

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.

Ed Downs of Taylorville has been chosen for our Volunteer of the Quarter for his dedicated work with Downtown Taylorville and the Taylorville Farmers Market. Downtown Taylorville was formerly Taylorville Main Street. The Taylorville Farmers Market is one of the organization's most favored contributions to Taylorville and our Taylorville neighbors. Downs has been the Market Manager for the last 10 years, since the Market Day change in 2005 to Saturday morning, from the prior Thursday afternoon Market Day. Downs says it has been an honor and pleasure to serve in this position.

Downtown Taylorville has thankfully seen continued popularity, with ever-growing vendor participation and shopper attendance at our Saturday morning farmers market. The farmers market is a most worthy asset to our community said Downs, yielding fresh vegetable and seasonal fruit to our residents while supporting the well being of our local growers. Additionally, the retail merchants around our beautiful, historic square share in the opportunity for the added visitors to our central business district. The farmers market is great for the fresh and wonderful health benefits to our residents, supportive to the businesses in our central shopping district, and also rewarding to our local growers, bakers, and craft artisans each of whom are good neighbors to all who comprise our local community.

Altogether said Downs, we, being the board and members of Downtown Taylorville are most appreciative for the Peoples Bank decision to offer this recognition for the several contributions that Downtown Taylorville so gladly provides to our Christian County community.

In honor of Ed's volunteer services, Peoples Bank & Trust made a donation to Downtown Taylorville on Ed's behalf. His 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.