

# Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!

By Bill Thudium

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[bill@smithmotor.com](mailto:bill@smithmotor.com)

Thanksgiving is in the distant past already with Christmas just around the corner. We have already seen the worst of winter cold and much snow is promised! Wal-Mart had their Christmas stuff out before Labor Day and our downtown committee & City crews have been working on expanded decorations for Main Street for a couple of months now. Shane and I are really late getting prepared for Christmas. We did put our outside lights up the weekend after Thanksgiving but still don't have our tree up and have only gotten as far as pulling out the boxes of Christmas decorations for the inside. Our house is a mess right now! We have plans to remedy all of that this weekend!

We now have four more North Main buildings painted along with second story windows on several other buildings. The appearance of our downtown is sure taking shape at this point. Still too many empty storefronts but we are making progress. If you haven't been in town for a few months you will be pleasantly surprised with the very visible improvements.

The "Main Connection Committee" has worked especially hard this fall to make holiday appearance improvements to our downtown. You can expect an upgrade in our Christmas lighting and a lot of work has gone into encouraging our business and building owners to decorate and upgrade their decorations as well. Saturday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, will be the day of the Christmas Parade and official lighting of a Community tree and our downtown. Several choirs from local churches, the community chorus and the school will be on hand to sing carols beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the parade to follow. We hope all of this work will create a "renewal" of the Brookfield Christmas we all have such wonderful memories of. Make plans to join us if you can!

Isn't it good to see another retail store on North Main with the recent location of "Dollar Connection" in the old Marts/Green Hills Pharmacy building – they are only using the north half of the building with the south half being used for displays and decorated for Christmas by volunteers. 36 Diner is also a new addition to our community. It is located in the old Cattleman's Restaurant building. The new business owner has completely remodeled the building and has put in a terrific restaurant. They specialize in breakfast and serve it all day however their other various lunch and supper entrees are good too!

*The Night Before Thanksgiving, and it Snowed!!!!* Wow, we woke up the morning before Thanksgiving with snow on the ground. The extreme cold weather in November and finding snow on the ground so early may not bode well for the rest of the winter! Oh well, we have to live with whatever comes our way, I just hope it isn't a long winter.

I recently drove by the old Ice Pond area where we used to gather during the winter to ice skate, play hockey and sit around a bonfire all day. Wow, those were some fun days. The old Pond isn't there any longer but you can still see where it was and the good memories are still as strong as ever.

Speaking of memories, just recently my employer Smith Motor had a new 50<sup>th</sup> edition 2015 Ford Mustang delivered to the dealership. It is Tuxedo black and absolutely beautiful. Reminded me when I was in high school and helping convince my Grandmother that she needed to buy a new 1966 Ford Mustang. It was black with wire hubcaps and a red vinyl interior – what a beauty it was and did I ever have a great time driving it. Hard to believe now but we didn't seem to have any trouble getting six people into that little car!! Ah, those were the days! ☺

*Brookfield Bulldog Quarterback Club* – The Bulldog QB Club just finished its second year as an organization that was created to support rehabilitation & improvements of Burlington Field. In addition it is the goal of the Club to support the Bulldog football program in every way possible. During the first twenty four months as an exclusive former Bulldog player organization the Club has held two

major fundraising banquets. We have parlayed the \$20,000 raised at those events into well over \$40,000 in improvements at Burlington Field. Initial projects the Club looked at were those most needed plus those that would be very visible to the Bulldog fan base as we worked to create awareness and accountability for the Club. New blue roofs on the locker room building, concession stand/bathroom facility, tickets booths and the Booster Club Dog Pound made an immediate visible impact, along with a new south end ticket booth entrance and a large concrete pad which was poured from the south end of the Stadium past the visitor's entrance on the locker room building. Exterior fencing has been replaced from the locker room to the north end of the complex with plans to do even more next year. The grass/weedy hillsides at both ends of the Stadium have now been covered with decorative rock. Plans for next year include a new entrance at the northeast corner of the Field. We are creating some artist renderings and will share those with everyone as soon as a design is chosen. A new scoreboard has been in the discussion for a couple of years now. A committee of the QB Club plans to meet soon with scoreboard company representatives to look at various options. Our old Board has been giving us trouble off and on and it is time to seriously consider replacement.

The QB Club can now announce that we have invited former Bulldog standout Alan Couch '65 to be our featured speaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual QB Club Banquet. The event has been scheduled for Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. More information will be made available soon regarding our speaker and ticket availability for the event which we hope to have printed prior to Christmas. The hope of course is that many will purchase tickets as gifts. We will once again limit sales to 300 tickets with each costing \$100 apiece. Each ticket will provide for two banquet meals, the dance/reception to follow at the Elk's Lodge and a one in 300 chance of having your name drawn to win \$10,000 at the Banquet.

There are two ways to belong to the Bulldog Quarterback Club, as a former player (any level, including Little League) or as a Friend of Burlington. Former players can belong for annual dues of \$50 and Friends of Burlington can be a member for \$75/ year. Your checks should be made to "Bulldog QB Club/HLF" and sent to the same at P.O. Box 67, Brookfield, Mo 64628. Renewal is now due for current Club members so if you haven't done so yet please send your payment soon. If anyone has interest in helping the Club in a special way regarding some

of our larger planned projects you can do so and take advantage of our affiliate status with the Hometown LEGACY Foundation a 501 C3 charitable organization.

Some of you will remember that the Brookfield Area Growth Partnership won the \$10,000 drawing at the first QB Club Banquet. This community development organization used the money to help create a beautiful loft apartment over their headquarters on North Main. It has taken a while to complete but BAGP is now about to lease the apartment and use the revenue to help support continuing activities of this important community organization. This past year a local Bulldog supporter won the money, made good use of it and even made a nice contribution back to the Club.

***Brookfield Bulldog Football Team*** – The Bulldogs finished their terrific season on a sour note as they lost the District Championship to East Buchanan here at Burlington Field. The Bulldogs finished with a record of 11-1, clearing several hurdles we had not been able to get past since joining the Clarence Cannon Conference three years ago. The Dogs defeated the Centralia Bulldogs and the Macon Tigers for the first time in Conference play and did so in a convincing fashion. In addition our quarterback broke the all-time passing record, our wide receiver broke the all-time receiving record and our tailback broke the all-time rushing season rushing record. As you can imagine we were awash with post season individual honors.

Congratulations to Coach Nile Thudium, his staff and the Bulldog Football team. Best of all, we have a lot of those good kids coming back next year!

***Hometown LEGACY Foundation*** – Please remember our community foundation as you consider charitable giving this year. Your donations can go toward helping support current operations or they can be placed in a permanent endowment where revenues only will be used to support community and economic development in Brookfield. Just let me know if you are interested in helping out and I will be happy to place you in touch with a local professional who can help you with your decisions regarding ongoing support or end of life decisions.

*Birthdays* – Dec. 10, Stephanie Magnuson, Connie Clawson, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, Ashton Brockman, Reanna Reid, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, Mabel Corbin, Dorothy Greene, Tom Parks, Jerry Dale, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, Olivia Vickery, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, Paige McCollum, Brittany Fischer, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, Herb Sensenich, Brent Skinner, Roalea Stauffer, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, Shirley Hagan, Billie Harrington, Emma Sheerman, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, Amber Banks, Lisa Heckman, Richard Brosmer, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, Krystle Lain, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, Maxine Ball, Jacob Beeler, Savannah Phillips, Sue Quinn, Deacon Brown, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, **Noel Staddie (our daughter)**, Jason Staddie, Jennifer Allen, Noah Reid, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Linda Neeley, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cord Allen, Chip Kaye, Dana Lane, Doris Magnuson, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, Todd Matheny, Neil Stark, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, Cindy Walsh, Cheyenne Graff, Mallory Williams, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, **Justin Remol (our nephew)**, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, Caleb McCracken, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, Betty Moore, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, Beth (Campbell) Hovee, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, Joann King, Gene Finch, Brock Allen, Ernie Libby, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, Jennifer Elliott, Jacob Buckallew, Trudy Smith, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, Matthew Malloy, Jerry Newlin, Arthur Parr, Zane Morris, Kami Greisbaum, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pamela Hardy, Mark Woodring, Krystal Fletcher, Paige Lake, Maurice Mauzey, Tiffany Heller, William Devoy Jr., Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, LeDonna Furhop, Mark Ridgway, Gary Jackson, Cybil Holland, Mark Santo, Barbara Albanese, Clark Milligan, Amanda Reigelsberger, Connie Lindsay, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, Rieanne (Myers) Brinkmann, Mary Hibner, Sam Gillman, Kevin Smith, Karen Thurlo, Connie Wheeler, Donna Simpson, Clint Dysart, Isaac Manning, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, Bill Wilt, Waverly Dixon, Karen Rhodes, Bob Ridgway, Daniel Saxton, Todd Vincent, Lisa Stewart, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, **Colin Thudium (our nephew)**, Norman Brandes, Kelli Gonzalez, Alyshia King, Kris Phillips, Les Eggerman, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, Marissa Herring, Melvin (Gene) Ball, Dorothy Logan, Debra Smith, Ila Epperson, Blake Woody, Kim Reigelsberger, Farrell Smith, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, Melissa Byrd, Jamie Scott, Melinda Hughes, Larry Freisen, John Lentz, Emily Kirtley, Fannie Foster, Alex Epperson, Gary Klinge, Matt Stephenson, Bridget Evans, Sarah Jesaitis, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, Karla Buswell, Trent Buswell, Penny Burns, Austin Muck, Terry Twyman, Michelle Richardson, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, Matt Burbank, Cory Bruce, Marcella Epperson, Mary Ann Roe, Linda Bailey, Luke Montgomery, Candi Smith, Jennifer Stufflebean Gardner, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, Krystal Buswell, Kinsey Jenkins, Marvin Lentz, Jacob Heckman, Deanna Isaacs, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, Margie Ewing Moore, Betty Jennings, Harold Gardner, Kristy Sherwood, Chris Thornsberry, Susan Wilson, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, Gabriella Dorrell, Terrill Lane, Jaylin Orr, Kevin Scott, Matt Dorter, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>,

Raelen Brown, Ron Dixon, Ed Smith, Vickie Wilkerson, Donna Hulett, Jim Shoop, Weston Linscott, Jennifer Summers, Jim Hart, Mike Dickey.

*Anniversaries* – Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, Jerry & Christine O’Dell, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, Greg & Tracy Crafton, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, Kirk & Susan Jessen, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Billy & Georgeanna Howell, Chris & Jacquelyn Beach, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, Jeff & Pam Harper, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, **John & Carolyn Remol (my brother and sister in law), Bill & Shane Thudium**, Chip & Cora Kaye, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, Terry & Joyce Cashatt, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, Bruce & Teresa Williams, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, Ray & Jackie Stufflebean, Ray & Paula Hamilton, John & Rhonda McKenzie, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, Bert & Sylvia Summy, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, Sean & Julie Hedrick, Jon & LaVonne Mendenhall, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, Dennis & Sherri Elliott, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, Josh & Erin Hannick, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, Rick & Dan Melton, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, Bill & Martha Montgomery, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, Farrell & Janet Smith, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, Bob & Connie Sims, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, Ray & Carol Bennett.

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!**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!**