



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

JUNE 2022



JOIN HOME OF HOPE & SVACC FOR

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Thursday, June 16
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Home of Hope
1637 Plock Drive, Dixon

Door prizes, appetizers, beverages

SAUKVALLEYCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE.COM

REGISTER NOW
SVCC.EDU

June Meetings

June 2 Executive Board
June 9 Ambassadors
June 14 Board
June 15 PWN
June 16 HBLC
June 21 Ag

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: Sheila Martinez
Past President: Lance Buser

Term Ends January 31, 2023

Mike Loos, Edward Jones Investments
Sheila Martinez, U.S. Bank
Rick Turnroth, Turnroth Sign Company
Pam Fluck, Sauk Valley Bank

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

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

Staff

Executive Director—Kris Noble
Marketing Coordinator— Dallas Knack
Financial Specialist/Office Manager—Bailey Dorner

A Message from the Director

Summer 2022 in the Sauk Valley is going to be fabulous!

If you are not sure what is going on, where it is going on, or when it is going on, here are a few local websites that will give you dates and times of local events:

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce:

saukvalleyareachamber.com

Sterling Main Street:

sterlingmainstreet.org

Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce:

rockfallschamber.com

Rock Falls Tourism:

visitrockfalls.com

Dixon Chamber and Main Street:

discoverdixon.com

Attending local events supports our local community businesses!

Enjoy the day,



Investor Update June 2022

NEW INVESTORS

Bugsy's Arcade & Gaming
2900 E Lincolnway Unit 19, Sterling
815-419-4635

PC Tech 2U
106 N 2nd St., Rock Falls
815-564-2300

INVESTOR RENEWALS

Angelo's
Astec Mobile Screens, Inc.
Bethel Reformed Church
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council
Christ Church Sterling
City of Sterling
Creative Cuisine Catering, Inc.
Dennis Electric of Tampico, Inc.
Green Bee Energy Efficiency
Happy Tails Animal Shelter
Helm Civil
Marv Lofgren & Son Contractors
McDonald's

McFalls Berge & Associates
Peabody's Inc.
Petersen Health Care
Rock River Gardens
Rock River HR Professional Association
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.
Sterling Public Library
Sterling Steel Warehouse
The Fitting Room
US Bank
Whiteside County Genealogists
Willy's Restaurant

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

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

Allstate Insurance Agency
Altran Magnetics
Amazing Grace of Sterling
Green Bee Energy Efficiency
Happy Tails Humane Society
Helm Civil
Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.
Illinois American Water
James S Ferris, DDS, PC
Lance's Plumbing
Lee Ogle Transportation System
LK Design Source

Loescher HVAC
Mattox Insurance Agency
Moore Monument & Granite Co
Rock River Hospice & Home
Roy Dern State Farm Insurance
St. Vincent DePaul Society
Sawdust N Dreamz
Select Employees Credit Union
Smoked on 3rd
Sterling Rock Falls Child Care
Sterling Township
The Spa At Central Park
T-Mobile
United Craftsmen, Ltd.

110% Club

1st Gateway Credit Union
Astec Mobile Screens Inc
Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate
Bollman Auto Center
Candlelight Inn
Cassens Drainage
Central Heating & Cooling
Compeer Financial
Dennis Electric of Tampico, Inc
Farmer's National Bank
Folsom's Bakery
Hawkins-Cassens Insurance, LLC
Imprintable Memories
Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop

Johnson Oil Company
Kelly's Restaurant
Kiwanis Club of Sterling
Marv Lofgren & Sons Contractors
Mertes & Mertes
New Millenium Directories
Reitzel Roofing Company
Rock River Lumber & Grain
Rock River Ready Mix
Rosemeyer Management Group
Sauk Valley Food Bank
Scholl Insurance Agency
Sedona Staffing
Servicemaster
Shelly Dambman CPA

Sherwin Williams Company
Showplace Antiques & Treasures
St. Mary's School
St. Vincent DePaul
Stahr Media
Sterling Chevrolet
Sterling Commercial Roofing
Sterling Napa Auto Parts
Sterling Optimist Club
Steve Munson
The Cornerstone Agency, Inc.
Vintage Cousins Emporium
Wendler Engineering Services, Inc.
Willy's Restaurant

Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension
Angie Delhotal— Sauk Valley College Foundation
Brook Burlack – T-Mobile
Cassandra Salmon – Sauk Valley Bank
Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley
Christina Bystry — House in the Country
Janell Loos — Heritage Woods
Jennifer Alvarez — Surf Broadband
Justin Wiggins — Wiggins Computing, LLC
Karen Voss – Morningside of Sterling

Mary White – Community State Bank
Melissa Ryan—Rock River Hospice & Home
Nicole Bollman - CGH Medical Center
Pam Fluck – Sauk Valley Bank
Roy Dern – State Farm
Sheila Martinez – U.S. Bank
Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation
Skip Dettman—LSSI
Tygen Bausman—Sterling Federal Bank

Ambassador Spotlight — Melissa Ryan, Rock River Hospice & Home

Melissa works as the Outreach and Fundraising Director for Rock River Hospice and Home. She lives in Sterling, where she loves to be part of the community. She resides with her 4 children; Isaiah, Carter, Kael, and Abby. She often has other children in her care as well, as she is a licensed foster parent.



Melissa likes to follow her children around and watch them do what they love in all athletics. Travel will get more difficult for her this fall as she will have one son playing football in South Dakota, one in Minnesota, and one at Sterling High School. Her daughter, Abby also moves on to high school this fall so she will be one busy mom.

Melissa loves to advocate for those who are less fortunate in our communities. She likes to support all local non-profits whether it be by helping out, going to their events, or even just sharing their stories on social media. Being part of the community is important to Melissa because she wishes the best for all walks of life. She strives to make her community a better place to learn and grow. Melissa is also on the Board of Directors at April House Children’s Advocacy Center and on the Implementation Committee for all foster parents in the Northwest Region of Illinois. She is an ambassador to help those businesses in the community feel connected and be a voice for any of their needs.

Lack of Child Care - A Concern in the Sauk Valley?

We know that working parents have long struggled to access affordable and quality childcare that enables them to participate in the workforce, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made things even worse. The United States Chamber of Commerce released a report sharing that 76% of businesses said they are seeing employees leave the workforce. Almost half of those businesses said that 75-100% of the employees they’re losing are women.

What is going on in the Sauk Valley? Is lack of quality childcare and early childhood education (ECE) and issue for you? **We need your input** as we begin to gather information and develop strategies to address this issue.

Please click [here](#) to complete a very brief survey.



Congratulations to our 2022 scholarship winners!

The Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce awards scholarships to students pursuing a college degree in a variety of fields. Three scholarship opportunities are available: The Charles Farnham Scholarship, The Agribusiness Committee Ag Scholarship, and the SVACC Manufacturing Scholarship. Providing scholarships is one of the most exciting things we do all year at the chamber!



Delana Erbsen
Eastland High School

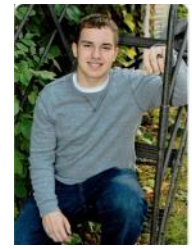


Calin Gaulrapp
Rock Falls High School
Illinois State University

No
Picture
Available



Kaydence Coulthard
Eastland High School
Southwest Technical College



Connor Sandrock
Prophetstown High School

Paul Sturtevant
Eastland High School
Highland Community College

No
Picture
Available



Matthew Megli
Rock Falls High School
Blackhawk College



Wyatt Wessel
Sauk Valley
Community College



Lane Near
Sauk Valley
Community College



Thomas Dauphin
Morrison High School
SVCC

Meg Frank
Rock Falls High School
SVCC



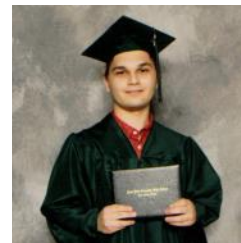
Katie Witherow
Rock Falls High School
University of Tennessee



Lucas Clark



Jonathan Poling
Sauk Valley
Community College



Philip Masini
Sauk Valley
Community College



Brody Naftzger
Sauk Valley
Community College

No
Picture
Available



Hunter Bender
Sauk Valley
Community College



Keagan Hicks
Rock Falls High School
Morrison Institute of Tech-

Connor Mullan
Rock Falls High School
Morrison Institute of

Business After Hours | May 19

Thank you to Smoked on 3rd for helping us welcome Summer with the May Business After Hours.

Please join us for the June Business After Hours at Home of Hope on June 16.



The Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program students met at Wahl Clipper Corporation on May 4th. The topic of the day was Creative Solutions. The first speaker was Dominic Coletta, Chief Operations Officer. Although he only recently joined the Wahl Corporation, Dominic gave us incredible insights into the history, present-day, and future of the Wahl brand. He spoke of Wahl's focus on managing their global footprint, and Dominic's advice for the class is to "learn something from everyone" and "love what you do." Our second Wahl speaker was Aaron Flick, Senior Marketing Associate for Wahl's Professional Division. Aaron spoke about the social media aspect of a major corporation and how that all shifted radically in the face of a global pandemic. His advice to us is to "build relationships," remember "everyone has a story," and be willing to listen to that story. The day ended with a fantastic lunch prepared by Matt Prescott's Candlelight Inn.



The Adult Leadership class met again on May 18th at Sauk Valley Community College. We began with a discussion led by Dr. David Hellmich on Organizational Frames and Pete Dillon's leadership role in developing SVCC. Both of these men are truly Sauk Valley treasures.

To end our morning, each student gave a "Call to Action" presentation. Students discussed the various lessons and information they have learned from this program and how they will apply this experience to create and meet new goals moving forward. These students articulated inspiring, humbling, and creative reflections on our nine months together. Lunch from Jimmy Johns rounded out the morning session.

The day culminated with a graduation ceremony at SVCC. Former WACC CEO students prepared our delicious dinner: charcuterie boxes from Above the Board. Each student received recognition from a board member and received a plaque as a gift. What a lucky community we are to have these thirteen strong leaders in the Sauk Valley area!



The Sauk Valley Community Leadership is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 cohort.

Visit svleadership.org to apply.

The next round of classes will begin in July.

**Congratulations to
Community State Bank
for receiving the
Customer Service Award!**

A special shout out to Tiffany for always going above and beyond for her customers!
For more information visit
commstbk.com or call 815-625-4300



CSA Sponsored by:



Ribbon Cuttings

State of Mind
Northland Mall, Sterling
815-564-2200



Whiteside County Senior Center Food Pantry
1207 W. 9th St., Sterling
815-622-9230

NAMI Sauk Valley
namisaukarea.org



Tom Gleissner—Edward Jones
New Location:
302 S. Galena Ave, Dixon
815-288-3838



Surf Broadband Solutions & WACC partnership
For more information about Surf call
(888) 274-6381 or visit
surfbroadband.com



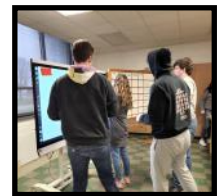
Workforce Development

Milledgeville High School students participated in six week Certificate of Employability Workshop. In partnership with Milledgeville High school and local businesses, the SVACC offered this essential skills/ career pathways workshop to 15 high school seniors. This initiative is an example of bridging the gap between students/education and employers/businesses. Students were given the opportunity to gain information about the local businesses in the area and the various career pathways available right here in the Sauk Valley. They also learned about the importance of essential skills in the workplace and completed activities that exemplified the importance of these skills.

The essential skills covered included: How to get the Job, Work Ethic, Professionalism, Communication, Teamwork/Collaboration, and Problem Solving/Critical Thinking/Creativity.

Thank you to the following businesses for being part of this project:

Astec Industries
CGH
Frantz Manufacturing
IFH Group
Sauk Valley Bank
Verifacts



Here are a couple quotes from the students that participated:

- “I learned a lot about the interview process.”
- “ I learned how to dress for an interview and how important communication is.”
- “It gave me a better look at all the jobs in the area.”

If you are interested in joining as a community partner in this initiative for the 2022-2023 school year, please contact Kris at the SVACC.

INVESTORS IN THE NEWS

Sterling Federal Bank Named Among Top Extraordinary Banks in the Nation

Sterling Federal Bank was recently named one of the top extraordinary banks in the United States by The Institute for Extraordinary Banking™. Sterling Federal Bank was recognized with the Institute’s Above-and-Beyond Customer Service Bank™ Award for its systems and follow-through that create a consistent level of proven, exemplary customer service for clients.

“We are very humbled to be chosen from among our peers for this award”, said Dean Ahlers, President & CEO. “Our employees’ passion for providing our customer with excellent service is truly amazing. We would like to thank our customers for your continued trust and support”.

The Extraordinary Banking™ Awards highlight the vital yet often overlooked role that local community banks play in our nation’s economy. Without a vibrant local banking industry, our small businesses and families often lack the have-your-back support of a true community bank that makes communities really thrive.

The Extraordinary Banking™ Awards recognize the best of what community banks offer to our cities, towns, and nation: a true commitment to the success of the small businesses and local communities they serve.

Roxanne Emmerich, Chair and Founder of The Institute for Extraordinary Banking™, proclaimed during the awards ceremony: “Community banks are the backbone of America. They are what keeps a community thriving. When a community bank leaves a community, small businesses often struggle to stay, and jobs leave. Every robust community has a strong community bank that understands how to help that community thrive and grow.”



Written by: Lexi Headrick, Sterling High School

Being in the CEO class has taught me so many things. In one of our journals, we were asked to talk about a few things that we have taken away from the class.

Mine were:



1. Communication skills. I was an extremely shy person and after coming into CEO I have learned how to really communicate and even start conversations.
2. How to dress business casual. I never exactly knew what business casual clothing was and sometimes I still don't completely dress business casual but I now know how to.
3. Life lessons. I have learned many life lessons from this class and continue to take more and more almost every single day. I have learned so many that it has helped and even put an impact on my life.

CEO was such an amazing class to be in and helped me come far in life. It isn't just a class about business but a class about life. I want to say thank you to all my classmates for making CEO so fun and a big thank you to Le for really pushing me to come out of my shell and become the best version of myself.

Written by: Kierra Magana, Sterling High School

With the school year coming to an end, here are the three most valuable lessons I learned from CEO:

- The most change occurs when you get comfortable with being uncomfortable
- Being able to work in a team/micro-management is one of the most valuable things to master or understand for the real world
- Don't be driven by shame

As an introverted teen, I would've never imagined myself doing the things I can do today and to have had this exponential growth in my social skills from a class. I speak in front of a crowd like I have done it my whole life! That is crazy considering I'm only 18 years old. Secondly, all of the amazing speakers I had the pleasure of meeting changed my perspective on life. Third, group activities that taught me patience and finally the surprise "speeches" that made me get comfortable with being uncomfortable, you name it. In the best way possible, I did not know one bit what I was getting myself into when I had gotten accepted into this class. I am so blessed and fortunate to have had this once in a lifetime experience with an amazing group of peers. Thank you to our facilitator who's more than a great leader, Le Hartman, to have made this possible for us. My name is Kierra Magana, class of '22 and I thank you all for taking the time to read the last article.

Government Affairs Update

[Small Business Bill of Rights](#) - In honor of Small Business Week, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is [calling on Congress](#) to embrace a set of five free enterprise principles that emphasize what small business owners, founders, and entrepreneurs need from government to grow and thrive.

The Small Business '[Bill of Rights](#)' summarize the basic rights of business owners in America—and represent policies the U.S. Chamber supports and fights for every day. In addition, please [click here](#) to view a webpage created by CO—by U.S. Chamber of Commerce highlighting small business events happening in May. You can also find a Small Business Bill of Rights toolkit [here](#), which contains sample social media content and graphics.



Guest Editorial



The Whiteside County Senior Center is on its way of becoming the happening place it used to be. We have something for everyone at the center whether it be exercise, entertainment, education or assistance. Our activities and programs are growing every month along with volunteering opportunities to keep seniors active and engaged in the community.

On any given day you will run into an old friend at the Senior Center - the pool players are back in full force on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and ready to swap stories with you. We have card groups ready to teach you how to play their favorite game. We have technology time every day from 8:30 to 11:30 - so if you have questions about using a computer please stop by. Every Friday morning, we are raising the roof with Line dancing. There is even a beginner's class for new line dancers at 10am. If you like the calming effect of yoga, you'll want to come Thursday mornings. If you are a golfer needing a foursome - we have the connections for you. We also started a walking club so you can have a safe environment to get some exercise. Come on Monday afternoon and volunteer LuAnn will teach you how to make a quilt. Tuesday afternoon you'll find either Volunteer Ada or Volunteer Dorothy in the craft room for our knitting club. If you need food, Golden Meals serve hot meals Monday through Thursday. Meals only cost \$3 (Link is accepted) Stay after lunch Thursday afternoon for a presentation or movie then leave with a bag of groceries to see you through the weekend from our Food Pantry. Our Outreach team is here to help with notary service, free phones for hearing impaired (if doctor ordered), and are trained to assist you with your Medicare questions. Along with filling out applications for discounts on property taxes or license plate stickers. An Outreach worker can help you apply for almost any assistance out there or at least refer you to someone who can assist you. If you have a need, give us a call at 815-622-9230.

Whiteside County Senior Center Staff are known for their kindness. To help people remember the kindness that we share at the Whiteside County Senior Center, we are launching a kindness campaign - Whiteside County Senior Center Rocks! Seniors are encouraged to come help us paint smiley face rocks on June 15th in our new craft room. We will then hide them throughout Whiteside County for some summertime fun. As individuals find these rocks in the community, we are asking you to take a selfie with it and tag us on your Facebook page along with where you found it. Once you do that, you can leave the rock where it is or take it and hide it again. We hope to see these rocks show up in all areas of Whiteside County. Come join us for the fun of either finding the rocks or hiding them. Chamber members are encouraged to come to the center to get a rock to hide in Whiteside County.





Music Under the Stars with the Sterling Municipal Band returns to the Grandon Civic Center in Central Memorial Park in Downtown Sterling for the Summer of 2022.

This 10 week concert series kicks off on June 1st and runs through August 3rd. 🎵 Pre-concert entertainment begins each night at 6:15, with the Sterling Municipal Band taking the stage at 7:30 PM.

2022 Schedule

June 1

Opening Concert
🎵 *Finding Home*

June 8

Guest Soloist - Madeline Geil
🎵 *Mariachi Camprianos*

June 15

A Night on Broadway
🎵 *Truman's Ridge*

June 22

Guest Conductor - Jonathan Lauff
Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, IL
🎵 *Who Drank all the Tequila*

June 29

Fourth of July Celebration
🎵 *String-Alongs*

July 6

Conductors Night Out
🎵 *Hitz City*

July 13

Guest Conductor - Dr. Charles Menghini
Director Emeritus, Vandercook College
of Music
🎵 *Robbie LeBlanc
and the Real Live Show*

July 20

Guest Conductor - Dr. Anthony Marinello
Illinois State University
🎵 *Chameleon*

July 27

Kidz Konzert
🎵 *Spontaneous Combustion*

August 3

An Evening of Frank Sinatra Hits with
guests Jason Richards, soloist, and
The Josh Duffee Quintet
🎵 *Monarch*

 @SMB.STERLING.IL

All performances are free. Feel free to bring a blanket, lawn chair or take advantage of the bench seating available at the park.

Concessions will be available for purchase onsite or feel free to pack your own picnic and make an evening of it!

The Sterling Municipal Band is sponsored in part by:



Boston Leather
Sterling Federal Bank

Let's Feed our Children

FREE MEALS FOR KIDS & TEENS

Grab and go meals are provided free of charge to all kids and teens.

- No registration or paperwork needed.
- Three kid friendly, ready to eat lunches will be handed out to each person.

DATES & TIME

Every Wednesday, June 1 - August 10. Meals are served 12-12:30pm

LOCATIONS

ERIE

Near Margaret Park

FULTON

First Reformed Church

LYNDON

Richmond Park

MILLEDGEVILLE

Public Library

MORRISON

Comm. Center (Market St)

PROPHETSTOWN

Eclipse Square

ROCK FALLS

Coloma Homes (Near Main Office)

Merrill School (Front Door)

Rock Falls Public Library (Lobby)

Wallingford Park (Shelter)

STERLING

Broadway Methodist

Latin American Social Club

Salvation Army

Scheid Park (Shelter)

St. Paul Lutheran

Sterling Public Library (Back Lot)

Ster-Lynn Apartments

TAMPICO

Community Building



Questions?

Contact United Way of Whiteside County
815.625.7973 | uwwhiteside.org



SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY L.E.A.D.E.R.S.H.I.P. PROGRAM

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

The Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program will build on your existing leadership skills, broaden your knowledge of our local region, and unlock your potential as an effective leader for our Sauk Valley communities.

Visit svleadership.org for complete program information and to apply online.



SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY L.E.A.D.E.R.S.H.I.P. PROGRAM

How long is the program?

Your program will run from August through May.

What topics does the curriculum include?

Direct experience with Community topics like economic development and local and state government; Leadership topics like public speaking and strategic planning; and a Volunteer project, working with fellow participants to achieve a common goal.

When are classes?

Either twice a month on the first and third Wednesday from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or once a month on the second Wednesday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

How much is tuition?

Program tuition is \$700 and covers all program costs. To learn about scholarship opportunities and to ask questions, email svleadership@svcc.edu.

Sauk Valley Community College is dedicated to teaching and scholarship while engaging the community in lifelong learning, public service, and economic development.



PRESENTED BY:
SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS WITH THE SBAC

This discussion will focus on how to partner with the SBAC and be a bigger voice for Rural Illinois small business. Bring your thoughts, ideas, challenges, and concerns for an opportunity to develop ways to impact change.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28
3:00 PM

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RIVERVIEW CONFERENCE ROOM (1H18)
173 IL RT 2, DIXON



ELLIOT RICHARDSON

CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE
SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL

This event is free, but registration is required.
Please register at bit.ly/3siSR1Q or call 815-625-2400.

