

CHAMBER

chat

FEBRUARY | 2025



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!



**Flora
Chamber**
OF COMMERCE

**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 *Congratulations!*



Business of the Year: La Fuente Mexican Restaurant



State of the
Chamber Address
President
Doug Leak



Presenting
Business of the
Year
Director
Stephen Smith



New Business of the Year: The An-So Agency



Presenting New
Business of the
Year
Director
Chris Thompson



Citizen of the Year: Dana Milligan



State of Flora
Address
City Commissioner
Phil Wiley

CHAMBER NEWS



5th Annual

Chamber Bowling Tournament

Lace-up your bowling shoes & come on down to the 5th Annual Chamber Bowling Tournament! Last year, Salem's Ice Cream Corner won the trophies for the 4th year in a row, but can they maintain their victory or will YOUR team take the throne? You'll have to come to find out! Bowlers of all levels of experience are welcome (yes, that includes those of you who like to bowl "Granny Style"!).

*Team of 4 - \$100 Entry Fee (Shoe Rental is extra!)
Max of 10 Teams

We will play team against team until one team remains!

SATURDAY
APRIL 12TH, 2025
1:00 PM
FLORA BOWL



SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER!



Year in Advance Sponsorship Opportunities



Business Name: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone Number: _____

Please return to: 223 West Railroad Street Flora, IL 62839

As you plan your promotions/advertising budget for 2025, please consider sponsoring a Flora Chamber of Commerce event! Through the generosity of our members, we offer 7 major events this year to both our membership and the general public.

Sponsoring an event has several benefits for your business:

- **Increase Brand Visibility:** Put your brand in front of large audiences! You can increase your brand visibility through sponsor benefits, see those details below!
- **Business Exposure through Community Goodwill:** Customers and clients trust brands that care about investing in their community. Community involvement will set your business apart, and create an incentive for the community to support your business over the competition.
- **Efficiently Generate New Leads:** Not only do Chamber events connect you with a compatible customer base, they also allow you to show the "human side" of your business. By sponsoring and attending, you can interact with potential customers, learn about their needs, promote your products, and build a strong contact list.

2025 CHAMBER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

5th Annual Bowling Tournament: Lane Sponsor

Logo or business name listed in all fliers, graphics, and promotional items. Business name at the end of one of the lanes. and a team of 4 included! (Due no later than: April 1, 2025)

\$200 _____

Chamber Paddle Battle: Fence Sponsor

Logo or business name listed in all fliers, graphics, and promotional items, Business name or logo sign placed on fence, and a team of 2 included! (Due no later than: May 1, 2025)

\$150 _____

Chamber Golf Scramble: Gold Sponsor

Hole sponsorship highlighting your business on a 2x3 sign, logo or business name listed in all fliers, graphics, and promotional items, plus \$100 off team registration! (Due no later than: May 20, 2025)

\$400 _____

Chamber Golf Scramble: Silver Sponsor

Hole sponsorship highlighting your business on a 2x3 sign, logo or business name listed in all fliers, graphics, and promotional items. (Due no later than: May 20, 2025)

\$200 _____

Chamber Golf Scramble: Bronze Sponsor

Hole sponsorship highlighting your business on a 2x3 sign. (Due no later than: June 1, 2025)

\$100 _____

4th of July Celebration: Band Sponsor

Logo or business name listed in all fliers, graphics, and promotional items. Stage Banner with your business name or logo. (Due no later than: June 4, 2025)

\$800 _____

4th of July Celebration: Attraction Sponsor

Logo or business name listed in all fliers, graphics, and promotional items, 2x3 sign placed in high traffic area throughout Charley Brown Park. (Due no later than: June 4, 2025)

\$300 _____

Amateur Doubles Disc Golf Tournament: Silver Sponsor

Hole sponsorship highlighting your business on a 2x3 sign, logo or business name listed in all fliers, graphics, and promotional items. (Due no later than: Oct. 1, 2025)

\$200 _____

Amateur Doubles Disc Golf Tournament: Bronze Sponsor

Hole sponsorship highlighting your business on a 2x3 sign. (Due no later than: Oct. 1, 2025)

\$200 _____

Chamber Bucks Sponsor

Chamber Bucks are given out at various events such as the 4th of July Celebration, Moonlight Madness, FHS Food Service Class (Gingerbread House winners), and multiple social media promotions. As a sponsor, your business name will be listed on our website under "Chamber Bucks" as a sponsor as well as the Chamber Bucks brochure that is passed out when Chamber Bucks are given out. (Can be sponsored all year long)

\$50 _____

Total amount for my sponsorship packages: \$ _____

____ Invoice ____ Invoice directly before the event ____ Sponsorship included

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE FLORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!

The Flora Chamber of Commerce is your voice of business in Flora. We are here to assure the business concerns of our members are addressed and properly handled. Our priority is to promote Flora businesses present and future and to assure that anyone local or not so local receives any and all the information they might need to expand or create new business in our own area.

A LOOK INTO 2025



Chamber Bowling Tournament
April 12th, 2025



Chamber Scarecrow Contest Starts
October 1st, 2025



Flora Chamber Paddle Battle
May 17th, 2025



Amateur Doubles Disc Golf Tournament
October 11th, 2025



Chamber Golf Scramble
June 13th, 2025



Flora Halloween Parade
October 25th, 2025



Flora 4th of July Celebration
July 4th, 2025



Moonlight Madness
November 7th, 2025

MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT HIGHLIGHT



Is your business celebrating an anniversary or business milestone? New hire? Maybe you gave a worker a promotion or award? Let us know! We will celebrate right along side you and promote your business or organizations achievements!



IMPORTANT CHAMBER MEMBER INFO



NEXT BOARD MEETING

February 11th, 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

ESTABLISHED IN 1939

PH: 618-662-5646

FLORACHAMBER.COM

Member News



Mark your calendars because the Two Glitzy Girlz Formal Consignment sale is coming up soon!

When: February 4-7th 10am-5pm
and
February 8th 10am-4pm.

Two Glitzy Girlz
101 West North Ave
Flora, IL 62839



The Curly Tail



618-662-2900

CHICKEN WING
CHICKEN WING



HOTDOG &



BOLOGNA



CHICKEN &
MACARONI



CHILLIN' WITH MY HOMIE

What's new at Security Alarm?



Fully Solar Mobile Unit for Rent

This unit is perfect for contractors, electricians, municipalities and any other group that has a need to monitor an area where there might not be a permanent need and/or an area with out electricity.

For more information, give Security Alarm a call today at 618-548-3768!



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.

Member News

Coming up at Full Armor!



HOPE begins with you.

Full Armor Christian Academy Blood Drive

Full Armor Christian Academy

Gym
600 Erwin Street
Louisville, IL 62858

Friday, March 21, 2025
2:30 p.m. to 6:30 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.

By donating at this blood drive, you are helping one or more graduating seniors earn a scholarship! All presenting donors receive a Red Cross t-shirt, while supplies last!

Give in March for a \$10 Gift Card by email & successful donations get A1C testing. rcblood.org/March

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

© 2025 The American Red Cross | 389000-4

FEBRUARY
28TH ...

FRIDAY @ 6

**WORSHIP
OPEN MIC
NIGHT**



@ Common Grounds Coffee Shop

Come prepared with no more than 2 songs per person/group. We will have a keyboard set up. We will also have a hookup for a guitar and a sound system for a backing track.

Enjoy some amazing coffee and even more amazing worship!

To sign up or for more information contact Megan mmaysfal@gmail.com / 618-839-9772

Princess Party

February 22nd

1-3 PM

\$25 PER GIRL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



Questions call
618-665-4441

FULL ARMOR INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AT
NOSTALGIA THEATER IN FLORA
*CORONATION OF PRINCESSES LED
BY PAIGE VANDYKE AND BRILEY MULLENS AND THEIR
ROYAL COURT

*ARTS & CRAFTS

*SNACKS

*HAIR AND NAIL SALONS

*STORY TIME WITH PAIGE

*PHOTO BOOTH

*EACH PRINCESS WILL RECEIVE A CROWN AND
SEPTER



Member News

Flora Farmer's Market

Every Saturday starting May 3rd - Sept. 27th
8am - Noon

Flora Library Park



We're Dreaming of...

Spring

Flora City-Wide Yard Sales

May 16th & 17th, 2025



Flora Clean-Up Days

May 19th - 23rd, 2025



SAVE THE DATE



BLACK & TAN DAYS

APRIL 30 - MAY 3RD
CLAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS



Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants

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.

Feb. 25th 12:00pm Mastering Small Business Taxes - A Startup Guide to Taxes(Webinar)

Don't miss out on the opportunity to enhance your tax literacy. Join our upcoming webinar to learn how to optimize your small business tax strategy. In this webinar, our expert presenter, Barbara Weltman, will guide you through the key aspects of small business taxes to help you enhance your tax literacy and empower your business for financial success.

After this webinar, you will walk away with a better understanding of taxes, including:

- How your choice of entity affects your tax bill*
- Why and how taxes influence business decisions*
- How to find answers to tax questions when running your business*
- When and how to work with tax professionals*
- Strategies to lower your tax bill*



SERVSAFE® MANAGER CERTIFICATION TRAINING

DATE: FEBRUARY 24 + 25, 2025	PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION FOR FOOD SERVICE MANAGERS
TIME: 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CST)	MULTI-SESSION COURSE FORMAT
COST: NO COST	BOOKS AND TEST MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT OCC BOOKSTORE
LOCATION: OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE	
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 17, 2025	

SBDC @ IECC

Level up your food service skills! Join us for ServSafe Manager Certification training at Olney Central College. FREE course - Feb 24, 3-8PM. Register by Feb 17! Books Available at the OCC Bookstore.

To register: <https://ilsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/40129>

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.

Contact Michelle Brooks, 618-562-3744. 320 East North Avenue, Noble IL., 62868. Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U. S. SBA, the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, and the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges.

Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

Learn about how to secure up to \$245,000 for your business!

The 2024 Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment ("OE3") Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program is designed to help small businesses strengthen their operations, overcome financial challenges, and continue contributing to their communities and Illinois' economy. This funding opportunity is designed to support businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI) or very small businesses (VSBs) by providing financial assistance for capital improvement projects that will drive business growth, enhance operational efficiency, promote sustainability, and support job creation and retention.

OE3, Illinois Office of Regional Economic Development, Illinois SBDC at EIU, and Illinois SBDC at IECC invite you to attend a webinar to learn more about this grant. Register now at: tinyurl.com/35zhbdzk or scan the code.



Wednesday | February 5, 2025 | 2:00 - 3:00 pm



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Registration is now open for the Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program webinar being held on Tuesday, Feb 5th 2-3pm, for anyone interested in more information. ***The Flora Chamber of Commerce will also live stream this webinar at the B&O Depot Train Room for anyone interested who may not have internet/computer access.***

This webinar will provide overall grant information, guidance on completing the program application for this funding opportunity, and an opportunity for Q & A. After the grant program overview, we will share resources for business owners that are offered by DCEO and the Illinois Small Business Centers.

Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants



Last month's article by On-Site, "New Year, New OSHA Logs," discussed completing a new OSHA 300 log, leading to a surge of questions. Before answering the fundamental question that every safety and health professional encounters during their career, we must first clarify what a workplace environment is, and understand OSHA's definition of an establishment. We will also delve into the definition of "workplace activities" before we can adequately respond to the question: **Should I record injuries sustained due to slips, trips, and falls from ice or snow while employees are at or commuting to work?**

29 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) [Part 1904](#)¹ is OSHA's Injury and Illness Recordkeeping Rule. All references in this article stem from this standard and individual hyperlinks will guide readers to either OSHA's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) or Standard Interpretations. These interpretations are OSHA's official responses to employer questions received via letters or emails, offering insight into applying everyday scenarios to OSHA standards. Each published standard includes interpretations, with a complete list available [here](#)².

Commuting to Work: When does OSHA consider an employee to have arrived at work? To answer this, we need to understand what constitutes a workplace or establishment. OSHA defines an establishment as any physical location where business is conducted or where services or industrial operations occur. In simpler terms, an establishment is where your employees perform work. A single business location can be divided into multiple establishments based on operations and property size. Ownership or control of the property is not part of this definition; however, ownership or control becomes critical when addressing commuting-related injuries.

Last year, OSHA clarified [Ms. Leann Johnson-Koch's](#)³ questions regarding commuting injuries, reaffirming that injuries sustained during commutes to and from an establishment are not deemed as work-related. However, once employees enter property controlled or owned by the employer and exit a vehicle, all injuries sustained during the commute are considered work-related. According to [OSHA's recordkeeping resources](#)⁴, questions 5-10 explain that injuries occurring in non-establishment parking lots or shared parking areas, which are not under the employer's control or ownership, do not fall under the worksite definition. Consequently, incidents occurring while traveling to work outside of a vehicle are not considered work-related until the employee enters the employer's controlled or owned property.

Workplace Activities: OSHA has outlined exemptions for injuries or illnesses that are not considered work-related within the work environment; specifically, 1904.5(b)(2)¹ lists nine exempted scenarios. Let's focus on subparagraph (iii), which pertains to participation in a voluntary wellness program while "on the clock." Employers are not required to record injuries if employees are on the property as members of the general public, voluntarily participating in wellness programs, eating or drinking for personal consumption, performing personal tasks *outside* of assigned working hours, engaging in personal grooming, receive self-inflicted injuries, or experience motor vehicle accidents on the establishment grounds. While there are additional exemptions, they fall outside the scope of this article.

In 2000, OSHA addressed [Linda Ballas' question](#)⁵ regarding the recordability of employees' injuries sustained by walking during lunch or breaks while on company property that is not a recreational facility. OSHA said these would be recordable incidents, emphasizing, "Injuries occurring in the work

Training Opportunities, Seminars, & Grants



environment are considered work-related. The specific activity the employee was engaged in at the time of the injury is not the controlling factor.” Clocking in does not affect the determination of work-relatedness as this would fall under the commuting clause of the standard. The phrase “personal task” from 1904.5(b)(2) ¹ has been used unsuccessfully to argue against recordability, as recently addressed in Ms. Leann Johnson-Koch’s inquiry ³. OSHA clarified that if employees slip on ice and are injured during a smoke break, such incidents must be considered work-related because they occurred during working hours, even if they were engaged in personal tasks.

Should I record injuries sustained due to slips, trips, and falls from ice or snow while employees are at or commuting to work? Based on OSHA’s standard 1904.5 ¹, FAQs ⁴, and Standard Interpretations ², the answer is YES, but only after they have entered property controlled or owned by the employer and they have exited their vehicle. This applies regardless of being “on the clock.” It is advisable to keep employer-controlled or owned sidewalks, parking lots, and roadways clear of slip, trip, and fall hazards to prevent employee injuries.

The Illinois On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program can be an invaluable resource for employers to help identify other slip, trip, and fall hazards at your establishment. While the Illinois Department of Labor cannot help you fill out the OSHA forms line-by-line, we do offer free and confidential safety and health assistance to small and medium-sized businesses. Consultation services include on-site visits, air and noise sampling, and 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 premiums. 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 or harry.hileman@illinois.gov for more information.



* The 21(d) On-Site Consultation Cooperative Agreement is funded by a federal grant, constituting ninety percent of the overall budget. State funds finance ten percent.

Upcoming Trainings, Seminars, etc.

Chamber Members! We want to hear from you! What topics would you like us to cover in the future? Send us an email or Facebook message with your suggestions!

Community Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
February 1	7:00 am - 10:00 am	Benefit Breakfast	CC/SS American Legion
February 3	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
February 4	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	TGG Formal Dress Consignment Sale	Two Glitzy Girlz
February 5	By Appointment	Children's Orthopedic Clinic	Flora Medical Clinic
February 5	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	TGG Formal Dress Consignment Sale	Two Glitzy Girlz
February 6	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	TGG Formal Dress Consignment Sale	Two Glitzy Girlz
February 6	7:00 pm	Grief Share Support Group	Louisville First Baptist Church
February 7	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	TGG Formal Dress Consignment Sale	Two Glitzy Girlz
February 8	10:00 am - 3:30 pm	TGG Formal Dress Consignment Sale	Two Glitzy Girlz
February 9	4:00 pm	Super Bowl Party	Clay County Country Club
February 10	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
February 13	7:00 pm	Grief Share Support Group	Louisville First Baptist Church
February 16	2:00 pm	Kris Loker Live!	Storm Brewing LLC
February 17	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
February 20	All Day	CCFB Ag In the Classroom Fundraiser	Los Tres Caminos
February 22	11:00 am - 8:00 pm	Bruce Sharp Benefit	Clay City Comm. Bldg
February 22	4:00 - 7:00 pm	Chili Fundraiser	Xenia Fire Station
February 22	6:00 pm	Celebrity Celebrations Murder Mystery Diner	Nostalgia Theater
February 24	9:00 am-11:00 am	Clay Co. Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry	1101 Austin Ave, Flora
February 24	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Seasoned Circle	Clay County Hospital
February 27	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 months community calendar post!

Deadline for all March Newsletter submissions will be Monday Feb. 22nd!



Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and these Chamber Member florists have everything you need to make it extra special! From beautiful bouquets to decadent chocolates, finding the perfect gift is easy. Order early to make sure your sweetheart gets a stunning surprise!



Angela's Village Florist
115 E. North Ave - Flora
618-662-2121



The Mustard Seed
250 Rt. 45 S. - Louisville
618-665-7333



Chamber Member - Help Wanted



Chamber Members **HIRING**

City of Flora
(Lifeguards)

Wabash
Communications

North American
Lighting

Clay Medical Clinic

Clay County Hospital

Probst Auto Body

Clay County Health
Dept.

Sydenstricker Nobbe
Partners

Huck's Food & Fuels

Priceless IGA

Visit florachamber.com for job descriptions, or for more information please reach out to the individual businesses.

NOW HIRING!!!

Production & assembly Positions

- Flora, IL
- ALL shifts Available
- Must have good work History
- Availability to work overtime and weekends

📞 **618-662-8400**

✉️ FLORA@STAFFQUICKJOBS.COM

APPLY NOW



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**NORTH AMERICAN
LIGHTING**

A **Koito** Group Company



StaffQuick

How to Apply

Online: www.StaffQuickJobs.com

In Person: Stop by our local branch

Call Today!

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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