

# INSIDE

December 2024

*Vermilion County*

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*Vermilion Advantage*  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**The Darby Family  
Legacy Lives On**



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# INSIDE

Vermilion County

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Inside Vermilion County is a monthly publication created by Vermilion Advantage to showcase our members and share good news about Vermilion County. Each issue is mailed to all Vermilion Advantage members and over 1,000 copies are distributed throughout Vermilion County.



A few months back, I made some waves when I put out my monthly letter and then posted a subsequent video talking about how real change wasn't easy and that if we wanted to really make things better, we would have to push against the status quo even if it became uncomfortable. My point was that people talking about change usually come up short because "real change" requires taking on the vested interests that profit from the way things are. People immediately wanted specifics from me, and I tried to provide those. I have even waded into some controversial and unpopular topics in the last few months that have stirred some impassioned discussion.

While it hasn't been comfortable (it isn't supposed to be) it is part of the discussion that needs to take place. We must push to change how we operate if we want a different result. Not all change and deviations from past practice are controversial though. Some are as simple as doing the work to get broad consensus on an issue so that we can solve that issue. That is a positive change that is much less disruptive, and one that is much easier and even fun to talk about. So, in adding to the specific detail that people asked for when I put out my video about real change, here is one very positive example.

Vermilion Advantage hasn't always had the best relationship with the Educators in Vermilion County and a lot of those issues probably stemmed from old misunderstandings or miscommunication, many issues festering long past the point of relevance. That divide wasn't good for our County. Both Educators and Industry Representatives are dedicated professionals that love our County. They don't have exactly the same goals and objectives, but the two entities have similar goals and objectives. Producing the workforce of tomorrow and graduating successful students that move onto career successes are not the same thing, but they are close.

Starting under Todd Lee last year, Vermilion Advantage and the Vermilion County Educators formed the Workforce Education Committee, where reps of industry and education started meeting on a regular basis and presented ideas to address both groups' goals in a collaborative manner. The topics of discussion were workforce development, County educational goals, and student engagement. The process has been wonderful and productive, with both groups forming a strong basis for continued collaboration in the future. The first major initiative of the collaboration, the Vermilion County Workforce Education Director, was recently announced to the public. The plan is to post that position after the Holidays, get the right person hired to fill that role by mid-winter, have the hire spend the remainder of Spring and Summer familiarizing themselves with industry and the local school districts, and start student engagement programs in our schools in August of 2025.

This is just the beginning. The major change I am talking about is a recognition on the part of Vermilion Advantage of how important the independent perspectives of our Educators are. For all our Economic Development efforts, Education needs a strong seat at the table and representation. Education is critical to our success in Vermilion County and Education makes up a huge part of our economy. As a sector, Education along with healthcare are our largest employers. Look for more good things to come from this collaborative effort and look for more of my specifics in hard but positive change.

Mike Marron  
CEO/President  
Vermilion Advantage

# Pip is back and wants to know where you do your holiday shopping.

**Here are a few folks who've shared their favorite local place to shop for the holidays. What's yours?**

Doug & Stacey Ireland - *Mad Goat*

Kylee Turner - *Taylor's Trends*

Angela Reinhart - *Pink Poodle Unique Boutique - Hoopeston and OSF Gift Shop*

Butch Dalhaus - *Gross Burger*

Teri Merrell - *Once in a Blue Moon*

Kim Henry - *Kohl's, TJ Maxx*

Laken Waltz - *The Rock Shop*

Nicole Van Hyfte - *Boxcar Books & Vinyl*

Greg Wolfe - *Lima Bean*

Sherry Carpenter - *Sunshine Candles & More*

Mariah Hanson - *Country Store Health Foods, Taylor's Trend and Sweet Repeats*

Sue Dill-Colby - *Danville Garden North*

Tara Auter - *Rustic Charm, RC Boutique*

Laura Renaker - *The Local Farmhouse*

Mary Newman - *Meijer*

Ami Siefert - *Runnings, TJ Maxx, Taylor's Trends*

Teri Merrell - *Once in a Blue Moon*

Luxe Lift - *Cottonwood Market Co., Woodsy Root Boutique, Fluffy Fellows Farm Bakery & Market, The Local*

Robin Castleberry - *The Farmhouse in Georgetown*

Linda Chernausky - *Latoz Hardware in Westville*

Amy Buttram - *Boxcar Books/Vinyl, Bricks & Ivy, 112 Wine and Coffee Shoppe, Treasured Roots Flowers, Gifts and Garden*

Amanda Downs - *Luxe Lift Aesthetics and Sarah Lee's Healing Mountain Crystals*

Christina Dietzen - *Anker Florist*

**Visit our Facebook page for more local favorites.**



## Holidays in Hoopeston

During the holiday season, Hoopeston shines with community spirit and festive charm.

Visitors can stroll through the dazzling light display at McFerren Park, as well as the brilliantly decorated home of Chad Thomas, right outside the park, which will illuminate the area from Thanksgiving weekend through the New Year. One of the season's highlights was the "Holiday in Hoopeston" event, hosted by the Hoopeston Jaycees in late November 23.



Shopping in Hoopeston is a unique experience, with local businesses going the extra mile to offer personalized service, expert recommendations, and distinctive holiday gifts. Favorites like the Pink Poodle Boutique, Treasured Roots Flower Shop, and Sheridan's Appliance offer something special for everyone on your list. Other favorites include Stay Awhile with ice cream and Cornjerker gear, Bricks and Ivy Sports for the sports lover, Boxcar Books and Vinyl for the bookish people on your list, and Collection Affection, Anna's Teas, Mary's Clothesline, C&D Seed and Feed, and Lisa's Candy Shop have great gifts. The community also has a new day spa, Healthy Living Retreat, which offers memberships and classes for the healthy-minded people on your list. Healthy Living Retreat is a new day spa, perfect for wellness-minded gifts.

On December 7, Visit Downtown Hoopeston is hosting a shop hop, where guests can pick up information on



participating locations or visit [visithoopeston.com](http://visithoopeston.com). To make the most of the season, come by on Shop Small Saturday, November 30, to discover local holiday promotions, giveaways, and beautifully decorated stores that capture Hoopeston's holiday cheer.

Emily Brown, President of Visit Downtown Hoopeston, warmly describes Hoopeston as "a great town to raise a family, with a wonderful variety of small businesses, dining spots, and activities to enjoy year-round."

More information is available at [www.visithoopeston.com](http://www.visithoopeston.com).

# Gateway Family Services: Expanding Access to Mental Health Care

The continuing growth of Gateway Family Services of Illinois is a beacon of hope for individuals in Vermilion County and beyond, especially people who have been impacted by trauma. Established in 2018, the non-profit agency has grown to include a team of 14 professionals dedicated to providing trauma-informed care across the lifespan. With its diverse team, including licensed mental health professionals, equine experts, and now a psychiatric nurse practitioner, Gateway's holistic approach addresses a wide range of mental health needs in the community.

"Gateway Family Services is committed to offering intensive, innovative, and individualized care to those in need," says Michael Remole, MA, LCPC, NCC, I/ECHMHC, CEO and Founder of Gateway. "We have assembled a team of highly skilled professionals dedicated to supporting individuals and families at every stage of life. Our team includes an Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant specializing in children and families from birth to age five and a

group of therapists expertly trained in EMDR therapy. We provide comprehensive and compassionate support tailored to meet diverse needs."

Gateway's hiring of Chad Cottrell, PMHNP-BC, a psychiatric nurse practitioner with over 20 years of experience, is a major addition to its services. His extensive background in various nursing fields, from geriatrics to hospice care, positions him as a crucial resource for the community.

"I was inspired to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner because I saw a need—both nationally and locally—for timely psychiatric care," Chad explains. "As a foster parent, I experienced firsthand how difficult it was to find mental health services quickly. I didn't just want to complain about the problem; I wanted to be part of the solution."

Chad's arrival allows Gateway to provide psychiatric services on-site, streamlining care for existing clients and reducing the

need for additional appointments. His approach is aligned with Gateway's mission to offer trauma-informed, patient-centered care. By collaborating closely with the therapy team, Chad will ensure that each client receives a holistic, tailored treatment plan, whether that includes medication, therapy, or a combination of both.

"I'm excited to bring a sense of hope to my patients," Chad shares. "The challenges they face are temporary, and I want to help them see that they have the power to heal."

Gateway Family Services of Illinois is currently accepting new patients and is in-network with most private insurance companies, Medicaid and all managed care plans in the State of Illinois. Psychiatric services are available to anyone in the community. To register and begin receiving services, individuals can go to [www.gatewayfamilyservices.org](http://www.gatewayfamilyservices.org) and click the "looking for therapy" link to register.

With the addition of psychiatric services, Gateway continues to break down barriers to mental health care in Vermilion County and beyond, ensuring that individuals have access to the critical services they need—right in their own community. For more information on how to begin services, visit [www.gatewayfamilyservices.org](http://www.gatewayfamilyservices.org).

*"Chad's comprehensive, compassionate approach to individuals allows our clients to receive exceptional psychiatric care with that small-town feel."*  
Michael Remole



**Mark Your Calendar**

**Christmas in the Barn 2024  
December 4-7, 2024**

[www.christmasinthebarn.org](http://www.christmasinthebarn.org)



**THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 19TH  
5pm-7pm**

# *Clinic Grand Opening*

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*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 5pm*



*Cookies  
with  
Santa*



*Enjoy a  
carriage ride*



*Meet Chad*

**gatewayfamilyservices.org**

# Holiday Festivities Light Up Danville

The City of Danville is gearing up for a festive holiday season filled with family-friendly events. Caleb Bryant, Community Relations Coordinator, shared his excitement for the community-focused gatherings aimed at bringing people together. "Get ready to get into the holiday spirit in the City of Danville! There are so many fun times and memories to be had when you come out," Bryant said.


The festivities kicked off with the annual Lighting Ceremony downtown and will continue with the highly anticipated First Fridays: Night of Lights Parade and Carriage Rides on December 6 at 6:00 PM. The Holiday Bazaar will follow on December 13 and 14 at the Harrison Park Clubhouse, featuring unique holiday vendors. Santa Claus will appear at Temple Plaza on December 7 and 21 from noon to 2:00 PM.

Families are encouraged to explore the festive displays downtown, especially the new snowman and gingerbread face cutouts at Sign Forest and Kresge Park, ideal for holiday photos. Local businesses are also joining in, with sponsorships from the Golden Nugget, Hyster-Yale, Berns, Clancy and Associates, Vermilion County Conservation Foundation, Amanda Galloway with Country Financial and OSF Healthcare making these events possible.

Volunteers are welcome to assist with the festivities, especially for the parade, as they play a crucial role in the success of these community events. For those interested, more information is available on the City of Danville's website [www.cityofdanville.org](http://www.cityofdanville.org) and Facebook page.

This season, Danville is ready to make the holidays memorable for all who come out and celebrate.






**5:00-7:00PM**

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


*Please RSVP to Dana at*  
[drowland@vermilionadvantage.com](mailto:drowland@vermilionadvantage.com)



**11:30AM-1:00PM**

**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](mailto:drowland@vermilionadvantage.com)



**11:30AM-1:00PM**

**December 18, 2024**  
**Vermilion Advantage "Pip's Pizza Party" Holiday Luncheon**  
 at Palmer Arena  
**January 22, 2024**  
**Palmer Arena**  
 sponsored by Synergy Home Care

*Please RSVP to Dana at*  
[drowland@vermilionadvantage.com](mailto:drowland@vermilionadvantage.com)

# Vermilion County Museum Gearing Up for County's Bicentennial

As Vermilion County approaches its 200th anniversary, the Vermilion County Museum Society is taking the lead in planning a series of memorable county-wide celebrations to honor the area's rich history.

Established in 1964, the Society has long been dedicated to preserving and sharing the county's historical heritage. With the upcoming bicentennial, the Society plans to involve towns, villages, schools, and the wider community in the festivities, building on existing fairs, festivals, and events. "Special events will involve the community as well as building on already established events," says Director Susan E. Richter.

Special traveling exhibits will bring pieces of history directly to various communities. "As the museum director, I am often amazed at the amount of local history that Vermilion County has, both hidden in its past and also involving the present," says Richter, adding that the upcoming two years promise to be ones filled with opportunities for learning and engagement.

## New Exhibit in 2025

One of the major highlights for 2025 will be a new exhibit on Illinois' Freedom Trail, which will explore the state's role in the journey to freedom for many enslaved individuals during the 19th century. This exhibit will accompany educational programs and projects engaging schools and libraries across Vermilion County.

## Helping History Come Alive for Children

The Vermilion County Museum Society has a passion for making history accessible to all, especially young

people. Since its founding, the Society has made admission free for children under twelve, later expanding that policy to include teens aged 13 to 17. Through its various educational initiatives, including the Historical School Program, the Museum Society serves approximately 3,000 students annually. These programs meet Illinois state educational standards and bring local history to life for third and fourth graders through interactive exhibits and tours.

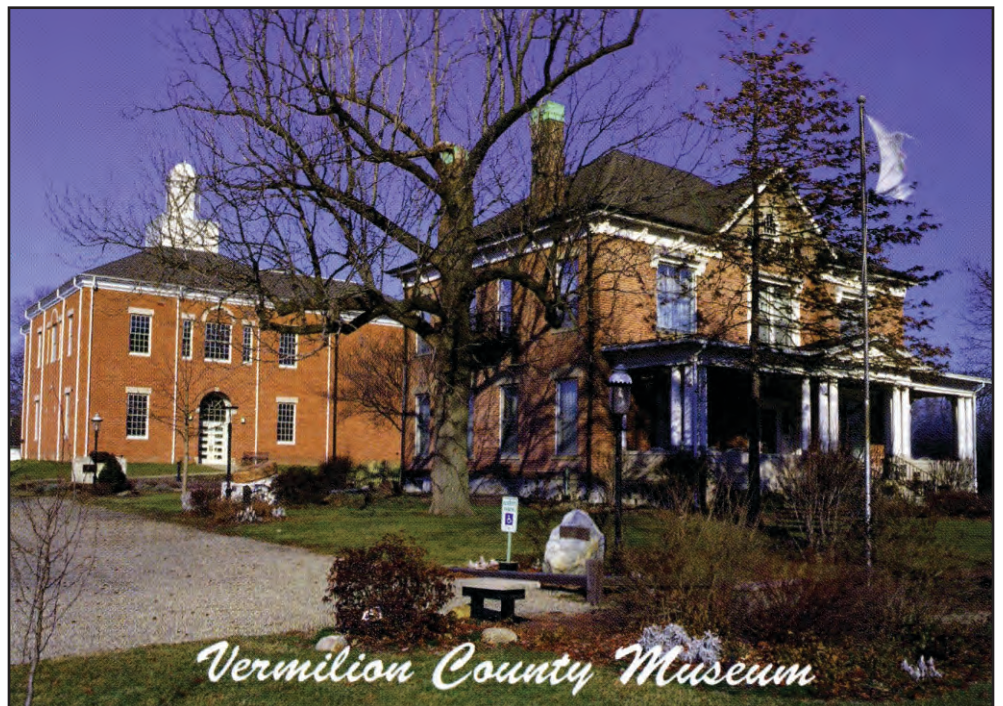
## Continuing to Expand

A significant part of the Museum's success has been its ability to grow while staying true to its mission. Since 2002, the addition of the Museum Center has allowed the Society to host special exhibits, including partnerships with the Smithsonian and the Holocaust Museum in Europe. The Center also provides space for lectures, community events, and special programs that offer deeper insights into local history. Exhibits showcasing local industries, the

county's natural history, and notable historical figures with important ties to Vermilion County continue to be popular with visitors of all ages. A special focus on President Abraham Lincoln is a draw for many visitors.

Volunteers are key to the Society's mission, and with the upcoming bicentennial, the need for community involvement is even greater. Richter encourages anyone interested in contributing to the festivities or learning more about Vermilion County's history to contact the Museum. As the county's bicentennial approaches, the Vermilion County Museum Society remains committed to preserving and sharing the stories that make this community unique. "History is everyone," Richter says, "and you are a part of Vermilion County history."

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more can contact the Museum, Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM at 217-442-2922 or by emailing [vermilioncounty@att.net](mailto:vermilioncounty@att.net).



# Lighting the Way: Family, Tradition, and Community Spirit with the Darby Family

For the Darby family, the holiday season represents a time to reflect on family values and a deep love for the community. Perhaps never more than this year. The family recently lost their patriarch, the beloved James "Big Jim" Darby.

Big Jim was a leader in every sense of the word. He dedicated his life to the cemetery and funeral industry, where his groundbreaking contributions and steadfast commitment to excellence shaped the companies he built and the communities he served. His inspiring faith and exceptional work ethic shaped his own life and all the lives he touched. To Big Jim, family was everything. His unwavering love, support, and generosity leave a legacy that will live on in the family he adored and the businesses he founded. The community celebrates his life well lived - as a visionary, innovator, philanthropist and leader.

## Legacy

With Big Jim in the lead, the family has managed to grow their business operations over multiple generations and create meaningful traditions that give back to the community in unique and heartwarming ways, none more treasured than the holiday lights at Sunset Cemetery in Danville, Illinois.

The Darby family journey began in Michigan, where CEO Linda Darby-Dowers' grandparents initially managed a cemetery. They moved to Danville in the 1960s along with Linda's father and uncle to start Sunset Memorial Park. This foundation eventually expanded, giving birth to a series of ventures under the Greenwood Inc. umbrella, encompassing seven brands. The family owns and operates funeral homes in Vermilion and Champaign counties, Fountain County, IN and Maricopa County, AZ. They also own and operate Sunset Memorial Park and its pet care division, Cherished Companions. The Trigard operation produces burial vault liners and ancillary products, GPI creates thermoformed products for transportation, healthcare, and retail industries, and Trigard Memorials manufactures custom bronze grave



markers. The latest addition is the growing Hall of Fame Plaques & Signs, which produces custom trophies, plaques and more for customers nationwide.

All the businesses have been shaped by the family's tenacious spirit. "My father and uncle came to Danville with a vision," recalls Linda. "My father, 'Big Jim,' had this relentless entrepreneurial drive that kept pushing him forward. Today, we're proud to

continue that same spirit."

The company's openness to change has contributed to its long-term success. "Adaptability is a huge reason we have grown," says COO Ross. "Two things that will always evolve are our culture and staff. Each year we spend with each other is another year of growing a deeper understanding of how to bring out the best in one another"

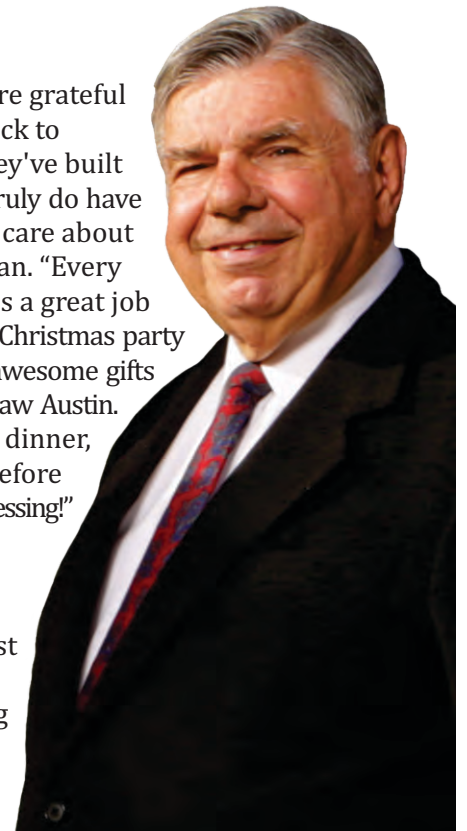
## Work Family

If you ask what they are grateful for, the Darbys are quick to mention the family they've built with employees. "We truly do have a work family that we care about deeply," says CMO Ethan. "Every year, my wife Keri does a great job planning our company Christmas party with food, drinks, and awesome gifts chosen by my sister-in-law Austin.

We also have a family dinner, usually a day or two before Christmas. It is truly a blessing!"

## Holiday Lights

One of the Darbys most cherished holiday traditions is decorating the pond at Sunset Memorial Park, along Route 1 in Danville.





l-r: Jackson, Keri, Ethan, Linda, Scott, Rich, Jill, Ross and Austin

Giving back is a core value across the company. They support organizations like CASA, the Women's Care Clinic, and United Way. They also sponsor local sports teams and events, along with industry-related organizations like the Funeral Service Foundation. With so many locations across the country, the Darbys are dedicated to giving back in each community.

### Family and the Future

As the family's businesses continue to grow, new generations are stepping into leadership roles. "We were blessed with a diverse business where family members can find what gives them fulfillment and then help

Inspired by the family's love for the holidays and their sense of community, they've turned the location into a seasonal wonderland, complete with lights that glow to cast shimmering reflections on the pond. "My family makes fun of me because I'm a Hallmark junkie when it comes to Christmas," laughs Linda. "But it's such a special time to remember what the season means. For us, it's a time to slow down and celebrate with those we love, and we do love our community!"

The light display has grown in recent years, attracting visitors from all over the county and beyond. It's a labor of love, and the family looks forward to seeing the joy on visitors' faces as they take in the beautiful lights and visit the family's beloved swans, Charlie and Flo—named after Linda's grandparents.

Each year, the Darbys tweak the display to ensure it is accessible and safe, allowing families to enjoy it at their own pace. Initially, they had carolers and hot cocoa by the pond but soon realized the event was best suited as a drive-through experience to accommodate the growing crowd. "We're constantly blown away by the way our community supports us and our events," says Ethan. "We love this opportunity to get to know our community better!"

### Giving Back

The family's sense of community commitment doesn't end with the holiday lights. Throughout the year, the Darbys actively engage in local charitable initiatives, such as Operation Honor Guard, a nonprofit organization started by Ethan and Ross' father, Rich Darby, providing military honor guards with proper uniforms and equipment to perform military rites. The initiative raises about \$130,000 annually for veterans.

that area of our business grow," says Ethan. "As we transition from the last generation to our generation, we understand the importance of structured accountability and clear expectations. Our main goal is to pass this business on to the fifth generation of Darbys, and we want to pass it on as a stronger business than when we started!"

Looking forward, the Darbys are excited about what the future holds for their business and Vermilion County. As Ross puts it, "Vermilion County's strength lies in its tenacity. This county has so much to offer and is a great place to raise a family. Our company and family are proud products of Vermilion County. We are excited for the future and partnering with other companies and leaders to help make this county's future bright."

Through their holiday lights, charitable initiatives, and ongoing commitment to the local community, the Darby family's legacy shines brightly, a testament to Big Jim's enduring values of hard work, family, and giving back. For them, the season of giving is more than just a holiday tradition—it's a way of life woven into the fabric of their family and business year-round.

For more information visit [www.sunsetfuneralhome.com](http://www.sunsetfuneralhome.com), [www.halloffameplaques.com](http://www.halloffameplaques.com), and [www.greenwoodincorporated.com](http://www.greenwoodincorporated.com). The companies can also be found on Facebook at "sunsetfuneralhome" and "HOFSignShop."



# C-U Trade Services/Kuchefski Heating & Air Awards New HVAC System to Danville Teacher

C-U Trade Services/Kuchefski Heating and Air recently celebrated local educators through its 2024 “Nominate a Teacher” HVAC System Giveaway. This year’s winner, Cathy Huff, a committed 6th-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Danville, will receive a new Trane HVAC system, complete installation, and a one-year service plan.

Huff’s multiple nominations highlighted both her dedication to her students and the pressing need for an upgraded HVAC system. “We received many deserving applications for educators across Vermilion County,” says Marketing and Events Manager Jessica Schriefer. “This year, we selected a winning teacher from both Champaign and Vermilion Counties to show our commitment to local educators,” she says. “It’s our third year of the giveaway in Champaign, and this year we were excited to expand into Vermilion County to celebrate the amazing teachers in our Danville location too.”

Since its merger with Kuchefski Heating and Air in January 2023, C-U Trade Services has expanded its services in Vermilion County. Building on Kuchefski’s 40-year legacy in the area, the merger has allowed the company to integrate electrical and

plumbing services, making it a one-stop shop for residential and commercial needs. This expansion enhances convenience for clients and broadens the company’s ability to serve as a trusted resource for contractors and builders. “What might surprise people most is our commitment to sustainability; we not only provide traditional services but also specialize in solar, geothermal, and water purification solutions,” says Schriefer.

Community involvement is central to C-U Trade Services/Kuchefski’s mission. In addition to supporting local teachers, they sponsor Danville’s First Fridays and engage actively in Vermilion Advantage, which helps them connect with area businesses. Their engagement continues the company’s deep community bonds and builds lasting client relationships in Vermilion County and beyond.

After 20 years of dedicated service at Kuchefski Heating and Air, Rose Sams is stepping into retirement this month. “We want to express our heartfelt thanks for her hard work and commitment,” says Schriefer. “We wish her all the best in this exciting new chapter of her life.”

This community focus, combined with high-quality Trane products and skilled



Rose Sams

technicians, makes C-U Trade Services/Kuchefski a standout in the region. To learn more, visit [www.cutradeservices.com](http://www.cutradeservices.com), stop by their Danville location at 511 E Main St. or follow them at [facebook.com/CUTradeServices](https://facebook.com/CUTradeServices) and [instagram.com/cuuc\\_trades/](https://instagram.com/cuuc_trades/) for updates on services and community initiatives.





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# Celebrating the 160-Year History of Springhill Cemetery in Danville

The community is honoring Spring Hill Cemetery's 160-year history, a setting revered as a peaceful resting place for nearly 28,000 individuals. "Spring Hill is not just a cemetery; it's a place where history and community come together to honor the past while serving the present," says President of the Board, Mark Denman.

Founded by five prominent Danville leaders, Spring Hill Cemetery was created to address the growing need for burial space as the city's original cemetery, Old Danville Cemetery, reached capacity. The founders transferred 50 acres north of Danville to establish Spring Hill Cemetery, creating a park-like setting that reflected the era's preference for landscaped burial grounds. "Spring Hill was designed to be more than a final resting place; it was envisioned as a serene and respectful space where families could remember their loved ones in peace," Denman says.

Over the years, Spring Hill Cemetery has expanded to meet the community's needs, most notably with a new section north of Voorhees Street in 1955, making it the area's largest cemetery. This expansion, along with the construction of a mausoleum and columbarium, has allowed the cemetery to continue offering a wide range of burial options, from traditional gravesites to mausoleum crypts and niches for cremains. Despite these changes, the cemetery has remained



true to its original mission of serving the community with dignity and respect. "The commitment to serve our families to the best of our ability has remained constant over the last 160 years," says Denman.

Seven board members and six employees oversee the cemetery year-round.

One of the most notable features of Spring Hill Cemetery is Soldiers Circle, a dedicated area for veterans that was included in the cemetery's original design. This section honors veterans from the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and both World Wars, with nearly 500 veterans now resting there. The circle is also home to a monument erected by the Eastern Illinois Veterans' Association, featuring a seven-foot-tall bronze statue of a Civil War soldier, a lasting tribute to the service and sacrifice of the area's veterans.

Spring Hill Cemetery stands as a testament to the importance of honoring those who have come before us. With its rich history, continued commitment to the community, and ongoing efforts to preserve the memories of those interred there, Spring Hill Cemetery remains a vital part of Danville's heritage.

Plots are available for purchase by stopping by the office or calling 217-442-0334 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. To learn more about the cemetery, find them on Facebook by searching "Spring Hill Cemetery of Danville, IL," emailing [springhillcemetery1864@gmail.com](mailto:springhillcemetery1864@gmail.com) or stopping by 301 E. Voorhees Street, Danville, IL 61832.

*"Spring Hill is not just a cemetery; it's a place where history and community come together to honor the past while serving the present."* Mark Denman



Check out the news, flyers, and events our members have to share for December 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](mailto:drowland@vermilionadvantage.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

# Someone to Know: Tonya Hill

Tonya S. Hill, the dynamic Executive Director of the Danville Area Community College (DACC) Foundation, is a driving force behind the Foundation's growing impact in the community. As the Foundation's Executive Director and head of Grant Development, Tonya leads fundraising strategies, builds relationships with donors, and collaborates with the College Cabinet to identify grant opportunities. "I work very closely with my amazing Foundation Board of Directors, committees, and volunteers," says Hill. Her dedication to this role underscores her commitment to Vermilion County and DACC students.

From a front-desk secretary at Cellular One of East Central Illinois to the Executive Director of the DACC Foundation, Tonya's career is a testament to her determination and leadership. Her journey, which included a tenure in financial services with A.G. Edwards and Old National Bank, where she became Danville's first female Market President, came full

circle in 2018 when she accepted the position at the DACC Foundation. "I had been a long-time cheerleader of DACC," Tonya says, "and serving on the DACC Foundation's Scholarship Committee ignited my passion for helping students access education."

One of her proudest accomplishments is the Foundation's recent milestone: awarding a scholarship to every DACC applicant in the last four years and bestowing scholarships totaling over \$1 million each of the past two years. Hill attributes this success to the Foundation's dedicated donors and her hardworking staff despite being a small team of three. "My heart is full every single day that I make a student smile, knowing they can focus on school with little or no financial burden," she adds. She is also proud of the revamped DACC donor wall in Bremer Center.

Residing in Catlin with her husband, Carl, son, Mac, and their two beloved Border Collies, Tonya's love for the people of Vermilion County is palpable.

She firmly believes that supporting each other is the key to the community's success.



*"I love telling the donor stories to the students and the student stories to the donors. It all comes full circle. I am the blessed one to connect the circle."*



## Coffee Talk

December 10:  
Fischer Theater,  
158 N Vermilion St  
Danville



*The Vermilion Advantage office will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>*

# Grateful! Thankful! Blessed!

"I am overwhelmingly grateful for the amount of support I received from the community during the campaign season."

**Rep Brandun Schweizer, Illinois State Representative, District 104**

"For me, being a part of the Downtown Danville community and ongoing development projects, I am so proud of how far Danville has come in a short period of time. From First Fridays events to major aesthetic improvements to the sidewalks and curbs, better lighting, demolitions, acquisitions, new businesses opening, rehabilitations, festivals and new crowds, vibrant energy, events at the Fischer Theatre, and the dreams of local entrepreneurs coming to life... to me this feels like HOPE and incredible progress, and I am so proud of the comeback!"

**Ashton Greer, Chief Operating Officer, Zindars Property Management, Director of Investor Relations, Westwood Equity Partners**

"I'm grateful for all the business opportunities that I've been a part of this year and getting to meet new, ambitious entrepreneurs focused on building their lives and businesses here in Danville."

**Tyler Zindars, Managing Broker, Zindars Property Management, LLC**

"I was especially grateful to see the Danville High School orchestra perform alongside the talented professionals of the Danville Symphony Orchestra. It was a fantastic experience for the students, and I'm sure it left a lasting impact."

**Amanda McCoy, Director of Human Resources, Golden Nugget**

"I was so honored and blessed to be asked to represent DACC and Vermilion Advantage in Washington DC to advocate for Vermilion County's growth and economic development."

**Tonya S. Hill, Executive Director/Grant Development, DACC Foundation**

"Two Roads Wellness Clinic and Just breathe alternative medical solutions joined together and created the Danville health and wellness fair in September 2024. It made me feel really proud to be a part of this community as a bunch of healthcare organizations, nonprofits, homemade health, vendors, and Providers got together to support our community. Everyone was very encouraging, compassionate towards the needs of our community, and focused on bringing the best to Danville!"

**Jessica Nemezc MA, LCPC, LMHC, CEO Two Roads Wellness Clinic**

"I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving in Vermilion County, where I am surrounded by dedicated teams working together to feed our neighbors and support women during pregnancy and their baby's first 18 months. My heart is full of thanks for the strength, love, and encouragement of my friends, family, and church family, whose unwavering support makes this journey even more meaningful."

**Heather McAarty, Executive Director, Women's Care Clinic**

"Danville is a strong community, that rallies together to support each other, even putting aside political differences. That was evident with the group of business and political leaders that traveled to Springfield in May to meet with Governor Pritzker after the Quaker Oats plant closure. I was grateful to be a part of that group and a part of this community."

**Tricia Teague, CEO at The Trep School, Founder at Soar Space Business Center, Alderwoman/Vice-Mayor for the City of Danville**

"I am grateful for the way the staff handled the transition of me being appointed Mayor, their assistance is greatly appreciated."

**William A. Wear Jr., Mayor, Village of Tilton**

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## 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
- First Financial Bank
- Golden Nugget
- Iroquois Federal
- Old National Bank
- OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center
- Owens Corning Danville
- Vermilion County Government

### ADVANTAGE GOLD CROWN DIRECTOR:

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

- Arconic
- 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
- Westwood Equity

### ADVANTAGE MILLENNIUM MEMBER:

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

- AmerenIP
- Bose Corporation
- Carle Hoopeson Regional Health Center
- City of Hoopeson
- CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
- Curry Construction
- Double S Liquid Feed Service, Inc.
- Fisher National Bank
- Genpact
- Greenwood, Inc.
- Illini Radio Group
- Invenery
- McDonald's c/o DND Witzel Enterprises, Inc.
- Village of Oakwood

### ADVANTAGE EXECUTIVE MEMBER:

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

- Acton & Snyder, LLP
- Advanced Medical Transport East
- Anderson Electric, Inc.
- AT&T Illinois
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- Bowman Estates
- Brainerd Chemical Midwest, LLC
- Central Illinois Media Group

- Chittick Family Eye Care
- County Markets / Niemann Foods
- Depke Gases & Welding Supplies
- Environ
- Envirox, LLC
- Everside Health
- Express Employment Professionals
- Faulstich Printing Company
- Flex-N-Gate Plastics
- GHG Logistics - Hana Group
- Harrison Steel
- Heritage Development
- Heritage Health Therapy & Senior Care
- Hometown Savings Bank
- Hubner Industries, LLC
- IL Chapter Nat'l Electrical Contractor's Assoc.
- Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation
- Meijer
- Prospect Bank
- Runnings of Danville & Tilton
- SIHF Healthcare
- Sygma Network
- The Hometown Savings Bank
- thyssenKrupp Crankshaft Company
- Towne Machine Tool Co., Inc.
- Tractor Supply Co.
- Village of Catlin
- Volts
- WITY Illiana Communications, LLC

## Members of Vermilion Advantage, NFP (continued)

### ADVANTAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

(Level \$500 - \$999)

112 Wine & Coffee  
 Adecco Employment Services  
 Alexander Concession & Catering  
 All Source  
 Allied Capital Title  
 Anthem Chevrolet  
 Arcadia Care of Danville  
 Arnold's Office Supply  
 Arrow Ambulance  
 Autumn Fields Adult Community of Hoopeston  
 Autumn Fields Adult Community of Tilton  
 AWEBCO  
 B & B Construction  
 Beltone Hearing Aid Service  
 Berns, Clancy, & Associates, P.C.  
 Big Thorn Farm & Brewery, LLC  
 Bill Smith Auto Parts  
 Boxcar Books & Vinyl  
 Bricks and Ivy Sports  
 Built 2 Last Construction  
 Ceader's Collision  
 Central States Distribution Service  
 City of Georgetown  
 Clanin Marketing  
 Classic Homes Realty  
 Coldwell Banker Commercial Devonshire Realty – Larry Kuchefski  
 Comcast Business  
 Commercial-News  
 Corporate Supply, Inc.  
 Country Financial - Amanda Galloway  
 Country Financial - Mark Stutsman  
 Country Financial - Pete Goodwin  
 Country Financial - Stevenson Harby  
 Courtesy Ford Lincoln/Courtesy Chrysler Dodge Jeep  
 CTS Computers  
 CU Trade Services/Kuchefski Heating & Air  
 Custard Cup  
 D.I. Fire & Safety  
 Danville Area Board of Realtors  
 Danville Dans  
 Danville Gardens, Inc.  
 Danville Public Building Commission  
 Dasher's Hockey  
 Dawson Logistics  
 Dean Crandall – Morgan Stanley  
 Delanois Law, LLC  
 Dines Machine & Mfg.  
 Donohue & Associates, Inc.  
 Dougherty Group  
 DTI Office Solutions  
 Duncan Farms  
 DynaChem, Inc.  
 Earthrise Energy  
 East Central Building Trades  
 East Central IL Community Action Agency  
 Edward Jones (Marcus Provost)  
 Enel Green Power Salt Springs  
 EPIC Insurance Midwest  
 Exit 210 Saloon  
 Farnsworth Group  
 FLP Wealth Advisors of Raymond James  
 Full-Fill Industries, LLC  
 G & C Diagnostics  
 Gailey Eye Clinic  
 Gibson Teldata, Inc.  
 Greene Galvanized Stairs

Greenlight Landscaping  
 Hampton Inn & Suites  
 Health Alliance Medical Plans  
 Healthy Prep Meal Service  
 Heartland Properties, Inc.  
 Hefty Seed Company  
 Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites/Hampton Inn & Suites  
 Hoopeston Coin Laundry  
 Hoopeston Ford  
 Huber & Mudd, LLC  
 IBEW Local 538  
 Illini Castings, LLC  
 Illume Counseling and Wellness Center  
 Insurance Providers Group  
 International Greenhouse Co.- Danville  
 International Union of Operating Engineers Local 841  
 Jersey Mike's Subs  
 Jimmy Johns  
 Jocko's Depot / Diveley Development Corp.  
 Juke Gaming, LLC  
 Kick Me Shirts  
 Kickapoo Adventures  
 Kruger's ATA Martial Arts, Inc.  
 Kruger-Coan-Pape Funeral Home  
 Kurland Steel Co.  
 Landmark Credit Union  
 Leatherneck Hardware, Inc.  
 Lebanon Seaboard Corporation  
 Lisa L. Goodner Agency - Farmers Insurance  
 LMR Promotions  
 Local, The  
 Loman Ray Insurance Group - Hoopeston  
 Longview Bank & Trust  
 Love's Travel Stop  
 Luxe Lift  
 Merrell Pest Control  
 MH CPA, PLLC  
 Mini Mall Storage  
 Molly's Bar & Grill  
 Motley Food  
 Newton's Cleaning & Restoration, LLC  
 Painter's USA, Inc.  
 Park Electric Motor Service, Inc.  
 Portal Entertainment Group  
 Raber Storage Barns  
 Randal Ashton, DDS  
 Ray O'Herron Company  
 RE/Max Ultimate  
 Rector Solar & Roofing  
 Ridge Plumbing Contractor  
 Robinson Chiropractic, Ltd. – Danville, Hoopeston, Westville  
 Russell Leigh & Associates  
 Rustic Charm/RC Boutique  
 Scanics  
 Scooter's Coffee  
 Second Church of Christ  
 Sentry Roofing, Inc.  
 Seven Point  
 Shambaugh & Son, LP  
 Sheridan's Appliance Center, LLC  
 Shore Wealth Management  
 Silgan Containers  
 Souza Financial Group  
 Sparklight  
 Staff Management  
 Steel Grip, Inc.  
 Synergy HomeCare of Central Illinois

T.H. Snyder Co.- Architectural Woodwork Div.  
 Tee Pak Credit Union  
 Terminix Services, Inc.  
 The Jumpoff  
 The Pump  
 The Slotted Spoon  
 Thompson's T-Shirts  
 T-Mobile  
 TownePlace Suites  
 Toyota of Danville  
 Treasured Roots  
 Tridan International, Inc  
 Trillium Staffing  
 Turtle Run Golf & Banquet Center  
 Two Roads Wellness Clinic  
 University of IL Community Credit Union  
 Venture Mechanical Contractors, Inc.  
 Vermilion Chevrolet  
 Vermilion County Conservation District  
 Vermilion County Title, Inc.  
 Vermilion Regional Airport Authority  
 Vermilion River Beer Company  
 Vermilion Valley Railroad  
 Veterans Affairs Illiana Health Care System  
 Village of Fithian  
 Village of Tilton  
 Visiting Angels Homecare Agency  
 WCIA Nexstar Broadcasting  
 Westville CUSD #2  
 WHPO 101 Country  
 WKZS/WSKL Radio  
 Wolf Creek Golf Club  
 Wright's Heating and Air  
 Zindars Property Management, LLC

### ADVANTAGE HONOR MEMBER

(Level \$300 - \$499)

Aquality Solutions, LLC  
 Automation International, Inc.  
 AutoZone Distribution Center  
 B&K Investments, Inc. (Wendy's)  
 Bismarck-Henning CUSD #1  
 Brunswick Apartments  
 CDS Office Technologies  
 Central Illinois Family Practice  
 Cooper East Lake Animal Hospital  
 Crose Insurance  
 Crowder CPA's, Ltd  
 Culver's – T/Kat, Inc.  
 Cunningham, Inc.  
 Danville Housing Authority  
 Danville NECA-IBEW Electrical JATC  
 David S. Palmer Arena  
 Douglas Discovery Garden  
 DP Supply, Inc. (formerly Danville Paper & Supply)  
 East Lynn Fertilizer  
 ERH Enterprises, Inc.  
 Fairchild Animal Hospital  
 Fancy That Bridal & Special Occasion  
 Fehr Graham  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 Georgetown Wood & Pallet Co., Inc.  
 Gibson Health of Hoopeston  
 Glesco Electric, Inc.  
 Hayley Siefert, Broker - Keller Williams Real Estate, TREC  
 Illinois Small Business Development Center  
 Jameson Steel Fabrication  
 Jenna Wirth State Farm  
 KBA Limited

## Members of Vermilion Advantage, NFP (continued)

Lakeview College of Nursing  
 Liberty Village  
 McDowell Builders, Inc.  
 McLaughlin Asset Management  
 Myers Carpet Weavers  
 Newell Township Supervisor  
 North Vermilion Family Dental  
 Oakwood CUSD No. 76  
 Olympic Hardware  
 Rosecrance  
 Servpro of Vermilion County  
 Shortz Family Farms, Inc.  
 Sleep Inn & Suites  
 Sleepy Creek Vineyards  
 Sunset Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Cremation Center  
 Teasdale Foods  
 The Myers Group at Morgan Stanley  
 Vermilion County Health Department  
 Vermilion Healthcare Foundation, Inc.  
 Vermilion House  
 Village of Bismarck  
 Village of Henning  
 Village of Potomac  
 WhiteSmith Marketing Group, Inc.

### **ADVANTAGE HOME BASED ADULTS, INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL, NON/NOT FOR PROFIT (with annual budget under \$250,000), AND CLUBS: (Level \$150 - \$299)**

All Brands Appliance Repair Services  
 All Vermilion Wrestling  
 Allen Money Talks  
 AMBUCS  
 American Legion Dornblaser Post #203  
 American Legion Post #210  
 Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Danville  
 Arts In The Park, Inc.  
 Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness  
 Baby Blessings Ultrasound Studio  
 Balloons Over Vermilion, NFP  
 Be Real Be Humble  
 Berzerker's Grill & Catering  
 Beside Still Waters  
 Better Business Bureau – Central Illinois  
 Birth To Five, Illinois  
 Boys & Girls Club of Danville  
 Briana's Creations  
 Brown, Amy  
 Bubbles & Bandanas Pet Grooming  
 C.O.R.E. Re-Entry, INC.  
 CASA of Vermilion County  
 Casey Toler Creative  
 Center Street Productions  
 Central Christian Church  
 Child Care Resource Service  
 Community Development Institute/Head Start  
 Community Foundation of East Central IL  
 CRIS Healthy-Aging Center  
 CRIS Rural Mass Transit  
 Crosspoint Human Services  
 DACC Foundation  
 Danville Area Labor Management Council  
 Danville Area Living - Shannon Schroeder  
 Danville Area Visitors Bureau  
 Danville Art League  
 Danville Boat Club  
 Danville Christian Academy

Danville Family YMCA  
 Danville Farmer's Market  
 Danville Floral and Gifts  
 Danville Library Foundation  
 Danville Lions Club  
 Danville Noon Rotary  
 Danville Public Library  
 Danville Public School Foundation  
 Danville Sunrise Rotary  
 Danville Symphony Orchestra  
 Danville Technology Services  
 Danville Tennis Center  
 Davis Bookkeeping  
 Deer Creek Manor  
 Dicken, Josef "Joe Voiceover"  
 DLO Musical Theatre (formerly Danville Light Opera)  
 Downtown Danville, Inc.  
 East Park Church of Christ  
 Eastern Illinois Foodbank  
 Edward J. Ryan, CPA  
 Erickson, Gary C.  
 Fair Hope Children's Ministry  
 Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
 Festival of Trees  
 First Church of the Nazarene  
 First Presbyterian Church of Hoopston  
 Fischer Theatre  
 Friends of Kickapoo Rail Trail  
 GAO Grotto / Denmark Park Corporation  
 Gateway Family Services of Illinois  
 Georgetown Fair  
 Georgetown Ladies Community Club  
 Gregory's Academy of the Arts  
 Habitat for Humanity of Danville, Inc.  
 Help Ministries d/b/a Women's Care Clinic  
 Highland Gutters  
 Hoopston Multi Agency Service Center  
 Hoopston Public Library  
 Humane Society of Danville  
 Hussman, Danny  
 Illiana Home Inspection, LLC  
 Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 Immanuel Manor, Inc. – Senior Residences  
 Informed Decisions  
 Ireland Financial Partners  
 Ireland Insurance & Accounting Group  
 Iroquois Economic Development Association  
 Jessica Hogue - Northwestern Mutual  
 Julie's Specialty Shop  
 Just Breathe Alternative Medical Solutions, LLC  
 Keep Vermilion Co. Beautiful, Inc.  
 Kiwanis Club of Danville  
 Kruger Tuckpointing  
 Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries, Inc.  
 Laura Lee Fellowship House Association  
 Law Office of Bethany D. Hager  
 Love INC of Vermilion County  
 MASH-C Farms Livestock, LLC  
 Melt A Heart  
 Midwest Print & Sign Specialists, LLC  
 Monyok Leadership Coaching  
 Mpower Counseling  
 Muehl, Phil  
 Mustard Seed Christian Daycare  
 My Happy Place  
 New Directions Treatment Center  
 NuPush Weight Loss Clinic  
 Oakwood Area Food Pantry, Inc.  
 Oakwood Public Library District

Olympic Hardware  
 Our Nations - Mine and Yours  
 Patriot Pure Water Conditioning  
 Prairielands Council – Boy Scouts of America  
 Project Success of Vermilion Co., Inc.  
 Red Mask Players, Inc.  
 River Bottom Farms Topsoil  
 Rob Lancaster - Lancaster Construction  
 Roland Lim Photography  
 Rossi Photo Studios  
 Rossville Alvin CUSD #7  
 Roxy's House at Blue Heron Ranch  
 Salvation Army  
 Save the Lorraine Foundation  
 Schlarman Academy  
 She Said Danville, LLC  
 Snapped By Savannah  
 Spotlight Performing Arts  
 SpotOn  
 Spring Hill Cemetery  
 St. James United Methodist Church  
 STEP Recovery Center  
 Stone Imagery  
 Super Penguin Books  
 Survivor Resource Center  
 Tarquini's  
 Teague, Tricia (The Trep School)  
 The Dwelling Place  
 The Vortex  
 Transformation Health Coach  
 Trinity Lutheran School  
 Turner Virtual Solutions  
 United Way of Danville Area  
 University of IL Extension., Vermilion Co. Unit  
 URE Home Daycare  
 USI Insurance  
 V.F.W. Jewell Whyte Post 728  
 Vermilion Co. Conservation Dist. Foundation  
 Vermilion Co. Fair and Expo  
 Vermilion Co. Farm Bureau  
 Vermilion Co. Museum Society  
 Vermilion Co. War Museum  
 Vermilion Community Restoration  
 Vermilion Voles Vintage Baseball Club  
 vHYbz Entertainment  
 Visit Downtown Hoopston  
 Westville American Legion Post 51  
 WorkSource Enterprises

### **ADVANTAGE, FULL-TIME STUDENTS, OR RETIREES: (Level \$100-\$149)**

Anderson, Jim  
 Beynon, Mark  
 Block, Gerald R.  
 Drude, Charles (Bott's Locksmith)  
 Fields, David L.  
 Franklin, Susan (Franklin's Farm Blooms & Heirlooms)  
 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)  
 Swires, Bob  
 Ward, Jacqueline  
 Wood, Jim

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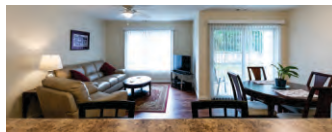
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**3816** Sonny Lane (North Danville)



**9** Ridgeview (North Danville)



**1618** N. Vermilion (North Danville)