

Welcome New Members

Davis & Campbell LLC
Spoon River Pressure
Washing

THE CHAMBER COURIER

December 2021

The monthly business publication of the Canton Area

**Your Chamber Ambassadors
are here for your business.
Contact them anytime.**

Emylee Bitner, Bank of Farmington
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
Sandy Edsall, Davis Ford
Kim Fischer, Canton Harvester Inn
Jace Fletcher, Shelter Insurance
Jeromie Hale, Bistro 101
Seth Klinedinst, Crawford's Home Furnishings
John Lemon - Rise Canton
Dave Lewis, Dave Lewis Studio, Ltd.
Taryn Mellert, Spoon River Electric
JJ Montgomery - Mel's Sporting Goods
Amanda Reed, MidAmerica National Bank
Chase Shawgo, Ipava State Bank
Codi Swibold, Hy-Vee Food Stores
Dr. AJ Thum, Associates in Dentistry
Eve Zimmerman, Spoon River College



Make a BIG Impact in a Small Way

by: Carla Bobell, Executive Director CACC

Many of us at give donations to our favorite charities or organizations during the holiday season and throughout the year. We hand over our dollars and go on our way. We really never truly know how our dollars are used or who they actually benefit, but we still do it because we know we are helping.



In a study done by American Express, the driving force behind the Small Business Saturday and Shop Small campaigns it was reported that "approximately 67 Cents of Every Dollar Spent at a Small Business Remains in the Local Community. 44 cents goes to the small business owner for employee wages and benefits and 23 cents get reinvested in other local businesses and services". When shoppers spend their money locally, communities win!

We all can make a BIG impact by shopping small this year. Before you head out the door to do your holiday shopping (or continue your shopping) think about the local businesses in our community and surrounding communities that you can shop at and support this holiday season and all year long!

So do your part! Shop local and help keep our economy thriving now and for years to come. Happy Holidays!



BUSINESS
After Hours Hosted By
ISB
 IPAVA STATE BANK
December 16, 2021
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Billy's Tap
 Est. 1948
 Location

A great mix of business and pleasure at the end of the work day.
 Join us and bring your co-workers to enjoy refreshments & prizes!

SHOP LOCAL AND YOU COULD WIN

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE DETAILS!



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Business and Community Development
 Jodi Wilcoxon, MidAmerica National Bank

Government Affairs

Jay Valencia, Canton High School
 Diane Bell, Di's Boutique
 Jason Elwell, Peculiar Projects
 Greg Glomb, Edward Jones
 Jason Gumbart, Apex Seed Company
 Larrilyn Hall, Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club
 Becky McLeod, Graham Health System
 Lacey Neal, Rock Valley Physical Therapy
 Anna O'Brien, CHS Student Representative
 Chad Murphy, Spoon River College
 Whitney Parrish, Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates
 Erin Watson, Watson Center for Wellness

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jon Johnson, Canton Park District
 Mayor Kent McDowell, City of Canton
 Superintendent Tad Derenzy, CUSD #66
 President Curt Oldfield, Spoon River College

STAFF

Executive Director - Carla Bobell
Assistant Director - Caitlin Mason

48 N. Main Street, Canton, IL 61520
 (309) 647-2677
 cantonareachamber@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBER DAVIS & CAMPBELL, LLC

Davis & Campbell L.L.C. offers its clients a wide spectrum of legal and business counseling services. The firm represents local, regional, and national clients ranging in size from Fortune 500 companies, to sole entrepreneurs, to government bodies and municipalities. In rendering legal services, Davis & Campbell L.L.C. philosophy is to provide efficient, prompt, and exceedingly high-quality legal services at an affordable rate.

Our attorneys practice in four main areas — Business, Labor & Employment, Litigation, and Government.

- Our Business attorneys have extensive transactional experience, counseling management teams in a range of matters from mergers and acquisitions, to real estate, to entity formation and governance. The firm also has considerable experience in the areas of compensation and employee benefits.
- Regularly assisting employers in maintaining non-union status, collective bargaining, labor arbitration, and related matters, our Labor attorneys offer traditional labor representation--an experience difficult to find in many current law firms. Our Employment attorneys also counsel businesses and management regarding employment laws and compliance issues, drawing on extensive experience under federal and state employment, anti-discrimination, safety, and wage and hour laws.
- Our Litigation attorneys represent businesses in state and federal courts across the country, using aggressive and proactive litigation strategies to achieve our clients' goals.
- Representing educational, municipal, and local government bodies, our Government attorneys counsel clients regarding issues ranging from open meetings, to zoning and land use, to TIF districts, and regularly draft ordinances and policies

Davis & Campbell L.L.C. draw on the legal knowledge and hands-on industry experience of our attorneys across our practice areas to provide a full range of legal services tailored to meet each client's unique challenges.



DAVIS &
CAMPBELL
L.L.C.

401 N. Main Street
Peoria, IL.
309-673-1681
<https://dcamplaw.com/>

SHOP LOCAL BINGO!

SHOP LOCAL

Bingo

Order take out or delivery from local restaurant	Make appointment with hair dresser or barber	Have service done at local auto or equipment business	Buy tokens or gift certificate from local car wash	Buy gift certificate from local store
Visit a local bank	Buy Gift Certificate from local store	Seek legal services OR financial services	Buy a drink at local bar or liquor store or buy from a winery	Donate or volunteer for a non profit organization
Make a purchase at local retail store	Hire business to do some repairs, improvements or tech work	 FREE SPACE	Visit the Canton Area Heritage Museum	Order holiday treats from local restaurant or shop
Buy a gift certificate from local business or book event	Attend a church or donate to their mission	Make or keep appointment with professional service	Go bowling or see a movie in Canton	Make a purchase at local retail store
Eat at local restaurant	Purchase item from local florist	Make a purchase at a local business	Work out or attend a fitness class or yoga class	Purchase a Christmas gift at a local business

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

**BEGINS SATURDAY, NOV 27TH
AND ENDS DEC 31, 2021**

**Winners will be announced on
January 4, 2022 on the Chamber FB
page ~ CACC61520**

Winners will be contacted by Chamber Director

HOW TO PLAY SHOP LOCAL BINGO

Partake in the suggestions inside the bingo boxes and then write the name of the business or organization that you supported on the line inside each box.

HOW TO WIN!

To be eligible to win prizes, you must have at least 5 boxes across, down or diagonal that have business or organization names written on the lines inside the boxes. Turn in your Bingo card to the Canton Chamber office at 48 N. Main Street or email to cantonareachamber@gmail.com

by Friday, December 31 by 5 pm. If door is locked when dropping off, place in black mailbox outside of building on the brick wall.
(There is no limit to the number of times you can play)

HOW YOUR FAVORITE BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION CAN WIN!

The business or organization name that is listed the most on all the bingo cards turned in will win some Jingle Cash!

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to decide if a bingo card is eligible for drawing

Thank you for supporting our local businesses & organizations this holiday season and all year long!

*Happy Holidays from the
Canton Area Chamber of Commerce*



**DO YOUR PART!
SHOP LOCAL THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON.**

You can support our local businesses and organizations by playing Shop Local Bingo this month. Pick up a bingo card or download it digitally from the Chamber website. A list of businesses that have the bingo cards are on the Canton Chamber website at cantonillinois.org/Chamber

YEAR END REFLECTIONS CITY OF CANTON

2021 - A Steady Road to Progress by Mayor Kent McDowell

A long, steady road to progress – that’s what I keep coming around to as a summary of 2021 from the City of Canton point of view. We as citizens are always eager for change and improvement, but many times, change only occurs after a very lengthy process is continually pushed forward by many different individuals. Often, this process is never realized by the general public.

This year, we have been successful in acquiring various grants to fund large projects, specifically the Lincoln Road area Sewer Lining Project, the Lead Service Line Replacement project and the Water Treatment Plant Improvements project. All three projects represent dire need, but it is no easy task to make them actually happen. I’m thankful for the professional and diligent team I have to help satisfy every detailed requirement and obtain the maximum funding possible.



Another lengthy process has been the sale of property in the Old Beach Addition of Canton Lake, and the subsequent annexation of same. Building homes on newly-annexed land will not only result in increased property taxes coming into the city, but will help to increase our sagging population. Having a new subdivision in a beautiful, natural setting will be a strong attraction for young professional families looking to build homes, and at this time, Canton is very limited on any available building lots within city limits.

A relatively-shorter and very rewarding project has been the creation of new hiking trails at Canton Lake. Although the planning began over a year ago, Public Works crews cleared a swath through timber at the north end of the lake to create a beautiful nature trail that offers breathtaking views of the lake. It has attracted the attention of Local OPAL, an Illinois non-profit website that features outdoor recreation spots, and they created a webpage dedicated to our trails. Check it out!
<https://www.localopal.org/canton-lake-scenic-nature-trails-canton.html>

Other progress has ballooned in the form of a record number of TIF redevelopment agreements. Canton has three TIFs (Tax Increment Financing) that allow businesses to borrow funds for projects or receive tax breaks. This year has a long list of recipients, including soon-to-open Georgia Rae’s, Ben Hendrick’s Trucking, improvements at the Chamber of Commerce/SRPED office, Fuller’s Jewelry, Elm Street Café, and the Lofts on Main.

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 complications woven through this entire year, I believe we are powering through and making things happen for the good of our community, one step at a time. Progress doesn’t happen overnight, nor does it come easy, but with dedication and fortitude, we continue to move forward.

SPOON RIVER COLLEGE ANNUAL UPDATE

Curt Oldfield ~ President

Spoon River College positively impacts our local and state economy. In a recent study conducted by Northern Illinois University, it was found that Spoon River College has an annual economic impact of over 12 million dollars in our region. We continue to design programs that meet our regional employer and community needs, and raise the earning potential of our graduates.



Throughout the pandemic, we have reflected on what we have learned and have made necessary changes in order to be stronger in the future. We are discussing how to provide additional on-the-job training programs, how to deliver new career planning tools that anyone can utilize, and reviewing programs to ensure our students have the skills they need to succeed. We continue to develop partnerships with area colleges and universities to make achieving a bachelor's degree even smoother. All of this planning has been done with safety in mind. We continue to have a number of precautionary steps in place to ensure our students, faculty, and staff are safe while on campus.

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

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 modernize classroom strategies in order to help our students succeed. As we move forward, a number of challenges still await us as an institution. However, I am confident that because we are focused on student success, 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.



Taking You Where You Want To Go

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CUSD #66

Canton High School had the privilege of hosting our local VFW and American Legion in honor of Veterans Day. In addition, we welcomed keynote speakers Tim Alexander from the Disabled American Veterans as well as Esther Joy King. Also, we had the privilege to honor three former CHS graduates who were killed in action; Steven Berta, Richard Huggins, and John Ellison. Veterans Day and every day, we would like to thank all our veterans for serving our country, defending our freedoms, and making it possible to live the lives we can have today.

Eastview Elementary School collected 2889 canned food items. All items will be donated to local food pantries. Also, Westview Elementary School once again partnered with the Canton Fire Department in teaching second-grade students about fire safety. In addition to talking with students, the fire department also brought the fire safety house and each student had the opportunity to practice exiting the house.



Tad DeRenzy
Superintendent



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER BOARD PRESIDENT



Jana Emmons
Ipava State Bank
Chamber Board President



The year 2021 shaped up to be a little more close to normal for the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce. We were able to have our large community events like the Canton Cruise-In and Taste of Canton. Both events went well and we learned a few things on how we can improve for next year!

As we move forward into 2022, our board plans to continue to be a support system for our businesses and help them navigate through the continuing pandemic issues for example; vaccines or no vaccines, masks or no masks, and supply chain challenges. It has been a roller coaster ride, but our businesses are resilient and we will continue to support them and cheer them on!

It is an honor to serve as the Chamber Board President, and I look forward to a year of stability, growth and collaboration. Remember to support our local businesses during this holiday season and all year round. Help us keep our buildings full with thriving shops, restaurants, professional services and wonderful amenities. We all can make a difference.

Happy Holidays!

BUSINESS INCUBATOR

A Message from Cole McDaniel

Executive Director for the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development

The COVID-19 Pandemic has presented many new and unexpected challenges for our business owners throughout Fulton County and the world. However, the post pandemic recovery could present new opportunities for Main Street businesses and startups as we move forward.

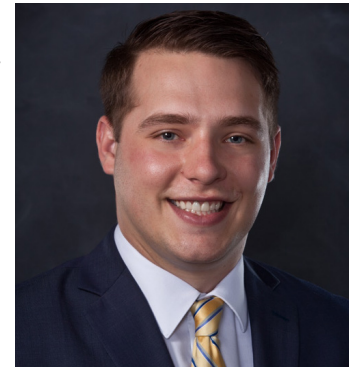
The Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development (SRPED) has plans to help build startup infrastructure, further strategic relationships, and help businesses enter the recovery stage on a stronger foot.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystems tend to be stronger when support networks like accelerators, incubators and co-working spaces are available. Numerous rural and poor areas lack them altogether. Building or rebuilding that support system could help small-business communities prosper in the years to come. SRPED has been and will continue to take steps over the next several months to introduce a small business incubator to Canton.

The overarching goal through a business incubator project is to help foster the entrepreneurial ecosystem in our area. We are early in the planning process, but working diligently to make this important project a reality for Fulton County and its small business community.

To learn more about what a “Business Incubator” is, you can visit the following link. Also, feel free to reach out to SRPED for additional information about the future plans for a business incubator to be located in Canton. I will have a progress update to share in early 2022!

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/encyclopedia/business-incubator>





150% CLUB

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
 Central Illinois Lighting & Signs, Inc.
 CFC Properties
 Comcast Business
 COOK Medical
 Crawford's Home Furnishing
 Dana Smith
 Dempster Insurance Agency
 Di's Boutique
 Digital Copy Systems
 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.
 Hulvey Law
 Hy-Vee of Canton
 Ipava State Bank
 Jimmy Johns - Subwars, LLC

- John Clark
- John McCarthy - Attorney at Law
- Johnson & Johnson, P.C.
- Jones Surveying & Engineering Corp
- 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
- RK Dixon
- Rhoades Real Estate & Land Auction Services, Inc.
- RISE Canton
- Scott Miller
- Security Finance
- Sedgwick Funeral Homes & Crematory
- Sherwin-Williams
- Spoon River Animal Clinic
- State Farm Insurance - Chuck Taylor
- The CBD Store
- Timbuk Tech, Inc.
- Town & Country Insurance Agency
- Unity Point Clinic of Canton
- Walgreen's of Canton
- Walmart of Canton
- WBYS AM & WCDD FM Radio
- Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club

A Family Tree Grows in Canton

Final feature in the HERE AT HOME: Young Professional Series by Carol Davis

A wide variety of picturesque trees line the streets of Canton. Some have existed for over a century. Each year their vibrant leaves and buds of pink, jade, white, and lavender herald the coming of spring and later their falling foliage of crimson, burnt umber, and veined yellow predict the approaching winter.

Canton's streets also thrive with many family trees of the human sort, blessed with the return of their children and their children's children. In our final feature of the Here at Home: Young Professionals Series, we examine the Thum Family Tree, a story of three young professionals branching out for their educations and then returning home to plant permanent roots.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

As children, Alyssa, Jessica, and A.J. resided in Canton with their parents, Veanna and Aaron Thum. Theirs was a close-knit family, with grandparents nearby, and they spent as much time together as possible.

When Alyssa, the oldest of the three, was asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, she already knew. A close relative required lung transplants at the end of Alyssa's seventh grade year.

"It was scary, but the procedure was successful," says Alyssa. "And I was so impacted by those life-saving results that I decided then and there to go into the field of medicine."



Alyssa admits she didn't take a specific educational path in her Canton School studies or activities.

"I'm more of a step-by-step person," Alyssa states. "First, you do this, then you do that, and you achieve an end."

In middle school, Alyssa was a member of Canton's 2002 State Championship 7th Grade Girls Basketball team. In high school, she participated in a variety of activities and sports as well and took the customary classes required to graduate.

As an outlet, Alyssa liked to dance and her ballet to the Pirates of the Caribbean theme in the annual Friendship Festival Queen Pageant played a major role in her walking away as the Canton Queen of Friendship. After high school graduation, Alyssa attended Illinois Wesleyan University for the next four years, majoring in biology. After being accepted to the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Alyssa's dream of becoming a doctor officially began.

A.J., the youngest Thum, also had an idea of what he wanted to be in the future. A.J. appreciated any course of action that required both intellect and hands-on skills. A.J. knew he wanted to pursue a career in either medicine or engineering.

"Basically, I was the President of Everything at Canton High School," A.J. laughs. "I involved myself in almost every opportunity CHS offered. I especially liked how Harold Rose taught Civics."

But because A.J. wore braces for the ten years between first and eleventh grade and spent lots of time in a dentist's chair, he considered the dentistry profession for himself.

"I already knew what it felt like from the patient side," A.J. says. "I job-shadowed our family dentist and became more intrigued with the field. I realized dentistry represents both medicine and engineering. I call it engineering of the mouth."

After graduating from CHS in 2013, A.J., like his oldest sister, selected Illinois Wesleyan University and majored in biology to further his studies. When A.J. was accepted to Southern Illinois University's School of Dental Medicine in Alton, Illinois, he packed up and moved south for post-graduate work.

So, whenever two of the three Thum children were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up, Alyssa quickly responded, "I want to be in the field of medicine." A.J. emphatically declared, "I want to go into medicine or engineering." And Jessica, the middle child, shrugged and replied, "I have no idea."

"I never knew exactly what I wanted to be like Alyssa or A.J. did, so I jumped into everything I could in high school," Jessica laughs. "I think of myself as well-rounded rather than indecisive. I participated in sports, in Student Council, in Spanish Club, and so much more."

Although all three of the siblings continued their educations in the Bloomington-Normal area, Jessica broke with tradition and after graduating from Canton High School in 2010, enrolled at Illinois State University (ISU).

"I couldn't decide on a major, so I just kept taking classes," Jessica explains. "My parents laugh today because I should have been able to graduate after 120 hours of college credit, but I ended up with 164. I became an education major by default."

A Doctor, A Dentist, and a Teacher Come Home

Today, Dr. Alyssa (Thum) Crawford saves lives and brings new lives into the world. Dr. Crawford serves her community as an obstetrician and gynecologist at Graham Health System. What brought her back home?

"Well, family, of course," says Dr. Crawford. "You can see the forest for the trees in Canton. There is quality of life here and Canton is a family town where you can lay a foundation for the future. My husband Zach is from Canton. We are raising our daughter here. My sister and my brother are not just my siblings; they are my best friends."

But family togetherness was not the only reason Dr. Crawford practices medicine in Canton. She expresses great pride in being a part of a great health care system that also encourages practice independence.

"Bob Senneff, President and CEO of Graham Health System, deserves some of the credit for bringing me back home to practice medicine," Dr. Crawford adds. "He, and others at Graham, supported me from the beginning. Graham Health System offers quality care and I know my colleagues personally as well as professionally."

Dr. Aaron (A.J.) Thum began his dentistry practice with Associates in Dentistry this past August. Dr. Thum appreciates the generational aspect of dentistry in his hometown.

"Anyone who knows me understands I like to talk," A.J. admits. "I serve patients who are family members of friends I made in high school. I enjoy knowing all about them and making connections."

It has been rumored that Dr. Thum has the best music playlist of any doctor in town.

“Yeah, I hear that a lot,” Dr. Thum says. “I’ve been known to sing along. Most of my patients enjoy that.”

Togetherness and the close proximity to friends and family also factored into Dr. Thum’s decision to offer his professional services in his hometown.

“Being an uncle to my two nieces is the best,” says Dr. Thum. “I can’t imagine not seeing them almost every day. My sisters, my parents, my grandparents, and others are all here. I wanted to be here, too.”

Dr. Thum mentions one other event that impacted his decision to return home.

“When the Opera Professional Building explosion occurred five years ago in November, I was so proud of this community,” Dr. Thum states. “Everyone banded together to help Canton recover and I knew then that this town is where I wanted to be.”

Now, what happened to the young woman who couldn’t decide what she wanted to be when she grew up? She became a teacher and a coach with Canton Union District 66 and now teaches and coaches children of families she knows well. Mrs. Jones brings Canton experience back to her coaching duties. She was a member of the Canton 8th Grade Girls Basketball team that won State in 2005. For Coach Jones, the relationships matter.

“As a grade school teacher, a high school girls’ basketball coach, and a cross country coach, I appreciate the broad spectrum of students I come into contact with every day,” says Jessica (Thum) Jones. “Working with students in multiple age groups keeps me on my toes and is never boring.”

Today Jessica Jones and her husband Jake are raising their daughter here in Canton – a baby who was delivered by her own aunt, Dr. Crawford. The sisters’ girls are only weeks apart in age and both attend the early Childhood Learning Center at the YWCA where their mother, Veanna, serves on the board of directors.

Let it be known that a small sibling rivalry can be a positive thing occasionally. When being interviewed for this feature, Mrs. Jones pointed out that while she was the last one to decide upon her professional career, she was the first of the three siblings to be employed in Canton.

Home is Here

Like all brothers and sisters, the Thum siblings have their disagreements from time to time but love of family and home is paramount with these three. And they all agree on one simple issue.

“We want to help all the people who have helped us,” says Dr. A.J. Thum. “We want to be close to our family and friends. The best way to do that is to come home and serve.” Trees have strong roots.

Dr.
Alyssa
(Thum)
Crawford



Jessia
(Thum)
Jones



Dr. AJ
Thum

