

Litchfield City Council Candidates Answer Questions At Forum

As the consolidated election approaches, members of the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce hosted a political forum to help voters meet some of the candidates for the Litchfield City Council on Thursday evening, March 23, in the auditorium at Lincoln Land Community College in Litchfield.

Serving as the evening's moderators were Cory Evans and John Blank.

Candidates for Litchfield City Council who were present included Robert Plowman, Jr. in ward one, Sara Zumwalt and David Hollo in ward two, Dan Newkirk (running for an unexpired two-year term) in ward two, Joshua Hughes and Timothy Wright in ward three and

Anthony Law, Jacob Fleming and Lee Jarman in ward four. Other than Newkirk's spot, one candidate may be elected from each ward.

Before the candidates took the stage, Evans shared a letter from ward one incumbent Gerl, who was not in attendance due to an out-of-town doctor's appointment. In his letter, Gerl apologized for his absence and encouraged voters to reach out to him with questions or concerns.

In addition to the four questions by the chamber, the audience also had a chance to submit their questions. Each candidate was asked their stance on what the biggest issue facing the community is, and what their plan is to address it; new ideas they would bring

that would make a positive impact on the city; how they would incentivize new businesses to locate in Litchfield, specifically to occupy the vacant storefronts and/or downtown; and one thing they would do as an alderperson to support change or betterment in the city.

Ward One

Taking the stage by himself, Litchfield native Robert Plowman, Jr. said his goal is to bring more children's activities to the local area, especially as a father of two young children, and include bicycle lanes for local cyclists throughout the city. He said in doing so, they could generate more revenue for the community. Plowman advised he has attended the city

council meetings since running for election.

Ward Two

Though not answering questions, Dan Newkirk introduced himself to the crowd, sharing that he is an educator, coach and was asked to fill a vacant position as alderman; however, he is now seeking election in April.

Sara Zumwalt, Litchfield native and director of the Litchfield Public Library District, and David Hollo, also a Litchfield native, as well as an independent builder for "30 to 40 years," took the stage, each having three minutes for an introduction.

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The dance floor was full as more than 200 attended this year's Imagine Hillsboro Father-Daughter Princess Ball at The Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs on Saturday evening, March 25. Young princesses dressed in their finest attire, posed for photos, enjoyed balloon animals, candy treats and refreshments and an evening of dancing to some of their favorite songs. The dance was hosted by the Imagine Hillsboro Snow Royalty.

Pictured above, Nora Fuller is all smiles dancing with her dad, Michael Fuller of Hillsboro to "We Don't Talk About Bruno" from Disney's Encanto. At left, Olivia Gibb dances with her grandpa, John Gibb to the Abba favorite, "Dancing Queen."

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

Hillsboro Is The Place Saturday For Easter Fun

Head to Hillsboro this Saturday, April 1, for some Easter related fun, starting at 10 a.m. with the Community Egg Hunt at Beckemeyer Elementary School, and the Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt at 11 a.m.

Families are encouraged to head to The Coop (106 West Seward Street) following the hunts, where a variety of kid-centered Easter activities will be set up, in addition to a chance to meet and grab a photo with the Easter Bunny.

The Journal-News, Imagine Hillsboro and the City of Hillsboro are once-again collaborating to host an "Easter Egg in my Basket or April Fools Egg on my Face" #ShopHillsboro event in conjunction with the day's activities. Combining April Fools and Easter, shoppers will have a chance to grab a treat-filled Easter egg (candy, discounts, giveaways) when they make a purchase at a participating business, but beware there may be a few April Fools Tricks hidden in the brightly colored eggs.

Stores will have a variety of extra incentives to drop in, including special treats and make-and-take activities. Participating businesses include, The Opera House, Ground to Grounds Coffee, Black Rabbit Coffee Company, The Salvation Army, Hillsboro Garden Restaurant, The Dressing Room, Frida's Tacos, Lomas Del Sol, Blackboard Mercantile, Alpha Candles, The Orpheum Theatre, Q-1-7, Sage on Sage, Subway and Country Financial-Jessica Chappelear.

Williams Awarded Quilt Of Valor At Birthday Party

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

"We know that freedom isn't free. It was bought by the people who dedicated

their lives to protect us, and this is our way to say thank you," said Yvonne Stuchell of Decatur, volunteer and member with the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Stuchell joined ladies of the Montgomery County Quilt Guild in the special presentation to Kenny Williams of Hillsboro during his 100th birthday party, held Saturday, March 25, at The Abbey on Broad.

Williams served as a staff sergeant in the United States Army during World War II from 1943 to 1945 and served another tour in the Korean Conflict during 1951 to 1953. He served in Italy, Africa, Japan and the Phillipines.

Members of the quilt guild arranged the presentation as a special surprise during his birthday party, and Wil-

liams was grateful for the special gift.

In her presentation, Stuchell offered the history of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. It was started 20 years ago in 2003 as a way to say thank you to active duty servicemen and women and veterans for their service. Since the group started keeping track, more than 340,000 quilts have been awarded. All quilts are made by volunteers, who believe in this special mission.

"Quilts are kind of like a big hug," Stuchell said. "It lets people know others are thinking about them."

This is the first quilt made and awarded by the Montgomery County Quilt Guild, who brought their project to Stuchell for quilting.

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At his 100th birthday party, Kenny Williams of Hillsboro was awarded a Quilt of Valor for his service in the United States Army during World War II and the Korean Conflict. Pictured above wrapping him in his quilt are Martha Vallbracht, at left, and Jane Chesser, center.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

Easter Egg Hunt Schedule

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

10 a.m.	Community Center	Taylor Springs
10 a.m.	Beckemeyer School	Hillsboro
11 a.m.	Beckemeyer (Special Needs)	Hillsboro
11 a.m.	Raymond Park	Raymond
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Square	Farmersville
12 p.m.	South Park	Sorento
1 p.m.	Molly McDowell Park	Fillmore
1 p.m.	Community Center	Litchfield
1:30 p.m.	Village Park	Harvel

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

10 a.m.	United Methodist Church	Irving
1 p.m.	City Park	Witt
2 p.m.	Fred B. Johnson Park	Nokomis

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Weather Forecast			
Mon 27	50°/33°	Partly Cloudy	13%
Tue 28	49°/31°	AM Clouds/PM Sun	16%
Wed 29	57°/38°	Partly Cloudy	6%
Thu 30	64°/57°	Partly Cloudy	6%