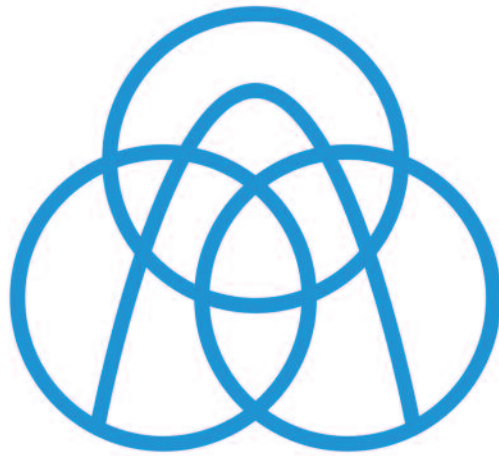


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thyssenkrupp



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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.

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FEATURED MEMBER



AQUALITY SOLUTIONS OFFERING WATER SERVICES FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN VERMILION COUNTY

Left to right: Brodie Ziehr, Kent Schippert, Zack Hunt, Dave Schippert, Roger Allen, Tim George, Tracy Scherf, Michael Zoller, Hunter Brown, Bob Piechaczek, Carter Martin.
Front left to right: Quanee George, Kathy Baur, Brooke Allen

Keith Allen, President and Owner of AQUALITY SOLUTIONS LLC, is a big fan of Vermilion County. “I’ve had the opportunity to deal with some of the finest people God ever created over the years,” he says. “If I had to do it all over again I would do it here – it’s a great place to live!”

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS is a local, family-owned water solutions company dedicated to improving the water quality of their clients. The company specializes in water softener rental, sales and service including salt delivery, water bottling and delivery in sizes ranging from small bottles to 5-gallon containers, along with water testing.

Serving East Central Illinois and West Central Indiana since 1965, AQUALITY SOLUTIONS was purchased by Allen in 2011. In 2018, he moved the company to Hoopston while also keeping an office in Attica Indiana.

Their team of experts is dedicated to consistently providing homes and businesses with water treatment services required to

consistently provide fresh, clean, and clear water. Customer satisfaction has been the key to their success.

Whether customers are looking for a new water treatment system to clean existing water, a bottled water delivery service or a drinking water system free of contaminants, AQUALITY SOLUTIONS has a wide variety of options at a competitive price. They also offer top-quality hard water softeners. “Helping you find the right solutions to your water problems is what has kept us in business for the past five decades and what will keep us in business for many more decades to come,” says Allen.

Most modern water systems are efficient at meeting safety and quality standards imposed by municipalities, according to the AQUALITY website. “This ensures that your water is safe to drink and use, but it does not mean it couldn’t always be made better, fresher tasting and pure. It doesn’t even take into consideration well-water systems.”

AQUALITY offers home and business water



testing as a first step to learn about existing water quality and any issues. The company believes education and information are vital to making the right decisions regarding important matters like improved drinking water. With the results of the water analysis, home and business owners then work with the AQUALITY team to learn about the range of options available.

Along with AQUALITY SOLUTIONS, Allen also owns other northern Vermilion County businesses including East Lynn Fertilizer Inc, KBALimited LLC and Allen Farms.

Anyone in Vermilion County interested in learning more about AQUALITY’s water solutions or employment opportunities, can call 217-375-4225, visit myaquahero.com or email info@aqualitysolutions.com.

CAREER CORNER

Now Hiring thyssenkrupp Crankshaft Company



Left to right: John Vogt, Head of HR; Marcelo Prado, CEO; Tom Coursey, CFO

If you or someone you know is looking for immediate employment in the fast-growing world of manufacturing, thyssenkrupp Crankshaft wants to hear from you. With a high school diploma (or equivalency), an interest in technology and hands-on work, a willingness to learn, and a strong work ethic the company is offering careers for a lifetime.

thyssenkrupp Forged Technologies North America (tk FT NA), which includes tk Crankshaft, produces an impressive range of products including undercarriage systems for heavy machinery as well as crankshafts, connecting rods, pistons, chassis products, transmission systems, and rotor shafts for the heavy-duty and automotive industry. The Danville locations forge and machine heavy-duty crankshafts for the class 8 market of

on-road and off-road applications. The Veedersburg, IN location forges automotive crankshafts.

“From the perspective of our business, eight out of 10 trucks on the road in the world have a tk Forged Technologies part and over 60% of semi-trucks in North America have a crankshaft manufactured locally by tk Crankshaft,” says Marcelo do Prado, CEO Forged Technologies NA.

About the Company

thyssenkrupp AG is a German-owned conglomerate that integrated Forging & Machining and Undercarriage businesses to create a new business unit called Forged Technologies (FT) in October 2017. tk FT has 7,000 employees at 18 production sites in

seven countries with sales of over one billion euros.

tk Crankshaft headquartered in Danville, IL became part of tk Forged Technologies North America (tk FT NA) Region. tk FT NA operates three companies including tk Crankshaft in Danville, IL and Veedersburg, IN; tk Berco of America with operations in Waukesha, WI, Greensboro, NC, and Puyallup, WA; and tk Metalúrgica de México in Puebla. The Forged Technologies NA Region employs over 1000 people in seven locations with 400 in the Danville, IL & Veedersburg, IN area. tk Crankshaft’s Machining Plant is located on Lynch Road in Danville. The facility provides the company with a state-of-the-art machining capacity adjacent to the forging plant. Today, tk

Crankshaft has three plants including Danville Forge with a 12,000-ton press, Danville Machining operating four machining lines, and Veedersburg Forge with a 6,000-ton press.

CEO Marcelo do Prado came to Danville from Campo Limpo, Brazil five years ago and has a 30+ year career with thyssenkrupp. Thomas Coursey serves as CFO of tk FT NA and has been with thyssenkrupp in Danville for 12 years. John Vogt, Head of Human Resources for tk FT NA, has been with tk for eight years and a Danville resident for the past 30 years.

High Tech Training + Hands-On Work: A Valuable Employee Benefit

As a high-tech manufacturing business, the skills required have evolved from manual operations to automated and robotic operations with precision quality. To install and maintain these large hydraulic presses, PLC, and robotic machining technology requires a significant investment in the tk Crankshaft workforce training and development programs. “We have a comprehensive, in-house skills training and pay system for all labor levels of the

organization,” says Vogt. “We like to refer to this training as a career development process. We can help an individual who has at least a high school education or equivalent learn to operate PLC machines and grow a career in production, maintenance, quality, engineering, and leadership roles with our company.”

Even with advances in technology and automation, the manufacturing industry will always need hands-on trade skills. These essential core trade skills are the foundation for advancing in engineering and technology. “The school systems need to find a way to assist the manufacturing industry to once again promote the idea of trade skills and industrial arts offerings,” says do Prado. “Manufacturing companies rely on the local labor force to provide these basic trade skills and then with our in-house company specialized training we can prepare employees for a career to support themselves and their families for years to come.”

The company operates in a highly competitive worldwide manufacturing environment. “A large portion of the heavy-duty trucking industry demand is based in the US,” says Coursey. “While our customers do

prefer components to be made in the US, it’s an internal tk competitive process to place business where we have the best quality and most cost-effective source to deliver to our customers. Surviving in the US manufacturing arena for over 40 years in Danville is a testament to the company’s fortitude.”

The COVID pandemic created a new work dynamic for the company. While implementing strict health protocols to protect employees, the company has been able to minimize COVID outbreaks and still meet needed production volumes. “In 2020, we learned how resilient our workforce can be and we are proud of the results of the team during this pandemic time,” says do Prado. “Our employees have stepped up to meet our customer requirements. We cannot thank our employees enough for all the extra efforts.”

tk Crankshaft is a longtime supporter of Vermilion County organizations including local fundraisers, Balloons Over Vermilion, American Legion Youth Baseball, and the NJCAA Division 2 Men’s Basketball Tournament hosted by Danville Area Community College.

Just some of what makes thyssenkrupp Crankshaft unique:

- A 12,000-ton hydraulic press forms a 500-pound crankshaft from a piece of raw steel.
- Precision machining transforms a forged crankshaft into a fully machined crankshaft ready for OEM installation.
- Highly diverse workforce including more than a dozen transferred employees from tk Brazilian operations with crankshaft-specific engineering experience, providing engineering expertise and training. Also, over 20 other internationally sponsored employees.
- Technical and precision measurements in microns, not inches or centimeters.

WE ARE HIRING IN ALL PLANTS!



Positions in Greatest Demand: Machine Operators, Electronic Technicians, and Controls Engineers.

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How to Apply: Visit www.indeed.com, search: Crankshaft, and apply immediately. To check your application status, machine operator candidates can call Amber at 217-444-5419, and maintenance/electronic candidates can call Katie at 217-444-5279.



Now Hiring thysssenkrupp Presta

Ready for a new career with a Vermilion County company that manufactures camshafts for the Automotive Industry? thysssenkrupp Presta, LLC in Danville is looking for candidates who are interested in a fast-paced job with plenty of growth potential.

Kimberly Schackmann, Head of HR Development/Environmental Health and Safety for tk Presta, says people are often surprised when they visit. “We always hear that people cannot believe how clean our facility is and that it’s climate-controlled,” she says. “We really take pride in that. But aside from the cleanliness, they are also surprised to learn that we manufacture camshafts for many of the leading automotive companies.”

About the Company

thysssenkrupp Presta, LLC in Danville, IL is a leading manufacturer of assembled

camshafts, valve train components, and cylinder heads for the automotive industry. The facility employs approximately 350 people. tk Presta in Danville was deemed essential to the US Infrastructure as a tier one supplier to General Motors, Ford, FCA, Hyundai, and many others.

tk Presta is a U.S. subsidiary of thysssenkrupp Presta Camshafts, LLC, headquartered in Ilsenburg, Germany, which is a subsidiary of parent company, thysssenkrupp AG. thysssenkrupp is an international group of companies comprising largely independent industrial and technology businesses

thysssenkrupp Presta came to Vermilion County almost 30 years ago.

Working at tk Presta

Schackmann says the people make tk Presta a great place to work. “We have talented, intelligent, and caring people who work at

our facility! Many of our current leaders once started in production and know the process from the foundational level so they understand the challenges and make tremendous efforts to be part of the solution.”

Employee Development is highly valued with an emphasis on helping everyone succeed in their current job and/or allowing them opportunities to succeed in another area within the company. Schackmann says it’s common for team members to start in one role and advance to another within a relatively short amount of time. “If employees put in the time and effort, it does not go unnoticed,” she adds.

“We always have members of the team taking advantage of the Tuition Assistance Program. On any given year, we have, at a minimum, 10 individuals enrolled! Team members also enjoy the City of Danville Corporate Membership Program and our



“We always hear that people cannot believe how clean our facility is and that it’s climate-controlled.”

excellent Benefits Package which includes a healthy 401k contribution. We also have a tk Talents Program where individuals who perform at a high level can be nominated for a development opportunity by their manager. Many leaders in the organization have been part of this program.”

tk Presta supports many local organizations. The company appreciates Vermilion Advantage’s work to create a platform to provide a voice and the ability to partner when needed. “Vermilion Advantage has helped us with our recruiting efforts for external candidates by providing housing resources and community tours for many years!” she adds.

Just some of what makes thyssenkrupp Presta unique:

- Manufactures camshafts for the automotive industry.
- Facilities are climate controlled.
- Many company leaders started in production and advanced to their current position.
- Employs over 350 people.



YES, WE ARE HIRING!

Positions in Greatest Demand: Production for Machine Operators and Maintenance for Mechatronics Technicians.

What’s Required:

Machine Operators - No specifics are required but it’s seemingly beneficial for individuals who have prior Manufacturing experience.

Mechatronics Technician - Associate Degree or equivalent. A Mechatronics Certificate is preferred.

How To Apply: All thyssenkrupp Presta job openings are posted on indeed.com with the keyword “Presta.” The company also utilizes the Vermilion Advantage job board at vermilionadvantage.com/job-board.

DACC Ag Program Offers Exciting New Options



Brandy Marron, Associate Professor of Agriculture at Danville Area Community College (DACC), thinks people may not have a clear picture of farmers and people in the Ag industry. “The modern farmer is an agronomist, animal scientist, soil scientist, engineer, computer expert, and marketing expert all wrapped into one,” she says. “They must keep up with the latest technology, hybrids, and computer software.”

DACC added an Aquaponics program and FarmBot technology to offer students new options for the expanding agriculture career field.

Aquaponics is the integration of aquaculture and hydroponics. The basic premise behind the system is that waste products from the fish are converted into usable nutrients for the plants, and the plants in turn clean the water for the fish. The DACC system has both a deep-water culture (DWC) bed and media beds. Leafy greens tend to grow well in DWC, while

plants that may need a bit more stability, like herbs, tend to grow well in the media beds.

“The modern farmer is an agronomist, animal scientist, soil scientist, engineer, computer expert, and marketing expert all wrapped into one.”

The FarmBot is a robotic gardening tool. It is a simple CNC machine incorporated via web app to a computer, tablet, or smart phone. The app is used to create a template for the garden bed, and the robot will then plant, water, weed, and provide soil measurements to the user. Once operational, it is a completely hands-off gardening robot.

“Both of these systems are integrated into my Ag program in various classes,”

explains Marron. “My Crop Science students will use the aquaponics system to understand plant/root development and basic plant chemistry. Crop Science and Soil Science students will use the FarmBot to design and execute experiments involving nutrient management and plant development.” Both will also be utilized by other curriculums including green energy and robotics.

Since joining the DACC staff, Marron has developed new courses including Ag Sales, UAS Technology, Computing Applications, and Precision Ag. “I still have some work to do, but I am very happy with the new courses,” she adds. “The new technology (drones, software, aquaponics, FarmBot) that I’ve been able to purchase through our generous grant programs and Foundation has allowed me to really propel and modernize the program.”

Agriculture is broad with many different facets, making it a good fit for a wide range of abilities and interests. “If someone is

interested in plant or animal science, agronomy, or animal science careers such as research, extension, or production Ag can be great fits,” she says. “If someone prefers the business side, Ag offers many opportunities in accounting, commodity marketing, international business, and sales. The development of precision technology requires engineers and computer science professionals to play a major role in the industry. Ag education has grown in the last few years as more and more high schools are developing Ag programs in the state.”

Some DACC Ag students choose to transfer to a four-year university and study Veterinary Medicine, Crop Science, or business degrees to name just a few options. Some students opt for earning a two-year AAS degree to work for local Ag companies or go back to help with the family farm. Most graduates find jobs quickly. Many companies offer internships to DACC students during the school year and summer months, often leading to a job offer.

Marron says her students and the DACC

staff make coming to work every day a joy. “I usually have the same students each semester, so I get to know them, their families, what’s going on in their lives, and their interests,” she says. “I’ll help them on their career path if I can, make connections for them, and help them with internships.

“My fellow faculty in the Business and Technology department are an amazing group of professionals. Even though we teach various subjects, we are always trying to learn about each other’s programs, and try to integrate them whenever possible. This allows students to see things they may not otherwise get to experience. For example, our green energy students are putting in solar panels and a windmill to power the Aquaponics system and FarmBot. Our robotics and manufacturing students performed the FarmBot assembly, and I had an amazing student from another program help with the aquaponics assembly.”

To learn more at the Danville Area Community College Ag programs, visit dacc.edu, email Brandy Marron at

bmarron@dacc.edu, or find the program on Facebook @Brandy Marron Ag Instructor. Marron may also be reached in her office at 217-443-8713.



Brandy Marron



MEMBER PROFILES

Danville Area Community College Foundation Providing Hope and Help for Area Students

The Danville Area Community College (DACC) Foundation continues to offer life-changing scholarships and services for area residents. In the last few years, steady growth means scholarships and assets have increased and a food pantry was added to Foundation operations, now offering frozen food.

DACC Foundation is a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting and supporting DACC through fundraising and stewardship of the Foundation's resources, with belief in the College's positive, educational, cultural, and economic impact on the communities it serves. It was established in 1964.

Services include scholarships for students, professional development of faculty through endowed chairs, operation of a food pantry, and capital and technology support for the College and its students and staff.

The DACC Foundation staff include Sandra Dreher, Controller/Office Manager; Gina Davis, Office Assistant/Scholarship Coordinator; and Tonya Hill, Executive Director/Grant Development

Annually in September, the Foundation hosts its Honors Day Program to unite and honor donors and scholarship recipients. "September 18, 2020, we held our first ever Virtual Honors Day program and had 500 viewers witness the gift of 553 scholarships, with awards valued at \$650K," says Mrs. Hill. "The Foundation offers scholarships starting at \$100 to complete paid tuition, books, and fees."

About Scholarships

Like the student recipients, donors who support the DACC Foundation scholarships are a study in the very best of Vermilion County residents. Two scholarships are perfect examples.

The Lowell and Florence Crawford Scholarship was established for students attending DACC in Business or Nursing. Mr. Crawford was the President of Palmer Bank and worked there for over 30 years. Mrs. Crawford served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during WWII and after the war, she worked at Lakeview Hospital. They both believed in DACC and the power of education. With a generous bequest from Mrs. Crawford's estate, this scholarship fund provides full tuition, fees, and books for one full year and is renewable for two more years. It is the largest financial scholarship awarded.

The Sgt. Myron Deckard Scholarship was established by family and friends after he passed while serving his community. As a Vermilion County Sheriff's Deputy, he was a stellar law enforcement officer, a good friend, and a proud family man. The scholarship is now endowed due to the efforts of fundraising by the Danville Rifle and Pistol Club. This scholarship benefits students who are



Tonya Hill

the dependent of a law enforcement officer or a member or dependent of a member of the Danville Rifle and Pistol Club.

“We highly encourage every student to apply for our DACC Foundation Scholarships even if unsure of career or educational path,” explains Mrs. Hill. “All DACC students, regardless of age or financial need, can apply. Our application opens every year in the first week of January and closes at the end of March.

Most scholarships are awarded in April or May for the following school year. “However, we give scholarships throughout the year as students decline an award and as we establish new scholarships,” explains Mrs. Hill. “If the student is not in our system, we cannot award any scholarships.”

Scholarships are funded by hundreds of area donors. A full listing is available on the DACC Foundation website.

Presidential Scholarships

The Presidential Scholarship recognizes outstanding academic effort and

achievement of graduating seniors from DACC District 507 high schools and supports their continued enrollment in post-secondary education at DACC. Presidential Scholars are those seniors in the top 15% of their class. The number of Presidential Scholarships awarded to each high school is determined by the graduating class size. Presidential Scholarship recipients receive a two-year award which covers tuition cost at DACC for two years immediately following the recipients’ graduation from high school. Presidential Scholars must maintain a 3.0 GPA and complete eight hours of volunteer service each academic year.

Get Involved

For more information, contact Tonya Hill at thill@dacc.edu or 217-443-8772. You may also visit dacc.edu/foundation. The scholarship application and descriptions are available online.

To donate by credit card or e-check, visit dacc.edu/foundation and choose DONATE or make checks payable to DACC

Foundation and mail to DACC Foundation, 2000 East Main Street, Danville, Illinois 61832. Danville Area Community College Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Danville Area Community College Foundation FY 19-20 Highlights

- 706 % increase in funds to support DACC operations, instructional equipment & technology
- \$664,000 worth of scholarships awarded
- 382% increase in cash and in-kind gifts
- 17 new scholarships established

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- 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.



CRIS Serving More Senior Adults



CRIS Healthy-Aging Center (CRIS) has increased service over the past 15 years by more than 400%. "The number of older adults in our community continues to soar as time goes on and the needs seem to become greater as the years go by," says Amy Brown, Chief Executive Officer of CRIS Healthy-Aging Center. "We are fortunate to be well-positioned with an excellent comprehensive service system through excellent grant writing from our team along with generous donors in our community prioritizing assistance to our elderly."

CRIS Healthy Aging Center helps older adults remain safe, healthy, and independent through social, financial, health, and supportive services. The team of 80 employees provides services and activities to persons aged 60+ and adults with disabilities. The programs promote healthy, active lifestyles to avoid early or unnecessary long-term placement. In one year, the organization provided specialized service to nearly 6000 persons.

CRIS has been serving the Vermilion County community for 48 years at 309 N. Franklin St, in Danville. Also located in Danville is CRIS Rural Mass Transit which can be found at 615 E Voorhees St.

CRIS came about in the 1970s when the United Way Board of Directors saw the need for a one-stop-shop for services for older adults in Vermilion County. They asked all social service organizations applying for United Way dollars to assist senior citizens to

merge into one agency. CRIS was born. Brown credits the insight and wisdom of the United Way board with Vermilion County becoming the home of the most comprehensive social service agency for older adults in the state of Illinois.

Due to the World Pandemic, CRIS expanded their Social Isolation program designed to help older adults who have less social engagement and are experiencing feelings of loneliness and isolation. "What is exciting is that together with local partners CRIS provides technology (Amazon Echo Show 5) to our members to reduce social isolation," says Brown. "So far the members love the device; we are seeing a lot of great results and feedback with it. The devices are easy to set up (we assist of course), easy to use, and can help with anything from telling a joke to reporting the local weather forecast. It's turning out to be an exciting project to be involved in. We are pleased to have partners in the community that fund these Alexa Echo Show 5 devices."

“CRIS is a larger organization than most realize.”

This year, CRIS partnered with the Danville Area United Way to operate a volunteer-run Tax Service Program for older adults.

Brown says the outpouring of kindness from the community has been exceptional. "CRIS received from volunteers more than

1000 hand-sewn masks to distribute to older adults," she says. "In addition, there have been hundreds of people who volunteered to provide food and their time which is always appreciated but definitely during such a critical time for us all."

She is also proud of the entire CRIS organization. "All of our essential worker staff truly overcame the difficulties that came with COVID-19," she adds. "In the early stages of the pandemic older adults were quickly recognized as the most vulnerable population affected by the virus. We were fortunate to become even busier during the pandemic! There was an influx of organizations and our partners wanting to help and support during that time. While we ceased in-person appointments we continued to work from our facility and develop new ways to service our clients through telephone, computer zoom meetings, and our Alexa Show 5 devices." CRIS found a way to balance care for older adults while ensuring the staff felt valued and safe.

"CRIS is a larger organization than most realize," says Brown. "We love to fill our positions with local persons. The skills and education requirements vary by job description. Anyone interested can find job listings on our Facebook page, Indeed.com, or contact our HR department for more information.

To learn more about CRIS job openings, visit agestrong.org/employment-vc/ or email HR@agestrong.org.

To learn more about the organization, visit agestrong.org or find them on Facebook @CRISHealthyAgingCenterofVermilionCounty. By phone, you may reach CRIS at 217-443-2999 and Rural Mass Transit at 217-443-2287.

Franklin's Farm Blooms & Heirlooms: A Local Treasure



Susan Franklin of Franklin's Farm Blooms and Heirlooms describes herself as "owner, operator and everything else."

The small business offers a combination of home-baked goods and garden-raised fresh vegetables to customers via the Danville Farmers Market and a modified version of a Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA). "I have been doing this for over 10 years and continue to explore avenues to bring quality food to the local community," she says.

She arrived in the areas in 1980 and has been operating from several acres between Danville and Bismarck. The business and its offerings grow and change every year. She says nothing stays the same with the possible exception of the customer-favorite lemon bars.

Franklin holds a special spot for all her customers, especially one family who has been with her since the early days of the business. "Some of my oldest CSA customers, Kurt and Kathy Miles, are always my 'new product testers' and their son recently gave my new Apple Caramel Sheet Cake the 'Best Product You Make' review. I love it when the

customers enjoy the products," she adds.

Service is what makes Franklin's Farm Blooms and Heirlooms unique. "We leave no stone unturned to provide the best service and a very high-quality product to our customers," she says. "We will work with any customer to make the CSA work for them. It really is all about meeting the customer in their need/want and providing for that in the easiest way possible for them."

Franklin manages the Danville Farmers Market which she describes as her point of joy. "The vendors and customers are hands down, the BEST of the Danville community!"

To learn more about Franklin's Farm Blooms and Heirlooms, follow them on Facebook @franklinsfarmbloomsandheirlooms, visit franklinsfarmblooms.com, text/call 217-474-2701, or email shortsue@att.net. You may also request to be added to the no-obligation weekly email of available products.

The Summer Danville Farmers Market begins at Crossroads Church lot, 3613 N. Vermilion, on May 15. It is open EVERY SATURDAY from 8 to noon.



Danville Public Library Offering More Than Books



Jennifer Hess, Executive Director of the Danville Public Library, believes the community may be surprised by the variety and volume of services the library offers. “We are more than just a building full of books, although we have plenty of those too!” she says.

The Danville Public Library serves the population of Danville and its surrounding areas. They offer print and digital materials; summer and winter reading programs; reference, archives, and genealogy assistance; public computer use; copy and printing

services (including wireless print); educational events and programming for all ages. The library employs 35 people. The building saw a major renovation completed in the Spring of 2019.

Special Programs

The library received a State Library Grant to offer career-focused programming for high school juniors and seniors called Project Next Generation. It is self-directed and computer based. Students sign in to the

computers in the library’s Teen Zone to complete assignments. Areas of focus include Veterinary Science, Hospitality Management, Culinary Arts, and Vinyl Sign creation.

Because of COVID, the library moved its regular groups—Murder Mystery book club and Writer’s group—to Zoom in the past year. They also hosted special events for adults and kids, most recently a Ragtime music concert for adults and in December, Santa visited and read a story. “We also offer curbside pickup of

materials, craft kits for all ages, and a subscription box series for tweens, teens, and adults,” says Hess. “As we look ahead to approaching Phase 5 sooner rather than later, we hope to be able to implement more in-person programming again. Ideally, we’ll be able to do both in-person and virtual.”

“One of the things I thought was great was early in the pandemic - when people decorated their house and business windows with cutout paper hearts,” she says. “We did that at the library too. It was a simple way to say, ‘We’re all in this together.’” It was a nice morale booster.”

Hess says she appreciates some of the benefits of Vermilion Advantage membership especially the free inclusion of their events/services in the local calendar of events and the monthly member roundtables.

To learn more about the Danville Public Library visit danvillepubliclibrary.org; follow them on Facebook @DanvillePublicLibrary, email info@danvillepubliclibrary.org or call 217-477-5220

3 New Books recommended by Jennifer Hess, Director of the Danville Public Library

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman: A bank robbery gone wrong sets the stage for a quirky cast of characters to work through their anxieties about love, life, and finding their place in the world. A funny, touching book with a hint of mystery, sure to delight a large range of people.

Dessert Person by Claire Saffitz: A cookbook from "Claire from the Bon Appetit Test Kitchen" packed with tempting pictures and recipes for baked goods both sweet and savory.

The Faceless Old Woman Who Secretly Lives in Your Home by Jeffrey Cranor and Joseph Fink: This is the third book to come from the popular podcast, Welcome to Night Vale. Even more so than the previous Night Vale novels, this one works very well as a standalone.



ALL A'S - ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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



Vermilion
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Congratulations!

April Employee of the Month:

- Hometown Stars.....Trevor Karuzis
- Classic Rock-n-Roll.....Tyrese White
- Oakwood..... Reese Shults
- Georgetown..... Braden Nale
- Hoopeston.....Mary Jane Watson
- Neighborhood McDonald's.....Kiara Kelly

Student and Athletes for April:

- Danville High School Student of the Month..... Ciera Beith
- Danville High School Athlete of the Month..... Alexander Faulkner
- Schlarman Academy North Student of the Month.....Cathy Harvey
- Schlarman Academy North Athlete of the Month..... Aidin Stuhr
- Oakwood High School Student of the Month.....Tiffany Paris
- Oakwood High School Athlete of the Month.....Sam Howie
- Georgetown High School Student of the Month.....Corrin McPherson
- Georgetown High School Athlete of the Month..... Dayton Grant
- Hoopeston Area High School Student of the Month..... Mason Layden
- Hoopeston Area High School Athlete of the Month..... Bre Crose

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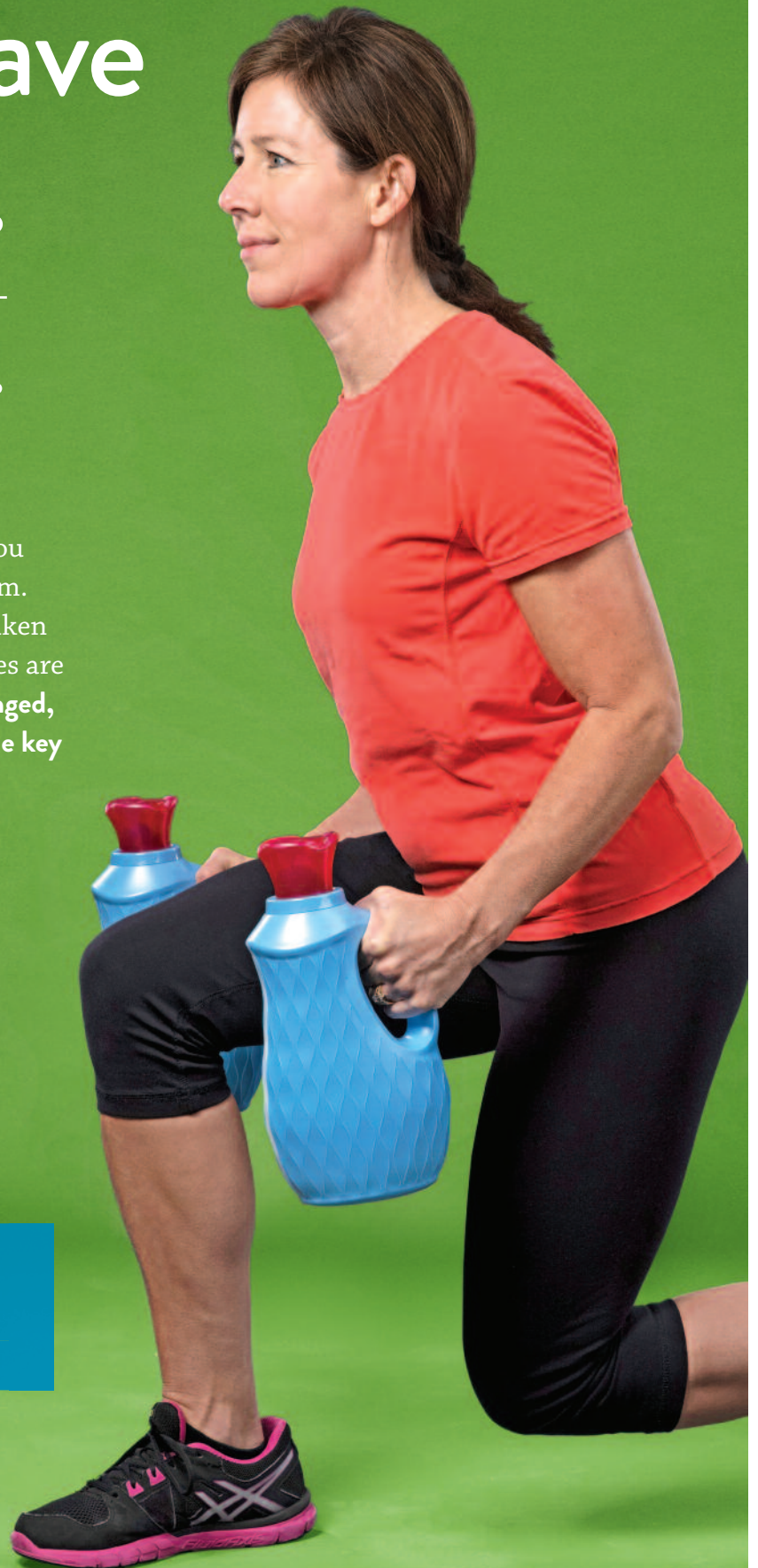
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