

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BARTON TAX & ACCOUNTING

GEORGIA RAE'S

THE CHAMBER COURIER

FEBRUARY 2022

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
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
Jake Secrist, Mid Century Fiber
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
AJ Thum, Associates in Dentistry
Eve Zimmerman, Spoon River College



6 Signs of a Healthy Business

by: Christina Metcalf

Many of us have spent this past year concerned over the health of our friends and family. For those who own that local shop or service business, they have been concerned about the health of their business. Ultimately, a healthy business has a good balance sheet. It has more money coming in than going out. But that is not the only indicator of business health.

Before you see issues in the balance sheet, you can spot a healthy business in these areas:

- 1. Referrals.** While it's never easy to get people to refer you even when they love you, a healthy business harnesses the power of the referral and makes it easy for happy customers to bring in more happy customers.
- 2. Reviews.** Just like referrals, reviews are the signature of a healthy, well-loved business. But they don't happen automatically. A healthy business asks for them, makes it easy to give them, and repurposes them in their marketing.
- 3. Promotes from within and trains accordingly.** A healthy business promotes from within with clear pathways to additional challenges even when the business is small enough not to have additional levels to climb. It recognizes employees who are committed to the business, doing a great job, and those that require additional challenges or training.
- 4. Looks for Needs.** If your business moves in another direction, opens a new market, or branches out, you may not be able to promote from within. A healthy business is

Continued on pg. 6

COME AND JOIN US!
CANTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS
after hours

Participate
in the drink
chip game

HOSTED THIS MONTH BY:

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Nick Wright Lance Moring

LAYS ON THE STREET

BISTRO-101
Come to the Parlor Rooms at the
Bistro 101
Located at 101 E. Elm Street, Canton

FOOD CATERED BY

Thursday, February 17
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Join us for food, fun, giveaways and networking

DENIM & Diamonds
You are invited to the

NEW DATE!
The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Board has decided to move the Annual Chamber Dinner & Awards event to March 10th to keep everyone safe with the rising numbers of COVID.

Please see NEW invite on page 7
If you have made a reservation for the previous date of Feb 10th and the new date does not work, please contact the Chamber office.

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

Ashton Dare, MidAmerica National Bank
Jason Elwell, Peculiar Projects
Greg Glomb, Edward Jones
Larrilyn Hall, Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club
Renee Lewis, Jim Maloof Realtor
Lacey Neal, Rock Valley Physical Therapy
Anna O'Brien, CHS Student Representative
Whitney Parrish, Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates
Alesia Shaw, Graham Health System

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

We want to welcome new Chamber Member Georgia Rae's. You have probably seen the store if you have driven in downtown Canton, located on the west side of the square. They have totally remodeled the entire building, inside and out, into a beautiful women's clothing store that is a welcomed business to theCanton community.



Georgia Rae's currently carries jeans, sweaters, jewelry, shoes, booties, scarves, hats, gloves, lotions, dresses and so much more. Sizes available are from small through 3XL. They also offer gift certificates. Mandy Kosowski, owner of Georgia Rae's, is very excited to offer a new women's clothing store. She has plans to expand her offering by bringing in men's clothing sometime in the near future.

Mandy has already been giving back to her customers and community by offering special discounts for different groups and giving back to charities that are near and dear to her heart.

Many people have asked Mandy about the name of the store. Her reply is simple. "The original Georgia is my grandmother Monie Franzoni (91 years old), she is my hero, and my inspiration. The original Rae is from my mother. I named the business after the two women that made me the woman I am today. They have given me strength, bravery, wisdom, and so much love. I look up to them, I love them and I'm grateful for them."

Georgia Rae's is located at 54 N. Main Street in Downtown Canton. Store hours are 10 am to 6 pm Monday through Saturday. Find them on Facebook at Georgia Rae's or give them a call at 309-357-5020



EATS ON THE STREET FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAM

“Give the gift of food and help a local restaurant at the same time!” This was the post that was put out on the Eats on the Street Facebook page in March this past year. “Buy a meal voucher and we will provide a meal plus a drink to a person in need”. If you came into the restaurant or ordered online for breakfast or lunch at Eats on the Street, you could also pay for a free meal voucher at the same time, knowing you were providing a hot meal for someone in need and supporting the local restaurant at the same time. The vouchers are displayed inside the restaurant and are able to be taken by anyone who finds themselves needing a meal. No need to even approach an employee. Unlike a food bank or soup kitchen, the needy can pick most any meal off the Eats on the Street regular menu.



10 provides 1 meal \$100 provides 10 meals \$250 provides 25 meals \$500 provides 50 meals

Jason Elwell, owner of Eats on the Street, said “There have been several times that folks would come in and make a flat donation that would cover several meals.” Just recently Eats on the Street gave an update on how many meals they had served since March of 2021. According to their POS system Eats on the Street has served 242 meals. They are proud to have provided a hot meal plus a drink to folks in need and humbled by the generosity of the Canton community.

During the holiday season they saw an increased usage of free meal vouchers, which means their supply is currently low with just a handful remaining. Jason wants to continue offering this free meal voucher program for as long as there is a need in the community. You can help out and participate by purchasing vouchers at anytime or the next time you place an order for breakfast or lunch at Eats on the Street. If you want more information, get on the their Facebook page-eatsonthestreetcanton- plus look for the special of the day or give them a call at 309-435-0075.

Eats on the Street restaurant is located inside the Orendorf Building at the very back of Blessings Primitives at 74 N. Main Street in Downtown Canton. They are open Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 2:00 pm and Saturday 7:00 am to 11:00 am. When the weather gets warmer you can find their Eats on the Street Bike serving up a hot breakfast at the corner of Locust and 1st Avenue.



WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS SO FAR IN 2022

***indicates 150% Club Member**

- *A&M Storage
- *Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine
- Altruistic Club of Canton
- *American Legion Post #16
- American Pest Control
- *Apex Seed company
- *Art Hossler Auto Plaza
- Bard Optical
- Bank of Farmington
- Bar-Mac Farms
- Barton Tax & Accounting
- BeMobile (Verizon)
- Billy's Furniture
- Billy's Tap
- Bistro 101
- Black Nugget, LLC
- *Canton Church of the Brethren
- Canton Park District
- *Canton Family YMCA
- Canton VFW Post 1984
- Canton Youth Acres
- *CEFCU in Canton
- Chiropractic Wellness Connection
- Chubb's Package Store
- Community Action Partnership
- *COOK Medical
- *Crawford's Home Furnishings
- CUBULL, Inc.
- D&S Private Detective, Inc.
- *Dana Smith - Individual
- Davis Buick-GMC
- Davis Ford
- *Dempster Insurance Agency, LLC
- Di's Boutique
- Eats on the Streets
- Edward Jones - Greg Glomb
- Edward Jones - Maggie Cecil
- Edward Jones - Rusty Melhouse
- Fairview State Bank
- First Baptist Church
- *First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Fuller's Jewelry
- Fulfill Your Destiny, LLC
- Fulton County Emergency Medical
- *Fulton County Housing Authority
- Fulton County Rural Transit
- Fulton County Rehabilitation Center
- Fulton-Mason Crisis Center
- Graham Health System
- Habitat for Humanity
- *Harold Jump - Individual
- Health & Wellness Clinic FC
- *Hocker, Fitzjarrald & Richardson
- *Holthaus Companies
- Humane Society of Fulton County
- *Ipava State Bank
- Jimmy John's Canton
- Joe's Place Norris
- *John Clark - Individual
- John McCarthy Attorney
- KB Auto Sales
- *Kevin & Debbie Stephenson
- *Kevin Meade
- Kiesewetter Insurance Agency
- *Kiwanis Club of Canton
- Kobolds and Cabinets, LLC
- LaFiesta Mexican Restaurant
- Mandy Wheeler, CPA
- *Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
- McDonalds of Canton
- *Michelle Campbell, Inc.
- *MidAmerica National Bank
- *Mid Century Fiber
- *Midwest Dental
- Modern Health & Fitness
- *Monical's Pizza of Canton
- Mosaic
- Native Trails Winery
- *Oak-Hines Funeral Home
- Oakdale Veterinary Clinic
- Orwig Auto Body
- OSF HealthCare
- *Otto Stephenitch- Individual
- Parlin Ingersoll Public Library
- Peoria International Airport
- PEORIA Score
- *Phil Miller
- Pizza Hut
- *Progressive Vision Center
- Red Dog Foundation for CF
- Renaissance Care Center
- Rotary Club of Canton
- S&A Rentals
- Sanders-Hasty Insurance Agency
- *Scott Miller
- Spoon River College
- Spoon River Electric
- *Spoon River Media
- Spoon River Pregnancy Center
- State Farm - Brian Yontz
- *State Farm - Chuck Taylor
- State Farm - Dee Clark
- *Stinauer Family Dentistry
- Sweet Shopee
- Tad Putrich
- Tarter Feed & Fertilizer
- The Breathing Tree
- The Loft of Canton
- *Timbuk Tech
- Tony Rolando
- *Town & Country Insurance
- *Tracy Miller
- United Way of SR Country
- *Walmart of Canton
- Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club
- Wesley United Methodist
- West Central IL Building Trades
- Western IL Home Health
- White Oaks Sports Bar
- WMBD/WZZ
- YWCA of Canton

Members not yet listed have membership renewal dates later in the year.

Continued from pg. 1

clear about what each employee’s strengths are and what they may need to obtain from outside whether that be from an additional hire, vendor, or partner.

5. Builds Loyalty outside of sales. Loyalty is not owned by the sales department. Loyalty is built by customer service and marketing. A healthy company looks for ways to keep customers engaged and feeling like they are a part of the brand. It creates enjoyable experiences for customers at each touchpoint whether they are calling to complain, buy, or simply spend time on social media.



6. Remains agile. This one is certainly a lesson learned in 2020. A healthy business must be ready to align its offerings and services with those of their loyal customers and the larger market. Small businesses may not have had a lot of operating capital when the pandemic hit but they did retain the ability to move quickly and that helped a lot of those small businesses stay in the black.

Is your business healthy outside of the balance sheet? Go through this list and ask yourself how many of these qualities your business meets. If you’re missing a few, you may want to see how quickly you can add them. After all, they are a good indicator of business health long before you begin to see signs of trouble in the balance sheets or books.

SAVE THE DATE 2022



CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

MAY 20 ~ TEE OFF AT 12
WEE-MA-TUK HILLS
COUNTRY CLUB

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

for CACYP
MARCH 15
JUNE 21
SEPT 20
NOV 15

BEGIN AT 5:30



COMMUNITY WORK DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 ~ 9-12
DOWNTOWN CANTON



JUNE 8 ~ 6:30PM
OCTOBER 27 ~ 6:30PM
DONALDSON CENTER

CANTON CRUISE-IN

JUNE 17 ~ 4-8PM
DOWNTOWN CANTON



TASTE OF CANTON

SEPT 25 ~ 12-3PM
DOWNTOWN CANTON

DENIM &
Diamonds



You are invited to the

97th Annual Chamber Dinner & Awards
Lakeview Event Center
Thursday, March 10th, 2022

Cocktails 5:30pm Tickets \$30 per person
Dinner & Awards 6:00pm Please RSVP by Mar 4th

Dress up with **diamonds** or dress down in your best **jeans**

Lakeview Event Center & Banquet Hall
located at 1920 N. Main Street~Canton

TO RSVP
www.cantonillinois.org/Chamber/Calendar of Events/
March 10/Chamber Annual Dinner
or call the Chamber office at 309-647-2677 Ext. 2

We will be honoring the Excellence Awards
Business Person of the Year
Citizen of the Year
Educator of the Year
Ambassador of the Year

GRANT RELIEF FOR FULTON COUNTY

A Message from Cole McDaniel

Executive Director for the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development

During this month's Chamber Courier, I would like to update our business owners and organizations on the initial details of the Fulton County Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant. As many of you know, there have been several grant programs that have been introduced since April of 2020 to help businesses/organizations recover or sustain during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Although there have been several programs introduced and large amounts of funding approved by the State and Federal government, there are still businesses and organizations who are reeling from the pandemic. Through these grant program application and award processes, it has been identified that there is still a significant need for funding for our small businesses and organizations in Fulton County.



The Fulton County Board has approved the allocation for the program, and the final details will be presented and voted on in February. I want to thank the Fulton County Board, Elected Officials, and all others that have been involved in the introduction and approval of this program.

In short, the goal of this grant program is to support small businesses and organizations throughout Fulton County that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and that have had little to no success with many of the other State and Federal programs over the last 18 months. The application, eligibility guidelines, and program overview will be made available in February upon approval by the Fulton County Board.

The Spoon River Partnership and Canton Area Chamber of Commerce will be working together to offer an in person and virtual meeting to provide information on the program details, answer questions, and provide assistance to Fulton County business owners. More information about the date and time of this event will be forthcoming in early February.

Please share this information with any business owners in Fulton County, and have them reach out to SRPED with any questions in the meantime at 309-647-2677 ext. 4 or cmcdaniel@cantonillinois.org.

**FULTON COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS
COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT
2022**

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CUSD #66

The winter season is upon us and it is important for parents and stakeholders to have up-to-date information on the process of canceling schools.

Most of the time the possibility of inclement weather is forecast several days before it enters our area. Once a storm or cold temperatures are forecasted, the district is in contact with Chris Helle, Fulton County ESDA Director (Emergency Services Disaster Agency). On the day of the weather event, school officials contact the City of Canton, local road commissioners, and the county to get an assessment of the road conditions. When a determination is made to cancel school, the closure is posted on the district Facebook Page, Skylerts are sent to staff and families, and local media outlets are contacted. The district strives to notify parents as soon as possible to allow them time to make accommodations for child care for their children.



Tad DeRenzy

Closing schools is never an easy decision to make and is not taken lightly. The safety and well-being of students are always a priority when deciding to cancel school.

COVID Update

As COVID continues to have a significant impact on our community and schools, we continue to see an increase in the number of COVID cases. The district continuously monitors the percentage of positive cases of students and staff. In August, the district adopted our Return Learn Plan that can be found on the district website, www.cantonusd.org. In addition, on the website, an update on the percentage of COVID positive cases impacting each school can be viewed. This information is updated every Friday.



2022

Set for the 3rd Thursday of each
month

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Thank you to our Hosts for 2022!

<p>February 17 Country Financial Lance Moring & Nick Wright</p> <p>March 17 Kiwanis Club of Canton, Cook Medical, CFC Properties</p> <p>April 21 Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club</p> <p>May 19 Ambassador Club</p> <p>June 16 Eats on the Street</p> <p>July 21 Rhoades Real Estate</p>	<p>August 18 The Loft of Canton</p> <p>September 15 MidAmerica National Bank</p> <p>October 20 Bank of Farmington</p> <p>November 17 Barnhart, Tinsman & Assoc, Davis & Campbell, Oakdale Veterinary, Stinauer Dentistry, Klinedinst Chiropractic</p> <p>December 8 Ipava State Bank</p>
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**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's 150% Club.

Meet our

2022 MEMBERS

A&M Storage Company
 Advanced Rehab & Sports Medicine
 American Family Insurance
 American Legion Post #16
 APEX Seed Company
 Art Hossler Auto Plaza
 Associates in Dentistry
 Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates, Ltd.
 Camille's of Canton
 Canton Church of the Brethren
 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
 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
 Halthaus Companies, Inc.
 Hulvey Law
 Hy-Vee Canton

- Ipava State Bank
- John Clark
- Johnson & Johnson, P.C.
- Jones Surveying & Engineering Corp
- Kevin & Debbie Stephenson
- Kevin Meade
- Kiwanis Club of Canton
- Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
- MidAmerica National Bank
- Mid Century Fiber
- Monical's Pizza
- North Central Behavioral Health Systems
- Oak-Hines Funeral Homes
- Official Time Out
- OSF Healthcare
- Otto Stephenitch
- Phil Miller
- Pizza Hut
- Progressive Vision Center, LTD
- Pure Green, LLC
- RK Dixon
- Rhoades Real Estate & Land Auction Services
- RISE Canton
- Scott Miller
- Sedgwick Funeral Homes & Crematory
- Sherwin-Williams
- Spoon River Media, LLC
- State Farm Insurance - Chuck Taylor
- Stinauer Family Dentistry
- Timbuk Tech, Inc.
- Town & Country Insurance Agency
- Unity Point Clinic of Canton
- Walgreen's of Canton
- Walmart of Canton