



Sauk Valley Area  
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**ACCREDITED**



**IN THIS  
ISSUE:**



**PAGE 7**



**PAGE 7**



**PAGE 8**

# Partnering for Success

JANUARY 2024

Sauk Valley Area chamber of commerce

WACC CEO

**The SVACC and WACC CEO class of 2024 invite you to Chamberopoly!**

**Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner & Meeting**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024**

McCormick EVENT CENTER

Walmart Supply Chain

<p>FREE</p>  <p>PARKING</p> <p>Chamber Champion &amp; Ambassador of the Year will be announced</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY CHEST</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Doors Open 6:00 p.m. Dinner</p>  <p>RSVP by 1.19.2024</p>	<p>McCormick Event Center 205 E 3rd St Rock Falls</p> <p>\$40/person to register: <a href="https://bit.ly/47KROdD">bit.ly/47KROdD</a> 815-625-2400</p> <p><a href="http://www.saukvalleyareachamber.com">www.saukvalleyareachamber.com</a></p>	<p>TO THE BEST EVENT OF THE YEAR</p> 
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**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

**MEDICAL CENTER**

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](http://www.cghmc.com/readycare)



## January Meetings

January 11 Board of Directors  
January 11 Ambassadors  
January 16 Ag  
January 18 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

#### **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  
Office Manager/Financial Specialist—Janie Fisher

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

Happy New Year! On behalf of the SVACC Board of Directors, thank you for your investment in and support of our work in 2023. In November, we received a call from the United States Chamber of Commerce that the SVACC has again been accredited at a 5-star level. By earning accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a chamber shows its dedication to: reviewing, improving, and promoting strong business practices, recognizing leadership and outstanding contributions to the community. As we move into 2024 we continue our commitment to our members and this community to live our mission, "To Enhance the Economic Climate and Quality of Life in the Sauk Valley."

The SVACC Board of Directors, in our commitment to continue to remain fiscally sound, follow best practices, provide advocacy, support, education, and opportunities for our members has determined that a membership investment increase is necessary. The SVACC operates solely from the investment of members through membership fees and sponsorships of our events and initiatives, advertising income, and contract work for other organizations. We do not receive city, state, or federal funding as we are not a 501c3, but rather a 501c6. I share that as it is important for our members to understand our financial structure. It is noted that the SVACC has not had a membership investment increase in over 15 years. Yes, 15 years! Every expense has increased in that time, and yet through great fiscal management and growth, we have been able to continue to do the work. We are committed to growth and providing our members with the highest quality of programs, services, and advocacy; and in order to do that effectively, increased revenue is needed.

In 2024 there will be a 20% membership investment increase. SVACC membership investment is based off the number of FT and FTE employees. In order to ensure we are calculating the investment fee correctly; a survey has been sent out to the individual you have listed as the business primary contact to collect information on the number of employees your business currently has. If we did not get the information from the survey, we will be following up with a phone call to your business. The investment increase will be reflected on your annual billing invoice sent out the month of your anniversary with the SVACC.

Please contact me via email or phone if you have any questions, concerns or need additional information. Your input is valuable to us.

We are looking forward to serving you in 2024!



# Investor Update January 2024

## NEW MEMBERS

Exquisite Floral and Party Décor  
705 Woodburn Ave., Sterling  
815-499-0032

## INVESTOR RENEWALS

Avonlea Cottage  
Axiom Wealth Advisors  
Bartini's  
Campos Construction Inc  
Carpetland USA  
Cora Physical Therapy Sauk Valley  
E.D. Etnyre & Co.  
Exquisite Floral and Party Decor LLC  
JH Technology, LLC  
Manpower  
MCR Technologies Group, Inc.

Pizza Ranch  
Planet Fitness  
Richter Ranch Designs  
Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation  
Stahr Media  
Sterling Hearing Aid Center  
The Butcher Shop  
Thompson Truck & Trailer  
Wal-Mart D.C. #7024  
Whiteside Area Career Center

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  
Etnyre & Co.  
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 Employee Credit Union  
Sterling Commercial Roofing  
Sterling Rock Falls Child Care  
Sterling Township  
Surf Internet  
United Craftsmen, Ltd.

### 110% Club

1st Gateway Credit Union	Hill Fastener	NAMI Sauk Area	St. Vincent DePaul
Astec Mobile Screens Inc	James S. Ferris DDS, PC	New Millenium Directories	Sterling Chevrolet
Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate	Kelly's Restaurant	Rock River Lumber & Grain	The Factory
Bollman Auto Center	Kiwanis Club of Sterling	Rock River Ready Mix	Trinity Insurance
Compeer Financial	Marv Lofgren & Sons	Scholl Insurance Agency	Winter Construction
Dennis Electric of Tampico	Contractors	Servicemaster	
Hawkins-Cassens Insurance	McCormick's Nursey	ServPro of Sterling	
	Mertes & Mertes	Showplace Antiques	

## Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension

Arnulfo Valdivia—Sauk Valley Bank

Brian Hawkins

Cael Sanders—Sterling Federal Bank

Cassandra Salmon – OnCall Imaging

Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley

Christina Bystry — House in the Country

Jennifer Alvarez — Surf Internet

Karen Voss – Morningside of Sterling

Mary White – Community State Bank

Pam Fluck – Self Help Enterprises

Rene Betts — Plotner Insurance Consultants

Sami Wiggins — Allure Health Care

Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation

Skip Dettman—LSSI

Stepheni Chandler—Hughes Resources

**About the Ambassadors:** The Ambassadors serve as the public relation arm of the Chamber. This professional business group works within the membership serving as a liaison between membership and community. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at different member locations. Interested in joining the Ambassadors? Email [knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com](mailto:knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com) for an application.

### Guest Editorial

Christ Lutheran School is celebrating its 40th Anniversary! Members of Lutheran congregations in the Sauk Valley area saw the need for a Christian education in 1979 and began discussing how they could open a school. CLS opened in 1983 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rock Falls and quickly outgrew its space. Forty years later, we have a great facility with lots of space on 18th Avenue in Sterling.

We offer a high quality academic education for Pre-K through 8th grade, with the focus that all children need: Christ. Our student to teacher ratio is an incredible 6:1, so each child can receive the attention needed. Students, teachers, staff, volunteers, and parents often describe us as more than a school: We are a family! We offer before- and after-school care for families who need it, along with year-round preschool. Parents may enroll their preschool children as soon as they turn three years old for just \$150 per week!

Everyone needs the forgiveness and love that Christ offers, and all could learn more about sharing that with others. Children aren't excluded. In Deuteronomy 6 we are told that all parents have the duty of teaching their children the words that God gives to us. Many Psalms and Proverbs uphold the priceless value of an education in God's Wisdom. Jesus Himself spent His whole ministry teaching the people and said, "Let the little children come to Me!" CLS seeks to fill this need for all who want to join us and be part of our family.

We ask that you would pray that our work be a blessing to the community. Please consider supporting us and telling others about us. We have an Open House on Thursday, February 22. Enrollment for the 2024/25 school year opens on that day. Our annual Trivia Night will be on Saturday, April 27. Join us for a fun evening of games and prizes. Call any time with questions or to schedule a tour: 815-625-3800.



*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.*

## Ribbon Cuttings

Shoe Sensation—new location  
2901 E. Lincolnway, Sterling  
(815) 535-0966



Sauk Valley CPR  
PO Box 451, Sterling  
(815) 564-8766

P&P Industries  
2100 Enterprise Dr, Sterling  
815-632-3297



Enernova  
enernovapartners.com  
(309) 230-2272

## Sights & Sounds

Thank you to all who braved the weather for Sights & Sounds. It was a great time filled with visits to Santa, family activities, and a children's choir performance!



# Workforce Development

From the US Chamber of Commerce

## Understanding America's Labor Shortage: The Most Impacted Industries

American businesses are creating hundreds of thousands of jobs each month, yet a significant number of positions still remain unfilled, especially in the professional and business service sector.

A closer look at what has happened to the labor force can be better described as 'The Great Reshuffle.' While quit rates remain high, hiring rates continue to outpace them as many workers have been transitioning to other jobs in search of an improved work-life balance and flexibility, increased compensation, or a strong company culture.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is monitoring these trends.

Read the full article [here](#).

# Quit rates by industry



October 2023

Source: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Analysis, BLS Data

Leisure/Hospitality (5.0%) Wholesale/Retail trade (2.8%) Financial activities (1.4%)  
Professional/Business services (2.6%) Durable goods manufacturing (1.4%)



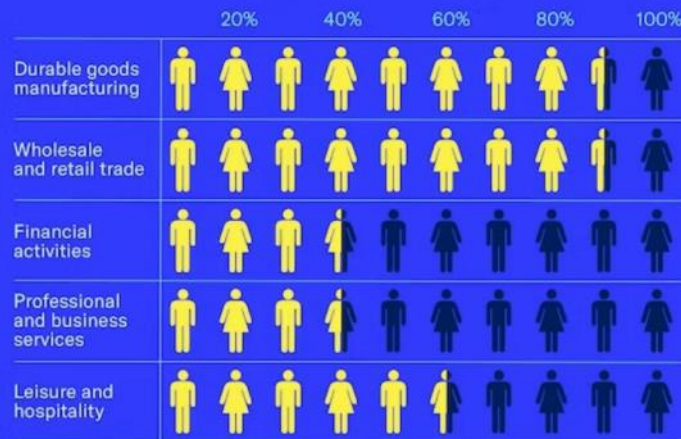
# Labor force shortage by industry

October 2023



● Filled job openings ● Unfilled job openings

Source: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Analysis, BLS Data

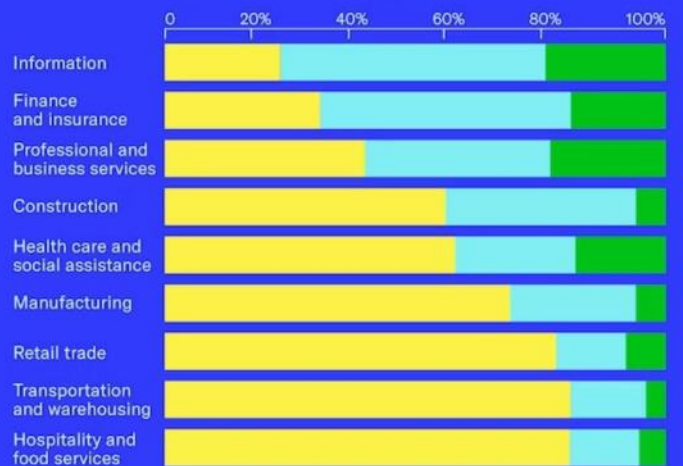


# Work arrangements by industry



■ Fully on site ■ Hybrid ■ Fully remote

Source: ITAM, Stanford University, University of Chicago, 2023



**Congratulations to  
AM Disposal  
for receiving the  
Customer Service Award!**

They were nominated for affordability, reliability, timeliness, and friendliness; we are proud to have you as a member of the SVACC.

For more information about their services please visit [amdisposal.net](http://amdisposal.net) or call 815-973-4626.

CSA Sponsored by:



**Member Spotlight**



Out of over 900 Culver's restaurants, Culver's of Rock Falls received Bronze in the nationwide 2023 Culver's Crew Challenge. Ashlee Alber, owner/operator, said "I'm so proud of the Rock Falls team who have once again placed in the top 10% of all Culver's locations! Teamwork is truly at the heart of what we do! Our team is committed to serving high quality food and taking care of our guests every day!"

The annual Culver's Crew Challenge consists of each restaurant and team member's performance being evaluated on core company values, strategic priorities, and operational initiatives.

WACC EAST CEO CLASS

PRESENTS **Leap Around the Decades**

SAVE THE DATE  
February 29th | 6 PM - 9 PM



Leap Around the Decades

18:00 Dress the Part 21:00



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Follow Us on Facebook @WACCCEO

**Save the date!**  
**CEO Class Businesses**

**Dinner with the Stars**  
February 3

**Leap Around the Decades**  
February 29

*Save the Date*

**CEO Dinner With The Stars**

Come join the CEO class in their annual class business including dinner and entertainment

February 3, 2024 from 5:30-9:00pm



## Member Spotlight

The SVACC partnered with State Representative Brad Fritts to host a Prescription Drug Drop off on Saturday, December 9, 2023. This event allowed citizens to drop off unused or expired prescriptions to ensure they are disposed of properly.

Thank you to the Sterling Police Department for assisting with the event as well.



## Government Affairs



### State of American Business

January 11th - 2024 State of American Business - Please join on Thursday, January 11, 2024, as U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Suzanne P. Clark will promote the innovation and impact of America's free enterprise system during the annual State of American Business Event. This is the U.S. Chamber's biggest annual event that draws a virtual audience of more than 10,000 people from around the world – from small business owners to Fortune 500 CEOs, community leaders, policymakers and journalists, as well as state and local chamber executives and American Chamber of Commerce leaders.

Click [here](#) to learn more and register to attend.

## Ag Committee

The SVACC Agribusiness Committee presented contributions to University of Illinois Extension: Whiteside County 4H, Sterling High School FFA Program, and Dixon FFA Alumni and Supporters. We are so proud of the work our Agribusiness Committee does to raise funds and support local ag students, initiatives, and education in the Sauk Valley.





# SHOPPES AT GRANDON PLAZA

retail incubator space

Applications are now open for the 2024 season!



## RUNNING A BUSINESS IS A BIG VENTURE AND WE WANT YOU TO SUCCEED!

The Shoppes at Grandon Plaza was designed to attract small businesses, create more retail shopping options, and bring people to downtown Sterling. These units allow business owners to try out a new idea, get a feel for the Sterling market, and grow your business.

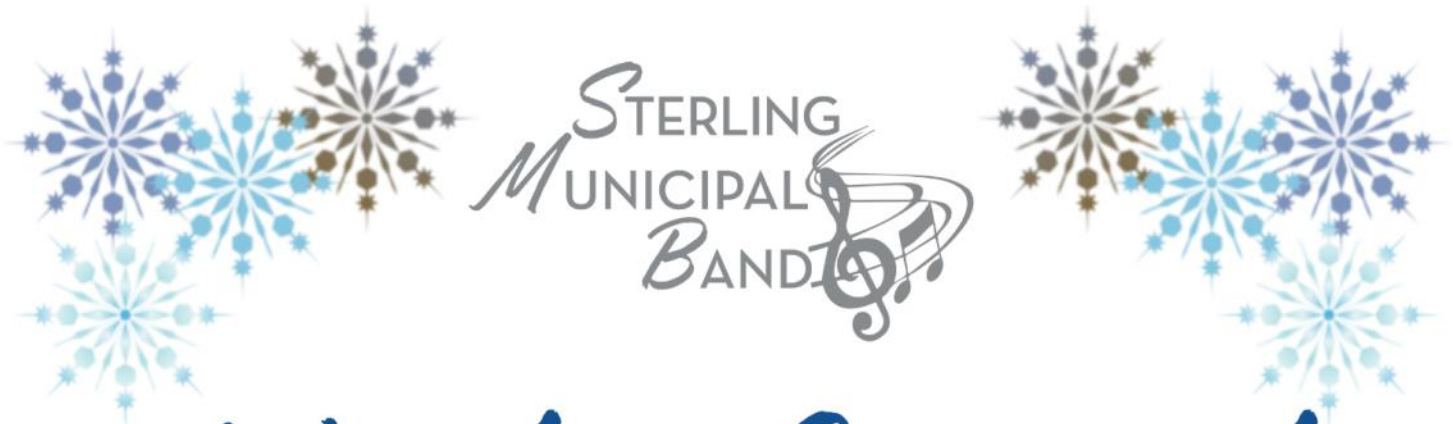
Spaces are available on an 8-month contract for May through December 2024.



SCAN FOR APPLICATION

**QUESTIONS?  
CALL 815-626-8610**

Shoppes at Grandon Plaza  
310 2nd Avenue, Sterling, IL  
[sterlingmainstreet.org/shoppes-at-grandon-plaza](http://sterlingmainstreet.org/shoppes-at-grandon-plaza)



STERLING  
MUNICIPAL  
BAND 

# Winter Concert

Friday, January 5, 2024 | 7:00 PM

New Life Lutheran Church  
702 W. Lynn Blvd  
Sterling, Illinois



Featuring soloist Riley Carter on  
*"Concerto for Alto Saxophone" by Creston,*

along with

*A brass quintet on "That's A Plenty",  
music from "Jaws" by John Williams,  
"Flashing Winds" by Van der Roost,  
"Symphonic Dances from Fiddler on the Roof"  
and traditional marches.*

Join us for this **FREE All-Ages concert**

*Sponsored by*



Johnson Oil Company  
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