

## Chamber of Commerce

# Members learn of 'changing of the guard' for local newspaper, Festival Days planning underway

President Victor Angulo called the June 14 Chamber meeting to order at Pleasant Hill Residence, with Pleasant Hill as the morning's breakfast sponsor.

Following approval of previous minutes and treasurer's report, treasurer Mike Mauk requested a motion to approve opening a separate account for Macoupin Valley Trail fundraising, motion by Jeanette Earley, seconded by Peggy Giles, all voting aye.

Guest speaker Stefanie Anderson, general manager for Southern Illinois Media Group, addressed those attending, fielding questions on the December, 2016, acquisition of Gold Nugget Publications. Anderson provided information on the long standing, 140 year journalism background of Paddock Publications, comparing Paddock with previous Gold Nugget owners the Joneses, as a family-owned business. She stated Paddock are current publishers of The Daily Herald, headquartered in Arlington Heights, and had recently acquired a number

of downstate Illinois newspapers; spoke about the Media Group's initial formation in the fall of 2016; talked about the role of the Five-Star Printing operation; and stated Gold Nugget Media would be here to "serve and give back to the community".

In other business:

—Bill Deck updated the group on the Blue Carpet Corridor/Route 66 event, with over 200 guests stopping at Doc's Soda Fountain.

—motion by Darren Burnett, seconded by Jeanette Earley, all voting aye for approval of a \$150 payment (halved with the city) to Blue Carpet for previous advertising.

—the Tractor Parade of 100 tractors scheduled for Saturday morning, June 17, will travel from Macoupin County Fairgrounds to Girard square and back.

—Deb Burnett as Festival Days chairman stated the booklet goes to print Friday, June 16, discussed the event's lineup, the Chamber's 50/50 ticket distribution and resale of Carnival tickets.

—Jeanette Earley reviewed preparations of the Queen candidates and announced several Festival games and rides are available for organizations or groups to man.

—Peggy Giles updated the group on website, with a members' list to be added.

—For Education, Juanita Rule announced the Chamber scholarship recipient is Natalie Koprowitz. Robert Jenkins of Joliet, a brother to the late Girard resident Terry Jenkins, has donated many new items to be used in a silent auction with proceeds benefiting the scholarship program. Storage for those items will be in question.

—For Beautification, Bill Deck commended Deb Burnett for the planting of flowers in the city square concrete containers.

President Angulo announced groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Liberty Utilities facility, 11 a.m. Thursday, June 15, and a June 25 reception at the Virden United Methodist Church for Mary Alice Cunningham, who

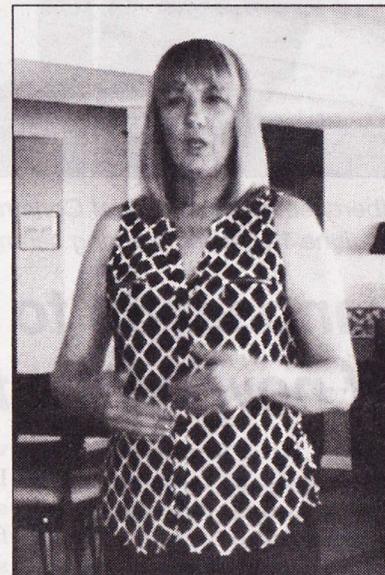
has been reassigned; Maureen Nichols spoke about Miss Girard Colleen Nichols taking part in the July Macoupin County Queen Pageant; Colleen's Flag Disposal project is in the works; and gave a report on the recent city wide yard sales, with the date to be changed for next year's event.

Bill Giles offered suggestions of providing the city's event information along Route 4 for travelers during events such as Blue Corridor, and food stand owner and North Mac School Board member Dave Spann was introduced as a guest.

Pleasant Hill Village Community Night has been scheduled for June 22 from 5 to 7:30 p.m., to be held outdoors weather permitting, with the theme "Candyland". The annual Pleasant Hill Dinner is set for Oct. 21 entitled "Petals and Bows".

Prior to 8 a.m. adjournment, Paulette Miller spoke about Muni trip scheduling through Pleasant Hill with bus transportation provided.

Next month's Chamber meeting is set for July 12 at Doc's Soda Fountain.



*Southern Illinois Media Group general manager Stefanie Anderson, representing Gold Nugget Media, addresses Chamber of Commerce members during monthly meeting.*