

# INSIDE

VERMILION COUNTY



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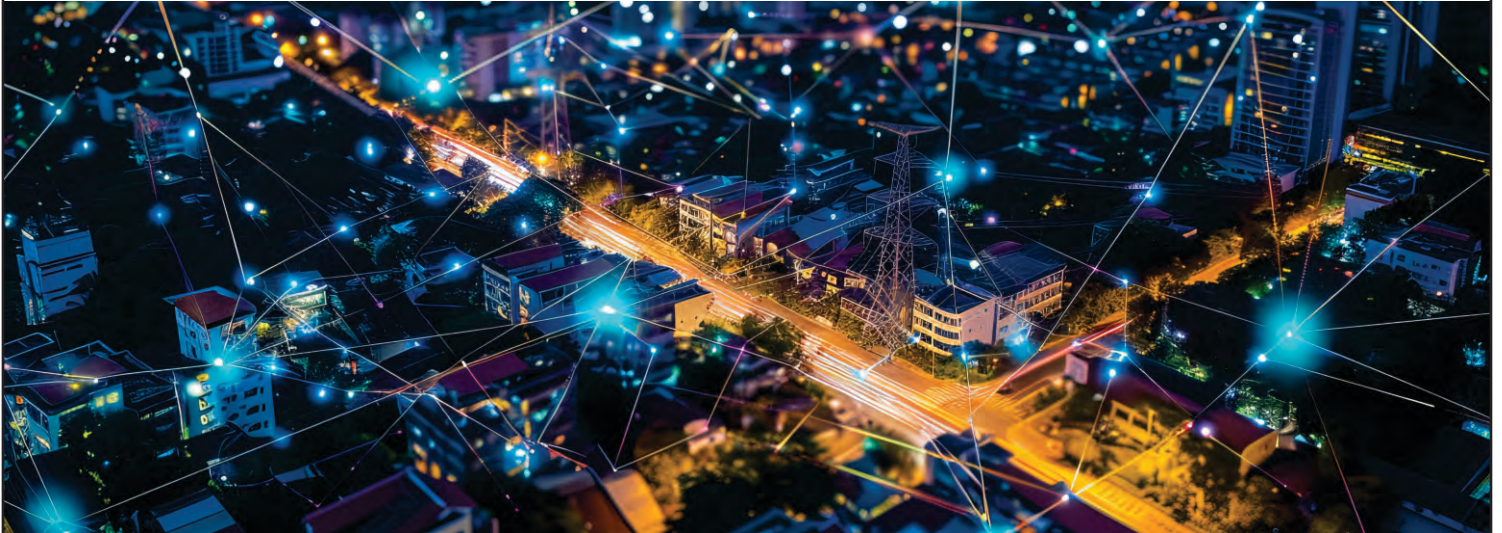
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Now Close to Home  
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PARTNER IN PROGRESS  
*Vermilion Advantage*  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Set Sail for  
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# INSIDE

VERMILION COUNTY

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## On the Cover:

The 33rd Annual Vermilion Advantage Golf Outing returns to the Danville Country Club on August 15, and this year's theme promises an island of fun.

**In the photo:** Jeff Fauver as Mr. Howell, Linda Darby-Dowers as Lovie Howell, Tonya Hill as Ginger, Doug Ahrens as the Skipper, Rheanna Ollis as Mary Ann, and Mike Levin as the Professor. Mulligan? We can't wait to find out.  
(Photo by Rossi Studios Photography)



## Inside This Issue

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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 am convinced that no problem is unsolvable. We live in a world where we decided that we would put a man on the moon, and then we did. We have cured diseases like polio and smallpox that afflicted humanity for years. The capacity for mankind to innovate and find solutions is almost limitless. Today we live in a time when spacecraft can view the outer regions of the universe, we can communicate with almost anyone anywhere on the globe, and artificial intelligence is solving century old problems in the matter of seconds. Human progress is stunning. When society or a community runs into seemingly tough problems, the question usually isn't whether we have the capability to solve those problems, it is a question whether we have the will to solve those problems.

I wrote several months ago about how hard it is to enact change because even though people say they want change, they are married to the status quo. We have it in our power to create whatever community we want here in Vermilion County. We can build whatever future we seek, and make it as bright as we want to make it. The question is whether we have the will to do what it takes to build that future. The stories of communities that were built on industries that went away are rampant throughout the history of our nation. It happens all the time. Everyone has seen the old Hollywood western where the hero is walking through the dusty, tumbleweed strewn street in an abandoned ghost town. We also have seen the stories of

communities that lost the engine that powered their local economy that were able to nimbly pivot and embrace new opportunities that reinvented and revitalized their struggling area. It is in our power to decide our future. Will we be the abandoned ghost town that dried up and died, or will we have the power to reinvent and reinvigorate ourselves in a new, better, and more resilient form? There are many examples of successful communities out there; we must learn from them and apply their lessons to our situation.

The power to build our better tomorrow is only limited by us. Two entities stand in the way of progress, those who are invested in the status quo and those whose negativity has become a self-fulfilling mission. When "people of influence" in the community, go to great lengths to protect the status quo, even to the point of refusing to learn from others, we would do well to ask the question why. If something hasn't worked in the past, why not try something new? Why not learn from the examples of others who have been through similar struggles? People who aggressively protect the status quo would do well to ask themselves why they are so invested in things that are not working. Are their motives really the best interest of the community?

The other group of individuals that hinder progress are the people that are so invested in negativity, they begin to root for failure to prove a point that their negative view was correct. These people



are caustic and shouldn't be let anywhere near a position of influence. This behavior is the height of egocentrism and can damage an entire community just so these people can prove a point. It is dangerous for all of us.

In Vermilion County, we can do whatever we want to do. We can build a very bright tomorrow. We can learn the lessons of other communities that have faced similar circumstances. We can recreate a strong and resilient community. We just need the will to do what it takes to get the job done. That means making tough choices, committing the resources to be successful, and discarding the naysayers that are either benefitting from the status quo or are invested in failure for their own perverse gratification. The decision is up to us. We are the authors of the next chapter in this book. We will decide if it is a happy ending or if the tumbleweeds will start to blow.



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

# OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center Welcoming New Life Close to Home

When you're expecting a baby, having a trusted care team nearby can make all the difference. At OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center in Danville, women can count on compassionate, comprehensive obstetric care without leaving Vermilion County. Each year, OSF delivers hundreds of babies locally, with a skilled team that ensures every patient feels supported, informed, and cared for.

Kelli A. Daugherty, APRN, CNM, is a certified nurse midwife who works alongside OB doctors, nurses, and other professionals to deliver personalized care to women through every stage of pregnancy. "Our Mission is to serve with the greatest care and love, and that's especially true in OB/GYN," says Daugherty. "Health care is personal, every step of the way, but especially as you're preparing to welcome a new baby."

OSF's labor and delivery unit features private birthing suites, a special care nursery staffed 24/7 by in-house neonatal providers, and a range of supportive services—including free Childbirth Education and Feeding Your Baby classes. Patients also have access to a lactation consultant to help ease the transition into parenthood.

Daugherty believes in the value of local care. "When you're expecting, you want your provider to be close to home for all scans, so you don't have to drive hours to get to appointments," she says. "You also don't want to have to travel far when you're in labor. With OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center, you don't have to leave Vermilion County to make sure you and your baby receive world-class care at home in your community."

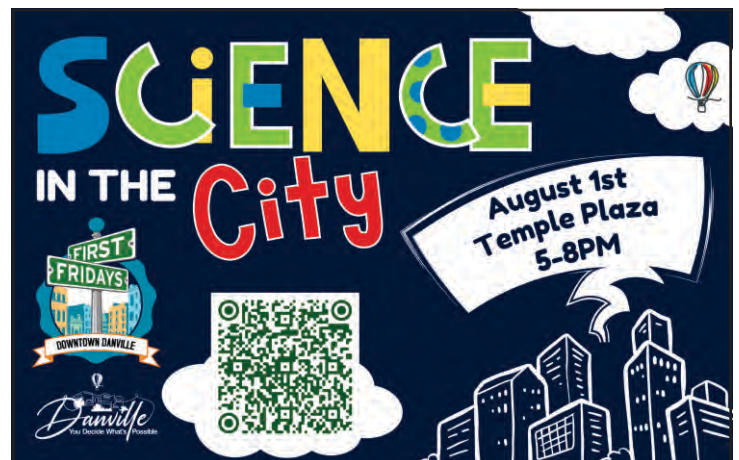
Beyond labor and delivery, OSF offers a full range of OB/GYN services—from routine wellness visits to treatment



for high-risk pregnancies, endometriosis, infertility, and other complex conditions. The team also offers NaProTechnology through OSF in Bloomington, a restorative, science-based approach to reproductive health and fertility.

In 2024, OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center served nearly 44,000 patients through its 382 employees and multiple local locations. With a foundation built on trust, dignity, and personalized support, OSF is here to serve people through every chapter of life.

To schedule a tour or learn more, visit [www.osfhealthcare.org](http://www.osfhealthcare.org), follow OSF HealthCare on Facebook, or call 217-443-5000.



# Worthy+Wyld Launches A Bold New Chapter

What began as a simple act of obedience has blossomed into a vibrant movement of healing, empowerment, and transformation. Now, three years after starting her business, Amy Cunningham is unveiling a bold new brand and vision with the launch of Worthy+Wyld Wellness — a Christ-centered ministry and business rooted in whole-person healing and Spirit-led living.

“Worthy+Wyld is more than a rebrand; it is a declaration,” says Cunningham, Owner and Lead Yoga Therapist. “It speaks to the identity that Christ offers each of us: worthy

by grace, and called to live boldly, authentically, and wildly free in Him.”

At the heart of Worthy+Wyld is a commitment to helping women live in total health — emotionally, physically, and spiritually — so they can fully walk in their God-given purpose. Worthy+Wyld creates safe, grace-filled spaces where deep transformation can take root through yoga therapy, coaching, retreats, and community-centered offerings.

Yoga therapy plays a central role, offering a clinically informed, spiritually grounded approach to healing trauma, regulating the nervous system, and restoring holistic health. Cunningham's extensive training, including certifications in trauma recovery, grief support, and Christ-centered yoga therapy, equips her to guide others with both expertise and deep compassion.

But Worthy+Wyld is also expanding to serve more and serve differently. The launch of a new website and mobile app will bring healing and connection right to users' fingertips, offering on-demand classes, live virtual sessions, therapy groups, and self-paced courses. “As we launch Worthy+Wyld, I invite you to come with me into this next season,” says Cunningham. “Whether through classes, retreats, therapy groups, or simply staying connected through the app, there's a place for you here.”

Beyond services, the mission behind this growth is personal: to offer scholarships for those who cannot afford care and to increase Amy's capacity to volunteer as a Yoga Therapist for individuals and organizations without the resources to pay.

Cunningham adds that the name says it all: “*Worthy+Wyld* — because we are worthy through Christ, and we are called to live wildly free in Him.”

Stay tuned for the official app and website launch. In the meantime, connect on Instagram and Facebook @worthyandwyld and join the mailing list for early access.



Amy Cunningham and Beth Chamberlain



# Leadership Tomorrow Update by Jodie Ingram

Vermilion Advantage's *Leadership Tomorrow* program took an exciting new direction with Class 36, introducing the first-ever Solution Summit led by Annie Monyok of Monyok Leadership—a four-day, fast-paced leadership sprint designed to move participants from theory into action.

Eighteen local leaders formed teams to tackle some of Vermilion County's most pressing issues: mental health in working adults, workforce development and resiliency, and community perception and unity.

With support from eight community mentors the teams conducted real-time research, held more than 30 in-person interviews with local leaders, and pitched bold solutions to a live audience – all in under a week.

This wasn't your typical leadership training—no lectures, no case studies. It was real leadership in real time.

To cap off an unforgettable week of leadership development,

Leadership Tomorrow Class 36 hit the road—literally—for the program's most action-packed tradition: the Amazing Race. This year's race featured 22 unique stops, showcasing the depth and diversity of our community. For the first time, the race was also opened to the public, welcoming a team that used the experience as a team-building activity, adding even more excitement to the day.

The adventure kicked off at 112 Wine + Coffee in Hoopston and took participants on a journey filled with fun, service, and creativity. Teams raced through challenges like:

- Tractor driving at the Vermilion County Farm Bureau
- Roping at Hooves for Hope
- Mini-golfing at Turtle Run
- A flag-folding ceremony with the Rotary at the Catlin Heritage Museum
- A ribbon cutting with giant scissors at Vermilion Advantage
- Fire department teamwork drills, mural spotting, healthcare visits, and more



The race ended in celebration at Vermilion River Beer Company, where teams gathered to share laughs, photos, and stories from an action-packed day.

Leadership Tomorrow Class 36 didn't just participate—they *engaged, led, and connected*. This year's program proved that the next generation of Vermilion County leaders are ready to roll up their sleeves, tackle tough issues, and have a whole lot of fun doing it.

Because leadership isn't just about where you're going—it's about how you get there.

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# Danville's Vision for the Future: The 2025 Comprehensive Plan

**Rheanna Ollis, Community Relations Administrator, and Mumuchhu Gurung, Senior Planner,** explain the City of Danville's Comprehensive Plan, a 25-year roadmap designed to guide the City's growth and development.

**What is the Comprehensive Plan, and why is it important for Danville right now?** The Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint for the City's long-term growth, development, and investment. It covers housing, land use, economic development, infrastructure, transportation, parks, sustainability, and quality of life. It evaluates where Danville is today, sets future priorities, and engages the community in shaping goals.

**When was Danville's last Comprehensive Plan created, and what's different this time?** Danville's last plan was approved in 2006. This new plan addresses changes over the past 25 years and includes perspectives from new generations who will live with the plan's outcomes.

**Who is leading the planning process, and how is it funded?** City Planner Mumuchhu Gurung leads the project, supported by Place Foundry, which manages surveys, data analysis, and drafting. The project is city-funded, but it will also help attract future federal and state grants.

**What are the key goals of this Comprehensive Plan?** It takes a broad approach, laying out a vision to guide Danville's development across multiple sectors.

**How are priorities like housing, infrastructure, and quality of life balanced?** Workshops highlighted needs such as employment, affordable

housing, and safety. Danville's affordability and location near Interstate 74 make it attractive for both residents and businesses. The plan includes actionable recommendations from Place Foundry to ensure priorities align with community needs.

**How does the plan support long-term growth and sustainability?** The plan guides decisions with questions like: Is it what the public wants? Is it sustainable? Does it meet a key goal? It helps identify grant opportunities to fund improvements and supports projects like Garfield Park.

**How has the public been involved?** Over 300 online survey responses, in-person surveys, and multiple community workshops have shaped the plan. Workshops took place in all parts of town to ensure that every neighborhood had a voice.

**How are underrepresented populations being considered?** The City works with Aldermen to reach residents who might be overlooked. Events at Danville Area Community College and a focus group for educators help include younger people and diverse neighborhoods.

**What opportunities does the plan create for local businesses and entrepreneurs?** A meeting at the Fischer Theatre and a private downtown business session helped gather input. The plan aims to attract corporations, support local businesses, and develop new incentives for business investment.

**How does the plan address workforce development and the future of work?** There's strong community interest in workforce

development. The plan will include actions to improve job training, support businesses, and connect residents with employers.

**Are there specific industries Danville wants to grow?** Yes. The City offers business incentives, such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Enterprise Zones, to create jobs. It's also removing blighted properties and investing in housing, road upgrades, sidewalks, public transit, and parks.

**What's the current status of the plan and the next steps?** The City is collecting community feedback. After reviewing it, a draft plan will be created. More public engagement may follow. Once finalized, the plan will go to the City Council for implementation.

**What are the biggest challenges this plan hopes to address?** While it won't solve every issue, the plan provides a steady framework for making informed decisions and aligning actions with long-term goals, particularly in land development.

**What excites you most about this plan's impact on Danville?** In Community Relations, we're excited to have a clear, shareable roadmap that tracks progress and clarifies the City's direction. It provides transparency and helps everyone understand the City's priorities.

**How can people stay informed or get involved?** Visit [Danville2050.org](https://www.danville2050.org) for updates, surveys, and engagement opportunities. Community leaders, developers, and residents are encouraged to share feedback. If you're concerned about quality of life, now is the time to speak up—your input matters.

# Someone to Know: Russ Leigh

For more than four decades, Russ Leigh has been a trusted name in financial services in Vermilion County and beyond. As Manager and Partner of Russell Leigh & Associates LLC, he continues to guide the firm with a steady hand, overseeing audits, preparing tax returns, and managing daily operations.

Leigh's roots in the area run deep. "I grew up on a farm west of Hoopeston," he says. After attending Hoopeston East Lynn High School and leaving for college, he returned in 1981 to join Michael Graham Ltd., eventually purchasing part of the practice and launching Russell Leigh & Associates in 1984.

Since then, his firm has become known for its broad range of services, including individual and business tax preparation and audit work for municipalities and school districts. "I enjoy working with clients to determine how to help them solve tax and accounting issues and trying to minimize their tax and make their business more profitable," he says.



What may surprise people, Leigh notes, is "how much we can help impact people's finances and how far people will travel to get help." His clients appreciate the firm's personal service and professional integrity, values shaped by Leigh's lifelong ties to the community.

In addition to his work, Leigh has devoted meaningful time to public service. He served on the Hoopeston Regional Health Center Board of Directors for 38 years, 36 of those as president. He also remains involved in his family's farming operation.

Leigh believes community involvement is key to building trust. "You have to give back if you want your business to be successful and people to trust you and know you have their best interests in mind," he says.

His family reflects that same commitment: his wife Linda manages the office, and their three children all live and work in the area. With four grandchildren attending Hoopeston schools, the Leigh legacy will stay well-rooted in Vermilion County, a place he knows is ideal for raising a family, thanks to its affordable living and strong community spirit.



## Member of the Month – May 2025

### Congratulations to Glesco Electric Inc., our Member of the Month!

Glesco Electric proudly serves Vermilion County with skilled electrical services and honest craftsmanship. Their mission is to power progress with integrity by delivering reliable electrical solutions that build stronger businesses.

Glesco has 30+ years of experience as a full-service electrical contractor. Their work supports veterans, students, and essential infrastructure across Vermilion County. Learn more at [www.glescoelectric.com](http://www.glescoelectric.com). Connect with them on social media @glescoelectric, or call 217-328-7700

Thank you for all you do to power the future of Vermilion County and beyond!

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

For more information about the Member of the Month Program, contact Dana at Vermilion Advantage at (217) 442-6201 or [drowland@VermilionAdvantage.com](mailto:drowland@VermilionAdvantage.com).

### 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.**
- **An event pass for one of Vermilion Advantage's networking events-on us!**



## Set Sail for Mulligan's Island! Golf, Good Times, and a Grand Prize Await on August 15

Pack your (golf) bags and prepare to be shipwrecked in the best way possible—on *Mulligan's Island!* The 33rd Annual Vermilion Advantage Golf Outing returns to the Danville Country Club on August 15, and this year's theme promises an island of fun.

The event offers morning (8:00 AM) and afternoon (1:00 PM) flights. Spots are limited, so don't wait to register your team using the QR code.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels and promise high visibility, as well as the opportunity to join in this unique event with other Vermilion County businesses and residents.

“We wanted a theme that would be familiar to our golfers, and we love a play on words,” says Vermilion Advantage's Dana Rowland. “We had the idea to incorporate our

community members into the cast and do fun skits along the way, trying to convince Mike (Marron) to play Mulligan.”

This year's twist includes a whole cast of island favorites - Doug Ahrens as the Skipper, Tonya Hill as Ginger, Linda Darby-Dowers as Lovie Howell, Rheanna Ollis as Mary Ann, Jeff Fauver as Mr. Howell, and Mike Levin as the Professor. As for the mysterious Mulligan? TBD—though Mike Marron might just find himself marooned in the spotlight.

There'll be themed costumes, decorated carts, photo ops, and a contest for the best-decorated sponsorship hole. Golfers can even purchase Mulligans during registration.

And let's talk treasure—this year's Grand Prize is a trip for two to

Jamaica! Plus, every golfer will take home a swag bag full of goodies from local businesses. Whether you're playing, sponsoring, or just soaking in the tropical vibes, there's something for everyone.

“This is our first year having a theme, and we can't wait to see everyone's creativity,” says Rowland. “We started doing the Mulligan skits in March, so we've really built up the anticipation and have gotten the entire community involved.”

So hoist your sails and your 9-iron—and join the fun. It's the only fundraiser Vermilion Advantage hosts throughout the year, and all proceeds support economic development and programs that benefit the entire Vermilion County community.

**Don't miss the boat—register today!**

# New Member Snapshot: A-10 Excavation

**Owner/Operator:** Adam Marcotte

**Company Information:** I started A-10 because I needed a career change and saw a market where I knew I could bring value. The decision to launch was made in the fall of 24. I developed my plan and launched it this spring.

**About the Work:** We offer site preparation, grading, drainage solutions, and driveway & parking lot repair. We specialize in gravel driveways and commercial lot repair.

**About the Business:** A-10 is a small business. Other excavators look for large projects. We are filling the gap and providing the services the larger companies aren't interested in. It's so hard to get contractors to call you back, let alone show up. We pride ourselves on prompt communication and showing up when we say we will.

**Inspiration:** I was working on a large commercial lot over my son's spring break, and he was able to come to work with me for a day. Seeing him so excited to learn and become invested in what I do was inspiring. That

experience solidified that I was on the right path.

**Serving the Community:** We are constantly looking for ways to contribute. I'd like to offer services to small villages at reduced costs. I recently sponsored a sports team. In addition to this endeavor, I serve as the Police Chief for Fithian, which keeps me very involved.

**Biggest Surprise:** In my previous job, I always went west for work, shopping, etc., and I didn't feel very well-known or involved in Vermilion County despite serving a term on Fithian's village board. Since I've made this move, I've seen an outpouring of support for the business and from local law enforcement.

**The Back Story:** Before the economic downturn of 2008, I ran a successful carpentry business. The downturn pushed me into law enforcement. In my law enforcement career, I served as a correctional officer, police officer, detective, sergeant, union president, and SWAT team leader. And I still teach at the police academy. I left Urbana PD

this spring and took over the Chief position in Fithian. I do this 20 hours a week and run A-10 full time at 40 hours weekly. I've already seen my quality of life vastly improve for me and my family, and I absolutely love the path I'm on. I'm very excited to offer services that provide real value for customers, allow me to make an honest wage, and organically grow my business.

**About Vermilion County:** My favorite part of our county is the great people. Now I get so much more interaction with them. I can proudly say that all of my customers have become friends.

**Learn More:** Search "A-10 Excavation" on Facebook and Instagram, visit [www.a-10excavation.com](http://www.a-10excavation.com), or the company's Google Business profile at <https://g.co/kgs/ghBC52E>



4:30PM-6:30PM

August, 2025  
VRBC

103 N Vermilion St, Danville

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

## Professional Development Group

11:30AM-1:00PM

July 16, 2025  
Level Up - Mike Marron

Vermilion Advantage, 2 E Main, Suite #120

August 20, 2025  
Leading From Any Position - Ross Darby

Vermilion Advantage, 2 E Main, Suite #120

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

## BUSINESS & NETWORKING LUNCHEON

11:30AM-1:00PM

July 23, 2025  
Two Roads Wellness  
at Palmer Arena

August 27, 2025  
Molly's Joint  
at Palmer Arena

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

# New Member Snapshot: Woodbury Falls Venue

**Owners & Operators:** Devan and Miranda Fox

**Company Information:** Woodbury Falls is a private countryside venue providing wedding and event services to our community and beyond. We employ several seasonal employees and one year-round venue manager. We offer a full bar service, specialty bridal and groom suites, a full patio setup, indoor and outdoor ceremony setups, as well as special features such as our waterfall, which is a fan favorite! Our rentals typically include access to our facilities from Friday to Sunday for ease of planning, setup, and tear-down. Our staff takes care of preparations before the event, provides bussing and bartending services during the event, and all cleaning after.

**Location:** We are located just a couple miles west of Danville, IL., right off Henning Road, near the I-74 Martin Luther King exit. We have been blessed to be a part of Vermilion County since 2017, and my husband, Devan, and I took ownership in 2023.

**What's New:** Our goal since taking ownership has been to make sure every client feels like they are treated like family. We have updated every room

## WOODBURY FALLS Event Venue



inside and all the landscaping outside to give the space an upscale feel while still maintaining the original countryside features that make us unique. We have added crystal chandeliers throughout the space and hired an interior designer to transform and decorate our dressing suites and reception room. We have many fun ideas planned, so stay tuned to our social media for updates!

**Services:** Our primary focus is on weddings and receptions. We have several local businesses that host their company retreats and events with us several times a year, and we are grateful for their ongoing support and patronage. A fun, growing addition is our quinceañeras! We love working with these families, and their events are always such a happy experience!

**Event Advice:** Start with your venue (and I'm not just saying that because that's my passion). As a venue owner, I have access to resources and heavily vetted vendors that can help make the rest of the process so much smoother. Everyone loves a friend who has all the good connections, and that's exactly what we provide here at Woodbury Falls.

**What Makes Us Special:** We provide every client with a full vendor list of recommended area businesses that have provided excellent service at all levels of price points. Most of our vendors have worked with us multiple times, so they are familiar with our building and have my personal cell phone number, allowing us to alleviate the extra planning stress for the client. My goal is to help make their wedding experience truly the BEST day of their lives while minimizing the heaviness of all of the minor details. We have recently brought on a venue manager to help with vendor coordination as an included service to our wedding clients. She has a background and education in hospitality and just so happens to be one of our past Woodbury Falls brides.

**Learn More:** Visit [Woodbury-Falls.com](https://www.woodbury-falls.com) or search "Woodbury Falls" on Facebook or Instagram.

## Coffee Talk

July 8:  
Vermilion Advantage  
2 E Main, Suite #120, Danville

August 12:  
Monyok Leadership  
801 Fairchild, Danville



# New Member Snapshot: The Van Hyfte Grant Lab

**Founder & CEO:** Nicole Van Hyfte

**Company Information:** The Van Hyfte Grant Lab helps purpose-driven organizations secure the funding they need to create lasting impact. We provide expert grant writing, strategy, and consulting services to nonprofits, social enterprises, small businesses, and changemakers committed to building a better world. Our mission is to simplify the grant process, amplify our clients' missions, and unlock the resources they need to thrive.

**Inspiration Behind the Business:** The inspiration came from years of working in the nonprofit and funding world. I saw firsthand how many incredible organizations were doing vital work but struggling to access the funding they deserved. I was driven by a desire to bridge that gap and bring as many dollars into our community as possible. I started the Grant Lab to create a space where mission-driven leaders could get the support they need to tell their stories powerfully, navigate complex funding systems, and ultimately scale their impact.

**Services:** The Van Hyfte Grant Lab is a boutique consulting firm specializing in strategic grant writing, research, and capacity-building services for nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and mission-driven enterprises. We focus on foundation and government grants, offering customized support beyond writing to include holistic services in research, program design, evaluation planning, and funder engagement.

We know that every organization's needs are different. Some clients need help with one specific grant application, while others are looking for a long-term partner who's always looking for new funding opportunities. That's why we offer both one-off grant services and ongoing grant partnerships.

**Mission:** Our mission is to amplify social impact by equipping visionary leaders and organizations with the tools, language, and strategies they need to secure funding and catalyze change. With an emphasis on innovation, equity, and storytelling, we work alongside our clients to demystify the grant process, align their work with funder priorities, and build strategies for sustainable growth.

**The Journey:** I've had the privilege of partnering with incredible organizations doing transformative work, and being part of their funding journey has been an honor. Every time a client secures a grant that allows them to expand a program, hire new staff, or reach more people, it's a win not just for them but for the broader community.

**Goals:** In the short term, my goal is to continue building strong, strategic partnerships with nonprofits, small businesses, and mission-driven organizations—helping them secure the funding they need to grow, innovate, and serve their communities. I want The Van Hyfte Grant Lab to be known not just as a grant writing service, but as a trusted thought partner in the funding process. Long term, I envision expanding the Lab's reach and impact—growing our team, deepening our services, and bringing even more philanthropic and government dollars into communities that need them most. That includes helping small businesses access funding opportunities that support local economic development and inclusive growth.

**Benefits of membership in Vermilion Advantage:** As the former Director of the Chamber of Commerce at Vermilion Advantage, I know firsthand that membership provides access to a powerful network of leaders, resources, and opportunities supporting visibility and growth.



It also opens the door to strategic partnerships, shared knowledge, and a collective vision for strengthening Vermilion County. As we grow, I'm committed to giving back to this network through capacity-building workshops, strategic collaborations, or helping fellow members access funding that fuels local impact. Supporting this region's economic and social vitality is not just part of our mission—it's part of who we are.

**The Team:** I'd like to thank my family—my husband, Andy, our girls, Jillian and Kennedy, and my parents, Jeff and Barbara Lewis—for their unwavering support in so many ways. I'm endlessly grateful for their love, patience, sacrifices, and strength behind the scenes. I truly couldn't do this without them.

**Learn More:** Visit [www.thevhgrantlab.com](http://www.thevhgrantlab.com), search “The Van Hyfte Grant Lab” on Facebook and LinkedIn, or email [nicole@thevhgrantlab.com](mailto:nicole@thevhgrantlab.com). Ready to take the next step toward funding your mission? Book your FREE Discovery Call today at [www.thevhgrantlab.com/schedule-a-consultation](http://www.thevhgrantlab.com/schedule-a-consultation).



THE VAN HYFTE GRANT LAB  
Innovative Funding. Real Impact.  
Est. 2025

# New Member Snapshot: Impact Life

**Account Manager:** Tony Bae

**Organization Information:** ImpactLife is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, independent, community blood center founded in 1974 in Davenport, Iowa. We provide lifesaving blood products to more than 120 hospitals and emergency medical service providers in a four-state region. Every year, we team up with thousands of blood donors and hundreds of community partners to help save lives through blood drives.

**Locations:** Locally, Urbana, Illinois. In addition to its headquarters, ImpactLife has regional distribution hubs in central Illinois (Peoria, Illinois and Springfield, Illinois); eastern Illinois (Urbana, Illinois); southeastern Iowa (Ottumwa, Iowa); the St. Louis

region (Earth City, Missouri) and southern Wisconsin (Madison, Wisconsin). ImpactLife collects blood at 23 fixed-site donor centers and over 5,000 mobile blood drives held annually.

**Why Donating Matters:** A single blood donation can save up to three lives. This is because a single unit of blood can be separated into red blood cells, plasma, and platelets, each of which can be used separately to help different patients.

**Favorite Memories:** All the moments that I've been able to see donors' faces light up when they learn the importance of donating blood and see how a blood donation can directly impact a patient's life.

**About Vermilion County:** It is a deeply integrated community with lively organizations that want to make a real difference in people's lives.

**Get Involved:** Anyone can get involved by signing up for a blood donation at any of our blood drives. We are also seeking sponsors to host blood drives. If interested, please reach me at [tbae@impactlife.org](mailto:tbae@impactlife.org) or 571-245-9319.

**Learn More:** Google "ImpactLife" or visit [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org).



## ImpactLife

# New Member Snapshot: Brett Crandell - State Farm Agent

**Company Information:** We offer insurance and financial services. We focus on auto, home, and life insurance while marketing some of our other financial services, including annuities and retirement accounts.

**The Team:** Currently, there are three of us, but we are in the process of hiring one more individual.

**Location:** 809 N Gilbert St Suite B Danville, IL 61832. We opened our door on 1/1/25 and chose Vermilion County because Toni Stone retired.

**Something to Know:** Everyone is required to get auto insurance if they drive and home insurance if they have a mortgage. Life insurance is not required, but many people should be made more aware of it. Not securing



life insurance until it is too late means leaving your family in a tough spot.

**Heartwarming Customer Story:** A gentleman came into my office the day my wife brought my youngest daughter in. When I met with this gentleman, her

toys were on the floor in my office. A few hours later, he returned to the office with a Pack-and-Play, letting me know his grandchildren had outgrown it. It meant a lot to me, and I felt welcomed to the community.

**Best part of doing business in Vermilion County:** So many of my customers like to pay in person, so I get a chance to meet and talk with a lot of them. I love that Vermilion County residents still do business face-to-face.

**Benefit of Vermilion Advantage Membership:** It gives local business owners a better way to promote their products and services to their community.

**More Information:** Search "Brett Crandell State Farm Agency" on Facebook and Instagram, visit [www.Brettinsures.com](http://www.Brettinsures.com), or call 217-443-1599.

# New Member Snapshot: Lucas Taylor Gardens



**Owner:** Lucas Taylor

**Company Information:** Lucas Taylor Gardens (LTG) is a market garden that grows chemical-free vegetables, including zucchini, cucumber, peppers, salad greens such as lettuce, spinach, and kale, roots like radishes, onions, and turnips. We also grow herbs like basil, cilantro, and parsley, and mushrooms like oyster, lion's mane, shitake, and chestnut. I offer contract gardening services to install or maintain a growing space at customers' locations also.

**Location:** My farm is situated within the city limits of North Danville. I attend the Danville Farmer's Market.

**About the Business:** I've been gardening since 2013 and started my business in 2020, taking produce to local markets. Since then, I have grown the size of my planted area as well as

the variety and quantity of crops. My goal is to supply restaurants or grocery stores with local fresh produce eventually.

**Favorite Services:** I enjoy troubleshooting issues that growers encounter, identifying solutions, and then successfully harvesting – helping them overcome any barriers that might have held them back in past seasons. I think growing food is very rewarding and empowering, so I enjoy using my knowledge and equipment to share this experience with others.

**New Services:** This winter, I started growing culinary mushrooms and have produced quite well. The community has been very interested, with many happy customers. I am currently harvesting cool-season crops, and warm crops are right around the corner. Garden season will run through December, with produce available as it is ready.

**Favorite Produce:** My favorite to eat is probably peppers. My favorite to grow would be either a radish, since it only takes 28 days to mature in the ground or

a cucumber because a single plant can produce bushels of fruit over a season.

**Woodshop:** I also run a woodshop with a wide range of capabilities. My most popular items have been jigsaw puzzles, earrings, and engraved plaques. I maintain a small inventory of crafts, but most of my business is in building custom versions of past crafts or new items specifically designed for customers' needs, including market booth items like display stands and signage.

**About Vermilion County:** I think the support of the VC community is the best part. On the business side, there is less focus on competition and more on collaboration. On the customer side, the community has been very receptive to quality products. It seems if you can grow it, someone will be interested.

**Learn More:** You can reach me in at: [www.facebook.com/LucasTaylorGarden](https://www.facebook.com/LucasTaylorGarden), [www.lucastaylorgarden.square.site](http://www.lucastaylorgarden.square.site), [luctaylor16@gmail.com](mailto:luctaylor16@gmail.com), or call 217-474-9141. The farm is located at 3550 Ferndale Ave., Danville, IL

# New Member Snapshot: A-Just Your Vision

**Owner/President:** Lalita King

**Company Information:** A-Just Your Vision is a business based on helping and housing teen girls and young women between the ages of 11-21 who are wards of the state. We will provide periodic training and workshops targeting life skill development, engaging in educational summer programs, after-school youth outreach activities to reinforce family values, and team activities to provide life coping skills, emotional healing and self-purpose.

**Location:** As of now, we do not yet have a location.

**How to Help:** We are currently seeking donations and grants to purchase a home to house the teens and young women.

**What May Surprise People:** We have all-female leadership and will be the first teen transition home in the 217 area.

**What You Love About Vermilion County:** I love doing business in Vermilion County because of its diversity, experience and knowledge of foster care.



**Memorable Moments:** My story is special to me. I've previously had five foster girls from different backgrounds in my home, and each one had their own story and struggle. While in my home, they have all given thanks for the love shown to them while in my care. I have received acknowledgment from the criminal justice workers, counselors, therapists and social workers for my performance as a teen foster mom.

**More information:** Visit [www.adjustyourvision.com](http://www.adjustyourvision.com), call 217-266-9461 or email [atalking51@gmail.com](mailto:atalking51@gmail.com).

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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.
- Carle.Carle Medical Supply
- 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)

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- Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.
- 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
- City of Hoopston
- CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP
- Curry Construction
- Double S Liquid Feed Service, Inc.
- Fisher National Bank
- Genpact
- Great Lakes Credit Union
- Greenwood, Inc.
- Illini Media Group
- Invenery
- Village of Oakwood
- Village of Tilton

### 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
- First Farmer Bank & Trust
- 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
- McDonald's - Linders Limited V, LLC
- Meijer
- Prospect Bank
- Ross Webb Ins. & Financial Services, Inc
- Runnings of Danville & Tilton
- Russell Leigh & Associates, CPA
- SIHF Healthcare
- Sygma Network
- thyssenKrupp Crankshaft Company
- Towne Machine Tool Co., Inc.
- Tractor Supply Co.
- Village of Catlin
- Voltus
- WITY Illiana Communications, LLC

## Members of Vermilion Advantage, NFP (continued)

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(Level \$500 - \$999)

112 Wine & Coffee  
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 Anthem Chevrolet  
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 Arrow Ambulance  
 Autumn Fields Adult Community of Hoopeston  
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 Big Thorn Farm & Brewery, LLC  
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 Brett Crandell Ins. & Financial Serv. - State Farm  
 Bricks and Ivy Sports  
 Built 2 Last Construction  
 Burtco. Photography  
 Ceader's Collision  
 Central States Distribution Service  
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 Classic Homes Realty  
 Coldwell Banker Commercial Devonshire  
 Realty – Larry Kuchefski  
 Comcast Business  
 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  
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 Danville Gardens, Inc.  
 Danville Public Building Commission  
 Dasher's Hockey  
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 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)  
 EPIC Insurance Midwest  
 Exit 210 Saloon  
 Farnsworth Group  
 FLP Wealth Advisors of Raymond James  
 Full-Fill Industries, LLC  
 G & C Diagnostics

Gibson Teldata, Inc.  
 Greene Galvanized Stairs  
 Greenlight Landscaping & Berry's  
 Hampton Inn & Suites  
 Health Alliance Medical Plans  
 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  
 ImpactLife  
 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.  
 K4 Training  
 Kick Me Shirts  
 Kickapoo Adventures  
 Kruger's ATA Martial Arts, Inc.  
 Kruger-Coan-Pape Funeral Home  
 Kurland Steel Co.  
 La Bella of Danville  
 Landmark Credit Union  
 Leatherneck Hardware, Inc.  
 Lebanon Seaboard Corporation  
 LMR Promotions  
 Local, The  
 Loman Ray Insurance Group - Hoopeston  
 Longview Bank & Trust  
 Love's Travel Stop  
 Luxe Lift  
 Merrell Pest Control  
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 Mini Mall Storage  
 Molly's Bar & Grill  
 Newton's Cleaning & Restoration, LLC  
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 Portal Entertainment Group  
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 Ray O'Herron Company  
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 Reds Resale  
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 Seven Point  
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Silgan Containers  
 Souza Financial Group  
 Sparklight  
 Staff Management  
 Steel Grip, Inc.  
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 T.H. Snyder Co.- Architectural Woodwork Div.  
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 Terminix Services, Inc.  
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### ADVANTAGE HONOR MEMBER

(Level \$300 - \$499)

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 Cunningham, Inc.  
 Danville Housing Authority  
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 Liberty Village  
 McDowell Builders, Inc.  
 McLaughlin Asset Management  
 Myers Carpet Weavers  
 Newell Township Supervisor  
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 Olympic Hardware  
 Rosecrance  
 Servpro of Vermilion County  
 Shortz Family Farms, Inc.  
 Sleep Inn & Suites  
 Sleepy Creek Vineyards  
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 Teasdale Foods  
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 Community Foundation of East Central IL  
 Corporate Supply, Inc  
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 Danville Art League  
 Danville Boat Club  
 Danville Family YMCA  
 Danville Farmer's Market  
 Danville Library Foundation  
 Danville Lions Club  
 Danville Noon Rotary  
 Danville Public Library  
 Danville Public School Foundation  
 Danville Rescue  
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 Danville Symphony Orchestra  
 Danville Technology Services  
 Danville Tennis Center  
 Davis Bookkeeping  
 Deer Creek Manor  
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 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  
 Erich Hannah  
 Erickson, Gary C.  
 Fair Hope Children's Ministry  
 Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
 Festival of Trees  
 First Church of the Nazarene  
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 Rossi Photo Studios  
 Rossville Alvin CUSD #7  
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 Save the Lorraine Foundation  
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 Spotlight Performing Arts  
 SpotOn  
 Spring Hill Cemetery  
 St. James United Methodist Church  
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 Super Penguin Books  
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 Tarquini's  
 TASC  
 The Dwelling Place  
 The Van Hyfte Grant Lab  
 The Vortex  
 Transformation Health Coach  
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 United Way of Danville Area  
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 URE Home Daycare  
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 Lee, Todd  
 Mulvaney, Jeanne  
 Nicholls, Bill  
 Resh, Gary (Resh Frame Shop)  
 Spezia, John (Reach 1 Coach 1)  
 Swires, Bob  
 Ward, Jacqueline  
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