

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills  
Country Club  
Camp Big Sky

# THE CHAMBER COURIER

August 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  
**Rachel Bundy**, Graham Health System  
**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 of Canton  
**Mark Dodds**, Hy-Vee Food Stores  
**Angela Drach**, Mid Century Fiber  
**Sandy Edsall**  
**Todd Fletcher**, Shelter Insurance  
**Jeromie Hale**, Bistro 101  
**Max Havens**  
**Dave Lewis**, Dave Lewis Studio, Ltd.  
**Taryn Mellert**, Spoon River Electric  
**Amanda Reed**, MidAmerica National Bank  
**Jason Rockhold**, Rockstar Beauty & Spa  
**Harry Thakkar**, Canton Inn

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

## Go After the Business

*by Carla Bobell*

So were you ever that one? The one that was always overlooked, the one that was absolutely the last one to be picked for the neighborhood team, the one where the line was cut off just in front of you? If you have a business, don't be that one. Don't be overlooked and don't be the last business picked. Be the ONE everyone wants to choose when they set out to go shopping.

People ARE shopping, but where and how? Seek the answers to those questions, then create a way to compete, and then go after those shoppers. Create a unique place, a fun experience, and a helpful atmosphere for shoppers to enjoy and one where they will also feel safe, comfortable and protected. Give them a reason to shop inside your store and also online.

Maybe it is time to try something different. Invite another retailer who is struggling to join you. Clear out an area in your store for them to put up a display and vice versa. Learn to market your businesses together and share the cost. Working together is often more fun than trying it all alone. New shoppers will arrive just to see what you are doing!

If you are a nonprofit organization that is struggling because your fundraisers have been cancelled due to COVID 19, think outside the box and create a new way of raising money. An example is our Adopt a Chamber Member that we presented in the July Chamber Courier. To date we have received \$1400 that has covered Chamber membership dues for several local businesses and organizations thanks to some very generous community members.

Save your business and your organization. Stop waiting for shoppers/donors to show up. Create a reason for them to come into your business and give to your organization!

Go after the business! It is there waiting for you!

## CHAMBER CHECKS

There is always that person who is hard to buy for or you want to get something *really* special for like someone's retirement, graduation, birthday, baby shower, anniversary, new home, going away party, teacher gift, thank you or just because, but you have no idea what that would be.

Chamber checks is your answer!

**How does it work?** Chamber checks are used just like checks but they already have a prepaid amount. These checks can be redeemed at any Canton Area Chamber business that chooses to participate. You can find the list at [www.cantonillinois.org](http://www.cantonillinois.org), click on Member Services, click on Chamber Checks, click on Chamber Checks instructions & members. The recipient gets to choose where they want to spend the checks and on whatever they want. Everyone is happy!

**What dollar amounts can I purchase?** We have \$5, \$10 or \$20 increments. You can buy whatever combination you would like and there is no limit. The Chamber Checks have a one year expiration.

**Where can I get Chamber Checks?** At the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce office located at 209 E. Chestnut, Suite 2 in Canton or at MidAmerica National Bank in Canton. Call ahead and we can have them ready to pick up or just stop in and give us a few minutes to get them ready for you.



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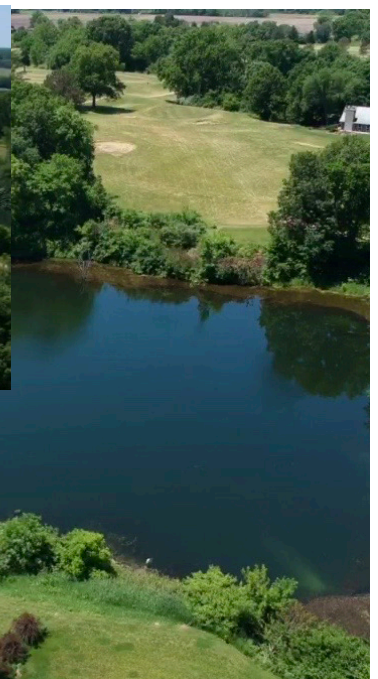
# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club** is a beautiful 18 hole golf course that is member-owned and operated now by the WMT Group, Ltd. They officially reopened over the 4th of July weekend to members only. They are open 7 days a week to members from 6 am to 9 pm, however every day after 10:30 am the course is open to the public.

Wee-Ma-Tuk has been busy with events planned in the month of July and have other events coming up in August including the Canton Chamber Annual Golf Outing on Friday, August 21 at 11:00 am. The fairways and greens are maintained by new greenskeeper Seth Smith. The new general manager is Mark Cornell.

Wee-Ma-Tuk is an oasis in the middle of reclaimed stripped land from coal mining. The vision, planning and constructing of the stair stepped lakes occurred at least seven decades ago by a man named Harold Truax and his family. Harold was a partner in the Truax-Traer Mining Company and felt a responsibility to restore the land. In the thirties, he stocked the lakes and reclaimed the landscaping and in the late fifties the Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Subdivision was started by Truax and many central Illinois community leaders. The name of Wee-Ma-Tuk is an Indian name meaning “Blue Skies and Many Waters.” Eventually the word “hills” was added which adapted the Indian name to “Blue Skies, Many Waters and Hills.” The golf course is located on five lakes. There are an additional 37 lakes surrounding the property. The largest lake is Lake Wee-Ma-Tuk which is 154 acres.

If you would like more information on membership please call 309-789-8113 or just stop by the Pro Shop located at 15722 E. Kenabeck Trail in Cuba, Illinois. Feel free to send an email to [info@wmtcc.com](mailto:info@wmtcc.com) or check out their website at [www.wmtcc.com](http://www.wmtcc.com).



Come on!  
Let's Play  
Golf!



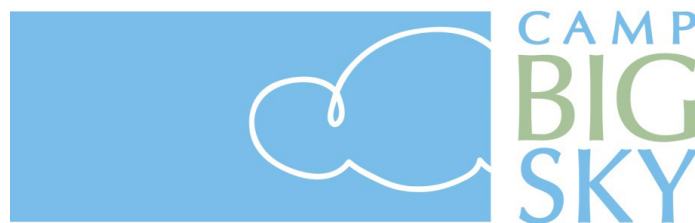
## NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

**Camp Big Sky** has provided life changing opportunities and wide-open experiences, in the great outdoors for 17 years!

**Our Mission:** To provide education, training and skills development to children and adults with disabilities through participation in accessible outdoor activities.

**Our Vision:** The amazing place where people of all ages and abilities enjoy the outdoors.

With 102 acres including two lakes and a campground, Camp Big Sky is available, at no cost, to any person of any age with any disability and their families, friends and caregivers. Activities include fishing, boat rides, hayrack rides, nature study, overnight stays, archery, lawn games, arts and crafts, kite flying and other outdoor pursuits. The accessible infrastructure enables people with disabilities to actively and independently participate in every outdoor activity. Almost every day we see someone do something for the first time in their lives!



### Operations

- Hours - Camp Big Sky is open every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from the first of May to the end of October. Saturday by special requests.
- Day Programs - all daytime activities at no cost and activities are totally accessible.
- Educational Programs - Volunteer Training teaches adults with disabilities how to become great community volunteers and Life Skills teaches practical skill sets to special education students from local school districts.
- Overnight Accommodations – 2 cabins and a lodge available to rent to families and groups. Our buildings and activities are totally accessible for all campers, families, friends and caregivers. Groups with disabilities have priority, but anyone is welcome to stay overnight. Recommended donation goes towards utilities and staff support of \$100 for cabin use and \$200 for Lodge use.
- Company Retreats - Let Camp Big Sky be your next offsite team building experience. Plan an out of office gathering for your companies employees that provides an environment where your team can learn to really work together through a whole host of activities.
- Reservations are required for ALL visits and should be made online at <https://campbigsky.org/register-for-a-visit/>

Check out Camp Big Sky on their website at <http://www.campbigsky.org/>  
Email at [exec@campbigsky.org](mailto:exec@campbigsky.org) or call 309-258-6002



# PROFESSIONAL CHAMBER BUSINESS SERVICES

Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine  
61 East Side Square ~ Canton  
309-649-1572

Bard Optical  
125 North Main Street ~ Canton  
309-647-0366

Chiropractic Wellness Connection  
410 E. Elm ~ Canton  
309-647-7490

Fulton County Emergency Medical Association  
635 South Main Street ~ Canton  
309-647-5147

Hanes Physical Therapy, Ltd.  
486 North Main Street ~ Canton  
309-357-5470

Klinedinst Chiropractic  
106 Martin Avenue ~ Canton  
309-647-8030

Midwest Dental  
75 East Birch Street ~ Canton  
309-647-2244

Progressive Vision Center  
42 North Main Street  
309-647-2020

Rock Valley Physical Therapy  
370 North Main Street ~ Canton  
309-822-5300

Stinauer Family Dentistry  
148 North 5th Avenue ~ Canton  
309-226-4717

American Family Insurance - Tyson Smith  
205 East Locust  
309-647-5466

Dempster Insurance Agency  
74 East Pine ~ Canton  
309-647-4284

Kiesewetter Insurance Agency, LLC  
115 Fort Street ~ Farmington  
309-245-2434

Sanders-Hasty Insurance Agency, Inc.  
50 West Pine ~ Canton  
309-647-0248

Shelter Insurance - Todd Fletcher  
89 East Elm Street ~ Canton  
309-647-8550

State Farm - Brian Yontz  
2001 North Main Street ~ Lewistown  
309-547-2767

State Farm - Chuck Taylor  
269 West Locust ~ Canton  
309-647-8544

State Farm - Dee Clark  
2010 North Main Street ~ Canton  
309-647-7711

North Central Behavioral Health Systems  
229 Martin Avenue ~ Canton  
309-647-1881

Spoon River Counseling & Wellness  
8 South Main Street, Suite 203 ~ Canton  
309-740-2171

Watson Center for Wellness  
103 South Main Street ~ Canton  
309-649-6813



# CULTIVATE YOUR LEADERSHIP



## Cultivate Your Leadership Series

Presented by the Spoon River College Office of Community Outreach  
& the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce

### Leading Through Change

It would be a challenge to think of a time in recent history that has had as much disruption and change as 2020. Leadership has been put to the test.

In this virtual workshop, we look at the different types of change our organizations are experiencing and how we might react. We examine the importance of resiliency as we lead through change. Plus, we examine the role that trust and strong human relations play in navigating the change we are experiencing in our personal and professional lives.

**Live ONLINE**

**September 10, 2020**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Tuition: \$75**



**Steve Garland**

Managing Partner

Dale Carnegie Training  
of Greater IL

### Crucial Conversations & Handling Mistakes

As our teams experience a workplace that is navigating a high degree of change and uncertainty, mistakes are bound to happen. This is a key time for leaders.

Organizations that handle mistakes effectively and maintain strong employee engagement set themselves apart.

In this virtual workshop, we look at key human relations principles related to handling mistakes well. We look at several step-by-step strategies that help us maintain employee relations while leveraging mistake-making to improve our processes and provide our teams with valuable insights. We'll specifically discuss what we say, how we say it, and what human relations principles we employ to create positive outcomes.

**Live ONLINE**

**September 17, 2020**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Tuition: \$75**

### Creating a Culture of Cooperation

One of the true benefits of employee engagement is that we begin to create an organizational culture that lends itself to cooperation and collaboration.

In this virtual workshop, we look at the key factors of employee engagement. We examine the difference in organizational outcomes when we leverage cooperation over compliance.

We examine common organizational barriers to cooperation and look at key leadership communication skills. Participants should expect to learn the key components of building cooperation and how to utilize specific human relations principles to position themselves to benefit from the experience of their entire organization, not just the top end.

**Live ONLINE**

**September 24, 2020**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Tuition: \$75**

**SAVE** and enroll in all three sessions for **\$200.** / Enroll @ [src.augusoft.net](http://src.augusoft.net) or 309-649-6260

[dalecarnegie.com](http://dalecarnegie.com)



209 E. Chestnut, Suite 2 ~ Canton, IL 61520 ~ (309) 647-2677



# MESSAGE FROM COLE McDANIEL

## Executive Director SRPED

### The Importance of Downtown Revitalization within Economic Development

Investment in revitalization creates jobs, increases property values and attracts tourists. All of which are economic benefits to the cities making those investments. So, we know that downtown revitalization has a direct positive benefit on our local economies, but what about the bigger role of a vibrant downtown as the cornerstone of a local economic development program? Could it be that a revitalized downtown is the most important economic development tool for a community? I believe it just may be and here's why.

These concepts are not new to most economic developers. When you ask them, what businesses are looking for when they inquire about a community, they will tell you that they want a talented labor pool, good schools, cultural and recreational amenities — an authentic and unique place. Yet, many of our community economic development programs have not aligned their resources with these priorities. Many economic development programs continue to operate in an outdated system where their time and resources are focused on developing industrial parks and offering cash payments to try to lure companies. The reality is that those things are only of secondary importance. A community may not even get the chance to show off the new industrial park or offer a cash incentive if it does not first make the cut by scoring high in quality of life amenities essential to which is a healthy, vibrant downtown.

In order to truly maximize the benefits of downtown revitalization, a community must understand its revitalization program in the context of its overall economic development program. In short, downtown revitalization is economic development. For many communities this is a paradigm shift. More often than not the downtown revitalization function is completely separate from the community's economic development program. The separation is typically at multiple levels: staffing, funding, physical location, and, more importantly, level of organizational priority.

It is important for us to understand the advantages of integrating downtown revitalization with economic development. In order to successfully do that, you have to be able to speak the language of economic development and understand economic development tools, how they are used and how they can be used for downtown revitalization. There are many communities that have made great progress in synchronizing their downtown revitalization and economic development programs. There are also many good examples of how communities are utilizing economic development financing and incentive mechanisms within their downtown revitalization programs.

One of my main priorities as the new Executive Director for SRPED is to focus on Downtown Revitalization in the City of Canton. I look forward to proposing some new ideas and strategies surrounding Downtown Revitalization to community leaders in the near future.



# MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT of CANTON SCHOOLS

## Preparing for the Fall

by Rolf Sivertsen

I have been asked many times how we are preparing our buildings for the possibility of starting school in the fall. My response has always been one word: CAREFULLY.

### HVAC MODIFICATIONS

The COVID virus is a very resilient bug that has a lot of talent. For example, epidemiologists are suspecting that the bug make lurk in aerosolized saliva and remain airborne for up to 30 minutes. The aerosolized virus is then inhaled into a victims bronchial system causing infection. In response, our school district has consulted with our district Architect and HVAC contractors to adjust building mechanical systems to provide more fresh air into the student environments. For example, the district is the process of recalibrating dampers to increase outside air flow to inhibit the possibility of any airborne viruses. Another adjustment that is being implemented is the installation of MERV Filters within the district air handlers. MERV filters are devices that are more efficient in limiting airborne particulates. Research indicates the COVID 19 virus is most likely to become airborne in respiratory droplets of .10 Microns or less. MERV filters are recommended by the CDC to trap aerosolized respiratory particulates.

### MASKS

Another intervention to prevent the spread of the COVID Virus is the use of face masks. The district has adopted policies to mandate face mask usage to anyone entering Canton School District buildings. Initially the district had approved face shields, but the Illinois Department of Public health has found them to be ineffectual in prevent virus transmission. In addition, the district has procured approximately 12,000 face masks for students and employees.

### CLEANING AND TRAINING

The third intervention in preventing the spread of the COVID virus is extensive training on cleaning procedures and the use of specific cleaning products. It is important to remember that many chemicals are restricted for use when children are present. As a result, it is important to only use approved chemicals that are safe for children yet will still kill viruses. Most importantly, proper training is essential to learn where, when, and how to use the chemicals to kill any bugs. In closing, planning for the prevention of COVID has been a challenge. For example, there are multiple guidelines mandated by the government to protect children that make providing a safe and health school difficult. Nonetheless Canton Schools are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, and their families.



# Canton

Union School District #66





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Questions: Carla Bobell  
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**FRIDAY, August 21, 2020**

**LUNCH - 11:00**  
**TEE-OFF - 12:00**

Get Registered today!  
4 Person Scramble  
Team Fee: \$300  
Includes Golf, Cart, and Lunch

To get registration form and sponsorship opportunities go to [www.cantonillinois.org](http://www.cantonillinois.org) ~  
Chamber tab ~ Chamber Events & Programs ~ Golf Outing

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# 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  
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 WBYS AM & WCDD FM Radio

## COME AND JOIN OUR TEAM!