

CHAMBER

chat



MARCH | 2024



**Flora
Chamber**
OF COMMERCE



**FOUND IN
EVERY ISSUE!**

- 1** Chamber News
- 2** Member News
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- New!
- 5** Training
Opportunities,
Seminars & Grants!

SOLAR
eclipse
2024



**ECLIPSE GLASSES
NOW ON SALE AT THE FLORA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!**

\$2 EACH

ESTABLISHED IN 2005

PH: 618-662-5646

FLORACHAMBER.COM

Upcoming Events



Our 4th Annual Chamber Bowling Tournament will be on March 23rd at 1PM at Flora Bowl. Grab your bowling buddies and register for just \$100 - team of 4! We are only accepting 10 teams and those spots are going fast!! You can also sponsor the tournament for just \$200! To register or sponsor, please visit our website at: florachamber.com and click on events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 9th - Doc's Gym Ribbon Cutting

March 23rd - Chamber Bowling Tournament

April 6-8th - Solar Eclipse Celebration

April 13th - Chamber Home & Garden Show



Join us at:

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
AT THE GRAND OPENING OF DOC'S GYM AT THEIR NEW LOCATION!!
SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH
10:00 AM - 2 PM

Doc's Gym

15 GREENLAW BLVD
FLORA, IL 62839

*ENJOY TOURS OF THE NEW GYM & EQUIPMENT
*FREE SUPPLEMENT SAMPLES.
*APPAREL & MERCH SALE!

FLORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Flora
Chamber of Commerce
HOME & GARDEN EXPO

Your go to event for all things home repair and lawn care!

SAVE THE DATE:
APRIL 13, 2024

Join us for our first Ribbon Cutting for 2024! Poed Smoked BBQ will also be in attendance serving up some yummy BBQ! Ribbon Cutting is at 11:00 and all are welcome to join us in celebrating this Grand Re-Opening!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR EVENTS, PLEASE GO TO FLORACHAMBER.COM

We are now accepting vendors for our first ever Home & Garden Show that will be held out at the Clay County Fairgrounds! Give me a call to register at 618-662-5646! Chamber Members get first dibs and free vendor space!

Out of Office Days

The Flora Chamber of Commerce will be closed on:

Friday March 8th

We will return to normal business hours the following Monday, March 11th, 8am - 5pm.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Taco Tuesday
Everyday
Food Truck
618-335-3341

Flora Oddfellows
231 E. North Ave
Flora, IL 62839

IMPORTANT CHAMBER MEMBER INFO



NEXT BOARD MEETING

March 12, 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 Grace



Grace needs a good country home where she can run and play. She likes attention and playing but especially treats. She is a big dog and really needs 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!

Adult Craft Class

Join the Flora Public Library for an Adult Craft Class on Friday March 1st at 10am.

They will be making decoupage eggs for your Spring decor.

- Class size is limited to 20 people
- \$5.00 materials fee due at time of class
- Reserve your spot by calling the library at 618-662-6553



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!



JOIN THE CLAY CITY CIVICS



BINGO NIGHT!

GLOW BINGO!

March 23rd 6pm-10:30pm

@ Johnnys pickers lounge in Clay City!

20 minute break in between regular bingo and glow bingo

Desserts will be sold by Sandra Thomas

Doors open at 5pm!
BINGO starts at 6pm!

Bingo will be 10 games for \$25
Glow Bingo will be \$25

CCFB AG IN THE CLASSROOM'S TEA GALLON FUNDRAISER



Ag in the Classroom

WITH:

Rosie Jean's Sweet Tea & Jesus



\$12/GALLON

ORDERS & MONEY DUE BY 4PM: MARCH 26TH, 2024

FLAVORS:

SWEET, UNSWEET, OR 1/2 & 1/2

APPLE-BLACKBERRY-BLUEBERRY-BOURBON CARAMEL-CHAI TEA SPICE- CHEESECAKE-CHERRY-CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH- CINNAMON ROLL-COCONUT-HIBISCUS-HUCKLEBERRY-KIWI-LAVENDER-LEMON-MANGO-MOJITO MINT-PASSION FRUIT- PEACH-PINEAPPLE-PRICKLY PEAR-POMEGRANATE-RASPBERRY- RED HOT- ROOTBEER-SALTED CARAMEL- STRAWBERRY- TOASTED MARSHMALLOW- VANILLA BEAN- WATERMELON- WHITE CHOCOLATE

SUGAR FREE FLAVORS:

COCONUT-LEMON-MANGO-PEACH-PINEAPPLE-RASPBERRY-S'MORES-STRAWBERRY-VANILLA BEAN

ORDERS CAN BE PLACED BY:

- STOPPING IN OUR CLAY CO. FARM BUREAU OFFICE IN LOUISVILLE
- MESSAGING OUR CCFB AG IN THE CLASSROOM FACEBOOK PAGE @ [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CLAYCOUNTYAIC](https://www.facebook.com/claycountyaic) & PAYING VIA VENMO
- TALKING TO ONE OF OUR AG COUNCIL MEMBERS

ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP AT CLAY CO. FARM BUREAU ON THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH 10AM-5:30PM

JUST IN TIME FOR EASTER!



Clay County Hospital



We are proud to announce a new achievement that recognizes the quality of laboratory test results we deliver to patients every day: The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has awarded accreditation to the CCH Laboratory based on results of a recent live inspection as part of the CAP's Accreditation Programs.

CAP Council on Accreditation Chair: "The CAP is pleased to recognize Clay County Hospital & Medical Clinics as meeting the high standard set as part of the CAP's Laboratory Accreditation Program," said Richard M. Scanlan, MD, FCAP, chair of the CAP's Council on Accreditation. "The CCH Laboratory joins the thousands of others that are committed to raising the quality of laboratory services nationally and internationally."

"The CAP congratulates the CCH Laboratory on its recent CAP Accreditation," said, Richard M. Scanlan, MD, FCAP, chair of the CAP's Council on Accreditation. "The CCH Laboratory is committed, as is the CAP, to the constant surveillance of laboratory quality for the benefit of the patient and the physician who treats the patient."

"The CCH Laboratory demonstrates leadership, innovation, and a passionate commitment to standards of excellence while providing the highest quality services, ultimately for patients," said Richard M. Scanlan, MD, FCAP, chair of the CAP's Council on Accreditation. "The CAP congratulates Clay County Hospital & Medical Clinics on its recent CAP Accreditation."





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.

Easter Egg Hunt!

Join Flora Rehabilitation & Health Care for their Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 30, from 2-4 PM!

-  Registration starts at 1PM
-  Bring your own basket or bag
-  Age groups: 2-4, 5-7, 8-10
-  Prizes for each age group
-  Raffles & refreshments!



Easter Egg Hunt

Hop on over and join us for an "Eggstra" Special Day!

SATURDAY ☹️ **March 30th** ☹️ **2pm-4pm**
Registration starts at 1:00pm.

Please bring your own bag or basket.
Age Groups: 2-4 • 5-7 • 8-10
Prizes for each age group • Raffles • Refreshments

Location
Flora Rehabilitation & Health Care Center
232 Given Drive • Flora, IL 62839

 **Flora**
REHABILITATION &
HEALTH CARE CENTER

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO
232 Given Drive | Flora, IL
(618) 662-8381 | petersenhealthcare.net



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HAPPY EASTER

Meet the Easter Bunny
MARCH 16TH
1PM-2PM
Get your photo w/ him
\$15.00 per photo
Including a treat bag

Location-Xenia Community Center
Capture & Cherish Moments Photography
LaDonna Smith



Easter Bunny!

Meet the Easter Bunny on March 16th from 1-2PM at the Xenia Community Center!

Get your photo with the Easter Bunny for just \$15 including a treat bag!



Capture & Cherish Moments

Photography
Children-Family-Special Events

Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants

Intro To Government Contracting - IL SBDC at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges

Date: 3/20/2024

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Registration Deadline: 3/20/2024

8:00 AM (CDT)

Fee: No Fee

Location: Terry L Bruce West
Richland Center 320 E North
Avenue, Noble IL 62868

Training Topics: Government
Contracting
Description:

Join us on March 20th for Intro to Government Contracting at the Terry L Bruce West Richland Center in Noble, Illinois.

We will discuss:

Registrations needed
Small Business Certifications for women, minority, veteran and disabled persons owned businesses.

Market research techniques and resources



Join us at:



8:30AM Arrival

9:00AM Chamber Introduction

“Art Of Taking a Compliment”

BY: Louise Acree, First Lady of Wabash Valley College

“Women In Business”

BY: Karissa Turner, President & CEO of Wabash General Hospital

--- BREAK ---

“I AM Enough”

Jessica Evans, President of the Albion Area Chamber of Commerce

“Authenticity is Your Greatest Power”

BY: Ashley Cushman, Stats & Info Group, Associate Director at ESPN

“Marketing Yourself as a Woman in Business”

BY: Mallory Fuller, Director of Marketing at Full Stadium Marketing

EMPOWER -- NETWORK -- INSPIRE

Bringing women together....

Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants

Made in Illinois Grant Program

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) launched \$1 million in funding for the Made in Illinois Grant Program. The Made in Illinois program provides up to \$50,000 in matching grant funding to small- and mid-sized Illinois manufacturers to support innovation and strategic advancements in manufacturing.

Applications are open now through March 31, 2024, and manufacturers are encouraged to explore the benefits offered by the Made in Illinois Grant Program by visiting www.imec.org/madeinillinois. The page provides details on eligibility criteria, application procedures, and the improvements achievable through this initiative.

To be eligible to apply for this program, companies must:

- Be an Illinois manufacturer (as designated with a NAICS code starting with 31-33)
- Have between 5-250 employees
- Operated in Illinois for at least 3 years
- Had sales revenue in the last 12 months prior to application date

In addition to the grant opportunity, the Made in Illinois Grant Program also offers manufacturers access to expertise and resources, guiding them toward a future defined by productivity and innovation.

Applications for the Made in Illinois Grant Program are open until March 31, 2024. The program will award matching grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to eligible companies. Interested manufacturers are encouraged to visit the official program page at www.imec.org/madeinillinois.

Truck Driver Training

Frontier Community College and Wabash Valley College are offering Truck Driver Training classes this spring, and beyond. Classes through FCC will take place in Fairfield and classes through WVC in Noble, IL, at the Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center.

The Truck Driving Program began at FCC in March of 2023 as FCC continued its initiative to meet student and community needs alike. In addition to Electrical Distribution Systems students obtaining a CDL as a graduation requirement, truck driving classes are offered to any student interested in obtaining a Class A CDL.

Experienced instructors will provide the hands-on training needed to prepare students to hit the road with confidence. In addition to gaining a CDL, tie-down training, load security, and other customizable training will be offered.

Students enrolled in the CDL program must be 18 years of age, possess a current Illinois driver's license and commercial learning permit, pass a Department of Transportation physical and drug screening, and fill out an IECC registration form prior to beginning the program. Students should also have good hearing, at least 20-40 vision, with or without glasses, be able to lift heavy objects, and be in good health. Students may get their CDL license at age 18 but cannot drive out-of-state or haul hazardous materials until age 21.

For more information or to sign up for the class, call 618-393-3494 ext. 5804.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Join us at the Clay County Fairgrounds, Charley Brown Park & Clay County Country Club for an unforgettable 3 day weekend leading up to the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th!

Saturday

April 6th

Camping at Charley Brown Park

Little Toot Train Rides

Music at CC Country Club

Flora Rotary ADULT Easter Egg Hunt
(held at night at CC Country Club)

Sunday

April 7th

Camping at Charley Brown Park

Inflatables at Fairgrounds

Little Toot Train Rides

2-Man Golf Scramble

Music at CC Country Club

fireworks Display

Glow Golf

Food Vendors

Monday

April 8th

Camping at Charley Brown Park

Little Toot Train Rides

Music at CC Country Club

Solar Eclipse Event

Disc Golf Scramble

Inflatables at Fairgrounds

Food Vendors

****More details, event times, and events to come!****

For more information, please call the Chamber office at 618-662-5646

ANTICIPATE THE UNFORGETTABLE

The Flora Chamber of Commerce, Flora Tourism, City of Flora, Clay County Country Club, and Chuckin' Aces Disc Golf Club are partnering together to put on a 3 day celebration leading up to the Total Solar Eclipse on Monday April 8th. We need your help!! Any businesses or organizations that wish to participate with in store specials, special menu items, or even set up to sell food are welcome! We are expecting HIGH TRAFFIC and LOTS of tourism bustling through Flora and Clay County from April 6th-April 8th. The Flora Chamber of Commerce will be putting together a "Solar Eclipse for your Business" after hours event in the upcoming weeks that will go over what the City is expecting with traffic, and how to prepare your business for the number of people staying in town, and visiting your business. More information including date and time will be released next week.

Community Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mar. 1	8:00-Midnight	"Midnight Express" Band	Flora American Legion Post 14
Mar. 2	7am - 10 am	Breakfast Benefit	CC/SS American Legion Post 230
Mar. 3	1:00 pm	Gym Bob Jamboree Show	Gym Bob's - Bible Grove
Mar. 4	9:00-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
Mar. 4	4:30 pm	Flora City Council Meeting	Flora City Hall
Mar. 4	6:30 pm	Village of lola Monthly Mtng.	lola Village Hall
Mar. 4	7:00 pm	Village of Sailor Springs Board Mtng.	Sailor Springs Village Office
Mar. 5	1:00-4:00 pm	Blood Drive	Christ Church Cafe (Flora Location)
Mar. 5	6:00 pm	Village of Clay City Meeting	Clay City City Hall
Mar. 7	Noon	Xenia Community Lunch	Xenia Community Center
Mar. 6	6:00 pm	Bible Grove Township Meeting	Bible Grove Township Building
Mar. 9	10:00-2:00	Grand Re-Opening	Doc's Gym (15 Greenlaw Blvd, Flora)
Mar. 11	9:00-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
Mar. 16	6:00 pm	Raising Warriors Gala	Full Armor Academy (Louisville)
Mar. 18	9:00-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
Mar. 19	6:00-9:00 am	Farmer's Share Breakfast	Clay County Farm Bureau
Mar. 19	10:00 am	Alzheimer's Caregiver Support	Clay County Health Department
Mar. 19	2:00-3:00 pm	Seasoned Circle	Clay County Hospital
Mar. 22	5:30 pm	IF: Women's Gathering Conference	Red Brush Christian Church
Mar. 23	4:30 pm	IF: Women's Gathering Conference	Red Brush Christian Church
Mar. 23	6:00-10:30 pm	Glow Bingo hosted by Clay City Civics	Johnny Pickers Lounge
Mar. 25	9:00-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
Mar. 26	6:00 pm	200th Anniversary Planning Mtng.	Clay County Courthouse

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 April Newsletter submissions will be Friday March 22nd!



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
Clay County Hospital	Full Time Nights CNA Retail Pharmacist	apply at claycountyhospital.org/jobs
City of Flora	Life Guards City Treasurer	Pick up applications at City Hall Send resume & cover letter to- City of Flora Attn: Mayor 131 E. 2nd St. Flora, IL 62839
Hella	Machine Operator/Assembler Technician (Manufacturing, Robotics)	Apply in person
NextGen Wireless	Wireless Zone Consultant	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



**LET STAFFQUICK
DO THE SEARCHING
FOR YOU**

Our experienced and qualified team will work with you to find a job that fits your needs and lifestyle. Our closed-door interviews help us learn more about you and what you are looking for. We work with a variety of different companies with a variety of different needs. Let us take the stress out of your job search.

www.staffquickjobs.com



Now Hiring
2nd and 3rd Shift
Receiving Inspection
Sorters!

\$17.50-\$18/hr Paid Weekly!

- Must have good attention to detail for quality inspection
- Must take initiative to work with minimal supervision
- Must pass a Basic Math test

Call Now 618-662-8400

or

Apply online StaffQuickjobs.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

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

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