

**Welcome
to
2020!**

THE CHAMBER COURIER

January 2020

The monthly business publication for the Canton Area

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 11

American Legion Breakfast
Canton American Legion Hall
7:30 am - 10:00 am

January 16

Business After Hours
Location TBD
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

January 18

Glacial Golf
Starts at Canton VFW
11:00 am - 6:30 pm

January 23

Lunch and Learn Presented by Ameren
Graham Hospital Lobby Conference Room
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

January 30

Taking Care of Business Breakfast
Graham Hospital Lobby Conference Room
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

February 1

Fulton/Mason Eagle Day
Dickson Mounds Musuem
All day

Check out the full Calendar of Events
www.cantonillinois.org
for more details and other events!

Are You Ready for the Changes in 2020?

by Carla Bobell

The State of Illinois is continuing to reshape the employment landscape; supervisors, managers and employers need to know how to handle specific topics in accordance with the new Illinois Laws. If you have not signed up for a new Mandatory Anti-Sexual Harassment Training course, you need to make this a priority. The Illinois Chamber is providing many course locations in Springfield, Chicago or Effingham. Go to <https://ilchamber.org/business-resources/events2/> to get registered and to find more information. You can also receive an electronic package which includes a written anti-harassment policy checklist for your Illinois businesses and a sample policy template for assuring your company is in compliance with sexual harassment avoidance.

With so many new employment laws, the State of Illinois has also created a new Supervisor Handbook which is now available. This Supervisor Handbook provides useful tips and guidance on how to handle numerous situations that arise in the workplace. To receive this handbook you must attend a full day seminar on Thursday, January 16 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce office in Springfield. This full day seminar will provide the necessary framework for all supervisors and provide the needed updates that supervisors are seeking for 2020.

Topics addressed include:

- Overview Of The Numerous Employment Laws In The State of Illinois
- How Supervisors Should Handle Everyday Situation From Hiring to Termination
- How Supervisors Need To Incorporate All Of The Recent Employment Laws Into Its Workplace
- Guidance to Sexual Harassment Training For 2020
- How Supervisors Need To Handle Marijuana Situations Starting In 2020
- Other necessary situation that all supervisors need to know how to handle

Register on the Illinois Chamber of Commerce website listed above. Be in compliance and be prepared. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our local Chamber office at 647-2677 ext. 3.

Special Events



SAVE THE DATE: JAN. 23, 2020

Presented by Ameren Illinois and The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce

Graham Hospital - Lobby Conference Room
210 West Walnut Street — Canton
Thursday Jan. 23, 2020 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Ameren Illinois, will be hosting a Lunch and Learn event on **Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020**. You are encouraged to attend this event to learn how your business, organization, or public-sector entity can apply for cash incentives to help pay for part of your next electric or natural gas energy efficiency projects (many of which have paybacks of less than one year!).

Reserve your place now for this special event, where you will:

- » Learn about the award-winning energy efficiency programs from Ameren Illinois
- » Find out about the variety of cash incentives available for your business or organization
- » Discover ways for small businesses to reduce energy costs
- » Learn how, as a trade business, to get cash incentives for your customers
- » Hear updates on Ameren Illinois' future infrastructure plans
- » Receive a **FREE** Smart Thermostat coupon to our Online Store
- » Talk to program representatives to answer any of your questions

Millions of dollars in cash incentives are available through Ameren Illinois — learn more and start saving!

There is no cost to attend, and lunch will be provided. Space is limited so please **RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020** at AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Lunch. If you have questions please contact John Beintema at 1.309.677.5079 or jbeintema@ameren.com.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - **Jana Emmons**, Ipava State Bank
Vice President - **Chad Holloway**, OSF Healthcare
Treasurer - **Jodi Wilcoxon**, MidAmerica National Bank
Secretary - **Lisa Gardner**, Maloof Realty

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

STAFF

Executive Director - Carla Bobell

209 East Chestnut Street, Suite 2
Canton, IL 61520
(309) 647-2677
cbobell@cantonillinois.org

let's do BREAKFAST

January 30, 2020

Graham Hospital
Lobby Conference Room
7:30 am - 9:00 am
Presentation begins at 8:00 am

The Member & Public Relations Committee invites you to attend a

Taking Care of Business Breakfast

Join us for an informational meeting on the Illinois Mandatory Anti-Sexual Harassment law. Lawyer, Christopher Jump and Abby Clark from Davis & Campbell will be presenting.

*Attending this session will not satisfy requirements under Illinois law to complete the training, rather, the purpose will be to explain requirements under the new law.



Business Spotlight



The Loft is a brand-new company, which is celebrating its 1-year Anniversary this month. Many of you in the area probably know the building as the former Heartland Care Center. Although the building has a new name, it still provides four-star quality care.

The Loft is a family owned and operated facility. The owners are very hands on and are focused on providing every resident with a personalized experience, no matter what your healthcare needs may be.

Finding a quality, skilled or long-term care facility for a loved one, or even yourself, is an overwhelming process. There are so many details and plans that can cause a variety of emotions during an especially vulnerable time.

The Loft is a brand-new



Their team, includes Katie Houston, who is the new Director of Business Development for The Loft Rehabilitation and Nursing. She is a graduate of Knoxville High School and Monmouth College. Her healthcare experience started right after college and she cannot imagine being in any other line of work. She is a well-informed resource for educating families and other healthcare services on what to expect when admitting to a skilled nursing facility. She is excited to become a member of the Canton Area Chamber and is looking forward to getting to know the Canton community, its businesses and its residents.

Administrator, Jeff Howd, has been with the building over 4 years and has served as an Administrator over 15 years. Jeff, also being a Registered Nurse, has experience in a hospital setting as well. The Loft's Director of Nursing, Penny Seroka, has also been with the building over 4 years, and has been a Director of Nursing for skilled/long-term care facilities for 15 plus years.

The Loft's team invites you to schedule a tour of the facilities by calling 309-472-8457. They are located between Farm King and Walmart across the street from UnityPoint Clinic at 2081 North Main Street in Canton.





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As 2019 comes to a close and we move into 2020 it is a time to reflect on some of our achievements, challenges and activities of this past year. On behalf of the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development Board of Directors and its contributors I would like to highlight some of those in the following categories.

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT: SRPED provided Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project support to MidAmerica National Bank, Billy's Tap, and The Venue. In the previous year, we worked with Jimmy John's and continue to work with them by advertising their available positions. The Partnership worked closely with Nature's Grace and Wellness on a few issues they were experiencing. We provided support for the Salveo Health & Wellness expansion and advocated for and facilitated the Canton/Fulton County Enterprise Zone Amendment Application. We proudly assisted KenCor when they were facing USDA challenges due to the federal government shut down.

CHALLENGES: We worked on a potential solar project that went nowhere and almost secured an industrial hemp processing facility that would have employed up to 40 people, but in the end could not be negotiated. Our Charitable Trust Workforce Grant application did not get chosen. Retail recruitment is extremely difficult because of our proximity to the Peoria markets and of course the on-line competition. The only Fulton County golf course closed. The largest challenge this year was the announcement of the Duck Creek plant closure and the impact it will have on Canton and the surrounding area.

COMMITTEES: The Fulton County Outdoor Recreation committee held an inaugural stakeholders meeting where the committee was able to introduce the outdoor website concept and held a discussion about our efforts moving forward. After that meeting, the website and the Facebook page were developed. Our Residential Housing Committee recently hosted a Homebuilders Meeting to discuss future residential development for the City of Canton. Our Recruitment of Business (ROB) Committee facilitated our Annual Action Planning session. The Transportation committee, in conjunction with, the ROB committee hosted and facilitated the Legislative Breakfast.

Canton Main Street created their Micro Grant program and was able to use fundraising dollars from Glacial Golf to provide three different grants. Those went to MTZ Fitness, Mel's Sporting Goods and Fuller's Jewelry. Canton Main Street also named a new President with Teisha Buskirk, donated a Jones Park Bench to long time volunteers Ray and Emily Cleer, and updated the Wayfinding Signs downtown. Those are just a few accomplishments from the small but mighty group.

MARKETING: The Unique Dining and Shopping Guides, Canton Area Guide to Development, IEDC Site Selection Data Tables and ads specific to Fulton County Outdoor were all updated. Canton Main Street updated their Canton Downtown Usage Map and Directory. We provided financial assistance to the Fulton County Visitor's Guide and the Fulton County Recreation and Camping Area.

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PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES: We are participating on the Complete Count Committee for the Census Bureau for the City of Canton. We are engaged with MidCentury Communication on their Connect Illinois grant application for broadband deployment through the state's capital bill. We are working with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to discuss potential funds in way of a disaster and/or their coal impacted communities grants. This past spring we collaborated with the Chamber, Spoon River College and Career Link to host a TCB Breakfast on Workforce Development.

OTHER PROUD ACCOMPLISHMENTS: We applied for and received the USDA Rural Economic Development Initiative. Our Transportation committee actively championed the US Route 24 expansion and we were extremely excited to learn the project made it into IDOT's Five Year plan. Both the City of Canton and Fulton County were included in the Brownfield's Assessment Grant through Prairie Hills.

In 2020 we will continue to be committed to addressing our challenges. We will carry on utilizing our strong partnerships with the City of Canton, Fulton County, Spoon River College, the Canton School District, the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, the area business community, our federal and state legislators and other community partners. I, for one, am very proud of what we have accomplished! All that we do could not happen without teamwork, financial support and a steadfast commitment to the Mission and Purpose of the Partnership.

"Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new center of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand." - Oprah Winfrey

And that my friends is exactly what we intend to do. We once again, look forward to working with all of you for the betterment of the City of Canton and all of Fulton County!

A New Year - A New Look

It's something small but gets used every day. It means something to everyone who is a Chamber member and is trusted in our community. What is it? The Canton Chamber logo! We have been working with Havana Printing to create a new Chamber logo to start using in 2020 and we are thrilled with the result! The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce logo has had a few changes over the years and here you can see a few examples:



Logos are to reflect your business and what it represents. It's an identity. A logo is much more than just an image; it is a point of recognition for customers and an important foundation for the branding of your business or organization. A well-designed logo is an easy way to convey to potential customers that your business is professional, trustworthy, and provides quality goods or services. Do you have a logo for your business? If not, you should work with someone creative to help you design your very own logo. If you have a logo, does it need updating or a fresh look? Your logo represents your business so make it one you feel inspired by!

CANTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Christmas Message from Canton Schools

By

Rolf Sivertsen

Superintendent

Canton Union School District



Season Greetings to all! December is always a busy month for our school district. We are in full swing with girls' and boys' basketball, wrestling, archery, numerous band concerts, and Christmas plays. These events are always fun to attend since parents are involved and eager to share their plans for the holidays. I truly enjoy visiting with parents, students, and teachers during this festive period. On the other hand, there are those in our community that need our help during this period. Some families don't have the resources to provide a meaningful Christmas for their children. Although we are in a booming economy there are portions of it that are not quite as lucky as others. Specifically, we have a demographic of families that have seemed to have missed our economic boom. Thankfully we live in a very generous community that is willing to provide for those that need it. For that I am truly grateful and pray every night thanking God for the generosity of the people of Canton. This year has also been a year of opportunity.

As we reflect on 2019 as a year of both memorable achievements and unprecedented challenges, we find ourselves more grateful than ever to work with and for this extraordinary community, and looking forward to a new year of serving Canton's children. This year will serve as a watershed for opportunity in Canton for many reasons. The district has implemented a continuous improvement model where all staff are maintaining and building student data to learn where our district may have opportunities for improvement. Most importantly, the district is also using the data to measure student academic growth. Another opportunity is the district's continued implementation of new academic programs. For example, Canton Union School District implemented two additional STEM classes this year emphasizing math and science. Those classes are the addition of a biomedical capstone course and an additional computer science course at Canton High School. Both classes are exciting for our students and faculty. Equally important, we also continue to emphasize math, science, and literacy at the elementary and middle school levels through our computer coding initiative.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year and I hope you get the chance to relax and spend time with your family/friends and come back excited about 2020!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Superintendent.

Sincerely,
Rolf Sivertsen
Canton Union #66 Superintendent of Schools



RIBBON CUTTINGS



Country Line Bar & Grill
Owners: Morey & Marilyn Denney



Rockstar Beauty & Spa
Owner: Jason Rockhold



Mercantile 25 in Farmington
Owner: Susan Platt



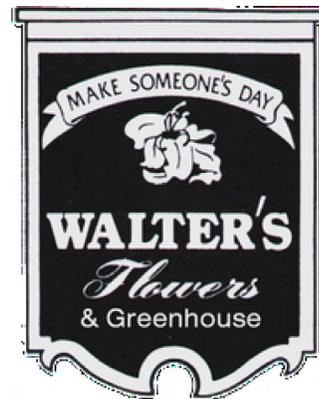
RIBBON CUTTINGS cont.



TLC Health & Wellness Center
Owner: Terrah Cornell



Walter's Flowers & Greenhouse
Owner: Eric Christy



Andrea Barbknecht, Spoon River College
 Samantha Braden, Rhoades Real Estate
 Bobby Brown, Flat Branch Home Loans
 Teisha Buskirk, Canton Main Street
 Joe Christian, MidAmerica National Bank
 Stephen Clark, Town and Country Insurance
 Jason Coulter, Big Cat's Bowls
 Brooke Denniston, YWCA
 Mark Dodds, Hy-Vee

Sandy Edsall
 Todd Fletcher, Shelter Insurance
 Fonz Hall, Bistro 101
 Dave Lewis, Dave Lewis Studio, Ltd.
 Taryn Mellert, Spoon River Electric
 Amanda Reed, Bank of Farmington
 Jason Rockhold, Rockstar Beauty & Spa
 Shawna Smith, Red Oak Estates
 Harry Thakkar, Canton Inn

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNTIES

Young Professional Mentors

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professional Mentors are preparing our students for the workforce and providing them with a mentor program opportunity. We would love to have you join this wonderful team of leaders. Here is some background information on what expectations would come with volunteering your time:

Our current Young Professional Mentors group is demonstrating a potential future for the youth in Canton. By becoming a Young Professional Mentor, (ages ranging from 25 to 40) you commit to becoming a one on one mentor to CHS students through this program. The majority of our mentors are graduates of CHS and have come back to the community to live and work with their jobs ranging from Bankers, Engineers, Lawyers, Nurse Practitioners, to Veterinarians. These professionals bring a wide range of knowledge and background to the students. It is our hope that CHS students will carry these relationships throughout their college years to provide support and keep connected to our community.

We have collaborated with the SRC Outreach Director Andrea Barbknecht to facilitate our workshops that will cover real world business practices such as leadership development, team building, communication, and business etiquette. We will cover all of the job skill basics such as career exploration, resume writing, safe online job searches, interview skills, and mock interviews. During the student's senior year they focus on job shadowing at various businesses in town and developing relationships for future careers. Maybe you have a business that a student would be interested in exploring.

We are more than halfway through our fifth year with this program and meet during early dismissal days. Canton Harvester Inn has graciously agreed to provide us space for our workshops and enjoy lunch from Cornerstone Café at Graham Hospital, Jimmy John's and Hy-Vee for all 52 students and 17 mentors.

If you are interested in becoming a Young Professional Mentor, please contact the Chamber office at 309-647-2677 ext. 3 or email Carla Bobell at cbobell@cantonillinois.org. Make an impact on a student right in your own hometown.

Be sure to look for more information on becoming a part of the Young Professional meetings and outings in the near future. This group is developing and changing into more than just mentorship for high school students; it will be connecting tomorrow's leaders by providing opportunities to grow professionally while serving your community. Watch us!

Canton Area
AMBASSADORS CLUB
 Chamber of Commerce

Ambassadors are in a unique position to meet a wide variety of Canton area business people. While attending functions and calling on members, you represent your own organization as well as the Chamber. You will undoubtedly develop a long and varied list of contacts and an array of community information which will provide helpful as you do business in the Canton area.

Above all else, Ambassadors are expected to communicate to members and others what the Chamber is all about. As an Ambassador, you will constantly practice your interpersonal communication skills. Even the most shy Ambassador becomes comfortable meeting new people and quickly begins to skillfully communicate with them.

Here are some events you would be asked to be a part of as an Ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce:

- Serving as hosts of the Business After Hours welcoming and networking with members
- Attend grand openings, ribbon cuttings, and ground breakings
- Visiting and recruiting new Chamber members
- Personally contact members monthly, as assigned, and act as those members' mentor
- Volunteer to help with Chamber of Commerce events and programs

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS SCHEDULE

The 2020 Business After Hours schedule is filling up fast! Since the number of BAH events is limited to one per month, demand is high. If your business would like to host a Business After Hours or Business Before Hours please **contact Carla Bobell** at the Chamber office:

(309) 647-2677 ext. 3 or cbobell@cantonillinois.org

The 2020 Business After Hours hosts are:

- January - OPEN
- February - OPEN
- March - Kiwanis Club
- April - Front Porch Soap & Gifts
- May - OPEN
- June - The Venue & Graham Hospital Foundation
- July - Farmington Businesses
- August - The Loft
- September - SIU School of Medicine
- October - United Way
- November - Klinedinst Chiropractic, Oakdale Veterinary Center, Stinauer Family Dentistry & Official Time Out
- December - Ipava State Bank

**Membership Benefit
Calendar of Events**

Have you ever tried to plan an event or function only to find out there are several other things going on at the same time as yours? The Chamber website has a Calendar of Events that you can check for dates, or submit your event to be posted. We encourage all businesses, organizations and individuals that are planning community events to submit their information here and it's never too early to post your event.

Go to
www.cantonillinois.org
Calendar of Events & Submit
New Event
www.facebook.com/CACC61520



95th Annual Dinner and Awards
Presented by
CANTON AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

'All Bets on Business'
Thursday
February 13th, 2020

Cocktails 5:30 pm
Dinner and Awards 6:00 pm
The Venue - 23 West Pine Street, Canton

RSVP by THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6th

Tickets are
\$30/person

Please make
reservations and
submit payment
by February 6th

209 E. Chestnut
Suite 2
Canton, Il. 61520

150% CLUB MEMBERS

The 150% Club is an optional membership upgrade that provides added exposure for your business. By paying 50% over regular membership dues at the time of your dues investment renewal or new membership, your business can join the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce's 150% Club.

150% CLUB

Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine
 American Family Insurance
 American Legion Post #16
 Aquatic Control
 Art Hossler Auto Plaza
 Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates, LTD
 Big Brothers Big Sisters
 Brannan's Window & Siding
 Camille's of Canton
 Canton Daily Ledger
 Canton Elks Lodge
 Canton Family YMCA
 CEFCU
 Central States Fireworks
 CFC Properties
 Cheesecakes by Cheryl
 Chronos Technology
 Chubb's Package Store
 COOK Medical
 Crawford's Home Furnishings
 Dennis & Paula Crawford
 Di's Boutique
 Dr. Jack Gibbs
 Fairview State Banking Co.
 Farmington Manor Apartments
 Froehling, Weber & Schell, LLP
 Fulton County Emergency Medical Association
 Fulton County Septic
 Fulton Democrat
 G-M Mechanical of Canton, Inc.
 Harold Jump
 Helping Hands Resale Shoppe
 Hocker, Fitzjarrald & Richardson, P.C.
 Houlthaus Companies, Inc.
 Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc.
 Innovations Design Academy
 Ipava State Bank
 Jack Gibbs
 John Clark

John McCarthy, Attorney at Law
 Johnson & Johnson, PC
 Jones Surveying & Engineering Corp
 Kemper Rentals
 Kevin & Debbie Stephenson
 Leander Construction
 Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
 McDonald's
 MidAmerica National Bank
 Mid Century Communications
 Monical's Pizza
 North Central Behavioral Health Systems
 Oakdale Veterinary Center
 Oak-Hines Funeral Homes
 Orwig Auto Body, Inc.
 OSF Healthcare
 Otto Stephenitch
 Phil Miller
 Pizza Hut in Canton
 Progressive Vision Center, LTD
 Pure Green LLC
 R. Knapp Financials, Inc.
 Renaissance Care Center
 Rhoades Real Estate & Land Auction
 Scott Miller
 Sherwin-Williams
 Space Walk of Central Illinois
 Spoon River Animal Clinic
 Spoon River Pregnancy Resource Center
 State Farm Insurance, Chuck Taylor
 Stinauer Family Dentistry
 The Clayberg
 The Hair Refinery
 TimbukTech, Inc.
 Town & Country Insurance Agency, Ltd.
 Twice the Ice
 Unity Point Clinic of Canton
 Walgreens in Canton
 Walmart in Canton