Join us on this Thursday for a FREE Canton holiday tradition, Light Up Downtown! The whole family will enjoy Light Up Downtown, produced by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce. All of your favorite holiday characters will visit from winter wonderlands – and it’s all brought to life at Central Plaza.

LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN
SET TO DAZZLE CANTON THIS THURSDAY!

TONS OF HOLIDAY HOOPLA!
The main stage show, featuring local dance and song troupes, begins at 6:00 pm, followed by a brilliant fireworks display. After the fireworks, watch 14 city blocks come alive with attractions, entertainment, refreshments and fun for children of all ages.

Light Up Downtown will be held snow, rain or shine. There will be plenty of parking both on-street and in the former Timken High School and Stark County District Library parking lots, as well as parking in various decks and lots throughout downtown for a nominal fee.

FAQS ABOUT LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN:

WHAT ARE THE HOURS FOR THE EVENT?
Festivities begin on Thursday, December 5 with a stage show at 6:00 p.m. and the event will conclude at 8:30 p.m.

WHEN ARE THE FIREWORKS, AND WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO WATCH THEM?
The fireworks will be shot off immediately following the stage show (approximately 6:45 p.m.) Anywhere in the 2nd St. and Market stage area.

WHEN WILL THE STAGE SHOW BEGIN?
The stage show begins at 6:00 pm at Central Plaza (Market Ave. and 2nd Street North.)

WHEN AND WHERE CAN WE GET PHOTOS WITH SANTA?
Photos with Santa will be available at the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce shortly after the fireworks have concluded.

Please enter the 2nd and Market entrance to the Millennium building, and you will be directed to the Canton Chamber door. Photos will end promptly at 8:30 p.m. Other venues will also feature Santa Claus. Check the map for locations.

WHERE CAN WE BUY SOUVENIRS?
A variety of official souvenirs will be available at the white tent located in front of the Chamber offices, Market Ave. between 2nd and 3rd Streets.

WHERE ARE PORTABLE RESTROOMS LOCATED?
Portable restrooms are located in three areas: 5th Street & Market South (across from The Canton Repository), 2nd St & Court Ave NW, and 5th Street and Market Avenue North.

(continued on page three)
We care about your health and wellness and the costs to you. Our team, made up of physicians, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists and other clinical support staff, are available to help you receive the most from your healthcare. We monitor behind the scenes to address any potential issues, offer preventive measures and perform as stewards of your healthcare dollars.

_AultCare ADVOCATES on your behalf._

We care about your health and wellness and the costs to you. Our team, made up of physicians, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists and other clinical support staff, are available to help you receive the most from your healthcare. We monitor behind the scenes to address any potential issues, offer preventive measures and perform as stewards of your healthcare dollars.

_Pictured Above: Tammy, Clinical Quality Coordinator; Jeff, Pharmacist; and Colleen, Dietitian._
LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN…

WHICH BUSINESSES ARE HANDING OUT REFRESHMENTS OR DOING MAKE-AND-TAKE CRAFTS?
Each business decides how they want to participate, so we’re not sure which ones are offering refreshments or crafts. We can tell you that there are MANY businesses participating, so we encourage you to visit as many venues as possible.

WHERE CAN WE GO TO GET GLOVES, HATS, SOCKS THAT ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED?
Distribution takes place at Market Ave. & 5th Street South.

WHICH DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES ARE OPEN FOR LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN?
We’re excited to have over 40 venues in a 14-block area participating, most of which are along Market Ave.

HOW FAR NORTH AND SOUTH DOES THE EVENT GO?
The event runs from 7th Street North to 7th Street South.

WHERE ARE THE CARRIAGE RIDES BEING OFFERED?
Carriage rides are available on Market Ave. South, in front of the McKinley Grand Hotel. No rides during the fireworks.

IS FOOD BEING SOLD AT LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN?
Outside of the refreshments being offered by participating venues, we do not have food for sale. Check with some of the great downtown restaurants who might be open for dinner.
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2020

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Grow Your Network - Meet New Contacts - Be Inspired
AULTCARE QUICKCONNECT LUNCHEON


Logan Broadbent is best known as the “Boomerang Ninja” from NBC’s hit TV show, “American Ninja Warrior” where he competed the past four seasons. Logan has represented Championship titles in 2010, 2016 and 2018 (including two world records). Individually, Logan currently ranks 2nd in the world in boomerang competition.

As an elite endurance athlete, Logan competes in marathons, triathlons and obstacle course racing.

Raised in Canton, OH, Logan attended GlenOak High School, where he graduated at the top of his class and excelled in track, cross-country and received All-American honors in diving. Logan studied finance and accounting at the Ohio State University before joining General Electric. Today, Logan works as the Global Strategic Deal Manager for GE where he also leads the People with Disabilities Network.

Wednesday, December 18
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
(Registration begins at 11:00 am)
La Pizzaria
3656 Dressler Rd. NW, Canton 44718
$18/members, $25/non-members
Register by November 18 at www.CantonChamber.org

Entrée of the month: Chicken Cacciatore w/ Penne Pasta or Chicken Chef.

AultCare QuickConnect attendees can obtain business leads through enjoyable networking activities, hear a compelling speaker, meet new business contacts and enjoy a delicious meal. Plus, when you bring a door prize valued at $15 or more, you’ll receive 30 seconds at the microphone to promote your business.
Season Passes on Sale Now!

GET YOUR AULTCARE QUICKCONNECT LUNCHEON PASSES

Get the best value for great networking and inspiring speakers at our monthly AultCare QuickConnect Luncheons! Our SEASON TICKET PASSES are an excellent value - just $180.00 for the year! It is comparable to attending two lunches FREE OF CHARGE.

Season passholders have access to attendee contact list upon request and receive other special perks all year long. Savings + Special Perks = WIN-WIN! Call 330-458-2070 or visit www.cantonchamber.org to purchase your tickets today.

Experience Akron-Canton Guide

We are excited to introduce the 2019-2020 Experience Akron-Canton Guide!

For the first time in our history, the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce has joined forces with the Greater Akron Chamber and Live Publishing to produce a joint comprehensive business and community guide that promotes Akron and Canton as one region.

As a Chamber member, you should have received a copy in recent days. Inside, you’ll find 128 pages jam-packed with all the wonderful professional opportunities and quality-of-life amenities we have collectively that make our region special. Dining, shopping, recreation, education, philanthropy, business, living and more… it’s all in this guide.

You might be curious why we produced a joint guide with Akron. That’s a great question! In line with our strategic goal to engage in regional economic development along the I-77 corridor, we believe that projects like this leverage the combined strengths of the region in a way that will serve as a talent recruitment, business development, and community development tool for Akron, Canton and surrounding communities. Consider that:

- Every day, 40% of our workforce crosses county lines, and is likely to consider work and play in any part of the region.
- 1.2 million people live in the Akron-Canton region and don’t stop at county lines to enjoy our tapestry of food, nightlife, sporting and lifestyle amenities.
- Our downtowns are only 23 miles apart, and in between are a number of related and connected assets, including the Akron-Canton Airport (featured on the cover) and a national park and trail system.

With that in mind, we invite you to not only read and keep the guide as a resource, but get out and explore the region we call home. We guarantee you’ll learn something new about Akron-Canton!

If you would like additional copies, please contact Brenda Smith at the Canton Regional Chamber at 330.456.7253 or brendas@cantonchamber.org.
The Canton Mural Initiative, an idea inspired and brought to fruition by local artist Steve Ehret, began with a bang in October with Chicago artist Ruben Aguirre’s piece on Ziegler Tire on 9th St. NW. Aguirre has exhibited in The National Museum of Mexican Art, the Hyde Park Art Center, and the Chicago Cultural Center.

The first week of November Detroit artist Rick Malt created his instant mural on The Auricle on Cleveland Ave NW. Malt’s clients include Ford Motor company, Coca-Cola, Adidas, Satellite Radio, T-Mobile, and Harley Davidson.

The Canton Mural Initiative will continue in 2020 and draw some of the brightest talent from around the country.

Fromage du Monde is now open for business at 340 4th St. NW in downtown Canton. They are an artisan cut-to-order cheese house featuring dine-in cheese flights, deli service and catering with boards, trays and grazing tables for your next gathering.

Though the name and aesthetic is French-Inspired, their cheeses have been sourced from all over the world boasting a wide variety of milk types, textures and regions.

Come on in and sit at their counter and check out the Featured Soup or Toasty (pressed sandwich). Hours are Tues-Sat: 10:30 am - 5:30 pm. For more information go to www.fromagecanton.com.

Empty Bin Zero Waste was created to facilitate a zero waste lifestyle locally in Ohio where these options may be limited. They make, wholesale, and sell eco-responsible and reusable items that replace single-use plastic and paper products.

Their vision is to be a positive part of the local community and to support the learning about and sharing of urban homesteading techniques.

They believe that we can reduce our dependency on large compassionless corporations and live healthier lives with a deep respect for the Earth.

Empty Bin Zero Waste is located 310 4th St NW in downtown Canton. Hours are Wed. 12-6, Thu. 12-7, Fri. 12-6 and Sat. 10-4. Check out www.emptybinzerowaste.com for more information.

**Fromage du Monde**

**Empty Bin Zero Waste**
Baker, Dublikar, Beck, Wiley & Mathews
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Telephone: (330) 499-6000
Telecopier: (330) 499-6423

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Jim Bednar
Agent
330-417-9034

Spencer Hartung
Agent
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Saylor Putman
Agent
330-495-8292

On Wednesday, Oct. 30, the Canton Regional Chamber awarded its 74th annual Community Salute Awards of Appreciation and Merit to outstanding area community stewards. Thanks to all for a wonderful evening! Congrats again to the award recipients.

(Front Row from L-R):
Denny Saunier, President & CEO, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

Joe Feltes, Vice Chairman of the Board, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

Rodney Reasonover, Chief Executive Director, Stark County Community Action Agency - Award of Appreciation;

Joe Horrigan, retired Executive Director, Pro Football Hall of Fame - Award of Appreciation

Ed Roth, President and CEO, Aultman Health Foundation - Award of Merit

Mary Jo Harroff, Acting Executive Director, Girls on the Run East Central Ohio - Award of Appreciation

Janet Coon, representing Dr. Jay Gershen, retired President, Northeast Ohio Medical University - Award of Appreciation

Rick McQueen, Chairman of the Board, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

(Back Row L-R):
Genevieve Geisler, CFO/COO, Bluecoats - Award of Appreciation

Mike Scott, CEO, Bluecoats - Award of Appreciation

Keith Hochadel, Executive Director, CommQuest - Award of Appreciation

Thank you once again to our sponsors for your generous support!

CELEBRATED AT 2019 COMMUNITY SALUTE AWARDS

Janet Coon, representing Dr. Jay Gershen, retired President, Northeast Ohio Medical University - Award of Appreciation

Rick McQueen, Chairman of the Board, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

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Keith Hochadel, Executive Director, CommQuest - Award of Appreciation

Thank you once again to our sponsors for your generous support!
At Maloney + Novotny, we help your family business survive, prosper and transition.

Canton/Stark County is home to the most dynamic businesses in the country. They go above and beyond to provide jobs and support the economic vitality of our community. These businesses make capital investments, dedicate resources, and help make our region more appealing for further business growth and relocation.

The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce is seeking Business Excellence Awards nominations to help us celebrate businesses that have distinguished themselves by being a significant presence in and/or providing substantial benefit to the citizens and economy of Stark County.

To be considered, the business must be for-profit, non-publicly traded, with no ownership held by a publicly traded company. In addition, the business needs to have demonstrated several of the following attributes:

- Growth in business and/or employment
- Capital improvements
- Innovation (expansion of products/product lines)
- Longevity
- Expansion of operations and/or efficiencies
- Responsiveness to business/industry challenges
- Consistent involvement in the community
- Outstanding customer service
- Entrepreneurship

If you have questions regarding eligibility or the nomination process, please contact Chris Gumpp, Director of Community Events & Sponsorships, at 330.458.2055 or chrisg@cantonchamber.org. Nomination deadline is Jan. 20, 2020.

SAVE THE DATE! Business Excellence Award winners will be recognized at our annual awards dinner on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.
The Downtown Canton Special Improvement District, along with the City of Canton, Coon Restoration, Canton Parks & Recreation, Arcade Coneys and Center Ice Sports, are pleased to announce that the outdoor Hall of Fame City Ice Rink in downtown Canton opened on Nov. 27 for the 2019-2020 winter season. The ice rink is located on Courthouse Plaza (215 Tuscarawas St. W).

Amenities include: on-site food and skate rentals at Arcade Coneys, lighting for day and evening skating, outdoor seating and broadcasted music.

Advertising opportunities on the rink’s “dasher boards” are available. Contact Annette Rosenberger (annette@cantonchamber.org) for more information and pricing.

The rink is open Monday-Thursday from 10 am – 7 pm, Friday-Saturday from 10 am – 8 pm, and Sunday from Noon-6 pm. Admission is $2 with your own skates, $4 with figure skate or hockey skate rental.

Photo courtesy of J. Albert
Four Powerful Ways TO Stay Motivated As A Solopreneur

The idea of being your own boss has incredible allure. Many people choose to work for themselves so they can find fulfillment, set their own schedule, or simply have more control over their careers. The fact is that solopreneur businesses have taken off in the last decade. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of nonemployer firms—meaning those staffed only by the owners—that generate $1 million to $2.49 million in revenue rose to 36,161 in 2016, up 35.2% from 2011.

Being your own boss has its rewards, but it can also feel very lonely—especially if you’re a solopreneur. Running a business by yourself requires a lot of focus, discipline and resilience because inevitably you will encounter stumbling blocks along the way. To stay motivated and be able to weather the ups and downs of being a solopreneur, here are some powerful tips:

Pace Yourself
You have to remember that starting and growing a business is a marathon, not a sprint. Especially in the early days, it’s all too easy to put in very long hours with no end in sight. Being a solopreneur can quickly turn into a 24/7 job if you’re not careful. Then it’s only a matter of time before you experience exhaustion and—you guessed it—burnout. Sometimes the hardest part of being a solopreneur is knowing when to turn your brain off from work. It’s all too tempting to squeeze in every minute you possibly can to focus on your business. Just remember that finding work-life balance will make you more productive, not less. So, instead of turning into a work robot, make sure to find time also to do enjoyable things that energize and inspire you.

Find A Support System
Flying solo as a solopreneur requires a strong support system. Friends and family are important, but there are many other resources as well. One is to find a mentor or a coach. A mentor can help by offering their advice to guide a solopreneur in the right direction. SCORE is a great organization that provides free business mentoring and education. While mentoring tends to be more long-term and development driven, coaching tends to be more short-term and performance driven.

The use of business coaches is becoming more and more prevalent. In fact, a recent study conducted by Infusionsoft revealed that small business owners are increasingly using paid coaches for overcoming challenges. Coaching is designed to be results-oriented so that you can achieve your goals faster than you could on your own. A business coach can help you overcome mental blocks, stay focused, and take your business to the next level. Mastermind groups are also a great way to find that support needed by a solopreneur. They allow you to be a part of an exclusive community where you can collaborate with others who may be experiencing similar challenges. Finally, you might consider forming a small advisory board. This option allows you to benefit from the collective brainpower of a select group of people chosen by you. Similar to a mastermind group, your advisors can help hold you accountable and provide that necessary support when needed. Joining groups, in general, offers amazing benefits. As Charles Duhigg, author of the excellent book The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business says, “When people join groups where change seems possible, the potential for that change to occur becomes more real.”

Celebrate Small Wins
According to Oprah Winfrey, “The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.” As a solopreneur, if you don’t celebrate small milestones along the way, you are going to lose the motivation and drive to continue. So, the key is not to tie how you feel to your long-term goal but to the progress that you are making. The better you feel about yourself and your progress, the more likely it is that you will continue to put in the work that will help you reach your dream. One way to track your progress is by creating done lists. Most people are familiar with to-do lists, but few are familiar with done lists. A done list is a diary of your accomplishments that gives you a sense of progress, heightens positive emotions and helps you to stay motivated. According to Teresa Amabile, co-author of The Progress Principle, it’s important to “track your small wins to motivate big accomplishments.” So, next time you achieve a smaller goal, reward yourself! Some ways you can do this are to do something you truly enjoy, treat yourself to your favorite latte, take a trip or just celebrate your victories with the people around you.

Remember Your Why
As a solopreneur, you’re bound to encounter challenges and setbacks along the way. To stay motivated, it’s essential for you to remember your “why”. Why did you start this business in the first place? Was it because you craved more freedom, flexibility or control over your career? Maybe you wanted to pursue an activity you’re more passionate about, or you just needed to leave behind a legacy you could be proud of. Getting in touch with this big-picture view will not only keep you focused but will provide you with the perspective to make wise decisions. It is likely that passion inspired you to pursue your dream of starting a business. It’s that passion for the work itself that will get you through those rough spots and keep you on track to succeed.

Being a solopreneur isn’t always easy, but the rewards are great. By following these tips, you’ll be in a better position to remain energized so you can ultimately reach your long-term goals.

Remember: just because you start small, don’t forget to think big!
For many businesses, the last quarter of the year is when you are determining your health care coverage for the following year.

The Canton Regional Chamber is proud to bring an affordable health care coverage option administered by AultCare to the small business community called the Canton Regional Chamber Health Fund. This is a self-funded plan made possible through a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA) and is designed to offer small businesses a competitive option in the health care marketplace.

The Health Fund was development to provide additional options and to help control the costs of healthcare benefits. Medically underwritten MEWA rates may provide a less expensive option than a smaller community rated plan obtained under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). All benefits are administered by AultCare.

Multiple plans are available, ranging from traditional co-pay plans to health saving account-compatible plans. Ancillary products including dental and vision are available.

To obtain health care coverage through the Canton Regional Chamber Health Fund, businesses must be a member in good standing with the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, which includes being up-to-date on membership dues. The Health Fund is exclusive to Canton Regional Chamber members. To become a member, contact the Chamber at 330.456.7253.

For additional product and eligibility information, please visit www.aultcare.com/mewa or call AultCare at 330.363.6390.

If you are interested in receiving a quote on the Canton Regional Chamber Health Fund, contact your Independent Broker or AultCare Representative.

JOIN A TIP CLUB and Grow Your Business Leads in the New Year!

Join a tip club for weekly networking meetings, and exchange sales leads or “tips” with fellow chamber members in a wide variety of industries!

Joining a tip club is free for members – just sign up, attend a casual breakfast or lunch, and pay for your meal each week! Clubs are facilitated by Chamber staff or Chamber Ambassadors. Breakfast clubs begin at 8:00 am; lunch clubs begin at noon.

Current Schedule of Clubs:

TUESDAYS
Gregory’s Family Restaurant – 2835 Whipple Ave NW – 8 am
Courtyard by Marriott – 4375 Metro Cir NW – Noon

WEDNESDAYS
John’s Bar & Grill – 2749 Cleveland Ave NW – 8 am
Winking Lizard – 5710 Fulton Dr – Noon
Sylvester’s North-End Grill – 4305 Portage Rd NW – Noon

THURSDAYS
Buehler’s – 7138 Fulton Dr NW – 8 am
Holiday Inn Twenty/20 Taphouse – 4520 Everhard Rd NW – Noon

Contact our Membership Department today to get started at 330.833.4400.
Join Us at Leadership Stark County

INFORMATION BREAKFAST

Tuesday, December 10, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Free Event, Reservations Requested

For prospective applicants or employers, you'll learn the answers to:

• What programs does Leadership Stark County offer?
• How will Leadership Stark County participation benefit me or my company?
• How do I apply? When do I start?
• How can I use my talents to solve problems, interact with team members, view my community, and approach the future?

Join us and discover the answers to these and any other questions you may have. There is no cost to attend but do let us know you are attending. Make your reservation by calling 330-458-2095 or www.LeadershipStarkCounty.org.

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NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

For Stark County to thrive, it is essential that young professionals Work, Play, & Stay in our community. The Spotlight Stark County program can be a key element to helping young professionals learn all that our community has to offer, make connections with a variety of people, and find their niche for meaningful service. Leadership Stark County’s young professionals’ program is geared to do all this along with building leadership capacities that make them valued members of their professional team, leading to employment stability.

Applications are available now at www.LeadershipStarkCounty.org. Class begins February 19 and meets six times. Here’s what Spotlight young professional class members receive:

- Personal Strengths Assessment including Insight & Action Planning Guide
- Opportunity to create a Personal Development Plan
- Instruction on the six Leadership Competencies
- Brief community service opportunity
- Introduction to non-profit leaders
- Exposure to the arts scene
- Downtown development & history tour
- Optional opportunity to learn Boardsmanship and be matched with a non-profit board
- Networking sessions at hip bistros

Tuition for the six sessions is $550 per person. Scholarships are available to non-profit organizations. Company group applications are welcome. Applications and more information are available online at LeadershipStarkCounty.org. To learn more, come to the Information Breakfast on December 10.
GET TO KNOW THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WHO WILL
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CANTON/STARK COUNTY! EACH
MONTH, WE’LL INTRODUCE YOU TO A YP WHO IS LIVING
OR WORKING, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, THRIVING IN
STARK COUNTY!

Name: Benjamin H. Childers

Age: 29

Occupation/Title/Place of work: Engagement Director, CLA

Why are you interested you in Stark County’s Young Professionals initiative?
This organization (and others like it) do a tremendous amount of good in the community. They offer ways to channel resources to worthy causes along with aligning efforts and providing amazing social and professional engagement.

What would you share to encourage other people to join?
12 of my 15 best friends came organically from this organization and others like it. The next time you’re bored consider that the YP’s are out in the community making improvements in fun and engaging ways!

Did you grow up in Stark? If so, where? If not, where did you move from and why?
I grew up in Carroll County. Moved to Stark County after college to work at MAC Trailer.

Why do you stay in Stark County, from both a personal and professional point of view?
The people are lovely, organizations such as this are ever improving the surroundings and it has a luscious economy.

What do you like MOST about Stark County?
Canton Prom, it is indicative of all the ways the community helps and recognizes one another.

What would you change about Stark County if you could?
Complete route 30 to Pittsburgh which would open up the area to more people and economic growth.

What do you see as valuable opportunities for YPs in Stark County when it comes to career opportunities, cultural access, leadership or community involvement opportunities?
The Chamber events, the food bank, the museums and education, the local businesses, the wonderful events and fundraisers. So many things.
ALL ABOARD THE HOLIDAY SPIRITS EXPRESS! Enjoy your favorite holiday spirits as we cruise past some of Stark County’s most impressive Christmas light displays, stopping at a few of our favorite spots along the way. Dress to impress in your best holiday gear (think ugly sweaters, Santa beards, and reindeer ears) and brush up on the words of your favorite holiday jingles.

Bring your beverage of choice for the bus ride. Must be 21+ years old.

FRIDAY, DEC. 13
6:00-10:00 p.m.
Bus departs from 410 Martini - additional stops include Royal Docks Brewing Co. Taproom and Unhitched Brewing Company

Cost: $30, includes one complimentary drink, light appetizers at stops, and swag bag. Space is limited. Reserve your seat today!

Transportation provided by:

rsvp online
cantonchamber.org
December CALENDAR

6

Light Up Downtown
www.lightupdowntown.com
Enjoy a stage show, 14 blocks of attractions, ice skating, refreshments, sleigh rides, a visit from Santa and fireworks!

Thursday, Dec. 5
6:00-8:30 pm
14 blocks in downtown Canton
FREE!

10

Leadership Information Breakfast
www.leadershipstarkcounty.org
Learn more about Leadership Stark County’s programming and how to apply.

Tuesday, Dec. 10
8:00-9:00 am
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Free, but reservations are required

12

Stark County Safety Council Luncheon
www.cantonchamber.org
Featuring members of your SCSC Steering Committee in a panel discussion on a how a good safety culture and leadership can impact your business and employers.

And the Toys for Tots Drive!

Thursday, Dec. 12
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Alex D. Krassas Event Center
$17 per person

13

ystark! Holiday Spirits Express
www.cantonchamber.org
Enjoy your favorite holiday spirits as we cruise past some of Stark County’s most impressive Christmas light displays, stopping at a few of our favorite spots!

Friday, Dec. 13
6:00-10:00 pm
Departs from 410 Martini
Cost: $30, includes one complimentary drink, light appetizers at stops, and swag bag.

18

AultCare QuickConnect Luncheon
www.cantonchamber.org
At the next QuickConnect meet Logan Broadbent, U.S. Ninja Warrior, U.S. Boomerang Team, Endurance Athlete.

Wednesday, Dec. 18
11:30 am-1:00 pm
La Pizzaria
$18/members, $25/non-members

21

5th Annual Winter Wonder Flea
www.downtowncanton.com
Downtown Canton’s last-minute maker market featuring nearly 100 vendors!

Saturday, Dec. 21
10:00 am-3:00 pm
Canton Cultural Center

JAN. 15

AultCare QuickConnect Luncheon
www.cantonchamber.org
Our own Denny Saunier, president and CEO of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, will share insights into how our organization is advancing the business needs of the region.

Wednesday, Jan. 15
11:30 am-1:00 pm
La Pizzaria
$18/members, $25/non-members

NOW!

2020 AultCare QuickConnect Season Pass on Sale Now!
Buy an individual season pass and pay just $15 per program – a $3 saving per program, or comparable to attending two lunches FREE OF CHARGE.

Season passholders have access to attendee contact list upon request, get two free guest passes to use during the year, and receive other special perks all year long.

Savings + Special Perks = WIN-WIN!
Come join members of your SCSC Steering Committee, Randy Martin, Safety Director, Beaver Excavating; Curt Speck, President, Safety Resources Company of Ohio; Katie Woodlawn, Q4 Impact Group, Managing Director of Operation/Workforce Development and Troy Manion, Safety Director, Hilscher-Clarke Electric Co., in a panel discussion on how a good safety culture and leadership can impact your business and employers.

The SCSC will once again host a Toys For Tots Holiday Toy Drive. Many less fortunate children in our community will not get the items on their wish lists this holiday season. Spread some holiday happiness to these children by donating NEW, UNWRAPPED toys. You’ll help make a difference for these needy children and their families. No time to shop? Give a donation check made payable to “Toys for Tots.” Can’t make the luncheon but still want to brighten the holidays for a child in our community? Drop your new, unwrapped toy off at the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce (Attn: Connie Cerny).

Thursday, Dec. 12
11:30 am-1:00 pm
Alex D. Krassas Event Center
Cost: $17 per person
Register at www.CantonChamber.org

FOCUS ON YOUR FUTURE
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» 330-244-3300
» WWW.KENT.EDU/STARK/CUCC
NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME to our newest members, who joined Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce in October. We encourage you to patronize their businesses. If you know of other businesses that would benefit from Chamber membership, please contact the Membership Department at (330) 458-2051.

A & M Kiln Dry Ltd. (LUMBER - RETAIL)
Abraham Raber
1711 County Rd. 200
Dundee, OH 44624
(330) 852-0505

Akron Video Makers (VIDEO PRODUCTION SERVICE - COMMERCIAL)
Paul Moskowitz
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
(330) 929-7285
www.akronvideomakers.com

Benchmark Craftsmen (TRADESHOW EXHIBIT BOOTH - MANUFACTURER)
Antony Shaheen
4700 Greenwich Rd.
Seville, OH 44273
(330) 323-5557
www.benchmark.us.com

C.W. Production & Design (VIDEO PRODUCTION SERVICE - COMMERCIAL EVENT PRODUCTION)
Clint Sprunger
731 N. Bever St.
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 465-7077
www.cwproductiondesign.com

Cedar Valley Energy, Inc. (OIL & GAS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION)
Josephy Lang
P.O. Box 726
Wooster, OH 44691
(330)262-1034
www.cedarvalleyenergy.com

Cyber Shift Technologies, LLC (IT - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
John Wheeler
825 Rose Lane SW
North Canton, OH 44720
(330) 353-8420
www.cybershifttech.com

Eats Food Truck by Grumbelley's (FOOD TRUCK)
Josh Ridener
235 Northwest Ave.
Tallmadge, OH 44278
(330) 815-4719

Fresh Thyme Farmers Market (GROCERS - RETAIL)
Diana Rhodes
5509 Dressler Rd. NW
North Canton, OH 44720
(330) 826-0020
www.freshthyme.com

The Gables of Canton (ASSISTED LIVING)
Chrissy Massaro
3660 Greentree Ave. SW
Canton, OH 44706
(330) 484-5888
www.gablesofcanton.com

Glory Reflections Photography (PHOTOGRAPHER - FINE ART)
Jane Heater
119 3rd Ave. NW
Beach City, OH 44608
(330) 806-9907
www.gloryreflections.com

Heritage Christian School (SCHOOLS - PRESCHOOL THRU HIGH SCHOOL)
Sharla Elton, MBA, CMA
2107 6th St. SW
Canton, OH 44706
(330) 452-8271
www.heritagechristianschool.org

Infinite Electronics Recycling Recycling Center (ELECTRONIC RECYCLING - E-WASTE)
Christopher Hartmann
3550 Main St. Rear Building
Weirton, WV 26062
(304)914-3367
www.infiniteelectronics.com

Optimum Cardiology (CARDIOLOGISTS)
Barbara Utik
4825 Higbee Ave. NW Ste. #102
Canton, OH 44718
(330) 492-2102

P. Graham Dunn (RETAIL STORES)
Darletta Travis
1100 30th St. NW
Canton, OH 44709
(330) 452-8271
www.pgrahamdunn.com

Performance Administration Corp. (CUSTOMER RETENTION)
Rick Knight
4320 Fulton Dr. NW
Canton, OH 44718
(330) 405-3148
www.performanceadmin.com

Pine View Acres (CONFERENCE CENTERS & BANQUET FACILITIES)
Briar Barabasch
11991 Orrville St. NW
Massillon, OH 44647
(330) 806-8073
www.pineviewohio.com

R & J Ballroom Dance Instruction (DANCE STUDIOS)
Jonathan Green
401 W. Tuscarawas St. Ste. 302
Canton, OH 44702
(330) 510-1370

Shady Hollow Country Club (COUNTRY CLUBS)
Sam Leatherberry
4865 Wales Ave. NW
Massillon, OH 44646
(330) 832-1581
www.shadyhollowcc.com

Snyder & Co., CPAs (ACCOUNTANTS - ACCOUNTING CONSULTANTS)
Brent Snyder
P.O. Box 156
Berlin, OH 44610
(330) 893-3161

Varment Guard Wildlife Service (WILDLIFE SERVICES - TRAPPING)
Justin Weisent
1001 Checkrein Ave.
Columbus, OH 43229
(800) 793-8169
www.varmentguard.com

Vincent Lighting Systems (LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION & DESIGN)
Tom Sikl
6161 Cochran Rd. Ste. D
Solon, OH 44139
(216) 475-7600
www.vls.com

Vitality In - Home Fitness, LLC (FITNESS)
Cari Murphy
5736 E. Blvd. NW
Canton, OH 44718
(330) 663-3186
www.xtremeimarketing.com
The **Pro Football Hall of Fame**, in partnership with the **United States Veterans Chamber of Commerce (USVCC)**, has been unanimously selected as the training site and send-off for the 2020 U.S. Invictus Games Team. The Hall of Fame will host 65 athletes and more than 40 staff and coaches along with caregivers and family members for the week-long training session before a day of send-off events in late April through early May.

The Invictus Games, the world's premiere military adaptive sporting event produced by Prince Harry, leverages the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for the servicemen and women. The U.S. Invictus Team is comprised of wounded, ill, and injured military athletes from all five branches of the U.S. Military.

“The Pro Football Hall of Fame is honored and humbled to host these incredible men and women and look forward to providing a world-class experience as they prepare to compete on the world stage,” stated Pro Football Hall of Fame President & CEO David Baker. “Furthermore, we will preserve their stories of perseverance, overcoming adversity, determination and commitment that inspire all of us to live a ‘Hall of Fame life’ of character.”

**The Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and SCORE** will host a recognition luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Kent State University at Stark* to honor the owners of four small businesses successfully launched in the region. These business owners have received guidance from an SBDC counselor or SCORE volunteer.

The event is sponsored by Consumers National Bank and Kruglik, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty, Co., LPA. SBDC clients to be recognized include: CRIT HIT GAMING, Inc., Support Fire, Hart’s Sports, Not For Sale: One Step At A Time

**Kruglik, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A. (KWGD)** is pleased to be ranked as a Top Tier Law Firm in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers “Best Law Firm” rankings in 20 regional practice areas. This is the ninth consecutive year the firm has received this recognition.

**415 Group** recently pledged $40,000 toward the construction of Centennial Plaza in Downtown Canton. The plaza will cost $12.3 million to build. Funding is coming from taxes, the state of Ohio, and private donations from local and state leaders and community organizations. 415 Group contributed to funding since many employees and clients are based in Canton and the surrounding area.

The new plaza will feature a covered stage, video board, café, fire pits, a “Canton” sculpture and more. The city has a 10-year agreement with the Pro Football Hall of Fame for programming, and the new event space should attract local residents and visitors from northeast Ohio.

Attorney Ray Meiers of the **Black McCuskey Intellectual Property Group** recently participated in the 6th Annual Entrepreneurship Forum at Northwest State Community College in Archbold, Ohio. The Entrepreneurship Forum provides budding entrepreneurs the opportunity to present their ideas to a panel of experts from the region and to network with those experts. Meiers served as a panelist with college faculty, bankers, chamber of commerce and economic development directors, and the local representative of the Small Business Administration.

Meiers was an engineer prior to beginning his law practice. Over the years, Ray has obtained hundreds of patents and trademarks on behalf of clients. He has also conducted numerous investigations into the value, validity, and scope of patents in various areas of technology and business. Meiers has degrees in both mechanical engineering and electrical engineering from the University of Toledo and a law degree from the University of Cincinnati, College of Law. He was registered as a Patent Attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2002.

**Mercy Medical Center’s Diane Wofsey, RN, BSN**, nurse navigator with Mercy Breast Care Center, received the Susan G. Komen Northeast Ohio 2019 Leslie’s Angel Award at the Komen Breast Cancer Survivors Symposium held on October 26 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Independence. Named in remembrance of breast cancer patient and activist Leslie Jones, the Leslie’s Angel Award recognizes the highest level of volunteerism, teamwork, enthusiasm, leadership and long-term commitment in the fight against breast cancer. Wofsey has dedicated the last 19 years of her nursing career to caring for and walking beside breast cancer patients and their families.

A Massillon resident, Wofsey began working at Mercy Medical Center in 1974. She spent 21 years caring for premature and sick babies in Mercy’s Neonatal Special Care Nursery before accepting a new position in 2000 as nurse navigator with Mercy Breast Care Center.

Our own **Barb Bennett**, (pictured below, front row right) Director of Education Initiatives, received the **Clayton G. Horn award at the Canton Repository’s 2nd Annual “Moving Our Community Forward” gala** on Nov. 15. She was among nine award recipients honored for their efforts in improving and bolstering our community.

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Have business news you’d like to share via Biz Bitz? Send your news release to Collyn Floyd, director of marketing, at collynf@cantonchamber.org.
M. Conley, a 109 year old company, celebrates entrepreneurs who will make the next 100 years exciting. One nominee per month. One winner per year. Twelve reasons to believe in the future of northeast Ohio.

TO NOMINATE A COMPANY VISIT: WWW.NEOBRIGHTESTLIGHTS.COM

The 2019 M. Conley Entrepreneur-Of-The-Year Award: NOMINEE #6

ABBOTT ELECTRIC, INC.

Canton, Ohio

It had been a frustrating day for Mike Abbott as he spent hours searching fruitlessly for some critical pipes in the former Mercy School of Nursing. Finally he called his father Jim who remembered installing those conduits when the building was under construction in 1969. “Look behind the closet in the corner,” he told his son. It was not the first time two generations of Abbotts worked together to solve a tough problem.

In multi-generational family companies, the first generation often flies blind to give succeeding generations the gift of sight. Jim Abbott graduated from Timken High’s electrical shop program and became foreman for a number of commercial electrical contractors in the area. To help care for his young family, Jim bought a laundromat at Meyer’s Lake, then a car wash.

By 1978, Jim was ready to leave a solid union foreman’s job to start Abbott Electric out of the back of his station wagon. 41 years later the move looks like a stroke of genius, but nothing was certain at the time. Looking back son Mike Abbott knows exactly how his father made it work. “He was the hardest working and smartest business person I’ve ever been around.” Apparently, the Timken High shop graduate was born with an MBA, or at least an uncommon dose of business sense.

Son Mike surpassed his father in academic achievement, graduating from Notre Dame with a degree in Electrical Engineering, but got his business acumen from the School of Jim Abbott. When Jim’s work ethic took Abbott Electric as far as possible, he began acquiring many of the same companies he’d worked for in the past.

Meanwhile, Mike was building a life in Chicago with a good job at Commonwealth Edison. When Jim acquired Horn Electric in Tuscarawas County, he asked Mike to come home to help manage the fast-growing company. Apparently, Jim wasn’t persuasive enough as Mike stayed in Chicago until a two-hour Chicago traffic jam did the job Jim couldn’t. Mike knew it was time to come home.

Mike took charge around 2007 and under his leadership Abbott Electric has become one of the most successful design/build electric contracting companies in Ohio. They design systems as well as build them, providing more value to business owners and general contractors. The electrical engineering capabilities Mike brought to the company also give Abbott a substantial speed advantage when it comes to quoting jobs and making changes on the fly.

By surrounding himself with an outstanding team, Mike has been able to continue his father’s practice of buying other firms to extend Abbott’s reach and capabilities. At the same time the rest of the Abbott family has been doing their part. Brother-in-law, Brent Fatzinger, is CFO while brother, Steve, started a division to analyze the electrical safety of industrial plants. Another brother, Tony, works as an electrical engineer at the company.

Today, Abbott Electric stands at the top of the area’s electrical contracting industry with a team of loyal employees, many having worked there since Jim’s time. Looking back, Mike can see three lessons from his father that have remained foundations of the business: 1. Work hard. 2. Treat people fairly because the business depends on repeat customers. 3. Always do the job the right way.

These three business guideposts have helped Abbott Electric survive the two most challenging times in any company’s history; the start-up years and passing the business to the next generation. The Abbotts found the key to keeping the power flowing is to learn from one another.

Visit www.neobrightestlights.com to learn about the other 2019 nominees.