

New Trustee appointed to Cedarhurst's Mitchell Foundation Board

MT. VERNON, IL July 30, 2026 - Cedarhurst Center for the Arts recently announced the appointment of Mt. Vernon businessman Tony Wielt to the Board of Trustees. Wielt is the owner of a local State Farm Insurance agency and has worked in the insurance and financial services industry since 1998, including the past 24 years with State Farm. He is a native of Mt. Vernon and a graduate of Mt. Vernon Township High School. He attended Rend Lake College before earning a bachelor's degree in Administrative Management from Eastern Illinois University.

Wielt has built a reputation as a successful business leader and a steward of community growth and sustainability. He serves as a Trustee for Rend Lake College and Chairman of the Rend Lake College Foundation. He serves on the SSM Health Good Samaritan Foundation Board, has been an active leader within the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, and has led the finance team at Central Christian Church for more than a decade.

"Cedarhurst is without a doubt a great asset to our region, and to be serving in this position alongside these people, looking out for the well-being of this institution, is truly an honor," said Wielt, who has supported the museum through volunteer service, community partnerships, and philanthropy for many years.

Wielt is joining the seven-member Board of Trustees who work with Cedarhurst's Executive Director to set and approve policy, oversee the museum's well-being, and ensure adherence to the Strategic Plan. The new appointment fills a vacancy open since the resignation of trustee Robert Stewart earlier this year.

"When appointing a trustee to the Board, we take our time to find a person whose expertise and knowledge coincide with our mission," stated Board Chairman Hunt Bonan. Tony's first hand knowledge of Cedarhurst, and his community involvement makes him a great asset for Mt. Vernon as well as an excellent resource for our Board of Trustees."

Tony and his wife, Julie, live near Rend Lake and have two children Kaylee and Lucas, and one granddaughter, Marlee Lou.

Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, founded by John and Eleanor Mitchell, opened in 1973 in Mt. Vernon, IL. The nonprofit celebrates the arts year-round with exciting visual/performing arts, five art galleries, an outdoor sculpture park, classes, music, and other special programming. It serves the 40 most southern counties in Illinois through its mission to generate enthusiastic participation and support for the arts, and provide opportunities for enjoyment, increased awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the arts.

