

# Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!

By **Bill Thudium**

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The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Brookfield Alumni Weekend is now in the books! What a great weekend we enjoyed. The weather was fabulous and the crowds were really exceptional. We enjoyed another big Alumni Banquet with a larger crowd than last year, and of course the celebration of three new BHS alumni being inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame (Marilyn Rose Thudium, Kevin DeVoy and Everett Lineberry). The Banquet was again held in the Park Baptist Fellowship Hall, last year because the high school gym floor was being replaced and this year because roof work was being done at the school. Not sure if the Alumni Assoc. Committee has decided if we return to the school next year or stay at Park Baptist – both are good places to hold the event but personally I like it best at the school – we'll see what the committee decides.

Friday night in the Twin Parks was outstanding with temperatures in the low 70's and a nice cool breeze. People arrived in droves and stayed later than normal because of the big crowd and the great weather. The alumni softball games were another great success and 91 alumni signed up to play in the annual alumni golf tournament at the Brookfield Country Club. If you have been thinking about coming back for Alumni Weekend you sure missed a good one this year! We really do have a great time and it is so much fun seeing people we haven't seen or talked to in years. Numerous classes held their class reunions over the weekend and enjoyed the added advantage of being able to share the time with so many other BHS alums from other classes. Make your plans next July to come and join us for Alumni Weekend – you will be glad you did!

***John J. Pershing Hospital Association*** - A couple of weeks ago I presided over the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Pershing Hospital Association meeting. Sadly nearly all of the original members have passed or gotten too old to attend. Barbara Rusk is a hearty exception, she is always there to hear how her hospital is doing. Barb served on the Board of Directors for many years but her interest in the facility she helped “build” has never waned. She and her generation have much to be proud of. Since it opened its doors in 1960 Pershing has grown into a \$30 million dollar budget and employs nearly 200 people. John J. Pershing is one of only four private not for profit hospitals in Missouri – nearly all have at least some local tax support. We have no public funding and I am proud to say so, however it has not been easy, particularly the past several years with the advent of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), piles upon piles of new regulations, greatly increased personal insurance deductibles and co-payments, reduced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and a private insurance industry that keeps squeezing providers for reduced reimbursement.

Building the new outpatient care facility and emergency room suite a few years back was the smartest thing the Hospital Board has done as it was a direct response to the changing health care demands. Pershing experienced 45,000 plus health care encounters last year and most of them were outpatient or emergency room related. Twenty years ago our inpatient daily census averaged 15 patients – that number has been cut in half over the years with more serious cases being transferred to the larger hospitals where more specialists are available. For Pershing 70% plus of hospital revenues now come from the outpatient side even though outpatient is not reimbursed as well as inpatient business – it is just a change in health care provider use.

***Brookfield's Newest Physician*** – Dr. Kendal Geno, a 2004 BHS graduate will open up for business in the Pershing Applegate Clinic offices on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Kendal has been here for a couple of months settling into a new home with his wife Amy and three young children and preparing himself and his new office facility for a lifetime of service to his community. Dr. Geno and Pershing have been in a contractual relationship throughout his medical training at MU and we are about to celebrate the wonderful results. Kendal is jumping in ahead of his

August 1<sup>st</sup> start and will be working thru Pershing to provide free physicals at BHS this month for student athletes and others who are required to have them but was unable to take advantage of free sports physicals Pershing provided the past couple of months. He has also offered his services to be the official BHS Physician and plans to attend as many sports events as possible and serve as he is needed. Rotary Club enjoyed a visit from Dr. Kendal this past week where he talked about his dream to return to Brookfield and serve the community. The community looks forward to Dr. Kendal beginning his medical practice here in a couple of weeks.

I might add that Pershing has a second contractual relationship with another young physician who has a year left on his residency requirements. He will begin practice here in Brookfield working for Pershing next summer. We count ourselves lucky to have found two young physicians who want a rural family practice. Physician recruitment is an ongoing activity for Pershing as our local Doctor reach retirement age.

***Creative Oasis - Local Bistro/Art Studio*** – This past weekend returning alumni enjoyed delicious food and art at our newest Main Street business, located in the old Missouri Power & Light office on the corner of North Main and West Wood Street. Creative Oasis is both a restaurant and an art studio. Patrons can enjoy a meal and sign up for painting classes. Lessons are available for all ages. Such a neat new business and the community is responding to it in a wonderful way.

***Downtown Improvements*** – Those attending Alumni Weekend learned of great things happening in our iconic Twin Parks. The Walsworth family gave BAGP a check for \$300,000 to build a new pavilion, construct new sidewalks, add lighting, etc. in the East Twin Park. The plan is to have this work completed by this fall. The BAGP committee working on redevelopment of the Twin Parks has been holding fundraisers for the past three years and is now undergoing a major fundraising campaign to raise money to renovate the West Twin Park. A \$150,000 grant has been applied for and a local match is required. The committee will need to generate approximately \$100,000 more to match the grant. The goal is to complete fundraising this fall and next spring and do a complete renovation of the West Park including all new play equipment, park benches, lighting, new sidewalks, etc. by next summer. 28 new trees were planted this spring and most of the aging and diseased old trees have now been removed as well.

*The Brookfield Bowl* was just renovated as well. Owner Brian Menini just replaced all of his pin setting machines and had a facelift completed on the outside of his building.

*Smith Motor* is in the process of replacing concrete sidewalks and replacing a large portion of their asphalt parking lot on the east side with concrete. This is just a part of an aggressive renovation plan for this business which opened its doors in Brookfield in 1970. Look for a complete facelift of this new Ford facility inside and out this coming year.

### **Bulldog Football Fall Schedule –**

**Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> – Aquafina/Gatorade scrimmage, 7 p.m**

**Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> – Jamboree, at Salisbury, 7 p.m.**

**Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, - South Shelby, at Brookfield, 7 p.m.**

**Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, - Highland, at Ewing, 7 p.m.**

**Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, - Marceline, at Marceline, 7 p.m. – Bell Game**

**Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, - Centralia, at Brookfield, 7 p.m.**

**Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. – Louisiana, at Louisiana, 7 p.m.**

**Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, - Monroe City, at Brookfield, 7 p.m. – Homecoming**

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, Macon, at Macon, 7 p.m.**

**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, Palmyra, at Brookfield, 7 p.m. – Senior Night**

**Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, Clark County, at Kahoka, 7 p.m.**

***BHS Cheerleaders*** – Shane and I attend the Regional Cheerleading competition in Moberly last evening. Brookfield took their Varsity and JV cheerleaders to competition and both came home with 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes. The qualifies both squads for State competition this fall. Congratulations to all of the girls on a job well done

– special congrats goes out to our granddaughter Jaida Staddie who is a Junior member of the varsity squad.

**BAGP Leadership Academy** – This past week I was privileged to attend a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the BAGP Leadership Academy. Over the past 10 years the Academy has graduated 154 students and our community is the better for it. An amazingly high percentage of graduates have moved into leadership roles of various kinds in the area, ranging from serving on committees and Boards to elected positions. Following is an accounting of those who have become active in the community;

All but two City Council members are grads

Mayor is a grad

City Manager is on the Task Force

Grad and Academy presenter on Pershing Hospital Board

City Clerk is a grad

Chief of Police is a grad

Fire Chief is a grad

All School Administrators except one are grads

25 teachers are grads

25 youth have gone thru the program

12 Grads have joined the Leadership Task Force

Chamber Director is a grad

Chamber Board has 4 Grads

Director of YMCA a grad

BAGP/IDA Director a grad

The Leadership Task force was charged with developing its own training program shortly after BAGP was born about 12 years ago. This was a lengthy process as the trainer for the organization hired to help us get started was insistent that our program be our own creation and not a “cookie cutter” program they provided. The result is a solid ten years of progress and accomplishment that is now being copied in other communities. Currently the Leadership Task Force is made up of Marcia Cunningham, Dana Tarpene, Dave Shaw, Dustin Watson, Shane Thudium, Larry McCurry, Jinny Moore, Rogene Smith, Barb Buckallew, Stuart Hughes, Melinda Hughes, Chuck York, Cindy Serfass, Suzanne Young, Don Fuhrhop and Susan Elson. Several have been members from the very beginning and all have participated in the Academy.

***Birthdays*** – July 19<sup>th</sup>, Linda Bloss, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Abby Barra. Mike Quigley, July 21<sup>st</sup>, Kim (Jenkins) Park, Raylee King, July 21<sup>st</sup>, Emily Beach, Bob Clawson, Matthew Smith, Devon Lark, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Teresa Wine, Glen Huffmon, Jenna Long, Dylan Brundage, July 24<sup>th</sup>, Rachael Zumbrunnen, July 25<sup>th</sup>, Abigale Park, July 26<sup>th</sup>, Cecilia Spath, Monica Baker, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Kelly Watson, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Liz Wilt, Sue Head, Jerry O’Dell, Danielle Broom, July 29<sup>th</sup>, Alex Clawson, Sue Henry, July 30<sup>th</sup>, Andy Saccaro, Chris Cash, Brianna Schneiderheinze, Tressia Snyder, July 31<sup>st</sup>, Isaac Allen, Vivian Graff, Debbie Shouse, Glenn Wombwell, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, Bill Mobley, Sharon Flynn, Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lisa Hedrick, Cheryl Calhoun, Shane Cavannah, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dale Beach, Dianna Grant, Jessica Greenway, Chris King, Chaz Walgren, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, Whitley Almond, Laura Gannon, Josh Maxwell, Cassie McKenzie, Larry Witte, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, Cheri York, Frank Gannon, Josh Hannick, Mark Wilkerson, Samantha Young, Bryce Shoemaker, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, Sharon McIntyre, D’Etta Scott, Dan Smart, Buck Farrenkopf, Gavin Head, Edward Little, Sammie Gordon, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, Mark Cleveland, Paige Drescher, Ryan Goodson, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, Sharron Connor, Tasha Rogers, Bill Hofstetter, Beverly Elson, Laura Almond, Kelsey Kennedy, Bob Wessing, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, Mike Lowther, Mary Patton, Keeden Schnetzler, Terry Brosemen, Brady Sensenich, Allison Wild, Bruce Williams, Jean Eggerman, Charlene Roe, Bernita St. Clair, Skylar Billingsly, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, Leon McIntyre, Don Brumbaugh, Jayden Emory Britton, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, Kristy Malloy, Stacey Brown, Rebecca Haley, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, Mickey Beach, Brandon Sensenich, Melinda Wilbeck, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, David Hardy, Robbie Thompson, Mary Middleton, Mitchel Ayers, Carol Petree, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, Heather York, Russ Knowles, Teresa Duncan, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, Brynleigh Cordray, Lynn Hahn, Jill Luckert, Colton Futhey, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>, Barry Smith, Tanya Fast, Leola Paschal, Phoebe Pyrtle, Andrea Hoffman, Stephanie Campbell, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, Breana Tolton-Cordray, Donna Switzer, Anthony Cupp, Christina Judas, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>, Rebecca Allen, Eric Stone, Becky Babb, Brian Elson, Austin Lindsay, William Paalhar, Luke Robison, Kalie Gordon, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, Colton Almond, Carla Maggort, Suzan Stephenson, Allison Helton, Susan Marriott, Doug Henry.

***Anniversaries*** – July 19<sup>th</sup>, **RJ and Noel Staddie (our daughter and son in law)**, Mike & Holly Lindsay, July 21<sup>st</sup>, Greg & Karen Mosley, Rick & Tammy

Standley, July 24<sup>th</sup>, Jason & Heidi Beeler, Dan & Lisa Daugherity, July 26<sup>th</sup>, Don & Reita Brumbaugh, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Clarke & Penny Burns, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Eric & Abby McCracken, July 30<sup>th</sup>, David & Dana Harmon, Kevin & Shannon Knowles, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, Bill & Kathleen Mobley, Jim & Julie Wright, Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Matt & Sara Barra, Junior & Mary Sisson, Dave & Linda Shaw, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, Matt & Vanessa Lincoln, Brent & Renata Skinner, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, Dorron & Jenny Campbell, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, Mark & Amy Botts, E.T. & Jenelle White Fresh, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, Roger & Donna Hulett, Mike and Susan McBroom, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, Scott & Connie Clawson, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, Greg & Susan Wilson, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, Jeremiah & Amanda Bush, Phil & Barb Hamilton, Chuck & Julee Reese, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, Todd & Kim Park, Gerry & Linda Bloss, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, Kenny & Debbie Bailey, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, Jim & Amy Elliott, Bob & Lois Johnson, Jerry & Marilyn Stone, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, Joel & Stephanie Magnuson, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>, Leon & Sharon McIntyre, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, Eric & Katie Cordray, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, Larry & Dee Carmical.

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**. Hope to see you in Brookfield Soon!