



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

SEPTEMBER 2023



CHAMBER WEEK CELEBRATION

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

Thursday, September 14
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Angelo's II (2525 E. Lincolnway)

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

Visit bit.ly/3QCLWxe

or call 815-625-2400 to register.

Questions? Email knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com

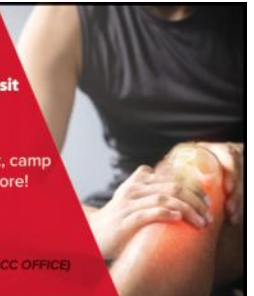


CGH READY CARE WALK-IN care with expanded hours and services!

- X-ray Services On-Site!
- Stitches, Strain/Sprain/Fracture Evaluation
- Follow-Up Appointments with appropriate specialists, if needed.
- Additional Services for... Allergies, cold, influenza, ear infections, bladder infections, strep throat, camp & sports physicals, pneumonia, rashes, insect bites, minor burns and more!
- Workers' Compensation, initial injury visit
- Prescription Medications On-Site



Monday - Friday • 8 am to 8 pm (OPEN THROUGH THE LUNCH HOUR)
Saturday - Sunday • 8 am to 1:30 pm
15 W. 3rd Street (Lower Level), Sterling, IL 61081 (NEXT DOOR TO THE SVACC OFFICE)
www.cghmc.com/readycare



September Meetings

September 7 Executive Board
September 12 Board of Directors
September 12 Education
September 14 Ambassadors
September 19 Ag
September 21 HBLC

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

Executive Committee

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

Term Ends January 31, 2024

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

Term Ends January 31, 2025

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

Term Ends January 31, 2025

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

Staff

Executive Director—Kris Noble
Marketing Coordinator— Dallas Knack

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

A Message from the Director

I am so grateful for you—our members! It is because of your belief in the Chamber and the work we do that we are able to continue to enhance the economic climate and quality of life in the Sauk Valley.

Your support enables us to continue to provide opportunities for the Sauk Valley's businesses and organizations to connect and build relationships. Our efforts in workforce development through Chamber run programs and scholarships can grow and strengthen our local workforce. We are able to advocate on behalf of our members for local, state, and federal policies. Committees at the Chamber can continue their work in offering events and learning opportunities for members. These are just a few ways that your support helps not only the Chamber, but other businesses and organizations throughout the Sauk Valley.

As a means of saying "thank you", we invite you to our annual Chamber Week Celebration on Thursday, September 14. Please join us at Angelo's II starting at 4:30 for appetizers, drinks, door prizes, and more to celebrate you! Click [here](#) to RSVP for this free event, by September 11.

If you're unable to join us on September 14, I hope you know how much we appreciate all of your support. We could not do the things we do without you, and we are truly grateful for your investment in chamber membership.

Thursday, September 14

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Angelo's II (2525 E. Lincolnway)

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

Visit saukvalleyareachamber.com or call 815-625-2400 to register.

Questions? Email knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com



Investor Update September 2023

NEW MEMBERS

Hill Fastener

1602 McNeil Rd, Rock Falls
815625660

IL 22mohawks

www.22mohawks.com

Autism Center of Sauk Valley

1319 N. Galena Ave., Dixon
(815) 440-6134

New Life Lutheran Church

702 W. Lynn Blvd., Sterling
(815) 499-6552

INVESTOR RENEWALS

Altorfer Inc.

Axiom Wealth Advisors

Bargain Exterminators

Christ Lutheran School

Citadel of Sterling

Days Inn Rock Falls

Halo Branded Solutions

HB Wilkinson Title Company

Hollyhock Hill Farms

Lifescape Community Services

Liquor N Wine

Menk USA, LLC

Northern Illinois Veterinary Services

Northland Mall

Rise Broadband

Sedona Staffing

Showplace Antiques & Treasures

Winning Wheels

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

Altran Magnetics

Bushel Basket Candle Co.

Candlelight Inn

Helm Civil

Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.

Illinois American Water

Lance's Plumbing

LK Design Source

Loescher HVAC

Lutheran Social Services of IL

Mattox Insurance Agency

McDonald's

Moore Monument & Granite Co
NICIL

PC Tech 2U

RE/MAX Sauk Valley

Rise Broadband

Rock River Hospice & Home

Select Employees Credit Union

Sterling Commercial Roofing

Sterling Rock Falls Child Care

Sterling Township

Surf Internet

United Craftsmen, Ltd.

110% Club

1st Gateway Credit Union

Astec Mobile Screens Inc

Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate

Bollman Auto Center

Compeer Financial

Dennis Electric of Tampico

Farmer's National Bank

Hawkins-Cassens Insurance

Hill Fastener

James S. Ferris DDS, PC

Jim Prescott's BBQ Shop

Kelly's Restaurant

Kiwanis Club of Sterling

Marv Lofgren & Sons

Contractors

McCormick's Nursey

Mertes & Mertes

NAMI Sauk Area

New Millenium Directories

Rock River Lumber & Grain

Rock River Ready Mix

Scholl Insurance Agency

Servicemaster

ServPro of Sterling

Showplace Antiques

St. Vincent DePaul

Sterling Chevrolet

The Factory

Trinity Insurance

Winter Construction

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

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

Ambassador Spotlight— Allie Johnston, University of Illinois Extension

My Name is Allie Johnston and I am the 4-H Program coordinator for Whiteside county as a part of the University of Illinois Extension. I've been with Extension for almost 11 years and really enjoy working with the kids, families and our volunteers. 4-H is open to all youth 5-7 for our cloverbud age group and 8-18 for our 4-H members. We have 5 community clubs in Whiteside county and many wonderful volunteers who help keep those clubs running, having fun and making an impact on their communities. We also do short term programming such as SPIN clubs (special interest clubs, that focus on one project area) as well as workshops and clinics for youth to get a taste of 4-H. If you are interested in learning more about the 4-H Program, or how you can volunteer please contact me at 815-632-3611 or lancast@illinois.edu.



Outside of 4-H, I am married to my husband Mitchel and have two beautiful daughters Nell (2 years) and Ruth (7 months). I am involved in a few other organizations including Sauk Valley Area Chamber Ambassadors, Education Committee, and Sights and Sounds Committee, as well as Sterling Kiwanis, the keystone group, and a mentor for Sterling Public schools. I enjoy being involved in my community and trying to make an impact where I can.

Nominations are now being accepted for the

2024 SVACC Board of Directors.

Nomination deadline is September 30.

Please email nominations to

knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com.

Steak Fry in the Country



The SVACC Agribusiness Committee hosted the 38th annual Steak Fry in the Country on Thursday, August 3. Thank you to all who joined us, and a big thank you to the sponsors that made this event possible! Thanks to your generosity, the Ag Committee Raised over \$40,000 for local Ag education initiatives.



Ribbon Cuttings



Illinois 22 Mohawks
www.22mohawks.com



Dave Allen Fireplace Center
Located in Bradford Supply Company
101 E. 2nd Street, Sterling
(815) 625-0937
Special thanks for HG Services for their fireplace installation, repairs, and services.



Dukelow Podiatry
2522 E. Lincolnway, Sterling
815-626-3668



7 Brew Coffee
4104 E. Lincolnway, Sterling
(817) 716-2009

Congratulations to Build-A-Pet Clubhouse for receiving the Customer Service Award!

They were nominated for being a fabulous community partner.
"Their involvement with the YWCA programs is much appreciated!"

Visit them at 502 1st Ave, Sterling.

CSA Sponsored by:



Business After Hours

Members had two chances for after hours networking in the month of August. Thank you to Sterling Main Street & The Shoppes at Grandon for hosting Business After Hours on August 17.



Also, a big thanks to the YWCA for hosting Business After Hours / Fiesta Before the Fiesta on August 31!



Government Affairs

Written by Illinois Chamber of Commerce



Employment Law Council Update on HB 2862, Day Labor Services

Earlier this week with the signing of HB 2862 into law, the Illinois Chamber Employment Law Council released the following to its members:

If you use Day Labor Services to meet your workforce needs, you will want to be aware of the new law that creates new responsibilities and obligations as a third-party client of those services.

In response to the Governor's signing of HB 2862 into law as PA 103-437, the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) has issued emergency rules effective August 4, 2023. The new law and regulation are effective August 4, 2023.

The emergency rule makes extensive changes that affect the responsibilities and obligations of employers who use day and temporary labor services. In general, the emergency rule:

- clarifies day and temporary labor services agencies' responsibilities to pay certain laborers wages and benefits equal to those of direct-hire employees of the third-party client;
- increases fees and fines per the law for third-party clients;
- authorizes laborers to refuse assignment to the site of a labor dispute;
- outlines for procedures for an interested party to pursue a whistleblower action against third-party clients;
- clarifies parties' responsibilities when IDOL, the Office of the Attorney General, or another party are pursuing related actions at the same time; and
- clarifies the obligation of day and temporary labor service agencies and third-party clients to inform and train laborers regarding work site hazards.

Guest Editorial

Written by Carrie Folken, BEST Inc. Executive Director



BEST, Inc. Services and Partnership with SVACC

Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST, Inc.) is a federally-funded not-for-profit agency that provides training assistance to eligible individuals and businesses in the eight county area of: Jo Daviess, Carroll, Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Bureau, LaSalle and Putnam Counties. Adults, dislocated workers, and youth can receive assistance with: getting their GED/HS Equivalency, career exploration and guidance, classroom training, and job placement assistance. Business can benefit from On-the-Job Training reimbursement for hiring eligible individuals, and incumbent worker grant assistance for upskilling their current workforce.

BEST, Inc. has partnered with the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce (SVACC) on the innovative Drive-thru Job Fairs. This began during the height of the COVID pandemic and was a safe way to help area businesses fill open positions and minimize the exposure to job seekers from the COVID virus. Businesses who had positions to fill were contacted and sent their fliers to the chamber who assembled the packets. During the actual "Drive-thru Job Fairs" BEST and Chamber Staff were outside in a designated area and job seekers just drove up and received a packet of job leads from area businesses. Staff were on hand to answer questions and direct job seekers to local resources too. Left over packets were distributed to local community agencies and were also on hand at BEST, Inc. as part of our "Job Leads to Go" program. All fliers used in the "Drive-thru Job Fair" were also scanned and BEST and Chamber staff were able to email them to those who could not attend the fair. Kris and her staff worked tirelessly assembling the packets and being a drop off point for businesses. The SVACC has also been instrumental and help us spread the word about services, hiring events and special events offered by BEST, Inc. to area businesses.

BEST, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. TTY 800-526-0844. Eligibility based on Federal Guidelines. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities. BEST, Inc. is an affiliate of NCI Works! Check out our website at www.best-inc.org

Workforce Development

You're invited!

Join the SVACC for the 5th Annual Manufacturing Dinner on Thursday, October 12 at Sauk Valley Community College. The event will kick off at 5:00 p.m. with updates from manufacturing educators, tour of the manufacturing area at the college, and a dessert auction. **Proceeds benefit local students pursuing education at Sauk Valley Community College and Morrison Tech.**

This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$40.00 and are available at the Sauk Valley Area Chamber office or can be purchased online—[here](#).

For information on how your business can support the annual Manufacturing Dinner, please see sponsorship opportunities [here](#). Deadline to sponsor is Wednesday, September 6. For more information, please contact Kris at knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com.

A graphic for the Manufacturing Dinner event. It features the text "MANUFACTURING DINNER" in large blue letters, with "Thursday, October 12" and "5:30 p.m. social hour | 6:00 p.m. dinner" in white on a red background. Below this, it says "\$40 per person" and "Sauk Valley Community College 173 IL Rt 2., Dixon Tours of the SVCC manufacturing area will be available." There are also gear icons and a small American Job Center logo.

CEO Program

The 11th WACC CEO class is off and running. With a little over two weeks under their belts, students have been getting to know one another and experience their first, of many, business visits and speakers. They are working on their personal bios for the webpage (wacc-ceo.com) and will soon have professional headshots added. You can also sign up for our weekly newsletter there. We welcome the 33 students from 10 area high schools!



East Class:

Mason Weigle, Emma Smith, MyKaylah Kirby, Tyler Zepezauer, Makenzie Toms (Dixon), Autum Pritchard (Forreston), Jason Prowant, Kennedy Burkholder (Eastland), Alease McLain, Rivers Schafer, Eryn Carreno (Oregon), Kale Grobe, Kameron Grobe (Polo)

West Class:

Ana Jungerman, Olivia Clark, Madelynn Taylor-Steffens, Destini Chambers, Lucas Schaab (Newman) Rylan Shenefelt, Lili Drinkall, Olivia Schurman, Kylee Jensen, Maliah Grenoble, (Milledgeville), Makaylee Pipes, Nora Turedson, Samantha Knox, Jimmy Wadsworth, Josh Minor (Sterling), Olivia Purvis, Owen Farral, Avery Olinger (Prophetstown), Braeden Thome, Body Van Weelden (Rock Falls)



"This class stands out to me because the emphasis is no longer on the grade itself, but rather directly investing into us students to not only succeed in this course, but in life entirely after high school. This perspective that the program has taken has already given me a sense of value as a student and belonging." - 2023 student

"If I would have to leave CEO with one fleeting thought it would be that I'm thankful. Apart from all of the amazing tours, people, and experiences CEO has presented to me, I am thankful for the fact that this experience has shaped my life and transitioned me into a different more mature young adult. CEO has truly been hands down the single most influential aspect of my life thus far" - 2023 student



The SVACC Agribusiness Committee made a contribution to the Erie Fire Department. Funds will help offset costs of the fire grain bin rescue program offered by the Erie Fire Department for local fire fighters in the Sauk Valley area.

Hot Dog Day

There was lots of food and family fun in downtown Sterling on August 4. It's always awesome to see our local businesses and organizations come together to provide hot dogs, treats, and games.



Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program

This year's Sauk Valley Leadership Program cohort began its journey on August 2 at the Sauk Valley Food Bank. Pam Martinez, Executive Director of the food bank, gave us a tour of the facility and discussed successful Parking Lot Pantry days, employees, volunteers, and COVID-19's continued impact on the community and its needs.

Class continued at the RRCA Accounts Management building with a panel of local leaders. Panel members were asked to describe Sauk Valley community challenges and to reveal some of their best advice for future leaders. The panel consisted of Heather Sotelo, Executive Director, GSDC; SPD Chief Alex Chavira; Glen Hughes, Dixon Mayor; and Diana Merdian, Sterling Mayor. We finished class with a delicious lunch catered by The Factory.

On August 16, Kim Purvis, former Director of Whiteside Area Career Center, began our session discussing leadership styles and conflict/crisis responses. Dr. David Hellmich, and Dr. Lori Cortez from Sauk Valley Community College then introduced Leadership Theories and Organizational Frames, ongoing topics for this class. Finally, LeAndra Hartman, WACC CEO Facilitator, helped us make sense of various personality types after we had taken the DISC assessment. Students participated in thoughtful teamwork and discussion to look at how our traits can blend and work together as we lead (or follow) others. We were treated to yet another fantastic lunch, this time from Angelo's of Sterling.





Sauk Valley Area
Chamber of Commerce



70th Annual Fiesta Day Parade Entry Form

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

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

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

2023 Parade Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors:



Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:



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

Register for the parade online at saukvalleyareachamber.com

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
211 Locust Street, Sterling, IL 61081
office@saukvalleyareachamber.com
815-625-2400

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

Entry Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Type of Entry: please circle

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

Do you have walkers with entry? yes / no

Please provide a brief description of entry:
