MAPPING the Future of Your Community

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Highlights of 2019

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

(Please note this is not a comprehensive list)

Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Argenta, pop. 974 (MAPPING 2016):
- Hosted the 3rd Annual Argenta Ice Fest on February 8th. Approximately 1,500 people attended, and $5,000 was raised. This year’s event included:
  - An evening lighting ceremony to light up the sculptures at night.
  - A Chili Cook Off as part of the festivities.
  - An Ice Breaker Challenge (race) and sled dogs, and a barrel train ride for the kids this year.
  - A vendor fair, beer tent, and wine tasting event to this year’s event.
- Organized a spring and fall cleanup on April 13th and October 12th.
- Hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner on April 26th.
- Partnered with WCIA 3 TV to host the ‘Our Town Argenta’ carnival on June 7th with a car show, food, music, vendors, and a petting zoo.
- Co-sponsored/organized the annual Fun and Safety Day with Friends of Argenta on August 10th. The event included rides in a firetruck, a bike safety demo, a cookout, bounce houses, and face painting.
- Coordinated with Friends of Argenta the Annual Veterans Day Parade on November 9th followed by a barbecue lunch that was complimentary for veterans and spouses. The event also featured a quilt raffle with proceeds benefiting the Soldier Freedom Box Project.
- Co-sponsored with Friends of Argenta the Allen Thomas Christmas Auction on November 15th.
- Partnered with Friends of Argenta to organize a visit with Santa on December 14th. The event featured free gifts, pictures with Santa, and cocoa and cookies.

Assumption, pop. 1,168 (MAPPING 2016):
- Installed additional hanging brackets for summer hanging flower baskets.
- Created ‘spring’ signs for the trash receptacles with sign posts and they are constructing benches that will be connected to the cans.
- The library garden was cleaned for spring and A Dr. Seuss pole and directional posts topped with donated bricks painted as books was added to the library garden.
- Created a new easel for the yard of the month program and awarded the Yard of the Month from May to October.
- Held the annual Jigsaw Puzzle Contest on March 3rd. Event raised approximately $200.
- Received an America’s Farmers Grow Communities grant for $2,500 from Monsanto, thanks to Brian Hiler who applied with Assumption Community Pride Association (ACPA) as his community nonprofit.
- Held Cash Mobs at the Knick Knack Shoppe and Allen’s 51 Diner.
- Organized an Adult Easter Egg Hunt held on April 20th.
- Hosted a Starting a Business Workshop on May 7th.
- Hosted an AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate to organize the summer recreation and feeding program.
- Organized members to walk in the Assumption Fest Parade June 29th to collect donations for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
- Organized a Glow Run/Walk on August 2nd to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
- Collaborated with the police department for the 2nd Annual National Night Out Back to School Event on August 9th.
- Hosted a ‘Happy Hour’ social meetup for ACPA members on September 12th at the Knotty Pine.
- A caterpillar viewing area was built in the pollinator garden using a gabion wall filled with old donated bricks. Area was planted with host plants for caterpillars.
- The Agricultural Roots mural was completed by artist Eric Weatherford.
- ACPA encouraged residents to complete a survey to show interest in having CTI lay fiber internet in town.
Organized the Assumption Town Lighting on November 30th for the Christmas season. Festive displays were entered into a contest voted on by the community with over 100 participating.

Held the Finding Frosty contest where every night in the month of December, a snowman was moved to a new yard or business in town for participants to locate. Approximately 40 residents participated.

Hosted the Paint a Gnome of Your Own crafting event on December 3rd.

Created plans and determined estimated costs for a proposed walking trail downtown. Construction is slated to begin spring of 2020.

Began development of a new community website.


The Legacy Theater hosted Justin Shandor: The Ultimate Elvis Concert on Jan 19th.

Hosted the Cat’s Pajamas at the Legacy Theater on Feb 22nd.

Held a Cabin Fever Party at the Legacy Theater featuring Tequila Cowgirl on March 22nd.

Hosted a Community Cleanup Day. Local high school service organizations cleaned up yards, planted flowerpots, cleaned public buildings, assisted small businesses and individuals with inside/outside maintenance of store or home.

A tourism Information Center was established inside Crooked Creek Gallery. Visitors have easy access to brochures, maps and booklets; and signage is visible to travelers on major highway.

Annual Hancock County CEO Trade Show was held. One student was selected to showcase their business at National Trade Show in June 2019.

Hosted an AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate to coordinate a summer meals program that provides a free lunch for children under 18 from June 3rd to August 2nd.

Volunteers wrapped the light poles on the historic Carthage Square with cornstalks and ribbons with bows. Pumpkins, gourds, mums, straw bales, and scarecrows were used to decorate the square.

Hosted the Hancock County CEO Stop & Shop. The event included 20 vendors providing a holiday shopping experience at the U of I Extension Center.

Hosted the 26th Annual Christmas Open House held around the historic Carthage Square and neighboring blocks. The event included a retail open house, Santa and Mrs. Claus, miniature train displays, local students dressed as Christmas characters, carolers, and carriage rides around the square.
Creve Coeur, pop. 5,451 (MAPPING 2016):
- Coordinated a decorating contest for the Village. Winners were invited to ‘light’ the Christmas tree during the annual Christmas tree lighting.
- Organized the annual village Christmas tree lighting on December 6th with caroling and cocoa.

Downs, pop. 1,005 (MAPPING 2018):
- Organized a Community Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt April 13th.
- Promoted Downs Area Garage Sales Days June 7th and 8th.
- Assisted with the 5th Annual Downs Clean Up Day on June 8th.
- Offered Movie in the Park “Herbie Fully Loaded” on June 8th.
- Worked with the Village and Midstate Cruisers to put on the Dooley Park Car Show on July 28th.
- Hosted Breakfast in the Park on September 21st at Dooley Park Pavilion to recruit volunteers for the parks committee.
- Coordinated a raffle as a fundraiser during the 4th of July celebration. Prizes were donated by local businesses and the proceeds will be used to fund the 2020 4th of July celebration.
- Held Halloween on the Square on October 26th. Activities included Trunk or Treat, a children’s parade, and a costume contest. Approximately 275 adults and children attended the event.
- Downs Citizens in Action (CIA) ran a concessions stand during the haunted house. Sixteen volunteers ran the concession stand to raise money for CIA.
- Organized ‘Cookies with Santa’ on December 7th- 8th at Dooley Park. Event included cookies and milk in a decorated pavilion and Christmas carolers. Children that had their picture taken with Santa received a personalized letter from Santa and their picture in the mail.

Durand, pop. 1,443 (MAPPING 2013):
- Partnered with DARTS on the 1st Annual Mardi Gras Community Dinner on March 2nd. Event raised $650 and 117 people attended. Awarded Durand Citizen of the Year.
- Began phase two on the Nature’s Classroom collaborative project with the Durand School District to develop an outdoor classroom where students can learn about environmental science. Memorial trees and benches were sold to memorialize Durand Alumni and community members, and approximately $12,000 was raised for the project.
- Hosted the Durand Village Wide Garage Sales April 25th to 27th.
- Organized the Durand Charm Spring Plant Sale on April 27th.
- Offered ‘Movies Under the Stars’ on June 7th.
- Coordinated the 2nd Annual Consignment Auction on June 30th.
- Hosted a sold out Durand Charm Duck Race on July 4th that raised $1,000. Five hundred tickets were sold and approximately 50 people attended the race.
- Created a booth for Durand Charm during Lake Summerset’s Summerfest on July 20th as a way to promote Durand Charm’s programs and recruit additional volunteers.
- Hosted Movies Under the Stars with the movie, Dumbo on August 2nd on the parking lot of Durand Elementary School with approximately 150 in attendance.
- Organized the “Start with Art” chalk art project on August 18th during an Open House at the school to leave positive and uplifting statements for the students for the coming year. Over 500 messages were chalked.
- Collaborated with the Durand FFA to host the Durand Charm Fall Plant Sale on September 6th, which raised approximately $500 for Durand Charm. Approximately 100 shoppers attended the sale.
- Durand Charm created and distributed a survey asking for community input for future projects and events. A total of 130 residents responded to the survey.
• Held Halloween in the Square on October 26th. Activities included Trunk or Treat, a children’s parade, and a costume contest. Approximately 275 adults and children attended the event.
• Coordinated the 4th annual Candy Cane Lane Craft Show at the school on November 24th with 95 vendors selling various holiday items. Durand Charm raised approximately $6,000 from the event.
• In December, Stinky the Elf (named in honor of Durand’s distinction as the ‘Outhouse Capital of the World’) visited Durand businesses and organizations to promote shopping local. Funny videos and photos of Stinky were highlighted on Facebook and over 2000 people viewed the posts.
• Organized the “Merry and Bright” holiday lighting contest. Over 100 homes and businesses participated in the lighting contest, and four winners were each awarded $40 gift certificates.
• Became a partner with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library which allows Durand Charm to buy books at wholesale to give a free book a month from birth to five for local children. The free book a month program is funded by the State Bank of Davis.

Elizabeth, pop. 761 (MAPPING 2013):
• Created, distributed, and tabulated a daycare survey with over 200 responses. Presented results to the Village Board. The group raised $1,500 for the mailing expenses.
• Currently working on a proposal for two businesses to add daycare services.
• Created and published the 2019 Visitors’ Guide.
• GEAR collaborated with Jug’s Tap to host the 7th Annual Chili Cook Off fundraiser on February 17th which raised $2,000.
• Organized a donkey basketball game on April 12th as a fundraiser.
• Hosted Elizabeth Pharmacy Open House and grand opening on May 30th.
• Organized the Spring in my Step: Mustache Dache 2 mile run/walk May 31st.
• Collaborated with Radio Dubuque and US Army Golden Knights to create the Freedom Festival. The July 1st festival at Terrapin Park included live music, parachute jumps, vendors and more. Approximately 1,700 attended and $10,500 was raised.
• Coordinated the 5th annual Midwest Garlic Fest on August 10th and 11th at the Apple River Fort State Historic Site with approximately 2,300 in attendance.
• Held the annual Christmas in the Village event which included visits with Santa, gingerbread houses and ornament making, stories with Mrs. Claus, a live nativity scene, an 1830s Christmas at the Apple River Fort, and gift and craft fair.
• The Santa Dash (fun run) was held and participants wore Santa or Elf hats to run.
• Held the ‘Village Home Christmas Light Contest’. The winner received $50 in Chamber Bucks.
• Held a Christmas in the Village Shop Local Challenge with a Selfie with Elfie competition and the winner received $200 in gift cards.

Erie, pop. 1,602 (MAPPING 2018):
• Hosted a very successful MAPPING Town Meeting with approximately 200 people in attendance on April 7th.
• Coordinated an All-Town Spring Cleanup on May 11th.
• Organized a raffle fundraiser with winners drawn on May 27th.
• Offered a picnic with free hotdogs and kids games on May 27th after the Memorial Day parade.
• Constructed, planted, and placed ten planters around the downtown triangle.
• Organized a cleanup event at Heritage Park on July 7th.
• Volunteers painted a downtown business near the railroad tracks in late July and early August.
• Promoted the jwolf WILD Photography exhibit at the school on August 7th with approximately 80 in attendance.
• Held a Revitalize Erie meeting and social hour on August 8th.
• Hosted a workday on August 31st to beautify parks and streets in the town. Approximately 20 volunteers participated.
• Organized a cleanup to get the town ready for the Erie Street Fest on September 7th. Volunteers decorated the village triangle, decorated the planters for fall, and weeded and edged flowerbeds.
• Hosted a Street Fest fundraiser on September 14th with a car show, vendor show, kids box car parade, little Mr. and Ms. Pageant, live music, and more. Approximately 250 attended and $3,000 was raised.
• Designed a set of promotional items featuring the Erie zip code for sale during the Streetfest and other events.
• Held a Trivia Night at the Lake Erie Golf Course on November 1st. Ten teams participated and $800 was raised.
• Organized a Hometown Holiday event with photos with Santa, a parade, business open house, and silent auction for gift baskets donated by local businesses. Children who had their picture with Santa also received a personalized letter in the mail with a print of their photo.
• Decorated downtown for the winter holidays. Added decorations to downtown planters and worked with the middle school to decorate the windows downtown.
• Donated $200 to a family whose child was injured in an accident.
• Hosted a meeting with the Sterling YMCA to discuss a proposed program with Erie Schools to meet some of the childcare needs in the community.

Girard, pop. 2,103 (MAPPING 2014):
• Still working on raising funds for the Macoupin Valley Trail. They are looking into having a feasibility study done.
• Macoupin County Health Department has become a sponsoring organization for the Macoupin Valley Trail effort.
• Hosted a ‘Hill to Hill’ biking event with about 15 riders on April 28th.
• Organized the 2nd annual Macoupin Annual Country Tour to benefit the creation of the Macoupin Valley Trail on October 5th.

Findlay, pop. 723 (MAPPING 2011):
• Hosted the 6th Annual F.L.I.P. 4 Findlay 5K run/ walk on July 26th with approximately 60 in attendance and $650 raised.

Hillsboro, pop.6,207 (MAPPING 2015):
• Collaborated with Nokomis Veterinary service to host the Paint Your Pet benefit, which raised $500 for the dog park.
• Held the 3rd Annual Mother-Son Crazy Bowl on February 23rd. The event raised over $300 and 62 people attended.
• Coordinated two Tech Meet and Greet events on March 12th and October 1st. Approximately 25 tech enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, and business owners attended each meeting.
• Hosted the Princess Ball event on March 23rd. Raised approximately $1,500 and 270 attended.
• Hosted the annual Community Egg Hunt on April 20th with over 5,000 eggs hidden.
• Hosted a community cleanup event during the Civic Pride Day on May 11th with over 15 volunteers.
• Organized Farmers Markets on the square on June 1st and 15th.
• Organized a Music in the Park concert series with acts including Les Gruff and the Billy Goat and Mathien.
• Planted flowers in the downtown pots with flowers donated by Ace Hardware.
• Hosted a planting day on June 10th at the Community Garden.
• Designed new t-shirts and offered them for sale online and at community events.
• Hosted the 5th Annual Imagine Hillsboro Cardboard Boat Regatta on July 4th.
• Imagine Hillsboro had a booth at Old Settlers Days August 7th and 8th to promote Imagine Hillsboro and recruit volunteers.
• Organized live music performances for Old Settlers Days on August 6th and 7th.
• Coordinated a back to school clothing drive and offered items for free to local students on August 10th. Over 200 students received free clothing.

• Held a three-session (September 12th, 26th, and October 3rd) “Re-imagining” event facilitated by MAPPING staff to update the Imagine Hillsboro action plan. Approximately 40 people attended each session at the Hillsboro Area Hospital.

• Launched a new theater group with a public interest meeting on September 29th.

• Wi-Fi was installed in the downtown. Window clings will be displayed in downtown businesses publicizing Wi-Fi availability and highlighting the joint venture between Imagine Hillsboro, CTI, and the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce.

• Held Hillsboro Harvest Market on October 5th. Activities included a pancake breakfast, Hillsboro Monsters in the Streets monster building competition, “Chalk of the Town”, and Hilltop Ghost Tours.

• Utilizing fundraiser proceeds, a new scholarship for teachers for professional development or educational activities/field trips was established.

• Hosted the Library Libations (Books and Brews) on October 16th—an evening of frivolity, literature, and music to benefit the Hillsboro Area Public Library in downtown Hillsboro. A total of $686 was raised at the event.

• Developed a plan for a new dog park and raised the funds necessary. Held the grand opening of the new off-leash dog park “Pawboro” on October 19th. Thirty people and fifteen dogs attended the grand opening, and a total of $19,534 has been raised for the dog park.

• Spooktacular Scramble was held on Oct. 27th. The fundraiser netted $4,559.

• Partnered with local businesses to host a Sunday FUNday on November 3rd with a variety of games, food, and drinks at participating businesses.

• Imagine Hillsboro and HAH Junior Board hosted a Rake and Run event to assist senior citizens and veterans with fall leaf raking on November 16th.

• Hosted the 2nd annual ‘Townwide Window Decorating Contest’. Pictures submitted by December 4th were shared on Facebook and the three pictures with the most ‘likes’ were announced during A Storybook Christmas.

• Hosted the Imagine Hillsboro 5th Annual A Storybook Christmas on December 7th. The Polar Express-themed event included raffles, pictures with storybook characters, activities for kids, a lighted parade, a Cindy Lou Who lookalike contest, a canned food drive, chili cook-off, and more. The Imagine Hillsboro Theater Group caroled throughout the day.

• The Central Park Improvement subcommittee hosted a duck race that raised $668.

• The Reinventing Central Park subcommittee held a launch party on December 18th at the Opera House Brewing Company.

LaHarpe, pop. 1,235 (MAPPING 2015):

• Love LaHarpe sponsored bounce houses and a waterslide for the 4th of July.

• Volunteers chalked welcome messages for kids on August 15th to greet them for the first day of school.

• Organized the Harvest Showdown fall porch decorating contest.

• Helped organize and promote LaHarpe Country Christmas on December 3rd. The event featured a parade, vendors, open houses, pictures and letters with Santa, festival of trees, and more.

Lanark, pop. 1,457 (MAPPING 2014):

• Hosted the Lanark Farmer’s Market from May – October.

• Continue to run the Transformations Thrift Shop to fund beautification and revitalization projects.

• Hosted a winter farmers market on November 23rd.

• Organized the 5th Annual Jingle Fest on November 29th and 30th with vendors, lighted tractor parade, tree lighting, Santa’s workshop, pictures with Santa, and more.

• Held Breakfast with the Grinch event on December 14th.
- Organized a concert in Linn Park on April 12th with 7th Time Down, a Christian band.
- Hosted a country music concert with Dan Jayne on May 25th.
- Held a concert with Carolyn Yoder and the Worship Team on June 2nd.
- Hosted a concert with Andy Avery at the Linn Park Amphitheater on Jun 22nd and offered concessions.
- Organized a Teen Dance on June 29th.

Mattoon, pop. 18,441 (MAPPING 1994, 2017):
- Received a Google Impact Challenge Grant of $325,000 to help with the first two phases of establishing the business innovation center recently renamed Elevate. The incubator will be housed at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon, Illinois. Other accomplishments:
  - Launched a new Facebook page for the Elevate incubator on September 30th: https://www.facebook.com/ElevateCCIC/.
  - Elevate (https://elevate217.org/home-2/) and Code Platoon teamed up to offer Code Platoon’s 14-week remote coding program. Veterans can learn software development skills to attain jobs in the tech sector.
  - Demolition on the Elevate space was completed and renovation began. Consolidated Communications is providing high-speed Internet to Elevate.
  - Developed a full business plan along with revenue and cost projections for the incubator. Will begin soliciting ongoing sponsorships to help fund the center. Filed paperwork for 501 (c) (3) status for the incubator.
  - Developed funding to hire Peace Corps Fellow, Carlos Ortega to direct the development of Elevate.
  - Mattoon In Motion received a $98,391 Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) from the USDA for Elevate CCIC (Cross County Innovation Center). The grant funding is for furnishings and audio/visual equipment for Elevate CCIC.
  - Developing a video showcasing how the local community college works closely with area manufacturers.
  - Working to reestablish the City tree commission.
  - Created a flyer of available housing programs and are working to disseminate the flyers in the community.
  - Working with the help of an Eastern Illinois University intern on a flowchart and resource guide for the tourism team.
  - Developing a list of houses in need of paint and coordinating having them painted by volunteers in 2020.
  - Working with Lake Land College to offer an online Business Development Certificate for incubator members to receive free or reduced tuition based on certain criteria.
- Hosted a meeting of Rural Partners on May 20th.
- Monthly park clean up events kicked off with 26 volunteers working to clean up Vanlaningham Park on April 28th.
- Added bike lanes and shared use lanes around town with painted symbols and dividing stripe.
- Collaborated with United Way of Coles County, Coles County Habitat for Humanity, and the City of Mattoon to repaint and install a HVAC system in a local Vietnam veteran’s home on July 23rd.
- Successfully compiled a list of housing resources for the easy access of community members.
- Mattoon In Motion received one of the 100 of the Chicago Innovation Awards for its role in contributing to the development of the area’s workforce. As part of the award, Mattoon in Motion members attended a day-long class at the Kellogg’s School of Management worth $2,500.
- Added Futures Day to the homecoming celebration on September 26th which brought in over 80 employers from the area to expose students to a variety of career opportunities.
- The Workforce Development Committee has created a live list of scholarships available to area students on the Mattoon In Motion website.
- Hosted a live stream event on October 16th with a focus on learning how to reach holiday customers, with expert tips from Google and Constant Contact.

Mattoon in Motion Volunteers improving a veteran's home.
McLean, pop. 799 (MAPPING 2010):
- Hosted the 3rd Annual Adopt-A-Pot in the spring. Individuals and organizations were invited to sponsor planter pots to beautify the village square.
- Hosted the 6th Annual Get Your 6.6 on Route 66 race on August 24th with 246 runners. This year’s event featured a book sale, a silent auction to benefit a local animal shelter, dogs available for adoption, and a variety of vendors. The event raised $5,900 for the CORE of McLean projects.
- CORE of McLean designed, produced, and sold a variety of ‘6.6 on Route 66’ promotional items as well as McLean promotional items during the Get Your 6.6 on Route 66 race.
- CORE of McLean worked with the City to pour a concrete pad beneath the water tower for the new park. The group then added planters to the Water Tower Park.

Morrison, pop. 4,447 (MAPPING 2007, 2019):
- Compiled a list of available commercial properties.
- Held the Football Festival of Frights in partnership with the Brick Block Club on Saturday October 26th with special drinks, tailgate food, and a costume contest. There were 30 in attendance.
- Held a Career Fair in November at the Morrison Junior High and High School with over 30 businesses represented.
- In December, the High School Board approved changes to the curriculum to offer an Internship/Job Shadowing class to help students explore careers.

Neoga, pop. 1,636 (MAPPING 2013):
- Organized a St. Patrick’s Day Party at the Neoga Legion on March 16th. Provided free food and games and asked participants for ideas of projects to enhance their quality of life.
- Neoga Partnership for Progress held the Sooeyfest on September 28th at Jennings Park. The event offered a wide variety of activities for all ages, including live music, a four-category smoke-off, kids games, and a free ham and beans lunch.
- Neoga Partnership for Progress donated $500 to the First Mid Bank for their Angel Tree project and $1,000 to the park district.
- Created bios of NPP board members and posted them on Facebook to raise awareness in the community of the board of directors and the work they do in the community.
• The Neoga Partnership for Progress teamed up with Culver’s of Effingham to donate new playground balls for Neoga Elementary School and Neoga Project Help.
• Held costume contests on October 26th at the Neoga Fire Department. Provided prizes for best costume in each age group, overall prizes for best pair/group costumes, and most creative costume.
• Held the Hometown Christmas on December 1st. Activities include an ice skating rink, horse drawn carriage rides, cookie decorating station, and the 5th annual community Christmas tree lighting.

Oregon, pop. 3,721 (MAPPING 2016):
• Collaborated with Sycamore State Theater to continue family movie night series with movies on January 19th and February 16th.
• Hosted the Dance the Night Away event on February 23rd.
• Hosted the 3rd Annual Chocolate Walk on April 18th with 32 sponsoring businesses and an estimated 86 people attending.
• Completed spring beautification projects including adding planters located at the town welcome signs and filling the bicycle planters.
• Organized a work day to lay mulch at the Phelps Community Park on April 28th.
• Added a new chimney to the Phelps Summer Kitchen.
• Started a renovation of a downtown alleyway, installing decorative metal panels and a bench and art students painted ‘windows’ on the brick.
• Hosted a work day on May 20th to clean up the west bank of the Rock River.
• Organized Oregon Together Regatherings on June 3rd and September 26th to share the progress of Oregon Together and discuss future plans.
• Oregon Together received a Civic Leadership Award from the Oregon Chamber of Commerce on August 22nd.
• Oregon Together conducted free Art/History bus tours during the Mix Street Mixer on Saturday, August 24th. The organization also had a promotional booth at the event.
• Oregon Together collaborated with the Rock River Sweep Committee for the 10th Annual Rock River Sweep on September 7th. Approximately 45 people came out to clean up a 9 mile stretch along the Rock River.
• The Oregon Together Green Team had several workdays to spruce up the flowerbeds along Route 64 near the fire station and near the courthouse as well as around the City welcome signs.
• Celebrated the opening of new local businesses including The Old National Clothing store, Reign XT fitness, Uoi Boutique, Northside BarbaQ, and Scoops Steam Powered Subs and Deli.
• Held scenic art and history bus tours in and around Oregon on October 19th.
• Offered the Witches High Tea event at Pine Hill Inn on October 20th.
• Held a “Chocolate Blackhawk” fundraiser with the sale of chocolate made figurines depicting the Eternal Indian Black Hawk Statue. Funds raised were donated to the Blackhawk Perpetual Maintenance Fund.
• Organized a Holiday Gathering on December 9th at Pinehill Inn.
• Hosted the “88 Keys @ Cork & Tap” musical event fundraiser on December 14th. Proceeds were donated to the Blackhawk Perpetual Maintenance Fund.

Pana, pop. 5,847 (MAPPING 2016):
• Pana Pride made a donation of $810 to the Pana Tri-County Fair Board. The donation was collected from fairground Christmas light sponsorships.
• Organized cleanup days on April 16th, May 10th, and May 11th.
• Held a Pana Pride Town Rally at the Junior High on April 14th.
• Held Cash Mobs at Taylor Trading, Nohren’s Hardware, Anarchy & Sav-Mor Pharmacy.
• Awarded Business of the Month for May through September.
• Awarded Yard of the Month prizes from May through September.
• Pana Pride planted flowers at City Hall in May.
• Designed and built a boat to enter in the Imagine Hillsboro Regatta on July 4th and finished in 2nd place.
• Organized volunteers to learn about tree trimming and trim the trees downtown.
• Held a fundraiser cookout for Pana Pride at the Pana Farmers Market on July 5th and 26th.
• Installed American flags around downtown on August 11th.
• Pana Pride held a town meeting with an ice cream social on August 13th to attract new volunteers.
• Pana Pride was featured on WAND News on August 16th.
• Organized a cleanup and painting retaining wall on August 19th.
• Organized a cleanup event on August 26th to prepare the parade route for the Labor Day parade.
• Pana Pride won first place for their float in the Labor Day parade on September 2nd. Approximately 1,000 attended the parade.
• Organized a cookout fundraiser for Pana Pride on September 14th.
• Hosted a BBQ Drive Thru Dinner on October 23rd.
• Hosted Cookies and Cocoa with Santa event on December 14th in partnership with Kirk’s Kookies and Kandies.

Pittsfield, pop. 4,576 (MAPPING 2018):
• Held the Picture Pittsfield town meeting February 28th and approximately 140 community members attended.
• Organized a cookout fundraiser that raised $1,045 and approximately 175 attended.
• Organized a cash mob at Backroad Lace on March 14th with 46 shoppers in attendance.
• Coordinated a Courthouse Glow event with the local Masons. Due to its unique architectural design, the sun hits the courthouse just right during the equinox and lights up the corridor making it appear to glow.
• Hosted a community planning workshop with the local high school on April 9th.
• Hosted the ‘Spring Pickin’ Days on the Square’ on May 18th with vendors, food, kids’ Art in the Park activities, inflatables, and more.
• Hosted the Picture Pittsfield Fried Chicken Fundraiser on May 5th and raised $2,100.
• Hosted the Pike County Trail run on April 27th.

Established a Disc Golf Course including:
• Applied for and received a $15,000 grant through the Pike County Accommodation Tax grant fund for the disc golf course.
• Volunteers cut branches and cleared brush to make way for new disc golf course. Organized several workdays in May and June to complete installation of the disc golf course.
• Hosted a disc golf workday on July 20th to finish the disc golf course.
• Hosted an event on July 23rd to teach the basics of disc golf.
• Hosted the Picture Pittsfield Disc Golf Course Ribeye Cookout Fundraiser on August 12th. The fundraiser was featured on WGEM News. Funds raised went to completing the disc golf course.
• Held a grand opening event for the Lake Pittsfield Disc Golf Course on October 26th. Event featured a tournament with 17 teams and a cookout.

Hosted several Cash Mobs including:
• February 7th at Roberts Jewelers with 25 shoppers participating.
• July 18th at Bowler’s Universe with 42 shoppers participating.
• September 12th at The Picket Fence with 58 shoppers participating.
• December 12th at Flowers-N-More with 24 shoppers participating.

Volunteers walked in the Fall Festival parade on August 31st and tossed a few flying discs to parade watchers to promote the new Frisbee golf course.

Hosted the Fall Equinox Courthouse Glow Family Event on September 23rd. A story about the Glow was featured on KHQA News. Over 100 people attended the event. The event also offered bobbing for apples and free glitter tattoos for kids.

Picture Pittsfield volunteers pose for a picture at the Disc Golf Course Grand Opening.
• Held a volunteer recognition meeting on September 24th and awarded resident Casey Beck the ‘Volunteer of the Year’ award.

• The Work Ready program rollouts were conducted at three of the four high schools in the County. CEO is up and running with additional students added for Fall 2019.

• Picture Pittsfield members traveled to Clinton, Illinois to visit the Vault teen center. The director of the Vault gave them a tour and talked to them about the process of developing a teen center.

• Coordinated over 50 booths as part of the Pike County Fall Pickin’ Days festival on October 19th-20th with $1,200 raised and over 4,000 in attendance.

• Offered a selfie picture station during the Girls Night Out on November 7th.

• Hosted the first annual Pittsfield’s Deer Santa Festival which kicked off December 1st and ran through the month of December with activities including a Santa Parade, Deer Display Challenge, citywide decorating contest, Santa’s mailbox, caroling, holiday market, and the community Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Approximately 500 attended the events and raised $4,300.

• Held a Christmas Wreath Auction on December 9th and raised $2,316 for Picture Pittsfield.

• Hosted the Queen of Hearts Raffle Fundraiser. After 6 months of weekly raffles and over 420 participating, $6,400 in proceeds were split equally between the raffle winner and Picture Pittsfield.


• Grow Rushville continued making progress on the development of the Rushville Fitness and Community Center (RFCC) including:
  • RFCC bought additional land to add space for outdoor activities.
  • The site of the RFCC was prepared for construction in the spring with laying the foundation and construction starting in the summer.
  • Construction of the RFCC continued with the installation of the gym ceiling and completion of the pickle ball courts in fall/winter of 2019.
  • RFCC launched its annual appeal for sponsors and secured multiple new business sponsorships.
  • Held its inaugural annual meeting on April 23rd.
  • Began hiring fitness instructors and part-time employees for the new RFCC.
  • Began offering a range of classes for adults and kids in September at the Crossing Camp while the facility is under construction. Worked with local businesses to sell class cards for a variety of classes offered.
  • Hosted a 5K run/walk and 25 mile cycling event with 47 participants during Smiles Day on September 21st.
  • Hired Dustin Van Sloten as the new director for the RFCC.
  • RFCC director, Dustin Van Sloten, attended a trade show to investigate equipment for the soon to open RFCC.
  • RFCC trainers attended Midwest Mania to become certified to teach various fitness classes.
  • Co-sponsored a presentation on November 20th on the impact of vaping on your health.

• The new Rushville Chamber of Commerce, formed out of the Grow Rushville effort, made significant progress in 2019 including:
  • Promoted new Chamber of Commerce members on Facebook.
  • Created an online survey for the Chamber of Commerce to get public input into the potential role of the Chamber and benefits to members.
  • Announced the hiring of a new administrator, Andrea Kliffmiller on April 12th.
  • Compiled and promoted a monthly schedule of community events in August.
  • Initiated a Business of the Month award program starting in August.
  • Organized a prize give away on September 13th to encourage people to like and share the Chamber Facebook page.
Savanna, pop. 3,542 (MAPPING 2003, 2013):

- Hosted the 5th Annual Plant and Bake sale on May 17th and 18th. Community members donated perennials from their own gardens, baked goods, and garden art. Unsold plants were donated to city parks and The Table, a local outreach program.
- Hosted the Polly Palooza event, a music and art experience for kids on June 15th.
- Beautification in Motion Action Team participated in the Savanna July 4th parade to promote the group.
- The Beautification in Motion Action Team maintains three ‘Welcome to Savanna’ planters found at the three entrances to the community. Volunteers prepared beds and planted flowers and maintained them through the summer.
- Constructed and planted raised flowerbeds to beautify a local non-profit (The Table). The Beautification Team paid for the creation of the beds and plants and The Table kept the beds weeded and watered.
- Organized monthly cleanup days of Main Street in conjunction with the Savanna Service Club to pick up trash along main street, pull weeds, and sweep sidewalks and business entryways.
- Hosted the First Friday on November 1st with live music, a chili cookoff, and a pumpkin decorating contest.

Shelby County Partners:

- Held their 3rd Annual Golf Outing on August 10th.

Stewardson, pop 716 (MAPPING 2010):

- Offered an Easter Egg Hunt on April 20th.
- Coordinated the 10th Annual Hoofin to the Cow 5K race on June 1st.
- Organized a fall-themed painting fundraiser on September 22nd. Attendees paid $40 to participate, with proceeds ($280) going to the park improvement project.
- Hosted a watermelon eating contest on July 4th, with two age categories—ages 6 to 13 and 14 and up. Participants in the youth contest paid $1 to participate and the adults paid $5.
- Held the ‘Heifer’ (male ‘beauty’) Contest on September 27th and the Little Mr. and Ms. Stewardson Contest during the Lions Club Homecoming.
- Hosted a Halloween Parade on October 26th with food and a costume contest.
- Organized the Christmas in Stew-ville event on December 8th with a painting contest, pictures with Grinch, and a soup supper. The event raised over $1,700 for the park improvement project.
- Collaborated with the First National Bank of Waterloo on a Pictures with Santa event.
- Collected items to donate to foster children.
- Organized a COWS Steer Pong Ball Drop fundraiser. Participants purchased a ping pong ball that was dropped into cups from a second floor window. Balls that landed in a cup received a prize. The fundraiser raised over $200 for the COWS park improvement project.
Stockton, pop 1,862 (MAPPING 2014):
- Encouraged members to purchase Schwan’s products and a percentage of sales benefited Stockton Strong.
- Awarded the 2nd Annual Stockton High School Scholarship and increased the amount to $1,000.
- Offered the 4th Annual Family Fun Run/Walk on May 3rd.
- The downtown beautification committee planted flowerpots around downtown and along Highway 20.
- Hosted a free movie in the park on July 19th.
- Hosted the Northwest Illinois Art and Jazz Fest July 20th-21st. The event included wine and beer tastings, food vendors, over forty art booths and five live Jazz groups. For the 2019 event, they also added a free movie in the park. Artist Chris Shannon returned to paint another mural in downtown Stockton as part of the festival.
- Participated in the NWIL Daily Drawing Fundraiser with over 200 tickets sold and over $4,000 raised.

Strasburg, pop. 467 (MAPPING 2007, 2017):
- SCAN removed an old playground structure that will be replaced with two new structures.
- Coordinated a cleanup day at the community center and planted grass around new light fixtures.
- Hosted a Community Cleanup event on April 6th.
- Organized a Town Wide Rummage Sale and a Flea Market at the Crib.
- Held monthly Stew Stras Area Seasoned Citizens Events including a potluck, a Lamborghini Day, a visit from the County Board chairman, a visit from the Effingham County 911, and a trip to Casey, Illinois.
- Organized a Farmers Market kick off event on May 30th. Event included strawberry shortcake, porkburgers, and hotdogs as well as farmers market vendors.
- Launched the 2019 farmers market. The farmers market was held from June through August on Thursday evenings.
- Infrastructure Team has completed 2 sections of mailboxes in need of repair.
- Assisted with the 7th Annual Strasburg Lions Strong Man/Woman event in conjunction with the Strasburg Homecoming, July 19th. Thirty-seven athletes from across the nation competed, and a record 50 sponsors contributed to the event.
- Hosted the Farmers Market from June to October.
- The Strasburg Community Foundation made four grants totaling $5,650. One of the grants was to the Strasburg Community Action Network of $750 for a concrete pad for the annual car show.
- Two new homes were completed in York Acres subdivision.
- Organized a Kayak Run on September 15th with approximately 25 in attendance.
- Hosted a year-end recognition celebration and soup supper. During the December 7th celebration, Strasburg Village Mayor, Cinda Held, presented the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award to Doug Quast.

Sullivan, pop. 4,440 (MAPPING 2018):
- Approached the local Ministerial Association and the Masons to collaborate on a housing revitalization program.
- Partnered with Mason Point to host ‘Concerts in Tabor Park’ on May 3rd and June 7th.
- Hosted Art in the Park with art vendors and live music on July 12th, August 2nd, and September 6th.
- Organized a Kayak Run on September 15th with approximately 25 in attendance.
• Sullivan Spark created a new Facebook Page for the Lake Shelbyville Kayak Trail: https://www.facebook.com/lakeshelbyvillewatertrail/
• Sullivan Spark collaborated with Mid-State Tank to update the concession stand and the speaker system at the softball field.
• Hosted the Sullivan Spark Splash Pad Silent Auction and Dinner on November 9th.
• Created a float to promote the Lake Shelbyville Kayak Trail and splash pad project in the holiday parade on December 13th.
• Offered hot cocoa during the Old Fashioned Christmas on December 13th.

Walnut, pop. 1,416 (MAPPING 2017):
• Hosted 2nd Annual WOW: Working On Walnut Maintaining the Momentum Meeting on March 7th.
• Hosted the All Ages winter 3-on-3 basketball tournament on March 3rd.
• Completed Recreation Trails Program Grant application for the Walnut Park Trail project.
• Hosted winter Euchre tournament to get people out of their houses during the brutal cold/snow stretch.
• Relocated Pass It Along thrift store to larger double building on Main Street so they can raise more funds for all Walnut organizations.
• Hosted the Community Children’s Theatre in the Park on June 28th.
• Organized the ‘End of School Nerf War’ on June 1st to raise funds for the Walnut Park Trail.
• Hosted the Patriotic Painting Party on July 5th.
• Held their 3rd annual mattress sale fundraiser in August. The fundraiser earned the group over $3,000. Proceeds will go to the Liberty Square Project.
• Progress was made on the Liberty Square Project. Dirt was donated to level the area by TCI Manufacturing. The Liberty Square was seeded by a Schier’s Landscape & Design as an in-kind donation.
• After the parade on July 7th, the WOW Parks and Recreation team had a meet and greet at the community building to share information with the community about the trails project.
• Organized a chili and pie cookoff for October 4th on the eve of Fall Fest.
• Hosted the Adult Dodgeball Tournament on October 5th with $240 raised and over 100 in attendance.

Winchester, pop. 1,769 (MAPPING 1997, 2018):
• Hosted Cash Mobs at Pharmacy Plus, Great Scott Community Market, Studio 29 Salon and Spa, Donohoos Barber Shop and Fabulous Flowers and Decorating.
• Collecting plastic lids to be recycled into benches.
• Hosted the Ladies Night Out on October 18th with 23 local businesses having extended hours as well as 20 additional vendors, giveaways, and specials.
• Hosted the Downtown Progressive Dinner on November 1st with four meals being served at different local businesses across the square.
• Organized the Run Local 5k Run/Walk fundraiser on November 16th with funds going towards Civic Group efforts including improvements to the Monument Park playground equipment.
• Designed and produced ornaments to be sold for the holidays with the Be Local logo.
• Organized a raffle during the Hometown Christmas. Local businesses sponsored four $300 prizes. To enter the contest, participants had to present a receipt from one of the participating merchants.
• Sold memory trees as a fundraiser for $65 per three foot tall tree.
• Coordinated Winchester’s Hometown Christmas event that included a parade, picture cutouts in the park, Santa and reindeer in the park, home and business lighting contest and more.
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- Hosted a ‘Spring Cleanup Day’ on April 27th with 20 volunteers attending.
- Hosted the ‘Vintage Pickers Market’ May 4th and 5th with 17 vendors attending.
- Hosted the Spring Fling on May 18th with events including a cookout, bounce house, kids games, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, raffle to raise funds for a new handicap accessible play area at Monument Park.
- Organized a garage sale of donated items during the citywide garage sales on June 8th.
- Hosted a Glow Walk/Run event on July 18th. The event was held in the evening and each participant received a glow stick necklace.
- Held Music in the Park events throughout the summer with rotating artists on July 18th, July 25th, and August 1st. The Civic Group sold meals for each concert and proceeds benefited the Civic Group and the Music in the Park program.
- Printed a schedule of community events on magnets to distribute during the July 20th parade.
- Organized a community cleanup at Monument Park on September 21st.
- The Winchester Civic Group raised the money to purchase new trash receptacles for downtown and the City of Winchester installed them. The cans cost $650 each.

**Windsor, pop. 1,029 (MAPPING 2011):**
- Organized the annual plant sale on May 3rd and 4th.
- Helped organize the Spores ’n More Mushroom Festival on April 19th and 20th.
- Sold pies as a fundraiser during the Windsor Harvest Picnic and raised approximately $450.
- WHAT (Windsor Happenings Around Town) pledged a donation of $19,000 to help with the improvements to the Windsor Community Building.

> 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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