



2015 Miss Girard Sarah Watson made her last official visit to the Girard Chamber July meeting at Pleasant Hill Village. Chamber members attending the meeting included (from left) Marty Nagel, Bill and Peggy Giles, Bill Deck, Girard Chamber President Victor Angulo, Chamber Secretary Deb Burnett, Sarah Watson, Girard Chamber Treasurer Mike Mauk, Girard Chamber Vice President Darrin Burnett, Dr. Todd Babcock, and Paulette Buch Miller.

## Girard Chamber finalizing plans for Girard Festival Days, July 29, 30 and 31

The Girard Chamber of Commerce is finalizing plans for this year's Girard Festival Days July 29, 30 and 31.

Girard Chamber members will be manning the Girard Chamber booth during the three day festival selling 50/50 tickets.

Girard Festival Days Queen contestants will be at the Girard Shell Station from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday, July 23 selling 50/50 tickets.

In addition the Chamber is sponsoring the Cake Walk at the Pavilion at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, and at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 31.

Festival Days advance ride tickets are available at Girard City Hall, Country Financial, Dr. Todd Babcock, and Magic Beans Coffee Shop. Advance ticket sales are \$18 for 24 tickets.

Girard Blue Carpet Corridor coordinators Randy Gray and Darrin Burnett said that they found little support from the community for the activities which were provided during the weekend. The extremely hot weather was one factor causing the low attendance.

Guest speaker during the Chamber's July meeting was State Senator Andy Manar, Illinois District #48.

State Senator Manar said that the legislature and governor had agreed on a 6 month budget which included funding for schools, Illinois Department of Transportation road construction, and local municipalities.



State Senator Andy Manar  
Illinois District #48

He also reported that Governor Bruce Rauner had formed a bipartisan commission on school funding and the commission should help equalize school funding for students throughout the state.

The Girard Chamber will be selling raffle tickets at Girard Festival Days to help fund the Scholarship Fund which gives away a \$500 and a \$250 scholarship to two North Mac seniors. Prizes being given away to raffle winners include a \$175 cooler, County Market \$50 gift card, two Whirl A Whip \$25 gift cards, Oak Leaf Country Club \$25 gift card, Magic Beans Coffee House \$20 gift card, Superior Suds \$20 value and D&D Service Center free oil change.

Darrin Burnett with Pleasant Hill Village, said they were beginning to plan for this fall's fundraiser which will be hosted Oct. 15 at the Virden K.C. Hall.

The chamber agreed to donate \$100 to help fund the Little Miss and Little Mr. contest.

Bill Giles reported that new signs were added to the sign at the 4 way stop along Rt. 4 in Girard. The new signs included ones for the Blue Car-

pet Corridor, Girard Festival Days, and Carlinville Area Hospital.

Bill Deck, chairman of the Beautification Committee, said he was happy the Chamber was honoring area residents who had improved their property. He said the downtown concrete planters were looking good.

Dr. Juanita Rule said that the Mark Gifford concert hosted at the First Christian Church on Friday, June 24.

was able to raise over \$4,000. This money was donated to help complete the Girard Community Center located on the south side of the Girard square.

Dr. Todd Babcock said that donations including the \$4,000 and nearly \$30,000 raised earlier this year were helping to complete the ceiling of the banquet hall and had helped fund the building's heating and air conditioning systems.

He hopes the grid work for the ceiling in the banquet room can be completed by Girard Festival Days and that progress on the construction will allow the hall to be rented out on a limited basis beginning this fall.

Attending May's meeting were President Victor Angulo, Vice President Darrin Burnett, Secretary Deb Burnett, Treasurer Mike Mauk, Peggy and Bill Giles, Bill Deck, Randy Gray, Dawn Horrell, Dave Campbell, Marty Nagel, Miss Girard Sarah Watson, Senator Andy Manar, Dr. Juanita Rule, Millie Burgess, Dr. Todd Babcock, Paulette Buch Miller, Stacy Hughes, Tabitha Bock Hill Carney and Nathan Jones.

Pleasant Hill Village sponsored the July 13th chamber breakfast which was hosted at Pleasant Hill Village. The Chamber will next meet on Wednesday, August 10th, at Pleasant Hill Village. The August chamber breakfast will be sponsored by Country Financial, Dave O'Dell.



2015 Miss Girard Sarah Watson is congratulated by State Senator Andy Manar for being selected as first runner up in the Macoupin County Queen Pageant.