

Welcome
New Members:
Clint Peterson RE/MAX
APEX Seed Company

THE CHAMBER COURIER

March 2020

The monthly business publication for the Canton Area

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 4

Spoon River College Open House
Canton Campus
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

March 5

Meet the Candidates
Donaldson Center
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

March 7

Youth Acres Chicken & Noodles Fundraiser
Canton VFW
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner, 7-8 Live Auction

March 12

YWCA Salute to Women
The Venue
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

March 14

Greater Peoria Honor Flight Soup Supper
Canton VFW
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

March 27

Health & Wellness Connection Fundraiser
The Venue
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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

“All Bets on Business”

Annual Chamber Dinner & Awards

by Carla Bobell

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to promoting the accomplishments of leaders within our community, and recognizing them for their personal and professional successes.

Awards were presented on Thursday, February 13th at the Chamber's Annual Dinner & Awards.

The 2020 Citizen of the Year is Carlye Beadles.

Carlye Beadles is a para-professional for the Canton School District, where she works with students with special needs. She is also the Director of Tumbling at the Canton Family YMCA. In both of these professions Carlye has a way to get students to do their best, while encouraging them to reach even higher. Carlye has an amazing ability to connect with children. She has proven this time and time again here in Canton, including winning Northern Illinois Coach of the Year in 2018.

Carlye is also involved with KARE (Kamping and Recreational Experiences) for those with special needs, and she volunteers as a board member and fund-raising event organizer.

Carlye, through example, teaches her co-workers, students, and friends to strive for excellence, to love learning, and to respect each other. Carlye's motto is, “Work Hard. Be Nice”. We all can learn from that.



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Special Events



BUSINESS
after hours

March 19, 2020
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
@ Canton Elks Lodge

Hosted by Kiwanis Club of Canton



Join us for a great mix of business and pleasure at the end of the work day! Food & Drinks available and Giveaways!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Business & Community Development
 Jodi Wilcoxen, MidAmerica National Bank

Member & Public Relations
 Becky McLeod, Graham Health System

Government Affairs
 Chad Holloway, OSF Healthcare

Diane Bell, Di's Boutique
 Jason Elwell, Peculiar Projects
 Kim Fischer, Canton Harvester Inn
 Larrilyn Hall, The Look Hair Salon
 Mike Lindy, Canton High School
 Ann Lockhart, United Way for Spoon River Country
 Lacey Neal, Rock Valley Physical Therapy
 Whitney R. Parrish, Johnson & Johnson, P.C.
 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 - Chelsea Dodds

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



MEET THE CANDIDATES

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee and the Fulton County Farm Bureau Legislative Committee are co-sponsoring a "Meet the Candidates" event for the upcoming primary elections. Candidates running have been asked to speak, and the public is invited to attend to hear their ideas and platforms.

SPONSORED BY: AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, FULTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HOSTED BY: CUSD #66

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020 | 6:30 PM
 CANTON PARK DISTRICT DONALDSON CENTER | 250 SOUTH AVENUE D

Annual Chamber Golf Outing

The Chambers Annual Golf Outing returns
 Friday, May 15, 2020

Mark your calendars and gather your team to participate in this fun day, filled with relationship building, golf and opportunities to promote your business. To become a sponsor of this event or have questions call the Chamber office at 309-647-2677

NEW MEMBER BIO'S

Clint Peterson RE/MAX Traders Unlimited



Born and raised in Canton and a graduate of Canton High School and Western IL University, I became a licensed broker/realtor last summer and joined the Cannon Group of RE/MAX Traders Unlimited. Our group recently partnered with Mark Ferrill formerly with the Knell Group of Coldwell Banker and formed Ferrill and Cannon. I then transitioned to a full-time realtor after 20 years in the insurance industry. I am energized and have an extensive background that provides a great foundation for buying and selling homes. With my team's extensive knowledge, we are your go-to source for real estate insights and advice, and I am eager to service Canton and Fulton County.



309-224-2332 ~ clinterpeterson@remax.net

3622 N. Knoxville Avenue Peoria, IL 61603



Andrea Barbknecht, Spoon River College
 Emylee Bitner, CEFCU
 Samantha Braden, Rhoades Real Estate
 Bobby Brown, Flat Branch Home Loans
 Teisha Buskirk, Joe's Place
 Joe Christian, MidAmerica National Bank
 Stephen Clark, Town and Country Insurance
 Jason Coulter, Big Cat's Bowls
 Kiley Davis-Crouse, Davis Ford
 Sherri Delost, Jim Maloof Realtor
 Brooke Denniston, YWCA

Mark Dodds, Hy-Vee Food Stores
 Angela Drach, Fulton County Health Department
 Sandy Edsall
 Todd Fletcher, Shelter Insurance
 Jeromie Hale, Bistro 101
 Max Havens, Ipava State Bank
 Dave Lewis, Dave Lewis Studio, Ltd.
 Taryn Mellert, Spoon River Electric
 Shawna Smith
 Amanda Reed, Bank of Farmington
 Jason Rockhold, Rockstar Beauty & Spa
 Harry Thakkar, Canton Inn

NEW MEMBER BIO'S CONTINUED

APEX Seed Company



Established in the Spring of 2019, Apex Seed Company is a full service Golden Harvest corn and soybean seed dealership that provides area farmers with quick and local access to quality seed for their farming operations. In addition to these services, Apex Seed Company also provides small seeds such as grass seeds, food plot mixes, pasture mixes and much more! With the lack of local access to on demand seed options, Apex Seed Company set out to fill a need for the local farming community. Currently, the business only employs the owner Jason Gumbart full time, however he works with a few area farmers for support during busy seasons. Jason is from Macomb, IL and is a graduate from Western Illinois University with a degree in Agriculture and Business, and has

10 years of experience in selling seed. After working for both corporate and private agricultural companies, it was the dream of being a business owner that led Jason to move to the area and start up Apex Seed Company.

Apex Seed Company is looking forward to being a part of the Canton community for many years to come!

309-255-0800 ~ Located at 15 Enterprise Lane ~ Canton

CANTON AREA   

CAREER EXPO

Friday, March 20, 2020

Canton High School

Discover. Connect. Inspire.

Exposing Students to their future careers



ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS CONTINUED

2020 Educator of the Year is Stacey Murphy.

Stacey has been teaching for 32-years and has consistently maintained a contagious enthusiasm for teaching and learning. She's a role model and an inspiration for the education community. As well as teaching Health classes at Canton High School, she was one of the pioneer teachers of Freshman Academy ten years ago. Her enthusiasm is un-paralleled as each year she plans incentives, activities, and events for the freshman students.

Most notably, she recently implemented a remarkable program at CHS call "The Little Giant Care Closet." The Closet is available to all students at CHS and provides them with food, clothing, toiletries, and school supplies.

As if she hasn't done enough, Stacey also chairs a team of teachers called the "Socio-Emotional Committee" who work to provide ways to build self-esteem and confidence in students.

Stacey is a real role model to other teachers. Her energetic spirit is contagious to her peers at CHS where she encourages and supports her colleagues daily.



2020 Business Persons of the Year are Mark & Terri Anderson.



Mark and Terri Anderson own two business in town including Intense Tans and Brew N Cue. Intense Tans, which they have owned and operated of for 16 years, has a reputation for their customer service and cleanliness. Mark and Terri have helped numerous organizations raise money for the community by not only donating items at events but also hosting. Brew N Cue, that just celebrated 30-years in business, is where most of the fundraising events take place.

They book many local bands to perform on the newly-built, outdoor stage. Making this investment in the community really helped remove a blighted area in downtown Canton and create opportunities for worthwhile causes to benefit!

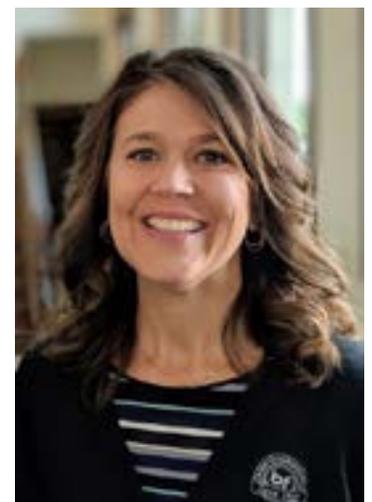
Mark and Terri have a heart of gold and continue to help others in this community all while keeping two wonderful businesses running on all cylinders.

2020 Ambassador of the Year is Amanda Reed.

Amanda Reed has served as an Ambassador since 2015. She has been committed to attending and assisting with almost all Chamber events and programs since she joined.

Amanda supports and promotes member businesses, whether it's here in Canton or with our dual members in Farmington. She has the most assigned businesses as an Ambassador and she does an amazing job of talking to businesses on a regular basis about why they should be a Chamber member and what benefits it will bring. Amanda truly believes in the Chamber and it shows through her hard work and dedication to our organization. She also was very instrumental in getting a large chain in town to become a Chamber member, even though they had been approached for years.

Amanda is a Senior Loan Officer for the Bank of Farmington. We appreciate all of the service and dedication she brings to the Ambassador Club.



Be a Part of the Census 2020

APRIL 1, 2020
IS CENSUS DAY

United States
Census
2020

Canton Counts!

Breakfast with Mayor McDowell & Senator Koehler

American Grille
7:00 - 9:00a.m.

First 50 people to fill out the Census on site electronically gets FREE breakfast!

History of the US Census

Parlin Ingersoll Library
2:00p.m.

Staff & computers will be available 9a.m. - 6p.m. to fill out the Census.

April 1st
CENSUS DAY EVENTS!

Eat, Play, Complete

Wallace Park - Donaldson Center
11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

FREE food, toddler bouncy house, Census poster art show and fill out the Census electronically.

Bring your Census letter with your ID # on it and electronically fill out the Census at any of these events!!

Brought to you by Canton's Complete Count Committee. Funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services. The contents are solely the responsibility of the author.



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Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) Initiative

Change is inevitable....no person, no business, no organization or no community is free from experiencing change. Change in our eyes is an opportunity to grow, learn, and experience exciting new things. With the departure of our former Executive Director Missy Towery, we are excited to see what this change brings! Missy Towery was a driving force for our community, its businesses, citizens and our organization. Her determination and pure passion to make Canton and Fulton County a better place to live, work, and visit will be greatly missed. But, fear not, we are on the hunt for a new Executive Director that will be just as amazing as Missy! Hopefully, for the April or May issue of the chamber courier he/she will get the opportunity to introduce themselves. Until then you get to hear from me....Amanda Woodruff, the Executive Assistant and Marketing and Tourism Coordinator for the Partnership...I know...we will make it through this together!

Up until Missy's very last day with the Partnership she was strategically planning on ways to assist with the betterment of Fulton County. In March of 2019, Missy and I submitted an application for technical assistance associated with the Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) Initiative. REDI was designed to support regionalized planning to overcome multi-jurisdictional challenges and to better leverage federal, state, local and/or private funding. In collaboration with the REDI Cooperators, the National Association of Counties, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, McClure Engineering Company, and Purdue University Center for Regional Development and University of Kentucky's Community Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, the REDI initiative supports rural communities by providing the opportunity to maximize their access to planning resources. These resources enable the Cooperators to identify critical needs, create an actionable economic development plane, convene with potential partners, as well as implement project priorities that will ultimately improve economic stability and the quality of life in rural communities.

In October of 2019 we were extremely excited when we received word that our region had been selected by USDA Rural Development, Purdue University/University of Kentucky to receive technical assistance to build and implement economic development planning. After a few introductory webinars and planning, we were able to hold a two-day workshop that included leaders from organizations and businesses around Fulton County, Spoon River College, and the University of Illinois extension. The workshop was led by representatives from Purdue University and the University of Kentucky. During the workshop two development themes were chosen and the strategic planning began. We split up into two groups and began planning on e-Connectivity and Economic Development for Fulton County. With our groups we were to come up with two goals to accomplish related to those themes and how we were to accomplish them through objectives, strategies, and actions. The e-Connectivity group put together draft plans to assist with the development of broad band fiber internet. This would potentially allow for assistance working with MidCentury Communications to provide fiber internet to every home in Fulton County. The Economic Development group put together draft plans to assist with creating and supporting a vibrant economic environment and ways to enhance an entrepreneurial ecosystem. This would potentially allow for the sustainability and growth of our local economy and an environment for growth among our local entrepreneurs.

After the work-shop, we sent our draft plans off with our workshop leaders, Purdue and Kentucky. We are excited to see how they refine them or rework them for us!

Amanda Woodruff ~ Executive Assistant

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Rolf Sivertsen

All School Districts Struggle with Homeless Students

It is not uncommon for people to be surprised to learn that we have homeless students in the Canton School District. In fact, most people are astonished when they learn that it is a fairly common phenomenon. People are astonished because most homeless families are not the type of people who are living under bridges, or wandering around in rags for clothes. More often than not they are living in a hotel, living with friends, or domiciling from couch to couch on a daily basis. In short, they are invisible.

The statuses of homeless children are defined by an obscure federal statute titled the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Act specifically identifies homeless children as those who “lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” McKinney-Vento was passed by Congress in 1987 to “ensure that each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education...as provided to other children.” According to new federal data, during the 2016-17 school year, 1.36 million public school students in the United States were homeless - a 70 percent increase since 2008. Recently that number has increased to a staggering 2.5 million children in America. This number represents one in every 30 children in the United States. Not surprisingly, homelessness also affects student achievement. For example, the national average graduation rate for homeless students is just 64 percent, significantly lower than the 77.6 percent rate for low-income students who are not homeless, and the 84.1 percent for all students.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), passed by Congress in 2016 to replace No Child Left Behind, includes provisions designed to protect and support homeless students. Among other statistics, the law requires states to disaggregate and report graduation rates for homeless students. For example, in fiscal year 2019 Illinois reported 53,696 homeless students. Homelessness is not only confined to urban areas. For instance, rural areas are hit just as hard as urban areas. For example, as reported by the Southern Illinoisian, “In 2019, there were 294 homeless people identified in the annual count living in Illinois’ southernmost 27 counties, up slightly from the previous year’s 282.” “The region saw its 10-year high in 2017, when 435 people experiencing homelessness were counted. Those numbers have fallen somewhat more recently, and returned to roughly the same levels as a decade ago. The data is flawed, however, according to those who help coordinate the count locally.” “It’s relatively easy to identify people who are homeless and living in area homeless shelters, or who visit soup kitchens for daily meals, they say. But not everyone who is without housing seeks these services. And in a rural area, it’s difficult to locate people spread out across a large region, said Camille Dorris, executive director of the Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless, a Marion-based provider of affordable supportive housing.” Similarly, the Chicago Sun-Times recently reported, that Chicago Public Schools (CPS) “now has 16,500 homeless students, 5% of 355,000 students.” As in Chicago, most of these students are living “doubled up” with relatives or friends, not in shelters or on the street.” “CPS school-community reps will, among other tasks, make sure families and students know their legal rights, such as the right to enroll in any public school without having to provide proof of residence and to remain in their home school even if they have to move.” As a result, school districts are forced to provide services for those students that are homeless. Those services may include a school liaison to help families find housing, clothing, and personal hygiene items. Homeless services further financially stress already cash-strapped schools. “Homelessness is much more than a problem of affordable housing. There are often problems with addiction, domestic violence, other issues,” Barbara Duffield of Schoolhouse Connection, a national advocacy group, states. “It’s a symptom of many systems failing, and just one of them is housing.” “Tonight in Chicago, some 16,500 schoolchildren again will sleep someplace that is not home.” All of the aforementioned statistics are deeply troubling. However, one thing is for sure. Homelessness among youth is not subsiding. In fact, it is growing, and doing so at an alarming rate.

Many people feel the homeless problem has been created by the decline of industrialization in the United States in the past 40 years. Similarly, globalization has also contributed to the homeless. For example, good paying manufacturing jobs have been moved off shore to take advantage of lower labor costs. Other issues that contribute to the homeless problem is the lack of opportunity and the inability for the poor to access vocational training or college. The result is an increase in inequality and a lack of investment in the middle class. At the end of the day the United States needs to reinvest in the middle class and make opportunity more accessible and affordable.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Business & Community Development

Chairperson - Jodi Wilcoxon, Mid America National Bank



COMMUNITY WORK DAY

The Business & Community Development committee is working on organizing a Community Work Day in Canton on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 9am – 12pm with a rain date of May 9th. The Chamber partners with United Way for Spoon River Country. Volunteers who participate will be assisting with projects at some of our non-profit agencies, parks and local schools. Work will include cleaning up flower beds, general cleanup of lawn areas, painting, cleaning, and more. If you have a location that has a project that would qualify please contact the Chamber office at cbobell@cantonillinois.org

Government Affairs

Chairperson - Chad Holloway, OSF Healthcare

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee and the Fulton County Farm Bureau Legislative Committee are co-sponsoring a “Meet the Candidates” event for the upcoming primary elections on Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 pm at the Donaldson center. Candidates running have been asked to speak, and the public is invited to attend to hear their ideas and platforms. We want to thank American Pest Control and Monical’s Pizza for sponsoring this event.



Thursday, March 5th
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Donaldson Center - Wallace Park
205 South Avenue D

Member & Public Relations

Chairperson - Becky McLeod, Graham Health Systems



We are continually accepting nominations for the Spring Chamber Champion award. We are seeking someone who excels in community involvement, employee development, impact and/or innovation, customer service or other criteria that sets their business apart.

The nominee must be a Chamber member.

Nominations can be emailed to: cbobell@cantonillinois.org

The Ambassador Club is looking for a motivated individual who will represent the Chamber!

Ambassador Club serves as the public relations division of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce by providing a communication link between our members and their Chamber. Ambassadors are in a unique position to meet and build worthwhile relationships with 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 gain an array of community information which will provide helpful as you do business in the Canton area.

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
 APEX Seed Co.
 Aquatic Control
 Art Hossler Auto Plaza
 Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates, LTD
 Brannan's Window & Siding
 Camille's of Canton
 Canton Elks Lodge
 Canton Family YMCA
 CEFCU
 Central States Fireworks
 CFC Properties
 Cheesecakes by Cheryl
 Chronos Technology
 COOK Medical
 Crawford's Home Furnishings
 Dempster Insurance
 Di's Boutique
 Dr. Jack Gibbs
 First Christian Church
 Froehling, Weber & Schell, LLP
 Fulton County Emergency Medical Association
 Fulton County Septic
 Fulton Democrat
 Giant Goose Ranch LLC
 G-M Mechanical of Canton, Inc.
 Harold Jump
 Helping Hands Resale Shoppe
 Hocker, Fitzjarrald & Richardson, P.C.
 Houlthaus Companies, Inc.
 Innovations Design Academy
 Ipava State Bank
 John Clark
 Jim Maloof Realtor

John McCarthy, Attorney at Law
 Johnson & Johnson, PC
 Jones Surveying & Engineering Corp
 Kemper Rentals
 Kevin & Debbie Stephenson
 Kiwanis Club of Canton
 Leander Construction
 Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
 McDonald's
 Kevin Meade
 Mel's Sporting Goods
 MidAmerica National Bank
 Monical's Pizza
 North Central Behavioral Health Systems
 Oak-Hines Funeral Homes
 Official Time Out
 OSF Healthcare
 Otto Stephenitch
 Pizza Hut
 Progressive Vision Center, LTD
 Pure Green LLC
 Renaissance Care Center
 Rhoades Real Estate & Land Auction
 Scott Miller
 Sherwin-Williams
 Space Walk of Central Illinois
 State Farm Insurance, Chuck Taylor
 Stinauer Family Dentistry
 The Clayberg
 The Loft Rehabilitation & Nursing of Canton
 TimbukTech, Inc.
 Town & Country Insurance Agency, Ltd.
 Twice the Ice
 Walgreens in Canton
 WBYS AM & WCDD FM Radio