



THE CHAMBER COURIER

July 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
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



Let's Chat!(About AI)

by: Carla Bobell

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a game-changing tool for businesses. Its ability to automate tasks, analyze data and enhance customer experience makes it invaluable. With AI, businesses can streamline operations, saving time and resources. It can handle repetitive tasks, freeing up employees to focus on more strategic initiatives. AI's advanced analytics provide insights that help businesses make informed decisions, improving efficiency and productivity. Moreover, AI-powered Chatbots offer instant customer support, boosting satisfaction and loyalty. In a competitive marketplace, AI empowers businesses to stay ahead, adapt to changing trends, and unlock new opportunities for growth.

In fact the first part of this article was created on an AI app that I downloaded on my phone. It's amazing what these Chatbots can do! As I have been learning more and more about how Chatbots can be helpful, we decided this is something we need to introduce to our Chamber Members to help business owners, managers and employees discover the time saving a Chatbot can bring. You will see tucked away inside this July issue of the Chamber Courier a flyer inviting you to participate in a virtual workshop to show you the ins and outs of ChatGPT, an advanced language model developed by OpenAI. It is designed to generate human-like responses in conversational contexts. This tool could possibly be your ever so needed assistant to help you be more efficient and productive. If you are already using AI apps, I encourage you to attend the workshop as well so you could give insight on how you use AI for your business.

We may be in a rural area but it does not mean we cannot help keep your business on the cutting edge of technology, because this type of technology is not going away so we might as well learn how to use it to help grow business better.

COME AND JOIN US!
CANTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS

after hours

**Tour of
Winery
Facility**

HOSTED THIS MONTH BY:

Spoon River JUNCTION

Just West of Canton - 15100 IL-9



Thursday, July 20

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Food, beverages, fun, giveaways and networking

Introducing!



LORD OF THE FLIES

Lazy Hazy
HoneyBrew

Hybrid glass only, light touch and strong!

Lazy Hazy
HoneyBrew
&
Flame Fired Pizza
Available



SAVE THE DATE FOR KIDS FEST 2023

SATURDAY WORLD TIME
07-15-23 Jones Park 9 - 12

CANTON MAIN STREET

KIDS FEST!



MARIO MAYHEM





BROUGHT TO
YOU BY.....



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Jana Emmons, Ipava State Bank
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 President Curt Oldfield, Spoon River College

STAFF

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 cantonareachamber@gmail.com
 Facebook CACC61520
Assistant Director - Mallory Jackson

WELCOME NEW MEMBER CANTON COMMUNITY CONCERT

In 1955, the First Community Concert featuring the Longines Symphonette was held in the Canton Senior High Auditorium with a sold out crowd. Some said the idea of Community Concerts would never work, but members of the group proved that the area was ready for good entertainment. They used the poem, "It Couldn't be Done" by Edgar A. Guest as their inspiration. The Concert Association strives to continue the quality that has been its trademark for nearly 70 years and the upcoming season is no exception.



The 2023-2024 Membership Drive is currently in progress.

The line-up for the season offers a variety of musical styles and performances. The season begins with a "little-big band" that specializes in high energy music. Next is a program highlighting one of the great entertainers from Ireland. Then, a quartet spanning four decades of music with choreography and tight harmonies. Finally, a group which features piano, cello, and voice performing hits from Broadway and pop music. This year, they truly have "something for all ages" in the entertainment offerings. All of the local concerts will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Canton High School Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

2023-2024 Season Line-Up

Phat Cat Swinger at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 14, 2023.

Ireland's Greatest Showman at 7:00p.m. on Thursday, October 19, 2023.

The Suits at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

Branden & James with Effie Passero at 7:00 p.m., Friday, April 26, 2024.



Memberships are \$55 per person. Season Memberships help the Association in its planning for the upcoming year. Students, 18 and under, will be admitted free when accompanied by a paid adult member. However, memberships alone do not cover all expenses of the concerts. With the help of generous contributors we are able to provide quality programs to the area.

To discover more information about the Community Concert Association, you may contact your nearest area representative. In Canton, you may contact Rachel Hopper at 309-647-4981. In Fairview, contact Dixie Newton at 309-778-2453. To stay more informed about the Community Concerts, please visit and like the Canton Community Concert Association Facebook page.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 CANTON CRUISE-IN WINNERS



Mayor's Choice Best of Show

WINNER
Ralph Dwyer
Glasford, IL
1941 Chevy Truck AK

Judge: Canton Mayor Kent McDowell

Sponsor's Choice 1949 & Older

WINNER
Tom & Bonnie Hulting
East Peoria, IL
1947 Mercury Convertible

Lead Sponsor BH Materials Judges:
Kim Brooks and Ben & Miranda Hendricks



Sponsor's Choice 1950 & Newer

WINNER
Mike Elinger
Manito IL
1957 Chevy Nomad

Lead Sponsors Pizza Hit and TBK Bank Judges



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 CANTON CRUISE-IN WINNERS



Best of Show Jeep

WINNER
Gary Kinsel
Canton, IL
1980 Jeep CJ7

Lead Sponsor State Farm Judge: Dee Clark

Best of Show Motorcycle

WINNER
Adam Bonney
Canton, IL
2012 Harley Davidson Road King

Lead Sponsor Windshield Specialist Judge:
Brian Miars



THANK YOU TO OUR LEAD SPONSERS



Dee Clark



It's on time. It's quality. It's savings.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING SPONSERS



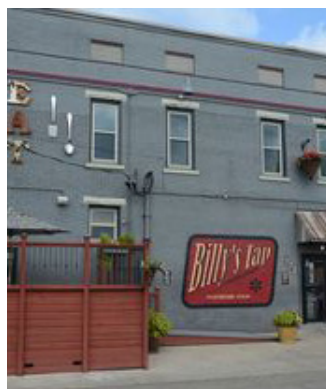
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We also thank our 65 volunteers, Space Walk of Central IL, Unique Twist & Twisting Crew, Naomi Ludke, Judges, Friendship Festival Queen Candidates and Royalty, Food Vendors, ChamberAmbassadors, Chamber Board of Directors and all those who participated in the 32nd Annual Canton Cruise In. See you next year!

SUMMER OUTDOOR DINING

Enjoy great company, amazing food, and beautiful weather when you dine outdoors this summer



Restaurants with Outdoor Dining Include

Billy's Tap
Official Time Out
White Oaks Sports Bar
Rancho Nuevo
Eats on the Street Patio

Big Cat's Bowls
Don & Nancy's Cafe
Jimmy John's
La Fiesta
Wee-Ma-Tuk Golf, Bar & Grill

Take your meal to go and enjoy your food at one of Canton's beautiful parks



Grab & Go Specialty & Restaurants

Taco Bell
Sweet Shoppe
Princess Creations
Cup of Canton

Black Maple Coffee
Country Line Bar & Grill
Joe's Place
Monical's Pizza
Pizza Hut

Spoon River Junction Winery
Native Trails Winery
Harvester Meat Co.
VR Meats

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT TAD DERENZY

Congratulations Cooper Nelson!

For the third time in the history of Canton School District a graduating student has been elected to a state Future Farmers of America, FFA, elected office. Cooper Nelson was elected as the state reporter. Cooper has hit the ground running attending meetings in Springfield, Chicago, and soon will be traveling to Washington DC.

Canton Union School District #66 Upcoming Events

The start of the 2023-24 school year is approaching quickly and the following back to school events will begin in August.

• August 3rd

- o CHS Registration 10:00-6:00- South Gym

• August 8th

- o Freshman Orientation 1:00-3:00- CHS Auditorium
- o Freshman Parent Night 5:00-6:00- CHS Auditorium
- o Freshman Back to School Bash 7:00-9:00- Big Creek Pool
- o Eastview SOS Meeting 6:30 • August 9th
- o IMS Registration and Schedule Pick Up 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-7:00
- o 5th Grade Orientation 10:00 and 7:00

• August 10th

- o Westview Kindergarten Meet and Greet 4:30-6:30
- o CHS Marching Band Preview Night 6:00

• August 14th

- o IMS Meet and Greet 5:00-6:30
- o IMS Back to School Party 5:30-7:00
- o Eastview ECE and Kindergarten Meet and Greet 4:30-5:30
- o Lincoln Kindergarten Open House 4:30-5:30
- o Lincoln, Eastview, and Westview Back to School Celebration 5:30-7:00

• August 15th

- o CHS Meet and Greet 6:00-7:30

• August 16th

- o First Day of School
- o Little Learners Parent Orientation 1:00-2:00 and 6:00-7:00

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school and we look forward to seeing all students on August 16th.





BUSINESS BEFORE BREAKFAST

THE CANTON AREA CHAMBER AND THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT SRC ARE INTRODUCING YOU TO AN INCREDIBLE AI TOOL CALLED CHATGPT. THIS FREE WORKSHOP AIMS TO EQUIP PARTICIPANTS WITH THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE CHATGPT IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ENDEAVORS.

Join Us VIRTUALLY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3RD AT 8:00AM

LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF CHATGPT WITH MICHELLE HOWE, INSTRUCTOR OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS AT WIU, AT THIS EXCLUSIVE WORKSHOP ENTITLED "MASTERING CHATGPT"



MICHELLE HOWE

SAVE THE DATE - THE TASTE OF CANTON





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
 Ben Hendricks Trucking, Inc.
 Big Brothers Big Sisters
 Buckheart Solar
 Camille's of Canton
 Canton Daily Ledger
 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
 Dempster Insurance Agency
 Di's Boutique
 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 Williams
 Helping Hands Resale Shoppe
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 Humane Society of Fulton County
 Ipava State Bank
 JC Custom Laser Creations, LLC

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