

Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!

By Bill Thudium

2019 Fall Edition

bill@smithmotor.com

I must apologize for my tardiness in getting my Hellooooo Brookfield out to you. We have been on a constant run with all kinds of projects this summer culminating with the QB Club Banquet and Booster Club Steak Feed in August. Immediately the football season opened and we have three grandchildren playing in those games this year. Devan is a 7th grader, Gambal a freshman and Mason a senior. Also have my brother's grandson Lane playing – he is also a senior this year. Anyway pardon the delay but I should be back on track to get my column out at least every other month thru the winter months. Hope this one finds everyone out there doing well. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! See you in Brookfield sometime real soon!

Locust Creek Event Center – Brookfield has been in need in a large facility where events can be held. Recently we were treated to the grand opening of the Locust Creek Event Center. The facility is located in the old Esry Grocery store building on West Lockling that closed shortly after the larger Walmart store opened across the highway. This is the large former Esry store building that can be seen from the highway, you can see it from South Main as you enter Brookfield. The building has been a sad source of disappointment for many years but now we can proudly say that the Prenger's have brought it back to life. The building has been completely renovated and re-purposed for its new purpose. There is table and chair seating for 400 plus people, kitchen facilities, dressing rooms, a couple of raised stages, great sound system, etc., etc... I understand a number of events have already been scheduled and feel sure it will become a heavily used facility.

CITY MANAGER - OLD BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Good Afternoon! Want to keep everyone informed concerning the old high school.

The Brookfield City Council met May 28th. The Council received one (1) demolition bid in reference to the old high school. This bid was provided by Red Rock and approved by Council. Red Rock is owned by Derrick Fee, a Civil Engineer from Kidder, Mo. Red Rock is a very qualified, professional business that has removed many complex demolitions, including the Chillicothe Correctional Center and Kirksville High School. The demolition includes the old high school, parking lot and tennis court. Deadline for project is October 31, 2019.

Prior to demolition, a 6 ft. tall site fence will be installed around the perimeter. Mr. Fee will begin with submissions to MoDNR Demolition Notification and Asbestos Abatement Notification. Asbestos and Hazardous Materials will begin inside before demolition. Concerning asbestos, the Contractor will coordinate asbestos abatement services with a Certified Asbestos Abatement Contractor. Hazardous Material Disposal will be coordinated with a certified Hazardous Material Disposal Company following all MoDNR regulations. This requires different amounts of time for various sampling that will need to occur.

Once building is clean of all non-structural solid wastes, it will be demolished. All clean fill material will be crushed and hauled to City of Brookfield Public Works site. When complete, site will be graded, seeded and mulch will be applied.

Note: bricks from the old school are available for purchase. You can contact Brookfield City Hall at 660-258-3377.

School Update – as I write this crews are in the final stages of cleaning up debris left from the now demolished High School. John Thomas, Jim Hart and others have documented much of the work on Facebook for folks to see. There are still bricks available thru City Hall for those who would like a keepsake. Sad to see it go but we put up with that decrepit old building for way too long!

Alumni Weekend 2019 is in the books and despite the high heat index it was once again a resounding success! Friday Night in the Park was indeed a warm one but luckily there was a constant breeze throughout the evening and we had a wonderful crowd. Music was provided by Nathan Stufflebean and his amazing collection of songs easily met the desires of folks of all ages represented in the Park. The Blue Pride Wrestling Club cooked fish and fries for the crowd and the Quarterback Club and Blue Pride Club both provided cooling machines. These were a delightful treat for many who took full advantage of the cool air!

The annual Alumni Parade has become a real spectacle each year. Despite the depressing heat many of the Classes went all out on their float decorations. Some included performances with dancing and music in front of the Judge's Stand. Not sure how they held up dancing in the street in that heat but it is important to note most of these were younger folks! Big crowd lined up from the Methodist Church to the Soldier Statue between the Twin Parks – most of course had taken cover wherever they could find some shade.

The Hall of Fame Banquet was held at the Elk's Lodge this year. The Banquet room was full and air conditioning did a great job. Hall of Fame inductees were Shane Thudium for her countless exemplary years of mostly behind the scenes service to our School and Community. Donna Hulett was also inducted for her many years of work with Alumni Weekend, organization of the Hall of Fame Banquet since its inception, several years as Chamber Director and involvement in numerous community organizations. The final inductee was Dorothy Stratton. Dorothy was born in Brookfield and attended school here as a child before moving with her parents (her father was a Baptist minister). I will refer you to Google her life because it would take too much space to include all of the wonderful accomplishments she had in life. She is truly a BHS Hall of Famer, perhaps the most qualified inductee we have ever had.

Annual Fundraising Banquet - The Bulldog Quarterback Club sponsored our 2019 QB Club Banquet was held at the end of August in the BHS gymnasium. Our special guest speaker this year was 1994 BHS Graduate Mike Morris. Mike was an outstanding Bulldog football player, an All-State OL selection and an overall terrific athlete in whatever sports he chose to

participate. He then moved on to play four scholarship years for the Missouri Tigers where he was an All Big 12 OL selection. We are proud to report the event went very well. We had a full crowd and Mike did a very nice job. Good Night and good fundraiser for the QB Club. Bryan Copple was the winner of the \$10,000 drawing at the conclusion of the night. An exciting evening for all, and especially for Bryan!

Come by and see all of the recent renovations and improvements we have made at Burlington Field. We will not likely finish the new north entrance this fall but have made a lot of progress toward that goal in the last couple of months. Also we encourage you to join the Bulldog Quarterback Club and be a part of our efforts to maintain and improve our historic Burlington Field. In addition to physical improvements part of the mission of the Club is to support the football program with its needs and wants. Recently the Club purchased an end zone camera for the team that gives coaches another perspective of how the team is blocking and tackling. We have also purchased coaches headset and HUDL sideline which allows coaches to watch live feeds & immediate reruns of the action on the field. A fellow Club member has purchased and donated sideline air mist coolers for the boys and coaches which come in really handy with games starting in summer heat. These are just a few of the things the Club has been doing to improve the atmosphere for the fans and the facilities for the football program. You can join by going online to bulldogqbclub.com, hit the donate button and send \$50. If you prefer you can make a \$50 check to Bulldog QB Club and send to the same at P.O. Box 67, Brookfield, MO 64628. Hope to see you at a Bulldog Game soon!

BHS Stardom – This is Jeff and Jim Elliott's 27th year for announcing Bulldog football games at Burlington and thru KZBK FM radio. What a terrific duo they are - we are so proud to have them in our press box. I am reminded that prior to Jeff and Jim we had George Reed as our Stadium announcer. I don't recall how many years George announced but it was also a significant number. He was a character and definitely made it fun for the crowd, talking directly to various parents during the games when one of their boys did something good.

Back Home Where It Belongs! – After three disappointing years of having to leave the Bell in Marceline the Bulldog were ready for the Tigers this year. The game was played at Burlington Field on Sept. 13th. The Bulldogs basically controlled the game from the outset taking a 14 -0 lead with a few minutes remaining in the first half. Marceline was once again stuffed and chose to try a trick play/halfback pass. Unfortunately the Bulldogs were so focused on stopping the run and the Tiger's star player that they fell for the fake and left a receiver wide open for a touchdown. Halftime score was 14-7. The second half was similar to the first but the Tigers were finally able to generate a little more offense driving deep into Bulldog territory only to fumble the ball into the endzone where a Bulldog covered it. The remainder of the game was back and forth and came down to a final second Marceline Hail Mary pass that was covered well by Brookfield, however our defenders tipped the ball up instead of down and it fell into a Tiger receivers hands. He immediately broke toward the endzone but was stopped short at the 10 yard line. Game over! Another exciting Bell Game – one for the record books! Our year has been a tough one so far with close losses to both Palmyra and Monroe City. Two weeks ago we took it on the chin from Centralia but got back in the win column this past Friday night in our Homecoming Game against the Highland Cougars, winning the game big 33-0. The Dogs travel to Macon this Friday night to take on a 3-3 Tiger team. I like our chances despite dealing with numerous injured Bulldog starters. Plenty of young talent headed our way at the Jr. High and JV level. Also our current varsity includes several sophomores and Juniors. We can look forward to some very competitive teams over the next several years! Still plenty of schedule left - hope to see you at Burlington on Friday nights very soon.

Grand River Welding Institute – Congratulations to owner/President Eric Adams for an amazing start of his Brookfield welding school. The company has now expanded twice, doubling their training capacity and their number of students. We were told during a recent Leadership Tour that the school has 300 plus applicants. Looks like the school will be moving to three shifts to take care of the growing enrollment. Eric recently purchased the old Brookfield Pines motel and refurbished it for apartments for his out of town students. Other facilities in town are being used for housing purposes as well. It is great to drive by the school every morning and see the parking lot full of student vehicles! Another positive about Eric is his immediate involvement in community activities. A terrific addition to our community!

.Another Memory – when I was in Jr High we used to have basketball practice over in the old Laclede School gymnasium. Eldon Seaboldt was our Coach and several of us rode with him for practices in his old (I think) Pontiac or Oldmobile. Seems like it was an early 60's model. Eldon was just a young teacher/coach right out of school and his transportation wasn't much yet! The old battery wasn't very strong and we would quite often have to push the car to get it started. It was some kind of fluid flow automatic but somehow you could still push it to get it started! At the time the old Laclede gym was still in decent shape. The old Laclede school was an interesting place with all kinds of good memories for those who attended there.

Birthdays and Anniversaries return with my next column. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to everyone we miss during the hiatus.

Thanks as always for reading [Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!](#) Please remember to shop Linn County first and don't forget to let me know when you have [Good News or Interesting Stories!](#)