

Collins State Bank Celebrating 105 Years

By David Norby, The Brillion News, August 15, 2019

A party to celebrate Collins State Bank's 105-year history will happen at the Brillion location next Friday.

Throughout the month of August, Collins State Bank is hosting celebrations at each of their locations in the area – Collins, Kiel, Random Lake, and Brillion

Brillion's is Aug. 23 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Amber Butturini, who manages the Brillion location, says that the nearly three years in Brillion have been a success.

"It's been good. Fortunately we had some of those people from Collins come over and new people. I think it's convenient for people, even from Reedsville, Hilbert area," Butturini said.

President Terry Van Engen says the company has found success adding local businesses as clients at the locations they've recently opened and give away scripts from churches.

Van Engen says they don't want to decrease hours but rather have longer hours on Friday nights and Saturday mornings.

"We want to serve those customers. People are busy and sometimes they just can't get into the bank," Van Engen said.

Butturini had been working at the Collins office location.

"We thought it would be a perfect transition to let her be the manager of her own office," Van Engen said.

In total the company has around 30 employees. That makes it easier to create a family atmosphere at each location, Van Engen says.

"They all know the people that they are servicing in their area," Van Engen said.

Van Engen says the company has six or seven shareholders who want to remain the community bank. Local community banker Jeff Mueller purchased the bank in 2008. The previous owners bought back into the company.

"Same hometown feel," Van Engen said.

The Collins location opened in 1914. The Random Lake branch opened in 2009, the Kiel location opened in 2013, and Brillion was the most recent opening in 2016.

The first nearly 100 years didn't have that many company presidents and had multiple employees reach the 40-year milestone with the company.

Van Engen says that the banking industry is doing well across the country and that they have explored the areas of the state for other locations, but that they didn't work out.

A fifth location will open when they find the correct fit, Van Engen said. The federal level impacts a lot of the banking industry regardless of size, he adds.

"Amber is involved with this (work) too; we're really governed by anti-money laundering and all those types of things stemming all the way back to 9/11 and laundering money and terrorists spreading money into the banking system, so we're really on guard for all of that. We think we're overburdened. Is that stuff really going to happen here in Brillion, out there in Kiel," Van Engen said.

Locally, Van Engen says they feel Collins State Bank offers everything the big banks do in terms of technology and safety.

"We've kept up with that to make sure that we're supporting what businesses need," Butturini said.