



Sauk Valley Area  
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**ACCREDITED**



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# Partnering for Success

NOVEMBER 2024

## BUSINESS

*After Hours*

**OnCall**  
IMAGING



Sauk Valley Area  
chamber of commerce

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21  
5P-6:30P

**SPECIAL  
GUESTS:**



**Professional Women's Network**  
*PWN Committee will be  
offering Free professional  
headshot sessions.*

*Headshots sponsored by  
PWN Committee and Grot Studio.*

HORS D'OEUVRES  
21+ BEVERAGES  
CENTER TOURS

**1609 First Ave. Rock Falls, IL 61071**

*Introducing*

### CGH Menopause and Sexual Health Clinic

*Do you have some of these symptoms?*

- Hot flashes
- Vaginal dryness
- Painful sex
- Low libido
- Weight gain
- Mental fog
- Recurrent urinary tract infections



The new CGH Menopause and Sexual Health Clinic offers women assistance in managing menopause symptoms as well as ongoing conditions that may happen with aging. Menopause experts recommend treatment earlier rather than later as certain treatments have been associated with decreasing your risk of breast cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease and more.



Nancy Tran, MD



Marcia Jones, MD

Call 815-625-6750 for an  
in-person or tele-health consultation

## November Meetings

- November 5 Exec
- November 12 Board of Directors
- November 14 Ambassadors
- November 19 Ag
- November 21 HBLC

### Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

#### Executive Committee

- President: Pam Fluck
- First Vice President: Geoff Wright
- Second Vice President: Alejandro Rivera
- Treasurer: Tim Determan
- Past President: Dr. Jon Mandrell

#### **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, 2026**

- Pam Fluck, Self Help Enterprises
- Sandi Cavazos, US Bank
- Kristina Kaecker, Kunes RV

#### **Term Ends January 31, 2027**

- Tim Determan, Pinney Printing
- Lance Buser, Wal-Mart DC #7024
- Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson
- Bailey Schneiderbauer, Sauk Valley Bank
- Mike Ceruzzi, Moore Tire
- Josh Knie, Knie Appliance & TV

#### Staff

- Executive Director—Dallas Knack
- Kris Noble

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

As we enter the holiday season, let's come together to support our community by shopping small and local. This season, when you shop with local businesses, you're doing more than finding unique gifts—you're investing in our local economy, supporting jobs, and contributing to the unique character that makes our community such a great place to live.

For every local dollar spent, 67 cents\* stays in our community, helping our friends, neighbors, and families thrive. Local businesses create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and foster a sense of community. These businesses provide personalized service and offer special products you won't find in larger stores. By shopping local, you're helping sustain these businesses so they can continue serving us all year long.

This holiday season, we encourage you to explore our local shops, restaurants, services, and organizations that call the Sauk Valley area home. Let's make an impact by supporting small businesses and spreading holiday cheer right here in town.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's make this season one to remember!

*\*according to American Independent Business Alliance.*



*Dallas Knack*

# Investor Update November 2024

## New Investors

### **First Onsite Property Restoration**

1745 S IHM Blvd, Freeport  
815-232-0908

### **Adobe Acrobat**

Adobe.com/acrobat

### **The Mercantile Ballroom & Cocktail Lounge**

117 West 3rd St., Sterling  
815-564-8428

## INVESTOR RENEWALS

Abiding Word Church

Alternative Ag Services & Consultants

Birth to Five Illinois Region 47

Bradford Supply Company

Creative Cuisine Catering, Inc.

Culver's of Rock Falls

DD Homes Network

DeJonge Tax & Accounting, Inc.

Greencastle of Sterling, an Embrace

Living Community

Heritage Woods of Sterling

JJM Printing, Inc.

Kelly's Restaurant, Inc.

Kunes Auto Group

Moore Monument & Granite Co.

Moore Tires, Inc

Nasos Salon

P & P Industries, Inc.

PFLAG Sauk Valley

Pinney Printing

Regional Office of Education #47

River Ridge Animal Hospital

Rock Falls High School

Rock River Lumber & Grain

Rotary Airlock

Sauk Valley Media

Savant Wealth Management

Select Employees Credit Union

Self Help Enterprises

Sterling Federal Bank

Sterling Fence Company

Sterling Hearing Aid Center

Sterling Landmark

Sterling Public Schools

United Electric

Whiteside County Healthier

Communities Partnership

Woodlawn Arts Academy

### Over \$1000 Invested

Central Bank Illinois

CGH Medical Center

Community State Bank

Farmer's National Bank

Midland States Bank

Sauk Valley Bank

Select Employees Credit Union

Sterling Federal Bank

The IFH Group

US Bank

Wahl Clipper Corp.

Wal-Mart DC #7024

Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson

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!

### 150% Club

Altran Magnetics

Bushel Basket Candle Co.

Helm Civil

Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.

Lance's Plumbing

LK Design Source

Loescher HVAC

Micron

NICIL

PC Tech 2U

RE/MAX Sauk Valley

Rise Broadband

Sterling Commercial Roofing

The Cornerstone Agency

United Craftsmen, Ltd.

### 110% Club

Best Cob

Bollman Auto Center

DeJonge Tax

Dennis Electric of Tampico

Frantz Manufacturing

Grace Point Church

Hollyhock Hill Farms

Kelly's Restaurant

Kiwanis Club of Sterling

McCormick's Nursey

Mertes & Mertes

New Millenium Directories

River Ridge Animal Hospital

Rock River Energy Services

Rock River Lumber & Grain

ServPro of Sterling

Showplace Antiques

Sinnissippi Centers

St. Vincent DePaul

Trinity Insurance

Twin Cities Sunrise Rotary

## Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension

Brian Hawkins—Brian Hawkins Insurance

Cael Sanders—Sterling Federal Bank

Carmina Lopez—Shay Brown State Farm

Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley

Christina Bystry – House in the Country

Esther Salazar –CGH Medical Center

Hannah Krahn—Sauk Valley Bank

Jennifer Alvarez – Surf Internet

Karen Voss – Morningside of Sterling

Lyndsey Kelly—Sauk Valley Community College

Mary White – Community State Bank

Pam Fluck – Self Help Enterprises

Sami Wiggins – Allure Health Care

Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation

Tygen Bausman—Exquisite Floral and Party Decor

### Ambassador Spotlight

#### Sherry DeWalt—CGH Health Foundation

I've been a chamber ambassador for over 20 years and I enjoy learning about the wide variety of businesses and not-for-profit agencies that represent in our membership. Our community has a wealth of resources to support our citizens and I am lucky to work for one of them. The CGH Health Foundation has been working to ensure access to healthcare for the under-served since 1987. Just a few of our many programs include providing no cost screening mammograms and ultra sounds for area women, free eyeglasses for kids and adults who qualify, medication and transportation assistance for patients, enhanced services for cancer patients, support and guidance for caregivers of dementia patients, health and fitness education in area schools, and mental health counseling for patients and area school children. These services are provided through the generosity of our many local donors and all contributions are spent locally.



### Board Retreat



The SVACC Board of Directors met in October for their annual retreat to reflect on the work and initiatives of the chamber and provide guidance for the future of our organization. Thank you to our board for their dedication and commitment to the economic vitality and quality of life of the Sauk Valley area!

### Business After Hours

October's Business After Hours was hosted by Sterling Woodworks. Members were able to check out the new showroom at Sterling Woodworks while networking and making connections with other members.

Join us on Thursday, November 21 at OnCall Imaging for our next BAH with complimentary headshots, sponsored by the SVACC's Professional Women's Network.



## Government Affairs

### Contracting with Government Workshop

The Illinois Tollway is hosting a free event to connect small, diverse and veteran-owned businesses with critical resources and opportunities to grow their goods and services businesses.

Attendees will have an opportunity to meet, network, and learn about upcoming 2025 buying plans and how they can do business with the Tollway and other state agencies.

Click [here](#) to learn more or register for this event.



## Contracting with Government

A Roadmap for Business Opportunities

Friday, November 8

10am - 2pm

South Shore Cultural Center

7059 S South Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60649



## Ribbon Cuttings



The Mercantile Ballroom & Cocktail Lounge  
117 W.3rd St., Sterling  
815-564-8428



B&D Supply  
201 West 14th St., Rock Falls  
815-626-0897

### Congratulations to Palmyra Pub & Eatery for receiving the Customer Service Award!

Congratulations to Palmyra Pub and Eatery for receiving this month's Customer Service Award for phenomenal service! Their nominator said they placed a team order for pick up and received outstanding service from placing the order to picking it up. "All of the team was very helpful."

Visit them at 628 Palmyra Rd., Dixon.



CSA Sponsored by:



# Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program



Dr. David Hellmich, President of Sauk Valley Community College, began the October 2nd meeting of the SVCLP with a dialogue about ethical leadership and the qualities of extraordinary leaders-- intriguing topics that will be continued in our next session. Amanda Wike, executive director of Discover Dixon, then led us through crafting mission and vision statements for us, the '24-'25 cohort of the Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program. Collaboration and thoughtful discussion at its best!

For our finale, Baker Street Dixon catered a delicious lasagna, salad, and cookie lunch for us.

The SVCLP cohort began class on October 16th with an inspiring welcome from Kora Bajrami, our host at Salamandra's Gathering Place. We then had an insightful Q & A with Dr. Bill Bird, CGH Vice President and Chief Medical Officer; Dr. Joyce Johnson, family medical specialist at KSB and Clinical Assistant Professor for UIC; and Kim Gaffey, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Gaffey Home Nursing & Hospice. They discussed characteristics of strong leaders, how to avoid burnout, and how, as leaders, to have crucial conversations.

The SVCLP cohort then had an unparalleled opportunity to learn from the following medical professionals: Dr. Linda Hellmich, licensed Clinical Psychologist; Dr. Kelly S. Flanagan, Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Director of Florissa in Dixon; Valerie Kern-Lyons, Clinical Mental Health and Academic Counselor, Professor, and Coordinator of Academic Advising and Clinical Counseling; and Natalie Moeller, Licensed clinical social worker, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, and Executive Director of Moeller, Myers & Associates, PC.

Dr. Dave Hellmich then led a challenging discussion on ethical leadership. Salamandra's served us a delicious Mexican buffet for lunch.



## 6th annual Manufacturing Dinner

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who joined us for the 6th Annual Manufacturing Dinner last night! We were thrilled to see all of the passionate individuals come together at Sauk Valley Community College to celebrate the manufacturing industry in our community.

Your support not only helps us raise funds for scholarships for future manufacturing leaders but also strengthens our workforce development initiatives at the SVACC - so thank you!

A special shoutout to our fantastic sponsors and the great area leaders who provided updates during the event including, Dr. Jon Mandrell, Sauk Valley Community College; Dr. Mohammad Saadeh, Northern Illinois University; Scott Connelly, Morrison Tech; Heather Waninger, ROE #47; and Josh Johnson, WACC.

Here's to the continued growth and collaboration in our industry!

Thank you for supporting manufacturing in the Sauk Valley!



## CEO Program

**Written by: Ellie Kested, Sterling High School**

I am a part of the CEO west class and I have been really enjoying it. We are so lucky to go on so many great tours and learn so much about our community. So far in this class the biggest take away I have had is the knowledge I have gained about our community. We have been to so many local businesses that I had no clue existed. Personally, I have always wanted to continue my career after high school away from home. After exploring our area some more, I've come to the realization of how many opportunities we have right here. Le has kicked us off to a great start this school year and we can't wait to continue learning from her and ALL of the other entrepreneurs in our area.



**Written by: MaryKay Downs, Newman Central Catholic High School**

As the holiday season approaches, our 2024-2025 CEO west class plans our first event of the year for the Festival of Trees! Our class is planning to have a "Santa's Bake Shop" including a cookie decorating station, raffle, and pictures with Santa.



Through lots of disagreement and discussion, we are almost ready for this event. When we first started planning out this event, it was chaos. Our class couldn't agree on anything. Eventually we split into committees which has helped our class to stop talking over each other, and making sure that everyone's ideas are heard. So far, we've planned everything out and we're getting the last details done. This smaller event planning has prepared us for how our class business will run. Finding our individual strengths will help us in the future as we separate people where they can be the most efficient.

Resources have been a key factor for our event so far, such as the cookie recipe to the poster for our booth. We are so fortunate to have such amazing business leaders around, supplying us with useful information. As we have heard in many of our tours, networking is what you will need to succeed, and we are using that to our best advantage.

If you're available, stop by at the Northland Mall on November 23rd to see the CEO class active in their first class event!

## Workforce Development

In October, the SVACC spent time with students at Rock Falls High School and Milledgeville High School working on soft skills and career exploration. Through the SVACC's Certificate of Employability, students are exposed to career pathways right here in the Sauk Valley by interacting with our members through activities lead by local businesses regarding each topic. This 6-week program will wrap up in November at Rock Falls and Milledgeville.

If you are interested in participating as a business in our Certificate of Employability, please email Dallas at [director@saukvalleyareachamber.com](mailto:director@saukvalleyareachamber.com).



## Guest Editorial

Written by Jill Calkins, Tri-County Opportunities Council



Tri-County Opportunities Council (TCOC) is a community action agency born during President Lyndon B. Johnson's groundbreaking War on Poverty and has been deeply rooted in the promise of improving lives and communities for nearly 60 years. TCOC is a frontline resource for individuals/families living with low incomes in the Sauk Valley area and beyond, serving over 10,000 individuals/families annually through programs and services in early childhood education, family resources, emergency assistance, energy assistance, home weatherization, housing, and senior programs.

One program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), helps keep families safe and healthy through assistance with energy costs. This program kicked off a new program year on October 1, 2024, and has already completed over 2,000 applications to assist households and lower their energy burden. Individuals in need of assistance can call 1-800-323-5434 to schedule an appointment.

Another program, the Early Head Start/Head Start program (EHS/HS), is a comprehensive birth-to-five early childhood program that offers both home-based and center-based services. They take applications year-round. Families wanting quality-driven care for their children where they can find success, form relationships, and develop a love for learning that lasts long after their first five years of life can contact the EHS/HS program at 1-800-323-5434.



Noted above are just two of the Agency's programs. To learn more about all the programs that TCOC offers, please visit our website at [www.tcochelps.org](http://www.tcochelps.org).



# SAVE THE DATE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

*Sights & Sounds*



*Downtown Sterling Christmas Walk*

Scan this code  
for details



*Festivities begin at 5 PM for late night shopping,  
tree lighting, horse & carriage rides,  
entertainment, kids activities & more!*

*Sponsored by:*



Showplace Treasures & Antiques • Castor Home Nursing • Sterling Woodworks  
Northern Illinois Home Medical Supply • Open Door Community Church



  For more information visit  
[www.sterlingmainstreet.org](http://www.sterlingmainstreet.org)

