

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

President Jeanette Earley opened the August 14, 2024 Chamber meeting at Courtyard Estates, Deb Burnett, Bill and Peggy Giles, Adrienne Adams, Wayman Meredith, Michelle Hoover, Casey Claypool and Janice Smith attending. Doc's Just Off Route 66 was sponsor.

Previous minutes were approved. Based on treasurer's report review, expenditures and receipts, the group felt Festival Days was a success with profit made, detailing the traffic and proceeds from both traditional and new events featured at the three day celebration. The group's plans are to continue placing efforts on successfully rebuilding the Festival Days event following the results of the covid era. Extensive discussion followed on the Festival's lineup, including the parade, the featured inflatables and wristband sales, the added event of Bingo, the cruise-in and live remote, the three nights of Chamber Cake Walk, Sunday's Strength Challenge, booth space proceeds, and more. Monies collected thus far to benefit the purchase of the sign to be placed at the city's north entrance total \$6,115, with a goal estimate of \$15,000.

This year's Miss Girard Adrienne Adams spoke on her activities since the Festival, attending the Virden "Back to School" backpack distribution, area pageants and parades; a thank you was received from Teen Citizen Ella Eldridge; Police Chief Wayman Meredith reported no disturbances related to the Festival Days event; during opening of the time capsule it was discovered moisture had caused damage, with Chamber discussing how a water-safe vessel may be used with any future plans for a time capsule burial.

In additional discussion: the suggestion was made to open the Girard History Museum (located in the Community Building) during times when high volume visitors are within the city; the historic building located at the northwest corner of the square has been demolished with the need for one of the city's concrete flower pots to be replaced; Can Am Landscaping will be involved in landscaping the new welcome signs located at the city's four entrances; a grant acquired by Kiwanis Club is funding the purchase of new illuminated flagpoles; on a motion by Claypool, seconded by Hoover, all voted aye to pay \$150 each to Alyssa Garrison and Ashley Beal for their photo coverage of the Festival.

Spokesman Michelle Hoover announced Courtyard Estates has been purchased by Hickory Point Bank; assisted living wing is to capacity (Assisted Living Week and Health Fair scheduled for September 8-15), with independent wing residents at 40; and staff discussion has included efforts to establish a Senior Center in Girard.

Pumpkin Fest is set for October 12 in the city square, vendors will be contacted by a volunteer committee. Queen Pageant committee members will be offering Krispy Kreme donuts during Pumpkin Fest as a fundraiser.

The next Girard Chamber meeting is scheduled for 7 a.m. Wednesday, September 11, at the Community Center, Janice Smith as sponsor.