



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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Partnering for Success

JULY 2024

Together with area chambers of commerce, SVCC presents

SUMMER

HAWAIIAN SHIRT PARTY

THURSDAY • JULY 18 • 5:00 - 6:30PM
SVCC RIVERFRONT

Hula over for Business After Hours!

APPETIZERS | DRINKS | DOOR PRIZES

RAINY DAY? THE FESTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE INSIDE!

Robotic-arm assisted knee replacement

Transforming the Way Joint Replacement Surgery is Performed



CGH Medical Center is proud to be the first hospital in the Sauk Valley to offer Stryker's Mako SmartRobotics™ Total Knee application. Mako SmartRobotics™ gives our surgeons components that no other orthopaedic robotics platform has. With CT-based planning and robotic-arm assisted surgery, Mako allows our surgeons to provide each patient with a personalized surgical experience based on their specific diagnosis and anatomy.



For more information, visit www.cghmc.com/mako or call (815) 625-4790.

July Meetings

- July 2 Exec Board
- July 9 Board of Directors
- July 11 Ambassadors
- July 16 Ag
- July 18 HBLC

Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Directors & Staff

Executive Committee

- President: Pam Fluck
- First Vice President: Geoff Wright
- Second Vice President: Alejandro Rivera
- Treasurer: Tim Determan
- Past President: Dr. Jon Mandrell

Term Ends January 31, 2025

- Alejandro Rivera, RE/MAX Sauk Valley
- Geoff Wright, CGH Medical Center
- Josh Johnson, Whiteside Area Career Center
- Dr. Jon Mandrell, SVCC
- Rebecca Munoz-Ripley, YWCA

Term Ends January 31, 2026

- Pam Fluck, Self Help Enterprises
- Sandi Cavazos, US Bank
- Kristina Kaecker, Kunes RV

Term Ends January 31, 2027

- Tim Determan, Pinney Printing
- Lance Buser, Wal-Mart DC #7024
- Ryan Olson, Ward Murray Pace & Johnson
- Bailey Schneiderbauer, Sauk Valley Bank
- Mike Ceruzzi, Moore Tire
- Josh Knie, Knie Appliance & TV

Staff

- Executive Director—Kris Noble
- Marketing Coordinator — Dallas Knack
- Office Manager/Financial Specialist—Janie Fisher

The views expressed by any member of the Chamber do not represent the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce in any official endorsement or support of any specific elected official or political party. Any products, events, statements, views or opinions offered or expressed by members are not the products, events, statements, views or opinions of the SVACC, nor endorsed by the Chamber or its membership at large.

A Message from the Board Chair

The Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors welcomes Dallas Knack as the organization's next Executive Director following the resignation of Kris Noble.



Dallas Knack has served the SVACC as Marketing Coordinator since 2018. As Executive Director, Dallas aims to build upon the organization's successes in implementing the SVACC strategic priorities with the Board of Directors, collaborate with community partners and local leaders, continue workforce development initiatives, and develop strategies to support SVACC small business members. She will work to continue to support the mission of the SVACC "to enhance the economic climate and quality of life in the Sauk Valley area.

"The Board is pleased that Dallas Knack will succeed Kris Noble as Executive Director. Dallas is a proven leader and has worked closely with Kris for 6 years. We are confident that, in Dallas's hands, SVACC has an exciting future as she continues the successes, strategies, and collaborations that the Chamber is known for." Shared Pam Fluck, SVACC Board Chair.

Her selection comes a month after outgoing SVACC Executive Director, Kris Noble, resigned for an opportunity with the Midland Institute of Entrepreneurship Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (MIE-CEO) Program as a Community Engagement Specialist. In her new role, Kris will work to identify and guide communities as they implement the CEO Program in their communities. Kris spent nine years as Executive Director and played an integral role in establishing the SVACC's fruitful workforce development strategies, Keystone group, and countless other community initiatives. Under Kris' leadership, the Chamber received 5-star accreditation twice and received the Chamber of the Year Award in 2019.

Pam Fluck, stated, "Kris has been a visionary leader and a blessing to SVACC and its members. As an advocate for our communities, she helped navigate the pandemic for so many local businesses. Her contributions have made a lasting impact in the Sauk Valley area."

Business After Hours

Thank you to Northern Illinois Cancer Treatment Center for hosting this month's BAH.

Please join us next month at Sauk Valley Community College on July 18.



Investor Update July 2024

NEW MEMBERS

Action Powersports
1902 Locust St., Sterling
815-625-4426

Revive Boutique
311 1st Ave., Sterling
815-564-9417

INVESTOR RENEWALS

7 Brew Coffee
Allure of Sterling
Castor Home Nursing, Inc.
Central Bank Illinois
Comcast
ComEd
Deer Valley Golf Club
Dukelow Podiatry

Educators of Beauty
Farmer's National Bank
Folsom's Bakery, Inc.
Grummert's Hardware
Hartland Controls LLC
Kunes Auto Group
Live Better Chiropractic, PC
Better Chiropractic, PC

Lundstrom Florist Inc
New Life Lutheran Church
Open Door Community Church
Poolside Pools & Spas
ServPro of Sterling
Shoe Sensation
Winter Design, Inc.
WQPT - TV, Quad Cities PBS

We would like to give special recognition to the following groups who provide extra support to the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce. This extra effort and support is truly appreciated. If you have the opportunity to express your sincere appreciation to these members, please do so!

Over \$1000 Invested

Central Bank Illinois
CGH Medical Center
Community State Bank
Etnyre & Co.
Farmers National Bank - Morrison
Midland States Bank
Sauk Valley Bank
Select Employees Credit Union
Sterling Federal Bank
US Bank
Wahl Clipper Corp.
Wal-Mart DC #7024
Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson

150% Club

Altran Magnetics
Bushel Basket Candle Co.
Candlelight Inn
Helm Civil
Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.
Illinois American Water
Lance's Plumbing
LK Design Source
Loescher HVAC
Lutheran Social Services of IL
Mattox Insurance Agency
McDonald's

Moore Monument & Granite Co
NICIL
PC Tech 2U
RE/MAX Sauk Valley
Rise Broadband
Rock River Hospice & Home
Select Employee Credit Union
Sterling Commercial Roofing
Sterling Rock Falls Child Care
Sterling Township
Surf Internet
The Cornerstone Agency
United Craftsmen, Ltd.

110% Club

1st Gateway Credit Union
Astec Mobile Screens Inc
Bardier & Ramirez Real Estate
Bollman Auto Center
Compeer Financial
Dennis Electric of Tampico
Hawkins-Cassens Insurance

Hill Fastener
Imprintable Memories
James S. Ferris DDS, PC
Kelly's Restaurant
Kiwanis Club of Sterling
Marv Lofgren & Sons
Contractors
McCormick's Nursey

Mertes & Mertes
NAMI Sauk Area
New Millenium Directories
Rock River Lumber & Grain
Rock River Ready Mix
Scholl Insurance Agency
Servicemaster
ServPro of Sterling

Showplace Antiques
St. Vincent DePaul
Sterling Chevrolet
The Factory
Trinity Insurance
Winter Construction

Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston – University of Illinois Extension

Arnulfo Valdivia—Sauk Valley Bank

Brian Hawkins—Brian Hawkins Insurance

Cael Sanders—Sterling Federal Bank

Cassandra Salmon – OnCall Imaging

Chandra Meyer – Re/Max Sauk Valley

Christina Bystry – House in the Country

Esther Salazar –CGH Medical Center

Jennifer Alvarez – Surf Internet

Karen Voss – Morningside of Sterling

Lyndsey Kelly—Sauk Valley College Foundation

Mary White – Community State Bank

Pam Fluck – Self Help Enterprises

Rene Betts – Plotner Insurance Consultants

Sami Wiggins – Allure Health Care

Sherry DeWalt – CGH Health Foundation

Skip Dettman—LSSI

Karen Voss—Morningside of Sterling

Karen Voss is the Business Office Manager at Morningside of Sterling, an assisted living and memory care community.



Morningside of Sterling is an assisted living community, also offering respite care and short-term stay apartments for older adults. The skilled, friendly and compassionate team members are available 24 hours a day to deliver personalized service for every resident. Residents can enjoy restaurant-style dining, a range of social and educational activities, in house beauty salon, activity room, transportation for errands and appointments, laundry, and housekeeping, and is pet friendly.

The Memory Care Unit supports residents and their families using the Bridge to Rediscovery Alzheimer's and Dementia care programming, that provides individualized attention for each resident, including recreational and occupational activities that keep them engaged.

Karen became an ambassador in 1999, wanting to be connected to the community and its leaders. Since becoming involved with the chamber she has served on the Golf, Sights & Sounds, Bowling, Carnival, and 100th Anniversary Committees and served 9 years on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She is also a member of the Rock Falls Rotary Club, the Dixon Elks Club, Messiah Lutheran Church and served on the board of directors at Christ Lutheran School. She believes in the mission of helping businesses and organizations in all sectors in the Sauk Valley area grow and prosper.

Skip Dettman—LSSI

I enjoy the summer months here, being from Florida I find the summer weather so perfect here. Seeing everyone out in the community at events and in the parks is awesome. The concerts are back at the Grandon and this is a great community event to just go relax chat and listen to the music. I really appreciate the things this community has to offer

58th Annual Golf Outing

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the 58th Annual Golf Outing and helped raised funds for local education! Proceeds from the golf outing fund the Charles Farnham Scholarship for students pursuing higher education.



Congratulations to the winning teams:

- 1st: X-Golf
- 2nd: ServiceMaster
- 3rd: 7:24 Fitness

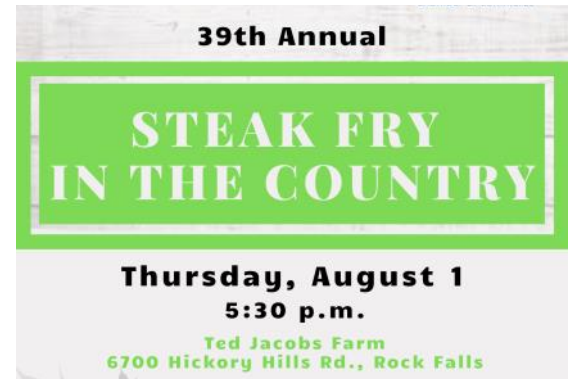


A big thank you to our title sponsor, Kunes Auto; our double eagle sponsors CGH Medical Center, Kunes RV, and Sterling Commercial Roofing; and our hospitality sponsor OnCall Imaging.



Summer in the Sauk Valley brings around many fun, family-friendly, events.

Join us in celebrating Ag in the Sauk Valley with the annual Steak Fry in the Country on Thursday, August 1. Through the Steak Fry, the SVACC Ag Committee raises funds to support local Ag education through scholarships and program support. Ticket sales and sponsorship opportunities are now available [here](#).



A summer time favorite returns on Friday, August 2 Hot Dog Day! Come out to downtown Sterling and enjoy 25¢ hot dogs from various cooking location sites between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (or until hot dogs sell out). Bring the kids to the Fun Fair between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for free games and activities at the Sterling Marketplace.

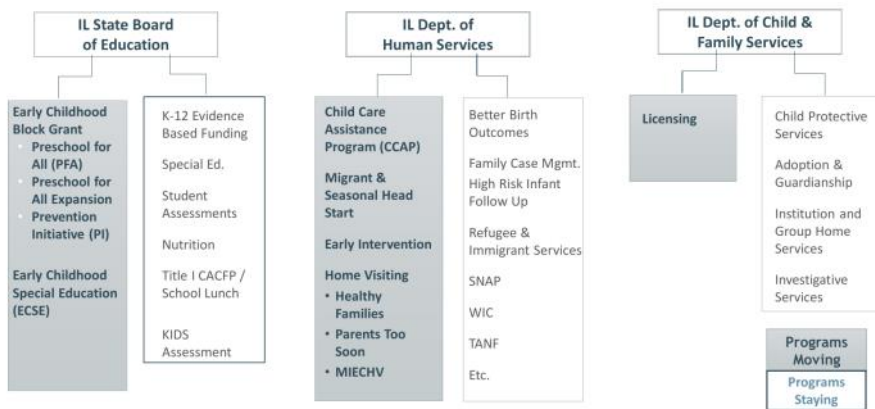
See you there!

Government Affairs

Early Childhood Governance Transition Planning Continues

The state has established the Early Childhood and Care Transition Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of parents, providers, advocates, and experts with diverse perspectives from across the state, to serve as an external advisory committee as the state moves toward a single early childhood agency.

Early education and care services will move, and broader family and school support will remain at home agencies



Currently, The majority of early childhood services for babies, toddlers and young children are split among three state agencies - the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). A new state agency, the Department of Early Childhood will unite the majority of early childhood services into one place, making it easier for families to access critical services for stronger coordination between the various early childhood programs and services provided by the state.

Workforce Development

The SVACC has offered the Certificate of Employability workshop for high schools students since 2018. This workshop has impacted several hundred students at local high schools in the Sauk Valley. We are preparing for 2024-25 school year and will be seeking sponsors to support the growth of this initiative. The attached booklet will go out to area high schools to promote the program.

As a member of the SVACC, we invite you to consider sponsoring this workforce program. If you would like more information about sponsorship and what is includes, please contact Kris at the SVACC, 815-625-2400 or knoble@saukvalleyareachamber.com.

WORKSHOP GOALS

- To familiarize students with critical essential skills needed in the workplace.
- To become better aware of workforce expectations .
- To understand the difference between essential skills and technical skills.
- To gain an understanding of why these skills are important and how to apply the skills.
- To become aware of the various careers available in the Sauk Valley, the many different employers in the area,
- To meet various employers in the Sauk Valley and have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about what jobs are available.



"THIS PROGRAM FROM THE SVACC HELPED ME IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. EACH GUEST SPEAKER OR EMPLOYER WAS VERY UNIQUE. THIS PROGRAM ALLOWS STUDENTS TO GAIN INSIGHT INTO SOME POSSIBLE CHOICES OF THEIR FUTURE. I LIKE HOW IT WAS HANDS ON AND INTERACTIVE."

-Student from Rock Falls High School

CERTIFICATE

Upon completion of the program, students can earn a **Certificate of Employability** which they can attach to job applications, showing the extra effort they have committed to their future.





The Place to Stay when Family's Away
815-626-0164

The 7500 Sq Ft building known as The Barkery is much more than a dog boarding and day-care facility... Based on the concepts of family, hospitality, fun and a Fear Free approach to pet care, The Barkery staff strives to serve the whole pet family.... 1st time boarding and day-care dogs are treated to snacks as they tour the building and meet the staff prior to their start day, making their subsequent first full day a return visit rather than a trip into the unknown. While there, Boarding Fido enjoys home-made snacks, walks around the property, time in the play yard and all the TLC he needs.. Daycare Scooter enjoys the same snacks and TLC, but substitutes group playtime for the property walks.. Meanwhile, their families are kept abreast of the day's activities with photos and videos sent from the staff.

After business hours, the Barkery becomes a gathering place for socializing, training, workshops, community events, and just plain play. It is our goal to become an integral part of the community and the first choice of those seeking care for their dogs, a better understanding of them, and the support of a community. Please keep us in mind as you talk to your clients about their pet care needs.



STERLING MAIN STREET'S

RALLY *on the*



Rock
CRUISE NIGHTS

Presented by



AUTO & TRUCK PARTS



at the
**Sterling
Marketplace**

Friday Nights 6-8 PM
June 7 • July 5 • August 2

Live Music. Cool Cars. Food Trucks.

June 7

UNRESOLVED

August 2

Howard and the White Boys



July 5

Todd Striley & the Noize



Additional sponsorship provide by:
Micron Industries • CGH Medical Center
Boss Roofing-Siding Experts
Majeski Motors • TBK Bank
Showplace Antiques & Treasures



WWW.STERLINGMAINSTREET.ORG



SAUK VALLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP! WOMEN'S NETWORK

LET'S GET MOTIVATED!

Contrary to popular belief, you are not born a positive nor a negative person! This seminar will provide participants with several easy tips that you can implement immediately and begin your journey with a smile on your face and a pocketful of ideas for home and work.

PRESENTED BY MICHELLE FRENCH

As a dietitian, Michelle's career has spanned 40+ years, with success in business and foodservice. Michelle has consulted with a diverse industries covering various topics such as sales, customer service, staff motivation, and employee wellness. She spent most of her career working with large foodservice distribution companies and has owned and operated a nutritional consulting business, and several restaurants and catering businesses, including The Herb Garden (Rockford, IL), Smoked On 3rd Restaurant & Catering (Sterling, IL) and Lil Smoked Bar + Grill (Dixon, IL). As she enters semi-retirement, she hopes to revisit her presentation skills, focusing on providing helpful, enjoyable, and motivating workshops infusing her humor and fun activities into actionable information.



Wednesday,
AUGUST 28
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

11:30 REGISTRATION & LUNCH
12:00 PROGRAM
12:45 Q&A SESSION

CHAMPS BANQUET

 11 E. 3RD ST., STERLING

\$25 MEMBERS | \$30 NON-MEMBERS
LUNCH INCLUDED FROM CREATIVE CUISINE

REGISTER BY 8/21
VISIT SAUKVALLEYAREACHAMBER.COM OR
CALL 815-625-2400