CURRENT RESIDENT

COVER STORY
If the World had a Front Porch
Page 33
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Important Numbers

All Emergencies 911
Pleasant Hill Police Dept. 816-987-9149
NON-Emergency & Animal Control 816-987-9149
Pleasant Hill Fire Department 816-540-9108
Cass County Sheriff 816-380-5200
City of Pleasant Hill 816-540-3135
including Water & Sewer 816-540-3135
Evergy Electric Services 816-471-5275
Spire (formerly MGE) 1-800-582-1234
Before YOU DIG 811
Public Works 816-540-9130
PWSD #5 816-540-2249
Pleasant Hill Post Office 816-540-3312

NEW RELEASE!

Dreams in a Graveyard written and sung by Honey & Wine, one of the Newest Upcoming Country Artists. A fresh sound and look to today's country music giving you not only great country music but added hope with their special words and ways to move your hearts and tap your feet.

Dreams in a Graveyard is now available worldwide on Itunes, Spotify, Amazon Music, along with other options debuted Friday, September 4, 2020.

Honey & Wine formed in 2017, years after two people met at a songwriting seminar in 2011. Rick Kuenzler and Connie Whitlock are Honey & Wine. Their personalities and their music match the name of Honey & Wine. Rick Kuenzler is a DJ on a morning radio program 92.1 KMGE while Connie Whitlock is the Owner/Editor of a community town newspaper, The Pleasant Hill Times.

Honey & Wine started engaging with Producer Larry Gann of Awestruck Studios in Independence, MO who has worked with noted artists such as Elton John, Backstreet Boys, Ozark Dare Devils. Some of music's best musicians are part of this production also featuring Lester Estelle, Jr on drums, Kevin Rogers on guitar, Alex Cordero on keyboard, Daron Tapscoff on fiddle while Craig Kew is on Bass guitar. All combined they were able to produce this powerhouse single ready for debut, Dreams in a Graveyard.

This is just the beginning! Honey & Wine will be releasing their second single titled Walkin Out the Door in late October. Soon after that a full EP with 3 more titles will follow naming Twin Flames, Whatever Happened to Your Love, and My Pleasant Hill by the end of November. Specific dates from those titles will be announced of Honey & Wine's website as well as social media pages.

HONEY & WINE – COME TASTE THE NEW EXCITING SOUND
The Pleasant Hill Times is proud to announce the first annual Person of the Year pick for our View from the Hill annual magazine. Our pick for 2020 is Lisa Nichelson, who is the president of the Pleasant Hill Community Bank which can be found while traveling north out of town on 7 highway on the left-hand side. COVID took everyone off-guard and many businesses went into a panic in one day. People were worried about what was going to happen to their money in the banks and what the future held. Lisa Nichelson jumped right in and kept on top of the news that was coming in. She went the extra mile to educate herself up front about what the businesses could do and how to keep people’s money safe.

The community watched her as she made sure businesses got the loans they needed from the Cares Act and helped them to make it through the storm. We felt that this year was pivotal for our country and Lisa has served our small community well.
Cass County Elected Officials

Cass County government is under the direction of a 3-member County Commission that are elected to 4-year terms and nine other office holders who are also elected to 4-year terms.

The County Commission is the executive body of Cass County operating under guidelines established by state statute. The commissioners enact ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervise the activities of county departments, adopt the annual budget, provide for construction and other services and conduct hearings on planning and zoning matters. The Commission directly oversees and/or works with the Public Works Department, Planning & Zoning Department, Building Codes Department, Health Department, County Maintenance, University Extension, Human Resources and Cass County 911.

The County Collector is the elected official responsible for collecting and disbursing in excess of $96 million annually in current and delinquent property taxes for various political subdivisions within the county which have authorized property tax levies, such as school, library, city, road and bridge and fire districts. The collector also collects special assessments and merchant license fees.

The County Clerk is responsible for Elections, Campaign Disclosures, Archives of County Records, Taxes and Fees, Data Processing, Voter Registration and Operator Information.

The primary duty and responsibility of the Cass County Assessor is to assess all real property within the assessor’s jurisdiction including residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural classes of property. Real property is revalued every two years.

The Circuit Clerk is responsible for all Circuit Court records for civil cases, criminal cases, domestic relations cases, adult abuse cases, jury selection and child support.

The County Auditor is responsible for establishing, implementing, and monitoring the accounting and budgeting system. The auditor is responsible for preparing the county’s financial statements and coordinating the annual financial audit.

The Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for charging and prosecuting misdemeanor and felony cases in Cass County, providing assistance to victims of crime, collection of bad checks, collection of taxes for the Director of Revenue, and enforcement of child support obligations.

The Public Administrator serves as a court appointed guardian, conservator, and personal representative for wards, protectees, and decedents of the state.

The Recorder of Deeds is the repository for all Cass County land transactions. The recorder’s duties include reviewing, processing, recording, and delivering back to the submitter all transfers of property and related documents in a timely manner. The Recorder’s office also handles marriage licenses and records military discharge papers at no charge.

The Cass County Sheriff’s Office is responsible for law enforcement in unincorporated parts of the county not served by a municipal police department, management of the county jail, investigating crime, court services, oversees neighborhood watch, and DARE programs.

The Cass County Treasurer is responsible for managing the county’s checking account, cash accounting for 57 different county funds, disbursement and reconciliation of all county checks, receipt of all money received by the county, with the exception of property taxes, investment of monies, inform the commissioners of the county’s financial status, administration of payroll, time and attendance, human resources and benefits, processing and paying employee insurance, savings plans, and other benefits. The treasurer’s office is also the custodian of Cass County School Funds, tracks Justice Center Revenues and Trust Accounting, and is Custodian of County Unclaimed Fees.
Mayor, Council keep city on the move

Pleasant Hill is governed by a mayor and a 4-member City Council with the help of a full-time city administrator and City Hall staff.

City Council meetings are held at City Hall at 203 Paul Street in p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Pleasant Hill City Hall can be reached at 816-540-3135, 816-987-5141 (fax) or by e-mail at city@pleasanthill.com. The public can also e-mail the mayor at mayor@pleasanthill.com.

The City Hall building has been expanded twice in recent years to meet the growing needs for office and meeting space.

Currently serving 2-year terms in Pleasant Hill elected offices are:

• Mayor, Mark Guffey
• Councilman - at - Large, Scott Todd
• Precinct #20 Councilman, John King
• Precinct #21 Councilman, James Hanes
• Precinct #22 Councilwoman, Tria Cartner

Municipal elections are held in April and the mayor and councilmen serve 2-year terms.

The mayor and council members are supported by City Administrator Shelby Teufel, City Clerk Jessica Elliott, Parks & Recreation/Facilities Director Justin Wieberg, Assistant City Administrator Kristen Ayers, Finance Director Amy Johnson, Police Chief Robert Driscoll, and Public Works Tony Bakken.

A volunteer Planning & Zoning Commission, Historic Preservation Board, Parks & Recreation Board, Recycling & Solid Waste Management Board, and Community Betterment Board appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council assist the City Council and City Hall staff.

The city is protected by a 24-hour-a-day 911 emergency dispatch center and full-time police officers supplemented by paid reserves.

An independent tax-supported Pleasant Hill Fire Protection District provides the community with firefighting and ambulance services.

The Community Development Department reviews and issues building permits and is prepared to assist new businesses and families interested in moving to the community as well as existing businesses that want to expand.

The City of Pleasant Hill can serve as a contact for identifying available properties and commercial and industrial development. For more information about Pleasant Hill city government, call City Hall at 816-540-3135.
Pleasant Hill city government operates under a unique “special charter” that was written for the community and adopted by the Missouri Legislature in 1859.

Pleasant Hill is governed by a mayor and 4-member city council with a full-time city administrator. City Hall has a workforce of over 50 full and part-time employees that work diligently to make the community one of the most livable cities in the U.S. today.

To meet the community’s needs, the mayor and City Council have developed a full range of municipal services that are provided at levels of excellence more typically found in larger cities.

To facilitate delivery of those services, City Hall is organized into five separate departments.

**Administration & Finance**

The Administration & Finance Department is responsible for managing the city’s money, providing administrative direction and assistance to other city departments, and providing staff support to the mayor and City Council. Administration & finance staff also work with various appointed boards and commissions.

City Hall functions include water billing and collection, municipal court, human resources and payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, budgeting cash management, record keeping, risk management, licensing, grant administration, work order processing, rental of public facilities, recycling program coordination, and responding to requests from the public for information and services.

**Community Development**

The Community Development Department oversees enforcement of building codes, zoning ordinances, and other regulations.

City personnel work closely with the Planning & Zoning Board to make sure that growth in Pleasant Hill is quality growth.

The community development department also serves as the city’s primary economic development contact. In this capacity, they work to improve the economic vitality of Pleasant Hill by helping attract new businesses, promoting downtown revitalization, and encouraging tourism through events like the annual Cass County Fair.

**Police Department**

Pleasant Hill’s Police Department includes a chief, captain, two lieutenants, one sergeant, seven full-time and one part-
time patrolmen, records clerk, an animal control officer, and four dispatchers.

The Police Department utilizes a “community policing” approach in which officers work hand-in-hand with the public to combat crime on all levels.

The dispatch center operates around the clock and is one of five 9-1-1 answering points in Cass County.

The Police Department works closely with other law enforcement agencies to assure full protection of the community.

A state-funded traffic safety program helps take drunk and hazardous drivers off the road. A Bike Patrol helps with traffic control during the Cass County Fair, parades, and other situations.

The Police Department moved into a new 2,000-square-foot addition in 2011 that provided much needed space for officers to do their job.

### Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of city infrastructure. City personnel maintain city streets, stormwater system, water, and sewer lines.

The Streets division patches potholes, oversees contracted street overlays, keeps stormwater systems clear, and plows snow in the winter.

The Water division is responsible for maintaining the city’s 2.5 million gallon water reservoir, 750,000 gallon water tank, and miles of water lines.

Water is supplied by Kansas City and the Tri-County Water Authority. The city consumes an average of over 600,000 gallons of water each day with peak summer demands exceeding one million gallons of water a day. Pleasant Hill joined the Middle Big Creek Sewer District several years ago to take a more regional approach to wastewater management. The city maintains sewer lines within city limits.

Voters in the city and surrounding communities approved a $38.5 million bond issue in 2011 to finance sewage collection and treatment improvements.

### Parks and Facilities

The Parks and Facilities Department is responsible for the maintenance of parks, City Facilities, and oversees recreational programming.

Park facilities include a 90-acre lake, an outdoor swimming pool, seven baseball and softball fields, five soccer fields, a football field, a nature trail, fairgrounds, outdoor basketball court, two tennis courts, playgrounds, and a dog park.

City staff assist the Park Board in administering adult and youth sport leagues, bi-monthly senior citizens bingo, 5K running events, father/daughter dances, community movie events, and water aerobics.

Among municipal buildings maintained by the City are the Memorial Building in downtown Pleasant Hill and Community Building in the west end of town, both that may be rented by the public.
Meet your Pleasant Hill R-3 School Board

The Pleasant Hill R-3 School District is governed by a 7-member Board of Education.

School Board members must be U.S. citizens and resident taxpayers of the school district. They serve 3-year terms without pay and elections are held each year in April.

School Board members must have lived in the State of Missouri for at least one year prior to the election and must be at least 24 years old.

The School Board is responsible for formulating and adopting school policy, selecting a school superintendent to implement policy, and wisely managing available resources.

The R-3 Board believes that education begins in the home and continues as a partnership of family, school, and community; that all children have a right to learn and that each child has a right to develop his or her unique capabilities; that ethics, respect, personal responsibility, and sense of community must be incorporated in and conveyed throughout the educational process; that education is an ongoing process that develops knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge; in encouraging cooperative relationships and optimistic attitudes; in fiscal stewardship and accountability for the public and private resources.

The R-3 School Board carries out its duties openly and seeks involvement and contributions from the public, its staff, and students in the decisionmaking process.

Regular meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month; work sessions on the second Thursday of each month.

Special school board meetings are called as needed. Meetings of the R-3 School Board follow an agenda prepared by the school superintendent in consultation with the School Board president so that meetings follow a consistent format.

Current members of the R-3 School Board are:
• John Edenburn, president
• Lori Redwine, vice-president
• David Adamczyk, treasurer
• Deenia Hocker, member
• Travis Ross, member
• Ryan Vescovi, member
• Todd Wilson, member

The district operates five campuses and a central office. The primary school serves prekindergarten through grade two, the elementary school sees grades three and four, the intermediate school serves grades five and six, the middle school serves grades seven through eight, and the high school serves freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Curriculum follows a systematic approach. The main focus of education at the primary level is to provide students with a strong foundation in basic skills and to instill in young minds the desire to learn.

At the elementary level, students are encouraged to continue building on basic skills and to approach learning with eagerness and anticipation.

In addition to the basics, students at the middle level have the opportunity to explore a limited number of other subject areas each year including music, art, family and consumer science, drama, agriculture, and technology. They also have opportunities to participate in student government and after-school clubs.
The last year for the R-3 school district has been a challenge having to work around the hit of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the fall of 2020, the students went back in person part-time and were also virtually educated. Superintendent, Dr. Steven Myers is wanting to take steps toward moving back into opening the schools and going back to full normalcy. Dr. Myers said, “The restrictions we have in place for everything is based on keeping the ability for our students to keep going to school in person every day and not having to go virtual due to COVID.”

In the spring of 2020, the R-3 school district and the city of Pleasant Hill Missouri came together to better the baseball fields and give the city an updated sports complex.

The School Board meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Board of Education office near downtown Pleasant Hill.
Pleasant Hill Police Department

The Pleasant Hill Police Department has twelve full time officers, two part-time officers, and nine marked police vehicles. Each patrol vehicle is capable of state-of-the-art radar and real time video recording. The Department also uses the Safety Traffic Enforcement Program (S.T.E.P.) trailer for specialized enforcement programs and patrol enforcement; including DWI checkpoints.

The Police Department is located on 300 Commercial Street and dispatch is working 24/7. The administration hours are from Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Anyone can call 911 if there is a crime in progress (happening at the time of the call), you are involved in a motor vehicle accident, you witness a motor vehicle accident, someone around you needs an ambulance or Emergency Medical Services, you smell smoke or see fire, you or someone around you has been bitten by an animal, or there is an emergency that requires immediate assistance from the Police, Fire, or Emergency Medical Services Department.

Do NOT call 911 if you are reporting a crime that has already occurred. (non-emergency - 816-540-9109), you need a phone number, you are reporting a non-emergency crime, such as loud music or a dog barking, you are reporting a loose dog, or you are calling as a joke.

If you call 9-1-1 by accident (pocket-dial, dialing 913 area code) Stay on the phone and let the 9-1-1 operator know that it was an accident. If you hang up, the dispatch center still receives the 9-1-1 call. If no one is on the phone, we will call back and/or send an officer to investigate. When calling 911 please stay calm, stay on the phone until the dispatcher says to hang up, and stay safe.

EVERBRIDGE or Reverse 9-1-1 is designed to notify you via telephone of an emergency or natural disaster. Weather notification is also available through this system.

In the event of an emergency, a geographical area will be chosen by a trained professional on which area to contact. The areas chosen are called using 911-reverse phone number calling. If you can call 911, then you can receive a call from this system.

Additionally, you can sign up your cell phone to act in the same way. Use the following form to sign up. It will ask for your address to link it.
with your home geographical area. If your geographical area is chosen for emergency notification, then the number you register on this site will be called also.

As mentioned, Weather notification is also available. To receive this service, you must register the phone number you want notified. Upon the issuing of a Weather warning by the national weather service, only the area(s) affected will be notified.

The City of Pleasant Hill has nine outdoor sirens placed strategically throughout the community as an early warning device to alert citizens of potential dangers.

The system - managed by the Pleasant Hill Police Department - is not designed to warn people indoors. A NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio is the fastest and most reliable way to receive severe weather, watches, warnings and advisories, and information about other community hazards.

This outdoor warning system is tested on the first Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. year round except during extreme cold, heavy icing or if the potential for severe weather exists. If the monthly test is canceled, it will typically be postponed one week to the second Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. The test date for March is sometimes altered to coincide with the statewide tornado drill during Severe Weather Awareness Week. On test day, police officers report to each siren location across Pleasant Hill and monitor the system by listening and reporting their findings to the communications center.

Residents may occasionally hear a siren or group of sirens being tested outside of the normal testing dates and times. This is usually preventative maintenance that needs to be completed to ensure the siren equipment is operational.

**During a tornado warning, remember:**

- Stay calm, take cover in your predetermined safety spot.
- Don’t tie up phone lines by calling the National Weather Service, local emergency services, public officials, or the news media.
- There is no “all-clear” signal on the outdoor warning system.
- If possible, turn to local media for updates or instructions from public officials.
The members of the PHFD have a long history of service and excellence in the community, equipped to provide emergency medical response and treatment. The original Pleasant Hill Fire Department is reportedly over 100 years old and the first fire truck was purchased in 1925, according to the Pleasant Hill Historical Museum.

Currently, there are approximately forty-five employees with usually less than a dozen full-timers in the department and has two front office employees.

The PHFD possesses two engines with fire suppression capabilities, a tanker that holds up to three thousand gallons of water, two brush trucks to fight grass fires, three ambulances, and a Gator utility vehicle to get into spaces where a truck cannot, such as for trail searches.

Every year it is a tradition that Santa rides in one of the fire engines for the lighting of the Mayors Christmas tree accompanied by a brigade and sounding fire sirens through the streets.

The fire department goes on calls for the Pleasant Hill areas as well as assisting neighboring cities.

Calls can include brush fires, house fires, investigating fire alarm soundings, gas line breaks and suspicious odors, flood rescue, business emergencies, motor vehicle crashes, citizen assists such as falls, medical emergencies, and other situations. The PHFD also provides standby for the Cass County Fair annually in July.
Our Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization of business and professional men and women founded to advance the interest of the Pleasant Hill Community, its people and its commerce through a program of membership, service to business, and public leadership. Our Mission is to foster the economic vitality and quality of life within Pleasant Hill and our surrounding trade area.

**Chamber Programs and Services:**
- Luncheons - Every 3rd Tuesday
- Morning coffee last Friday of the month
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
- Annual Awards Ceremony
- Texas Hold’Em Tournament in February
- The Pleasant Hill Golf Tournament in May
- The Pleasant Hill Mouse Races in October
- Proud Sponsor of the Cass County Fair
- Sponsor of the Cass County Chair Auction
- Halloween Safe Trick or Treat - October 31st, 4:00-6:00
- Gift Checks Program

**816-540-2070**
Stop by the Chamber Office in The Depot, 100 Wyoming, Downtown Pleasant Hill, Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
pleasanthillmochamber.com

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Animal Control on Patrol

Animal control in Pleasant Hill consists of one employee, Dana Rogers-Lovelace, but there are over thirty-five volunteers. The shelter does not pick up or take in cats although will take any animal in crisis, but is only equipped to house canines. Fees are ten dollars for a pick-up charge, and eleven dollars for boarding per day. If the owner does not have a proof of rabies shot when coming to pick up their dog, and the shelter will give the owner a seventeen-dollar voucher for vaccination. The Pleasant Hill Animal Control Officer and Shelter is funded by the city of Pleasant Hill.

If you come across a situation that you deem an emergency, call the police department. Animal Control asks the public not to post to Facebook or tag animal control. The shelter doesn’t typically check their messages when off the clock, and never while driving. Tagging the post with the animal control officer’s name isn’t always seen right away. Call dispatch with any animal concerns!

816.540.9109

If your dog bites a person while out of the yard, the law doesn’t care if your dog was provoked. Pleasant Hill city ordinances don’t care if your dog is vaccinated at that point. Your dog will be held at the local animal clinic for a ten-day observation, at the owner’s cost. The dog is then evaluated.

The citation for “Dog at Large” will cost owners around eighty dollars, and if your dog bites someone the owner will have to go to court.

Make sure all dogs have tags and are wearing them. Rabies tags are essential. Animal control can call a vet for verification on vaccinations. Then the dog can return home. It is recommended that all information on the dogs are kept updated at the vet.

Micro-chipping your dog can be extremely helpful. A microchip will cost seventeen dollars and fifty cents for a lifetime enrollment. If a dog gets hit by a car or attacked by another dog, the first thing the vet office does is scan for a chip if there are no tags.

The shelter’s goal is to keep every dog and person safe from each other. They are not going to ticket every dog that gets out and they don’t euthanize healthy dogs.

Lovelace says, “Have I mentioned how fortunate this shelter and every dog we take in are because of our very own community? Kayt Whitney did a silent auction for the shelter. I’m not talking she posted a few things. She asked/begged vendors and local businesses for their goods. She then managed to engage hundreds of people to bid on every single item that she posted individually. This is not a small task. She collected over $3,000. Today she brought our 1st delivery. These are items that we use daily! Bleach, laundry soap, dish soap, spray bottles, and of course, dog food! The pic does not do the volume of products she brought justice! We are so thankful for Kayt and everyone in the community for keeping our stray dogs happy & healthy. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottoms of our tiny little hearts!”
In order to compose and create music that instills love, family, and enlightenment, COMMUNITY is the backbone of Honey & Wine’s enchanting sound. Inspired by the vast and diverse country artists like Little Big Town, Lady A, Miranda Lambert, Trick Pony, and others, Honey & Wine incorporate vivid memories and vibrant motifs in their music. Their fans are of all ages from young to old and appreciate good country music at its core.

“Our debut single, Dreams In A Graveyard, which was released September 4, 2020, is our story” commented Rick and Connie, “But it’s also so much more than that, because people who have heard that song privately, along with the other songs we’ve written, tell us that they connect with the stories and find them inspirational and relatable to situations they’ve experienced in their own lives.”

When it comes to living life, Missouri is the home of Honey & Wine, as well as one of the birthplaces of country-folk music. Honey & Wine personifies the culture that is Missouri – Whether it’s the smell of barbecue cooking in Pleasant Hill on a warm summer’s evening, or flashbacks of simpler times with friends, Rick & Connie embody their talents of descriptive songwriting through inspirations from their families and common interests in working and pulling together, helping one another, serving one another, and celebrating life at its fullest…TOGETHER.

The music of Honey & Wine captivates their audience with skilled guitar playing, heartwarming storytelling, and immersive vocals. However, the story behind the band is more intriguing than their charming bluegrass, folk, and country-rock sound. For over 30 years, Rick and Connie each learned music and played in various talented bands of diverse genres on separate paths. It wasn’t until those paths crossed at a music awards event in 2011 that they later began co-writing at a songwriting seminar where they found that perfect blend of what each brought to the table – creativity and structure. This allowed each to bring their musical strengths and unlock their individual abilities that collectively gave birth to their style and sound. Such a blend needed a name that perfectly embodied it. After much musing, the name Honey & Wine was ultimately chosen. Honey is natural, sweet, and timeless, while wine has numerous antioxidants that benefit good health. These are also the characteristics and spiritual qualities that mark Honey & Wine music.

With Rick on the guitar and Connie on vocals, these two intertwine their unique talents to compose music that is both spiritually awakening and symphonically sophisticated. Combining their long history of musical prowess these two are a powerful force in country music. Honey & Wine shine a light through their sound to their audiences.

You can experience this powerful force and shining light for yourself in Honey & Wine’s first single, *Dreams in a Graveyard*, which was released September 4, 2020, and soon to be followed by their second single, *Walkin’ Out The Door*, and finally their full EP with three more songs: *Twin Flames, Whatever Happened To Your Love, and My Pleasant Hill.*

After reflecting on the path that led Connie and Rick to pursue this project, they say, “Thank you to all the family, friends, and fans who have inspired and encouraged us to express ourselves through Honey & Wine music and to get these musical stories out there. May they ever encourage others to not let their dreams lay in a graveyard.”
Volunteers are the Glue That Holds the City Together

Pleasant Hill’s caring reputation may be attributed to the civic organizations and individuals who are devoted to serving the needs of our community. Without the dedicated volunteers who are the life blood of these charitable programs, many services would be eliminated.

**American Red Cross:** Call 816-931-8400 or go to website: www.redcross.org/kansas city. for information. There is no office in Harrisonville.

**American Legion:** Membership includes veterans of U.S. Military service. Contact Les Morrison, commander, 816-738-4186, for information or interest in joining.

**Baby Grace Ministry:** Baby Grace Ministry supports young moms and their children, ages birth to 5 years. Provides diapers, wipes, shampoos, lotions, ointment, laundry detergent, and more. Located at the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, 4 yrs and 60,500 diapers later! Contact: Mary Bordner Tanck. http://babygrace.org

**Beta Sigma Phi:** Beta Sigma Phi is an international social/service sorority with headquarters in Kansas City. Four local chapters: Preceptor Epsilon Phi- Jackie Kimrey, contact person; meets 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Xi Iota Gamma contact Linda Harris; meets the first and third Monday of each month. Chi Nu- contact, Jennifer Gunderson; meets monthly. Alpha Zeta Omicron - Lori Redwine, contact. Meets September - May, 1st and 3rd Monday of month.

**Booster Club:** Supports all athletic programs financially, attends all sporting events and recognize athletic accomplishments. Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the high school library. Ashley Nicholas, 816-716-1847, is the president. Membership is open. Contact Athletic Director, Jim Oliver, 540-3111 x5503 or go to the website: www.pleasanthillschools.com and click on the “Athletics/Activities link” tab for more information.

**Boy Scouts:** Since 1927, Boy Scouts have been active in Pleasant Hill. Troop #300 is the second oldest troop in Cass County. Daymon Smallwood is Scoutmaster. They meet Monday at 7 p.m. at the Boy Scout Cabin on N. Campbell Street. Contact Bo about Venture Crew Scouts for students, age 14 and older. Monthly activities allow Scouts to earn badges which lead to Eagle Scout rank.

**Bright Futures:** Believing that every child needs a champion, Bright Futures leaders have been successful coordinating students needs with individuals and organizations who are willing to focus on the success of children. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Becky Gallagher serves as liaison for the program. Contact Bright Futures Coordinator Carrie Hull at carriehull@hotmail.com. for more information or call 816-308-9518. Updates are posted regularly on Facebook: facebook.com/BrightFutures-PleasantHill.

**Cass County Fair Board:** A working board of dedicated volunteers who meet year round, as needed, to plan, organize and review the fair in preparation for the next year’s event. Fair Coordinators are Cheri Hocker, Stephanie Ray and Justin Weiberg, 540-3135.
Cass County Retired Teachers: Open to all retired teachers. Contact Linda Kyser, 816-899-2519.

Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce: Chamber meets at noon for lunch and a program, the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Memorial Building. The Chamber promotes commerce and trade in the Pleasant Hill community. Interested persons are welcome to visit any of the meetings and become a member. The Chamber office is located in the historic depot, at 100 Wyoming, 540-2070. Tina M. Stidham, Chamber Director.

Clothes Closet: Pleasant Hill First Presbyterian Church, 601 East Oak Street, maintains a year around free Clothes Closet in their basement. (enter at the N. Myrtle Street entrance). They are open Tuesdays, from 9 - Noon and Thursdays, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. **No paperwork or qualifying process.** A spokesman for the church said, “We ask that people take what they need and need what they take.”

Community Betterment: Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 8 p.m. at City Hall. Terry Wilson, president. For more information, 540-3135.

Cub Scouts: Students in first through fifth grade are eligible for membership in the national organization. Tiger Cubs- 1st grade, Wolf Cubs- 2nd grade, Bear Cubs- 3rd grade, Webelos-4th grade. Pack #300 meets weekly through the school year; Cubmaster is Bo Walker. They meet Mondays at the First Christian Church. Scouts receive recognition at monthly pack meetings at the United Methodist Church.

DAR: Mary Sibley Chapter meets in the Cass Regional Conference room, Harrisonville, at 10:30 a.m. the 3rd Saturday of the month. The Mary Sibley Chapter is a county wide organization. Membership is by invitation only. Anyone who would like to be involved and can prove a link to a revolutionary ancestor is eligible to join. The organization contributes monetarily to specific school programs, the U.S. Veterans, and gives Good Citizens Awards to high school students. Contact Denise Miller, regent, 816-348-9022.

Pleasant Hill Historic District: Board meets the 4th Thurs. of each month at 8:30 a.m. The Pleasant Hill Historic District promotes and revitalizes the downtown area of Pleasant Hill. All interested persons are welcome to join. Contact Pat Clifford, president, at 816-739-3883.

Eastern Star: Ivy Leaf Chapter 215 meets the 2nd Thursday of September - June at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 1480 Broadway. Eastern Star is a fraternal and charitable organization. To learn more about membership in this organization, call Sandra Hackler, 816-697-2694.

FFA Alumni: Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the ag classroom at Pleasant Hill High School. The organization is a service for the Future Farmers of America and provides scholarships for students interested in an agricultural field and financial support wherever needed. Membership is open to interested persons. Contact A. J. Wingard at 540-3111 ext. 5305.

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Food Pantry: The Pleasant Hill Food Pantry is one of the services provided by the Pleasant Hill Lay Clergy Council. To qualify for Food Pantry services, the individual must live in Pleasant Hill, East Lynne or Strasburg and provide proof of residency. They must complete an application and provide current I.D. Eligible families may visit one time per month and are required to meet with the Director of Client services after the third visit. Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - noon and 4 - 5:45 p.m.

4-H Clubs: Pleasant Hill 4-H club, Hillside Cavaliers is a horsemanship club, led by Nancy Miller and Lynn Lee. Other 4-H Clubs and leaders include the Dusters, County-wide Shooting Sports, Vicki Debrat, and Hickory Grove 4-H, Gayle Pryor. The 4-H Youth Educator position at Cass County University Extension Office is currently open. Call 816-380-8460, for more information.

Harrisonville & Cass County Business Women: Meets the 2nd Friday of the month at a designated location. (HCCBWM) founded and continues to support Hope Haven, shelter for victims of domestic violence, and hosts annual Spaghetti Dinner/Dance for Special Population, Leadership Camp for Girls, a one-day seminar for Cass County junior and senior high school girls, and coordinates the Cass County Fair Queen Pageant and Business Women of Missouri (BWM) promotes education through scholarships; supports legislation involving women’s issues and is active in community service. Membership is open to all Cass County working women. Contact Betty Beason, 540-2761 for information.

Knights of Columbus, Council #13113: Meetings are held at St. Bridget Parish at 2103 N Lexington Rd. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Grand Knight Daniel W Zaner.

TLC: Board meeting is the 2nd Monday of the month at the Thrift Store at Cedar and Veterans Parkway. Projects of the Lay Clergy include the Thrift Store, Meals on Wheels, Sharing of the Green in March, Holy Week in April, Baccalaureate ceremony each spring, Community Thanksgiving, shared by member churches; Tucker Renewal Center, on-going; Back to School Assistance, August; Angel Tree sign up, November; Angel adoption and distribution, December. All member churches have a representative on the Board. Participating churches are Amazing Grace Lutheran, Big Creek Baptist, Community of Christ, Echo Church, Family Worship Church, First Christian, First Presbyterian, Hickory Grove Baptist, St. Bridget Catholic Church and United Methodist.

Mason Jewel Lodge 480: Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge. Fraternal and charitable.

Meals on Wheels: Located in the basement of the First Christian Church. Use the Cedar Street entrance. Delivered meals are available to all senior citizens in the community five days a week. Call for meal price. To order meals, 987-3952 or 914-3317.

Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association: The association meets quarterly at the cemetery’s Memorial Chapel and is limited to nine members. Their task is to handle administration and beautification of the cemetery. Contact Sexton Gib Sudduth, 816-506-2718; Dean Bradshaw, president, or the cemetery office, 987-2041.
Pleasant Hill Historical Society: Meets quarterly, the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Museum, 125 Wyoming. Contact curator, Dr. Robert Kennedy at 816-529-6088. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

Pleasant Hill Lions Club: Meets the 1st Monday at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Building in downtown Pleasant Hill. Dinner is available. Also meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m., at the Big Creek Restaurant on Wyoming Street. Lunch is available, but not required. Lions provide eyeglasses to senior citizens and school children who cannot afford them and scholarships to graduating seniors. Lions Club International is the world’s largest civic organization. New members are welcome. Contact president, Alice Ballard or secretary Ron Ballard, at 816-540-2294, for details.

Pleasant Hill Quilt Guild: Formerly Big Creek Strippers (quilters); meet the 3rd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. each month (except for July), at the Community Building at the Cass County Fairgrounds. For more information, contact Vicky Coy, president, 816-217-7626, or Jeannie Moore, treasurer.

Optimist Club: Meets the 2nd Saturday at 8:15 a.m., at the Community Bank of Pleasant Hill. Opportunities for local youth initiatives, by “putting kids first”. New members are always welcome. Email Melanie Sanders, mkcsanders@gmail.com for information. Facebook: The Optimist Club of Pleasant Hill

Parents & Teachers Organization (PTO): Meetings rotate among all schools. PTO is a non-profit organization focused on planning and organizing family events and promoting fundraising efforts to help provide “the little extras” that add to the children’s learning experience. Check PTO’s Facebook page “Pleasant Hill Parent-Teacher Organization” for current information. Students will again use the United Fundraiser catalog to sell many items and will continue selling trash bags. Contact Pleasant Hill R-III Schools, 816-540-3161 for contact person’s link.

PH ED Foundation: Pleasant Hill Education Foundation, started in 2001 by Jackie Emo, is separate from the school district and provides scholarships annually to Pleasant Hill High School graduating seniors (ACT score and GPA are not the determining factor). During the application process Education Foundation board members are made aware of a student’s needs for financial assistance and how active they are in the school district. The foundation has also funded new playground equipment, new art and cafeteria tables and in conjunction with Goppert Financial Bank built the press box complete with concession stand and restrooms at the Skyline Field across from the PHMS. The foundation hosts two fundraisers annually, both in November: The Education Funding Card (discount card for local and KC area businesses) and the velvet crème popcorn sale (available in a traditional or holiday can). Assisting with the foundation would be a great way for PHHS Alumni and reunion committees to give back to the school and sponsor future success of PHHS graduating seniors. For questions on how to become active in the foundation or to offer a donation, contact Jackie Emo at 816-540-3161.

Pleasant Hill Senior Citizens: Meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at the Memorial Building at 10 a.m. Meetings include a potluck lunch and a program. Membership is open to anyone who is 55 or older.

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Pleasant Hill Town & Country Art League: Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Community Building. Promotes art appreciation and education in two and three dimensional art. Presentations and workshops for adults and youth are given throughout the year and shows during the Cass County Fair. Interested persons are welcome. Contact Joyce Pennington, 540-2587 for information.

Pleasant Hill Young Matrons: Meets monthly, times announced. Meetings consist of lessons on topics of interest to women and social gatherings. Also participates with Cass County Council activities. Contact Betty Beason, 540-2761.

The Red Hat Society: A social organization for women 50+ to gather for fun. The ladies meeting monthly for a social gathering; no business. Just for Fun Red Hatters. No openings for new members. One social outing per month. Contact Josie Hayes, 540-3319.

The Salvation Army: Representatives work in Pleasant Hill. Officers assist with utilities and other emergencies. Contact www.salvationarmyusa.org for more information or 816-380-3505.

United Way: The United Way supports service agencies financially in Pleasant Hill and surrounding areas. Contact Carol Flynn at 816-719-1601.

VFW Auxiliary: Meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the V.F.W. Building. The auxiliary helps veterans and their families and provides community service. Contact Pat Harvey, president, 816-540-2849.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Meets the first Thurs. of the month at 7 p.m. at the V.F.W. Building, 1701 Country Club Drive. They promote patriotism and help comrades and their families. Contact 1st Commander Ronnie Ponder at 816-204-7672 or 2nd Commander Jon Mooneyham, at 816-325-0600.

If you are part of an organization, group, or club that isn’t included in this list and would like to be... Please contact the Pleasant Hill Times at 540-3500 or email the group’s name, a short description, and contact information to editor.phtimes@comcast.net. In subject line state: View from the Hill - Civic Organization.
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Pleasant Hill’s volunteer boards and commissions continue to be proactive with community improvements. They are proud that their attention to keeping abreast of community needs attracts new businesses to locate in Pleasant Hill and others are expanding their services.

Some of the boards and commissions that help make these accomplishments happen are described below:

**City Council**

Pleasant Hill is governed by a mayor and four members of City Council with a full time City Administrator.

City Council meets at 7 p.m. the second and the fourth Monday of each month. City Council members sometimes have to make difficult decisions, knowing that they can not possibly please all the people all the time. Pleasant Hill is fortunate to have a city council, made up of individuals who have chosen to honorably represent the residents of the city.

City Council members are always focused on promoting the positive attributes of the city, from the historic downtown area to the newest businesses and housing developments which have chosen to locate in Pleasant Hill.

Serving on the City Council are:
- Mayor Scott Guffey
- Councilman John King, Precinct 20
- Councilman James Hanes, Precinct 21
- Councilwoman Tria Cartner, Precinct 22
- Councilman Scott Todd, At-Large

**Planning & Zoning**

The purpose of the Planning Commission is to promote the protection and enhancement of Development of its subdivisions, buildings, structures or other types of land improvements throughout the city. The Commission is made of 7 members who are citizens of Pleasant Hill. These members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

The Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Serving on the Planning and Zoning Board are: Jim Hull, (Chairman), Scott Todd (City Council Liaison), Brian Bunch, Mitch Hanna, Chris Livingston (Vice-Chairman), Deanna Martin and Larry Rosanbalm

**Historic Preservation**

The Historic Preservation Commission normally meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The Historic Preservation District was created in June of 2000 by the City Council to protect the historic integrity of the downtown area of Pleasant Hill.

The purpose of this Commission is to promote the protection and enhancement of buildings, structures or land improvements of special historic, aesthetic or architectural significance. Also included in the ordinance was the creation of a five member Historical Preservation Commission to govern in an advisory capacity to the city council and the planning and zoning commission. The commission proposes designations as a historic landmark and/or Historic District and issues certificates of appropriateness that relate to proposed actions affecting the exterior architectural appearance of any landmark or property within a historic district.

Serving on the Historic Preservation Commission are: Andy Anderson (Chairman), Jeff Wilson (Vice-Chairman) Pat Clifford, Chris Simmons and Wade Baldridge.

**Parks & Recreation**

The Pleasant Hill Park Board meets the second Tuesday of the month (July & December - NO MEETINGS) at 7 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

The purpose of the Pleasant Hill Parks Board is to provide for diverse leisure, conservation, recreation, and aesthetic resource needs of present and future generations in the Pleasant Hill area. The board’s duties includes developing policies and plans for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Serving on the Park Board are: Auggie Augspurg (president), Andy Bailey(vice president), Heather Shore (secretary), Mark Crain, Nancy Baker, Stephani Bordner, Scott Vaughn, David Whitaker and Jay English.

**Community Betterment**

Community Betterment manages the Depot and the Booth building for the City. Rent proceeds are used to maintain the historic properties and to finance other betterment activities, including Community Betterment scholarships.

The committee uses its non-profit status to support and assist other civic organizations, including the Recycling Committee and the Parks Department. The committee also oversees the activities of the award-winning WE GIVE Youth Betterment program.

Serving on the Community Betterment Board are: Terry Wilson (president), Justin Wieberg, Shelby Teufel, Becky Gallagher, Tina Stidham, Linda Young, Myra Doehla, JR Brown and Randy Miller.
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Pleasant Hill’s Park system offers outside time for the family

The Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation Department traces its roots back to 1949, when the Memorial Building was built and the first public park in Pleasant Hill was opened.

That first park is still known as “City Park”. It sits on the exact same land as it did when it was established. Over the years the park has been updated by the Parks and Recreation Department on a regular basis. The tennis courts on the southwest corner of the park have been resurfaced and re-netted. The original picnic tables and playground equipment have both been replaced as well with new materials. There are now two full playground sets and the park has also continued to add features such as the two shelters, basketball court and t-ball field. The basketball court was also recently repainted and resurfaced.

The total acreage of Pleasant Hill’s park system has increased exponentially since the official establishment of the Pleasant Hill Parks and Recreation Department. They now maintain more than 330 acres of more than two-dozen ball fields, trails and park and event spaces. All of this is funded by a local Park levee and Park/Storm Water sales tax.

Consider all of the following facilities that are at your disposal as a member of the Pleasant Hill public:

Cass County Fairgrounds and Community Building

Held every July, Pleasant Hill has hosted the Cass County Fair since 1994 and has worked to expand the fair every year. The Fairgrounds are located at 308 W. Commercial, primarily along the south side of 58 Hwy, just west of downtown Pleasant Hill. It includes dirt areas for tractor pulls, rodeos, mud runs, motocross races and demolition derbies. The area also has two covered pavilions that are used for livestock shows and musical performances. The Fairground is encircled by a quarter-mile walking-track.

There is also a Community Building located on the Fairgrounds. It is available for rental year-around. The building includes a kitchen, reception hall, 85 chairs and plenty of tables. It is home for local organizations like Meals on Wheels. The Smokin’ on Big Creek BBQ contest takes place every spring at the Fairgrounds as well.

City Lake and Lakeshore Disc Golf

Locate at 16104 S. Lake, Pleasant Hill is a great place for fishing and boating — just make sure to have any necessary permits and licenses. The lake features a boat ramp, two shelter houses, playground, three horseshoe pits and an electric RV campsite.

Another feature out at the lake is the Lakeshore Disc Golf Course. The course was recently expanded from nine holes to 18 and hosted the World Disc Golf Championships in 2010.

MoPac Singletrack Mountain Bike Trail

The MoPac Singletrack is a single-track dirt trail designed for mountain biking and hiking. Located at the Pleasant Hill City Lake, the trail consists of over six miles of scenic trail that meanders through wooded area from the campground all the way to the northern end of the lake. The trail features three sections of varying difficulty levels and is open during City Lake hours. For more information search MoPac SingleTrack in Facebook or @mopacsingletrack on Twitter.

Sports and Recreation Complex

Originally consisting of two baseball fields when it was first completed 18 years ago, the Pleasant Hill Recreation Complex has continually expanded to offer people of all ages more choices for their leisure time. The complex is located at 1528 E. Broadway in Pleasant Hill.

Local voters passed a ¼-cent sales tax in 1996 to help get the complex started and the place’s momentum hasn’t stopped since. In addition to the two baseball fields, which have consistently been upgraded to improve the quality of the playing field, the park now also has two football fields, a skateboard park, a playground, a batting cage and a bullpen with three mounds. PHHS baseball puts the facility to good use as it is only a couple blocks southeast of the high school.

In addition to the fields, the Mary Margaret Ledwidge Memorial picnic shelter and concession stand were built on the site. Centrally located between all of the fields, it offers a good view of any game that may be being played and houses a concession stand and restrooms.

Municipal Pool

The city pool is located at 1300 Myrtle across the street from PHMS. The site has long been the location for the city pool but a new pool was constructed there in 2014. The previous pool, an indoor facility with a retractable roof
that was starting to show its age, was torn down and replaced with today’s fully outdoor version. The current pool has six lanes and is complete with a diving board, basketball goal, water slide, kiddie pool, and concession stand. It’s available to rent during the season for private events and is generally available at various times for open swim, lessons and aerobics.

The Pleasant Hill Dolphins swim team also practices and holds competitions there during the summer. In both 2015 and 2019, the new pool hosted the championship meet for the Suburban Municipal Swim League, which the Dolphins are a part of.

Memorial Building
Located downtown at 212 Cedar, the Memorial Building is a two-story reception hall dedicated to the memory of all the Pleasant Hill residents who have ever sacrificed their lives in the service of this country.

The location can fill many of your event-space needs, with as many as 175 chairs, 14 round tables and 13 eight-foot tables at your disposal. Parties and weddings are ideal for the second floor, which has a stage, while the first floor has a full kitchen and is ideal for meetings. The site is utilized during the Cass County Fair by 4-H and other organizations.

Best Friends Dog Park
This park opened in the last few years with the efforts of the Paul M. Busch Foundation for the Outdoors. It’s located just northeast of the Intermediate School at 15909 Knorpp Rd. beside the Pleasant Hill water tower. It was the product of three years of planning and fundraising, as well as hundreds of hours of volunteer work.

The park is great for dogs of all ages, with more than 1,200 feet of fencing and separate fenced-in areas for large dogs and small dogs. It also has a couple of water fountains tall enough for the owners and a couple others short enough for their 4-legged friends. There is also equipment available for owners to make sure the park gets left as clean as their dogs found it.

All owners must be at least 16 and pick up a six-dollar dog tag from City Hall to be allowed in the park. Pets must be fixed to be certified. The park is open from sunrise to sunset, but kids under 13 must be supervised.

Paul Busch, for whom the Foundation that helped make this park a reality was named, was a 2004 PHHS graduate. A lover of the outdoors and animals, Busch tragically passed away in 2011, but his memory lives on through the Foundation that bears his name. Several park benches are spread out through the park as well, one of which is dedicated in memory of Busch’s classmate, Matt Young, who passed in 2013. Their fellow members of the class of 2004, as well as their beloved friends and family from around the community, will always make sure they are never forgotten.

City Park
At the corner of Harper and Randolph for 70 years, the City Park has been grooming young T-ball legends for decades! Even if you’re not up for any ballgames — including those that can be played on the tennis and basketball courts there — there’s always the two picnic shelters complete with barbeque pits that allow you an opportunity to chill and grill with your friends and family.

Pine Street Park
Located in the 600 block of Pine St., on the south side of the road opposite Jeffreys St., this park serves as a practice field for local youth soccer teams. Make sure to contact PHP&R to reserve field times in advance for any of the city-owned athletic fields; signup forms can be found through the city’s website, pleasanthill.com.

Ridge Tree Trail
A part of one of Pleasant Hill’s newest subdivisions, this 10-foot-wide, winding trail weaves its way from Woodlawn to Route VV along Lexington Road.

Depot/Gazebo Park
A history buff could certainly appreciate the charming yet informative Depot/Gazebo Park, located just east of the 116-year old depot building in downtown Pleasant Hill. It sits at the corner of Veterans Parkway and Paul Street, featuring several park benches and a gazebo that’s quaint enough to sit and read in but big enough to have your wedding in.

The thing that makes the park unique though is its monuments and exhibits. Besides old fashioned timepieces like a sundial and a train-station-style analog clock, the park has an old Civil War cannon next to the bust and monument of Hiram Bledsoe, a Confederate Colonel buried in Pleasant Hill who was a veteran of several noteworthy battles in the region. Not only does his monument give interesting details of his life, but another monument near the clock gives a historical overview of the city of Pleasant Hill as a whole.

Community Soccer Complex
The former home of the PHHS soccer teams, the Community Soccer Complex still has multiple fields for youth players on Country Club Dr. just east of the former city golf course. A wrought-iron fence was added to help corral runaway soccer balls and to keep the field more secure.

Doug Yuille Memorial Field
Named in honor of a Pleasant Hill Middle School student who passed away tragically at age 13 in 1988, Doug Yuille Memorial

Continued on page 30
Field has been the site of many youth baseball and softball games ever since. Still featuring its trademark tall fence in left field, Yuille Field is located directly east of the connecting road between 58 Hwy. and the northbound lane of 7 Hwy.

**Veterans Memorial Park**
Formerly the site of a large blue fountain, Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Commercial Street and Veterans Parkway in downtown Pleasant Hill is sponsored by local VFW Post #3118 and was built in the last 15 years. It features military memorabilia such as a cannon from the first half of the 20th century, in addition to other monuments. It’s dedicated to the memory of all who have served the U.S., either in war or peacetime.

**Stone Creek Nature Trail**
This wooded walking trail is surfaced with gravel and is about one-third of a mile long. It’s in the Stone Creek subdivision, starting near the corner of Hillcrest and Redbud. Make sure you park your car elsewhere, though. There are no parking accommodations near the trail.

**Skyline Field**
The home of PHHS Chicks softball, Skyline Field has seen numerous upgrades in the last decade. The press box, scoreboard, bullpens, bleachers and four batting cages have all either been upgraded or added altogether during that time. Located next door to the pool across Myrtle St. from the Middle School, Skyline is also just west of Rooster Way from two other, smaller softball fields.

**MoPac Trail**
The three-plus mile long signature trail of Pleasant Hill, the MoPacTrail-named in honor of the Missouri Pacific Railroad that goes from downtown Pleasant Hill northward to City Lake and ends at 167th Street.

It has been built in phases and there are still expectations it will increase even further in length. The first phase was dedicated June 4, 2011, going 2.5 miles through crop fields and woods, as well as over creeks. Phase II was completed in August, 2013, spanning a half-mile. It connected the MoPac Trail with the Rock Island Trail, which at the time was still under construction by the Missouri Division of State Parks. Phase III takes the MoPac farther north, past 167th Street the rest of the way and around the Pleasant Hill Lake. The trail has five safety benches and a gravel parking lot at the entrance on Boardman Street.

**Goppert Fitness Park**
Located on Alexandria St. in the Hickory Hills subdivision, Goppert Fitness Park opened in the summer of 2011. It has a quarter-mile asphalt trail fit for walking or running through the woods and it features a paved parking lot and several stations with ENERGI fitness equipment. This state-of-the-art equipment allows you to track your workout by scanning each exercise on your smart phone.

The park also has an outdoor fitness class area, a playground, and games that encourage the patrons to compete with each other while exercising.

**Children’s Memorial Park**
This park, located at 2000 Van Hoy Dr. in Sugarland Estates, is complete with gazebo, flower garden, and children’s memorial wall. It also has a pond (no fishing).

**Rock Island Trail State Park**
The newest addition to the PHP&R family, the Rock Island Trail State Park had its ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 10 2016, with then-governor Jay Nixon in attendance. Pleasant Hill is currently the trailhead of the Rock Island Trail, which goes southeast more than 55 miles to the town of Windsor, where it connects with the Katy Trail that spans much of the state.

Plans are in place, though, to expand the Rock Island northwest of Pleasant Hill towards Kansas City, and it’s possible that it may also extend southeast past Windsor as many as 144 additional miles in future years.

At the present time, the Rock Island Trail begins near the Community Building adjacent to the Cass County Fairgrounds before heading southeast. There is a sign, complete with information about the path and history of Pleasant Hill, to mark the trailhead. As part of the spur off the Katy Trail, the Rock Island also connects with Pleasant Hill’s own MoPac trail near the Fairgrounds and heads north another three plus miles. All told, this contributes to more than 300 miles of trails as part of the Katy trail system which has transformed the aged, defunct rail line into old-fashioned yet useful transportation for lovers of the outdoors in Missouri.

In the future, it is hoped that not only will the northward trail expansion pass City Lake, but that a bridge can allow the Rock Island Trail to pass over active railroads in town and give a more direct route for the trail as it exists in the city limits. Presently, that trail uses some winding detours in order to avoid more hazardous crossing of the railroad.
A 20+ year tradition, the Cass County Fair provides fun for all every July. From the youth livestock shows to exhibits to the action-packed demolition derby, the Fair has it all. Quality carnival rides and attractions are always a hit for young and old. Whether it is the County’s largest watermelon that interests you or exciting rodeo action, the Cass County Fair is sure to be an entertainment delight for young and old alike. Find out more about the Cass County Fair at http://www.casscountyfairmo.com/.
Worship at the church of your choice

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church:** 313 Cedar, Pleasant Hill, 540-5150. Interim Pastor, Robert Malone. Morning service, 8:30 a.m. Sunday school and Adult Bible Class, 10 a.m., email: amazinggraceph@embarqmail.com; website: amazinggraceph.com.

**Big Creek Baptist Church:** 1517 N. State Hwy, Pleasant Hill, 816-540-2365. Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible study Wed 7 p.m. & Sun 6 p.m., website: bigcreekbaptistchurch.org.

**The Pleasant Hill Church of Christ:** 907 Cedar, Pleasant Hill, 540-2652. Sunday Bible study 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship services 11 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m.

**Community of Christ Church:** 1007 Timber, Pleasant Hill, 987-5570, leave message. Elder Steve LaRue. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Morning service 10:45 a.m. Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper, first Sunday each month. Children’s Peacemaker Club. Call Carla LaRue for info, 809-7513. www.cofchrist.org

**Echo Church:** 1203 N 7 Hwy., Pleasant Hill, 987-0067. Pastor, Shawn Gray. Sunday service 9 and 11:00 a.m. Reverb (Grades 7-12), Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m. website: www.echochurch.tv

**HIS Church:** 1210 North State Rt. 7, Pleasant Hill, 987-3300. Pastor, Tim Casteel. Services: Sunday worship 10 a.m., kids 10 a.m. and small group Wed 7 p.m. Website: www.loveHISchurch.com.

**Grace Family Fellowship:** 125 N. Armstrong. Pleasant Hill, 540-5872. Sunday Bible study at 8:45 a.m. and Fellowship Gathering at 9:45 a.m., Worship service @ 10:15 a.m. Children and Youth Ministry, call for more info. Website: www.gracefamilyph.com

**First Christian Church:** 519 Cedar, Pleasant Hill, 540-3533. D. Kent Deubner, Pastor; Worship Service 8:00 a.m.; Breakfast 8:30 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.; Traditional Worship, 10:30 a.m. website: www.phfccdisciple.org

**First Presbyterian Church:** 210 N. Jeffreys, Pleasant Hill, 540-5150. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m. Nursery provided. Clothes Closet Tuesday, 9 a.m.-12 noon and Thursday, 6-7:30 p.m. AA meets Mon. and Thurs., 8 p.m. AL/ANON meetings Thurs. 8 p.m., NA Wed. 7 p.m., Office hours 9-12 noon M-TH. 1stpresbyterian.org; email: office@phillumc.com

**Hickory Grove Baptist Church:** 20000 Hickory Grove, Pleasant Hill, 540-5850. Mark Conway, Pastor. Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning worship, 11:00 a.m.; Evening worship, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible study, 6:00 p.m. website: www.hickorygrovebaptist.net.

**Jehovah’s Witnesses:** Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 1401 E. VV Hwy, Pleasant Hill, 540-4090. Worship 7:30 p.m. Thurs; 10:00 a.m. Sundays. website: JW.org

**Lone Jack Baptist:** 202 S. Bynum Road, Lone Jack, 816-697-2464. Pastor Jerry Tharp. Worship service, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Youth activities/small groups available. website: www.LoneJackBaptist.org.

**Open Door Full Gospel Church:** 135 First Street, Pleasant Hill, 987-0438, Dennis Gulley, Pastor. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Morning worship, 11 a.m. Wednesday worship, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Prayer meeting at 7 p.m. (see Facebook page)

**St. Bridget Catholic Church:** 2103 N. Lexington Rd., Pleasant Hill, 540-4563. Father Curt Vogel (also Parish in Holden) Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m., Saturday 5:00 p.m. Current daily mass Tues 9 a.m., Wed 6 p.m. and Thurs 9 a.m. Mass on Holy Days according to the website: www.stbridgetph.weconnect.com

**St. Patrick’s Parish:** 703 S. Olive Street, Holden, (816) 895-2359. Fr Curt Vogel. Mass 3:00 p.m. Saturdays, 10:15 a.m. Sundays, with current daily mass (variable).

**Strasburg Baptist Church:** 503 W. Mill, 680-3303. Elders Bob Hausmann, Stephen Albin, Kevin Bricker, Ben Bricker. Sunday school, 9 a.m.; Fellowship, 10 a.m.; Morning worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m., evening study/youth. strasburgbc.com

**Strasburg Union Church:** 4th St., Strasburg, Sunday school, 10:00 a.m.; worship service, 11:00 a.m.

**Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church:** 1300 Lexington Road, Pleasant Hill, 540-2072. James Stanfield-Myers, Pastor. Contemporary worship Sunday 9 a.m., Traditional worship 11 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Youth Group, & other ministries. For further info on groups, visit website: phillumc.com; email: office@phillumc.com

**Grace & Truth Baptist Church:** 400 Cedar St., Pleasant Hill, 816-560-1412, Brent Blaise, Pastor. Sunday services: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Website: graceandtruthbaptistchurch.com.

**Hope United Methodist Church:** 525 Hunter Lane, Lone Jack, 816-697-4153. Bob Niles, Pastor. Sunday, contemporary service 8:45 a.m., Sunday school 10 a.m.; traditional service 11 a.m.

If the World had a Front Porch

BY CHERYL SCHIFFERDECKER

An 82-year-old gentleman sits watching the roadway from his front porch, cradled in an old wicker chair that he and his grandson crafted more than a decade ago. He watches for neighborly waves from passersby. Some days he watches farmers travel with large equipment to and fro, as they work their fields adjacent to his house in varying locations. Most are hurrying to beat the light of the day; many of them work well into the dark. However, a couple of middle-aged area farmers will make a point every week or two of stopping to chat with the senior gentleman on his porch, taking advantage of a moment to sit and give their backs a rest. These are the moments the senior gentleman lives for, because his wife passed 13 years ago and he recently lost his elderly companion dog. Memories of his wife crocheting on the porch float through his mind. The highlights of his days now include observing other folks and welcoming the occasional visitor who is willing to make time for him.

A front porch can be a simple decorative entry area. It can furnish the ideal environment for a married couple to unite at the end of a day, relax, and catch some fresh air while Fido seeks shade with benefits of a great view of the dog across the street. A front porch can be aesthetically pleasing, or it can be more of a functional area where dirty shoes are discarded and porch plants are maintained during the summer months. Most importantly, a front porch can provide the perfect spot for some genuine hospitality, such as inviting a neighbor over for freshly-made iced tea or a “cold one.” The popular country singer, Tracy Lawrence, sings, “If the world had a front porch like we did back then, we’d still have our problems, but we’d all be friends. Treating your neighbor like he’s your next of kin wouldn’t be gone with the wind.” Amen, Tracy Lawrence! The world sure could use more kindness, with all of the acts of anger, division, and mental health issues people are experiencing.

Imagine if our Congressmen/women could meet on a giant front porch drinking ice tea to decide on bills, rather than in a formal building enclosure! Perhaps decisions would be easier in a less intense setting. Imagine a world with no remote garage doors so people would stop and chat briefly with their neighbor when they got out of the car. If only kids would discover that sitting on the porch with Grandma and Aunt Sue, listening to them interact, is a great way to learn history and enjoy a slower pace than that of mom and dad for a spell.

A porch visitor can provide a welcome interruption from the busyness of the week - even if only for 10 minutes. Pleasant Hill folks seem to generally fit this mold. The mold of days-gone-by friendliness. While some city slickers drive straight into their garages and lock up tightly for the evening without so much as a glance in their neighbor’s direction, the small town way is to engage others, wave at one another from vehicles, swap chores, and get to know the new couple who moved in across the street a week ago.

If you live in Pleasant Hill and haven’t gotten into the “front porch” groove and attitude of friendliness, then homeboy, you are missing out! If you don’t live in Pleasant Hill, please allow us to show you some good ole “front porch” hospitality!
Sporting events surround Pleasant Hill as opportunities are around every corner

Pleasant Hill enjoys the best of both worlds when it comes to sports. The town has a strong presence of both youth and High School sports, along with Major League sports located in Kansas City and the surrounding area.

The National Football League and Major League Baseball both are represented strongly in our area. The Chiefs (Football) and Royals (Baseball) both play at the Truman Sports Complex, located about 30 minutes away from Pleasant Hill in Kansas City, Missouri. The complex has served both the Royals and Chiefs for 40 years and went through renovations during 2010. Both stadiums that house the teams are located within the complex. The Chiefs play at Arrowhead Stadium while the Royals play at Kauffman Stadium, named after the Royals original owner, Ewing Kauffman. Both stadiums are located right beside each other and provide plenty of space for convenient parking. Nearby Jackson County owns the complex and recently extended their lease to both teams for over another decade to 2031.

The Kansas City Royals play in the Central Division of the American League in Major League Baseball. The other Central Division teams include the Minnesota Twins, Detroit Tigers, Cleveland Indians and Chicago White Sox. The club is currently in a rebuilding phase but has tasted success within the past. The franchise went to their first World Series in 1980 and later won the World Series in both 1985 and more recently in 2015 against the New York Mets. They won the American League Championship in 2014 but came up just short to the San Francisco Giants in the World Series. The current ball team is filled with young talent that is taking some lumps at the moment but looks to get back in to playoff contention within the next few years.

The Kansas City Chiefs play in the Western Division of the American Football Conference (AFC), which along with the National Football Conference (NFC) forms the National Football League (NFL). The Chiefs have won the Western Division in each of the last three seasons. Other Western Division teams include the Oakland Raiders, Los Angeles Chargers and Denver Broncos. The Chiefs made it to the AFC Championship game last year where they lost to the New England Patriots in overtime. Starting QB Patrick Mahomes was named Offensive MVP of the whole league after throwing for over 5,000 yards and tossing 50 touchdown passes. The Chiefs were many analysts’ favorites to make it to the Super Bowl game in 2020. We were all excited to see them make it for the first time since 1970 and then manage to bring home the trophy. Fans can surely look forward to another exciting season.

Kansas City also is home to a Major League Soccer (MLS) team. Sporting Kansas City plays at Children’s Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kansas. Less than an hour away from Pleasant Hill, the soccer park is one of the finest soccer-specific stadiums in the United States. The franchise is no stranger to winning either. Sporting won the MLS championship in 2013. The team started in 1996 as a charter member of the MLS. Originally named the Wizards, the team started out playing at Arrowhead Stadium and other area locations. In 2010, they switched names and moved into their current location. Head coach Peter Vermes is a former player of the club.

Kansas Speedway is another attraction close to Pleasant Hill. Located in the same area of Kansas City, Kansas as Children’s Mercy Park, the Speedway has been hosting two annual NASCAR races since 2001. The actual Speedway is a 1.5 –mile tri-oval track. The track is owned and operated by International Speedway Corporation. The seats hold 48,000 spectators. This year the track has the Kansas Lottery 300 on October 17 and the Hollywood Casino 400 on October 18. There are also hotels, a movie theater and other retail shops located near the track.

The Kansas City T-Bones play independent pro baseball in Kansas City, Kansas, close to both the Kansas Speedway and Children’s Mercy Park. The team plays their home games at T-Bones Stadium (formerly Community America Ballpark) and are members of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball league. The team won their first-ever American Association Championship by defeating the St. Paul Saints in 2018. They also won a Northern league Championship in 2008. Like many minor league baseball teams, the team often holds fun promotions to attract fans to the ballpark.

Speaking of minor league teams, the Kansas City area
has its share of those, too. Sporting Kansas City’s minor league team, the Swope Park Rangers, play at Swope Park in Kansas City, Missouri. That venue is less than 20 minutes from Pleasant Hill.

Minor league hockey and indoor soccer are both played in nearby Independence, Missouri. The Kansas City Mavericks are a minor league ice hockey team that plays in the ECHL. The squad was founded in 2009. Formerly the Missouri Mavericks, the team switched its name to Kansas City in 2017. The Mavericks hold affiliations with both the Calgary Flames of the NHL and the Stockton Heat of the AHL. The team plays in the Cable Dahmer Arena, near the Independence Center Mall in Independence.

The Kansas City Comets are an indoor soccer team that also plays at Cable Dahmer Arena in Independence. The arena holds 5,800 fans. The club was founded in 2010 as the Missouri Comets and changed to Kansas City Comets in 2013. They play in the Major Arena Soccer League (MASL). The MASL is a North American indoor soccer league representing the highest level of professional arena soccer in the world. The MASL features teams across North America, with teams playing coast-to-coast in the United States and Mexico.

In addition to pro and minor league sports, there are many opportunities to watch sports at the collegiate level as well. There are eight Division-I universities located in the surrounding area. There are also 20 NAIA schools and 30 junior colleges surrounding this area of Missouri as well. These facts allow even a casual fan of college sports ample opportunity to check out different sports on many different levels.

This area of the state of Missouri is also close to three Division-I Power 5 schools. One is the University of Missouri, located in Columbia, Missouri. Coming from experience, it is very easy to drive down to Columbia, catch a game, and be home before dark. Columbia is only about two hours away from Pleasant Hill.

The University of Kansas and Kansas State University are also short drives away. Both take under two and a half hours to reach from Pleasant Hill. A unique result is being able to watch two different big-time conferences. Missouri is part of the SEC, while Kansas and Kansas State both belong to the Big 12 conference. It’s a good opportunity to see high-quality sports from two different, unique conferences.

Last but certainly not least of sports entertainment in the area is High School sports in Pleasant Hill. High School athletics make up a very important fabric in the lives of people in Pleasant Hill. Virtually everyone in town is impacted by High School sports in one way or another. The Roosters and Chicks are the mascots for the High School teams, offering a view into the past. Pleasant Hill had a very important and thriving poultry business around 100 years ago and that is where the monikers stem from. They are very unique mascot names and the people of Pleasant Hill take great pride in their Roosters and Chicks sports teams. The school colors are purple and gold.

The Roosters and the Chicks are in the Missouri River Valley Conference west division. The west division includes larger towns in the area, while the east is made up of smaller communities. The other towns in the west division are Harrisonville, Odessa, Oak Grove, Excelsior Springs and Warrensburg.

Fall Sports include football, boy’s soccer, softball, cross country, girl’s golf and volleyball. Home football games at Eklund Stadium in the fall always draw large crowds and are the place to be on Friday nights. Volleyball has been very successful in recent years, making it to the state final four times recently and dominating in MRVC west play. Soccer is a growing sport in Pleasant Hill and continues to get more participation. The main gym at Pleasant Hill High School is referred to as the “COOP”, while a new auxiliary gym was added to the High School last year.

Winter sports include both boys and girls basketball and boys and girls wrestling. Girl’s wrestling is a new sport that is growing in Pleasant Hill. Boy’s wrestling has been successful in the past and sends several wrestlers to the state meet every year. The school won state championships in wrestling in 1989 and 1996 and placed in sixth place as a team in 2016.

Spring sports include baseball, track and field, girl’s soccer and boy’s golf. The Chicks soccer team has been to the state final four in 2018 and 2019, placing third in state both seasons.

Whether you are looking for professional, collegiate or high school sports, Pleasant Hill and the surrounding area has quite a lot to offer. Take a weekend get away or day trip and see what the area has to offer regarding sports.
Sports is very important to the town of Pleasant Hill and has a variety of opportunities to participate or to be a fan. Pleasant Hill High School in the fall has Rooster Football, Chick Volleyball, Rooster Soccer, Chick Softball, Cross Country, and Chick Golf. In the winter season, the high school will begin Rooster Wrestling, Chick Basketball, and Rooster Basketball. Spring will kick in Rooster Baseball, Rooster Golf, Chick Track, Rooster Track, and Chick Soccer.

Before every season the Pleasant Hill Times will publish a sports preview with the players and the schedules, so look for them in your Pleasant Hill Times weekly.
The City of Pleasant Hill offers NFL Flag Football, Youth Baseball/Softball, Basketball, and Volleyball. For the adults, the city offers Men’s Basketball, Coed Softball and Volleyball. Check out https://pleasanthillrecsports.org/home for more information on this programs and more.

The Pleasant Hill Dolphins is a local swim team in Pleasant Hill, MO. The team focuses on the improvement of swimming skills, personal fitness, and fun! Go to the Dolphins Facebook page for more information. @PHDolphins
If you didn’t know, the Pleasant Hill High School has four big show choirs. Hillside, Hilltop, Powerhouse, and Hillsound currently directed by Karen Dollins. They are all choirs made up of the most musical kids in the Pleasant Hill schools. Every year these choirs have a new, fun, and exciting theme made up with costume changes and a set. In the second semester of school, they go around to different competitions to show off their beautiful sounds and amazing performances and it’s so fun to go watch these choirs show off their skills. Even if you can’t make it out to see these choirs compete, you can still find opportunities to watch them shine at a few performances held right in the performing arts center of the high school!
The Pride of the Hill, from Pleasant Hill, MO, has a rich tradition of excellence in marching band, concert band, jazz band, and the community.

The Pride of the Hill Core Covenant represents the values adhered to as an organization:

**FAMILY FIRST**

- TO TREAT MY FELLOW BAND MEMBERS AND STAFF WITH RESPECT
- TO BE THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WEAR THE UNIFORM
- TO PERFORM AND PRACTICE WITH PASSION AND DETERMINATION
- TO CONDUCT OURSELVES WITH HONESTY AND INTEGRITY
- TO TREAT ALL VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS, AND TEACHERS WITH RESPECT AND GRATITUDE
- TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS
- TO ALWAYS HAVE HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE
- TO ALWAYS GIVE MORE THAN YOU TAKE
- TO STRIVE FOR GREATNESS IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE
Pleasant Hill is filled with the arts, including having its own art league. If you look around town, you will also see places like Create Thou Art, Pleasant Hill School of Dance, Eva Moore School of Dance, Harmony Hill Music School, and many others. Open mics are frequently held at the Wyoming Street Wine Stop and when COVID subsides you can check out the Big Creek Opry House downtown. There are many opportunities to get involved in the arts in Pleasant Hill.

Since the doors opened in 1982, Big Creek has entertained thousands on Saturday nights. Known as some of the finest country artists in the Kansas City area, featuring some of the best musicians in the business. The Big Creek Country Show is located in the Pleasant Hill Missouri Historic District downtown and is one of the most popular music spots in the county. Everyone must call to reserve their tickets at (816) 524-6856.

Pleasant Hill has its own art space and café. Kids and Adults can gather at 1304 on Route 7 to have a piece of pie, coffee, or have pot pie, chicken salad sandwich, or Laura Long’s whim of the day. The old renovated home is full of art supplies that can be used freely with a day pass or by the hour. People that need a place to work and have good internet are welcome to come by and use the facility for a while, too. Check out the page createthouart.com for more details and pricing.

The Pleasant Hill Quilt Guild is a wonderful group of ladies who come together to fellowship and quilt. From sharing completed projects to learning new things in monthly classes and activities, every meeting brings new things. Everyone is wonderful and always willing to lend a hand. So, encourage your quilting friends to join us at a meeting and to join our page, https://www.facebook.com/groups/2169785463293616
Building a Weather-Ready Nation and managing the nation’s weather, water, and climate data, forecasts and warnings requires a diversified organization. From the National Weather Service (NWS) Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD to six Regional Headquarters: Eastern, Southern, Central, Western, Alaska, and Pacific; to local Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), River Forecast Centers (RFCs), Center Weather Service Units (CWSUs), and National Centers nationwide, NWS employees are working to support all aspects of keeping the public safe from weather, water, and climate hazards and meeting the NWS mission to protect lives and property, and enhance the national economy.

NWS Headquarters is responsible for managing the functions of the entire NWS. Headquarters coordinates programs directly related to weather warnings and forecasting to ensure the compatibility and effectiveness of weather services and ensures climate, water, and weather warnings, forecasts, and data products are provided to government, industry, and the general public. The NWS Headquarters also ensures funding is available to support field needs, manages information technology resources, and ensures a coordinated NOAA program of weather-related activities across NOAA line offices.

The six NWS regional offices manage all operational and scientific meteorological, hydrologic, and oceanographic programs of the region including observing networks, weather services, forecasting, and climatology and hydrology. They monitor these services and adjust resources to provide the most effective weather and warning services possible.

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) delivers science-based environmental predictions. It produces reliable, timely, and accurate analyses, guidance, forecasts and warnings for the protection of lives and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NCEP is comprised of nine distinct centers including the Aviation Weather Center, Climate Prediction Center, National Hurricane Center, Storm Prediction Center, Space Weather Prediction Center, Weather Prediction Center, Ocean Prediction Center, Environmental Modeling Center, and NCEP Central Operations. NCEP is the starting point for nearly all weather forecasts in the United States.

The local WFO’s are responsible for issuing advisories, warnings, statements, and short term forecasts for their local county warning area including the public, media, emergency management, aviation community, and other customers 24 hours per day, 365 days per year to keep the public safe from weather hazards. More specifically, forecasters prepare graphical and digital forecasts, issue warnings, watches, and advisories, aviation forecasts, and river forecasts and warnings. They monitor weather observations, provide public service, and program/monitor broadcasts over eleven NOAA Weather Radio-All Hazards Stations. They also collect and disseminate river and rainfall data, launch balloons to gather upper-air weather data, administer the Cooperative Weather Observer Program, and prepare local climatological data summaries and reports.
No Cass County FAIR in 2020

The second week of May 2020 Cass County was informed that their annual Cass County fair was going to be canceled due to COVID. Merchants downtown Pleasant Hill decided that it was an unfair year and decided to put something together for the residents of Pleasant Hill and decided to call it The Unfair. The Unfair had a car show, food trucks, bouncy houses, music, and more. Many gathered safely downtown on July 16th through the 18th to meet friends that hadn’t connected since the COVID lockdown and enjoy the Unfair offerings. It’s been a tough year for the country and Pleasant Hill Missouri, but we here in Pleasant Hill are troopers and come together. Pleasant Hill hopes to have the Cass County fair back in 2021 which is traditionally held mid July.
Highlights from the Unfair

Dawson Hollow

Good Sam Band

VFW Beer Tent

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How the Paper is Put Together

By ANNA BISHOP
The *Pleasant Hill Times* is a complex machine with many moving parts, moving fast. There is only one week to do all of the work they do. And once the paper is delivered to the printer, it all starts over again.

**Connie Whitlock** is the owner, editor, and publisher for the *Pleasant Hill Times*. As a publisher and owner, she manages the business and makes sure everyone has what they need to do their jobs and that everything runs smoothly.

As an editor she has to supply the paper with articles. She seeks out leads in places like city council meetings, police reports, press releases, the Cass County Commissioner, and even social media sometimes. She has to filter leads to make sure they are relevant to Pleasant Hill residents.

Connie says she has to fight with social media for attention. Social media offers live updates while the paper only comes out once a week. She says they stay relevant by ensuring the articles are thorough and accurate. They get their facts from a source. Once she has the leads and does the research, she has to figure out who’s going to write them, sometimes that is herself or one of the writers. Connie says the hardest part of her job is making everything relevant to everyone. If she receives a complaint, she has no way to know how many people that represents. She does what she can to make everyone happy.

**Eva Smith** works the front desk and is the Legal Publisher. She deals with the classified ads, legal notices, billing and accounts receivable, and answering the phones. Eva says that ads and legal are a big source of income for the paper, and that they’re important to the customers who pay for them. So, it’s a big deal for everyone that she makes sure she gets them right. When Eva answers the phone, she redirects calls to the department that can answer their questions.

**Ellie Foulk** is the Sales Manager. In the most basic of terms, she’s in charge of selling ads for the paper, but her job is so much more than that. Ads are a great tool for businesses to create awareness and increase revenue. Ellie’s mission is to help local businesses prosper. To do this she builds relationships, informs businesses to help them select

*Continued on page 46*
Continued from page 45
the best product for them, and works closely between them and the *Times* team to ensure they are well represented. When you meet Ellie, you can tell right away that she’s perfect for such a relational position. She is the life of the office! Ellie says if there’s one thing people don’t know about her job, it’s that she genuinely cares. It’s not just about the sale; it’s about the customer and the community.

Sara Kitchell is the Graphic Designer, but Ellie says her title should be “Rockstar.” She’s been in charge of laying out the newspaper and designing ads for almost five years. Her job is tightly intertwined with everyone else’s. All the articles, classifieds, public notices, ads, and the rest end up on her desk to be laid out coherently together before going to print. She says figuring out how to best fit everything together is fun, like a puzzle. It’s definitely not as straightforward as one might expect it to be. There’s a lot of creativity that goes into it, and Sara is able to put tricks from her college education to use to improve readability. She uses little tricks one might not think about, like minding excessive punctuation or knowing when to use serif fonts. It seems like a lot of work to stitch the whole thing together in one week. Sara says Mondays tend to be busiest for her. That’s the day she finishes the first draft to be proofed. She rises early and sometimes works many hours to get it done. Weeks that have special additions, like the sports tabloid, are considerably busy. Yet Sara shows her skill and dedication by pulling the feat off week after week.

Jacob Cacias is a Reporter/Writer for the *Times*. He seeks out leads, does the research, and turns them into articles. So, a big part of his job is finding leads. He says he’s always on the lookout. He considers the season, what’s going on, what’s interesting, what’s relevant to Pleasant Hillers, and he goes to council meetings. He hasn’t been with the *Times* long, but he says so far, it’s been great working with the team. A job can be lots of fun when you enjoy what you’re doing.
The Pleasant Hill Times has a variety of contributing paid writers and volunteer writers to cover faith, sports, opinion, arts, and other topics in the Times.

I’m Anna Bishop, and I’m still finding my niche in this workflow. When I started out here I did odds and ends to help out. I called myself a “floater.” Proofing articles, organizing shelves, and sometimes even writing an article. As we move forward, my job is still mostly to help out, but I’m taking on more responsibility. Now I’m primarily a layout assistant and proofer. That means I’m assigned pages or tabloids to design and I proofread articles. This job is exciting. It brings something new and unexpected every week. I’m looking forward to my future here.
The Pleasant Hill Times is published every Wednesday.

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Jennifer J. Marshall

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