

INSIDE

FEBRUARY 2021

Vermilion County

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Vermilion Advantage

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

15 N. Walnut Street

Tim Dudley Joins Vermilion Advantage as President/CEO

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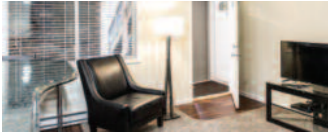


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INSIDE

Vermilion County

Tim Dudley

President & CEO

Machelle Dykes

Membership Resources Director

Jo Doggett

Data and Finance Manager

Rachel Haun

Administrative Assistant



Phone 217.442.6201

Fax 217.442.6228

contact@vermilionadvantage.com

www.vermilionadvantage.com

www.vermilionadvantage.com/job-board

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Leon@MidwestSpecialists.com

Vermilion Advantage, through membership value, provides strategic leadership on critical business issues - leading economic & workforce development, anticipating and responding to members' needs, addressing quality of life issues and providing a network of information & business contacts – advocating the pursuit of opportunities to strengthen the local economy and business environment.

Visit vermilionadvantage.com and click here for exciting career opportunities throughout Vermilion County

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Vermilion Advantage, through membership value, provides strategic leadership on critical business issues - leading economic & workforce development, anticipating and responding to members' needs, addressing quality of life issues and providing a network of information & business contacts - advocating the pursuit of opportunities to strengthen the local economy and business environment.

Why Spend Locally? What's Happening?
Friday, May 22, 2015

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MEMBER PROFILES



Danville AMBUCS Brings Smiles Everywhere They Work



It would be hard to find a more hardworking or inspiring group than the local AMBUCS club.

AMBUCS was founded in 1922 with the mission of inspiring mobility and independence. The local club was established in 1925, making it the third oldest in the nation. Locally they have over 100 members. “We serve kids and adults that have all sorts of challenges with our many projects,” says Bill Fulton, past local President of AMBUCS.

The local chapter participates in two national projects -national scholarships for therapists and the Amtryke program. They donate several thousand dollars per year to the national scholarship program to help fund scholarships for physical, occupational, and speech and hearing therapists. The program has awarded over nine million dollars’ worth of scholarships. Locally, AMBUCS awards about \$10,000 annually in scholarships to area students entering the therapy field.

The national Amtryke Program, established in 1995, gives away about 3500

Amtrykes annually to kids and adults (including veterans) with a disability. “Riding an Amtryke helps strengthen muscles, improve motor skills and balance and builds endurance,” says Fulton. “It is also a social thing because oftentimes this is the child's first cycle so they now can ride with friends and family.” Locally, the group gives away an average of 35 Amtrykes each year.

The AMBUCS are well known for their many inspiring events. They host a two-week summer camp for children ages 5-21 and AMBUCS Challenger Baseball in the summer, both of which were impacted by COVID. They also host annual Christmas parties for the kids and adults they serve.

Perhaps their best loved projects are the two universally accessible playgrounds and one accessible waterpark in the community. “AMBUCS locally have raised about \$650,000 plus in-kind services to build the playgrounds and waterpark,” says Fulton. “Over the past 18 months, we have raised about \$130,000 to help refresh our Winter Street Playground for Everyone and hope to

have a celebration this summer to celebrate the 20th anniversary.”

The service club continues to focus on “feel good projects and moments” and is always open to new members. “I often say AMBUCS are in the smiles and hugs business,” says Fulton. “We hear from parents when we give a child that has never ridden before a brand new Amtryke how we have changed that child's life. That's special and we hear it a lot. We try to always be kind.”

Fulton says the community has offered the group great support. “People in our community have been great supporters of AMBUCS over the years. We do so many great projects and we simply could not do all of our projects without our wonderful donors.”

To learn more, support the work of the local AMBUCS or become a member, visit AMBUCS.com, follow them on Facebook @Danville Illinois AMBUCS or call Bill Fulton at 474-2455.

REG Danville Surprises Vermilion Advantage With End-of-Year Support



The Renewable Energy Group, LLC (REG) surprised the Vermilion Advantage team by giving an unexpected financial gift in what was a trying year for many organizations. The company said they made the gift because they believe it is important to assist organizations who may be struggling in the community. “Supporting the community is very important to our location and our organization as a whole,” says Candy Parrish, Office Coordinator for REG. Along with Vermilion Advantage, REG supports The Boys and Girls Club of Danville, The Danville Police Food Basket Program for Thanksgiving and Christmas, Kiwanis, Toys for Tots and a variety of area school/summer sports programs.

REG Danville, located at 300 Anderson, manufactures biodiesel, distilled biodiesel, methyl esters, bio residual oil and glycerin. The facility began operations in 2008. In

2015, construction occurred for a new 45 million gallon biodiesel refinery. Improvements included distillation capabilities, along with storage, logistics and transportation enhancements. The company runs two 12-hour shifts and has 39 employees.

“Supporting the community is very important to our location and our organization as a whole.”

The REG team is delivering cleaner fuels to meet the growing global demand for lower-carbon transportation. “When it comes to cleaner fuels, no one has to make a decision between the environment and

their bottom line,” explains Parrish. “Renewable Energy Group is leading the transformation of biofuel into something that helps improve the environment and helps grow customers’ profits.

The company has big plans for 2021. They are committed to supporting various local organizations, with hopes of including some of the events lost in 2020 due to cancellations. REG employees have been given volunteer hours to use throughout the community so Parrish anticipates an abundance of community volunteerism in 2021.

Parrish adds, “2020 has definitely shown us that we are here to continuously support one another. And to do what is in our power to keep our co-workers, friends and family safe.”

Crosspoint at the Y Offers Hope to the Community



New Year's Eve celebration with decorations, food, games and a special movie. "Everyone had fun and felt the celebration helped them feel hopeful about 2021," says Pollock. "We would not be able to do the work we do without all of this community support. I'm always grateful for the donations we receive which help with things I am not able to buy with grant funds, like sheets, blankets, pillows and personal hygiene items."

Pandemic Services

Staying ahead of the constantly changing information regarding COVID meant the staff had to remain flexible and willing to change direction constantly. Currently, while still minimizing the amount of people who enter the building, they are offering all groups and services either in person or via zoom. The Early Learning Center reopened in June with a reduced number of children per classroom and other restrictions meant to keep staff and children safe.

The Domestic Violence Children's Staff put together "we are thinking of you" baskets of goodies and small toys and delivered them to the porches of the families they were missing from regular programs. "This not only brightened the day for the children receiving the baskets, but also for the staff who worked on this project," says Pollock.

Pollocks says people don't often realize that you don't have to live in the shelters to receive services. "Another thing I think surprises people is that our Domestic Violence Program also serves male victims of domestic violence," she adds. "We often get called the 'Women's Shelter' but we are so much more than that."

There are many ways to support Crosspoint at the Y including: donating items on their wish list, food for the food pantry, and household or clothing items to the thrift shop; volunteering time or services; and giving financial gifts.

To become involved or get more information, call Cher Pollock at 217-446-1217 to talk about current needs.

Crosspoint Services, located at 201 North Hazel Street, became a part of Crosspoint Human Services in 2008. The Hazel street location is often referred to as Crosspoint at the Y as a respectful nod to the building's history as once being a YWCA. The staff often hears stories of the days when women rented rooms upstairs and walked to work from their home at the YWCA.

The building houses an eclectic blend of programs serving about 400 people per year. They employ about 40 people.

One of the services, The Early Learning Center (ELC), is a licensed day care with a preschool education component offering age-appropriate learning activities. The ELC accepts payment through the Child Care Resource program offering subsidized day care to families that qualify. Cher J Pollock, Director of Y Programs for Crosspoint Human Services says, "If you need cheering up just be present when the kids go by on their way to the Gym...their smiles and waves brighten your day."

The Domestic Violence program provides shelter and comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence, their minor children and any unsafe family or household member. "Someone may stay in our shelter for up to 45 days while being offered case management services, individual and group counseling for adults and children, legal and

court advocacy and assistance with vocational and housing options." Specially trained staff answer a 24-hour hotline making services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The Transitional Shelter program provides a safe place to live for women and their minor children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for up to one year. During their stay they are offered a full array of services including training aimed at the skills necessary for maintaining stable housing and employment.

A viable step following the Transitional Shelter program is to enter the Permanent Housing Program. Those who qualify may live in scattered site housing and receive a rent subsidy while also receiving services and life skills training.

Their Partner Abuse Intervention Program offers group skills training for people who have perpetrated intimate partner violence. The program was developed to provide more safety for victims of domestic violence.

The Y's Buy's Thrift Store accepts gently used household and clothing item donations which are then sold to support the shelter and our shelter residents.

Pollock says generosity from the community meant they were able to provide special holiday gifts and goodies. Shelter residents were also treated to an "alternative"

DP Supply, Inc. Providing Janitorial & Office Supplies, Foodservice Disposables, and Much More



If your first thought about DP Supply, Inc. is the “party supply store downtown” it may be time to think again. DP Supply, Inc., formerly known as Danville Paper and Supply, offers much more. “That is actually a very small portion of our overall operation,” says Jim Christison, President of DP Supply in Danville. “The majority of our revenue is generated from the B2B (business to business) sales to the many commercial facilities throughout east central Illinois and west central Indiana. Much of which is delivered on our own delivery trucks and customers coming to the store for pick up.”

DP Supply, Inc. is a local distributor of Janitorial Supplies and Equipment, Foodservice Disposables, Basic Office Supplies, and Office Coffee Service. Located at 118 E. North Street, the business is a longtime fixture in the heart of the community. “Personally, I have been a lifelong resident of Vermilion County,” says Christison. “And DP Supply, Inc. has been located in different locations in Downtown Danville since 1918.”

Christison says the market for janitorial supplies and equipment along with

foodservice disposables and office supplies has become much more competitive and the company has changed to stay current. “We just recently implemented a name change to better reflect the wide variety of products we sell,” he says. “Our previous name was too restrictive, and I think people didn’t fully understand what all we had to offer.”

DP Supply also made a commitment to stay current with changes in technology including offering a website for many years. The company continually updates the functionality, offering the ability for customers to have access to their account information and online ordering through a secure login portal.

Customers are always at the heart of the company’s focus. “We offer personalized sales and delivery visits,” says Christison. “I feel our staff is second to none when it comes to assisting customers. My favorite memories involve the relationships built with so many loyal customers over the past several decades.”

He sees kindness and compassion in interactions inside and outside the company. “My staff is always willing to pitch in and

cover for one another, or do additional tasks to work as a team,” he says. “With respect to customers, they seem to be more understanding if a specific product is ‘hard to get’ or on back order. In general, the community seems to be more compassionate towards others who may be struggling in some way.”

2020 reminded the longtime business owner of some things he already knew. “The status quo can change quickly, and you have to be able to adapt,” he says. “Life won’t always be easy or without challenges. One needs to try and stay positive, even when times get tough.”

Christison gives back to the community in many ways including serving on both the Danville School District #118 Foundation Board and the Vermilion Healthcare Foundation Board.

For more information stop by the store at 118 E. North Street in Danville, visit dpsupplyinc.com or call 217.442.0851.



Amy Thompson

Liberty Village of Danville Taking Good Care of Area Seniors



Amy Thompson brings creativity, passion and fun wherever she goes. The Liberty Estates Manager and Director of Marketing of Liberty Village of Danville uses all these skills and more to benefit the organization's residents and staff.

Liberty Village of Danville is a complete not-for-profit retirement community which includes villa homes; an 82-apartment independent living complex; Hawthorne Inn which includes Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing, Bounce Back (short-term); and the Memory Care Neighborhood. They offer short term and long-term care which includes Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy. Residents may also take advantage of a state-of-the-art fitness center (AJ's Fitness Center), an activity-based memory care neighborhood and an activity department which hosts a wide range of activities to keep residents active and motivated. "We also provide transportation to doctor appointments which is not something all retirement communities offer," says Thompson. "We are the only complete retirement community within a 60-mile radius. We have many people who start out by living in one of our villa homes, they then transfer to Liberty Estates and then eventually to Hawthorne Inn."

Changes

"Our organization has changed immensely in the past ten years due to innovative technology," she says. "With the advent of electronic medical records and mobile devices, our nursing staff and Medical

Director can document and transmit their assessments, notes and communications with coworkers in real time. Vital signs, critical assessments and medication updates can be communicated quickly, allowing for earlier interventions and responses than ever before."

"We have many people who start out by living in one of our villa homes, they then transfer to Liberty Estates and then eventually to Hawthorne Inn."

Technology played an even bigger role in 2020. "Residents and their loved ones were (and still are) able to see and talk to each other via iPad's, cell phones, ZOOM calls, etc.," she explains. Technology also saves staff time which leaves them more available to care for residents.

Kindness and Inspiration

Thompson's favorite story involves a 107-year-old current resident at Hawthorne Inn. "For her 105th birthday (two years ago) we had a huge celebration," she says. "She was so touched by how many people took the time to come to her birthday party, especially Danville Mayor Rickey Williams and State Representative Mike Marron. She was also featured on several radio and television stations. She still plays the piano and participates in activities which is truly

amazing. There are so many residents who have touched my life throughout my 11 years in healthcare and I am truly blessed."

She's been overwhelmed by the kindnesses she's seen in the last year. "Every single person who works at our organization has had to step up in so many ways, but no one ever questions it...they just do it and we all work together as a team," she says. "We are very mindful that this past year has been very scary for our residents, so we constantly strive to reassure them that things are going to get better soon."

The community also remembered residents and staff by donating candy, toiletries, food, games, puzzles and decorations. A local florist donates fresh flowers bi-weekly. Community members also participated in socially distant events including a Prom Parade, a Drive-Through Car Show and a Veteran's Day Parade. A Broadway singer even came from Chicago, performing from a bucket truck.

"I personally feel Vermilion County's greatest strength are the people who live here," adds Thompson. "When someone is in need, you can definitely rest assured that people are going to help. We have great leadership in this community which is what makes a community grow and prosper."

To learn more about Liberty Village including employment options, visit www.libertyvillageofdanville.com, follow them on Facebook @Liberty Village of Danville or call 217.431.1600.

CAREER CORNER



Brian Fink

Danville Area Community College and Indiana Wesleyan University Team Up to Offer CPA Pathway Partnership Program



Danville Area Community College

Danville Area Community College (DACC) and Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) have established a partnership that provides a pathway for DACC Accounting graduates to prepare to sit for the CPA exam and earn a master's or MBA degree in the process.

To begin, DACC students complete 84 credits at DACC and then transfer to IWU for 36 additional credits, at which point they've earned a bachelor's in accounting. Next, students choose to pursue either a master's in accounting or an MBA. Either option will prepare them to sit for the CPA exam. CPA exam prep is built into the MS-Accounting (Personal Accounting) track. Coursework through IWU is offered online

making the program available without leaving home.

The CPA Pathway Partnership started when DACC accounting instructor Brian Fink approached Caitlin Littlejohn, IWU's Executive Corporate Representative. "As I watched our local accounting jobs leave and the job market shrink, I realized that our students needed an edge, one that was nationally recognized and highly esteemed," explains Fink. "I saw the need for a streamlined program where students could go to DACC for three years and a partner college for one year and carry-on with that college receiving a master's degree and prepared to sit for the CPA

exam. I found this partnership through Caitlin at Indiana Wesleyan."

Indiana Wesleyan was uniquely prepared to make the vision a reality. "IWU got to work and made it happen!" says Littlejohn. "Our partnership/pathway is unique in that many universities don't offer programs that satisfy the academic requirements laid out in the 'Illinois Uniform CPA Examination Education Requirements' -- IWU does!"

Other community colleges in IL and IN are now developing similar partnerships with IWU based on the original CPA Pathway Partnership with DACC.

Littlejohn says the program brings distinct advantages. "Illinois Uniform CPA

Examination Education Requirements" are satisfied through IWU's courses, students save money by completing as many courses as possible at DACC's lower tuition rate, and students have the option of an MSA or MBA upon completion.

Fink agrees and adds a few more. "There's a tremendous financial advantage to obtaining a CPA and a master's degree in

the process including a higher salary base and fast track to job promotion," he says. "A quick look at the Chicago Tribune want ads gives you a pretty clear picture that employers are looking for people not only with a CPA designation but also a master's degree." He also cites career satisfaction and reaching long-term goals as reasons students find the extra effort worthwhile.

For information through DACC, visit dacc.edu/academics/bachelor or dacc.edu/academics/IWU or contact Brian Fink at bfink@dacc.edu or phone at 217.443.8581. Or contact Caitlin Littlejohn by call/text at 219.781.0050 or email at caitlin.littlejohn@indwes.edu.



Caitlin Littlejohn

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 90,700 new jobs to open in the accounting field by 2028. The profession is expected to grow by 6%. Also, CPAs earn considerably more on average than non-CPA accountants. According to the Journal of Accountancy, "... the average salary of a CPA based in the United States is \$119,000 per year, excluding bonuses. Newly qualified CPAs with less than one year of experience earn an average salary of \$66,000 per year, and CPAs with more than 20 years of experience average \$152,000 per year in salary."

Average Accountant Salary.....	\$50,129 per year (excluding bonuses)
Average CPA Salary.....	\$119,000 per year (excluding bonuses)
National CPA average ranges from.....	\$66k - \$152k
Illinois CPA average from 2018 was.....	\$79k-\$98k

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CONTACT CAITLIN 219.781.0050 • caitlin.littlejohn@indwes.edu
FOR MORE INFORMATION

DACC Offering Online and Deeply Discounted Options to Earn High School Equivalency



Danville Area
Community College

When the pandemic started, Laura Williams was skeptical about offering online courses in her role as Director of Adult Education and Literacy at Danville Area Community College. She's more than changed her mind. "The addition of online classes has really been amazing," she says. "Online GED (General Equivalency Diploma) was something I would not offer because as a high school dropout myself, I knew the best instruction came through face-to-face, hands-on learning. However, COVID caused me to reframe my thinking, and through training, great teachers, and easy-to-use online platforms, Adult ED 2020 was born! We all figured out how to offer content that was doable, valuable, and realistic for our students. Even if the world suddenly healed and we were back to pre-COVID days, we would keep an online presence. Our teachers and students are seriously rocking it with this format, and we have seen numerous students earn their HSE (High School Equivalency) diploma during the pandemic."

Prior to Covid, DACC offered free GED/HSE class options including day and night on campus, day classes at the American Job Center (AJC) and Fair Oaks, and night classes at the DACC Hoopston Higher Learning Center and Westville Jr. High. This Spring most classes are online, making them convenient for at home learners. Using

ZOOM, students meet with their instructors several times each week and then are assigned independent work to complete. Workbooks are provided at no charge and if students do not have the right equipment, DACC's TELP program offers loaners including laptops, hotspots, cameras, or headphones. The program serves all grade levels.

To get started, students should visit DACC to complete a basic reading test to determine which classes are the best fit. "We want students to be successful and placement is important, so the work isn't too easy or too hard according to individual ability," she says. "For people 17 or older who read or compute math below an eighth-grade level, our free literacy program helps people read, read better or understand math. Additionally, we offer an ESL (English as a Second Language) course. This is offered in-person during the day and this semester we have added an online night class."

Williams says DACC's Adult Ed program is geared to serve people who weren't successful in the traditional K-12 model, with teachers trained to serve adult learners. "Being positioned at DACC allows our students to already be familiar with the college environment, so our best hope is that when they complete with us, they keep going," she adds. "Having an educated and

work-ready pool of possible employees is critical to the survival of Vermilion County's economy and to the quality of life of our residents."

The state accepts three high school equivalency tests – the traditional GED and the HiSET (both offered at DACC) along with the TASC. The GED must be taken on a computer. The HiSET is computer and paper/pencil-based so students have the option of testing with or without a computer.

The State of Illinois currently has an amazing offer for adult learners. "Normally, those tests cost \$100 - \$120," says Williams. "Right now, they are being offered at \$40 for the GED or \$14 for the HiSET. For the ENTIRE test! We have no idea how long this will last so we are really encouraging people to sign up for classes now, do that refresher, and maybe have the equivalency diploma in a matter of months!"

DACC also has a Volunteer Literacy program that is sponsored by the Illinois Secretary of State. This program serves people 17 or older who need help in learning how to read or read better, or compute basic math. Tutors meet one-on-one with learners at a time that is convenient for both parties. "If you know someone that can use help please contact us!" says Williams. "We are also looking for tutors. This is a very rewarding volunteer opportunity! One doesn't need to be a teacher or reading specialist to become a tutor. We provide all the tools one needs to become a successful tutor and we only require one hour a week."

DACC's Adult Education program helps students reach their goals including learning to read or read better through the Volunteer Literacy program, earning a HSE diploma, getting credentials for a job, speaking English or earning a college degree.

To learn more or register, call 217-443-8782, find them on Facebook @DACC Adult Education Department or visit dacc.edu/depts/adulted.



"Most of us are spending more time at home, and this time could be used to gain that elusive piece of paper, whether it's a high school equivalency, a vocational certificate, or a college degree.

GED/HSE classes are at no cost to the student and college classes have been deeply discounted. Many jobs require a minimum of a high school diploma so with the convenience of working on classes at home and the deeply discounted testing rate, there is no better time than now."

— Laura Williams



Carol Nichols retires from the Illinois Small Business Development Center at DACC



Through the 40-plus years of Carol Nichols' career, she has loved helping businesses be successful and being involved in the community.

Nichols recently retired as the executive director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Danville Area Community College (DACC). But she is perhaps best known for her long career at the Commercial News in Danville.

Nichols' love for the newspaper business started when one of her early job functions at the Commercial News was to deliver newspapers to everyone in the building. She remembers delivering the publisher's paper and thinking, "That's what I want to do someday." From there, she went from dispatch clerk, to advertising sales in Covington and Downtown Danville, to sales manager, to advertising and marketing director in Danville and then in Elmira, NY, to publisher in Danville and then in Anderson, IN and back.

She says one day stands out from all the others in the news business. "My second day as publisher of the Commercial News was September 11, 2001," she says. "I was on the phone with another publisher when the editor called and left a message that a plane had crashed into one of the towers at the World Trade Center in New York and wanted to know if I wanted to hold the press time until they could get more of the story. By the time, I got up to his office, we watched the second plane hit on his little TV. We ended up putting out three editions that day - a rack edition just to get something out to people on what was happening, a second home delivery edition that included when the Pentagon was

hit and a third rack edition with more detail and the info on the crash in Pennsylvania. My background was advertising, but that day I came to truly appreciate journalism."

Apart from her career in newspapers, she worked as executive director of Downtown Danville Inc., grant writer and communications director for CRIS Healthy Aging Center and ultimately as director of the Illinois SBDC at DACC before her recent retirement. "It helped that I also had owned a travel magazine focusing on the I-74 corridor called Central Illinois Travel, was a partner in The Cooks' Workshop, a shared kitchen space downtown, and in a small diner my husband largely ran, The Country Kitchen in downtown Danville," she says. "Those experiences allowed me to understand what my SBDC clients faced."

Nichols advises budding entrepreneurs to know the business they are planning, ideally through working in the industry or even through visiting similar businesses and talking with the owners. She also suggests walking through a detailed financial projection which will help in considering the cost of everything needed before the business opens as well as ongoing costs. She urges caution in estimating potential sales. "And then, understand no matter how much you research and plan and project, the first week something will happen that will change all your plans," she adds. "Just be ready to adjust as needed to make your business successful."

Home

Danville and Vermilion County hold a special place for Nichols. "I was born in Danville

and left twice to work in larger markets, but both times I soon realized how important it was to me to be home," she remembers. "The first time I thought that was because I wanted to be near my family, but by the second time I knew that this place is just very special. I enjoy the many arts groups, the wonderful special events, the beautiful parks and the sense of community."

Nichols has been involved with Downtown Danville, Inc. and the Vermilion Heritage Foundation (the Fischer Theatre) for many years and plans to continue in her retirement. Her number one goal in retirement, though, is to spend as much time as possible with her family including her husband Steve, daughter Cindy, and granddaughters Caroline (age 7) and Joanna (age 3).

The family always enjoyed Sunday dinners together but COVID had Nichols taking the meals to another level. "I was getting bored making the same meals all the time," she says. "So, I decided to have a Hawaiian Luau. I did some research on foods, got grass skirts for the girls and leis for everyone and we had a traditional luau. Everybody had fun with it so now we focus on a different country each week. We've done Germany, Italy, Russia, England, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Mexico, the Philippines, Japan and Greece so far. Each week I get the girls something connected to that country and/or a book about the country, we listen to music from that country, watch a related movie and have special beverages for the adults traditional to that country."

Tim Dudley Joins Vermilion Advantage as President/CEO

PARTNER IN PROGRESS
Vermilion Advantage
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

With years of successful economic and community development experience, Tim Dudley, the new President/CEO of Vermilion Advantage, knows what he wants to accomplish. “My role is to plan, coordinate, and execute economic development projects to build wealth in Vermilion County and to create an environment for small and large businesses to succeed,” he says. “I want to build consensus among ALL people of the area - there is nothing we cannot accomplish if we work together for a common goal.” He has a particular focus on quality-of-life projects for all residents to enjoy, and believes revitalization of main corridors, green space, new businesses to fill empty space, and interstate 74 off-ramp development are important priorities. He is also committed to helping existing businesses grow and prosper.

Dudley’s career includes 20+ years as a Commercial and Residential Real Estate Broker, Central Region Manager of Economic Development for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and most recently as the Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Decatur, Illinois.

Dudley wasn’t actively looking for a new job, but when he was contacted about the position, he realized Danville and Vermilion County’s similarity to Decatur would make his experience a good fit. He also saw Vermilion Advantage’s combination of Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce as a positive approach being practiced more and more throughout the industry.

He has been pleased by what he’s found since arriving in the community. “The one thing I have really been in awe of since coming here is working with wonderful, passionate people,” he says. “Vermilion County is full of great leaders and people with the passion to move this County and City forward. Without passion, nothing will happen.”

Experienced Leadership

Dudley served for 12 years on the Macon County Board, with four of those years as Vice Chairman, and was a member of the Richland Community College Board of Trustees. While on the Richland Board, he was a part of building what is often referred to as the “Super Bowl of



Agriculture, the Farm Progress Show. “It was a great experience and has grown exponentially over the years,” he says. “It amazed me what could be accomplished when everyone works together.”

He also tells the story of working on developing a high traffic residential intersection in Decatur. Seven commercial businesses had tried and failed to build at this intersection. Developers for Chipotle were interested, but past failures made them believe the location was not a viable option. Dudley and his team set about making it happen. “We worked hard putting together a marketing plan with the developers, homeowners, and contractors to make the residents comfortable with the development,” he remembers. “We were able to not only get the zoning change but were able to get the development through City Council as a 5-2 vote. This was my first shot at developing this intersection and it worked out well for all involved.”

Going Forward

People often think development projects happen overnight. Dudley knows better.

“Some (and most) take years of planning and coordination to complete,” he says. “It’s a team effort to do the leg work and foundation building to draw business. Vermilion Advantage has the team in place to move your business to the next level. We’re a one-stop shop for your business needs. We have a great staff in Machelle, Jo, and Rachel – they are a God-send.”

Covid has limited Dudley’s ability to enjoy much of what Vermilion County has to offer, except for visiting area restaurants, which he says have all been great. He is especially looking forward to visiting the parks and Lake Vermilion. In his free time, he likes to “tinker with fishing reels and do a little lawn mower repair. I like to take something in disrepair and rebuild it to like new!”

Personal Notes

Family: “I came from a family of 7. My mom was a homemaker and my dad got on at Caterpillar in Decatur when it opened in 1955. I have three sisters and one brother. My oldest sister was mentally challenged and was the light of all our lives; she passed

away in 2012. My brother is an electrician, my next sister has worked in healthcare all her life, and my youngest sister lives in Vermilion County. Her husband is the pastor at Crossroads Church, and she works at the VA. My wife Susan and I have two sons - Tyler is an engineer in Denver, Colorado, and Trevor is a 1st Class Petty Officer with the United States Navy working at the NSA near Washington D.C. We also are the proud parents of two “best dogs ever”, Cocker Spaniel sisters Callie and Candie. One of our favorite traditions is gathering at Christmas and having lots of fun! Since my mom and dad have now passed away, we are looking to make new traditions.”

Best advice he received: “Pick your battles”

Someone he admires: “Robert F. Kennedy. I love his quote ‘People like me can’t just stand around and make pretty speeches all the time.....eventually we’re going to have to do some dang hard work!’”

Welcome Tim Dudley!

Your Partner for Growth



Our Work for Vermilion County

- Business retention and expansion
- County and community government networking and inter-governmental planning
- Support and facilitation for Inter-governmental planning
- New business and retail recruitment
- Workforce development solutions between employers and the K-14 education system
- Promotion of local events through What’s Happening this Weekend publication
- Professional candidate recruitment support
- Critical data collection and business-to-business networking
- Promoting local career opportunities through the Job Board
- Promoting youth employment opportunities

And so much more!

Vermilion Advantage serves as Vermilion County’s hub for business leadership, growth, support and development. We are a public/private, membership-based, non-profit organization.

To learn more about how we can support your business or to become a member, call 442-6201 or email mdykes@vermilionadvantage.com.

Members of Vermilion Advantage, NFP

In Good Standing by Level of Membership

ADVANTAGE DIAMOND DIRECTOR:

(Level \$10,000+)

Aqua Illinois, Inc.
City of Danville
Danville Sanitary District
Fiberteq, LLC
First Financial Bank
First Midwest Bank
Iroquois Federal
Old National Bank
OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center
Vermilion County Government

ADVANTAGE GOLD CROWN DIRECTOR:

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Arconic
Bunge Milling, Inc.
Carle / Carle Medical Supply
Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.
Christie Clinic
Danville Area Community College
Danville Metal Stamping
Danville School Dist. #118
Hyster-Yale Group
KIK Custom Products
McLane Midwest
Mervis Industries
REG Danville, LLC
Republic (formerly Allied Waste)
thyssenKrupp Presta
Vermilion Development, Inc.
Viscofan USA, Inc.
Watchfire Signs

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City of Hoopeston
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
Curry Construction
Double S Liquid Feed Service, Inc.
Genpact
Greenwood, Inc.
McDonald's c/o
DND Witzel Enterprises, Inc.
Quaker Oats
Village of Oakwood
Walgreens - Danville Accounting Center

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(Level \$1,000 - \$2,499)

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APPI Energy
AT&T Illinois
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
Bose Corporation
Brainerd Chemical Midwest, LLC
Central States Distribution Service
Chittick Family Eye Care
County Markets / Niemann Foods
Depke Gases & Welding Supplies
Envirox, LLC
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Faulstich Printing Company
First Farmers Bank & Trust
First Savings Bank of Danville
Flex-N-Gate Plastics
Heritage Development
Heritage Health Therapy and Senior Care
Heritage Petroleum, LLC - Danville
IL Chapter Nat'l Electrical Contractor's Assoc.
Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation
Meijer
Neuhoff Family Broadcasting
Prospect Bank
The Sygma Network
thyssenKrupp Crankshaft Company
Towne Machine Tool Co., Inc.
Village of Catlin

ADVANTAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

(Level \$500 - \$999)

***Indicates Hoopeston Chamber Member discount due to partnership with Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce*
A&R Mechanical Contractors
Allied Capital Title
Arnold's Office Supply
Arrow Ambulance
Autumn Fields Adult Community of Hoopeston
AWEBCO
Beltone Hearing Aid Service
BIGG Success
Bill Smith Auto Parts
Bricks and Ivy Sports
Busey Bank
C.H. Smith Insurance Agency

Carla's
Carmack Car Capitol
Charlotte's Coffee & Tea
CIBM Bank
City of Georgetown
Classic Homes Realty
Coldwell Banker Commercial Devonshire Realty – Larry Kuchefski
Comcast Business
Commercial-News
Courtesy Ford Lincoln / Courtesy Chrysler Dodge Jeep
Credit Union 1
CTS Computers
Danville Area Board of Realtors
Danville Bldg. & Construction Trades Council
Danville Gardens, Inc.
Danville Public Building Commission
Davis & Delanois, PC
Dawson Logistics
Days Hotel and Conference Center
Dean Crandall – Morgan Stanley
D.I. Fire & Safety
Dines Machine & Mfg.
Donohue & Associates, Inc.
Dougherty Group
Duncan Farms
DynaChem, Inc.
East Central Enterprises
Education Personnel Federal Credit Union
Edward Jones (Marcus Provost)
Ela's Eatery
EPIC Insurance Midwest
Farnsworth Group
First Institute Training & Mgmt., Inc.
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Ford of Hoopeston**
Freeman General Contracting
Full-Fill Industries, LLC
Gailey Eye Clinic
Gibson Teldata, Inc.
Greene Galvanized Stairs
Group 2029 Inc. (d/b/a Burger King)
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Heartland Properties, Inc.
Hickory Point Bank
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites / Hampton Inn & Suites
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HRW, Inc.

Hub City Media, Inc.
Hussmann Rogers Law, LLC
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International Greenhouse Co.- Danville
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Jocko's Depot / Diveley Development Corp.
Kruger's ATA Martial Arts, Inc.
Kruger-Coan-Pape Funeral Home
Kurland Steel Co.
Lamar Outdoor Advertising
Landmark Credit Union
Leatherneck Hardware, Inc.
Lebanon Seaboard Corporation
Lipa Enterprises, Inc.
Loman Ray Insurance Group **Hoopeston
Longview Bank & Trust
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R.S. Quick Properties
Russell Leigh & Associates
Salt Fork CUSD #512
Schwan's Home Service
Second Church of Christ
Sentry Roofing, Inc.
Shore Wealth Management
Silgan Containers
Slumberland Furniture
Steel Grip, Inc.
T.H. Snyder Co.-
Architectural Woodwork Div.
Terminix Services, Inc.
Toyota of Danville
Trillium Staffing
Turtle Run Golf & Banquet Center
Two Roads Wellness Clinic
Venture Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

Vermilion Chevrolet
 Vermilion County Conservation District
 Vermilion County Title, Inc.
 Vermilion Regional Airport Authority
 Vermilion Valley Produce Co., Inc.
 Vermilion Valley Railroad
 Veterans Affairs Illiana Health Care System
 Village of Fithian
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 WCIA Nexstar Broadcasting
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 Whipper Snappers Southern Grill
 WITY Illiana Communications, LLC
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ADVANTAGE HONOR MEMBER

(Level \$300 - \$499)

* Existing Members Grandfathered prior to Base level change to \$500 in 2014

** Indicates Hoopeston Chamber Member discount due to partnership with Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce

Aquality Solutions, LLC
 Automation International, Inc.
 AutoZone Distribution Center
 B&K Investments, Inc. (Wendy's)
 Berry's Garden Center & Florist
 Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1
 Bodine Electric of Danville
 Bowman Estates
 Brunswick Apartments
 CDS Office Technologies
 Cooper East Lake Animal Hospital
 Country Financial
 Crose Insurance
 Crowder CPA's, Ltd.
 Culver's - T/Kat, Inc.
 Cunningham, Inc.
 Danville Housing Authority
 Danville NECA-IBEW Electrical JATC
 Danville Towne Centre, LLC
 David S. Palmer Arena
 DP Supply, Inc.
 (formerly Danville Paper & Supply)
 East Lynn Fertilizer
 ERH Enterprises, Inc.
 Fairchild Animal Hospital
 Fancy That Bridal & Special Occasion
 Fehr Graham
 First Presbyterian Church
 Flex-N-Gate / Master Guard II
 Georgetown Wood & Pallet Co., Inc.
 Georgetown-Ridge Farm CUSD #4
 Gibson Health of Hoopeston
 Glesco Electric, Inc.
 hibu, Inc.
 Hoopeston Area CUSD #11
 Illinois Small Business Development Center
 Jameson Steel Fabrication
 Jenna Wirth State Farm

KBA Limited
 Lakeview College of Nursing
 Liberty Village
 Lincoln Lanes, Inc.
 Mason, MD John
 McDowell Builders, Inc.
 McLaughlin Asset Management
 MidWest America Federal Credit Union
 Myers Carpet Weavers
 Napa Auto & Truck Parts Superstore
 NCT, Inc.
 Newell Township Supervisor
 NewWave Communications
 North Logan Health Care Center
 North Vermilion Family Dental
 Oakwood CUSD No. 76
 Olympic Hardware**
 Owen Financial Services
 Prairie Center Health Systems, Inc.
 Schomburg & Schomburg Construction, Inc.
 Servpro of Vermilion County
 Shortz Family Farms, Inc.
 Sleep Inn & Suites
 Sleepy Creek Vineyards
 Sunset Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Cremation Center
 Teasdale Foods
 Terry R. Miles, Attorney at Law
 The Myers Group at Morgan Stanley
 Townway Place, LLC
 Tridan International, Inc.
 Turk Furniture
 Vermilion County Health Department
 Vermilion Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
 Vermilion House
 Vibrant Credit Union
 Village Mall Shopping Center
 Village of Bismarck
 Village of Potomac
 WhiteSmith Marketing Group, Inc.
 Wolford Apartments

ADVANTAGE INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL, NON/NOT FOR PROFIT (with annual budget under \$250,000), AND CLUBS:

(Level \$150 - \$299)

AMBUCS
 American Legion Post #210
 Amy S. Marchant - Mediator
 Arts In The Park, Inc.
 Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness
 Bennett, Scott (Senator)
 Better Business Bureau - Central Illinois
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois
 Boys & Girls Club of Danville
 CASA of Vermilion County
 Center Street Productions
 Central Christian Church
 Child Care Resource Service

Cleaning by Jai
 Community Foundation of East Central IL
 CRIS Healthy-Aging Center
 CRIS Rural Mass Transit
 Crosspoint Human Services
 DACC Foundation
 Danville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Danville Area Labor Management Council
 Danville Christian Academy
 Danville Country Club
 Danville Downtown Event Center
 Danville Family YMCA
 Danville Farmer's Market
 Danville Public Library
 Danville Public School Foundation
 Danville Sunrise Rotary
 Danville Symphony Orchestra
 Danville Tennis Center
 Darkhorse Theatre Company
 Deer Creek Manor
 DLO Musical Theatre
 (formerly Danville Light Opera)
 Douglas Discovery Garden
 Eastern Illinois Foodbank
 Edward J. Ryan, CPA
 Erickson, Gary C.
 First Church of the Nazarene
 First Presbyterian Church of Hoopeston
 GAO Grotto / Denmark Park Corporation
 Grace Lutheran Church
 Hoopeston Multi Agency Service Center
 Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Immanuel Manor, Inc. - Senior Residences
 Informed Decisions
 JPhoto
 Keep Vermilion Co. Beautiful, Inc.
 Kona Ice of Illiana
 Laura Lee Fellowship House Association
 Midwest Print and Sign Specialists, LLC
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 New Directions Treatment Center
 Oakwood Public Library District
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 Red Mask Players, Inc.
 Rodman Business Center
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 Spring Hill Cemetery
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 Stephens-Felix, Stacy - Fountain Insurance
 Survivor Resource Center
 Swires, Bob
 The Fischer Theatre

The Salvation Army
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 United Way of Danville Area
 University of IL Extension., Vermilion Co. Unit
 Venue 22
 Vermilion Co. Conservation Dist. Foundation
 Vermilion Co. Elementary Schools Assoc.
 Vermilion Co. Fair and Expo
 Vermilion Co. Farm Bureau
 Vermilion Co. Museum Society
 Vermilion Co. War Museum
 Vermilion Voles Vintage Baseball Club
 WorkSource enterprises
 Zindars Property Management, LLC

ADVANTAGE HOME-BASED ADULTS, FULL-TIME STUDENTS, OR RETIREES: (Level \$100)

Anderson, Jim
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 Beynon, Mark
 Block, Gerald R.
 Drude, Charles (Bott's Locksmith)
 Fields, David L.
 Franklin, Susan
 (Franklin's Farm Blooms & Heirlooms)
 Hays, Chad (Retired State Representative)
 Lee, Todd
 Mulvaney, Jeanne
 Nicholls, Bill
 Resh, Gary (Resh Frame Shop)
 Spezia, John (Reach 1 Coach 1)
 Stoner, Christopher (Pro Wash)
 Teague, Tricia (The Trep School)
 Wood, Jim



ALL A'S - ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Vermilion County McDonald's

Don and Deanna Witzel Owner/Operators of the Vermilion County McDonald's have announced Employees, Students and Athletes of the Month

Congratulations!

January

January Employee of the Month:

- Hometown Stars McDonald's..... Kirsten Lawver
Classic Rock-n-Roll..... Mario Sanchez
Oakwood..... Coleton Vermillion
Georgetown.....Destiny Smith
Hoopeston..... Jasmin Hajjar
Neighborhood McDonald's..... Brayden Williams

Student Athletes for January:

- Danville High School Student..... Emma Martin
Danville High School Athlete..... Tevin Smith
Schlarman Academy North Student..... Kennedy Kotcher
Schlarman Academy North Athlete..... Alex Lewis
Oakwood Student.....Dylan Bensyl
Oakwood Athlete.....Gage Reed
Georgetown Student..... Kladyn Hayman
Georgetown Athlete..... Bryleigh Collom
Hoopeston Area Student.....Emma Glotzbach

Things have changed.

Cancer hasn't.

We've found innovative ways to stay healthy. But there are some things you can't do at home – like a mammogram. Don't worry, you're covered. We've taken extra precautions so that our facilities are safe. **Because while our world has changed, cancer hasn't, and early detection is the key to good outcomes.**

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