



Sauk Valley Area  
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**ACCREDITED**



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# Partnering for Success

JULY 2023

Together with area chambers of commerce,  
SVCC presents

# SUMMER

## HAWAIIAN SHIRT PARTY

THURSDAY · JULY 27 · 5:00 - 6:30PM  
SVCC DILLON MALL PATIO

*Hula over for Business After Hours!*

APPETIZERS | DRINKS | DOOR PRIZES

RAINY DAY? THE FESTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE INSIDE!



Heather Wakefield, MD  
Ashlea Canady, MD

**"Outstanding, Exceptional  
Doctors"**

- CGH Patient

**GENERAL SURGERY**



Rated 4.8 Stars By Patients



## July Meetings

- July 6 Executive Board
- July 11 Board of Directors
- July 11 Education
- July 13 Ambassadors
- July 18 Ag
- July 20 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

## A Message from the Director

Summer in the Sauk Valley brings around many fun, family-friendly, events.

A summer time favorite returns on Friday, August 4: **Hot Dog Day!** Come out to downtown Sterling and enjoy 25¢ hot dogs from various cooking location sites between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (or until hot dogs sell out). Bring the kids to the fun fair at the Sterling Marketplace for free games and activities.

Join us in celebrating Ag in the Sauk Valley with the annual **Steak Fry in the Country** on Thursday, August 3. Through the Steak Fry, the SVACC Ag Committee raises funds to support local Ag education through scholarships and program support. Ticket sales and sponsorship opportunities are now available at [saukvalleyareachamber.org](http://saukvalleyareachamber.org).

Looking for more to do? Check out these members for family-friendly activities this summer:



Stay well,

*Kris*

# Investor Update July 2023

## NEW MEMBER

Cork & Brew  
(815) 631-0010  
corkandbrews.com

## INVESTOR RENEWALS

Central Bank Illinois  
City of Sterling  
Cork and Brews LLC  
Educators of Beauty  
Edward Jones / Loos  
Edward Jones/Haas  
Farmer's National Bank  
Helm Electric  
JH Technology, LLC  
Kunes Auto Group

Open Door Community Church  
Plotner Insurance Consultants  
Poolside Pools & Spas  
Republic Services  
Rock River HR Professional Assoc.  
ServPro of Sterling  
Sterling Steel Warehouse  
Winter Design, 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

Mattox Insurance Agency  
Moore Monument & Granite Co  
NICIL  
RE/MAX Sauk Valley  
Rock River Hospice & Home  
Sawdust N Dreamz  
Select Employees Credit Union  
Sterling Rock Falls Child Care  
Sterling Township  
United Craftsmen, Ltd.

### 110% Club

1st Gateway Credit Union	Hawkins-Cassens Insurance	McDonald's	Showplace Antiques & Treasures
Astec Mobile Screens Inc	Helm Civil	Mertes & Mertes	St. Vincent DePaul
Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate	James S. Ferris DDS, PC	New Millenium Directories	Sterling Chevrolet
Bollman Auto Center	Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop	PC Tech 2U	The Factory
Compeer Financial	Johnson Oil Company	Rock River Lumber & Grain	Trinity Insurance
Dennis Electric of Tampico	Kelly's Restaurant	Rock River Ready Mix	Wendler Engineering Services
Farmer's National Bank	Kiwanis Club of Sterling	Scholl Insurance Agency	Winter Construction
	Marv Lofgren & Sons Contractors	Servicemaster	
		ServPro of Sterling	

## 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

### Ambassador Spotlight— Christina Bystry, House in the Country

Christina has been the proprietress of House in the Country Bed & Breakfast since 2019. Business started out slowly then the pandemic changed the world. It has been a slow return to "normal." For about 1 1/2 years she was also at the Twin Cities Farmers Market with delectable delights that she serves at the B&B hoping to cross market and help spread the word about the ONLY lodging in Sterling, it worked! Business has increased, especially repeat business! Some guests have stayed three and four times. Also as a result of her presence at the Farmers Market, catering opportunities have increased outside as well as at the B&B. There have been luncheons, picnics, birthday open houses, and other private events booked on the grounds of the B&B. As time progresses, more events will be scheduled (by reservation only) including a "Country Tea," "Pie on the Porch," and hopefully this fall, a "Pizza in the Country" to name a few. Your special event may be the next!! Contact Christina at 815-970-0305 or [Houseinthecountry18@gmail.com](mailto:Houseinthecountry18@gmail.com) to discuss your special event.



### Ambassador Spotlight—Jennifer Alvarez, Surf Internet

Surf Internet is building fiber optic to the home and businesses throughout Whiteside, Lee, Grundy, and La Salle counties. Illinois towns include: Rock Falls, Sterling, Coal City, Elwood, Mendota, Morrison, Oglesby, Ottawa, and soon to be Fulton, and Dixon. Since 2001, Surf Internet has been developing revolutionary and creative ways to connect people to the things they care about. Surf has agreed to build fiber optic to the Sterling Riverfront, a project Jennifer personally worked on.



Jennifer has been an ambassador since June 2021. She became an ambassador to become more involved in the community she lives and grew up in, a Sterling native. She serves on a few committees such as the Golf committee, Hispanic Business Leaders Committee, and Sights and Sounds. Jennifer is also on the Sauk Valley Pride Board and is working on fundraising efforts for PCs for People, along with the Whiteside Area Career Center. Which is a program that provides free recycled computers/laptops for qualified low income recipients and non profit groups. They also hold a recycling event. The next local event will be September 1st 3pm-7pm and September 2nd 8am-12pm.

## Member Spotlight



Cork and Brews is a directory of US Wineries, Breweries and Distilleries. It was designed to create an affordable way for businesses to promote their shop on one platform. It can serve as a trip planner that will help customers find multiple shops in a specific area. Businesses can promote weekly specials, post menus, post pictures, shop hours, tasting rooms, tours plus many more features. As a user traveling, you will receive notifications on specific specials and promotions when you come within a specific radius. You will be able to rate your experiences at local shops and let others know what your recommendations are.

# Ribbon Cuttings

Central Bank  
 New location: 2522 E. Lincolnway  
 815-564-0487



Todd Haas—Edward Jones  
 2522 E. Lincolnway, Sterling  
 815-564-0487

Sauk Valley Pride  
 815-590-9217



Senator Win Stoller  
 121 E. 1st St, Dixon  
 815-677-9445

**Congratulations to  
 Fringe & Co Salon and Western Boutique  
 for receiving the Customer Service Award!**

They were nominated for being great at what they do  
 and always friendly!

Visit them at 315 1st Ave., Sterling.



CSA Sponsored by:



## Business After Hours

June 15 | Bartini's

Thank you to Bartini's for hosting our June Business After Hours. It was a wonderful way to connect and network among our members. Mark your calendar for our next BAH on July 27 at Sauk Valley Community College.



## 57th Annual Charles Farnham Golf Outing

June 9 | Deer Valley

Thank you to all of the golfers who came out to support the 57th Annual Charles Farnham Golf Outing to support scholarships for local students.

Congratulations to our top 3 teams:

1. X-Golf
2. Wipfli
3. Halo Branded Solutions



A big thank you to our sponsors, including our title sponsor Kunes Auto and our double eagle sponsors Kunes RV, CGH, Sterling Commercial Roofing.

## Workforce Development

At the SVACC one of our job is to make connections. A prime example is connecting the education sector with the business sector as we work together to prepare students for their future. The SVACC is grateful to be included in conversations such as this recent meeting with the Regional Office of Education #47. We know that essential skills are critical components of student success in the workplace, and are working on our next round of workforce readiness in the high schools. If your business would like to participate in these trainings, please contact Kris at [knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com](mailto:knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com).

Thank you to all of the educators who are champions for our children!



## Guest Editorial

*Written by Pam Fluck, Self Help Enterprises*

Rock River Valley Self Help Enterprises has been providing services to individuals in Whiteside County with developmental disabilities since 1964. Throughout the history of Self Help we have been driven to “Turn Challenges into Opportunities.” We serve individuals with disabilities by providing employment, residential services, community day services, early intervention programs, community-based events and home-based services. Our individualized and personal plans help those with disabilities live their best, most purposeful life.

In recent months we have added many new programs, activities and services to Self Help. The individuals have many things throughout their day to participate in and learn from. We have instituted a programming schedule to discuss topics in an effort to teach them new things, explore the world and tap into their creativity. Subject matter that is introduced touches on current events, health and hygiene, social skills, finances, exercise, community outings among others. Recently, we opened a greenhouse that has been sitting idle on our property for many years. The individuals are learning how to grow flowers, plant a garden and waiting to reap their rewards with produce. Aside from learning what it takes to grow plants, this endeavor has taught them life lessons as well. Such as how to survive a drought and what to do when critters eat your plants! We hope to have plant and produce sales in the future.

It is equally important that they have community involvement. That goal has brought us to partner with several community organizations. The Sterling Park District allows us to bring our individuals there one day a week for organized activities, the Sterling Public Library conducts a book club for Self Help and our individuals have been volunteering at the United Way’s Feed the Children twice a week.

Self Help Enterprises has a lengthy history of providing work opportunities in the sheltered workshop program. We have area businesses that send work to us for our individuals to do. This can be packaging items, putting labels on various items, packaging and more recently they have received a job that will be continuous work for them. Please know we are always looking for more work in order to service more needs. In March of this year, we started a cleaning crew. Those individuals who choose to participate clean different areas of Self Help. Our end goal with this endeavor is to provide them opportunities to clean businesses and offices outside of Self Help.

Other services we provide the community is our Stage Two Resale Shop, located near Kroger’s. We have a Recycling building for cardboard and paper, along with the opportunity for our individuals to shred personal documents and paper for the community. Self Help also has a Print Shop, which we thank our community for utilizing. In the Print Shop, we can print your newsletters, flyers, raffle tickets, invoices, envelopes, business cards, invitations to name a few.



We thank the community for all the support they have provided Rock River Valley Self Help Enterprises for the past 59 years. It is because of your generosity and kindness that we are able to do what we do! For more information or any questions please reach out to us at [selfhelpent@yahoo.com](mailto:selfhelpent@yahoo.com) or call 815-626-3115. Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

Written by: Taylor Reyna, Rock Falls High School

What an amazing year! I never expected to take a business class nor did I expect to learn as much as I did. Going into this year I thought CEO was going to just be the first two hours of the day where we toured different businesses in the community. Although that is a part of what we did, we also learned from each business. They taught us how to run a business, how to handle finances and other complications a business would need to be successful. They also taught us how to be who we are and encouraged everyone to be a better person. Looking back on this entire year, it wasn't as hard as you would expect, at least not for me. The notebook that Sauk Valley Bank gave every student at the beginning of the year allowed me to be able to go back through all my notes. Let me tell you, when I write my notes, I write almost everything the speaker says. I'm just going to say it... I wrote a lot of notes!

This allows me to read the notes and almost remember the way they were presented to the class. Rereading them helps me think about this year and the amazing things I have taken away, including; be a risk taker, want to always learn, keep your life straight, an amazing quote "you have to be comfortable with being uncomfortable", and many other forms of advice. Being a risk taker in your life can allow you to be confident in the actions you take. Sometimes being a risk taker can be a scary step, but taking risks can improve your life in ways you never thought possible. The advice about wanting to always learn was mentioned to our class many times. One way to be successful through learning is not only in the work setting, but also the family and home setting. You always want to learn because it's what helps you to become more knowledgeable in your life. Learning in the work setting includes how to simply do your job and how to adapt to different people. Learning in the family and home setting can be as simple as how to keep up with chores, how to stay organized with everything on your plate, and working to always be respectful and courteous. To me, if you keep learning every day, that's what is going to make for a successful future.

The quote, "you have to be comfortable with being uncomfortable" really stuck with me this entire year. There are many things you have to do in your life that you just don't want to do. This quote helped me extraordinarily with those types of situations. One of those situations took place during our time creating our individual businesses. For my business TAY'males, I made tamales. I needed a lot of ingredients and a lot of help to thoroughly learn how to make a tamale. One business that greatly helped me was El Vaquero Western Wear. I went into their business looking for ingredients. My father was with me at the time and he told me I had to ask for a worker so they would be able to ring up the ingredients. The worker I found ended up being the owner of the store. I told him I was a part of CEO class where I get to create my own business and my plan was to make 75 dozen tamales. He was shocked at the amount, but he greatly helped me with ordering everything I would need. But then he proposed the idea of him teaching me how to make the tamales! His business makes tamales weekly and he suggested I could come when they make their weekly quota. I was very scared to say yes and be in the store learning, but I could not miss this opportunity. So a week later I came back and learned everything to make a tamale efficiently. Thankfully, I was able to remember to "be comfortable with being uncomfortable". If I didn't think of the quote before going into the store, I would have almost gone home.

I would highly recommend CEO to everyone, even if they have no desire to be in the business industry like myself. You would be amazed with the program. The people you get to meet and the businesses I didn't know we had in this area have all been presented to me all because of CEO. Although this class wouldn't be the same without Le, she is an amazing person that allowed me to have an incredible year. I am very saddened to say goodbye to Le and my classmates, but also very glad I was able to meet and become friends with everyone. So THANK YOU to everyone who has invested their resources into this class!



# Let's Flamingle!

A TROPICAL FUNDRAISING PARTY

Join us for a beach-themed evening to benefit the Sauk Valley Food Bank & Woodlawn Arts Academy!

5:30PM  
10:00PM

07.22

AT SAUK VALLEY FOOD BANK

\$50 PER PERSON (CASH OR CHECK ONLY)

Tickets available at Woodlawn Arts Academy

Tropical attire encouraged!

5:30-6:30 FLAMINGLE & COCKTAIL HOUR

6:30-8:30 HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES PLUS  
DESSERT & DRINK AUCTIONS

8:15 SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

8:30-10:00 LIVE MUSIC BY BAJA

In the event of cancellation, all ticket sales will be considered a donation to the Sauk Valley Food Bank & Woodlawn Arts Academy.  
For more information, call 815.626.4278.

Thank you to our Sponsors



Woodlawn Arts Academy is a partner agency of United Way of Whiteside & Lee counties.



# Solar

## SOLAR

- Your future is bright with a Solar Energy Technician certificate from SVCC!
- Students will be prepared to work as field service technicians, installers, or manufacturing technicians.



REGISTER NOW [SVCC.EDU/SOLAR](https://svcc.edu/solar)

# Welding

## WELDING

- Advance your career with a welding certificate from SVCC!
- Graduates will be prepared to work for different manufacturing companies performing a variety of welding techniques including MIG, TIG, shielded metal arc, and robotic welding.



For more information visit [SVCC.EDU/WELDING](https://svcc.edu/welding) or call 815.835.6273

SVACC Professional Women's Network  
INVITES YOU TO

# SUMMER NETWORKING

THURSDAY  
JULY 20

5:00 -  
6:30 p.m.

**SOPHIE'S CAFE**  
1204 W. ROCK FALLS RD.  
ROCK FALLS

\$10 members  
\$12 nonmembers

appetizers & cash bar