

INSIDE

May 2024

Vermilion County



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for the Spring Season**

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INSIDE

Vermilion County

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The events of the last month have me thinking about a lot of things - the future, the challenges we face, and the character of our community. In hard times, I always seek inspiration from the people I look up to and my heroes. One of those individuals is two-time world champion PBR bull rider J.B. Mauney, who is considered the G.O.A.T. of the sport by most people who follow rodeo. J.B. was known for taking unbelievable punishment but was almost always able to ride through the pain. His list of injuries included a lacerated liver and kidney, a broken neck, multiple concussions, and multiple shoulder traumas. He even rode with a broken fibula. At one tour event, a bull flipped in the bucking chute and landed on top of him, smashing his chest. As he stumbled out of the arena, the tour's sports medicine doctor tried to stop him, to see if he was ok. J.B. angrily waved him off and stumbled back toward the locker room. A person who witnessed the whole thing looked at J.B. as he walked by and said, "You are as tough as John Wayne's boots." J.B. looked at him and said, "Yeah, and I'm about damn tired of proving it too." Suffering through that pain led to one of the greatest careers in sports. J.B. was known as the dragon slayer because he always picked the bulls that no one thought could be ridden, the ones people feared. Most of the time he was successful. He became the all-time leading money winner in the western sports industry. He is a legend.

No one in our community asked for or expected the trauma we've experienced with the closing of Quaker Oats. It left our community reeling and wondering what is in store for the future. It opens questions about whether our community can survive. We all hurt for our friends and neighbors who have lost their jobs, and we are all struggling trying to map out the future.

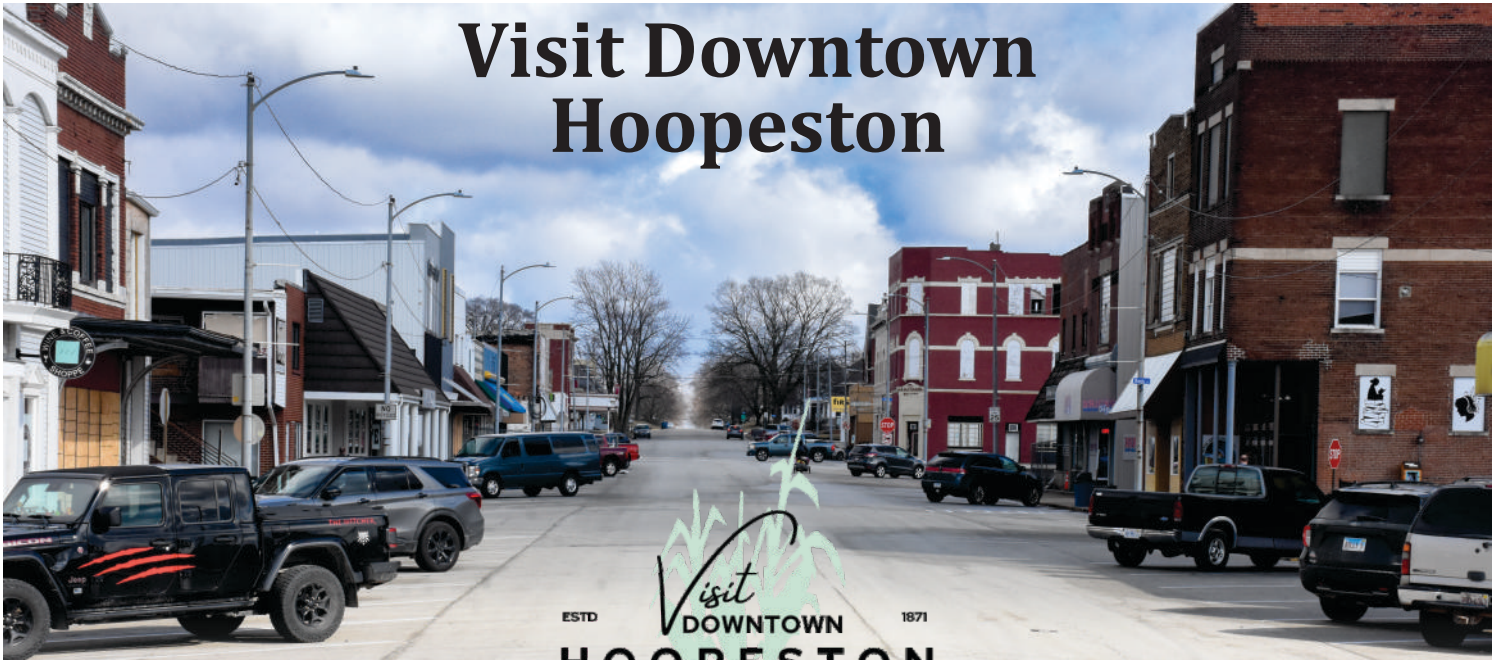
We don't have all the answers now and it will take a long, hard process to find them, but rest assured, we will find them. Our community will pull together and we will survive this just like we've weathered other storms. We are tough and resilient, and we will survive. We will get through these trials, and we will build a new day in Vermilion County. The character that defines Vermilion County, the character that defines Danville, is that we are tough. More prosperous communities to the east and to the west of us could never hope to survive half of what we've gone through, and we'll get through this too. One day we'll be better for it. In Danville, we are as tough as John Wayne's boots, but we are getting damn tired of proving it.

Mike Marron
CEO/President
Vermilion Advantage

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.

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.

Visit Downtown Hoopeston



With a wealth of good people, businesses, organizations, and things to do, Emily Brown, President of Visit Downtown Hoopeston and owner of Boxcar Books and Vinyl, says Hoopeston is a great place to live, work, retire, and play.

The growth and expansion in downtown Hoopeston led to a new organization, Visit Downtown Hoopeston, a forward-thinking team of citizens and business owners. The organization comprises 24 businesses/organizations and is a member of Main Street America. While focusing on revitalizing Hoopeston's downtown district, Visit Downtown Hoopeston welcomes all Hoopeston businesses to be involved in events and meetings. "We know our success relies on one another," says Brown.

Each meeting includes an informational special presentation that is relevant to business owners.

Hoopeston has a strong employment base, including Carle Hospital, the Hoopeston Area School District, Teasdale Foods, Silgan Container and many other industries. "The number of unique shops and restaurants is quite unbelievable for a town of 5000," says Brown. "The number of things we have to do makes us unique. We have a bowling alley, skating rink, putt-putt

golf course, theater, beautiful parks with a skate park, basketball courts, tennis, and pickleball courts. The number of organizations providing community support is equally impressive. We now have a Danville Area Community College campus in town. Our library is second to none. There is always something to do with rarely a dull moment."

Visit Downtown Hoopeston will host a "Where's Waldo" event in June. Hoopeston was chosen to kick off the "Our Town" series on WCIA on May 31 and will host a large event downtown from 4 to 7 that evening.

Growth and Rebuilding

Hoopeston has a new hotel development coming and a remodel is happening in the historic downtown motel.

Hoopeston is in a rebuilding phase, especially Downtown. "As with all small-town business districts, we have had some tough decades," says Brown. "The younger generations have recently stepped up, purchased and remodeled or built buildings and started new small businesses. We have seen a huge increase in out-of-town shoppers. With so much to do, we have become a great destination!"

The City of Hoopeston has demolished several condemned buildings, creating room for expansion, and is working on an incentive program for new downtown development. "To any potential developers/business owners, we encourage you to choose Downtown," says Brown. "You'll have the full support of our organization."

Brown says her family has been thrilled with the support they have received since joining Vermilion Advantage. "We have made many network connections through the organization," she says. "Vermilion Advantage has already supported Visit Downtown Hoopeston by connecting us with various resources across the county and the State of Illinois."

To learn more about Visit Downtown Hoopeston or donate, visit visithoopeston.com or call Emily Brown at (217) 772-1203. They can also be found on Facebook and Instagram. Anyone is welcome to attend the organization's 6 pm meetings at Boxcar Books and Vinyl on the third Monday of the month.

"I encourage people to drive around town and look at what is here. You will be blown away by what this small town has to offer."
Emily Brown

City of Danville's New Brand



The City of Danville recently completed a year-long branding initiative. After receiving input from hundreds of community residents, the City unveiled the new logo, tagline, story and pillars. Terrific work by the City team! Stay tuned as a community-wide marketing initiative rolls out in the next few months.

Tagline: You Decide What's Possible

Story: Danville is the place where history and vision come to life. We are what happens when dreams meet a can-do community. We will help you create your future and cheer you on. We've been doing it for hundreds of years – just ask the history makers who started here – actors, artisans, industrialists, entrepreneurs, athletes. But more importantly, talk to the people who are choosing Danville now. Danville is changing into a community of opportunities for thousands of families, individuals, and young professionals. You belong here. Work. Play. Volunteer. Raise a family. Start a business. Explore the arts. Get lost in green spaces. Relax on the lake. As one of the nation's lowest cost of living cities with more park acres per capita than any other county in the state, you can do it all in Danville. *You decide what's possible!*

Danville Pillars (What's Possible?):

Community Resurgence and Evolution

Danville's downtown and community-wide resurgence creates a vibrant atmosphere, delivering an exciting and evolving place to live, work, and

play. With a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and small businesses and a strong foundation of distribution and manufacturing companies, the community delivers a dynamic blend of growth opportunities.

Quality Living in a Welcoming Community

Danville offers a high quality of life, an affordable cost of living and a friendly community, making it a unique place where residents can thrive and support one another. It is a place where residents can engage, make a difference, and shape the community's future.

Nature at Your Doorstep

The Danville area delivers access to a wealth of green spaces, including state, county, and neighborhood parks, rivers, and Lake Vermilion, allowing residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors and lake living at an affordable cost.

Arts and Culture

Danville is proud of its longstanding, thriving arts and cultural community, including a symphony, performing arts organizations, festivals, art league, and beautifully renovated theatres, providing residents with a rich cultural experience.

Vision, Vitality, Unity, and Resilience
Danville's dynamic community is

filled with hope, vitality, and a commitment to coming together to solve problems. Residents and leaders actively engage in solving issues, inviting new voices to contribute to ongoing transformation. Caring for one another, working together for the common good, and showing resilience in the face of challenges fosters a strong and supportive community.

Central and Connected

Danville's strategic location along the interstate, with railroad access, and proximity to major metro markets like Chicago, Indianapolis, and St. Louis, positions it as a hub of connectivity and opportunity.

Honoring Heritage While Building Towards the Future

Danville celebrates its rich history while looking toward the future, creating the right blend of tradition and progress.

Emerging Leadership and Diverse Education

Danville has a rising generation of young leaders connected to the community. Additionally, it offers diverse education options, including strong public schools, private institutions, and Danville Area Community College, fostering lifelong learning and community partnerships.

New Member Profile: Spiros Law

We recently talked with Jim Spiros, Founding Partner of Spiros Law, a new member of Vermilion Advantage.

Tell us about your firm. Spiros Law has established a reputation for our fierce representation and dedication to fighting for the rights of injured clients. The Spiros Law team comprises experienced attorneys and support staff who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of the clients we represent. Spiros Law represents clients in personal injury cases, including those involving car accidents, truck accidents, workers' compensation, medical malpractice, and nursing home neglect and understands the devastating impact these scenarios can have on our clients and their families. We provide our clients with the highest level of legal representation and are not afraid to take cases all the way to trial to secure the highest level of justice for our clients. Spiros Law serves Illinois with Danville, Champaign, and Kankakee office locations.

What services do you offer, and to whom? Spiros Law is a personal injury law firm offering representation to people who have sustained physical injuries due to car accidents, truck accidents, workplace incidents, animal attacks, medical malpractice, and other situations resulting in serious physical harm. Understanding the profound impact of these events on our clients and their families, we provide compassionate and customized legal services uniquely tailored to meet each client's specific needs.



How long have you been in business? I have been practicing for 29 years, but Spiros Law will be celebrating 19 years this April!

How did your company start? Where are you located? In March of 2005, I realized I could better serve the community's needs by branching out on my own and starting Spiros Law. I asked my trusted Legal Assistant, Paula Roberts, who is still by my side today, to come with me along with Karen Wall, who now serves as an associate judge in Danville. The three of us started what was then Spiros & Wall. After nearly two successful decades, Spiros Law has grown to nine attorneys, over 30 total team members, and three local offices in Danville, Champaign, and Kankakee.

What is one thing you'd like people to know about Spiros Law? We never back down!

What makes your team different? Our clients often say, "You guys are so easy to talk to." We take a very personalized and relaxed approach, creating an environment of trust.

What are your thoughts on operating a business in Vermilion County? Much of our support staff call Vermilion County home. It is a true testament to the quality of Vermilion County and its residents that we have created such a wonderful team here.

What do you see as Vermilion County's greatest strengths? Its people. The people of Vermilion County have a very traditional, old-school work ethic that is not commonly found.

Where can someone find out more about Spiros Law? Visit spiroslaw.com, call 217-443-4343, or find us on Facebook and Instagram @SpirosLaw.



Coffee Talk

May 14:
City of Danville,
Obsidian Coffee, 137 N. Vermilion St., Danville
(please use entrance in back alley)

June 11:
Autumn Fields,
316 E. 14th St., Tilton



2024 Balloons Over Vermilion Impact Awards

In 2023, Balloons Over Vermilion NFP, launched its seventh year of presenting this community-favorite summer festival, and presenting for the third year Vermilion County's holiday kickoff event, the Festival of Trees.

These events are made possible each year through the hard work of a team of dedicated steering committee members, the generous support of hundreds of sponsors and hundreds of volunteers. "We continue to be amazed at the outpouring of support received each year for these two events. While Vermilion County's love affair with hot air ballooning began back in the 1980's, the Festival of Trees will be celebrating its 27th anniversary in 2024," said Jim Anderson, Balloons Over Vermilion NFP Board Vice Chair. " We are excited to announce that the total of Community Impact Awards presented over the last seven years has surpassed \$500,000, and this year's amount was over \$120,000!" he added.

2024 Balloons Over Vermilion, NFP Impact Award Recipients

- Balloon Federation of America – Provide summer camp scholarships for aspiring young pilots-\$1500
- Schlarman Academy – Our 2023 Student Ambassador Class-\$2500
- Keep Vermilion County Beautiful – Purchase collection equipment and youth outreach activities-\$2000
- Birth to Five Illinois – Provide support for outreach efforts to inform new/young families of social service support network in place in Vermilion County-\$1000
- Danville Municipal Band – Provide support for family quality of life events / recruit young band members-\$2000
- Vermilion Valley Fellowship of Christian Athletes – Provide support for camps, devotional materials, special events-\$2500
- Westville Santas Anonymous – Provide support for 2024 fund drive-\$3000
- Danville AMBUCs – Provide support for new Super Soccer program-\$4000
- Fair Hope Children's Ministry – Provide support for underclothing, shoes, general inventory-\$5500
- Vermilion County War Museum – Provide support to restart student tours and construct new youth area-\$6000
- United Way of Danville Area, Inc.- Provide support for Dolly Parton Imagination Library-\$6000
- American Legion Youth Baseball – Provide support for new field equipment and a fee waiver program-\$6000
- STEP Recovery Center – Provide support for construction of new teen activity space-\$5000
- Oakwood Grade School – Provide support for new playground equipment-\$6000
- Winterview Youth League – Provide support for new heavy duty trash collection equipment- \$6000
- Oakwood Area Food Pantry – Provide support for Bags of Hope food program-\$6000
- Project Success of Vermilion County, Inc. – Provide support for extended program hours-\$7500
- Roxy's House – Provide support for speech/autism therapy program along with animal upkeep-\$7500
- OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center – Provide support for 4th floor renovation projects-\$20,000

Anderson stated, "Both events owe a huge thank you to Julius W. Hegeler II. His vision of what his hometown could be inspires us even today."

The 2024 Host Student Ambassador class will be Ms. Tiffany Johnson's 4th graders from Oakwood Grade School.

The final presentation of the event was the announcement of the establishment of the Ron Crick Memorial Scholarship at DACC. Crick was the original Event Coordinator when Oldsmobile Balloon Classic Illinois was first brought to Vermilion County in 1986 and remained in that capacity until the event ceased operation in 2001. A check in the amount of \$20,000 was presented to Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Board Chair of the DACC Foundation.



Danville Gardens Opens New Building on North Vermilion in Danville

Nathan and Lisa Campbell, owners of Danville Gardens, are incredibly excited about this year's spring season. Danville Gardens' satellite location now includes a new building at 3585 North Vermilion Street in Danville. "We are very excited about our new building," says Nathan. "We will have an indoor checkout, bathroom, and retail space to sell pottery, iron, wind chimes, etc. We can offer much more than before. Our parking lot has recently been paved and will make shopping easier for all your gardening needs."

Danville Gardens is a full-service garden center open seasonally. The local business has 2.5 acres of covered greenhouses and two acres of outside production. Its main location is 1307 Cleary Avenue in Danville.

The Campbells have owned the business since 1993, making them the company's third owners. Danville Gardens has been in Vermilion County since 1910.

The main location opened April 15. Operating hours are Monday-Saturday, 8 am-6 pm, and Sundays, 11 am-5 pm. The satellite location opened May 1.

Bubblegum Supertunias are among the customers' favorite flowers. "This beautiful pink flower is eye-catching and is easy to maintain," says Lisa. "It is long blooming, self-cleaning, and heat tolerant. It does love to be fertilized!"

In addition to the beautiful array of plants, planters and other garden products, Danville Gardens has a large variety of iron products that Lisa says will "add a pop of color to any of your garden plants."

Danville Gardens has changed through the years with various remodels, additions, and automation of watering

and climate controls. "This helps us be more consistent and grow better plants," says Nathan. "I think people are surprised that we never have an empty greenhouse. Some people think we are on vacation when we are closed, but far from it. We have a crop of mums in the summer and geraniums and ferns in the winter. We always take cuttings and plant while we are closed in the winter. And, of course, working on orders for the next season and updates to the facility keep us busy."

The team is proud to grow 90% of their plants at the main location. "We strive for the care and nurturing of the plants," says Lisa. We want to deliver the best product to our consumers, and growing it here helps the plants acclimate to our Vermilion County climates.

"We also have great employees who want our customers to succeed. We are continuously educating our staff and seeking the best plants to make you a successful gardener. Many staff

members have been with us for 10 to 20 years. We have a terrific group!"

Danville Gardens gives back in many ways to the community including hosting 20% days, donating gift cards to schools, and offering many fundraisers during the season. In the off-season, the company's trucks can be seen delivering to food pantries or volunteering with Serve Together.

The Campbells say they have been blessed to raise two children who have grown up with many opportunities and great support from the Danville community. "I think the people here are very welcoming and supportive of local businesses," says Lisa. "We are happy to have roots here."

The Danville Gardens team is enjoying the new Vermilion Advantage Facebook challenges and the fun created between businesses. "It shows everyone's creativity and excitement to support local businesses," says Riki Schull, Danville Gardens' office manager.

To learn more about Danville Gardens' latest news, follow them on Facebook @DanvilleGardens. More information is also available at DanvilleGardens.com or by email at customerservice@danvillegardens.com.



Spotlight Performing Arts Creates Opportunities for Young Performers

For Bailey and Tyler Thompson, owners/instructors of Spotlight Performing Arts, the performing arts are a way of life. In 2021, Bailey directed *Frozen Jr.* for DLO's youth summer show, and Tyler began giving music lessons part-time. The couple quickly recognized a huge demand for more performance opportunities for kids in the area.

With that in mind, the pair founded Spotlight Performing Arts in 2021, and the organization continues to grow. Workshops and shows target participants ages 2-14, and lessons are for all ages.

Bailey was born and raised in Danville, and Tyler grew up in Crawfordsville, IN. The pair have performed at the community and professional levels since they were young, with Bailey's focus on theatre and Tyler's on music. Bailey has a degree in theatre education with a special education minor, and Tyler has a degree in vocal performance alongside a master's in education. Bailey has also owned and operated Party Princess Bailey since 2014.

Several events are in the works for 2024. In May, Spotlight Singers will perform at local fairs, and preparations for *Finding Nemo Jr.* auditions will be underway. July will feature *Finding Nemo Jr.* theatre camp for ages 2-6. A Spotlight Singers musical theatre intensive is scheduled for August. In October, audition prep for fall shows will occur. November will feature a theatre camp for ages 2-6. Finally, December will include Spotlight Singers' Christmas caroling.

Spotlight Performing Arts typically hosts one monthly workshop and directs four shows yearly. "We like to hold our performances at different locations around the area, including Fischer Theatre, Danville High School Auditorium, Bremer Auditorium, Masonic Temple, and the Lorraine Theatre in Hoopeston," says Tyler.

Some of the couple's fondest memories involve the many students they've worked with over the years. "We've worked



with so many students who start as shy and uncertain at their first lesson or rehearsal," says Bailey. "Watching them come out of their shells, make friends, and become these super confident performers is deeply fulfilling."

There are many ways to get involved. Sponsorship opportunities for workshops and shows are available to help with participation costs. Students' families frequently help with projects like set construction, costuming, and general administrative work.

For more information about Spotlight Performing Arts, contact Bailey and Tyler through their Facebook page @Spotlight Performing Arts or by email at spotlightperformingartsmidwest@gmail.com.

"We are incredibly grateful to the many students, families, and community partners who made this business stable and able to support our family and our local theatre community. We have many more announcements to come about new and exciting shows we'll be directing this year."



Check out the news, flyers, and events our members have to share for May on our website!
Just scan the QR code!



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

If you'd like your flyer posted to our website, please email it to drowland@vermilionadvantage.com by the 25th of the month.

First Farmers Bank and Trust Serving Vermilion County and Beyond

Rich Eisenmann, Vice President, Commercial & Ag Lender at First Farmers Bank and Trust, knows what makes the organization unique. "First Farmers is banking built on heart and grit, and that means we intentionally seek out opportunities to improve the financial lives of our customers and communities," he says. "We look for partnerships that will allow us to increase the financial knowledge and resources in our market areas. We also recognize and rely on the heart and grit of our customers, building financial solutions that are unique to their situation. We know that every person, business, and farm faces individual challenges, has specific goals and dreams, and requires different levels of financial partnership to be successful."



Rich Eisenmann

"First Farmers Bank and Trust is here to help you grow. We want to provide the products and services that will help build a journey to financial success for you. We measure our success on how well we do that."

means we're able to handle larger loans and deposit business and offer our customers the most current and competitive products and services," he says. "But when you come into one of our branches, you will be greeted with a smile and by name. We're at the sweet spot of larger bank capabilities with a small-town bank atmosphere, and we're proud of that."

First Farmers Bank and Trust has 36 locations across Indiana and Illinois and almost 400 employees. In Vermilion County, they have two branches: Hoopeston and Oakwood.

The bank offers personal banking products, from checking and savings to consumer loans, auto loans, and mortgage and home equity loans. "We also have very competitive CDs and Money Markets," says Eisenmann.

On the business and agriculture side, First Farmers offers many lending options, including Lines of Credit, CRE Loans, Equipment Financing, and Leasing Options. They also provide account management, business checking and savings, and treasury management services.

Most of the bank's recent changes involve technology and growth. Over the past few years, First Farmers has opened branches in new markets, added team members, and expanded with the latest technology. "Keeping pace with the financial needs of our markets and customers has been both challenging and rewarding, and we expect that the financial landscape will continue to transform quickly. We are focused on growth," says Eisenmann.

People may be surprised by this community bank's size and capabilities. "We're at \$3 Billion in assets, which

Community involvement plays a big part in the bank's priorities. "Vermilion County is full of people with heart and grit," says Eisenmann. "There's a lot of determination and innovation here, and we're excited to be a part of this community and involved with Vermilion Advantage. The bank recently became part of the Vermilion County Community Development Corporation and is helping with the microloan program for small businesses. Our employees serve on various boards and organizations. We also volunteer at the Vermilion County Fair and at other promotions in the county."

To learn more about First Farmers Bank and Trust, visit ffbt.com or stop by their branches at 905 S. Dixie Highway in Hoopeston or 106 S. Oakwood Street in Oakwood.



WHY SHOULD I JOIN....



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NETWORKING & EVENTS

Business & Networking luncheon, Coffee Talk, Young Professionals Network, Business After Hours, Golf Outing, Tour of Industry

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 DANA ROWLAND AT DROWLAND@VERMILIONADVANTAGE.COM OR 217-442-6201



Covington Restaurant Featuring Locally Sourced Food

On April 20th, The Local restaurant, a Covington favorite, was featured as one of *America's Best Restaurants*.



She says the best part about the business is knowing almost all of her customers. "Covington is a very supportive community," she says. "They always show up."

The Local restaurant in Covington, Indiana, seats 42 people. The business highlights as many local products and businesses as possible. "Our beef, pork, and lamb all come from Fountain County," says owner Stephanie Lober. "Local art is displayed throughout the restaurant. We offer a regular menu all the time and a Chef Special menu that changes weekly. We offer steaks, burgers, salads, and seafood.

She and her team have been pleasantly surprised by how many people are grateful for the different food options.

Lober has been planning this restaurant for the last 25 years. "I have filled dozens of notebooks with ideas, concepts, and recipes," she says. "My vision was for the restaurant to look like a blank canvas. White walls, dark wood, and interchanging art all the time."

The operating hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 11- 2:30 and 4-9. Saturday 4-9. The Local employs 13 people.

Customers' favorite menu items are the Filet Mignon from Prime Cut 41 and the restaurant's specialty burgers.

To learn more about The Local, visit thelocalcovington.com. The restaurant can also be found on Facebook and Instagram. The phone number is 765-938-6554.



"It's important to me that people know the passion involved in every single plate that goes out of here."



5:00-7:00PM

May 9, 2024
The Pump
1023 W Main St, Hoopeston

June 13, 2024
Vermilion River Beer Company
103 N Vermilion St, Danville

Please RSVP to Dana at drowland@vermilionadvantage.com



11:30AM-1:00PM

May 15, 2024
"How 2 Series" Luncheon
DACC Bremer Center, Room 141/142
How to Care for Your Mental Health

June 19, 2024
"How 2 Series" Luncheon
DACC Bremer Center, Room 141/142
How to Start your Business

Please RSVP to Dana at drowland@vermilionadvantage.com



11:30AM-1:00PM

May 22, 2024
ServPro Luncheon
804 Texas Ave, Danville

June 26, 2024
Autumn Fields
Location TBD

Please RSVP to Dana at drowland@vermilionadvantage.com

Danville YMCA Going Strong in 2024

Joyce Bruett, Associate Executive Director of Danville Family YMCA, says the organization is much more than a “gym and swim.”

The Danville Family YMCA offers multiple activities to help people with their health and wellness goals, including basketball, soccer, swimming, racquetball, pickleball, volleyball/wallyball, a multitude of fitness classes, a fitness & wellness center, two gymnasiums, a heated indoor pool, outdoor basketball courts, saunas and a men's steam room, women and men's locker rooms as well as a universal locker room, community game room, and several classrooms and meeting rooms.

And that's not all. “We offer so much more, including our After-School Care program, summer camp, swim lesson and swim team program, and sharing our spaces with other community organizations,” she says. We also have special events throughout the year.

“Our fitness classes are hugely popular, and childcare is available for six-month-olds to nine-year-olds,” says Bruett. It gives parents a chance to get out and work on their goals. Our swim lessons are also in high demand. We offer group and private lessons to ages six months and older and all ability levels. It's the only sport or exercise that can also save your life.”

The Y is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to put Christian principles

into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Guided by the core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility, the Y is dedicated to giving people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity.

The Danville Family YMCA has been a staple in the Danville community since 1883, with the current building opening in late 1972. The organization is open to members and guests Monday - Thursday from 5 am-8 pm, Fridays from 5 am-7 pm, Saturdays from 6:30 am-3 pm, and Sundays from November through April from 1-4 pm. The Danville YMCA has 50 staff members, with five seasonal staff members, and serves all of Vermilion County and communities in Indiana. “We serve approximately 2,800 members and hundreds of guests and program participants throughout the year,” says Bruett. “We are also a warming and cooling center with showers available to those in need.”

The YMCA has been busy with improvement projects over the past several years. Projects include a new universal locker room, five fully enclosed changing rooms, two complete shower rooms with bathrooms, and two shower-only rooms. All of this connects directly to the swimming pool. A new bus to pick up students for the After School Care Program and senior trips, a Watchfire sign, updated basketball courts, a regouted pool, pool viewing area upgrades, a resealed parking lot,

new lighting and repainted spaces are among the many changes to meet members' needs better.

2024 will be another exceptional year for facility improvements. Over \$ 80,000 in repairs are made possible through local foundations and grants.


The Danville Family YMCA has seen many changes in the past decade, including two CEOs, Michael Brown and Linus VanderWyst. A new CEO search is still ongoing.

The Danville Family YMCA website, danvilleymca.org, is updated daily with all membership information, programs, and schedules. More information is available on Facebook @danville.ymca or by calling (217) 442-0563.



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Help Provide Broadband Internet to Connect ALL of Vermilion County

We need your help! Would you take a couple of minutes and complete the Broadband Breakthrough Initiative survey? Please follow the link using the QR code below or navigate to vermilionadvantage.com/vermilion-county.



Vermilion Advantage is partnering with several community and government leaders, and organizations to advocate

for federal funds for reliable, speedy internet throughout the County, particularly the more rural areas in the unincorporated areas of the County. Improved broadband internet access is vital for economic development, education, public safety, and all aspects of County development. The State of Illinois has one million dollars to invest in underserved areas of the State.

Vermilion County is one of those areas. The steps we are taking now will enhance the County's position to take advantage of this program.

The Details

We have joined the Illinois Broadband Breakthrough program through the University of Illinois Extension Service, the Soybean Association, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, and

others. We meet weekly to advance the County's need for this vital infrastructure.

Local leaders, governments, and community organizations include the Farm Bureau, DACC, Vermilion County, the Superintendent of Vermilion County Schools, the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department and 911, and other volunteers.

We are committed to advancing this vital economic cause and will be continuously recruiting people to help us. Our greatest need right now is for volunteers to help us conduct a survey throughout the County. A commitment to community service, improved quality of life, common sense, and practical life experience are required! We invite all groups and organizations looking to assist in growing a reliable broadband system in the County to join us.

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Vermilion Advantage
Fun-Raiser

32nd ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
Friday, August 16th, 2024
Danville Country Club



CRIS Healthy Aging COVID-19 Vaccine Support

Have you received your latest COVID-19 vaccine dose? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone age 65 and older receive an extra dose of the 2023-2024 updated COVID-19 vaccine for added protection. You should wait at least four months after getting the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine to get a new dose. Contact CRIS Healthy Aging at (217) 355-1543 to get on the list for our next vaccine event.

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.



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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



April Employee of the Month:

Hometown Stars McDonald's.....Chloey Gnaden
Classic Rock-n-Roll.....Aaliyah Neal
Oakwood.....Gracie Hanner
Georgetown.....Riley Knight
Hoopeston.....Alexis Nelson
Neighborhood McDonald's.....Alijah Barrett
Covington, IN.....Dillon Conner

April Student/Athlete of the Month:

DHS Student of the Month.....Neveah Smith
DHS Athlete of the Month.....Nickiya Shields

Schlarman Academy North Student of the Month..... Madison Belton
Schlarman Academy North Athlete of the Month.....Noah Berryman

OHS Student of the Month.....Andrew Reed
OHS Athlete of the Month.....Gracie Enos

GRFHS Student of the Month.....Savana Cunningham
GRFHS Athlete of the Month.....Sierra Cunningham

HAH School Student of the Month.....Owen Root
HAH School Athlete of the Month.....Ryker Small

Covington HS Student of the Month.....Levin Marcinko
Covington HS Athlete of the Month.....Greta Smith

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!

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(Level \$10,000+)

Aqua Illinois, Inc.
City of Danville
Danville Sanitary District
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Old National Bank
OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center
Owens Corning Danville
Vermilion County Government

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Bunge Milling, Inc.
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Carle / Carle Medical Supply
Christie Clinic
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Danville Country Club
Danville Metal Stamping
Danville School Dist. #118
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McLane Midwest
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thyssenKrupp Dynamic Components Danville, LLC
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Watchfire Signs

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Village of Oakwood

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County Markets / Niemann Foods
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thyssenKrupp Crankshaft Company
Towne Machine Tool Co., Inc.

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Village of Catlin
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Danville Lions Club
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