

Girard Chamber of Commerce Report
Courtesy Chamber Website

Courtyard Estates played host and sponsored the April 9 breakfast meeting of Girard Chamber of Commerce, President Jeanette Earley chairing. Deb Burnett, Steve O'Dell, Will Downs, Myrna Bomkamp, Peggy and Bill Giles, Vicki Walker, Michelle Hoover, Nita Hamilton, Leigh Anne Baer and Janice Smith attended.

Following previous minutes and treasurer's report review and approval, it was announced this year's Chamber scholarship will be awarded to Nick Lancaster. With the Chamber's updated by-laws previously adopted, discussion turned to the slate of new officers: president Steve O'Dell, vice president Nita Hamilton, treasurer Vicki Walker, secretary Michelle Hoover. Motion by Peggy Giles, seconded by Myrna Bomkamp, the proposed slate was unanimously approved. Giles acknowledged Deb Burnett for her many years of service as secretary.

City Wide Yard Sales event is set for June 7, with related announcements found on Facebook. Festival Days planning committee will meet at noon, April 21, at Doc's Just Off Route 66, when agenda will be reviewed for the July 25, 26, 27 celebration. Lighting and sound system contracts will soon be finalized. Among the activities are Volleyball Tourney, Bag Tournament, Kiwanis Kids Games, Marty Nagel will lead a Sunday service, stage entertainment, parade and vendors. The city's Pumpkin Festival has been scheduled for October 11.

Four way stop signage for interested Girard businesses will be open as space becomes available, first year membership free, afterward \$50 per square per year. Proceeds come to Chamber and Community Center.

Courtyard director of sales and marketing, Michelle Hoover, announced senior games, luncheon and awards event is set for April 27; announced a breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt at Prairieland Ambulance with Courtyard assisting; stated ownership tours of the facility are ongoing; Courtyard has 37 apartments, 41 residents, and 11 open apartments.

Vicki Walker spoke for Carlinville Area Hospital, reporting a great response for the new Family Health Care Clinic's grand opening in Virden; announced a Blood Drive set for April 14, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Hospital and Clinic locations; and distributed informational material listing services available. A Senior Expo is scheduled June 3, from 3 to 6 p.m., at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds, with Sunrise Manor representative Leigh Anne Baer giving details; Lemonade Food Truck will be at Sunrise April 17; and a mostaccioli dinner is set for April 15 at the Hallmark facility in Carlinville.

In additional discussion: May meeting sponsors are Bill and Peggy Giles at Courtyard, and for July, Sunrise will sponsor the meeting also at Courtyard; Queen Pageant planning is underway with sponsors being obtained, with Queen's Tea event also in the planning stage (four girls are currently in the running), Chamber awards \$500 to the Queen who will compete at the County level; a Junior Miss event will also be featured this year; Baptist Church members will again sponsor an April 19 Easter Egg Hunt in the Girard City Park.

Steve O'Dell introduced Will Downs of Girard, who serves as an associate agent in the Country Financial Office. Downs attended the meeting with an interest in community involvement.

Prior to 7:40 adjournment, Deb Burnett announced a \$5,000 anonymous donation has been targeted toward the purchase of the city's north sign.

Next Chamber meeting is scheduled for 7 a.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Courtyard, the Giles family as sponsors.