

WELCOME
NEW MEMBER
**LHC Home
Health**

THE
CHAMBER
COURIER
December 2020

The monthly business publication for the Canton Area



Andrea Barbknecht, Spoon River College
Emylee Bitner, CEFCU of Canton
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
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

2020 ~ Is It Over Yet?

by Carla Bobell

Whenever I am watching a scary movie, which is not often, it is well known that I cover my eyes when the intense part is happening and keep asking "Is it over yet?" That is how I feel about 2020. Is the scary, intense part over with? Many are asking: Will things change soon? Can we get back to normal, happy, let's get together times? I sure hope so!

Reflecting on 2020 the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce started off with a bang at our Annual Chamber Dinner in February. We awarded 5 wonderful, well deserving folks from our local businesses and community. We had begun planning for our annual Golf Outing in May and then BOOM! The State of Illinois is closed down due to a pandemic we would soon come to know all too well. The Canton Chamber depends on annual Chamber Membership dues (45%) and event fundraising (55%). Our events were cancelled this year, even though we managed to re-imagine the Cruise-In by doing a Cruise THRU Parade and moved our golf outing to August, but the Taste of Canton, once again, was not able to happen. We also had a new event planned for October of this year by bringing in CHS Alumni to participate in the Celebrity Alumni Basketball event. With all the guidelines and restrictions this event never even got started. Needless to say it has been a rough year for the books. But we are not alone.



Let us end this year with a bang by supporting our local businesses. Retail, restaurants, and all of our service businesses. Our local businesses have been here for our community by giving back when they can, it is now time for us to step up and be there for them. Stimulate the local economy by spending your dollars here first.

SHOP LOCAL Y'ALL!

COME #SHOPSMALL WITH US



President's Notes

Jana Emmons, Ipava State Bank

My first year as Chamber President has been strange to say the least! Covid-19 canceled most of our events this year including the Business After Hours. We were thankful to be able to hold our Chamber Annual Dinner in February and the annual golf outing, which was moved from May to August, but the cancelation of so many other fundraising events has had a very negative impact on our budget. We know that many of our local community businesses have also been negatively impacted by the shutdowns caused by the pandemic. As always, it is SO very important to shop locally! Local businesses do so much for our communities and we hope that our community members continue to support them.



I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce and I am looking forward to 2021!

SHOP LOCAL



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Jana Emmons, Ipava State Bank

Vice President

Treasurer - Jodi Wilcoxon, MidAmerica National Bank

Secretary - Lisa Gardner, Jim Maloof Realtor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Business & Community Development

Jodi Wilcoxon, MidAmerica National Bank

Member & Public Relations

Becky McLeod, Graham Health System

Government Affairs

Diane Bell, Di's Boutique

Jason Elwell, Peculiar Projects

Greg Glomb, Edward Jones

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.

Jay Valencia, Canton High School

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

209 East Chestnut Street, Suite 2

Canton, IL 61520

(309) 647-2677

cbobell@cantonillinois.org



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



COOK MEDICAL Celebrating 10 Years in Canton

We would like to congratulate COOK Medical on their 10 year Anniversary here in Canton. Opening on April 5th, 2010, the first set of employees walked through the brand new facility doors. COOK Medical started with a production team of 30 and a supporting team of four. Today their current team is made up of 110 production employees and 15 employees supporting production. One of the goals that Bill Cook, owner of COOK Medical based out of Bloomington, Indiana, gave to the hiring team, was he wanted the employees at the COOK facility to reside in Fulton County as much as possible. Today, 85% of the employees reside in Fulton County. His focus was to provide employment opportunities for the Canton and surrounding communities.



“Our production team is the backbone of our facility”. states Denise Kirgan plant manager at COOK Medical. “The work that they do is so important to the physicians that utilize our products and most importantly to the patients we serve”. The support team at COOK Medical includes the Facilities team, who work to maintain the facility and the equipment utilized to keep the manufacturing areas safe, clean, and compliant with regulatory requirements, the HR Department that supports the needs of all of the employees, the Production Engineer supports the manufacturing areas and leads the efforts to continuously make improvements, the Quality Assurance Manager focuses on guiding our team to regulatory compliance, the Operations Support team works to plan production, manage inventory of components, and support the day to day production needs of the teams and the Plant Manager works with all teams and is responsible for the success of the facility site.

The COOK Medical site manufactures Angiographic Catheters and components for Cook’s Micro-puncture Introducer Sets. “Our products are hand crafted by skilled employees. Angiographic catheters are used in multiple ways by physicians all across the globe. As an example, if you know anyone who has had an Angiogram secondary to a heart issue, the catheter utilized in their procedure could have been made by our team members” says Kirgan. The Micro-puncture sets are utilized by physicians to access the circulatory system.

It has been 10 years but COOK Medical does not settle for status quo. “Currently we are restructuring our production floor to open space for the future. There is a strong and capable work force in our community and COOK would like to utilize that work force.

“The potential for additional work and increasing our employee numbers is very good” says Kirgan.

Lastly Kirgan shares, “A big thank you to this community for the support we have enjoyed through our first decade in Canton”. COOK Medical is very proud to be a part of the Canton community and looks forward to many years of growth as they strive to serve their patients, each other, and the community.



For more information on COOK Medical visit
www.cookmedical.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Welcome our newest member, LHC Home Health out of Galesburg. Some of you may previously have known them as Cottage Home Health but effective November 6th of this year, they have changed their name, but that is the only thing that has changed. LHC Home Health is a well-known Home Health company all over the United States that now provides quality home healthcare in the West Central Illinois area.



They are committed to the care and well-being of the patients and families who have placed their trust in LHC Home Health, which is one of the reasons they have been recognized as a 5 star agency.

LHC Home Health is growing in the Fulton County area and are honored to be delivering quality patient care with highly trained home health professionals with over 30 years of experience. Under the direct supervision of a referring physician, their highly skilled home care professionals deliver quality, compassionate care. LHC Home Health also include families and caregivers in the care process, offering valuable information, guidance and – most of all- support.

Some areas of care specialties would include, but not limited to, fall prevention, skilled nursing, IV therapy, education of disease management, patient/caregiver training and they even have their own in house therapy. LHC Home Health empowers their clinicians and staff to embrace the communities they serve, because they understand the best care happens in the context of strong relationships.

To reach LHC Home Health call 1-800-543-1890. There are many questions when choosing home health services so go to www.lhcgroup.com for more helpful information.



**TIER
3**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will continue to track the positivity rates and hospital capacity metrics in regions. In order for a region to move back to Tier 2 mitigations, a region must experience less than 12% test positivity rate for three consecutive days AND greater than 20% available intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital bed availability AND declining COVID hospitalizations 7 out of 10 days.

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce will continue to update their Chamber Member businesses with updates as they become available. Go to www.cantonillinois.org/Chamber for more information. Stay safe!



SHOP LOCAL & WIN!

SELFIE CONTEST

Help small businesses by shopping local this holiday season

SHOP SMALL - WIN BIG

While out shopping locally, take a selfie of you with your purchase in front of the local business and do your best to include the business sign

Tag the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook and use [#shopcanton](#)
www.Facebook/CACC61520

Then LIKE



B&A Kusanovich Family McDonald's

You will be entered for a chance to win \$100 in Chamber Checks to local businesses AND a chance to win prizes from the Canton McDonald's

*Selfies contest runs from November 28 through December 31, 2020
Winners will be selected on January 3rd ~ Live on the Chamber FB page*

YEAR END REFLECTIONS

CITY OF CANTON

2020- Keep Safe and Carry On by Mayor Kent McDowell

Seems the universe has changed since I wrote this annual Chamber article a year ago, at the end of 2019. Life was good, Canton was making forward strides on all fronts, and the future of 2020 looked bright.

Our first quarter of the year marked the opening of Canton's (and the state of Illinois') first legalized marijuana dispensary. Although we are just now starting to see that revenue, it promises to be a substantial boost to the City coffers.

Early spring saw a new building purchased on Grant Place for our System Maintenance department to call home. The City also named a Complete Count Census Committee to meet the challenge of obtaining our most accurate citizen count possible, and they achieved that impressively, with a steadfast group of citizens aided by the receipt of a \$5,000 grant.

March 16 marked the dawn of a new era- dealing with COVID19, but your City leadership took immediate action to protect our essential workers, provide ample PPE, and set up employees to work from home where possible. Day-to-day business has continued with very little interruption. Meetings moved to Zoom, but the work has carried on.

Throughout the summer and fall, Canton saw progress and perseverance in spite of a pandemic. Graham Hospital continued to add to and improve their facility, even while being the front line for the coronavirus. Most restaurants created outdoor dining spaces. Businesses found new and creative ways to market and do business. And we watched a new MidAmerica National Bank rise from an empty parking lot to a beautiful new financial institution.

The City welcomed a new alderwoman, Andra Chamberlin. Public Works received a sizeable grant for a new dump truck/snow plow. Last year's improvements to Canton Lake and Campground have rewarded us with the most profitable season ever. And at this time, our city finances are holding strong, better than many communities in our area.

I want to thank every one of our City employees for giving their all during this impossible year. Without their dedication to serving our community, we would not fare as well as we have.

Mayor Kent A. McDowell

Thank You!



SPOON RIVER COLLEGE

ANNUAL UPDATE

Curt Oldfield ~ President

Like all of us, Spoon River College has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have responded to the pandemic by changing the way our courses and student services were delivered this fall. Likewise, we are planning the same formats for the spring 2021 semester. This spring, the College will be offering some classes on campus, while other classes will be a blend of online and face to face, and there will be classes that will be completely online. We want to give students options. We have taken a number of precautionary steps to ensure our students, faculty, and staff are safe on campus.



Throughout the pandemic, we have taken time to review what we have learned and have planned for changes that will need to be made in the future. We are paying close attention to the needs of our communities and our employers. We are discussing how to provide additional on-the-job training programs, delivering new career planning tools that anyone can utilize, and reviewing programs to ensure our students have the skills they need to transfer to a 4 year college or university, and start their career.

As we move forward, I predict the demand for short-term education and training will be greater. These short-term programs will help individuals get back into the workplace quickly. Spoon River College is responsive to the requests and needs of our local businesses, communities, and residents, and we will continue to increase the number of short-term and continuing education programs offered.

Since 1959, Canton Community College/Spoon River College has always been known for helping students succeed. We take very seriously our responsibility to provide a high quality, affordable education that improves the lives of our students and strengthens our communities. We are always studying how to best serve our students and our communities.

Our mission at Spoon River College is to provide innovative learning opportunities that enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve. I am proud of our faculty and staff who have continued to develop innovative strategies to help our students succeed.



Taking You Where You Want To Go

As we move forward, a number of challenges still await us as an institution, but I am confident that we will become an even stronger college. Our ability to embrace change while staying focused on our mission will be our road map in the future.

Thank you for your support of your community college, and we look forward to taking you where you want to go.



COVID AND SPORTS: To Play or Not to Play



Rolf Sivertsen ~ Superintendent of Canton Schools

Since the advent of the COVID virus public schools throughout the country have been upended in a tangled and tortuous dichotomy of deciding if they should allow student athletes to participate in competitive events. For example, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) has recently been deadlocked in a skirmish with Governor JB Pritzker in deciding if their boys' and girls' basketball seasons should be played. On one side, the IHSA has repeatedly attempted to engage the governor and the Illinois Department of Public Health in a discourse to obtain clarification on health safety rules for basketball competitions. In response, the Governor elevated basketball from a medium risk category sport to a high risk category – essentially killing the season for student athletes. Stunned, the IHSA convened a meeting with their governing board and publicly stated that they were encouraging their member schools to defy the governor's executive order and conduct a basketball season. Finally, in an attempt to deescalate the controversy, the IHSA invited Governor Pritzker to meet with the IHSA board, the Illinois Principals Association executive director, the Illinois Association of School Administrators executive director, and "a coalition of 200 superintendents who recently contacted Pritzker's office about sports." Not surprisingly, Governor Pritzker has declined the IHSA offer to attend their board meeting. To date both sides remain in a standoff.

Probably the biggest tragedy of the entire controversy is the disruption it has caused for individual school districts. For example, schools are already dealing with an overburden system of exhausted teachers, parents frustrated with on-line learning, and the constant battle of quarantines and infections of students and staff. To exacerbate an already over stressed system school boards are now finding themselves under attack from those demanding a confrontation with the Governor and the State of Illinois. Unfortunately, most people don't understand what the ramifications would be to any school district that chooses to defy the Governor's disaster proclamation.

Why not confront Governor Pritzker, defy his disaster proclamation, and play a season of boys and girls basketball? I can't tell you how many times I have heard that exact question over the past few weeks. First and foremost, any confrontation with the State of Illinois would be grossly problematic for any state-funded school district in Illinois. For example, any deliberate attempt to circumnavigate state law by a school district could jeopardize their state funding. Simply put, the state could withhold all state school funding. Similarly, there is also a liability issue for school districts that choose to discount state health laws. For instance, most insurance carriers exclude coverage for COVID 19 infections. In addition, if an individual becomes infected with COVID 19 at a prohibited district event, then the district is automatically negligent for not following state health laws. This is questionable for the district since permanent health problems would be compensable for the lifetime of a patient. The monetary compensation for such a scenario would be an immensely expensive liability for district taxpayers.

In closing, like the COVID 19 virus itself, high school sports has become complex and abstract. For example, there are so many prohibitions and rules governing practices and competitions to prevent the spread of COVID 19. School officials are apprehensive in fear of losing funding or, god forbid, experiencing an outbreak among student athletes. It is our hope and desire that the COVID 19 crisis will soon be over so we our district may return to a sense of normalcy.

2020 REFLECTION SPOON RIVER PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Executive Director, Cole McDaniel

This past year has been one that we won't soon forget. There have been many challenges, but I know that we will continue to be resilient and get through this together. Although there have been several events cancelled for this year, and businesses having to follow new rules, schools not meeting in person, etc. try to remember it is for the safety of everyone in our area. I greatly look forward to 2021 because I know there are brighter days ahead for all of us!



I wanted to share a few items with you that could be resources for businesses in our area, and share a little more about the REDI planning process that we have been working through since early 2019:

This past summer the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development applied for and was awarded a grant from USDA Rural Development. The grant was awarded to SRPED to be used for Revolving Loan Funds for small businesses in Canton/Fulton County. We are excited to have this new opportunity for our local business owners, and look forward to reviewing applications! These Loans are typically set on a 5-year term at a 1% interest rate.



SRPED has also been working with Purdue University, University of Kentucky, USDA, and University of Illinois Extension on a Rural Economic Development Initiative otherwise known as a "REDI Plan". This initiative was designed to support regionalized planning to overcome multi-jurisdictional challenges and to better leverage federal, state, local and/or private funding. The REDI Planning process will be completed and finalized around the first part of 2021.

"Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other" – Walter Elliot

SHOP LOCAL WITH CHAMBER CHECKS

Available for purchase at *two* convenient locations:

- Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Office**
209 East Chestnut, Suite 2, Canton
- MidAmerica National Bank**
100 West Elm Street, Canton

Redeemable at more than 100 Chamber Member businesses!

CANTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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