

INSIDE

October 2021

Vermilion County



**Community
Foundation
of East Central
Illinois Making
an Impact in
Vermilion County**

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**Angie Hatfield Marker
President & CEO of CFECI**

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INSIDE

Vermilion County

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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.

VERMILION COUNTY JOB BOARD

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**we're
hiring!**
JOIN OUR TEAM!

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.

Illume Counseling Welcomes Bismarck Native Zachary Truex, LCSW



Zachary Truex, LCSW, joined the Illume Counseling team as a Therapist and Community Outreach Specialist. His primary role is outpatient therapy services, and he is also helping Illume get more involved in the community. Truex works with all ages but especially enjoys working with children, teens, and young adults. He has extensive knowledge of the effects of trauma and is Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy certified.

Truex says Illume is a small private counseling practice that focuses on teaching coping skills for relief from immediate stressors while helping people understand underlying concerns that contribute to daily stressors. The emphasis is on assisting people to gain greater understanding and insight, enabling them to create lasting change. Clients are treated from a holistic

perspective that addresses mental, emotional, and physical stressors.

Illume is conveniently located on Gilbert Street in Danville, Illinois, with therapists who specialize in a variety of issues. Clients may choose between in-person or telehealth sessions, and both day and evening appointments are available.

About Truex

Truex's ties to the community run deep. He graduated from Bismarck-Henning and the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. He started his career in Danville at The Center for Children's Services. Truex completed his MSW internship at District 118, working at Liberty and Southview. Currently, his spouse, father, and mother all work in administration at District 118. And his

brother, a Danville police officer and his fiancé, live in Bismarck.

He has been with Illume in a part-time capacity since the organization's beginning. "I initially started working one or two evenings per week while working a full-time job," says Truex. After taking a break during Covid, he is now a full-time employee and excited about the direction and growth of the practice.

"I love that I am trusted to hear others' stories," he says. "It takes time to develop rapport and feel comfortable with your clinician. I love when that rapport is established, and the real change begins to occur for my clients. I can assure you that therapy truly is a judgment-free zone."

He works predominantly with children and young adults. The top mental health concerns he sees in children involve a lack of social and emotional development due to being out of school for a year due to Covid. He focuses on working with clients to set attainable goals and see those through in his adult practice. This success decreases depression and anxiety and increases self-confidence and motivation.

Truex is also focused on community outreach and advocacy at Illume. Along with carrying a full caseload, he plans to devote considerable time to understanding the mental health needs of Vermilion County and advocating for those needs to achieve improvement in the community.

"I have many ties to the community and want to do my part in community improvement and advocacy."

To learn more about Illume Counseling or make an appointment, visit illumewellnesscenter.com, call 217-504-0131, or email Contact@illumewellnesscenter.com. You can also find them on Facebook and Instagram @illumewellnesscenter.

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Danville Serving Members and the Community

Area residents may be surprised to learn about the free dyslexia service offered by the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Danville at the local Masonic Temple. "We have the Children's Dyslexia Center of East Central Illinois located on the first floor of the Masonic Temple, which offers free tutelage to the students and is open to the public," says Robert A. Gill, Executive Secretary. "This service to the public has proven invaluable. We have waiting lists due to the success of our graduating students. You do not need a Masonic affiliation for your child to attend these lessons."

The Valley of Danville, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, is a member of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite located in Lexington, MA. The Valley of Danville is open to membership for any Master Mason in good standing and currently has approximately 1,950 members. The Valley of Danville covers the Eastern edge of the State of IL from Kankakee in the North to Mount Carmel in the South. They are located at 109 West North Street, Danville, IL, where they have been since 1916. Vermilion County is home to 9 Masonic lodges.

32 Degree Freemasonry seeks to strengthen the community and believes that each man should act in their civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience. Services include scholarships, the Children's Dyslexia Center, medical equipment, financial relief when members and widows fall on hard times, Christmas parties, and more. "Caring for our members and their families is our primary service which then allows our members the opportunity to give back to society at large," says Gill. "We also

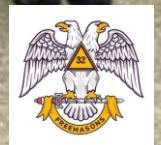
offer top-notch educational programs to dive deeper into Masonic research."

Twice a year, the organization initiates new classes of 32nd Degree Masons, called reunions. They take place in the Spring and Fall. Besides new member initiations, they plan many social and philanthropic events. "Family and community involvement will be at the center of all future planning events, so be on the lookout on our Facebook page and our website for ways you can get involved, both members and non-members," says Gill.

Historically, the organization relied on large cast theatrical plays to teach its members the philosophies of the Scottish Rite. While this still occurs, they have also produced high-quality films to allow scheduling flexibility. Gill believes they are changing to reflect the fast-paced nature of our society while remaining true to the organization's core beliefs and values.

The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Danville offers a Brother-to-Brother Program where they call members to connect personally. "We are not calling for donations or for their time," says Gill. "We simply want to know how they are doing and how we can help. COVID was an especially difficult year as we could not meet in person. We had to think outside the box and reach out to our members directly."

To learn more about the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Danville, call 217-446-7620, email office@aasrdanville.org, or follow them on Facebook @Valley of Danville Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Bea Freemason.org explains the process of first becoming a Master Mason.



Oakwood Area Food Pantry

The Oakwood Area Food Pantry offers more than people might imagine. “We offer spiritual encouragement and supplemental food to our neighbors in need who reside in Oakwood, Catlin, Fithian, Muncie, Fairmount, Sidell, and Indianola,” explains Heather McArty, Executive Director since 2014. “We serve 30-50 families per week.”

The Oakwood Area Food Pantry has been around for decades. Initially unnamed and operating out of local church closets, the organization recently became a 501c3 nonprofit. The food pantry holds weekly distributions on Tuesdays from 10 am to noon.

The OAFP tackles food insecurity issues for the rural towns they serve. They accomplish their work by partnering with individuals, churches, businesses, and clubs that actively back its mission.

Long-term, committed volunteers handle everything, including board relations, weekly distributions, customer enrollment, gardening, fundraising, inventory, and delivery management.

While all information is kept strictly confidential, McArty says most guests are seniors struggling to balance medication prices and ever-increasing living expenses with putting food on the table.

The pantry currently operates from its 202 S. Scott Street, Oakwood location in just over 900 square feet. “The growing necessity and limited space have dictated the need for us to embark on a capital building improvement,” says McArty. “We are removing an existing carport and adding an extra 250sq feet of operating space, which will allow us to store more food and serve more guests. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to offset the expense of our

necessary expansion. Every sponsor-level supporter will be added to the donor wall at the pantry and automatically entered to win accommodations for one week in Topsail Island, North Carolina, which is steps away from the ocean. Donations are accepted by mail at OAFP, Inc. P.O. Box 66, Oakwood, IL 61858 or online at www.feedoakwood.myevent.com.”

Due to COVID-19 and unknown gathering restrictions, the 8th Annual Oakwood Area Food Pantry Turkey Trot will be a virtual fundraising event. The 5k race can be completed anywhere and anytime during the week 11/18/21-11/25/21 leading up to Thanksgiving. Online registration will be open from Oct. 15th-Nov. 5th and all participants will receive a T-shirt & medal.

To learn more, follow the Oakwood Area Food Pantry on Facebook @OakwoodAreaFoodPantry.

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-Currently, Vermilion County has one of the highest rates of food insecurity in Illinois at 15.3%.

-OAFP, Inc. is presently aiding a third of the county's towns by providing supplemental food to qualifying residents in Oakwood School District, Fithian, Muncie, Fairmount, Catlin, Sidell & Indianola.

-An average of 40 families plus 29 students benefit from our resources every week.

-Learn more about our project on YouTube Oakwood Area Food Pantry and follow our progress on Facebook.

DACC Corporate Education Offers Effective Training for Businesses and Individuals

Stephanie Yates, Executive Director of Corporate Education at Danville Area Community College (DACC), loves her unique vantage point to look behind the scenes at local companies and “meet the people who make the magic happen,” she says. “There are fabulous companies in this community, and I can tell you amazing things are happening every day!”

DACC's Corporate Education team is a trusted partner to business and industry for workforce training. Corporate Education serves the community by offering open enrollment programs, customized contract training, short-term career training, court-mandated defensive driving, and pre-employment assessments. They are also an Authorized Training Center for the American Heart Association.

While Corporate Education offers too many programs to list, several are among the most requested. “*Leadership Bootcamp*, an eight-course series, is designed to give new supervisors the tools they need to lead others effectively,” says Yates. “If someone has risen through the ranks of your organization and is now supervising others – have you given them the tools they need to handle this new ‘people’ responsibility effectively? Key areas covered include communication style, providing feedback, delegating tasks,



Stephanie Yates

offering recognition, and much more.” As a complement to the *Leadership Bootcamp*, DACC offers *Essential Employability Skills* training focusing on personal ethics, work ethics, and communication.

DACC also offers highly interactive and fun team-building workshops. Yates says *Playing for Keeps* will amp up your team's competitive spirit. The new *Lego Serious*

Play will enhance the effectiveness of meetings by driving participation, insights, engagement, commitment, and implementation of ideas.

Other training includes Customer Service; IL Mandated Sexual Harassment, Diversity and Inclusion; FMLA; Workers Comp; and Workplace Safety. Industry can count on Corporate Education for safety and compliance-related programs such as OSHA 10/30 Hour General Industry, Arc Flash Electrical Safety, Forklift Operator, Aerial Lift Operator, Confined Space, HAZWOPER, Active Shooter Preparedness and Response – to name a few.

Train the Trainer courses allow a company's experienced operators to become certified to train others. Lean and Quality training is popular with manufacturers who want to enhance production and profitability. Some examples include DACC's *Lean Certificate Series* and *Six Sigma Green Belt* programs.

“Customized training can be conducted in a short amount of time,” says Yates. “It can target specific skill gaps while taking into consideration the baseline knowledge the employees may already have. It is designed to get individuals upskilled and work-ready in a short time.”



NFPA70E+ Electrical Safety

Contract training can be conducted on or off-campus.

Almost any DACC academic class can be fast-tracked and customized for a business using the talent of experienced DACC faculty. Customized training can range from Industrial Maintenance, Hydraulics, Welding, AutoCAD, and Conversational Spanish to training incumbent workers on Powered Industrial Trucks aligned with the company's specific safety policies. As a value-added service, Corporate Education can link employers to WIOA funding opportunities for qualified training.

Yates says she is proud of the Corporate Education team and their heart for serving local businesses- large and small. "I will never take for granted having such a professional, talented team," she says. The team includes Brittany Woodworth, Sr. Director of Corporate Training; Earle Steiner, Director, Small Business Development Center (SBDC); Peggy Marruffo, Office Specialist, American Heart Association Administrator and Community Health Program Administrator; and Dillan Pickett, student worker.

DACC Corporate Education is also part of the IMIN Network, a quarterly, local forum of businesses who meet to collaborate and exchange knowledge and ideas.

Corporate Education offers low-cost, short-term career training for individuals interested in becoming an EMT, EMR, Pharmacy Technician, or Phlebotomist.



Some certification courses are offered online. A popular course for job seekers is the New Driver Forklift Operator course, which can open doors for a job in warehousing.

For more information about customized training or other Corporate Education programs, contact Stephanie Yates at 217-554-1628 or email syates@dacc.edu.

A list of available courses and a link to register can be found at dacc.edu at the Business and Community link.



Corporate & Community
EDUCATION

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8 HOUR HAZWOPER ANNUAL REFRESHER:
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Community Foundation of East Central Illinois



Fifty years ago, the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois (CFECI) founders wanted to "endow the community," and the Foundation they created has done just that.

Over the years, the Community Foundation has distributed nearly \$500,000 in Vermilion County to 20 different nonprofit organizations. The Foundation recently established an option to designate a donation to support individual counties the Foundation serves. The new Vermilion County Fund allows donors to make a gift to help partner nonprofits serving this county.

"We hold an endowment for the Boys and Girls Club in Danville," says Angie Hatfield Marker, the new President & CEO of CFECI. "It was the first endowment established in Danville. We were honored to accept many generous contributions to that fund made in memory of the late, great Lou Mervis when he passed away. That fund has grown considerably and will provide perpetual support for the Club and its programs and services."

About the Foundation

The Community Foundation promotes philanthropy in an impartial, unbiased, ethical way, with a commitment to inclusiveness. The organization's mission is to bring together people and resources to identify and address present and emerging community needs.

Established in 1972, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$21 million in charitable grants to more than 485 nonprofits working to improve the quality of life in its nine-county service area. These distributions include designated and undesignated gifts from endowments, field-of-interest funds, Donor-Advised funds, and scholarships.

The staff includes Marker, Center for Nonprofit Excellence Director Genevieve Kirk, and Grants and Scholarships Manager Kristen Duesdieker. "On behalf of our donors, and with the help of the Board of Trustees and six local investment partners, we steward more than 185 funds and distribute more than \$1.2 million annually to nonprofit organizations providing vital services and enrichment to residents in east-central Illinois," says Marker. "Our total assets have grown from \$1,300 in 1972 to nearly \$30 million today."

In 2020, the Foundation distributed \$1.2 million in grants and scholarships on behalf of its donors—more than any other year in the organization's history. And in collaboration with United Way, they were able to raise and distribute an additional \$1.2 million in funding to those most affected by the pandemic.

These grants supported community development, health and human services, the environment, youth programs, arts and culture, education and access to technology, immigrant assistance, housing, emergency assistance, care for seniors, cleaning and safety supplies, food, and healthcare.

Nine organizations in Vermilion Co received grant funding in 2020: The Dwelling Place, Salvation Army of Vermilion Co., Peace Meal, Hoopston Multi-Agency Service Center, Boys and Girls Club of Danville, Eastern Illinois Foodbank serving Vermilion Co., United Way of Danville, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois serving Vermilion Co.

Making an Impact in Vermilion County

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We also hold the Hobart and Mary Kay Peer Endowment Fund. This fund was established through an estate gift—a gift that included many acres of farmland on the Vermilion County line. The farm remains in production, and over the years has provided many distributions to charities that were important to the Peers. We realize agriculture is an important part of living and working in Illinois and we recognize gifts of real estate - including farmland - can be a valuable asset supporting many charitable causes perpetually. We allow landowners great flexibility in structuring their charitable gifts.



Welcome Back: Melissa Wilhelm, Salvation Army



Melissa Wilhelm, the Salvation Army's new Special Events & Development Coordinator for Vermilion and Champaign County, has strong ties to Vermilion County. "My family is originally from Danville," she says. "Although I use my late husband's name, my maiden name is Stack, and my father is one of twelve children originally raised in Danville. As a child, I spent much time in Danville visiting family, including my many cousins."

She loves putting her passion for community events, marketing skills, and natural ability to connect people to good use while serving the greater good.

"As Special Event & Development Coordinator for the Salvation Army, God granted me the privilege to merge my passions with my professional endeavors by serving the people of Vermilion County," says Wilhelm. "My role is to build brand awareness of our programs and services by cultivating meaningful relationships with potential board members, donors, volunteers, staff members, clients, government officials, and community members through heightened outreach initiatives, effective marketing campaigns,

and strong event facilitation. These efforts to better serve the local community are aligned with our overall mission to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

"Like most everyone, I have had plenty of life experience, including the loss of my husband 13 years ago, raising my two boys to adulthood as a single parent, and now caring for my father, who is a Veteran in hospice care. I have a heart for people and a love of community. I truly believe that my personal experiences have taught me great compassion and relatability to many people who may be hurting in our community today."

Wilhelm brings a wealth of experience to her position. Previously, she was a Regional Market Manager for a global employment agency serving seven offices in Central Illinois. She also worked as the Director of Business Relations for the

Mahomet Area Chamber of Commerce in Champaign County, she managed her own small LLC, and, for 16 years, she held recruiting management roles for 2 Chicago-based firms. Since relocating back to Central Illinois in 2011, Wilhelm has volunteered her time heavily for multiple community organizations and her church.

"I believe my experience has cultivated the right skill set for this new position," she says. "Working with a non-profit, evangelical organization that serves the community is a dream come true for me."

A good portion of the population may not be aware of The Salvation Army's mission, social service offerings, or emergency disaster efforts. The history of the Salvation Army and the purpose it serves in the community is important work - locally, nationally, and globally.

"I love that the money raised by The Salvation Army always stays in the county where the person donating resides," she says. "The confidence I have that these gifts and efforts land in places that need it most while sharing hope and faith has been incredibly fulfilling to me, personally, and I'd like to share that fulfillment with others."

The Salvation Army just completed its annual back-to-school events, including Stuff the Bus and Operation Homefront. As we head into the holiday season, The Salvation Army will team up with local organizations to continue building awareness and raising funds for those in need in Vermilion County. They will host traditional holiday events, including Christmas baskets, Angel Tree, and Red Kettles.

To learn more about the Salvation Army's work and find links for donations, volunteerism, and events, visit sadanville.org.



**DOING
THE MOST
GOODSM**

Fithian Celebrates New Community Playground

The village of Fithian recently unveiled a new, accessible playground in Brentlinger Park thanks to help from sponsors, businesses, grant providers, the community, and many volunteers.

Fithian is a quaint village of about 550 residents, located along Route 150 between Oakwood and Ogden.

Each year, the community selects one new improvement project. "Our project this year was to replace the playground equipment," says Lisa Powell, Fithian Village Clerk. "Our old playground was very outdated and not meeting safety standards. We knew this would have a big impact on the village and bring the community together as everyone volunteered to help."

Christmas gift, a grant from the John P. Cadle Foundation of \$10,000! We were so excited!" The village board then decided to finance the last \$8,000 of the \$65,000 playground project. Just as the project was getting underway, the village was notified of an \$8,000 grant from the Vermilion Healthcare Foundation to cover the remaining cost.

"Fithian is a pleasant, friendly village. Everyone is your neighbor, and we look out for each other."

Covid caused several delays, but the playground equipment was delivered in October of 2020. While they waited for the equipment to arrive, village board members and community volunteers used the time to plan and install part of the sidewalk perimeter to ensure accessibility.

volunteers. They hosted a playground grand opening on July 10, 2021.

About Fithian

Beyond the playground update, the community has experienced other changes. The community center received a makeover. With help from local grants, the exterior and interior were repainted, and the interior was updated. Keep Vermilion County Beautiful (KVCB) grants helped purchase/replace several storm-damaged trees, build a small pavilion, add picnic tables at the park, and create a new "Welcome to Fithian" sign on the west entrance of the village. KVCB grants also helped with a portion of the playground perimeter sidewalks and rubber mats for the recent playground makeover.



The Playground Project began with a meeting in September 2017 that included Sam Lawson from All Inclusive Rec and Logan Cronk, then with Vermilion Advantage. The village knew the project would require significant funding, so they sought business sponsorships, hosted a local gun raffle, applied for grants, and asked for donations from residents.

In 2019, Lisa Powell, as village trustee, explained the project at Danville's Sunrise Rotary. This meeting opened doors to apply for many local grants. "It took three, long years of hard work to compile most of the funds," says Powell. "In December 2019, we received a

A small army of volunteers then set up the playground equipment in early October. The Fithian Women's Club provided hot lunch and warm drinks. "It was very rewarding to see the community come together to help with a village project they can be proud of!" says Powell. "I praise the Lord for this as the whole event was covered in prayer. Neighbors met new neighbors, no one got hurt, and everything fell in place!" Volunteers finished the final concrete pour in late 2020 and early 2021.

The new playground is handicap accessible along with accessible playground equipment. The playground includes rubber mats to go under the swings, the end of the slides, and around the merry-go-round. A permanent sign has been posted at the park with all the sponsors' names, donation providers, grant providers, and

Fithian Fast Facts

- The only town in the US named Fithian.
- Named after Dr. William Fithian, who donated the land to the community around 1830.
- Host an annual Firemen's Fish fry in August.
- Host annual garage sales on the first Saturday in May.
- Businesses include The Hideaway Bar/Gaming, The House of Florence Antique Store, Stallings Ford, Cromwell Barber Shop, Cromwell Storage, Kinney's Guns, Bows-2-Toes, Engelman Trucking, and the Fithian Post Office.
- Places to visit - Fithian Methodist Church; Brentlinger Park baseball field, basketball court, and playground; and the Fithian Community Center

Vermilion River Beer Co., Portal Entertainment Group, and Kick Me Shirts

Three exciting downtown Danville businesses have at least one thing in common: Peter Blackmon. The local entrepreneur serves as Managing Partner of Vermilion River Beer Company, Kick Me Shirts, and is one of the Principals of Portal Entertainment Group.



Vermilion River Beer Company

Vermilion River Beer Company, located at 103 N. Vermilion, is a full-service bar focused on craft beers with a special emphasis on those made locally or regionally in Illinois. Craft cocktails and wine are also offered. Vermilion River Beer Company employs 15 people. Vermilion River Beer Company's corporation (33RPMs, LLC) began in 2016, with the bar opening officially in 2019. Vermilion River Beer Company Partners are Anthony Barlow, Rob Black, Peter Blackmon, Michael Jorgenson, and Jay Maloney.

"When it comes to Vermilion River Beer Company, the single most surprising feature of our business is our selection," says Blackmon. "We have around 100 beers to choose from at any given time. It's always new flavors in rotation at a fairly high frequency."

Vermilion River Beer Company has an ever-changing lineup of events. A few upcoming events include:

*Friday, November 26: "Black Friday: An Alternative to Shopping" Music and Food begins at 8 AM

*Thursday, December 9: "Rat Pack Christmas Party" benefitting the Women's Shelter and Food for the Children.

*Tuesday, February 15: "Drinkin' with Lincoln."



Portal Entertainment

Portal Entertainment Group, located at 112 N. Vermilion, is the collaborative

effort of four individuals with a combined experience of over 100 years in the entertainment industry. The company caters to the varying event and entertainment needs of buyers all over the Midwest. The company employs event staff as necessary. Portal Entertainment started in 2018 and also has a satellite office in Champaign.

Peter Blackmon, Michael "Guido" Esteves, Tom Grassman, and Jeff Markland lead the company.

"Vermilion Advantage has become a megaphone for us, not only echoing our efforts but expanding our reach. The re-emergence of the Chamber of Commerce division . . . I recommend joining to small businesses frequently. Excitement breeds excitement."

Portal Entertainment Group's event lineup features:

*April: "Fairway to Heaven" Rock and Roll Golf Outing at Wolf Creek Golf Course

*June/July: First Gig Rock N Roll Camp for Kids, Danville, Champaign, Decatur, and Bloomington-Normal.

"I think the thing most surprising thing about Portal Entertainment Group has to do with its owners, who, except for me, are all talented musicians," says Blackmon. "If we can't find and buy what the buyer is wanting, we can create it from our network of talent."



Kick Me Shirts

Kick Me Shirts, located at 112 N. Vermilion, is an apparel business specializing in full-color direct-to-garment printing. The company's main clients are events and entertainment-related from across the country. "We're proud of our

'skies the limit' design replication with no minimum orders on short notice," says Blackmon. The company started in 2018. Kick Me Shirts' partners are Rob Black, Michael "Clutch" Blackmon, and Peter Blackmon.

The three businesses are intertwined, with each beginning in some small way because of the opportunities created by the others. "Kick Me Shirts provides apparel to the other two businesses," says Blackmon. "Portal often works through Vermilion River Beer Company to help with the entertainment, but that's just the beginning. It's all connected; VRBC's partnership with Lovin Cup Food Truck & Obsidian Coffee. Portal's involvement in Balloon's Over Vermilion and Summer Sounds. We see the benefits of cross-promotion, and we are always seeking new ways to connect with other business partners."

To learn more, you may reach Peter Blackmon at 217-260-4548.



Jeanne Mulvaney Earns Prestigious Lions Club Awards

Danville resident Jeanne Mulvaney was named Lion of the Year by the Danville Lions Club and a Lion of Illinois Foundation Fellow through the state Lions organization. She is retired from United Way of Danville Area, currently serving on the Board of Directors of Vermilion Advantage. We recently caught up with Jeanne to learn more about the award, Danville Lions Club, and her many years of service to Vermilion County.

Tell us about the award.

Recognition by the Danville Lions left me both humbled and grateful for the opportunity to be a Lion. The plaque reads: "Lions of Illinois Foundation Fellow Award is presented to Lion Jeanne Mulvaney for your ongoing dedication to serving people with vision and hearing needs."

Why did you join the Danville Lions Club?

I joined Danville Lions because of services Lions rendered to someone who reached out to me at United Way, having cancer, losing her job, her health, and her eyesight. I contacted the Danville Lions, who connected her with resources to help her. After she called me with grateful tears to tell me what Lions had done for her, I knew I wanted to be a Lion.

Tell us a little more about yourself. I am grateful for my loving and nurturing family growing up in Springfield, Ohio and for my family with whom I have been blessed living in Danville since 1976. My family is my center.

You have been employed in critical organizations serving our community residents. Where has your career taken you? Leadership Danville of the Chamber of Commerce; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermilion County; HALO Project of Provena USMC Foundation; CRIS Senior Services; Schlarman High School Development; and United Way of Danville Area.

You've also been a legendary community volunteer. Where have you given your time? St. Elizabeth Hospital Junior Auxiliary, Child Welfare and Visiting Nurses Association, St. Paul's Elementary School, Familyland of Oldsmobile Balloon Classic, the USMC Foundation Board, leadership development and violence prevention with several youth organizations,



Vermilion Advantage Board, and HALO Project's Study Circles on Race Relations, among others.

Why do you believe it is important to volunteer?

Volunteering helps create a stronger, healthier community where all can live, learn, grow, and strive to live fully and freely in peaceful concert with our neighbors. However, building a healthy community goes beyond volunteering. It requires each of us to examine our strengths and God-given talents, seeing each person we encounter as a child of God and treating them with dignity, respect and understanding in our daily lives. This extends beyond volunteering to include interactions with our family, our friends, those in our workplace, our church, and the community at large.

Tell us about the Lions Club.

When it comes to meeting challenges, the response of Lions Club is simple: We Serve. Lions is

the largest international service club in the world. According to Lions International 105th President, Douglas X. Alexander: "Lions are a family. A very big, global family – one in which the only requirement is pure and simple: a heart for service."

Chartered in 1959 Danville Lions Club has aspired to promote the principles of wanting everyone to see a better tomorrow. In 2019 Danville Lions Club, under the direction of then-President Fred Faulstich and the Board of Directors, celebrated its 60th Anniversary. In that year, our annual Chili Day raised \$10,000 to support vision screening for children at Head Start, delivering Christmas food baskets to families, raising awareness of diabetes, and many local non-profit organizations. In March of 2021, the annual Chili Day raised \$12,000 for local community support.

What do you appreciate most about Vermilion County? Its natural beauty and the vast opportunities for volunteerism and employment in our community.

How can someone learn more about the Danville Lions Club?

Contact 2021-22 Club President Keith Strinmoen at 217-446-4128 or 2020-21 District Governor 1-M Bill Wallpe at 217-474-9210, bwallpe45@hotmail.com. Visit www.district1m.org or follow them on Facebook @danvillelionsclub.

ALL A's ACCOLADES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Witzel Family






September Employee of the Month

Hometown Stars McDonald's.....	Kelly Jeffres
Classic Rock-n-Roll.....	Amier Smith
Oakwood.....	Noah Gentzsh
Georgetown.....	Gavin Chestnut
Hoopeston.....	Nicole Foley
Neighborhood McDonald's.....	Rosa Angel

September Student/Athlete of the Month:

Danville High School Student of the Month.....	Kolten Morgan
Danville High School Athlete of the Month.....	Lexi Ellis
Schlarman Academy North Student of the Month.....	Ethan Dunham
Schlarman Academy North Athlete of the Month.....	Caroline Bogen
Oakwood Student of the Month.....	Madison Doan
Oakwood Athlete of the Month.....	Joe Lashuay
Georgetown Student of the Month.....	Chloe Brock
Georgetown Athlete of the Month.....	Trinity Collins

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-  Local Jobs Board with over 40,000 monthly views
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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
McLane Midwest
Mervis Industries
REG Danville, LLC
Republic (formerly Allied Waste)
thyssenKrupp Presta
Vermilion Development, Inc.
Viscofan USA, Inc.
Voyant Beauty
Watchfire Signs

ADVANTAGE MILLENNIUM MEMBER: (Level \$2,500 - \$5,999)

AmerenIP
Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center
Catlin Bank
Central States Distribution Service
City of Hoopeston
CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
Curry Construction
Double S Liquid Feed Service, Inc.
Genpact
Greenwood, Inc.
McDonald's c/o DND Witzel Enterprises, Inc.
Quaker Oats
Village of Oakwood
Walgreens - Danville Accounting Center

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Bose Corporation
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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
BEE PLUS, Inc.
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
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Gailey Eye Clinic
Gardenview Manor
Gibson Teldata, Inc.
Greene Galvanized Stairs
Group 2029 Inc. (d/b/a Burger King)
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Heartland Properties, Inc.
Hickory Point Bank
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HRW, Inc.
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Revive Salon & Spa
River Bottom Farms Topsoil
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Russell Leigh & Associates
Salt Fork CUSD #512
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Sentry Roofing, Inc.
Shore Wealth Management
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Steel Grip, Inc.
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Terminix Services, Inc.
The Andersons Rail Group
Toni Stone State Farm Agency

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
 WITY Illiana Communications, LLC
 Woodard's Computing Services

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(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

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 AutoZone Distribution Center
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 Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1
 Bodine Electric of Danville
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 Danville Housing Authority
 Danville NECA-IBEW Electrical JATC
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 ERH Enterprises, Inc.
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 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
 Mason, MD John
 McDowell Builders, Inc.
 McLaughlin Asset Management
 MidWest America Federal Credit Union
 Myers Carpet Weavers
 Napa Auto & Truck Parts Superstore
 NCT, Inc.
 Newell Township Supervisor
 NewWave Communications

North Vermilion Family Dental
 Oakwood CUSD No. 76
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 Servpro of Vermilion County
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 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 Belgium
 Village of Bismarck
 Village of Henning
 Village of Potomac
 WhiteSmith Marketing Group, Inc.

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 Baby Blessings Ultrasound Studio
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 Butler, Rosemary (Tutor/Mentor)
 Cannon Place Mercy Housing
 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
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 Danville Sunrise Rotary
 Danville Symphony Orchestra
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 Deer Creek Manor
 DLO Musical Theatre (formerly Danville Light Opera)
 Douglas Discovery Garden
 Eastern Illinois Foodbank
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 University of IL Extension., Vermilion Co. Unit
 Venue 22
 Vermilion Co. Conservation Dist. Foundation
 Vermilion Co. Elementary Schools Assoc.
 Vermilion Co. Fair and Expo
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 Vermilion Co. War Museum
 Vermilion Voles Vintage Baseball Club
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 WorkSource Enterprises
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 Fields, David L.
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 Hays, Chad (Retired State Representative)
 Lee, Todd
 Mulvaney, Jeanne
 Nicholls, Bill
 Resh, Gary (Resh Frame Shop)
 Spezia, John (Reach 1 Coach 1)
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