

Membership greets District #34 new superintendent as guest speaker

*Story and photos
by Janice Smith*

President Victor Angulo called the Sept. 13 Girard Chamber of Commerce meeting to order at Doc's Soda Fountain, secretary Deb Burnett, vice president Darrin Burnett attending; treasurer Mike Mauk absent. The breakfast was sponsored by Peggy Giles and Dr. Juanita Rule.

Following Pledge and prayer, guest speaker Dr. Jay Goble provided a brief background of his education credentials and career steps in the field of education. Goble assumed duties as North Mac School District #34 Superintendent as of July 1. He commended District #34 teaching staff as dedicated, with educators stepping up in the area of additional needs for students, adding, a bit more time is needed to form a vision for the District, stating his door is always open to the public.

Also attending the meeting were John and Jeanette Earley, Bill Deck, Millie Burgess, Bill Giles, Miss Girard Madalyn Robinette, Kevin and Misty Patrick, Buzzie Bertagnoli, Dr. Todd Babcock, Bob Ernst and Janice Smith.

Todd Babcock updated the group on Community Center progress. The next Pumpkin Festival Committee meeting is noon Thursday, Sept. 14, at Doc's, with the date for the Festival set for Oct. 7, with parade beginning at 10:30 a.m. and Pumpkin Park activities beginning at 11 a.m.

Bill Giles spoke on repairs to the Chamber's business sign posted at the four-way stop, with approval to spend up to \$300 for perhaps more weather resistant materials. The Earleys reported the city sign posted at the northern edge was also in need of repair. Group agreed to perhaps repair or replace one city sign

a year to keep up on maintenance.

Peggy Giles briefly commented on the Chamber's website; Bill Deck reported on the importance of neighborhood beautification, suggesting even small improvements make such a difference; Juanita Rule reminded all of the donated items still remaining for auction; John Earley announced the final concrete approach to the firehouse on Emmerson Airline is to be poured, and reported on the Fire District's attendance on overpasses during the Friday, Sept. 8 salute to the motorcade carrying a fallen soldier.

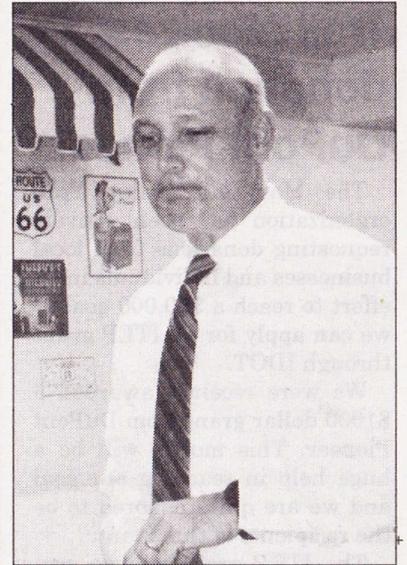
Macoupin County Animal Control officer Buzzie Bertagnoli reported on summer activities; the annual fundraising banquet is April 21 at the Bates Building in Carlinville, catered by Fema, recognizing the community of Girard for their support.

Darrin Burnett reported on activities ongoing at Pleasant Hill Village (PHV), including a team is forming for the Sept. 23 Alzheimer's Walk; a Health Fair will be sponsored Sept. 28, which will include flu shots; the annual Dinner Auction is Oct. 21 at the Virden KC Hall, with this year's goal of \$36,500, all proceeds benefitting improvements for PHV. On a motion by Todd Babcock, seconded by Jeanette Earley, all voted aye for approval of a \$100 donation to the PHV event.

Bob Ernst spoke on several upcoming events: the Mother Road Festival is Sept. 22-23, with Girard and Doc's manning a booth at the event promoting the city; a search for information (and to become involved) on the Hot Rod Power Tour; and the Tuesday, Sept. 19, Military Caravan.

The next meeting will be Oct. 11 at 7 a.m. at Doc's. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 a.m., moving

to closed session to discuss personnel.



North Mac District #34 School Superintendent Dr. Jay Goble is guest speaker for Sept. 13 Chamber meeting.