



# THE CHAMBER COURIER

May 2020

The monthly business publication for the Canton Area



**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

**Your Chamber Ambassador  
are there for your business.  
Feel free to contact them  
anytime.**

## COVID-19 Makes it's Mark

*by Carla Bobell*

This month you will notice that the Chamber Courier looks a little different. We do not have any new members to report, or business spotlights or events to promote. Things are different now since COVID 19 came into our world. So many adjustments to our everyday living are being made and if I had to take a guess, most of us really don't like it! Have you been reflecting about how much fun it was to actually go into your favorite local restaurant and sit down and have a meal and see folks you know, or be able to get simple things taken care of like, getting your hair cut or colored (Lord help some of us!), or get your eyes checked, your teeth cleaned, or go in for a checkup. And then there is shopping. Oh, how I miss shopping. The smells, the bling, and the fun of finding new things or the hunt for what you are looking for inside the store ~Sigh.



This issue of the Chamber Courier is focused on some of the businesses and organizations we have in our community that are taking care of our residents, students, and businesses. There are many essential businesses that are open in Canton and I want to say thank you to each and every one of you for showing up to work and serving Canton and the surrounding communities. You are appreciated! For those businesses that are not able to be open but have really stepped up your game and started selling products online, I am so proud of you for being flexible and adapting to the new platform of shopping. Then there are those businesses that just cannot open. They do not have products to sell and absolutely no way to make any money for their business.

*Continued on page 9*

## Special Updates

**All Chamber Events have  
been canceled for May**

Updates for our local businesses  
of all kinds can be found at  
**cantonillinois.org**



## 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

**Business & Community Development**

Jodi Wilcoxon, 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

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](mailto:cbobell@cantonillinois.org)



# GRAHAM HEALTH SYSTEM COVID-19 RESPONSE

In response to the need for our patients to continue to obtain their “normal”/routine lab work (blood tests that are necessary to ensure your medications are working, that your blood is clotting, etc.), Graham Health System has begun offering drive-up lab services. The lab draws will be completed Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. under the awning on the north side of Graham Medical Group in Canton. To ensure our patients receive the same excellent service they are accustomed to, Graham Medical Group is requesting this service be used by appointment only by calling:

**(309) 647-5240 ext. 2860**



Maintaining safety & promoting personal wellness in our community is of the utmost importance to us at Graham Health System. Therefore, we have reduced the number of visitors allowed at this time and we are also limiting visiting hours. The following visitation policy is in place until further notice:

- Visitors under the age of 18 will not be allowed at any Graham Health System facility.
- Visitors are limited to 1 person at a time.
- Adult visitors are limited to those necessary to promote the patient's emotional wellbeing and care.
- **NO VISITORS ARE ALLOWED IN OUR EXTENDED CARE FACILITY AT GRAHAM HOSPITAL.**
- All patients, visitors and employees in the Emergency Department at Graham Hospital are required to wear a mask.
- Visitors who are sick should not visit Graham Hospital or Graham Medical Group – especially those with cold and flu-like symptoms and/or those with respiratory symptoms (coughing, runny nose, shortness of breath, etc.).
- Visitors entering a Graham Health System facility will have their temperature taken at the front entrance. If fever is noted, you will not be allowed to enter the facility and will need to reschedule your visit when you are fever/symptom-free.

## Call AHEAD BEFORE VISITING YOUR PROVIDER OR THE HOSPITAL

**STOP** If you feel you have recently been exposed to the CORONAVIRUS and have respiratory symptoms, please call your provider's office before entering the hospital or clinic!

Graham Hospital.....(309) 647-5240  
 Graham Medical Group (Canton) .....(309) 647-0201  
 Graham Medical Group (Lewistown)....(309) 547-9700  
 Graham Medical Group (Farmington)...(309) 245-2406  
 Graham Medical Group (Elmwood).....(309) 742-6334  
 Graham Medical Group (Avon).....(309) 465-0082

### Visiting Hours at Graham Hospital:

Monday – Friday  
 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Saturday & Sunday  
 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Patients & visitors must leave their masks on at all times while in a GHS facility.

GRAHAM HEALTH SYSTEM

With the current impact of COVID-19, we want to ensure our patients have access to their physician and/or mid-level provider if they are unable to physically be seen at our Graham Medical Group clinics. In an effort to keep our patients and staff as safe as possible, especially those most vulnerable, we are now offering Telehealth visits, which enable you to have a virtual visit with your provider from your smartphone or laptop/computer. While Graham Medical Group remains open for face-to-face/office visits, we recognize that, for some, coming in for a visit at this time is very difficult, if not impossible. Telehealth visits are conducted through the Graham Medical Group patient portal, known as “Healow.” To access your individualized patient portal account, please visit our website at: [www.grahamhealthsystem.org](http://www.grahamhealthsystem.org). If you do not have a patient portal account set up, we are here to help. Simply call (309) 647-0201, select option “3” or ask Patient Access to be connected to a Telehealth Nurse. For your convenience, the Healow App can easily be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play (once downloaded, in the “Practice Code” field, please enter: IDGEAA).

# Fulton County Department of Health

The Fulton County Health Department wants to remind you to do your part in helping keep our community healthy. Continue to wash your hands, stay at home and only go out for essential needs, keep home and work areas clean by disinfecting and always wear a mask when you are out.



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Public Health

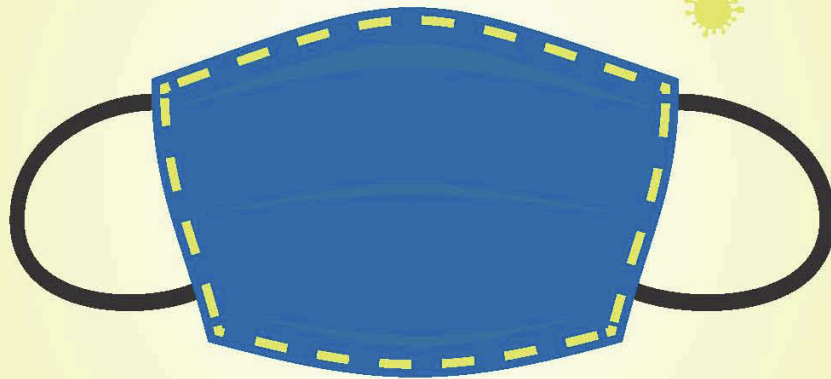
## COVID-19 Face Covering Do's & Don'ts

### DO:

- ✓ Make sure you can breathe through it
- ✓ Wear it whenever going out in public
- ✓ Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- ✓ Wash after using

### DON'T:

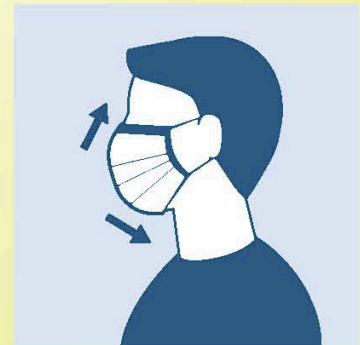
- ✗ Use on children under age 2
- ✗ Use surgical masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE) intended for health care workers



### How to Wear a Cloth Face Covering

Cloth face coverings should:

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape



## Dear fellow citizens of Canton:

It's been a long 30 days since the declaration of the first state of local emergency in our city. So much has transpired, but through it all, I am truly impressed with the level of professional, local leadership that I have been meeting and planning with over the last month. Every day has brought a new challenge, but citizens should rest assured that our community is in good hands.

At this writing, our region has so far avoided the worst of the health crisis, but our business community is suffering the brunt of the economic crisis. With so many small businesses forced to be closed, time will tell if they will all be able to reopen. But the impact of their revenue loss reaches much further, because these businesses are the lifeline of our municipality, schools, parks, and library. Without tax dollars, all services will suffer.

That's where you come in, for my Initiative #1. If you are financially able, if you are able to handle your regular expenses and still have expendable income, please make it your job to Support Your Local Businesses, now and in the future when restrictions are lifted. Right now, you can support restaurants that are taking carry-out orders. You can support other businesses by purchasing gift cards now, giving them the much-needed income they need right now, and redeeming later when they are back on their feet. And later, crisis or no crisis, you should SHOP LOCAL for everything you can. Break the Amazon habit and keep your dollars in Canton where they will make a real difference.

Secondly, I encourage families to stay close, stay safe, and seek the positives of the shelter-in-place order. Find ways to learn something new, or work on projects that you never seemed to have time for pre-COVID. As the weather improves, create a routine of getting the family outside walking or biking on a daily basis. And take advantage of this time for my Initiative #2, which is to Clean Up Our Town. Go outside your house, stand at the street and take a good, long look. Do you see a perfectly neat house, or do you see... trash cans, leaves from last fall, kids' toys left out, and random stuff? It doesn't cost a cent to clean up your property. It's also a great way to get your kids outside to learn how to work, and it instills a sense of pride. And even better, go the extra mile to help a neighbor clean up their property. The City has an easy and inexpensive Bulk Item Pickup program for those large items that you need to get rid of. We also have a free Landscape Facility for biodegradable plant material. So again, let's take advantage of this time and make Canton a more attractive place to live. First impressions are everything, and if we want to attract new residents and new businesses, we need to clean up our act, literally.

Our town has been through so much over the years, and we have always managed to come through, thanks to the strength and resilience of our citizens. Together we will survive this as well, and be all the stronger because of it. Together we are #CANTONSTRONG.



**Mayor Kent A. McDowell**





## COVID-19 Response

*By Curt Oldfield, President*

As we continue to deal with the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19), I want to remind everyone that the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and guests remains our primary concern. This is an unprecedented situation for the world, country, state, communities, and our college. Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, Spoon River College began offering alternative instruction for the remainder

of the spring semester. Faculty have been doing an outstanding job of working online with students on individual course instructional plans, if needed, to complete the spring semester. As much as possible, Spoon River College has put processes in place so that college faculty, staff, and administrators can work from home. Support services such as academic advising, student success coaching, mental health counseling, student accounts, tutoring, and other services are available virtually.

We regret to announce that our Spring 2020 commencement ceremony has been canceled. We did not make this decision lightly. We recognize the disappointment our students and their families and friends will feel. Graduation is the most celebrated, exciting, and meaningful event on campus, and we look forward to it every year. However, in following guidelines from the Governor Pritzker, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we felt canceling commencement was the responsible thing to do. Plans are being made to create a virtual graduation for our students and their families.

Spoon River College Foundation has established a Student Emergency Hardship Fund in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and is intended to assist SRC students with emergency needs and any unanticipated financial barriers to student success. These funds could help students with food insecurity, housing insecurity, unexpected change in housing arrangements, unforeseen medical bills, access to technology in order to complete online coursework, or other unforeseen financial barriers. Please consider giving to this fund if you are able.

Spoon River College has been a proud community partner by providing over 10,000 rubber gloves, and numerous gowns, and face masks to Fulton County ESDA for distribution to Fulton County First Responders. SRC continues to be represented with emergency planning groups and providing assistance to local agencies in response to COVID 19.

Even with all of the current COVID-19 events occurring, SRC continues to be future focused. Our faculty and advisors have been communicating with students about Summer and Fall semester course planning and helping students remain focused on academic and career goals. It is important for the future of our region to recover from this pandemic by having college graduates entering the work place and becoming active in our communities.

This pandemic has impacted nearly every person and has challenged each of us to be creative and flexible. Spoon River College has been supporting our community members for the last 60 years and is looking forward to helping take you where you want to go.

# The Cost of COVID-19 and it's Impact on Business

*By Rolf Sivertsen, Superintendent - Canton Union School District*

Prior to the advent of COVID-19 the US economy was breaking record after record in reducing unemployment and creating of new jobs. In contrast, since early March, (due to the COVID-10 pandemic) 22 million Americans have lost their jobs and filed for unemployment. When the virus is contained (and that will be a big if) business and society will change forever.

## **BUSINESS IN GENERAL**

Since Mid-March business practices have changed exponentially. For example, hundreds of thousands of offices have transformed overnight into remote workspaces. Productivity has yet to be measured, but certainly these new practices may lead to permanent shifts in how business is conducted. At the end of the day many businesses will probably alter practices the following way:

- The creation of home work spaces will eliminate leases and brick-and-mortar offices.
- The elimination of specific city locations.
- Smaller staffs once redundancy has been identified and found to be unnecessary to the essential functions of a business.
- Reduction in business travel costs. When many businesses will be looking for cost savings, they may consider the work that was accomplished remotely during quarantine and decide to cut back on travel expenses permanently.
- Meetings will continue to be remote to conserve time and cost.

One great thing about American Business is its ability to adapt, change, and innovate. No other country in the world has the talent or ability to do all three at the same time. The world has changed in a few short weeks and, however much we may yearn for a return to what we knew as normality, all of these fringe ways of working have now become the norm.

## **THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AND FINANCES**

On Friday March 17th Governor Pritzker announced that he was extending the school closure for the remainder of the 19-20 school year. In addition, the Governor also discussed the state revenue short fall for the 19-20 fiscal year and beyond. Specifically, due to the COVID-19 virus, Governor Pritzker mentioned that the state will suffer a 2.7 billion dollar shortfall in revenue this year and 4.6 billion dollar shortfall next year. Furthermore, if the economy does not recover the revenue loss may continue for the near future – how long is unknown. However, what is most important is how will the Governor create new revenue or reconfigure the state's cost structure to generate to maintain solvency? During the governor's Friday announcement reporters did inquire if his office will continue to pursue voter approval for the proposed progressive income tax that is scheduled to appear on the voter ballot during the November elections. Illinois' current individual income tax rate is a flat 4.95% for everyone - regardless of how much money they make. For single and joint filers earning less than \$250,000 per year, the first \$10,000 would be taxed at 4.75%, then income between that and \$100,000 would be taxed at 4.9%. From there, up to \$250,000, the rate would be 4.95%, where it stands today.

Above \$250,000, the rates begin to differ for single and joint filers. For single filers from \$250,000 to \$350,000, and for joint filers up to \$500,000, the rate would be 7.75%. That increases to 7.85% for single filers reporting between \$350,000 and \$750,000 in income, and for joint filers from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

*Continued on page 8*



*Continued from page 7...*

Under the new structure, single filers earning more than \$750,000 and joint filers earning more than \$1 million would be taxed at the top rate of 7.99%. For only that highest bracket, the taxpayers' net income would all be taxed at that top rate, unlike the rest of the brackets.

The proposed new structure is expected to generate an additional \$3.7 billion in new revenue. However, if the cash flow is calculated, even with the new progressive income tax imposed, the state will still be in deficit by \$1 billion dollars - if all projections are currently accurate. To recapture the revenue loss the state may need to decrease spending to schools and other non-restricted expenditures in the budget to. Another way the state may recapture lost revenue is to force districts to consolidate.

Currently the state has 800+ school districts. This is incredibly inefficient and a waste of taxpayer assets. For example, there are many districts in Illinois that are high school only districts that contain many elementary "feeder" districts. In fact, I know of one scenario in Peoria County where there are 9 feeder districts and one high school district. This configuration means there are 10 superintendents making \$100,000 a year and multiple principals. Under school consolidation this one scenario would allow tax payers to potentially recapture over \$1,000,000 in lost revenue through a reduction in administrative personnel.

In closing, the COVID 19 virus has changed our society – some better and some worse. One thing is for sure, our country will certainly be challenged in the coming years.



The Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development (SRPED) has been very busy. Since the COVID 19 hit our state SRPED has been helping local businesses apply for the Downstate Small Business Stabilization grant. This grant program has been established to provide working capital funds to community's businesses economically impacted by the COVID-19

virus. The program component makes funds available for 60 days of verifiable working capital up to a grant ceiling of \$25,000 and is available for businesses that employ 50 people or less. These funds may be used to assist private for-profit small retail and service businesses, or businesses considered non-essential by the Governor's Executive Order without the ability for employees to work remotely. The grant program had to be run through a local government agency, similar to the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) needed to be applied for through local banks.

When Cole McDaniel, new Executive Director for SRPED and Amanda Woodruff, Assistant Director heard this, they stepped up to the plate to offer the city help with the processing of the grant applications. You see, both Cole and Amanda have a lot of experience in writing grant applications! Writing grants is not for the faint of heart and this skill has truly been appreciated by those businesses that have applied to the Stabilization grant. The first group that applied had a deadline of April 14th with a public hearing (necessary for the grant application) on April 28th. There will be an opportunity for a second group to apply after April 30th as long as there are still funds available. To find out more information on the Downstate Small Business Stabilization grant program call the SRPED office at 309-647-2677 Ext. 1.

One piece of exciting news, Cole and his wife had a new baby boy, born April 14th. Welcome to the world Camden Matthew McDaniel. Congratulations to the entire family!



*Continued from page 1...*

I want you all to know that this community is ready to come through your doors when they open. We will make appointments, order a part, a trophy, a car, furniture, book an event, come to church, place an ad, belly up to the bar, need a caterer, order flowers, get a real repair, need a new roof or siding, will want to adopt a pet, visit a museum, buy a house, go bowling, go to a movie, go swimming, go fishing, go work out, take a yoga class, go to the library, just to name a few.

I also want to help all of us remember our non for profit organizations in this community, as well. Just as the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is feeling it, many organizations are not able to host their big events that help raise money for them to continue to exist. Those wonderful businesses that are always out there helping these organizations are hurting financially and the last thing we want to do is ask them to sponsor an event. If you are someone who can donate to one of these organizations, reach out to them and ask how you can help. For a list you can head to the Canton Chamber website at [cantonillinois.org](http://cantonillinois.org), click on the Chamber tab then click on the Membership Directory, then click on Family, Community & Civic Organizations. All of us pulling together at a time like this can really help so many.

Speaking of the Canton website, you can go there to get up to date COVID 19 information whether you are a business looking to apply for a federal or state loan or grant, if you just need some information on CDC rules and guidelines or ways to manage good health at home or you want to find a list of restaurants, bars, retailers and other businesses that are open or closed. The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is here. Please feel free to reach out to our office no matter if you are a member or not. We want to help everyone we can to keep our community strong. #cantonstrong!



## Youth Leadership Academy

All students that are graduating in 2020 will not be able to enjoy a graduation ceremony. This is one of those things you really look forward to as a student but also as a parent. Well, the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce plans to recognize our senior Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) students during a Virtual Zoom Meeting in May. They each will receive a certificate by mail that will prove they have “graduated” from the YLA program.

Students that participate in YLA start their sophomore year and participate in workshops on leadership during their half days out of school and continue with workshops through their junior years. During their senior year the Chamber works with local businesses and organizations to set up job shadowing opportunities to give them experience in the field they are striving to be a part of when they head off to college. YLA seniors receive their certificate once they have accomplished all of the workshops and required job shadow opportunities.

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is proud of all the YLA students and wishes a big congratulation to the senior class of 2020.

# 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