

For Immediate Release:

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Altamont, 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.

Carol Laue has been chosen as our current Volunteer of the Quarter. Carol noted that being chosen as Volunteer of the Quarter was quite a surprise. She enjoys volunteering and finds it very rewarding and something she loves. Growing up, she watched her parents be volunteers and when raising her own children, tried to set this example as well.

Carol is currently President of the Altamont Garden Club. She and the members of the club make Altamont Beautiful! They beautify the parks with mulching and weeding and line the downtown streets with beautiful hanging baskets that are cared for twice a day. This takes dedication and team work. It is truly a labor of love. The Garden Club has a Fall Festival in September and added the Hob Nob Market this year. The funds made from these events help fund their projects.

Carol also serves her church as a trustee member, on the worship committee and family ministries. She takes pride in decorating the church for the holidays and the different seasons. She especially enjoys changing the altar flowers and decorating the sanctuary.

Carol has been the Effingham County Fair Little Miss Pageant Director for over 20 years. This has become a great passion of hers and she has made many friendships along the way. She works with over 25 little girls, 2 ushers and their parents. She has excellent helpers that make it all possible and she looks forward to the pageant every year. She said that the fair is something her family grew up with and she spends several hours helping to make it a fun and memorable experience.

Carol lives on her family farm northeast of Altamont with her husband of 36 years, Dale. They have two married children: son Brandon and his wife, Molly and grandson Wyatt and daughter, Brittney and husband, Brady, who are expecting a child in November.

When asked to talk about her volunteer service to the community, Carol said she looks around and sees many other volunteers that make our community great! Volunteering is important to Carol. She said, "It's what makes a small community thrive and teaches our young people to be responsible adults by learning from example. I truly hope I may continue to volunteer for a long time and give back to the community that she calls home and is proud of!"

In honor of Carol's services to the community, Peoples Bank has made a donation to Altamont Garden Club and her 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.