

# INSIDE

September 2021

*Vermilion County*

## Vermilion County Welcomes New Bobcats Hockey Team

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# INSIDE

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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.

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# Vermilion County Welcomes New Bobcats Hockey Team



Ellen with her cat, Cecil

The Bobcats currently employ six full-time staff and will be adding to the number with internships, gameday staff, and the team's two mascots.

Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids ages 4-12. Members of the military, seniors, students with IDs, and first responders with IDs pay \$7.

Tully chose to launch the Vermilion County team because of her love for the area. "It's a feeling that's hard to describe... a collection of things, tangible and intangible, that feed your soul," she says. "It's that sense of calm and peace, that the world is 'right' as you drive down Main Street and pass the Civic Center or head north on Vermilion and see the line at Custard Cup. It's very idyllic, where as a kid you played outside until the streetlights came on rode your bike to the American Legion to watch your friends play baseball. Danville

is that feeling of comfort, like a favorite pair of jeans."

As a young child, she fell in love with hockey, watching the original Danville Dashers from 1981-1986 and the Danville Fighting Saints from 1986-1989. "It was at that point my 4<sup>th</sup> brother wanted to play and became a goalie, and I wanted to be just like him," she says. "I grew up learning to skate from him and the original Dashers. I never got the chance to play organized hockey, but I did play pick-up hockey from time to time." She volunteered with the Danville Wings, assisting her brother and father, Lou, with the team.

Tully's favorite hockey memories relate to Friday and Saturday nights when her dad would take her and her brother to hockey games. "By bringing the Bobcats to Vermilion County, we want to give that same opportunity to families and kids now - making cherished memories at

hockey games and sharing those moments with their families, their friends, their loved ones."

After college, Ellen accepted her first hockey position with the South Carolina Stingrays in ECHL. From there, she spent time at every level of hockey from youth to the NHL, including: Chicago Wolves AHL, Chicago Mission AAA youth program, US National Development Program, University of Denver, and five years in the NHL between the Colorado Avalanche, the Minnesota Wild, and the Florida Panthers. After the 2012-2013 NHL lockout occurred, Ellen chose to pursue her own venture in hockey through photography. She photographed all levels of hockey including NCAA, Team USA, ECHL, and AHL, all over the US and Europe.

Away from the rink, Ellen is an active volunteer with Specialty Purebred Cat Rescue, an animal rescue organization based in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She supports small non-profit rescues including Rock Cats Rescue, Jersey Kitty Nonprofit, Friends for Life Rescue Network, and Orphan Kitten Club. She helps with medical costs for special "handi-cats" around the world. Most recently she assisted R.A.W.R. (Rustic Acres Wildcat Rescue), in Rhode Island, in their completion of a second enclosure for two new Bobcats.

Vermilion County Bobcats season tickets are on sale now at [vcbobcats.com](http://vcbobcats.com). The Bobcats will play 56 games in the SPHL this season, 28 of them on home ice at the David S. Palmer Arena in Danville. Questions can be directed to [info@vcbobcats.com](mailto:info@vcbobcats.com).

Fans can follow @VCBobcats on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for important updates on the team or visit [vcbobcats.com](http://vcbobcats.com).



### Cover Credits

**Photographer:** *Tori Dawson*  
**Makeup Artist:** *Julia Wadsworth*  
**Cover Art:** *Casey Bryant*

Exciting hockey action is on deck in Vermilion County this fall. The new Vermilion County Bobcats hockey organization will begin its inaugural season at Danville's historic David S. Palmer Arena. This year, opening weekend is October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> versus one of the team's in-state rivals, the Peoria Rivermen. The Bobcats are members of the Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL).

"We want to establish ourselves as fun, family entertainment," says Ellen Mervis Tully, Owner and CEO. "But on a deeper level, we want Vermilion County to see that we are more than just a sports team. We want to create positive role models and mentors for our youth both on the ice and off (in school, after-school programs, the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club, etc.). We want to foster long-term relationships with businesses to promote economic growth not just within Danville, but the surrounding areas."

# Danville AMBUCS Playground for Everyone 2.0

As the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AMBUCS Playground for Everyone approached, the Danville AMBUCS went back to work to ensure the playground remains a viable community resource for many years in the future. The organization conducted a community-wide fundraising campaign to refurbish the playground, known as AMBUCS Playground for Everyone 2.0.

Bill Fulton and Bob Richard, Co-Chairs of AMBUCS Playground for Everyone 2.0, say the project has been a great success. “The updates and refurbishing involve adding the NU-Edge X Tower to provide additional play opportunities, including an 8’ high curved slide; replacing faded play panels and equipment; resurfacing the rubberized safety surfacing; replacing worn benches; adding a new solar bench which features charging stations for phones and other devices; and powder coating the existing railing/play structures.” Supply chain issues have slowed the project’s scheduled summer completion. A rededication of the playground will be announced in early fall. The Danville AMBUCS and the City of Danville have partnered on many smaller improvements in the 20 years of the playground’s existence.

## A Place for Everyone

The AMBUCS Playground for Everyone, located on Winter Avenue in Danville, opened on July 21, 2001. The playground was the culmination of a two-year community fundraising effort involving foundations, businesses, community organizations, and individuals, primarily from Vermilion County, to provide Danville a universally accessible playground.

William E. Fulton, a long-time AMBUCS member, brought the idea to Danville AMBUCS. He, along with his nephew William T. Fulton and AMBUCS member Bob Richard, spearheaded the effort. The project was a collaboration of AMBUCS, the City of Danville, and the community.

The playground, Vermilion County’s largest, recognizes the importance of every child’s right to play and to enjoy the experience of just being a kid. It includes a six-deck ramped play structure with alternate pathways, accessible slides, play panels, and climbers; pour-in-place safety surfacing; a single deck pre-school play structure; accessible standalone play activities; two swing set areas with special needs swings; two covered pavilions; restrooms, including a family restroom with an adult size changing station for those with disabilities; and a zero-depth sprayground.

“Danville AMBUCS was one of the first, if not the first, service club in the nation to build a truly universally accessible playground,” says Richard. “At the time, there were very few resources regarding designing a universally accessible



New Nu-Edge X Tower slide

playground. After completion, many people from other communities visited our playground to learn how they could also provide playgrounds for everyone.”

### Danville Ambucs

The Danville Chapter of AMBUCS is part of the national AMBUCS service organization. AMBUCS members create opportunities and independence for people with disabilities by performing community service, providing Amtrykes (adaptive tricycles) to children with disabilities, and offering scholarships for therapists. The local chapter has served the Danville area for 97 years and has about 114 members.

The Danville Chapter of AMBUCS has a long history of community service and annual projects. Some of the projects:

- Sponsor, with a grant from the Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation, two, one-week day camps for Vermilion County children with disabilities with AMBUCS covering all costs, based locally at the Gao Grotto.
- Sponsor Challenger Baseball League for children with disabilities, conducted each Saturday in June.
- Sponsor Christmas Breakfast Party for the "AMBUCS Kids" and their families, with each child receiving a gift and picture with Santa.
- Sponsor the annual First Citizen Banquet.
- Sponsor two Adults with Special Needs Dance & Pizza Parties.
- Provide Amtrykes to those with disabilities.
- Provide annual scholarships for students entering the therapy or special education field.
- Raise funds for the AMBUCS Playground for Everyone, Independence Playground in Lincoln Park, and Sprayground for Everyone in Garfield Park.



Bill T. Fulton, Bob Richard, President Jenna Wirth and Bill E. Fulton




### Community Partnership

“Although AMBUCS name is on the sign, we could not have done this originally without the help of people like Steve Lane of the City of Danville, Doug Ahrens, formerly with the City of Danville, the countless number of community members who volunteered their talents, and all of those who made a monetary gift,” says Fulton. “The playground was a gift to the children of Vermilion County made possible by friends and neighbors.”

In addition to all the community support, Mr. Julius W. Hegeler II left an estate gift to the Danville Chapter of AMBUCS to help maintain both playgrounds and the sprayground in the future.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Danville Chapter of AMBUCS, email Jenna Wirth at [dapresident@danvilleambucs.org](mailto:dapresident@danvilleambucs.org).

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# Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center Earns State Award

The Illinois Funeral Directors Association recently recognized the Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center team. Sunset earned the prestigious Illinois Award of Funeral Service Distinction, which acknowledges excellence in funeral service. The award recognizes exemplary basic requirements, community outreach, family outreach, and professional development. Only nine funeral homes in Illinois achieved this honor for their efforts during 2020-2021.

“The award gives our staff who work so hard every day some much-deserved recognition,” says Linda Darby-Dowers, CEO. “It is not easy being in funeral service, but we truly love what we do. We work to develop a culture where our team is valued, respected, and heard. Our next generation is very adamant about this, and senior leadership supports it 100%.”

Sunset is a family-owned-and-operated funeral service company, investing significant time collaborating on major company decisions. They own funeral homes in Danville, Oakwood, Westville,

Georgetown, Champaign, and Mahomet, Illinois. They also own funeral homes in Covington, Indiana and Sun City West, Arizona, and a cemetery in Danville. The company manufactures funeral service products in Danville, which they use locally and sell nationally. They employ approximately 115 full and part-time employees.

*“It’s not easy being in funeral service, but we truly love what we do.”*

“Our Cemetery was established in 1932. However, we ventured into manufacturing products for the industry in the early 1970s with our Trigard brand of burial vault liners,” says Darby-Dowers. “We then led the way as one of the first cemetery/funeral home combinations in the state in 1984. Our most recent build was the funeral home in Mahomet. We manufacture bronze plaques and signs and recently opened a local plaque and sign company, Hall of Fame.”

The Sunset team finds many ways to engage and serve the community. The Preened staff offers regular Lunch and Learns to educate people about the importance of funeral preplanning. They host summer ice cream socials, pumpkin days, Arbor Day celebrations, a holiday tree lighting ceremony, and a memorial service at the end of the year. Some events were paused during Covid. The Sunset team’s work has also become synonymous with Operation Honor Guard, a philanthropic endeavor to assist and raise funding for honor guards.

The newest and cutest additions to the team have been Aunt Bea, a comfort dog, and her baby sister Miss Maizey. The two dogs are regularly invited to visit schools and assisted living centers but spend most of their time providing comfort for local families at the Sunset facilities.

The Darby family’s love for Vermilion County is evident in all they say and do. “The area’s greatest strength is the people in our community,” says Darby-Dowers. “There are so many people in this community who truly care and want to make it a better place to live and raise our families.”

Darby-Dowers says Vermilion Advantage gives local businesses knowledge about community resources, encourages people to work together for the common good, provides statistics about many economic indicators, allows the opportunity to poll other businesses on shared topics, and much more. “Many people do not realize all the resources available to them. They need to join and engage to understand fully.”

To learn more, visit [sunsetfuneralhome.com](http://sunsetfuneralhome.com), call 217-442-2874 and follow them on Facebook @Sunset Funeral Home, Memorial Park, and Cremation Center.



Front(L-R): Linda Darby-Dowers and Rich Darby. Back(L-R): Ethan, Jackson and Ross Darby

# Village of Oakwood

Oakwood's first female mayor Heather McArty answers to many titles other than her newest one leading the community. The wife, mom, and "Mimi" is also the Oakwood Area Food Pantry Director and Vice President, Branch Manager at Illinois National Bank.

"The biggest reward of being elected mayor is being trusted with the responsibility of this position and experiencing local government in action to get things accomplished," she says. Her top priorities are to jump into her new role to determine how village operations and board/community relations can improve. So far, she's met with departmental heads and will soon reach out to businesses and other organizations to better understand how they can work together to support one another.

The last year has seen many new developments in the Oakwood area. "We welcomed the addition of Veteran's Memorial Park which gives children living on the south end of town a place to play without having to cross busy Rt. 150," says McArty. "The new village hall was erected where the former IGA store was located on the corner of Scott St. It is just over 4,000 sq feet and includes administrative offices, boardroom, and the police department. "

McArty says there are many reasons Oakwood is a good place to work, live, serve, and play. "The majority of the residents here are truly invested in bettering the community and actively working together to do so," she says. "Our village administration, police, ER, and public works departments are always going above and beyond to be of service. The Oakwood Men's Club raises money and provides scholarships and community



Mayor Heather McArty

**"I'm looking forward to partnering with Vermilion Advantage to lead the way in our future business development plan."**

*Heather McArty, Oakwood Mayor*

support. The Fithian Women's Group covers our region to do the same. Our churches and pastors are active in local and out-of-state missions. District 76 schools and teachers are the heartbeat of our village; they consistently strive for solid student and community connections. The Oakwood Food Pantry aids in feeding between 30-50 families per week. Our youth sports programs are led entirely by dedicated volunteers. I am equally proud and impressed by our citizens, for their care in creating an atmosphere where we can do life together, enjoyably."

McArty says people may be surprised to learn the community has five gas stations in a town of just over 1600 friendly people.

#### Events and Activities

- Farmer's Market - Wednesdays through 10/6 from 5-7 pm downtown.
- Classic Car Cruise-In hosted by Obie's Arctic Chill - 9/5 & 10/3 at 5 pm downtown
- Oakwood Area Food Pantry 5k Turkey Trot at Kickapoo - scheduled for Thanksgiving morning.

She and her husband Chip live in Oakwood and have three children and three grandchildren.



Oakwood Emergency Rescue staff, Mayor Heather McArty & Trustee-Ferrell Stroh supporting Oakwood Police Department during National Night Out held on 8/3/21

# Northwest Project: Community Development and Infrastructure Revitalizing Lake Vermilion Area

Exciting progress is happening in the Northwest Project, the much-needed sewer upgrade and pedestrian and bike path development across Lake Vermilion.

The planning for the Northwest Project began in 2010. Due to the project size and complexity, securing the needed funds took 11 years of consistent planning and work. Completion for the sewer project is scheduled for Fall 2021 and road improvements in Spring 2022.

“This project upgrades and modernizes sewer system components that serve over 1,000 people in Danville,” says Sam Cole, Danville’s City Engineer. “The existing systems were frequently subject to failure, often resulting in raw sewage discharged into Lake Vermilion. The lake is the source of our community’s drinking water and is used by boaters, swimmers, and anglers.



Old Ottawa Rd. near Rue Bienville

The bonus is we will gain better pedestrian and bike access to one of our community’s most beautiful features, Lake Vermilion.” The City’s efforts have resulted in \$1.6 million in grants for the road project and \$2.1 million in loan forgiveness on the sewer project. Thanks to these additional funds, the City has secured \$11.8 million of improvements but is only required to pay for \$8 million.

Cole says many people have questions about the function and look of the bridge and walkway. “The purpose of the bridge is to carry the new sewer line under it,” he says. “The prior City Engineer had the foresight to make it double as a pedestrian bridge, leading to the project being a huge enhancement for the community. The new bridge is supposed to be rusted. Besides being trendy, it’s also lower maintenance long-term as it will not require repainting.



Denmark Road looking North

The pre-rusted surface should limit the rust moving deeper than the surface.”

While the delays due to one-lane traffic can be frustrating, Cole says the contractors hope to have two-way traffic open by the end of fall 2021. There will be occasional disruptions after that date to complete paving and other aspects of the project.

Cole says the new bridge should not impact boaters on the lake, but anglers may be affected. “I’m sure anglers have felt the impact of not being able to fish along the causeway or the bridge,” he says. “I hope the result will make it worth their while. Admittedly, we hoped for better fishing access than the final product might allow; this is simply due to the rigorous safety standards for pedestrians involved in federally-funded transportation projects.”

Thanks to the City of Danville and everyone involved for their outstanding work on this community development project!



Denmark Road future pedestrian bridge

## Meet Sam Cole, City of Danville Engineer



### ***Tell us about your job.***

Plan, manage, and replace public infrastructure in the City. Including 177 miles of roads, 145 miles of sidewalks, 24 bridges, 190 miles of sanitary sewers, 30 pump stations, approximately 140 miles of storm sewers, coordinate/review impacts of developments, and much more.

### ***How long have you lived in Vermilion County?***

All my life except for one year.

### ***What are the top priorities for your position?***

Creating strategies to assess and fund the maintenance and replacement of infrastructure in a sustainable fashion and seizing every opportunity to promote redevelopment within the City.

### ***What is the most rewarding part of your job?***

Having the mission of making Danville an amazing place to live is shared with so

many talented and passionate people at the City of Danville. Looking at people I know and love in this community and enjoying that when we complete a project that could improve their quality of life.

### ***Tell us what it's like to work with the City team.***

It is brutal and fantastic simultaneously because we have such huge goals. There are more demands on your time than anyone could imagine. And that is comparing it to my experience handloading semi-trailers, farming, and owning an engineering firm. Ultimately, the character and commitment of the City team are what I love most about this job. The team respectfully challenges each other's thinking and seeks great results through consistency and hard work while also understanding when things don't go as planned. It is truly a privilege to work so hard alongside these talented, dedicated people. I would put them up against anyone.

### ***How long have you been with the City of Danville?***

2 years now + 5 years prior (2007-2012)

# Brown Family Investing in Hoopeston



Bob and Emily Brown are quietly making a big difference in northern Vermilion County. The two own and operate several exciting businesses worth checking out in Hoopeston - 112 Wine & Coffee, Bricks & Ivy, and Built 2 Last Construction. As if that weren't enough, the Browns recently opened a new event center at 207 East Main in downtown Hoopeston.

## 112 Wine & Coffee, 112 East Main



112 Wine & Coffee is a dine-in café specializing in coffee and wine and serving a unique menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They have 18

employees and are open seven days per week, Monday-Thursday 6 am-10 pm, Friday-Saturday 6 am-11 pm, Sunday 8 am-2 pm. Their entire menu is available for dine-in, carry-out, and through their app, "Joe Coffee." 112 Wine & Coffee also offers catering. The café features live entertainment and a farmers' market, dart league, gaming, community room for meetings, free wifi, and free book exchange.

The mission of 112 is to provide an ideal space for the community to gather. "From lunch out with friends, to date night, to class reunions, to funeral dinners, to study groups, we hope that everyone will use our space to meet their needs," says

owner Emily Brown. "Many people are surprised by the clean and comfortable atmosphere and the size of the space when they come in. The artwork on our walls is done by local artists and is all for sale."

112 Wine & Coffee adds new events every week: live musical performances, art shows, farmers markets, trivia nights, karaoke nights, book clubs, fundraisers, and charity events. All event information can be found on their website, [112wine.com](http://112wine.com).

"We have a huge appreciation for our customers," says Emily. "We opened at the start of the pandemic and were amazed

by the support of our community. We quickly adjusted our business model from dine-in to carry-out, and the community came out in support. Without their orders throughout 2020, we may not have been able to stay open.”

To learn more about events, menus, and employment opportunities, visit [112wine.com](http://112wine.com), or follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @112coffeandwine.

### Bricks & Ivy, 201 East Main Street



Bricks & Ivy offers central Illinois' most extensive selection of sports cards and memorabilia. They are

direct buyers of hobby boxes and sell singles, sets, vintage wax, card supplies, and more. In addition to sports cards, the shop sells trading cards such as Pokémon, Magic, Garbage Pail Kids, and much more. If there is a card made, Bricks & Ivy carries it. The shop schedules popular player signings. To date, they have brought 24 professional athletes,

announcers, actors, and musicians into the store for autograph signings. They host authentication days and trading card and gaming nights. The staff also offers card grading services.

“We originally wanted to sell gifts and apparel as well as cards and memorabilia, but during the COVID shutdown, we realized we had to change our model a bit,” says Owner Bob Brown. “We now focus solely on trading cards and memorabilia with a few retail gift items mixed in. People might be surprised by the number of customers we have. Most of our customers come from out of the county or even out of the state. People drive a very long way to find a card shop.”

Bricks & Ivy adds new player signings and events every month. “You never know who is going to walk in the door at Bricks and Ivy,” says Bob. “At a JSA authentication event, Chef Graham Elliot came in to have some memorabilia pieces from his collection authenticated. Many of the professional athletes we hosted left as customers. Andre Dawson purchased a game-used World Series base from us.

Ryne Sandberg left with a replica Wrigley Field scoreboard that he took home to use for his grandkids whiffle ball field.” For more information and an updated list of signings, visit [bricksandivysports.com](http://bricksandivysports.com) or follow them on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @bricksandivysports.

### Built 2 Last Construction

Built 2 Last Construction offers commercial and residential construction services, including concrete work. The company has been in operation since 2005.

The company specializes in end-to-end client experiences, including seamless communication, budgeting, staffing, on-site organization, and solid, quality handiwork. Past projects include both new construction, repairs and restorations. Occupied and fully operational job sites are not a problem. Built 2 Last can also plan, manage, and build multi-phase jobs.

To learn more visit, [built2lastconstruction.com](http://built2lastconstruction.com).



# Community Development Institute/ Head Start: Taking Care of Area Kids



Most of a child's brain development happens before they are five years old. For that reason and many others, the Community Development Institute/Head Start (CDI HS) works with hundreds of local children and pregnant moms every day.

CDI Head Start/Early Head Start is an Early Childhood program that offers education, health and nutrition, and family support to at-risk children and families. They currently have 65 employees. The program serves children from birth to five years old. CDI HS is currently funded to serve 417 individuals, which includes children and pregnant women.

The organization has ten locations in the United States, with five of those in Vermilion County. CDI holds the National Interim Management contract for the Office of Head Start in Washington, D.C. and has managed over 220 programs in interim management.

Among the program's many benefits, all services offered by Head Start are free to families.

"Research shows that 90% of child brain development occurs within the first five years of life," says Nicole Hall, Site Manager, CDI HS. "It is imperative that Head Start continues to successfully impact our nation's most at-risk children." In the past 10 years, Head Start has revised the Program Performance Standards to require more accountability for program success, including requiring a bachelor's degree as a minimum qualification for teaching staff.

Hall says some of her most memorable days have been working with children who are dual-language learners. "It is amazing to see how children teach the English they've learned to their parents who have never spoken the language."



The CDI HS team is thankful for the many Vermilion County community partners who assist in reaching out and providing services to local children and families.

"Being a part of Vermilion Advantage has opened a wide range of opportunities to partner with other local agencies, as well as advertisements for staff vacancies and enrollment for children," adds Hall.

To learn more about Community Development Institute/Head Start, call 217-820-0320, find them on Facebook @VIFCHeadStart, visit their website at [www.cdihheadstart.org/VermilionIroquoisFordCounties](http://www.cdihheadstart.org/VermilionIroquoisFordCounties), or email [nhall@cditeam.org](mailto:nhall@cditeam.org).



# Local DACC Administrator a Part of Growing Vermilion County Music and Gaming Scene

If you're interested in exploring creative options in music or gaming, Guido Esteves can help. The musician, music producer, part-time Danville Area Community College (DACC) faculty member, and full-time DACC administrator has the inside story on some of what's happening locally.

He's especially excited about the DACC Music Program, thanks to the work of DACC music professor Dr. Eric Simonson whose sabbatical research proved the viability of careers available with a music degree. "Vermilion County is full of people with the talent to make music or music business a profession, but they don't know what kinds of jobs are available or what they need to know to get those jobs," says Esteves. "Music can have a level of instability but jobs like teaching,

management, and sound engineering are more stable than just performance." Esteves says DACC has plans to offer three new music programs - Music Performance, Music Education, and Music Business/Technology. Not only will Music Business/Technology feature core music classes but will also offer classes like Recording Techniques, Marketing, and Event Planning. The program will train students for music careers such as studio engineers, booking agents, music producers, and performers.

"Along with the new programs, DACC plans to start a DJ club and has offered several music camps this summer - First Gig Rock Camp, DJ Camp, and Music Production Camp which includes scholarships," he says. "My long-term plan is to help with

programs such as classic guitar, individual music lessons, workshops, recording classes, and a commercial band program."

Esteves is also currently partnering with the Fischer Theatre's Jason Rome to develop free music programs for the area. "Along with Gage Romack, Jason has started a much-needed youth symphony," adds Esteves.

Esteves has worked in production, audio/visual, music, recruiting, and helping develop new summer camps at DACC. He also serves as the Co-Director of the DACC Pep Band.

When he's not involved in music, Esteves serves as DACC's Coordinator of eSports, Audio Visual Technician and chairs the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Recruitment and Membership Committee for eSports.

The DACC eSports program is designed for competitive gaming. Members compete online against community colleges from across the country and host in-person tournaments. The new campus gaming lab includes 12 gaming computers and four separate stations featuring systems like the Nintendo Switch, Microsoft Xbox, and Sony PlayStation. The lab is in the basement of the Clocktower Center.

About 50 students participate in the gaming club. To compete, students must attend DACC full time. The club also offers events and camps for part-time students, staff, alumni, and kids from the community. "I feel the lab provides a 'campus' environment that gives students a reason to come to school besides classes," says Esteves. "Students who are more involved tend to do better academically. I also loved being involved in turning an empty room into something so cool."

To learn more, email [gesteves@dacc.edu](mailto:gesteves@dacc.edu).



# Members of Vermilion Advantage, NFP in Good Standing by Level of Membership

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*\*\* Indicates Hoopeston Chamber Member discount due to partnership with Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce*  
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Danville Public Building Commission  
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Days Hotel and Conference Center  
Dean Crandall - Morgan Stanley  
D.I. Fire & Safety  
Dines Machine & Mfg.  
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Dougherty Group  
Duncan Farms  
DynaChem, Inc.  
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Edward Jones (Marcus Provost)  
Ela's Eatery  
Enel Green Power Salt Springs  
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First Institute Training & Mgmt., Inc.  
FLP Wealth Advisors of Raymond James Ford of Hoopeston\*\*  
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Gardenview Manor  
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Greene Galvanized Stairs  
Group 2029 Inc. (d/b/a Burger King)  
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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  
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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.  
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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. - Danville, Hoopeston, & Westville locations  
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Salt Fork CUSD #512  
Second Church of Christ  
Sentry Roofing, Inc.  
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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.  
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Vermilion River Beer Company  
Vermilion Valley Produce Co., Inc.  
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WITY Illiana Communications, LLC  
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**ADVANTAGE HONOR MEMBER  
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\* 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  
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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  
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Fehr Graham  
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Georgetown Wood & Pallet Co., Inc.  
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Glesco Electric, Inc.  
Hoopeston Area CUSD #11  
Illinois Small Business Development Center  
Jameson Steel Fabrication  
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McLaughlin Asset Management  
MidWest America Federal Credit Union  
Myers Carpet Weavers  
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NCT, Inc.

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NewWave Communications  
North Vermilion Family Dental  
Oakwood CUSD No. 76  
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Owen Financial Services  
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Schomburg & Schomburg Construction, Inc.  
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Shortz Family Farms, Inc.  
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Sleepy Creek Vineyards  
Sunset Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Cremation Center  
Teasdale Foods  
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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  
Butler, Rosemary (Tutor/Mentor)  
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 Boat Club  
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  
Gateway Family Services of Illinois  
Grace Lutheran Church  
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Immanuel Manor, Inc. - Senior Residences  
Informed Decisions  
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Oakwood Area Food Pantry, Inc.  
Oakwood Public Library District  
Prairieland Council - Boy Scouts of America  
Premier Network Solutions  
Project Success of Vermilion Co., Inc.  
Red Mask Players, Inc.  
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  
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Vermilion Voles Vintage Baseball Club  
Westville American Legion Post 51  
WorkSource Enterprises  
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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



<i>August Employee of the Month</i>	
Hometown Stars McDonald's.....	Alex Bezio
Classic Rock-n-Roll.....	Piper Freeman
Oakwood.....	Mathew Bradford
Georgetown.....	Chelsea Johnson
Hoopeston.....	Cadence Keleminic
Neighborhood McDonald's.....	Thorne Finch

## ***Ellen Tully, Vermilion County Bobcats Raise \$4,200 for Danville Youth Hockey.***

The Vermilion County Bobcats of the Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL) have raised \$4,200 for the Danville Youth Hockey program through their baseball jersey auction in conjunction with the Danville Dans. The donation was officially announced at the Fischer Theatre Thursday night at a Danville Youth Hockey registration event before a crowd of youth players, parents, and coaches.

A silent auction conducted at Danville Stadium on Tuesday, July 27th in which bidders were awarded game-worn Vermilion County Bobcats-themed Dans jerseys ultimately raised \$2,100, a figure that was matched by Bobcats owner Ellen Tully.

“This organization is all about giving back to the community and infusing the hockey talent right here in Vermilion County,” said Bobcats Vice President of Broadcasting and Communications Casey Bryant in an address to Danville Youth Hockey. “We want to make sure that our Jr. Bobcats are as well-equipped as possible to really kick some butt on the ice this season!”

The funds raised by the Bobcats will go directly to offsetting Danville Youth Hockey costs, including a new set of jerseys and apparel featuring the new Vermilion County Jr. Bobcats logo.

Following the presentation of a ceremonial check, the Bobcats and new crop of Jr. Bobcats enjoyed a viewing of The Mighty Ducks. Tully and Bryant were on stage to award the check to Danville Youth Hockey. Video documenting the presentation can be found @VCBobcats on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Registration is still open for Danville Youth Hockey. To become a Jr. Bobcat, visit [facebook.com/DanvilleYouthHockey](https://facebook.com/DanvilleYouthHockey) or email [danvilleyouthhockey@gmail.com](mailto:danvilleyouthhockey@gmail.com).

Vermilion County Bobcats season tickets are on sale now at [vcbobcats.com](http://vcbobcats.com). The Bobcats will play 56 games in the SPHL this season, 28 of them on home ice at David S. Palmer Arena in Danville. Questions can be directed to [info@vcbobcats.com](mailto:info@vcbobcats.com).

**About Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL)**  
Now entering its 18th season, the Southern Professional Hockey League is comprised of 11 member teams located throughout the southeastern and midwestern United States. Headquartered in Huntersville, North Carolina, the mission of the SPHL is to provide a quality family-friendly entertainment product structured inside an economic model that is viable for small and mid-size markets and arenas. For more information about the

## ***The Danville Chapter of AMBUCS has chosen Wendy Lambert as the 2020 recipient of the annual First Citizen Award.***

Wendy Lambert, this year's winner of the Danville Chapter of AMBUCS First Citizen Award, is a busy woman. Outside of her job driving trucks for Hertzog Trucking and maintaining Lamberts photography, she somehow finds time to make a difference in the lives of others. Wendy has spent many years helping individuals who are struggling with addictions and providing them with the resources that can help, according to a press release issued by AMBUCS.

Wendy had a vision to start Soul Recovery Center in 2014 and has since started the STEP Recovery Center. The goal of the recovery center is to help people find safe and sober homes to assist them on accountability and help with staying on the path to recovery. Wendy also serves as the secretary at the Jesse Hatchett House of

Hope. Wendy gives of her time through volunteer work including giving rides to and from treatment centers, food pantries, and meetings. She also helps in many other ways. Wendy has been a volunteer fire fighter for the Emergency Management Agency (EMA). She is also trained in “Search and Rescue” and was a volunteer for Lynch Fire Protection District as a First Responder.

In addition, Wendy is also a current member of the Patriot Guard Riders, Danville Chapter, a motorcycle group supporting local veterans. Lastly, Wendy became a certified Recovery Life Coach to pass the knowledge she has gained to others in need. Wendy gives all thanks to God and Narcotics Anonymous for being 28 years clean from her own addictions. Congratulations!

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