

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.

Let's Get Cleaned-Up with Indiana Brownfield Grants

The environmental remediation at Lee Alan Bryant (LAB) has wrapped up! The Redevelopment Commission accepted bids in January 2021 to sell the property so now we can make plans to get the property back into private hands for development. We look forward to seeing all the changes The Sanitorium LLC has in store for that property.

The Parke County Museum and Historical Society are also experiencing the benefit of the Indiana Brownfield program this year. A two-phase environmental assessment has been completed with plans to remediate an underground storage tank and soil testing in late September 2021.

The Town of Rockville received grants for an environmental assessment and orphan tank investigation at the former Jacks and Jacks building. Rockville is making plans for the best use scenario of that property to benefit the downtown area.

Start with a Plan

We want to recognize Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology for their partnership in helping us make plans for development projects. Parke County submitted a proposal for the 2020-2021 school year for an Industrial Site Development Plan. Our proposal was selected as one of the senior projects. We now have an in-depth study on planning for an industrial area in southern Parke County.

Recently, two new projects submitted by Rockville and Montezuma are being considered for a Freshman Capstone Project. Announcement of the selected proposals will be made in March 2022. Both are planning for community development projects.

Rose-Hulman offers these partnerships at little to no cost for municipality planning. You have an opportunity to participate in the development of skills for the students. In addition, the municipality has a chance to plan before taking on the expense of a firm to implement the project.

COVID-19 Recovery Grants

Last October we announced the receipt of a **\$250,000** grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for Business Recovery. We successfully executed that grant and helped 15 local businesses retain their employees.

Parke County was awarded two additional OCRA grants. First, in partnership with Child and Adult Resources (CARS), we were awarded **\$200,000** to assist with technology barriers as part of the Community Connections for People with Disabilities Grant. CARS was able to create a technology lending library and create some fabulous online programs for their Parke County clients.

This spring the County received its most recent award of **\$250,000**. This award was in partnership with the newly formed Parke County Food Security Alliance. The Alliance is a collective group of organizations across the County that provide assistance to those that are food insecure. The grant also allows us to purchase hygiene products in addition to food items. Check out the **Live Well Parke County** Facebook page.

We greatly appreciate the participation of the Parke County Community Foundation in providing matching funds for the Business Recovery and Food Alliance programs.

Housing Project Construction Begins

Check out the progress on the 3 bedrooms, 2 bath townhome project on South Market Street in Rockville!

Inquiries for housing may be sent to Whitney Crabtree at wcrabtree@winterwoodonline.com



Old National Bank Building

It has been tough to see this vacant building sitting at the corner of Highway 36 and Market Street but we are feeling optimistic. We have taken an active role in helping promote the location and taken several tours of people through the building. Among the people touring have been those with ideas on leasing the space, as well as developers. There are a few more tours to schedule and we are keeping the conversation lively. Updates to come!

Shout Out to Our Towns!

We have been seeing a lot of awesome things happening in our communities. Here are a few highlights from social media, but it is not all that is going on. Stay engaged and promote your community!!

Bloomingtondale

A **9-hole disc golf course** is being built by the **Bloomingtondale Friends Church** in a 4-acre wooded grove adjacent to their meeting house. The disc golf course is being designed by a professional in the field, Dennis Byrne of Fishers, Indiana. In addition to the 9 holes, the course will also have 18 tees plus a practice hole. The course will be open to the public without charge and contain signage with Biblical meditation verses. It is hoped the course can be opened late this fall as grants are being received now and additional funds are raised.

Marshall

The **Marshall Forever Fund Committee** is looking for old photos of Marshall residents or local men building the arch or what downtown looked like from around the 1920s or 1930s to use at its **100 Year Birthday Celebration of the Arch on Sunday, October 17 at 1:00 p.m.** If you have any information or pictures to share, contact Karen Stutler at 765-376-9602.

Mecca

In July, the **Mecca - Wabash Township Volunteer Fire Department** held an open house for the addition to the fire station. Support was provided by the Mecca Town Board, Wabash Township Trustee, and the Grant Writer. Appreciation was given for the assistance and support throughout the entire process.

Montezuma

Montezuma Covered Bridge Festival Volunteer Committee is looking for volunteers! Narrators and drivers for the wagon tour, set-up and clean-up crews, craft demonstrators, and country store clerks, are a few of the positions they are needing volunteers for. Their next meeting is September 7 at the Community Center if you would like more information.

Rockville

The Town of Rockville just wrapped up a \$1.7M sewer rehabilitation project and now those streets are getting paved.

Drive down South Market or Michigan Streets and see the inspiring housing project under construction.

Rosedale

New businesses are opening! **Comar's Café** and **Push Life Fitness** are open, and **Little Bear Coffee Company** is coming soon. Check them out on Facebook.

What is Coming Next?

County-wide Housing Needs Assessment

- Look for our January 2022 Newsletter for updates

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.

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or visit our website: [Partnership Parke County](#)

