life decisions. To determine the best places in Iowa, they looked at factors like crime, education, access to libraries and grocery stores and much more. [Check out the website here.](#)



Get Involved!

Interested in Being a DCDC Board Member?

Are you a DCDC member that has a strong desire to make DeWitt a better place to live, work, play and do business? Have you ever considered making that happen through your participation as a DCDC board member? If so, now is the time to contact Angela Rheingans to express your interest and to learn more about this role.

Please contact Angela at 659-8500 by **March 7** to discuss this opportunity in more detail.



DCDC Committee Opportunities

Committee participation is a great way for members to get involved behind the scenes and help make things happen! Every committee is comprised of volunteers who want to give back to the community and gain exposure. Based upon your interests and schedule, you can be active on as many committees as you like.

- Help plan events such as Autumn Fest, DCDC Golf Bash Fundraiser and Hometown Christmas.
- Members can also serve on the Branding/Community Relations Committee or Member Development Committee.

Contact [Emily Schmitt](#) for more information or to join a committee!

Thank You!

Mission Statement

The DCDC's mission is to lead, inform, advocate and advance business interests and promote community growth. Our core focus is to support existing businesses, attract new businesses, and assist in enhancing the quality of life for our community.

DCDC Board of Directors

Greg Gannon, DeWitt Bank & Trust, Chair

Dan Peterson, Central Community School District, Vice Chair

Brian Volkens, First Central State Bank, Treasurer

Wayne Stuedemann, Ag Spectrum

Don Thiltgen, DeWitt Mayor

Dave Deke, Deke Insurance

Merle Ocken, DeWitt Resident

Steve Lindner, DeWitt City Administrator

Tina Lively, DeWitt Bank Tax & Accounting Services

Garey Chrones, City Council Representative

Luanne Smith, City Council Representative

Kasey Kleinsmith, Flowers on the Side

Kim Broders, Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors

Kevin Jansen, Jansen Electric

Roddy Greig, Guardian Industries Corp

Steve Shupp, Alliant Energy—Ex-Officio Member

DCDC Staff

Angela Rheingans, Executive Director

Emily Schmitt, Programs & Events Coordinator

Jenny McGarry, Business Education Coordinator

Stephanie Sagers, Administrative Assistant

Sara Hasenmiller, Marketing Intern

DeWitt Chamber & Development Company

1010 6th Ave

DeWitt, IA 52742

Phone: 563-659-8500

Email: info@dewittiowa.org

Website: www.dewittiowa.org

Hours: M-F, 9-4



Connect with the DCDC



www.dewittiowa.org