



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



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ISSUE:**



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Partnering for Success

JUNE 2025

Join the Fun !

Business After Hours



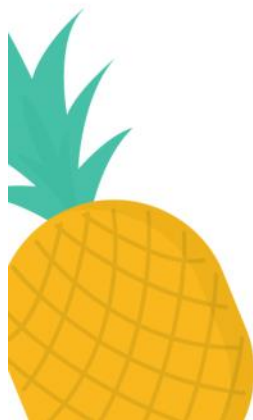
5:00-6:30 pm

Thursday, June 19

**MORNINGSIDE
OF STERLING**

A FIVE STAR SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

2705 Avenue E, Sterling



Sauk Valley Area
chamber of commerce

Networking
Door Prizes
Food & Drink



THINK Sauk FIRST

svcc.edu



June Meetings

- June 10 Exec
- June 12 Ambassadors
- June 17 Board of Directors
- June 17 Agri-business Committee
- June 26 Hispanic Business Leaders

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, 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

Term Ends January 31, 2028

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

Staff

Dallas Knack—Executive Director
Ronda Borgmann—Financial Specialist

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 Director

As we wrap up another month at the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, I want to express my appreciation for your continued support, partnership, and engagement. Thanks to you, we're making meaningful progress in strengthening our local business community.

This month, we were proud to host our largest *Professional Women's Network* Lunch and Learn to date. The energy in the room and the connections made are a true reflection of the incredible leaders we have in the Sauk Valley. We also awarded 22 scholarships to graduating seniors—a tradition we are honored to continue as we invest in the future of our workforce.

Additionally, we hosted a dynamic networking event for the *Keystone* group, which is currently undergoing an exciting transformation. In the coming months, you'll see this group reintroduce itself as *Sauk Valley Under 40*, with a renewed focus on connection, leadership, and development for young professionals across the region. Stay tuned for the official unveiling of their new direction soon!

Looking ahead, we have more opportunities for connection and collaboration on the horizon. Whether it's through events, committees, or community initiatives, we hope you'll continue to engage and grow with us.

As always, our Chamber team is here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything we can do to support you or your business.

Together, we are building a stronger Sauk Valley.



Investor Update June 2025

NEW INVESTORS

Amber + Smoke

310 2nd Ave, Unit 1, Sterling
amber-smoke.com

Edward Jones—Matt Gimbal

3917 E. Lincolnway, Sterling
815-718-6401

Riverfront Roofing & Exterior

2308 E. Lincolnway, Sterling
815-310-0819

INVESTOR RENEWALS

Action Powersports

Amazing Grace

Bethel Reformed Church

Boss Roofing-Siding Experts

Dennis Electric of Tampico, Inc.

Edward Jones—Haas

Greater Sterling Development Corp.

Raul's Construction LLC

Smeltzer Insurance Agency

Sterling Public Library

Surf Internet

Treja Management LLC

Winning Wheels

Over \$1000 Invested

Central Bank Illinois

CGH Medical Center

Community State Bank

Farmer's National Bank

Midland States Bank

Sauk Valley Bank

Select Employees Credit Union

Sterling Federal Bank

The IFH Group

US Bank

Wahl Clipper Corp.

Wal-Mart DC #7024

Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson

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!

150% Club

Altran Magnetix

Helm Civil

Hill's Electric Motor Service, Inc.

Lance's Plumbing

LK Design Source

Loescher HVAC

M5 Industries

Mattox Insurance

McDonald's

PC Tech 2U

RE/MAX Sauk Valley

Reagan Mass Transit

Select Employees Credit Union

Sterling Commercial Roofing

Surf Internet

United Craftsmen, Ltd.

110% Club

Adobe Acrobat

Best Cob

Bollman Auto Center

Bushel Basket Candle Co.

DeJonge Tax

Dennis Electric of Tampico

Farmer's National Bank

Frantz Manufacturing

Gold Star Cleaning

Grace Point Church

Hollyhock Hill Farms

McCormick's Nursey

Mertes & Mertes

New Millenium Directories

River Ridge Animal Hospital

Rock River Energy Services

Rock River Lumber & Grain

Scholl Insurance

ServPro of Sterling

Showplace Antiques

St. Vincent DePaul

Trinity Insurance

Chamber Ambassadors

Allie Johnston — University of Illinois Extension

Brian Hawkins—Brian Hawkins Insurance,
The Cornerstone Agency

Cael Sanders—Sterling Federal Bank

Chandra Howard — RE/MAX Sauk Valley

Christina Bystry — House in the Country

Esther Salazar —CGH Medical Center

John Kelly—Culver's of Rock Falls

Karen Voss — Morningside of Sterling

Lyndsey Kelly—Sauk Valley Community College

Mary White — Community State Bank

Pam Fluck — Self Help Enterprises

Sami Wiggins — Castor Home Nursing

Sherry DeWalt — CGH Health Foundation

Tygen Bausman—Sauk Valley Bank

Ambassador Spotlight: Pam Fluck, Self Help Enterprises

My involvement with the Sauk Valley Chamber began in 2011. Since that time, I have been, and still am, a Chamber Ambassador, along with serving on the Board of Directors, the Executive Board, and currently Board President. I am proud to be a part of an organization that gives so much to its community, its members, and the opportunity it provides in getting to know people and businesses in the Sauk Valley area.



Another great organization I am proud to be a part of is Self Help Enterprises, where I am the current Executive Director. Self Help has been a staple of our community for 61 years, providing services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Many of you may have purchased plants at our Annual Greenhouse Sale this month, and we thank you for the support. All profits go right back into the agency to fund their holiday parties, crafts, activities and outings. We also have Stage Two Resale Shop across from Kroger's. If you have made contributions or shopped, we thank you. All of this requires community support, without you we would not be able to continue our mission. To the many companies in our area that provide work opportunities for our individuals, we thank you. What you do creates jobs, pride, a sense of self-worth, and many smiles throughout the day. At the end of the day, it is the community that assists us with Turning Challenges into Opportunities.

Ambassador Spotlight: Christina Bystry, House in the Country

Christina has been the proprietress of House in the Country, LLC for seven years now. In addition to the bed and breakfast she runs a catering division: House in the Country, Home of Simply 2 IRZSTBL Custom Catering. It has had its trying moments like any new business but all and all it is going well! A specialty is grazing tables and platters serving from 5 to 200. There are many other menu items that are made from scratch to your specifications, no prepared frozen or pre-packaged fare here! Recently she prepared a high tea, complete with all the beautiful china, for a surprise 80th birthday party! She is looking forward to a wonderful summer creating treats and eats as well as working in her many flower gardens and taking the occasional drive or ride to new places for more ideas.



Ribbon Cuttings



Amber + Smoke
310 2nd St., Unit 1, Sterling
amber-smoke.com



Grot Studio x Meg Frank Photography
1119 Palmyra St., Dixon
815-284-3211



Stateline Solar
310 W. Main St, Lena
815-580-3011



Revive Boutique
116 E. 1st St., Dixon
815-590-1493

Congratulations to Select Employees Credit Union the Customer Service Award!

They were nominated for going above and beyond to help their customers, specifically for helping their nominator with an electronic tax payment. "This small act of going above and beyond, is what sets you apart. Thank you for taking care of your customers!"

Select Employees Credit Union is located at
2412 Freeport Rd., Sterling
and can be reached at 815-626-8181

CSA Sponsored by:



CEO Program

As the CEO program wrapped up another impactful year, students gathered to reflect on their growth, share their experiences, and celebrate their accomplishments. The recognition event honored their hard work with awards and scholarships, recognizing the dedication each student brought to the program. A heartfelt shoutout goes to facilitators Le and Emily for the hard work they put into making the CEO Program outstanding. Emily marked her final year with CEO—her passion and guidance have left a lasting impact on countless students. We thank her for everything she's contributed to the program's success!

Edith Jakobs Scholarship Recipients: Loren Meiners, Hannah Foster, and Luke Hacker

Trade Show Booth 1st Place: Hannah Foster

Class of 2024 Scholarship recipient: Carolyn Masini



Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program

Dallas Knack, Executive Director of the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, hosted the Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program's May 7th class, which was focused on "Resilient Leadership." Our first speaker was Kris Noble, Community Engagement Specialist at Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship, who emphasized the importance of leaders surrounding themselves with people who believe in them and of listening more than speaking. Our second speaker of the morning included Scott Hibbard, owner of Hibbard Builders and managing partner of Sterling Woodworks. Among many lessons, Hibbard helped us examine our need to embrace adversity, welcome our critics, and do the next best thing. Anyone in the room will never look at shepherds and their sheep in the same way again! We then visited and toured Hibbard's impressive Sterling Woodworks, where the perfect cabinets for any need can be designed, built, delivered, and installed for a competitive price. The Factory Pub n Grub delivered a delicious lunch right to the showroom.



The finale for the '24-'25 Sauk Valley Community Leadership Program cohort took place Wednesday, May 14, 2025, in the Riverview Conference Room at Sauk Valley Community College. The culminating task for SVCLP students is a "Call to Action." The students reflected on the lessons and insights they gained from the program and discussed how they plan to apply these experiences to set and achieve new goals moving forward. These students shared inspiring, humbling, and creative reflections on our ten months together. What a great group of passionate, talented Sauk Valley community members! The session concluded with a luncheon attended by mentors, family members, and friends of the cohort. We look forward to the good things you'll all do!



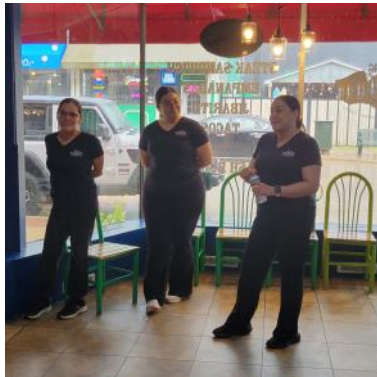
Applications are open. Look into joining us next year!
svleadership.org

Front row (l-r): Holly Blair, Culver's; Marissa Razo, Rock Falls Chamber; Patrice Hess, Sauk Valley Community College; Tina Adcock, Kreider Services; Tina Smith, Sauk Valley Bank; and Bekah Fenwick, OSF St. Katherine, Dixon
Back row (l-r): Teresa Tucker, Liberty Court of Dixon; Dave Habben, Sauk Valley Community College; Erik Eaglin, Sauk Valley Bank; Noah Grot, The First National Bank in Amboy; Cael Sanders, Sterling Federal Bank; Brent Reuter, Dixon Township Supervisor; Julie Zuidema, CGH Medical Center; and Breanne Hunter, CGH Medical Center

Business After Hours

Business After Hours was at Leo's Marvelous Bites this month. Our members were able to visit with one of the newest chamber members and have excellent authentic Puerto Rican food. Thank you Leo's!

We look forward to seeing you on June 19 at Morningside of Sterling!



Workforce Development

The National Manufacturing Day Grand Finale event was held on April 25 and was another great success, with six area high schools and 102 students participating. Throughout the year, the planning committee visited local high schools to promote the many exciting careers in manufacturing and to guide students on educational pathways in the field. As part of the grand finale, students toured local industries and SVCC, then participated in an engineering challenge where they assembled vehicles using parts provided by area manufacturers. Special thanks to Sasha Logan for her continued leadership of this event, which has been going strong since 2014.

Government Affairs

Join us for a non-partisan Legislative Update presented by the Illinois and US chambers of commerce on June 18. Ryan and Andrew will discuss timely changes that may impact your business or organization and give insight into upcoming legislative actions.

To register by **June 11**, visit bit.ly/43mrnuZ or email Dallas at director@saukvalleyareachamber.com



Ryan Gleason
Senior Manager, Government Affairs,
Great Lakes Region
US Chamber of Commerce



Andrew Cunningham
Executive Director, Infrastructure
Council, Director of Legislative Relations
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Riverview Conference Room
Sauk Valley Community College
173 IL Rt 2, Dixon

\$25 members

\$30 non-members

Lunch provided by Quest Food

Registration required by June 11

Guest Editorial

Written by: Jane Flieller, Development Director, Timber Lake Playhouse

Technically, it's not even summer until June 20th, but that doesn't mean things haven't already heated up at Timber Lake Playhouse in Mt. Carroll!

Timber Lake Playhouse celebrates its 64th season of producing outstanding plays and musicals as the oldest, continuous summer stock theatre company in the region. Timber Lake Playhouse draws patrons from as near as Timber Lake Resort, right across the lake, to surrounding states as far as California and Florida.

In addition to fabulous live theatre, Timber Lake Playhouse offers an outdoor beer garden complete with a stage for special concerts and events throughout the season. Nestled in the country-side of northwest Illinois, one feels as if the world was their own as you stroll down to the lake, explore the campus or enjoy a nice cold beverage on a hot day at our full-service bar. Don't forget to check out the gift shop for a souvenir from the best experience you'll have all summer.

Under the guidance of Tommy Ranieri, Timber Lake's Artistic Director, productions have already begun, starting with our theatre for young audiences offering, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* as part of our Magic Owl Children's Theatre. This show launched the 2025 season and introduced more than 1,700 school-aged children to the wonder of live theatre!

Like many nonprofit arts organizations, Timber Lake Playhouse has faced some challenges this year. A major flood destroyed one of the actor housing buildings in January 2025. Thousands of dollars in damages required new flooring, bedding and appliances; costs also included cleaning, drywalling and painting. Our community came to the rescue! We deeply appreciate Knie Appliances and Furniture and McKenna's Floor Coverings for their generous donation of materials, individuals who raised funds for blankets, sheets and pillows through the March Madness Tournament and, of course, our dedicated staff and volunteers who put the finishing touches on the house – all in time to welcome our 2025 resident company.

If you would like more information about becoming a volunteer or you have a business that might assist Timber Lake Playhouse on a special project, please reach out! Timber Lake Playhouse will be constructing a permanent Beer Garden and Stage outside of the main theatre where patrons can enjoy concerts and other presentations in addition to our regular season inside! Whether helping with projects such as that to sponsoring a production – come be part of the show!

So much happening and so much to do! Visit our website at www.timberlakeplayhouse.org or call the office at 815-244-2048. Call our box office at 815-244-2035 for tickets.



1. Picture of 2025 company of artists

2-3. Photos from the upcoming production *Saturday Night Fever*.

Photos by Emily O'Brien

TIMBER LAKE PLAYHOUSE
8215 BLACK OAK ROAD
MT. CARROLL, IL 61053
(815) 244-2035



BOX OFFICE HOURS:
TUESDAY - FRIDAY
10:00AM - 5:00PM
(815) 244-2035

THE 64TH ANNUAL 2025 SEASON



MAY 30 - JUNE 15, 2025



JUNE 20 - JULY 6, 2025



WAITRESS

JULY 11 - 27, 2025



Disney
FROZEN
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

AUGUST 1 - 17, 2025

**THE
ANDY
BRO
SHOW** NEW
WORKS
COMMISSION

AUGUST 22 - 31, 2025

THE
BRIDGES
OF
MADISON COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 12 - 21, 2025

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
WWW.TIMBERLAKEPLAYHOUSE.ORG



Farm. Family. Fun.

Back with New Activities!

Date: Saturday, June 7

**\$6 Kids
Meals!**

Time: 11:00am-2:00 pm ↗

Where: Culver's of Rock Falls, IL

Activities:

- Happy Little Hooves Goats
- Scoopie Appearances
- Coloring Contest
- Giveaways
- Touch a Tractor
- and More!

Support 4-H by Dining-in, Driving-Thru, or Carrying Out at Culver's of Rock Falls, IL during the event while learning about farming and agriculture through new interactive activities! ** In the chance of rain, activities will be moved inside.*



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



JAYCEES FIREWORKS SHOW & INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

COUNTRYMAN \$75

- Company logo displayed in downtown area on sign.

PATRIOT \$150

- COUNTRYMAN Benefits
- +
- Media promotions and inclusion in advertising

HERO \$500

- Patriot level benefits
- +
- Hero Banner displayed in downtown area
- Radio Promotions



Contact: srfjaycees@gmail.com or 815-564-8711

Dear Friend,

It's that time of year again to gear up for another Jaycees Independence Day Fireworks Show! We will host the show on the riverfront driving traffic to downtown businesses and working with RF Tourism to host events at the RB&W District Park, as well as City of Sterling and Sterling Mainstreet.

We kindly ask you to look at the attached sponsorship and advertising opportunities. Please contact us if you are interested in donating and sponsoring this year's show. Your help is greatly appreciated, and we promise to do our best to show our appreciation through another great showing.

As always, we are taking the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe. Coordination is taking place with the cities of Sterling and Rock Falls. Guidelines will be released to the public and businesses as we draw nearer to the event itself.

To get started you may call, email, text or Facebook message us. I would be very happy to hear from you and answer any questions you may have.

Please make all checks payable to 'Sterling Rock Falls Jaycees' and mail to PO Box 705, Sterling IL.

Thank you,

Dylan Devers
Treasurer and 2025 Firework Chairman

Email: srfjaycees@gmail.com

Txt or Call: 815-564-8711

FB: [facebook.com/srfjaycees](https://www.facebook.com/srfjaycees)



Securing Your Business in 2025

What Every Business Needs to Know About
Risk, Fraud, and Cybersecurity

Featuring



Jon Moen
CTP

Manager, Commercial Services
Product Management



Donald Todd
CFE, CISSP, CIPP

Director, Financial Crimes

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Candlelight Inn

2200 1st Avenue, Rock Falls, IL 61071

Register Today

Midland States Bank is Member FDIC.