



# THE CHAMBER COURIER

February 2021

The monthly business publication of the Canton Area

**Your Chamber Ambassadors  
are here for your business.  
Contact them anytime.**

**Andrea Barbknecht**, Spoon River College  
**Emylee Bitner**, CEFCU  
**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  
**Brooke Denniston**, YWCA of Canton  
**Mark Dodds**, Hy-Vee Food Stores  
**Angela Drach**, Mid Century Fiber  
**Sandy Edsall**  
**Kim Fischer**, Canton Harvester Inn  
**Jeromie Hale**, Bistro 101, Timbuk Tech  
**Dave Lewis**, Dave Lewis Studio, Ltd.  
**Taryn Mellert**, Spoon River Electric  
**Amanda Reed**, MidAmerica National Bank  
**Jason Rockhold**, Rockstar Beauty & Spa  
**Chase Shawgo**, Ipava State Bank  
**Harry Thakkar**, Canton Inn



## The Other Side

By Carla Bobell

“Sometimes you can’t see what you’re learning until you come out the other side.” This is a line in the opening sequence of the movie WW84. This line seems to apply to what we have learned and are still learning when living through a pandemic. We may not fully comprehend what lessons we will be taking away until we’re able to look back years from now.

When I look back over the past year I know the Chamber world was forced to develop a new set of skills during the pandemic, which really created a new job description! We were used to doing things like hosting community events or being able to hold Business After Hours, do ribbon cuttings, gather for a Lunch and Learn, Taking Care of Business breakfast or Meet the Candidates. But our new skills have been sharpened by learning to read through mitigations, giving guidance on PPP loans and grant applications, creating a place to offer Zoom platform opportunities, helping businesses keep their Chamber memberships current, getting light bills and rent paid for a handful of businesses by making connections with community folks who stepped up to help cover those costs this past year. But there are some sides of us that have not changed and are still vital for our Chamber Members.

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce continues to Promote, Advocate, Connect and Educate our Chamber members. We like to call it PACE.

We continue to **Promote** our members through our Chamber Member Resource & Promotions weekly email, Chamber Courier, E Blasts and our Facebook page. Many referrals are made out of our office which helps promote businesses within our community.

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# CHAMBER CHAT

## Question:

Can I post a job opening at my business on the Chamber website?

## Answer:

Yes! One of the many perks of being a member of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is that we can post new job openings at your business for you through our website.

Compile the job description, requirements, and how applicants can apply to your job opening and send to [cantonareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:cantonareachamber@gmail.com) and we will post your opening.

For more details go to [www.cantonillinois.org](http://www.cantonillinois.org) Chamber/Membership Services or Call 309-647-2677 Ext. 3

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President* - **Jana Emmons**, Ipava State Bank  
*Vice President* - **Lacey Neal**, Rock Valley Physical Therapy  
*Treasurer* - **Jodi Wilcoxon**, MidAmerica National Bank  
*Secretary* - **Lisa Gardner**, Jim Maloof Realtor

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Business and Community Development**  
 Jodi Wilcoxon, MidAmerica National Bank

**Member and Public Relations**  
 Becky McLeod, Graham Health System

**Government Affairs**  
 Jay Valencia, Canton High School

Diane Bell, Di's Boutique  
 Jason Elwell, Peculiar Projects  
 Greg Glomb, Edward Jones  
 Jason Gumbart, APEX Seed Company  
 Larrilyn Hall, The Look Hair Studio & Day Spa  
 Ann Lockhart, United Way for Spoon River Country  
 Whitney Parrish, Johnson & Johnson, PC  
 Erin Watson, Watson Center for Wellness

# EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

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

# STAFF

*Executive Director* - Carla Bobell  
*Assistant Director* - Alli Ramsay  
 209 East Chestnut Street, Suite 2  
 Canton, IL 61520  
 (309) 647-2677  
[cbobell@cantonillinois.org](mailto:cbobell@cantonillinois.org)

## learning lunch hour

Hosted by the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce

Join us in discussing changes in the laws that business owners and employers should be aware of for 2021.

No cost but registration required



There will be a special focus on COVID-19 topics such as how to access reimbursements for employers who pay employees while they are quarantined, COVID-19 vaccines in the workplace, and how to be proactive about areas of potential liability.

Register through our website at [www.cantonillinois.org/chamber/events](http://www.cantonillinois.org/chamber/events)



**Guest speaker:**  
 Trygve Meade  
 Meade Law Office, P.C.



# 96th ANNUAL CHAMBER MEETING & AWARDS - A VIRTUAL EVENT



96th Annual  
**CHAMBER MEETING  
& AWARDS**  
A Virtual Event

Thursday  
February 25th, 2021  
7:00 pm

Tickets \$20 Per Person

With your purchase, you will be sent:  
Link to the event | Chamber Checks | Additional Goodies



Join us, from your own home,  
in celebrating our 2021 Award  
Winners for:

*Business Person of the Year  
Citizen of the Year  
Educator of the Year*

★ Please RSVP through our website by Monday, February 22nd ★

When you purchase a ticket to the Chamber Annual Meeting and Awards Virtual Event you will receive a link to the event on Thursday, February 25th by 3:00 pm from the Canton Chamber via email. The link will be a YouTube link so there will be no need to download anything special to get it to work. Use any device on which you can get internet service and can open links. The link will not be available to open until February 25th at 7:00 pm. Only those that purchase a ticket will be able to access the link. We ask that you do not share this link so you can help assist our Chamber to cover the costs of producing this virtual event through the purchase of tickets.

Also, with the purchase of your ticket, you will receive a very special package from our Chamber office before the Virtual Event. Please get your tickets purchased before Monday, February 22nd so we have time to get your special package sent to you before the event.

Register online, by calling our office at (309) 647-2677 ext. 4, or by emailing us at [cantonareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:cantonareachamber@gmail.com)

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank **Ameren Illinois** for being our lead sponsor of this cherished event.



## MODERN HARVEST IS CANTON'S NEW DELIVERY-ONLY RESTAURANT

With Illinois' state order prohibiting indoor dining to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Canton local, Jason Elwell has found an innovative way to provide quality local food through his new endeavor, Modern Harvest.

A delivery-only, supper-only "ghost kitchen," Modern Harvest had its grand opening January 15th. Elwell is bringing this relatively new concept, typically reserved for large metropolitan areas, to the rural Midwest. Even if restrictions ease soon, COVID-19 might still make some customers hesitant about dine-in eating, leaving a market for this trailblazing delivery-only restaurant.

The first few days of operation were a hit. As expected, the day of a grand opening can be a bit hectic, but Elwell and his crew were able to overcome any bumps along the way. The result was an influx of positive reviews on Facebook and even more orders for day two. "There's been tons of interest" Elwell says.

Modern Harvest serves as a dinner option to its sister enterprise Eats on the Street, also owned by Elwell. Since Eats on the Street closes most days at 2 p.m., the kitchen was being unused for most of the day. Opening Modern Harvest not only allows the kitchen to be put to more use, but it also gives existing employees more hours.

For those familiar with Eats on the Street, Modern Harvest's menu will be different. Its focus will be gourmet mac 'n cheese entrees and artisan salads. Examples include Buffalo chicken and Cajun-style shrimp variations of macaroni and cheese, as well as Cobb and Southwest salads with grilled chicken. Modern Harvest will have a similar philosophy to its sister restaurant by offering an excellent small menu rather than a huge menu that's just okay.

Since third-party delivery services don't really exist in Canton, Elwell will use contract drivers to deliver food to addresses within about 12 miles of Canton. This includes Cuba, Dunfermline, Farmington, St. David, and Wee Ma Tuk, among other places. This is unique to Modern Harvest since many of these rural communities are underserved by major delivery services in the area. Most of these places can't even order pizza. Now thanks to Modern Harvest, these communities have access to gourmet food that will be delivered right to their door!



Open Wednesday - Saturday

4:00-9:00 pm

Order online at  
[modernharvestcanton.com](http://modernharvestcanton.com)

## MEADE LAW OFFICE WELCOMES NEW ATTORNEY JAKE SNOWMAN



Jake Snowman is an alumnus of Indiana University Maurer School of Law where, along with his law degree, he achieved a Minor in Educational Policy. While a law student, Jake spent two summers as a clerk at Meade Law Office where his responsibilities included meeting with clients, researching and drafting legal documents, as well as assisting with preparation for trial. Throughout his studies, Jake focused on classes that would prepare him to assist clients in Central Illinois that face an array of legal issues such as real estate transactions, estate planning, family law, and criminal defense. Jake was also a managing editor for the Indiana Journal of Law and Social Policy and was a member of one of the oldest legal fraternities in the United States: Phi Alpha Delta.

Jake previously served on the Canton Union School District Board. In his free time, he works with his family at Snowman's Reindeer Farm. He and his fiancée Mara live in Canton.

Meade Law Office, P.C.    Monday - Thursday  
175A South Main        8:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Canton, IL 61520        1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Friday  
P: (309) 647-6301        8:30 am - 12:00 pm  
F: (309) 647-1710        1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



**Meade Law Office, P.C.**



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: ROCK VALLEY PHYSICAL THERAPY

### Employer Health Services to Manage Worker's Comp. Claims

Rock Valley Physical Therapy ([www.rockvalleypt.com](http://www.rockvalleypt.com)), dedicated to making better lives, knows that worker's compensation claims are costly and can negatively impact your business. Therefore, it's important to have someone who understands the complex issues of worker's compensation claims and has experience finding solutions.

Rock Valley Physical Therapy, a therapist-led organization with 50 clinics, spanning seven regions across Illinois and Iowa, offers a variety of physical therapy services for employers designed to assist organizations in hiring healthy workers, getting injured employees back to work quickly, and keeping workers healthy.

Employer Health Services at Rock Valley offers a variety of services under a trio of programs that align with their three objectives for employers: Hire Healthy Employees, Keep Employees Healthy, and Minimize Injury Impact.

- **Hiring Healthy Employees** includes processes such as drug screening, hearing screening, and post-offer employment testing among others.
- **Keeping Employees Healthy** includes services such as on-site consultation, job coaching, on-site first aid/patient care, and corporate wellness programs among others.
- **Minimizing Injury Impact** includes traditional workers compensation management, customized workers compensation management, and functional capacity evaluations (FCEs) among others.

Rock Valley has more than thirty years of industrial therapy experience. They have predictable costs for injury management as well as nationwide wellness services. Using Rock Valley Physical Therapy's contract service Employer Health Services is a great way to ensure your business is not only taking preventative measures to avoid worker's compensation claims, but is also prepared to get employees back to work quickly and safely in the event of an injury.



*Making Better Lives.*  
**Rock Valley**  
PHYSICAL THERAPY

370 N Main St, Canton, IL 61520

Phone: 309-822-5300

Mon. - Thurs. 7am to 7pm

Friday 7am to 4pm

[www.rockvalleypt.com](http://www.rockvalleypt.com)



# A Post-Pandemic World Calls for Digital Transformation



**Cole McDaniel, Executive Director**

Crises, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic, breed ingenuity, and good ideas put into practice can propel any business to breakout performance. Organizations that rest on their existing digital laurels can be surpassed by those that invest in adapting their digital capabilities for the post-coronavirus future - a future that looks very different from the pre-pandemic world.

If there were any doubts about the necessity of digital transformation to business longevity, the coronavirus has silenced them. In a contactless world, the vast majority of interactions with customers and employees must take place virtually. The digital era isn't new; it's simply been brought into sharp focus. Prior to the pandemic, a paradigm shift towards digitalization and servitization of the economy was already underway. Current events have accelerated the paradigm, as evidenced by the marked shift in spending towards digital businesses.

Some businesses in our local communities may be reluctant to embrace digital transformation, but it's better late, than never, to take the leap. As we move into a new world post-pandemic it will be important for our small business owners to take a look at how their products and services can be offered through different forms of media (digital and virtual). If this is something you have been or are currently thinking about, please reach out to SRPED and we can help your business take those steps!

There are better things to come in 2021, and we all need to continue to support one another, shop local, and look forward to the brighter days ahead!



## The Other Side, continued from page 1

We continue to **Advocate** for small businesses at a regional and state level by continuing to push for grant funding, forgivable loan options, mitigation relief and rural funding for downstate Illinois businesses.

We continue to **Connect** our community with our local businesses by encouraging everyone to shop local. The Chamber ran ads in December in our local newspapers and radio stations to create the urgency of supporting local to help keep our small businesses open. We were able to offer some Zoom online networking opportunities beginning in November of 2020 with a virtual “Women in Business” that proved to be a success.

We continue to **Educate** our members with emails that provide the latest information about PPP loans, grants, webinars, mitigations, and most recently, vaccine preparedness for employees. We continue to keep our members in the loop of what is going on in our state, our region and our city.

If your business is not currently a member of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, we would love to have you join our team. Let us help you get to the other side of this pandemic. Contact Executive Director, Carla Bobell at [cbobell@cantonillinois.org](mailto:cbobell@cantonillinois.org) for more information and let us help you grow!

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## Congrats to Canton Main Street's Business Spotlight of the Month January Winner



Canton Main Street is happy to announce the January Spotlight of the Month, Crawford's Home Furnishings.

Originally a floor-covering service started by Dan Crawford in 1953, today Crawford's Home Furnishings offers a full line of products for everything from a fresh coat of paint or a new room of carpet to a new home construction. They carry all types of flooring, furniture, mattresses, paint, countertops, window treatments, and home décor items.

Crawford's also recently welcomed Canton native Seth Klindedinst to their team and are excited for customers to work with him. Stop by Crawford's for all your home furnishing needs!



*Aaron and Veanna Thum of Crawford's Home Furnishings*

17 South 1st Avenue, Canton, IL  
(309) 647-3283  
[www.crawfordshomefurnishings.com](http://www.crawfordshomefurnishings.com)  
[Facebook.com/CrawfordsHomeFurnishings](https://www.facebook.com/CrawfordsHomeFurnishings)



# FULTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. AT THE FOREFRONT OF COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Fulton County Health Department has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 response in Canton and surrounding areas. They have been busy not only with providing updated reports on the number of cases in Fulton County, but also with informing the public on Illinois' vaccination phases and how Fulton County residents can receive their vaccines.

As their website explains, Illinois has moved into phase 1B of the Mass Vaccination Plan. The Fulton County Health Department is partnering with Graham Hospital to distribute vaccines to those who are eligible. Because the number of vaccines available is limited at this time, essential frontline workers and residents of Fulton County aged 65 or greater are the current priority group. More information about vaccine eligibility and distribution can be found on their website.

While the Fulton County Health Department, like many other health departments across the state, have shifted much of their energy toward pumping out COVID-19 vaccinations, they still offer a host of services outside of the COVID-19 response. They are continuing their regular services which range from a dental clinic, administrative services like birth and death certificates, environmental health services including food sanitation classes and information on recycling, plus information on energy and weatherization such as eligibility for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Perhaps their most extensive resource is their general health service. They offer a whole host of programs ranging from blood pressure screening, family planning, flu immunizations, mammograms, and vision screening, among many others. No matter your health concerns, whether related to COVID-19 or not, the Fulton County Health Department is here to serve you.



CANTON (MAIN OFFICE) 700 E. Oak Street Canton, IL 61520 (309) 647-1134 Mon. - Fri. 8am to 4pm	CUBA (309) 785-5300 Mon. - Fri. 8am to 4pm
www.fultoncountyhealth.com	ASTORIA (309) 329-2922 Tues. & Wed. 8am to 4pm



The 150% Club is an optional membership upgrade that provides added exposure for your business. By paying an additional 50% 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

## 2021 MEMBERS

- Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine
- American Family Insurance
- American Legion Post #16
- APEX Seed Company
- Art Hossler Auto Plaza
- Associates in Dentistry
- Bank of Farmington
- Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates, Ltd.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Camille's of Canton
- Canton Elks Lodge
- Canton Family YMCA
- CEFCU
- COOK Medical
- Crawford's Home Furnishing
- Dana Smith
- Dempster Insurance Agency
- Di's Boutique
- Eagle Point Soar
- 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
- Houlthaus Companies, Inc.
- Hy-Vee of Canton
- Ipava State Bank
- Jimmy Johns - Subwars, LLC

- John Clark
- John McCarthy - Attorney at Law
- Johnson & Johnson, P.C.
- Kevin & Debbie Stephenson
- Kevin Meade
- Kiwanis Club of Canton
- Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
- McDonald's
- Mel's Sporting Goods
- MidAmerica National Bank
- Mid Century Fiber
- Monical's Pizza
- North Central Behavioral Health Systems
- Oak-Hines Funeral Homes
- Official Time Out
- Otto Stephenitch
- Pizza Hut
- Progressive Vision Center, LTD
- Pure Green, LLC
- Renaissance Care Center
- RISE Canton
- Scott Miller
- Security Finance
- Sedgwick Funeral Homes & Crematory
- Sherwin-Williams
- Spoon River Animal Clinic
- State Farm Insurance - Chuck Taylor
- Timbuk Tech, Inc.
- Town & Country Insurance Agency
- Walgreen's
- Walmart of Canton
- WBYS AM & WCDD FM Radio