

***Girard Chamber of Commerce Report***  
***Courtesy Chamber Website***

Chamber secretary Deb Burnett chaired the March 13, 2024 meeting of Girard Chamber of Commerce hosted at Courtyard Estates with representative Michelle Hoover. Also in attendance were Wayman Meredith, Peggy and Bill Giles, Vicki Walker, Casey Claypool and Janice Smith.

Upcoming events were mentioned, including the April 20 Job Fair scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Mac High School in Virden; the June 8 Girard city-wide yard sales; the April 7 Festival Days organizational meeting at the city's Community Center; Festival Days July 26, 27, 28; and Pumpkin Festival October 12.

Previous minutes and treasurer's report were filed for audit and additional sponsors for upcoming Chamber breakfast meetings signed in; Bill Giles briefly spoke on the specific supplies (paint, etc.) needed to add business names to the four-way stop Girard sign; membership dues and signage fees are being mailed; and Festival Days booklet sales committee members will soon be making calls for sponsors.

Police Chief Meredith announced Rovey Irby has joined the city's police department full time. Michelle Hoover reported on an estimated 20 participants during Courtyard's "Barbie" party; announced the adult Easter Egg Hunt is set for April 6 (rain date April 13) at Oak Hills; and also suggested a community clean-up day could perhaps be scheduled.

Carlinville Area Hospital representative Vicki Walker stated a Health Fair is set for April 2 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Casey Claypool announced various projects underway related to Route 66, planned events associated with Festival Days, and plans being made for a Car Show and live entertainment. Claypool reported efforts to obtain a \$40,000 grant for Chamber projects lacked qualifications, citing financials and insufficient loss during COVID. Establishing Chamber as a non-profit may help in future grant application endeavors.

Adjourning at 8 a.m., the next meeting is scheduled for 7 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, at Courtyard Estates, with Bill and Peggy Giles as sponsor.