

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Axline Pharmacy

West Central
Powersports

THE CHAMBER COURIER

April 2022

The monthly business publication of the Canton Area

Your Chamber Ambassadors are here for your business.

Emylee Bitner, Bank of Farmington
Samantha Braden, Rhoades Real Estate
Bobby Brown, Flat Branch Home Loans
Rachel Bundy, Graham Health System
Joe Christian, MidAmerica National Bank
Stephen Clark, Town and Country Insurance
Jason Coulter, Big Cat's Bowls
Kiley Davis-Crouse, Davis Buick GMC
Sherri Delost, Jim Maloof Realtor
Sandy Edsall, Davis Ford
Kim Fischer, Canton Harvester Inn
Jace Fletcher, Shelter Insurance
Jake Secrist, Mid Century Fiber
Jeromie Hale, Bistro 101
Seth Klinedinst, Crawford's Home Furnishings
John Lemon - Rise Canton
Dave Lewis, Dave Lewis Studio, Ltd.
Taryn Mellert, Spoon River Electric
JJ Montgomery - Mel's Sporting Goods
Amanda Reed, MidAmerica National Bank
Chase Shawgo, Ipava State Bank
Codi Swibold, Hy-Vee Food Stores
AJ Thum, Associates in Dentistry



Thank You Small Business Owners

by: Christina Green

Small business owners are a crucial part of our economy. According to a Forbes report over 120 million people are employed by small businesses. Small businesses create around 70% of the jobs each year in the U.S. according to a report released by the Small Business Administration.

But not everyone is cut out to be a small business owner. As we offer our thanks to these special folks (because they do deserve our thanks), I also want to point out the kind of fortitude it takes to be a success. These exceptional individuals inspire us at the same time they are building our economy.

Thank you small business owners for:

Knowing that Following Your Dream is Priceless.

Following your dreams is priceless but also expensive. Some small business owners mortgage their homes to follow their dreams. Kudos for having the drive to make it a reality and to go for it even when it seems impossible.

Working 80 Hours to Avoid Working 40 for Someone Else.

Owning a small business often means working around the clock. Even when your business is closed, you are working on ways to improve it, market it and serve your customers better. You know hard work is the only way to be successful but when it's your passion and livelihood you don't question work/life balance because you're working to make your life better.

Defying the Odds & Rebelling Against Convention.

The easier route is to work for someone else, to punch a clock

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COME AND JOIN US!
CANTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS

after hours

Take some
swings to
win prizes

HOSTED THIS MONTH BY:



G-M MECHANICAL



THE TLC HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC



**WEE-MA-TUK
COUNTRY CLUB**



**Jim Maloof
REALTOR**

**Location Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills
Country Club**

Thursday, April 21

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Food, beverages, fun, giveaways and networking

Canton

CRUISE-IN

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 17

2022



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Jana Emmons, Ipava State Bank
Vice President - Chad Holloway, OSF HealthCare
Treasurer - Chad Murphy, Spoon River College
Secretary - Erin Watson, Watson Center for Wellness

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Business and Community Development
 Jason Gumbart, Apex Seed Company

Government Affairs
 Jay Valencia, Canton High School

Member & Public Relations
 Diane Bell, Di's Boutique

Ashton Dare, MidAmerica National Bank
 Jason Elwell, Peculiar Projects
 Greg Glomb, Edward Jones
 Larrilyn Hall, Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club
 Renee Lewis, Jim Maloof Realtor
 Lacey Neal, Rock Valley Physical Therapy
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jon Johnson, Canton Park District
 Mayor Kent McDowell, City of Canton
 Superintendent Tad Derenzy, CUSD #66
 President Curt Oldfield, Spoon River College

STAFF

Executive Director - Carla Bobell
Assistant Director - Caitlin Mason

48 N. Main Street, Canton, IL 61520
 (309) 647-2677
cantonareachamber@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



The 97th Annual Chamber Dinner & Awards took place on Thursday, March 10th at the Lakeview Event Center & Banquet Hall in Canton with the theme of Denim & Diamonds. At this event we recognized three very deserving winners of the Excellence Awards given out by the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce. Those winners are:

Educator of the Year - Kim Malone (left) - Nicole Zasada, school counselor at Canton High school said “Kim is an invaluable asset to Canton Union School District #66. She is a phenomenal teacher with a huge heart. Her kind and authentic personality are her greatest attributes. CHS is a better place because of Kim Malone. She has made a lifelong impact on her students and colleagues.

Business Person of the Year - Jeromie “Fonz” Hale (middle) - It was quoted that Fonz has a very calm demeanor and creates a welcoming atmosphere at the Bistro 101 where he is the head chef, bartender, greeter, or in other words, he runs the place! The restaurant could be very busy but Fonz moves through it all with ease helping in every area of the restaurant and bar. His employees say he is the best boss who makes it fun to work at the Bistro, located at 101 E. Elm in Canton.

Citizen of the Year - Paula Grigsby (right) - Paula has been employed by the Canton Family YMCA since 1987 when Don Heller approached her to join their team. Speaking of teams, Paula built a nationally recognized Tumbling Tornado team that continues to compete today at the USTA competitions. Decades of students have been coached, taught, encouraged, inspired, motivated and “loved on” over the years by Paula.



THANK YOU TO THE CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER SPONSORS

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**Bank of
Farmington**



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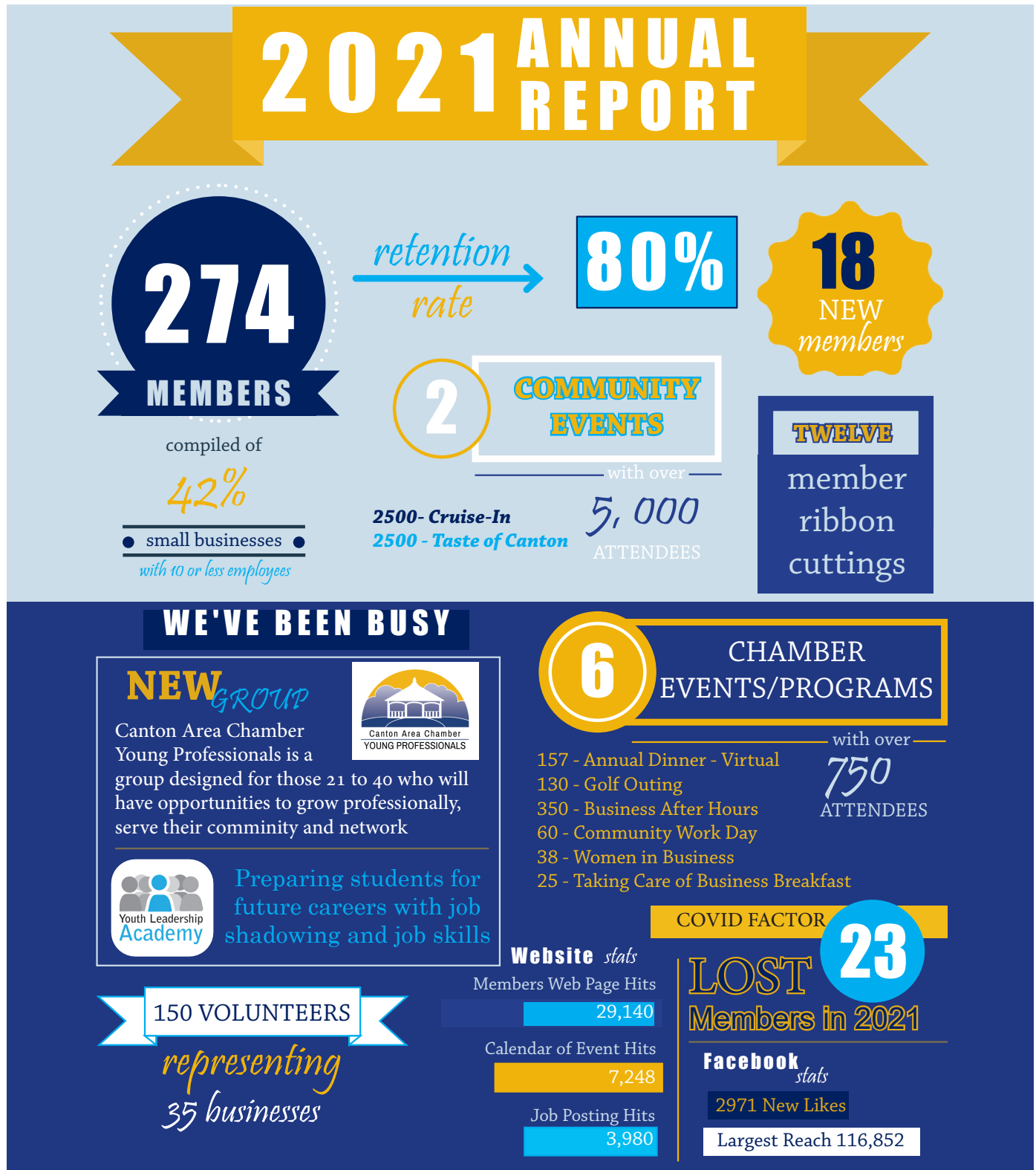
WE ALSO THANK.....



JARROD DAVIS
& HIS TEAM
FROM CORNERSTONE
CAFE WITH GRAHAM
HEALTH SYSTEM FOR
THE GREAT MEAL

CHAMBER ANNUAL REPORT

Every year the Chamber gives a report during the Annual Dinner. This is a snap shot of numbers from 2021.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Opening Soon!

309-435-0958

Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

From the moment you walk in their doors, you will realize **Axline Pharmacy** is not like any other in town. Unlike other larger pharmacies that are inside of a store, Axline Pharmacy is truly JUST a pharmacy and you are only a few steps away from the pharmacy counter where their friendly staff will greet you.

At Axline Pharmacy they care about each and every customer which means their focus allows them to go the extra mile to find the best price, best solutions and most efficient means possible to get you the prescriptions you need to live your best life. With the most advanced technology, welcoming space & free delivery, Axline Pharmacy makes managing your prescriptions a truly enjoyable experience. Prescriptions will be filled while you wait. In most cases you will be in and out of the pharmacy in less than 15 minutes.

They welcome Pharmacists Morgan Bair, PharmD and Troy Williams, RPh to serve you and your needs. Axline Pharmacy looks forward to serving the Canton community.

West Central Powersports was established in 2015.

They sell new and used ATV's and UTV's. Some brand names are Mossimo, Kandi and they sell dirt bikes. Just recently West Central Powersports became an official TORO mower dealer including hand held TORO products.

Not only do they sell powersports and mowers, but they also offer service.

Owner, Kyle Bainter has worked for the department of corrections since January of 2013 but has now taken his West Central Powersports business to the next level by opening up a store front located on 5th Avenue in Canton.



Kyle, and his wife Jessica, have lived in Canton all of their life and are raising their two boys, Bryce and Owen here. Kyle is an outdoors lover and has ridden powersports since he was 6 years old and plans to share this same passion not only with his boys, but with the Canton and surrounding communities. Kyle and his family have always been big supporters of local businesses and he is very excited to have a business of his own to give back to his community.

West Central Powersports is located at 406 South 5th Avenue, which is also the home to Midwest Cedar & Timber. Stop in to see the show room or give them a call at 309-338-5121 or check out their website at www.westcentralpowersports.com or their Facebook page.

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and get a pay check, even when you go on vacation. But you didn't take the easy way out and you have traded in a traditional vacation for a work vacation. Thank you for not listening to the laughs or the naysayers you heard along the way.

Setting an Example and Carrying on Tradition.

Small business owners are often described as the backbone of our economy but they are also the foundation. No one likes to drive down their Main Street to see empty buildings that once were. Small business owners, you keep the community dreams alive, as well as your own. You give us hope that our town will continue to thrive.

Having the Courage to Try Something New.

Small businesses are often able to be more agile than larger businesses who have to run everything through "corporate." Business owners wear many hats and are tasked with knowing a little about every aspect of their business. If they were not versed in marketing or sales before opening their business, they teach themselves. If they didn't understand social media (especially when the pandemic hit) they learned. If they didn't understand how to hook up a printer to a new computer, you guessed it, they figured it out.

It is said that stagnation is equal to starvation in a small business. To you, the owners, know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. We realize you work hard so you and your family can have better lives, you give back to your community constantly, and you also keep the dreams of future business owners burning bright. You maintain a quality of life for our communities just by your presence, and you set an example for our children. Thank you for going outside of your comfort zone to experiment with things unknown. You are all brave souls and we salute you!

We all say THANK YOU!

Thank You

FOR SUPPORTING



A SMALL
BUSINESS



MESSAGE FROM SPOON RIVER PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Applications for the Fulton County Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant ended on March 31st. The Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development began accepting applications on February 14th and had over 50 local small businesses apply for relief money to help with ongoing struggles from the pandemic. Grant funding will be rewarded this spring.

There are many exciting projects underway and in the planning stages, as well as several new businesses opening in Canton! A few businesses that you can expect to see getting their project underway or have already opened their doors include: Arby's, VR Meat Company, Out Hustle Training Facility, Midwest Cedar & Timber, West Central Powersports (featured as a new business in this issue of the Chamber Courier), Development Project at Former East Side Antiques building, Cup of Canton, Development Project at Former Canton Daily Ledger building, and many more! Small business development and downtown revitalization projects are on the rise in Canton, and 2022 is primed to be a significant year for Canton and Fulton County.



Executive Director, Cole McDaniel



NOT A MEMBER OF THE CANTON CHAMBER YET?

The Canton Area Chamber is open to any business, organization or individual who has the desire to stay connected to your community, is interested in being informed and looks for opportunities to be involved.

Once you have joined the Canton Chamber team, you will find new chances to get your business or organization noticed or become involved in a variety of community events like the Canton Cruise-In or Taste of Canton. Sponsorships are made available to show your support of our community events, which builds trust in your customers, clients or patients.

We are especially helpful to those who own a small business by offering assistance in creating flyers that you and the Chamber will use to help promote your company and specials. We can help advocate for those who do not have a network of people to fight for their rights as a business and we can be very informative in times of struggle, like a pandemic.

Not only is the Chamber a partner working along side your business, but we are also a friend you can call on when things go wrong or even on the flip side, when things are going great! The Chamber has been here for the business community since 1925 and we plan to continue to carry that torch and help as many businesses and organizations as we can along the way. Come and join the team!



Visit www.cantonillinois.org, click on Join the Chamber and fill out your application today!

www.facebook.com/CACC61520

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CUSD #66

COVID statistics in our school district continues to decline and have been at their lowest levels since the beginning of the pandemic. This trend along with the recent ruling from the Illinois Supreme Court and the change in required state mandated mitigation efforts are making it possible for our school district to return to more normal times. The most noticeable change has been that students are no longer required to wear masks indoors. Masks will continue to be available for all students, staff, and visitors that would like to wear one.

Also, for the past two years our district facilities have not been available for public use. As of March 15th, 2022 the public can once again use the facilities. Please contact the appropriate school if you would like more information on renting one of our facilities.

We will continue to monitor the COVID infection rates in our schools and follow our revised Return to Learn plan that can be found on the district website at cantonusd.org. If COVID infection rates remain low we will continue to reduce mitigation requirements. The past two years have been challenging and the impact of COVID has been significant. I am thankful and proud of the immense community support that the school district has received and continues to receive.



Tad DeRenzy

SAVE THE DATE:

Canton High School Commencement ceremonies will begin at 7:00 p.m. on May 13th, 2022 at the Memorial Stadium. We look forward to recognizing the Class of 2023!

WEE-MA-TUK Hills Country Club

ANNUAL CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, May 20, 2022

LUNCH - 11:00
TEE-OFF - 12:00

\$10,000 HOLE-IN-ONE CONTEST
Sponsored by:
American Family Insurance
Tyson Smith

4 Person Scramble
Team Fee: \$300
Includes Golf, Cart, and Lunch

Questions: Carla Bobell
(309) 647-2677
cbobell@cantonillinois.org
www.cantonillinois.org

**GET YOUR
TEAM
TOGETHER
FOR A
GREAT DAY
OF GOLF &
FUN!**



COMMUNITY WORK DAY

Saturday April 23, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Arrive at 8:45 am in Jones Park

Downtown Canton

Rain Date is Saturday, May 7, 2022



HOSTED BY



We are looking for members of the community and groups to volunteer to help with projects around the Canton Community. Volunteers who participate will be assisting with projects at some of our local agencies, schools and Jones Park in downtown Canton.

Projects will possibly include:

- Painting
- Spreading Gravel
- Spreading Mulch
- General clean-up
- Planting
- Pulling weeds
- Cleaning Cabins
- Maintaining Trails
- Cleaning gutters

If you or those from your business are interested in volunteering or have a location that has a potential project, please contact the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce office at 309-647-2677 Ext. 2 or email at cbobell@cantonillinois.org





150% CLUB

The 150% Club is an optional membership upgrade that provides added exposure for your business. By paying an additional 150% of regular membership dues at the time of your renewal or new membership, your business can join the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce's 150% Club.

Meet our

2022 MEMBERS

A&M Storage Company
 Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine
 American Family Insurance
 American Legion Post #16
 APEX Seed Company
 Art Hossler Auto Plaza
 Associates in Dentistry
 Axline Pharmacy
 Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates, Ltd.
 Ben Hendricks Trucking, Inc.
 Camille's of Canton
 Canton Church of the Brethren
 Canton Elks Lodge
 Canton Family YMCA
 CEFCU Canton Member Center
 Central Illinois Lighting & Signs, Inc.
 CFC Properties
 Comcast Business
 COOK Medical
 Crawford's Home Furnishing
 Dana Smith
 Dempster Insurance Agency
 First Christian Church
 Froehling, Weber & Schell, LLP
 Fulton County Emergency Medical Assoc.
 Fulton County Housing Authority
 Fulton County Septic
 Giant Goose Ranch
 G-M Mechanical of Canton, Inc.
 Harold Jump
 Helping Hands Resale Shoppe
 Hocker, Fitzjarrald & Richardson, PC CPAs
 Holthaus Companies, Inc.
 Hulvey Law
 Ipava State Bank

- John Clark
- Johnson & Johnson, P.C.
- Jones Surveying & Engineering Corp
- Kevin & Debbie Stephenson
- Kevin Meade
- Kiwanis Club of Canton
- Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
- MidAmerica National Bank
- Mid Century Fiber
- Midwest Dental
- Monical's Pizza
- North Central Behavioral Health Systems
- Oak-Hines Funeral Homes
- Official Time Out
- OSF Healthcare
- Otto Stephenitch
- Phil Miller
- Pizza Hut
- Progressive Vision Center, LTD
- Pure Green, LLC
- RK Dixon
- Rhoades Real Estate & Land Auction Services
- RISE Canton
- Scott Miller
- Sedgwick Funeral Homes & Crematory
- Sherwin-Williams
- Spoon River Media, LLC
- State Farm Insurance - Chuck Taylor
- Stinauer Family Dentistry
- Timbuk Tech, Inc.
- Town & Country Insurance Agency
- Unity Point Clinic of Canton
- Walgreen's of Canton
- Walmart of Canton
- West Central Powersports