

INSIDE

July 2021

Vermilion County



Watchfire Signs earns *Great Place to Work*[®] Designation

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INSIDE

Vermilion County

Tim Dudley
President & CEO

Machelle Dykes
Chamber Operations/Membership Director

Nicole Van Hyfte
Community Development Coordinator

Jo Doggett
Data & Finance Director

Rachel Haun
Office Manager



Phone 217.442.6201
Fax 217.442.6228

contact@vermillionadvantage.com
www.vermillionadvantage.com

www.vermillionadvantage.com/job-board

Content Development & Management by:



217-354-2600
info@whitesmith.us
whitesmith.us

Printed by:



217.714.8425
Leon@MidWestSpecialists.com

Vermilion Advantage, through membership value, provides strategic leadership on critical large and small business issues - leading economic and workforce development, anticipating and responding to members' needs, addressing quality of life issues and providing a network of information and business contacts. Vermilion Advantage works regionally to bring opportunities to Danville and Vermilion County.

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"Inside Vermilion County" is a monthly publication created by Vermilion Advantage to showcase our members and share good news about Vermilion County. Each issue is mailed to all Vermilion Advantage members and over 1,000 copies are distributed throughout Vermilion County.

VERMILION COUNTY JOB BOARD

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The Vermilion Advantage Job Board gives our members opportunities to find new employees and to post hiring needs on one of the most popular job sites in East Central Illinois at www.vermillionadvantage.com/job-board.

DACC Applied Computer Science Program Offers Exciting Possibilities

Kathy Hunter, Associate Professor in Applied Computer Science at Danville Area Community College (DACC), wants to debunk two big fallacies about computer programming – that you need a four-year degree and must be a math whiz. “The most important skill for this program is determination,” she says. “It is a misconception that a student needs to be a math genius. It is more about perseverance - someone who doesn’t give up easily. Some of the common interests of programmers include board games, video games, card games, Legos, and puzzles. Being logical and a problem solver are great skills to have.”

The Applied Computer Science program at DACC gives a student hands-on, real-world coding skills with many of the most current and relevant programming languages as well as experience with web design and database manipulation. Students learn multiple languages including C++, Java, Python, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, PHP/MySQL, and SQL. One of the biggest benefits of the program is graduating with highly marketable skills. The degree can be completed on-campus or also 100% online. DACC also has a 2+2 agreement with Southern Illinois University – Carbondale for its Information Technology Bachelor of Science. Students can complete that degree either in Carbondale or 100% online.

More than half of the states in the US now require a high school student to complete a Computer Science course before graduation. “In the age of digital technology, learning to code may someday be as common as learning to write,” says Hunter. “Even if a student doesn’t want to be a programmer, learning coding and database skills could greatly improve their job opportunities in many fields including accounting, business, manufacturing, agriculture, medical professions, etc... DACC is also working on new courses in Robotics which integrate deeply with programming.”

Hunter is most proud of the students and their successes. Graduates of the program have been employed by Nexlan, Watchfire, DACC, Progressive Insurance, Carle Hospital, CCMSI, and Mervis Industries, to name a few. In addition, Hub City Media in Rossville is on the “wish list” for many current students and recent graduates. “Several of my students have started with a beginning salary of about \$45,000 a year in Danville,” she adds.

The pandemic had a uniquely positive effect on the Applied Computer Science students. “Ironically, I feel my students learned more this past year than any year before,” says Hunter. “Many programmers

work from home and collaborate online. We were able to mimic this environment during COVID. We switched to an online coding environment and made use of Zoom breakout rooms to practice code in real-time in pairs and groups. Students received more practice this past year than ever before. Many of the tools/concepts implemented during COVID will be retained post-COVID.”

Hunter is a product of the DACC programs. She came back to DACC at the age of 37 as a single mother of three who had just lost her job. She earned an Associate of Science in Computer Networking before going on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and a Master of Science in Applied Computer Science. “I would never be where I am today had it not been for the flexibility and caring of the DACC teachers,” she says. “I enjoy being able to return that favor. I love my students and co-workers and I believe whole-heartedly in the mission of DACC and what it’s meant for myself and my three children (who are all also DACC graduates).”

For more information, Hunter can be reached at khunter@dacc.edu or via her Google Voice number at 765-791-8161. You may find out more by visiting dacc.edu.



Kathy Hunter with recent DACC Applied Computer Science graduates.



Danville Boat Club Provides a Unique Summer Membership Option

There's never been a better time to join the Danville Boat Club. The club is offering a summer membership drive which gives area residents a chance to try out the Danville Boat Club for very little cost. "You pay the \$100 application fee, but you get a prepaid card for \$100 to spend on food and beverages," explains Steve Autor, 18 year member of Danville Boat Club and editor of the weekly email. Members are billed for only about two months of dues as the fiscal year concludes at the end of September.



dollar view' of Lake Vermilion. Dining on the deck is a popular venue. We have added four new boat slips this year to keep up with the demand. Boating is becoming more popular, which helps us, as many people need a place to dock their boat."

Autor says people join the boat club to have dinner and socialize with existing friends, as well as meet new people. "We have a weekly dinner on Tuesday night for members and invited guests. Thursday lunch is open to the public. Friday dinners often have live music and people



To qualify as a member, you must be 21 years of age, willing to serve on at least one social event planning committee, and sell or purchase one or two raffle tickets each year. The club currently has 266 members.

The Danville Boat Club, located on Lake Vermilion, has a bar, and food is served at nearly every event. "Our members like to eat and talk," says Autor, with a smile. "Our big attraction is the 'million-

take advantage of our wooden dance floor. We use a lot of volunteers to put on events, but the kitchen staff members are all paid and work hard."

To learn more about the Danville Boat Club, visit danvilleboatclub.com, send an email with your name and email to fireworks@danvilleboatclub.com to receive the weekly events and menus information, or follow them on Facebook @DanvilleBoatClub.

2021 Danville Boat Club Upcoming Events

Fourth of July Party.....	Saturday, July 3rd, 2021
Fourth of July Breakfast.....	Sunday, July 4th, 2021
Annual Raffle.....	Saturday, Aug 21, 2021
Annual Meeting.....	Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021
Golf Outing.....	Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021
Commodore's Ball.....	Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021
Fall Brunch.....	TBD
Christmas Open House.....	Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021



"Many of our Boat Club friends have boats, but most Boat Club people don't have a boat. Each month the club sponsors fun evening entertainment and also hosts special lunches on most major holidays including Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and New Year's Day. Over the past 29 years, we have met many friends at the Danville Boat Club."
Chuck and Cheryl Schroeder

"We joined Danville Boat Club about 10 years ago thinking it would be solely to park our

boat. What a surprise to find the club is the best-kept secret in our community. Where else can you dine on the deck or window side overlooking our lake? We love the casual environment of meeting with friends at least weekly."
Pam and Dennis Starkey

"The club is a relaxing, fun place to have a meal and a few drinks. There is usually a special party of some sort nearly every month, and events like balloon touch downs, live bands, and fireworks make eating on the deck

extra entertaining. Members can bring guests, and Thursday luncheons are open to the public. The Boat Club is a social club--and we take that seriously!" **Lois and Jim Gholson**

"Paul and I joined the Danville Boat Club about four years ago looking for the social aspects of the club as well as wanting a place to dock our boat. It has been great meeting new people and participating in events. We enjoy gathering with friends with a great view of the lake."
Pat Cooley



Freeman Exteriors: A New Name to Better Reflect Company's Expertise and Focus

One thing hasn't changed since Jake Freeman's family founded their company in 2001 - a commitment to delivering the best service possible for customers. Freeman Exteriors, formerly Freeman General Contracting, has a new name to better reflect their expertise. Their primary focus is residential and commercial roofing, siding, windows/doors, the reason for the change to "exteriors" in the company name.

"We are organized and committed to providing the best service possible to the consumer while doing it in an environment our staff enjoys which helps them work effectively as a team," says Freeman. "Insurance claims are over 80% of our business and have been since 2007. This was the year we received our first contract with the primary insurance company, State Farm."



Freeman Exteriors is an Owens Corning Platinum Preferred company and a Pella Certified installation/dealer. They belong to Certainteed's 5-Star contractor program. "These programs are designed specifically to ensure product knowledge and most importantly extended warranties that others can't provide," explains Freeman.

"I strongly believe that we are one of the top customer-service-driven roofing companies in the area," he says. "We are not perfect, but extremely dialed into doing what's right and not doing the

wrong things over and over. We are a smaller family-oriented company with many tenured staff members."

Freeman Exteriors' main office is in Danville, IL. They also have office space in Urbana IL, West Lafayette IN, and Crawfordsville IN.

"We do our best to ensure everyone is happy and any issues that may come up are taken care of promptly," says Freeman. "Everyone knows everyone here. It's not wise to burn bridges."

Freeman says people might be surprised to learn about the company's vehicles. As a licensed rebuilder in the State of IL, he buys wrecked vehicles at auction and rebuilds them in a shop in Covington IN. He generally sticks to the same years, colors, and models. All but two of the company vehicles have a rebuilt title.

Freeman Exteriors has a long history of giving back. They support area churches and are proud of their veteran assistance program. The company donates four to six roofs per year to someone in need.

Freeman believes the pandemic brought the company and the community together. "There was so much kindness everywhere," he says. "We just had to slow down and look



around from time to time to see it. 2020 taught me so many things. We/I went through so many changes. The one thing I learned was we must stay focused on the goal and want the goal as bad as we want to breathe. 2020 was rough. We/I just kept going though. We are all in a better place now than we were this time last year I believe."

Freeman Exteriors is on the lookout for skilled and motivated staff members. Whether it be in production or sales, the company is always recruiting.

To learn more, visit freemangeneralcontracting.com or call 217-442-2281.



KBA Limited Offers Warehousing and Railroad Service in Hoopeston

Keith Allen may be one of northern Vermilion County's best-kept secrets. The local businessman owns and operates several thriving businesses in and around Hoopeston.

One of Allen's businesses is KBA Limited LLC. KBA is a food-grade warehouse and rail distribution facility located in Hoopeston. Established in 2003, the company offers food-grade warehousing, product off-load railroad service, and fertilizer warehouse service. Allen's other businesses include East Lynn Fertilizer, Aquality Solutions, and Allen Farms.

Allen says it took patience to get this business off the ground. "We had seven years of on-again, off-again negotiations to open up the rail siding at KBA, formerly the Stokely Van Camp facility," he explains. "With help from a good friend who worked in Washington DC and the Surface Transportation Board, KBA acquired rail service on the CSX." CSX is a leading supplier of rail-based freight transportation in North America.

When Allen and his team acquired the site, they had a unique vision for how to use the space. "We changed the facility which was previously used for food production into a multiple business use facility," he says. "We



Allen's other businesses include East Lynn Fertilizer, Aquality Solutions, and Allen Farms.

now have several businesses using parts of the complex for diverse projects."

New technology means the company can now weigh trucks on a scale by computer, with the weigher several miles away. Allen says the technology has reduced labor costs but, as with all advances, has also caused other challenges along the way.

KBA brings the best of all worlds to the northern part of the county. The company draws extensive business from customers outside the area while also using local vendors and employing area residents.

Taking good care of customers is the common denominator across all of Allen's businesses. "All of our clients are treated the same," he says. "If they need something, they get it with very little wait time." He credits his team of "top-notch employees" with KBA's ability to deliver excellent service.

KBA is going strong, and the company is in the early stages of a new building project this Spring.

For more information or to learn more about KBA Limited, call 217-772-2061.



Oakwood Public Library Offers More than Just Books

The Oakwood Public Library may be small on the outside but Director Tammi Helka says, "We definitely have a big heart and shelves full of books for any reader to take on an imaginary adventure!"

The Oakwood Public Library provides a fun, interactive, and safe place for community members of all ages. The library was established in 1987 and the current building was erected in 1997.

The library is free to anyone who lives within the Oakwood school district, which includes no fines for late items. Residents can utilize the library by checking out books or using one of the downloadable apps. All Oakwood library events are open to anyone, even if a person does not live in the district.



Oakwood Public Library Director Tammy Helka with Clifford the Big Red Dog

"I think people would be surprised to know the library is for more than just checking out books," says Helka. "We have three apps for patrons to use and check out books on their electronic devices and we have storytime once a week. We also have a book walk that takes place down



the Kickapoo Rail Trail. It features a new book each month for families to read while getting a little fresh air. We also started a seed library for patrons to come into the library and get seeds for their gardens. We offer a monthly adult book club."

"The Oakwood Farmer's Market is the biggest event we are doing this summer"

In 2019 the Village of Oakwood started a Farmers Market but in 2020 it was canceled due to Covid. This year the library relaunched the market. "The Oakwood Farmer's Market is the biggest event we are doing this summer," says Helka. "We have been working hard since March to get everything in place to offer a variety of home-grown, home-baked, and homemade goods from local vendors. We currently have 20 vendors signed up to participate in the market. The market will run from June 16-October 6 on Wednesdays from 5-7 pm. We will be located near the Kickapoo Rail Trail on E South Main St. and S. Scott St."

In December of 2020, the library offered a special event that allowed patrons to read and earn "book bucks." If the patron wanted to donate their "book bucks," the library took the donation and purchased items for community members that needed extra help for the holiday season. The Oakwood Public

Library was able to purchase about 24 gift bags with hats, gloves, socks, and a small toy.

"2020 is a year no one will forget," says Helka. "We have learned to be ready for anything at any given time. When the governor shut down last March, we weren't expecting it and I had to quickly clean the library and prepare for ways we could help patrons remotely. Personally, I learned that you need to take every moment you can with those that you love. My family enjoys camping and when the state opened back up and we were able to go camping, we went as often as possible to see as much as we could."

Helka believes Vermilion Advantage helps the Oakwood Public Library "by being a great resource to reach our patrons and other community members that may not know of all that we have to offer."

For more information, stop by the Oakwood Public Library at 110 E. Finley, visit oakwood.lib.il.us, or call 217-354-4777.

Oakwood Farmers Market

Wednesdays from 5-7 PM

June 16-October 6

Near the Kickapoo Rail Trail
at Main + Scott Streets

Watchfire Signs Earns Great Place to Work® Designation

The secret is out. Watchfire Signs in Danville is officially a Great Place to Work®. The designation comes as a result of Watchfire conducting an anonymous survey earlier this year among its employees. “We wanted to learn how we could celebrate and encourage our workforce, and if there are things we should be doing better or differently,” says Megan Hale, Watchfire's HR Director. “We value our employees and their feedback, so it was an important undertaking. We chose a survey partner, Great Place to Work®, because they offered an independent and confidential way to assess our workplace. The survey also



helped us to identify areas where we can improve, and we are looking at each of those areas to determine how to better serve our employees.”

The survey results demonstrated that 87% of respondents said Watchfire was a Great Place to Work. In addition, 95% said they are “proud to tell others I work here,” and 97% said Watchfire is “a physically safe place to work.”

Many employees cited the work culture and healthy work environment as reasons for the positive responses. They also mentioned managers at the executive level are engaged and listen

to those on their teams, work/life balance is prioritized, and teamwork is noticed and recognized.



The survey results demonstrated that 87% of respondents said Watchfire was a Great Place to Work.

Watchfire Signs designs and engineers the “best looking, most durable LED signs and digital billboards to help businesses and organizations increase visibility and drive growth,” says Hale. Headquartered in Danville, Watchfire manufactures digital signs using meticulously sourced components from around the world and has more than 60,000 signs in operation worldwide.

Watchfire Signs established production in Vermilion County in 1945, after moving from Sangamon County. The company employs over 325 people, the vast majority of whom report to work in the Danville headquarters.

Watchfire's core business, manufacturing LED signs that benefit businesses and organizations on Main Street, is thriving. After a year of uncertainty for many businesses, the company's on-premise sign division is experiencing an exciting year. “Our sports and indoor displays are expanding in those markets with recent notable projects that include the Rantoul Family Sports Complex, Union High School's Stadium in Tulsa, Okla., and Tradition, a real estate development in Port St. Lucie, Fla.,” says Hale.



watchfire



Chad Sollars is a Westville graduate who was also the Project Manager for Watchfire on the Westville project.

Locally, the company recently finished a new video board on the football field at Westville High School. The project was especially meaningful because several WHS alumni were involved in the completion and installation of the project.

Because Watchfire manufactures LED

signs, displays, and billboards, many think of the company solely as a hardware manufacturer. “But without robust software to run it, a digital display is just a box of wires and lights,” explains Hale. “Our staff includes a talented group of software engineers who write the software that makes our products run, delivers diagnostics, and handles content management for every sign, display, and billboard we sell. We also have a Research and Development department that is constantly seeking ways to improve every product. We take the best LED signs produced and work every day to make them better.”

Hale believes in the advantages east central Illinois offers. “Vermilion County sits at the crossroads of America,” says Hale.

“In addition to a workforce that embodies a Midwestern work ethic, Danville Area Community College brings resources that prepare potential employees in a variety of fields. Our location in proximity to larger cities like Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis means that Vermilion County can offer the benefits of small-town living without sacrificing access to big-city attractions.”

To learn more about Watchfire Signs visit them at watchfiresigns.com, find them on Facebook and Twitter @watchfiresigns, or call (217) 442-0611. To learn more about job openings, visit watchfiresigns.com/careers.



Watchfire currently has position openings in sales, software development, project management, and field services. Several positions are located in different areas of the country, so remote work is possible. Visit watchfiresigns.com/careers for more information.



Ellsworth Park Redevelopment: A New Take on Danville's Oldest Park



Danville's Ellsworth Park offers exciting new options for area residents and visitors alike. Recent project upgrades include a new restroom/concession building, new picnic shelter, new playground, paved walking path, a multi-purpose field (football/soccer), new basketball court, 9-hole disc golf course, and an access trail into the park from Logan & Main.

Ellsworth Park dates back to 1881, making it Danville's oldest park. In the early 1900's it was the premier recreational destination for the area, featuring a swimming beach, 9-hole golf course, and a horse racing track. Over the years these amenities have been removed and the park lost much of its popularity.

"The disc golf course popularity has been an unexpected surprise," says Steve Lane, Superintendent of Parks and Public Property for the City of Danville. "Users began playing before

the course work was even completed. It appears many, if not most of the participants are coming from out-of-town. We hope to add a second nine holes to the course in the near future. This would allow disc golf tournaments to take place at Ellsworth which would no doubt attract more visitors."

Lane says having ample nearby recreational opportunities is important in attracting new residents and employers to Danville. The park's proximity to downtown also adds to its value. There are long-term plans to extend the Kickapoo Rail Trail another four miles east to Danville. The trail would connect to the city at Ellsworth Park. The recent low head dam removal on the Vermilion River creates an opportunity to canoe or kayak the unobstructed Vermilion River System over 30 miles in Vermilion County. Ellsworth Park would be the halfway point of a two-day trip.

While the improvements aren't quite complete, the park is already seeing increased usage. Plans are being made to provide pedestrian access between the new Carle facility and the park.

The Ellsworth Project was funded by an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The City is responsible for providing a 50% match to the grant funds. Most of the park improvements have been constructed in-house by City staff. This also includes the site concept design and site engineering. "Performing these tasks in-house helps provide the grant match and saves the City thousands of dollars, says Lane.

The project has been environmentally friendly as well. Outdated security and activity lighting has been replaced with more attractive energy-efficient LED fixtures. Over one acre of unused asphalt pavement has been removed and replaced with turf and wildflower plantings. Base material for the old asphalt has been recycled and reused as a base for the new sidewalks and basketball court. Over 25 native trees have been planted at the project site.

For more information, scheduled events will be posted on the City of Danville website which is currently under construction.



Meet Steve Lane, Superintendent of Parks and Public Property for the City of Danville



How long have you been employed by the City?

Over 23 years.

Tell us about your job.

I started as Superintendent of Parks and

Public Property, which is my current title. However, the job has evolved and expanded greatly over the years. My responsibilities include overseeing maintenance and improvements of all City park areas, downtown, and other public lands. I am responsible for maintenance and improvements of public buildings including City Hall, Public Works Facility, fire stations, etc. I also fill the role as the City Forester, managing trees on public right-of-ways.

How long have you lived in Vermilion County?

All my life.

What are the top priorities for your position?

One of the most important things we can do is make our city an interesting and attractive place where people will want to live. We are challenged to keep our parks and recreational facilities well maintained

and safe for all users and provide recreation opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I get enjoyment from being a part of bigger projects such as the Ellsworth Redevelopment which improves the lives of many as well as having the opportunity to help a citizen with a small problem that is important to them as an individual.

Tell us about working for the City of Danville?

We have many employees with different backgrounds, education, and skills. If I have a problem that is outside my expertise, I know I can always get assistance and advice from team members in other departments or divisions. The planning and execution of a single Public Works project frequently involve input from multiple divisions.

Spherion Delivers Service at McLane Midwest in Danville

Cindy Somers, Franchise Owner of Spherion in central Illinois, is excited to be a part of the Vermilion County business community. Her company recently began partnering with McLane Midwest to host local hiring events.

Spherion is a national recruiting and staffing enterprise that blends the resources of a global HR company with the local insights of the company's independent franchise owners. A pioneer in the staffing industry, Spherion has been providing companies with the workforce solutions they need for over 75 years while helping people find jobs and build careers where they can thrive. Locally owned and operated, the franchise in Champaign-Urbana, IL is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Somers bought the Decatur, IL market in 2008 and recently expanded to Danville, IL in 2020.

Locally, Spherion has offices in Savoy, IL, Decatur, IL, an On-Site in Rantoul, IL, and now offers services at McLane Midwest in Danville, IL. The team travels to McLane weekly to host on-site hiring events. "We have enjoyed partnering with Penny Hunter, the HR Manager at McLane," says Somers.



Owner Cindy Somers at one of our many recruiting events - we are always hiring!

Technology and the way people search and apply for jobs have changed significantly in the last 10 years. "We work hard to combine tech and touch," she says. "We make applying and getting hired as easy as possible with technology but still offer the personal touch; interviewing candidates and trying to find them rewarding work that matches their goals."

Somers knows the staff is the



differentiator for her company. "We have tenured staff that cares about positively impacting people's lives by helping them find rewarding work."

The pandemic brought out the best in the Spherion team. "Our staff has been very accommodating to make sure applicants feel comfortable with all the new safety protocols," she says. "We have handed out masks to new employees and have done lots of virtual interviews! It taught us to be flexible and patient, appreciate what we have, and don't take anything for granted."

Spherion is an active member of the Champaign and Macon County communities including volunteer work and giving back through the Boys & Girls Club, Rotary, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, and many more. They also

have an annual give-back campaign where the company donates money back to a worthy cause in each community they serve.

"We make applying and getting hired as easy as possible"

Vermilion County's location and partners are two of the strengths the Spherion team appreciates. Somers and her team are looking forward to getting familiar with the community through their participation with Vermilion Advantage.

To learn more about Spherion, call 217-359-4488, visit spherion.com or find them on Facebook @[spherionchampaignillinois](https://www.facebook.com/spherionchampaignillinois).

Dream Comes True for Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame

The dream of creating a Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame is becoming a reality at the Palmer Arena in Danville. An inaugural class of individuals and teams has been selected. Plaques and photos honoring the selections will line the concourse walls of the Palmer Arena.

outstanding athletic achievement by athletes, coaches, teams, and others from 50 high schools and Danville Area Community College in eastern Illinois and western Indiana. Names of potential honorees came from recommendations and suggestions from area residents.

The Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame is designed to honor

The group putting together the selections and completing the work for the Hall of Fame are:



Inaugural Inductees: Gene Gourley, Fowler Connell and John Spezia

- John Spezia – long-time local, national and international basketball coach and Chairman of the Palmer Arena Board of Directors
- Jim Sheppard – Hall of Fame Public Address Announcer for the University of Illinois basketball and football for many years
- Joe Dunagan – General Manager of the Palmer Arena
- Lions Club, thanks to the work of William Wallpe and Greg Green

The Hall of Fame inaugural induction ceremony has been postponed due to COVID and will be rescheduled for a date in 2022.

The inaugural class includes:

Athletes

- Edmund "Zeke" Bratkowski, Schlarman
- Richard Byrd, Milford
- Mike Christian, Schlarman
- Candace Dark, Fountain Central
- Greg Davis, Schlarman
- Tony "Bones" Davis, Schlarman
- Wilbur "Sonny" Dickson, Danville
- Darrin Fletcher, Oakwood
- Tom Fletcher, Oakwood
- Mike Hatfield, Hoopeston - East Lynn
- Tiffany Johnson, Danville
- Steve Jones, DACC
- Anthony Jones, Danville
- Richard "Sleepy" Klein, Schlarman
- Joe Krakoski, Westville
- Lia Biehl Lukkarenin, Oakwood
- Greg Matta, Hoopeston - East Lynn
- Kristin McBride, Hoopeston Area
- Bill "Fig" Newton, Rockville
- Kyle O'Brien, DACC
- Stephanie White, Seeger
- Sean Wilkus, Westville
- Bryan Williams, Schlarman
- Britney Rayburn, Attica
- Ron Rigoni, Danville
- Tom Smerdel, Danville
- Josh "Smitty" Smith, Attica
- Gabe Spezia, Westville
- Willie Stinson, Schlarman
- Melvin "Cotton" Whitlock, Danville
- Rich Stoll, Attica

Coaches

- Roger Beals, Chrisman
- Greg Colby, Schlarman
- Randy Feller, Hoopeston Area
- Gene Gourley, Danville
- Terry Hill, DACC
- Greg Kirby, Danville
- Dave Markwell, Oakwood
- Thad Matta, Hoopeston - East Lynn
- Clayton Miller, Westville
- Paul Shebby, Danville/Schlarman
- Mike Small, Danville
- John Spezia, DACC
- Joe Springer, DACC
- Ray Wittmann, Oakwood

Legends

- Fowler Connell, Commercial-News, WDAN
- Max Shaffer, WDAN
- Glenn "Braz" Brasel, Hoopeston
- Jim Hellwig, Fountain Central
- Gene Lash, Danville
- Jim Richards, Hoopeston
- Jim Sheppard, University of Illinois
- Virgil Sweet, Covington
- Ned Whitesell, Danville

Teams

- Attica—2001 Boys Basketball IHSAA Class A State Champions
- Chrisman—1989 Boys Cross Country IHSAA Class A State Champions
- Chrisman—1989 Girls Cross Country IHSAA Class A State Champions

- DACC—1991 Men's Basketball NJCAA Div. II National Champions
- DACC—1994 Men's Cross Country NJCAA Div. II National Champions
- DACC—1993 Women's Cross Country NJCAA Div. II National Champions
- Danville—1982 Boys Golf IHSAA Class AA State Champions
- Danville—1946 Boys Tennis IHSAA State Champions
- Danville—1925 Boys Track & Field IHSAA State Co-Champions
- Fountain Central—1983 Football IHSAA Class A State Champions
- North Vermillion—2002 Girls Basketball IHSAA Class A State Champions
- Schlarman—1980 Football IHSAA Class 2A State Champions
- Seeger—2004 Football IHSAA Class A State Champions
- Turkey Run—1996 Softball IHSAA State Champions
- Westville—1928 Football Record 10-0 (unscored upon)

All the individuals and teams in the inaugural class of the Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame have unique stories of their achievements and contributions to the community.

For more information contact: John Spezia 217-274-8898, coachspeziainc@aol.com or Joe Dunagan (217) 431-2424, jdunagan@palmerarena.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:

(Level \$6,000 - \$9,999)

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

ADVANTAGE MILLENNIUM MEMBER:

(Level \$2,500 - \$5,999)

AmerenIP
Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center
Catlin Bank
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

ADVANTAGE EXECUTIVE MEMBER:

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

Acton & Snyder, LLP
Anderson Electric, Inc.
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
Escape Day Spa

Express Employment Professionals
Faulstich Printing Company
First Farmers Bank & Trust
First Savings Bank of Danville
Flex-N-Gate Plastics
Heritage Development
Heritage Health Therapy and Senior Care
Hubner Industries, LLC
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.
Vermilion County Bobcats
Village of Catlin

ADVANTAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

(Level \$500 - \$999)*

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

112 Wine & Coffee
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
Built 2 Last Construction
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 & Delano, 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

Enel Green Power Salt Springs
EPIC Insurance Midwest
Farnsworth Group
First Institute Training & Mgmt., Inc.
FLP Wealth Advisors of Raymond James
Ford of Hoopeston
**Freeman General Contracting
Full-Fill Industries, LLC
Gailey Eye Clinic
Gardenview Manor
Gibson Teldata, Inc.
Greene Galvanized Stairs
Group 2029 Inc. (d/b/a Burger King)
Health Alliance Medical Plans
Heartland Properties, Inc.
Hickory Point Bank
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites / Hampton Inn & Suites
Hoopeston Coin Laundry
Home Instead Senior Care
Homefield Energy
HRW, Inc.
Hussmann Rogers Law, LLC
IBEW Local 538
Illini Castings, LLC
Illume Counseling and Wellness Center
International Greenhouse Co.- Danville
JAC Property Management
Jocko's Depot / Diveley Development Corp.
Kick Me Shirts
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
Love's Travel Stop
Lowe's
Martin Hood, LLC
Mattress Firm
MH Equipment
MI-BOX Moving & Mobile Storage
Newton's Cleaning & Restoration, LLC
Pepsi-Cola C-U Bottling Co.
Portal Entertainment Group
Prince of Peace Community Early Learning Center
Randal Ashton, DDS
Ray O'Herron Company
Redimere Surface Solutions
RE/Max Ultimate
Revive Salon & Spa
River Bottom Farms Topsoil
Robinson Chiropractic, Ltd.
R.S. Quick Properties
Russell Leigh & Associates
Salt Fork CUSD #512
Second Church of Christ
Sentry Roofing, Inc.
Shore Wealth Management
Silgan Containers
SK Exteriors
Slumberland Furniture
Spherion
Steel Grip, Inc.
T.H. Snyder Co.- Architectural Woodwork Div.

Terminix Services, Inc.
The Andersons Rail Group
Townway Place, LLC
Toyota of Danville
Trillium Staffing
Turtle Run Golf & Banquet Center
Two Roads Wellness Clinic
United Rentals
Venture Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Vermilion Chevrolet
Vermilion County Conservation District
Vermilion County Title, Inc.
Vermilion Regional Airport Authority
Vermilion River Beer Company
Vermilion Valley Produce Co., Inc.
Vermilion Valley Railroad
Veterans Affairs Illiana Health Care System
Village of Fithian
Village of Tilton
W & T Enterprises L.P.
WCIA Nexstar Broadcasting
Westville CUSD #2
Whipper Snappers Southern Grill
WITY Illiana Communications, LLC
Woodard's Computing Services

**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.
Gibson Health of Hoopeston
Glesco Electric, 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
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 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
Tridan International, Inc.
Vermilion County Health Department
Vermilion Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Vermilion House
Vibrant Credit Union
Village of Bismarck
Village of Henning
Village of Potomac
WhiteSmith Marketing Group, Inc.

**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
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Danville
Arts In The Park, Inc.
Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness
Bennett, Scott (Senator)
Better Business Bureau - 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 Development Institute/Head Start
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 Library Foundation
Danville Public Library
Danville Public School Foundation
Danville Sunrise Rotary
Danville Symphony Orchestra
Danville Tennis Center
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.
Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries, Inc.
Laura Lee Fellowship House Association
Law Office of Bethany D. Hager
Midwest Print and Sign Specialists, LLC
Monyok Leadership Coaching
New Directions Treatment Center
Oakwood Public Library District
Prairieland Council - Boy Scouts of America
Premier Network Solutions
Project Success of Vermilion Co., Inc.
Red Mask Players, Inc.
Rodman Business Center
Roland Lim Photography
Schlarman Academy
Shannon Schroeder, Young Living Marketing Professionals, Best of Oil Team
Spring Hill Cemetery
St. James United Methodist Church
STEP Recovery Center
Stephens-Felix, Stacy - Fountain Insurance
Survivor Resource Center
Swires, Bob
The Fischer Theatre
The Salvation Army
Trinity Lutheran School
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
Westville American Legion Post 51
WorkSource Enterprises
Zindars Property Management, LLC

**ADVANTAGE HOME-BASED ADULTS, FULL-TIME
STUDENTS, OR RETIREES:**

(Level \$100)
Anderson, Jim
Bennett, State Rep. Tom
Beynon, Mark
Block, Gerald R.
Brude, 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 ACCOLADES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS

Don and Deanna Witzel, Owner/Operators of the Witzel Family McDonald's have announced Employees of the Month



June Employee of the Month

- Hometown Stars McDonald's.....Myles Potter
- Classic Rock-n-Roll.....Alex Ritchie
- Oakwood.....Kaitlin Martin
- Georgetown.....Tim Hart
- Hoopston.....Tori Birge
- Neighborhood McDonald's.....Lana Warren



Vermilion-Advantage FUN-raiser

29th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

DANVILLE COUNTRY CLUB | FRIDAY, AUGUST 20TH, 2021




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