

PIONEERS

2022 Pioneers Luncheon honors Pioneers & Supporters of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center and Fair with a special tribute to the Arts, Crafts, Hobbies & Photograph Department and The Mullinix Family

Arts, Crafts, Hobbies & Photography Department

The Arts, Crafts, Hobbies and Photography Department was honored to be recognized at the Pioneer Luncheon in August 2022. Some history about our Department: We can trace the start of The Art, Crafts, and Hobbies Department to 1957, with Jacke Gaither as the first Superintendent. Jacke served as the Superintendent of Arts and Crafts for 27 years from 1957 to 1984. The department occupied a corner of the Old Timers building at the start. Jacke was an artist and teacher who shared her talents for fine art with others. Her dedication to art and the artists was sincere and she saw value in everyone's artistic pieces. This same dedication has been shown in our past and present Superintendents, Chair of departments, and our numerous volunteers.



As the Arts, Crafts, Hobbies, and Photography (which was added later) grew, we came to occupy building number 3 across from Old Timers. Our Superintendents, Department Chairs and volunteers come together once a year and work side by side to transform our building, used for storage outside of Fair, to a show place for displaying the entries we receive. We have heard from many exhibitors over the years that by entering in our building it is the incentive to spark them to continue developing their artistic talents.

We continually make adjustments to the classes in our Department to keep up with the trends in the art and photography realms. On average each Fair year we take in and judge approximately 2,000-3,000 exhibits that range from fine arts, handwork, crafts, educational/recreational hobbies, and photography.

We are sincerely grateful for all our volunteers, past and present. We come together to show the same dedication and value for each artist's exhibit as those who came before us; and may we continue this tradition in the years to come.

The Mullinix Family



A Little History

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center Inc. (MCAC) was formed as a privately operated 501(c) (3) non-profit organization on January 7, 1949, when a group of local farmers were elected as the first Board of Directors by the volunteer membership of the organization. The MCAC had recently purchased 64 acres of land adjacent to the railroad tracks from Herman Rabbitt, a successful farmer and landowner in Gaithersburg. On June 4th, 1949, hundreds of volunteers participated in after an old-fashioned barn raising and 12 outbuildings were constructed in one day. The site of the new Montgomery County Agricultural Center was created. Dedicated volunteers donated time, materials and talent to construct and continue operation of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds would not be what it is today if it were not for those visionary pioneers who were committed to agricultural education and family entertainment.

As is true today for the agricultural center, the volunteers were, and still are, necessary to the successful operation of the Fairgrounds, through continued contributions of materials and free labor for the construction of the new facilities, as well as upgrading the old. A network of more than 2,000 volunteers continue providing their time, making the agricultural center a vital part of the business community in Montgomery County. The nine day Montgomery County Agricultural Fair that is held in mid-August requires support from over 800 volunteers who assume the responsibility for organizing and producing the single largest annual event in Montgomery County. Thank you to all our pioneers who have helped make the Fair what it is today!

The Pioneers Luncheon is sponsored by: Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc.

The Montgomery County Fair officially opened in 1949. It was made possible by many volunteers, contributors, families, and government officials who, over the years continue to make the Fair a place for youth and others to gather and show results of their work, to enjoy camaraderie and to educate others about agriculture.