

For Immediate Release:

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Pana, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Pana Pride has been chosen as our current Volunteers of the Quarter for their continued efforts to improve and beautify the City of Pana.

The Pana Pride organization first became active in 2014 with a small group of around 15 who had a desire to increase the citizens pride in Pana and to improve our city. Their desire was to make Pana a better place to live and work, to attract business and new residents and to give the citizens of Pana something to be proud of. After participating in the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs MAPPING program, the organization developed four committees which focused on their priority goals: Beautification, Retail and Dining, Manufacturing and Industry and Events, Strategies, Projects and Action. Some of their recent projects include Dumpster Days, repainting the Handicapped Parking spaces downtown, replacing the railing and repainting the wall at the intersection of Cedar and Hickory along Rt. 16, cleaning and painting the City of Pana signs on Rt. 51 south and Rt. 29, assisting the Pana Fair Board with the Christmas lights at the fairgrounds, decorating downtown Pana for the holidays and replacing a large portion of the Christmas lights downtown. One of their main projects has been planting the trees in downtown Pana. The group also selects a "Yard of the Month". Each month a focus street is announced and the homeowners and renters along that street have a month to maintain or make improvements to their yards before the Yard of the Month is chosen. The group is exploring the possible acquisition and restoration of the old brick railroad freight house adjacent to Walmart. The freight house dates back to the 1800's and was used by the Illinois Central and New York Central lines. Their goal is to restore the building for use as a tourism center or railroad museum.

Pana Pride meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. At the January meeting, they will be setting goals for 2018. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

Accepting the award for Pana Pride are: Tom Dean, President; Jack Nollman, VP; Paula Lebon, Treasurer, Bob Holthaus, Chairman of the Industrial Committee and Board member; A.J. Wiss, Chairman of the Beautification Committee and Board member and Doris Nollman, member. Secretary, Dara Thompson was absent from the presentation.

In honor of their volunteer services, Peoples Bank will make a donation to Pana Pride and their name will be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, 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.