



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



**IN THIS
ISSUE:**



PAGE 5



PAGE 6



PAGE 8

Partnering for Success

MAY 2021



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce



Normally held in January, the Annual Meeting & Dinner was postponed this year. Following the State of Illinois Health and Safety Guidelines, we are excited to be able to offer a time to gather, celebrate, and thank you - our members - for your commitment to the SVACC.

We hope you will join us!

On behalf of the SVACC Board of Directors,
you are invited to the

ANNUAL MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENT

Thursday,

**MAY
27**

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Sterling Marketplace
106 Avenue A

\$20/person

Registration
required by
May 21:

bit.ly/38ZtPuT

Join us for:

WACC CEO class highlights
Appetizers & cash bar
In-person conversations!

Celebrating the SVACC 2020 Award Winners:
SVACC Chamber Champion: Dr. David Hellmich, SVCC
SVACC Ambassador of the Year: Nicole Bollman, CGH

For questions or more information, please contact
Kris at 815-625-2400 or knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com



GET VACCINATED

This is your **Shot** to get back to **normal**.



Sign up online:
WWW.CGPMC.COM/VACCINE

Or call:
(815) 632-5298 (M-F • 8AM-5PM)

May

- May 5 Executive Board
- May 7 Golf
- May 11 Board
- May 13 Ambassadors
- May 14 HBLC
- May 18 Ag
- May 19 PWN

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

Executive Committee

- President: Lance Buser
- First Vice President: Sheila Martinez
- Second Vice President: Jon Mandrell
- Treasurer: Pam Fluck
- Past President: Mike Loos

Board of Directors

Term Ends January 31, 2022

- Jim Cesarek, RE/MAX Sauk Valley
- Geoff Wright, CGH Medical Center
- Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, YWCA of the Sauk Valley
- Josh Johnson, Whiteside Area Career Center
- Dr. Jon Mandrell, Sauk Valley Community College

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
- Lance Buser, Wal-Mart DC #7024
- Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson
- Amy Williamson, Holiday Inn Express & Suites
- Steve Munson, Retired, The Medicine Shoppe

Staff

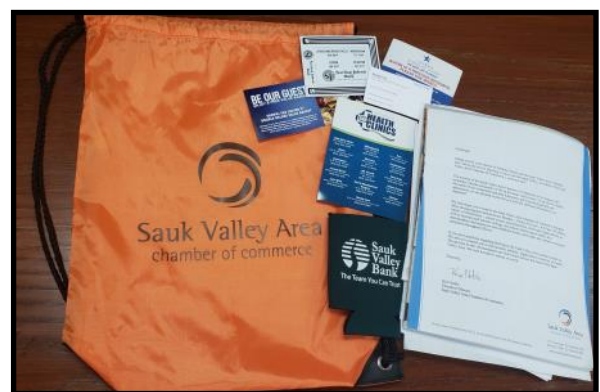
- Executive Director—Kris Noble
- Marketing Coordinator— Dallas Knack
- Financial Specialist/Office Manager—Bailey Dorner

A Message from the Director

One of the benefits of membership with the SVACC is the opportunity to share information about your business or organization with individuals relocating to our area. Our new resident packets are an opportunity for you to get in front of new people to our area. The best part? It's free! All you have to do is drop off any materials you'd like included in our packets to the chamber office. Business cards, flyers, coupons, freebies, whatever you'd like! We will include your items in our packets (which are fun drawstring backpacks) and disburse them to local realtors and employers as they work with individuals relocating.

Want to include your items in our new resident packets?

Call 815-625-2400 for more information, or drop your items by the SVACC office (211 Locust St.)



Kris

NEW MEMBERS

Winning Wheels
701 E 3rd St, Prophetstown
815-537-5168

Member Update May 2021

MEMBER RENEWALS

Amazing Grace	Home of Hope	Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.
Angelo's	Jakobs Bros. Farms Inc.	Slim-N-Hank's Auto Body Shop, Inc
B & R Auto and Truck Electric	Johnson Oil Company	Sterling Federal Bank
Brown Construction Company	Kiwanis Club of Sterling	Sterling Optimist Club
CGH Medical Center	Manpower	Sterling Park District
Clinton Lumber Kings	Mike Sprague State Farm Insurance	Sterling Rock Falls Jaycees
Clover Hills Appliance Center	Moore Monument & Granite Co.	Sterling Systems & Controls, Inc.
County Market	Morrison Institute of Technology	Steve Munson
Downie & Associates, CPA's, PC	Nasos Salon	The Factory
Edward Jones / Loos	Northern IL Home Medical Supply	The Fitting Room
Engel Electric Company	Northland Mall (Sterling Realty LLC)	Timber Lake Playhouse
Exceptional Care & Training Center	Rock River Golf & Pool	Trinity Insurance & Financial Services
First Christian Church of Sterling	Rock River Hospice & Home	US Bank
Gaffey Health Service, Inc.	Sandrock Farms/Sauk Valley Angus	Vintage Cousins Emporium
Greater Sterling Development Corp.	Sauk Valley Bank	Wendler Engineering Services
Helm Civil	Select Employees Credit Union	Wesley United Methodist Church
Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.	Servicemaster	
	Sherwin Williams Company	

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!

Investing over \$1000 in Dues

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 Members

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
Johnson Oil Company
Lance's Plumbing
LK Design Source
Mattox Insurance Agency
Moore Monument & Granite Co
Smoked on 3rd
Sterling Rock Falls Child Care
The Spa At Central Park
United Craftsmen, Ltd.
Wiggins Communication
Technology
Willy's Restaurant

110% Club Members

1st Gateway Credit Union	Mertes & Mertes	Showplace Antiques & Treasures
Bollman Auto Center	Mike Sprague State Farm	Simply Hair Studios
Cassens Drainage	New Millenium Directories	St. Mary's School
Central Heating & Cooling	Reitzel Roofing Company	St. Vincent DePaul
Central Park Yoga	Rock River Lumber & Grain	Sterling Chevrolet
Compeer Financial	Rock River Ready Mix	Sterling Commercial Roofing
Folsom's Bakery	Rosemeyer Management Group	Sterling Optimist Club
Hawkins-Cassens Insurance, LLC	Sauk Valley Foodbank	Steve Munson
Imprintable Memories	Scholl Insurance Agency	The Cornerstone Agency, Inc.
Kiwanis Club of Sterling	Servicemaster	Vintage Cousins Emporium
	Sherwin Williams Company	Wendler Engineering Services, Inc.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Career Pathways and Essential Skills Project

By SVACC, SVCC, and BEST Inc.

The SVACC has been engaged in workforce development initiatives for many years; it is part of our strategic plan. It allows our members to become engaged in the discussions and implementation of ideas regarding career pathways and essential skills needed in the workplace. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we have had to think of new ways to make connections between employers and educators/students to allow students to gain a better understanding of all the career pathways in the Sauk Valley and those skills needed to be successful in the workplace. In partnership with SVCC and BEST, we are working to create a series of videos with local businesses/organizations to share about pathways and essential skills needed.

Eventually, we would also like to create a database of employers who are interested in going into the classroom or presenting at Work in the Real World; when health and safety guidelines allow this to happen. Following is an overview of the project:

Targeted Audience

- *Local High School students
- *Young workers entering the workforce.

Goal

- *Provide students an opportunity to learn about careers from the people who do them and to learn about the skills they need to be successful at work.

Format

- *We will work with you to arrange a session with videographer at SVCC to schedule a time to tape a 15-minute presentation who will edit the presentation as needed.
- *There are various options on how to do the presentation as We can easily set up a question-and-answer session or you can present your thoughts, suggestions, and information in a lecture style for We will give you the questions ahead of time, so you know what to expect. The presentation can be done at the college and be edited as needed.
- *We could record a presentation through Zoom. You could add coworkers to the presentation or put together a PowerPoint presentation to share.
- *You could record your own 15-minute presentation and send it to us.

Content

- *We will work with you to develop content for the presentation. You will be able to talk about the various jobs/positions in your business; the levels of education needed in these various positions, and the essential skills that you, as an employer, deem as necessary for success in the workforce.

The feedback from educators and students has been really positive when they have the opportunity to connect with employers. This is great visibility for your business/organization as well. If you would like to find out more this project or are interested in doing a video, please contact Kris at the chamber. 815-625-2400 or knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com.

Legislative Lunch & Learn — April 8

Thank you to all who attended our Legislative Lunch & Learn. It was an insightful afternoon with 22 participants where the United State Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, and Representative Tony McCombie provided updates.

Kevin Courtois, Executive Director of Congressional and Public Affairs, USCC Great Lake Regional office provided information on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 including extension of the PPP program, the Restaurant Relief Fund Grant, and the status of a federal infrastructure plan. Clark Kaericher, VP of Government Affairs; Illinois Chamber of Commerce provided updates on several bills that will impact the business community. He gave an overview of the BIPA act that is up for revision. Rep McCombie provided updates at the state level and answered questions from participants.



Congratulations to Moore Tires for receiving the Customer Service Award!

Nominated for honoring their female staff during Women's History Month AND for their quality service at all levels, we are proud to have Moore Tires as a member of the SVACC.
Call 815-625-1800 for more information or visit their website.



CSA Sponsored by:



Your Voice Has POWER

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Sauk Valley



ywsauk.org



Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

We Believe You. We are Here to Help.

We Offer FREE and CONFIDENTIAL Services for All Genders and Ages

24-HOUR HOTLINE: 815.626.7277 & 815.288.1011

Ribbon Cuttings



Sotelo Media
(815) 908-7823

Vintage Cousins Emporium
Build-A-Pet
318 1st Ave Sterling
815-632-3186



The First Christian Church
3400 6th Ave, Sterling
815-625-6851

Digital.

Transformed.

From business intelligence and accounting to CX and cybersecurity, Wipfli can help your business grow.

wipfli.com



WIPFLI

Chamber Ambassadors

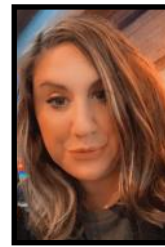
Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension
Amy Tessman – Frary Lumber
Angie Delhotal— Sauk Valley College Foundation
Angie Smith – Hawkins-Cassens Insurance Agency
Becky Eberle – Sterling Federal Bank
Cassandra Salmon – Sauk Valley Bank
Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley
Christina Bystry—House in the Country
Jon Byar – Midland States Bank

Justin Wiggins—Wiggins Computing, LLC
Karen Voss –
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

Welcome to our newest SVACC Ambassadors!



Becky Eberle—Sterling Federal Bank



Melissa Ryan—Rock River Hospice & Home

Ambassador Spotlight

Hi! My name is Cassandra Salmon. I work for Sauk Valley Bank in the Business Services Department and have served as an ambassador for 6 years now. In addition to volunteering for the Chamber, I also serve as Board Secretary for the YWCA of the Sauk Valley, located in Sterling and Dixon.

I am extremely passionate about the YWCA and their mission, which is why I find serving on the board so rewarding. The YWCA has been serving our community for 94 years, and is dedicated to their mission of Eliminating racism, Empowering Women, and Promoting Peace, Justice, and Dignity for ALL!

There are many services offered at the YWCA; Career Services, this helps local area women increase their chances of successfully landing a job. School base counseling, we educate 15,000 local students on sexual abuse, bullying, and ways to stay safe. Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence counseling/support services. Tech programs after school for kids, just to name a few.

We also offer membership! Being a member of the YWCA allows you to be a part our legacy. An opportunity for you to support our services and mission. This membership also includes discounted rates to our room rental. Since the YWCA is a not-for-profit organization, we are always looking for volunteers and donations. To learn more, or join, call the YWCA of the Sauk Valley at 815.625.0333. Be sure to follow our pages for our newest venture, West End Moxie FKA The Emporium, located downtown Sterling. YWCA [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#).



Farmer's National Bank, Morrison Illinois donated \$500.00 to On the Move with Parks and Recreation for the Future Morrison Bark Park on 4/16/21. Thank you Farmer's National Bank for helping a dream become reality!

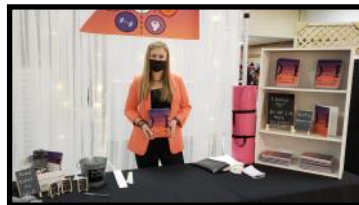
Written by: Ryan McGinn, Newman Central Catholic High School

CEO has taught me so much about the business world, from learning the basics of becoming an entrepreneur to learning how to become a great leader. The past few weeks of class we all have been working very hard on our personal businesses. My business is Belly Fams Jelly and Jams and I sell strawberry and raspberry pepper jellies and bacon jam. By the time you read this article, the trade show will be over and we will be working on our profit and loss statements. We all hope the profit side is a big number! We have also been focusing on leadership these last few weeks and what it takes to be a good leader. Multiple speakers have come to talk to us and I have learned that leaders have to be able to adapt to different groups of people, leaders have to extract lessons from failure and be able to move on, and leaders have to have good communication skills.

Written by: Rosie Reyes, Rock Falls High School

Unfortunately, every CEO year comes to an end. Over the past year I have learned so many life lessons and changed to become a better person. Out of all the speakers, tours, and early morning doughnuts, three presentations will stick with me forever. First, nothing good or successful will come easy. You have to work hard to become successful, and we experienced this first hand with the class business and independent businesses. Through all of the ups and downs, we showed up everyday and worked as hard as possible. Another presentation that stuck with me was that we can't be afraid of risk. "No guts no glory." We learned to analyze the world around us and make risky decisions from there. Lastly, I will never forget to only worry about things in my circle of concern. You cannot rely on other people to keep you in check, you have to make lists, set reminders, and be responsible for your mistakes. It is also not your job to take care of other people; worry about yourself and your concerns. It's been a year filled with blood, sweat, and tears, but with the right team, you will come out a better person.

The CEO Trade Show was a success!
Thank you to Northland Mall and all of the sponsors who made this event possible. A big thanks goes out to our community who came out and showed their support for our students!



Guest Editorial



Written by: Dr. Lori Cortez, Sauk Valley Community College

Why Did Dr. Biden Visit Sauk?

“Why would Dr. Biden visit Sauk Valley Community College?” might have been the most popular question in the Sauk Valley area in April of 2021. Followed only by “What’s here for anyone to see?”

When I received an email on April 6, that First Lady Dr. Jill Biden wanted to visit SVCC, it felt like a belated April Fool’s joke, until I realized: someone finally sees what I see every day. Truly, it’s about time the Sauk Valley area received national recognition for our dynamic students, faculty/staff, programs, and workforce partnerships.

Our students inspire me. SVCC students find themselves at a disadvantage as 94% of Sauk students are either low income, first generation college students, or students with a disability. However, they defy all the odds, all the research, and all the predictive analytics with a graduation rate that is DOUBLE the national community college graduation rate. That is something to be recognized.

I’m honored to work alongside our world renowned faculty and staff. Many of our faculty hold doctorate degrees and share their expertise on campus and in our community. Staff at SVCC don’t treat our students as just another number, but as a person that we connect to volunteer opportunities, internships, and community organizations to engage them in the Sauk Valley community. Their dedication to building our area is not something to be overlooked.

SVCC prides itself in workforce partnerships that are closely tied to economic development in healthcare, manufacturing, and teacher education. The Small Business Development Center at SVCC has created nearly 200 jobs, and retained another 100 jobs, right here in our community. The Earned Tuition Impact Program has the potential to train and develop 800 new workers each year, which will contribute to economic prosperity for every person in the Sauk Valley. Yet another accomplishment to celebrate.



“Why would Dr. Jill Biden visit SVCC?” was asked by so many, but my question is: Why wouldn’t the nation want to recognize and replicate what your college does for you and our community?



Photos from Rockford Register Star





The Sauk Valley Leadership Program met on April 7th at Sauk Valley Community College. The topic of the day was State Government. There were two guest speakers for the first session of the day; Representative Tony McCombie of the 71st District, and Representative Tom Demmer of the 90th District. Both representatives discussed their journey into politics and the challenges of the job.

The students were impressed by how personable and genuine each Representative presented themselves.

Dr. Michelle Hanlon was the guest speaker for the second half of the morning.

Dr. Hanlon is a Professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston, and conducts research in taxation and financial accounting. Dr. Hanlon discussed the work she has performed with the US Senate Finance Committee, and the difference in leadership between government, academia, and private practice. Dr. Hanlon grew-up on a farm in the Sauk Valley area and graduated from Tampico High School, so she also discussed her journey from

growing-up in the Midwest, to earning her doctorate on the West Coast, to now living on the East Coast for her current position with MIT. The day ended with a great lunch provided by Coty's Unique Cooking & Catering.



The Adult Leadership Class met again on April 21st. The day began at the Rock Falls Culvers with a presentation from General Manager Ashlee Alber. The class learned the mission of Culvers, watched the creation of the Butter Burger and enjoyed some cheese curds and custard for breakfast! The students were impressed at the community service provided by Culvers, and the changes Culvers made to their operation to accommodate customers during the pandemic.

The students then met at United Way for the second half of the morning to hear a panel of Human Resource Directors; Dr. Sara Dail of Sterling Public Schools; Lance Buser of Walmart Distribution Center; Ryan Miller of KSB Hospital; and Sandy Baylor-Schmidt of CGH Medical Center. The panelist discussed the challenges of hiring good employees,

retaining good employees, and evaluating all levels of employees. Again, the pandemic has significantly impacted employment, and each of these directors have had an incredibly difficult year. One of the many take-aways the students can reflect on is a statement made by Lance Buser, "fair, firm, and consistent" as a strategy to best operate as a human resource director. It was evident by the end of this discussion that there are many good jobs available in the Sauk Valley area that need filled. The day ended with a delicious lunch from Culvers!



Business After Hours & Ribbon Cutting

Thursday, May 13th
from 4-7PM

Appetizers & Beverages
Door Prizes



KUNES
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM
STERLING

NEW LOCATION

3200 E. Lincolnway | Sterling, IL
815.625.2290 | KunesSterlingAuto.com

We're available to assist our local businesses & happy to take PPP applications through May 31.

Helping
Keep The SAUK VALLEY
OPEN



\$51.3M

In small business PPP loans made



516

Small businesses/borrowers helped



\$75.7K

PPP average loan size



4,223

Small business jobs saved

Ph: (815) 632-4490



#SVBhasYouCovered



WWW.SAUKVALLEYBANK.COM



Government Affairs Update



One of our most important roles as a Chamber of Commerce is to be an advocate, for you- our members, to take an active role at the local, state, and federal level to promote ideas and initiatives that help our businesses and organizations. I am pleased to announce our participation in the Chambers All in for Economic Recovery initiative. This initiative calls upon our legislators across the state to prioritize economic relief for the business community in the wake of a devastating year. The platform below was designed collaboratively with the business community's input to identify items that our state legislature should consider to spur short- and long-term economic relief. Chambers All in for Economic Recovery calls for:

- The creation of a formalized private and public sector-led collaborative commission with the goal of understanding and responding to the ongoing pandemic and the long-term economic challenges of COVID-19
- An extension of policy exempting unemployment benefits claims from affecting the Employer's contribution rate for those layoffs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Installation of tax credits and incentives to eligible businesses that encourage job creation, workforce development, and business growth and investment
- Establishment of business tax credits for expenses related to establishing remote work capabilities
- Legal protections to employers who follow the CDC established safety guidelines from claims that COVID-19 was contracted at the place of business
- A call for more significant financial investments in Get Hired II to assist in retraining workers for talent retention. The investment can aid in bringing the COVID-19. Employment Recovery Project to prominence in all 102 counties and develop capacity in the program to subsidize retraining costs
- A call to refrain from decoupling from federal tax credits provided for businesses in the CARES Act to ensure eligible businesses receive financial relief.
- A request for the state to work collaboratively with insurance providers to ensure any eligible employees are accurately classified as telecommunicating clerical employees for workers compensation insurance.

If you or your business wants to learn more on the Chambers All in for Economic Recovery platform, please contact Kris Noble at the Chamber.

GIVE TO THE CGH Health Foundation AND FEEL GOOD!

*Need a gift for
Mom or something
kid friendly for the
summer?*

**The CGH Health
Foundation
Virtual Silent Auction
is coming!**

7 am Fri., April 30 - 9 pm Tues., May 4

Watch for the link on the CGH Medical Center website and Facebook page

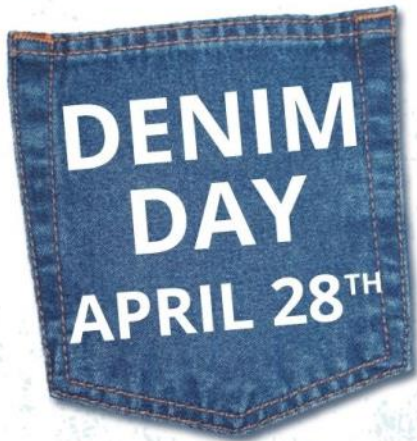


All proceeds go towards funding 18 projects to assist area children and adults - *your dollars stay local!*
A special project this year is to offer two extra days of Ways to Wellness Program mental health counseling for our patients, with one day specifically devoted to pregnant and post-partum moms

Baskets are physically located at the Foundation office at 2600 N. Locust St., Sterling, and can be viewed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 30, Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 4. Photos and descriptions of baskets will be available through the online auction website. Watch for the link on the CGH website and Facebook page on Thursday, April 29.

April 2021

Sexual Assault Awareness Month



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the businesses, organizations, schools, and individuals that contributed to our Denim Day Campaign! Your generous support sends a message of support to survivors of sexual violence and helps fund the following services in Whiteside and Lee Counties:

- 24-hour victim support at hospitals
- 24-hour hotline
- Free, confidential counseling for all ages and genders
- Body safety and sexual violence prevention presentations in local schools
- Legal advocacy
- Professional trainings

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Sauk Valley

24-HOUR HOTLINES:
815.626.7277 • 815.288.1011



ywsauk.org   

Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

presented by



Friday, June 25, 2021 Deer Valley Golf Club

Registration & Lunch - **NOON** ♦ Shotgun Start - **1 p.m.**

Prizes & Awards Following Golf

Scramble Format

A Full Day of Fun For Just - **\$75 per golfer**

\$300 per foursome

(includes green fees, cart, lunch & awards)

Yes, I want to join & support Rock River Hospice & Home in the 2021 Golf Outing!

Business/Team Name: _____

Captain's Name/Golfer #1: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Player #2: _____

Player #3: _____

Player #4: _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Method of Payment: _____ Check Enclosed _____ Credit

Type of Card: _____ MasterCard Card #: _____

_____ Discover Exp. Date: _____

_____ Visa Three Digit Security # _____ on back of card

Authorized Signature: _____

Return registration & payment to: RRHH Golf Outing, 2706 Avenue E, Sterling, IL 61081 Questions?

Call Melissa at Rock River Hospice & Home at (815) 625-3858 / email

melissa@hospicerockriver.org



STERLING MAIN STREET

Inspired.



Involved.

2021 Schedule of Events

APR 24  **EARTH DAY**
Bash
and spring opening of the Sterling Marketplace 

 **STERLING MAIN STREET** **MAY 02**
Car Show

MOVIES @ GRANDON **TBA**

MAY 27
JUN 24
JUL 22
AUG 26  **Pop-Up MARKET**
DOWNTOWN STERLING

AUG 06  *Hot Dog Day*

 **Harvest MOON Festival** **SEP 25**

 *Sip into Fall* **SEP 23**
Downtown Sterling Wine Walk

DEC 03 *Sights & Sounds* 

OCT 09  **HOPS**
on the Rock
A Craft Beer Festival

*All Events Subject to Change due to any ongoing COVID-19 restrictions

www.sterlingmainstreet.org

| 815.626.8610

| info@sterlingmainstreet.org

