



# THE CHAMBER COURIER

October 2022

The monthly business publication of the Canton Area

## Your Chamber Ambassadors are here for your business.

**Scott Anderson**, SR Preasure Washing  
**Emylee Bitner**, Bank of Farmington  
**Samantha Braden**, Rhoades Real Estate  
**Bobby Brown**, Flat Branch Home Loans  
**Rachel Bundy**, Graham Health System  
**Joe Christian**, MidAmerica National Bank  
**Stephen Clark**, Town and Country Insurance  
**Jason Coulter**, Big Cat's Bowls  
**Kiley Davis-Crouse**, Davis Buick GMC  
**Sherri Delost**, Jim Maloof Realtor  
**Sandy Edsall**, Davis Ford  
**Kim Fischer**, Canton Harvester Inn  
**Jace Fletcher**, Shelter Insurance  
**Jake Secrist**, Mid Century Fiber  
**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  
**Chase Shawgo**, Ipava State Bank  
**Codi Swibold**, Hy-Vee Food Stores  
**Dr. AJ Thum**, Associates in Dentistry  
**Nick Wright**, Country Financial



## Community Events are the Best!

*by: Carla Bobell, Executive Director*

Get the food and beverage vendors, find the sponsors, order the supplies, round up volunteers, ask to borrow picnic tables, garbage cans, tables, chairs, and tents, make all the signs, order the banners and pray for great weather! That is what it is like to plan a community event.

One of the largest community events, Taste of Canton, took place on Sunday, September 25th in downtown Canton. It takes an army of volunteers to put an event like this together and make it a success. I want to personally thank all of our sponsors this year because without their support, we would not be able to put this kind of event on for our community. If you are a business and have never been a sponsor of a community event, be sure to check out how you can be involved by contacting me at the Chamber office.

We also thank the city of Canton for the Hotel Motel dollars they provide to the Chamber every year to help cover some of the costs with major events. Our city leaders understand that it is important to bring others from around the area into our community for big events because we all know that outside of the event they will also spend money on gas, food and other items while they are in town. This is important for our local economy.

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to host major events in our community to not only benefit economically but show others what a wonderful place Canton is to live, work and play.

The next major events coming up are the Holiday Light Show and the Old Fashioned Christmas Walk. Watch for details!


COME AND JOIN US!  
CANTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**BUSINESS**  
*after hours*

Weiner Roast  
& Fire Pit!



---

HOSTED THIS MONTH BY:

---



**Bank of Farmington**  
Located at 2115 N Main Street  
Canton Branch

**Thursday, October 20**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

*Food, open bar, s'mores, giveaways & networking!*

SPOON RIVER VALLEY

**SCENIC DRIVE**

---

OCTOBER 1ST & 2ND AND 8TH  
& 9TH, 9AM - 5PM

DOWNTOWN CANTON  
JONES PARK





## 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

Ashton Dare, MidAmerica National Bank  
Maggie Cecil, 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 & Associates  
Alesia Shaw, Graham Health System

Lauren Keets, 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*  
*Assistant Director - Caitlin Mason*

48 N. Main Street, Canton, IL 61520  
(309) 647-2677  
cantonareachamber@gmail.com

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

### VR MEAT COMPANY

With a lot of help from friends and family, and after a very long year of remodeling a building located at 1001 E. Linn St. in Canton, IL, owners Tim and Christine VanMiddlesworth and Travis and Megan Rosic officially opened their business VR Meat Company to the public on March 1, 2022. "VR" is a combination of the couples' last names but co-owner Meg Rosic said that their business would not be possible without the excellent staff they have hired. Employees Eric & Mike Lockhart engage primarily as meat cutters, providing all beautiful cuts for their many customers. Some customer favorites include; Philly Cheese Brats, Stuffed Mushrooms, Seasoned Ribeye, Shaved Seasoned Steak, and BBQ Cheddar Brats just to name a few!



Creating VR Meat Company came out of a desire to create a "meat store with a whole lot more," offering high grade quality meat, unique food items such as Terri Postin's T-Bear Local Honey and future hopes to provide custom livestock processing. The team is currently working with Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development and the USDA for the completion of the processing area. The hope is that VR Meats will continue its expansion and employ over 20+ individuals as the business grows and expands! The company is even in conversation with Sugar Momma's Pastries and plans to offer pastry goods to customers in the near future.

"We will plan craft and vendor days throughout the year because one of our goals as a small business is to really try and help others with small businesses get their products out there into our community. We have plans for creating a bigger kitchen and have ideas about selling soups and sandwiches. Expansion to the retail area will take place shortly with plans to add a beer cooler and wine area. We will be selling packaged beer and local wine once we have licenses in place" owner Megan Rosic said.

Additional finds in the deli case include; high grade meats, thin or thick cut Ribeye, Ground Chuck, Flavored Burgers, Pork-chops that can be tenderized or butterflied, Stuffed Chicken Breasts, Sausage, Brats, a variety of frozen appetizers, Butch's pizza and more. Pre-orders are always accepted and deer processing will be available this season.

VR Meat Company offers cookouts for lunch, Monday-Friday from 11am-2pm including; pork-chop sandwiches, Ribeye sandwiches, Pulled Pork, Hot Dogs. Items will change seasonally. Ice and water machine available onsite for customer convenience.



#### Contact Information:

309-998-1674

vrmeatco@yahoo.com

Follow on Facebook at VR Meat Co.

Ribbon Cutting at VR Meats  
in September

## WELCOME BACK FORMER MEMBER

### LEANDER CONSTRUCTION, INC

Leander Construction, Inc., is a Commercial General Contractor located in Canton, IL that primarily focuses on Municipal Government, Industrial, Commercial and Educational institution contracts. Established in Canton, IL by Jerry Leander and his two sons in 1991, Leander Construction, Inc. prides itself on offering valuable engineering services, as well as partnerships with area architects and subcontractors. Having a well networked agency helps bring projects into reality while valuing a client's budget and keeping the end goal in mind.



Leander has obtained numerous awards in the field of construction including having a fully accredited LEED staff, a credentialing that denotes proficiency in sustainable design and construction standards—essential in order to be competitive and conscientious in today's markets. Company staff also consists of several disciplines including Estimating, Project Management, Job Production Supervisors, Financial and Administrative Management—an entire team that fully ensures projects run smoothly, keep customers informed and projects on track.

Leander Construction is a well-known and trusted medium sized contractor in west-central Illinois that has performed work up to 150 miles of its home base of Canton, Illinois; including the performance of work in the states of Iowa and Missouri. Projects have included various construction for several fields, including but not limited to construction in the aquatic sector ranging from hotels, multi-family housing units, YMCA facilities, as well as power substations and armories. Over the last five years Leander has entered into over forty new municipal contracts relating to water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities. LCI is familiar with all types of water and wastewater treatment equipment and processes used in treating municipality water systems.

Leander Construction is proud of being a part of the Canton area community and does its best to support the local economy by providing construction jobs, purchasing materials locally when made available, and utilizing local sub-contractors. Leander Construction's participation at the municipal level also contributes to the quality of Canton City's Water and Wastewater treatment facilities.

Most importantly, Leander Construction, Inc. is a family run business with family values at its heart. For over twenty years, the Leander family has been hard at work. Founded initially by Jerry Leander, Jerry's son Terry Leander presently serves as Company President and CEO, and son Ryan Leander serves as Director of Estimating, and Corporate Officer. The Leander brothers work together to bring expertise in the construction field to the Canton area.

**To contact Leander Construction, Inc. reach out to:**

Dave@leanderconstruction.com

Leander@leanderconstruction.com

# HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW DONATION



Thank you to  
**Orwig Auto Body**  
**\$1000 Donation**  
**Holiday Light Show!**

Pictured L-R: Peyton Lindsey, Maria Orwig and Tim Lindsey

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with Tim and Peyton Lindsey from the Lindsey light show that was created in 2020 in their neighborhood on the west side of Canton. We are bringing their holiday light show to Big Creek Park this coming November and December for everyone to enjoy. Because the show will be expanded, we reached out to local businesses to make donations to help with covering costs of new lights, equipment and supplies needed to make this new light show spectacular. Pictured above is another business that is helping us move closer to our goal of raising \$8000 to get the holiday light show funded.

If any other business or community persons would be interested in making a donation towards the new holiday light show, please call the Canton Chamber office at 309-647-2677 Ext. 2 to talk with Executive Director of the Canton Chamber, Carla Bobell for more details or send her an email at [cbobell@cantonillinois.org](mailto:cbobell@cantonillinois.org). Watch the Christmas Light Show Volunteers Facebook page to stay up on volunteer opportunities and more information on the light show. The Holiday Light Show begins November 26th and will run every Thursday through Sunday night. There will be some special feature shows on a few Wednesday nights. More information to come. Stay connected on the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page at CACC61520.

Also watch for a fun competition on naming Mrs. Chippy!



## HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW DONATION LEVELS OF GIVING 2022

**Chippy says Thank You!**

<div style="background-color: #fff; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$1000</span>  <small>and above</small> </div> <p>Recognition in all marketing &amp; brochure, recognition during every show with logo displayed and business name mentioned between songs, plus large signage as approaching show. 10 free passes</p>	<div style="background-color: #fff; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$250</span>  <small>and above</small> </div> <p>Logo of business or name on signage while cars are waiting for the show. Business name or name listed in brochure. 2 free passes</p>
<div style="background-color: #fff; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$500</span>  <small>and above</small> </div> <p>Business logo in brochure, recognition during half of the shows with logo displayed and business name mentioned between songs, plus signage as approaching show (little smaller than next level up). 5 free passes</p>	<div style="background-color: #fff; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$100</span>  <small>and above</small> </div> <p>Logo of business or name on signage while cars are waiting for the show (little smaller than next level up). Business name or name listed in brochure</p>
	<div style="background-color: #fff; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$99</span>  <small>and under</small> </div> <p>Business name or name listed in brochure handed to everyone who pays to get into the show</p>

**To Send in Donations**  
 Contact Carla Bobell 309-647-2677 Ext. 2

# TASTE OF CANTON 2022 WINNERS



## 2022

### BEST ENTREE Don & Nancy's Cafe

Bacon Cheddar Meatloaf Slider

Located at 124 N. Main Street  
Downtown Canton

## 2022

### BEST APPETIZER

#### Bistro 101

Stone Fruit Cheddar Nachos

Located at 101 E. Elm St  
Downtown Canton



## 2022

### BEST DESSERT Princess Creations

Peach Crisp Cupcake

Located at 69 E. Elm  
Downtown Canton



## 2022

### BEST OF SHOW

#### VR Meat Company

Appearance of Booth  
Located 1001 E. Linn St



# WE SAY THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 TASTE OF CANTON SPONSORS

## MAJOR SPONSORS



## SUPPORTING SPONSORS



ART HOSSLER  
AUTO PLAZA



Bank of  
Farmington



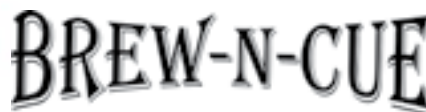
ADVANCED  
Rehab & Sports Medicine Services



Service Beyond the Contract  
DEMPSTER  
INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC  
www.dempsterinsurance.com



Habitat  
for Humanity



EST. 1990



Dee Clark

Chuck Taylor

# MESSAGE FROM SPOON RIVER PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## The Top 5 Reasons Entrepreneurship is a key component for successful communities:

### 1. Entrepreneurship Accelerates Economic Growth

Entrepreneurs are important to market economies because they can act as the wheels of the economic growth of the country. By creating new products and services, they stimulate new employment, which ultimately results in the acceleration of economic development. It is vital that public policy encourages and supports entrepreneurship for economic growth.

A large number of new jobs and opportunities are created by entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship creates a huge number of entry-level jobs that are important to turn unskilled jobholders into skilled ones. It also prepares and provides experienced workers to large industries.

### 2. Entrepreneurship Promotes Innovation

Through the right practices of research and development, entrepreneurs bring new innovation that opens the door of new ventures, markets, products, and technology. Entrepreneurs have a role to play in solving problems that existing products and technology have not yet solved. So, by producing new products and services or bringing innovation to existing products and services, entrepreneurship has the potential to improve peoples' lives.

### 3. Entrepreneurship Can Promote Social Changes

Entrepreneurs change or break the tradition or cultures of society and reduce the dependency on obsolete methods, systems, and technologies. Basically, entrepreneurs are the pioneer of bringing new technologies and systems that ultimately bring changes to society. These changes are associated with improved lifestyle, generous thinking, better morale, and higher economic choice.

### 4. Entrepreneurship Promotes Research and Industrial Development

Along with producing new business ideas and thinking out of the box, entrepreneurs also promote research and development. The impact of entrepreneurs extends beyond their own companies and ventures: when an entrepreneur develops a new product, service, or idea, others often follow (and sometimes even further refine the ideas). Therefore, we see that the importance of entrepreneurship to the economy is multi-functional.

### 5. Entrepreneurship Develops and Improves Existing Enterprises

Entrepreneurs think differently, they can come up with innovative ways to expand and develop the existing enterprises by modernizing production, implementing new technology and marketing processes, and help the existing enterprises to utilize resources more efficiently. Supporting entrepreneurship can have a positive impact on a community's economy and existing businesses!





# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CUSD #66

### COVID Update

COVID continues to be a concern in our school district, community, state, and across the nation. We continue to monitor the number and percentage of COVID positive cases in our schools and so far, they remain low. This has allowed schools to continue to operate in a normal manner for students and families. The district is still taking measures to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID. Additional cleaning and disinfecting take place both during the day and during the evening. Also, the district offers free weekly COVID testing to all students and staff.

### Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

October is full of events and activities and the end of first quarter is October 14th. I encourage all parents to take time to review the academic progress of your students as well as attending parent teacher conferences.

### Parent/ Teacher Conference Dates and Times:

#### All Elementary

- October 18th- 2:45-5:30 P.M.
- October 20th- 5:00-8:00 P.M.
- October 21st- 8:00-10:00 A.M.

#### Ingersoll Middle School

- October 19th- 5:00-8:00 P.M.
- October 20th- 2:45-5:30 P.M.
- October 21st- 8:00-10:00 A.M.

#### Canton High School

- October 19th- 2:45-5:30 P.M.
- October 20th- 5:00-8:00 P.M.
- October 21st- 8:00-10:00 A.M.



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

Tad DeRenzy  
Superintendent





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*

## 2022 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  
 Barnhart, Tinsman & Associates, LTD.  
 Ben Hendricks Trucking, Inc.  
 Buckheart Solar  
 Camille's of Canton  
 Canton Church of the Brethren  
 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  
 Dana Smith  
 Dempster Insurance Agency  
 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  
 Helping Hands Resale Shoppe  
 Hocker, Fitzjarrald & Richardson, PC CPAs  
 Holthaus Companies  
 Hulvey Law  
 Ipava State Bank

John Clark  
 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  
 North Central Behavioral Health Systems  
 Oak-Hines Funeral Homes  
 Official Time Out  
 OSF Healthcare  
 Otto Stephenitch  
 Phil Miller  
 Pizza Hut  
 Progressive Vision Center, LTD  
 Pure Green, LLC  
 RK Dixon  
 Rhoades Real Estate & Land Auction  
 RISE Canton  
 Scott Miller  
 Sedgwick Funeral Homes & Crematory  
 Sherwin-Williams of Canton  
 Spoon River Media, LLC  
 State Farm Insurance - Chuck Taylor  
 Stinauer Family Dentistry  
 Timbuk Tech, Inc.  
 Town & Country Insurance Agency  
 Unity Point Clinic of Canton  
 Walgreen's of Canton  
 Walmart of Canton  
 West Central Powersports