



Sauk Valley Area  
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**ACCREDITED**



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# Partnering for Success

AUGUST 2023

It's a Back to School

# Business After Hours

Thursday, August 17  
5:00-6:30 PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF NETWORKING SNACKS & BEVERAGES

HOSTED BY

**STERLING MAIN STREET**  
*Inspired. Involved.*

and the  
**Shoppes at GRANDON PLAZA**  
@ 310 2nd Avenue



# EARN YOUR TUITION

AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SIGN UP BY SEPTEMBER 1 • [SVCC.EDU/IMPACT](http://SVCC.EDU/IMPACT)

## August Meetings

- August 3 Executive Board
- August 8 Board of Directors
- August 8 Education
- August 10 Ambassadors
- August 15 Ag
- August 16 Professional Women's Network
- August 17 HBLC

### Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

#### Executive Committee

- President: Dr. Jon Mandrell
- First Vice President: Pam Fluck
- Second Vice President: Tim Determan
- Treasurer: Geoff Wright
- Past President: Lance Buser

#### Term Ends January 31, 2024

- Dave Knie, Knie Appliance & TV
- Tim Determan, Pinney Printing
- Steve Munson, Retired, The Medicine Shoppe
- Lance Buser, Wal-Mart DC #7024
- Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson
- Violet Nava, Sauk Valley Bank

#### Term Ends January 31, 2025

- Alejandro Rivera, RE/MAX Sauk Valley
- Geoff Wright, CGH Medical Center
- Josh Johnson, Whiteside Area Career Center
- Dr. Jon Mandrell, SVCC
- Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, YWCA

#### Term Ends January 31, 2025

- Pam Fluck, Self Help Enterprises
- Sandi Cavazos, US Bank
- Katie Whitehead, HALO Branded Solutions
- Kristina Kaecker, Kunes RV

#### Staff

- Executive Director—Kris Noble
- Marketing Coordinator— Dallas Knack

*The views expressed by any member of the Chamber do not represent the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce in any official endorsement or support of any specific elected official or political party. Any products, events, statements, views or opinions offered or expressed by members are not the products, events, statements, views or opinions of the SVACC, nor endorsed by the Chamber or its membership at large.*

## A Message from the Director

One of the most important roles of a chamber of commerce is to ensure that we are available to our members; to listen and learn about issues and ideas that are important to them. Five years ago, we started an initiative with Sterling Main Street to give the millennial generation of the Sauk Valley the opportunity to become more engaged in the community. This initiative, known as the Keystone Group, meets quarterly and has become involved in discussions regarding the Sterling Riverfront Reimagined project, Sterling Murals, housing, and several other initiatives.

This month, Sterling Mayor Diana Merdian will join our meeting for a meet and greet and to listen to Keystone members regarding their thoughts and ideas for the future of the Sauk Valley.

If you are ages 21-40, please join us. Invite fellow coworkers and friends to join you! Your voice is important, because if not you, then WHO?

For more information contact me at the Chamber:  
815-625-2400, [knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com](mailto:knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com)

*Kris*

STERLING MAIN STREET  
Dignity • Integrity • Tradition

Sauk Valley Area  
Chamber of Commerce

WHETHER YOU'VE PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED A KEYSTONE MEETING OR NOT - PLEASE JOIN US!

Sauk Valley  
**KEYSTONE**  
Group

**Summer Meeting**

IF YOU ARE AGE 20-40, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US TO MEET THE MAYOR AND HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE SAUK VALLEY. IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

\*MEET AND GREET WITH MAYOR DIANA MERDIAN.  
\*RIVERFRONT UPDATES  
\*DOGWOOD ACRES UPDATE  
\*3RD SPACE DISCUSSION FOLLOW UP

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10  
6:00 PM

CHAMPS ON LIGHT STREET  
(11 E. 3RD ST., STERLING)

# Investor Update August 2023

## INVESTOR RENEWALS

Avonlea Cottage  
 Brent's Upholstery & Auto Accessories  
 Brothers Flooring  
 Christ Church Sterling  
 Compeer Financial  
 Deer Valley Golf  
 Happy Tails Animal Shelter  
 Hartland Controls LLC  
 Hawkins-Cassens Insurance  
 K's Korner Trading Post  
 Lance's Plumbing  
 Lil Smoked Bar + Grill  
 Lutheran Social Services of IL  
 Majeski Motors  
 McCormick's Nursery & Landscaping  
 Mertes & Mertes, PC  
 Moeller, Myers & Associates

Raynor Garage Doors  
 Regional Media  
 Representative Tony McCombie  
 Rock River Ready Mix, Inc.  
 Sauk Valley Community College  
 Self Help Enterprises  
 Sterling Commercial Roofing  
 Sterling Hearing Aid Center  
 Sterling Township  
 Steve Munson  
 Surf Internet  
 Triple P BBQ  
 Turnroth Sign Company, Inc.  
 WQAD TV  
 WQPT - TV, Quad Cities PBS  
 YWCA of the Sauk Valley  
 Zoeller Ag Services, Inc.

We would like to give special recognition to the following groups who provide extra support to the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. This extra effort and support is truly appreciated. If you have the opportunity to express your sincere appreciation to these members, please do so!

### Over \$1000 Invested

Central Bank Illinois  
 CGH Medical Center  
 Community State Bank  
 Farmers National Bank - Morrison  
 Midland States Bank  
 Sauk Valley Bank  
 Select Employees Credit Union  
 Sterling Federal Bank  
 US Bank  
 Wahl Clipper Corp.  
 Wal-Mart DC #7024  
 Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson

### 150% Club

Bushel Basket Candle Co.  
 Candlelight Inn  
 Helm Civil  
 Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.  
 Illinois American Water  
 Lance's Plumbing  
 Lee Ogle Transportation System  
 LK Design Source  
 Loescher HVAC  
 Lutheran Social Services of IL

Mattox Insurance Agency  
 Moore Monument & Granite Co  
 NICIL  
 PC Tech 2U  
 RE/MAX Sauk Valley  
 Rock River Hospice & Home  
 Select Employees Credit Union  
 Sterling Commercial Roofing  
 Sterling Rock Falls Child Care  
 Sterling Township  
 United Craftsmen, Ltd.

### 110% Club

|                               |                                 |                                |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1st Gateway Credit Union      | Hawkins-Cassens Insurance       | NAMI Sauk Area                 | St. Vincent DePaul  |
| Astec Mobile Screens Inc      | James S. Ferris DDS, PC         | New Millenium Directories      | Sterling Chevrolet  |
| Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate | Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop         | Rock River Lumber & Grain      | The Factory         |
| Bollman Auto Center           | Johnson Oil Company             | Rock River Ready Mix           | Trinity Insurance   |
| Compeer Financial             | Kelly's Restaurant              | Scholl Insurance Agency        | Winter Construction |
| Dennis Electric of Tampico    | Kiwanis Club of Sterling        | Servicemaster                  |                     |
| Farmer's National Bank        | Marv Lofgren & Sons Contractors | ServPro of Sterling            |                     |
|                               | Mertes & Mertes                 | Showplace Antiques & Treasures |                     |

## Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension

Arnulfo Valdivia—Sauk Valley Bank

Cassandra Salmon – YWCA

Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley

Christina Bystry — House in the Country

Janell Loos — Heritage Woods

Jennifer Alvarez — Surf Internet

Karen Voss – Morningside of Sterling

Leon Mealing— T-Mobile

Mary White – Community State Bank

Nicole Bollman - CGH Medical Center

Pam Fluck – Self Help Enterprises

Rene Betts—Plotner Insurance Consultants

Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation

Skip Dettman—LSSI

Stepheni Chandler—Hughes Resources

Tygen Bausman—Sterling Federal Bank

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### Ambassador Spotlight— Sherry DeWalt, CGH Health Foundation

The best part of being a chamber ambassador is learning about the wide variety of businesses and not for profit resources represented in our membership. One that you might not know much about is the one that I work for.

Since 1987 the CGH Health Foundation has been working to ensure access to healthcare for the under-served and to deliver the message of wellness to Sauk Valley residents.

Thousands of benefactors have invested nearly \$13 million in health initiatives. All contributions are spent locally on wellness education programs, health services for the under-served, and occasionally on capital projects.

For the last two years the Health Foundation has been working on improving services for those affected by dementia; both patients and care-givers. We've held educational forums, established support groups in several local communities, provided stress management classes for caregivers, and helped to establish a Dementia Navigator at CGH Medical Center who can help guide patients and caregivers to services they might need.

There are many other initiatives supported by the CGH Health Foundation. For more information please visit: [Foundation programs and services | CGH Medical Center \(cgmmc.com\)](https://www.cgmmc.com/foundation-programs-and-services).



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### Ambassador Spotlight— Arnulfo Valdivia, Sauk Valley Bank

I have been employed with Sauk Valley Bank since 2018, currently as a Retail Market Manager for the Sterling North Branch located on Locust St. Being able to serve the Sterling, Rock Falls, and Dixon communities with their banking needs and providing great customer service has been a top priority of mine. Once I stepped into my current role with Sauk Valley Bank, I began to be more invested in the community and its future. Being a part of multiple community events has been such a rewarding experience, especially when we receive compliments of what a great job we have been doing as an organization. The Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce has been able to help me further my goal to be apart of the community. As part of the Hispanic Business Leader Committee, not only have we been busy with planning the Fiesta Parade and its activities, but we also provide resources and opportunities to multiple Hispanic organizations and people. Now as an Ambassador, I get more insight on different organizations that join the chamber, and it allows me to share their goals and future to members of the community.



Join us for a

# Chamber Week Celebration!

Click here to register.

Please join us to celebrate you as members and thank you for your membership. Stop by for a beverage, appetizers, door prizes, drink specials, and to connect and reconnect with other SVACC members.

Thursday, September 14

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Angelo's II (2525 E. Lincolnway)

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required by September 11.

Visit [saukvalleyareachamber.com](http://saukvalleyareachamber.com) or call 815-625-2400 to register.

Questions? Email [knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com](mailto:knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com)

## Ribbon Cuttings

Lee County Republicans  
Central Committee  
815-973-3636



RiverWorks Coworking  
114 E. Everett St., Dixon  
815-770-7055

### Congratulations to Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop for receiving the Customer Service Award!

They were nominated for their excellent service and their incredible knowledge of their products. Stop by 1910 E 4th St, Sterling to see for yourself!

CSA Sponsored by:



## Business After Hours

July 27 | Sauk Valley Community College

Thank you to SVCC for hosting our July Business After Hours. It was a wonderful way to connect and network among our members.

Join us **August 17** for Business After Hours at The Shoppes at Grandon Plaza (310 2nd Ave, Sterling)



SVACC Agri-business Committee presented a check to the River Bend Schools FFA program to support ag education.

38th Annual

STEAK FRY  
IN THE COUNTRY

Thursday, August 3  
5:30 p.m.

## Workforce Development

*Written by Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity*



### Blue Collar Jobs Act Construction Tax Credits for Illinois Businesses

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced the launch of the Blue Collar Jobs Act (BCJA) Tax Credit application for eligible companies. BCJA is a bipartisan legislative package designed to promote economic expansion and growth in Illinois by incentivizing construction projects. The legislation makes \$20 million in tax credits available per year for eligible companies.

The BCJA amended legislation for Illinois' premier incentive programs to provide tax credits attributable to the wages paid to construction workers on eligible projects. Eligible companies include those who are located in an Enterprise Zone (EZ) or a River Edge Redevelopment Zone (RERZ), companies designated a High Impact Business (HIB), or companies with an agreement under the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Program. Companies that completed construction projects in 2021 (the effective date of the legislation) or later are eligible to apply for credits.

Eligible companies can receive tax credits equal to 75 percent of the income tax attributable to construction workers on eligible projects located in an underserved area, or 50 percent for projects located in other areas. The BCJA is designed to further incentivize major capital investments in communities across Illinois and create good paying construction jobs. Providing tax incentives specifically for construction projects supports job creation and additional investments in communities. DCEO currently leverages this innovative tax credit structure for construction jobs as part of the Reimagining Energy and Vehicles (REV) and Manufacturing Illinois Chips for Real Opportunity Act (MICRO) tax credit programs. Companies looking for information are encouraged to email [ceo.bcja@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.bcja@illinois.gov) or visit the BCJA website.

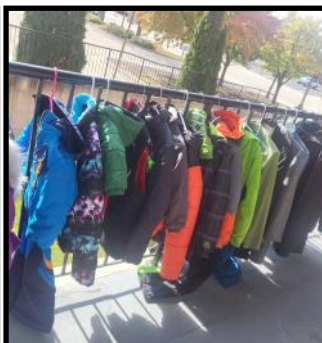
## Guest Editorial

*Written by Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, YWCA of the Sauk Valley*

In the Sauk Valley, the power of YWCA comes from the families we serve, but we don't do it alone. Our power comes from our clients and from our bold, passionate partners, allies, donors and sponsors who are equally committed to the work of YWCA. We are grateful to work with such an amazing community.

For 100 years, the YWCA Sauk Valley has been at the forefront of social movements, serving the most vulnerable, and giving a voice to the voiceless across Lee and Whiteside counties. Through our services, clients transition from surviving to thriving. Our community and clients demand peace and justice in a thousand different ways. Here, a woman is empowered to leave an abusive relationship. Here, a family breaks the cycle of violence. Here, we bear witness to survivors' dignity, and celebrate their victories. Here, immigration status doesn't matter because having opportunity isn't a privilege, but a right.

As we approach 100 years of Peace, Justice, Freedom, & Dignity on January 24, 2024, we are asking the community to join us in putting the YWCA mission into action. When you support YWCA, you amplify our ability to serve thousands of men, women, children, and people of color across the Sauk Valley in more ways than one. You help us fulfill our mission by turning every crisis into an opportunity. Through volunteering in an on-call capacity, serving on our board, shopping at YWCA's West End Moxie thrift shop, telling your neighbors about our services, or donating, you become part of the YWCA movement. With your support, we make a commitment to keep our mission moving forward. We will get up and do the work until injustice is rooted out, until institutions are transformed, until the world sees women, girls, and people of color the way we do: Equal. Powerful. Unstoppable.



**Fiesta before the Fiesta**  
**Thursday, August 31**  
**at YWCA**

**Fiesta BEFORE THE Fiesta** BUSINESS AFTER HOURS  
**THURSDAY 8/31**  
YWCA Sauk Valley  
412 First Ave.  
Sterling, IL 61081

**HOSTED BY:** eliminating racism empowering women  
**ywca** Sauk Valley

**5p-6:30p** **FOOD PROVIDED BY:** JACALIMTO

MUSIC ● FOOD ● DRINKS

United Way YWCA Sauk Valley is United Way Agency



To Whom It May Concern:

The Regional Office of Education #47 and Sauk Valley Community College invite you to participate in their annual Pathway Playground which will be held on **Friday, October 20, 2023, from 8:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon.**

The Pathway Playground is an exciting annual regional event for Lee, Ogle, & Whiteside County 8th grade students. The day promotes career exploration and engagement with community organizations and businesses through hands-on experience where students engage in small activities to build their interests in various career fields. The goal is to showcase the careers our area has to offer, to build social capital for adolescents in their community, and to provide guidance for students in their future endeavors.

There is no better way to explore a potential career than to encounter it firsthand. At the Playground, area eighth grade students will cycle through 75 or more business/organization booths divided into seven career clusters. Students will have twenty minutes in each of the seven areas to explore what our Lee, Ogle, Whiteside businesses have to offer. They will see that our local businesses care about the success of our students and promote staying in the community to build their future. We invite you to showcase your business with a hands-on activity that will intrigue the minds of eighth grade students and truly show what you do.

Last year, over 1,100 area 8th graders from Rock Falls, Sterling, Morrison, Fulton, Dixon, Forreston, Amboy, Prophetstown, Ohio, Ashton-Franklin Center, and Center 4 Change attended. The students spent the day interacting with 50 area businesses and learning the career opportunities these local businesses offer. These businesses loved interacting with the students and the opportunity to show their pride in the Sauk Valley area. "I liked that we could have a presence in the community and amongst teens in the area. [This event] was mostly self-led, so students could spend time in areas they were most interested in." (2022 Participating Business) We would be thrilled to add you to our list of businesses participating in this awesome event!

As a participating business/organization, you will receive recognition on our ROE 47 website, social media platform, and YouTube channel. You will also be recognized with signage at the event and all promotional materials.

**If you are interested in participating in this special event or need additional information, please email Chanda McDonnell or Heather Waninger by Friday, August 18, 2023.**

We look forward to collaborating with you!

Heather Waninger • [hwaninger@roe47.org](mailto:hwaninger@roe47.org) • 815.590.2760  
Chanda McDonnell • [cmcdonnell@roe47.org](mailto:cmcdonnell@roe47.org) • 815.677.2457

1001 West 23rd Street • Sterling, IL 61081 • <https://roe47.org/>



# Hot Dog Day



FRIDAY  
AUG  
04

DOWNTOWN  
STERLING  
ILLINOIS  
*Industrious. Inspired. Inviting.*

*A summertime favorite  
in Downtown Sterling  
for 40+ years!*

25¢

Hot Dogs  
Chips  
Drinks

FOOD • SIDEWALK SALES • FUN FAIR & MORE  
ALL THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN

Scan code for more details! 



Cooking begins at 11AM until sold out or 2PM (whichever occurs first)  
at these locations:

AIR PLAY ESPRESSO & BAKERY - 115 E 3rd St.

BARDIER & RAMIREZ REAL ESTATE / EL HIJO DISTRIBUTION - 415 Locust St.

BUILD-A-PET CLUBHOUSE - 502 First Ave.

COUNTY MARKET - 210 W. 3rd St.

GOLDEN KEY GIFTS - Corner of Ave. G & W. 4th St.

GRUMMERT'S HARDWARE - 424 Locust St.

KURT & BRIAN PROPERTIES @ SHOPPES AT GRANDON - 310 Second Ave.

MIDLAND STATES BANK @ SHOWPLACE ANTIQUES - 302 First Ave.

STERLING POLICE DEPT @ CITY HALL - 212 Third Ave.

STERLING  
MAIN STREET  
*Inspired. Involved.*

For more information visit  
[www.sterlingmainstreet.org](http://www.sterlingmainstreet.org)  



Sauk Valley Area  
Chamber of Commerce



## 70th Annual Fiesta Day Parade Entry Form

The Hispanic Business Leaders Committee of the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce extends this invitation to participate in the

70th annual Fiesta Day Parade on **Saturday, September 16, 2023**. The parade will start in Rock Falls at 1:00 p.m. and will end in Sterling. **All entries must be lined up by 12:30 p.m.**

Parade participants are encouraged to celebrate Hispanic culture in entries. Parade judging is based on incorporation of the Hispanic theme into your entry.

### 2023 Parade Sponsors

#### Presenting Sponsors:



*Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce*

#### Platinum Sponsors:



#### Gold Sponsors:



#### Silver Sponsors:



\*Those listed are sponsors of the parade. Any products, events, statement, views or opinions offered or expressed by the sponsors are not the products, events, statement, views or opinions of the SVACC, nor endorsed by the Chamber or our members.

Register for the parade online at [saukvalleyreachamber.com](http://saukvalleyreachamber.com)

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce  
211 Locust Street, Sterling, IL 61081  
[office@saukvalleyreachamber.com](mailto:office@saukvalleyreachamber.com)  
815-625-2400

Please return by **Tuesday, September 5th**. You will be notified via mail of your entry number and line-up information.

Entry Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Type of Entry: please circle

- Float  *\*For safety reasons, candy can only be passed out by walkers. Please DO NOT THROW candy from vehicles or floats.*
- Vehicle
- Music
- Band
- Political
- Other

**Do you have walkers with entry?** yes / no  
Please provide a brief description of entry:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_