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VERMILION COUNTY

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BRBH Media



Behind the Scenes with Vermilion Advantage and BRBH

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INSIDE

VERMILION COUNTY

Mike Marron
CEO/President

Lisa Thompson
Data & Finance Administrator

Jodie Ingram
Community Development Coordinator

Dana Rowland
Marketing & Communications

Mike Levin
Vermilion County Trustee Director



Phone 217.442.6201
Fax 217.442.6228

contact@vermilionadvantage.com
www.vermilionadvantage.com

www.vermilionadvantage.com/job-board

Content Development & Management by:



217.304.4258
217.759.8600

info@whitesmith.us
www.whitesmith.us

Printed by:



On The Cover:

This issue highlights the launch of the VA Member of the Month Program, an initiative designed to elevate local businesses through strategic marketing and networking. Partnering in this effort is Tyler Burress, owner of Be Real Be Humble (BRBH) Media, who brings his expertise in video production to create compelling brand stories for featured businesses.



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Vermilion Advantage, through membership value, provides strategic leadership on critical large and small business issues - leading economic and workforce development, anticipating and responding to members' needs, addressing quality of life issues and providing a network of information and business contacts. Vermilion Advantage works regionally to bring opportunities to Danville and Vermilion County.

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.

From the CEO/President

I talk a lot about changing the way we've always done things to try to get a different result. I'm not just giving political lip service to the idea, I'm serious about trying new things. I intend to put my money where my mouth is.

Getting information out has always been challenging. As a board member on the Vermilion Advantage Executive Committee, I can remember thinking Vicki was a little "thin-skinned" when addressing criticisms from the public of what Vermilion Advantage was or was not doing. Having sat in her former seat now for over a year, I have a whole new perspective and appreciation for how she felt. I wish I had a dollar for every time I made the circuit talking to everyone I could about our strategic plan and going into detail about the specific steps on how we were going to accomplish it, talking to media, writing articles, making the service club tour, only to have someone come up and tell me that we should be doing all the things I just said we were going to do. Some of it can be chalked up to an understandable impatience and people who legitimately care and want to see progress. But the undeniable truth is we aren't getting our message out. I get it, people's lives are busier in 2025, and their attention spans are shorter. That, in turn, makes my job of disseminating information on what this organization is doing that much harder. We must take a new approach.

You might have noticed that our social media content is up substantially. You may have also noticed that while we have some very serious messages about this County and Vermilion Advantage's role in the County, we also have made an effort to publish funny, lighthearted stuff that will entertain people. Beyond showing the public the human side of your Vermilion Advantage staff, it is a concerted effort to build a strong social media platform that people will stay engaged in when we put out our message of why Vermilion County is the "Greatest Place on Earth." We are going to use the social media tools at our disposal to finally be more effective at getting the message out.

In dissecting this issue, I did some pretty strong introspection about the podcasts and social media I watch. Two podcasts that I religiously follow are Real Raw and Uncut by the Australian horse trainer Clinton Anderson and a clownish comedian, Dale Brisby, who fashions himself "the Greatest Bull Rider of all Time." Clinton Anderson has a strong message about working hard and doing the things most people don't want to do to be ultra-successful. He has built a multimillion-dollar horse training empire from his "Downunder Horsemanship." While his message is great, the attraction is that Clinton will say anything, is brash and in your face, dropping f-bomb after f-bomb in an Australian accent. It makes for colorful watching. Dale Brisby created a massive



platform where he uses his humor to get out serious messages about ranching and rural lifestyle issues while occasionally telling very inspirational stories about athletes who have reached the pinnacle of the sport of rodeo.

The story's moral is that even with a great message, you need a hook to engage the audience. Out of professional respect, I won't likely be cussing profusely while discussing horse training tactics, but we have our ways of getting you interested. For example, you may want to stay tuned to our social media to see if I dress up like a 1960s TV buffoon at our annual golf outing. "HEY SKIPPER"

Mike Marron
CEO/President
Vermilion Advantage



Check out the news, flyers, and events our members have to share for March 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.

Join the Next Class of Leadership Tomorrow



Are you ready to make a lasting impact on our area? Leadership Tomorrow is calling on passionate, driven individuals to be part of its next class. This dynamic program equips emerging leaders with the skills, knowledge, and network to shape the future of Vermilion County. If you're looking for a transformational experience, this is your chance!



Leadership Tomorrow, formerly known as Leadership Danville, has been developing local leaders since 1989. Over the past 30+ years, it has evolved into a powerhouse program that challenges participants to take on the area's most pressing issues and plan for the next generation. "Community leaders stand up and face the complex issues of today's world while thoughtfully planning for future generations," the program emphasizes.

So, who should apply? The ideal participant is someone eager to grow as a leader and passionate about making a difference. Through this program, people gain valuable leadership development, establish strong professional connections, and cultivate a deep commitment to community involvement. Graduates also build immense pride in Vermilion County while working alongside other motivated individuals.

This year's program kicks off with a twist at the May 12th Solution Summit

- a week-long event dedicated to identifying community opportunities and crafting real, actionable solutions - the excitement peaks on day five with an epic Amazing Race. Afterward, participants will meet monthly to dive into topics such as criminal justice, education, and more.

To graduate, individuals complete 20 hours of volunteer service and commit to joining a local community, philanthropic, or social board or even running for public office. "We really want your leadership to extend beyond the class and make a true difference in our community!" says Vermilion Advantage's Jodie Ingram.

Monyok Leadership has facilitated this successful Vermilion Advantage program for the last few years.

With only 25 spots available, don't wait! Apply now at www.vermilionadvantage.com/leadership-tomorrow and start your leadership journey today.

Fancy That in Downtown Danville: One-of-A-Kind Shopping Experience For Prom & Beyond

The magic of prom, homecoming and special occasions begins long before the dance floor - it starts the moment you find the dress. At Fancy That, the excitement is palpable as young women step through the doors, eager to discover a gown that will make them feel radiant and confident.

Located in the heart of downtown Danville, Fancy That has been the go-to boutique for prom, homecoming, and special occasions since 1999. Owners Cindy Masengale and Donna Knight Lackey, along with Lisa Acton and her

daughters Ava and Ella, have built a reputation for personalized service and an unforgettable shopping experience.

What sets Fancy That apart is its dedication to individuality. "We sell only one style of dress per high school, regardless of color," says Lisa Acton. "That way, each girl gets to feel unique on her special night." This commitment to exclusivity, combined with a stunning selection of gowns ranging from size 000 to 34, ensures that every customer finds a dress that suits their style and body type.

Prom fashion trends are ever-changing, and Fancy That stays ahead of the curve. This season, fuller skirts are making a comeback, prints are gaining popularity, and beaded dresses continue to be a favorite. The boutique's carefully curated designer collections feature top names like Alyce Paris, Dave and Johnny, Elie Wilde, Primavera, and Rachel Allan. Whether a customer is looking for a sleek silhouette, a fairytale ballgown, or something in between, Fancy That offers an array of options at different price points.

Beyond gowns, Fancy That provides everything needed to complete the look

- shoes, jewelry, purses, and even tuxedo coordination for dates. Their Prom Promise, layaway program, and free gown steaming service further enhance the shopping experience. "Our goal is to make each young lady look great and feel special," Acton explains. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime moment, and we want it to be magical."

Fancy That continues to be a trusted destination for helping make special event dreams come true. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram or visit their boutique at 138 N Vermilion in Danville.



Photo by: MT Photography



Photo by: MT Photography

Ava and Ella Acton

Small Business Capital & Infrastructure Grant Program



Open to small businesses with 25 or fewer employees
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For more information, contact Lisa at lthompson@VermilionAdvantage.com.



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Career Expo Returns April 24 to Connect Local Talent with Exciting Opportunities

Ready for a fresh start in 2025? Whether you're a student exploring career paths, a professional looking for a change, or an employer seeking top talent, the Career Expo is the place to be on April 24. The event is a partnership between Danville Area Community College, CIMG and Vermilion Advantage.

Hosted at the DACC's Mary Miller Gymnasium, with an expanded outdoor setup, the expo promises a dynamic environment where job seekers and employers can connect. "This event directly aligns with Vermilion Advantage's workforce development initiatives," said Jodie Ingram, Community Development Coordinator. "One of our objectives is to make our students and community aware of opportunities available here in Vermilion County."

The expo will showcase the area's vast range of industries, ensuring attendees get a comprehensive look at the job market. From manufacturing and healthcare to retail and technology, there will be something for

everyone. The event kicks off with a special session for students from 9-11 a.m., offering them an exclusive experience to engage with employers, ask questions, and explore career paths in a hands-on setting.

Attendees should come prepared—bringing multiple resume copies and dressing professionally are highly encouraged. "We also have a professional clothing closet at DACC for those needing interview attire," says Ami Siefert, Director of Career & Veteran Services. While some employers may conduct on-the-spot interviews, job seekers can also contact the DACC Career Center or Vermilion County Works before the event for assistance with resumes and interview skills.

One of the expo's highlights is its proven track record of success. "Our very own Dana Rowland found employment with us as a result of a past Career Expo!" shares Ingram.

With each passing year, the event continues to evolve. The outdoor



space addition will create an even more interactive experience this year. The registration deadline for employers is April 3, with limited space available for outdoor setups and power access.

Vermilion Advantage members receive a 50% discount on registration.

For more information and to register, visit www.vermilionadvantage.com or www.danvillejaguars.com/sports/2022/6/29/jaguar-box-office.aspx.

Don't miss this opportunity to take your career or company to the next level!



Midwest Tech Summit to Empower Business Leaders with Cutting-Edge Insights

A game-changing business event is slated for April 22 this year, thanks to a team of local business leaders. The Midwest Tech Summit promises to be a premier event that helps business leaders protect their organizations, reduce risk, and drive growth through innovative technology solutions.

The idea for the summit was born when CTS Computers CEO Tyler Wallace attended a conference with national industry leaders discussing the importance of tech summits in major cities. Inspired by the concept, he immediately took action. "We should have one of these in our local community for our business leaders," he remembers thinking. "I called Greg Wolfe with AWBECO, and we were on a roll to begin organizing this event."

The Midwest Tech Summit will feature discussions on a wide range of technologies, including IT & Cyber Security, Telecom Security, Website Security & SEO, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Compliance, and Cyber Insurance & Law. Attendees will gain insights into the latest advancements and best practices, enabling them to make informed decisions to strengthen their organizations.

Sponsors include CTS Computers, AWBECO, Vermilion Advantage,

Gibson Teldata Inc., Todyl, Galactic Advisors, Netlogic Computer Consulting, and Insurance Providers Group.

The event is structured to provide invaluable networking opportunities, allowing business owners, leaders, executives, and entrepreneurs to engage with industry experts and each other. With an impressive lineup of industry-leading speakers, the summit promises to deliver cutting-edge knowledge and practical strategies.

"The Summit will give business owners, leaders, executives, and entrepreneurs the opportunity to speak one-on-one with our panel of speakers and network with other business leaders in our community and surrounding areas," says Nicole Rodgers, CTS Account Executive.

The impact of this summit will extend far beyond the event itself. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of emerging technologies, actionable strategies for integrating innovations, and valuable connections that can drive success. Additionally, these discussions will help foster collaboration, accelerate technological adoption, and reinforce

that staying ahead in technology is an ongoing journey.

For those interested in attending, registration is available at www.midwesttechsummit.com. The event fee is \$99, with a promo code available for discounts or free admission. For further details or registration inquiries, contact engagement@ctscomp.com. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

— NEXT GEN —

MIDWEST TECH SUMMIT

Date:
April 22, 2025

Time:
12 PM CST – 5 PM CST
Lunch included

Location:
Danville Country Club

Website:
www.midwesttechsummit.com

Contact:
engagement@ctscomp.com

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Be Real Be Humble Media Partnering with Vermilion Advantage for New Member of the Month Program

An exciting new benefit just rolled out as a part of Vermilion Advantage membership! Vermilion Advantage is excited to introduce its new Member of the Month Program, a strategic initiative designed to strengthen and support local businesses through enhanced visibility, networking, and creative marketing opportunities.

One of the program's highlights is the collaboration with Tyler Burress, owner of Be Real Be Humble (BRBH) Media, who brings years of expertise in video production to help businesses craft compelling brand stories.

Burress, whose company has been in business for nearly six years, has built a strong network of creative professionals, including videographers, drone operators, editors, and directors. The company specializes in video advertisements and social media campaigns with plans to expand BRBH work into television and film while continuing to support local businesses.

Burress started Be Real Be Humble as a freelance sole proprietor. "Over the years, it's just slowly turned into more," he says. "I've often been confused with being a record label or entertainment platform, so compartmentalizing entertainment and video production services just seemed like the right way to go."

Burress says the Member of the Month program is a brilliant idea. "It's been proven that video marketing is one of the most effective ways to get your brand out there, and it's clear that Vermilion Advantage is making an effort to help other businesses get their foot in the door."

The new Member of the Month Program offers participants access to a variety of marketing tools, networking events, and community engagement opportunities. And Burress plans to provide each featured business with personalized video or photography content tailored to their brand identity. "Each month's winner will have unique requests, so the content will vary," he explains. This flexibility allows businesses to receive customized creative assets that align with their goals and market presence.

With a deep passion for supporting the local economy, Burress believes in the power of collaboration. He was born in Danville and remains committed to seeing businesses in the community thrive. "I want to see all of our local businesses flourish, and I feel like with the knowledge and resources I've obtained over time, maybe I can contribute to that," he stated.

For businesses looking to gain traction and elevate their marketing efforts, contact BRBH Media at brbhmedia.com or on any of the company's social media pages @BRBHMedia.



Vermilion Advantage Member of the Month Program

The Member of the Month Program is a fantastic opportunity to spotlight and celebrate the outstanding businesses and individuals that contribute to Vermilion County.

How to Qualify: Businesses and individuals are automatically entered in the drawing when they participate in any of the following:

- Attend networking events
- Attend board meetings (for current board members)
- Partner through initiatives such as catering an event, joining the Career Expo, posting on the Jobs Board, and more

Perks of Being Member of the Month:

- Week 1: Announcement of the winner and a social media spotlight featuring the official Member of the Month sign.
- Week 2: A dedicated feature in Member Announcements and on the Vermilion Advantage website.
- Week 3: A featured radio interview with WITY.
- Week 4: A creative consultation with Tyler Burress of BRBH Media, including video production, still photography, or creative content tailored to the business.
- An event pass for one of Vermilion Advantage's networking events—on us!

For more information about the Member of the Month Program, contact Dana at Vermilion Advantage at (217) 442-6201.

New Member Snapshot: International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 841

VP/Business Representative: Mike Wombles

Tell us about your organization: We are the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 841, representing heavy equipment operators. We have approximately 2400 members and cover 19 counties in Illinois and 17 counties in Indiana. Our members work for various signatory contractors building roads, bridges, buildings, and earth-moving projects within our jurisdiction.

Where are you located? We are locally located at 616 S. Oakwood St in Oakwood. Our main office is in Terre Haute, Indiana, and we also have an office in Vincennes, Indiana. Our training facility is located in Universal, Indiana.



What is the best part of working in Vermilion County? We have hundreds of members who live in Vermilion County, and we love to see local labor working on local projects. We take great pride in the work we do, and the county many of our members call home.

What are you most proud of related to Local 841? I'm proud to be a 30-year member of an organization that truly cares about the best interests of its members. The Local allows our membership to make an honest living while providing stability for our retirement years through our pension, Qualified savings and health care plans.

What would you like people to know about your Local? It is more than just a job, it's a great career. Our great local training facility allows our members to learn to operate virtually any equipment available to the

construction industry. The IUOE also has a state-of-the-art training facility in Crosby, Texas, that our members can utilize, providing members with free lodging and meals.

What advantages does membership in Vermilion Advantage bring? We recognize what the organization has done for the county. When businesses come to town, jobs are created making the county a better place to live and providing potential construction jobs for the community and our members that live there. It's a win for everyone.

How can people learn more about your organization? Visit iuoelocal841.com or call our Oakwood office at 217-354-4858

Anything you'd like to add? We open our Apprenticeship application process once each year, in January. Applications can be picked up on any business day at our offices or training

facility. Call ahead to ensure the offices are open.

Applicants must have a Valid driver's license to pick up an application and meet these basic qualifications:

1. Be 18 years old by June 1st of the current year.
2. Be physically fit for work in the trade as determined by a doctor's examination.
3. Be an American citizen, possession of the first papers will be accepted temporarily while allowing sufficient time to attain citizenship papers.
4. Have a high school diploma or GED equivalency certificate.
5. Take an aptitude test and receive a qualified score.
6. Submit to a drug test.
7. Possess a valid driver's license.
8. Reside in Local 841's jurisdiction.



New Member Snapshot: Luxe Lift

Manager: Bobbi Fischer, Board-Certified Nurse Practitioner

Brief Company Description: Luxe Lift is a boutique aesthetics and wellness clinic that has served Danville and the surrounding communities for three years at our previous location on Logan Ave. Beginning in December 2024, we moved to a new location at 1101 E Winter Ave, just across from Winter Park!

We offer comprehensive wellness solutions, including weight loss, body composition and management of hormone replacement therapy. We also provide customized aesthetic regimens utilizing a multi-modality approach - injectable and topical cosmetic dermatological services such as Botox and filler, targeted medical treatments and Hydrafacial, advanced laser therapies for resurfacing; removal of hair, pigment, and vascular lesions; and so much more.

What's the philosophy behind your business? Our mission has always driven our care: providing solutions that empower our clients to look and FEEL their best. We use an integrative approach of conventional and functional strategies to create customized treatment plans to help guide each client's journey. I discovered aesthetic and functional medicine while researching my personal concerns. That became a driving force in my desire to learn how to safely and effectively deliver that care and bring those principles back home to my practice in Danville.

What would surprise people most about Luxe Lift? We are truly a "mom-and-pop" shop. My husband, Zach, is an employee of the clinic who works behind the scenes, assisting with managing daily operations.

Tell us about your work. My goal is to put every client's mind at ease when they enter the clinic. We offer

refreshments and try to play lighthearted music. Our first consultation is a strategy session where we have an open dialogue to discuss your concerns and goals.

Why did you decide to join Vermilion Advantage? Membership will help us form strategic partnerships and assist in networking with other business owners and community stakeholders. We have been slowly building our business and are finally at a point where we can actively participate and give back to our community- and Vermilion Advantage has systems in place to help us do that!

How can people learn more about your business? We are very active on social media and frequently update our newsfeed and stories with educational posts, procedure videos, before and after images, and save-the-dates for our clinic events and seasonal promotions. More information is available at www.linktr.ee/luxelift.



l-r: Bobbi Fischer, NP; Audriana Cardoza, Office Coordinator; Kathryn Davis, RN; Rachel German, LE, CLT

LUXE LIFT

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New Member Snapshot: Raber Storage Barns

Location Manager: Sheri Atwood

Company Information: For nearly 20 years, Raber has been known for quality Amish-built storage structures. Raber is located in Amish country and offers durable and attractive storage solutions, including storage buildings, horse barns, and greenhouses. These structures are crafted with traditional techniques and attention to detail, ensuring they meet the needs of both homeowners and businesses. Raber's horse barns provide safe, comfortable environments for horses, while their greenhouses offer ideal conditions for plant growth. Raber stands out for its commitment to customer satisfaction, tailoring each project to client needs. Combining traditional craftsmanship with modern design, Raber continues to lead in storage solutions.

Location: We have been at 2103 Georgetown Rd in Tilton, IL, since September 2024.



Unique Features: Raber stands out with nearly 20 years of expertise and top-notch craftsmanship, offering personalized storage buildings, horse barns, and greenhouses at affordable prices. Each project is crafted with care, ensuring customer satisfaction and comes with a 5-year warranty.

Best Aspect of Doing Business in Vermilion County: Its central location provides easy access for consumers. Additionally, the county offers a wealth of resources that are beneficial for small businesses.

About Your Customers: I love my customers and the stories they tell. One memorable experience was with a customer who shared how a cabin we provided helped them reconnect with their childhood passion for painting. Hearing their journey and how our service played a role in reigniting that spark was incredibly rewarding. It reminded me that every interaction is an opportunity to make a meaningful impact.

Our Area's Greatest Strengths: Vermilion County thrives on a strong community spirit, with consumers actively supporting local businesses. The local government aids this by fostering a business-friendly environment, providing resources, and ensuring competitiveness. The collaborative business community strengthens the economy through mutual support and shared resources.

Learn More: Visit www.raberstoragebarns.com, call 447-285-3418, email tilton@raberstoragebarns.com or find us on Facebook.

Business after HOURS

5:00-7:00PM

May 8, 2025
Golden Nugget Casino
 204 Eastgate Dr., Danville

Please RSVP to Dana at drowland@vermilionadvantage.com

Professional Development Group

11:30AM-1:00PM

March 19, 2025
Personal Branding & Headshot Prep
 Angela Rossi, DACC Bremer Center, Room109,
 2000 East Main St., Danville

April 16, 2025
Financial Literacy
 Sheri Shannon & Liz Welch, U of I Credit Union,
 DACC Bremer Center

Please RSVP to Dana at drowland@vermilionadvantage.com

BUSINESS & NETWORKING LUNCHEON

11:30AM-1:00PM

March 26, 2025
Vermilion Advantage/Mike Marron
 at Palmer Arena

April 23, 2025
Tricia Teague
TREP School/SOAR Space
 at Palmer Arena

Please RSVP to Dana at drowland@vermilionadvantage.com

New Member Snapshot: Parkway Dispensary/Molly's Joint

Manager of Facility Operations:
Jordan Burr

Brief Company Description: We have two businesses onsite: Molly's Joint (consumption lounge) and Parkway Dispensary, both businesses are owned by The 1937 Group and Paul Offutt. We employ roughly 40 team members.

Molly's Joint - Tucked away like a well-kept secret, Molly's Joint is more than just a cannabis consumption lounge—it's a community haven for enthusiasts. Whether you're looking to relax, enjoy your favorite products, or explore top-tier cannabis accessories, Molly's Joint offers a welcoming and upscale experience.

Our expert cannasoilers are on hand to guide you, ensuring every visit is seamless and enjoyable. Looking for even more exclusive perks? Our annual membership - just \$219 - grants access to premium benefits throughout the entire cannabis complex. Plus, for those special occasions, the lounge is available for private event rentals, providing a one-of-a-kind setting.

Come for the vibe, stay for the experience. Molly's Joint is your go-to destination for all things cannabis.

Parkway Dispensary - What sets Parkway Dispensary apart is our unwavering commitment to creating a



welcoming environment and building lasting relationships with our guests. More than just a cannabis retailer, we prioritize education, personalized product recommendations, and a consistently high-quality experience. By fostering awareness and reducing stigma, we empower individuals to explore the therapeutic benefits of cannabis with confidence. Our dedication to community engagement, sustainability, and customer loyalty programs further solidifies our role as a trusted industry leader. Backed by the pioneering vision of the 1937 Group, Parkway Dispensary redefines excellence in cannabis retail.

Tell us about the 1937 Group: The 1937 Group is not just an ownership entity. It's a guiding force behind the business philosophy. This group takes its name from the year cannabis was criminalized in the U.S., and its mission is to help redefine the cannabis space in a responsible, transparent, and socially conscious way.

The 1937 Group is deeply committed to giving back to the community and prioritizes educating consumers on the benefits and responsible use of

cannabis. The 1937 Group believes that informed customers make better choices and encourages an open dialogue about cannabis usage, both medicinal and recreational.

Where are you located? 2 Donna Drive in Tilton, IL. We opened on September 15, 2023.

What makes your business different? Molly's Joint and Parkway Dispensary are redefining the cannabis lounge and retail experience with a strong focus on community, education, and premium products. Committed to a customer-first approach, we provide a welcoming space where both new and seasoned consumers can explore with confidence. Our expert staff offers personalized guidance, ensuring every guest finds the perfect product to suit their needs. Whether seeking relaxation, wellness, or discovery, visitors can expect an elevated experience that goes beyond cannabis—rooted in knowledge, quality, and connection.

Anything else you'd like to share? Parkway/Molly's Joint won 1st place in the 2024 The New Gazette People's Choice for best dispensary.

How can people learn more about your business? Find us on Facebook and Instagram: @Molly's Joint @Parkway Dispensary. Learn more about The 1937 Group: www.the1937group.com.



New Member Snapshot: The Dwelling Place

President of The Dwelling Place Board
- Cheryl Clapp

Co-Director of The Dwelling Place Day Center and Secretary - Nancy O’Kane,

Tell us about your organization. We are a faith-based ministry dedicated to those experiencing homelessness and at risk of experiencing homelessness. We serve as a connection to services that have a positive impact on a person's life's journey. We have three areas of focus: The Dwelling Place Essentially Basic Hygiene Pantry, The Dwelling Place Day Center and The Dwelling Place Shelters.

How did your organization begin? After much prayer and preparation beginning in 2017, we opened our Day Center in the basement of The First Presbyterian Church in 2020. Our two Shelters, Immanuel’s House and Bethlehem House are located at 119 and 121 Payne (completed and have occupants), along

with 123 Payne, which we are currently remodeling. Our first family was welcomed in 2023. TDP Hygiene Pantry is located at 915 East Main as our warehouse. We distribute from The Day Center and other locations as requested.

What are you most proud of related to serving area residents? We are grateful The Dwelling Place Day Center is now serving lunch five days a week! In addition, TDP Day Center provides showers, laundry facilities and help with other resources. TDP Shelters provide all the necessities and expenses so our families can work towards independence. TDP Hygiene Pantry offers essential hygiene products, including shampoo, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste and deodorant. Everything TDP provides for our neighbors and families is at no charge.

Do you have an interesting story to share? A neighbor who had lived under

the bridge in Ellsworth Park for a very long time started coming to our Day Center. After about a year, we helped her secure a job. While this job did not work out, she persevered and found another job where she is currently. With our help, she secured a place to live and regularly donates to our neighbors at the Day Center. This is the true meaning of giving back!

We now serve 60+ every Monday and Friday. Our five-days-per-week lunches went from 250 per month to 1,395 in October 2024. We feel God is with us every day, helping us help our neighbors!

How can people learn more about your organization? Call 217-213-5308 or visit www.thedwellingplace2017.us. We can also be found on Facebook. Interested in helping? Donations and volunteer information are available on our webpage.



New Member Snapshot: Synergy HomeCare

Regional Community Liaison: Liz Sullard

Company Information: Synergy HomeCare of Central Illinois helps seniors and those of all ages with injuries or disabilities live safely at home. We provide 24/7 in-home care assistance, including bathing, dressing, transportation, medication reminders, dementia care, and so much more. We have 550+ employees throughout Central Illinois.

Service Locations: We have offices in Champaign, Bloomington, Springfield, and Decatur. We have noticed a need, however, for reliable, quality homecare in surrounding smaller communities, so we have expanded our education efforts to Danville, Pontiac, Lincoln and Taylorville.

What Makes the Company Unique: We are proud to say Jim and Gaye started Synergy HomeCare of Central Illinois



over a decade ago, and they have done everything they can to perfect providing in-home care. They created a local on-call team to ensure our phones are answered 24/7, no matter when you call. We know it's vital to be reliable when caring for loved ones, and speaking to someone who is informed relieves stress. We also are very selective in who we hire; we only hire about every 1 of every 15 applicants. Those caregivers are then background checked, fingerprinted, and first aid/CPR certified to ensure you're getting safe and quality care.

Best Aspect of Working in Vermilion County: The People! We've been so grateful to be so welcomed into the community. Vermilion County is a very resilient community and comes together to initiate positive change.

Heartwarming Details: One of the wonderful things we do is not only help seniors age in place at home but help them do it with the best quality of life and as much joy as possible. With our transportation we not only take seniors to doctors' appointments but can also help maintain those beautiful, fun activities like still getting them to their weekly favorite breakfast spot they've been to their whole life or taking them to a grandchild's wedding.

Learn More: Call 217-318-0268, visit www.synergyhomecare.com, or find us on Facebook by searching "SYNERGYHomeCareCentrallllinois."

Someone to Know: David Brown

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Director of Casino Services at the Golden Nugget Danville

Walking onto the casino floor at the Golden Nugget Danville, there's an undeniable energy - the buzz of activity, the clinking of slot machines, and the many conversations of guests. Spend any time at the casino and you're sure to see David Brown, the Director of Casino Services.

"As the Director of Casino Services, I manage customer relations and work to elevate the overall guest experience," Brown explains.

Brown's journey in the casino industry began in Rochester, NY, where he started at the Cashier Cage as a banker. With hard work and a passion for the business, he climbed the ranks, gaining expertise in customer service, operations, and management. When the prospect of joining the Golden Nugget Danville occurred, he saw it as an inspiring challenge.

"I moved to Vermilion County when I was presented with an exciting opportunity at Golden Nugget Danville," he says. "The role allowed me to help across the property in various capacities, which was a great chance to

grow and contribute to the property's development."

The casino industry's fast-paced and ever-evolving environment keeps things interesting for Brown. "What I love most about my work is the industry's dynamic nature. Every day brings new challenges and opportunities to enhance guest service," he adds.

While many people think of casinos as just gaming and entertainment, Brown emphasizes that there's much more happening behind the scenes—event management, regulatory compliance, and creating a welcoming environment are all crucial aspects of his role.

Brown has developed a deep appreciation of Vermilion County, particularly the area's strong sense of community. He takes great pride in the casino's Give \$10, Get \$10 promotion, running every Thursday throughout 2025. Guests can donate \$10 at the Cashier Cage and receive \$10 in free slot play. At the end of each month, all the funds raised are donated to a local charitable organization. This initiative enhances the guest experience and positively impacts the community.

Despite his outgoing nature, one surprising fact about Brown is his fear of



public speaking - proof that everyone has challenges to conquer.

Personally, he appreciates the unwavering support of his wife, whom he credits with keeping him grounded.

Guided by the best advice he's ever received - "Focus on what you can control and let go of the rest"—Brown continues bringing his expertise, enthusiasm, and dedication to the Golden Nugget Danville and the community he now calls home.



Coffee Talk

March 10:
TREP School with Tricia Teague, SOAR Space
2 E Main St., Suite 36, Danville

April 8:
U of I Credit Union
2 E Main St., Suite #120, Danville



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