

## Chamber of Commerce

# Planning begins for Festival Days, community center progress continues with donations needed for completion

*Staff photos and story  
by Janice Smith*

Doc's Soda Fountain played host to members of Girard Chamber of Commerce Wednesday morning, Feb. 8, with attendance by vice president Darrin Burnett who chaired in the absence of president Victor Angulo, treasurer Mike Mauk, secretary Deb Burnett, Todd Babcock, Bob Ernst, Dave White, Bill Deck who sponsored the breakfast, Kevin Patrick, Sister Miriam and Sister Anna Marie, Millie Burgess, Juanita Rule, Bill and Peggy Giles, Colleen and Maurine Nichols, John and Jeanette Earley, Tabitha Bock, Maria Radosta, Buzzie Bertagnolli, Randy Gray and Janice Smith.

Previous minutes and treasurer's report were approved, with mention made of annual Chamber membership fees which are now due (\$35).

Todd Babcock gave an update

on community building progress; Burgess and Son are finishing heating and cooling; a lease extension has been requested from Girard City Council; drywalling is ready for paint; women's rest room work is continuing; hall rental may be available soon on a limited basis; tables are being donated by Joe Pitchford in memory of his father; donations are being accepted to further the construction; John and Jeanette Earley are in the process of cleanup in the main room; and rental fees were discussed. Babcock added commemorative bricks remain available as a fundraiser.

Bill Deck updated Chamber of the recent Route 66 meeting in Litchfield, with Blue Carpet Corridor event set for the second weekend in June.

Festival Days planning has begun with volunteer salesmen for booklet ad sales needed, a meeting will be scheduled in March;

approval was given to contract last year's carnival for this year's event, Randy Gray to handle details; Gray also invited organizations/churches interested in hosting games as a fundraiser to contact him; and Jeanette Earley gave an update on Queen Committee activities.

Under Committee reports, the scholarship fund was briefly discussed; for Beautification Committee, Randy Gray reported a revised ordinance soon to be in effect will place more rigid regulations on abandoned vehicles; Ambassador Committee, a Chamber welcome visit will be scheduled for the new gaming business located in the former Ted Lay office; Miss Girard Colleen Nichols reported Pageant preparations are underway with hopefully several entries this year, reported on an Easter event and she will attend the Woman's Fire Auxiliary

event.

Fire District representative and Emergency Management coordinator John Earley reported structure fires have been common the past few months; the new fire truck which has been on order for a year should arrive by March 1; the storm siren installation at the treatment plant is underway.

Macoupin County Animal Control officer Buzzie Bertagnolli announced the facility's annual spring banquet fundraiser is set for April 22 at the Bates Building on the Fairgrounds, with a dinner, dance and silent auction. A \$100 donation to the shelter was approved by Chamber.

Tabitha Bock gave the Pleasant Hill Village update; Randy Gray gave City council update including spring cleanup to begin soon; Bob Ernst reported the Route 66 motorcade will not travel through Girard next month but will instead travel the northern

route, adding a tractor drive will take place through the city square the weekend following Blue Corridor; Ernst also reported on updates for his Doc's Soda Fountain; Bill Deck reported a new physician, Dr. Adams, has joined staff at the CAH Clinic in Girard.

Maurine Nichols has again offered to chair this year's city wide yard sale event set for June 10.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 a.m.