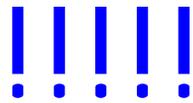


Hellooooo Brookfield



By Bill Thudium

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The holiday season is in full bloom right now in Brookfield. Thousands of dollars of new Main Street pole lighting is up and the retail stores are really dressed up beautifully for Christmas. Local organizations are decorating the store front windows where vacancies exist and the expanded lighting in the East Twin Park and center Oval looks terrific. The new lighting is the result of a fund drive undertaken by our downtown group known as the Main Street Connection. We now have new light pole snowflakes (LED) on every other pole from McDonalds to the underpass. Plans are to work toward decorating every pole with the snowflakes the entire length of Main Street. For the first time in many years the Main Street underpass is decorated with greenery and wreaths. Next year all of that will be lighted as well –we have Burlington Northern to thank for helping with these new decorations. Santa Claus arrived early this year to help us light up the town and kick off the Christmas season. The high school band played, the high school pop choir and Community Chorus sang and we welcomed a Snow Princess here for pictures with the kids. Santa arrived in his horse drawn sley and spent two hours giving adults and kids rides around the Twin Parks. A good time was had by all despite the really cold temperatures.

We found a 9 ½ foot spruce to decorate our dining room this year. It is a beautiful tree! We also took advantage of a warm Saturday afternoon to put up

our decorations outside. As always I save vacation time each year to coincide with Shane's time off from school over the Christmas holidays – I am currently in the middle of a couple of weeks off to finish decorating our house for the holidays and get our Christmas bought. Shane and I marathon shopped the past few days while simultaneously dealing with her father being in the hospital. He had been having back trouble and ended up in the hospital several days ago. He ended up having some fairly minor back surgery to fix a very painful situation at Boone Hospital this past week and is now back in Brookfield at Pershing Hospital on a swing bed setting to rehab with physical therapy - we hope he will be strong enough to go home next week sometime. With all of this going on at once it has been hard to get ready for Christmas. I am sitting here finishing up HB on Wednesday night before Christmas. I left Shane at home wrapping packages and will help her finish up the larger ones when I get home. Lots of excitement in our family with all of them living here in town. We will have a house full for Christmas Eve dinner tomorrow evening, open a few special gifts and it's off to Church. The Presby is just a block away so we all walk down for our annual Christmas Eve service. They all return to our house the next morning for breakfast and opening of the gifts from Santa. Can't wait! Hope you all have a great family Christmas too. Join us at the Presbyterian Church tomorrow night at 8:30 p.m. for a wonderful Christmas Eve service if you get a chance.

[School Christmas Concerts](#) – We have been to three kids Christmas Concerts in the past few weeks. Last week was our 2nd grader Breckin's concert. Breckin is a little shy but she came out of her shell during the concert. She also had a short speaking part and spoke clearly into the microphone so we could all hear and understand her. Good for Breckin! This week was the Bright Beginnings Concert for our two five year old granddaughters Jovie and Dylan. They were so darn cute! Jovie actually did a solo of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. She remembered all of the words and sang out so everyone could hear her. We were amazed because she seems so shy most of the time. Dylan didn't have a solo part but she did sing all of the songs and did all of the movements. They both had their hair fixed fancy and were dressed for Christmas. We were quite proud of course! Our 6 year old granddaughter Piper was in her kindergarten program

right afterward. She was dressed in bright red from her shoes to her hair bow. Piper is particularly shy and at first she just smiled and turned away without singing. However as the program progressed she started singing and doing some movements. By the time they got to the final three songs she was in full swing, doing all of the movements, dancing and singing loud. What fun! The teachers do such a wonderful job with these little ones. They all know the music by heart and most of them sing their hearts out!

[BHS Wrestling and Basketball](#) – We had barely quit playing football when wrestling and basketball began. As it was, the Brookfield high school boys' team had to put off the first game because many are football players and hadn't had enough practices in to be ready to play. The Marceline boys had the same problem but luckily the first game was between the two so it didn't matter much!

Our grandson Donovan has moved up to Jr. High wrestling this year and another grandson Mason is playing 8th grade basketball this year. They will be in high school before we know it!!!! Good Grief!

[B.A.M.](#) – Brookfield will be an overnight stop for the Bicyclers across Missouri in June. This is an annual bicycler event which begins in St Joseph and ends up in Hannibal. They will ride approximately 50 miles/day weaving north and south of Hwy 36 but always ending up at a town on Hwy 36. When asked if we would like to be a town sponsor and an overnight location our town gladly agreed and accepted the challenge of bringing our county together and raising \$5,000 in event fees. Brookfield, Linn County, Marceline and many private and corporate donors raised the needed funds well within the time limit and started planning for next summer. A special committee was formed and had been meeting regularly to make sure the BAM folks are pleased and that our County realizes the potential revenues that come with hosting a couple thousand bike riders and their families. Bikers will overnight in tents in our South City Park. The event crews set up

showers, first aid stations, etc. Local groups and organizations will have opportunities to set up food and drink stands to raise money for community projects.

[Linn County Community Chorus](#) – The Chorus just performed our 59th annual Christmas Concert. Performances were held Dec. 5th at the Bucklin Christian Church and on Dec. 6th in the Brookfield 1st Presbyterian Church. The Brookfield performance was absolutely packed. We had to set up extra chairs all around the sanctuary and in the Parlor to accommodate the overflow! The concert was terrific and during the break the crowd was entertained by the Brookfield Elementary “Kids in Motion”. The Chorus always concludes our Christmas season with a carry in dinner following out Sunday performance. Lots of good food and Christmas treats! We hope to perform a spring concert this coming year. Please watch for notices in the newspaper, Facebook, etc... Any Linn County resident who enjoys singing is welcome to join the Chorus.

[The Brookfield License Bureau](#) re-opened on Dec. 16th, 223 N. Main Street, Brookfield, Mo 64628. The office will be owned/operated by Shawn and Jinny Moore – they own the building where it will be located. Great to have our License office open again here in Brookfield. Hopefully it will be here for many years to come! The Chillicothe and Keytesville offices took care of us well but we will sure enjoy not having to make that trip to take care of business.

[Birthdays](#) – Dec. 16th, Herb Sensenich, Brent Skinner, Roalea Stauffer, Dec. 17th, Shirley Hagan, Billie Harrington, Emma Sheerman, Dec. 18th, Amber Banks, Lisa Heckman, Richard Brosemer, Dec. 19th, Krystle Lain, Dec. 20th, Maxine Ball, Jacob Beeler, Savannah Phillips, Sue Quinn, Deacon Brown, Dec. 21st, Noel Staddie (our daughter), Jason Staddie, Jennifer Allen, Noah Reid, Dec. 22nd, Linda Neeley, Dec. 23rd, Cord Allen, Chip Kaye, Dana Lane, Doris Magnuson, Dec. 24th, Todd Matheny, Neil Stark, Dec. 25th, Cindy Walsh, Cheyenne Graff, Mallory Williams, Dec. 26th, Justin Remol (our nephew), Dec. 27th, Caleb McCracken, Dec. 28th, Betty Moore, Dec. 29th, Beth (Campbell) Hovee, Dec. 30th, Joan King,

Gene Finch, Brock Allen, Ernie Libby, Dec. 31st, Jennifer Elliott, Jacob Buckallew, Trudy Smith, Jan. 1st, Matthew Mallow, Jerry Newlin, Arthur Parr, Zane Morris, Kami Griesbaum, Jan. 2nd, Pam Hardy, Mark Woodring, Krystal Fletcher, Page Lake, Maurice Mauzey, Tiffany Heller, William Devoy, Jr., Jan. 3rd, LeDonna Fuhrhop, Mark Ridgeway, Gary Jackson, Cybil Holland, Mark Santo, Barbara Albanese, Clark Milligan, Amanda Reigelsberger, Connie Lindsay, Jan. 4th, Rieanne (Myers) Brinkmann, Mary Hibner, Sam Gilman, Kevin Smith, Karen Thurlo, Connie Wheeler, Donna Simpson, Clint Dysart, Jan. 5th, Bill Wilt, Waverly Dixon, Karen Rhodes, Bob Ridgeway, Daniel Saxton, Todd Vincent, Lisa Stewart, Jan. 6th, Colin Thudium (our nephew), Norman Brandes, Kelli Gonzales, Alyshia King, Kris Phillips, Les Eggerman, Jan. 7th, Marissa Herring, Gene Ball, Dorothy Logan, Debra Smith, Ila Epperson, Blake Woody, Kim Reiglesberger, Farrell Smith, Jan. 8th, Melissa Byrd, Jamie Scott, Melinda Hughes, Larry Friesen, John Lentz, Emily Kirtley, Fannie Foster, Alex Epperson, Bridget Evans, Sarah Jesaitis, Jan. 9th, Karla Buswell, Trent Buswell, Penny Burns, Austin Muck, Terry Twyman, Michelle Richardson, Jan. 10th, Matt Burbank, Cory Bruce, Marcella Epperson, Mary Ann Roe, Linda Bailey, Luke Montgomery, Candi Smith, Jennerfer Stufflebean Gardner, Jan. 11th, Krystal Buswell, Kensey Jenkins, Marvin Lentz, Jacob Heckman, Deana Isaacs, Jan. 12th, Margie Moore, Betty Jennings, Harold Gardner, Susan Wilson, Jan. 13th, Terrill Lane, Kevin Scott, Jan. 14th, Ron Dixon, Ed Smith, Vicki Wilkerson, Donna Hulett, Jim Shoop, Jim Hart.

[Anniversaries](#) – Dec. 15th, Jerry & Christine O'Dell, Dec. 17th, Greg & Tracey Crafton, Dec. 18th, Kirk & Susan Jessen, Dec. 19th, Chris & Jacquelyn Beach, Dec. 21st, Jeff & Pam Harper, Dec. 22nd, John & Carolyn Remol (my brother and sister in law, Bill & Shane Thudium (our 41st!)), Chip & Cora Kaye, Dec. 24th, Terry & Joyce Cashatt, Dec. 26th, Bruce & Teressa Williams, Dec. 27th, Ray & Jackie Stufflebean, Ray & Paula Hamilton, John & Rhonda McKenzie, Dec. 28th, Bert & Sylvia Summy, Dec. 29th, Sean & Julie Hedrick, Jon & LaVonne Mendenhall, Dec. 30th, Dennis & Sherry Elliott, Dec. 31st, Josh & Erin Hannick, Jan. 6th, Rick & Dana

Melton, Jan. 7th, Bill & Martha Montgomery, Jan. 10th, Farrell & Janet Smith, Jan. 14th, Bob & Connie Sims, Jan. 15th, Ray & Carole Bennett.

Thanks as always for ready [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 to All and a Very Happy New Year!**