

## Organization to raise funds for scholarship program through chili supper, auction event

by Janice Smith

President Randy Gray opened the March 14 monthly meeting of Girard Chamber of Commerce members, with Pledge led by Bill Giles and prayer by Pastor Marty Nagel.

Previous minutes and treasurer's report were approved followed by an update from Dr. Todd Babcock on the new Community Center. The kitchen area has been painted and is ready for the purchase of cabinetry and light fixtures. Events which have been held or are booked for the future include Post Prom Paint Night, a baby shower, the Chamber's Chili Supper and Auction, a wedding reception, graduation party and the March 24 Firefighters Dance. Babcock stated donations are still needed to make the Center complete, such as the purchase of appliances.

Bill Giles reported the work on the Chamber business listing sign at the four way stop will begin when weather cooperates. Peggy Giles gave a brief Chamber Promotion report.

For Education Committee,

Dr. Juanita Rule announced the Chamber-sponsored Chili Supper will be Saturday, April 7, serving from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the new Community Center, with an Auction following at 6:30 p.m. Randy Gray will be in charge of the auction. Tickets are \$6 for adults, children 5 and under eat free. Dozens of new, still in the box items, donated by Dr. Robert Jenkins, will be auctioned off, with proceeds benefitting the Chamber Scholarship Program. Tickets are available through any Chamber member, at the City Hall Water Department through Deb Burnett, or at the door. On a motion by Rule, seconded by Jeanette Earley, all voted aye for the event and the insurance application. Jeanette will possibly recruit Key Club members to assist with the meal. A Junior Chamber recruitment of candidates is also underway to support growth in the Chamber.

Pharmacy Plus owner Byron Berry attended the meeting, updating the group on the construction/renovation phase

of the business, with a possible May 1st opening in sight.

Viriden Chamber of Commerce President Suzanne Gray addressed Chamber, explaining various levels of contributions to the Viriden Mural, and asking members if they wish to donate. (Fundraising efforts have reached \$13,500, with a goal of \$20,000.) On a motion by Peggy Giles, seconded by Todd Babcock, all voted aye to donate; followed with unanimous approval to a \$100 donation, motion by Babcock, seconded by Peggy. Gray announced Route 66 Committee is considering a Mural Drive Through Tour. Suzanne and Randy also agreed to attend each other's Chamber meetings with no membership fee and non-voting status, promoting a working relationship between the two Chambers.

A membership dues list was handed out; Festival Days planning and advertising was briefly discussed; the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the First Baptist Church is set for March 24 in the city park; the Pleasant Hill Village Hunt is set

for March 24, the Easter Rabbit at 10 a.m. and the Hunt beginning at 10:30 a.m.; Viriden has a March 24 Easter Parade at 9:30 a.m. with the Hunt at 10 a.m.

John Earley spoke as Emergency Management Coordinator, reporting on recent efforts of authorities searching for a young mother who was missing in the Royal Lakes area, Girard Water Search Rescue Team being involved in the search.

North Mac Ministerial Association member Pastor Marty Nagel attended the meeting, announcing Good Friday services at the Girard First Christian Church at 6 p.m. and Easter Sunrise Service at the Viriden First Christian Church.

Prior to adjournment, President Gray gave a City Council report, which included the installation/operation of the new generator and upcoming siren testing.

The next Chamber breakfast meeting is set for Wednesday, April 11, at Doc's Soda Fountain, with the Girard First Baptist Church as sponsor.



*Girard Chamber of Commerce members meet March 14 at County Market*