



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



IN THIS
ISSUE:



PAGE 4



PAGE 7



PAGE 9

Partnering for Success

NOVEMBER 2021

Sights & Sounds



Downtown Sterling Christmas Walk

Friday, December 3, 2021

5 PM til Late

Tree Lighting, Santa's Workshop,
Horse & Carriage Rides, Late Night Shopping
& Dining Specials, Live Entertainment,
Fireworks & More!

Brought to you by

STERLING
MAIN STREET

Inspired.



Involved.



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

for more information visit

 www.sterlingmainstreet.org



CGH AUXILIARY
ANNIVERSARY

We are truly grateful for all of our
wonderful Auxiliary volunteers!

The CGH Auxiliary provides more than 20,000 hours per year of "hands-on" service to our patients, visitors, and staff. Auxiliary members serve 25 CGH departments. Services include: escort and wheelchair transport, encouraging oncology patients, and assisting customers in the hospital's gift shop. The Auxiliary healthcare scholarships and annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony are also key projects for our volunteers.

www.cghmc.com/auxiliary



November Meetings

November 3 Executive Board
November 9 Board
November 11 Ambassadors
November 12 HBLC
November 16 Ag
November 17 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

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
Alejandro Rivera, Re/Max Sauk Valley

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

Holiday Events 2021

I look at my calendar every day and yet it feels like the holiday season just sneaks up on me. November is here and that means the holidays are coming soon, so we are getting prepared.

We are excited to partner with Sterling Main Street again in the planning and implementation of Seasonal Sights and Sounds of Sterling. This year the Downtown Christmas Walk will be held on **Friday, December 3 starting at 5:00 p.m.**

The Tree Lighting at Library Plaza will take place at 5:30 p.m. along with the traditional Sterling Theater tower lighting. Santa and Mrs. Claus will join the festivities to visit with children from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Santa's Workshop children's activities will be held on 4th Street between 1st Avenue & Locust until 7:30 p.m. Horse & Carriage rides by Carriage Springs Farms will be offered around the downtown and 3-D Sound will be providing holiday music throughout the downtown. The evening will be capped off with a fireworks display over the riverfront at 8:00 p.m.

As a member of the SVACC, I invite you to get involved by participating in Santa's Workshop or sponsoring. Both options will give your business or organization a lot of visibility. Santa's Workshop continues to grow as it is a family friendly free event. As a participant, you are asked to provide a game/activity/craft. There are no direct sales, but you are encouraged to share information about your business or organization. There are various levels of sponsorship; for more information please contact me. Any support is greatly appreciated, as Seasonal Sights and Sounds Downtown Christmas Walk activities are offered at no charge to families. Sponsorships allow us to provide fun family activities, like the fireworks, horse/carriage rides, and music to celebrate the holiday season.

For a complete listing of holiday activities visit sterlingmainstreet.org.

For more information, please contact the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce at 815-625-2400 or Sterling Main Street at 815-626-8610.

Kris

Member Update November 2021

NEW MEMBERS

Shelly Dambman, CPA
815-493-8792
107 E School Dr., Lanark

Rotary Airlock
815-564-1711
301 W 3rd St Suite L, Sterling

Granny Rose Animal Shelter
815-288-7387 6
13 River Ln, Dixon

MEMBER RENEWALS

Abiding Word Church
Alternative Ag Services &
Consultants (AASC)
American Legion Post 328
Bradford Supply Company
Brent's Upholstery &
Auto Accessories
Central Heating & Cooling, Inc.
County Market
Culver's of Rock Falls
DeJonge Tax & Accounting, Inc.

Destinations Travel Services, Inc.
Greencastle of Sterling, an Embrace
Living Community
Kreider Services
McDonald's
Midland States Bank
Morrison Institute of Technology
New Millenium Directories
Pinney Printing
River Ridge Animal Hospital
SBM

Sjostrom & Sons, Inc.
Smoked on 3rd
Sterling Federal Bank
Sterling Fence Company
Sterling Rock Falls Family YMCA
United Electric
University of Illinois Extension
Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson
Woodlawn Arts Academy

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
Loescher HVAC
Mattox Insurance Agency
Moore Monument & Granite Co
Select Employees Credit Union
Smoked on 3rd
Sterling Rock Falls Child Care
Sterling Township
The Spa At Central Park
United Craftsmen, Ltd.

110% Club Members

1st Gateway Credit Union
Bollman Auto Center
Cassens Drainage
Central Heating & Cooling
Central Park Yoga
Compeer Financial
Dennis Electric of Tampico, Inc
Farmer's National Bank
Folsom's Bakery
Hawkins-Cassens Insurance, LLC
Imprintable Memories
Kiwanis Club of Sterling
Marv Lofgren & Sons Contractors
Mertes & Mertes
Mike Sprague State Farm
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
Simply Hair Studios
St. Mary's School
St. Vincent DePaul
Sterling Chevrolet
Sterling Commercial Roofing
Sterling Optimist Club
Steve Munson
The Cornerstone Agency, Inc.
Vintage Cousins Emporium
Wendler Engineering Services, Inc.
Willy's Restaurant

Ribbon Cuttings



Total Construction Services
 1409 W. 4th St., Sterling
 815-213-7250



Merle Norman
 313 1st Ave, Sterling
 815-632-3362



Sophie's Café
 4311 E. Lincolnway Suite F,
 Sterling
 815-718-8518

Congratulations to Deer Valley Golf Club for receiving the Customer Service Award!

Contact the pro shop at 815-438-4653
 Or visit www.dvforegolf.com

CSA Sponsored by:



GUEST EDITORIAL

Written by: Amanda Jacinto, RRHRPA President



The Rock River Human Resource Professional Association (RRHRPA) began in the 1980's as a subgroup of the SVACC. The group of eight men and two women represented the larger industrial employers. Later, the group expanded to include Lee County employers. By the early 1990's, members of the group started receiving

certification and joined the Society of Human Resource Management.

At the present time, RRHRPA is a professional association serving the Lee, Whiteside and Ogle counties and surrounding communities, dedicated to professional development and networking with local HR professionals. Even small businesses without a dedicated HR department can benefit from being a RRHRPA member. Membership is

only \$35.00 a year. We currently have 53 members representing 37 different companies and organizations. Many of our members find not only strong practical resources but true encouragement as we all continue to face challenges related to Covid.

“Instead of better glasses, your network gives you better eyes.” - Ronald Burt

Whether you are new to the HR field or have many years of experience, we are a local starting point for networking, information, professional development, and continued support of excellence in Human Resources. Contact us at rrhrpa@gmail.com and let us know how we can help you.

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 – 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

Ambassador Spotlight—Mary White, Community State Bank

In 1975, fresh out of High School, I started in the Finance Business. I have enjoyed 46 years of servicing the people of the Sauk Valley area and making peoples’ dreams come true. Whether it was financing their new home, financing that new car, or taking the stress off by helping with many financial struggles that life brings. It is very rewarding to me to start assisting my 4th generation with their financial needs. Also being able to service the Hispanic Community as I am bi-lingual.

I joined Community State Bank in 2007 and have been so blessed to be working for a community bank that prides itself in customer service. I have built so many relationships with people of the Sauk Valley by assisting with their financial needs.

I have always been proud of the community I live in and service. My father was my role model and lead by example. He always said, “If you want to make a difference, get involved!”

I have been an Ambassador for the SVACC for the last 18 years. I also served 9 of those years on the Chamber Board and was a founding member of the Hispanic Business Leaders Committee. The Sauk Valley area has had to jump many hurdles over the past two decades and I am proud to be part of an organization that has been such an important part of keeping our community alive.

I also serve as the Chairman of the Sterling Fire and Police Commission and sit on the board of the Illinois Fire & Police Commission. I must say that I am very proud of the outstanding men and women who are serving you at the Fire and Police Departments. With all of the adversities in in the world right now, I assure you that you are being protected by the best men and women out there, both at the Fire and Police departments. It’s great to feel safe.

I also serve on the Board at the YMCA. Again, so proud to be part of such a caring and well run organization that has the community’s best interest in mind. Through all the trials of Covid, the staff worked endlessly to make sure they serviced the community. Providing meals for children, after school care, exercise, and still running a camp that children needed to cope with the frustrations of Covid. *Youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility*

The Sauk Valley is blessed to have all the support and organizations we have that support our community, and I’m proud to be a part.

Manufacturing Dinner

Thursday, October 7 | McCormick Event Center

Thank you to everyone who came out to support manufacturing in the Sauk Valley! A big thank you to the sponsors who made the 2021 Manufacturing Dinner possible and to Ken Duncan, Duncan Land and Auction, for leading our dessert auction.



Government Affairs Update

PRESS RELEASE from the
ILLINOIS POLICY INSTITUTE—CONTACT: Melanie Krakauer



Illinois enacts overdue first step in ethics reform

Illinois Policy Institute experts say lawmakers must pursue additional anti-corruption measures

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (Oct. 12, 2021) — Gov. J.B. Pritzker officially certified Senate Bill 539 Friday. The omnibus ethics package, which will be effective Jan. 1, 2022, takes a step toward reforming Illinois’ extensive culture of corruption, but more remains to be done.

In addition to changing certain laws governing political fundraising and rules affecting lobbyists, the bill amends the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act to broaden the information required in the financial disclosure statements filed by certain public officials and bars lawmakers, executive constitutional officers and elected officials of units of local governments from being employed as lobbyists while in office under certain circumstances. It also allows the legislative inspector general to open investigations into complaints of wrongdoing against lawmakers and mandates legislators must adhere to a short waiting period before becoming lobbyists.

Pritzker issued an amendatory veto to make a minor technical fix to the bill in August, which the General Assembly approved Sept. 9.

These reforms fall short of what is needed, Institute experts say. Illinois lawmakers must return to the issue and do more next year if they are serious about combatting the pervasive culture of corruption in the state.

Analysis of the ethics package finds:

- Bill language allows for a lawmaker to retire from the General Assembly and, after waiting a six-month period, become a lobbyist during the remainder of the term for which they were elected to office.
- The six-month period only applies to lawmakers who attempt to lobby the General Assembly they served in, so if a lawmaker resigns the day prior to a new General Assembly, that lawmaker could skip the “cooling off” period completely.
- The legislative inspector general now has the power to open investigations of complaints without the approval of lawmakers on the Legislative Ethics Commission, so long as it’s within one year of the incident. The inspector general’s jurisdiction has been limited to investigating violations of the Governmental Ethics Act and violations of laws and rules related to, or other misconduct related to, public duties or use of state office, employment or resources.
- Lawmakers and certain other public officials are required to provide broadened financial disclosure information. Most assets and debts worth more than \$10,000 and income sources over \$7,500 must be disclosed.
- A new ban prevents lawmakers from lobbying for an entity that’s also registered to lobby the particular unit of government they serve.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SVACC Annual
Meeting & Dinner**
Thursday, January 27
Days Inn, Rock Falls



Written by: Lucas Clark, Sterling High School

In CEO something ingrained in us from the beginning is that failure is okay and sometimes even good. This is so valuable to me because before CEO in school you are always taught that failure is wrong and bad. But now with this new perspective I can see that you learn when you fail. This new way of looking at things makes it so I'm not afraid to ask questions. There are no wrong questions when you are trying to learn. It is a good lesson because it opens your mind to new lessons. The idea of failure being okay has changed the way I look at learning. I understand that I need to make sure I take a lesson away from every experience I can. CEO has taught us so many lessons this year and we are just getting started. Learning the benefits of failing early on is going to help me during the rest of the year. Failures will hopefully make it so I succeed later in life, as well. Overall, we have had a great start to the year and I am looking forward to learning even more as we continue on.

Written by: Zachary Pauley, Milledgeville High School

Recently in CEO, we had the opportunity to hear a speech regarding mental health. When I learned what the speech would be about, I thought it was going to be a bit too taboo of a topic, and because of that the entire presentation would be uncomfortable. However, it ended up being a very enjoyable and thought-inducing presentation because of how the students in our CEO class have come together over the past few months.

The bond our class has developed is my favorite part about CEO. Being from the small town of Milledgeville, I've taken my classes with the same twenty to thirty people my whole life. However, taking the initiative to join CEO has totally popped a social bubble that I didn't even know I was in. The program has forced me to meet and understand people who didn't grow up in the exact same situation as me, and most of all it has made me realize all the opportunities that our area holds.

After our introduction event, I was so uneasy about CEO. The whole program seemed intimidating and difficult at first, and there are definitely times when it has been intimidating and difficult, but those times have been a blessing, not a curse. One of our speakers told us that discomfort is the only path to growth, and if I had to choose one adage to perfectly sum up all of what the CEO program has taught me, that would be it.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Wellspring medical spa is the best local choice for medical aesthetics including Botox, fillers, chemical peels, microneedling, hair restoration, B12 shots, and a comprehensive portfolio of medical grade skincare products. We're conveniently located inside of Extreme Hair & Day Spa, and have created a relaxed, luxurious space for first-class medical skincare treatments.

The need for aesthetic services in the Sauk Valley was recognized by Jordanna Devine, nurse practitioner, and The Wellspring was brought to fruition to help you look and feel your best. The Wellspring recently welcomed nurse Michele Schueler to the team, and the two would love to work with you and create a personalized plan to revitalize your skin and prevent further signs of aging.



October 6th's SVLP class began at the Dixon Public Safety Building with a recap of the DISC assessment. Students then explored the Northwest Territory Historic Center (Dixon's own Smithsonian-affiliated museum). Geoff Vanderlin, retired Executive Director of the Lee County Council on Aging, then treated us to the lesser-known Dixon-area history.

After the tour, Steve Nunez, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College President, began what will be a two-part series on Strategic Planning and Time Management. After looking at criteria for strong mission statements, Nunez tasked students with finding the mission statements of their organizations, asking students to write a mission statement for the SVLP. Class concluded with fantastic boxed lunches by Curate in Dixon.

At Mama Cimino's banquet room, class began with an insightful Q & A with Dr. Bill Bird, CGH, who recommended that emerging leaders ask good questions and remain open listeners in conversation. Dr. Joyce Johnson, KSB, also reminded students to lead with humility and compassion, focusing on what we can control, which is our response to others, not their response to us.

Our next panel included the following medical professionals: Dr. Linda Hellmich, KSB; Dr. Kelly S. Flanagan, Florissa; Valerie Kern-Lyons, SVCC; and Natalie Moeller, Moeller, Myers & Associates, PC. Students learned of challenges, such as: a scarcity of resources and the high need within the community. Panel members also gave



these emerging leaders some important advice: accept criticism; don't take ourselves too seriously; stop apologizing; and own any mistakes and grow from them. Mama Cimino's provided the class with a delicious buffet lunch.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The SVACC Education Committee is again working with local high schools to provide a Certificate of Employability 6 Session Workshop. This initiative is an example of bridging the gap between students/education and employers/businesses. Students who participate in the workshop are 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 learn about the importance of essential skills in the workplace. The six session topics include:



- How to get the Job
- Work ethic
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Problem Solving/Critical thinking/Creativity

The classes have been very interactive as students are interested in learning about local businesses and the types of jobs available to them locally. Upon completion of this workshop, participating students will receive a certificate of completion that can be used when they are applying for employment.

Employers who participate in the project gain visibility for their business and are given the opportunity to share about the jobs available in their place of business SVACC. The commitment from a business/organization is just one session in the six-week series. As the education committee developed this project, we felt it was important to give as many member businesses as possible the opportunity to engage with local students.

Kris Noble attends each session with the employer and facilitates a discussion about the identified essential skill, provides an activity for the students, and introduces the guest business speaker. The class has been really well received by the students and teachers. We anticipate working with 3-4 high schools in Spring 2022 and invite you to join us as part of this initiative. Please contact Kris Noble, at 815-625-2400 or knoble@saukalleyareachamber.com to get involved in this initiative.



THE SVACC INVITES YOU TO:
LADIES NIGHT OUT



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce



CHALK & CHAT



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 6PM

CHAMPS BANQUET VENUE

9 E 3RD ST, STERLING

PRESENTED BY:

MARY THORMAHLEN, COWS, KIDS, & CHAOS CHALK COUTURE

Join us while Cows, Kids and Chaos provides a night of fun and creativity with Chalk Couture Products. Chalk Couture is a DIY Home Decor using chalk paste with reusable silk screen transfers on a variety of surfaces.

You deserve a night out! Gather a few friends and join us.

REGISTER ONLINE

WWW.SAUKVALLEYAREACHAMBER.COM

OR CALL 815-625-2400

LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE.

REGISTRATION ENDS NOVEMBER 2.

COST: \$35.00

INCLUDES ALL SUPPLIES AND APPETIZERS



Rock River Hospice & Home

"The Best Year Yet"

2021 FESTIVAL OF TREES

**Trees on Display for Viewing
& Bidding**

November 14-21 ~ Northland Mall

Trees on Display for viewing & Bidding.

Trees included in online auction.

Table Settings & Wreaths for Bidding & Viewing
Bid Sheets Will Be Used; Please Bring Your Own Pen

Country Store

November 11-21 ~ Northland Mall

Sponsored by Comed, CGH Caring Fund,
and Sterling Federal Bank

"Best Year Yet" Non-Event Gala

November 11-21

Choose your date/location and then gather
with close friends and family

Sponsored by Astec Mobile Screens

Online Auction

November 13-21

Online auction for "Live" and

"Silent" auction items

Dessert Auction

Check www.hospicerockriver.org or the

Rock River Hospice & Home Facebook Page for
links to the Auction



Presenting Sponsors



**Breck & Sheri
Loos**



Rock River
Hospice & Home



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

