

***Girard Chamber of Commerce Report  
Courtesy Chamber Website***

Upcoming Festival Days planning dominated the June 12, 2024 meeting of Girard Chamber of Commerce, President Jeanette Earley chairing. Burnett Crane Service sponsored the breakfast meeting at the Girard Community Center, with Deb Burnett, Bill and Peggy Giles, Sara Millward, Wayman Meredith, Kim Eldridge, Cody Smith, Casey Claypool, Kate Loveless, Vicki Walker, Michelle Hoover, Addison Earley, Chad and Temperance Burnett and Janice Smith attending.

Previous minutes and treasurer's report were filed for audit, with an amendment to minutes for Carlinville Area Hospital's Virden mobile unit groundbreaking rescheduled for June 27 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Chamber Scholarship winner Kate Loveless announced she would attend Illinois State in the fall as a biology major, with plans to join a sorority and take part in sports. Kate will be waitressing this summer for Oak Hills in Girard. 2023 Miss Girard Addison Earley was recognized as the 2024 Miss Macoupin County, excited to represent Macoupin in several upcoming pageants, stating this year's Festival will feature six contestants for the Miss Girard title and five Little Miss contestants.

Discussion began concerning Festival Days highlights: stage entertainment will focus on local talent; Casey Claypool plans a Friday night "cruise-in" with live remote broadcast (fire department, Chamber and Doc's sharing the cost); an opening ceremony to include ribbon cutting and time capsule reveal featuring several guests; details on the Festival Booklet soon to be finalized with R&R Bindery completing the printing; vocal and/or instrumentals of National Anthem by North Mac students will open each evening, Friday 6:15 p.m., Saturday 5:15 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m.; Citizen of the Year and Teen Citizen of the Year applications are available at city hall, or submissions can be made on personal paper, with June 21 as deadline; this year's Pageant theme is "The Oscars"; Chamber's popular Cake Walk will be hosted all three nights; youth entertainment will include several inflatables; PTO group will man several games; bingo will be hosted all three nights (two hours each night previous to the beer tent serving times); Saturday volleyball tourney; bags tourney and teen bags tourney; and a parade set for 4 p.m. Saturday.

New member and owner of the The Zone Fitness Center in Virden, Cody Smith attended, passing out fliers announcing the Festival Days Strength Challenge to be hosted Sunday, July 28, beginning at 10 a.m.; a community church service is scheduled at the Community Center Sunday, tentatively set for 10:30 or 11 a.m.; Casey Claypool reported on booklet ad sales, stating the cost of the ads were comparable to last year's, a finalized booklet meeting is set for June 25, with all to go to print June 26; announced a potential drawing for items donated by merchants, with donations also being accepted, all to benefit the city's entrance signs project.

An effort to form a Community Watch Program is ongoing by Girard Police Chief Wayman Meredith, those interested may contact the Department at city hall for more information. Meredith stated the reporting of unusual night activities will assist the Department in preventing a crime. Representing Courtyard Estates, Michelle Hoover gave information on the June 19 Healthcare Chat scheduled at Courtyard and announced a July Camp Out with scouts. The mobile unit groundbreaking ceremony, Safe Sitter Program for 6-8 grades at Waverly Community Center June 26 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and the June 25 Parkinson's Support Group were topics of discussion for Carlinville Area Hospital spokesman Vicki Walker.

Adjournment came at 8:15 a.m., with next meeting scheduled for 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 10, location and sponsor to be announced.