

INSIDE

November 2024

Vermilion County



**Celebrating 140 Years
of the Fischer Theatre**

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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INSIDE

Vermilion County

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Economic Development and economic renewal are difficult. There are many moving pieces to the entire enterprise. To successfully attract new business and to help expand current business, it is crucial that everyone works together. Success truly requires an all-hands-on-deck approach. Big things can only be achieved through teamwork.

It stands to reason because true economic development has so many facets. Business recruitment and retention requires site readiness, utility and communication infrastructure access, and a vibrant workforce. Many entities play a role in prepping for these projects: the municipality where the project will be located, City planning and zoning, elected officials who can shepherd through the right prescription of incentives, the power company, the water company, the sanitary district, the ISP provider, and all levels of Education, primary, secondary, and college level.

If one of these cogs in the wheel is not working or working by themselves without the help of the others, it can make successful economic development extremely hard or even impossible. Every member of the team is indispensable, but no member of the team is so important that they alone eclipse what the team is trying to accomplish. Communication amongst all parties is key. It keeps everyone informed and motivated to pull their portion of the load. It keeps all of us moving forward in the same direction. That is the essence of leadership.

We all fall short of doing our best working together and adequately communicating from time to time. We all get buried in and focused on our little piece of the puzzle. It is a natural thing to have happen. When we catch ourselves doing that, we must rededicate ourselves to truly working for the team and having a collaborative approach. If we stay dedicated to working together, we can accomplish anything, and Vermilion County will be better for our efforts.

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.

Festival of Trees: 27 Years of Making Dreams Come True

Are you ready to kick off the holiday season with some Vermilion County magic?

The Festival of Trees, a cherished annual Vermilion County tradition, has been a symbol of creativity, community, and compassion for nearly three decades. This holiday event brightens the lives of residents and visitors alike while raising substantial funds for local organizations. With over 140 decorated trees, wreaths, junior trees, and gingerbread houses, the Festival of Trees is more than just a display—it's inspiring proof of the power of community spirit.

The Festival, now run by Balloons Over Vermilion (BOV), NFP, has retained its essence while expanding its impact. Pat O'Shaughnessy and Jim Anderson serve as President and Vice President of BOV. "Being a part of the growing Festival Family has been extremely rewarding," says Anderson. "We donate 100% of the net proceeds back to the community through our Community Impact Awards," a program that began three years into BOV and has since granted \$534,000 to more than 60 organizations serving youth and families.

"We always give credit to Sarah Robison for bringing the idea of Festival of Trees to Danville from Springfield, Illinois," says O'Shaughnessy. Sarah and Pat Adrain initiated the first Festival in

1997 under the auspices of United Samaritans Medical Center. Now, 27 years later, the Festival has grown into a major regional attraction, drawing between 15,000 and 16,000 patrons over its five-day span.

One of the highlights of the Festival is its ability to engage diverse groups across the community. Local designers lend their talents to create stunning displays that bring the arena to life. Schools participate with gingerbread houses and elfin evergreens, while volunteers contribute in countless ways, from setting up decorations to baking cookies, selling raffle tickets, and welcoming guests at the door. "The magic, the smiles on the kids' faces, and the pride the community shares in the event each year is proof of how beloved this event continues to be," says O'Shaughnessy.

The Festival starts with the Sponsors and Designers Gala on Friday, November 8, 2024, followed by public viewing from Saturday, November 9 to Wednesday, November 13. Each day offers something new, from morning visits to evening glimmers of holiday lights. This year's event promises to be another unforgettable celebration, with local businesses and volunteers pulling together to ensure its continued success. Mark and Jana Goodwin, leaders of the event's steering committee, remind everyone, "It's for the Kids," which is the Festival's motto.



The funds raised by the Festival of Trees support local hospital projects, like the Bobette Steely Hegeler Cancer Care Center, and a wide array of organizations committed to improving the lives of families and youth.

As the Festival enters its 27th year, its success reminds us of the lasting power of community involvement. It's more than an event—it's a celebration of Danville pride, where lights, laughter, and generosity come together to brighten the lives of all who participate. The Festival of Trees is a symbol of holiday joy and a testament to the difference a united community can make.

A heartfelt thank you to the Festival's many volunteers over the last 27 years. The community appreciates all you do!



Don't Miss It!
Festival of Trees
November 9-November 13, 2024
Admission
Adults: \$5 per person
Children 3-12: \$2 per person
Under 3 - Free
Sunday is Family Day.
Children under 10
are free with paid adult.

Danville Metal Stamping Continues to Soar

If you've taken a flight in the U.S., you probably have Danville Metal Stamping's employees to thank, at least in part. The 400+ person team manufactures parts for gas turbines that power commercial jets, military jets, other military applications (like some ships, hovercraft, tanks, and others), helicopters, and power generation.

Danville Metal Stamping has been a cornerstone of Vermilion County for nearly eight decades, rooted in history and driven by innovation. "Danville Metal was founded in 1946 by veterans returning from WWII," explains Gardner Peck, President of the Company. "They started small, just three people in a garage with a hydraulic press, taking on jobs for forming metal." What began as a modest sheet metal shop has evolved into a leader in the gas turbine industry, supplying parts for some of the world's most advanced machines.

Today, Danville Metal specializes in fabricating precision sheet metal components for gas turbines used in commercial and military aircraft, power generation, and more. "If you've flown on a commercial flight in the U.S., chances are good that parts from Danville Metal are in the turbines powering the plane," Peck adds. The Company's impact reaches across the globe, shipping components to major turbine manufacturers.

One of the pivotal moments in the Company's history came in the mid-1950s when the founders developed a method for forming hollow sheet metal airfoils. This breakthrough allowed Danville Metal to enter the gas turbine market, sparking decades of growth. "That innovation really set the stage for the company's future," says Peck. "And while our processes have evolved, we're still dedicated to the same precision and quality that's been a hallmark of our work since day one."

Peck recounts another company-altering event where tragedy was met with the legendary kindness of Vermilion County residents. "In 1962, one of the two brothers who founded the Company died with all of his immediate family in a private airplane he was piloting. The local bank and many others,



A laser drill in action at Danville Metal Stamping

including dedicated employees, came together to support the remaining brother in continuing to move Danville Metal forward and helping it become what it is today."

The connection to the local community is at the heart of Danville Metal's success. The Company has grown from three employees to nearly 400, providing high-quality jobs in Vermilion County. "We've been lucky to have some of the best employees, people who take pride in their work," Peck reflects.

Danville Metal remains committed to innovation and sustainability, continuously improving processes to reduce chemical use and conserve energy. Additionally, the Company is contributing to the future of aviation by supplying parts for newer, more fuel-efficient gas turbines. As the Company continues to grow, it looks to the future while remaining deeply connected to its beginnings in Vermilion County. "This is where I grew up, where I've raised my family," says Peck. "Being part of this community means everything to me and to Danville Metal."

For more information about Danville Metal Stamping, including current job opportunities, visit www.danvillemetal.com.



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Golden Nugget Danville Casino: First-Year Fact Sheet – September 2024

Overview

Golden Nugget Danville Casino opened its doors in May 2023 and has quickly become a premier entertainment destination in Danville, Illinois. In its first year of operation, the casino has created significant economic impact, job opportunities, and community partnerships, establishing itself as a valued corporate citizen in the region.

Key Milestones

- Temporary Gaming License Awarded - March 10, 2022
- Groundbreaking Ceremony - April 20, 2022
- Construction Completed - April 2023
- Temporary Operating Permit - May 26, 2023
- Expanded Operating Hours - July 5, 2023
- Grand Opening - August 4, 2023
- Permanent Operating Hours (8am - 4am) - August 11, 2023
- Thirteen property executives recruited to spearhead innovation and operational excellence.
- Built and staffed a marketing department to execute strategic growth initiatives.
- Developed and rolled out a tiered loyalty program, offering progressively enhanced benefits to reward customer loyalty and engagement.
- Successfully built a workplace culture that prioritizes service, embraces fun, and drives excellence in all operations.

State and Local Contribution

- \$2.8 Million paid in local gaming taxes
- \$5.6 Million paid in state gaming taxes
- \$402,000 in sales tax
- \$45,000 in food & beverage tax
- \$38,000 paid via the Child Intercept initiative
- Local Sourcing - \$420,000 paid to Danville Suppliers

Community Involvement

- Total Donations to the Community: \$3,250,550
- Ongoing support of local organizations through direct and in-kind contributions, property fundraising efforts,

sponsorship of local initiatives, and on-site hosting of community events.

- United Way Visionary Donor Award – 2023/24
- The relationship between Danville Area Community College and the Golden Nugget Casino is a dynamic partnership focused on fostering educational and career opportunities in the hospitality industry.

Gaming & Guest Highlights

- Hand-Paid Jackpots: #10,500
- Total Value of Jackpots Awarded: \$25 Million
- Paid out more than \$800,000 in promotional cash and prizes.
- Awarded just under \$5 Million in free slot play and gifts
- 450,000+ visitors, providing an elevated entertainment and gaming experience.

Future Plans

- Deploy a comprehensive guest feedback program to gather valuable insights into the Golden Nugget Danville guest experience, driving continuous improvements in guest service and satisfaction.
- Expand entertainment options, dining experiences, and community engagement events.
- Ongoing collaboration and direct involvement with local organizations to further strengthen the casino's impact on the Danville community.
- Advance workplace culture initiatives, enhancing employee recognition programs and elevating guest service standards to foster a more engaged and service-oriented team.

For more information, visit or contact
Golden Nugget Danville Casino
204 Eastgate Drive
Danville, Illinois 61834
Phone: (217) 271-8200.

*All numbers were rounded and calculated as of August 31, 2024.



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



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

Danville City Clerk's Office Taking Good Care of City Records

The City Clerk's Office in Danville plays a vital role in maintaining the integrity of the city's records and supporting its operations. Led by City Clerk Lisa Monson, this two-person department is at the heart of the city's governance, serving as the keeper of official documents and overseeing records management. Monson, who has served the city for 33 years, works

alongside Deputy City Clerk Rachel Haun to ensure that everything from City Council minutes to ordinances is accurately recorded and preserved.

"Our department is important to the City of Danville because we are creating history for the City by executing ordinances that are laws for local government and record minutes that become permanent record for future reference," says Monson.

In addition to records management, the office handles Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, facilitates public access to city documents, and provides essential support for city meetings. The City Clerk's office is also responsible for working with the community on special event permits, working with businesses for annual business licenses, maintaining the Corporate Seal, ensuring the accuracy of official documents, and attending all City Council meetings. "I love serving the public and sharing resources with

residents seeking information or services," says Monson.

Looking to the future, the department is preparing for several exciting changes, including the implementation of online payments for licenses and a new portal for electronic applications and renewals. These updates are part of broader city initiatives, like the downtown revitalization and park improvements, aimed at enhancing Danville's growth and modernization.

Residents can learn more about the City Clerk's Office by visiting the Clerk's page at www.cityofdanville.org or stopping by their office on Main Street to discover more about city ordinances, FOIA processes, or meeting schedules.



Rachel Haun and Lisa Monson






5:00-7:00PM

November 14, 2024
Express Employment
3124 N Vermilion St., Danville

December 12, 2024
Danville Country Club
2718 Denmark Rd., Danville

Please RSVP to Dana at
drowland@vermilionadvantage.com



11:30AM-1:00PM

November 20, 2024
"How 2 Series" Luncheon
Vermilion Hall at DACC, Room 302
How 2 Set Goals: "Where are you and where do you want to be?" with Ashton Greer

December 11, 2024
"How 2 Series" Luncheon
Vermilion Hall at DACC, Room 302
"How 2 Manage Your Finances": First Farmers Bank & Trust and Landmark Credit Union

Please RSVP to Dana at
drowland@vermilionadvantage.com



11:30AM-1:00PM

November 13, 2024
APPI/Environ
Masonic Temple,
109 W North St. Danville

December 18, 2024
Vermilion Advantage "Pip's Pizza Party" Holiday Luncheon
at Palmer Arena

Please RSVP to Dana at
drowland@vermilionadvantage.com

Vermilion County War Museum Celebrates 25th Anniversary

If you've never visited the Vermilion County War Museum, or it's been a while, this year is a great time to explore this county treasure brimming with memorabilia and stories. Housed in the historic 1903 Carnegie Library Building on North Vermilion Street near Danville's downtown, the museum has grown into a vital educational resource, boasting over 65,000 artifacts across 14,000 square feet of space.

Larry Weatherford, the Vermilion County War Museum President, reflects on its rich history as it approaches its 25th anniversary.

"We are dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the individuals who have served since the inception of America's military all the way through those who are serving today," says Weatherford. This mission, deeply rooted in our community, is evident in the museum's unwavering commitment to honoring the volunteer spirit of Vermilion County, a tradition that dates back to the Civil War and continues to this day.

The museum has undergone significant transformations in recent years, with several new exhibits that have quickly become visitor favorites. The Medal of Honor Room provides a moving tribute to the twelve Medal of Honor recipients from Vermilion County, complete with individual displays and Kenneth D. Bailey's actual Medal of Honor, generously loaned by his family. Another notable addition is "Camp Carnegie," a children's area designed to entertain and educate young visitors, funded by grants from Balloons Over Vermilion and the Festival of Trees. The Media/Technology Room offers a look at technology through the years. It features a library, a video studio for recording interviews with veterans to be preserved for future generations, and various technological displays.

Exciting new features include a British paratroopers display, an antique quilt sewn by wives and daughters of members of the 35th Illinois Infantry from the Civil War, and a gift shop.

Special Events

As the museum looks ahead to its 25th anniversary, plans are underway for a series of commemorative events, starting with "A Taste of History" on November 16th. This event will offer attendees a unique culinary experience featuring dishes from various eras of American history.

Reflecting on the museum's success, Weatherford is quick to credit the committed team behind it. "I am most proud of our dedicated team of volunteers, board members, and supporters," he notes. Their collective effort has ensured the museum's growth and continued relevance, entirely driven by community support and donations.

For more information, find the museum on Facebook at "Vermilion County War Museum." The museum may also be reached by email at vcwm@vcwm.org or by calling 217-431-0034. A new website is currently under construction.



Celebrating 140 Years of the Fischer Theatre: A Local Treasure

The Fischer Theatre is celebrating a meaningful occasion - 140 years of bringing arts and entertainment to the Danville community. As the curtains rise on this historic milestone, it's more than just a commemoration of a building; it's a tribute to generations of dedicated individuals who have poured their hearts into keeping the theatre alive.

"Reaching 140 years is an astonishing achievement and a testament to this organization's resilience and enduring importance," says Crystal R. Bivans, the theatre's Executive Director. "While I am relatively new to this theatre and have played only a small role in its 140-year story, I take great pride in leading the organization and carrying the weight of the many stories, the blood, sweat, and tears, that have kept this beautiful landmark standing."

The theatre's long history is rich with milestones and memories. When it opened its doors on November 5, 1884, the Emma Abbott Grand English Opera Company performed "King for a Day," setting a high standard for what would follow. A year later, the renowned actress and singer Lillian Russell graced the stage, cementing the theatre's reputation for attracting top talent. In 1889, the Fischer showed its first movie - the Fitzsimmons-

Jeffries boxing match - an exciting event for local audiences.

"We've even heard rumors that Harry Houdini performed here," Bivans says with a smile, "though we have no proof. But it's stories like these that make this theatre so special. We're not just preserving bricks and mortar; we're preserving a cultural hub filled with history."

Over the years, the Fischer has seen its share of challenges, from periods of decline to the threat of closure. "Thankfully, city leaders in the 1980s recognized the value of the building," Bivans says. "Their decision to sell the building to the newly formed Vermilion Heritage Foundation paved the way for its eventual restoration." The highest-profile fundraising event included the return of native sons Dick and Jerry VanDyke, Gene Hackman, Bobby Short and Donald O'Connor.

In 2019, thanks to a substantial donation from the Hegeler Foundation, the theatre reopened after a series of extensive renovations, bringing back the magic of live performances and classic films. "Seeing the marquee lit up again was an emotional moment for many in the community," Bivans says. "It represented not just the rebirth of a theatre but the continuation of a cultural legacy."

As the Fischer embarks on its next chapter, the theatre's leadership is focused on fundraising to



ensure its future. "One of the biggest misconceptions is how we receive our funding," Bivans says. "We do not receive any outside funding, including tax dollars like the hotel tax - which supports organizations that improve the quality of life in the city, a mission we strongly believe we fulfill. Every contribution, large or small, plays a crucial role in keeping the theatre thriving."

In celebration of the 140th anniversary, the theatre is revamping its "Friends of the Fischer" giving campaign, encouraging community members to support the ongoing restoration and operations. "No donation is too small, and every person who walks through our doors helps strengthen the theatre's future," Bivans emphasizes.

As she reflects on this significant milestone, Bivans expresses heartfelt gratitude to the community. "The Fischer Theatre stands today because of your unwavering belief in the arts. Together, we are shaping the future of this theatre for generations to come."

For more information or to get involved, visit www.atthefischer.com.



Crystal R. Bivans: Leading the Fischer Theatre into the Future

Crystal R. Bivans, Executive Director of the Fischer Theatre, is at the helm of one of Danville's most beloved cultural institutions. With a mix of hospitality and financial expertise, Bivans will be instrumental in guiding the theatre through its continued restoration and development.



Joining the Fischer in August 2021 as Operations Director, Bivans transitioned to Executive Director in May 2023. "I wanted to see this through," she says, reflecting on why she took the position. "I believe we have a gem of a venue, and being part of its transformation is a source of great pride."

Bivans's role is multifaceted. From booking performances to managing daily operations and coordinating volunteers, she oversees nearly every aspect of the theatre's functioning.

"With a full-time staff of just two, we wear a lot of hats," she shares, laughing. "You might even catch me selling tickets or making popcorn before a show."

Her vision for the Fischer is clear: to make it a destination for both locals and travelers, offering a welcoming space for all. "We have something magical here in downtown Danville," Bivans says. "I want to create experiences that inspire and nurture our community."

Looking ahead, Bivans's goal is to continue growing the theatre's presence by offering diverse programming and fostering deeper connections with the community. "This theatre is more than just a building—it's a legacy, and I am excited to be part of its future."

Coffee Talk

November 12:
CASA,
112 N Vermilion St., Danville

December 10:
Fischer Theater,
158 N Vermilion St., Danville



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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.vermilionadvantage.com/job-board

Westville School District Continues to Impact Students' Lives for the Better

Westville Superintendent Dr. Seth Miller sums up the contagious excitement surrounding the southern Vermilion County school district, "In Westville, it's always a Great Day to be a Tiger." Westville Community School District is the perfect example of what happens when schools focus on preparing students for life beyond the classroom and demonstrating a commitment to tradition and innovation.

With around 1,300 students from PreK to 12th grade, the district is a cornerstone of the community. Judith Giacomma Elementary School serves 700 students, Westville Junior High has around 200, and Westville High School is home to nearly 400. The district has deep historical roots, with the first high school yearbook dating back to 1917. Westville, founded in 1873, has long been celebrated as a "melting pot of nations," with immigrants from over 38 countries contributing to its rich, diverse culture.

The district has evolved significantly throughout its history, but its core values remain the same. "What has stayed constant is the civic pride and the respect for hard work woven

into the fabric of this community," says Dr. Miller proudly. While technology and educational programs have advanced, with dual credit opportunities through Danville Area Community College (DACC) and innovative K-6 programs like piano labs, the community's resilient spirit remains as strong as ever.

Westville's partnerships with organizations like DACC, VVEDS (Vermilion Vocational Education Delivery System), Vermilion Association of Special Education (VASE), Project Success, Vermilion Advantage, the Vermilion County Regional Superintendents Office and the Vermilion County Principals Association to name a few have been vital in providing students and staff with critical information, training and support. "Westville Schools are stronger because of our partnerships," says Dr. Miller. "Together, we're ensuring every student has the chance to succeed."

Dr. Miller has been an integral part of Westville Community School District since 2004, where he first served as Assistant High School Principal. Over the years, his passion for education has seen him rise through the ranks, holding the position of Assistant Superintendent from 2007 to 2015 before taking on his current role as Superintendent. Reflecting on his journey, Dr. Miller says, "Westville is not just a job to me; it's my home. It's where my wife and I proudly raise our daughters, and I'm honored to be part of such a vibrant, caring community."

The district's biggest challenge is the same as the one facing almost every employment sector in Vermilion County, the need for more employees. Teachers, support personnel, and administrators are in extreme demand. This presents a significant opportunity for anyone looking to make a difference in the lives of students. To learn more about joining the Westville School District or about district activities and programs, visit www.gowestville.org.



New Member Snapshot: Highland Gutters

Owner: Preston Neubert

What should we know about your company? At Highland Gutters, we're deeply embedded in the fabric of Vermilion County, serving our local rural communities with pride. Specializing in gutter installation, guards, and cleanings, we're committed to keeping your homes safe and secure, no matter the weather.

Where are you located? With roots firmly planted in Vermilion County soil, we take pride in delivering reliable service and building lasting relationships in our tight-knit community. Highland Gutters is based in Georgetown, IL, and the Neubert family has been in Vermilion County for five generations since the family moved here to start farming.

What makes your business unique? This business was born out of necessity. A storm damaged my home's gutters. After calling seven+ local gutter businesses without getting a return phone call to schedule an estimate, I

realized there was a need for a local company dedicated to being responsive and providing a good customer experience. Not only do we warranty our work, but we answer your phone calls, respond to your text messages and show up on time with a smile on our face.

What is the best part of doing business in Vermilion County? I love meeting people who knew my family members and hear stories about how my dad, grandfather or great-grandfather positively impacted their lives. Hopefully, with time, I will be able to have a similar impact on this community.

Do you have a great customer story you could share? One that comes to mind is an elderly homeowner who called me because her basement had flooded for many years when it rained. She wanted to sell her home but was scared to put it on the market with a basement that was actively flooding. Most people don't know that gutters actually protect your home's foundation. I replaced her gutters, added

extra downspouts and directed the rainwater further away from the foundation. After the next big rain, I gave her a call to see how the basement looked. She was delighted to tell me the basement was bone dry and relieved that it was such a simple fix after all these years and would now be able to sell her home without worry.

What do you see as Vermilion County's greatest strengths? I think it is a tight-knit community. There are many generations of families here. Quite often, I walk away from meeting someone I know and think to myself... I'm happy I got to know that person.

How can people contact you? Visit www.highlandgutter.com or call 217-977-6158.



New Member Snapshot: Rector Solar & Roofing

Solar Advisor: Butch Dalhaus

Brief Company Description: We are a roofing and solar company. Our installations include residential, commercial and solar farm systems. Residential and some commercial roofing are also our specialty.

Location: We cover all or parts of five counties within two hours of our offices in Champaign. We have been doing business in Vermilion County for almost ten years.

Business Philosophy: Treat every customer like family. Solar/roofing companies collectively don't have a great reputation. Here today and gone tomorrow. Our ownership and many of our employees are 4th generation Central Illinois residents. We strive to make every customer want to tell their friends and family how well they were treated. We refer to it as "The Rector Factor."



What might surprise people? We are a smaller company that does big things. Our jobs range from a few panels on a home to several hundred panels for a commercial structure.

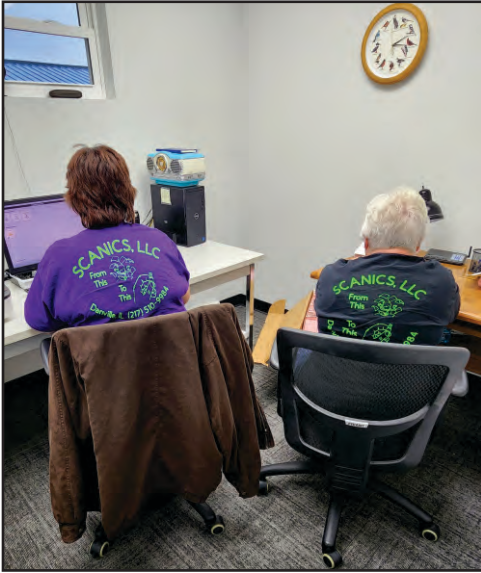
Do you have a great story to share? Rector is all about a family atmosphere. Recently, one of our employees purchased a home. After lunch, we all headed to her apartment to pack her up

and unpack her at the new home that day. Later in the week, many of us were back to help. The team that our president Mike Ashby has assembled is second to none in the industry. From installers to design techs, they make us look good in the Sales Department.

What advantages does membership in Vermilion Advantage bring? I have been involved in Vermilion Advantage for almost 20 years. When I joined the Rector team, one of my first tasks was getting us signed up for membership. The networking opportunities have been great and have resulted in a lot of new business. Developing contacts from Vermilion Advantage into friends has been the most rewarding.

How can people learn more about your business? Visit www.ectorsolar.com. I can always be reached at butch@ectorsolar.com. My direct cell is 217-778-1248.

New Member Snapshot: Scanics



Owner: Kimberly Powell

Tell us about the company. Scanics has 15 employees and has been in business for 21 years. We were formerly located in Champaign, IL, but moved to Danville on July 8th, 2024. We offer many services

to both businesses and individuals. Some of our services include scanning of all size documents (including oversized such as blueprints to make them digital files), lamination, printing, and copying. We offer cloud-based storage to store files. In addition, we offer shredding, data entry and scanning of 35 and 16mm reels.

Where are you located? 5 W. 2nd St, Danville, across from Steak N Shake on S. Gilbert St.

What would surprise people most about Scanics? We have customers all over the United States.

What do you love most about doing business in Vermilion County? We are now able to give back to the community where most of us grew up!

Are there any great customer stories you can share? Scanics just completed

a job for an Urban Indian Health Coalition in Nebraska. This job was very interesting. They allowed our driver to tour the facility, take pictures, and see sculptures and paintings that were crafted and drawn by Native Americans from their tribe.

Tell us about your community involvement. Scanics sponsors Macey Kirby from Danville, a Pole and Barrel Racer in the Illinois Junior Rodeo Association. We are also looking into sponsorships for some youth sports in Danville and the surrounding area.

How can people learn more about your business? Visit our website at www.scanics.com, find us on Facebook at "Scanics LLC," call (217) 510-9984, or email kim@scanics.com.

Anything you'd like to add? We do all the work for the customer, from pick-up to the delivery of the files.

New Member Snapshot: T-Mobile

Retail Associate Manager: Alexis Neeley

Brief Company Description: T-Mobile is the second largest wireless carrier in the United States, with 125.9 million subscribers as of June 31, 2024.

Location: My Corporate store is at 3655 N. Vermillion St. Danville, IL 61832. Our doors opened for business on 12/24/2023. I manage nine employees.

What might surprise people: T-Mobile is heavily invested in the smaller/rural communities around us. We just donated over \$45,000 towards the reconstruction of The Lorraine Theatre in Hoopeston.

Best part of doing business in Vermilion County: Being a part of the new wave of developments, serving the underserved in our community, and bringing new opportunities, jobs, and events to Danville.



Something to know: We offer service plan discounts to first responders, veterans, and senior citizens (55+). T-Mobile now offers internet for business. We offer Home Wi-Fi for \$65 on auto-pay for eligible addresses. We also offer a program called Work Perks to qualified accounts for teachers and specific U.S Government state departments, and free benefits like Hulu, Apple TV, Netflix, and Word membership to premium accounts. We are consistently running promotions for new AND existing customers. Right now,

you can receive an iPhone 16 on us with an eligible trade-in or a Samsung 24 with or without a trade-in.

Alexis' Leadership: I will continue attending and planning events for the community and company. T-Mobile has just redirected funds to update and build new towers, one of which is in Westville. I plan to continue to visit and serve more small-market rural areas as funded. I've been with the company for 3 years. I transferred from Iowa and thanks to T-Mobile, I am able to work and be a full-time mother and student with our 100% reimbursement tuition program. I spearheaded the Friday Night Lights campaign at Danville High School for a chance to win a \$50,000 stadium makeover or a consolation prize of \$5,000 towards any school repair.

More information: Inquiries can be directed to my work email at alexis.neeley2@t-mobile.com or by calling 641-261-5551.



New Member Snapshot: Shambaugh & Sons

Branch Manager: John Bridgman

Company Information: Shambaugh is one of the top fire protection contractors in the industry. Distinguished by a commitment to providing competitive and accurate pricing, technically advanced in-house design, and highly efficient fire protection fabrication services, we strive to offer unmatched expertise and comprehensive value that consistently meets our clients' changing needs.

We offer Fire Sprinkler installation, service, inspection, and design. Fire Alarm installation, service, inspection, monitoring, and design. Fire Extinguisher installation, service, and inspections. Special Hazards clean agent and VESDA and kitchen/paint booth suppression design, install and maintenance.

We have 14 employees locally and growing, and 2,500 nationwide.

Location: We are in Champaign, Illinois

What makes your company unique? We pride ourselves on the ability to offer our clients complete fire protection services. With over 200 NICET (National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies)-certified fire designers, our Fire Protection Group consistently produces the industry's highest level of accurate and detailed fire sprinkler system designs, using advanced CADD and hydraulic calculation software to ensure accuracy, optimum design, and on-time project completion.

What is the best part of doing business in Vermilion County? The people. Always kind and always respectful.

What do your customers say about working with your company? Here is a very recent response from a new customer. "I just wanted to reach out to say thank you so much for getting back to us in a timely way about the alarm

issues we have had and for providing superior follow-up and service. The personalized attention from you and the techs - from the detail-oriented professionalism on-site to check-in at the end of a visit (such an understated but noticeable touch)—has been much appreciated. The work of Shambaugh & Son has made a supremely positive, distinctive impression."

What do you see as Vermilion County's greatest strengths?

Healthcare, logistics and manufacturing opportunities.

How can people learn more about your business? Call 217-689-5236, find us on LinkedIn, or visit www.shambaugh.com.



Someone to Know: Tricia Teague

Tricia Teague is a name you should know, especially if you're an entrepreneur in Vermilion County. As CEO of The Trep School and founder of the Soar Space Business Center, Tricia has dedicated her career to empowering small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. Additionally, she serves as Alderwoman and Vice-Mayor of Danville.

At The Trep School, Tricia wears many hats. "When you're the owner of a small business, you do everything," she says, listing tasks ranging from creating programs for entrepreneurs to tightening screws around the office. Her work doesn't stop there - she also secures and manages grants, hires employees, and coaches business owners, making her a perfect example of the many demands of small business leadership. With only two full-time staff members, her business has provided funding of more than \$200,000 to local small businesses, offered hundreds of hours of coaching and consulting, conducted hundreds of hours

of classes and workshops, and always fulfilled state reporting requirements on time or early.

An important business expansion is underway now. The business recently added full-time engagement and navigation managers and is recruiting for two community navigator positions.




Her journey didn't start in the world of entrepreneurship. Tricia began her career in journalism at the *Peoria Journal-Star* before moving into the corporate world, holding several key positions at CCH/Wolters Kluwer. After years in Chicago, a corporate reorganization brought her back to Danville in 2012, where she eventually launched The Trep School in 2018. The creation of Soar Space followed in 2022, a response to the lack of workspaces for local entrepreneurs. "Danville needed a coworking space," Tricia says, pointing out the challenges small businesses face in finding affordable and flexible office spaces.



Despite her professional achievements, the Danville native is most passionate about seeing others succeed. "I love seeing other people realize their dreams and begin to believe in the possibilities for their lives and their businesses," she says. Through initiatives like the Trep OnTrack Business Bootcamp, she continues to shape the future of Danville's business landscape.

When asked to reflect on her success, Tricia is clear: "There's a lot that I've done, but there's even more that I've received because I put my trust in God." Whether through her business ventures or public service, her faith remains at the heart of her mission.

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