



# MAPPING

## the Future of Your Community

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

### Highlights

#### Winter/Spring 2017

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

(Please note this is not a comprehensive list)

#### Argenta:

- Organizing the 2017 farmer's market
- Planning for the art stroll event in collaboration with local art teachers and the high school art club
- Held first annual Argenta Icefest. The event featured 30 sponsors and 32 craft vendors. The event drew in 1800+ participants and raised \$5,500

#### Assumption:

- Planning for the Spring Pop Up Potluck for May 2017
- Organizing a Shop Local event for late spring, which will run for 6 weeks
- Coordinating a rummage sale fundraiser
- Working on a historic garbage can covers project
- Held "Making Facebook and Blogs Work For You" business seminar, at the public library
- Organized a successful jigsaw puzzle competition, with 12 teams participating
- Reinitiated the Yard of the Month series
- Planning a community clean up day on April 29
- Organized library landscaping project

#### Carthage:

- Hosted a business luncheon with the theme "Hancock County Ignite!" put on by the Hancock County CEO Class, with keynote speaker Bob Schultz, CEO of Schultz Investment Company
- Held a concert by Liverpool Legends, a Beatles Tribute Band, at the Legacy Theater, which drew in large crowds and raised \$5,000!

#### Durand:

- Presented the Downtown Square Project at the WIU QCA reverse funding fair
- Held a meet the candidates event for community members to learn more about candidates running in the spring consolidated election
- Durand Telepharmacy opened March 6th



*One of the many beautiful ice sculptures created by Aaric Kendall for Argenta's Icefest*



*Participants hard at work at Assumption's jigsaw puzzle competition*



*Liverpool Legends performing in Carthage*



*The princesses ready for the ball in Hillsboro*

### **Elizabeth:**

- Coordinating an open house event involving all available businesses titled "The Road to Possibilities," to take place in June 2017. Goal is to attract new businesses to town
- Created the 2nd annual Elizabeth and Hanover Visitors' Guide, which will be fresh off the printer on April 24th!
- Hosted the Business Expo, with over 40 participating businesses, in conjunction with Stockton and Hanover
- Distributed survey to gauge residents' interest in opening a pharmacy. The survey will end on May 15th.

### **Findlay :**

- Held a clean-up event, with Okaw Valley students, placing flower planters, doing sidewalk cleanup, and laying mulch on the community garden and park playground
- Installed new flooring in the community building



*Okaw Valley students lay down mulch on the park playground in Findlay*

### **Girard:**

- Continuing fundraising for the Macoupin Valley Trail, by publishing a cookbook, recycling bottle caps, and offering a "time share" for businesses to use already-constructed benches in front of their buildings

### **Hillsboro:**

- Organized highway clean up along route 127
- Hosted the sold out Princess Ball and Crazy Bowl
- Coordinated a work day at the Sports Complex trail to put up signs and extend the trail



*Lights, benches and greenery have transformed a downtown alleyway in Oregon*

### **Neoga:**

- Held fish fry event, hosted by the Neoga Veterans' Memorial committee. They had 25 volunteers, served 250 people, and raised \$1,000
- Continuing the upkeep of the Veterans' Memorial by adding planters and lamp posts

### **Oregon:**

- Continuing the development of the Alley project
- Working on the Bicycle Man art project with local artist, Jon Barnhart
- Gathering the "Bike Planters" to be put on display May 2017
- Finalizing the planning for Rockin' River Fest - raised \$5,500 to date
- Decorating City Hall building by installing an awning for the entrance and painting the clock pedestal
- Raised \$1,500 to start free family movie nights at the Oregon Coliseum
- Held Chocolate Walk, showcasing local businesses



*Mayor-elect of Pana, Don Kroski, joins in the ribbon cutting for Trails Opening Day*

## **Pana:**

- Collaborated with Taylorville to hold a clean-up day to improve and expand the bike trail that connects the two towns. The trail's opening Day was held on April 8th
- Working on hosting an 18+ dodgeball tournament in conjunction with Baseball Opening Day for little league
- Creating car and business window decals to raise money for Pana Pride

## **Rushville:**

- Received a \$10,000 anonymous donation to help fund the development of a local YMCA branch

## **Savanna:**

- Organizing the 3rd Annual Plant and Bake Sale
- Putting on a Main Street clean up day
- Preparing for the Great River Fest
- Planning a cookout fundraiser for late spring
- Placing the "Welcome to Savanna" planters at the town entrances
- Donated 36 new flags to be flown on Main Street during the Flags for Main Street event
- Held the first "First Friday" of the season, hosted by Main Street in Motion

## **Stockton:**

- Started planning the Ecumenical Student Exchange, with the help of the local Ministerial Association. The goal is to expose students to various religions by visiting different places of worship
- Held Lunch and Learn dinner, which focused on the Tri County Economic Development Association's event "Build It/Grow It"
- Hosted a successful Volunteer Day with 130 students, 10 teachers/administrators, and 20 community members
- Began placing flip boards on restaurant tables around town detailing information about local businesses
- Continued looking into purchasing land and constructing a community center

## **Strasburg:**

- Continuing "The Gym" vouchers project
- Creating the new Strasburg Community Action Network (SCAN) logo
- Held a chilli dinner and quarter auction
- Installed gnome banners on Route 32

## **Windsor:**

- Working on the Community Foundation newsletter
- Held the Community Building Open House and annual Super Bowl Luncheon with over 200 community members participating



*One of the 36 new flags to be placed in downtown Savanna for Flags for Main Street*



*Volunteers help clear brush on Volunteer Day in Stockton*



*SCAN President, Justin Krile, and Strasburg Mayor Mike Antonacci hold up the new gnome banners*



*A packed house for Windsor's Super Bowl Luncheon!*

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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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