



# THE CHAMBER COURIER

July 2021

The monthly business publication of the Canton Area

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Contact them anytime.**

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## Canton Chamber is On the Move

*by: Carla Bobell*

Have you heard the news? The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce has moved their office location right in the heart of the city in beautiful downtown Canton.

The Canton Chamber, along with the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development (SRPED) use to be located in the historical Opera House building up on the third floor. After the explosion, Ralph Sedgwick quickly renovated the historical William Parlin home, which was the former Sedgwick Funeral Home, into business suites. Almost every business that was located on the third floor moved to the Sedgwick Business Suites. It was our new home! This wonderful location has served us well and we thank Ralph Sedgwick for being an awesome landlord and taking such good care of us for the past almost 5 years. But downtown is where we belong!

The SRPED is leading the way in a Downtown Revitalization in Canton and the Chamber is one of the biggest supporters! One of the main goals of the Downtown Revitalization is to get the empty buildings downtown to shine again.



*Continued on pg. 4*



**Thursday, July 15th**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**  
 1920 N. Main | Canton, IL 61520

*Join us for food, doorprizes, and fun*

## Mark your calendars!

Kids Fest is coming up  
 July 10th, 2021



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President - Jana Emmons, Ipava State Bank*  
*Vice President - Lacey Neal, Rock Valley Physical Therapy*  
*Treasurer - Jodi Wilcoxon, MidAmerica National Bank*  
*Secretary - Lisa Gardner, Jim Maloof Realtor*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Business and Community Development**  
 Jodi Wilcoxon, MidAmerica National Bank

**Member and Public Relations**  
 Becky McLeod, Graham Health System

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 Ann Lockhart, United Way for Spoon River Country  
 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 Rolf Sivertsen, CUSD #66  
 President Curt Oldfield, Spoon River College

## STAFF

*Executive Director - Carla Bobell*  
*Assistant Director - Alli Ramsay*  
 209 East Chestnut Street, Suite 2  
 Canton, IL 61520  
 (309) 647-2677  
 cantonareachamber@gmail.com

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: COOK MEDICAL GROUP

We want to congratulate COOK Medical, Canton facility for an award that was read on the House of Representative floor by State Representative Cheri Bustos. This congressional record was congratulating COOK Medical for producing its one-millionth Beacon Tip angiographic catheter since 2018.

A part of the congressional record states: "In 2010, the COOK Medical manufacturing facility in Canton opened in an effort to revive the boyhood hometown of COOK Medical's late founder, Bill Cook. Now 143 highly skilled workers handcraft the Beacon Tip catheters, which are used by physicians around the world for angiographic interventional and diagnostic procedures."

COOK Medical is one of our areas largest employers and we are thankful to have them in our city, our county and our state. Congratulations to all the employees at COOK Medical for this prestigious award!



## INTRODUCING: CANTON AREA CHAMBER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Calling all Young Professionals! If you are between the ages of 21 and 40 and would consider yourself a professional in your field, you are invited to the "Fun in the Sun" kickoff event for area Young Professionals on Wednesday, July 21st from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Youth Acres at Canton Lake.

This event is hosted by the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce to introduce a new group that is being developed under the umbrella of the Canton Chamber, but you, or the business you work for, does not need to be a Chamber member to join this group. We encourage you to wear summer attire because during the event there will be teams set up to play a few fun games. Snacks and adult beverages will be available, and there will be cook out food to purchase. Of course there will be giveaways and plenty of time to socialize!

We ask that you register for the event so we know how much food to prepare. Scan the QR code or go to [www.cantonillinois.org/Chamber/Calendarofevents](http://www.cantonillinois.org/Chamber/Calendarofevents) and click on **July 21 YP Kickoff** event to register. If you have questions, feel free to contact Alli Ramsay at the Chamber office at 309-647-2677 Ext 4 or [cantonchamberad@cantonillinois.org](mailto:cantonchamberad@cantonillinois.org). We hope to see you there!





## Canton Chamber on the Move, *continued*

This happens when contractors or interested parties purchase these buildings and invest money into, not only the building, but their community. That is exactly what happened with our new office location. Local contractor, Max Kumer, purchased 48 N. Main Street and began remodeling without a solid plan of who would be purchasing the building. Then entered Cole McDaniel, Executive Director of SRPED. Cole approached his board about possibly buying the building with the intent to lead the way in the Downtown Revitalization. "We want to be a part of the movement, not just expect others to step up." After many months of discussion, the board agreed to purchase the building and worked with Max on the build out. SRPED invited the Chamber to lease from them so that our offices could continue to stay together so we can continue to collaborate for the betterment of our community.

It is time. It is time to breathe life back into our downtown! If you would like to know more details on the Downtown Revitalization movement, feel free to call our offices at 309-647-2677. We will be having a ribbon cutting (of course, we will!) sometime in August, but feel free to stop by the new office at 48 N. Main Street during regular business hours to see our amazing new space!



# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 CRUISE-IN SPONSORS!

## Major Sponsors



## Supporting Sponsors



# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CUSD #66: ROLF SIVERTSEN

## A Year to Remember: Closing the 20-21 School Year

Without a doubt this has been the toughest year in education for all schools throughout the country. I remember vividly sitting in a meeting in March of 2020 when a state health official stated, "It isn't even a pandemic yet." Boy how ironic and prophetic that statement would be within the next few months!

On March 12th at 2 p.m. I was sitting in my office when a friend who works as a school official for a large suburban Chicago school district called me and asked, "When are you closing?" He explained that rumors were circulating in Lake County that the governor was going to announce the closing of all schools within the state at a press conference the next day. I was stunned and told him I thought he was crazy. The following day I inquisitively watched the press conference. Sure enough, the governor announced, without reservation, that all schools would be closed effective Monday March 16th until further notice - I nearly fell out of my chair. Since the news conference was conducted late on a Friday we had to scramble to notify parents there would be no school on Monday. Everybody, parents included, thought the closure would only be for a few weeks. In fact, stakeholders initially viewed the closure as a relaxing two-week respite from school. However, our administrative team were hearing otherwise. On Monday we started to receive word that there was no set time to restart schools and we might be in the closure for the remainder of the year. In other words, it was evident that no one was prepared for the pandemic and we had better start planning for an alternative education plan. Equally important, it was also clear that no one had a good grasp on the virus itself and how it was spread. In response to the rumors and closure our district immediately transitioned to a planning phase to provide instruction through a remote model. Ten days later we were up and running and providing remote instruction.

During the process we began fielding phone calls on how parents were struggling and had a lack of reliable internet. As a result, we secured hotspots for those families that were struggling. As the year progressed we were very careful to monitor student attendance, grades, and student disengagement. By November of 2020 it became abundantly clear that students were faltering and remote instruction was no longer feasible. For example, there were 400 "Fs" at the high school and 300 students across the district listed as disengaged - disengaged was defined as either not attending school or not completing assignments. As a result, I drafted a resolution that gave me the ability to restart in-person learning if the failures and disengagement continued. The board was greatly concerned and adopted the resolution. Our administrative team continued to monitor the disengagement and failure rates. By Christmas break the failure rate had accelerated and I gathered the administrative team together to inform them that I was making a decision to restart in person learning.

On January 25th our district began in-person learning. During the first week of re-opening our students were happy to be back. As the year progressed more families felt comfortable enough to send their students back to school. By the close of the 20-21 school year we had about 60% of our students in person. During the closure there were more challenges than I can write in this simple sheet of paper. However, the staff performed magnificently, the board worked hard to get our students back in school and our administrators were on overtime for over a year. Without everyone working together as a team the closure would have been a bigger challenge.

# FIVE FACTORS DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SMALL CITIES

## A Message from Cole McDaniel Executive Director for the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development

1. Development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem: Create an environment where people want to do business and then identify and support entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs and other local champions should find ways to prop up local innovators. Support their risk-taking. Connect them to others in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Give these entrepreneurs every chance to succeed.
2. Human investments driving new economic growth: Successful communities recognize their vitality is dependent on new innovations, enhanced educational opportunities and strong human capital. These communities identify human capital assets and leverage these opportunities for long-term economic success.
3. Strong social capital: Successful small communities have cultivated a strong social fabric with relationships that are go deep and are durable over the long-term. Successful communities identify and engage residents to help craft and implement a long-term vision.
4. Strong quality of place: Successful communities create vibrant downtown environments where people want to be. Placemaking has become so essential to creating hip, lively cities. Communities that embrace their assets are viewed as authentic places that tend to become regional destinations.
5. Dedication to Progress: Repeatedly, research has found that successful, thriving and “cool” cities were proactive and determined to push their community forward, no matter how small the steps. “Sometimes it starts with the petunias”. Simple, short-term projects can test concepts and build momentum for larger revitalization efforts.



**209 E. Chestnut Street  
Suite 2B  
Canton, IL 61520  
(309) 647-2677**





# CALLING ALL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

**WEDNESDAY  
JULY 21, 2021**

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to invite local young professionals to the kick-off event of our new group:

## Canton Area Chamber Young Professionals

If you're between the ages of 21 and 40, join us for our kick-off event this summer to meet other young professionals your age!\*



Scan the QR Code to register or head to our website's Calendar of Events at [www.cantonillinois.org](http://www.cantonillinois.org)



**5:30 - 7:30 PM**



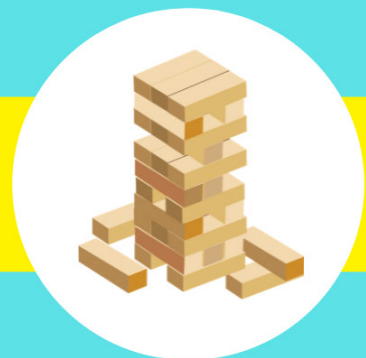
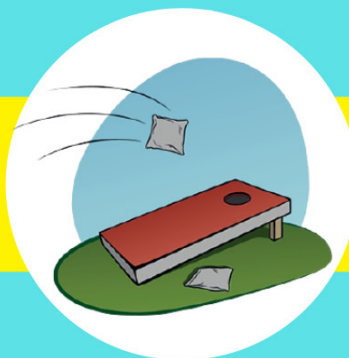
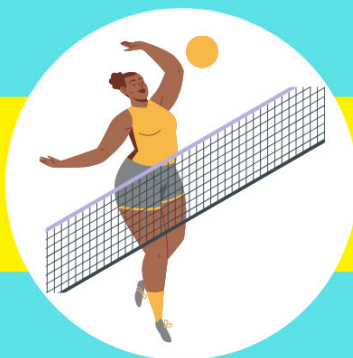
**SUMMER ATTIRE**



**CANTON YOUTH ACRES**



**SNACKS & DRINKS  
PROVIDED\*\***



\*Your business does NOT need to be a Chamber Member for you to participate.

\*\*Snacks and drinks are provided. Food will be available for purchase.

[www.facebook.com/CACC61520](https://www.facebook.com/CACC61520)





## Chamber Exclusive Series

Amazing resources at minimal cost.  
Designed to help YOUR business thrive.

Tools for Success

# Navigating the New Normal

A Five-Part Webinar Series to Receive Helpful & Practical  
Tools to Navigate the New Normal



**Julie Shields**

*U.S. Association for Small  
Business & Entrepreneurship*

The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused changes to business models in every industry. Learn how one business owner and their ad agency pivoted to create a strong brand identity through social media engagement and digital advertising. The discussion will include how to use data to calculate success. This session will include time for Q&A on how you can apply these concepts to your specific industry.

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**The Art of Pivoting: Strategies  
for Developing a Flexible Business  
Model for the Future**

★ Webinars \$15 each

Register via the Chamber Website  
under our **Calendar of Events**

[www.members.cantonillinois.org/events/  
calendar](http://www.members.cantonillinois.org/events/calendar)

Thanks to  
our sponsor:





# 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  
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 Eagle Point Solar  
 First Christian Church  
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 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

# HERE AT HOME #4: SIBLINGS CHRISTOPHER AND ASHLEY JUMP

## All In the Family

By: Carol Davis

For brother and sister Ashley and Christopher, Jump is not just their surname. Jump is also an action verb describing their young professional lives. Today, the siblings, Ashley Jump Krulac, an actively engaged and vibrant educator, and Christopher Jump, a successful attorney and community advocate, continue the long family tradition of living, working, and serving Here at Home in Canton.

A 2019 study by the National 4-H Council and the Bridgespan Group identified six common traits of a successful rural community. These traits include a high expectation that youth will opt in and work hard to acquire the skills to build a better future; strong informal support systems, with neighbors helping neighbors; an early focus on career pathways; a wealth of opportunities to build life skills, regardless of the community's size; creative solutions for overcoming the many potential challenges in accessing opportunities; and a sense of shared fate with a deep commitment to sustaining the community. These traits were very evident when Ashley and Chris were growing up in Canton.

For Ashley, the realization that Canton was just where she wanted to be, came after she graduated from Illinois State University hoping to find a public relations position in Louisville, Kentucky where her fiancé, now husband, Zack Krulac, a 2004 Canton High School graduate, took a position after college. But it wasn't to be.

At the same time, Zack decided he wanted to look for a new position and get back closer to Canton. Instead of heading to Kentucky, Ashley returned to Canton, but she couldn't find a job in her field. She worked as a bartender and as a substitute teacher. However, she was able to reconnect with her parents, substitute teach alongside her mom, Pam, in a kindergarten class for a school quarter, and as a waitress for her dad, Billy, at the family business, Official Time Out.

Ashley decided to enroll at Illinois State University to pursue a degree in Communication Education. She commuted for a year, while planning a wedding, and Zack returned to the area. Zack accepted a job in Farmington and Ashley spent the next few years teaching in Farmington and Abingdon. However, Canton was the couple's main hub.

Today, Ashley lives in Canton with husband Zack, a Vice President at MidAmerica National Bank, and their two children Colette, 7, and Lincoln, 4. Ashley teaches English and Communications at Canton High School and serves as the advisor for Student Council in addition to overseeing the Cantonian Yearbook. Ashley strongly advocates the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Academy program and views the program as a recruiting tool to bring her students back to Canton after college as well.





## All In the Family, *Continued*

"I tell my high school students that coming back to Canton was not my plan or somewhere I planned to reside," Ashley laughs. "Like many teenagers, I could not wait to leave Canton for better things, but it turns out the better things were right here all along."

Ashley now stresses the benefits of Canton living to her students. "It's important to stress relevancy with the students in my classes. I enjoy sharing Canton history with them. I believe when your roots are here, something or someone can always bring you back. We have something special here. Although I did not know that when I was in high school, I sure do now."

While in law school at St. Louis University (SLU), Chris held the hope that he could return to Canton for his career. But he wondered if the opportunity would be there when he completed his degree.

"I love Canton. It is truly a wonderful city to raise a family in," says Chris. "Of course, family is certainly a factor. I've always thought we have access to large metropolitan areas that are only a few hours away and Peoria is less than an hour so the "we don't have anything here" comments never resonated with me. When my friends visit, they comment on the Cheers type of environment. The small-town feel is just not something you duplicate very easily."

After graduating from SLU, Chris returned to Canton and moved in with two of his 2007 classmates, the late Cody Krulac and Steve Clark, who had already returned to Canton to live and work. Their high school bond remained strong.

"The Canton Class of 2007 wasn't divisive," Chris says. "There was no overwhelming Canton bashing among the students then. I certainly didn't have that I can't wait to get out of here attitude. I needed a place to study for the bar exam and my friends took me in," Chris says.

When the time for employment came, Chris, who had done well in law school and had been Editor in Chief of SLU's Public Law Review, had many opportunities from which to choose. Attorney Gary Barnhart, who first hired Chris into his Canton law firm, stressed the importance of maintaining a work and life balance when making a career decision.

"Gary explained to me that when your kids have a dance recital, you go to the dance recital. If you want to coach little league, you go coach little league," Chris says. "When faced with high billable hour requirements and eventually starting a family, this was certainly a factor I considered."

Today, Chris and his wife Ashley, an educator, live in Canton with their daughter Juliana. Chris commutes to the Davis and Campbell law firm in Peoria where he represents many Canton clients but also serves as City Attorney for the City of Canton. "I've been fortunate that all of my employers encourage community involvement and family time," Chris says.

### **IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR**

But all this current success for the Jump siblings began much earlier as young children. Their eventual journeys back to Canton reflect the six successful rural community traits discovered in the National 4H 2019 study. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Canton particularly stressed high expectations for youth to acquire skills necessary for a better future and the need for strong informal support systems to enable them to do so.

## All In the Family, *Continued*

From the earliest times they can remember, Ashley and Chris witnessed their parents' strong work ethics and commitment to community and philanthropy. Their father, Billy Jump, grew up in Canton. Billy's father worked for International Harvester and his mother was a beautician. When Billy graduated from high school and began gaining work experience at Crawford's Home Furnishings, Billy's parents loaned him money for a set of tools so that Billy could open his own business.

"My dad came from a working-class family," Ashley says. "Nothing was ever just handed to him. He worked hard and took advantage of his skills and community opportunities. He first co-owned Quality Carpet Service, and then expanded into a rental property business."

It was through the rental property business that Billy met a young kindergarten teacher from Galesburg named Pam who was looking for a place to live near Matanzas Beach. Billy rented Pam a property, but that business transaction became a contract of another kind. Billy and Pam eventually married, and Canton became Pam's home also.

Decades later, Chris would return home for a break from law school and just happened to be behind the bar at the Official Time Out, when a husband and wife were in town looking for a rental property for their daughter, also named Ashley, who had just been hired to teach at Ingersoll Middle School. Billy mentioned he had rental property in that area.

"Dad asked me to set up an appointment to show the property to her," Chris recalls. "I did, she liked it, and she must have liked me, too, because a few years later, we were married. Just like mom and dad. Now I have a sister named Ashley and a wife named Ashley. It gets interesting sometimes."

"My dad has always rooted for the underdog and is a local philanthropist," sister Ashley says. "We learned about hard work, commitment and fundraising, and giving back from an early age. Mom is an incredible planner and continually involved us in a wide range of school and community activities like tumbling, swimming, piano, student council, and sports so that we could see all the many options for our lives. Mom even allowed me to participate in competitive pageants both locally and out-of-state until I reached the age of seven. I once was first runner up and a photo of me, taken by Dave Lewis, made the cover of a national magazine. Being a mom now, I am in awe of all my mom did for us."

"My sister and I were in middle school when dad and mom bought Official Time Out," Chris adds. "We learned about running a family business and how important it was that we all looked out for one another. When I was on student council in high school, I was the chairperson of the community service committee and worked directly with business owners. That was dad's influence. Ashley and I still help out mom and dad at OTO now and then even though we are well into our own careers. As the saying goes, it takes a village."

Chris and Ashley believe that their family extends to the entire Canton community, especially former teachers and influential community members who took the time to encourage Chris and Ashley when they were young. The late Gale DeRenzy, a friend of his father's and owner of Gale's Lounge (now the Official Time Out) opened many future doors for Chris.

## All In the Family, *Continued*

“Gale was a Canton school board member, a local business owner, an impactful community leader who was also active in national, state, and local politics,” Chris says. “When I showed an interest in politics, Gale would take me to political fundraisers, speaking events, party meetings and state fairs. He encouraged me to go door-to-door and speak in front of large gatherings. He was a great mentor and like a third grandfather to me. I use something Gale taught me every single day of my life.”

Ashley’s family village includes high school educators. She specifically credits Jodi Neptun, Jen Watts, Jason Parsons, and Andy Schroeder as her mentors.



“Jodi was a coach to me in high school and now she is a colleague, a close friend, and a confidant. We co-sponsor Student Council and Cum Laude at Canton High School and get to spend cherished time together,” Ashley says. “Jason taught me the importance of building connections and relationships with students. He was a major influence on my decision to join Canton District 66. Jen and Andy provided constant encouragement.”

But Ashley and Chris certainly do not discount the impact each other has had on their individual lives.

“We had the typical brother and sister spats as children,” Ashley says. “Especially when we had to clean up the toy room, but we really realized how much we meant to one another when I went away to college. I like to think that Chris looked up to me and sought me out for advice first. But Chris was, and still is, someone I admire beyond anyone else. He is one of the most driven, smart, caring people I know.”

“I actually cried when Ashley went away to college,” Chris adds. “She was always there for me, and I missed seeing and talking to her every day.”

“I think we discovered that we had the same heart,” Ashley laughs.

### TODAY AND TOMORROW

The playwright George Bernard Shaw once wrote, “I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live.” The Shaw quote could be the Jump family motto.

The sixth trait of the 2019 study highlighted earlier emphasizes that a sense of shared fate with a deep commitment to sustaining the community is necessary for rural area success. With young professionals like the Krulacs and the Jumps returning to the Canton area, this community is on its way.

Ashley, Zack, Colette, and Lincoln Krulac and Christopher, Ashley, and Julianna Jump are now expanding their own villages within the Canton community. Ashley and Chris admit that while one never knows where life will take you, both hope to continue to be good spouses, parents, siblings, and community leaders. They look forward to a bright future in which they continue to grow and learn and advocate for their clients and students. They also hope to encourage other young professionals to return to their beloved hometown of Canton, because, after all, it is all in the family.