

The City of Hillsboro is hosting a public auction on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 9:00 AM to Noon at the Marion County Fairgrounds. Many items for the Hillsboro museum are included in the auction listing. Auctioning museum items is necessary because we have too many items that can be effectively taken care of and shared with the public. Many items have been piled into attics of our facilities, stored within the walls behind panels or placed in non-climate-controlled storage units. Large portions of the Adobe House have been closed to the public due to safety concerns caused by the accumulation of items. Items being offered for auction are duplicates of items that remain in the collection or are items that simply do not fit the time periods of our facilities or have limited connection to the history of the community. The museum would want nothing more than to keep and properly display every item donated, but that is not possible to safely do with the limited space the museum has.

When possible, the museum has loaned items to other museums or local businesses in an effort to showcase items in the community. Donations have not always been accounted for properly in the past so the museums records can have gaps in it. Museum staff have done their best to match records to items and contacting donors or donor families. The process is not perfect and we understand that there have been some concerns about auction items.

If past donors are interested in reviewing auction items, then please make an appointment by calling city hall at 620-947-3162 or emailing the museum director at cduell@cityofhillsboro.net. Appointments will be offered on Monday-Thursday, May 9-12. If the museum staff can validate the donor claim immediately then the item will be returned immediately. For claims that cannot be validated on the spot the item will be removed from the auction list and held by the museum. Once the museum staff have an opportunity to review the claim, the item will either be returned to the donor or removed from the museum collection and sold at a future date.