MAPPING communities have had a productive 2021. Here are some highlights:

(Please note this is not a comprehensive list)

**Argenta, pop. 913 (MAPPING 2016):**
- Argenta In Motion (AIM) hosted the 5th Annual Argenta IceFest on February 13th. The drive-thru event raised over $5,000 in donations.
- AIM donated $2000 to the Sangamon Valley CEO program.
- Organized a roadside cleanup event on April 24th.
- Launched a new farmers market on May 19th. The market was held every two weeks through October.
- AIM sponsored a community breakfast held on June 5th at the Friends Creek Community Building.
- Raised funds for a digital sign to install on Route 48 to advertise Argenta events, businesses, etc.
- Organized the Annual Fun and Safety Day on August 14th. The event included Operation Kidsafe (a free digital fingerprint and safety program), fire truck rides, bounce houses, facepainting, and a free lunch.
- AIM sponsored the Argenta Roadside Cleanup Walk on October 16th.
- Partnered with the Argenta-Oreana Fire Department on the 10th annual Alan Thomas Christmas Auction held on November 12th.
- Argenta in Motion sponsored the Argenta Christmas Decorating Contest. Three winners were announced November 2nd.
- Argenta in Motion and the Argenta-Oreana Fire Department donated five bikes to be raffled off to support the Argenta and Oreana libraries. Bike winners were drawn on December 20th.

**Assumption, pop. 1,155 (MAPPING 2016):**
- Assumption Community Pride Association (ACPA) projects were featured in Decatur Magazine in the December 2020/January 2021 edition.
- Partnered with the Women’s Club to decorate the poles on Chestnut Street for spring.
- Organized the ACPA Annual Puzzle Competition on April 25th. Teams of up to four people paid $40 to participate, with eight teams participating in the competition. This year’s custom-made puzzle featured the Assumption Veterans Memorial.
- Presented Yard of the Month awards including a spookiest yard in October and winter holiday Yard of the Month in December.
- Organized an Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up Day on May 1st to pick up trash along Highway 51 near Assumption.
- Organized village-wide rummage sales for May 20th – 22nd.
- Installed nine hanging baskets along the primary commercial street in town.
• GSI donated large 12’ x 20’ steel plates and hardware to create informational signs for the pollinator garden.
• Assumption Community Pride Association (ACPA) organized a Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt on April 3rd. Approximately 75 children participated in the event.
• Launched the farmers market season on June 12th. The market was held every other Saturday until October 2nd.
• Beautification Committee added informational signs along the walking trail highlighting pollinator plants and donated items. One volunteer edged the entire garden on both sides of the walking trail.
• Assisted the library with removing old landscaping and installed a laser cut screen to cover an unattractive air conditioning unit on the back of the library.
• Assumption Community Pride Association (ACPA) hosted a Gyro Stop Fundraiser on October 9th.
• Organized an Oktoberfest weekend October 9th and 10th.
• Organized a Trunk or Treat event for October 30th.
• Coordinated the hanging of the holiday lights around downtown on November 13th.
• Organized a Trivia night following the Tree Lighting on November 27th at the 1905 Brewing Company.
• Coordinated the annual Assumption Christmas Lighting ceremony on November 27th with music, food, Santa, hayrides, a .1K run, business open houses, traveling Frosty, and more.
• Coordinated a Toy Swap on December 4th. Toys in good condition could be swapped for other toys in good condition and any leftover toys were donated to local churches or the school district.
• Frosty the Snowman was hidden in a different location in town each day from December 1st to December 25th. Community members who found Frosty each day were entered in a raffle.
• Coordinated volunteers to take down the Christmas lights the week after Christmas.

**Carthage, pop. 2,490 (MAPPING 1991, 2013):**

• The Legacy Theater hosted a variety of live shows year round including War Bonds: Songs and Letters of WWII, Vocal Trash, The Folsom Prison Five: Johnny Cash Tribute Show, Texas Tenors, Liverpool Legends: the Complete Beatles Experience Live, and more.
• Organized Shop Around the Block on November 5th and 6th to encourage shopping local.
• Held Christmas on the Square with Santa arriving on firetruck, photos with Santa, Letters to Santa, live nativity, tractor parade, and door prizes on December 2nd.

**Creve Coeur, pop. 4,934 (MAPPING 2016):**

• Organized the 5th Annual Streetsweep event to clean up village streets on May 22nd.
• Creve Coeur Creates organized the Fall/Halloween Decorating Contest. Participants were in one of three categories spookiest, festive fall, and Boo-tacular. Category winners received $100, and were announced on October 29th.
• Organized the annual Tree Lighting ceremony and caroling on December 3rd.
• Creve Coeur Creates made care packages for residents over 55 that are alone or facing financial hardships. Packages were delivered on Christmas Eve. Seventy-eight seniors received care packages.


• Progress was made on the development of the Dieterich Community Center:
  o Invited the public to vote on a countertop and cabinet color combination for the home giveaway and one respondent won a free raffle ticket.
  o Received several cash donations including:
    * Wright’s Furniture and Flooring: $15,000
    * Koerner Distributor: $12,500
    * Donnewald Distributing: $10,000
    * Dieterich Sportsbackers: $5,000
    * Heartland Dental: $15,000
  o Invited the public to a presentation on January 16th on the community center to discuss the project in detail and the progress to date, along with the facility timeline.
  o Movin’ Dieterich member, Alex Wright was interviewed by WCIA News about the community center project and the Dieterich Ultimate Home Giveaway on January 20th.
  o Wright’s Furniture donated a sofa and ottoman valued at $2,798 as a prize to the Ultimate Home Give Away.
  o Received a $1,000 gift certificate on February 16th from Dieterich Equipment Rentals for lawn and construction equipment rental as a raffle prize for the Ultimate Home Give Away.

Young community members donated the proceeds from their lemonade stand to the Dieterich Community Center.
o Al’s Tire Mart and Electronics donated a Smart TV valued at $550 for the home giveaway raffle on February 23rd.

o Bob’s Discount Home Improvement donated a dining room set valued at $1,250 on February 25th for the home giveaway raffle.

o Announced a March Madness promotion on March 14th. For a $5 donation, donors could fill out a bracket with their predictions of basketball tournament winners and receive a chance to win a ticket to the Dieterich Ultimate Home Giveaway. The winner was announced on April 8th.

o Received notification that the Village of Dieterich received an IDNR Parks And Recreation Construction (PARC) grant on March 16th. The grant of $2,014,800 will be used to build the Dieterich Community Center gym and childcare facility.

o Created a video tour of the home to be raffled off and posted it to social media on March 28th. Posted a second video tour of the home that was being raffled off on April 11th. A third video tour was released on May 10th when the home was completed.

o State Representative Adam Niemerg visited Dieterich and filmed a Facebook Live video on April 19th that was shared on the his Facebook page as well as that of the Dieterich Community Center.

o Announced on April 19th that the Montessori Kids Universe Effingham will be offering childcare at the Dieterich Community Center when it opens.

o Collaborated with Subway restaurant to provide a fundraising event on May 13th. A portion of each purchase benefited the community center.

o Supporters were invited to submit their vote for the new Dieterich Community Center logo. One lucky voter was given a free ticket to the Ultimate Home Giveaway. The winner and new logo were unveiled on May 14th.

o Offered free tours of the house on the May 15th, 18th, and 19th to pique interest in raffle tickets for the Ultimate Home Giveaway.

o Organized a Welcome Home Street Party for the day of the Ultimate Home Giveaway (May 22nd) including food, entertainment, games, face painting, and tours. State Senator Darren Bailey drew the winning ticket for the raffle on Facebook Live. The Ultimate Home Giveaway raffle raised $213,000 for the Dieterich Community Center. The winners of the Ultimate Home Giveaway donated $20,000 to the Dieterich Community Center on June 14th.

o Announced on June 1st that they were only $175,000 short of their $3 million goal for the Dieterich Community Center and released a high quality video to inform the public about the project and appeal for donations.

o The Dieterich Business Association coordinated a Pet Home Giveaway fundraiser to raise money for the Dieterich Community Center. The winner was announced on August 31st during Dine in Dieterich.

o Organized Dine in Dieterich on October 16th. This ‘Taste of Dieterich’-type event included locally made food, a Halloween costume contest, live music, and a beer garden. Approximately 300 people attended and the $2,600 proceeds were split between the Dieterich Community Center, the Seth Weber Family, and the Waylon’s Warriors Project.

• The Village of Dieterich began building the roads to a new industrial park in July.
• Coordinated Small Town Christmas on Sunday December 5th. The event included pictures with Santa, craft vendors, live nativity, holiday drinks, Christmas Tree Decorating Contest.
• Organized visits with Santa on December 10th – 12th, and 17th – 18th.

**Downs, pop. 1,201 (MAPPING 2018):**

• Collaborated with the Mid State Cruisers on a Dooley Park Cruise-In on June 5th.
• Organized a cleanup event on June 5th.
• Downs Citizens In Action (CIA) held a soup supper fundraiser on October 2nd.
• CIA sold food at the Dooley Park Pavilion as a fundraiser on October 8th.
• Assisted the Village Events Committee with the Downs Haunted House every Friday and Saturday in October. CIA also offered refreshments (chili, chicken and noodles, desserts).
• Offered Tuesday with a Trustee events on Tuesday October 12th, November 2nd and 30th, as a relaxed opportunity for the public to talk with a local representative.
• Assisted the Village Events Committee with the un-haunted house on October 31st with trick or treating, hayrack rides, crafts, and refreshments.
• Assisted the Village Events Committee with Cookies with Santa on December 4th and 5th. Event included cookies, letters to Santa, and photos with Santa. Children who participated received their photo and a letter from ‘Santa’ in the mail.
Three classic cars found in Durand were sold to benefit the community.

Durand, pop. 1,390 (MAPPING 2013):

- Hired Kelly Giovanine as the new executive director of Durand Charm.
- Organized a “Meet the Candidates Forum” on March 25th. The event was featured in the local paper. The event was well attended with 15 people attending live and 386 online.
- Organized a cleanup of Center Street Park on March 27th. Volunteers cleaned the park and hung new American flags on the gazebo.
- Durand Charm, in collaboration with the Durand School District, received two grants of $4,000 total to fund and promote the reciprocal lending program between the Village and schools. The grants provided new library materials and supported a summer reading program that ran from June 2nd to July 7th.
- Durand Charm organized the annual Spring Plant Sale on May 7th. During the sale, Durand Charm offered a potting class. The class cost $30 and included a 16” pot, soil, and instructions.
- Hosted Movies Under the Stars in Saelens Park on June 11th featuring the movie, Dr. Dolittle, on July 9th featuring The Croods, and August 13th featuring Back to the Future.
- Durand Charm named Bob Corwin as 2021 Citizen of the Year. Bob and the 2020 winner, Betty Rhyner, served as co-marshals of Durand’s 4th of July parade.
- Durand Charm is partnering with the schools to organize a mentoring program, pairing community members with at-risk children for social interaction twice a month. The program is on hold due to COVID restrictions.
- A total of 31 pots were distributed to Durand businesses this year for the Adopt-A-Pot program. The Beautification program netted $1,000 for reinvestment in the community.
- Durand Charm named Bob Corwin as 2021 Citizen of the Year. Bob and the 2020 winner, Betty Rhyner, served as co-marshals of Durand’s 4th of July parade.
- Durand Charm sponsored its annual 4th of July Duck Race as part of Durand’s full weekend activities. A total of 500 tickets were sold and $1,740 was raised for Durand Charm. The 500 numbered plastic ducks were emptied into Saelens Park Creek. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and Lazy Duck.
- Continued the Summer Reading Program with the last session being held on July 7th.
- The Beautification Committee hosted Yards of the Month each summer month with three yards being chosen each month. Winners received a sign for their yard and were recognized on Facebook.
- Durand Charm partnered with DARTS and the Village to apply for grants to support local businesses affected by COVID-19. Two grants were awarded totaling $41,650.
- Hosted the “Start with Art” chalk art project on August 23rd during the annual back to school Open House Night to leave positive and uplifting statements for the students for the coming year.
- Collaborated with the Durand FFA to host the popular Durand Charm Fall Plant Sale on September 24th – 25th and raised approximately $500 for Durand Charm.
- Durand Charm partnered with the Village of Durand on the unique project of promoting and selling three classic cars found in a storage building acquired by the Village. The story was covered on local TV and was picked up by Google news, resulting in hundreds of inquiries from all over the world. Charm received a portion of the sales for their time and effort.
- Formed a community committee comprised of the mayor, DARTS President, Durand Charm Director, and two community members to explore ways to attract businesses to fill empty retail space. The committee has worked on a community survey, identified available retail space, and explored incentive options.
- Helped a family with furniture they wanted to give away find a community member who needed the furniture.
- Organized a scarecrow decorating contest among businesses. Thirteen businesses participated.
- Coordinated the Halloween on the Square event on October 30th with a Halloween parade, costume contest, and business sponsored Trunk or Treat. A total of 189 children entered the contest and approximately 230 participated in the parade.
- Began getting bids for the Durand Downtown Streetscape Project. The Village received an IDOT ITEP grant for $1,289,560 and an RBDG grant from USDA Rural Development for $85,000 to make a variety of improvements including pedestrian safety, slowing traffic, improving drainage, installing LED lighting, new benches, trash receptacles, etc. The Village hopes to begin work in the spring of 2022.
- After a year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Candy Cane Craft Show was held on November 21st and was a big success with 72 vendors and over 1000 in attendance.
• Held a poinsettia sale as a fundraiser for Durand Charm at the Durand State Bank.
• Durand Charm held their annual advent promotion where they highlighted one or two local businesses or organizations each day.
• Organized the “Merry and Bright” holiday decorating contest. A local grocery store donated gift cards for the first, second, and third place winners. Winners were announced at the end of December.
• Durand Charm volunteers decorated downtown for the holidays. Decorations included lights, Christmas flags and garland on the gazebo and large candy canes along the business sidewalks.
• The newly formed economic development committee did a survey to determine residents’ wants/needs for businesses and received 198 responses.

Elizabeth, pop. 694 (MAPPING 2013, 2021):

• Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce collaborated with the River Ridge PTO for two Dine to Donate fundraisers—January 17th and March 7th. During the fundraiser, local restaurants donated 10% of their sales to local schools.
• Successfully attracted a new daycare to town, Little Learners CTE Academy. The Academy began accepting applications on March 9th.
• GEAR launched the summer soccer on April 17th and summer baseball and t-ball season on May 28th.
• Organized a Spring Fling with business open houses as well as a petting zoo, library book sale, village-wide garage sales, bounce houses, and food specials on June 5th.
• Held Freedom Festival on July 1st at Terrapin Park. The event included live music, US Army Golden Knights Parachute Jump, vendors, fireworks, and more. A record turnout of approximately 2,500 attended and over $9,000 was raised.
• Held a grand opening celebration for the new Terrapin Park Splash Pad on August 20th with approximately 50 people in attendance.
• Organized the 7th annual Garlic Fest on August 28th. Approximately 1,500 people attended.
• Organized the annual Scarecrow Festival on October 9th and 10th. Businesses and residents created scarecrows to enter into the contest. They awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards for participating businesses as well as a residential award.
• Held a wreath laying ceremony on November 11th at the Veterans Memorial to mark Veterans Day.
• Coordinated Christmas in the Village on December 4th with Santa visits, Santa Dash, holiday bazaar, and a frontier Christmas at the Apple River Fort.
• Organized the Holiday Lighting Contest. Voting was conducted on Facebook through December 16th.

Erie, pop. 1,518 (MAPPING 2018):

• Revitalize Erie hosted a Memorial Day Picnic on May 31st. The event included food as well as a variety of games for kids and families. They served between 200 and 250 people and awarded four door prizes.
• Organized town-wide garage sales for June 4th and 5th. An online map of garage sale locations was made available.
• Promoted the downtown planters available for sponsorship. For a donation of $100, the sponsor received a plaque to be displayed on the planter. They raised approximately $2,000 for the 2021 Adopt-A-Pot program.
• Volunteer Mark Melton built eight additional planters for this summer’s Adopt-A-Pot program, bringing the total number of planters to 38. All of the planters were sponsored by April 15th.
• Organized a community Easter Scavenger Hunt on March 20th. Event featured 21 stops with prizes and activities. Volunteers filled 1600 eggs with goodies for the event. Approximately 225 people attended.
• Participated in the Small Town Spring Hop & Shop March 26th – 27th. Retail stores in the region held special promotions for the event.
• Organized a spring cleanup at Heritage Park on May 15th.
• Revitalize Erie partnered with the Lake Erie Country Club to hold a Queen of Hearts fundraiser raising $1,032 for Revitalize Erie.
• Assisted the Erie Police Department with the National Night Out event on August 3rd to promote positive police-community partnerships. Event included prizes, activities including a dunk tank, and free food.
• Revitalize Erie welcomed Peace Corps Fellow (PCF) intern, Katelin Bridgman in September to assist with organizational management and project implementation.
Added pumpkins and gourds to planter boxes and decorated the village Triangle with cornstalks, straw bales, and pumpkins on September 17th.

Organized the Erie Street Fest held September 18th with a car show, vendor show, kids box car parade, little Mr. and Ms. Pageant, beer garden with live music and more with approximately 400 in attendance and $1,943 raised. Revitalize Erie sold 100 t-shirts for next year’s sesquicentennial, netting $300 profit.

The PCF intern and other volunteers have begun leading the Village through a rebranding process to develop new logos, brand guidelines, taglines, colors, and promotional materials for the Village. They are also developing wayfinding signage and a new community website, and are researching grants for funding the projects.

Revitalize Erie volunteers assisted with the Whiteside County TRIAD document shredding event on October 14th in conjunction with National Honor Society members, police officers and other community volunteers.

Peace Corps Fellow intern, Katelin Bridgeman met with high school National Honor Society members to discuss their vision for the future of Erie. Revitalize Erie hopes to continue working with the Honor Society to plan volunteer events and fundraisers.

Organized the Pumpkin Bash on October 30th. The event included hot chocolate, temporary tattoos and carnival games, cookie decorating, guess the number of candy corn contest, pumpkin decorating, and a pumpkin decorating contest. Approximately 250 people attended the event.

Held a trivia night at the Lake Erie Country Club on November 5th. In addition to the trivia, the event featured a silent auction. The event was well-attended with 89 participants and raised $1,491.

Decorated the downtown planter boxes for the holidays with pine branches, pinecones, and decorations on November 20th. Volunteers also installed lights on the downtown triangle Christmas tree.

Organized Hometown Holiday on December 4th. Event included visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, crafts for kids, letters to Santa, a soup supper, open houses at participating businesses, a lighted parade, silent auction and raffles, and tree lighting ceremony. Approximately 400 people attended, and the event raised $1,547.

Revitalize Erie volunteers created a float for the Christmas Parade.

Volunteers responded to kids who wrote letters to Santa during the Hometown Holiday event.

Sold t-shirts with the postal code 61250 or Vintage 1872 as a fundraiser.

Announced the Sesquicentennial Seal and T-shirt Design Contest on December 16th. Entries will be accepted through January 18th.

Revitalize Erie made donations to local organizations including King’s Kloset Blessing Bags meal program ($170), a Firefly Christmas Angel, Toys for Tots, and to the Erie Fire Department Boot Drive ($100).

The Revitalize Erie Coordinating Council sent letters to 78 local businesses on December 17th to schedule a meeting with them to complete a business retention and expansion survey with PCF Katelin Bridgeman. The letter also invited businesses to become sponsors of 2022 events and support Revitalize Erie in other ways.

Revitalize Erie has finalized the design for the All Roads Lead to Erie mural. The mural will be completed this summer for the Erie sesquicentennial.

Findlay, pop. 664 (MAPPING 2011):

- Coordinated a Farmers Market and Small Business Fair on June 5th at the Junction at the Old Country Church.
- Held concerts on the first Friday of each month and ‘Little Market on Main’ shopping event on the first Saturday of each month.
- Coordinated the 2021 Findlay Walleye Festival on July 23rd – 24th, which attracted several hundred people. Highlights of the event included walleye sandwiches, car show, beer tent, and entertainment.
Girard, pop. 1,785 (MAPPING 2014):
- Hosted the 3rd Annual Hill to Hill ride on May 23rd from the Oak Hills Golf Course and Winery to the Vixen Hills Winery in Palmyra with 34 riders participating. The event raised $1,500.
- Held the 3rd annual Tipsy Tour Poker Run fundraiser for the Macoupin Valley Trail on July 31st. The bicycle poker ride visited a dozen businesses between Girard, Virden, and Thayer. Thirty-five bikers participated, and the biker with the best poker hand received a prize. The event raised $1,200 for the trail project.
- The Macoupin County Trail team organized the Annual Country Tour. The tour attracted 37 riders and raised $1,200.

Hillsboro, pop. 5,902 (MAPPING 2015, 2019):
- An Imagine Hillsboro student volunteer organized a food drive on January 2nd for the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry.
- The Imagine Hillsboro Theater Group offered Socially Distanced Valentine’s Day Grams. Theater group members dropped off a valentine and read a message on the recipient’s front lawn. The event raised $250.
- Held the Annual Pop Up Art Show on March 6th.
- Organized a town-wide selfie on March 8th in honor of International Women’s Day. Participants were encouraged to wear purple and gold clothing. A photo was taken by a drone.
- Launched the 2021 Farmers Market on May 1st. The market is held every first and third Thursday from May to September on Lincoln Plaza in downtown Hillsboro.
- Started an Eat Local with Imagine Hillsboro Farmers Market weekly feature on May 14th posting a recipe using fresh ingredients on the Imagine Hillsboro and Farmers Market Facebook pages from May through September.
- Organized two Spring Cleanups on May 8th and May 15th and a Highway Cleanup on June 12th to pick up trash along Route 127. The volunteers were featured in the news for recovering stolen items discarded along the highway.
- The Tech Committee has agreed to raise funds to upgrade at least half of the computers that will go in the new library.
- Held a preview Open House on July 1st at the future site of the Hill Top Coop to discuss the status of The Coop, and the future services to be provided.
- Hillsboro’s mayor and Imagine Hillsboro volunteers painted old light poles on July 1st in preparation for rewiring of the lights.
- Imagine Hillsboro collaborated with the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and the Journal-News to host Shop Hillsboro promotions on June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, and November 27th. Shoppers could turn in receipts from participating stores for a chance to win $50 in Chamber Bucks. For the August 21st event, the organizers brought back the downtown bed races. Prizes were awarded for the top three finishing beds in the race. Approximately 200 people attended the bed races.
- The free back to school store was held on July 24th at the Event Center of Montgomery County. School supplies, free haircuts, as well as clothing and shoes donated by Shoe Carnival were provided.
- Held a pop-up book sale in downtown Hillsboro on August 7th.
- Imagine Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Committee presented a plan to the Hillsboro City Council on August 10th to develop biking/hiking trails. The ‘Oo-De-Lally’ trail system will include a diverse selection of courses for all ability levels. Their accomplishments included:
  o Held a public informational meeting about the proposed trail system on August 19th.
  o Launched Bike Hillsboro on October 1st with a new Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/BikeHillsboro/). This new effort will promote biking in Hillsboro and the development of the Oo-De-Lally mountain bike trail system.
  o The new Bike Hillsboro effort created merchandise for the Oo-De-Lally mountain bike trail system that they sold as a fundraiser at the Hillsboro Harvest Market on October 2nd. They will continue to sell merchandise at Black Rabbit Coffee Roasting.
  o Bike Hillsboro supporter, Dan Clotfelter organized an online fundraiser for the Oo-De-Lally mountain bike trail system and raised $1,255.
  o Organized a Glow Ride fundraiser on October 29th. Participants paid $20 to complete the 4-mile ride. At the same time, a shorter free family-friendly ride was offered. Imagine Hillsboro volunteers sold t-shirts, tote bags, and glow sticks, and accepted donations for the Oo-De-Lally trail system.
• Imagine Hillsboro received their approval for Illinois Sales Tax Exemption.
• Announced on September 9th that the City of Hillsboro will be featured in the Smithsonian Institution’s traveling exhibit, “Spark! Places of Innovation” in 2023. The announcement was followed by a party at the Opera House Brewing Company. Approximately 200 people attended the event.
• Governor Pritzker visited Hillsboro on September 10th to announce the Rebuild Illinois Main Street and Downtown Capital program to help revitalize areas hurt by the pandemic.
• The Imagine Hillsboro Central Park Committee has raised approximately $46,000 raised for park improvements. A giant “H” was installed in the park by a local business owner.
• Imagine Hillsboro created a ‘Donation Subscription Store’ autopay donation program. Donors sign up for a 12-month contract to have $10 auto-deducted from their account monthly for a designated project or committee.
• Imagine Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Committee is working on a “parklet” on an unused grass area on Main Street. The plan is to put in permanent tables, a patio, a fountain, and a stage for live performances, music, etc.
• Atlas 46 sponsored the Monster Building Competition held during the Hillsboro Harvest Market on October 2nd. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.
• Organized the Hillsboro Harvest Market with a wide variety of vendors on October 2nd. The event also included a tractor pull, bowling on the square, a cake walk, pumpkin painting, kids crafts, chalk of the town, hayrides, an escape room, and live music.
• The Blended Artists Imaginarium, formerly the Imagine Hillsboro Theater Group, received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.
• The Volunteer Committee painted the exterior of the Historical Society rent house located behind the historic Harkey House on October 16th.
• City of Hillsboro’s superintendent of parks, lakes, and recreation recruited volunteers from Imagine Hillsboro and others to plant trees in city parks on Oct. 30th. Thirty-seven trees of 28 different species were planted.
• Hillsboro held their 9th annual Trick or Treat Trail on October 29th. Children were invited to trick-or-treat at local businesses and watch the Halloween parade.
• The Pawsboro 620-K9 Dog Park celebrated its second anniversary with a Dog Party, with proceeds going to support Paws Care animal rescue. The October 30th event included photo opportunities, as well as dog costumes, bandanas, and treats available for purchase. The event raised over $500 for the rescue.
• The Hillsboro Coop – a co-working space opened on November 1st. The Coop was created in a historic downtown building. Members can choose between a flex desk plan and a dedicated desk or student membership. The Hilltop Coop currently has approximately 30 members.
• Hosted their annual Rake and Run event on November 6th to help senior citizens and veterans in cleaning up their fall leaves.
• Partnered with the Journal News to launch a new column called “Imagine Hillsboro Checks In”. The first column was run on November 22nd and the column will be run twice monthly.
• Updated the Imagine Hillsboro website (imaginehillsboro.com). The website has a page for each Action Team that includes information on current and past projects as well as pictures and ways to get involved.
• Imagine Hillsboro and The Chamber of Commerce hosted a business window decorating contest and a residential lights/décor contest.
• Organized a Storybook Christmas on December 4th. The event included vendors, breakfast with Santa, roasted chestnuts, reverse lighted parade, games, letters to Santa, a Christmas movie, caroling, Cindy Lou Who lookalike contest, ‘A Light for Luna’ book reading and signing, kids’ activities, and Tree Lighting Ceremony.
• Coordinated with downtown merchants to offer Friday Night Lights—extended shopping hours every Friday in December.
• Coordinated Cookies with Santa on Saturday, December 18th. Children were gifted a box of cookies sponsored by Sweet Addictions and Street Eats and Imagine Hillsboro.
Jasper County, pop. 9,287 (MAPPING 2020):

- Jasper County Together received a donation of $1,000 for their community projects from Dieterich Bank on February 23rd.

Lanark, pop. 1,504 (MAPPING 2014):

- Received a donation of $1,000 for their community projects from Dieterich Bank on February 23rd.
- Organized an Easter egg hunt on March 27th at the Lanark City Park. The event also featured a visit by the Easter Bunny.
- Launched their annual farmers market. Between 100 and 250 people attend the market each week.
- Hosted a COVID vaccine clinic during the farmers market. A total of 25 people were vaccinated during the event.
- The Celebrate Lanark team organized a Summer Kids Carnival on June 26th with games and prizes for kids 8 years old and under.
- Organized a competition with downtown businesses and organizations decorating a planter pot with the theme of Christmas movies.
- Organized a Parade of Lights for the evening of November 26th.
- Coordinated a vendor fair called “Jingle Fest” on November 27th. The event included over 35 vendors as well as visits with Santa and crafts for kids.
- Volunteers delivered Santa’s Mailbox to the library on December 1st. On several designated evenings in December, one of Santa’s special friends (the Easter Bunny, the school mascot, Mickey Mouse, etc.) came to pick up the letters. Celebrate Lanark committee members ensured that each letter received an answer.
- Organized a Light Up Lanark holiday display competition. They awarded a winner for each quadrant of the community and a grand prize winner. The judging took place on December 10th and the winners were announced on a December 18th.


- Volunteers continue to make enhancements to the new Woodlands Park.
  - Volunteers spread rock to complete the walking trail at the Woodlands on March 1st.
  - Organized a workday to plant trees at the Woodlands on March 14th.
  - Organized a workday on March 28th to plant seeds & plants, dig a drainage ditch/creek and add rocks, and pick up sticks at the Woodlands.
  - Organized a Pork Loin Drive Thru fundraiser at Linn Park on May 2nd.
  - Launched a campaign on May 21st to make a memorial sound garden with outdoor musical instruments at the Woodlands Park for Bob Hills, a long-term music teacher in the Martinsville area.
  - The zipline at the Woodlands has been closed multiple times for repairs and to make some adjustments to avoid possible injury due to an abrupt stop at the end of the zip line. Zip line was reopened on December 14th.
- Scheduled twelve concerts for summer 2021 at the Linn Park Amphitheater:
  - The Grand Turn performed live at the Linn Park Amphitheater on June 5th. The Martinsville on the Move Team sold concessions at the concert to fund future events.
  - Doug Haddix and Kurt Williamson performed at Linn Park Amphitheater on Saturday, June 19th. The concert was sponsored by the Martinsville on the Move’s Changing Hands resale shop.
  - Continued to host concerts at Linn Park Amphitheater including Creole Stomp (August 21st), Scott Wattles and the Blue Suede Crew (September 11th).
  - Held the last concert of the season Jake and Mikayla Houl and Elevate Praise at Linn Park Amphitheater on October 9th.
- Martinsville on the Move hosted a program provided by three local historians, ‘Mapping the Old York Trail-Road’ and a City cemetery walk on September 26th.
Mattoon, pop. 16,870 (MAPPING 1994, 2017):

- The Elevate business incubator facilitated a KIVA loan for Buzzed and Board Media, LLC. On January 1st, they announced that 66 lenders had donated the goal amount of $5,000.
- Recognized the first Elevate member to utilize ‘The Elevate Lake Land College Initiative’ on January 2nd. The program allows full members of Elevate to receive a 27-credit hour business development certificate tuition waiver through Lake Land College.
- Organized a Celebration of Innovation and Growth at Elevate on Jan 28th to celebrate the success of the center and the entrepreneurs who have benefited from their services.
- Mattoon In Motion (MIM) members presented on their success thus far at the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs 32nd Annual Economic Development Conference on February 24th.
- Elevate was featured on WEIU TV on the “Issues and Attitudes” series at Eastern Illinois University on March 22nd.
- Elevate offered a variety of educational opportunities including:
  - Series of free workshops every Thursday in May. All four workshops focused on mental health and work/life balance. The final workshop was held May 27th.
  - Series of eight Facebook Live workshops, “Working Remotely Web Series” with Grow with Google content through June 29th.
  - Eight-week leadership workshop series from June 2nd to July 28th.
  - “Camp Start-Up” for aspiring young entrepreneurs age 11 to 16 from June 14th to 17th sponsored by First Mid Bank and Trust.
  - Free workshop, ‘Elevate Your Entrepreneurship: Learn how to develop a simple business plan to elevate your success’ on September 9th.
  - One-day entrepreneur conference, ‘Faith-Driven Entrepreneur Global Conference’ on September 8th.
  - Two-part workshop called “Improve your Communication: Making the Connection” on October 19th and 21st. The workshop was led by Jason Wyatt, a certified John Maxwell Team Trainer.
  - Online workshop called Elevate your Entrepreneurship with Dominique Johnson, CEO of Dom’s Custom Design LLC, on creating a business plan on November 8th and 9th.
  - An interactive workshop with Ashley Berkheimer called Growing Small Business Soul Weights on November 10th.
- Elevate received a donation of computers and computer accessories from Land of Lincoln Credit Union on June 3rd.
- Elevate hosted an after hours event for the Mattoon and Charleston Chambers of Commerce on June 10th.
- Elevate is a regional community outreach navigator for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Back To Business grant program. As a ‘Hub,’ Elevate is assisting businesses in the region with applying for America Rescue Plan grant funds.
- Elevate received a donation of Raspberry Pi computers from Lake Land College for the business incubator.
- Elevate held their first ‘Member Mixer’ and a ‘Life & Wellness’ workshop on August 3rd. Eight Elevate members attended the mixer event.
- Elevate hosted the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative strategic planning sessions in August.
- Two local students received internships with The IDEA Center at the University of Notre Dame. The two students plan to start a business with the help of technical assistance of Elevate.
- Coles County Entrepreneurship Program launched (ClassE) with 21 local students. The Elevate board assists with fundraising efforts for the ClassE program, and the incubator serves as ClassE’s base location.
- Launched the first episode of Coles County Collections, a local podcast for entrepreneurs, by entrepreneurs on September 14th. Each episode will feature a different entrepreneur from communities in the region.
- University of Illinois Extension finished installment of Coles County’s first-ever CNC-based farming machine, FarmBot which will be on display at Elevate.
- The Mattoon Broadband Coalition (MBC) is making gains towards their goal of providing affordable and reliable internet services to Coles County. They are currently working with local service providers to begin a countywide mapping of those citizens served, underserved, and not served in regards to internet services.
- Announced on October 21st that Mattoon in Motion will be the lead organization in developing a proposed $60+ million sports complex. They have completed a feasibility study and have forecast expenses. Rural King has agreed to donate 95 acres for the development. Mattoon in Motion will lead the efforts in the fundraising and final approval stages working with Sports Facilities Companies (SFC). Construction could start as early as summer of 2022.
• Elevate released a survey on November 7th to gather input on the next round of workshops/trainings they offer.
• Announced on November 15th that Elevate would be hiring a part-time outreach coordinator.
• Held an end of the year celebration/holiday party to celebrate the successes of 2021 on December 14th.
• Launched a new tool for business owners – the Elevate Market Finder is an ArcGIS tool that includes information on the businesses in the seven-county region Elevate serves.
• Elevate partnered with a photographer to offer free headshots to Elevate members. Non-members could purchase a headshot with $10 of the proceeds donated to their choice of Elevate or ClassE.
• The Mattoon School Board has approved the purchase of the Consolidated Communications building and will refurbish it as an innovation center (primarily for high school students).
• MIM Robust Economy Team is working with the Mattoon School District to explore if the Knightmoves.org project would be a good fit for the new innovation center. The project is focused on building the software development skillset in rural and urban underserved communities.
• The Robust Economy Team introduced Linc Koerger of Knightmoves.org to Christina Hild of the Coles County Regional Innovation Center for the purpose of possibly developing programming.
• The MIM Robust Economy Team is working with Angela Griffin, President, Coles Together, on pursuing an opportunity to grow specialty crops locally through the Green House initiative.
• The MIM Robust Economy Team is in contact with the Ohio Aerospace Institute to see how Coles County can better position themselves to be a part of the NASA supply chain and build local tech jobs long term.
• The Robust Economy Team is researching the Federal COVID Relief Fund program to determine initiatives that would be eligible for the funding.

McLean, pop. 743 (MAPPING 2010):

• Worked with the landscaping company to spruce up the Water Tower Park by edging and adding mulch in April and replacing a few plants in June. The landscaping company was paid $1,060 with funds from previous event.
• Organized the 8th annual Get Your 6.6 on Route 66 run/walk on Route 66 from Funks Grove to McLean on August 28th. There were 202 registered participants, with 181 completing the route. The after party included food and drink vendors, a silent auction to benefit a local pet rescue, music, a classic car show, and activities for kids. The event raised approximately $8,500.
• Organized the McLean Holiday Celebration including a tree lighting, hot cocoa, caroling, visits with Santa, and a Gingerbread House building event.
• Began a partnership with the food pantry to organize volunteers to harvest unwanted fruit and deliver it to the food pantry.

Morrison, pop. 4,085 (MAPPING 2007, 2019):

• Morrison Department of Fun held a Main Street Block Party on July 25th, with approximately 200 people attending. Activities included games, water activities, live music, a dunk tank, face painting, and raffles.
• The Parks and Recreation team made significant progress on the development of a dog park:
  o The Parks and Recreation team worked with Resthave retirement home to make and sell dog and people treats. The fundraiser earned $600 for the planned dog park.
• After nearly a year of effort, Core McLean was finally awarded Illinois sales tax exempt status.
• Solicited donations from local businesses for the annual Adopt-A-Pot program and filled 18 pots. They also planted around the bell in the park square. A total of $875 was donated for the program.
The Parks and Recreation Team worked with Embraced: Wellness Hub, Coffee Shop, and Café to donate 10% of proceeds on March 17th to the dog park.

The Parks and Recreation Team placed a banner with a picture of the proposed park at the future location of the dog park. They also installed a wooden dog bone with a thermometer to show the level of donations.

Logan Contractors is donating excavation work at the future dog park site.

The Parks and Recreation Team applied for three grants and requested a donation from Purina for the dog park.

Participated in a pop-up farmers market on August 5th to sell dog print cookies and pup cakes, raising $480 for the dog park.

Coordinated a ‘Dog Days of Summer Pooch Picnic at the Future Bark Park’ fundraiser on September 18th for the dog park. Activities included a dog trick contest, doghouse and disco ball silent auction, games, food, and more. The event raised almost $2,000.

Held a dog costume contest and a raffle for a fire pit at the Whiteside County Fair to raise awareness and funding for the dog park.

Work began on the Morrison Dog Park on October 20th. Logan Contractors donated rebar and generator for the dog park. Cement was poured for the area in front of the dog park where memorial bricks will be placed and for the staging area/entrance for the dogs. Currently awaiting on bids for the fencing.

Received a donation from Ella Jo Kelly an 11-year-old community member who sold dog treats at the Farmers Market and raised $500 for the dog park.

Held a ‘Bring a Dog Have a Dog’ fundraiser on October 15th. Advantage 1 sponsored a hotdog cookout and anyone who brought a dog received a free hotdog. The event also collected donations for the dog park. The event raised $200, and Advantage 1 also donated $500.

Completed the Queen of Hearts fundraiser on October 28th at the Brick Block Pub. The winner and On the Move with Parks and Recreation split the proceeds with each receiving $16,000.

Received a grant of $3,500 from the Morrison Area Community Foundation for the dog park project on October 29th.

Launched an engraved brick fundraiser to raise money for the Dog Park on Nov 14th. Bricks sponsored for $75 will be added to the design of the dog park.

- The Parks and Recreation Team is working on becoming a federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- Morrison Department of Fun held a ‘Rock the Block’ block party on September 18th with family activities, food and a beer garden, dueling pianos, and more. Approximately 500 people attended.
- The Department of Fun organized a Fall Fest Block party on October 23rd that was well attended with over 300 participants. The event included live music, kids’ games, pumpkin decorating, hayrack rides, smores, a beer stein holding competition, a witches’ flash mob, and more.
- The Department of Fun delivered candy bombs on October 30th to kids who were in quarantine or for some other reason could not trick or treat.

Neoga, pop. 1,398 (MAPPING 2013):

- Neoga Partnership for Progress (NPP) donated money to have t-shirts printed for Project HELP preschool students.
- NPP was featured on WIEU-TV’s City Spotlight on May 26th. The video was posted on YouTube and shared to the NPP Facebook Page.
• Coordinated Sooeyfest on October 2nd. The event included free ham and beans, craft and food vendors, live entertainment, kids’ games, a pedal tractor pull, and a smoke off. Sponsors of the event were at levels with pork names such as bacon or pulled pork.

• Neoga Partnership for Progress (NPP) coordinated the Halloween Costume Contest on October 30th. Winners received a certificate and cash prize.

• Encouraged community members and businesses to become sponsors for the NPP Hometown Christmas. Each sponsor was recognized individually on Facebook and large signs were displayed during the event.

• Began a printed t-shirt and sweatshirt fundraiser on November 4th to promote Hometown Christmas and to raise funds for the event. A ‘like and tag friends’ Facebook promotion was held, and two t-shirts were given away as contest prizes on November 8th.

• Neoga Partnership for Progress organized the Neoga Hometown Christmas on November 27th. Activities included visits with Santa, photos with reindeer, ice skating, crafts, carriage rides, tree lighting, live music, and a lighted parade. The event brought hundreds of people to downtown Neoga.

Oregon, pop. 3,604 (MAPPING 2016):
• Oregon Together collaborated with the City of Oregon on the installation of solar lights on the four community welcome signs.

• Coordinated a cleanup for the alley and a rearrangement of the benches on April 21st.

• Organized a park cleanup on May 10th with the Chamber, City, and other organizations.

• Oregon Together collaborated with other community organizations for a Community Cleanup Day on September 12th to assist local homeowners with yard work.

• Volunteers decorated the Oregon Welcome signs for fall on September 26th.

• An Oregon Together member stained the benches in the alley on September 26th.

• Oregon Together and Hageman Horticulture spread mulch in Phelps Park on September 28th.

• Oregon Together held a quarterly regathering meeting (‘Small Town, Big Ideas’) on November 4th. Approximately 20 attended.

• Oregon Together held their holiday gathering on December 18th. The event celebrated the year’s accomplishments.

Pana, pop. 5,199 (MAPPING 2016, 2021):
• On January 1st, Pana Pride was featured on WAND TV News in Decatur to highlight their progress.

• Hosted a graduate student from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, as an intern. She completed a variety of community and economic development projects during her internship with Pana Pride.

• Hosted an online Mayoral Election Forum online on March 16th and an online Aldermanic Forum on March 23rd.

• Organized a limb pickup for residents to be able to dispose of limbs/branches that fell over the winter on March 27th. Twenty volunteers with seven trucks and trailers removed the limbs.

• Organized a cash mob at a locally owned restaurant (The Red Bean) for breakfast on March 27th. Approximately 25 people participated in the mob.

• Continued highlighting residents’ pride in properties through their “I Spy” Facebook posts and photos.

• Completed a raffle fundraiser on May 14th where the winner received a variety of gift cards from Pana businesses. A total of $2,800 was raised.

• Launched the 2021 Yard of the Month and Business of the Month programs that will run from May through October.

• Organized the 2021 Music in the Park at Kitchell Park with free concerts planned from May 28th until September 6th. Food trucks are also available at the park for concertgoers.

• Organized a cookout on May 29th to raise funds for new trash cans for the city parks. Through generous donations and a successful fundraiser, Pana Pride purchased and installed twenty-three new trash cans in local parks, playgrounds, and bike trail.
• Pana high school football and basketball players held a community cleanup on July 15th. Thirty-four students collected over 140 bags of garbage in two hours.

• Approximately 25 teachers and students from Lily Pads Day Care volunteered for a community cleanup day on July 27th.

• Pana Pride and the City of Pana sponsored Dumpster Days on August 5th – 7th.

• Launched a raffle fundraiser for a gun and cash prizes on August 8th with proceeds going towards a new skate park.

• Pana Pride volunteers designed and rode on a float for the Pana Labor Day parade.

• Coordinated a ‘Pana Pride Demolition Day’ in Kitchell Park on September 25th. Lunch, construction-themed games, train rides, and free photos with construction equipment were provided. Approximately 125 people attended and $800 was raised.

• Planning a Pana Pride Cookout with ribeye and pork chop sandwiches for October 16th to raise money for the Pana Pride demo fund.

• Organized a Pana Pride Cookout on October 16th to raise money for the demolition fund.

• Created a promotional video about A December to Remember event and released it on November 4th.

• Worked with the City to demolish uninhabitable homes. Pana Pride received a certificate of appreciation from the City of Pana for the donation of $29,470 that was used for demolition of six dilapidated properties in 2021.

• Pana Pride organized A December to Remember event held December 4th – 26th with volunteers coordinating a Christmas light display at Kitchell Park. Opening night for the light display also featured sleigh rides, a live nativity, caroling, a vendor fair, children’s concert, and more. They raised over $72,000 for new light displays and an additional $8,000 from food sales, vendor fair, and donations booth. Over 500 people attended the event.

• Pana Pride organized a Christmas Cash Mob on December 8th. The group met at a new restaurant (Curly Girls Café) for breakfast and then mobbed Beyond Burlap and Junction Garden Center.

Pittsfield, pop. 4,206 (MAPPING 2018)

• Peace Corps Fellow, Camden Arnold, began her 11-month internship on January 6th with Picture Pittsfield and Pike County Economic Development Corporation.

• Picture Pittsfield President, Jessica Guthrie, presented two “Ideas into Action” MAPPING webinars—Event Planning on January 11th and Communication and Morale on February 9th.

• Hosted Galentine’s Day on February 11th – 12th, with punchcards that could be redeemed for a chance to win a prize.

• Picture Pittsfield posted a virtual Town Hall meeting with a video highlighting the accomplishments of 2020 and unveiling the action plan for 2021 on March 1st.

• Organized the Courthouse Glow for the Spring Equinox on March 20th. Over 30 people attended the event.

• Organized a ribeye cookout fundraiser on April 9th at County Market. The cookout raised $1,143 for projects.

• Co-hosted a drive-thru Community Wellness Expo with the Illini Community Hospital and the Pike County Illinois Chamber of Commerce on April 17th.

• Picture Pittsfield began creating commercial video shoots to promote Pittsfield and Pike County in April. The campaign launched on June 7th. The campaign was funded with a grant from the Pike County Accommodation Tax Board and proceeds from fundraisers.

• Organized Spring Pickin’ Days held May 15th and 16th on the Pike County Courthouse Lawn. The event was in conjunction with Pike County Pickin’ Days committee.

• Coordinated a cleanup day at King Park on May 22nd. Thirty-two volunteers attended and cleaned up the park, painted picnic tables, and more. A second cleanup day was on June 6th to complete the work at King Park.

• Hosted the 2nd Annual 50/50 Rubber Duck Drawing at the King Park Pool on June 17th.

• Picture Pittsfield organized a Christmas in July event the week of July 18th – 24th to promote shopping local. They offered a punchcard promotion and prizes. The event included Santa driving by in a convertible and live music. They raised $600 for prizes and event expenses. Approximately 300 people attended.

• Coordinated a Community Clean-up Day on July 27th. Pleasant Hill Community Club challenged Picture Pittsfield to see which organization could collect the most trash in their community.
• Picture Pittsfield created a new virtual mural tour on the Picture Pittsfield website. The virtual tour allows people to view the community murals and provide background information on each mural.
• The Pittsfield Fall Festival group awarded Picture Pittsfield with the ‘Friends of the Community’ award during the Fall Festival on September 2nd.
• Held the Fall Equinox Courthouse Glow on September 22nd with approximately 50 people attending the event.
• Picture Pittsfield held a pork chop cookout fundraiser on September 24th to raise funds for the King Park walking path and the dog park. Over 100 people attended the cookout and $950 was raised.
• Organized the 2nd annual Big Buck Classic disc golf tournament on October 9th. Winners received plaques featuring deer antlers.
• Organized Fall Pickin’ Days on October 16th and 17th on the downtown square. Event included over 40 vendors and live music. This event was held in conjunction with a countywide event called Pike County IL Fall Pickin’ Days.
• Coordinated the Howl-O-Ween Howl – a fun walk and dog costume contest held on October 23rd. They collaborated with the Rotary Club on this event and the proceeds will go towards the development of a new dog park in King Park. The future dog park will offer separate runs for large and small dogs, Fido drinking fountains, a sally port gate, mower gates, doggie poop stations, benches and shade trees.
• The walking path around King Park was completed on November 12th. This was a joint project of the Park Board, the City of Pittsfield, and Picture Pittsfield. Picture Pittsfield raised approximately $10,000 for the project.
• Hosted the 3rd annual Deer Santa Festival on November 28th from 2PM to 6PM. The event includes a deer display competition with various organizations/businesses decorating a wooden deer. The event also included a lighted parade, visits with Santa, ornament decorating, and a tree lighting ceremony.
• Organized the wreath auction. Businesses and organizations purchased a blank wreath, decorated it, and returned it to be auctioned off. The wreath auction raised over $450.
• Coordinated the Light It Up Pittsfield home and business decorating contest. Volunteers selected a winner and runner up in both categories. Winners were announced on December 19th.

• The Rushville Chamber of Commerce continues to grow and provide more services to Rushville:
  o Continued to recognize Chamber member businesses with the Business of the Month program.
  o The Rushville Chamber of Commerce launched a website on February 22nd (www.Rushvillechamber.com).
  o The Rushville Chamber of Commerce organized an Easter egg scavenger hunt the week of March 20th to April 3rd. Children found paper eggs around town to unlock a secret message and a chance to win a prize.
  o Chamber organized “Hop into Shops” held April 1st – 3rd. Visitors got their ‘passports’ stamped at participating businesses to be entered in to a drawing for Chamber Bucks.
  o The Chamber coordinated an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt. Three prizes were given for pre-k, 1st-4th grade, and 5th-8th grade. Winners were announced on April 3rd.
  o The Rushville Chamber of Commerce announced on June 3rd that Kerr Homecenter was awarded Business of the Year and the Princess Theater was named Organization of the Year for 2020.
  o Launched Chamber Checks to promote shopping at locally owned Chamber member businesses.
  o Organized a Day Care Fair on April 18th at the Wright Conference Center.
  o The Chamber held a ‘Pancakes and Pajamas’ event on July 31st. The event included food, giveaways, discounts, and yoga on the square. Over 20 businesses and 30 shoppers participated.
  o The Chamber of Commerce coordinated the Halloween Merchant Walk held on October 29th.
  o The Rushville Chamber of Commerce continued its Business of the Month program awarding Scripps Park Pool for July, Boehm’s Garden Center for August, and West Central Bank for September 2021.
  o The Rushville Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the grand re-opening of SouthSide Café on July 17th, for Legacy Land Co. at their new location on August 5th, and for the opening of Station 1883 on September 10th.
  o Partnered with the Rushville Chamber of Commerce to continue the 2021 Rushville Farmers Market throughout the summer.
In January, Grow Rushville began hosting a Peace Corps Fellow intern, Gaothaying Her, for an 11-month internship to assist the organization with implementation of projects from the Grow Rushville Action Plan. Her work included:

- February 3rd, Peace Corps Fellow intern, Gaothaying Her began a series Facebook Live events called “Explore Rushville.” The first Facebook event was at Spoon River College in Rushville. Additional “Explore Rushville” segments on Facebook Live were produced weekly throughout 2021.
- With the leadership of Gaothaying Her, the Schuyler County Interagency Council was revived and the first meeting was on February 22nd with 23 representatives of nonprofit organizations in Schuyler County.
- Peace Corps Fellow intern, Gogo Her, provided the Chamber’s first Lunch and Learn workshop on July 22nd on utilizing social media for businesses. Nine businesses and nonprofits were represented.

The Rushville Fitness and Community Center continues to bring recreation and educational opportunities to Rushville:

- The Rushville Fitness and Community Center (RFCC) launched a survey on January 12th to determine the best times/days to host leagues and other events.
- The RFCC organized a variety sports leagues for youth and adults.
- The Rushville Fitness and Community Center began hosting gardening classes in collaboration with Boehm’s Garden Center on February 6th.
- The Rushville Fitness and Community Center (RFCC) organized a pitching clinic on April 24th.
- The RFCC offered free exercise classes at the farmers market every Friday in June.
- The RFCC launched Kids Only Zone the 2nd Friday of each month, where parents can drop off kids to be watched from 6:00-9:00 pm for a fee.
- The RFCC hosted the Rushville Public Library’s Tales and Tails Summer Reading Program each Wednesday in June.
- The RFCC announced that they will host an after school program for kids for the 2021-2022 school year. The RFCC After School program filled all slots and began August 19th for the children of over 50 local families.
- The Rushville Fitness and Community Center held the RFCC Rainbow 5K run/1 mile walk on June 5th.
- The Rushville Fitness and Community Center (RFCC) collected supplies for their afterschool program. They also held an indoor athletic wear sale at the fitness center, with proceeds going towards the afterschool program.
- The RFCC hosted the ‘Knocker Soccer’ tournament on July 17th and 24th. PLAY (People Loving Active Youth – Rushville) donated the knocker soccer balls and other equipment for the youth programs.
- The RFCC held a free ‘Cards and Coffee’ community event on July 16th and August 30th.
- The RFCC provided a ‘Dive In Movie’ night in the pool featuring ‘Jaws’ on September 11th.
- The Rushville Fitness and Community Center hosted a Resource Fair for Senior Citizens on September 24th sponsored by Culbertson Senior Life Solutions to provide senior citizens with information and resources on senior services, housing, community events, and volunteer opportunities.
- The RFCC held a ‘Back to School Bash’ on August 14th with activities and a pool party.
- The RFCC is providing a swing dance class weekly from September 13th – October 4th.
- The RFCC began a ‘Fitness and Friends’ play group for children and parents every Tuesday from 9:00AM – 11:00AM.

Grow Rushville launched a community needs survey. Over 200 people completed the survey and the results, released on March 23rd, showed a need for childcare, afterschool programs, and job opportunities.
Savanna, pop. 2,783 (MAPPING 2003, 2013):

- Six Beautification in Motion volunteers spent four hours cleaning the local museum on April 1\(^{st}\).
- Cleaned, prepped, and planted the ‘Welcome to Savanna’ planters on May 17\(^{th}\). The flowers for the planters were donated by Beautification in Motion members.
- Volunteers swept and picked up litter on Main Street on May 24\(^{th}\) and June 28\(^{th}\).
- Beautification in Motion assisted preparing and planting 40 City-owned cement planters on Main Street.

Stewardson, pop. 721 (MAPPING 2010):

- Conducted an online fundraiser for the park and on January 20\(^{th}\) and raised $1,760 in donations.
- Hosted pictures with the Easter Bunny on April 3\(^{rd}\).
- Held a bake sale to raise funds for the park project during the town wide garage sales on May 22\(^{nd}\).
- Organized a Prom for the Park for adults on June 12\(^{th}\). The event included food, drinks, dancing, as well as prizes for best dressed, best hair, best moves, and best couple. Tickets were $25 each or $45 for a couple.
- Hosted a Stewardson Summer Vendor Fair. A $5 admission fee was charged, with proceeds going towards the park project.
- Organized a Halloween Harvest Parade. The parade was on October 23\(^{rd}\). A variety of prizes were awarded for costumes. After the parade, there was a soup and sandwich dinner and a cake walk.
- Launched a memorial fundraiser to replace the swings at the park in late October. The six swings and three baby swings were quickly fully funded. The swings arrived in Stewardson November 6\(^{th}\).

Stockton, pop. 1,728 (MAPPING 2014):

- Planted 20 flowerpots along the downtown/Highway 20.
- Awarded a scholarship to a Stockton High School senior.
- Held the Stockton Annual 5k/10k run/walk on July 3\(^{rd}\).
- The Chamber and Stockton Strong held their annual Fall Into Stockton Event on August 21\(^{st}\). The event consisted of vendors, live music, beer tent, kids’ activities, and a car and truck show. This year, the event included a kick-off parade.

Strasburg, pop. 531 (MAPPING 2007, 2017):

- Strasburg Community Action Network (SCAN) sponsored a monthly gnome giveaway from March until August. Each month, SCAN randomly selected one community member to receive a gnome.
- SCAN began another round of Biggest Loser weight loss competition on March 8\(^{th}\). Winner of the contest was announced May 4\(^{th}\).
- Organized a Main Street Makeover for May 8\(^{th}\). They planted flowerpots, swept sidewalks, pulled weeds, spread mulch, and picked up trash.
- Organized town wide garage sales as well as a flea market for May 29\(^{th}\).
- Organized Berries and Burgers for June 3\(^{rd}\) at the Community Center. The event featured pork burgers and homemade strawberry shortcake. Proceeds will go towards park improvements.
- The Burn Out in the Burg Car Show committee organized a Burn Out Burritos sale on May 23\(^{rd}\) with proceeds going towards the car show.
- Organized a envelop fundraiser — donors choose an envelope labeled from 1 to 200 and donate that amount of money. SCAN expects to raise a total of $22,000 for park improvements. They installed a thermometer at the post office to track progress.
- Coordinated the Strasburg Farmers Market held on Saturdays in July.
- Held a ‘Red, White, and Blue and Footlongs Too’ community dinner fundraiser on July 2\(^{nd}\) to raise money for park improvements. Over 80 people attended and $600 was raised.
• Provided a ‘PiYo in the Park’ fitness class at the town park on July 3rd. Ten people participated, and $80 was raised.
• The Strasburg Park Committee held a public input meeting on August 23rd to discuss building a new park pavilion and other park improvements.
• Held the town wide rummage sales on September 4th.
• Coordinate the Little Hatchets Soccer League with 63 youth. Games were played weekly from August to early October with over 150 people attending.
• Held Burn Out in the Burg car show on October 2nd and sold concessions as a fundraiser. The event attracted approximately 150 people and raised $822.
• Organized the annual Santa Brigade Breakfast and Market on November 13th. The event included a breakfast, holiday vendors, and live holiday music. Approximately 250 people attended and raised $2,600.
• Collaborated with the Village Board on an end of the year recognition celebration on December 11th. Event included a soup supper, a review of accomplishments, and presentation of the Volunteer of the Year award.
• Organized a Christmas Lights Contest with winners for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place announced on December 20th.
• The Strasburg Community Foundation funded several projects including a new disc golf course around the ball diamond and new basketball goals for the courts at the park.
• A house was completed in the York Acres Subdivision in December and is now available for purchase.
• Announced that the second phase of the York Acres Subdivision was opened and lots are available for $5,000.

**Sullivan, pop. 4,413 (MAPPING 2018):**
• Applied for a grant from State Farm for $25,000 to go towards the Splash Pad fund.
• Sullivan Spark welcomed Peace Corps Fellow intern, Sequoia Cornell-Conner in September to assist with organizational management and project implementation.
• Began talks with Lake Land College to create a dual credit program utilizing the industrial kitchen.
• Hosted a computer drive on November 6th to collect old computers to be revamped for needy families and students. This project was a collaboration with the Sullivan Chamber & Economic Development and PCs for People.
• Helped organize “We Need a Little Christmas” event on December 3rd. Event included a lighted parade, business open houses, carriage rides, smores, and visits with Santa.
• Organized an elf hunt. People who found all the elves hidden around town were entered to win a $500 prize and the winner was announced on Christmas Eve.

**Teutopolis, pop. 1,618 (MAPPING 2020):**
• Posted a Parks and Recreation survey to Facebook on February 10th. The survey provided information on what residents would like in terms of parks facilities and programming.
• Organized the 2nd Annual No Trash Bash from April 17th to 24th. Teutopolis residents were encouraged to share pictures on the Teutopolis for Tomorrow Facebook page to be entered in a drawing for hometown swag.
• Organized a fundraising bartending challenge, Teutopolis “Tips” for Tomorrow, at Ping’s Tavern held on May 15th.
• Coordinated a raffle with a grand prize of a golf cart. The winner was drawn on May 1st.
• The Infrastructure Committee and the Village Board collaborated on a Safe Routes to School grant from IDOT to add sidewalks from the new subdivision to the grade school.
• The Teutopolis For Tomorrow Infrastructure Committee reviewed the sidewalks and created a priority list for replacement. Based on their recommendations, the Village started replacing sidewalk in late July 2021.
• The Infrastructure Committee began researching solar ordinances. They are developing an ordinance to present to the Village that will define where solar panels can be placed on a property.
• Organized a Golf Cart Movie Night on June 4th. Event included bounce houses, face painting, food trucks, and a free movie. Approximately 115 golf carts, and 750-1000 attended, and raised approximately $4,300.
• The Infrastructure Committee, in collaboration with the Village Board, applied for an Illinois Department of
Transportation (IDOT) Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant. If funded, the grant would pay to add sidewalks in several areas of town.

- The T4T Events and Festivals Group hosted a ‘Gnome-ingo’ gnome scavenger hunt activity. Plywood gnomes were created by the Teutopolis High School Shop Class and the Jr. High Art Club. The wood gnomes were placed around town. Families had one week in June to find all 8 gnomes. Participants took a picture of Gnome-ingo card to post on Facebook to be entered in a drawing for a $20 gift certificate.

- The T4T Events and Festivals Group organized a Garage Band Night on August 21st. Bands played at several locations around town. Nine bands participated, and food was available at various locations. Donations were accepted at the band stops, with half of the funds going to the bands and half going to Teutopolis for Tomorrow for projects. An estimated 400 people participated, and $835 was raised.

- The T4T Education Group is sponsoring a THS Student guidance/mentoring program for THS Students.

- The T4T Parks and Recreation Committee partnered with a local Eagle Scout candidate to design a Storybook Walk. The story stations will be installed in the park.

- The T4T Parks and Recreation Committee is planning a ‘Night of Cooking and Dancing’ event.

- The T4T Parks and Recreation Committee coordinated a Fall Pickleball program to be held at the Banquet hall.

- The Teutopolis for Tomorrow (T4T) Infrastructure Team replaced the streetlights with LEDs on Main, Walnut, and Elm Street. They plan to continue the project on Water Street and Southern Row.

- Teutopolis for Tomorrow organized a Town Hall Meeting on October 22nd. The event included a meal, presentations by the committees, booths and a raffle.

- Organized TeuTopGolfolis, a glow in the dark golf game following the Town Meeting on October 22nd. Teams of four paid $40 to participate. Prizes were awarded to the top three teams.

- Began promoting in October an Adopt-A-Pot program. The Village of Teutopolis purchased the planters, and they were placed downtown in late October and decorated for fall.

Walnut, pop. 1,311 (MAPPING 2017):

- WOW Organized a Sledding Jamboree January 9th and WOW provided cookies and hot chocolate for participants.

- The new Walnut Farmers Market kicked off on May 29th. The opening day of the market featured a concert by the Peterson Farm Brothers.

- Organized a Thursday Night Talent Night at Liberty Square on June 24th for community members of all ages.

- WOW made progress on the development of Liberty Square:
  - Completed a mailing requesting donations for the Liberty Square project.
  - Jamison Media Services and Brent Jamison created an impressive video of the Liberty Square project that was used for a grant proposal. The video was posted on Facebook on April 22nd.
  - Walnut Liberty Square recognized sponsors throughout May and June. So far, the group has raised approximately $300,000 of the $400,000 needed for the amphitheater and improvements to the Liberty Square property.
  - Organized Music on Main Thursday night concert series and volunteers sold concessions to raise money for the Liberty Square project.
  - Raffled off tickets for a VIP Cubs package for two in July and Bears tickets in September. All 100 tickets sold for both and the raffles raised $4,000 for the Liberty Square project.
  - Construction began on the Walnut Liberty Square project. The concrete pad was completed, and dirt, grass seed, compost, fertilizer, and labor was donated by local businesses.
  - WOW Liberty Square Committee held a trivia night on December 4th. Eight teams participated and raised $340.

- Working On Walnut (WOW) held a pet parade and costume contest for the Fall Fest celebration on October 2nd.
• The WOW Sports and Recreation Team hosted a nerf war during Fall Fest on Main. Forty youth participated and the event raised approximately $200.
• The WOW Events Team coordinated the annual chili cookoff during Fall Fest on Main with a record number of entrants.
• WOW organized a Christmas Lighting Contest with prizes awarded for the top three entrants and for Best Block. Winners were announced on December 20th.

Winchester, pop. 1,574 (MAPPING 1997, 2018):
• Organized the annual pancake and sausage dinner as a fundraiser for the Winchester Civic Group.
• Held a raffle for a gas grill and meat bundle from Lashmett’s Meat Market valued at $550. The fundraiser raised $2,260 and proceeds purchased four new trash receptacles for downtown.
• Organized a Vintage Pickers Market for May 15th. This year, the event was held in conjunction with a VFW-organized block party.
• Organized the 2021 Music in the Park Concert Series to be held on Thursday nights from June 10th to July 29th.
• Hosted Movie in the Park events each Friday through the summer.
• Coordinated Market in the Park on the square in Winchester on Thursdays throughout July and August.
• Organized a Shop Bootiful Winchester event on October 29th. The event included shopping at downtown merchants, food, and a chance to win a $100 gift certificate to a local business of their choice.
• Held raffle fundraiser in October for a $500 gift certificate. Raffle raised $2,500.
• Coordinated the 7th annual Hometown Christmas on December 4th. The event included story time with Mrs. Claus, visits with Santa, a cookie walk, vendors, gift wrapping station, gingerbread house contest, Oscar Meyer Wienermobile visit, lighted parade, and Memory Tree Ceremony.
• Coordinated a Memory Tree fundraiser to sell living Christmas trees to be displayed in the town square during the holiday season.
• Organized a Christmas Lighting Competition. Judging was completed on December 18th, and prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, as well as an honorable mention. This year, they also added a business lighting contest.

Windsor, pop. 1,079 (MAPPING 2011):
• Assisted in organizing the Spores ‘n More Mushroom Festival. The event included a soup supper and a contest for the largest and smallest mushrooms collected on April 30th. The event raised approximately $400.
• Coordinated city-wide yard sales on June 5th.
• Commissioned two patriotic murals painted by Stang Arts on downtown buildings.
• Assisted with the Windsor Harvest Picnic held August 19th – 21st. Approximately 5,000 people attended the event. The WHAT group sold desserts as a fundraiser and raised $840.