



THE CHAMBER COURIER

December 2023

The monthly business publication of the Canton Area

Your Chamber Ambassadors are here for your business.

Emylee Bitner, Bank of Farmington
Samantha Braden, Rhoades Real Estate
Bobby Brown, Flat Branch Home Loans
Joe Christian, MidAmerica National Bank
Stephen Clark, Town and Country Insurance
Brandy Cozad, Jack's Bar
Kiley Davis-Crouse, Line X of Canton
Sherri Delost, Jim Maloof Realtor
Madison Embry, Bank of Farmington
Kim Fischer, Canton Harvester Inn
Jake Green, Graham Health System
Jeromie Hale, Bistro 101
Elli Hummel, Jack's Bar
Seth Klinedinst, Crawford's Home Furnishings
John Lemon - Rise Canton
Dave Lewis, Dave Lewis Studio, Ltd.
Taryn Mellert, Spoon River Electric
Amanda Reed, MidAmerica National Bank
Chase Shawgo, Ipava State Bank
Codi Swibold, Hy-Vee Food Stores
Dr. AJ Thum, Associates in Dentistry
Bryce Vaughn, CEFCU of Canton
Nick Wright, Country Financial



THE TIME OF YEAR TO REFLECT

Every year we ask some of our local major organizations that are staples in our community to give us a review of their past year so we all can see what they have accomplished for their own organization and how it has helped and improved our community. Enjoy their articles inside the Courier this month.



As our Chamber year comes to a close we look forward to 2024 with expectations of good things to come. One of the small things you will see change is this very newsletter. We will be getting a new fresh look for the Chamber Courier, so look for that in January of next year.

I want to thank Jana Emmons, with Ipava State Bank, for her full 6 year term commitment of serving faithfully on the Canton Chamber board and serving as our President for the last couple of years. She will be missed. We welcome new President Chad Holloway, with OSF HealthCare who will step into this new role beginning in January. We have an amazing Board of Directors who all work and live in Fulton County. You can view everyone serving your Chamber on our website at cantonillinois.org/chamber/board-of-directors.

I would like to wish everyone a joyful holiday season and a very prosperous new year. Don't forget to SHOP LOCAL!

We look forward to continuing to serve all our Chamber Members next year and know you can reach out to our office at any time. We love working with you all and it is a privilege to serve you and your business or your organization.

Happy Holidays! Carla Bobell, Executive Director of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce



CHAMBER CHECKS!

A great gift idea!

Available in increments of \$5, \$10, and \$20. Available at the Canton Chamber Office and the MidAmerica National Bank Canton location.



SHOP LOCAL AND YOU COULD WIN

SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE DETAILS!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Jana Emmons, Ipava State Bank
Vice President - Chad Holloway, OSF HealthCare
Treasurer - Chad Murphy, Spoon River College
Secretary - Erin Watson, Watson Center for Wellness

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Business and Community Development

Jason Gumbart, Apex Seed Company

Government Affairs

Jay Valencia, Canton High School

Member & Public Relations

Diane Bell, Di's Boutique

Maggie Connell, Edward Jones

Jason Elwell, Peculiar Projects

Larrilyn Hall, Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club

Renee Lewis, Jim Maloof Realtor

Lacey Neal, Rock Valley Physical Therapy

Whitney Parrish, Barnhart, Tinsman & Parrish

Alesia Shaw, Graham Health System

Brayden Coker, Student Representative

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

48 N. Main Street, Canton, IL 61520

(309) 647-2677

cantonareachamber@gmail.com

Facebook CACC61520

Assistant Director - Mallory Jackson

WELCOME NEW MEMBER! DAME FINE COFFEE

We want to welcome a brand new business coming to Canton called Dame Fine Coffee that will be located at 305 West Locust Street. Watch for the new building to go up! They plan to open up their new location sometime in January, so drive by the new location to see the progress. You can find their new Facebook page for the Canton location at Dame Fine Coffee of Canton IL. Here is some information about owner Dillan Vanail and his family business.

At Dame Fine, we serve more than awesome drinks. We serve values and heritage. Do you ever wonder where we got the name? DAME is a family inspired name. It's a combination of the first initial of each member of the Vanail family – Dillan, Alyssa, Mason, and Easton. As a family-owned business, we pour passion into every drink we serve so that everyone can experience an amazing beverage. Join us on our journey of crafting the best drive-through drink experience, inspired by family and legacy. We're the friendly smile our customers need. So come enjoy a drink that's not just good – it's Dame Fine! We have locations in Monmouth, Burlington and Galesburg, and we are looking forward to coming to Canton.

Dame Fine Coffee is getting involved with the Canton community right away by giving the Canton Chamber some giveaways to be used as prizes during the Shop Local Bingo. Each week when folks drop off their filled Bingo cards, one person a week will receive a "prize" donated by Dame Fine Coffee that can be used once they open in January of next year.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

BALD MAN MARKETING

Bald Man Marketing: Nurturing Local Businesses with a Digital Edge

In the heart of our community, a new beacon for digital marketing solutions has emerged: Bald Man Marketing, established on September 25, 2023, by an owner with a unique blend of skills and experience. As an educator for over two decades and a photographer for ten years, Mike Osborn, the founder, brings a rare combination of teaching acumen and aesthetic insight to the digital marketing realm.

Background and Expertise:

With a career spanning twenty years in education and a decade in photography, Mike possesses a deep understanding of effective communication and a keen eye for design. This unique fusion of skills empowers him to not only design captivating online experiences but also educate business owners about the importance of their digital footprint.

Services Tailored for Growth:

Bald Man Marketing specializes in elevating the online presence of local businesses. Services range from sophisticated Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and engaging web design to targeted advertising campaigns, all designed to ensure your business not only thrives online but also resonates with the community it serves.

Community Contribution:

His commitment extends beyond business growth. Bald Man Marketing is dedicated to nurturing the local business ecosystem. By hosting workshops and seminars, he aims to equip business owners with the knowledge and tools to maximize their online impact, fostering a digitally fluent community.

A Mission Born from Passion:

The decision to embark on this venture stemmed from a recognition of the growing need for strong online presences for small, local businesses. Mike leverages his expertise to fill this gap, focusing on small communities often overlooked by larger marketing firms, with the belief that these businesses are the lifeblood of their communities.

To explore how Bald Man Marketing can revolutionize your business's online presence, reach out to Mike at:

- Email: mike@baldmanmarketing.com
- Phone: 309-518-1532
- Website: www.baldmanmarketing.com



SHOP LOCAL BINGO

Shop Local BINGO

Saturday, Nov 25th - Dec 30, 2023

Play Shop Local Bingo this holiday season while you shop at local businesses and you could win a prize! All the while helping your favorite businesses and organizations.

Winners announced on January 5th, 2024

Shop Local Bingo Cards will be available at local businesses

For a list of locations and rules go to cantonillinois.org/Chamber



Saturday, Nov 25th
through
Dec 30, 2023

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON
JANUARY 5, 2024 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 a prize, 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 Saturday, December 30 by 5 pm. If Chamber 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)

**Bingo winner cards will then be entered
into a drawing for grand prizes**

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

A festive poster for a Holiday Light Show. At the top, a string of colorful Christmas lights (red, green, purple) hangs across the frame. Below the lights, two cartoon Christmas trees, one blue and one purple, are smiling. The word "Holiday" is written in a large, red, cursive font. Below it, the words "LIGHTS SHOW" are written in green, block letters, each inside a white light bulb shape. A purple banner contains the text "ENJOY AN ENTERTAINING, ANIMATED LIGHT SHOW FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR VEHICLE". Below this, a blue banner displays the dates "November 25th - December 30th" in white. A red banner shows the time and location: "5:30 - 8:30 pm at Big Creek Park North Entrance". In the bottom left, there's a logo for the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce featuring a white building with a dome and a rainbow. To the right of the logo is a QR code. Below the QR code, the text "SCAN FOR SHOW TIMES & TICKET INFORMATION" is written. On the bottom right, there's a green Christmas tree decorated with red, yellow, and green ornaments and a yellow star on top. The background is a light blue sky with white snowflakes.

Holiday

L I G H T S S H O W

ENJOY AN ENTERTAINING, ANIMATED LIGHT SHOW
FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR VEHICLE

**November 25th -
December 30th**

5:30 - 8:30 pm at Big Creek Park North Entrance

Hosted by


**CANTON AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**



SCAN FOR
SHOW TIMES & TICKET
INFORMATION



REFLECTIONS OF 2023 FOR THE CITY OF CANTON

It's a great time to be a Canton resident. When you think about all of the big, really BIG, projects that the City began or completed in 2023, you'll realize the truth to that statement. Vital improvements to our infrastructure, environmentally-friendly solar projects, grant agreements that are boosting our small businesses, and a vision moving towards a reality in our downtown – these are the things that we as citizens of Canton should be very thankful for.

First, the BIG projects – we are completing the total renovation of the Water Treatment Plant near Lake Canton. Our circa 1930 water plant was in dire need of modernization and this is being achieved through a grant from the USEDA. So many towns are struggling with antiquated systems with constant issues, and we are now set for decades. And on the tails of this project comes a similar BIG project to renovate the Westside Water Treatment Plant. Equally as important to our daily lives, this project will stretch into 2025-26 and is set to receive funding from Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Solar power – half of your neighbors have installed solar panels on their homes, so why not take advantage of that for our City properties? Two large solar installations have been completed near Lake Canton to help bring down our city facilities' power expenses.

Infrastructure includes roads, water mains, and sewer lines, which this year included a reconstruction of Cherry Street, a bridge on Cass Place, another on Lakeland Park Road, and now a water main on West Vine to close a loop to Westwood Blvd. And if funding comes our way, the "zipper line" water main on West Maple/Hickory will be replaced to eliminate the constant repairs our crews have to do now.

The Business Development District (BDD) is really starting to work now. In 2023, we have completed 22 BDD agreements, along with more TIF agreements, to reimburse hard working small business owners for investing in their livelihood and their brick-and-mortar buildings. This program will continue to stabilize Canton's economic structure.

Lastly, good things are coming to our downtown in the form of a fresh, new public gathering space. Plans are developing to create a multi-use area that can be the host to a variety of events and provide some breathing room for things that are now held in Jones Park, like Art on Main and the Scenic Drive. Initial designs feature a central focal point, a stage area, a small building for serving food and storage/restrooms, and a covered pavilion, all with a nod of remembrance to the beautiful historic building that once stood. Completion date goal is June, 2025.

Moving forward also includes looking back, to honor our local history and preserve our past. This year, the City completed projects at the Historic Depot, making it more attractive, historically-accurate, and fitting of a city council chambers. If you haven't attended a council meeting lately, you should find the time and appreciate what a beautiful building that is. You might even learn a little more about how your local government works.

As we close out 2023, know that my door is always open, and our staff is working hard to provide you with the best services we can. Happy Holidays!

Mayor Kent McDowell



SPOON RIVER COLLEGE 2023 REVIEW

BY PRESIDENT CURT OLDFIELD

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 learning 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 programs and classroom strategies in order to help our students succeed.

In 2023, one of the bright achievements for SRC has been that over 20 Canton High School students are fulltime SRC students while also enrolled at CHS. These students will graduate high school with over 30 credit hours of college coursework. This partnership between Canton High School and SRC will save these students time and money as they move forward with their college experiences. This group of dual credit students is part of nearly 300 other high school juniors and seniors who take college courses while still in high school.

We continue to review and develop partnerships with area colleges and universities to make transferring to a college or university a smooth and successful experience.

2023 also highlighted the need for short-term, hands on, programs that help individuals enter a career quickly or update their skills to achieve a promotion. Programs in career fields such as agriculture, welding, health care, commercial driver training, diesel power systems technology, and computer technology all have opportunities that lead to high demand, high wage, career options in our region.

Finally, Spoon River College is responsive to the requests of our local businesses, and community members. SRC will continue to increase the number of continuing education programs offered in order to meet the personal and professional needs of our community members.

Thank you for the support of your community college, please contact us if we can assist you, and we look forward to taking you where you want to go.

PARTNERING WITH CHS



GRAHAM HEALTH SYSTEM YEAR IN REVIEW

Since the onset of COVID in March of 2020, we have seen a significant number of healthcare organizations drop services, merge with larger regional health systems, or as was the case in the LaSalle, Peru and Spring Valley areas, hospitals have closed altogether.

Graham Health System is extremely blessed to have continued to grow and THRIVE during these difficult times. Graham continues to give back to the communities we serve through new employment opportunities, additional care providers, increased locations and healthcare services:

- 135 additional employees hired, equating to 110 additional FTE's
- 30 additional care providers hired within Graham Medical Group and Graham Hospital
- Provided care to patients from 500 + different zip codes seeking care at a Graham facility
- Gross Revenue over \$325,000,000 up \$100,000,000 annually

The past 12 months we have been extremely busy within Graham Health System in general, and especially within Graham Medical Group (GMG). Annual visits within our GMG clinics have increased by over 85,000 since the onset of COVID in March of 2020.

In September, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of our GMG Galesburg clinic on Seminary & Fremont Streets, a Multispecialty Clinic and Convenient Care Clinic. Additionally, over the summer, we opened a second, larger GMG Galesburg Multispecialty Clinic at Seminary and Grove Streets.

The Galesburg GMG growth continued as we broke ground during the summer of 2023 on a new 13,000 SQ FT Multispecialty Clinic offering Advanced Endoscopy and Imaging Centers. This facility, located at Seminary Street and Carl Sandburg Drive will open in August of 2024.

Also, during the summer of 2023, GMG continued its growth as we opened a new state-of-the-art Multispecialty and Convenient Care Clinic in Macomb as well as a new Canton Convenient Care, at the corner of East Chestnut Street & North Fifth Avenue.

Our three GMG Convenient Care locations in Canton, Galesburg and Macomb are available to provide patient care 12 hours per day from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. 7 days a week, 360 days per year.

We recently acquired a facility in Glasford that is being transformed into our new GMG Glasford Multispecialty Clinic. We expect this new medical office to open in February of 2024.

The Graham Hospital School of Nursing is diligently working to transform the RN diploma program into a Baccalaureate (BSN) granting institution. Applications will be sent in early 2024, with anticipation that the class starting in August of 2025 will be our inaugural cohort.

We saw new Hospital, School of Nursing and GMG Campus Signage installed during the spring and summer, as well as the acquisition of additional property to allow more parking at both the new Canton Convenient Care location and Graham Hospital.

We thank our community for the continued trust in Graham Health System. Our focus has always been to be the Communities Choice for an Exceptional Healthcare Experience. Dating back to 1909, we take pride in our long-storied history in the region and look forward to a very bright future.

Bob Senneff, President & CEO





150% CLUB

The 150% Club is an optional membership upgrade that provides added exposure for your business. By paying an additional 150% of regular membership dues at the time of your renewal or new membership, your business can join the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce 150% Club.

Meet our 2023 MEMBERS

A&M Storage Company
 Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine
 American Family Insurance
 American Legion Post #16
 Apex Seed Company
 Art Hossler Auto Plaza
 Axline Pharmacy
 Bald Man Marketing
 BeMobile Verizon
 BH Materials
 Big Brothers Big Sisters
 Buckheart Solar
 Camille's of Canton
 Canton Community Concert Association
 Canton Daily Ledger
 Canton Elks Lodge
 Canton Family YMCA
 CEFCU Canton Member Center
 Central Illinois Lighting & Signs, Inc.
 CFC Properties
 COOK Medical
 Crawford's Home Furnishings
 Dempster Insurance Agency
 Di's Boutique
 Eats on the Street
 Farm King
 Froehling, Weber & Schell, LLP
 Fulton County Emergency Medical Assoc.
 Fulton County Housing Authority
 Fulton County Septic
 Fulton Democrat
 Galesburg Broadcasting
 Giant Goose Ranch
 G-M Mechanical
 Harold Jump
 Harriet Ellis
 Harvester Meat Co.
 Helping Hands Resale Shoppe
 Hocker, Fitzjarrauld & Richardson, PC CPAs
 Holthaus Companies, Inc.

Hulvey Law
 Humane Society of Fulton County
 Ipava State Bank
 JC Custom Laser Creations, LLC.
 Jim Maloof Realtor
 John Clark
 John McCarthy Attorney at Law
 Johnson & Johnson, P. C.
 Jones Surveying & Engineering Corp
 Kevin & Debbie Stephenson
 Kevin Meade
 Kiwanis Club of Canton
 Lairus Solar, LLC
 Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
 Mid Century Communications
 MidAmerica National Bank
 Midwest Dental
 Monical's Pizza
 MWC Advertising - Zak Edmonds
 Navigator CO2 Heartland Greenway
 North Central Behavioral Health Systems
 Oak-Hines Funeral Homes
 OSF Healthcare
 Otto Stephenitch
 Phil Miller
 Progressive Vision Center, LTD
 Pure Green, LLC
 Rancho Nuevo Mexican Restaurant
 Scott Miller
 Space Walk of Central IL
 Spoon River Media, LLC
 State Farm Insurance - Chuck Taylor
 Stinauer Family Dentistry
 TBK Bank
 The Loft of Canton Rehabilitation & Nursing
 Timbuk Tech, Inc.
 Town & Country Insurance Agency
 Walmart of Canton
 Wee-Ma-Tuk Country Club