

***Girard Chamber of Commerce
April 10, 2024 Meeting Report
Courtesy Chamber Website***

Courtyard Estates hosted the April 10, 2024 meeting with Peggy and Bill Giles as sponsors. President Jeanette Earley opened, Deb Burnett, John Earley, Bill and Peggy, Michelle Hoover, Wayman Meredith and Janice Smith attending.

Sponsorships of breakfast meetings remain open for June, October and November, with following meeting set for May 8 at Courtyard, Steve O'Dell of Country Financial as sponsor. List of sponsors will be announced on the Chamber website.

Major topic of discussion was Festival Days planning; several inflatables will be featured this year; silent auction, with proceeds benefitting the purchase of new signage for the city's entrances; seven girls will vie for the Miss Girard title during this year's pageant; 2023 recipient Addison Earley will represent Girard during the Macoupin County Fair queen competition; Chamber will present \$500 to the Miss Girard winner, \$250 as queen and \$250 for entry into the county fair pageant; a parade is in the planning as well as an indoor event to appeal to teens; Doc's owner Casey Claypool is lining up a "cruise-in" and possible live remote affiliated with WFMB to aid in promotion of new Festival events (motion by John Earley, seconded by Peggy Giles, all voting aye for the approval of the cost, a shared expense of \$1,500, for the remote with Festival committee, Chamber and Casey sharing the cost); a ribbon cutting ceremony set for Friday (Festival runs July 26, 27, 28) featuring notable figures and possibly observing the recovery of a time capsule buried 50 years ago; and much more.

The next Festival planning session is scheduled for April 29 at 7 p.m.

Additional city events include the June 8 City Wide Yard Sales and October 12 Pumpkin Fest.

The four-way stop business sign has openings, with finalization to come soon enabling the sign to be updated.

John Earley spoke for Fire and Rescue and Prairieland Ambulance, with Fire Department to perhaps soon finalize the purchase of the former Kruse Enterprises property on South Street, the cite for a new firehouse. Earley stated Prairieland has averaged 90 calls a month, with 115 calls in March. An additional ambulance is on order, the order to take an estimated two years.

Courtyard representative Michelle Hoover reported approximately 50 area residents attended the adult Easter Egg Hunt; the area's job fair is set for April 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by Virden and Girard Chambers and North Mac High School; Courtyard Estates currently houses 36 residents with an additional to take residency at the end of the month; announced Palmyra Senior Center is closing, (meal delivery will continue), with Courtyard discussing activity to fill the gap; Oak Hills will sponsor a June 8 Poker Run, nine additional locations involved, ending the event with a Taco Bar meal at the Club; June 14 will be deadline for advertising in the Festival Days booklet; and finally endorsed a work study program offered at North Mac High School.

Chamber learned about the sale of Ron's Redbird Café and with a Mexican restaurant targeted for opening in May, and prior to 8:15 adjournment, Police Chief Wayman Meredith stated the department had ongoing trainings this month with the enforcement coverage at 92% for the previous month.