



# THE CHAMBER COURIER

February 2023

The monthly business publication of the Canton Area

## Your Chamber Ambassadors are here for your business.

**Scott Anderson**, SR Preasure Washing  
**Emylee Bitner**, Bank of Farmington  
**Samantha Braden**, Rhoades Real Estate  
**Bobby Brown**, Flat Branch Home Loans  
**Sam Buchanan**, Keefer Financial  
**Joe Christian**, MidAmerica National Bank  
**Stephen Clark**, Town and Country Insurance  
**Brandy Cozad**, Jack's Bar  
**Kiley Davis-Crouse**, Davis GMC  
**Sherri Delost**, Jim Maloof Realtor  
**Madison Embry**, Bank of Farmington  
**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  
**Elli Rickert**, Jack's Bar  
**Chase Shawgo**, Ipava State Bank  
**Codi Swibold**, Hy-Vee Food Stores  
**Dr. AJ Thum**, Associates in Dentistry  
**Nick Wright**, Country Financial



## Promote Positively

*by: Carla Bobell*

Have you ever posted something about a business, their service or your experience you had there? Was it positive or negative? Hmm.

Reviews are a vital part of every business and they can be very effective, but when they are negative, the trickle affect can be damaging. I grew up with the old saying of "if you don't have anything nice to say, then don't say it." I wish we would take this same wise saying to heart for our businesses.

All of us have bad days. Would you want someone to tell the world about it? No. We would prefer for them to encourage you and tell you that tomorrow will be a better day. That is what we should do for our businesses. If you have a bad experience, chalk it up to one or more of their employees having a bad day, and don't threaten to "never coming back!" Go back again and give them another shot without setting the bar too high for them during that visit. Most of the time, your next visit will be enjoyable, well organized and even helpful.

Another analogy to use is do you remember when you were in school and it took a lot of work to get those A's and then one bad grade could bring your overall grade down to a C really fast? It would take forever to build it back up to the A! That is what happens to a business that gets a bad review posted against them on social media or by word of mouth. Many businesses work diligently to build up their stellar reputation, but one bad review can tarnish that reputation for a long time.

I encourage you to promote businesses positively. Forget those negative comments, and only share the good ones. This is one less struggle a business will have to work through amongst the numerous tasks they have to juggle every day. Keep it positive and help keep our businesses IN business.

COME AND JOIN US!  
CANTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**BUSINESS**  
*after hours*

We would love to see you there!

HOSTED THIS MONTH BY:

**Edward Jones**  
Financial Advisor, Maggie Cecil

**Di's**  
Boutique  
Canton, IL

**White Oaks**  
SPORTS BAR

**Jim Maloof**  
REALTOR

Will be Held at  
White Oaks Sports Bar  
46 White Court, Canton IL

**Thursday, February 16**  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Food, beverages, fun, giveaways and networking

**GLACIAL GOLF**

**Sat., Feb. 18, 2023**  
Putt-Putt Golf Tournament

**11AM - 6PM** \$100 (Team of Four)  
FREE Beer Stein for each player!  
Sign up at any participating bar.  
Register by Wed. Feb. 8th.

Beginning Location: Country Line Bar & Grill  
Ending Location: Billy's Tap

**Canton MAIN STREET**

Canton VFW Post 1984  
Official Time Out  
White Oaks Sports Bar  
Brew-n-Cue  
Billy's Tap  
Jack's  
Moore's Pub  
Canton Elk's #626  
American Legion  
Josie's Tap  
Country Line Bar & Grill



## 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**  
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**Government Affairs**  
Jay Valencia, Canton High School

**Member & Public Relations**  
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Whitney Parrish, Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates  
Alesia Shaw, Graham Health System

Lauren Keets, 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*  
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cantonareachamber@gmail.com  
Facebook CACC61520  
*Assistant Director - Kaaren Theobald*

# WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Camp Big Sky

The Board of Directors of Camp Big Sky are happy to announce Aaron Lohnes as the new Executive Director of Camp Big Sky



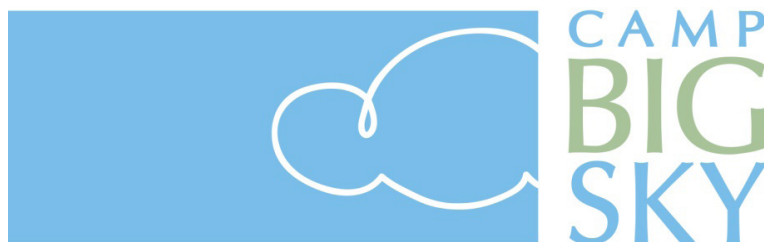
Aaron's experience prior to coming to Camp Big Sky includes leading the Hope Chest Stores as interim Executive Director and the United Way of Pekin as Executive Director for over 10 years. His non-profit management with effective leadership strategies of quality and experience in event fundraising makes him a perfect fit for Camp Big Sky. Aaron is a Western Illinois University graduate with a BS in Marketing.

Aaron states that "Having been around many non-profits during my career, as an employee, volunteer, and supporter, I can say I am very happy to be coming onboard with Camp Big Sky. In just a short time, I can already see that there are dedicated people working to make the camp an inclusive environment and to grow our capacity for education, activities, and support for all our visitors. That kind of dedication is inspiring, and I can't wait to help Camp Big Sky grow even more. I look forward to working collaboratively with our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors, and visitors."

Karla Kane, Vice President explains that "All of our Board of Directors have a true passion for this organization and the life changing opportunities provided and are very excited to have Aaron join us in this exciting stage. I'm really excited as we celebrate 20 years of serving people with disabilities and their families and caregivers and where we grow from here."

**About the organization:** Camp Big Sky is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing education, training and skills development to children and adults with disabilities through participation in accessible outdoor activities. Our camp is available, at no cost, to any person of any age with any disability and their families, friends, and caregivers. Camp Big Sky is open every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from May 1st to the end of October. Saturday by special request. Activities include: fishing, nature study, Arts and crafts, kite flying, overnight camping, lawn games, archery, camp fires, hay rack rides, life skills education, adult volunteer training and more! Visit their website at [www.campbigsky.org](http://www.campbigsky.org).

You may reach Aaron at [exec@campbigsky.org](mailto:exec@campbigsky.org) or call 309-258-6002





# WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Canton Family YMCA



**CEO / Executive Director  
Mark Sawyer**

The Canton Family YMCA announces that Mark Sawyer is the next CEO/Executive Director of the Canton Family YMCA. Mark lives in Canton and is married to his wife Amy and has 4 children; Christine 22, Alexa 19, Ellie 15 and Luke 13.

Mark graduated from Canton High School in 1990. He was a member of the swim team at North Central College in Naperville Illinois, before transferring to and graduating from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Parks and Tourism Administration with minors in Business, Law Enforcement and Psychology. Mark also attended Seminary at Lincoln Christian Seminary.

Mark started his career as a lifeguard and swim instructor at the Canton YMCA when he was 14 years old. While completing his degree from Western, he served as the Building Supervisor, Head Swim Coach and Aquatics Director at the Canton Family YMCA. After graduating in 1997, he continued to work for the Canton

Family YMCA until he was hired as a Program Director at the YMCA of McDonough County from 2001 to 2006. In 2007, he was hired as the Senior Program Director at the Canton Family YMCA and worked in that role for 15 years. In December of 2021, he was hired as the new CEO of the YMCA of McDonough County where he served in that capacity before being hired in December of 2022 as the new CEO/Executive Director in Canton.

Mark enjoys spending time with his family, going on walks with his wife and dog, and traveling on family vacations. He also enjoys spending time outside in nature and working out in the YMCA's STRIVE room.



# YOUR HEALTH ON YOUR TIME!



**Did you know we now offer 24 Hour Access to the  
Life Center, Weight Room, Main Gym and Track?  
Stop by or call for more information.**

Call 309-647-1616 ~ Website [cantonfamilyymca.org](http://cantonfamilyymca.org) ~ FB [cantonfamilyymca](https://www.facebook.com/CACC61520)

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# GRAHAM & HYDE ARCHITECTS, INC.

## Phillips & Associates Merge with Graham & Hyde Architects

Graham & Hyde Architects (G&H) to strengthen team with agreement to acquire Phillips and Associates Architects, Inc. (PAA). The union provides an opportunity for G&H to expand services in the K-12 education, higher education, worship and medical markets with a stronger west central Illinois presence, while PAA will be able to draw on the strong market credibility G&H provides.

The acquisition of PAA, based in Canton, IL, further increases G&H's share in the architectural industry. "Expanding helps us better serve our clients across central Illinois and provides additional opportunities for growth for our people," stated Jamie Cosgriff, AIA, vice president of G&H. "For decades we have known of PAA's acumen on a variety of projects, notably K-12 education facilities. More recently, we have come to appreciate the unique skills and capabilities that PAA brings to a merged firm for an array of other markets, and we are very happy that they too saw how mutually beneficial a merger would be," continued Cosgriff.

"Joining forces will further strengthen both PAA and G&H and open new doors of opportunity for both our employees and our clients. PAA's reach and knowledge base will be expanded as we continue to serve our existing clients. G&H brings both additional resources and experiences for our clients, as well," stated Bill Phillips, AIA, owner of PAA.

As a larger, full-service architectural practice, G&H and PAA established in 1968 and 1962 respectively, both look forward to continuing high-quality services for clients and continue to invest in technologies toward the future of the industry.

Doug Bentzinger, Managing Principal of the Canton Studio, says, "We are thrilled about working hand in hand with the many talented professionals at Graham & Hyde, tapping into its expertise, and better serving our clients and our communities as we continue creating elevated educational environments and places for healing."

Since 1968, Graham & Hyde Architects, Inc. has served central Illinois by providing professional, comprehensive architectural planning and design services. G&H is dedicated to creating outstanding learning, worship, healing and working environments. G&H prides itself on exceptional, innovative, high-functioning facilities and spaces that meet the aesthetic, programmatic and budgetary requirements of clients.

[www.GrahamandHyde.com](http://www.GrahamandHyde.com)





## CONGRATULATIONS BISTRO 101

### 10 Years of Business

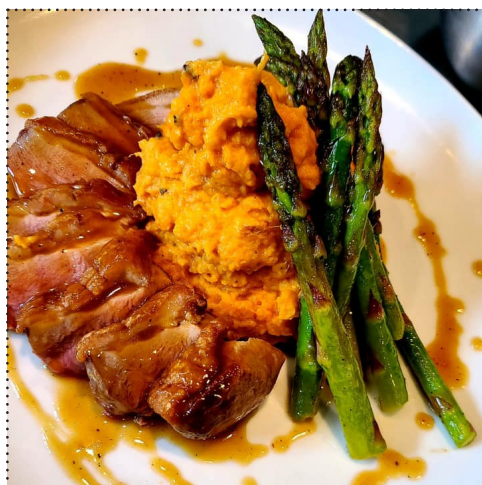


As they celebrated their 10 years of business Bistro 101 reflected on many memories and stories throughout the years. They feel extremely lucky to have had great employees past and present. Their employees have given so much over the years to the restaurant and we all would like to extend a sincere thank you to each of them for their work and for being a part of the Bistro family!

On a weekly basis, the restaurant has been home to many celebrations. Members of the community have celebrated anniversaries, birthdays, receptions, baby showers and many other life events worth gathering with friends and loved ones. There have been many Business After Hours and meetings held here, as well. The Bistro feels honored to be that place for their community. It has been the communities patronage that has allowed the Bistro to be a successful restaurant business over the past decade, and for that, they are forever grateful for the continued support.

Canton is an outstanding community that the Bistro Family are glad to call home and look forward to spending the next 10 years with!

***The Bistro 101 will be open on Tuesday, February 14th for Valentine's Day but reservations are necessary. Call today at 309-647-2233.***





## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

### Lattimore Properties



Dan Lattimore and his wife Leah are originally from Peoria and currently reside in Edwards, Illinois. Mr. Lattimore worked at the Peoria Bus Company for 31 years and moved into the residential business as a side business while he worked at the bus company. Dan and Leah are a team when working on properties to get them ready for home owners.

Most recently, the Lattimore's purchased and then renovated a three bedroom, one bathroom apartment with a full kitchen in downtown Canton now called the Canton Rooftop Lodge. They added new flooring, redid the bathroom, added a rooftop deck complete with a grill, and painted and furnished the apartment

located at 29 S. Main Street. The Lattimore's goal in renovating this new space is to create a temporary living experience downtown for outside visitors to stay. They currently rent this newly renovated apartment as an Airbnb with the hopes of making a "home away from home." Look for more properties from the Lattimore Properties.



Scan the QR code to see pictures of the Canton Rooftop Lodge in Downtown Canton.

**Contact Dan Lattimore at 309-889-6053**

**YOU'RE INVITED!**



You are invited to

# VIVA LA CHAMBER FIESTA

## 98th Annual Chamber Dinner & Awards

### Thursday, March 9th

#### Lakeview Event Center

1920 N. Main Street ~ Canton



# \$35

per person

RSVP by March 3rd

Cocktails 5:30

Dinner 6:00

Awards 7:00

## MESSAGE FROM SPOON RIVER PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This month, I would like to highlight several important topics related to community and economic development and share a little bit about how we are working towards each of these initiatives in Canton:

1. **Building Stronger Communities:** Many communities are facing inequality and poverty, but there are ways to address these challenges. Our local leaders have been coming up with innovative solutions to support their local businesses and to create meaningful opportunities for all members of the community.



Executive Director  
Cole McDaniel

2. **Investing in Local Economies:** Local economies are essential for the long-term sustainability of a community. It is important that resources are invested to support local businesses, infrastructure, and job opportunities. There is now even more opportunity in Canton through the creation of the Canton Business Development District #1. You will see a lot of new investment in the coming months!

3. **Empowerment Through Education:** Education is key for communities to thrive. We must make sure everyone has access to quality education and training, so that all individuals have the ability to reach their potential. It is also important that our business community stay connected to educational opportunities, training and other resources in our local community.

4. **Promoting Sustainable Development:** Sustainable development is a long-term goal that should be embraced by every community. Through smart investments, communities can continue to progress in a sustainable way. We look forward to continuing down the path of create long-term, sustainable development in Canton and Fulton County.



Remember to support your local businesses and restaurants this Valentine's Day.

Watch for our Business Highlight on the Canton Chamber Facebook page each day before Valentine's Day to give you ideas on what to buy your special someone this year.

Chamber Checks are a great idea, too!  
Can be purchased at the Chamber office or  
MidAmerica National Bank in Canton.



## CANTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #66

Over the past year, the district has been planning an addition to Canton High School. Once complete the high school will have a new all-purpose room, band room, and greenhouse. In addition, the current band room will be remodeled and this space will become the chorus room. This spring construction will begin on the north side of the building and is anticipated to be completed in August of 2024. The bidding process for the project was competitive with an accepted bid of just over \$4 million which is below the estimated cost of the project. The project is being funded through an ESSER III federal grant, thus no local funding is being used to complete construction.



Superintendent  
Tad DeRenzy

This winter the district also completed the process of selling \$5.4 million in Health Life Safety Bonds. These funds will be used to complete paving projects at each of the five schools and for needed building improvements. Community members will not experience an increase in the tax rate due to this bond sale. Over the next 10 years, the district will do a tax abatement which will keep the current bond levy at the current rate.

Building principals will be releasing information for completing the 5Essentials Survey. This survey is conducted by the Illinois State Board of Education annually and is an opportunity for community members, students, and staff to provide feedback to the district. This survey identifies five indicators that lead to improved outcomes for all students, including improved attendance and improved test scores.

### Important Dates to Remember:

Lincoln School Family Night February 16

Presidents Day/ No School February 20

Eastview and Westview Spring Picture Day February 23

Lincoln Spring Picture Day February 24

## ~ SAVE THE DATES ~

CHAMBER  
ANNUAL  
DINNER

THURSDAY,  
MARCH 9TH



FRIDAY, MAY 19TH



FRIDAY, JUNE 16



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24



NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 31



# 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  
 Associates in Dentistry  
 Axline Pharmacy  
 Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates, LTD.  
 Ben Hendricks Trucking, Inc.  
 Big Brothers Big Sisters  
 Buckheart Solar  
 Camille's of Canton  
 Canton Elks Lodge  
 Canton Family YMCA  
 Canton Harvester Inn  
 CEFCU Canton Member Center  
 Central Illinois Lighting & Signs, Inc.  
 CFC Properties  
 COOK Medical  
 Crawford's Home Furnishings  
 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  
 Harold Jump  
 Helping Hands Resale Shoppe  
 Hocker, Fitzjarrald & Richardson, PC CPAs  
 Holthaus Companies  
 Hulvey Law  
 Ipava State Bank  
 JC Custom Laser Creations, 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.  
 Meade Law Office, P. C.  
 MidAmerica National Bank  
 Mid Century Fiber  
 Midwest Dental  
 Monical's Pizza  
 MWC Advertising - Zak Edmonds  
 North Central Behavioral Health Systems  
 Oak-Hines Funeral Homes  
 Official Time Out  
 OSF Healthcare  
 Otto Stephenitch  
 Phil Miller  
 Progressive Vision Center, LTD  
 Pure Green, LLC  
 RK Dixon  
 Scott Miller  
 Sherwin-Williams of Canton  
 Spoon River Media, LLC  
 State Farm Insurance - Chuck Taylor  
 Stinauer Family Dentistry  
 The Loft of Canton Rehabilitation & Nursing  
 Timbuk Tech, Inc.  
 Town & Country Insurance Agency  
 Unity Point Clinic of Canton  
 VR Meat Company  
 Walgreen's of Canton  
 Walmart of Canton  
 West Central Powersports