



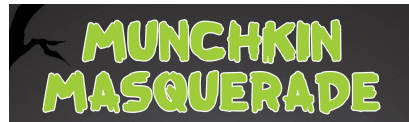
October
Spotlight

Canton Area
Heritage Center
New Display

Message from
SRPED

October Newsletter

CMS Events...



Cancelled - Munchkin Masquerade

The annual Munchkin Masquerade has been cancelled this year due to the Coronavirus. The decision to cancel the event was made by the Canton Main Street Board of Directors and their Promotions Committee. Their decision was based on the health of the community due to the estimated attendance of two thousand people that collect in the downtown for the annual event. The board also felt that the event would put an unnecessary financial burden on businesses to provide candy or toys to the public. During this event the businesses don't generally open their doors to customers for shopping, they set up outside their business to hand out candy and toys.



Is on!!! - December 4th, 5-7:30pm

The Old-Fashioned Christmas Walk is an event driven specifically to get shoppers through the doors of Canton's downtown businesses. The CMS board feels that in their time of need, it is important to support and help them generate revenue. The Old-Fashioned Christmas Walk is scheduled for Friday, December 4th from 5-7:30pm in Canton's downtown. All CDC and Illinois Coronavirus guidelines are to be followed by patrons of the businesses and the businesses themselves. The Old-Fashioned Christmas Walk, aside from advertising and promoting patrons to shop at the downtown businesses, generally offers activities in Jones Park. Some of these activities will be scaled back or not offered this year. These activities are still to be determined.

For more information regarding the Christmas Walk and other Canton Main Street events contact Amanda Woodruff at (309) 647-2677 Ext:1 or email awoodruff@cantonillinois.org. Follow the Canton Main Street Facebook page for more information about Canton Main Street and it's events as well!

[CMS Facebook Page](#)

October Spotlight...Canton Area Chamber of Commerce!

Canton Main Street is happy to announce the October Spotlight of the Month, The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce located at 209 E. Chestnut St. The Canton

Area Chamber of Commerce shares office space with the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development (SRPED) and Canton Main Street. With sharing office space, this has allowed for SRPED, Canton Main Street and the Canton Chamber to form a very strong relationship and support system for each other.



The Canton Chamber is a non-profit, 501c6 corporation that has been serving the business community since 1925. The Chamber is led by a group of 15 Board of Directors and Executive Director, Carla Bobell. The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce implements programs and initiatives that strengthen local businesses and enhance the Canton community.



The Chamber is a private organization funded primarily by dues paid by members. It is not a government agency and receives no tax dollars. Membership is open to all businesses that maintain a voluntary annual dues investment or local citizens who are interested in the betterment of our community. The effectiveness of the Chamber is entirely dependent on member support and involvement. The Canton Chamber strategic objectives are to:

- Promote a strong local economy
- Provide opportunities for relationship building
- Deliver programs to help businesses grow
- Represent and advocate on behalf of business

This year has not been a normal one for the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce. Most of their annual events, like the Cruise-In and Taste of Canton, have been cancelled this year which usually provides around 55% of their income for the year. Networking opportunities like Business After Hours and Taking Care of Business breakfast were cancelled, as well, for the protection of the business community. "This year our focus has really been on our members and how we can assist them during this pandemic. We have become a resource center more than ever and our biggest goal is to help businesses keep their doors open," stated Executive Director Carla Bobell.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, call Carla Bobell at 30-647-2677 Ext. 3. She will discuss what the Chamber can do for your business to help it grow and learn how to stay connected. Her email is cbobell@cantonillinois.org. Visit their Facebook page at [CACC61520](https://www.facebook.com/CACC61520).

[Canton Chamber Website](#)

Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Event...

2020

WIB

Women
in
BUSINESS

Friday,
November 6TH
8:00 am - 9.30 am
VIRTUAL

A unique virtual opportunity to network with peers
and hear from our inspiring guest speaker to
learn, connect and grow.

\$10 registration fee

PRESENTER

Developing Your Brand Identity

Do you know someone who stands out from the crowd?
Do you look for ways to work with that person?
Are they an expert in their field? Do they bring energy to the
room? If so, all those traits are part of their personal brand.

Just like Amazon, Walmart or Apple, you have already
developed a personal brand. Your brand's identity is based on
your interactions with others, your professional training and
experience, your personality, and your values and behaviors.
And just like those brands listed above, your personal brand is
ever-evolving.



In today's business economy, your
personal brand is more important
than ever, so join us and let's get
branding

Cindy Onion ~ trainer, teacher, motivator

Brought to by



Register online at
cantonillinois.org
calendar of events
Nov 6 ~ WIB

*Must be registered to receive
a Zoom invite*

or contact Carla Bobell
cbobell@cantonillinois.org
309-647-2677 ext 3

Please RSVP by
October 30th

[Register Here](#)

International Harvester Clock on Display...



Canton Area Heritage Center...

There's a new attraction at the Canton Area Heritage Center that was long a part of International Harvester in Canton. A Stromberg Time Corporation Model 65 Master Clock was a fixture in the power house at IH. It served as the official timepiece for the entire plant. In order to keep the clock running as accurately as possible, powerhouse employees would calibrate it daily with the "national clock" at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington D.C.

The date the clock was put into service at IH is unknown, but is thought to have been sometime in the early 1940's. Few citizens in Canton, and those within a several mile radius around the community,

probably ever saw the clock. However, many of their daily activities were

influenced by it for decades. IH employees would closely train their eyes on the clock at certain times each day to know the exact moment, down to the second, when to pull the chain to blow the IH whistle.

The clock continued to serve in that role until the last time the whistle blew under IH ownership on Christmas Eve, 1983. When Canton Industrial Corporation opened following the closing of IH, the clock was put back to work when the whistle was blown again on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve in 1984. It blew occasionally after that until around 1991.

Following the shuttering of Canton Industrial Corporation, the clock was taken to the Canton train depot for safekeeping. It was hung on the wall in the ticket office. It was not in operating condition while there.

In early 2019 a small group of Canton citizens started looking into getting the clock running again. Mike Tucker of Canton, a trained clock repairman, voluntarily gave it a good going over and determined the clock mechanism was in very good condition. Then a way had to be found to power it. The clock operates on low-voltage direct current. It cannot simply be plugged into a wall socket. Kevin Anderson of Canton, an experienced electrician, voluntarily came up with the necessary equipment and rewired it. On January 17, 2020 the clock ran again for the first time in decades. Following several weeks of adjustments while still hanging on the depot wall, the clock now keeps accurate time to within a few seconds a week.

The Canton Area Heritage Center at 111 South Main Street is open Fridays from ten a.m. until noon, Saturdays from ten a.m. until two p.m., Sundays from one p.m. until four p.m., and other times by appointment by calling 647-2242.

[Heritage Center Facebook Page](#)

A Message from the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development (SRPED)...



Executive Director Cole McDaniel

In the wake of the 2020 pandemic, economists estimate that nearly two-thirds of economic activity in the United States is being generated by “work-from-home” employees. This sharp spike in remote work, combined with a COVID-inspired fear of densely populated places, has Americans fleeing our largest cities for suburbs and more rural areas around the country.

Canton should be one of those places that people are “fleeing” too.

With its relatively low cost of living and low population density, potential entrepreneurs looking for an escape from the big city, would love to call Canton home. Add to Canton's advantages the collection of outdoor recreation, community college, and growing health system, and you have a product ready to take to market.

These selling points—some of which extend to the entire state—aren't new. But post-COVID America requires a bold, new approach that focuses more on individuals than companies.

The old model is to craft incentives packages to lure manufacturing facilities and corporate headquarters. Indeed, most of our incentives, such as TIF, EDA Grants, and Enterprise Zones, are tied to capital investments and how many employees a company would bring here.

Fast Company magazine reports that nearly two-thirds of tech workers in the San Francisco Bay area say they would consider relocating. Some of the biggest tech employers—Google, Facebook and Twitter—have said they'll allow employees to work from anywhere. Why not entice them here with an income tax credit, renter's credit or other incentives? How can we make it easy for tech workers, writers, consultants or anyone with an entrepreneurial urge to move here?

This isn't a new concept. Northwest Alabama; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Topeka,

Kansas; and the entire state of Vermont were among those targeting individuals with cash payments and tax credits before anyone had even heard of COVID-19. We should get aggressive before this becomes standard practice.

Our region is well-positioned to take advantage of the trend, provided there is a concerted effort to reverse some of the setbacks the community has suffered. We'll need all the amenities we had before the pandemic—and more—to win this battle for talent.

Those who can do their jobs remotely tend to be better educated and more highly paid than the broader workforce. They have the means to create companies and employ others, and they can live anywhere in the world. There might never be a better time to pursue them. Let's get to work.



SRPED is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for economic and community development. Our mission is to create community partnerships, business opportunities, and implement programs and projects that foster growth and development.

SRPED



President: Dana Smith

Angela Drach, Carol Kohler, Eric Duffield, Erika Davis, Jason Coulter, Kevin Stephenson, and Ray & Emily Cleer.

Staff Members: Cole McDaniel and Amanda Woodruff

Canton Main Street is committed to the revitalization and preservation of Canton's historic downtown by promoting a positive community image, fostering downtown business growth and development, and encouraging ongoing efforts to improve the heart of our community.

Canton Main Street
209 E. Chestnut St.
Canton, IL 61520
(309)647-2677 Ext: 1



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