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International over the course of 25 years as a customer. After he retired from carpentry, PRP offered him a wine lover's dream job – selling wine. According to their website, PRP markets wine through in-home tastings and special events such as hotel wine tastings and exhibitions. Their wine consultants educate customers on fine wines and how to pair them with delicious cuisine.

"I was a carpenter, what did I know about selling wine or anything else?" said Mauch.

However, after some training in the intricacies of the wine industry, Mauch went on his first sales call and sold about \$2,000 worth of wine.

"I actually knew more than I thought I did," said Mauch.

Mauch became the wine sales representative for PRP in northern Indiana for 10 years. He says if the company were licensed for Tennessee he would still be working for them.

The Mauches moved to Fair-

about it, the more he was driven to take the initiative.

"The more I thought about it, there's a need for what I do," said Mauch. "So, I decided if I was going to [start a wine group], I'm going to do it my way, the way I know how, the way I was trained, the way I did it for 10 years back in Indiana."

In February 2013, Mauch put an ad in the "Glade Sun" to find like-minded people interested in joining his Saturday Brown Bag Wine Appreciation Club (Brown Bag for short). Ten people answered. After a couple of months, enough interest had been generated to start a Sunday club.

"Those people couldn't keep their mouths shut either, so a couple of months later I started the Friday Brown Bag Club," Mauch laughed.

The group has since grown to about 80 budding oenophiles.

"I think it's because what I do is what they want to do. They want to learn about wine.

for the 125 wine judging seats at the two-day event. More than 700 wines from 10 states and seven countries were entered. In this blind wine tasting format, the only information given to the judges was the varietal and price range of the wines. Mauch judged 90 wines for this competition.

Mauch was asked to come back to judge the Lodi Festival again this year, but he had the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall with the Cumberland County Community Chorus. He chose the latter. A tenor, Mauch has sang with dozens of groups, including the Purdue Mens' Glee Club, and for many people, including Pope John Paul II. Singing at Carnegie Hall was another check off his bucket list.

Mauch's wine expertise is in high demand in Fairfield Glade. His monthly gatherings currently have a waiting list. Each of the three Brown Bag groups have their own schedule of vari-

almost a sit-down meal," said Mauch. "They've gotten to be so good at it, I've started a cookbook with their recipes."

The recipes in the cookbook are arranged as paired with their complementary wine variety.

"There is no membership fee," said Mauch. "Just bring your bottle of wine and something to go with it."

Mauch is on a mission to educate his fellow residents. In October, he began writing a column for the "Glade Sun" titled "Splendor in the Glass" featuring distinguishing characteristics of wines.

"With proper training, proper education, proper equipment and tools, you can do anything," said Mauch.

Stayed tuned for a free education on one of the finer things in life.

■ Clinton Gill may be reached at cgill@crossville-chronicle.com.

Volunteering — a way of retirement in this town

Not just the golf capital of Tennessee, Crossville offers a multitude of volunteer opportunities for retirees of all backgrounds. Identified as one of the favorite retirement communities in the state of Tennessee, Crossville has attracted thousands of interesting and dedicated volunteers to this small

community.

Crossville welcomes retirees who want to make a difference, pursue a passion, meet new people or just have a great time. From outdoors to indoors, there are opportunities for those who want to give one hour or 40 hours a week.

Make a Difference — according to research,

older adults who volunteer have lower mortality rates than those who don't. Serving others and knowing you have made a worthwhile contribution leads to a fuller life and a general feeling of wellbeing.

Pursue a Passion — retirees who move to this area often hit the ground with specific ideas of their

"encore" career. Avid enthusiasts for all sorts of activities, events and ideas find each other and create the magic of their imaginations and talents. If the group doesn't exist, wait a few minutes and one of the amazing retirees will establish a group for your passion.

Non-profit organiza-

tions, civic groups, etc. seeking volunteers can contact Billy Loggins, Crossville marketing and public relations, with contact information for their organization by email at billy.loggins@crossvilletn.gov or by mail to City of Crossville, Attn: Billy Loggins, 392 N. Main St., Crossville, TN 38555.

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