



North Mac Superintendent Marica Cullen spoke to the Girard Chamber during their August 12 meeting at Pleasant Hill Village. Cullen estimated that their would be approximately 440 high school students. The school has an enrollment of 1,530 students in three locations with 98 teachers and 80 staff members.

Girard Chamber learns Girard Festival Days successful

Girard Chamber of Commerce met Wednesday, August 12, at Pleasant Hill Village.

The chamber learned that Girard Festival Days had netted nearly \$3,200 for the chamber which utilizes the proceeds to help make next year's Girard Festival Days more entertaining and successful. The Carnival ride income was \$3,396.

The chamber voted to donate to the National Cub Scout organization \$175 so the seven Girard cub scouts can have their national dues paid.

Chamber members learned that County Market will have a ground breaking ceremony for their new grocery store on the north edge of Girard at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 2.

President Victor Angulo asked for volunteers to help on the Pumpkin Festival Committee. The Pumpkin Chuck-in event is being planned for Saturday, Oct. 10.

Guest speaker Wednesday morning was North Mac Superintendent Marica Cullen who informed the chamber about enrollment and immediate needs of the school district including roof replacement of all buildings and updated HVAC systems.

Doris Love, Senior Citizen representative, said seniors would be taking advantage of a Pleasant Hill Village ride to the Springfield Muni and the Lincoln Museum. Seniors and Pleasant Hill Village residents will be transported by the PHV bus to the Lincoln Museum on August 14 and to see "West Side Story" at the Springfield Muni on August

26. Call 627-2181 and ask for Jenny for more details.

Todd Babcock in a Girard Community Center update said that 750 bricks were in place and that 133 bricks had already been purchased at \$125 each and were in the process of being engraved. The public is invited to purchase additional memorial bricks which will help the group finish the Girard Community Center.

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.

Darrin Burnett, Pleasant Hill Village, said the 19th Annual Pleasant Hill Village Fall Auction and dinner will be Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Virden. Contact Darrin Burnett at 217-627-2181 or dburnett@pleasanthillvillage.org for more information.

Pleasant Hill Village is collecting auction items from

area businesses and supporters for their live and silent auction. The goal for the event is \$38,500 and the proceeds will be used to purchase new Dining Room chairs and lobby furniture at Pleasant Hill Healthcare; new chairs and activity supplies for Pleasant Hill Residence, and landscaping and walking path construction for the entire facility. Pleasant Hill Village will also do work at Girard Area Homes, the low-income housing complex which they administer.

Todd Babcock, owner of Girard Chiropractic, said his business had been operating in Girard for five years and he was hosting a Business After Hours celebration in October.

Chamber members voted to increase annual dues \$5 to \$35 per year.

Attending August'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, Paulette Miller, Darren Burnett, Emily Buhl, Sherri Gerdance, Girard Police Chief Dave Campbell, Nicole and Brent Drendel, Sarah Watson, Marty Nagel, Superintendent Marica Cullen, Marie Barlow, Douglas A. Daugherty and Nathan Jones.

Sponsoring August's chamber breakfast was North Mac Ministerial Association. The Chamber will next meet on Wednesday, September 9, at Doc's Soda Fountain. The September breakfast will be sponsored by Peggy Giles and Dr. Juanita Rule.