



THE CHAMBER COURIER

March 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



COVID-19: One Year Later

By: Carla Bobell

For many, March 2020 was the month the world changed. In a span of a few weeks, life went from business as usual to state-wide lockdowns, working from home for the foreseeable future, and being swept up in a tidal wave of uncertainty. From the global to the local level, we watched as businesses shut their doors only to never open them again. With life looking drastically different than it ever had before, it felt impossible to plan more than a few weeks—a few days even—ahead.



In our community, while we were handed countless obstacles in the face of COVID-19, we also saw an outpouring of support for our local businesses. Over the past year as Canton area shops and restaurants navigated the formidable hurdle of staying open among so many restrictions, community members rallied together to show support in whatever way they could. From donating to cover a business's light bill for the month, helping pay Chamber membership dues for some struggling small businesses, or participating in our Carry Out Challenge in December to support restaurants who couldn't have indoor dining, Canton residents showed up when businesses needed them most.

Local shops are what make Canton feel like home. We wouldn't be the community we are without the entrepreneurs and business owners who give so much back to our area. As we enter March 2021 and come up on the one-year anniversary of COVID-19 tearing through our lives, continue to find ways to show up and support local businesses. Continue to shop small, leave positive reviews, and interact with local businesses on social media to boost their reach. The little things make a world of difference.

CHAMBER CHAT

Question:

Can anyone post an event to the Chamber Calendar of Events?

Answer:



Yes! You do not need to be a Chamber Member to post an event on our Calendar of Events. Send us an email with the information and/or flyer for your event and we will post it to our Calendar on our website at cantonillinois.org.

For more information, call (309) 647-2677 ext. 4, or email cantonareachamber@gmail.com.

let's do **VIRTUAL**
March 11, 2021
8:00 am - 9:00 am
Must be registered to receive Zoom invite

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce invites you
"Taking Care of Business"



Barb Claxton

Beat Stress Before It Beats You!

Stress! Ugh! Not only is it unavoidable and seemingly constant, but it's been associated with all kinds of physical and psychological problems. Is your stress making you sick, or is it increasing your resilience? Are some ways of managing it more effective than others? Take a fresh look at those demanding situations and decide whether your stress will be friend or foe.

Barbara Claxton is a leadership coach with Fulfill Your Destiny. She helps professionals thrive in their careers and conquer challenges in their personal lives.



Fulfill Your Destiny
Leadership Coaching

She works with clients one-on-one and in small groups as well as presenting professional development workshops on various topics related to emotional intelligence and other topics relevant to effective leadership. She is a long-time resident of Canton along with her husband Tim.

NO COST for session. No Breakfast provided
Please register by March 10 at noon

Register at www.cantonillinois.org
Chamber tab ~ Calendar of Events ~ March 11 ~ TCB

Or call Carla Bobell at 309-647-2677 Ext 3 or
email cantonareachamber@gmail.com



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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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

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Canton, IL 61520
(309) 647-2677
cbobell@cantonillinois.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: EDWARD JONES - MAGGIE CECIL

We are excited to announce that Maggie Cecil, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones has recently joined the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce as a new member!

Maggie grew up and currently lives in Farmington, IL. She obtained an associates degree from Spoon River College before going on to graduate with a degree in Finance from Illinois State University. Along with passing both the Series 7 and Series 66 exams, Maggie also has a life insurance license. She has always had a passion for helping people and working with numbers, and there's no better way to combine the two than by helping people achieve their financial goals.

Maggie's father is also a financial advisor, and he suggested that she look into working for Edward Jones. After some investigation and consulting with local financial advisor Rusty Melhouse, Maggie decided Edward Jones was where she wanted to start her career of deepening her relationship with clients and potential clients, and assisting them in reaching their goals.

Maggie has partnered with Rusty Melhouse and his team to continue offering the best service they can to their clients. Maggie's office within the Edward Jones building on the square opened in January 2021. She is very excited for the opportunity to better help and serve the Canton community!

At Edward Jones, Maggie will help clients with financial needs such as:

- Planning for retirement
- Transitioning a retirement account from a previous job
- Living in retirement
- Saving for higher education or trade school for a child or grandchild
- Protecting your valuables with life insurance
- Financial options after the loss of a loved one

Maggie is available for any questions potential clients might have. The Edward Jones office is open Monday through Thursday 8:30am - 5:30pm, Friday from 8:30am - 4:30pm, and Saturdays by appointment.

Edward Jones
Maggie Cecil - Financial Advisor
8 South Main Street, Suite 100
Canton, IL 61520
(309) 647-0076

Email: maggie.cecil@edwardjones.com
Website: www.edwardjones.com/maggie-cecil
LinkedIn: Maggie Cecil
Facebook: @EJAdvisorMaggieCecil



WELCOME NEW MEMBER: LAKEVIEW EVENT CENTER & BANQUET HALL

Shelby Fulk, soon to be Shelby Williams, is the manager of Lakeview Event Center & Banquet Hall, which is inside the former Big Racks Building and is a new member of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Originally built for the community as a country club, the building will continue to serve the community for years to come as it becomes a new hot spot for major events and celebrations. Shelby herself will make use of the event center as she and her fiance Jacob Williams of Canton, IL, will have their wedding at Lakeview Event Center & Banquet Hall.

Aside from her fiance, Shelby also has ties to Canton through her grandfather, Andrew Sepich, who grew up right here in town. Shelby graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in May 2020 with a degree in business. She is looking forward to serving the Canton community and bringing people together to create special memories.

Whether it's a graduation, board meeting, or celebration of life, Shelby hopes you choose Lakeview Event Center & Banquet Hall to meet your needs!



1920 N. Main Street
(309) 212-3732

FB: @lakevieweventcenter.bh

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: L&L USED CARS

L&L Used Cars Celebrates 50 Years of Business

Richard Long, founder of L&L Used Cars, started selling cars in 1968 at his dad's property at 1090 West Hickory in Canton. In 1970, he purchased the current location at 450 West Hickory. At the time it was a junkyard and a huge cleanup operation was undertaken to clear everything out to turn it into a car lot. Richard officially opened L&L Used Cars for business in 1971. His wife Kay joined him in business in 1977.



Left to right: Mark, Richard, Kay, and Joe.

Richard's son Joe joined the family operation in 1994 and now runs the business. Richard's other son Mark joined L&L in 2007 and started a new branch, L&L Detailing. Mark's wife Barb joined L&L Detailing in 2013.

With the endearing slogan "Where the Unusual is Usual," L&L Used Cars celebrates 50 years of serving the community this year. Join us in congratulating them!

450 W. Hickory Street,
Canton, IL 61520

(309) 647-3282

M-F: 9am - 5pm; Sat: 9am-12pm

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: BIG CAT'S BOWLS



Big Cat's Bowls is excited to introduce their new interior remodel, which debuted February 3rd. This expansion includes room for coolers which carry fully-cooked packaged meals in microwavable containers that come with house dressings, desserts, smoothies, and other items.

Customers are now also able to step inside to order, where they can see ingredients and toppings, making ordering much easier.

Big Cat's Bowls has daily specials listed on their Facebook and website, and their friendly staff is always happy to assist and answer any questions you may have!

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(309) 647-0744
www.bigcatsbowls.com

A Special Thank You to the Sponsors of our 96th Annual Chamber Meeting and Awards Event



MAJOR SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS

- | | |
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| Jim Maloof Realtor | West Central IL Building Trades Council |



MEET THE AWARD WINNERS OF THE 96TH ANNUAL CHAMBER EVENT

Educator of the Year: Josiah Martin

Mr. Martin has been with the Canton School District for 7 years. He currently teaches 8th grade math at Ingersoll Middle School, but that is not all. Josiah has also coached middle school boys' and girls' basketball, and is the Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach at Canton High School. Last year, Josiah stepped in as the IMS girls basketball coach in the middle of the season because their coach fell ill. Josiah not only coached this team for the rest of the season, but he took them all the way to State runner up to finish off the season!

Josiah is described by his colleagues as dependable, kind, one who goes above and beyond for students, has a contagious enthusiasm for teaching and does whatever it takes for the betterment of all students and the school district as a whole. Congratulations Josiah Martin!



Business Person of the Year: Scott Brown

Scott has loved computers from a very young age. When in high school, Scott started realizing that there was a real need for computer service in the Canton community and that is when Timbuk Tech was born in 2004 out of his parent's basement! Timbuk Tech currently has grown to include 15 employees, 3 locations and 6 company branded vehicles and they won't be stopping there.

Scott has always had his pulse on the business of technology but he has also given back to the Canton community, including donating a thermal imaging UAV drone to the Fulton County Emergency Service and Disaster Agency. The Canton community is fortunate to have a thriving business like Timbuk Tech that is offering great employment opportunities and a truly needed service. Congratulations Scott Brown!

Citizen of the Year: Carol Kohler

Carol has served as the Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Canton since 2006 when she was hired by then-mayor, Rod Heinz. She has stayed in the city office throughout several mayors' mandates, and is still running thing for current mayor Kent McDowell. On top of her main responsibility as the Mayor's assistant at city hall, has played a very large part in helping the aesthetics of our downtown by being the Garden Master of Jones Park. Carol is the Promotions Committee Chair of Canton Main Street and is the lead organizer of events such as the Kids Fest, Munchkin Masquerade, and Christmas Walk, and helping facilitate the farmers' market.

Carol's genuine dedication to Canton and its residents has always been proven by her actions and her willingness to help create a better community for us all. Congratulations Carol Kohler!



Small Businesses Play a Major Role in Local Economic Development

Cole McDaniel, Executive Director

At some point, you might have seen a statistic or statement by a politician or economist stating the economic benefits of small business to local communities. While small businesses generate new jobs and, according to the Small Business Administration (SBA), employ more than half of the working class in the United States, they're also a valuable asset to the local community. Just to name a few, here are 5 ways that small businesses make a sizable local impact:

1. Community Identity

Take a stroll down Main Street and you'll likely notice that the community has its own unique character and charm. From the mom-and-pop shop, the local CPA and dog grooming business, to an antiques emporium, coffee shop, yoga studio and beyond, small businesses contribute to a community's identity. Many municipalities and tourism boards have prioritized preserving the unique character a vibrant small business community creates—transforming that character into an advantage.

2. Community Involvement

Small business owners are an important part of the communities in which they live and work. Thus, they tend to recognize how their decisions impact their neighbors. In addition, local small business entrepreneurs tend to be involved in the community. For instance, they may sponsor local Little League teams, join the chamber of commerce, participate in community charity events, or contribute to a local non-profit organization. It's also not unheard of for successful business owners to guest lecture at the local community college, technical institute, or small business center.

3. Community Health

In addition to contributing to the local community's unique identity and being involved locally, small business owners help to build a sense of community. Small business owners are more likely to build personal relationships with their customers, knowing many of them by name. When was the last time you walked into a large chain store and were greeted by name? Many small business owners band together, forming casual or formal relationships, such as a merchant's association or mentoring. These relationships leverage the expertise of the participants to contribute to the business community's long-term growth. They are also often a key tool for fostering camaraderie between business owners, so that as foot traffic to one business increases, other nearby smaller businesses benefit through increased exposure and word-of-mouth referrals.

4. Increasing the Tax Base

When local residents shop at small businesses within their communities, their tax dollars stay within the local economy, helping to improve their community as a result. Likewise, local small businesses tend to buy locally as well, pumping more of the profits from their economic activity back into the community than their chain store counterparts, sparking economic development.

Continued on pg. 8

MESSAGE FROM ROLF SIVERSTEN

Superintendent for CUSD #66

Canton Schools are Back Up and Running

With the advent of the vaccine and Canton students returning to school things are slowly returning to normal. Since the January 25th reopening 75% of our students have returned to in person learning. So far we have had challenges in staffing, but the students seem to be settling in well. What is surreal is the fact that even though the hallways are full of students they seem awfully quiet. On the other hand, what is most reassuring is the fact that we have not exceeded an infection rate in any building populations of over 3%. I credit our teachers for keeping the infection rate so low and am grateful for all of our staff who have worked diligently to ensure that the students are safe. For example, staff has worked very hard to sanitize the buildings. Equally important, teachers have also been very careful to ensure that social distancing is maintained and students wear their masks. When I visit buildings I try to do so during the lunch hours so I can visit with students. What I have found interesting during those visits is that every student who I have asked if they are happy to be back have responded “YES” – loudly!

One agency that deserve a lot of credit for the success of our re-opening is the Fulton County Health Department. They have worked day and night to assist us with questions or guidance on how to provide our students with a safe and healthy environment. Most importantly, to date, they have vaccinated over 300 of our staff members. This is important because the vaccinations will help us keep our staff well, on the job, and providing services to our students. Without their help and guidance, we would not be able to keep our buildings staffed and open.

In closing, we are also happy that our region has moved into Phase 4. The Phase 4 mitigation has allowed us to restart sports. Basketball is in full season now and football will start in March. Softball and baseball will soon follow. Sports allows our students to compete athletically, stay in shape, and socially interact with their peers. We are hopeful that our country is rounding the corner on the pandemic and we can soon return to normal.

Small Businesses, continued from pg. 7

5. Entrepreneurship

Small businesses are the product of the business owner’s entrepreneurial spirit. By starting a small business, the business owner is taking charge of his or her future. Entrepreneurship fuels America’s economic innovation and prosperity and serves as a key means for families to move out of low-wage jobs and into the middle class.

There are a variety of tools here in Canton and Fulton County to help foster entrepreneurship and new business start-ups. If you have questions in regards to starting your own business reach out to the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development and we will be happy to help assist you in your venture!





Reserve your

E-BLAST

Have a big event, holiday special, or flash sale you want people to know about? A Chamber E-Blast is an affordable and effective way to reach over 400 member inboxes!

Step 1: Reservation

Reserve your Chamber E-Blast date via phone or email (see below). Only one E-blast a month is allowed.

Step 2: Invoice

E-Blasts are \$25. Invoices will be issued when the E-blast date is reserved, and payment is expected by delivery date. Pay the invoice online or mail a check to the Chamber office. Make checks payable to CACC.

Step 3: Content

If you have a flyer or image prepared for your E-blast, please send it to our email exactly as you wish it to be presented. If you do not have a flyer or image prepared and would like the Chamber to design one for you, we will do so for an additional \$5. You will be able to approve the final draft of the flyer.

Step 4: Submission

If you are requesting the Chamber to design the flyer for you, please send all the information you wish to be included on the flyer including images, dates, hours of operation, contact information, etc. at least 48 hours in advance of the reserved date. If you have a flyer pre-prepared, please send any additional information you want to be included in the E-blast (ex: link to website).

Step 5: E-Blast Sent

E-blasts will be sent one time only, on the date you reserved. We track every E-blast sent and will gladly share the open rate of your blast with you to see how many people it reached!



209 E. Chestnut, Suite 2
Canton, IL 61520

(309) 647-2677 ext. 4 | cantonareachamber@gmail.com



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 Canton Member Center
- CFC Properties
- COOK Medical
- Crawford's Home Furnishing
- Dana Smith
- Dempster Insurance Agency
- Di's Boutique
- Eagle Point Solar
- 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 of Canton
- 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 of Canton
- Walmart of Canton
- WBYS AM & WCDD FM Radio