



# MAPPING

## the Future of Your Community

[www.IIRA.org](http://www.IIRA.org)

### Highlights

April, May, June 2017

**MAPPING communities have had a productive season. Here are some highlights:**

(Please note this is not a comprehensive list)

#### Argenta:

- Filed articles of incorporation for Argenta in Motion.
- Hosted an Art Stroll with the artwork of local school children that attracted 127 participants.

#### Assumption:

- Established a pollinator garden in an empty lot.
- Installed agriculture themed garbage cans and attached signs with community stories.
- Hosted an AmeriCorps VISTA summer associate to run a summer recreation program for local kids.
- Launched a shop local campaign.
- Received a donation of hand crafted brackets and hanging baskets for downtown.

#### Carthage:

- The World of Wonders (WOW) Park was rebuilt after 4 years of fundraising to raise \$120,000. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on June 18th attracted 500 participants.
- Hancock County CEO program held their annual trade show at Lake Hill Winery on May 2nd.

#### Durand:

- Organized a Spring Fling event in May with inflatables, crafts, concessions and speakers.
- Hosted a movie in the park with the Disney movie "Moana."
- Held their annual spring plant sale.

#### Elizabeth:

- Organized the "Spring In My Step" fun run and softball tournament.
- Hosted a business expo with 44 area businesses participating.
- Organized a "Tour of Possibilities" to highlight available properties.

#### Findlay:

- Participated in Main Street Makeover and planted flower pots with solar lights, painted downtown buildings, and cleaned windows and sidewalks.
- Partnered with Windsor on the annual "FLIP 'N WHAT" Golf Outing.



*Summer Associate AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, Taylor Vidmar, getting sworn in*



*A Hancock County CEO student's booth at the end of the year trade show*



*Booth promoting Elizabeth tourism at the Elizabeth Business Fair*



*Volunteers getting signatures in support of CTI providing high speed internet to Hillsboro*

### **Girard:**

- Girard held a Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser to raise money for the Macoupin Valley Trail. The event raised approximately \$3,000.
- Worked with the City on a campaign to collect plastic caps to be recycled as a picnic table thru Green Tree Plastics for the city park.

### **Hillsboro:**

- Hillsboro is researching available property for development. They hired an engineering firm to help develop two locations, one for a subdivision and one for a senior living facility.
- Worked closely with CTI to expand fiber connectivity in Hillsboro, including getting signatures of residents in support of the CTI expansion.
- Organized the 2017 Summer Concert Series.

### **LaHarpe:**

- Launched the 2017 Farmers Market on May 30th which will continue all summer on Tuesdays.
- Collaborated with the Park District and LaHarpe Caring Citizens on an Easter Egg Hunt in April.

### **Lanark:**

- Launched Farmers Market and added “Junk in the Trunk” twice a month, where residents sell their garage sale type items out of their trunks during the Farmers Market.
- Partnered with the Chamber of Commerce on a Kiosk with tourism materials.

### **McLean:**

- McLean raised \$650 in donations for the Adopt-a-Pot program and used the funds to plant 16 large planters downtown.

### **Neoga:**

- Neoga held a breakfast in conjunction with Neoga Days on June 17th. The event raised \$390 with 12 volunteers and approximately 150 participants present.

### **Oregon:**

- Partnered with the Oregon Chamber of Commerce on the first “Rockin’ River Fest” on June 7th. The event included a triathlon, a tug of war over the Rock River, a bags competition, a business showcase, two stages featuring local and regional musical performers/bands and more. The group raised approximately \$20,000 to put on the event and approximately 1,000 people attended.
- Bike planters were placed around town. Nine bikes were adopted for \$50 each by community organizations and installed above planters. Signs were added to recognize the donors.
- Volunteers started painting 20 to 30 bikes that will be adopted for \$10 each and placed around town. A designated mystery bike will be moved from place to place and there will be a contest to find the mystery bike.

### **Pana:**

- Volunteers added trees in the sidewalks downtown to improve the curb appeal.
- Organized a work day and ribbon cutting for the opening day at the Lincoln Prairie Bike Trail.



*CORE flower pots complete with a sponsor acknowledgment that were placed downtown*



*A colorful bike adds to the curb appeal in Oregon*



*Pana Pride added trees to the downtown street-scape*

## Rushville:

- Work continues to bring a YMCA satellite location to Rushville. The group has toured possible locations and visited a similar facility in Barry, IL.
- Coordinated a city wide yard sale on June 9th and 10th.

## Savanna:

- Savanna held the 3rd annual plant and bake sale. The event raised \$1,438 and approximately 200 people attended.
- Co-sponsored the annual adopt-a-pot program with the Savana Service Club.
- Began another year of First Friday events to promote the downtown shopping district.

## Shelby County Partners:

- Coordinated a county wide “Main Street Makeover.” The 5 participating communities held clean up events such as planting flowers and painting storefronts.
- Began hosting an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer to work on county wide poverty alleviation efforts.
- The CEO class is progressing, and the inaugural class of 16 students was announced in May.

## Stewardson:

- Hosted the 7th annual “Hoofin it to the Cow” 5K race.
- Coordinated the annual tour of Little Free Libraries in Stewardson.

## Stockton:

- Hosted workshop on using email and social media to promote a business.
- Organized a super hero-themed fun run.

## Strasburg:

- Strasburg Community Foundation awarded 3 grants in May.
- Strasburg held a quarter auction that raised \$380.98.
- The Strasburg Strawberry Fest and Farmers Market kick off on June 1st. The event raised approximately \$800 and attracted over 200 people.

## Walnut:

- Walnut held a Nerf War a day after the end of school. Twenty volunteers assisted the 75 kids who participated. The event raised \$421.
- Held their MAPPING town meeting with over 200 in attendance.
- Organized the first Cash Mob at Avanti’s and created a video of the event to promote store and future cash mobs.
- Organized an event to welcome two new Little Free Libraries to Walnut.

## Williamsfield:

- Williamsfield planted flowers downtown and arranged for flower maintenance for the summer.
- The community also created a free putt-putt golf course in Doubet Benjamin Park.

## Windsor:

- Windsor worked with Findlay on the annual “FLIP ‘n’ What” golf outing that raised \$697.
- Windsor held their annual plant sale and raised \$724 with the sale.
- Windsor Happenings Around Town (WHAT) hosted a bake sale during the “Spores ‘n More” Mushroom Festival and raised \$157.



*A colorful poster for Savanna's First Friday*



*A family of super heroes ready for the fun run in Stockton*



*Nerf War underway in Walnut*



*New public put put golf course in Williamsfield*

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*It had long since come to my attention that people of  
accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them.  
They went out and happened to things.*

*Leonardo da Vinci*



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