

For Immediate Release:

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Taylorville, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community volunteers who personally exhibit outstanding volunteerism and promote the improvement of our communities.

Geri Niemann of Taylorville has been chosen as our current Volunteer of the Quarter for her work with the Taylorville Community Garden. The Taylorville Community Garden is in its' third year, having produced 3,000 pounds of produce in the first two years. The 2015 crop of strawberries totaled over 200 pounds. The Success of Taylorville Community Garden is the result of a number of dedicated workers who have formed the core group of committed volunteers. Volunteers may share in the produce and they have donated to the Taylorville Food Pantry, CCMH, CEFS, Senior Citizen Center, Kemmerer Village and other local agencies.

Geri was born and raised in the western suburbs of Chicago. She moved to Taylorville in 2007 to spend time with her grandchildren. She began gardening at age 8. Her grandparents and great grandparents were farmers in the Shelbyville area. Geri became a Master Gardener with the U of I Extension in 2009 and U of I Extension Master Naturalist in 2012.

In honor of Geri's volunteer services, Peoples Bank & Trust made a donation to the Taylorville Community Garden on Geri's behalf. Her name has been placed on a plaque displayed in the bank's lobby.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Charleston, Tower Hill, Springfield, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Waverly and White Hall. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.