

# INSIDE

March 2024

*Vermilion County*

**Thanking Vermilion  
County's Mr. Positive  
- Mike Hulvey -**



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# INSIDE

Vermilion County

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CEO/President

**Nicole Van Hyfte**  
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**Jodie Ingram**  
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Vermilion County has been living with the ghost of General Motors for almost 30 years. It's a stubborn ghost that doesn't want to go away. Sometimes we let the ghost get the better of us and we become our own worst critics. We buy into the pessimism about where we are in comparison to the days of yesteryear. It's an easy trap to fall into.

When we buy into that negativity, we miss all the hard work that has been done to set our County on the road to recovery, and we forget about the wonderful opportunities that lie directly in front of us. It is a good time for our County to be on the upswing. Manufacturing and Tech companies are reevaluating how they locate facilities, stressing things like quality of life for their workforce. The pandemic changed where and how we work and raised questions about the viability of locating our entire supply chain in countries like China. In short, the time has never been better for Vermilion County to attract new businesses and permanently exorcise the ghost of GM.

That is where Vermilion Advantage comes in. The first thing our County must do to be prepared is to make sure our current businesses are strong. That is why our workforce education committee is set to work on big issues like the worker shortage. We've also engaged our board to help identify other barriers to business expansion and possible solutions to those problems. And we must work hard to bring in new business. That is why we have set out to identify all the tracts of available land in the County that could be developed and get all the utility infrastructure access information available on those tracts. If those tracts need utility infrastructure upgrades for major development, then we must formulate plans to get that infrastructure in place. Vermilion Advantage is working hard to solve problems for our members, to be ready for new and exciting opportunities, and to build the new Vermilion County of our future.

Mike Marron  
CEO/President  
Vermilion Advantage

## Inside This Issue:

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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 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.

# City of Danville Clearing Buildings & Lots

If you look around, you might notice the increasing number of lots being cleared with structures coming down. The City of Danville has removed several hundred blighted structures in the last five years, and this will continue to be a priority for us as we carry on with forward progress!

"What is blight?" one might ask. In relation to cities, blight encompasses abandoned buildings and lots, houses in derelict or dangerous shape, overgrown lots with debris and litter, or structures and/or ground experiencing environmental contamination. Because of our population decline, Danville now has more structures than our remaining population requires. Community Development Administrator Logan Cronk says, "Some may say that our greatest weakness is our housing stock. We have a quality, not a quantity, problem in Danville. We have too many structures for our population, and the empty ones are deteriorating. The cost to repair these structures far exceeds the value of a home in Danville in most cases." The City of Danville is taking a multi-pronged approach to this

problem through demolition and rehabilitation.

Annually, we invest approximately \$750,000 - \$1,000,000 towards reducing blight. This funding comes from a variety of sources, including the Community Development Block Grant, the Community Reinvestment Fund, and the Illinois Housing Development Authority. The demolition cost per structure varies based on the survey fee, asbestos abatement, boarding materials, labor costs, and dump fees. The average approximate cost per structure is between \$10 - \$20 thousand. Moving forward into the next five years, the City of Danville will continue this effort but will also shift some of these dollars toward rehabilitating salvageable homes to improve our housing stock.

How does the city acquire properties to demolish? There are a series of circumstances that can set this process into motion. If the structure is court-ordered to be demolished because it is deemed unsafe or condemned, if the property is acquired for economic development, if the city accepts a

donated property, or if the city acquires the property through the property tax auction, the property then becomes eligible for demolition. Properties are then prioritized based on safety hazards, economic development and infrastructure improvement projects, and cleaning up main thoroughfares and neighborhoods. The city demolishes the selected properties as quickly as possible, and properties are continually added to the demolition list as deemed necessary.

Although we still have work to do, we have made incredible progress in cleaning up neighborhoods, developing underdeveloped areas, and reducing the number of unsafe properties. Mayor Rickey Williams Jr. says, "Blight elimination has been and will continue to be a top priority of this administration. People deserve to live in a city they can take pride in!"



## NJCAA Tournament Fast Facts

Danville Area Community College will host the Division II National Junior College Men's Basketball Championship for the 31st consecutive year! March 18-23, 2024.

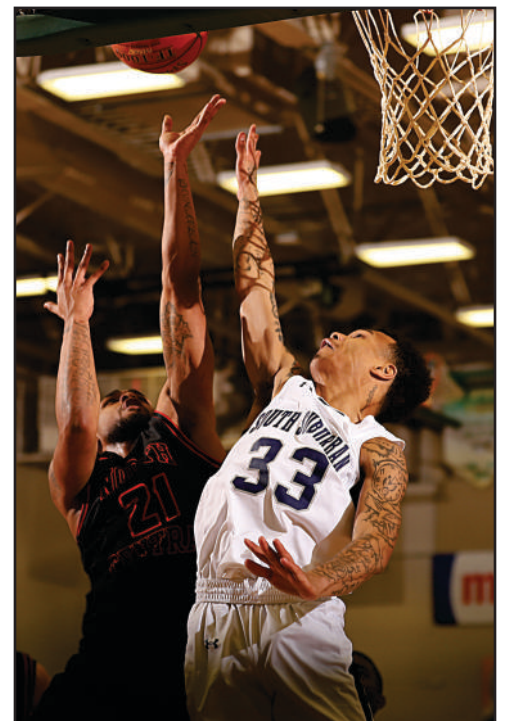
The tournament began with four teams and has grown to 20 this year. Fans can expect more games and an additional day of tournament play. More than 350 volunteers will assist with the tournament.

"The tournament provides a substantial increase in new dollars added to our community coffers and spreads positive news about our city," says Jeanie Cooke, NJCAA tournament leadership team and Executive Director of the Danville Area Visitor's Bureau.

"You can't buy enough advertising to spread the kind of positive stories told about our community resulting from the National Tournament. It also builds a sense of community pride. I am most proud of the over 350 volunteers who help run the tournament and our community college that continues to add improvements to the facility. The administrators and college staff provide unprecedented support."

Volunteers and sponsors are needed to make the tournament a success.

To sponsor, learn more or volunteer, email [info@danvilleareainfo.com](mailto:info@danvilleareainfo.com). For information, go to [visitdanvillearea.com](http://visitdanvillearea.com).



# WHY SHOULD I JOIN....



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## NETWORKING & EVENTS

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Weekly Member Announcements, What's Happening guide, Email blasts, monthly Inside Vermilion Advantage Magazine, Facebook and Instagram

## MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA

## SUPPORT & VISIBILITY

Members supporting members! Learn from businesses owners who face similar problems. Grow your business visibility and increase your presence in the community

Our education initiatives include Leadership Tomorrow, HR & Safety Council, Vermilion County Mayor's Council, and a partnership with Danville Area Community College

## EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## WORKFORCE

Our Vermilion County jobs board allows members to post your hiring needs! Manufacturing, Logistics, Healthcare and Technology/Service workforce clusters fund career-focused programs and career awareness services such as Skills USA

From new business recruitment to professional employee recruitment, we are here to help new and current businesses thrive

## RECRUITMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT NICOLE VAN HYFTE AT [NVANHYFTE@VERMILIONADVANTAGE.COM](mailto:NVANHYFTE@VERMILIONADVANTAGE.COM) OR 217-442-6201

# Leadership Tomorrow: Preparing for Class 35

A new class of community leaders is gearing up for a year of learning and growth through Leadership Tomorrow.

Leadership Tomorrow, originally Leadership Danville, was created in 1986 to assist emerging community leaders preparing for local government and community affairs leadership positions. The principle behind the program is to foster community leaders who are better equipped to face the complex issues of today's world while thoughtfully planning for future generations. Leadership Tomorrow has developed leaders in this pursuit for more than 30 years.

Nicole Van Hyfte, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and Annie Monyok of Monyok Leadership direct the program through Vermilion Advantage.

Program participants can expect to:

- Receive community leadership development through mentoring.
- Establish a strong network of professional relationships.
- Cultivate a commitment to get involved in the community.
- Build pride in Vermilion County.

The next class will be announced in April. Applications were accepted in February, and interviews are being conducted in March. In April, Monyok

and Van Hyfte will pair class members with mentors. The number of participants will be limited to 20.

Application criteria includes:

- A willingness to accept civic and leadership roles upon graduation
- A willingness to commit time and energy to the future of Vermilion County.
- An awareness of community issues, problems and opportunities.
- A desire for personal growth opportunities.
- Must live or work in Vermilion County.

The program promises to develop participants' awareness of the community, its problems, challenges, and opportunities through an educational process; assist participants in assuming leadership roles in the community through volunteer and mentor opportunities; develop and ensure the continuation of a network of community leaders accessible to service and non-profit organizations; and provide the participants with the opportunity to network.

"The community gains better leaders who have taken the time to invest in Vermilion County," says Monyok. "The knowledge you gain from the class is unique to the Leadership Tomorrow program.

Van Hyfte is especially excited about the changes she and Annie Monyok implemented in the program. "When she and I got the green light to give the class a 'facelift,' we were able to add in the Amazing Race VC and the mentor piece. Also, each participant must do 60 hours of volunteering and join a board or run for office upon graduation.

"The mentor program has made a huge impact. To partner with a person who has experience and connections already established in the community is a big deal. Another community benefit is that we provide volunteers. We do everything from Balloons Over Vermilion to the Festival of Trees to the United Way Campaign Kick-off. Upon graduation, the students are asked to join a board or run for office. The hope is that they learn about different non-profit organizations in Vermilion County and what they are passionate about through volunteering. We really are creating a leadership impact in Vermilion County through Leadership Tomorrow."

Formerly, the class met every other Friday for four months. Now, the group meets two days in May and June and one day from July to December. The program concludes with a graduation ceremony at the Danville Country Club.

Van Hyfte credits her participation in Class 29 with providing the springboard to where she is today, professionally and personally. "It is a deep dive into Vermilion County," she adds. "You see who is doing what and how you can fit into making a positive difference in our community."

*"It is important for local business leaders to take part in Leadership Tomorrow because you will not get this local education anywhere else.*

*When you look around the community, you see that many of our community leaders have been through this class. It's great for your resume if you plan to work in Vermilion County."* Nicole Van Hyfte





# Young Professionals Network Announces Exciting 2024 Lineup

Jodie Ingram, Community Development Coordinator for Vermilion Advantages' popular Young Professionals Network (YPN), shares information about the program and the new "How 2" series.

**Tell us a little about the YPN program.** The Young Professionals Network is an organization geared to unite young, working professionals of Vermilion County. YPN is a great way to bring these young professionals together to socialize, network, and volunteer. YPN gives people the opportunity to help better themselves and our community. Whether you are a young professional, young in your career, or just young at heart, we welcome you to join us!

**How has the program changed?** Our Chamber Director, Nicole VanHyfte, brought YPN back in 2021. The program continues to grow and evolve, and we are excited to see what the future holds!

**What events are scheduled for 2024?** This year, we will be very intentional about guiding Young Professionals on their career path with a ten-month "How 2" series. We are also adding some fun to the schedule; watch for our "Off the Clock" networking events!

**Tell us about the new series.** The "How 2" series runs for ten months and addresses topics many of us have struggled with at some point in our careers.

Vermilion Advantage wanted to introduce a feature that Young Professionals would find valuable. After meeting with various young professionals and discussing their workplace

challenges, we compiled a list of topics that would be beneficial to help them grow.

**Who are the presenters, and what are the topics?**

- Nicole VanHyfte: How to get involved in your community.
- Annie Monyok: How to manage your time: creating work/life balance.
- Terri Cummings & Tonya Hill: How to build your network.
- Kris Bell: How to take care of your mental health.
- Chris Robinson: How to start your own business.
- Kylee Turner: How to give and receive constructive feedback.
- Tricia Teague: How to use active listening for better communication.
- Jackie Vinson: How to find comfort in public speaking.
- Logan Cronk: How to create synergy: collaboration and teamwork.
- Ashton Greer: How to set goals: Where are you, and where do you want to be?

**What are you most proud of related to YPN?** The program itself. Nicole has done a fantastic job bringing it back and growing it into what it is today! I am also proud of our community leaders. When we sent out our idea for the "How 2" series, the leaders showed up in a big way to volunteer their time to speak to our young professionals.

**What would surprise people about the program?** Many people want to know about the age limit. Well, there isn't one! As I mentioned, whether you are a young professional, young in your career, or just young at heart there is something for you!

We also like to have a lot of fun! It is so important to find your people and build your network. Our "Off the Clock" events will provide a low-pressure, non-intimidating environment for young professionals to build their network and have fun while doing it!

**What do you see as Danville/Vermilion County's greatest strengths?** The people! Helen Keller said it best: "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much! "

**How can people support YPN?** Please spread the word. If you know someone who could benefit from the program, please encourage them to come! Also, if you are a business owner interested in hosting an "Off the Clock" event, please let us know!

**If someone is interested in more information, who should they contact?** Contact Jodie Ingram by email at [jingram@vermilionadvantage.com](mailto:jingram@vermilionadvantage.com), by phone at 217-442-6201, or by visiting our website at [www.vermilionadvantage.com](http://www.vermilionadvantage.com).



## Vermilion County Spotlight: Court Administration

People may be surprised by the amount of responsibility that falls on the Vermilion County Court Administration department. “Each Judge is assigned a designated call(s),” says Cindy Savalick, Court Administrator. “Keeping and maintaining a calendar with seven judges, with at least 34 different case categories, and ensuring court hearings are set with the correct judge(s) at the correct times, is a daunting task.”

The Vermilion County Court Administration team provides direction, coordination and supervision of non-judicial personnel within the judiciary, including administrative staff and the bailiffs; management of the judicial caseload; management of physical spaces available for the judiciary; management of the Court Administration budget; coordination of the Court's daily administrative affairs, including providing administrative assistance to all of the Court's judges; assistance and back-up to the Jury Commission Coordinator; facilitate, schedule and coordinate the appearances of out-of-county judges in conflict cases; assist the Presiding Judge in the development of short and long-range goals and objectives to improve Court operations; determine and identify needs, equipment, facilities, systems and procedures to increase the effectiveness of the Court; and payroll for all non-judicial personnel.

The team currently includes Savalick's position, a Deputy Court Administrator/Courtroom Tech Administrator, a Jury Commission Coordinator, and 13 Bailiffs.

The main focus areas involve managing the court calendars for seven different judges' schedules for all hearings in the chancery, domestic relations, family, felony, juvenile, law (civil), and probate divisions.

Savalick says the fact there is no typical day keeps her job interesting. “Of course, it is typical that attorneys and self-represented litigants either call or come into the office to set their cases for hearing, but beyond that, it just depends on the day,” she says. “A daily calendar containing scheduled hearings



is prepared and published on the county website. Since the pandemic, our county began hearing some cases via Zoom (granted on a case-by-case basis). This entails the daily scheduling and sending out Zoom invitations to all parties involved in the case for every hearing. My office is the liaison for equipment failures, HVAC and plumbing problems, technological problems in the Courtrooms, the Judges' chambers and support staff offices, and directing and assisting lost or confused visitors of the Courthouse.”

One of the department's top priorities is conducting the duties of a court administrator efficiently, professionally, and proficiently. “This office seems to be the 'go-to' office for all questions, direction, problems and information for all county-wide issues,” she says. “Where we can't help, we direct them to an office that can.”

Current projects include the modernization and integration of Courtroom AV Technologies for evidence presentation and video distribution (where a video signal is strategically distributed throughout each of the four "jury" courtrooms to ensure that all parties can easily see presented evidence content. “This modernization will also include a control station, so attorneys have a user-friendly interface,” she says. “The work is being completed through a State of Illinois Court Modernization Program grant. Vermilion County was awarded \$275,000+. Reifsteck Reid (Architects) are also looking into renovating Courtrooms 3A and 3B.” The idea is to increase the size of Courtroom 3B, one of the courtrooms used for jury trials, and reconfigure Courtroom 3A, the Juvenile Courtroom where multiple attorneys and families need more space at counsel tables.

As Mike Hulvey steps into his new role leading RAB, the national radio organization, family and area residents want to thank him for his positive leadership in Vermilion County.



Before March 4th and B Positive, there was The Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,' and Mike has lived that every day. He's always been the guy with the welcoming smile, the listening ear, and a knack for finding positive ways to problem solve. A community influencer and a dependable cornerstone for all, Mike has never lost sight of his roots and consistently remains everyone's biggest cheerleader. Always celebrating both the big and small victories with unwavering support.

Dad - as you are stepping into a national radio leadership role, during these changing times for the industry, we're excited to see the community rally behind you. Your passion for positivity has shaped not just our family, but also the lives of those around you. Here's to the man who leads with kindness, listens with love, and spreads positivity wherever he goes. We are so proud to be your daughters!

**Marissa Hulvey-Simpson & Macey Conwell**

# Tribute to Mike Hulvey

By far Mike's greatest strength is as a dad, grandpa and husband! He is the most positive person I know. I think his March Forth Be Positive attitude is his superpower!

I have always loved Mike for his positivity and the passion he has for family, the radio industry and Vermilion County. Of course, there are many more. The Indy 500, ILLINI Football, Indianapolis Colts as well as NASA space program to name just a few.

He does a great job of using sports analogies to promote or teach. He is so fun to listen to when introducing someone or giving talks!

When we got married and blended our families, we've always referred to ourselves as the Brady Bunch. (I never got an "Alice" though). Our family dog was named India so Mike could call her Indy, a cat was named Pagoda after the start finish structure at the Indy 500. Then another kitten named Apollo as he's white with gray accents making him look like an astronaut.

People ask if Mike is always this positive? You better believe it. YES, he is!!

**Julie Ingram-Hulvey, Mike's wife of 25 years**

Finding someone who is as universally loved and respected as Mike is rare air. He's been a friend since we started our Vermilion County careers in the 80s. Over the years, he's become one of my closest pals - someone I can always trust to bring a fresh perspective, an encouraging word and a good laugh. It's been pure joy to watch both his professional and personal life soar. Congratulations to Mike, Julie, the whole Hulvey Bunch, and now RAB. When it comes to this guy, I have a feeling we haven't seen anything yet!

**Terri White, WhiteSmith Marketing Group**

Michael Hulvey. His name itself just exudes "POSITIVE!" If you have met Mike, you will remember him. If you have heard a Mike Hulvey story, you will remember it. If you want to fire up the crowd, call Mike Hulvey. If you want to talk to Vermilion County's biggest cheerleader, call Mike Hulvey. It is no small wonder that Mr. Positive was born on March 4<sup>th</sup> with B Positive blood, thus his all too true annual proclamation for us all to "March Forth and Be positive".

Michael has his heart in all the right places. First his family. Followed by his extended family, which numbers in the hundreds, his career, which has seen him rise to the top in everything he tackles. These are followed by his community, of which he has given himself unselfishly for many years. A wonderful listener, a willing mentor, a guy not afraid to cry, always a helping hand, and someone I am proud to call my friend! Congratulations Michael. No matter where life leads you, I have no doubt Danville will always remain in your heart.

**Pat O'Shaughnessy**

I met Mike through my position as Superintendent of D118. He soon became a valued and trusted friend. One of his strengths is that he is usually the voice of reason. He has a way of getting to the core of a situation.

Mike found a way to use radio to help us remain connected to our students during the pandemic. *Teacher Talk Time* was his brainchild. I am grateful he thought enough of our students to start the program here in Danville 118.

If you don't know him, know this is true. He has a heart as big as the state of Texas.

**Dr. Alicia Geddis, Superintendent, Danville District 118**

Mike and I have known each other since 1997 when I started dating my late husband Geoff Neuhoff, his former station owner. Though he was a client of mine in the early 2000's when I worked in Chicago, Mike and I didn't begin working together until my husband's sudden death in 2012. Mike and I then worked together for ten years as we built the company across central Illinois and Indiana.

Mike always believed in our motto, Media Made Locally. He lived and breathed it across the company but particularly in Vermilion County. No matter how far Mike's star rose in the radio industry, he never forgot his roots and reveled in his opportunity to showcase the positives in Vermilion County.

Mike has many strong points: he is a powerful communicator, doesn't know the word quit, and has a heart for making the world a better place each day he's in it.

They don't make them more special than Mike. Vermilion County is very lucky to call him their native son.

**Beth Neuhoff, former CEO, Neuhoff Communications**

I know Mike from his activism around town. His greatest attribute for Danville is his positive attitude toward achieving our goals. One of his major contributions is the class for kids that he established at DACC, so that they are exposed to radio work. Mike is an achiever, with the attitude of accomplishing whatever he feels is of value to our community.

**Sybil Mervis**

I have had the distinct pleasure of meeting Mike through our roles on the Vermilion Advantage Executive Board. Mike's passion for Vermilion County and his career are undeniable, as is his ability to articulate his passion for both. He can uncover the positive in just about any situation. He is well known for the positive impact he makes in the community with projects like his March Forth Moments. He cares deeply about the future of Vermilion County and the relationships he developed over the years. I am thankful for the leadership and guidance Mike provided to the executive board over the years and thankful that I was fortunate enough to have served with him in this capacity.

**Gary Tucker, CEO, thyssenkrupp Dynamic Components Danville LLC**

I have known Mike for most of my adult life. I have worked with Mike on many, many community projects, and of course as an advertiser for the radio station. He is also a personal friend. We fondly refer to ourselves as brother and sister. (And yes, I am the big sister). Our comfort dog is named after his Aunt Bea.

Mike's greatest strength has always been his B+ attitude about Vermilion County. He is a visionary who helps tell stories that always encourage and inspires others - whether at the radio camp he is so passionate about, or the many hours he has spent with Vermilion Advantage and the DFIG board, or the great March Forth moments he provides at all the Step Up meetings!

Mike leads by example and has mentored many young people in our community and throughout the radio industry nationally. That is a huge outreach! He truly cares for people. It starts with his family, friends who are like family, business associates and the list goes on and on. Mike will be there for you in the good times, the not so good times and everywhere in between.

**Linda Darby-Dowers, CEO, Greenwood Inc**



**Tribute to Mike Hulvey** (cont.)

I first met him after I spoke at a Vermilion County Youth Honors Program. Afterward, he introduced himself and his daughter Marissa, who became a volunteer and then one of my best team members at the Boys & Girls Club. I have worked with him in every way from raising money for important causes to fighting for economic development projects in our community. He has become a trusted advisor and confidante and is someone in whom I have the utmost respect.

Mike's greatest strengths are his ability to tell the truth in love and his positivity. He will say what needs to be said no matter how hard it is but will do so in the most considerate way possible. I don't know anyone who is a bigger cheerleader for Danville and Vermilion County. Mike wants the absolute best for everyone and gives it his all to make that happen!

Without his leadership and support, some of the most important decisions that have been made here over the past several decades would not have happened. You'd be hard pressed to find someone more sincere and authentic. You can count on Mike to both love and hold you accountable when need be.

I'm so proud of his incredible achievements and new position. Mike is a testament to how the support of our area combined with hard work and good choices allow you to become whatever you want to be. I will miss his steady presence but am thankful that he'll always be just a phone call away.  
**Rickey Williams, Jr., Mayor, City of Danville**

Mike was the very first person Don and I met when we moved to Vermilion County almost 25 years ago! We instantly clicked – he was our first friend and continues to be one of our very best friends. I like to say that Mike is my OLDER brother (four months

older than I am). I have four sisters, so I always wanted a brother. Mike has been that person in my life.

We have worked on many, many community, McDonald's and radio station projects. Every new McDonald's restaurant we opened, rebuilt or relocated. Mike was at the table, helping us create a fun and exciting plan. When we did our "Do Something" project where we gave away money and asked people to pay it forward, Mike was on our steering committee. We created Step Up together. In fact the name Step Up came from a conversation with Mike. He has done a "March Fourth Moment," a fun and inspiring send-off, at every Step Up meeting. He's been the writer of our radio commercials and creator of our tag line "Your Witzel Family McDonald's, a part of every community." Mike helped us establish ourselves and make Vermilion County home.

We served on many boards together, so I had a front row seat to see Mike's incredible leadership. Mike has been involved with Vermilion Advantage since its inception and remains the longest serving board member.

We will miss Mike terribly in the day-to-day activities but I'm so glad he and Julie are keeping their home in Danville. We aren't going to let him leave completely.

Mike's bubbly personality and upbeat, positive attitude are what make him unique and special. He truly cares about our community and the people in it. He is one-of-a-kind and he has been a gift to Vermilion County.

I'm just so proud of Mike and all his accomplishments. He's made a huge impact on me, my children Rob and Katie, our business and our community. As much as I'm going to miss him, I'm so happy for this opportunity in this next phase of his life. It's a big job but no one is more deserving than my dear friend Mike Hulvey!

**Deanna Witzel, Owner/Operator,  
McDonald's**

If there is an effort to make Vermilion County better, Mike Hulvey is involved. He is probably the busiest guy I know, but he always finds time to help make our community better. The first major effort I worked with him on was the Do Something initiative. I've worked with him during the Step Up efforts and I've served with him for most of the last decade on the Vermilion Advantage Executive Committee.

Mike has many strengths. He is passionate, energetic, and an all-around nice guy. His greatest strength though is his positive attitude. From his March Fourth Moments to his ever-present encouragement to push people to do better, Mike is the most positive guy I've ever met. If you believe you can accomplish anything, you can accomplish anything, and Mike is always there telling people to believe and pushing them to accomplish great things. Mike Hulvey's positive attitude has always made Vermilion County a brighter place. Mike takes his positive outlook on our County to a whole new level. We could all learn a lot from his wonderful example.

In addition to all the efforts he's undertaken, he's had a ripple effect from all the people he's encouraged, who have also done immeasurable things to help Vermilion County. Mike has been Mr. Radio in Vermilion County. The stations he has been affiliated with over his career are the heartbeat of Danville.

I think everyone should know how much Mike really loves Vermilion County. You can tell by the way he talks about the County and the City of Danville that this is his home and that he cares deeply for it and for the people who live here.

We have had a lot of great people come from this County. We have had Supreme Court Chief Justice Rita Garman, Speaker of the US House Joe Cannon, and Astronaut Joe Tanner. Mike Hulvey ascending to the head of the National Radio Broadcasters Association is the latest achievement of great people we are all really proud of here. Mike, we are all proud of you!

**Mike Marron, President/CEO,  
Vermilion Advantage**

I have known Mike for 30+ years. I had the pleasure of working with Mike as staff member of EDC/Vermilion Advantage early in my career and then as board member.

Mike greatest strength is to evaluate a problem and develop a solution. He has the unique ability to eloquently explain the problem and the possible solutions, a trait few possess in creating a consensus in a large and diverse group.

I have one word that describes his impact on both the Vermilion County and the radio industry "Leadership." He was one of the founding fathers of Vermilion Advantage. Bringing together two different organizations was not an easy task. Mike's leadership made this process as smooth as possible. He also started March Forth Moments which focuses on positive events in Vermilion County. This effort was to stem the tide of negative new stories about Vermilion County.

Mike has a fantastic memory. He can tell you about ball games and events



that happened 20 years ago, with amazing detail.

I would like to simply say THANK YOU for all you have done. You volunteered your time to make Vermilion County a better place.

**Jeff Fauver, Community President & CCO for Fisher National Bank.**

I've known Mike since I was a kid. First as a friend of my parents', then as the leader of the *Sports Media Camp for Kids* that I attended, then as my first boss, and now as a friend.

I'm most impressed with Mike's optimism and excitement for the world around him especially his excitement of what's going on in the lives of other people close to him. If Mike is your friend, he's also one of your biggest fans. He won't tell you that, he'll make you *feel* it.

Mike invests in young people. The *Sports Media Camp for Kids* that he created has encouraged so many kids to dream big, with many of them going on to accomplish those big dreams. He gave me and many other "campers" opportunities to work at the radio station and call games, an opportunity that not many teenagers get.

**Rob Witzel, Author, SuperPenguinBook.com**



5:00-7:00PM

**March 14, 2024**  
Soar Space with Tricia Teague  
2 E Main Street, Suite 36, Danville

**April 11, 2024**  
Wolf Creek  
2521 Perrysville Road, Danville

Please RSVP to Dana at  
drowland@vermilionadvantage.com



11:30AM-1:00PM

**March 20, 2024**  
"How 2 Series" Luncheon  
DACC Vermilion Hall, Room 306  
Creating work/life balance with speaker Annie Monyok

**April 17, 2024**  
"How 2 Series" Luncheon  
DACC Bremer Center, Room 141/142  
How to build your network

Please RSVP to Dana at  
drowland@vermilionadvantage.com



11:30AM-1:00PM

**March 27, 2024**  
Ashton Greer/City of Danville  
at Palmer Arena

**April 24, 2024**  
Canceled due to Career Expo  
Join us at the Career Expo  
at Palmer Arena

Please RSVP to Dana at  
drowland@vermilionadvantage.com

# Career Expo Set for April 24th

Danville Area Community College (DACC) and Vermilion Advantage are teaming up again to host a community-wide career expo. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm at the David S. Palmer Arena in Danville.

The Career Expo started with a conversation between friends Terri Cummings, DACC's Dean of Business and Technology, and Nicole Van Hyfte, Vermilion Advantage's Director of the Chamber of Commerce. "Terri and I were talking about how DACC got through the pandemic with a drive-thru job fair," says VanHyfte. "We decided we could do something on a larger scale together. With the generosity of working with the David S. Palmer Arena, the Danville Area Visitors Bureau, and the City of

Danville, we were able to bring the Career Expo to downtown Danville last year at a very low cost."

The Career Expo allows local businesses to showcase their industries and recruit for open positions.

"We are targeting students, their families, anyone looking for a job, and people considering relocating to Vermilion County," says Cummings.

While the number of businesses slated to participate has yet to be confirmed, over 80 companies were represented last year.

At 9 a.m., there will be a brief presentation on how to use the Career Expo in room 127. New this year is the

addition of Vermilion County Works to assist people with their resumes. The Danville Area Visitors' Bureau is returning to host a hospitality room. Food trucks from Norah's Smokehouse and El Patron will have food available for purchase.

"The Career Expo is important for Vermilion County because it allows residents to see what industries and jobs are available," says Cummings. "It also allows businesses to network with other businesses."

Sponsorships are needed. To learn more, contact Nicole at [nvanhyfte@vermilionadvantage.com](mailto:nvanhyfte@vermilionadvantage.com). More information is available at [vermilionadvantage.com](http://vermilionadvantage.com) and on Facebook by searching "Vermilion Advantage."



**Danville Area  
Community College**



## 2024 CAREER EXPO

EMPLOYERS, EDUCATORS, AND PUBLIC  
SAVE THE DATE!!

DAVID S. PALMER ARENA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH

9:00AM-3:00PM

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

More information to follow

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AND DANVILLE AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## DID YOU KNOW...

Members of Vermilion Advantage with 50 or less employees, can gain health insurance for their business through their Vermilion Advantage membership at a discounted rate?

Contact Nicole VanHyfte for more details!  
[nvanhyfte@vermilionadvantage.com](mailto:nvanhyfte@vermilionadvantage.com)

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The staff at CRIS Healthy Aging has teamed up with the volunteer Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program to provide free income tax assistance to individuals and families. Call or visit us today to see if you qualify:  
(217) 355-1543 or [CRISHealthyAging.org](http://CRISHealthyAging.org).

*This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through USAGing as part of a financial assistance award to USAGing totaling \$74,999,835 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official view of, nor an endorsement by, USAGing, ACL/HHS.*



Carle Health

# ALL A's ACCOLADES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS

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



## February Employee of the Month:

Hometown Stars McDonald's.....Estella Jeronimo  
 Classic Rock-n-Roll.....Chris Jamnik  
 Oakwood.....Kamryn Collom  
 Georgetown.....Crystal Delp  
 Hoopeston.....Piper Switzer  
 Neighborhood McDonald's.....Zoe Badger  
 Covington, IN.....Michelle Bowers

## February Student/Athlete of the Month:

DHS Student of the Month.....Keshay Landfair  
 DHS Athlete of the Month.....Ty Rangel  
 Schlarman Academy North Student of the Month..... Jenni Torres  
 Schlarman Academy North Athlete of the Month.....Damien Linares  
 OHS Student of the Month.....Breanna Bolser  
 OHS Athlete of the Month.....Luci Morris  
 GRFHS Student of the Month.....Kyley Knight  
 GRFHS Athlete of the Month.....Addison Spesard  
 HAH School Student of the Month.....Anna Anderson  
 HAH School Athlete of the Month.....Alivia Wilson  
 Covington HS Student of the Month.....Allie Scarlett  
 Covington HS Athlete of the Month.....Kolten Haymaker

## DID YOU KNOW...

Any employee from your business is welcome to attend our Vermilion Advantage networking events? Please share the information with your staff and invite someone new! We look forward to seeing you!

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

### ADVANTAGE DIAMOND DIRECTOR:

(Level \$10,000+)

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

### ADVANTAGE GOLD CROWN DIRECTOR:

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

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 Bunge Milling, Inc.  
 Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.  
 Carle / Carle Medical Supply  
 Christie Clinic  
 Danville Area Community College  
 Danville Country Club  
 Danville Metal Stamping  
 Danville School Dist. #118  
 Hyster-Yale Group  
 McLane Midwest  
 Mervis Industries  
 REG Danville, LLC  
 Republic (formerly Allied Waste)

thyssenKrupp Dynamic Components Danville, LLC  
 Vermilion Development, Inc.  
 Viscofan USA, Inc.  
 Watchfire Signs

### ADVANTAGE MILLENNIUM MEMBER:

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

AmerenIP  
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 Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center  
 City of Hoopeston  
 CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP  
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 Fisher National Bank  
 Genpact  
 Greenwood, Inc.  
 Illini Radio Group  
 Invenergy  
 McDonald's c/o DND Witzel Enterprises, Inc.  
 Quaker Oats  
 Village of Oakwood

### ADVANTAGE EXECUTIVE MEMBER:

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

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 Advanced Medical Transport East  
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 AT&T Illinois  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois  
 Bowman Estates  
 Brainerd Chemical Midwest, LLC  
 Chittick Family Eye Care  
 County Markets / Niemann Foods  
 Depke Gases & Welding Supplies  
 EnvirOx, LLC  
 Everside Health  
 Express Employment Professionals  
 Faulstich Printing Company  
 First Farmers Bank & Trust  
 First Savings Bank of Danville  
 Flex-N-Gate Plastics  
 Harrison Steel  
 Heritage Development  
 Heritage Health Therapy & Senior Care  
 Hubner Industries, LLC  
 IL Chapter Nat'l Electrical Contractor's Assoc.  
 Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation  
 Meijer  
 Neuhoff Family Broadcasting  
 Prospect Bank  
 Runnings  
 SIHF Healthcare  
 The Sygma Network  
 thyssenKrupp Crankshaft Company

## Members of Vermilion Advantage, NFP (continued)

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Village of Catlin  
Voltus  
WITY Illiana Communications, LLC

**ADVANTAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBER:**

**(Level \$500 - \$999)**

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Adecco Employment Services  
Alexander Concession & Catering  
All Source  
Allied Capital Title  
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Arcadia Care of Danville  
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Arrow Ambulance  
Autumn Fields Adult Community of Hoopeston  
AWEBCO  
B & B Construction  
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BIGG Success  
Bill Smith Auto Parts  
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Central States Distribution Service  
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Commercial-News  
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Country Financial - Braxdyn Keeran  
Country Financial - Mark Stutsman  
Country Financial - Pete Goodwin  
Country Financial - Stevenson Harby  
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CTS Computers  
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Danville Dans  
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Danville Technology Services  
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Dean Crandall – Morgan Stanley  
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**ADVANTAGE HONOR MEMBER**

**(Level \$300 - \$499)**

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## Members of Vermilion Advantage, NFP (continued)

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 Newell Township Supervisor  
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 North Vermilion Family Dental  
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 Servpro of Vermilion County  
 Shortz Family Farms, Inc.  
 Sleep Inn & Suites  
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 Sunset Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Cremation Center  
 Teasdale Foods  
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 Vermilion County Health Department  
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 CRIS Healthy-Aging Center  
 CRIS Rural Mass Transit  
 Crosspoint Human Services  
 DACC Foundation  
 Danville Area Labor Management Council  
 Danville Area Living - Shannon Schroeder  
 Danville Area Visitors Bureau

Danville Art League  
 Danville Boat Club  
 Danville Christian Academy  
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 Hoopeston Public Library  
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 Immanuel Manor, Inc. – Senior Residences  
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 Super Penguin Books  
 Survivor Resource Center  
 Tarquini's  
 Teague, Tricia (The Trep School)  
 Transformation Health Coach  
 Trinity Lutheran School  
 Turner Virtual Solutions  
 United Way of Danville Area  
 University of IL Extension., Vermilion Co. Unit  
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 Lee, Todd  
 Mulvaney, Jeanne  
 Nicholls, Bill  
 Resh, Gary (Resh Frame Shop)  
 Rokosch, Donald (Retired M.D.)  
 Spezia, John (Reach 1 Coach 1)  
 Stoner, Christopher (Pro Wash)  
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 Wood, Jim



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-  Featured on Vermilion Advantage social media with 4000 followers and average post reach of 18,000.
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