
Partnership Parke County Newsletter

Want to know about some of the exciting developments in Parke County and be a part of the positive conversations taking place? Continue reading our newsletter and visit our website at www.partnershipparkecounty.com.

Monsanto Grant Award

Parke County farmer Ken Canfield directed a donation of \$2,500 to Partnership Parke County on March 21, 2018 as part of the America's Farmers Grow Communities program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund.

As part of our mission we will use the funds to help increase awareness and support of agricultural opportunities in Parke County. The creation of value added opportunities for local agriculturalist is paramount in improving the economy in our region. We wish to thank Ken Canfield for nominating Partnership Parke County to receive this award. The mission of Partnership Parke County is to promote economic growth, connect businesses and agencies, and provide resources, services, and awareness. This award will further our ability to follow our mission. In Parke County, the agricultural industry is one of the key pillars in driving economic growth. We are proud of our relationships and support of agricultural businesses and farms in Parke County.



REMC Multi-Community Trust, Inc.

Partnership Parke County was recently awarded a \$500 check from the Parke County REMC Multi-Community Trust, Inc.

These funds will be used to help with the costs associated with renting the Commercial Building during the Parke County 4-H Fair in July 2018.

Parke County businesses in or serving the County will be given a free opportunity to showcase their product or service during the 4-H Fair. All participants will receive recognition and opportunity to further their business or service connection. Parke County residents and other fair visitors will gain insight into how Parke County is economically supported through industry.





Illustration Only

Affordable Housing Project

Background

We have been working with a non-profit developer, New Hope Services, since 2015. To date, we have submitted two applications to the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD) to assist with the financing of an \$8M affordable housing project that would provide 40 new town homes in Rockville. Each year, the application has scored within 3 points of being awarded. We plan to apply again in July.

There are areas we believe more points can be earned: some form of public transportation program, on-site daycare, and working with the town to enhance their financial or in-kind contribution, etc.

As employers and support organizations, we believe an affordable housing project would benefit the ability to recruit and sustain a needed workforce.

If you work with an organization or believe you can assist in addressing these needs, please contact our office.

Opportunity Zone for Next Level Indiana

Partnership Parke County received support from the Parke County Commissioners to complete an application to recommend two eligible census tracts in Parke County for the Governor's Opportunity Zone. This program provides tax incentives through tax deferrals on original capital tax gains invested in Opportunity Zones and tax exclusion on new capital gains achieved from Opportunity Zone investments. Governor Holcomb is to announce selected tracts on April 20, 2018.

More About the Program

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-97) allows governors to nominate certain census tracts as Opportunity Zones, subject to approval from the US Department of Treasury. Up to 25% of a state's low-income census tracts may be designated, which permits Indiana to nominate up to 155 census tracts as Opportunity Zones.





Feasibility Study Complete

During the latter part of 2017, we hosted two community events to begin gathering data from community residents on the assets and needs in Parke County. Purdue Extension Community Development, Heather Strohm, was engaged to facilitate the discussion.

The results from the community meetings tells us the Top 3 needs are: co-working space, community day-care center, and a conference/community center. Partnership Parke County will have the report available on their website soon.

USDA Rural Development Regional Symposium

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural America. Rural Development encompasses three agencies: Rural Utility Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business-Cooperative Service. They also have over 40 loan and grant programs supporting business, community, housing, and utilities programs.

Business programs are geared to create and maintain employment and to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. Private entities are eligible for the guaranteed loan program.

Community programs finance drinking water treatment systems and wastewater treatment systems in rural communities. They also fund essential community facilities like hospitals, daycares, emergency response and assisted living. A recent Parke County project was the Vermillion-Parke Community Health Septic system in Bloomingdale.

The housing program is aimed at single family housing through guaranteed loans. Eligibility requires an adjusted household income that is within Rural Development guidelines based on the number of persons who will occupy the home and the property must be located in a Rural Development eligible area.

Rural utility programs include electric programs, telecommunication programs, and water and environmental programs.

You are encouraged to contact their Regional Office in Crawfordsville or visit their website for more information (<https://www.usda.gov>)





Parke County 4-H Fair

UPDATE: We have half of the booths spoken for as of the end of March 2018. Don't delay sending in your application if you are interested in booth space.

The Parke County 4-H Fair will run from July 21-27, 2018.

Would you like to have free space(s) in the air-conditioned Commercial Building to showcase your company/organization and/or products during the fair? If so, the building will be open from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. on July 23-24-25-26.

To reserve your space, contact Alice Finch with Partnership Parke County at partnershipafinch@gmail.com.

NOTE: All vendors/exhibitors will need to be able to provide a Certificate of Insurance in order to qualify as a vendor/exhibitor.

The Purpose of Partnership Parke County

The purpose of Partnership Parke County, Incorporated is to enable Parke County, Indiana to improve their quality of life and provide direction for economic growth. As a non-profit organization, we have performed vigorous investigation of other successful like counties, multiple discussions with Parke County, Indiana's incorporated towns, residents, and local organizations to identify needs, and in-depth discussions with our local county government.

Our Programs, Services & Responsibilities

Partnership Parke promotes programs and activities once performed by Parke County Redevelopment Commission in the pursuance of economic growth and development by implementing those activities and programs for private individuals, businesses, local municipalities, and community groups.

Our scope of services include the managing the process for tax abatements, commissioner property tax certificate sale, and the revolving loan grant. In addition, Partnership Parke is responsible for infrastructure and business development, site location, and business retention and expansion.

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or visit our website: Partnership Parke County

