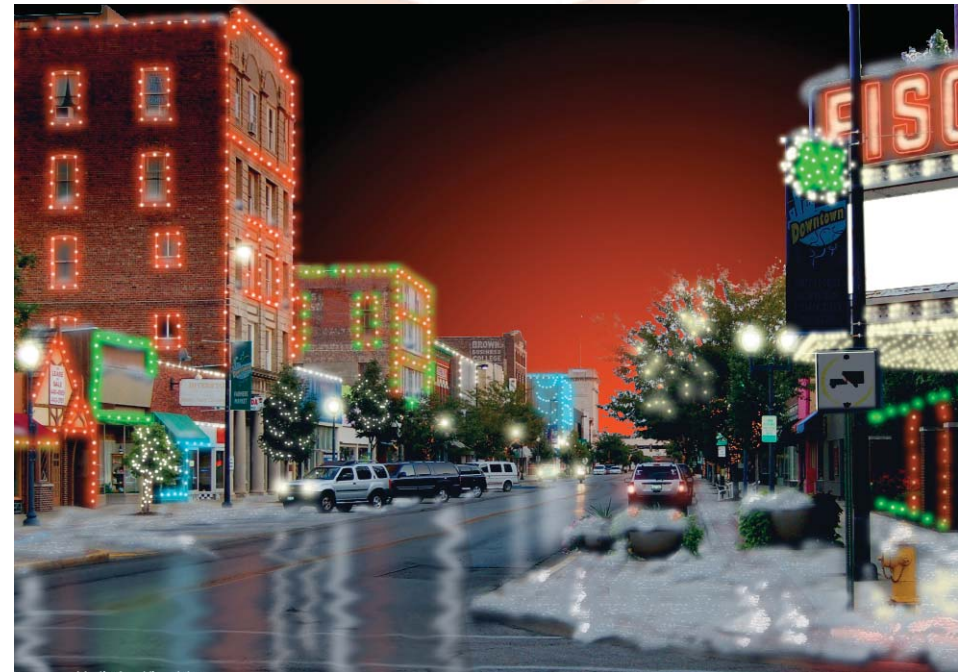


# The Vermilion Advantage

DECEMBER, 2011

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Vicki Haugen



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No matter one's age or religious beliefs, the December holiday season creates an atmosphere that is special. The smells, holiday treats, beautiful lights and all the festive holiday trimmings create a special and spiritual atmosphere. For just a few days, the child in all of us emerges. It's a time for sharing, reflecting and dreaming. It's a time for family and friends. And, it is a time to say, "thank you."

It is in this holiday spirit that I would like to thank all of our members who invest in Vermilion Advantage, the area and state leaders with whom we work every day, our board and our incredible staff. Sustaining and building a community takes everyone working together every day to achieve a better tomorrow.

For all of the national economic challenges that have prevailed throughout 2011, and touched us all in some way, despite those prevailing challenges, we in Vermilion County have much for which to be thankful. In no particular order of importance, I would like to

recall some of those blessings for our year end reflection:

- Continued expansion and new investment by ThyssenKrupp Crankshaft and ThyssenKrupp Presta.
- Expansion at AutoZone Distribution
- Location and construction start for Kohl's
- Location and opening of the new Dunham's Sports
- Expansion and investment by Full-Fill Industries in Henning
- Expansion and investment by Hoopeston Memorial Community Hospital
- New location of HRW
- Expansion of Towne Machine
- Expansion of Th Snyder
- Expansion and new acquisition by Covington Foods (County Market)
- New location of R & L Carriers

Continued on page 2



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Conservatively, these projects are investing over \$81M in our county with the promise of more employment opportunities, construction activity and sales tax revenue generation. While this list represents those businesses with whom we have directly partnered and whose projects have been made public, there are many more existing and new business opportunities that are in various stages of development and implementation. Gifts, still being packaged and wrapped, if you will....

We have also had the pleasure of working with many new professionals who have chosen to take employment opportunities in our area and become some of our newest citizens.

Our business partners have created new education opportunities for area middle and high school students, and we have college graduates our partners have supported through scholarships that have returned to Vermilion County to begin their careers at home.

Blessings come in many shapes and sizes. They are people, places, activities and good health for starters. These "gifts" may not always be wrapped in shiny paper or surrounded by garland and lights. But, rest assured, they are present, if we look around...making each and every day the most wonderful day of the year.

*May the peace and the joy that we feel this season be yours throughout all 2012.*

The Commercial-News and Vermilion Advantage are excited to announce the creation of the Vermilion County Business Hall of Fame.

Each year, we'll add to the roster of Vermilion County residents inducted into the Business Hall of Fame.

Whether it's an executive who helped bring industry here in the 1950s or someone who makes a difference in area commerce today, we'll recognize them for their work.

A state-of-the-art custom designed display honoring the inductees will be unveiled at the Vermilion County Museum on Sunday, March 4th. This permanent display will offer interactive presentations on the history of business in Vermilion County as well as biographies of the Business Hall of Fame inductees.

To kick-off this exciting program, the Commercial-News will publish a special section on **Thursday, March 1st** announcing the inaugural honorees who have helped grow Vermilion County business and industry. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this exciting project.

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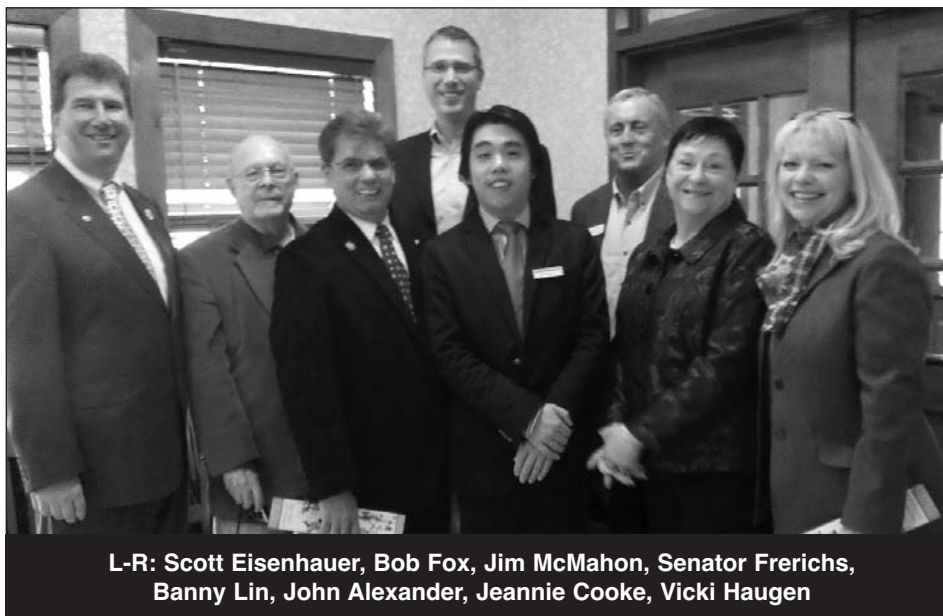
**VERMILION ADVANTAGE**  
The Danville Difference

# #1 Hibachi Grill Celebrates First Year

By Linda Bolton

An empty building sitting in a major retail area anywhere is never a welcome sight for local communities. So when Ryan's vacated the Danville market in 2009 due to bankruptcy, leaving an 11,000 square foot building, there were concerns about finding the right tenant who could generate valuable sales tax, create jobs, and build a good customer base. When you seek a new business to fill a void, the thing you always hope most for is a business that will make a long-term commitment to the community. Those wishes were fulfilled in Danville November 27, 2010 when #1 Hibachi Grill & Buffet owner Banny Lin officially opened his doors to welcome customers.

It has been a busy year for Banny and his #1 Hibachi Grill & Buffet. But then, Banny is always busy. He has put in countless hours over the last year building his business, growing his customer base, and making sure his restaurant is always up to the standards his customers expect. Banny spends whatever extra time he has checking on the seven other restaurants he owns in Ohio, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Mississippi..



L-R: Scott Eisenhauer, Bob Fox, Jim McMahon, Senator Frerichs, Banny Lin, John Alexander, Jeannie Cooke, Vicki Haugen

Banny Lin has a basic philosophy about business. He believes it is important to come into a community, work hard, and give back to the people who live there and who make up his customer base. Banny says he believes that is how you prove you are here to stay and not just someone who comes into a community to make a few dollars and then leave.

I met Banny over a year ago, as he was preparing to open #1 Hibachi. He came to us wanting to join the Vermilion Advantage team because he understood the value of membership and he wanted help in putting together a grand opening for his new restaurant. Back then, talking with Banny could be quite a challenge,

as he often struggled with English. He struggles still, although he has worked very hard to improve his use of the English language. Somehow, we worked through the language barriers to get his grand opening planned last year over Thanksgiving weekend.

And he was pleased with how it all turned out. We had everything from balloons to local TV coverage; Danville Mayor Scott Eisenhauer and Vermilion County Board Chair Jim McMahon were on hand to help cut the ribbon and open the doors to what has become a strong business for the community. Since the opening, Banny has seen his customer base grow.

Like all good businessmen, Banny Lin never misses opportunities to promote his business and make his customers happy. A few weeks ago, Banny showed up at our offices wanting help putting together a special celebration to mark his first year here in Vermilion County. That is certainly not an unusual request; membership in Vermilion Advantage has many benefits, including help with marketing and promotion. And having coordinated Banny's grand opening, it was no surprise he wanted to do things up right. What did come as a surprise to us was that he not only wanted to celebrate #1 Hibachi Grill & Buffet's first birthday, he wanted to give back to this community. Banny said he wanted to take some of the money he earned here in our community over the last year and give it back to help the people who live here.

Thus began another adventure with Banny - ordering special balloons, inviting guests, finding music to entertain those present, putting together a drawing for special prizes, and most of all finding the right place for his money so that he could do the most good with it. After some

Continued on page 4



discussion, Banny decided that he would donate money to the Danville Area United Way, because it helps so many programs, agencies and people across the community.

We helped him put together a news release about the donation event and ceremonies, invited the special guests and hoped all would go well. It did. For the occasion, balloons decorated the restaurant, and Banny was joined by Senator Mike Frerichs, Chairman McMahan, Mayor Eisenhower, County Board members Bob Fox and John Alexander, Convention & Visitors' Bureau Director Jeannie Cooke, and Vermilion Advantage CEO Vicki Haugen. And then the bus pulled up, and Danville High School's Madrigals arrived in full costume to sing.

The songs were great, the speeches short, and the most important part of the celebration - giving back to the community - was highlighted by Banny handing Danville Area United Way Director Jeanne Mulvaney and Mark Stutsman, the Vice Chair of the United Way Board, a check for \$2,000.00. No, that is not a misprint. Banny Lin, who most of you had never heard of a year ago and who was a stranger to our community, handed over \$2,000 to help the United Way. For most of us that is a fair amount of money. In reality Banny could have just done balloons, guests and a drawing, and

then got on with his business. But his decision to give back to the community says a great deal about how he approaches business and how much he cares about this community.

After receiving the donation, Ms Mulvaney presented Banny Lin with the Cavanaugh Award, the highest award for donations that the United Way gives to businesses for their participation in the United Way campaign. Since United Way is focused on the community, it is fitting that Banny received the award; his motto is that you go into a community for the long haul and you give back what you get. And Banny capped off the week of celebration by signing on to accept Chamber Dollars; so anyone who gets or gives Chamber Dollars can use them at #1 Hibachi Grill & Buffet.

We have so many business people here in Vermilion County just like Banny Lin. They care about this community and strive to give you the best service they can. We would all be well served to remember our local businessmen and women right here in Vermilion County in 2012.

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# 4th Annual Leadership Tomorrow Alumni Scholarship Recipient

By Mabelle Dykes



**2011 DACC Leadership Tomorrow Alumni Scholarship winner Emily Wear, a Catlin High School Graduate and DACC student, is presented with her scholarship by Michael Kroll, Leadership Tomorrow Class 20 Alumnus, at the DACC Foundation Honors Program on September 30, 2011.**

The Leadership Tomorrow program (formerly Leadership Danville) was created in 1986 to assist emerging community leaders in preparing for leadership positions in local government and community affairs. Class 24 (2011-12) of Leadership Tomorrow is now in session and its members will graduate on May 11, 2012.

In conjunction with community history, personal & professional leadership skills, and the required 75 hours of community volunteerism, each Leadership class also is responsible for a class project – a joint decision of the class members.

In 2007-08, Leadership Tomorrow Class 20 decided on a ground-up project – from marketing, fundraising & implementing, and after consultation with the City, had two permanent, decorative chess tables installed at the Temple Plaza in Downtown Danville. Although this project was one the whole community would be able to enjoy – it got the class thinking about other projects. Because of the community volunteerism they participated in and the fact that the “Education” program day had left such an impression on the class, they decided to use their excess funds to set up a scholarship at Danville Area Community College. They continue to solicit Leadership Alumni for donations. Two of the set criteria for the scholarship are that the recipient must have completed a minimum of 50 hours of community or volunteer service and must have demonstrated leadership skills.

Donors interested in making donations to this scholarship fund can do so by sending a donation to:

**DACC Foundation  
c/o Leadership Tomorrow Alumni Scholarship  
2000 East Main Street  
Danville, IL 61832**

Tracy Wahlfeldt, Executive Director, College Foundation & Grant Development Danville Area Community College will send all donors an applicable tax deduction receipt since this is a 501c3 Not-for-Profit donation.

In 2011, the 4th Annual \$500 scholarship award winner was Emily Wear, a 2010 graduate of Catlin High School. Emily plans to pursue a career in Broadcast Journalism. She plans to transfer to either the U of I or Eastern Illinois University after DACC. She was very involved in high school activities but her favorite was cheerleading. She has continued cheering at DACC. Her favorite hobby is music and she loves to sing. She is on her church and youth group's worship team. She has been on two mission trips where she was involved in helping at food pantries, rebuilding run-down homes and serving in any way possible. She has also helped with the annual H2O Community Day hosted by her church, the Village of Catlin's Sesquicentennial Celebration, Big Brothers Big Sisters activity night, elementary Lock-In at church, assisting at youth girls softball training camp and Jr. High cheer camp, DACC cheer camp, making lemon shake-ups at the Catlin Fish Fry, yard work and painting at church and Center for Children's Services Appreciation night. She has completed over 240 hours of community service.



# Jr. High Students Gain Technology Experience

## *Vermilion Advantage Sponsors Pilot Program for Jamaica*

Published in The Sidell Reporter | December 1, 2011 | Reprinted with Permission



Jamaica Jr. High seventh graders were part of a pilot program this fall made possible through Vermilion Advantage. Seventh grade students had a computer-based science course that is part of a national program – Project Lead the Way: Gateway to Technology. The class focus was on modeling and design.

Vermilion Advantage is provided a mobile computer lab for the students to use in completing the first quarter class. The lab is funded through the support of Vermilion County businesses.

Next year, the program will continue with the seventh grade unit and the unit, Robotics, will be added for the eighth grade students.

The students wrote essays about their experience with the course.

### **By Rylan Tate**

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). You learn a lot about STEM and other things that involve that. Like their wants and needs. There are three kinds of wants and needs. There are physical, biological, and psychological.

We did many activities like, measuring things using a dial caliper, (the skill I gained from that was learning how to measure) we watched a video called the Design Squad, (I found that working together gets work done faster) we also build furniture for a Cabbage Patch Kid, (I learned that criteria and constraints control what you can and can't do). We made skimmers, which are little things that glide across the floors, (I found that if your measurements aren't correct, your object might not be what you want it to be). After we did that we started to work with Autodesk Inventor (I learned a lot about constructing).

The best part about PLTW for me was working with the computers. It was really fun working with Autodesk Inventor and making the pegboard. I liked it a lot and there wasn't very much homework either.

I would do it again if I could. I thought it was fun. Making and animating the peg board was fun too. When you put the speed on one made it extra cool.

### **By Aleah Carder**

Project lead the way was an awesome experience! A lady named Mrs. Clow came to be our instructor. She introduced us to engineering. PLTW is for kids to see what kind of jobs are out there that have to do with engineering. We learned the definition of STEM - Science, which is the study of our natural world, Technology, which had to do with our wants and needs, Engineering, which solves our practical problems, and Math, using numbers. I had no clue what all these engineers could do until Mrs. Clow came to our school.

We did tons of activities! When Mrs. Clow first got here, we made a name tag and put our favorite subjects and what we like to do so she could learn our names easy and learn more about us. Then we started taking notes. Then we finally started sketching. I was

terrible at it, but then we kept practicing and I got much better.

She told us about all kinds of different engineers and she had us pick one that we thought sounded interesting and we made a poster about that engineer. I chose an ocean engineer. I learned that they get to make and test the things that they make!

One day we came in and we watched a video called Design Squad. It was cool. They had to build something for a local pool and we had to watch closely to see what the criteria and constrains were. Once we had practiced designing and sketching, she put our skills to the test. We had to design sketch and build an item of furniture for a Cabbage Patch Kid. We were assigned our groups and we got to work. In my group I had Gracey and Abi. We made an awesome rocking chair! That definitely improved my talents of building.

We then learned about how important measurements can be! We built a skimmer. I was very careful with the measurements because they had to be perfect! Then we went to the hallway and skimmed them down the hallway. We had two guest speakers, that were engineers, that came to talk to us about their jobs. The man was an airplane and it was so cool!

After that Mrs. Clow gave us some graph paper and we made 3D sketches. We made cubes. It popped right of the paper! We finally got the computers. Mrs. Clow taught us how to make the cube that we had sketched. Then we started working on something challenging, the peg board. First you had to make the round peg, then the square peg, then the peg board, and finally you had to make the mallet. And again, the measurements HAD to be right!

I think the best part about PLTW was getting to build the rocking chair. We had so much fun! It rocked and everything. The baby didn't even fall out!

The hardest part about PLTW was building the peg board. My measurements were usually right, but sometimes they were wrong and I had to start all over again! When we were done with out peg board, we had to make a mallet and some didn't work, but I was so happy that mine worked!

I would love to do PLTW again! It was so much fun! I miss Mrs. Clow already. We learned so much this quarter and we could learn even more next year. PLTW has definitely opened my eyes to different jobs and lots of opportunities!

**By Jacob Lewis**

Do you know what PLTW is? PLTW is a program that teaches students about engineering. It covers science, technology, engineering, and mathematics or STEM for short. It took only one quarter of school!

We made furniture for Cabbage Patch Kids, made skimmers, used laptops, used logos, also a caliper. We also watched a Design Squad video. The furniture helped my skills on measuring and working together. The skimmer and laptops helped my waiting stills. An engineer that builds model planes even came to talk to us. Also another engineer that builds electric signs came to talk to us too.

My favorite part of the program was the skimmer. This is because it shows you how to make an ordinary piece of paper into something cool. Also the skimmers go far. It was fun.

The hardest part of the program for me was the laptops. I kept falling behind, but that is me though. But it was fun.

I would like to do that program again. I learned a lot of new stuff. The program was mind blowing. If I thought that just one quarter was fun, just think how amazing a semester of PLTW would be!

In summary, if you get a chance to be in a PLTW program...take it!

**By Haven Richards**

Project Lead the Way is a quarter-long class. It teaches you all kinds of neat stuff about engineering. It teaches you how important engineers are in every day life. You get to make sketches, do projects,

research, watch movies, make blueprints, and other fun stuff. You learn a lot. You learn how to use unique tools like a dial caliper. For some projects you work with a partner, others you get assigned groups, or you just work by yourself. You do things in all kinds of ways. You can draw by hand or use an application on the laptop called Inventor. The course has a lot of information to gather from it.

We did all kinds of activities in PLTW. We built models with Lego blocks, built furniture for Cabbage Patch dolls (that actually had to hold and support the doll). We made paper skimmers that we got to slide down the hallway and then make any verifications to it after the first few test runs. We researched different items with a partner, wrote an essay, then presented it to the class (for example: iPod Touch). We researched different types of engineering and made posters about them to show other people how many different types of engineers there are and how cool their jobs are (for example; biomedical engineering). When we got the

laptops, we made pegboards on Inventor.

The best part about PLTW for me was making the 2D and 3D sketches on our graph paper. I think I was better at drawing than I am with using tools and working laptops.

The hardest part about PLTW for me was the sketches. This is because you're told to stay together and work with the rest of the class. But whenever you see the shape pop out at you it's kind of hard not to work ahead.

I think it would be awesome if we could participate in PLTW again. It's such a great program. You can learn so much from it. I would recommend it to every seventh grader.

**By Cody Bainbridge**

Project Lead the Way is a great way to learn new things. It is a really fun and educational experience. PLTW is based mainly on STEM - science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



**Cody Bainbridge, right, shows Troy Chew his computer model while Rylan Tate works on his design model, as well.**



**Haven Richards looks over the sketch of her model.**

**Leah Carder shows the design brief of the baby chair she made.**

## VERMILION ADVANTAGE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN NOVEMBER 2011!

### DOUGLAS DISCOVERY GARDEN, INC.

**Contact:** Lynn Wolgamot  
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**Product/Service:** The mission of the Douglas Discovery Garden is to beautify the historic Douglas Park area, promote educational and recreational opportunities in addition to healthy lifestyles and ecological awareness for all ages and groups, to install civic pride and to celebrate Vermilion County heritage.

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

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### DANVILLE DRAGONS

**Contact:** Michael Hawkins  
1628 Valley Rd.  
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**Product/Service:** Professional indoor football team that offers a family friendly atmosphere and reasonably priced tickets. Professional staff and players will be highly involved in community service and focus on giving back to the community in every way possible. The Danville Dragons will be playing seven home games at the David S. Palmer Arena in 2012.

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# Technology Update from AT&T

*By Paul La Schiazza, President*

For businesses leaders, smartphones and tablets are essential tools for productivity and efficiency.

They help businesses communicate with customers and employees, track inventory, manage fleet operations, process payments and so much more.

At AT&T, we are working to bring a stronger, faster AT&T network with fewer dropped calls and faster data speeds for our customers. We can do this by combining with T-Mobile USA and adding wireless spectrum – or more lanes on the data highway in the sky.

Our plan has been to build our next generation fastest broadband network – called 4G LTE -- to cover 80 percent of Illinois. But with T-Mobile, we will be able to cover more than 97 percent of the state. That’s an additional 2 million people in

Illinois who will gain access to this superfast mobile broadband network.

It’s good news for jobs. As part of the combination, AT&T has committed to bringing 5,000 jobs currently outsourced offshore back to the U.S. Further, the additional \$8 billion in infrastructure investment AT&T will make as a result of combining with T-Mobile will create even more U.S. jobs – an estimated 55,000 to 96,000 jobs nationwide, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

The regulatory review process to assess the benefits of this transaction is ongoing. We are confident that we’ll reach a successful approval of the transaction and look forward to delivering these consumer benefits, new investment and job growth to build the infrastructure that can grow the economy for years to come.

# UIUC Extension at Plaza 31

On December 1, 2011, Heartland Properties announced that the University of Illinois Extension office in Vermilion County leased 2,600 square feet of redeveloped offices in Plaza 31 at 3164 N Vermilion Danville, IL across from the Village Mall. The new University of Illinois Extension office replaces the existing facility in Oakwood, Illinois and occupies the space recently vacated by Hope Counseling.

Heartland Properties relied on designs from Edwards Architects in Bloomington with TCT General Contractors from Urbana as principle contractor. A complete renovation was finished in less than a month including new HVAC systems and commercial windows.

Richard Elkin, President of Heartland Properties said, “We are pleased to welcome the University of

Illinois and we are proud that our redevelopment team from Edwards Architects and TCT could complete such a great renovation on short notice.”

Heartland Properties acquired Plaza 31 in 2010 after the property fell into foreclosure and recently completed renovation of the exterior elevations of Plaza 31’s North building. The company plans an expansion in 2012 that will give the Plaza 31 over 20,000 square feet of fully accessible suites across two levels. The company plans to offer turn-key new offices at Plaza 31 in blocks ranging from 800 to 2,500 square feet.

Heartland Properties has owned and managed residential, commercial and agriculture properties concentrated in Danville since 1980. Its principles have strong ties to Central Illinois.

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M.W. (Butch) Salzman  
Project Manager  
TCT General Contractors  
(217) 365-9198

# Good Manners May Give You the Edge Over Another Candidate

By Kim Kuchenbrod

Which fork do I begin with first? Where do I place my napkin? What do I talk about? These are a few questions students were asking as they prepared for a business interview lunch. Interviews are often stressful. Interviewing can be even more stressful when you are expected to eat and talk at the same time. Danville High School students currently enrolled in the Global Careers and Professions class recently discovered one of the reasons employers take job candidates out to lunch or dinner is to evaluate their social skills and to see if they can handle themselves gracefully under pressure. Dining with a prospective employee allows employers to review your communication and interpersonal skills, as well as your table manners, in a more relaxed environment. Table manners do matter.

Students prepared a formal luncheon with school administrators and faculty to practice

their newly developed skills in formal etiquette dining. Students displayed proper dinner setting arrangements, serving techniques, table manners, and proper napkin usage. Students also demonstrated host and hostess manners such as looking for clues when to begin eating and clues to give when they are finished with the meal.

Table manners play an important part in making a favorable impression, especially with a potential employer. Both students and administration and faculty members had an opportunity to perform informal interviews with each other. It was an opportunity for the students to discuss their own personal career interests and to share their educational ideas and suggestions while the administration got to know the students better and were able to seek their input to educational issues currently being considered. All participants were able to talk about a variety of topics,



being sensitive to others, having an assortment of interests, and carefully listening to what others were saying and were able to gather insightful information for various perspectives.

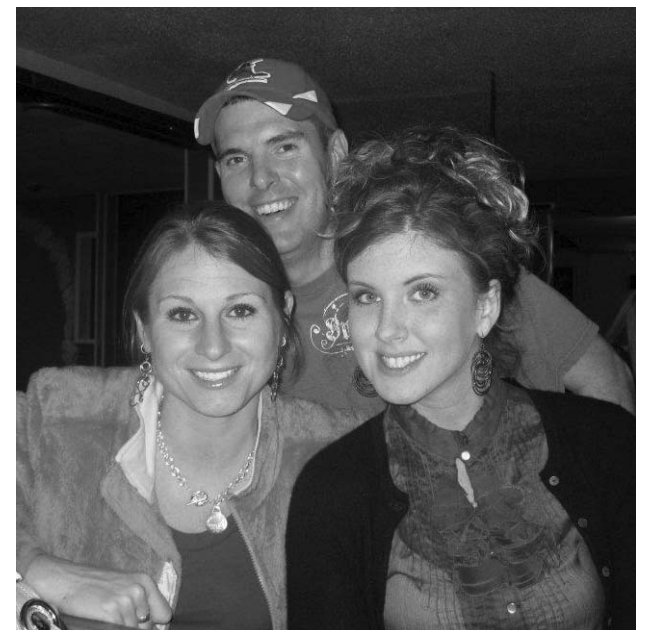
The etiquette dining experience provided a lesson for all .... Table manners play an important part in making a favorable impression on both a personal and professional level. Good manners may give you the edge over another candidate; so, take some time to brush up your dining etiquette skills.

## Young Professionals Network Visits Danville Bar and Grill

by Alicia Pettigrew

On November 8, the Young Professionals Network held a social mixer and Danville Bar and Grill (1827 E. Main Street, Danville). Owner Ami Patel hosted YPN and offered a variety of drink specials and \$1 tacos. We had more than 20 young people show up during the evening and we all had a great time. If you are interested in learning more about Danville Bar and Grill, you can find them on Facebook or visit their website at [www.danvillebarandgrill.com](http://www.danvillebarandgrill.com).

If you are a young professional, age 21-39, and you would like to find out more about the Young Professionals Network (YPN), please contact Alicia Pettigrew at [apettigrew@vermilionadvantage.com](mailto:apettigrew@vermilionadvantage.com), at 217-442-6201, or go to [www.vermilionadvantage.com](http://www.vermilionadvantage.com) and click on "Initiatives," then "Young Professionals Network."



Megan Drake, Todd Walblay and Katie McFetridge

# Leadership Tomorrow History Day - November 18, 2011



By Mabelle Dykes

History Day for Leadership Tomorrow's Class 24 was held on Friday, November 18. This was the 2nd program day of the 9-month program; the Retreat was held in September and Ag/Conservation/Natural Resources Day in October.

The morning started out with an excellent training session, "Successful Coaching," by Debra Charveron, LCPC NCC at Carle Resolutions, not as part of History Day, but as part of the "leadership training" we intermix within our themed community days.

Following our training, the class was given a guided tour of the Walldogs Murals in downtown Danville by Vermilion Advantage's Alicia

Pettigrew, who was very involved in the Walldogs events. The Walldogs are a group of over 160 artists who came to Danville from all over the world and across the United States in August 2010 and August 2011, and painted large murals on buildings in the downtown area. Alicia gives guided Walldogs tours for the community, and we appreciate her doing the same for the Leadership Tomorrow class.

During lunch in the Vermilion Advantage conference room, the class began sharing ideas in order to choose a class project.

After lunch, the group met John Dreher for a very interesting tour of the Fischer Theater. Most of the class had not been in the theater, and

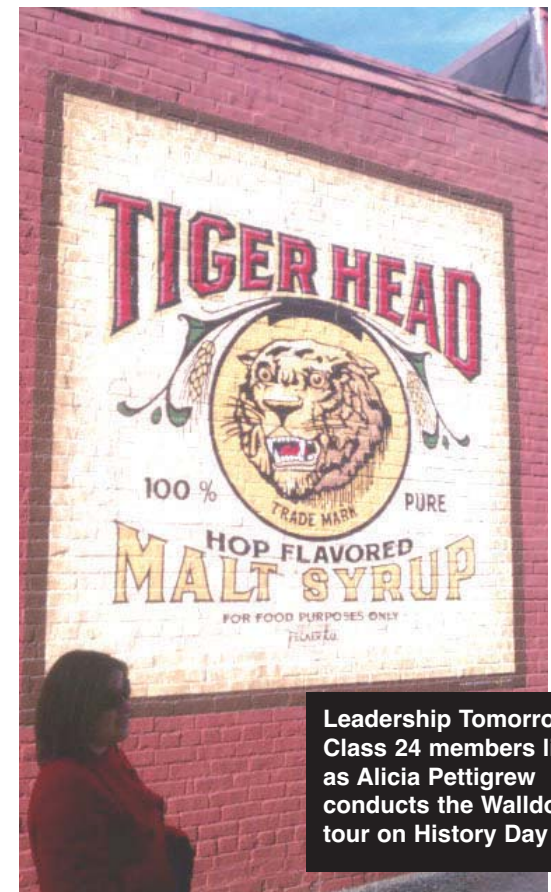
they were awed by the potential for returning it to its former beauty. We also visited the gift shop at the Fischer and were impressed with its collection and would encourage you to stop and shop there for unique items!

Finally, Sue Richter led us on a tour of the Vermilion County Museum and the Fithian Home, sharing information about our rich past. Sue then led us on a tour at Springhill Cemetery, another great source chronicling our history.

Special thanks go to our presenters and hosts for the day – Debra Charveron from Carle Resolutions, Alicia Pettigrew, John Dreher, and Sue Richter.

*"Leadership Tomorrow gave me an opportunity to see parts of the area that I had never seen even after living here for almost 32 years. There are so many hidden treasures in this town; the beautiful scenery when floating around the lake, the wetlands, the beautiful architecture, and all of the amazing history. I wouldn't have continued to take advantage of all of this if it weren't for the class. Leadership Tomorrow gave me the opportunity to learn about different industries around town; the challenges that they go through as well as the successes that they have had over the years in our very own town. I would have never known about all of the hard work that goes on in all different industries around town if it weren't for the class. Leadership Tomorrow gave me the opportunity to volunteer: Big Brothers Big Sisters, DACC tournament, Scholastic Bowl, and CRIS, to mention a few places. The most beneficial experience I had was volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters; being able to spend time and get to know a little girl here in our District, someone who didn't have much, where my hour every week meant so much. The struggles that people, our children, go through are just unbearable to even think about...and they live them. Volunteering at DACC also gave me the opportunity to see how our community comes together when needed, all of the volunteers' dedication and long hours were just amazing, as well as all of the donations from area businesses. Leadership Tomorrow gave me the opportunity to learn about my community and be a part of my community. It is a great program that I would recommend to anyone."*

Leadership Tomorrow Class 23 Member, Heather McKiernan,  
Danville School District #118:



Leadership Tomorrow Class 24 members listen as Alicia Pettigrew conducts the Walldogs tour on History Day



# **STOP!!!**

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