



DeWitt Chamber and Development Company Newsletter

November 2018

Letter from the Executive Director

First there was Black Friday, then Cyber Monday, and then eight years ago, the first ever Small Business Saturday (SBS), a nationwide movement dedicated to supporting small businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, just as citizens begin their holiday shopping in earnest!

This year the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company (DCDC) has chosen to launch its 3rd Annual Look Local First Holiday Promotion on SBS to further celebrate the movement that helps communities thrive and stay vibrant by driving shoppers to local small business retailers, restaurants and service providers. Since its inception, the DCDC's LLF Initiative has captured more than \$2.28 MILLION in local purchase through our Loyalty Cards.



The support of the LLF Initiative, and by association the support of our local small businesses, mirrors what has been happening in small towns across the country. Specifically for retail purchases, consumer are choosing to shift more of their spending to small, local businesses. The reasons for the shift are varied, but tend to center around an individual's desire for a more personal shopping experience. While online shopping is convenient for some, it is an almost sterile transaction. Customers are instead looking for the "experience" of visiting a local shop, having the owner or trusted associate share what's just come in or seeking out a perfect gift for a loved one by visiting multiple businesses. They are looking for items that they can't find easily online, while enjoying their time selecting the "just right" home décor item, piece of jewelry or pair of shoes (just to name a few).

People prefer to do business with other people, and in a world of increased technology, shopping at or using the services of a small business allows us to personally connect with one another, if even for a moment.

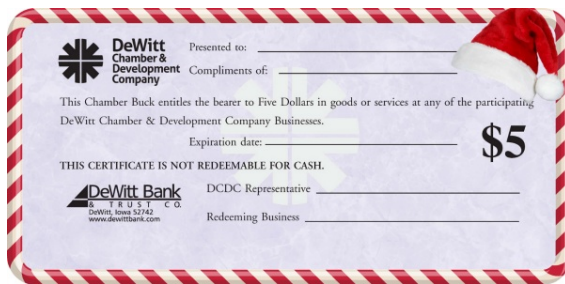
Anyone and everyone can get in on the fun of Small Business Saturday, which just happens to be THIS SATURDAY, November 24th. It's an easy and fun way to re-discover the amazing small businesses in DeWitt. Get up, get out and shop or dine at local small businesses,

invite your friends to shop with you, and share where you end up on your social networks. Be sure to tag your experience #LLFDeWitt. You can find a list of businesses offering special deals, offers and giveaways that day by checking out the Hot Deals at www.dewittiowa.org or by printing [this flyer](#). And don't forget to get your LLF Loyalty Card punched at participating businesses. Once you've filled it with \$200 of purchases, you can enter to win weekly prizes, and grand prizes drawn on December 19th, just in time for Christmas! (See below for additional details.)

Thank you for Looking Local First DeWitt, it does make a difference!

Hope to see you at Hometown Christmas, Saturday, December 1st!

Angela Breinzny



Give Chamber Bucks for Christmas Gifts & Holiday Bonuses!

Chamber Bucks come in \$5 and \$10 denominations and make an excellent local gift for the hard to buy for people on your list!

They are [accepted by 85 DCDC member businesses](#).
(Sorry, candy cane frame and Santa hat not included!)

Chamber Bucks are available for purchase at the DCDC office, [DeWitt Bank & Trust](#), [Emma Rae's](#), and [First Central State Bank](#).

[Email April](#) or call 659-8500 for orders over \$150. We'll have them ready for you to pick up!



Each year a group of volunteer elves brave the weather on a Sunday morning to hang DeWitt's Christmas lights.

"Thank You!" to [Gary's Electric](#), [Holst Construction](#), [REC/Eastern Iowa Light & Power](#), [DeWitt Nite Lions](#), the City of DeWitt, and the 4-H Hustler students & parents for giving your time to make DeWitt so festive!

If you're interested in helping take the lights down in January, [Email Angela!](#)
We can always use more help!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

[DJB Creations](#)
806 6th Ave, DeWitt
(563) 249-6828

DJB Creations specializes in custom wood

creations, including tables of all sizes, benches, shelves, and beds! They also custom design and print koozies, t-shirts, home decor, pillows, holiday items, and more! Bring them your pinterest ideas and they'll make it for you!



Congratulations!



Congratulations to our Executive Director, Angela Rheingans, on her graduation from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute on November 8th. OU EDI is an intensive 117 hour certificate program which provides a broad spectrum of advanced education for economic development professionals. OU EDI classes focus on three major core areas: Business Retention and Expansion, Real Estate, and Credit Analysis; as well as areas of concentration in Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Planning, and Managing Economic Development Organizations. Students complete the program through a series of in-person seminars, workshops and discussion groups.

Note These Dates!

- **November 22** - Thanksgiving Day, DCDC Office Closed
- **November 23** - DCDC Office Closed
- **November 24** - **Small Business Saturday!** Look for the DCDC girls shopping around town! **Click here for all the HOT DEALS in DeWitt!**
- **November 26** - LLF Spotlight at **DeWitt Eyecare**
- **December 1** - **Hometown Christmas** Activities 9 am - 9 pm
- **December 3** - LLF Spotlight at **DeWitt Bank and Trust**
- **December 10** - LLF Spotlight at **Meant To Be with Flowers**
- **December 12** - **Santa Hut Open** - Visit Santa at 622 6th Ave
- **December 17** - LLF Spotlight at **Randy's Neighborhood Market**
- **December 17** - LLF Holiday Promotion Grand Prize Drawings

DEWITT AMBASSADORS: Spotlight on Success and First Dollar Presentations



21 Chop House First Dollar Presentation

21 Chop House
2122 17th Ave, DeWitt
563.659.1921

- **December 19 - [Santa Hut Open](#)**
Visit Santa at 622 6th Ave
- **December 24 - Christmas Eve,**
DCDC Office Closed
- **December 25 - Christmas Day,**
DCDC Office Closed
- **January 17 - [Revive After Five at 21 Chop House & Springbrook Country Club](#)**



Saber Storage First Dollar Presentation

Saber Storage

329 S 6th Ave, DeWitt
563.659.3094



Sisters Salon First Dollar Presentation

Sisters Salon

1004 8th Ave, DeWitt
515.291.9092

Hometown Christmas 12.1.2018



NEW this Year!

All morning kids activities will be held at **[Emmaus Road Church!](#)**

Wreath Contest & Silent Auction:

Drop off your wreath at First Central State Bank between November 19th

Kid's Christmas Carnival

9 - 11 AM: [Emmaus Road Church](#)

Santa arrives at the to visit with children and listen to their wish lists, 25-cent carnival games, make-it and take-it craft tables, carnival prizes and indoor snowball fight!

Visits with Santa are FREE - but we ask that you bring a non-perishable item to donate to the Referral Center.

Family Christmas Movie*

11:15 AM: Doors open at the DeWitt Operahouse Theater. Hot-dog lunch sponsored by the DeWitt Nite Lions before the movie.

11:45 AM: Home Alone

*For safety purposes, children must be escorted

and the 24th. Wreaths will be displayed at the bank until Hometown Christmas. Silent auction bidding starts as soon as the wreaths are dropped off and ends at 7 pm on Dec. 1st. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will go to the DeWitt Chamber Foundation, which supports the Christmas lights downtown.

Click [HERE](#) to download entry form.

FREE Dinner in the Community Center from 5-7 PM, provided by the DeWitt Nite Lions! (They will be collecting donations for the Referral Center.) Bake Sale By the DeWitt Junior Women will also be held in the Community Center.



DeWitt's Hometown Christmas
Saturday, December 1st

9-11 AM: Santa's Arrival & Photo Opportunity *New Location!* Emmaus Road Church, 1811 Elmwood Rd. Santa arrives via fire truck at 9 AM to visit with children and take photos. NEW "Santa Picture Pass" will be available to all children to avoid waiting in a long line. *Photos with Santa are free with a canned food donation for the Referral Center.*

9-11 AM: Children's Christmas Carnival *New Location!* Emmaus Road Church
ALL NEW 25c carnival games, carnival prizes, make & take crafts, and an indoor snowball fight. *Suggested for ages 12 and under. All 25c contributions will be donated to a well construction in Chad, Africa.*

11:45 AM: Family Holiday Movie at the DeWitt Operahouse Theater Doors open at 11:15 AM. Free entrance and a free hot-dog lunch provided by the DeWitt Nite Lions with a canned food donation for the Referral Center. Concession stand will also be available. "Home Alone" will be shown. For safety purposes, children must be escorted to and from the movie if parents are not attending. Entrance into the movie and lunch are based on a first-come first-served basis, space and quantities are limited.

5 PM: Lighted Pickup Parade down 6th Ave. (Visit Lighted Pickup Parade on Facebook for additional details.) Following the Lighted Pickup Parade will be the "Christmas Tree Lighting in Lincoln Park."

5:15 PM: Live Window Walk Live & Lit Holiday Windows, Warming Stations, Christmas Hidden Letter Search, Campfire Snore's, Live Nativity Scene, Gingerbread House Contest, Holiday Wreath Contest & Silent Auction, Nite Lions dinner (free with canned food donation) with bake sale, and more. Many businesses will have extended hours. (Gingerbread and Holiday Wreath Contest registration forms can be picked up at the DeWitt Chamber & Development Company office, DeWitt Bank & Trust, First Central State Bank or online at dewittowa.org.)

7 PM: Adult Holiday Movie Doors open at the DeWitt Operahouse Theater. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Regular admission charged. "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" will be shown. Holiday spirited beverages will be provided.

MISTLETOE SPONSORS
OPERAHOUSE THEATER, XTREAM, KRIEGER'S DIFFERENCE, Emmaus Road Church

SNOWFLAKE SPONSORS
Black Cat Wear Parts, DeWitt Nite Lions, First Central State Bank, Guardian Industries, HI Mississippi Valley Credit Union, Jorgie's Bar & Grill, Necker's Jewelers, V.P. Sheridan Insurance

JUNGLE BELL SPONSORS
DeWitt Bank & Trust, DeWitt Memorial, Edward Jones-Will Frieschle, Emmaus Road's Antiques & Unique, Iowa Mutual Insurance, J&J Lovencare, Kirby Water Conditioning, KNOX Radio Station, Kwik Star, Mead to be with Flowers, MOM's Nail & Spa, Ruhl & Ruhl Realtors, Scott Thrifty White Drug & Gift Shop, Sheridan & Associates Insurance

to and from the movie if the parent/guardian is not attending. Entrance into the movie and lunch are based on a first-come first-served basis, space and quantities are limited.

Live Window Walk

5 - 7 PM: Live & Lit Holiday Windows, Wreath Contest & Silent Auction, DeWitt Nite Lions Dinner at Community Center, Gingerbread House Contest ([download the registration form](#)), Warming Stations, Activities and Caroling in the Downtown area.

Lighted Pickup Parade

5 PM: Lighted Pickup Parade down 6th Ave, for more details or for information on how to be a part of the parade visit their **Facebook Page Lighted Pickup Parade** or email parade@gmail.com

Christmas Tree Lighting

5:15 PM: After the Lighted Pickup Parade, join us at Lincoln Park by the Community Center for the Lighting of the big Christmas Tree.

Adult Holiday Movie

7 PM: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation will be playing at the Operahouse Theater. Doors open at 6:30. Regular admission will be charged.

[Join the event on Facebook.](#)

Thank you to ALL our event 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

[Click here to check out "Read About It" articles posted by members!](#)



Do you like to have fun?
Are you interested in sharing your ideas and giving a bit of time to make the DCDC even better?

If you answered Yes! to either question,

Happening" e-newsletter
and in this monthly
newsletter.

[View current
employment
opportunities here!](#)

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!

[Email Angela](#) or call
659-8500 for more
information!

LOOK LOCAL FIRST WINNER!

Thank you to all that Look Local First
(LLF) & Congratulations to our October
winner, Darline Eickert!

Darline Kept her spending local and it
paid off with \$50 in Chamber Bucks!



Look Local First Holiday Drawing Schedule:

Monday, November 26 - Spotlight at DeWitt Eyecare
Wednesday, November 28 - Draw weekly Prize Winner
Monday, December 3 - Spotlight at DeWitt Bank & Trust
Wednesday, December 5 - Draw weekly Prize Winner
Monday, December 10 - Spotlight at Meant To Be with Flowers
Wednesday, December 12 - Draw weekly Prize Winner
Monday, December 17 - Spotlight at Randy's Neighborhood Market
Wednesday, December 19 - GRAND PRIZE DRAWINGS at DCDC OFFICE
and live on Facebook at 10:30 am

PARENTS & STUDENTS ATTEND MANUFACTURING CAREER DISCOVERY TOURS

The Manufacturing Career Discovery Committee wrapped up their plant tour series to include [Guardian Glass](#), Timken Drives, [Custom-Pak](#), and LyondellBasell. Parents and students were provided with information regarding the history of each company, skills/education they look for when hiring, and opportunities for future employment. The program was launched in celebration of Manufacturing Month (October). The DeWitt Chamber & Development Company, Clinton Regional Development Corporation, Clinton Community College, and the Iowa Intermediary Network teamed up to introduce students and their parents to the career opportunities available in their own backyard. "The committee felt the tours were a new and interesting way to educate area students about career opportunities in manufacturing, trades, and apprenticeships. Raising awareness of these career paths is an important tactic in building a qualified workforce for our local businesses. These evolving industries are key drivers in our current and future economy, making it imperative that we encourage our youth to consider them as career options. The tours offered both the student and adult participants a glimpse into not only the types of positions available but also the importance of soft skills and ability to work within a collaborative culture. The tours were great experiences for all involved and we are looking forward to repeating them in the future." – Angela Rheingans, Executive Director, DeWitt Chamber & Development Company "We couldn't be more pleased

with the attendance and interest in the manufacturing tours in Clinton and Whiteside Counties. The employers were very generous hosts and facilitated personal and engaging tours at their facilities. I was proud to attend and share these experiences with our student and parent participants. As a career counselor, I am very enthusiastic about the future of this career pathway and welcome future opportunities to expose our youth to the skilled and financially secure occupations in manufacturing.” – Christine Caves, Workforce Coordinator, Iowa Intermediary Network. If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Molly Goettsch at 563.659.8500 or email eventscoordinator@dewittiowa.org.



1010 6th Ave
DeWitt IA 52742

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