



# The Chamber Courier

MARCH  
ISSUE

The Monthly Business Publication for the Canton Area



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



[cantonillinois.org/chamber](https://cantonillinois.org/chamber)

## CACC Executive Board

**Chad Holloway** OSF HealthCare

**Maggie Connell** Edward Jones

**Chad Murphy** Spoon River College

**Erin Watson** Watson Center for Wellness

## CACC Board of Directors

**Diane Bell** Di's Boutique

**Emylee Bitner** Bank of Farmington

**Jason Elwell** Peculiar Projects

**Jason Gumbart** Apex Seed Company

**Renee Lewis** Jim Maloof Realtor

**Lucas Lingle** MidAmerica National Bank

**Lacey Neal** Rock Valley Physical Therapy

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**Brayden Coker** CHS Student Representative

# MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARLA BOBELL

## Leap of Kindness Day 2024

Oh my goodness! What amazing, kind things folks from so many communities did on the Leap of Kindness Day on February 29th! Many of them were shared on our Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, but I am sure there were many more throughout the day.

We saw organizations receive large sums of money, blankets of hope given, food donations, gift card donations, art work donations, and lots of treats delivered, just to name a few acts of kindness.

Kindness  
MATTERS

Leap of Kindness Day was invented by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce in 2016. The idea was to inspire their Chamber Members and community to use their extra day – Leap Year, to do something kind for someone else, and hundreds of local organizations helped thousands of local people on February 29, 2016. They did it again in 2020, four years later, with more communities, and this year, in 2024, nearly 250 communities set up their own Leap of Kindness Day initiatives, mainly in the US and Canada, with 43 out of the 50 US states participating this year and we were a part of it all!

If you were one who did a random act of kindness on Leap Year day, how did it make you feel? It was fun wasn't it?! If you were on the receiving end of an act of kindness, I am sure you were very touched by the kindness. We need more kindness in our world and I love that we took a day to focus on doing just that right here in our communities. I have always taken to heart a quote that I see from time to time that says "In a world where you can be anything, be kind."

Thank you to everyone, including businesses, organizations, and entire communities that participated in the Leap of Kindness day this leap year. We encourage you to keep the kindness going and maybe we would become known as the City of Kindness!



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#LeapOfKindnessDay

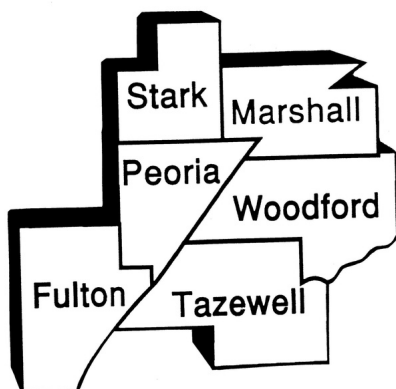


# **WELCOME NEW MEMBER CENTRAL ILLINOIS AGENCY ON AGING**

The Central Illinois Agency on Aging (CIAA) is a community-based nonprofit organization serving Fulton, Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford counties. CIAA was established from the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1974 to create a comprehensive aging network. We are one of thirteen area agencies throughout Illinois, with over 600 nationwide. Our organization is funded by local, state, and federal dollars. We also accept monetary and in-kind donations.

Our vision is to be the experts on aging by assessing the community's needs and developing programming to ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities can live independently. We work with our community partners to facilitate programs throughout our six-county area while providing oversight to guarantee quality service delivery and outcomes. Furthermore, CIAA connects with our local, state, and federal legislators to advocate for seniors and persons with disabilities. Our organization is an active member of the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging (IAA) and believes the continuity of our association can move our vision forward by aligning these mutual goals.

Since 1974, CIAA has partnered with hundreds of community organizations to serve older adults and persons with disabilities and continues to seek strong community collaboration throughout its six-county service area. As we approach our 50th anniversary, we are thrilled to share our success. The agency continues to value self-determination, autonomy, and human rights as it transcends through the ages to be a fundamental community resource for its stakeholders and collaborators. CIAA aims to expand our impact by improving the lives of older adults and persons with disabilities through collaborative partnership in Fulton, Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBER

## WALTER'S FLOWERS & GREENHOUSE

Walter's Flowers and Greenhouse is celebrating their one year anniversary under new management with Michelle and Rob Simmons. Michelle shared that the support from the community has been amazing and is encouraging during their clean up and updating of the store and greenhouse. So far, updates include painting the front of the building, planting flowers, cleaning and repairing portions of the greenhouses. Michelle and Bob foresee many more projects and repairs in 2024.

Planting season begins in mid-March and Walter's Flowers and Greenhouse are looking forward to providing the area with a variety of plants. Including tropical plants, annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables along with many other varieties of plants. Throughout the year Walter's also has house plants, fresh cut flowers, memorial items, and gifts for the plant lover in your life.

Michelle shared with the Chamber, "The only word I can use is Blessed". The support from the community has been amazing. The support makes cleaning up so much more fun.

The planting season will start in the middle of March. This spring, look forward to Tropical plants, annuals, perennial flowers, herbs, vegetables and much more! Walter's looks forward to spending the 2024 season with you. Walter's always has house plants, memorial items, fresh cut flowers, and plant lover gifts!

Walter's Flowers & Greenhouse is located at 720 E. Elm St. in Canton. Their phone number is 309-647-1122.

MON- Closed

TUE- 10am-4pm

WED- 10am-4pm

THUR- 10am-4pm

FRI- 10am-4pm

SAT- 10am-2pm

SUN- Closed



Visit their Facebook Page

# CITY OF CANTON REPORT

The first quarter of any given year is one of change, most notably in the weather as it swings from the dark cold of January winter into motivating milder temperatures of March. In this first quarter, we endured an extreme stretch of sub-zero temperatures. This resulted in a series of three water main breaks all on the coldest, fiercest day of all, and they occurred right on the heels of a significant snowfall. After being called out at 2:00am to plow snow for 13 hours, city crews dealt with the main breaks until 8:00 that night. I am grateful for our employees that put in extraordinary hours and face adverse conditions to restore our services.

Now as weather improves, projects continue. Work on the Water Treatment Plant is completed. Funding is being sought for improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, a second round of Lead Service Line Replacements, and replacement of the West Hickory water line. Another new project will be repairs to the bridge on West Walnut Street over Big Creek.

Replacement of sidewalk/curb/gutter in the 100 block of N. Main Street is in design phase. This area near Don & Nancy's Café has been in poor condition for years, but has been complicated by a basement that extends out under the sidewalks.

Spring brings people outdoors to our Lake Canton trail system, where I'm excited to share news of two new trail benches, generously donated by a team of employees at COOK Medical, in honor of one of their employees. Many people will appreciate these benches.

Finally, we note the passing of our former Ward 3 Alderman, Quin Mayhew. Quin served for the City from August, 2018 until May, 2021. He was a perfect example of what you want in a representative. He was intelligent, fair, logical, and listened to his constituents and his city department heads. They will tell you that Quin was a wonderful person to work with.

As with life, the City keeps moving on. Canton has a lot of potential and hope for the future, so let's see what the next quarter brings us.

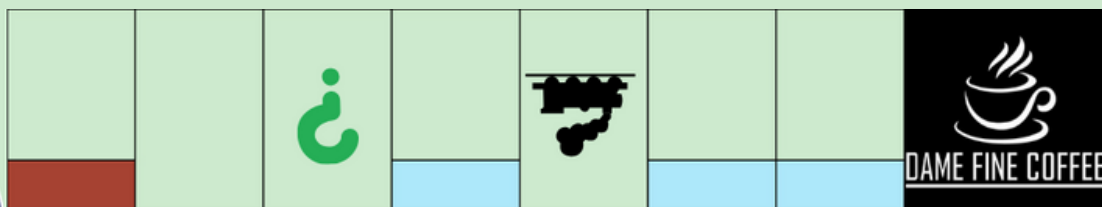


Mayor Kent McDowell





# 2024 ANNUAL CANTON CHAMBER DINNER & AWARDS - DEADLINE IS TODAY



## THE GAME OF BUSINESS COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

99TH ANNUAL CHAMBER DINNER & AWARDS



The Former JC Penney Building  
90 E. Locust Canton IL



Thursday, March 7th, 2024

Cocktails at 5:30pm

Dinner at 6:00pm

Awards at 7:00pm

Tickets \$35 per person

Please RSVP by March 1st

Register Online:



[Click Here to Register Online](#)

# 150% CLUB MEMBERS



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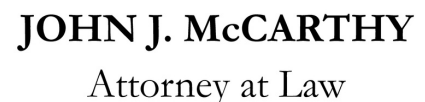
Galesburg Broadcasting Co.

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of the Brethren





# 150% CLUB MEMBERS





COME AND JOIN US!

CANTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# BUSINESS *after hours*

Trivia  
Game  
Fun!

HOSTED THIS MONTH BY:



LOCATION:



**Old Dog LLC**  
**23 W Pine St,**  
**Canton IL 61520**  
(entrance off of Pine Street)

Ribbon Cutting for new Emergency Response Vehicle  
at 4:30pm in front of Old Dog

**Thursday, March 21**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

*Food, beverages, fun, giveaways and networking*



# **FEBRUARY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**

**Hosted by Kiwanis Club of Canton  
and Sanders - Hasty Insurance**





# OUR CHAMBER AMBASSADORS



**Samantha Braden** - Rhoades Real Estate

**Bobby Brown** - Flat Branch Home Loans

**Joe Christian** - MidAmerica National Bank

**Stephen Clark** - Town and Country Insurance

**Brandy Cozad** - Jack's Bar

**Kiley Davis-Crouse** - Line-X of Canton

**Tama Duhs** - Bank of Farmington

**Sherri Delost** - Jim Maloof Realtor

**Madison Embry** - Bank of Farmington

**Jake Green** - Graham Health System

**Jeromie Hale** - Bistro 101

**Elli Hummel** - Jack's Bar

**Amanda Ketcham** - Spoon River College

**Seth Klinedinst** - Crawford's Home Furnishings

**John Lemon** - Rise Canton

**Dave Lewis** - Dave Lewis Studio, Ltd.

**Taryn Mellert** - Spoon River Electric

**Amanda Reed** - MidAmerica National Bank

**Codi Swibold** - Hy-Vee Food Stores

**Dr. AJ Thum** - Associates in Dentistry

**Missy Towery** - Mid Century Fiber

**Bryce Vaughn** - CEFCU of Canton

**Nick Wright** - Country Financial

# AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT: JOE CHRISTIAN



Joe was raised in Canton IL and graduated from CHS in 1997. Shortly after graduation he attended a tech school in Schaumburg, IL and earned a certificate in Network Engineering and Management. He started his career in Information Technology doing software support at a company called Credit Services Group in the West suburbs of Chicago. After a couple of years at Credit Services Group, Joe was offered a job as a Network Administrator at Graham Hospital, where he met his wife, Corie. During his time at Graham Hospital, he completed his Associates Degree in Business Administration and his Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. After nearly 11 years at Graham Hospital, he was presented with an opportunity to take a job at MidAmerica National Bank (MNB) as the IT Director. Joe is currently employed at MNB as the Senior Vice President of Technology, and is a member of the Executive Team. In addition to technology, he also oversees facility maintenance and security.

Joe and his wife Corie have 4 wonderful children, Andrew, Brady, Avery and Baylor. Ages range from 17 down to 4. They are all very busy with activities like golf, basketball, tumbling, dance and all of the other activities that go along with raising a young family. Joe and his family currently live in WeeMaTuk and enjoy spending time with friends and family in their little community. Joe is also an avid outdoorsman. During the spring and summer, he enjoys being on the water, fishing or boating, with family and friends. In the fall he likes to spend as much time as possible in the deer stand.

Additionally, Joe has been a Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador for several years, is a former President for the Ambassador club, and a past recipient of the Ambassador of the Year award. He appreciates everything the CACC and the Ambassadors club does for the community. He says, "Everyone involved has a passion for the community and the business's they serve. It is an honor to be a part of such an amazing group."



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Youth Leadership Academy met at Spoon River College in February. The Sophomores had presenters from Spoon talk to them about College options and the Trades and also did a personality test. The Juniors had Mock Interviews done by a panel of HR employees from Canton businesses. The Youth Leadership Academy students have participated in 3 additional Leadership workshops so far this school year and have one more workshop on March 6th. The Senior YLA students have been exploring careers by job shadowing this school year.







# Community Work Day

Saturday April 27, 2024  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Arrive at 8:45 am in Jones Park

Downtown Canton

Rain Date is Saturday, May 4, 2024



HOSTED BY



We are looking for members of the community and groups to volunteer to help with projects around the Canton Community. Volunteers who participate will be assisting with projects at some of our local agencies, schools and Jones Park in downtown Canton.

Projects will possibly include:

- Painting
- Spreading Gravel
- Spreading Mulch
- General clean-up
- Planting
- Pulling weeds
- Cleaning Cabins
- Maintaining Trails
- Cleaning gutters

If you or those from your business are interested in volunteering or have a location that has a potential project, please contact the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce office at 309-647-2677 Ext. 2 or email at [cbobell@cantonillinois.org](mailto:cbobell@cantonillinois.org)



# CHAMBER CHAMPIONS



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