



**DeWitt  
Chamber &  
Development  
Company**

# DCDC Monthly

March 2015

## **2015 REBATE PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED: ALLIANT ENERGY READY TO ASSIST DEWITT'S COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUSINESSES**

Existing businesses in the DeWitt area can save money and reduce energy consumption by pinpointing usage and waste. One of DeWitt area's longstanding partners, Alliant Energy, has released their 2015 Iowa Commercial and Industrial Rebate Guide. To view the rebate guide, [click here](#). If your business would like to become more energy-efficient, Alliant Energy will send a professional energy analyst to your facility to conduct an Energy Audit using the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE) guidelines.

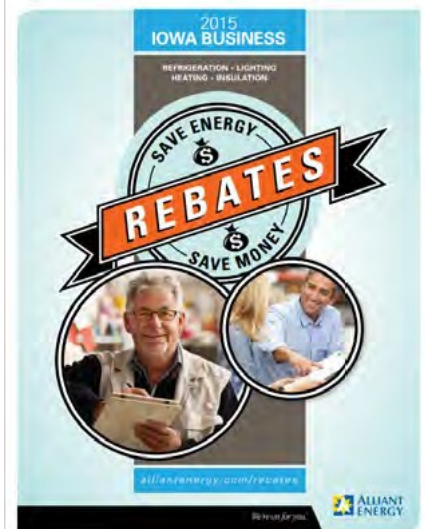
### **Energy Audit and Rebates**

Alliant's Energy Audit is free and provides information for DeWitt-area businesses' energy performance and offers details to help prioritize investments in energy-efficiency upgrades. These investments can help DeWitt area companies reduce energy use and operating costs.

Also, if your business is considering improvements to your facility or manufacturing processes, be sure to consider Alliant's standard and custom rebates. Projects that result in a reduction of kWh or therms are potentially eligible for rebates. Pre-approval is required to participate.

Once an audit is scheduled, it will involve: Collecting and studying historical energy usage; Studying the building's operational characteristics; Identifying and analyzing energy-saving modification opportunities; And, prioritizing strategies that will have the greatest impact. Once an audit is complete, Alliant will provide a report that includes: A description of energy-consuming systems; A (12) Twelve-month billing analysis; A Determination of energy consumption (by end-use); A benchmark analysis of energy use and costs against peer facilities; And, energy-saving recommendations with estimated costs and financial metrics.

If your existing business has questions, you can contact Paula Schneckloth at Alliant Energy at (563) 244-9686 or via e-mail at [PaulaSchneckloth@alliantenergy.com](mailto:PaulaSchneckloth@alliantenergy.com). The DCDC is also at your service to make a connection and provide direction.



## Congressman Loeb sack Visits Whisk Away Cafe and Bakery

The DCDC facilitated a visit between Congressman Loeb sack and Laura Prichard, owner of Whisk Away Cafe and Bakery and The Garden Cafe during the afternoon of February 28th. Laura was able to provide the Congressman with an overview of her main street businesses and the different challenges and opportunities she faces as a small business owner.



From left: DeWitt Mayor Don Thiltgen, Senator Rita Hart, U.S. Congressman Dave Loeb sack and Laura Prichard.

## Are you looking to market your products and services worldwide?

The International Division of the Iowa Economic Development Authority has partnered with Ken Horner of Horner Global Marketing to work with Iowa small businesses that want to expand their sales into the international market. Iowa has received some State Trade Export Promotion (STEP) grant funds to be dispersed to eligible small businesses to help them exhibit at international trade shows.



If you are interested in learning more about international trade shows, please contact Ken at [712-362-5511](tel:712-362-5511). If you would like to learn how the International Office can help Iowa companies--including individual consultation, educational seminars, technical assistance, marketing assistance and targeted financial assistance--please visit <http://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/Intl/InternationalAssistance> or contact the DCDC office at 659-8500.

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

**What: Free, Confidential and Individualized Counseling Sessions**

**When: Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Noon — 4 pm (by appointment)**

**Where: 1010 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. DeWitt IA**

**(DeWitt Chamber & Development Company Office)**

The DCDC has partnered with Marsha Rinetti, Director of the Eastern Iowa Small Business Development Center, to bring her services to DeWitt on the third Tuesday of each month. Marsha will be available to speak to both existing businesses and 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
- Export assistance
- Cash flow projections
- Business growth and succession strategies
- Strategic planning
- Business continuity planning



**To sign up for a free, confidential one-hour session, please contact Kathy at the SBDC at 563-336-3401 by April 14<sup>th</sup>.**



## DCDC Revive After Five - Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors

A big "thank you" to **Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors** for hosting the February Revive After Five Event!

Plan on joining us for the next Revive After Five tonight at **Necker's Jewelers**.

Mark your calendars for our April 16th Revive After Five with **Friends of Frances**.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP.](#)

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



## Save the Date

**3.19.15** Revive After Five at Necker's Jewelers

**3.21.15** Legislative Coffee @ DeWitt Comm. Center

**4.16.15** Revive After Five with Friends of Frances

**4.21.15** SBDC Counseling Opportunity at the DCDC

**4.23.15** DCDC 101 @ the Hausbarn

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

# LEGISLATIVE COFFEES



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

**March 21st 11am-Noon  
DeWitt Community Center (large room),  
512 10th St., DeWitt**

**April 18th 11am-Noon  
DeWitt City Hall, 510 9th St., DeWitt**

The 2015 Legislative Coffee Program is sponsored by the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company and Clinton County Farm Bureau.





## Member Spotlight: Ruhl&Ruhl REALTORS

It all started in a little German grocery store in west Davenport, from which insurance and real estate also were sold. Five generations and thousands of homes later, Caroline Ruhl leads Ruhl&Ruhl REALTORS today. She follows her father, Charles A Ruhl, who succeeded his father, John G. Ruhl. Caroline's son, Chris Beason, joined the company in 2009 as a sales associate and is currently the manager of the Bettendorf Office and a co-owner of the company. RuhlHomes.com receives over 2800 visits daily and mobileRuhl has over 8000 active users.

### **Real Estate Services**

Ruhl&Ruhl REALTORS annually sell more than 5,000 homes in eastern Iowa, western Illinois and southwest Wisconsin. The company has residential sales offices in Bettendorf, Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Davenport, DeWitt, Dubuque, Iowa City, Maquoketa, Muscatine, and Washington, Iowa; and in Moline, Illinois. In addition to residential sales, the company offers services in relocation, property management, real estate investment, new home sales, land development, farm and land sales, senior services, home vendor services, insurance services through the Nelson Brothers Agency and mortgage services through Ruhl Mortgage.

### **"Our People Make the Difference"**

Ruhl&Ruhl REALTORS has grown to more than 300 sales associates and 58 employees. Ruhl&Ruhl REALTORS is committed to providing service with quality, value and integrity.

Ruhl&Ruhl REALTORS started in DeWitt in 1994. The local office has seven agents and two employees. Jacobson Farms, a new subdivision exclusively marketed by Ruhl & Ruhl, will start construction this spring offering single family homes, attached villas and townhomes. For more information, call the DeWitt office at 659-9433.



## First Dollar Presentation

In February, the DeWitt Ambassadors welcomed owner Nate Yoerger of Yoerger Automotive & Exhaust with a First Dollar presentation. Congratulations on your new business! We wish you years of success!



## Welcome New DCDC Member!

### Emma Rae's Antiques & Uniques

714 6th Avenue  
DeWitt, IA 52742  
(563) 579-4688

Emma Rae's Antiques & Uniques is DeWitt, Iowa's newest antique mall that sells antiques, collectibles, unique gifts and other products that are rare to the area. With over 10,000 square feet of space and 50 booths, there is a treasure for everyone to find. Whether you're looking for something vintage or need that unique gift for someone special, Emma Rae's brings to life the old and adds a unique touch to the new. We offer:

Antiques | Collectibles | Primitives | Artisans | Unique Gifts |  
And More!

**Emma Rae's is now accepting dealers!** Be the first to get in on this exciting business opportunity! Call Teddy today at 1-563-579-4688 to get a prime booth location.



## 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  
Brian Volkens, First Central State Bank, Treasurer  
Wayne Stuedemann, Ag Spectrum,  
Don Thiltgen, DeWitt Mayor  
Mary Rueter, DeWitt Resident  
Dave Deke, Deke Insurance  
Dawn Marcus, City Council Representative  
Merle Ocken, DeWitt Resident  
Dan Peterson, Central Community School District  
Steve Lindner, DeWitt City Administrator  
Tina Lively, DeWitt Bank Tax & Accounting Services  
Garey Chrones, Office Machine Consultants  
Luanne Smith, City Council Representative  
Joe Tabor, ITW Fluids North America  
Kasey Kleinsmith, Flowers on the Side  
Kim Broders, Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors

## DCDC Staff

Tami Petsche, Executive Director  
Emily Schmitt, Programs & Events Coordinator  
Stephanie Sagers, Administrative Assistant  
Madeleine Blandin, Marketing Intern

## DeWitt Chamber & Development Company

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Website: [www.dewittiowa.org](http://www.dewittiowa.org)  
Hours: M-F, 9-4



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Connect with the DCDC



[www.dewittiowa.org](http://www.dewittiowa.org)