

THE CHAMBER COURIER

March 2023

The monthly business publication of the Canton Area

Your Chamber Ambassadors are here for your business.

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Invitation Not Necessary

by: Carla Bobell

"I never joined the Chamber because I thought I had to be invited to be a part of the Chamber. And no one invited me." This was a statement that came from a business when I had asked if there was a reason they had not joined the Chamber after they opened for business five or six years ago.

This made me realize that there are possibly others who may think the same way so I want to make it very clear that any business, school, organization, individual from Canton and the surrounding communities are all welcome to join the Canton Chamber, which means an

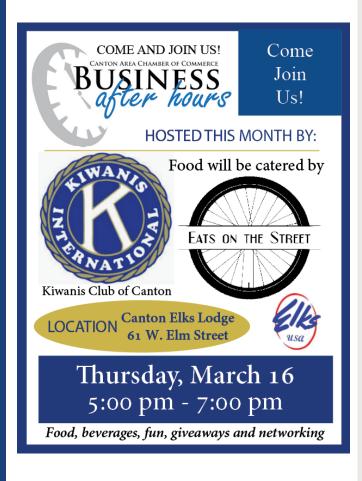
invitation is not necessary to be a part of the team. Just ask!

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, 501C6 corporation that has been serving the business community since 1925. No one is excluded from joining the Chamber (unless your business is illegal! HA!) The more Chamber Members there are in a Chamber the more that Chamber can do for their Members.

Becoming a Member of the Canton Chamber is really a very simple process. We have a one page form that asks for your basic contact information, we figure out which Membership level your company lands in, and then you start receiving benefits right away!

Some things that may appear exclusive, if your company is not a Chamber member, would be having a ribbon cutting, hosting a Business After Hours, receiving information on community events, being listed in the Membership Directory on the Chamber website, or sponsoring a Chamber event, just to name a few. We call these Member Benefits! Because when you are a Chamber Member, you are able to partake and reap from so many benefits.

Contact the Canton Chamber office today to get your company involved with the Chamber team! We would love to have you!





If your business is interested in participating in Career Expo 2023 at Canton High School on Friday, March 31st contact Carla Bobell at 309-647-2677 Ext 2 or email cbobell@cantonillinois.org.





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

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STAFF

Executive Director - Carla Bobell 48 N. Main Street, Canton, IL 61520 (309) 647-2677 cantonareachamber@gmail.com Facebook CACC61520 Assistant Director - Kaaren Theobald

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Skateland Canton

Skateland Canton is a family fun center providing people a place to roller skate and spend time in community with one another. Skateland Canton was established in 1975 and has been around for 48 years!

Skateland Canton provides services such as open skate, skate contests, private party rentals and a fun space for family reunions, sports team events, birthday parties, church groups, schools fieldtrips, etc.

New owners, CJ and Selena Jones, recently purchased Skateland on July 1, 2022 and their mission in running Skateland is to help grow our community and bring love, light, and positivity to Canton by providing a happy place people can turn to for fun, fellowship, and exercise. Their goal in owning a Roller Rink is to reenergize roller skating while offering a place for people to come celebrate and have a great time.

CJ and Selena moved to the area from Columbus, Ohio. There they spent 30 years self-employed and spent those last nine years seeking to purchase a skating rink. Little did they know that their journey would lead them back to Illinois. Selena was born and raised in central Illinois. CJ is originally from Florida and grew up in Columbus, Ohio. CJ and Selena are very thankful for the opportunity they have been given to take on Skateland and join this community. They are grateful to all for the support and warm welcomes everyone has given them.



Contact Skateland to book your parties & celebrations at 309-647-6958 or message them on Facebook at skatecanton



Bring the whole family!



Located at 1040 W. Hickory Street West side of Canton

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Birth to Five

Welcome new member Birth to Five Illinois. This new organization is redesigning the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system with families at the center.

Mission

To create a statewide regional infrastructure that will amplify input from communities in the development of policies and funding priorities. We support the mobilization of communities to build and sustain equitable access to inclusive, high-quality early childhood services for all children and families in the state of Illinois.



Vision

Reimagining a more equitable Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system that respects family and community voice and works to ensure it is centered and prioritized at every level of decision-making in Illinois.

Cause

Illinois has a goal of becoming the best state in the nation for families raising young children by improving and expanding the delivery of childcare and early learning programs for children from birth until they start kindergarten. Birth to Five Illinois is dedicated to ensuring all children and families have access to the services they need.

Birth to Five is building Action Councils and Family Councils in each of their 39 regions. Local Region 26 includes Fulton, Hancock, McDonough, and Schuyler counties. The Birth to Five Action Councils will include parents and families, service providers, educators, and advocates who will be tasked with identifying service needs in each region. Information gathered by these Councils will be provided to the State in the form of a Regional Scan that will inform policy around birth-to-five programs over the next decade, and beyond. Birth to Five Councils will work to ensure early childhood policy is influenced by community voice and data, building a structure for equitable allocation of current and anticipated funding, and making funding stable, predictable, and consistent for early childhood providers. In addition, Birth to Five Councils can serve as regional advocacy bodies to influence local policy, including funding opportunities.

For more information visit the Birth to Five Illinois website at https://www.birthtofiveil.com/ or call Paul Larson, Regional Administrative Assistant or Shannon McKee, Family and Community Engagement Specialist at (309)-270-5519 or Lacie McGraw, Regional Administrative Assistant at (309) 948-5898.













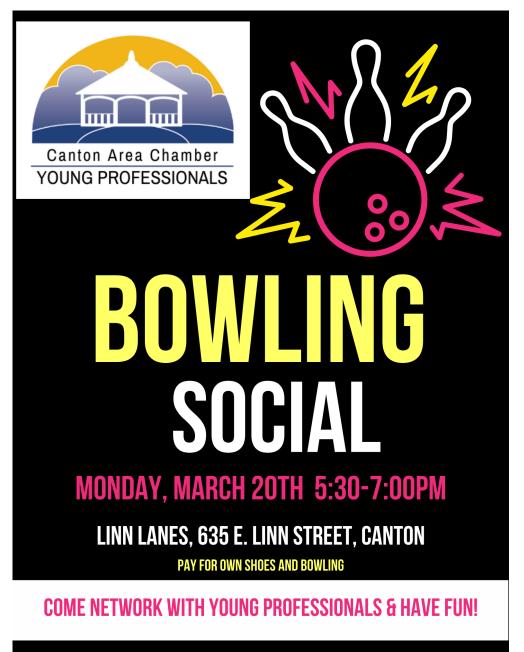






CANTON AREA CHAMBER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

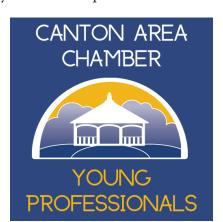
Are you between the ages of 21 and 40? Do you have a job you consider your career? Then you should check out being a part of the Canton Area Chamber Young Professionals (CACYP). This new young professional group meets once a month and has a social event every quarter. Plan to attend the next social on March 20th out at Linn Lanes in Canton. It would be a great way to meet your peers that work in and around the Canton area.



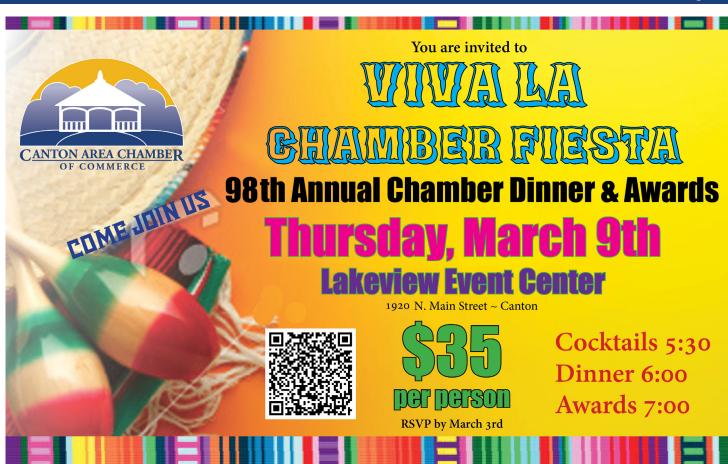
By getting connected with CACYP you will hear and learn from leadership experts in their field, find out how to get involved with local organizations and find out what they do and learn what they offer our communities.

You will also find that CACYP will help you grow professionally, meet new people, see how to get your own business or the business you work for promoted through social media or during a meeting.

To get more information check out their Facebook page at Canton Area Chamber Young Professionals. Feel free to send a message and a local young professional will get back to you to answer any of your CACYP questions.



COME JOIN US!





WE WILL BE HONORING THE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Business Person of the Year Citizen of the Year Educator of the Year

BUSINESS CASUAL

ENJOY A LIWE MARIACHI BAND

Monday, March 27th

Small Business Workshop:

Navigating Illinois State Mandated Retirement Options for Small Businesses

Graham Hospital Lobby Conference Room, 6:30pm

Presented by: Maggie Connell, Edward Jones

Scan to Register for Free Workshop:







Edward Jones[®]

Illinois Secure Choice is a mandatory retirement program being implemented by the state for small businesses with <u>5 or more employees</u> who currently do not have a retirement program. <u>Deadlines apply.</u>
Come learn how this can affect your business.

MESSAGE FROM SPOON RIVER PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The importance of planning and creating a vision for economic development in a community cannot be underestimated. A plan for economic development is essential for any community that wishes to ensure long-term growth and prosperity. It serves several purposes, from setting the overall direction for economic growth and identifying potential problems, to drafting specific projects and activities to spur this growth.

Having a plan gives a community a sense of direction and purpose, as well as providing a framework for goal setting and decision making. By setting goals and establishing a clear vision, communities can make sure they are acting in their own best interests and focus their resources on achieving those goals. It can also help them



Executive Director Cole McDaniel

anticipate future challenges and prepare solutions to address them. Without a plan and vision, it's easy for a community to become mired in short-term thinking and lose sight of the larger and more important objectives.

Economic development plans can create jobs, attract new businesses, provide housing, encourage tourism, and improve infrastructure. They can also help define a local identity and foster a sense of community pride. Having a plan and vision helps ensure that the resources of the community are being utilized to their fullest potential, and that development efforts are focused on areas that will provide the most benefit to its citizens.

Furthermore, having an economic development plan in place will give the community's representatives a basis for discussions with outside investors, and make the community more attractive for investment. This can provide capital for projects and activities, both public and private, that promote economic growth and development.

In short, planning and creating a vision for economic development is critical for any community's success. It helps create a vision of the future and sets goals, while allowing the community to utilize all available resources to reach those aspirations. A community that takes a proactive approach to economic development will be better positioned to achieve success in the long run.

SRPED held our Annual Action Planning meeting on March 1st, and worked on setting a vision with committee members for 2023/2024. We look forward to sharing these action strategies in the coming weeks!



CANTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #66

Over the past year, the district has invested federal and state grant funds into a PreK to 8th grade STEAM program. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. STEAM programs by design support students' and teachers' development of key competencies that underpin authentic STEAM learning. This occurs with integration and application of content knowledge, skills, and dispositions across academic content areas of science and math and incorporates technology. It also includes engineering and art to strategically focus and align STEAM programs with current or future career pathways while equipping students with the skills needed to enter the workforce after graduation. STEAM learning environments foster collaboration; creativity; problem-solving; open-inquiry; experimentation; and communication, all of which impact students' social, emotional, and



Superintendent Tad DeRenzy

reasoning growth. On the March 2nd School Improvement Day, teachers will receive training from one of the district's STEAM partners, LEGO Education. Teachers will learn how to utilize LEGO Education kits for teaching and hands-on learning to inspire interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM), targeted at preschool, elementary and middle school. Kits are based on the LEGO® system for playful learning combined with curriculum-relevant material and digital resources. These activities also fulfill the district's obligation to develop and deliver a comprehensive K-12 Computer Literacy curriculum.

Not only does March usher in warmer weather, tree blossoms, and spring sports events, it also is the start of state assessment season. Federal law requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to administer certain assessments to all students who attend public schools in the state. These assessments help improve standards, curriculum, and instruction at the classroom, school, district, and state levels. Assessments play a role in helping ISBE and our district identify areas where schools need targeted support. The average amount of time spent on accountability assessments represents less than 1 percent of the school year. We want teachers and students to devote as much time as possible to learning, not testing. We encourage students to do their best on all assessments and appreciate the support of their families. Remember, the best test preparation is good sleep, good nutrition, and good attendance!

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:

- School Improvement Day 11:30 AM Early Dismissal- March
- Ingersoll Spring Picture Day and Group Photos- March 17
- End of Third Quarter- March 10
- IMS Talent Show- March 16
- Lincoln Adventures After School Program- March 16
- Thespian Club Spring Musical- March 24-26
- Lincoln 3rd and 4th Grade Spring Music Program- March 28
- Westview 3rd and 4th Grade Spring Music Program- March 3
- Eastview Family Night- March 30
- CHS Career Expo- March 31

Thank you for your continued support of Canton Union School District #66.



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

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

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

Harriet Williams, Broker--Gorsuch Reality

& Auction

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

TBK Bank

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