

Girard Chamber of Commerce Report Courtesy Chamber Website

With upcoming Festival Days celebration just days away, Girard Chamber members focused on the lineup of activities for this year's event during the July 10, 2024 breakfast meeting hosted at and by Courtyard Estates. President Jeanette Earley opened with Deb Burnett, Bill and Peggy Giles and Janice Smith attending.

Earley encouraged Chamber members for their help and volunteerism during the three day Festival and reviewed several on-schedule events. The Chamber tent will feature a 50/50 drawing; wrist bands will be available for inflatables; Bingo is scheduled each eve; Girard Library will again sponsor a Book Fair; Ella Eldridge will preview her "Bee City" project; opening of the time capsule observing its 50-year-ago burial is set for Friday night, with the contents later displayed at the Chamber tent; Festival booklet with schedule of events has gone to print, with reported proceeds to be over \$5,000; the National Anthem will be performed by various local talent each eve; a Friday night "cruise-in" and live remote coverage has be set at Doc's Just Off Route 66; ribbon cutting will be hosted Friday night at 6 p.m. with public figures and notable residents included with invitations to attend along with area residents; parade lineup is scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday; Chamber Cake Walk will be hosted each of the three evenings; and much more.

Band entertainment as well as local performers will be featured; participants in Little Miss, Teen Citizen, Citizen of the Year and Miss Girard Pageant will take center stage; Sunday morning lineup includes a Strength Challenge sponsored by The Zone Fitness Center; a Community Church Service hosted at the Community Center; and the Firemen Fish Fry and Beer Tent all three days, along with additional food vendors. A final Festival planning session is scheduled for next week.

Through the support of grant monies, three city entrance signs (east, west and south) have arrived. Landscaping will follow. The city's northern most entrance sign has an estimated cost of \$15,000, with Chamber continuing to research any additional grant monies, but also attempting to raise funds through local donors.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m., with the next Chamber meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 14, sponsor and location to be Doc's Just Off Route 66.