CHAMBER

NOVEMBER 2024



How to Reach Us!

www.florachamber.com



Cmail

florachamberofcommerce@gmail.com



Follow us on these social media platforms and stay informed!

ESTABLISHED IN 1939 PH: 618-662-5646

Flora Chamber OF COMMERCE

FOUND IN EVERY ISSUE!



- **2** Member News
- **3** Community Calendar
- Member Job Postings New!
 - Training Opportunities, Seminars & Grants!

FLORACHAMBER.COM













Advance Winners 1st Place- Birdie Bros 2nd Place- Big Nate's Towing Service

> Mixed Winners 1st Place- BLT 2nd Place-Gillbillies

Novice Winners 1st Place - Treesmack 2nd Place - Buzz Saw











1st Place: ACT Tire & Auto **2nd Place:** Das*zle Dance & Tumble **3rd Place:** Clay County Farm Bureau Young Leaders







It was a beautiful night to kick off the holiday season in Flora for this year's Moonlight Madness! Thank you to everyone that came out to support our small businesses in Flora and THANK YOU to all the wonderful business that participated!







People's Choice Rosewood Estates



Mayor's Choice WNOI / Clay Co. Country



IMPORTANT CHAMBER MEMBER INFO





NEXT BOARD MEETING

December 10th, 2024 in the Depot Train Room We value your input! Our meetings are open for any Chamber member 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

ESTABLISHED IN 1939 PH: 618-662-5646

FLORACHAMBER.COM

TOURISM NEWS

Minite

2024 Alora Kriskindlemarket

Friday, December 13th Saturday, December 14th Sunday, December 15th

5:00pm - 9:00pm Craft Market Food Vendors Ice Skating (\$5pp) Fire Pits Christmas Music Santa (6-8pm)

8:00am Breakfast with Santa at The Outpost

9:00am - 3:00pm Craft Market Food Vendors Ice Skating (\$5pp) Fire Pits Christmas Music

10:00am - Noon Santa & His Reindeer! The Grinch!

Noon - 9pm Ice Skating (\$5pp)

3:00pm Storutime with Mrs. Clause

1:00pm - 5:00pm Ice Skating (\$5pp)

Breakfast with Santa:

All you can eat pancakes, sausage, milk, and juice!

Pick-up your tickets at The Outpost or at the Flora Chamber of Commerce!

(Ticket required for each person in attendance!)

Thank you to our Breakfast with Santa Sponsors: Edward Iones -Matt Pvatt @ Shelter Insurance - Chad Milner!

Santa's House Schedule at Library Park:

Dec. 6th/7th: 6-8pm Dec. 20th/21st: 6-8pm

Dates & Times are subject to change incase of bad weather

More Info: 618-662-7646

Fur a Good Paws



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.



Rainn is a male shepard terrier mix and is 2 yrs old. He is in excellent health and is completely

up to date on shots. Rainn has a wonderful personality and is good with other pets , kids, and people !



Meet Katie!

Katie is an 8-10 week old calico kitten. She is very sweet and friendly and will be ready for adoption soon she will be up to date on shots spayed and microchipped before adoption

Meet Bingo

This handsome pup is 7 months old and needs a home where he can run. He is outside right now but smart and trainable. Owner says he's a mix of bulldog and retriever. He gets along with other animals but does think it's funny to chase cats.



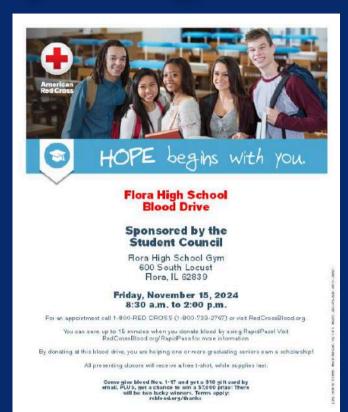
FUR A GOOD PAWS 104 N STANFORD FLORA, IL 62839 618-662-PAWS (7297)



We Need a New Home! [|]

To adopt or inquire, please contact:

Upcoming Blood Drives



RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

American Red Cross



Help change a life. Give blood.

Flora Chamber of Commerce Blood Drive

Flora Depot

Community Room 223 W Railroad St, Flora Flora, IL 62839

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.







1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

D X V TR N D F N

COLOR YOUR FALL WITH KINDNESS.

American Red Cross

Clay Electric Coop Blood Drive

Oil Belt Christian Service Camp

> Gym/Lobby 555 Park Rd. Flora, IL 62839

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPassI Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom FRIENDS + Red Cross socks, Itd aty, Keep one, gift one!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Veteran's Day

Happy Veterans Day!

To all the service men and women of this country, past and present

for your service, protection, and support.





BENJAMIN F. EDWARDS[®] & CO. INVESTMENTS for GENERATIONS[®]

S. Cole Duke | Managing Director – Investments Landon Carder | Financial Advisor

10 Parsons Lane | Flora, IL 62839 || P 618-508-8050

benjaminfedwards.com 2023-1451 Exp. 05/31/2026 Member SIPC







Hora Veteran's Day

Parade & Program

• • • LaDonna's Flower Shop

Taking orders for Christmas cemetery silk arrangements

Contact information LaDonna Smith 618-231-5991

La Donna's Flower Shop

 Small \$37.00
 Baskets
 Vases

 Small \$37.00
 Baby \$20.00
 Small \$10.00

 Medium.\$45.00
 Small \$30.00
 Large \$15.00

 Large \$50.00
 Large \$40.00
 Can \$16.00

Wire Halos

Small \$22.00

Large \$30.00

rge \$40.00 Can \$16.00 LaDo Side insert vases starting Pr. \$25.00

Plus Tax on all flower

You can text me, call or sent me a message on messenger LaDonna Storck Smith



Flora DQ



THE DORA

We are inviting you to make DQ your GAME NIGHT or DAY destination!! We have a variety of games available for you to use while enjoying our back patio!

In order to ensure we keep our games in nice shape we will require a \$5 deposit or your ID to hold which will be returned when you are finished with the game! Stop by today and start gaming!

Join the American Legion Riders For A



16 oz Chili w Crackers \$4 32 oz Chili w Crackers \$8 Chilidog \$4 Hotdog \$2.50 Peanut Butter Sandwiches \$1

Drinks \$1



NOVEMBER 17TH, 2024 WAL-MART FLORA, IL 10 AM - 2 PM

Presented by American Logion Riders HOLIDAY DINNER

DINNER INCLUDES:

Turkey Breast or Smoked Ribs Greenbean Casserole Stuffing Cheeseball Biscuits Desserts Drinks available at the bar

Plates are \$8 a piece Veterans eat Free

Location: American Legion in Flora, IL

Date: December 8th, 2024

Time: 10 am to 2 pm • • • Flora Legion Riders

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Vilitary Wreat

\$75 A WREATH (HANDMADE)

REOR

A portion of sales will benefit Wreaths across America program if ordered through the American Legion Riders

ORDER THRU FACEBOOK AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FLORA.LEGIONRIDERS



133 N. Church Street Louisville, IL 62858

Deer Season is upon us! First Shotgun Season is the 22nd through the 24th. We will be accepting deer 8am to 8pm or until full. Come see us for your deer processing needs - standard processing, snack sticks, summer sausage, deer bacon and more!

618.665.3151

Salt & Strings

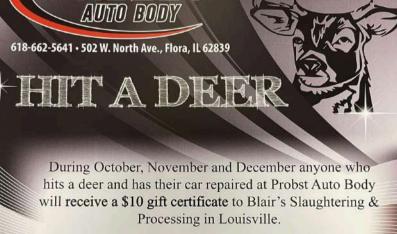


• • • Probst Auto Body

Probst Auto Body, Inc. has partnered with Blair's Slaughtering & Processing, Inc in Louisville to bring their "Hit a Deer, Win a Cow" promo to Clay County!

Hitting a deer is pretty inconvenient, costly, and stressful, but Probst Auto Body will walk you through the process and get you and your car back on the road in no time!





At the end of those 3 months, 1 winner will be drawn for a Grand Prize of a \$500 gift certificate to Blair's Slaughtering & Processing.



••• WNOI



Good Holiday Marketing Campaigns begin with the HAPPY HO HO HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHT ON WNOI MIXEM & CLAY COUNTY COUNTRY 99.3FM! Ads air November 1-December 31, 2024!

Each day in December 2022 WNOI MIX-FM 103.9 will feature a local business as our *Ho-Ho Holiday Highlight*. Listeners will be encouraged to keep track of the various businesses each day. (Mix-FM will provide rules and entry forms for our listeners to play along). December 31st, 2024 our listeners will then be allowed to send in completed contest forms. Of the correct entries mailed, emailed, faxed or brought into the studio, WNOI Mix-FM 103.9 will draw (3) correct entries. 1st Prize-\$300 shopping spree 2st Prize ~\$150 shopping spree 3st Prize~\$75 shopping spree Each of the 3 winners will then choose <u>ONE</u> of our participating businesses (maybe yours) to spend their winnings! If your business is selected by one of our winners~ *WNOI WILL PAY FOR THE WINNING SHOPPER'S SPREE!*

ELF=60-:30 Ads - \$450 - (\$225/Month Nov-Dec) RUDOLPH=80-:30 - Ads - \$560 - (\$280/Mo. Nov/Dec) MRS CLAUS=100-:30 - Ads-\$650 - (\$325/Mo. Nov/Dec) SANTA CLAUS=120-:30 Ads-\$720 (\$360/Mo. Nov/Dec) *CHOOSE "SANTA" & GET AN AD EVERY HOUR FOR 24 HOURS ON CLAY COUNTY COUNTRY 99.3FM=24 FREE ADS ON ANY DAY YOU CHOOSE!

> PICK YOUR DAY & WNOI WILL GIVE YOU 1- :30 AD EVERY HOUR FROM 5AM TO 12AMI THAT'S 19 FREE ADS stating that YOU ARE, "TODAY'S HO HO HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHT]"

> > ***PLUS you'll receive shared Facebook Posts on both of WNOI's Facebook Pages that REACH 1,000's EVERY WEEK

H & R Communication, Inc. - P.O. Box 368 - Flora, IL 62839 Phone: 618-662-8331 Fax: 618-662-2407 www.wnol.com wnol@frontler.com



(3) Winners will be draw from correct entries on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 during The ReVue at 2pm. If there are no entries with all correct answers, WNOI will award those with the most correct answers. In the event of a tie, the winner(s) will be determined by a drawing.

All sponsored days are First Come First Served Basis. All decisions by WNOI Management are final. All prized awarded must be used at one of the Ho~Ho Holiday Highlight Businesses participating. Employees and or management of participating businesses and employees and family members of H&R Communications, Inc. are ineligible to win. Ho~Ho Holiday Highlight sponsors will not be given out to anyone by WNOI staff over the phone, by fax, mail, email or Facebook. Winners will have (7) days to determine which <u>ONE</u> business sponsor they will spend their winnings.

Accepted for Business

Today's Date

Business Name Accepted for WNOI "This station does not discriminate in the sale of advertising time, and will occept no advertising which is placed with an intent to discribulate on the basis of race, gender, or ethnicity. Advertiser hereby certifies that it is not buying broadcusting 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 oright.

> H & R Communication, Inc. - P.O. Box 368 - Flora, IL 62839 Phone: 618-662-8331 Fax: 618-662-2407 www.wnol.com wnol@frontler.com



2ND ANNUAL THANKSGIVING PIE FUNDRAISER

1. Choose your Pie Apple | Pecan | Pumpkin
2. Place your Order Call Flora Rehabilitation & Care Center and ask for Arriel - 618-662-8381 - By November 22nd
3. Pick up and Enjoy! Pick up your Pie on November 27th between 3:00-5:00PM



Light a candle, and cherish the memory of someone who will be missed this Thanksgiving and Christmas season during our annual

Holiday Remembrance

Flora Depot Second Floor Community Room 223 West Railroad Street, Flora 1 until 3 p.m. Sunday, November 24th

Please join us

for this "come and go" gathering, where you may arrive and depart as you wish. You are welcome to attend and light a candle in memory of anyone, regardless of how long ago that person passed away, or whether our funeral home assisted with services.



Flora Rehab & Care Center

Flora Rehabilitation and Health Care Center will be hosting their 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser. Choose from Apple, Pecan, or Pumpkin pie! Place your order by calling 618-662-8381 and ask for Arriel by **November 22nd.** On November 27th from 3-5pm, you can swing by and pick up your pie, just in time for your Thanksgiving meal! Pies are \$15 each and all proceeds go towards the activities department for the residents of Flora Rehabilitation and Care Center.

Frank & Bright Funeral Home



Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants



Starting in December - the Chamber will be offering to our members, webinars from SCORE St. Louis. SCORE provides valuable expertise and educational services to anyone looking to start or grow a business. These webinars will be streamed from the meeting room at the Chamber office, and are free for all members to attend. For more information, please call the Chamber office at 618-662-5646.

Dec. 3 12:00pm How to Find & Reach Your Customers on LinkedIn

Dec. 4 12:00pm Holiday on a Budget

Dec. 5 12:00pm 8 Steps to Increased Exposure on Google for your Business

Dec. 17 12:00pm Power Your Business Using Email Marketing

Jan. 9 1:00pm Facebook Success (Setup, Marketing, & Storytelling)



News from the Illinois Department of Labor

Equal Pay Act Salary Transparency

An amendment to the Equal Pay Act of 2003, which requires employers with 15 or more employees to include a pay scale and benefits for a position in any job posting, takes effect January 1, 2025. The goal of the legislation is to provide greater transparency to workers in the hiring process by providing them with more information about wages, salary and benefits. When violations of the law are reported to IDOL, the Department will contact the employer and provide a date by which the job posting, if still active, must be fixed. Failure to correct a posting will result in penalties.

Annual Prevailing Wage Rates Survey

Each year in June, IDOL surveys the wage rates for each craft and trade in every county. IDOL then establishes and posts the updated prevailing wage rates, by construction trade, for each county in July. By requiring that local prevailing wages are paid on public works construction and infrastructure projects, the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act helps ensure that Illinois' tax dollars are reinvested back into Illinois' workforce and spent in Illinois' economy.

Illinois Grocery Initiative – New Stores in Food Deserts Rd 2 Grant

Round 2 of New Stores in Food Deserts Program will offer competitive grants to improve access to fresh food within food deserts by providing funding to establish grocery stores. The Illinois Grocery Initiative New Stores in Food Deserts program, authorized by Public Act 103-0561, is intended to address the challenge of food deserts.

Food deserts are census tracts meeting specific criteria related to poverty standards, population density, and limited fresh food accessibility. This program aims to combat food insecurity by offering competitive grants to support the establishment of new grocery stores in these areas by reimbursing successful applicants for eligible capital and non-capital costs. In Round 2 of this program, \$11 million is available to fund these grants.

Awards can range between \$150K to \$2.4M, with a 1:3 match requirement from businesses. Requirements for grocery locations include:

- Must be or will be best classified as a supermarket or other grocery retailer in the 2022 North American Industry Classification System under code 445110, a meat retailer under code 44524, a fruit and vegetable retailer under code 44523, or a fish and seafood retailer under 44525.
- Must be located in a food desert census tract (as defined in the NOFO),
- Must earn less than 30% of revenue from alcohol and tobacco sales,
- Must accept SNAP and WIC, and
- Must contribute to diversity of fresh foods available in community.

Qualified entities include units of local government and independent grocers or cooperatives with fewer than 500 employees and no more than four grocery locations. New Stores in Food Deserts grants will fund construction and renovation costs for new stores, as well as many first-year operations costs, such as employee wages, utility costs, initial inventory of food, and more. DCEO has contracted with Western Illinois University (WIU) and Chicago State University (CSU) to provide technical assistance services for Illinois Grocery Initiative applicants and grantees. Applicants desiring assistance in preparing applications may contact these institutions directly. Their contact information is listed in the NOFO.

To view the competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and apply for the grant, please visit the DCEO website *www.dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3295-2911*.

Application deadline December 2, 2024.

Community Calendar

Date Tir	ne Ev	ent Loca	ation
November 14	6:00 pm	Village of Louisville Monthly Mtng.	Louisville City Hall
November 14	10:00 am	Alzheimer's Caregiver Meeting	Clay Co. Health Dept.
November 16	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	Fall into Christmas (Xenia)	Village of Xenia
November 16	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Turkey Dinner	Flora 1st Methodist
November 17	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Flora Legion Riders Chili Cook-out	Flora Walmart
November 18	6:30 pm	Blair Township Monthly Mtng.	Blair Township Hall
November 18	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
November 19	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Seasoned Circle	Clay County Hospital
November 23	8:00 am - Close	Tax Free Day	Harr's Ace Hardware
November 24	6:00 pm	Thanksgiving Service	Comm. of Christ Church
November 24	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Frank & Bright Holiday Remembrance	Flora Depot
November 25	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
November 26	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Weight Loss & Healthy Lifestyle Class	Clay Co. Hospital
November 26	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Clay County Bicentennial Meeting	Clay Co. 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 December Newsletter submissions will be Monday Nov. 25th!



Is it your turn to host Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner this year, but just don't have the room to fit everyone? The Flora Depot has you covered! Our upstairs community room offers enough tables and chairs to comfortably seat 125 people! Have some elderly relatives - don't worry! To get to our 2nd floor, we have a convenient elevator to use - and handicap accessible bathrooms!

Call the Chamber office at 618-662-5646 to inquire about date availability and pricing!

Chamber Member - Help Wanted



PHLEBOTOMIST **OPENING!!**

FULL TIME ROLE

Are you looking for a new career? CCH is looking for new candidates that are compassionate, positive, detail oriented and have a willingness to learn and succeed!

HS DIPLOMA REOUIRED



Apply: www.claycountyhospital.org/jobs

**Find us on Facebook and ask about our antastic benefits!!

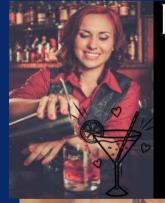
WE'RE HIRING AG IN THE CLASSROOM COORDINATOR APPLY NOW 618-665-3300 (f) ccfbmanager@gmail.com **APPLICATION DEADLINE - OCTOBER 15**

Qualifications:

- Interest and basic knowledge of agriculture
- Ability to work "hands-on" with students, teachers and volunteers
- Good communication and organizational skills Ability to work independently

PART TIME

- Ability to organize/motivate volunteers
- Good Working Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Google Website, Excel, Facebook, and YouTube Programs and/or Websites



New Bartender PART-TIME EVENINGS WEEKENDS

GATSBY'S 45 LOUISVILLE

EVENTS







More Information

www.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. SERVICE, AND COMMUNITY EFFORT; MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS PAYS A HIGH RATE OF INTEREST INSERVICE. 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: CHRIS THOMPSON

DIRECTORS MANDY HARGIS, JOE HARRIS, STEPHEN SMITH BARBARA SCHAFER, JASON SMITH

> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNA ROUNDS