

Chamber of Commerce

How to Reach Us!

Online

www.florachamber.com



618-662-5646



florachamberofcommerce@gmail.com



Follow us on these social media platforms and stay informed!

Flora
Chamber

FOUND IN EVERY ISSUE!

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

ESTABLISHED IN 1939

PH: 618-662-5646

CHAMBER NEWS



Twas the Week Before Christmas, Flora Chamber of Commerce Edition

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the town Chamber Members were bustling, up aisles and down. Gifts were hung in the windows, all with great care, In hopes the community, would Shop Local there. The merchants were busy - no time for their beds, Visions of happy customers, danced in their heads. When out on the street, there arose such a clatter. We sprang from our office, to see what was the matter. Away to the windows, we flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash. When what to our wandering eyes should appear? Our community growing, and thriving each year. We spoke not a word, but went back to our work, Planning, promoting, and putting members first. From the Flora Chamber of Commerce, May your Christmas be Merry; Happy Holiday's to you!

WISHING YOU A

Merry Christmas

CHAMBER STAFF & DIRECTORS

Anna Rounds

Doug Leak Michael Gill Chris Thompson Joe Harris Mandy Hargis Stephen Smith

Barbara Schafer Jason Smith

CHAMBER NEWS



Only a few days left to submit your nominations!

Forms can be found pinned to the top of our Facebook page, on our website on the calendar (Jan. 25th), or paper copies can be sent by email or picked up at the office!

IMPORTANT CHAMBER MEMBER INFO



NEXT BOARD MEETING December 10th, 2024 in the Depot

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

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TOURISM NEWS



Friday, December 13th

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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 Storytime with Mrs.

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 Jones -Matt Pyatt & 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: 618-662-5646



Fur a Good Paws•••

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.



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!











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.



To adopt or inquire, please contact:



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

Upcoming Blood Drives

December 12th

12:00pm to 5:00pm

Flora Church of the Nazarene Gym December 23rd

1:00pm to 5:00pm

Clay County Health Dept. Conference Room December 31st

10:00am to 2:00pm

Xenia Village Hall

Come give blood Dec. 9 to 15 for \$15 e-gift card as our gift to you.

Come give Dec. 16 thru Jan. 3 for a NEW long sleeved Red Cross T shirt!



Don't wait—book your holiday pet care now!

Whether your Christmas plans include traveling, preparing a feast, or other festive fun, make sure your pet gets in on the excitement too with a loving Big T sitter. They'd love to take your pet on a walk, give some extra snuggles, or feed them while you're out and about.









Christmas is right around the corner! Do you have enough room for everyone? Stop in to It's Almost Home New Furniture and pick out your new sectional or diningroom table today!

Open 7 days a week!





Magical Moments Catering



Needing a caterer for an upcoming Christmas party? Call Magical Moments! Mary and Madge will create a feast to fit your needs! Perfect for work Christmas parties, reunions, and family gatherings this holiday season



A Night in Bethlehem

1st Saturday & Sunday Night in December from 6-8 pm

Flora Church of the Nazarene #12 Parson's Lane

Flora Church of Nazarene

Take a stroll through Bethlehem when Christ was born. Mary, Joseph & baby Jesus will be outside in the manger, Roman guards will let you enter the city as you pay your taxes and enter through the gates, our guides will take you down the streets of Bethlehem to 11 different shops where you will hear their stories. At the end, you will find an experience station with craft activities for the children along with refreshments & treat bags for everyone. This is for all ages, young and old. We've made some changes in this year's event to help it flow better. Mark your calendars now for Sat., 12/7 & Sun., 12/8, beginning at 6pm both evenings. No admission charge.

• • • Flora Legion Riders









Clay County Hospital and staff members Laurel Mason and Kamy Vail are deeply devoted to their extraordinary work surrounding Diabetes Self Management Education. They recently were nominated for the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network Impact Award. This award focuses on projects that have found a creative way to motivate and inspire staff, initiate a new approach to improve patient care, implement a new process flow or life-safety improvement, strengthen the health of your community, or improve the well-being of staff or patients. Clay County Hospital is proud to announce that due to Laurel and Kamy's dedication to strengthening the health of our community, they were the recipients of the Impact Award for 2024. As recipients of the Impact Award, they were hosted at the annual Access Illinois Critical Hospital **Network** conference on Nov. 14, 2024.

Laurel and Kamy applied for, and received, a Lifestyle Coach Assistance Grant that focuses on supporting the existing National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME). This program focuses on improving awareness of the program, access to and appropriateness of classes, ease of enrollment, and relevant participant support while addressing barriers to accessing the appropriate care and addressing social disparities. This program was developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health, and Clay County Hospital Diabetes Education Department entered into an agreement with them in March 2024.

This program has assisted the Diabetes Education Department to hold additional DPP cohorts, train an additional lifestyle coach, and promote the program in the community. The closest program is between 65-125 miles away from Clay County Hospital. This program is one of only two current Medicare approved suppliers for the national diabetes prevention program. Laurel and Kamy have worked with the Illinois Public Health Institute to specifically promote the DPP and DSME for Medicaid patients.

able to purchase gas vouchers to help reduce transportation costs that prevent patients from attending programs, purchase fresh fruit and vegetable vouchers to assist whose patients who do not have the financial ability to afford healthy foods, purchase glucometers for patients who cannot afford them, sponsor the first Clay County Hospital free produce giveaway for the community, sponsor free diabetes/prediabetes screening events with free point of care hemoglobin AIC tests, purchase

With the grant funding, Laurel and Kamy have been

materials for training those with diabetes in subsequent languages, offer assistance to those patients who may not be able to access their diabetes care due to lack of childcare or spousal/family care, and enhance the free monthly diabetes support groups by purchasing diabetes curriculum for support and education.

Clay County Hospital would like to thank Laurel Mason and Kamy Vail for their deep devotion and support to improving the health of our patients and community.

Congratulations on a job well done!



FLORA, ILLINOIS, NOVEMBER 25, 2024 – As part of National Rural Health Day, Clay County Hospital today announced it has earned a 2024 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in Quality. Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards recognize top quartile performance (i.e., 75th percentile or above) among rural hospitals in Quality, Outcomes and/or Patient Perspective.

Clay County Hospital congratulates the quality team: Melissa Storck, Chief of Quality; Charlotte Cooper, Manager of Data Analysis and EVS; Roni Mason, Clinical Informatics RN and Jennifer Woolever, Quality Improvement RN on this accomplishment which supports the goals of CCH to be the model among rural healthcare delivery organizations.

The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, a comprehensive and objective framework for assessing how rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

For more details about the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX, contact Billy Balfour at wbalfour@chartis.com.



Media Inquiries:

Amy Allen
Marketing Specialist
Clay County Hospital, Flora, IL
(618) 508-2048

DEER PROCESSING FOR SECOND GUN SEASON

We will be ACCEPTING whole deer, boneless deer, AND donation deer for the second gun season. We will be open 8am to 7pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Good luck!



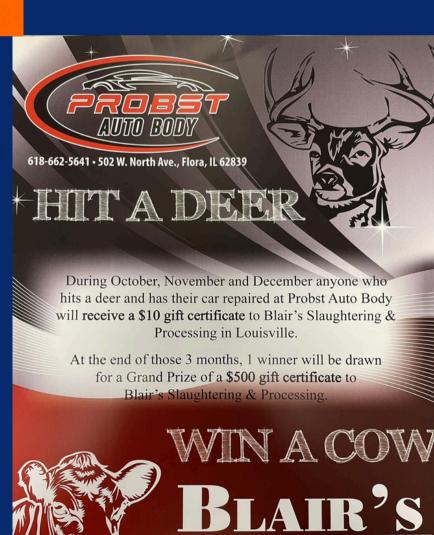


● ● ● Probst Auto Body

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!





Slaughtering & Processing 618-665-3424.2472 Vandalia Rd., Louisville, IL 62858

• • • WNOI





WNOI'S HO HO HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHT 2024

Good Holiday Marketing Campaigns begin with the HAPPY HO HO HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHT ON WNOI MIXFM & 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.

1" Prize~\$300 shopping spree 2™ Prize ~\$150 shopping spree 3" 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 12AM! 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





HO HO HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHT RULES 2024

(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 **ONE** business sponsor they will spend their winnings.

Accepted for Business Today's Date

Business Name

Accepted for WNOI

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









WNOI 2024 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

WNOI MIX-FM & CLAY COUNTY COUNTRY will feature a series of Holiday Greetings about the true meaning of Christmas from December 12th through December 25th.

Your personalized :10 – 15-word message will air 28 times on each station for a total of 56 Christmas Greetings.

56 Christmas Greetings

\$112.00

***Deadline is 4pm on Friday, December 6th

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, or anecestry

THANK YOU & MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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



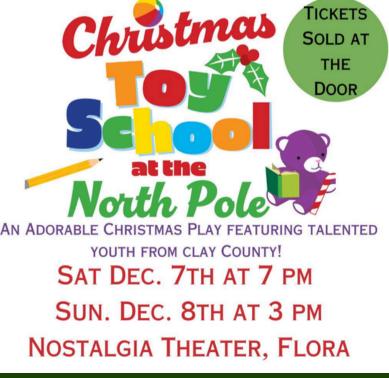


Flora Savings Bank

Giving Tuesday encourages us to give back in any way that we can. We pay to wear denim on Friday's and just knew that we had to help spread some holiday cheer for local families. Our Giving Tuesday donation to Shop With A Cop is about more than money. We can't wait to see the lasting memory this program provides for a special child or young adult this year!



Nostalgia Theater



Don't Miss



Christmas in the Village



Join us for a heartwarming celebration of the season on the historic square of Louisville!

Full Armor Christian Academy, in partnership with local businesses, invites you to create Hallmark Christmas memories with family and friends. Together, let's embrace the joy and spirit of the holidays in our community! The Louisville Town Square will be closed for this event, but shuttle services will be available to the square from McGriff Funeral Home parking lots. Enjoy FREE horse-drawn carriage rides around the square, provided by Jonathan and Josie Piperakis—the pickup/dropoff point is at the Village Hall parking lot. LIVE carolers will travel around the square throughout the evening, directed by Full Armor's Chorale Teacher, Megan Mayes. Stop to warm yourself at the fire pits lit around the square. Full Armor Student Council will be selling S'mores supplies and baked goods, as well as providing roasting sticks, so you can enjoy making S'mores with your Family!

For comments or questions, please contact Cindy Bailey at Full Armor 618-237-4441.

	Location (Map on Back)	Activity		
0	The Mustard Seed	Open House, Refreshments, Door Prizes, Free Kids "Make & Take" Christmas Ornament		
0	Harrison Insurance	Open House with Door Prize Drawing		
0	McGriff Funeral Home	Shuttle Rides to the Square and Other Businesses		
0	The Louisville Banking Company	Gift for Each Child and Door Prize Drawing for Adults		
0	The Genealogy Society	Meet Mrs. Claus, Games, Prizes, Sweet Treats		
0	Clay County Republican	Open House		
0	Clay County GOP	Hot Buttered Popcorn, Drawing for Two Lincoln Day Dinner Tickets and Trump Flag		
0	State Representative Blaine Wilhour	Kids' Coloring Books, Movie Night Bucket Drawing		
9	Old Fashioned Soda Fountain	[1] [1] [2] [3] [3] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4		
10	Louisville Rotary Club	Fresh Homemade Cookies and Coffee		
0	The State Bank Suite	Christmas Sugar Cookie Decorating with the Louisville Fall Festival Queens Christmas Treat Activity from Kenzie's Sweet Shop; Freeze Dried Candy Available for Purchase Decorate Cards for Local Nursing and Shelter Care Home Residents with The Happy Mail Mission		
B	Spill the Tea	Free Cocoa, Tea, and Coffee; Fresh Baked Goods Available for Purchase		
Ø	The Village of Louisville	Old-Fashioned Brown Bag Gift (with an Orange, Pack of Gum, Peanuts, and Candy Bar), Live Music, and Two \$50 Gift Card Giveaways		
4	Louisville Clay County Farmers Mutual Ins. Co	Clay County Fair Queens, Reindeer Food, Snack Mix, and Door Prize Drawing		
B	Dr. Brittani Hosselton Chiropractic + Acupuncture	Gift for Each Child and Water Pillow Drawing for Adults		
0	Clay County Courthouse	Full Armor Handbell Choir Performances Every 30 minutes beginning at 4:00 PM Clay County 200th Anniversary Celebration Booth		
0	Louisville Baptist Church	Nativity Festival, Free Hot Chocolate and Coffee		
13	Salt & Strings	Meat Bundle Giveaway, Samples, and Smoked Meat for Purchase		
19	Clay County State Bank	Reindeer Games		

Thanks to Flora/Clay County ESDA and Collin Moseley for providing extra lighting on the square!

• • • Christmas in the Village



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

Dec. 7 9:30 am How to Start & Manage Your Own Business

Dec. 11 1:00 pm How to Create a Marketing Plan

Dec. 12 8:30 am QuickBooks: How & When to Use Manual Journal Entries

Dec. 12 1:00 pm Solopreneurship 101

Dec. 13 12:00 pm Increase Your Sales with Google Tools

Dec. 16 12:00 pm Digital Marketing Basics

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

Jan. 9 1:00 pm 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.

Community Calendar

Event

December 4	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Touch of Mist Craft Sale	Clay County Hospital
December 6	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Santa Visit	Santa House (LP)
December 7	1:00 pm	Children's Christmas Party w/ Santa	Flora Public Library
December 7	6:00 pm	The Bokeh Big Band Concert	New Beginnings Church
December 7	7:00 pm	Christmas Toy School at the North Pole!	Nostalgia Theater
December 7	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Santa Visit	Santa House (LP)
December 8	3:00 pm	Christmas Toy School at the North Pole!	Nostalgia Theater
December 8	2:00 pm A	Very Brush Creek Christmas Concert Cor	mmunity of Christ Church
December 9	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
December 11	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Chocolate Sale	Clay County Hospital
December 12	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Chocolate Sale	Clay County Hospital
December 12	10:00 am	Alzheimer's Caregiver Meeting	Clay Co. Health Dept.
December 13	1:00 pm	Mommy & Me	Flora Public Library
December 13	5:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Flora Tourism Kriskindle Market	Library Park Area
December 14	8:00 am - 9:00 pm	Flora Tourism Kriskindle Market	Library Park Area
December 15	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	lce Rink	Library Parking Lot
December 16	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
December 17	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Seasoned Circle	Clay County Hospital
December 20	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Santa Visit	Santa House (LP)
December 21	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Santa Visit	Santa House (LP)
December 23	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
December 30	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
December 31	9:00 pm - 12:00 am	New Year's Bash w/ American Pie!	Nostalgia Theater

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 January Newsletter submissions will be Monday Dec. 27th!



Date





Location

Chamber Member - Help Wanted





BREAKING NEWS

WE ARE HIRING!

HOME CARE RN

- 2 YEARS RN EXPERIENCE PREFERRED
- IL RN LICENSE REQUIRED
- IL DRIVER'S LICENSE
- CLEAN DRIVING RECORD

PLEASE SEND LETTER OF INTEREST AND RESUME TO BRANDI AT BYOUNG@HEALTHDEPT.ORG OR APPLY AT WWW.HEALTHDEPT.ORG

the Outpost

Servers Needed!

Apply within.

The Outpost 107 E. North Ave





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