



# THE CHAMBER COURIER

November 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  
**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  
**Jake Green**, Graham Health System  
**Jeromie Hale**, Bistro 101  
**Elli Hummel**, Jack's Bar  
**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  
**Chase Shawgo**, Ipava State Bank  
**Codi Swibold**, Hy-Vee Food Stores  
**Dr. AJ Thum**, Associates in Dentistry  
**Bryce Vaughn**, CEFCU of Canton  
**Nick Wright**, Country Financial



## SHOP LOCAL SEASON IS HERE!

Small Business Saturday is coming! This is a day dedicated every year to support and celebrate small businesses across the United States. Started in 2010 by American Express, it is celebrated on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to encourage consumers to shop at their local stores. This year Small Business Saturday will be on Saturday, November 25th.

For small business owners, their business is an extension of who they are. Supporting the local businesses within our community not only keeps those businesses alive, but also keeps the communities they serve thriving. This year, before heading out of town or jumping online to shop, support our local businesses including bakeries, restaurants, retailers, unique boutiques, and neighborhood stores. For every dollar spent at a small business, 67 cents stays within our local economy. In addition to helping schools and other organizations through taxes, small businesses are also often supporters of our local sports teams, charities and events.

According to an October 4, 2023 Forbes magazine article, after two years of people's holiday activities being curtailed by the pandemic, they are more than ready to meet their neighbors and friends. Small Business Saturday which is a great reason to get out and about.

As many people, even slightly more, may turn out for Small Business Saturday (59%) as for Black Friday (56%), a survey conducted by YouGov for Bankrate.com revealed. And another conducted by Teneo on behalf of Kabbage by American Express over 1,000 adults found over half of shoppers (53%) said they plan to shop local or eat at an independently-owned restaurant during this year's Small Business Saturday.

Let's make these statistics ring true in our community. To help you stay focused on shopping local the Canton Chamber is once again offering the Shop Local Bingo game. See more details on page 6.

CANTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# BUSINESS

*after hours*

**Thursday, November 16**

**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

**Official Time Out**

Official TIME OUT Since 2007

**Network with fellow business owners**  
**Awesome Giveaways ~ Great Food & Drinks**

**Hosted by**

**KLINEDINST CHIROPRACTIC**  
 101 S. Main St. • Canton, IL 309/647-8030 Get Your Life Back

**DAVIS & CAMPBELL**

**Stinauer family dentistry**

**Oakdale Veterinary Center**

**RTP**  
 Barnhart, Tinsman & Parrish, Ltd. ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Thank you to our  
**Veterans**

Honoring All Who  
 Served

November 11 ~ Veterans Day

## 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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Business and Community Development**  
 Jason Gumbart, Apex Seed Company

**Government Affairs**  
 Jay Valencia, Canton High School

**Member & Public Relations**  
 Diane Bell, Di's Boutique

Maggie Connell, Edward Jones  
 Jason Elwell, Peculiar Projects  
 Larrilyn Hall, Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club  
 Renee Lewis, Jim Maloof Realtor  
 Lacey Neal, Rock Valley Physical Therapy  
 Whitney Parrish, Barnhart, Tinsman & Parrish  
 Alesia Shaw, Graham Health System

Brayden Coker, Student Representative

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jon Johnson, Canton Park District  
 Mayor Kent McDowell, City of Canton  
 Superintendent Tad Derenzy, CUSD #66  
 President Curt Oldfield, Spoon River College

## STAFF

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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

### READY, SET, GO BY KELLY SALE TRAVEL AGENCY

Contact Kelly Sale:

309-645-8699

readyssetgosale@gmail.com

FB: Ready, Set, Go by Kelly Sale Travel Agency



At the heart of Ready, Set, Go is Kelly Sale, a mom of four and a proud Canton resident for two decades. She's passionate about travel and understands the challenges of planning family adventures. Her commitment to the community and her love for travel have inspired her to create unforgettable journeys.

Kelly's commitment to top-notch travel experiences is twofold. She invests countless hours in educational courses to stay updated on travel brands and trends, ensuring Ready, Set, Go remains on the cutting edge. But her expertise doesn't end in the classroom; she's a seasoned traveler herself, offering firsthand insights that sets her agency apart. It's like having a knowledgeable friend to plan your adventures.

Ready, Set, Go is all about value-oriented travel without compromising on quality. They believe that travel should be accessible and memorable without breaking the bank. Our aim is to get the most out of your budget while providing top-notch experiences.

What Ready, Set, Go Travel Agency Offers:

1. Disney World Adventures: We're your key to the enchanting world of Disney. Let us take care of the nitty-gritty details so you can focus on the magic and wonder.
2. Universal Studios Exploration: Dive into the cinematic worlds of Universal Studios with our expertly designed packages. We handle everything from tickets to accommodation so you can focus on the fun.
3. All-Inclusive Getaways: Kick back and relax with all-inclusive packages to tropical paradises. Whether you're into pristine beaches, vibrant cultures, or exciting adventures, we've got you covered.
4. Cruise Adventures: Set sail on the high seas with our cruise packages. We'll help you choose the perfect itinerary, whether you want a relaxing ocean voyage or an action-packed expedition.
5. Bespoke Travel Planning: We're not limited to specific destinations. With our worldwide network of partners, we can create customized trips to anywhere you desire. Your travel dreams are our command.

Ready, Set, Go is your partner in creating travel memories. Join them in exploring the world and turning your travel dreams into reality, all while ensuring you get the best value for your travel investment.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

# CANTON LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Canton Learning Collaborative (CLC) is not a school. Rather, it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Self-Directed Learning facility established in 2022 with a mission to co-create a safe and supportive space for self-directed learners to explore their passions, develop their skills, and achieve their goals.

At Canton Learning Collaborative, learners have the autonomy to determine their own learning goals and pathways, and to pursue their interests at their own pace and style. CLC provides a variety of resources and services, such as access to technology, online resources, mentors and advisory assistance, classes, tutoring, workshops, and community events. Learners have the opportunity to connect with others who share their interests and goals, collaborate on projects, and find internships, job shadowing, and volunteer opportunities in the community to gain direct experience in their fields of interest.

Lifelong Canton resident Josh Pickel founded CLC in July 2022. Josh was a professional educator at the late elementary and middle school level for 5 years before founding CLC. He is also a GED Instructor for Spoon River College's Adult Education Program. He holds a B.S.Ed. in Elementary Education from WIU with Middle School Endorsements in Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts. He also holds a Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Instructional Media Development. Josh is passionate about helping learners of all ages reach their full potential.

Josh also serves as the Vice President on the board of the Fulton County Arts organization, is a member of the Canton Rotary Club, and serves on the Birth to 5 IL Region 26 Action Council. He is also a member of the kitchen crew at Bistro 101. Together with his wife, Corrinna, Josh has two children, June (9) and Cal (5).

Whitney Davidson serves as a Core Staff Member at CLC, teaching classes and mentoring CLC members. Whitney moved to Canton in 2022 to be near family, and began volunteering at CLC soon after. She received her B.S.Ed from McKendree University in 2006.

In 2007, she moved to Colorado where she spent the next 8 years teaching 5th-8th graders. She did not return to public education after the birth of her first child, and she now homeschools her two daughters. The co-op provides weekly meetups and activities for local homeschooling families with young children.

Canton Learning Collaborative is located at 29 East Side Square in downtown Canton.

Contact Josh by email at [josh@cantonlearning.org](mailto:josh@cantonlearning.org).

Learn more about Canton Learning Collaborative by visiting [www.cantonlearning.org](http://www.cantonlearning.org).







## ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

### United Way for Fulton County



The United Way for Fulton County is pleased to announce it has partnered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide a free, hand-selected, age-appropriate, high-quality book each month to registered children in Fulton County from birth to age five. Currently, there are 1690 children under the age of five living in Fulton County and eligible to enroll in this free program.

"We are so proud to bring this program to Fulton County," said Vickie Parry, Executive Director of the United Way for Fulton County. "The Imagination Library addresses the need for free or low-cost books for children in Fulton County. Shared book reading is a well-established vehicle for promoting early child language and development. This program will get age-appropriate books in homes throughout the county at no cost to the families."

Thanks to matching funds from the State of Illinois that the Dollywood Foundation receives, the cost to the United Way for Fulton County is greatly reduced. "With the matching funds available, our Board of Directors knew this was the right time for us to bring this program to our community. In the coming weeks we will be hosting events to sign children up and special fundraisers specifically for this program." Their first event will be on Saturday, November 11th at the Canton Family YMCA. Children can sign up now by visiting [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com) or through links on the United Way's Facebook page at United Way for Fulton County IL.

The Imagination Library is run by The Dollywood Foundation which partners with 501c3 not for profit organizations such as a United Way for Fulton County to register participants and distribute the books. The United Way for Fulton County raises funds to cover a portion of the cost of purchasing and mailing the books, registering participants, and managing the web-based book ordering system. The books are ordered, packaged, and mailed directly to the child by the Dollywood Foundation.

For more information, or to register a child, contact the United Way for Fulton County at (309) 647-1825 or visit [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com).



of Fulton County, IL

# Shop Local BINGO

**Saturday, Nov 25th - Dec 30, 2023**

Play Shop Local Bingo this holiday season while you shop at local businesses and you could win a prize! All the while helping your favorite businesses and organizations.

**Winners announced on January 4th, 2023**

Shop Local Bingo Cards will be available at local businesses

For a list of locations and rules go to [cantonillinois.org/Chamber](http://cantonillinois.org/Chamber)

Shop Small Saturday is coming up on November 25th and the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce plans to offer the Shop Local Bingo again this year. The idea behind the Shop Local Bingo is for everyone from the Canton and surrounding communities to focus on shopping local first before heading out of town or shopping online during the Holiday season.

The Shop Local Bingo cards will be available to pick up at local retail stores, restaurants and other businesses. Head to the Canton Chamber website to find a list of locations and rules at [www.cantonillinois.org/Chamber](http://www.cantonillinois.org/Chamber), scroll down and click on the Shop Local Bingo story.

You can play as many times as you would like and when you get a BINGO, turn it in to the Canton Chamber office located at 48 N. Main Street in downtown Canton, or scan and email it to us at [cantonareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:cantonareachamber@gmail.com). We will collect finished bingo cards throughout December and will draw the winner on Friday, January 4th in the afternoon by doing a Facebook live on the Canton Area-Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. The winner will win Chamber Checks to spend locally!

Be sure to include your name and number so we can contact you if you are the winner!



## SHOP ~ EAT ~ SPEND ~ STAY LOCAL

48 N. Main Street | Canton, IL 61520 | (309) 647-2677



## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDANT TAD DERENZY

As November unfolds, the Canton Union School District is proud to maintain its longstanding tradition of commemorating Veterans Day by paying tribute to the heroes who have served our nation. Across all our schools, a diverse array of activities will be held to enlighten students about the significance of Veterans Day and to show appreciation to our local veterans. We warmly invite you to join us on the morning of November 10th at Canton High School for a special event dedicated to honoring our veterans.

November marks a period of transition in the school year. It feels as if the academic calendar just began, yet fall activities have wrapped up, and winter activities have begun. We are now into the second quarter, and the chill of winter is swiftly approaching. With the change in seasons comes the possibility of school cancellations due to inclement weather. The most frequent causes for school closures are snow, ice, and plummeting temperatures that raise safety concerns for our students. To ensure the safety of our students, we closely monitor multiple weather reports and maintain open communication with local agencies. In the event that school closure becomes necessary, you can stay informed through several channels. We will post updates on social media, and a Skylert notification will be sent to all families. Additionally, our local media partners, including WBYS and television stations, will be promptly notified and will relay the information on the radio, during television broadcasts, and on their websites.

### Dates to Remember

- \*November 5th - Return to standard time
- \*November 10th - Thespian Club Fall Play
- \*November 11th - Veterans Day
- \*November 15th - Community Concert at CHS Auditorium
- \*November 16th - CHS Fall Chorus Concert at CHS Auditorium
- \*November 19th - IMS Fall Chorus Concert at CHS Auditorium
- \*November 22nd-24th - Thanksgiving Break



As we approach the winter season, let us express our gratitude to our veterans and prepare for the unpredictable winter weather that lies ahead. The Canton Union School District remains dedicated to both the safety and education of our students.



HOSTED BY



# BUSINESS POWER LUNCH

**\$12 LUNCH CATERED BY GRAHAM HOSPITAL**

[Register Here](#)



Learn what Google needs to see in order for your business or organization to show up in those 'near me' searches everyone is performing now.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH 12:00PM-1:00PM**

**AT CANTON HARVESTER IN LOWER LEVEL  
150 N. MAIN ST. CANTON IL 61520**

Bret Johnson has been digitally active since the launch of ciproud.com in 2007 and has been totally immersed in digital marketing since 2015. He has helped dozens of Central Illinois businesses navigate the confusing world of digital marketing by using regular words (not industry-speak) and having a passion for finding the right answer to digital problems presented by clients.



**BRET JOHNSON**



# Women in Business

Featuring Lily Scalf

November 17th, 2023

8:00am - 9:30am at Old Dog  
23 W. Pine St. Canton

\$15 Breakfast Served by Old Dog



## Discussing:

- Growing a Scalable Business
- Becoming a Conscious Consumer
- The Art of Natural Dyes

Register Here



Registration Deadline Nov 13

Co-Sponsored by

Agent Dee Clark



**Bank of  
Farmington**



A festive poster for a 'Holiday Light Show'. At the top, a string of colorful Christmas lights (red, green, purple) hangs across the frame. Below the lights, two cartoon Christmas trees, one blue and one purple, are smiling. The word 'Holiday' is written in a large, red, cursive font. Underneath it, the words 'LIGHT SHOW' are spelled out using green Christmas light bulbs. A purple banner contains the text 'ENJOY AN ENTERTAINING, ANIMATED LIGHT SHOW FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR VEHICLE'. Below this, a large blue box displays the dates 'November 25th - December 30th'. A red banner at the bottom of the date box says '5:30 - 8:30 pm at Big Creek Park North Entrance'. In the bottom left, there's a logo for the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce featuring a white building under a yellow sun. In the bottom center, a QR code is provided with the text 'SCAN FOR SHOW TIMES & TICKET INFORMATION'. On the bottom right, there's a green Christmas tree decorated with red, yellow, and green ornaments and a yellow star on top. The background is a light blue sky with white snowflakes.

**Holiday**

LIGHT SHOW

ENJOY AN ENTERTAINING, ANIMATED LIGHT SHOW  
FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR VEHICLE

**November 25th -  
December 30th**

**5:30 - 8:30 pm at Big Creek Park North Entrance**

Hosted by

  
**CANTON AREA CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

  
SCAN FOR  
SHOW TIMES & TICKET  
INFORMATION







# 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  
 BeMobile Verizon  
 BH Materials  
 Big Brothers Big Sisters  
 Buckheart Solar  
 Camille's of Canton  
 Canton Community Concert Association  
 Canton Daily Ledger  
 Canton Elks Lodge  
 Canton Family YMCA  
 CEFCU Canton Member Center  
 Central Illinois Lighting & Signs, Inc.  
 CFC Properties  
 COOK Medical  
 Crawford's Home Furnishings  
 Dempster Insurance Agency  
 Di's Boutique  
 Eats on the Street  
 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 Ellis  
 Harvester Meat Co.  
 Helping Hands Resale Shoppe  
 Hocker, Fitzjarrald & Richardson, PC CPAs  
 Holthaus Companies, Inc.  
 Hulvey Law

Humane Society of Fulton County  
 Ipava State Bank  
 JC Custom Laser Creations, LLC.  
 Jim Maloof Realtor  
 John Clark  
 John McCarthy Attorney at Law  
 Johnson & Johnson, P. C.  
 Jones Surveying & Engineering Corp  
 Kevin & Debbie Stephenson  
 Kevin Meade  
 Kiwanis Club of Canton  
 Lairus Solar, LLC  
 Maurer-Stutz, Inc.  
 Mid Century Communications  
 MidAmerica National Bank  
 Midwest Dental  
 Monical's Pizza  
 MWC Advertising - Zak Edmonds  
 Navigator CO2 Heartland Greenway  
 North Central Behavioral Health Systems  
 Oak-Hines Funeral Homes  
 OSF Healthcare  
 Otto Stephenitch  
 Phil Miller  
 Progressive Vision Center, LTD  
 Pure Green, LLC  
 Rancho Nuevo Mexican Restaurant  
 Scott Miller  
 Space Walk of Central IL  
 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  
 Walmart of Canton  
 Wee-Ma-Tuk Country Club