

Girard Chamber of Commerce

Members spotlight city beautification, additional funding needed to further community center project

by Janice Smith

During a brief April 12 breakfast meeting for Girard Chamber members, upcoming events were the focus with additional planning sessions slated soon.

President Victor Angulo called on Committee member Todd Babcock for an update on the new Community Center: heating and air conditioning installation is complete, all restroom fixtures are in place and floors have been resealed by John and Jeanette Earley and Dan Bitner. Babcock stated additional funding is needed for the purchase of 6 ft. round plastic tables at \$160 each; kitchen completion will be determined by fundraising efforts; and trim work must be finished before rental becomes a reality. Committee member Bill Deck updated on the Center's history museum, donated and purchased display cases, and the importance of preserving history for interest groups along the Route 66/Blue Corridor.

Deb Burnett spoke on Festival Days, asking for volunteers in the booklet ad sales effort; Jeanette Earley reported on the recent visit to the school with several girls in the running for Festival

Queen, scheduling a mandatory parents meeting April 30 at her home, and Queen's Tea May 3 at Panther Creek. April 21 is deadline for girls wishing to enter.

Randy Gray invited organizational groups to use Festival games as fundraisers; Juanita Rule is reviewing nominees for the Chamber scholarship; city cleanup and beautification is underway, with a new city nuisance ordinance in affect and Bill Deck encouraging flower planting; Jeanette Earley promoted the FFA plant sale fundraiser at North Mac High School greenhouse set for April 29 beginning at 8 a.m.; and finally, city wide metal pickup is slated for April 27 and 28.

Membership unanimously approved a \$150 webmaster fee to update the Chamber's site, motion by Jeanette Earley, seconded by Randy Gray.

John Earley announced the arrival of the city's new firetruck, and reported for Emergency Management that a replacement siren had been installed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant; Bob Ernst commended the city's fire and rescue squad on the recent training exercise involving

the MediVac helicopter; Macoupin County Animal Control Officer Buzzie Bertagnolli announced the April 22 fundraiser banquet, thanking Chamber for their support; and Darren Burnett spoke for Pleasant Hill Village, reporting on the recent Easter Egg Hunt and upcoming Community Night to be scheduled in June.

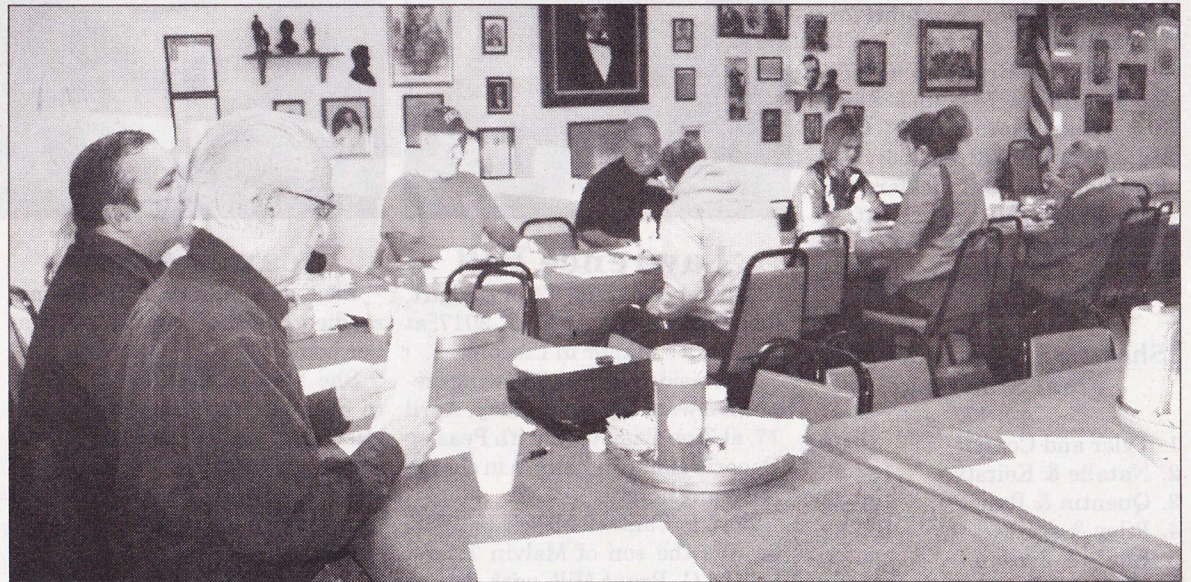
United Methodist Pastor Mary Alice Cunningham attended the

meeting and gave prayer, later announcing Holy Week services within the Girard and Virden communities, also announcing her transfer from those communities to Moroa, her final day here June 30, with new pastor Mark Doan to assume duties July 1.

Representative Rodney Davis along with additional government officials will have a Meet and Greet session Tuesday, April 18,

beginning at 2 p.m., at Doc's Soda Fountain, public invited.

Prior to 7:35 adjournment, upcoming events announced included: the April 15 town square Easter Egg Hunt; Easter Sunday Brunch from at Oak Leaf Country Club; and the next Chamber meeting slated for May 10 at Doc's, sponsored by Dr. Todd Babcock.



Girard Chamber of Commerce members breakfast meeting takes place April 12 at Doc's Soda Fountain, west side Girard square. President Victor Angulo chaired. (Staff photo by Janice Smith)



District purchase enhances response for Girard community

Girard Fire Protection District personnel unveil this newly purchased 2017 Pierce Saber pumper. The unit replaces a 33 year old pumper, an item on their replacement Christmas list for some time. The truck was purchased from a Washington, Illinois dealership and was built in Bradenton, Florida. The Saber has a 1,000 gallon capacity with the capability of pumping 1,250 gallons per minute. From left, Fire Chief Eric Lancaster, Assistant Chief Craig Bridges, Rescue Captain Steve Devantier and Fire District President John Earley. (Staff photo by Janice Smith)