

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBER**

**Immeasurably
More**

THE CHAMBER COURIER

October 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
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 here for
your business. Feel free to
contact them anytime.**

“Small Town” May Become the Sexiest Brand in the World

by Chris Brogan with Small Biz Survival

The COVID-19 quarantine has crushed so many small businesses and the economy at large. It's truly been the worst financial crisis unfolding in this country since the 1930s. And while some measures are in place to help this not reach that level of despair, many people are finding themselves out of a job. But is there a silver lining? Absolutely!

“Work From Home” Will Invite More People to Experience Small Town Life

The whole “work from home” part of quarantine has shown a lot of employers and employees a path to choosing where they want to live. In a system that no longer requires “butt in chair” management, why would someone choose some of the big cities out there? Would you rather look out on some fields or forests, or listen to cars honking all night long? But when some of these folks come to a small town setting, they'll get exposed (maybe for the first time) to the power of a small town localized community. Maybe they won't be able to visit the opera every weekend and maybe the little grocery store doesn't have a big selection of quinoa (how many quinoa choices do we need?), but the sense that everyone is working together and everyone knows each other is a very alluring opportunity.

This Will Drive More Small Business Opportunities

The easy example is that delivery businesses thrive when city types show up at a small town. People are used to convenience living, and if those services don't quite exist in the small town setting, you can step in and fill a gap.

Big cities were the way to go for a while. Then suburbs. Small towns were “unsexy” for some time. But it's the right time to show off the power of the small town and how you can help grow the world not that far from your own front porch.

BENEFITS OF CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

* Networking and Involvement - It's not just who you know it's who others know. Networking is powerful. Being involved in Chamber events, either by volunteering or sponsorship can help get your business noticed in your community

* Resources to help your business - Chamber sends out weekly email called CACC Member Resource & Promotions. This is designed to help keep your business in the know and promote what is going on with Chamber members.

* Growth Training and Educational Opportunities - Chamber strives to bring presenters and programs to our business community to help them continue to grow as a person and their business.

* Legislative Advocacy - Chambers have connections with government officials that can be helpful when a business needs to be heard.

* Job Postings - Your business has a job opening, the Chamber can post it on their website to help reach more people.

* Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening or Reopening-when a new business opens the Chamber does a ribbon cutting and invites Chamber Ambassadors and Board Members to attend and is able to help orchestrate the local papers to cover this event.

* Promote your Business - the Chamber has outlets to help promote your events, sales, specials, and your business to all Chamber members.

* Referrals - when folks from the community call the Chamber office for a referral, we always refer Chamber members.

* Volunteer Opportunities - be a part of a Chamber event to meet new people, promote your business and feel a part of the Canton community.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Jana Emmons, Ipava State Bank
Vice President - Chad Holloway, Interim Healthcare
Treasurer - Jodi Wilcoxon, MidAmerica National Bank
Secretary - Lisa Gardner, Jim Maloof Realtor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Business & Community Development
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Member & Public Relations
 Becky McLeod, Graham Health System

Government Affairs
 Chad Holloway, Interim Healthcare
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 Superintendent Rolf Sivertsen, CUSD #66
 President Curt Oldfield, Spoon River College

STAFF

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Immeasurably More

Immeasurably More is a new adorable shop in Canton. They have a mix of handcrafted, vintage and new home accessories, decor and more.

Owners, Shelli and Matthew Harrison, moved to Fulton County in 1994 as a young married couple, and never dreamed that one day they would open their own business. Matt and Shelli are teachers at the same school. Shelli teaching first grade and Matt high school shop class. In his spare time, Matt has built cabinets and furniture for Shelli, works on their fixer upper and also built a log home. In the winter of 2019 they started to formulate an idea to see if they could make some things to sell at local festivals over the summer. They had so much fun combining their creative ideas, working together to design new products and busied themselves figuring out how to put words on various things like signs, boards, fabric, dishes, and buckets.



After their first successful summer at a festival they have not stopped and kept expanding their booth every year. When the pandemic hit in March of 2020 it looked like they had some spare time after online teaching to work on designing new things and improving their overall system. Just as predicted shows started to be cancelled and they realized they would not be doing many shows, if any this year. They got a crazy idea to go look at a building. It seemed like it would be perfect for them, offering extra room for a wood shop for Matt, storage, a craft space for Shelli, and even a space for retail. But in the middle of a pandemic? They moved forward and everything fell into place and Immeasurably More was created!

Some of the items they offer are home decor signs they design and make and can also put words/names on towels, onesies, dishes, and ornaments. Shelli and Matt enjoy finding ways to repurpose vintage items, and even hand make a few items that don't have words like banners, swags, ladders, risers, and cutting boards. They also carry local honey and Essential oil blends from Oscoca Farms. Gift cards are now available.

Immeasurably More is still a part time business for the Harrisons so be sure to check for their hours of operation on their Facebook page and on the outside of their shop which is located at 254 South 5th Avenue in Canton. You can call Immeasurably More at 563-293-6362. Have a question? Send them an email at immeasurablymore670@gmail.com.

Scenic Drive
Open Dates

OCTOBER
1,2,3,4
8,9,10,11

Hours: Thurs/Fri 4p-6p Sat/Sun 9a-4p
254 S 5th Ave, Canton, IL

immeasurably MORE



MEMBERSHIP TESTIMONIALS FROM CANTON CHAMBER MEMBERS

“Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine is a proud member of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce 150 percent club. The Chamber has been a great help to Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine throughout the twenty years we have been in town. Their staff has been there to help us with finding a new building when we were looking to expand. They were there for support when our building was damaged due to the gas explosion despite completely losing their entire office at the same time. During this time they even let us use part of their temporary office space to work out of while we were searching for temporary office space. We can never thank them enough for that support. The Chamber has always kept us well informed of events happening in the area and finding ways for businesses to promote themselves. They are always happy to accommodate you with your business needs. Their business after hours events are a great way to connect with other local businesses. As long as we are in Canton, we plan to be a supporter of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce.” *Jason Palmer - Advanced Rehab*



"I joined the Canton Chamber because I wanted to connect and work with businesses in Canton to help improve our city. I also wanted to get to know the business owners in Canton and learn from them how to operate a successful business. It's also a great resource for information on growing your business and what are the latest tools available to help you operate. It's a great organization to meet people that are goal oriented and just fun to get to know." *The Gwen Alexander, Inc.*

“The Health & Wellness Connection of Fulton County is a non-profit case management facility staffed by dedicated volunteers and professionals. Our mission is to help local providers with quality primary healthcare for the underinsured patients and underserved residents of Fulton County. Since we are a non-profit that spends well over \$70,000 a year on client healthcare needs, we have little funding to promote our programs around Fulton County. The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is a great resource for us to spread news of the HWCFC programs to those that could use our help! We never charge our clients for anything. We help them pay for healthcare needs such as doctor visits, medication, medical supplies, vision care, dental care, counseling, flu immunizations and more. Connecting with the Canton Chamber and all of its members is a great way to spread the word fast! Fulton County has many wonderful social service programs and services for those needing help. The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is awesome at connecting those in need with local programs. However, just as important, the local chamber members can often find additional help for their clients within the Chamber members!” *Missy Kolowski, Executive Director of Health & Wellness Connection of Fulton County*



OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month (DVAM). This top of the mind awareness started from the "Day of Unity" back in 1981. In 1989, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National DVAM. The Fulton-Mason Crisis Service has participated in multiple events throughout the month to educate their communities on the prevalence of domestic violence, and to eradicate abuse. This year, Fulton-Mason Crisis Service will again participate in the annual Purple Ribbon Campaign to show support for victims and survivors of domestic violence. If you as an individual, group or business would like to participate, please call and ask a staff member for pre-made ribbons. Please call during business hours at the Fulton-Mason Crisis Service office. 309-647-7487. Office hours; Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.



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 on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Donaldson Center. The event will be held at the Donaldson Center, 250 South Avenue D, Canton, IL 61520. The event is free and open to the public. Invitations will be mailed to all registered voters and posted on the event website.

CANCELLED

HOSTED BY:



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020 | 6:30 PM
CANTON PARK DISTRICT DONALDSON CENTER | 250 SOUTH AVENUE D

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee along with the Fulton County Farm Bureau have made the decision to cancel the Meet the Candidates for October. This decision did not come easy and many ideas on how to re-create this event were discussed, but ultimately it was decided for the safety of the candidates and our community Meet the Candidates will be cancelled.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS VIRTUAL



Save the Date
Friday, November 6th, 2020
8:00 am - 9:30 am
Virtual via ZOOM



Come and be a part of the Women in Business Virtual this year
Awesome speaker and fun, virtual break out rooms
Register online at www.cantonillinois.org.

*Click on Chamber tab, community calendar, November 6, Women in Business
or make out check to Canton Area Chamber of Commerce and mail to
209 E. Chestnut, Suite 2 ~ Canton, IL. 61520*

COST \$10

*If you have a group, please contact the Chamber office to be sure you are all
together in the break out rooms*

Interested in becoming a sponsor for Women in Business?
Contact Carla Bobell for more details
309-647-2677 Ext. 3
cbobell@cantonillinois.org

MESSAGE FROM COLE McDANIEL



The Importance of a Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce Month was celebrated last month by the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce and I wanted to share some information on why it could be beneficial to join the Canton Chamber if you aren't already a member!

Business owners are always looking for new opportunities to network and meet other small business owners and expand their business network. One great way to do this is to become a member of your local Chamber of Commerce! Many small businesses increase their business exposure and grow revenues through involvement in the Chamber.

Here are some great reasons to join your local Chamber of Commerce:

Make business contacts

The chamber initiates business-to-business opportunities for networking and connecting with other local business professionals.

Receive chamber newsletters

Newsletters provide new member information, interesting information about operating a local business, articles about the local business community, and details about up-and-coming chamber events. The recent Chamber newsletters have also provided information about COVID-19 and additional resources during this very unprecedented time.

Acquire customer referrals

Your local chamber receives calls from individuals and businesses looking for referrals of local businesses. And who do they refer? Chamber members!

Bring additional credibility to your business

You increase the positive perception among consumers and business owners when you're identified as a member of a chamber of commerce.

Increase your visibility in the community

As a member of the chamber of commerce, you will be listed periodically in the chamber weekly emails, Chamber Courier, Chamber Facebook page and online directory. You also can grow your business by being involved in chamber events and/or sponsorships. The chamber can also promote your grand opening/ ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Networking opportunities

Chambers have numerous committees and serving on one of them provides additional networking opportunities, as well as, professional leadership development.

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is a hardworking, respected and valuable organization that you would be proud to be involved with and join as a member, just like the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development. Executive Director, Carla Bobell is a top-notch Director and advocates for all of our small businesses and organizations in the Canton area! Consider joining in 2020!

MESSAGE FROM ROLF SIVERTSON SUPERINTENDENT of CANTON SCHOOLS

FUNDING PROBLEMS ARE NOT GOING AWAY IN ILLINOIS

Since I became a superintendent in 2007 I have never had a year where state educational funding has not been a challenge for the school districts I have worked in. This year will prove to be like no other.

On Wednesday, September 16 the Chicago Tribune reported that Governor Pritzker had directed his cabinet directors to prepare for a “nightmare scenario” that includes budget cuts of at least 5% for the current fiscal year and a 10% cut for the next one. The governor is imploring the federal government to provide \$5 billion dollars in aid to plug a shortfall created by the COVID pandemic. In June, the governor announced that the state had \$2.7 billion less revenue than expected for this fiscal year’s budget, and \$4.6 billion less revenue for the 2022 fiscal year that begins on July 1. To remedy the budget shortfall the legislature adopted a budget that relied heavily on a combination of borrowing and revenue provided by federal pandemic assistance. In response, house GOP Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, said in a statement, “House Republicans repeatedly warned the Democrats in May about this looming catastrophe — budgeting for \$42 billion in spending with only \$37 billion in revenue.” In Washington, house Democrats and Senate Republicans continue to be at a stalemate over a stimulus package. Currently, the Republicans are proposing \$1 trillion in aid while the Democrats are proposing nearly twice the Republican amount - the stalemate has no end in sight. What would a 10% cut look like to the Canton School District?

A 10% loss of state revenue for the Canton School District would amount to a little over \$1,000,000 dollars - that amount represents about 20 teachers. The loss would be further exacerbated by the closure of the Duck Creek power plant. When Duck Creek closed the district was projected to lose \$800,000 a year. To make matters worse the district is also losing over \$700,000 in Corporate Personal Replacement Tax. At the end of the day to total amount lost in all revenue may be over 3 million dollars in lost local and state revenue.

In closing, the COVID pandemic has created a financial challenge for school districts throughout the country. Responsible districts will need to monitor their finances closely to ensure that the loss or revenue created by the pandemic doesn’t compromise their ability to provide a quality education for students.



Canton

Union School District #66

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
 Camille's of Canton
 Canton Elks Lodge
 Canton Family YMCA
 CEFCU
 Central States Fireworks
 CFC Properties
 Chronos Technology
 COOK Medical
 Crawford's Home Furnishings
 Dempster Insurance
 Di's Boutique
 Eagle Point Solar
 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.
 Ipava State Bank
 John Clark
 Jim Maloof Realtor

John McCarthy, Attorney at Law
 Johnson & Johnson, PC
 Jones Surveying & Engineering Corp
 Kevin & Debbie Stephenson
 Kiwanis Club of Canton
 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
 RISE Canton
 Scott Miller
 Sherwin-Williams
 State Farm Insurance, Chuck Taylor
 Stinauer Family Dentistry
 The Loft Rehabilitation & Nursing of Canton
 TimbukTech, Inc.
 Town & Country Insurance Agency, Ltd.
 Walgreens in Canton
 WBYS AM & WCDD FM Radio