

Hellooooo Brookfield!!!!!!

By Bill Thudium

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Good Brookfield News! - What a difference our new Casey's General Store truck stop is making already. There are definitely a lot of cars and big trucks there all of the time. We sure hated losing our Casey's on South Main but no doubt this new facility is certain to pull in much more business to its new Hwy. 36 location. That's good for them and good for our community. Pizza Hut, the Hwy. 36 Diner, Subway, McDonalds, Orscheln and Dollar General are direct recipients of additional new business, plus the City will enjoy increased sales tax revenues, not to mention the wonderful community appearance upgrade with the new facility.

Manufacturer Expansion- Another really positive project currently underway is the expansion of the Apex Plastics Plant on South Main. There have been no official announcements yet from the Company but there is certainly plenty of construction activity. Two of the three the remaining houses between Apex and McDonalds have been torn down and the third should go anytime now. Foundation work for a sizable warehouse is complete now and crews have leveled the remaining land, removed trees and gotten rid of the debris from razing the houses. What an appearance change it is right now for those coming into our town from the south! Those missing houses really open up the view of the old 4th Ward. We wait official word from Apex Plastics about what other plans they have with the remaining land.

More Construction - The big lot just north of McDonalds will be home soon to a new Dollar General Store. Contractors began work this past week removing trees and bulldozing in preparation for the new facility. DG will be moving from their current old Walmart building location that they shared with Orscheln and Green Hills Pharmacy. No word yet on how that space may be used in the future. Dollar General was kind of hidden in their present location and this new more visible building will surely be a welcome improvement.

Twin Parks - I learned during our last Brookfield Area Growth Partnership meeting that the Twin Parks project is nearly complete, with hope that everything will be finished in time for Alumni Weekend. The Main Street Connection committee just needed a few thousand dollars in additional donations and the entire project will be completely funded and completed! There are still opportunities to purchase engraved bricks for the Memorial Wall that will be built soon in the West Twin Park and also opportunities for larger donors to have your name or organization named engraved on a bronze plaque. Minimum donation amount for a plaque is \$1,000. Can't wait for our Alumni to return and see the wonderful improvements our community has made in the Twin Parks!

Meadville Clinic – I have served on the Pershing Memorial Hospital Association Board of Directors for several years now and have a firsthand understanding of the struggles Pershing and nearly every other rural medical provider in America deals with on a daily basis. We are constantly looking for efficiencies and new services to meet the needs of our patients. Several years ago Hedrick hospital in Chillicothe decided to pull their support for a medical clinic in Meadville. After much study and consideration our Board of Directors made the decision to make a financial commitment toward reopening the Clinic there. Like most rural medical efforts, while totally appreciated by folks in

Meadville, it has been financial struggle to make it work for Pershing. Patient approval ratings are through the roof every month in that Clinic despite a relatively low number of patients being seen. Because of this we struggle each year to continue the Hospital's support for the clinic. However our Board continues to recognize the importance of a Clinic presence in Meadville and just recently approved another year for the Clinic in the Hospital's 2018-2019 budget. I might say that sometimes I don't think people understand the connection between Pershing Hospital and our rural clinics like the one in Meadville. Recently I was watching our grandchildren play ball at a game in Meadville and overheard two ladies behind me talking about health providers. One had started to bring her kids from Brookfield over to Meadville because they could get in quickly without an appointment. The other lady was not doing that but did have complaints about Pershing's Applegate Clinic and Community Medical Clinic in the hospital. They were mostly about wait time, something our Board knows can be a problem at times, particularly when there is a flood of patients. Pershing's Board looks at wait times and other issues in our Clinics each month during our Board Meetings. We are constantly looking for better ways to serve the public and reducing waiting time at our clinics is a priority. We are fortunate to be able to fund the Meadville clinic and welcome folks to utilize it. I should note that staff from there does work in the Brookfield clinics when Meadville is not open, and our Physicians consult for both as well. Guess what I am saying is – Meadville is a Pershing Health System facility and we are proud that it is so well received by the Community.

D-Day – I am reminded each year at this time of the incredible commitment our United States Military made during WWII. My Dad was in a medical unit during D-Day. His Unit had been flown with gliders a few days before the invasion and set up medical camps behind

the enemy lines. Dad never talked about his experience much and I sadly now have to admit I didn't ask many questions. Not sure as a kid I ever understood what he and so many others had gone thru in WWII. Our family did do some research a few years ago and came up with some very interesting information about my Dad's time in the service. I have never seen the medals but apparently he was awarded 7 bronze stars during the War, awarded for Campaigns in Northern France, Ardennes, Central Europe, Rhineland, South France, Normandy and Rome-Arno. Our family was astonished to learn about Dad's wartime achievements. There were so many local men and women who served during that awful World War. Sadly their generation is nearly gone now. We owe a great deal of debt and gratitude to those who fought and lived and fought and died for our freedom.

BHS Alumni Weekend - Alumni Weekend is just around the corner and we hope everyone is making plans to attend. We have a couple of very active Alumni Parade Chairmen in Doug Gray and Marsha Cunningham who are working hard to promote a really great parade this year. Many classes are making plans to not only have their classes in the Parade but also decorate floats. Should be all kinds of fun! Locally the community is really excited for everyone to see the completed Twin Parks renovations. We are so proud of how they look and looking forward to the next downtown projects on our list. Make plans to come early and stay thru the weekend. Lots of things to do and people to see. Friday night Party in the East Twin Park should be more fun than ever before. Bring your lawn chairs and come to listen to good music and visit with old friend. My Class of 1968 is holding our 50th Class reunion during Alumni Weekend and we are pumped to see our old classmates! Also we want to win the Alumni Parade Float Contest. BYW - that is a challenge to all of the rest of you out there!!

BHS Hall of Fame Banquet – don't forget to purchase your tickets for the Alumni Weekend Saturday night Banquet. This event is held in the air conditioned Park Baptist Church Fellowship Hall across the street from the East Twin Park. This is a wonderful annual event honoring special BHS Alumni and Community members – it is also the main fundraiser for the Alumni Association. This organization puts on Alumni Weekend each year and relies almost exclusively on a successful Banquet for funds to go toward the following year. Classmates sit together and are recognized. Lots of fun and important that you participate!

Birthdays – June 25th, JoAnn Buntten, Ashley Grant, June 26th, Frances Smith, June 27th, Jo Hunt, Daniel Alexander, Samantha Gonzalez, Brandon McKenzie, June 28th, Jack Varnadoe, June 29th, Kaler Still, June 30th, **Mason Thudium Swift (our grandson)**, Jack Ogden, Debbie Lain, Pat Sportsman, Anna Wombwell, July 1st, Blake DeVoy, Roman DeVoy, July 4th, Kylan Sutch, July 5th, Pat Clawson, Mary Lee Moore, July 6th, Hannah Thudium, July 7th, Rob King, July 8th, Butch Dyer, Tiffany Dyer, Marshallynn Smith Shah, Mallory Gonzalez, Morgan McCormick, Bonnie Seaboldt, July 9th, Kathy Libby, July 10th, Karen Evans, Steve Lambert, Jordon Hulett Lichtenberg, July 11th, Garry Logan, Sharon (Hahn '59) McCollum, July 12th, Chris Maher, Michael Robinson, July 15th, Nathan Roberts, Helen Fay, Donna Vickery, July 16th, David Hedrick, Sarah Hedrick, Ted Thudium, Charlie Reid, July 18th, Mike Lindsay, Loren Holloway, Dane Renshaw, Cole Renshaw, Linda Falconer, Sean Hedrick, July 19th, Linda Bloss, July 20th, Abby Barra, Mike Quigley, July 21st, Kim Jenkins Park, Raylee King, July 22nd, Emily Beach, Bob Clawson, Matthew Smith, Davon Lark, July 23rd, Teresa Wine, Glenn Huffmon, Jenna Long, Dylan Brundage, July 24th, Rachael Zumbrunnen, July 25th, Abigale Park, July 26th, Monica Baker, Cecilia Spath, July 27th, Kelly Watson, July 28th, Liz Wilt, Sue Head, Jerry O'Dell, Danielle Broom,

July 29th, Alex Clawson, Susan Henry, July 30th, Chris Cash, Andy Saccaro, Brianna Schneiderheinze, Tressia Snyder, July 31st, Issac Allen, Debbie Shouse, Glenn Wombwell.

Anniversaries – June 26th, Ronnie and Beverly Liebhart, June 28th, Jimmy & Kacey Collier, Jim & Martha McIntyre, Dennis & Suzan Stephenson, **Nile & Jenny Thudium (our son and daughter in law)**, June 29th, Bill & Rhonda Cople, Terry & Carla Watts, July 30th, Gary and Jo Ann Horton, July 1st, Charles & Beverly Bowe, July 2nd, Josh & Tasha Rodriguez, July 3rd, Chuck & Jackie Tomlinson, Ed & Debbie Smith, July 5th, Rusty & Savannah Phillips, July 6th, Gene & Wanda Buckallew, Larry & Sharron (Hahn '59) McCollum, July 11th, Chris & Jennifer Waugh, July 12th, Richard & Jo Ellen Boley, Dameon & Melissa Knowles, July 15th, Jon & Melinda Renshaw, July 18th, Mark & Betty Woodring, July 19th, Mike & Holly Lindsay, **RJ & Noel Staddie (our son in law and daughter)**, July 21st, Greg & Karen Mosley, Rick & Tammy Standley, July 24th, Jason & Heidi Beeler, Dan & Lisa Daugherty, July 27th, Clarke & Penny Burns, July 28th, Eric & Abby McCracken, July 30th, David & Dana Harmon, Kevin & Shannon Knowles.

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 everyone for Alumni Weekend in July!