

Opinion

6A - Monday, January 23, 2023

IMAGINE HILLSBORO CHECKS IN • by Lucas Altenberger

Imagine Ready To Celebrate Hillsboro



Welcome back to Imagine Hillsboro Checks In! If this is your first time joining us, welcome. This column features a bi-monthly update regarding all things Imagine Hillsboro. We hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season and is feeling geared up for Hillsboro's 200th birthday! First, let's recap our recent holiday events and town hall. We've also had some exciting developments within the Parks committee! Let's jump in.

Christmas and winter activities were a success in Hillsboro. December saw the return of a community favorite, Storybook Christmas. Main street was filled with vendors and activities for nearly 400 patrons. Activities included carriage rides, visits from Santa, wood carving, shopping, character contests and more. On the Lincoln Stage, children in the community had the opportunity to send letters to Santa. We hope to see everyone again next year as this event continues to flourish and grow!

The inaugural Imagine Hillsboro Snow Pageant was held in December as well. Congratulations to our Queen Jade Christian, Princess Hazel Holshouser and Little Miss Tinley Rufus. Thank you to our Pageant Directors Tiffany Reitz and Sheridan Lyerla, our 23 candidates and our 13 business sponsors! Everyone's hard work to make this event a success is greatly appreciated, and we plan to continue this event in the future.

In addition to the Snow Pageant and Storybook Christmas, those who still had some shopping to do could do so at the special Sunday #ShopHillsboro event on December 11. Not only did patrons have a wide variety of stores to choose from this year (welcome new businesses and business expansions!), but several stores also held drawings, giveaways and promotions. Patrons also had the

chance to grab some food while shopping. Food trucks, tea/food samples, and a hot chocolate bar could all be enjoyed during the event.

Earlier this month, another Town Hall event was held for community members, organization leaders and business owners. Those interested gathered at the Abbey on Broad to discuss the benefits of keeping money in your local economy, and effective ways to market to your own community. Guest speakers included Sarah Odum of the U of I extension office and Mike Plunkett of *The Journal-News*. The evening also included a live question-and-answer panel. Be on the lookout for future Town Hall events!

In Parks and Recreation news, the city recently approved the construction of a disc (frisbee) golf course. This project will be built near the Fireman's Clubhouse area and continue into the nearby park areas. Please see the Thursday, Jan. 5, edition of *The Journal-News* for more information. On Saturday, Jan. 14, the BikeHillsboro sub-committee hosted another clean-up day in preparation of the upcoming Oo-De-Lally bike trail. The Parks committee also recently extended the life of the Central Park dome play equipment with over 40 hours of priming and painting.

The Bicentennial and Smithsonian Committee continues to meet regularly to usher in Hillsboro's 200th birthday. If you are interested in helping with these developments, please contact Terri Casey at bicentennial2023@imaginehillsboro.com. You may also be interested in making a small donation, which has been set up on the [website, www.imaginehillsboro.com/donate](http://www.imaginehillsboro.com/donate).

While you are there, be sure to check out some of the updated committee pages and fresh Home page look. Remember, you can also join us on the Spaces app using invite code 9FF87W.

Stay warm, and see you soon!

LETTERS to the editor

Celebrate Tenth Year Of Litchfield Museum

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Litchfield Museum. The board has decided to mark the occasion with special events all year long!

The Journal-News has generously agreed to publish an article about the history of Litchfield each week. Our hope is that these articles will peak your interest about the rich history we have.

A contest to show where "a museum shirt has taken you"

is underway. Prizes will be given for the funniest picture, the most original, the best shot taken in Litchfield, the best shot that is the farthest away, and the picture with the most people wearing museum apparel. For more details stop by the museum or visit our Facebook page. All pictures will be posted in the museum.

Many more plans are underway. We hope you will help us celebrate a success-

ful ten year run, and stop by to visit! We guarantee fond memories, laughs, and some great conversation starters.

The museum is currently open Tuesday through Saturday 10 to 4. We are located at 334 Historic Route 66 North, right across the street from Jubelt's and The Ariston. Hope to see you soon!

Anne Jackson, Secretary
Litchfield Museum

Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



GROWING YOUR ROOTS • by Katie Wilson, Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Meeting Season Is In Full Swing



Meeting season is still in full swing as we kick off the new year.

Several upcoming events are on the Farm Bureau calendar, and I wanted to be sure to share those with you. Carbon sequestration, governmental affairs and trucking regulations will all be discussed in February and March. To add to the list, a small group of Montgomery County Farm Bureau members attended the American Farm Bureau Convention in Puerto Rico at the beginning of the month. My husband and I were privileged to experience the conference and it was a nice change of scenery from winter in Illinois.

Montgomery County Farm Bureau is hosting a Carbon Capture and Storage Landowner Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at our office in Hillsboro. This meeting is open to voting members only and will start at 10 a.m. Illinois Farm Bureau's Bill Bodine and Laura Harmon will discuss carbon capture and storage, why it's being considered in Illinois and what landowners should be aware of if they are presented with an easement. Interested members should RSVP by calling the office by Feb. 3.

The Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference is planned for Feb. 14 in the Bank

of Springfield Center, Springfield. With the theme of "Charting the Course," the conference again offers a day of issue-oriented keynote addresses and breakout sessions capped by an evening legislative reception. Experts will cover important issues in 15 breakout sessions. Topics will include transportation; broadband; livestock; government on the national, state and local levels; and Farm Bureau's Allies in Agriculture partnership effort with county government officials across the state. There will also be a session on rural development. Give us a call if you would like to register for the conference.

And last, but certainly not least, save the date for March 2 to attend a Rules for the Road meeting in Litchfield. We are partnering with Illinois Farm Bureau to host the meeting at the Lincoln Land Community College Litchfield Campus with a 9 a.m. start time. Morning refreshments will be served. Call the Farm Bureau office if you would like to attend. This is a member only event.

We are still accepting blankets for the Young Leader Blanket Drive to benefit Montgomery County Nursing Homes and our scholarship application deadline for seniors and college students is March 2.

We are looking forward to a busy 2023 and hope the new year is treating you well! Thanks for growing your roots!

DID YOU KNOW? • Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center

Did You Know...About William Bacon

Litchfield's first mayor, William Enos Bacon, was born in New York in 1821. He may never have stepped foot in Montgomery County if it weren't for his father's death, when he was a baby.

His mother, Elisha Litchfield, remarried a widower with four sons, one of whom was Electus Bachus Litchfield, for whom the City of Litchfield is named.

Bacon attended school at the University of Michigan, eventually moving to Litchfield in 1856, where he established one of the first lumber yards. A civic minded man, Bacon was responsible for preparing the first abstracts of title for Litchfield.

He was elected as the city's first mayor in 1859, and was re-elected for a second term. One of his many contributions to the city was requiring State Street to be built 100 feet wide, and creating the city's first water works by damming up Long Branch Creek, south of the city.

Bacon married and had a large family - the Goeke family members are his descendants. Mayor Bacon died in his early 80s, on Sept. 18, 1903.

More information about William Enos Bacon can be found by visiting the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center located at Historic Route 66 North



William Enos Bacon

in Litchfield, during their regular business hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

NOW AVAILABLE at THE JOURNAL-NEWS

New book celebrates the Hillsboro community and the effect of local journalism

BEACONS IN THE DARKNESS

Hope and Transformation Among America's Community Newspapers

by Dave Hoekstra

\$18⁹⁹

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Author Dave Hoekstra interviews the people trying to keep the lights on at community newspapers across the country amid buyouts, declining revenues, fake news, and a pandemic. The book is not an account of the death of local journalism, but rather a celebration of the community ties, perseverance, and empathy that's demonstrated in community newsrooms from Hillsboro to Charleston, SC, to Marfa, TX.