Highlights of 2020

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 annual Argenta IceFest on February 12th with ice sculptures, live ice carving demos, ice games, vendors, and Chili Cook-off. Argenta In Motion held a 50/50 raffle during the IceFest that raised $1,890 for community projects.
- Sponsored a billboard recognizing the Argenta-Oreana High School Class of 2020.

Assumption, pop. 1,168 (MAPPING 2016):

- Volunteers have been adding seasonal decorations to the downtown trash cans that are accented with historical signs. Due to the pandemic, the downtown trash receptacles included signs to encourage students to wash their hands and to spread kindness.
- Organized a cash mob for January 18th at Cypress Grove Brewery.
- A feature story highlighting the Assumption Community Pride Association (ACPA) Retail Team was in the Golden Prairie Newspaper.
- Hosted a cash mob at Bricks Exquisite Eats on February 15th.
- Volunteers made improvements to the library and pollinator gardens including painting a bench, garden sign, and snake sculpture for the pollinator garden. The pollinator garden was expanded to both sides of walking trail and new benches and a picnic table encourage people to visit. Volunteers created a smell chart for the library garden and added markers to identify the over 20 scented plants. Community members donated plants, benches, bee houses, bird feeders, pavers and butterfly lights.
- Held a happy hour for community members on March 8th at the Arpeggio Winery to brainstorm ideas for ACPA.
- Held a jigsaw puzzle competition on March 15th. Approximately 50 people participated and $400 was raised. This year’s puzzle featured the Assumption Fire Department. Excess puzzles from this and previous years were sold for $25.
- Launched Community Quarantunes in March. Each week, they organized a community sing-a-long to a preselected song. In order to maintain social distancing, people sang from their car or porch and the fire department played the song over loud speakers.
- The Yard of the Month has continued and in 2020, a home renovation category was added. Each Yard of the Month winner displays a yard sign for the month and is highlighted with a picture and post on Facebook. ACPA awarded a special Holiday Yard of the Month in December for a lighted home and decorated yard.
- ACPA delivered welcome wagon plants to new local businesses, MegZ Yoga, Oldies 1900 Inn & Coffee Shoppe, and 1905 Brewing Company.
- The 2nd annual Assumption Farmers Market opened on June 13th. The farmers market featured weekly themes including ‘Dog Days of Summer,’ ‘Family Fun Day,’ and ‘CAM Raiders Market.’ Farmers markets also included live music and food trucks.
- Assisted the library with a makeover. Seven volunteers removed overgrown and dead shrubs and are designing a metal screen to camouflage the air conditioning unit.
- Provided food trucks and fireworks for the community for the 4th of July.
- Held a ‘virtual’ St. Jude’s fundraiser run on July 17th. Fundraising activities were held all week and food trucks were available and drive thru donations were collected.
- Held a fundraiser at 1905 Brewing with the Gyro Stop food truck on July 18th. A portion of sales was donated to Assumption Community Pride Association for community projects.
- Held a volunteer workday on July 25th to spread rock on the walking trail. Two sections of the trail have been completed.
- Hosted the Adopt A-Highway Cleanup on September 14th.
- Launched an Instagram page on October 26th for the Assumption Community Pride Association.
• Organized a ‘trunk or treat’ activity on Halloween from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

• Organized a Christmas Lighting on November 28th. Event included turning on the holiday lights display, a dance performance, and a socially distanced visit with Santa.

• Community members painted ‘Twelve Days of Christmas’ lawn ornaments for each day of the classic Christmas song.

• Organized ‘Finding Frosty’ activity for families to seek a snowman yard ornament that was moved around the community. Participants who found Frosty filled out a form to be entered in a drawing, and those who found Frosty each day of the 25-day contest were entered into a drawing for the grand prize.

**Carthage, pop. 2,657 (MAPPING 1991, 2013):**

• Held a fundraiser for the Park District to resurface the tennis courts. Two hundred people attended the January 25th event and raised $17,000.

• The Looking for Lincoln work group designed a Looking for Lincoln Visitors Guide to the 11 Lincoln sites in Hancock County as well as other tourist attractions.

• Legacy Theater hosted 525 elementary students on February 28th for a free ventriloquist show. The show offered some life lessons for the students.

• Organized a TIF educational session to educate businesses on the TIF district and eligible projects.

• Expanded the Food for Thoughts program to provide food for low income children in four communities in Hancock County.

• Flowering planters were placed around the town and embellished with American flags.

• Graduating seniors were recognized with a car parade, photos on yard signs and members of the Carthage Community Development Committee mailed personal letters of congratulations to the graduating seniors.

• Organized a Census Winery Crawl on June 27th. This event promoted the wineries and breweries in Hancock County and encouraged people to complete the 2020 census.

• The Carthage Chamber is offering $30 in Chamber Bucks for $20 to encourage shopping local.

• The Chamber organized an incentive to complete the 2020 census. Residents who completed the census were entered into a contest for $2,000 in Chamber Bucks.

• The CEO program adapted their annual trade show to be a virtual event during the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Two AmeriCorps VISTA Members completed nine weeks of service in Carthage to provide summer meals to low income kids, manage the community food pantry and farmers market, and organize fundraising for the backpack food program.

• The Farmers Market was opened with CDC guidelines in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

• Fifteen students representing the four high schools in Hancock County were accepted for CEO program for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Creve Coeur, pop. 5,451 (MAPPING 2016):**

• Offered an Easter Scavenger Hunt rather than the traditional Easter Egg Hunt for a safe alternative during the pandemic.

- MAPPING members collaborated with other community organizations and the school district to erect banners highlighting graduating seniors on light poles downtown. In addition, they also organized parades and window art challenges to honor both graduating seniors and local teachers.
- The 1:1 Technology program will be implemented in the fall of 2020 with each student having access to an iPad or Chromebook offered free of charge to families.
- An empty lot was cleared and rocked by the Village of Dieterich for a pocket park. A landscape architect has been consulted for design assistance.
- Organized Small Town Christmas on December 6th. The event featured a campfire, story corner with Mrs. Claus, a children’s art activity, Christmas music, hot cocoa, and cookie kits. In addition, they sold raffle tickets for the Dieterich Community Center and ‘Moovin Moolah’ to be used at local businesses. Approximately 150 children plus their parents attended the Santa House. The event raised $1,515.
- Provided visits with Santa at the community Santa House December 11th – 13th.
- Progress was made on the proposed community center that would include a gym and daycare including:
  - The floor plan with renderings and estimates for the proposed Dieterich Community Center were completed.
  - Received $320,000 in donations for local organizations, businesses and individuals for the proposed Dieterich Community Center.
  - Launched the Ultimate Home Giveaway raffle to raise funds for the proposed Dieterich Community Center. The raffle winner will win a new house or $100,000.

Downs, pop. 1,005 (MAPPING 2018):

- Hosted a free Movie in the Park on August 15th.
- Hosted cookies with Santa on December 5th – 6th. Masks were required and the event was ticketed to avoid overcrowding.

Durand, pop. 1,443 (MAPPING 2013):

- Became a partner with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library which allows Durand Charm to buy books at wholesale prices and gift a book each month to local children. The program is funded by the State Bank of Davis.
- Durand Charm partnered with DARTS to organize the 2nd annual community dinner and awarded ‘Business of the Year’ as well as a citizen of the year award on February 29th. Over 70 people attended the event.
- The annual spring plant sale held on May 16th was adapted to preorder and drive-up distribution during the pandemic.
- Hosted a sold out Durand Charm Duck race on July 4th at Saelens Park. The duck race was the first live stream event on social media for Durand Charm. The ducks were dropped in Otter Creek and raced to the finish line with cash prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and last place (‘Lazy Duck’ award). The event raised $525.

- Installed sun sails over the children’s seating area in the Nature’s Classroom and added a second classroom space. The new classroom features three benches handcrafted by local resident, Tom Walsh.
- Hosted a free Movie Under the Stars with the movie ‘Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker’ on August 7th at the Durand Elementary School parking lot.
- Organized a tree sale to benefit the Nature’s Classroom project. In total, approximately $12,000 has been raised for the project.
- Collaborated with the Durand FFA to host the Durand Charm Fall Plant Sale on September 18th which sold out in one day and raised $405 for Durand Charm.
- Organized a business spotlight program for the 25 days leading up to Christmas. Each day they highlighted a local business on Facebook.
• Coordinated Santa’s visit to Durand on December 12th. Santa made many short stops at places around the town giving kids and families an opportunity to visit Santa near their homes without overcrowding.

• Organized a community event on Christmas Eve where community members were encouraged to ring bells for five minutes from their porches and the village square followed by a community sing along to “Silent Night.”

Elizabeth, pop. 761 (MAPPING 2013):

• Held the 8th annual Chili Cook Off at Jugs and the proceeds from the event benefited GEAR (Greater Elizabeth Area Recreation) on February 16th. In addition to the chili cook-off, the event also featured a silent auction and 50/50 raffle.

• GEAR organized youth basketball programs for the spring of 2020.

• Developed a brochure to help residents and visitors with updated hours, curbside delivery options, and safe shopping options for businesses in the Village.

• Held a Spring Fling event on June 6th with social distancing measures in place and people were encouraged to wear masks. Approximately 300 people attended the event.

• Encouraged residents and businesses to decorate the community in red, white, and blue for Independence Day. Chamber Bucks were awarded to the most patriotic home and business.

• Held Christmas in July, July 25th - 31st with a Virtual Santa Dash and Kids Fun Run. Other events included a wreath-decorating contest, sip-n-paint, shop local promotion bingo cards, a pandemic time capsule, and Christmas-themed business specials.

• Volunteers decorated the downtown with corn stalks and pumpkins for fall on October 7th. Dittmar Farms and Orchard donated the corn stalks and pumpkins.

• Coordinated a Small Business Saturday event. Approximately 120 people came out for the event.

• Worked with the local businesses to display artwork by the local elementary students in the windows of businesses for Veterans Day.

• Coordinated a holiday home decoration contest. Public voting was done via Facebook with the winning home announced on December 21st and the winning family received $50 in Chamber Bucks.

• Coordinated a safe visit with Santa for Christmas in the Village on December 5th. Approximately 80 children visited with Santa through a window and could also drop off letters to Santa. Additionally, the event included a tree decorating competition, a virtual story time with Mrs. Claus, and a shop local day with participants encouraged to share photos on the Energize Elizabeth Facebook page.

Erie, pop. 1,602 (MAPPING 2018):

• Hosted a Murder Mystery Dinner on February 8th. Tickets were $35 and included dinner and entertainment. Approximately 70 people attended.

• Held a Revitalize Erie Town Meeting and Happy Hour at the Country Club on March 11th.

• Organized a virtual Easter egg hunt by asking people staying home due to the Covid-19 pandemic to put Easter egg decorations in their windows for people to see from a safe distance.

• Filled 28 planter boxes around the business district. For a sponsorship of $100 or more, a plaque was added to recognize the sponsor. In the fall, the beautification team replaced the flowers for gourds and pumpkins and in the winter with holiday greenery and decorations.

• Created a Double Bucks program using an electronic gift card platform (Yiftee) to double a customer’s gift card purchase at local merchants. The program is funded by local businesses and organizations. The goal for the fund was $3,000 to infuse $6,000 into the local economy that is struggling due to the pandemic.
• Held their first ribbon cutting for new business, Legends on August 14th and additional ribbon cuttings for new businesses, Blooms a Latte 2 on October 3rd, and the Corner Café on October 21st.

• Volunteers decorated the downtown triangle with hay, pumpkins, and flowers for fall and then replaced them with greenery and decorations for the winter holidays.

• Organized town wide garage sales on September 19th. The event raised approximately $250. Also, Revitalize Erie designed and sold t-shirts, coffee mugs, and cozies, raising $900.

• Revitalize Erie handed out candy to trick or treaters on Halloween.

• Organized Hometown Holiday with a Charlie Brown theme on December 5th with parked parade, live nativity, soup supper, prizes for kids, and canned food drive. In addition, kids could have a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus and receive a letter from Santa with their pictures. A video was created of the event: https://tinyurl.com/yyctt6h6.

• Hosted a Holiday Yard Decorating Contest. Community members could vote for their favorite online via tallyspace.com and the winners were announced on December 20th.

Fairfield, pop. 5,154 (MAPPING 2019):
• Organized romantic carriage rides for Valentine’s Day. The event was a success and all the rides were sold out.

• Fairfield Forward hosted their MAPPING Town Meeting on March 7th with approximately 50 in attendance.

• Launched a Picture Fairfield photo contest. The contest is now being converted to an all digital program due to COVID-19.

• Raised $5,486 to provide food for school kids while school is not in session due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Girard, pop. 2,103 (MAPPING 2014):
• Organized a Tipsy Tour/Macoupin Valley Trail bicycle ride on August 22nd. The event had 47 participants and raised $1,000 for the trail project. Six volunteers spent about 20 hours on the project.

• Hosted the 3rd Annual Country Ride to support the Macoupin Valley Trail on October 4th. Event included a 10, 20, or 40-mile ride followed by live music, silent auction, and discounted golf. The event attracted 36 riders and raised approximately $2,000.

Hillsboro, pop.6,207 (MAPPING 2015):

• The Imagine Hillsboro Tech Team hosted two Tech Nights — one on January 22nd at the Opera House Brewing Company that featured Cara Noyes, and one on February 1st at CTI that featured Brian Carver.

• The new Imagine Hillsboro Theater Group was very active including:
  o Organized a sold-out performance of Intrigue at the Abbey dinner theater on January 25th. Over 150 people attended and $1,184 was raised.
  o The Imagine Hillsboro Theater Group hosted a Wednesday Night Blender on March 4th with monologues and improv at the Opera House Brewery sponsored by the Bank of Hillsboro.
  o Released a short film on May 22nd. The video was posted to YouTube (https://tinyurl.com/yyyyyohw4).
  o Offered acting classes via Zoom.
  o Released an end of the year video titled “Thanks 2020” on November 12th and a part 2 on December 31st.
  o Launched a series of videos titled, “That’s my story, what’s yours?” on December 1st.
  o Two members of the Imagine Hillsboro Theater Group formed Blended Artists Productions, LLC. and started renovating a space adjacent to the Orpheum Theater to convert it into a live theater space.
• Held a video conference with Project Lead the Way (https://www.pltw.org/) and local school teachers and administrators to discuss expanding STEM offerings in local schools.

• The technology and education teams are joining forces to raise funds to provide Google Chromebooks to students who otherwise would not be able to afford them.

• Installation of free downtown Wi-Fi was completed through the collaboration of Imagine Hillsboro, the Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce and CTI. Imagine Hillsboro donated $1,000 to complete the project. Window clings to advertise the free Wi-Fi were provided to each business.

• Held the annual Princess Ball (father/daughter dance) on March 7th with 182 participants and $673 in profit.

• Organized a pop up art show at Black Rabbit Coffee March 13th and 14th.

• The Opera House Brewing Company offered community members space to work until the Hilltop Coop coworking space opens. The Opera House Brewing Company is providing free Wi-Fi, and snacks.

• Ace Hardware sponsored and planted flowerpots downtown.

• Partnered with the Hillsboro Chamber and the Journal-News on a Mother’s Day Prize Package. Participants who submitted pictures of purchased items or receipts were entered and the winner received a variety of products, gift certificates, and an Imagine Hillsboro t-shirt.

• An Easter Bunny wearing an Imagine Hillsboro t-shirt visited houses around town to spread Easter cheer during the pandemic.

• Hosted farmers markets on the first and second Saturday of each month during the quarter. Seventy-five to 100 people attended each event. Imagine Hillsboro invested $250 in advertising for the markets.

• The free Back to School Shop was held on August 22nd. One hundred and fifteen students received free school clothes this year, down from previous years due to a location change and the pandemic. Shoe Carnival again offered free shoes to the students who attended. The Bank of Hillsboro donated $5,000.

• The historic Montgomery County Courthouse was lit purple and gold on August 26th as part of the nationwide Forward Into Light campaign to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.

• Held a welcome reception for the new downtown boutique, Alexandrea on September 17th.

• The Parks and Recreation Team organized a pork burger cookout on October 7th as a fundraiser for the Pawsboro dog park.

• Imagine Hillsboro collaborated with the City, Chamber of Commerce, The Journal News, and Atlas 46 on a new tourism website that was launched November 12th: https://www.headtohillsboro.com/.

• Organized a modified Storybook Christmas event on December 5th. They offered a reverse parade (drive by parade) and a tree lighting ceremony on the square.

• Took over hosting Friday Night Lights, to promote shopping late on Fridays during December. This year, they added Saturdays On the Square, encouraging businesses to extend their hours on Saturdays.

• Hosted Cookies with Santa on December 12th with pre-packaged cookies.

• Partnered with the Hillsboro Public Library to distribute snowman craft kits for kids on Saturday December 19th.

Jasper County, pop. 9,698 (MAPPING 2020):

• Jasper Together designed, produced, and sold t-shirts as a fundraiser.

• Applying for a DCEO Regional Economic Development grant to purchase land for development. The grant is part of the Rebuild Illinois Programs and is for the development of industry clusters.
LaHarpe, pop. 1,235 (MAPPING 2015):
• In May, volunteers created care packages for the Prairie City nursing home residents. The baskets were sponsored for $20 for each of the 33 residents.

Lanark, pop. 1,457 (MAPPING 2014):
• Lanark Area Community Foundation distributed a survey to gather feedback from residents on businesses and activities of interest. People who completed the survey were entered into a raffle for prizes and the winner also received $250 to donate to a non-profit of their choice.
• The Transformation Thrift Shop held a Think Spring sale on February 27th to raise money for the Transformation Team projects.

• Organized volunteer workdays on August 29th, September 5th, September 26th, and November 7th to prepare property for a new park (the Woodlands).
• Held ten concerts at the Linn Park Amphitheater. Local restaurants offered food for sale during concerts.
• Martinsville on the Move created a new park, The Woodlands, and deeded it over to the City of Martinsville on December 9th. The Woodlands features an 80 foot slide (possibly the longest of its type in the US), walking trails, wood balance equipment, a sledding hill, and more. They hope to add additional features prior to their grand opening in April of 2021.

Mattoon, pop. 18,441 (MAPPING 1994, 2017):
• Mattoon In Motion (MIM) received a grant of $1,000 from Consolidated Communications to build capacity through improved communication.
• MIM received a grant of $4,500 from the Mattoon Area Community Works for the fiscal year 2020.
• Collaborated with Douglas Hart Nature Center and Fit-2-Serve to create take home learning bags for youth attending the Inspire-2-Grow STEAM programming. Approximately 30 youth participated.
• Fit-2-Serve partnered with the YMCA to put together 100 Salsa Garden kits and growing packs for youth enrolled in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Approximately 30 kids helped create 100 kits.
• Fit-2-Serve and the Mattoon Area Family YMCA are hosted six Summer Associate VISTAs to provide programming on health and nutrition to children.
• Mattoon in Motion (MIM) established a subcommittee to brand the Mattoon/Charleston area as a place to live and do business.
• MIM established a subcommittee to investigate a blockchain volunteer system where people/organizations in need of assistance could be connected to skilled volunteers.
• Working to bring a software development initiative for local students to Mattoon. Students would learn software development starting in middle school.
• Establishing a paid position to coordinate Mattoon In Motion projects/programs.
• Workforce team released a video on October 21st. The video featured Innovative Staff Solutions (a temp agency) about job opportunities in the Coles County area.
• Mattoon in Motion is investigating project management software to help manage MIM projects and make them more efficient.
Elevate opened in 2020 and had a number of accomplishments including:

- Major construction was finished and interior design work began on the Elevate co-working space, business innovation center and business incubator.
- ClassE learned how to make pillows on February 8th that will be used at Elevate.
- Launched Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn pages for Elevate.
- Elevate received a $3,000 donation from the Mattoon Rotary Club.
- Held a grand opening breakfast for the Elevate incubator and co-working space on August 27th.
- Elevate completed the podcast room and began advertising the opportunity to produce a podcast in-house. Elevate also hosted a workshop on starting a podcast on October 8th.
- The Veterans Support Coalition moved into their new office space at Elevate.
- Elevate became the official new home of the ClassE program and organized a Giving Tuesday event on May 5th to benefit this entrepreneurship program for high school students.
- Worked with DK Property Tours on a 3-D online tour of the Elevate space that was posted on October 28th.
- Elevate announced their first graduate of the six-step program for entrepreneurs opened their business, Amy Patrick Life & Wellness, LLC on October 28th.
- Partnered with ClassE to start collecting aluminum tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities on October 30th.
- Elevate was featured in the Journal Gazette Times Courier on October 31st: https://jg-tc.com/business/local/watch-now-elevate-helping-entrepreneur-clients-students-in-coles-county/article_725336b1-0e3e-5975-b1dd-a3d2ce9e9945.html.
- Elevated donated the free use of a conference room quarterly for the Black Friday raffle hosted by the Mattoon Chamber of Commerce. The drawing was on November 27th.
- Faisal Tariq was hired in October to be Operations Manager at Elevate.
- Elevate received the donation of a clock from the Coles County Veterans Support Coalition on October 7th.
- Elevate worked with the Mattoon Library on a lending library available for entrepreneurs in their resource center starting October 8th.
- Elevate organized a workshop on selling online with ecommerce tools on October 14th.
- Through their partnership with Kiva, Elevate was able to help entrepreneur Keegan O’Connell get approved for a business loan on December 1st.

McLean, pop. 799 (MAPPING 2010):

- CORE McLean organized an adopt-a-pot program to fill the 11 large flowerpots downtown and maintain them for the summer. This year they also planted and maintained flowers in their downtown park. Core McLean raised $430 in sponsorship.
• Three volunteers helped design a new sign for the historic McLean Depot. The new sign was installed on June 24th.

• Hired a landscaping company to landscape the Water Tower Park including native plants and plants that attract pollinators. The landscaping cost $4,820, which was paid for by previous years’ Get Your 6.6 on Route 66 events.

• CORE McLean is solicited sponsors for a collectible t-shirts and shot glass fundraiser for the annual run.

• Converted annual ‘Get Your 6.6 on Route 66’ run/walk to a virtual event on August 22nd due to the pandemic. An artist created a ‘Kickin’ Back in 2020’ t-shirt for the event that incorporated the water tower park project. They received $3,250 in sponsorships from 15 local businesses for the event. The event had 93 participants and raised $3,865.

Morrison, pop. 4,447 (MAPPING 2007, 2019):

• Launched Morrison on the Move with Parks and Recreation Facebook Page on January 11th.

• Hosted a very successful Boogie Woogie Bingo on February 2nd. Over 100 people attended and the event raised over $1,000 to be used towards future events.

• Volunteers are reviewing current city ordinances and researching possible revisions. The team plans to meet with the city planning and zoning committee once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

• Developed Music Bingo Quarantine Style utilizing video conferencing. The Department of Fun Team held three virtual events in March, April, and May to allow people to play from their homes. Over 300 people took part in the events.

• Encouraged people to create chalk drawings on the sidewalks around Resthave and Windsor Manor senior living centers to brighten the day of the residents while visits are prohibited.

• Organized a cleanup for Earth Day. Families conducted invidual cleanups and posted pictures on Facebook to encourage others.

• Arranged a Zoom dance party virtual prom on April 17th.

• Organized dress up days with a different theme and people posted photos on Facebook of their costumes.

• The beautification committee and Chamber collaborated on a Millikan Park cleanup to prepare for Halloween festivities.

• Department of Fun collected addresses to deliver candy to on Halloween to make sure kids/families who were quarantined or being extra cautious could enjoy the holiday. Candy was delivered to 24 houses and 51+ kids.

• Created a form for donors to fill out to make a tax deductible year end donation to the Morrison Lions Foundation for the Dog Park. The form was posted on November 23rd.

• Held a cleanup event at the site of the future dog park on November 21st.
Neoga, pop. 1,636 (MAPPING 2013):

- Received a Hometown Hope grant in January of free advertising for Neoga Partnership for Progress from Denny’s of Mattoon and three local radio stations.
- Neoga Partnership For Progress teamed up with Neoga CUSD #3 to provide food for local children during the COVID-19 shutdown. Volunteers prepared and distributed food at several locations.
- Organized a teacher appreciation week project. Volunteers created large signs thanking teachers and took pictures to post on Facebook.
- Created a new scholarship for $500 and awarded it to an outstanding high school student who is an active community volunteer.
- Worked with the local art teacher to create temporary murals recognizing the class of 2020. These murals made great backdrops for seniors to take pictures with in their caps and gowns.

Oregon, pop. 3,721 (MAPPING 2016):

- After months of restoration work, the scaffolding and coverings were removed from the Black Hawk statue in early January.
- Oregon Together added new bicycle planters to downtown sponsored by local businesses and organizations. They also prepped and planted flowers in the planters. Each of the nine bicycles features a sign with the sponsor’s name. One bicycle featured a Little Free Library (sponsored by the library).
- Designed and displayed a banner with the names of all the Oregon High School Class of 2020.
- The Oregon Together Green Team cleaned up the alley and trimmed back the planters to better display the bicycles. The work was completed in time for Labor Day Weekend.
- The Arts & Beautification Team continued to improve the Alley Project. Artists Gabi Scott and Jenny Cahill created “Views into Oregon’s Past” that were completed in early October. These mini murals were painted on areas in the alleyway that were once windows, but have been bricked in.
- Oregon Together began selling chocolate replicas of the Black Hawk statue on November 3rd. For $30, customers received a chocolate Black Hawk statue, a postcard, and cement from the original statue.

Pana, pop. 5,847 (MAPPING 2016):

- Created a video entry for HGTV’s Hometown Takeover contest. Video was posted on February 7th.
- Hosted a Cash Mob at Sav Mor Pharmacy and Anarchy and participants ended the event with pizza at Station 502 on February 8th. Approximately 20 people participated.
- Pana Pride was featured as part of the WCIA television Our Town series.
- Pana Pride has registered with Amazon.com Smile and encouraged their supporters to do their Amazon.com shopping on Amazon Smile so Pana Pride receives a percentage of each sale.
- Organized The Holidays Are Homemade baked goods online auction on November 14th. The event raised approximately $545 with approximately 50 people participating.
- Pana Pride volunteers prepared the holiday light display by repairing and replacing light bulbs. The light display was at the Pana Fairgrounds from December 1st – 31st. Volunteers provided a booth during the open hours to collect donations from those who drove through.
- Pana Pride organized a drive through Santa Meet and Greet on December 11th. Families driving through the fairgrounds light display could view Santa and volunteer elves collected letters to Santa and distributed prepackaged cookies. The event raised $200 for lights at the fairground and approximately 100 people attended.
• Progress was made on the demolition of abandoned and dilapidated housing including:
  o Raised money for the demolition of two uninhabitable abandoned homes in Pana. The homes were demolished in February and the story was featured on WAND TV news on February 13th.
  o The First National Bank of Pana doubled all donations to the Pana Pride demolition fund between August 1st and September 30th. This program is assisting the City with the demolition of abandoned and condemned homes.
  o Pana Pride funded another housing demolition of a condemned home on November 16th. This is their third funded home demolition.

• Pana Pride volunteers organized various community beautification efforts including:
  o Removing Christmas lights; painting a wall at the entrance to town with a motivational message; planting flowers at City Hall, Kitchell Park, Railroad Tower Park, and around the Welcome to Pana sign; trimming and mulching plants and trees, watering flowers, and spraying and pulling weeds.
  o Organized a quarantine cleanup (Quaranclean Challenge), encouraging community members to pick up trash and post pictures on Facebook.
  o Volunteers maintained the plants at the Railroad Tower Park and the Welcome to Pana signs.
  o Planted and maintained mums at Kitchell Park, the welcome sign, and the downtown community park.
  o Cleaned up the Kitchell Park and painted the garbage cans on October 14th.
  o Awarded Yard of the Month for June, July, August, and September. The winner received a sign to put in their yard for the month as well as a gift certificate.
  o Volunteers decorated downtown for fall with corn stalks and lights and planted mums at Kitchell Park and the Bank Community Park.
  o The ‘I Spy’ program continues to draw attention to improvements or beautiful places in Pana. Photos are posted to Facebook.

Pittsfield, pop. 4,576 (MAPPING 2018):
• Organized a Cash Mob on January 23rd at Nucci’s Restaurant and a 2nd Cash Mob on February 27th at Old Monroe Hair Salon. Approximately 45 people attended each event.
• Organized a Valentine’s Shopping Event on February 13th. Picture Pittsfield created a promotional video for the event with participating merchants. Participants who returned a punch card were entered in a raffle for a $200 bouquet of flowers. Approximately 50 people attended and $240 was raised for the event.
• Entered the America’s Main Street contest for a chance to win $25,000. Community members were encouraged to vote online every day from February 24th to April 19th.
• Hosted a 2nd Annual Town Meeting on February 25th to update the community on the progress made and future plans. Approximately 40 people attended.
• Six Picture Pittsfield volunteers and Peace Corps Fellow Dallas Theuringer presented at the IIRA Economic Development Conference on February 26th.
• Organized a meeting for business owners and managers on March 9th. Picture Pittsfield sought input from businesses on how they might help them thrive. Twelve business representatives attended.
• Held the first Pike County Teen Night with approximately 60 participants on March 12th. Event included a community scavenger hunt.
• Established two book nooks (Little Free Libraries) at Local Parks. Community members have sponsored the book nooks and donated both books and snacks for those who might be facing food insecurity during the pandemic.
• The Peace Corps Fellow intern coordinated a city flag design contest. The winner was announced on May 14th.
• Designed and sold Pike County Strong t-shirts to show solidarity and raise money for local small businesses. Over 600 t-shirts were sold in the first week. The t-shirts featured logos of local businesses, and from each t-shirt sale, $8 to $10 was donated to that business.
• Sponsored two murals, one in Lowry Park with a butterfly theme and one in King Park with a fishing theme in collaboration with the Pike County Art Guild.
• The Picture Pittsfield logo was painted on the town water tower in July.
• Coordinated a park cleanup event on July 18th at Lowry Park. Volunteers painted play equipment, fixed benches, and completed landscaping tasks.
• Organized a Christmas in July event July 20th – 25th to promote shopping local. They offered a punchcard promotion and prizes, Santa in a convertible, and live music. They raised $600 for prizes and expenses. Approximately 300 people attended.
• Developed a tear off pad with maps featuring retailers, hotels, gas stations, and restaurants. The legal size maps were designed to be easy to write on so businesses can mark other places of interest.
• Uploaded a digital version of the new tourism map to the Picture Pittsfield website for easy download.
• Held a ribeye cookout fundraiser on September 18th at County Market. They sold out and raised $1,100. In addition to walk up orders, they took online orders and made deliveries.
• Held the Fall Equinox Courthouse Glow on September 22nd. During the fall equinox, the setting sun aligns with the courthouse entrance windows creating an orange ‘glow’.
• Registered with Amazon Smile as a nonprofit so when people shop on Amazon.com, Picture Pittsfield gets a small portion of the proceeds.
• Patrick Lamb was awarded the honor of 2020 Picture Pittsfield volunteer of the Year. Patrick received a disc golf bag embroidered with the Picture Pittsfield logo.
• Received an anonymous donation of $5,000 towards asphalt for phase three of the King Park Walking Path. They are working on raising an additional $30,000 for phase three.
• Raised $5,117 to complete phase two of three of the King Park Walking Path with a rubber duck fundraiser on September 9th. The rubber ducks were dropped into a pool and winning ducks were pulled out of the pool at random. The 2nd phase of the project is scheduled to be completed by July 2021.

• The Rushville Fitness and Community Center had a number of accomplishments in 2020 including:
  
o (RFCC) a drop down batting cage and bleachers were installed as well as LED lighting in the first quarter. In the
  2nd quarter 2020, the tennis and pickleball courts were completed. In the third quarter, the kids’ activity area was
  finished as well as the Schwinn Cycle Room. The finishing touches such as installing the pool liner, filling the pool,
  stripping the ball courts were completed early in the fourth quarter in time for the opening November 9th.
  
o The Rushville Fitness and Community Center (RFCC) offered classes including yoga and Zumba at the Crossing camp
  during January and February.
  
o Organized a free line dancing class on September 17th with the help of the Lipsticked Pig’s outdoor tent.
  
o Hosted a virtual 5k race on Saturday, September 19th.
  
o Offered free Zumba classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in July and August at the Virginia building in Scripps
  Park.
  
o On July 9th, a group of volunteers weeded the Rushville Fitness and Community Center property. They were
  rewarded for their work with a free tour of the facility.
  
o On July 14th, 18th, and 25th, and September 12th and 19th, Grow Rushville held opportunities to renew or join the
  RFCC at the Carolyn Wright Conference Center.
  
o Held an event on July 28th at the Wright Conference Center for people to update or obtain a membership and ask
  questions about the Rushville Fitness and Community Center.
  
o Organized a cleanup day on August 5th at the Virginia Building in Scripps Park to pull weeds, trim bushes, and
  power wash the building. The cleanup day was a thank you for the Park allowing them to hold Rushville Fitness
  and Community Center (RFCC) Zumba and bootcamp classes at the building over the summer.
  
o The Rushville Fitness and Community Center hosted a training class for spin teachers to get certified on October
  3rd. Nine teachers were certified.
  
o The RFCC launched an app (MemberMe+) for members to be able to reserve a spot in classes, check in at the
  gym and more.
  
o Launched a variety of fitness classes at the RFCC on November 9th. Classes were taken virtual on November 30th
  through the end of the year due to the pandemic.

• The Rushville Chamber of Commerce was very active during 2020 including:
  
o Held a ribbon cuttings for several new businesses including on January 6th for Family Wellness and Physio, on
  January 13th for The Local Brew, on February 1st for Erich’s Automotive, on August 31st for Animal House Pet
  Grooming.
  
o After tabulating Facebook and mail-in votes for Business of the Year, the Chamber declared both Ciara Icenogle -
  Country Financial and Schuyler County Humane Society as 2019 Businesses of the Year.
  
o Awarded Business of Month to a different business or organization each month with a picture and promotion on
  social media.
  
o The Rushville Chamber board members and volunteers filled 700 bags with candy to distribute to kids for
  Halloween on October 26th. Several businesses and organizations donated money or candy.
  
o Offered chamber checks for the holidays to encourage people to shop local chamber businesses.
  
o Organized a Small Business Saturday event with participating businesses offering special promotions on November
  28th.
  
o Organized a Holiday Punch Card Drawing. Winners won chamber checks to use at chamber businesses.
Twenty-four homes are being constructed in three different locations to be rented for 15 years to families that meet income guidelines. The IIRA Value Added Sustainable Agriculture Center submitted an IHDA Revitalization Zone application on behalf of the community to make the project possible. The first homes will be ready for families to move into in late summer 2020.

Grow Rushville partnered with Area Disposal to organize the City Wide Cleanup from November 9th – 13th. Residents were allowed to put out bulky items curbside for pickup during the week on their normal garbage pickup day.

**Savanna, pop. 3,542 (MAPPING 2003, 2013):**

- Organized a downtown cleanup in early May. Volunteers worked to make this a safe activity with social distancing measures.
- Seventeen volunteers planted 40 permanent planters on Main Street, and picked up trash and pulled weeds around the planters.
- Four beautification volunteers cleaned up and maintained the Welcome to Savanna planters.
- Organized five downtown cleanup events called ‘Walk Main Street’ where they cleaned up the sidewalks, pulled weeds, maintained the downtown planters, etc.
- Beautification volunteers helped maintain the community garden (Val’s Garden).

**Stewardson, pop 716 (MAPPING 2010):**

- Organized a modified Independence Day celebration on June 28th. They offered fireworks and food vendors, but the entertainment was scaled back to avoid crowds.
- COWS MAPPING organization coordinated a traveling Easter Bunny to visit local families. The Easter Bunny distributed treats and accepted $300 in donations for the Park Improvement Fund.
- Held a bake sale that raised $512 for the Park Improvement Fund on June 27th.
- COWS signed up for the FlipGive app that provides a donation to the Stewardson COWS park fund for each purchase made at participating retailers.
- Two families who lost loved ones asked mourners to make donations to the COWS park fund in lieu of flowers.
- Emma’s Diner donated a portion of the profits totaling $300 from their grand opening to the COWS park fund.
- Organized a Facebook Fundraiser for the Stewardson Park Fund. The fundraiser raised $1,500 by the end of the quarter.

**Stockton, pop 1,862 (MAPPING 2014):**

- Stockton Strong planted and maintained flowerpots around downtown and along Highway 20.
- Designed and sold Stockton Stronger Together t-shirts as a fundraiser during the pandemic.
- Stockton Strong planted and maintained flowerpots around downtown and along Highway 20 throughout the summer and into fall.

**Strasburg, pop. 467 (MAPPING 2007, 2017):**

- Organized Uncork and Unwind on March 1st at Vahling Vineyards. A $20 ticket included wine and a complementary glass. Event also included adult coloring supplies, prizes, and snacks.
- Created a Google Forms survey on what residents would like to see in a revitalized park. The survey was promoted on Facebook and 113 people responded.
- Completed the Little Hatchets Sports Club season with 100 kids participating in the program and 10 volunteers assisting with the club.
- Completed updating the new Village website (http://www.strasburgil.com/).
• The Farmers Market is being held each Saturday morning from June 6th to September 5th.
• On June 6th, the village held a town wide rummage sale and a flea market. The event attracted hundreds of visitors to Strasburg.
• A 2nd Little Free Library was built in town and opened this spring by a local SCAN member.
• The Strasburg Community Foundation awarded a foundation grant to a local business that used the grant to help build an outdoor patio area for customers.
• Organized 2 Biggest Loser Contests in spring and in fall. The weigh-ins were virtual due to the COVID pandemic. Participants paid $20 to participate. The winner received 50% of the fees and 50% went towards community improvements.
• The SCAN Beautification Team planted 11 flowerpots around town and organized volunteers to water them throughout the summer.
• Donated and planted a tree for a new resident in the York Acres Subdivision.
• Completed the 2020 Strasburg Gnome Census to coincide with the national census. In 2010, there were 405 gnomes in Strasburg. In 2020, 1,294 gnomes were reported to the Village Clerk.
• The SCAN Marketing Team continues to produce/publish a Gnome News newsletter.
• Strasburg Community Action Network (SCAN) is collaborating with the Village on a grant application for park improvements.
• Drive Thru Burrito Nights were held on July 12th and August 16th. Proceeds will support a future ‘Burn Out in the Burg’ Car Show.
• Held the town wide rummage sales on September 26th. During the day of the sales, vendors sold meals and ‘fair’ snacks at York Acres.
• SCAN approved $500 to sponsor the CEO program for another year for area high school students.
• SCAN made a donation of $200 to the PTSA Angel Tree to provide Christmas presents for low income youth.
• Little Hatchets Soccer has been meeting every Sunday in September and early October. Little Hatchets had enough participants for two teams. The Little Hatchets Soccer Club finished their season on the second week of October.
• A new lot has been sold in the York Acres subdivision and will start to be built in the 4th quarter of 2020.
• Formed a committee to organize a monthly Gnome Give Away in 2021.
• SCAN made a donation to the Village for the long term park fund.
• SCAN held a pork chop sandwich meal fundraiser on October 3rd.
• Held the Santa Brigade Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on November 14th.
• Residents purchased gnome ornaments from SCAN for $5 to decorate and bring back to hang on the new community Christmas tree.
• Awarded volunteer of the year to MaRanda McClain.
Sullivan, pop. 4,440 (MAPPING 2018):

- Held a Sullivan Spark 2019 Open House and Volunteer Showcase on January 20th to recognize outstanding volunteers and share Sullivan Spark's achievements of the past year. The event was attended by 43 community members and nine new volunteers were recruited.


- Hosted a volunteer meeting on March 10th for the trails program.

- Sullivan Spark Housing Team started a volunteer handyman program to assist those in need with home repairs.

- Started a student business collaboration program where students assist local businesses with improving their social media and web presence, but activities have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Teutopolis, pop. 1,530 (MAPPING 2020):

- The Teutopolis for Tomorrow Housing Team has identified empty lots available for new housing to be built. They are in the process of determining the access to utilities at the various lots.

- Teutopolis for Tomorrow is working to create a community calendar that will be a one-stop shop to find out what is going on in Teutopolis.

- The Infrastructure Team has worked with the Village Board and Ameren Illinois to replace the street lights with more energy efficient and brighter LED lights over the next four years. Ameren has agreed to replace at least three each month. The lights cost $250 each and the city has agreed to pay $3,000 for the replacements.

- The Education Team is working on an Alumni Spotlight program. They have developed interview questions to ask alumni.

- The Education Team created a survey for recent Teutopolis graduates to gain input on what the school can improve upon. The survey has been sent to a ‘test’ group to see if any adjustments need to be made before wider distribution.

- The Teutopolis for Tomorrow Education Team published their first Spotlight on Success article. The team plans to continue this project highlighting Teutopolis High School alumni and plan to have current students help in the interviewing and writing.

- Hosted Chalk the Walk challenge from June 1st - June 5th. Residents left positive messages or pictures with sidewalk chalk and posted pictures to the Teutopolis for Tomorrow Facebook page. On June 6th, a random participant was selected to receive a $10 gift certificate to Teutopolis Treats.

- Organized Scavenger Hunt Bingo from June 17th - June 26th where pictures were placed around town and residents were encouraged to walk, ride, or drive around town to find the pictures to mark their bingo squares. Bingo cards were uploaded to the Facebook page and participants were entered to win a $20 gift certificate to Teutopolis Treats.

- Organized a Stars and Stripes Community Cruise on July 1st. People were able to enjoy the parade from the comfort of their cars.

- Organized a Garage Band Night on July 17th. The bands were playing at several locations and people were encouraged to walk or ride bikes around town to listen to the performances.
The Infrastructure Team worked with the village board to approve Milano and Grunloh to research and apply for a grant to replace all the remaining cast iron water mains in the village. Organized a Boo Bag fundraiser where people could purchase Halloween-themed bags of candy, toys, and Halloween pencils for $10 during the month of September to be picked up October 20th and 21st.

Organized a pumpkin decorating contest. People were encouraged to post their creations on Facebook and one participant was selected on October 25th to win a $10 gift certificate.

Launched Scavenger Hunt Bingo on November 16th. Community members had until November 29th to drive/walk around town and find pictures that matched the ones on the card. Cards with a bingo or blackout uploaded to Facebook were entered into a drawing for a $20 Wessel’s gift card.

Walnut, pop. 1,416 (MAPPING 2017):

- WOW organized a Euchre Card Night on March 6th.
- During the town wide garage sales held June 26th, the Working On Walnut (WOW) MAPPING group offered spaces on Liberty Square for vendors.
- WOW added lights and picnic tables to a currently empty area to turn it into a public space to allow restaurants to serve customers while indoor dining was not allowed.
- For Earth Day, WOW challenged community members to pick up trash and share their pictures. The first 20 who posted photos got free treats from Culvers.
- WOW’s Liberty Square project received a Citizens First State Bank FHLBank Chicago COVID-19 Relief grant of $20,000.
- Organized a drive-thru cook out for the Liberty Square project on May 30th.
- WOW received a $50,000 donation from Pass it Along for the Liberty Square project.
- WOW hosted a ‘Paint the Town’ event to decorate signboards for the 4th of July. Participants painted 4x4 wooden signs to celebrate Independence Day.
- Organized two free concerts to promote the need for a multipurpose venue on Liberty Square. Jason Fletcher, who started his music career in the Walnut area, performed a reunion show with Jonny Barnas of Walnut performed on July 9th and Walnut native, Matt Eckberg, performed on July 30th.
• Organized a Nerf obstacle course on September 19th as a safer alternative to the standard Nerf war. Kids wore masks and were spread out on the course. Approximately 40 kids participated and raised about $100 toward the park trail project.

• WOW hosted four vendors on Liberty Square in conjunction with town-wide garage sales on September 26th. Vendors made a donation to the Liberty Square project to participate.

• WOW organized a Christmas Lighting Contest with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The winners were announced on December 21st.

• Walnut Chamber of Commerce reintroduced a punch card program to encourage shopping at Walnut businesses. Two drawings were held on December 12th and December 19th for Chamber Bucks to be used at member businesses.

• Organized the Annual Christmas Open House on December 5th. The Liberty Square Pavilion featured visits with Santa and a mailbox for kids to leave letters for Santa. The event also featured a vendor fair, bake sale to support Walnut Days Fireworks, hayrack rides, and more.

Winchester, pop. 1,769 (_MAPPING 1997, 2018):

• Held a Cash Mob at Myalin’s on February 8th with 35 shoppers participating.

• The Civic Group began the flamingo Flock Fundraiser. A flock of pink flamingo yard ornaments stays in a yard for 5 days unless the residents donates $10 to have it removed or $20 to ‘flock’ a friend.

• Launched Market in the Park on the square in Winchester on July 2nd. The Market continued all July and August.

• The 2020 Music in the Park concerts started on July 9th and continued each Thursday through August 6th.

• Held “Choose Winchester” event on Saturday July 18th. This shop local event urged people to visit local businesses to shop, dine, play, and pamper. There was live music Saturday from 11AM to 1PM and the Winchester Odd Fellows offered a movie on the square on Friday night.

• Hosted ‘Movie in the Park’ on August 7th and August 14th. Organized Trunk or Treat on the Square for kids on Halloween from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

• The Vintage Pickers Market was held on September 26th in conjunction with the citywide garage sales.

• Sold Memory Trees (living three-foot blue spruce trees) to be displayed in the town square during the holidays. The trees would include a tag honoring a loved one. After the holidays, the purchasers could pick up their tree or donate it to the City.

• Organized Ladies Night on November 6th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Local businesses were encouraged to take part and asked if they have space to allow additional vendors to set up in their business.

• Organized a square decorating workday on November 21st to prepare the square for the Hometown Christmas event.
• Sold Be Local Winchester Christmas ornaments as a fundraiser. The ornaments were sold for $12 each.

• Organized Hometown Christmas on December 5th. The event included shopping, Christmas parade, a route by Santa around town in lieu of traditional pictures with Santa, toy drive, chicken and noodles supper, and more.

• Organized a home and business decorating contest for Christmas. Winners were announced on Facebook on December 15th.

**Windsor, pop. 1,029 (MAPPING 2011):**

• Coordinated community wide yard sales on June 27th.