



*Girard Chamber Education Committee co-chairpersons Stacey Hughes (left) and Dr. Juanita Rule presented North Mac senior Anya Riffey (second from left) with a Girard Chamber of Commerce \$500 scholarship this year. Girard Chamber President Victor Angulo congratulated Anya on her scholarship and thanked her for attending June's Chamber meeting at Doc's Soda Fountain.*

## Girard Chamber continues planning for Girard Festival Days July 24-26

Girard Chamber of Commerce met Wednesday, July 10, at Doc's Soda Fountain on the west side of the Girard square.

The chamber learned that amusement rides will be coming to Girard Festival Days. Advance tickets for 24 tickets are \$18 with the average ride needing 3 tickets. The chamber will receive 20% of all ticket sales sold in advance. The carnival rides will be located on the street on the east side of the park. Chamber members also hope the young children's rides will continue. Jeanette Earley working with the Girard Kiwanis Club and local scouts hopes to organize enough volunteers to operate the rides for three days.

Guest speaker Wednesday morning was Kathi McCaherty with Carlinville Area Hospital expansion of a 28,000 sq. ft. Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Department along with the addition of Aqua Therapy.

Rhonda Harms, with the Girard Family Health Care said her facility was busy from early in the morning til late at night. President Victor Angulo said he had noted several evenings when the clinic was still open.

Doris Love, Senior Citizen representative, said seniors would be taking advantage of a Pleasant Hill Village ride to the Springfield Muni. Seniors and Pleasant Hill Village residents will be transported by the PHV bus to see "Spam-A-Lot" at the Springfield Muni

on June 25. Tickets are \$17 and deadline to let Pleasant Hill Village know is Friday, June 19. Call 627-2181 and ask for Jenny for more details.

Todd Babcock in a Girard Community Center update said that the museum room is near completion. An electrician will be hooking up the electric hot water heater for the Girard Community Center restrooms this week. He plans to offer tours of the facility during Girard Festival Days.

President Angulo also informed the chamber that a Business Development Coordinator will be hired as a full time position through the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs. Stacey Hughes with Country Financial will be donating office space on the west side of the Girard square for the Girard Business Development Coordinator to work from.

The Business Development Coordinator will be trying to create economic development opportunities for the city of Girard by identifying and pursuing funding streams including federal, state and private grants. A second goal is to develop a program to provide either low-cost or free job services to residents of Girard, particularly veterans of the Armed Forces, to include job training and placement.

Bill Deck said that the Blue Carpet Corridor, a Route 66 Association, will take place on Saturday, June 13, and Sunday, June 14. Activities are being planned from Springfield to the Chain of Rocks Bridge near

St. Louis. A 5K race will take place at 8 a.m. on the Girard South Campus. In addition there will be live music on the square from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Hwy. 66 Association Motor Tour will stop in Girard for lunch at Doc's Soda Fountain on Sunday.

Herb Tarver with County Market said that demotion of the burned out Girard County Market was underway. He said County Market was offering free rides to the Chatham store at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursdays. In addition local residents can call the Chatham County Market and order their groceries on Monday for delivery between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

Attending June's meeting were President Victor Angulo, Vice President Stacey Hughes, Secretary Deb Burnett, Treasurer Todd Babcock, Peg and Bill Giles, Doris Love, Bill Deck, Virden Chamber President Tom Stoecker, Dr. Juanita Rule, John and Jeanette Earley, Steve Steelman, Herb Tarver, Paulette Miller, Darren Burnett, Rachel Frederick, Kevin Patrick, Dottie Dambacher, Mike Cowden, Kathi McCaherty, Anya Riffey, Tabitha Bock, Phil Garner, Rhonda Harms, Bob Ernst and Nathan Jones.

Sponsoring June's chamber breakfast was Girard Family Health Care, Girard. The Chamber will next meet on Wednesday, July 8, at Pleasant Hill Village. The July breakfast will be sponsored by Pleasant Hill Village.