



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

SEPTEMBER 2024

YWCA OF THE SAUK VALLEY PRESENTS FIESTA BEFORE THE FIESTA!!!

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2024

5:00pm-6:30pm

412 First avenue, Sterling II, 61081

In the courtyard

FOOD, DRINKS, AND DOOR PRIZES



The YWCA of the Sauk Valley is a United Way Agency.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Sauk Valley

Robotic-arm assisted knee & hip replacement Transforming the Way Joint Replacement Surgery is Performed



CGH Medical Center now offers Stryker's Mako SmartRobotics™ Total Knee & Total Hip applications. With CT-based planning and robotic-arm assisted surgery, Mako SmartRobotics™ not only allows our surgeons to provide each patient with a personalized surgical experience - based on their specific diagnosis and anatomy - but can also help them deliver better outcomes like less pain and quicker recovery times.



www.cghmc.com/mako • (815) 625-4790

September Meetings

- September 3 Exec Board
- September 4 HBLC Fiesta Check in
- September 10 Board of Directors
- September 12 Ambassadors
- September 17 Ag
- September 19 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
- Office Manager/Financial Specialist—Janie Fisher
- 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 gear up for Chamber of Commerce Week, September 8-14, 2024, we want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the incredible community of businesses and professionals that make the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce so dynamic. Chamber Week Celebration is all about you—our valued members—and the vital role you play in driving growth, innovation, and connection in our area.

To show our appreciation, we're thrilled to invite you to an exclusive members-only networking event at XGolf on Thursday, September 12. You'll enjoy drink tickets, a selection of delicious appetizers, and some friendly competition with putting contests. Even better, all golf bays will be open exclusively for our members, giving you the chance to swing a few clubs while mingling and making new connections.



Chamber Week Celebration

THURSDAY, SEPT. 12!

@ XGOLF
13464 Galt Rd, Sterling

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Join us for long drive and putting contests, complimentary appetizers, & a drink ticket, **for SVACC members only.** Members will have access to all bays!

RSVP for this free event by 9/5 at
bit.ly/3WG4tdz or 815-625-2400

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce XGOLF logo

We hope you'll join us for this special celebration! There is no cost to attend, but RSVP is required. Please RSVP online or call the Chamber office at 815-625-2400.

Let's come together to celebrate the contributions that each of you brings to the Sauk Valley community!



Nominations are now being accepted for the
2025 SVACC Board of Directors.

Nomination deadline is September 30.

Please email nominations to
director@saukvalleyareachamber.com.

Investor Update September 2024

INVESTOR RENEWALS

Altorfer Inc.

Axiom Wealth Advisors

Bard Optical

Citadel of Sterling

Edward Jones - AJ Sharp

El Jacalito

Grace Point Church

House in the Country

Jake Gerdes - State Farm Agent

Lifescape Community Services

Liquor N Wine

Menk USA, LLC

Northern Illinois Veterinary Services

Sauk Valley Pest Control

Sedona Staffing

Showplace Antiques & Treasures

Sterling Chevrolet

Sterling Hearing Aid Center

Sterling Landmark dba Warehouse 301

Sterling Rock Falls Historical Society

Take 5 Oil Change

The Barkery

Total Construction Services

Treja Management LLC

Wahl Clipper Corporation

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 Employees Credit Union

Sterling Commercial Roofing

Sterling Rock Falls Child Care

Sterling Township

Surf Internet

The Cornerstone Agency

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

Hawkins-Cassens Insurance

Hill Fastener

Imprintable Memories

James S. Ferris DDS, PC

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
Brian Hawkins—Brian Hawkins Insurance
Cael Sanders—Sterling Federal Bank
Cassandra Salmon – OnCall Imaging
Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley
Christina Bystry – House in the Country
Esther Salazar –CGH Medical Center

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

Welcome to the SVACC Ambassador group, Carmina Lopez!

Carmina is an Insurance Account Representative with Shay Brown State Farm.



Business After Hours

Thank you to TBK Bank for hosting this month's Business After Hours! As always, it was a great opportunity for members to get together.



Hot Dog Day

Our fun fair at the marketplace was full of fun activities and games generously provided by our local organizations. A big shout out to everyone providing fun activities today! Thank you to the BLIND program for providing activities and the SVCC Impact Program for helping out.

Ribbon Cuttings



Edward Jones—Tom Gleissner
 New location
 3917 E. Lincolnway Ste A, Sterling
 815-718-6401



Regional Media
 75th anniversary
 308 Locust St., Sterling
 815-625-3400



Brazi Aesthetics
 202 E. 5th St., Sterling
 815-677-1263



Action Powersports
 1902 Locust St., Sterling
 815-625-4426

Congratulations to Whiteside County Senior Center for receiving the Customer Service Award!

They were nominated for the free programs and activities they provide for the senior community.
 Call 815-622-9230 to learn more.

CSA Sponsored by:



Government Affairs

Illinois lawmakers concluded their spring session by enacting a law that makes the state the first in the nation to ban banks and credit card companies from charging retailers fees on sales taxes and tips. The law, which takes effect on July 1, 2025, is expected to face significant opposition from financial institutions that argue the measure is impractical and difficult to implement within the allotted timeframe.

The legislation prohibits credit card companies from applying interchange fees to sales taxes and gratuities in electronic transactions. Additionally, it prevents these companies from increasing other fees to offset the revenue loss resulting from this change. For merchants without advanced point-of-sale (POS) systems capable of separately submitting taxes and gratuities, the law provides a credit for the interchange fees charged.

Non-compliance with the law will result in fines of \$1,000 per transaction. As the state prepares for potential legal challenges and the practicalities of enforcement, this legislation marks a significant shift in how electronic transaction fees are regulated in Illinois.

Save the Date!

Upcoming events:

Chamber Week Celebration — Thursday, September 12 at X Golf

Manufacturing Dinner — Thursday, October 10 at Sauk Valley Community College

Workforce Development

Northwestern Illinois Listening Session

Join us to learn more about the transition process and share your experiences with Early Childhood Education and Care services. Help ensure rural, northwestern Illinois' voices are included in the development of the new Department of Early Childhood. Click [here](#) to register or scan the QR code.

Two sessions are available:

Thursday, September 5

1:00—2:30 p.m.

OR

6:30—8:00 p.m.

These meetings are hybrid, so you may choose to participate in person (at Dixon Chamber of Commerce & Main Street) or virtually via Zoom. If the virtual option is selected, a Zoom link will be emailed to you after registering.

REGISTER NOW

bit.ly/NWListeningSession



Questions? Contact:
[Abby Hoskins – ahoskins@birthtofiveil.com](mailto:ahoskins@birthtofiveil.com)



Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program



SVCLP's first class session for 2024-25 was held August 7, 2024, focusing on the topic of Community Problems and Solutions. The class met at Sauk Valley Food Bank where Pam Martinez provided an excellent tour.

Following the tour, the cohort met at Elevate Youth Center in Sterling, to see another great resource for our community and hear from a panel of local leaders. The panel included Heather Sotelo, GSDC; Amanda Wike, Discover Dixon; Chief Alex Chavira, Sterling Police Department; and Sterling Mayor Diana Merdian. Thank you to our wonderful hosts and panelists!



On August 21 the Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program pivoted quickly, ending up at Sauk Valley Community College's Riverview Conference Room for two discussions on leadership. First we heard from Kim Purvis, of Koehler Farms, former Sterling Public Schools and WACC administrator, and then with Dr. Lori Cortez, Vice President of Advancement for Sauk Valley Community College. After a small-group challenge, LeAndra Hartman, facilitator of the WACC CEO Class West, helped us better understand our DISC profiles and recognize the importance of all personality types and why our differences help strengthen and build teams. Lunch by Angelo's was the perfect way to wrap up an intriguing day of SVCLP.



Steak Fry in the Country

The 39th Annual Steak Fry in the Country was a wonderful time! Thank you to everyone who made this event possible, especially our generous sponsors and dessert winners!

Not only is the Steak Fry a fun event that allows us to celebrate agriculture in the Sauk Valley, it enables the SVACC Agribusiness Committee to fund scholarships and ag education in our area. The Ag Committee was able to grant scholarships to every student that applied for the 2024-25 school year thanks to last year's event. We can't wait to see what is in store for next year!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



CEO Program

Here's a little CEO Trivia for you:

West CEO Class of 2025 has 19 members from 7 different schools; Bureau Valley, Fulton, Prophetstown, Morrison, Newman, Rock Falls, and Sterling. This is the first year to have a student join us from Fulton High School! We are two and half weeks in and off to a great start.

To date over 300 students have benefited from the WACC CEO program, which is in its 12th year and with a second class added in 2020.



Written by: Macie Rosengren, Newman Central Catholic High School

Since beginning the CEO program I have learned so much about myself and this class. It has already expanded my knowledge on networking, marketing, financial planning, and building relationships. Gary Devore really stands out to me when I think back to all of the speakers we've had so far. He was very entertaining and kept everyone engaged, while also giving us a lot of useful information. The games he introduced to the class helped us build connections by working together and thinking outside the box. Something that he said that stuck with me was that a good leader will always hear everyone out. I really like how he said when something fails don't blame a person, instead try to find out the reason why. Those were some key points I found very valuable from his presentations.

Professional Women's Network

Michelle French gave us great tips on getting motivated during a lunch and learn on August 28! Thank you, Michelle, for sharing your wisdom on keeping a positive mind and getting things done.

Our Professional Women's Network hosted this great learning opportunity for the community. Planning is underway for another event this fall. Be on the lookout!



The **SVCC Business program** is looking for feedback regarding marketing electives. To share your feedback, please complete the survey by **September 20th**. <https://forms.gle/QA7K7ckngqkm9w8UA>



71st 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 71st annual Fiesta Day Parade on **Saturday, September 14, 2024**. 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.

2024 Parade Sponsors

Presented by

*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

or send this sheet to:

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

Please return by **Tuesday, September 3**.
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

Float Vehicle Music Band Political
Other _____

Number of vehicles, if any, in your entry: _____

Do you have walkers with entry? yes / no

*Walkers will be expected to keep pace with the parade crossing the bridge. Riding across the bridge is recommended.

*For safety reasons, candy can only be passed out by walkers. Please **DO NOT THROW** candy from vehicles or floats.

Please provide a brief description of entry:
