

**Micro-Grant Program** 



# Canton Main Street Micro Grant

Canton Main Street wants to help entrepreneurs take steps towards opening new businesses, expanding an existing business they've just purchased, or maintain a current business in our downtown. To this end Canton Main Street will be providing two \$1,500 grants in 2023. The first \$1,500 grant this spring will be for new businesses or a new owner expanding an existing business they just purchased. The second \$1,500 grant this fall will be for an already established business.

Applications for the first grant will be accepted starting Wednesday, May 17th. If you or any business owners you know may be interested, please reach out to Cole McDaniel, Executive Director of the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development. Phone: 309-647-2677 Ext: 4, or Email: cmcdaniel@cantonillinois.org

### **31 Artists Exhibiting at Art on Main**



## **CLC Documentary Screening**





## **American Legion Honor Flight**



# MAY 20TH, 2023

# 11am - 3pm

All Proceeds Will be Donated to the

Honor Flight 50/50 RAFFLE

Food and Drinks will be Available for Purchase



**Canton Cruise-In** 



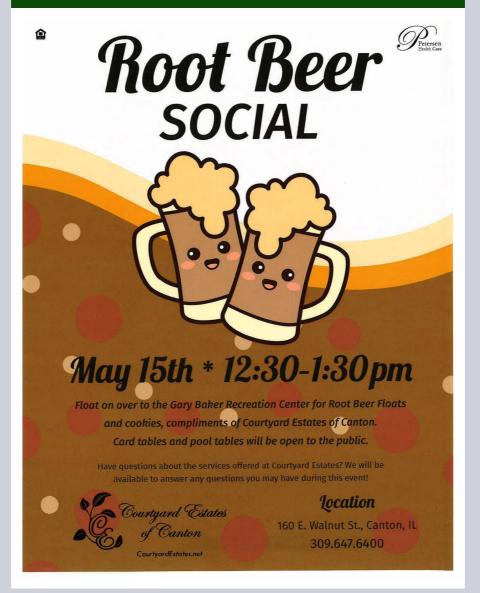
Saturday, May 20th 8 am - 11 am

**Shred Day** 

Comm



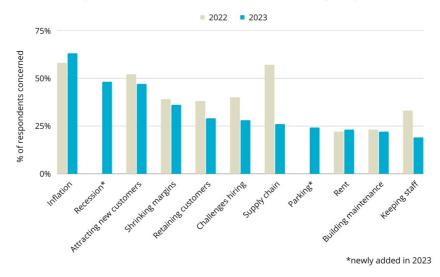
### **Root Beer Social**



2023 Main Street America Survey Results

# SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS

See how respondents rated their concerns in 2023 and how they compare to 2022:



### Survey Says - Main Street Businesses Confidence is Growing and Other Findings from the Spring 2023 Small Business Survey

The Spring 2023 Small Business Survey offered many insights that are valuable for Main Street programs looking to better support their businesses. Topline, data-backed takeaways include:

- Small businesses' sources of pride and strengths offer inspiration for successful "shop local" promotions.
- Downtowns and commercial corridors as the home of small, independent small businesses, especially those that are womenand family-owned.
- The broad range of concerns seen in the 2022 Small Business Survey have lessened, though concerns about a possible recession loom large.
- Owners of businesses located in, or served by, Main Street programs were more confident about their business success and more optimistic about their potential for revenue and staffing growth in 2023.
- Owners of retail businesses and businesses that have been in operation for more than 10 years are feeling greater precarity and nervousness, so offering extra support to these businesses could be especially beneficial.

There's so much more behind these top takeaways! Keep reading for a full analysis of these survey results, including comparisons to previous surveys, as well as insights on how to use this information to help inform your work supporting entrepreneurs on Main Street.



#### **CMS Membership Form**

### Thank You to our new or renewing members!



#### A Message from the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development (SRPED)...



The Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development is committed to community engagement and downtown revitalization efforts. We believe that a thriving downtown is the heart of any community, and we are dedicated to ensuring that downtown Canton is a vibrant and prosperous place for everyone.

To achieve this goal, we will be working on a new initiative to engage with the local community and involve them in the revitalization efforts of downtown Canton. We believe that community engagement is the key to success, and we want to hear from you!

We want to know what you love about downtown, what you think could be improved, and what kinds of businesses and amenities you would like to see in the area.

We will be holding a series of town hall meetings and community events to gather input from residents, business owners, and other stakeholders. We encourage everyone to attend these events and share their ideas and feedback. Your input will help us create a revitalization plan that reflects the needs and desires of the community.

In addition to community engagement, we are also working to attract new businesses and investment to Fulton County. We believe that a diverse mix of businesses and amenities is essential for county wide growth, and we are actively seeking out new opportunities to bring in new businesses and create new jobs.

We are also working to improve the physical appearance of downtown Canton. We believe that a clean, attractive, and wellmaintained downtown is essential for attracting both residents and visitors. We are partnering with local organizations and businesses to beautify the downtown area, with initiatives ranging from street cleaning and landscaping to public art installations.

In conclusion, the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development is committed to community engagement, downtown revitalization and supporting local businesses; among many other initiatives. We believe that by working together, we can create a downtown that is prosperous, vibrant, and welcoming to everyone. We encourage everyone to get involved and help us shape the future of downtown Canton.



SRPED is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for economic and community development. Our mission is to create community partnerships, business opportunities, and implement programs and projects that foster growth and development.

#### **SRPED** Website



President: Dana Smith; Vice President & Organization Chair: Eric Duffield, Secretary: Jodi Wilcoxen; Treasurer: Ryan Spangler, Promotions Chair: Carol Kohler, Board Members: Kevin Stephenson. Staff Members: Cole McDaniel and Amanda Sampson

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#### **CMS Website**

Canton Main Street is committed to the revitalization and preservation of Canton's historic downtown by promoting a positive community image, fostering downtown business growth and development, and encouraging ongoing efforts to improve the heart of our community.

Canton Main Street 48 N. Main St. Canton, IL 61520 (309)647-2677 Ext: 3

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