

CHAMBER

chat



FEBRUARY | 2024



**Flora
Chamber**
OF COMMERCE



City of Flora Public Announcement

There is a water line contractor that will be working on South State St. near the Elmwood Cemetery that will be patching the road. Please expect intermittent possibly over night lane closures from Monday 1/29 - Thursday 2/1 in that area. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Toby L. Rinehart, Superintendent of Public Services

**FOUND IN
EVERY ISSUE!**

- 1** Chamber News
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- New!
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Opportunities,
Seminars & Grants!

ESTABLISHED IN 2005

PH: 618-662-5646

FLORACHAMBER.COM

Annual Awards Banquet 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 23rd - Chamber Bowling Tournament

April 13th - Chamber Home & Garden Show

May 17th & 18th - Depot Days & Farmer's Market

The Flora Chamber of Commerce held it's 2023 Annual Awards Banquet on January 27, 2024 at the Flora Elk's Lodge.

Our award winners were:

New Business of the Year - Eckelberry Barber Co.

Business of the Year - ACT Tire & Auto.

Citizen of the Year - Ryan & Angie Scott.

We recognized Lisa Cash, for her 18 years of dedication to the Chamber, as she served as past director and president on the Chamber board. We also recognized Dave & Maralee Johnson who owned Johnson Custom Photography and retired in December of 2023. They were in business for over 30 years.



Out of Office Days

The Flora Chamber of Commerce will be closed on:

Thursday February 8th & Friday February 9th.

We will return to normal business hours the following Monday, February 12th, 8am - 5pm.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Angela's Village Florist

115 East North Ave
Flora, IL 62839
618-662-2121

Rent One

35 Greenlaw Blvd.
Flora, IL 62839
618-662-3535

IMPORTANT CHAMBER MEMBER INFO



NEXT BOARD MEETING

February , 2024 in the Depot Train Room

Our meetings are open for any Chamber member to attend. We value your input and encourage you to attend.

If you happen to notice that the chamber FB page isn't getting your business or organizations posts shared, just drop us an email or a phone call! Facebook uses complicated algorithms that can hide many of the posts from our members' pages that we have liked, and we don't want to miss you! Just give us a holler and we can reset that goofy algorithm so we see your posts! Thank you!!

Anna Rounds, Executive Director

Find us on 

Fur a Good Paws



Meet Boo



Boo is friendly and loves people. He gets along with the other cats. He would love to have a family of his own.

Meet Will & Grace



Will & Grace need a good country home where they can run and play. Both are good dogs and have settled down quite a bit. They are bonded but can be adopted separately. They like attention and playing but especially treats. They are big dogs and really need more room and freedom.

Meet Dixie



Dixie needs a loving home with no kids or other dogs. A quiet house and a person who cares for her is all she wants. While she was in foster care she enjoyed walks and sitting by her foster mom and a treat once in a while. If you have been a little lonely and need to get out and get some exercise this is your girl! She is 5 yrs old, house broke and will be a lot of company.

To adopt or inquire, please contact:



FUR A GOOD PAWS
104 NORTH STANFORD
FLORA, IL 62839
618-662-PAWS (7297)



We Need a New Home!

The An-So Agency

Jason Smith, owner of The An-So Agency, was awarded the Marvel of the Year award from Colonial Life Insurance for 2023. The Marvel of the Year Award is a Midwest Missouri and Southern Illinois territory recognition for outstanding achievement.

Colonial Life is a voluntary benefits, enrollment and education company that strives to assist employers in any size or type of market to attract and retain the best employees.

Besides working with Colonial Life, Jason works with multiple insurance carriers across multiple lines to help individuals and businesses get the right coverage they need. Jason is also a local representative for Air Evac.



Congratulations Jason!

THE
AN-SO
AGENCY

106 S. Main St.
Flora, IL
(618) 403-5676
www.ansoagency.com

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 CLAY COUNTY FAIR

JULY 19-26



Illinois
Extension



Clay County Health Dept.

The Clay County Health Department has announced the date for their next resource carnival. April 25th, 2024 at the REA Building at Charley Brown Park. Activities will include bounce houses, laser tag, hippy hop races, games and more! For more information, please contact April Carruthers at acarruthers@healthdept.org or 618-662-4406 ext. 2125.



CALLING ALL SUPER HEROES OF CLAY COUNTY

RESOURCE CARNIVAL
THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH
3:30 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.
REA BUILDING AT CHARLEY BROWN PARK

PROMOTE YOUR ORGANIZATION AT AN EVENING FULL OF FUN!

Activities will include, but not limited to:
Bounce Houses - Laser Tag - Hippity Hop Races - Games

CONTACT APRIL CARRUTHERS AT
ACARRUTHERS@HEALTHDEPT.ORG
OR 618-662-4406 EXT. 2125
BY APRIL 19TH, 2024 TO RESERVE YOUR BOOTH!



American Red Cross Upcoming Blood Drives

February 15th, 2024 at Flora Church of the Nazarene
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the church gym

February 28th, 2024 at the Clay County Health Dept.
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the conference room

February 2024 promo: Share your heart! Donate blood in February, and receive a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email!

Where does your donation go?

Last year, when the Flora Chamber of Commerce hosted two blood drives, blood donations that were collected were distributed to the following high traffic hospitals to patients in need of vital care:

- Barnes-Jewish Hospital - St. Louis
- University of Missouri - Health Science Center
- Missouri Baptist Medical Center - St. Louis



#RedCrossOnTheWay



All in to help save lives!

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



WNOI / Clay County Country

Our friends over at WNOI & Clay County Country are excited to bring you all things NASCAR Racing in 2024! WNOI is the ONLY station in Southern Illinois airing all of NASCAR. WNOI will be providing commercial services for the following races:

- (2) 30 second commercials in each race
- (1) 30 second commercial in each NASCAR Live
- (1) 30 second commercial per week in Garage Pass, NASCAR Today & NASCAR Hot Pass

All for an investment of \$175 for nearly 350 commercials!!

For more information, contact WNOI at 618-662-8331!

WNOI MIX-FM RACE PACKAGE 2024

WNOI MIX-FM is excited to once again bring you America's #1 fastest growing sport...NASCAR RACING!
 Our NASCAR Plan will cover:
 NASCAR CUP, COMPLETE XFINITY SERIES, & NASCAR Camping World Truck Series!

WNOI MIX-FM will also air:
 NASCAR LIVE Tuesday evening 6-7pm
 M-F 8:40am/NASCAR GARAGE PASS
 NASCAR TODAY, M-F 5:40pm
 AND..NASCAR HOT PASS, A WEEKLY NOON SHOW!

WNOI IS THE ONLY STATION IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AIRING ALL OF NASCAR!

You'll receive...2-:30 commercials in each race
 ...1-:30 commercial in each NASCAR Live
 ...1-:30 commercial per week in
 Garage Pass, NASCAR Today & NASCAR Hot Pass

INVESTMENT-\$175.00 per month, Feb. 2024-Jan. 2025.
*****A GREAT VALUE AT NEARLY 350 COMMERCIALS!*****

Accepted for Advertiser _____ Today's Date _____
 Business Name _____ Accepted for WNOI _____
 Address _____

*This station does not discriminate in the sale of advertising time, and will accept no advertising which is placed with an intent to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, or ethnicity. Advertiser hereby certifies that it is not buying broadcasting air time under this advertising sales contract for a discriminatory purpose, including but not limited to decisions not to place advertising on particular stations on the basis of race, gender, national origin.

H & R Communication, Inc. - P.O. Box 368 - Flora, IL 62839

**NO SMOKING
or E-CIGARETTE USE**

Indoors or Within 15 Feet of Entrance

To submit a complaint:
www.smoke-free.illinois.gov
866-973-4646
 TTY 800-547-0466 (hearing impaired use only)

IDPH
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Smoke-Free Illinois Act (410 ILCS 82),
amended by Public Act 103-0272.

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois 9/11/83324010 100# 12/23 8/23 18-731-402

New State Law!

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, an amendment to the Smoke-Free Illinois Act will ban the use of "electronic smoking devices" such as vape pens and electronic cigarettes inside public spaces. That means vapers will have to join smokers outside and be at least 15 feet away from the doors of any public entrance.

Magical Moments

Magical Moments is now accepting orders for Valentine Day Charcuterie Cups for just \$6 each and are also taking orders for those yummy Super Bowl Charcuterie Boards! Message Magical Moments on Facebook or give Mary a call at 618-339-2008 for pricing!

Super Bowl LVIII - February 11th & Valentine's Day February 14th!!



ADOPT A GRANDPARENT

Requirements:

- One visit a week or biweekly

What you'll be doing:

- Playing games
- visiting
- reading books
- and so much more!

For More details:

- Call - 618-662-8381
- Email - frhccactivitiesdepartment@gmail.com



Flora Rehabilitation
& Health Care Center

Volunteers Needed!

Flora Rehabilitation & Health Care Center is looking for individuals who would like to dedicate some time to spend with their residents. They are very flexible on timing and just ask that you can dedicate around 30 minutes of your time.

Become part of their family!

They need help for:

- *One on Ones
- *Leading or helping with group activities

If interested, please contact their activities department at 618-662-8381.

Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants

IMPROVE PROCESS EFFICIENCIES.



WHAT IS LEAN MANUFACTURING?

The primary focus of Lean Manufacturing is the continuous elimination of waste in a company's business processes.

Implementing Lean practices involves changing a work area or a business process to maximize efficiency, improve quality and safety, eliminate unnecessary motion and inventory, and save time and resources.

BENEFITS FROM HANDS-ON FACTORY SIMULATION

Following the Lean Manufacturing Overview and Simulation, participants will be able to:

- Differentiate between a "push" and a "pull" system
- Identify the eight (8) wastes
- Explain how those wastes reduce company profits
- Understand the functions of a Kanban system
- Make more effective use of the employee's time following waste elimination

REGISTRATION

Register your company seat(s)
at www.imec.org/events

Fees: \$350 per person* (Includes lunch and training materials)

IECC - West Richland Center

320 E North Ave
Noble, IL



February 27th, 2024

8:00AM - 4:00PM

AGENDA

Traditional Manufacturing & 8 Wastes

Round 1- Traditional Manufacturing
Simulation Workplace Organization (5S)

5S System Visual Controls, Standardized
Work, Plant Layout, Point of Use Storage,
Batch Size Reduction, Quick Changeover

Round 2- Applying Basic Lean Tools

Break for Lunch

Teams, Quality at the Source, Cellular
Manufacturing, Pull Systems, Total
Productive Maintenance

Round 3- Applying Intermediate
Lean Tools

Wrap Up

INFORMATION



Marketing Specialist, Camryn Tunney



ctunney@imec.org



309-883-7508

Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants



OSHA®
**10 Hour
Construction
Safety Training**

Feb. 29 and March 1 @
The Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center - Room 105
Cost \$210 Per Participant
Day 1: 7:00am - 3:30pm
Day 2: 7:00am - 12:00pm

How to Start a Small Business in Illinois

Date: 2/14/2024
Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CST)
Registration Deadline: 2/14/2024 8:00 AM (CST)
Fee: No Fee

Point of Contact: Michelle Brooks (618) 562-3744
Location: Wabash Valley College Library, Mt. Carmel IL 62863

Training Topics: Business Start-up/Preplanning
Description:
Learn the basics of how to start a small business in Illinois

Instructions: This workshop will be held in the Library at Wabash Valley Community College.

Local Grocers Equipment Upgrades Grant

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced \$3.5 million in available grant funding for local grocers through the Equipment Upgrades Program as part of the Illinois Grocery Initiative. These grants will provide funding for energy-efficient equipment upgrades for existing grocery stores, with priority given to those located in food insecure communities across the state. Grantees will be selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process.

The Equipment Upgrades Program is the first program rolled out as part of the Illinois Grocery Initiative's multi-pronged efforts to combat food insecurity by supporting local grocers and combating food deserts. Additional funding opportunities for new municipal and independent grocery stores will be announced to the public soon.

This program is designed to strengthen existing grocery stores and preserve access to fresh food in food insecure communities, in an effort to stop the formation of new food deserts. In order to support businesses most in-need, eligible applicants must be independently owned grocers with fewer than 500 employees and no more than four grocery stores. Grocery stores located in food deserts as defined by the USDA map are prioritized for this initiative. With rising energy costs, outdated equipment presents a major expense for small community grocers. Under the Equipment Upgrades Program, eligible grocers may be eligible to receive grants for the following equipment upgrades:

- **Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment**
 - Refrigeration units and freezers
 - Lighting systems
- **Other systems providing significant energy savings**

Qualified applicants can apply for grants between \$25,000 to \$250,000, with a 1:3 match required. Applications for this round of grants will be accepted until March 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. To view the NOFO and apply for the grant, please visit the DCEO website.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Visit Flora Tourism has set the date for the upcoming events!

Ford Town USA
September 20th -21st

Kriskindle Market
December 13th-14th

SOLAR eclipse 2024

4.8.24

CALLING ALL NON-PROFITS, SCHOOLS, AND BUSINESSES ALIKE!

What are your plans for the Solar Eclipse, April 8th, 2024?

Let us know if you plan on any fundraisers, retail or food/drink specials to commemorate the occasion!

The Visit Flora Tourism will gladly promote your specials via a LARGE newspaper ad, as well as radio and social media advertising.

To be added to the list, please call Anna at the Flora Chamber of Commerce at 618-662-5646 or email florachamberofcommerce@gmail.com.

Deadline to be added to the list will be February 21st, 2024.



Community Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
Feb. 3	7am - 10 am	Breakfast Benefit	CC/SS American Legion Post 230
Feb. 4	1:00 pm	Gym Bob Jamboree Show	Gym Bob's - Bible Grove
Feb. 5	9:00-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
Feb. 5	4:30 pm	Flora City Council Meeting	Flora City Hall
Feb. 5	6:30 pm	Village of Iola Monthly Mtng.	Iola Village Hall
Feb. 5	7:00 pm	Village of Sailor Springs Board Mtng.	Sailor Springs Village Office
Feb. 6	6:00 pm	Village of Clay City Meeting	Clay City City Hall
Feb. 7	11:30 By Apt.	Children's Orthopedic Clinic	Clay Co. Flora Medical Clinic
Feb. 7	6:00 pm	Bible Grove Township Meeting	Bible Grove Township Building
Feb. 10	8:00 pm	ShortMist (Band)	Flora Moose Lodge
Feb. 12	9:00-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
Feb. 16	10:00 am	Story Hour w/ Donna Rardin	Flora Public Library
Feb. 19	9:00-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
Feb. 20	10:00 am	Alzheimer's Caregiver Support	Clay County Health Department
Feb. 20	2:00-3:00 pm	Seasoned Circle	Clay County Hospital
Feb. 26	9:00-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora

To add your community event to our community calendar, please look at our pinned posts on our Facebook page and comment under that months community calendar post!

Deadline for all March Newsletter submissions will be Wednesday February 20th!



Check out our properties at:
www.wileyrealtygroup.net

100 W. North Ave., Flora, IL 62839 • Cell 618-676-7445



Weidner Insurance Agency, Inc.

Specializing in Medicare Supplemental Insurance

Jeremy & Kristina Weidner

217-821-2028

3172 Finch Ln., Louisville, IL 62858

Chamber Member - Help Wanted

Business	Description	Notes
Flora Gardens Care Center	PT Day & PT Evening Cook	Call 618-662-8361
Clay County Hospital	Full Time Nights CNA Retail Pharmacist	apply at claycountyhospital.org/jobs
Flora Rehabilitation	Nightshift & Dayshift CNA PT Cook's Aide	
Flora Dairy Queen	Ice Cream Connoisseur	Apply in person
City of Flora	Life Guards City Treasurer	Pick up applications at City Hall Send resume & coverletter to- City of Flora Attn: Mayor 131 E. 2nd St. Flora, IL 62839
Priceless IGA	Grocery Store Stocker	Apply in person 807 E. North Ave
Hella	Machine Operator/Assembler Technician (Manufacturing, Robotics)	Apply in person
NextGen Wireless	Wireless Zone Consultant	Apply in person
Silgan Plastics	Packer (7 pm - 7 am) Machine Operator (7 am - 7:30 pm)	Apply in person
Tractor Supply	Team Member	Apply in person
Car Corral	Powersports Assembly Tech Service Writer/Parts Sales	Apply in person

For a complete list of Chamber Members that are hiring, please visit our website at florachamber.com

Thank you for your continued support!

FLORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

223 W. RAILROAD ST.
FLORA, IL 62839

618-662-5646 PHONE/FAX

EMAIL:
FLORACHAMBEROFCOMMERCE@GMAIL.COM

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8 AM TO 5 PM (CLOSED FOR LUNCH)



THE MEMBERS CREED

I BELONG TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BECAUSE: I REALIZE IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH; IT IS THE BEST MEDIUM FOR SERVING MY COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE; I BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE GROWTH AND PROGRESS OF MY CITY; IT'S ONLY QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IS GOOD CITIZENSHIP; I WANT TO WORK WITH MY FELLOW TOWNSMEN FOR THE COMMON INTEREST OF ALL; I WANT TO BENEFIT FROM THEIR CONCERTED PLANNING, COUNSEL, AND ACTION; IT IS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR BUSINESS INFORMATION, BUSINESS SERVICE, AND COMMUNITY EFFORT; MEMBERSHIP PAYS A HIGH RATE OF INTEREST IN SERVICE, PERSONAL CONTACTS, COMMUNITY BETTERMENT AND CIVIC PRIDE; EXPERIENCE AND THE RECORDS OF THE PAST HAVE CONCLUSIVELY DEMONSTRATED ITS USEFULNESS AND JUSTIFIED EXISTENCE, NOT ONLY IN THIS COMMUNITY BUT IN PRACTICALLY EVERY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: DOUG LEAK
VICE PRESIDENT: MICHAEL GILL
TREASURER: LUKE CZYZEWSKI

DIRECTORS

CHRIS THOMPSON, MANDY HARGIS, BOB SELLERS
JOE HARRIS, AND STEPHEN SMITH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ANNA ROUNDS