

# Historic Bridle Ridge

Hall Farm has been an iconic fixture along Highway 21 for decades. As Hillsboro has grown, the farm has been a symbol of our small-town history.

The horse farm, originally named Bentivar, was built in 1858 and was once owned by John L. Thomas, a Jefferson County Circuit Judge who became a Missouri Supreme Court judge.

Leon Hall, well-known for his work with the Hillsboro Horse Show annually, bought the property in 1943 and once owned about 400 acres total; now "Hall Farm" has about 40 original acres remaining.

Mr. Hall raised Tennessee Walking Horses, and Hall Farm became home to many generations of nationally recognized show horses and celebrations.

Mrs. Diane Hall shared her husband's love of horses, and she lived on the original farm with him for many years. Even after moving from the original manor home, she worked hard to maintain the heritage of the farm and to preserve the historic nature of the property.

In 2012, Diane Hall sold Bridle Ridge to Comtrea, who invested \$1.45 million in upgrades for equine therapy and other health services, but that ended in 2018.

Unused and for sale for more than a year, the property was acquired by the Hillsboro R-3 District on Sept. 18, 2019.

## **The Hillsboro R-III Board of Education and administration would like to welcome you to this historic property.**

Bridle Ridge will provide many opportunities for our students and community for decades to come. The district is proud and excited to have acquired such a unique piece of Hillsboro history and a place that will be used for educating Hillsboro R-3 students and providing unique opportunities to them.

Thank you to the Hillsboro Board of Education for their vision and commitment to our students and the community of Hillsboro.

The Hillsboro Board of Education members are

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# Bridle Ridge Acres



## **Connecting our Community's Past and Future**

The agriculture program at Hillsboro High School has recently expanded in an effort to become a CTE certified program so that we can provide students with more hands-on learning opportunities and community connections.

Next, we are planning a chapter of FFA, Future Farmers of America, a youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

# Future plans

- Develop our own Pumpkin Patch.
- Create a specialty herb garden for FACS (Family and Consumer Science) cooking classes.
- Take down and move current school garden structures to the farm.
- Create a fruit and vegetable garden.
- Build a chicken coop.
- Create a plan to market and sell eggs.
- Learn how to grade eggs.
- Write lessons to teach younger kids about animals and plants.
- Learn about different animal temperaments, handling, and training.
- Learn where all types of meat come from and how they are cut.

*A student installs a fence post in order to make a grazing pasture for the goats.*



# What has been accomplished so far?

- Cleaned up the barns and stalls.
- Put up a fence so the goats have a grazing pasture.
- Pulled electric fence posts.
- Cleaned horse tack.
- Put up smaller goat pen.
- Provide goats with hay, food, and water on a daily basis.
- Performed health exams on all of the goats including vaccinations, deworming, and hoof trimming.
- Helped prepare for open house party.
- Learned about bees from an experienced beekeeper.
- Traveled to Tri-Point Farms to learn about farming operations.
- Learned about natural resources.
- Collected donations from individuals for all projects in order to be fiscally and environmentally responsible.



*Students work together to install fencing.*



*The agriculture instructor, Mrs. Jessika Jacaty, instructs students as they learn hands-on skills.*



*Class members learn while building friendships in the fresh air.*