

CHAMBER

chat



JANUARY | 2025



**Flora
Chamber**
OF COMMERCE



How to Reach Us!



Online

www.florachamber.com



Phone

618-662-5646



Email

florachamberofcommerce@gmail.com



Follow us on these social media platforms and stay informed!

**FOUND IN
EVERY ISSUE!**

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

ESTABLISHED IN 1939

PH: 618-662-5646

FLORACHAMBER.COM

CHAMBER NEWS

FLORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 25th, 2025

6PM SOCIAL HOUR ~ 7PM DINNER & PROGRAM

NOSTALGIA THEATER

120 E. NORTH AVE.

FLORA, IL 62839

HONORING THE 2024 AWARD WINNERS:

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

~La Fuente Mexican Restaurant~

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

~The An-So Agency~

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

~ Dana Milligan ~

Tickets on sale now at the Chamber office!

\$30 per person

CHAMBER NEWS



Outreach in 2024

- 9 Events
- 4 Ribbon Cuttings
- 2 Blood Drives
- 3 Tourism Events

A Look into 2025

- 9 Events
- 20+ Trainings
- 2 Tourism Events
- 100+ New Friendships
- and more to come!

2024 was an AMAZING year for the Chamber! Please enjoy the photo review in the pages that follow of all the amazing highlight of the year!

IMPORTANT CHAMBER MEMBER INFO



NEXT BOARD MEETING

January 14th, 2025 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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2024 CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



*2023 Chamber Awards Banquet
January 27th, 2024*



*Ribbon Cutting - Doc's Gym
March 9th, 2024*



*Chamber Bowling Tournament
March 23rd, 2024*

2024 CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



*Ribbon Cutting - Clay County Hospital Pharmacy
April 23rd, 2024*



*Ribbon Cutting - Flora's Diner
June 2nd, 2024*

*Chamber Golf Scramble
June 14th, 2024*



2024 CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Flora 4th of July Celebration July 4th, 2024

2024 CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



*Ribbon Cutting -
Freedom Brokers
July 29th, 2024*



Chamber Disc Golf Tournament October 12th, 2024

2024 CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



*People's Choice
WNOJ*

*Mayor's Choice
Rosewood Estates*

Chamber Scarecrow Contest October 2024



Flora Halloween Parade October 26th, 2024












2024 CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Moonlight Madness - November 8, 2024

A LOOK INTO 2025

-  2024 Chamber Awards Banquet
January 25th, 2025
-  Chamber Bowling Tournament
April 12th, 2025
-  Flora Chamber Paddle Battle
May 17th, 2025
-  Chamber Golf Scramble
June 13th, 2025
-  Flora 4th of July Celebration
July 4th, 2025
-  Chamber Scarecrow Contest Starts
October 1st, 2025
-  Amateur Doubles Disc Golf Tournament
October 11th, 2025

-  Flora Halloween Parade
October 25th, 2025
-  Moonlight Madness
November 7th, 2025

**SAVE!
THE DATE!**

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.



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 Rainn

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 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:

● ● ● Clay County Hospital & Silver Sneakers



FIND A CLASS YOU LOVE!

Did you know you can attend classes in your community as part of your SilverSneakers® benefit at no additional cost? Join us today for

Classic Silver Sneakers: By Lacey Duvall; In Partnership with CCH

Classes available in Flora and Xenia

Located at Flora Community of Christ Church and the Xenia Christ United Church

Mon. & Thurs. at 8:45am in Flora

Mon. & Wed. at 4:15pm in Flora
Friday at 8:45am in Xenia

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Have fun and move to the music for 45 minutes through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activities for daily living. All equipment is provided!



See you in class!

Questions?

SilverSneakers.com/Community
1-888-423-4632 (TTY 711)
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET



Always talk to your doctor before starting an exercise program.

1. Class locations are not owned or operated by Tivity Health, Inc. or its affiliates. SilverSneakers and the SilverSneakers shoe are registered trademarks of Tivity Health, Inc. © 2023 Tivity Health, Inc. All rights reserved. SSFP4683_0323

2025 is here! We ALL make those New Year resolutions to get healthier and get more active. Here's a great way no matter your age and skill level! CCH is happy to sponsor this awesome program so that you can have exercising options that fit you!

Silver Sneakers is a fantastic way to stay active, live a healthier lifestyle and increase movement at a rate this is comfortable to you! Open to all ages, but feel free to just show up to a class and chat with the instructor on how to join! Your first visit is free!

Silver Sneakers Flora, IL. can help answer all your questions! Feel free to reach out to the instructor on the silver sneakers Facebook page!

Class today at 4:15pm! See the flyer for details!

● ● ● Rent One

Perk up your day with a fresh brew. Stop by, sip some coffee, and see what's brewing for 2025!

When: January 10th 10:00am-6:00pm
January 11th 9:00am-5:00pm

Where: Flora Rent One
35 Greenlaw Blvd
Flora, IL 62839



Business of the Year



La Fuente Mexican Restaurant is your source for authentic Mexican dishes at amazing prices. Experience Mexican food the way it was meant to be. Take a much-needed lunch break and enjoy delicious tacos, fajitas, sandwiches, omelets and more at La Fuente Mexican Restaurant.

La Fuente Mexican Restaurant is YOUR 2024 Business of the Year and will be honored January 24th, 2024 at the Flora Chamber Awards Banquet.

La Fuente Mexican Restaurant
1050 E. North Ave.
Flora, IL 62839
618-403-5993
Open 7 days a week!

New Business of the Year

The AN-SO Agency understands the importance of protecting your family and your future. That's why they are dedicated to providing insurance solutions that give you peace of mind in every aspect of life. Their commitment to exceptional customer service means that they'll be there for you every step of the way, ensuring that you and your loved ones receive the protection you deserve at a cost you can afford.

The AN-SO Agency is YOUR 2024 New Business of the Year and will be honored January 24th, 2024 at the Flora Chamber Awards Banquet.



Jason Smith
Owner

(618) 403-5676
www.ansoagency.com

The AN-SO Agency
Jason Smith - Agent
106 S. Main St.
Flora, IL 62839
618-403-5676

Wabash Communications



Wabash Communications is thrilled to announce the launch of Arlo Security—your solution for trusted, reliable protection both inside and out.

Stay connected and enjoy peace of mind with:

- ✓ Advanced cameras
- ✓ Motion detection
- ✓ Real-time alerts

Whether you're checking on the kids, confirming a package delivery, or ensuring your loved ones are safe, Arlo's got you covered. Kickstart your year with a smarter, safer home. For more information or call our office at 618-665-3311 to get signed up today!



Pictured from left to right: Karissa Turner, MBA, FACHE, President & CEO Wabash General Hospital; Tyler J. Ditch, CPA, Controller Wabash General Hospital; Barry Adair, CEO/GM Wabash Communications CO-OP; Mary Warren, Business Programs Director, Rural Development U.S. Department of Agriculture

The USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant programs support rural projects by providing funding through local utility organizations. Under this program, the USDA offers zero-interest loans to local utilities, which then pass the funds directly to local businesses for projects aimed at creating and retaining employment in rural communities.

As a proud local utility provider, Wabash Communications CO-OP was honored to present a \$2,000,000 zero-interest loan to Wabash General Hospital. We are privileged to have had the opportunity to contribute to such a significant investment in our community's growth and well-being.

Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants

New
BENEFITS



Upcoming Business Related Webinars. 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.

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

Advance your Facebook knowledge and skills through this workshop, built to drive social media success!

Jan. 13 12:00 pm Social Media 101

Discover the power of social media to unlock new customer bases, expand your online presence, and drive unprecedented growth. Learn how to boost your follower count, enhance engagement through likes, shares, comments, and retweets.

Jan. 31 12:00pm Illinois State Legislative Update (U of I Extension Webinar)

Join Illinois Extension and the Illinois Association of County Board Members to learn about recent and potential changes in legislation at the state level, and implications for Illinois counties and local governments. An expert overview of legislation about employment bills, such as the Paid Leave Act, will be provided.

SBDC @ IECC

Are you an employer looking to stay ahead of the curve with the latest HR trends and legal updates? Don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity to learn from industry experts and network with fellow professionals!

This workshop will cover crucial topics such as upcoming legal HR issues on the horizon for 2025 and updates from Illinois Secure Choice. Plus, you'll get insights from the Illinois Department of Employment Security and learn about Cyber Security and You. HR Panel Experts will be on hand to answer your questions and provide practical advice. This is a must-attend event for anyone involved in managing employees and staying compliant with state regulations.

2025 EMPLOYER WORKSHOP



LOCATION:
THE TERRY L. BRUCE
WEST RICHLAND CENTER

TOPICS COVERED:

Upcoming Legal HR Issues on the Horizon

Updates from Illinois Secure Choice

Illinois Dept. of Employment Security

Cyber Security and You

HR Panel Experts

JAN.
9

SCAN TO SIGN UP!



Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants

As we welcome the new year, it's a time for fresh starts and new beginnings. For those tasked with OSHA recordkeeping, this includes certifying, posting, and uploading the 2024 OSHA Injury and Illness Logs while also initiating new 300 forms that, hopefully remain empty. In this installment brought to you by the [Illinois On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program](#), we'll outline responsibilities in accordance with the OSHA's Part 1904 that covers recordkeeping, we'll discuss partial exceptions, and we will also cover the Injury Tracking Application (ITA). Along the way, we will also provide an overview of essential documents and reporting requirements.

Partially Exempt

Eighty percent of private sector employers are exempt from maintaining OSHA forms 300, 300A and 301, collectively referred to as OSHA Injury and Illness Logs. OSHA has set minimum employee thresholds to reduce the compliance burden on smaller businesses and has specific exemptions for low-hazard industries. Employers who did not exceed a company-wide peak of 11 employees at any time during 2024 are not required to maintain these logs. Sectors, such as retail, professional services, restaurants, and bars, may be exempt due to being classified as low-hazard industries. A comprehensive list of exempt industries based on NAICS codes can be found on the [OSHA.gov recordkeeping section](#)¹. Regardless of exemptions, all employers must still report work-related fatalities and severe injuries to OSHA.

Report a Fatality or Severe Injury

All work-related fatalities must be reported to OSHA within 8 hours, while in-patient hospitalizations, amputations, or loss of an eye must be reported within 24 hours. Reports can be submitted via phone to an OSHA area office or through the hotline at 1-800-312-OSHA (6742). Additionally, there is an option to file a report online (not via email) at <https://www.osha.gov/ords/ser/serform.html>. When reporting serious incidents, be prepared to provide contact and business information along with a brief incident description. An employer representative should make the report. Common inquiries about reporting injuries often revolve around the definitions of in-patient hospitalization and work-relatedness. Detailed discussions on these topics are too extensive for this article, but know that emergency room visits where the employee is "treated and released" are not considered in-patient hospitalizations. Motor vehicle accidents that result in death or injury on highways, public streets, or while traveling on commercial transportation are not reportable unless these are the employee's place of business (i.e., construction workers, flight attendants). All reportable incidents must be *recorded*, while most recordable incidents are not *reported*.



OSHA Forms for Recording Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses

Work-related deaths, injuries, and illnesses must be captured on the compilation of OSHA forms: 300, 300A and 301. Notably, workers' compensation and OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping are distinct from one another. The [suite of OSHA recording forms](#)² and instructions can be found on OSHA's website. The **OSHA Form 301** or equivalent must be completed within seven calendar days of becoming aware of any work-related incident and be retained for five years. The Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission **Form 45: Employer's First Report of Injury** is recognized as equivalent to OSHA Form 301. **OSHA Form 300** includes sensitive information related to employee health and must be managed to

Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants

protect employee confidentiality. This form records details of all work-related incidents that involve loss of consciousness, restricted work activity, job transfers, days away from work, or medical treatment beyond first aid. Significant work-related injuries and illnesses diagnosed by a healthcare professional are also documented in Form 300. **OSHA Form 300A**, which summarizes the data from Form 300, requires certification by an executive official and be posted for employee access between February 1 and April 30, regardless of whether any work-related injuries or illnesses occurred during the previous year. For some employers, recordkeeping data needs to be submitted electronically to OSHA.



Not all businesses are required to submit captured data to the [Injury Tracking Application \(ITA\)](#)³. The application is a secure website where employers can upload or manually enter OSHA 300 log data. The upload requirement is tied

to the number of employees and the NAICS industry classification. OSHA has developed a [web application tool](#)⁴ to help employers determine if they are required to upload data into the ITA.



The Illinois On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program can be an invaluable resource for employers who notice their OSHA 300 is too full for comfort. While the Illinois Department of Labor cannot help you fill out the forms nor provide assistance with your ITA

account, we do offer free and confidential safety and health assistance to small and medium-sized businesses. Consultation services include on-site visits, air sampling, program assistance, and training, all of which can contribute to creating a safer and healthier work environment while also potentially lowering your worker's compensation insurance. This program, brought to you at no cost by the State of Illinois, can provide the support and guidance you need to identify hazards, develop a hierarchy of controls for those hazards, and create an enduring safety and health program. Visit <https://worksafe.illinois.gov/> or contact Harry (Hap) Hileman with the Illinois Department of Labor at 217-993-2111 for more information.



RESOURCE ROUND-UP

Birthdays & Events logo | Clay County Health Department logo

*** **APRIL 24TH, 2025** ***

3:30 p.m.-6 p.m.
Charley Brown Park

WE ARE GEARING UP FOR OUR 3RD ANNUAL SPRING RESOURCE CARNIVAL! IF YOU ARE A LOCAL COMMUNITY AGENCY, CHURCH, VOLUNTEER BASED ORGANIZATION...WE WANT YOU!!!

CALL 618-662-4406 AND ASK FOR APRIL TO RESERVE YOUR BOOTH TODAY!

Clay County Health Dept.

The Clay County Health Department is gearing up for their 3rd Annual Spring Resource Carnival and are looking for local community agencies, churches, or volunteer based organizations to join in on all the fun!

Please reach out to April at 618-662-4406 for questions or to reserve your booth.

Community Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
January 8	5:00 pm	ACO Cornhole Regional	Nostalgia Theater
January 10	8:00 pm	Hayden Brown Band	Flora VFW
January 10	10:00 am-6:00 pm	Coffee Bar	Flora Rent One
January 11	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Coffee Bar	Flora Rent One
January 13	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
January 15	5:00 pm	ACO Cornhole Regional	Nostalgia Theater
January 20	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
January 21	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Seasoned Circle	Clay County Hospital
January 23	7:00 pm	Grief Share Support Group	Louisville First Baptist Church
January 27	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
January 30	7:00 pm	Grief Share Support Group	Louisville First Baptist Church

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

Deadline for all February Newsletter submissions will be Monday Jan. 22nd!

Chamber Member - Help Wanted

**NOW
HIRING!**



New Bartender
PART-TIME
 ★ EVENINGS
 ★ WEEKENDS
 ★ EVENTS

 GATSBY'S 45 LOUISVILLE

StaffQuick
IMMEDIATE
Forklift Positions
 📍 Flora, IL
 💰 \$17.50/hr
 🕒 2nd shift
 618-662-8400 | staffquickjobs.com

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, 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

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VICE PRESIDENT: MICHAEL GILL

TREASURER: CHRIS THOMPSON

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