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A Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Publication

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In this issue:

Advocacy Update.....	2
Chamber Voices.....	3
hYPe News.....	4
Chamber Briefs.....	5
Election Coverage.....	6
Women Excel Bloomington.....	18
Spotlight: Hannah House.....	19
Franklin Initiative News.....	21
The Nuts and Bolts of I-69.....	22



Vehicles travel along a section of I-69 between Bloomington and Crane. Photo by David Snodgrass.



Are You Seizing I-69 Opportunities?

By Kasey Husk

With its sporting events, arts and music scene and natural attractions like Lake Monroe, the Bloomington area already has a growing tourism industry. But the arrival of I-69, local experts say, could help that industry blossom even more.

The completion of the I-69 corridor—which, when finished, will run from Evansville to Indianapolis—will bring with it a shorter, safer route to the Bloomington area, especially from the underserved southwest portion of the state. Improved connectivity will mean more traffic to the area—and more tourists.

“We’ve always been an easy shot from

I-69 OPPORTUNITIES

continued on page 12



Coming in May:

Get the dish!
BizNet profiles local restaurant owners and managers.

Election Coverage:
Local candidates answer questions
Begins on page 6

ADVOCACY Update

The Chamber represents business interests to local, state and federal representatives, serving as an advocate on behalf of all businesses for the issues critical to the future of our community. If you need assistance with a business advocacy issue, please contact your Advocacy Team at the Chamber.

Federal Focus Summit

The Chamber's 2016 Federal Focus event will take place on Tuesday, April 19. The topic this year will surround unmanned aerial and vehicle systems. This event will be held in the Shreve Auditorium at Ivy Tech in Bloomington. Speakers will include experts in the areas of defense, technology and regulation of these increasingly popular systems. Please see ChamberBloomington.org for details.

Urbanizing Area Plan

Advocacy staff recently met with MKSK, the contractor for the plan. The Chamber has supported the plan and has applauded Monroe County officials and consultant group MKSK for including stakeholders and the public in the process for the plan's development throughout the past year. The Chamber is advocating for mixed-use development and different aesthetic standards for industrial and manufacturing properties.

Monroe County Energy Challenge

The Monroe County Energy Challenge is a community-wide effort to reduce energy use in order to win the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize. At the same time, we'll improve quality of life, reduce our environmental impact and save

money. To win, we need to save more energy in houses, schools, and government buildings than 49 other communities across the country. The Monroe County Energy Challenge is a joint effort of the city of Bloomington, the towns of Ellettsville and Stinesville, Monroe County government, the Monroe County School Corporation, the Richland Bean-Blossom School Corporation, the Indiana University Office of Sustainability, Ivy Tech, the South Central Community Action Program, Vectren Energy, South Central Indiana REMC, and many others. To learn more about the competition visit mocoenergychallenge.org.

I-69 Section 5 Update

Current Spring/Summer work on Section 5 in Bloomington includes:

- Sound walls. Construction is anticipated

to start by winter 2016 and complete by summer 2016.

- A Tapp Road interchange with roundabout intersections and road work, anticipated to start by summer 2016 and complete by end of 2016.

- Widening of the CSX Railroad bridge, anticipated to start by late winter 2016 and complete by summer 2016.

- A Sample Road interchange with roundabout intersections, anticipated to begin by late winter 2016 and complete by late summer 2016.

- The Chambers Pike bridge, anticipated to begin by spring 2016 and complete by late summer 2016.

- A Liberty Church Road interchange, anticipated to begin by spring 2016 and complete by end of 2016.

- Mainline improvements and access roads from State Road 46 to just south of Chambers Pike, Sample Road to Chambers Pike, and Turkey Track

Road to Indian Creek. This work is anticipated to begin by late winter 2016 and complete by end of summer 2016.

The remaining segments for Section 5 are currently anticipated to be completed by the end of 2016. The I-69 development partner is fully responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance activities—including snow removal, pothole repairs and other activities—of this section of I-69 for a total of 35 years. This includes providing local access to and from I-69/SR 37 during and after construction. Access will be maintained until new permanent access is available. The I-69 development partner has enhanced law enforcement activities to assist with safety and prompt responses. Additional project information can be found on the I-69 development partners' website: i69section5.org.

I-69 Section 6 Update

On March 29 INDOT officials announced Ind. 37 as the preferred route to connect Martinsville to Indianapolis. Before the announcement, INDOT was reviewing five different routes. INDOT took into consideration human and environmental impact, cost, opportunity for economic development, purpose and need. INDOT will work with local residents and businesses to determine overpasses, underpasses, access roads and interchanges.

Do you have questions about the Chamber's advocacy efforts for the local business community? If so, contact Anne Bono at abono@chamberbloomington.org or call 812-336-6381.



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Springing into Action

By Jeb Conrad, president and CEO



Jeb Conrad. Courtesy photo.

We are ready for spring here in Bloomington and Monroe County! Your Chamber is preparing for a busy second quarter of 2016 with events, activities and engagement with our members and the community.

The Chamber is focused on key strategic areas that support the local business environment and our members. The core of our mission is driven by these areas and supported by bringing programs and events to our membership and the community.

We are excited about the upcoming Federal Focus half-day program, centered on issues and opportunities with unmanned vehicles and drone technology. In this changing environment, our members have expressed interest in commercialization, privacy, and the future impacts of these technology advancements on our business landscape. We hope you will join us for this very interesting symposium on April 19 at the beautiful Ivy Tech Shreve Auditorium for an afternoon of expert overviews of the advancements in these technologies. For more information on the program or to sign up, please visit the Chamber website at chamberbloomington.org.

The Chamber remains active in public policy advocacy, working with our county officials and the city administration on issues and

opportunities impacting the business community. The Chamber has an excellent working relationship with our local officials, serving as a convener and a resource to provide business input on critical issues affecting our local business landscape.

The key issues that the Chamber is engaged in locally include: changes to the city demolition delay and public right-of-way sign ordinances, county planning and zoning for the urbanizing area, and exciting new development opportunities for locations like the Trades District, IU Health hospital sites, and Switchyard Park—just to name a few. Updates are summarized in our

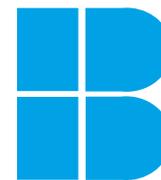
Advocacy Update on page 2 of today's BizNet.

The Chamber congratulates leaders in Monroe County government for receiving the 2016 Outstanding Project Award from the Greenways Foundation of Indiana for its work on the Karst Farm Greenway. A great project for our community!

We are not an island, and thus our engagement in regionalism. The Chamber leads the Hoosier Voices for I-69 advocacy group and serves as a convener for meaningful discussion of the opportunities and challenges that impact our community. This role is crucial to the success of our business market for the future and bringing the

"The Chamber remains active in public policy advocacy, working with our county officials and the city administration on issues and opportunities impacting the business community."

CHAMBER VOICES
continued on page 18



The Chamber

staff, partners & board members

Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
400 W. 7th St., Suite 102 • P.O. Box 1302 • Bloomington, IN 47402
Phone 812-336-6381 • ChamberBloomington.org

STAFF, PARTNERS & BOARD MEMBERS

The Chamber invites its members to contact these individuals with comments or questions regarding Chamber activities.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jeb Conrad, *President & CEO*
Anne Bono, *Director of Advocacy & Public Policy*
Kelley Brown, *Director of Marketing and Communications*
Katie Bruhn, *Executive Assistant*
Patty Goldman, *Graduation Coach*
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Andy McManis, *Members Services Coordinator*
Heather Robinson, *VP of Operations*
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Jennie Vaughan, *Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana - Bloomington*
Sue West, *One World Enterprises*
Jim Whitlatch, *Bunger & Robertson*

REGISTER NOW FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Hosted by the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

APRIL

- 13 hYPE's BYOCB Happy Hour – See page 4
- 19 Federal Focus Event – Unmanned Aerial and Vehicle Systems Symposium
- 26 New Member Connect
- 27 Business After Hours at Carpets Plus ColorTile

MAY

- 11 Women Excel Bloomington Awards Lunch at IU's Henke Hall of Champions—See page 18

Please call the Chamber (812-336-6381)
or see the Chamber's website
(www.ChamberBloomington.org) for more information.

CONTACT BIZNET

If you are a Chamber member who would like to announce promotions, expansions, community events, or other news in the "Chamber Briefs" section, please contact Carol Kelly at the Chamber: 812-336-6381 or ckelly@ChamberBloomington.org.

To advertise in *BizNet*, please contact Laurie Ragle at 812-331-4291 or lragle@heraldt.com. Be sure to ask about discount rate packages for Chamber members!

For subscription information or customer service, please contact Katie Bruhn at 812-336-6381 or info@ChamberBloomington.org.

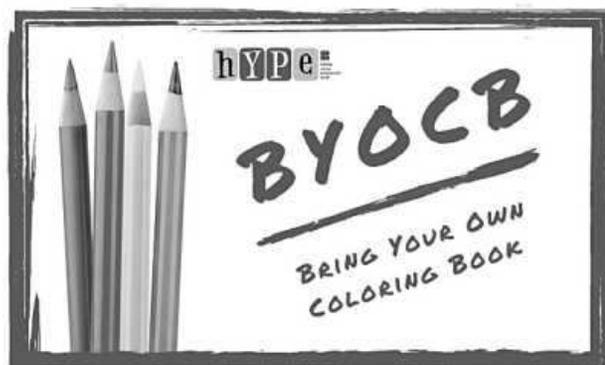
Please send press releases to info@ChamberBloomington.org.

Thank you for your interest in *BizNet*!

hYPe Events are Blossoming in April

This month, join hYPe on April 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for a BYOCB happy hour—bring your own coloring books. Cardinal Spirits is hosting the event in their distillery, so attendees will get a behind-the-scenes look at their production facility while getting creative and relaxing after work. Feel free to bring your own coloring book or use supplies on hand if you need extra inspiration.

Coming up on May 4 is the Bring Your Boss luncheon at the DeVault Alumni Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Young professionals can invite their bosses to lunch—on us!—to



facilitate relationship building, mentoring and networking among high-level executives. This is a new event for hYPe and promises to be something a little different.

At the Bring Your Boss luncheon, Caroline Dowd-Higgins, executive director of career and professional development for the IU

Alumni Association, will lead a networking

activity to kick things off and will moderate our panel featuring Tedd Green, president of Cook Pharmica, Angela Parker, founder and attorney at CarminParker, P.C., and Jon Barada, president of the Bloomington Hospital Foundation. Luncheon topics will include improving communication between young professionals and their bosses, dispelling

myths about millennials and finding ways to become better leaders and professionals. To attend, please register online at ChamberBloomington.org or call 812-336-6381. The Chamber thanks the DeVault Alumni Center for hosting the event and thanks Old National Bank and Milestone Contractors for sponsoring the luncheon.

As always, the Chamber

thanks the hYPe series sponsors who support events for young professionals: JA Benefits, Cook Group, Solution Tree, Owen County State Bank, Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington, Weddle Brothers Construction, Markey's Rental and Staging, IU Credit Union Investment Services, BKD, LLP, Indiana University and Wal-Mart.



MEMBER RENEWALS

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- Alion Science and Technology
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- Bicycle Garage, Inc.
- BKD, LLP
- Bloomington Meadows Hospital
- Bruce Storm Real Estate & Management
- Bryan Rental, Inc.
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- BuffaLouie's
- Building Associates, Inc.
- Buskirk-Chumley Theater
- Bynum Fanyo & Associates Inc.

- Cairril.com Design & Marketing, Inc.
- Alice Chastain
- Chick-fil-A
- Coghlan & Hrisomalos Dentistry
- Courtyard by Marriott
- Cowden Enterprises
- Employment Plus, Inc.
- Experience Technology
- Express Employment Professionals
- Farm Credit Mid-America
- Farmers & Mechanics Federal Savings & Loan
- FLWB Indoor Karting
- Fourwinds Resort and Marina
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- Hal Turner, District Office Manager for Congressman Todd Young
- Hanapin Marketing
- Harley-Davidson of Bloomington
- Hearthstone Health Campus

- Holiday Inn Express - Martinsville
- Home Instead Senior Care
- Horn Properties
- Hyde Park Partnership
- Integrity Wealth Solutions
- Jamar Property Management LLC
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- James H. Johnson, CPA
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- Monroe County CASA, Inc.
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- Shuee, David
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812-331-9160

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812-355-2300

Ridge Medical Center
1043 N 1000 W.
Linton, IN
812-847-4481

For more information:
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812.355.6900

NEW MEMBERS

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926 W. 17th Street
Bloomington, IN 47404
812-332-2610
Contact: Tim Gooldy

O'Neal Insurance & Financial Services
609 W. Temperance Street
Ellettsville, IN 47429
812-558-9088
Contact: Randy O'Neal

Yates Engineering
2536 W. Industrial Park Drive, Ste. 1
Bloomington, IN 47402
812-333-7335



CHAMBER BRIEFS

New Hires & Promotions

Fort Appointed to Board

Old National Bank has been pleased to announce Tim Fort as a new community director on its North Central Region Board. Fort holds the Eveleigh Chair in Business Ethics at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, where he coordinates the required undergraduate courses in business ethics.

New City Director of Planning and Transportation

Christy Langley has been hired as the new director of planning and transportation for the City of Bloomington. Langley has previously served as Noblesville deputy mayor and Noblesville director of planning and development. She has taught at both IU and Ball State University.

Artisan Electronics Promotion

Artisan Electronics announces the promotion of Greg Sapp to vice president and chief operating officer. Sapp was hired at Artisan in 2007 as a senior test technician and has worked his way up through the ranks as a team leader, security officer and contract manager.

Awards & Designations

Old National Among World's Most Ethical

The Ethisphere Institute has named Old National Bank as a 2016 World's Most Ethical Company. Ethisphere is a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethi-

cal business practices. Old National Bank has been recognized for five consecutive years.

Scallon Appointed to Zero Suicide Faculty

Jean Scallon, chief executive officer at Bloomington Meadows Hospital, has been appointed to the Zero Suicide Faculty. The purpose of this appointment is to provide support to the Zero Suicide Academies throughout the United States for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Education Development Center.

Shettlesworth Appointed District Director

Bloomington Meadows Hospital's director of human resources, Amanda Shettlesworth, has been named a district director for the Indiana State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management. Shettlesworth will be the District Director for Central and Eastern Indiana.

Opportunities & Events

Franklin College to Inaugurate President

Thomas J. Minar will be inaugurated as the 16th president of Franklin College during a 90-minute installation ceremony beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9, in Spurlock Center Gymnasium. For more information call 317-738-8185.

Homeward Bound Bloomington

Homeward Bound Bloomington will be held April 10 at noon at Waldron Hill and Buskirk Park, formerly called Third Street Park. This year the annual walk will feature more

activities in the park and a variety of food, music and activities. Join the fun by walking or donating to end homelessness. For more information visit homeboundindiana.org.

Franklin College Students Perform

The Franklin College Music Department will host its annual spring chamber concert at 7 p.m. today in the Clarence E. and Inez R. Custer Theatre in Old Main. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information call 317-738-8185.



Eagle Pointe Realty is the only on-site real estate agency at Eagle Pointe Golf Resort & Condominiums. Whether you are looking for a permanent home to buy, rental housing, or an investment property, this is the place to call home. There is plenty to do for nature lovers who enjoy wooded bluffs, wildlife and water views. The resort offers amenities such as a clubhouse, meeting/banquet facilities, swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, fitness room, bar and restaurant, golf shop, boat storage, and a golf course with breathtaking views of Lake Monroe. Broker Susan Slaven represents clients throughout Monroe County. Call 812-824-4700 or visit eaglepointerealty.com.



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El Rancho Mexican Restaurant has been serving Mexican cuisine at our locally owned and operated restaurants since 2005. Our



chips and salsa are made fresh daily and make a great pairing with any of our lunch and dinner entrees. No matter what you're craving, El Rancho's wide selection of Mexican favorites is sure to hit the spot and keep you coming back for more. Our family friendly atmosphere is the perfect place to bring the whole gang for an evening out. We also offer take-out every day during business hours. If you're looking for some adult fun, come and hang out at the bar featured at our Ellettsville and Spencer locations—your local tropical paradise serving ice cold beer, cocktails, and fun! We pride ourselves on providing you with the best service possible and encourage your feedback at any time! Call 812-822-2329 or visit elranchofood.com.



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Express Employment Refresh Leadership Simulcast

Registration is open for Express Employment's Refresh Leadership Live Simulcast tomorrow. The speakers are Marshall Goldsmith, Shaquille "Shaq" O'Neal and Kaplan Mobray. For more information and to find a host location near you visit refreshleadership.com/live.

HealthLINC Hosts Annual Conference

HealthLINC will host its 10th Annual Conference Friday, April 15 at the

Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center. This year's topics will focus on integrated solutions to the growing epidemic of pain management, addiction and mental health. For more information visit healthlinc.org.

Ivy Tech Hosts O'Bannon Institute

Ivy Tech will be hosting its 13th annual O'Bannon Institute fundraising dinner on April 21, featuring keynote speaker Lee H. Hamilton, distinguished scholar, School of Global and International Studies,

and professor of practice, School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. This year's event will be held in the new Cook Pavilion. Read more at ivytech.edu.

It's Strawberry Shortcake Time

Enjoy the Strawberry Festival without leaving work. Order a pre-sale kit for your place of business or clients. The kits cost \$50 and include ten large servings. All orders must be

CHAMBER BRIEFS
continued on page 20

Candidate responses are published exactly as received, with no editing. Additional questions and answers can be found on the Chamber's website at chamberbloomington.org/advocacy

1. Indiana code defines the county auditor as the fiscal officer of the county. What are your specific qualifications and experience to act as the principal financial officer of the county?

2. In recent years, the county has been under scrutiny about financial records. How will you improve county's financial record keeping and make certain records are being reconciled in a timely manner?

3. What is the single most significant issue that will be at the top of your administrative priority for the Auditor's Office, and how will you resolve it?



Kevin Easton

Democrat

My qualifications are both academic and professional. First, I have a bachelor's degree in Accounting and an MBA. I am eligible to sit for certification exams such as the CPA and CFE and my work experience qualifies me to be licensed should I pass the exams.

Professionally, I was an auditor for the Department of Defense, where I learned to design, perform, and report audits. I then became a contracts specialist, where I experienced negotiating and monitoring budgets and completing and filing reports. I now serve the state as a small business specialist, helping contractors ensure their accounting systems are set up correctly to perform on government contracts. I know accounting systems well enough to extract information from them to meet specific reporting requirements.

First I would implement changes necessary to remedy the findings of the Hartman and Williams report. Additionally, I intend to complete my own thorough review of both internal controls and workflow in the office.

A key to successful record keeping is organization. I have much experience overseeing multiple complex tasks at once. Most of the reporting done by the Auditor is repetitive, and knowing what reports are needed, their content, and when to submit them is important to success.

Communication is another key to timely reconciliation of records. The Auditor must work closely with the financial bodies of the county to ensure information needed to complete their reports are received with sufficient lead time. Also, communication makes it easier to anticipate needs.

The biggest issue with the Auditor's office is its image. The public has a negative view of the financial offices in Monroe County. The council no longer trusts the information it receives. My priority in the office is to restore faith and trust in the office and the information it produces.

My solution is to instill a culture of transparency in both communication and information. I will have an open door environment for employees and be actively engaged with other county employees and the public. Expectations will be clear. I will champion the creation of a portal for all county financial information, providing the public the ability to easily track every dollar that flows into and out of county government.



Terri Porter

Democrat

I recently retired as an administrator for the Department of Housing & Urban Development. For 17 plus years in the Indianapolis, and the Regional HUD office in Kansas City, I audited and provided oversight for billions of federal tax dollars while managing several offices across 5 Midwestern states. I have extensive practical experience at the local, state, and federal level of identifying and remedying organizational deficiencies and financial discrepancies. I have a proven track record of transforming troubled offices into high performers. The application of my skills and expertise will restore public trust and confidence in the Monroe County Auditor's office. I have a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree and am certified in both economic development and housing development finance.

I will address financial record keeping issues by confirming the cross checking of reports for accuracy and reconciliation well before submissions deadlines to allow time for adjustments. I will ensure appropriate internal controls are present to certify compliance. It's important to understand that the duties of the Monroe County Auditor's office are wide in scope and go far beyond financial record keeping. These many duties and tasks are performed by people, people who have endured many years of troubled leadership. It is imperative that the new Auditor have extensive supervisory experience. I know how to delegate, inspire, and hold people accountable. I will ensure that staff are cross trained as appropriate, encourage professional development, insist on integrity, and a commitment to providing superior public service.

My top priority is to improve communications and the exchange of information between the Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor, and Recorder. A strong collaborative partnership must be developed between these elected officials. Of particular importance is the relationship between the Auditor, Treasurer, and their respective offices. Currently, there is little, if any communication or information exchange between them. Significant deficiencies, identified in an audit last year, cannot be remedied without this correction. This critical partnership between the Monroe County Auditor and Treasurer Offices has been broken for so long that it appears irreparable between the current elected officials. The new Auditor must come from outside of the established culture and possess the well tested leadership skills to bring in the fresh approach needed for positive change.

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Catherine Smith

Democrat

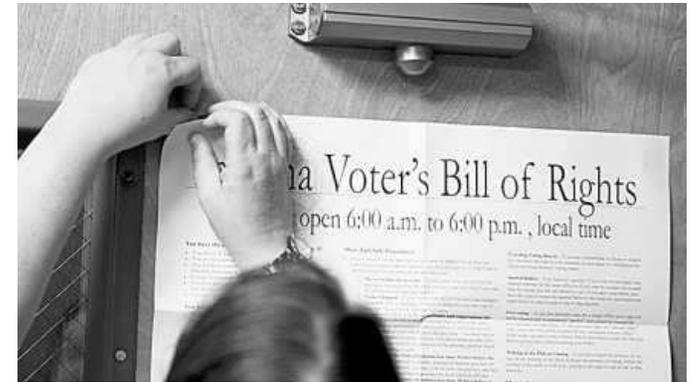
Qualifications:

- Solid, formal education which includes a Master's Degree in Engineering, Executive MBA coursework in Finance and Accounting, and completion of many Ph.D.-level courses in Human Resource Development & Management
- Over 25-years of professional experience in Project Engineering, Engineering Economy, Financial Management, and College Teaching
- Thorough understanding of county and local government property taxation, taxation computations and multiple tax unit financial funding operations
- Currently serving 8th year as Monroe County Treasurer; previously 4-years as Chief Deputy Auditor & County Financial Director -- managing 182 different funds, for 46 different departments & units, accountable for managing in excess of \$100 million per year
- Past Executive Director of the Hoosier Hills Chapter of the American Red Cross

Financial information travels linearly – Auditor to Treasurer, allowing Treasurer to balance Auditor's checks, EFTs and deposits. Balancing is impossible with chaotic, incomplete and inaccurate information. As Auditor, I promise to personally:

- Provide daily accurate information
- Provide complete and proper documentation
- Properly audit each activity
- Have two sets of eyes on every transaction
- Act humbly, presenting information
- Provide articulate, easily understood reasoning for each transaction
- Transfer information electronically, making public-sharing easy
- Honor Treasurer's Office by understanding their reconciling's contingent upon Auditor's provision of good financial data
- Work closely & collaboratively with Treasurer
- Provided information egolessly and with a true servant's heart
- Eliminate "us versus them" mentality between offices and build solid, trusting working relationships
- Lead with respect and accurate information, kindness, cooperation and complete transparency

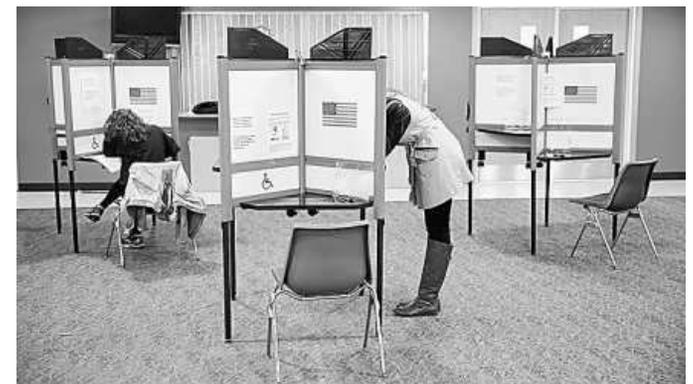
Applying best practices to the County's archaic method of accounting. Currently the Auditor hand carries information (often handwritten) to the Treasurer in a sporadic and sometimes "willy-nilly" fashion, making it difficult to navigate or balance. Additionally, current accounting software does not allow each transaction to migrate to the Treasurer as needed. Immediate action is warranted to rectify these inconsistent financial data transfers. We must procure modern accounting software capable of transferring all transactions including EFTs, which represent the current standard of accounting transactions. I will champion the process of implementing an accounting tool that will accurately enable every County transaction to be entered only once -- propagating seamlessly from Auditor to Treasurer, to bank, to cash-book -- making a complete electronic lifecycle.



A volunteer hangs the Indiana Voter's Bill of Rights for the Nov. 2014 election. Photo by Matthew Hatcher.



Voters make their selections at University Elementary School in the Nov. 2014 election. Photo by Jeremy Hogan.



Voters in the Nov. 2014 election focus on their ballots at Unitarian Universalist Church. Photo by Jeremy Hogan.

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Nelson Shaffer

Republican

The Convention Center should be expanded. Tourism can be a good source of much needed revenues and also can spread knowledge about the county and its resources. Even though I want to make a Limestone Heritage Park to honor our stone industry and increase tourism I fought against previously proposed funding of the convention center facilities by food and beverage taxes because such a tax would have been very regressive. My preference would be to fund by a combination of private funds and government grants. Increasing taxes on solely county residents is not a good option. The previous administrative structure was not tenable and left county residents at a disadvantage. Taxes on visitors plus efforts to attract government and business partners is preferred.

One of the common complaints I hear from citizens is that businesses are saddled by restrictive, changeable, and costly rules. Business start-ups and expansions are time consuming and costly at any time but the county exacerbates problems. Numerous examples of government "scaring away business" are available, yet people are fearful to bring examples to the public due to possible government "reprisal." The situation can, and probably will, get worse as commissioners make new more demanding, even ludicrous, ordinances. Many restrictions could be eased or at least reviewed. Great caution is needed before any new ordinance is put in place. Public and business input should be encouraged and incorporated in any new actions. Boards should have balanced, objective memberships.

We recently had a situation where my opponent dissembled, at the very least, and said there were no Republican applicants for the planning board, yet proof of the contrary has been made public. Then commissioners attempted to appoint someone with no party affiliation as an end run around the spirit of the statute! Numerous people have come to me about the overbearing and arrogant attitude of some members. Objective, but empathetic members are needed. Experienced or technically trained people are needed, but currently discouraged. Group think is the norm. More visible and persuasive announcements, even paid ads, should be made. Considerations and encouragements should be extended to volunteers of opposition politics, or informed citizens, or specialists, even if they hold contrary views.

Where to start? Monroe County has abundant educated, experienced, moral, honest people so recent examples of corruption and incompetence and inefficiency are embarrassing. Accounting "irregularities," even crimes, have been uncovered and others doubtless exist. Some offices cannot resolve accounting details. Some who uncovered irregularities have been fired. The county, especially the Commissioners, must observe, advise, and discipline departments or remove people who transgress, not those who report "errors." It's time we put some "teeth" to the checks and balances and if an employee is fired, without cause, especially after many years of service, that should have an investigation as to why common disciplinary standards were not followed. Who is going to report a transgression if that gets them fired? Attitudes need to be changed!



Julie L. Thomas

Democrat

The expansion of the convention center is a fine idea. It will be important to determine if the need for a larger center exists. A cost / benefit analysis is needed – it should include studies of the economic development impact outside of increased restaurant and hotel spending. When the county-wide food and beverage tax was proposed, we heard from a considerable number of county residents who were opposed based on their cost/benefit analysis. I believe it will be best to pursue this after first transferring ownership of the convention center to the City of Bloomington and working with the State Legislature to allow a City-wide food and beverage tax to be implemented.

The Plan Commission is currently developing ordinances in support of the recently-adopted Urbanizing Area Comprehensive Plan. We worked extensively with the community to finalize the plan. If you imagine the map of the county, the area around the city is the Urbanizing Area. This portion of the county – which is larger than the City of Bloomington – is the area of focus for additional development, including higher density housing and business development. In the Urbanizing area, adequate infrastructure currently exists to support more intense development (including sewer and road infrastructure). In the future, with the extension of sanitary sewer service, business development can expand into the county. It's also important to remember that agriculture is a form of economic development.

We appreciate the dedicated county residents who are willing to devote their time, energy and experience to help make Monroe County a better place. At this time, nearly all of our Boards and Commissions are fully staffed. Openings on Boards and Commissions are advertised widely. We utilize the County website, make announcements at public meetings, and work with the local media to announce open seats. We also reach out to organizations like the Chamber and BEDC and local civic groups. In addition, the Commissioners and the County Council actively share application information.

The procedure we have in place works. After the Commissioners responded to the first incident with tighter controls on the credit cards, the second incident was caught by our office precisely because of these controls. We will be securing the credit cards of those departments which only use them occasionally (conferences and trainings). However, there are a handful of departments that cannot operate effectively without credit cards. For example, the Youth Service Bureau purchases food and supplies for shelter residents. The County is developing an Internal Control Policy with staff trainings, per Indiana Code 5-11-1-27.

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Amanda Clerkin Barge

Democrat

As your Commissioner, I would review how our current Convention Center is performing and at regional trends and similar cities who have expanded their centers and what the projections and outcomes were. There are groups who feel strongly that our current Convention Center is not large enough and I will have conversations with them.

Using a Food and Beverage Tax to pay for the \$68.3 million expansion seems to place undue strain on those that live in the county and the benefits to this tax do not seem to outweigh the costs. I support looking at other funding efforts, like the Inkeeper Tax, to partially support the expansion.

The future of Monroe County depends on residents, businesses and elected officials working together to ensure sensible planning. As a downtown small business owner, I understand the importance of making sure we are all heard.

I'm running for Commissioner because I believe our government can do a better job bringing people together and making sure all stakeholders have the opportunity to be heard.

I support using social media, frequent public meetings, and would visit businesses to talk to owners about planning issues.

As a member of a county commission, I know that we can do better filling these vacancies!

My Plan:

- Host a "Boards and Commissions Day" and invite schools, residents, professional organizations, and businesses to learn about what each board does.

- Appoint a "Point Person" to each board to handle outreach and communication with Council and Commissioners.

- Use social media to advertise vacancies.

- Collaborate with the city: work as a team to fill vacancies on both the city and county boards and commissions.

- Members of boards should be sitting in on interviews so the process is transparent.

I have executive experience in business as a small business owner – one that has been successful with a 100% payment record from my clients, a rarity in almost any business! I've mentored several other therapists in creating and operating their own sole practices. To this date all have been successful.

- I recommend bringing in outside expertise to evaluate the financial management system of the county. All results of the assessment would be made public.

- I support posting all county spending on a quarterly basis online at the County Website.

- I would lead by example with transparent governing.

Rick Birch Dietz

Democrat

No response provided.

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Harold (Hal) Turner
Republican

Conventions in general will be good for the job market, good for the downtown merchants, restaurants and attractions, and good for the city and county tax base. Funding such an expansion that is designed to be most effective for the majority of residents will be accomplished through financial products that allow a distribution of the risk and rewards to partners in the community. This public-private partnership funding will eliminate the need for new community debt or any shifting of the funding burden through taxation to the people, including those with enterprises already established in the community.

Businesses will play critical roles far into the future in helping to fund the county infrastructure to help Monroe County continue to be a great place. Existing organizations like the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce will help distill the interests of the entrepreneurs. The County Commissioners will meet their responsibilities to ensure that they and the County Council are considering the interests of ALL stakeholders by conferring with them as we move forward with ordinances to allow reasonable growth of businesses in Monroe County.

As a county commissioner, I will make sure that existing media (radio, TV and newspaper) are used to convey these openings' requirements. Secondly, I will use community organizations like Rotary, The American Legion, VFW and Kiwanis to reach out, since these organizations already attract fine people interested in making their communities better through participation. Thirdly, I will use direct invitations to the right people known to have the requisite skills but who are not currently involved. I will never say "yes" or "no" for someone else based upon their current activities, political views or partisan leanings. Gems come in all colors, and the busiest people are often the ones who know their limits and who can most successfully take on the right tasks.

Transparency and fiscal responsibility are both personal traits and the result of policies that make those outcomes more likely. Keeping financial records according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles will require periodic verification from a third party protected from arbitrary firing. The GAAP principles must be adhered to rigorously. Non-adherence will need to be swiftly corrected. Financial discrepancies will need to be handled with a zero-tolerance approach to personal enrichment. As a member of the County Commissioners, I will do my best to ensure that people in financial recordkeeping have the accounting skills to be successful and that there are regular audits to both identify those lacking in the necessary skills as well as to ensure that the books are balanced.



John R. Whitehart
Democrat

I support expansion of the convention center. I propose working with the other commissioners to collaborate with the city on the potential to transfer ownership of the current building and property to the city to achieve that goal. An expanded convention center and hotel would increase revenue to the community, boost the local economy through expanded tourism opportunities, and permit Bloomington and Monroe County to be competitive in attracting conventions that we currently lose to larger venues.

As the county moves to additional consideration of land use, identifying appropriate areas for business and commercial development will become more critical. New ordinance development processes must include an open process, seeking opinions of landowners and potential developers, and rules must be clearly developed and consistently enforced. Every new policy, whether land use or otherwise, must be revisited and evaluated over time to make certain it has appropriately addressed the issue intended, and that unintended consequences have not resulted. Funding is always an obstacle, but where outside resources may help in crafting policy, they should be considered.

The county uses its posting resources to advise of openings on boards and commissions. I would propose a more active approach in attempting to identify interest groups, and evaluating membership demographics, to determine where recruitment needs exist, and interested residents are appropriately represented. Where political balance is required on a specific board or commission, and interested candidates are not readily available, outreach to the formal leadership of the political parties should be on the table. Descriptions of the preferred skills, knowledge and abilities sought in successful applicants should be developed as necessary as part of the vetting process.

The commissioners approve the claims and enter into contracts on behalf of the county, and that gives them a great deal of control over financial processes. The current commissioners have taken the step of limiting the number of charge cards available to county offices, and that is an important step. As deputy mayor, I led the activity that resulted in the first published financial policies manual for city departments. Key components included multiple checks on purchases and expenditures, so that a single person could not initiate and then approve either. The intent is to prevent errors as well misdeeds. Creating very clear expectations, rules, and policy statements that are transparent, monitored, and consistently enforced is the next necessary step.

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Paul E. White Sr.

Republican



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If your voting location has changed, or if you want to double check it, visit this site:

indianavoters.in.gov

You can also see who's on your ballot, and view a provisional ballot before you vote.

ELECTION COVERAGE

continued on page 14

I-69 OPPORTUNITIES

Continued from page 1

Indianapolis, but people from Evansville and Nashville will definitely be coming in more frequently,” said Shari Baer, director of sales for Bloomington’s Holiday Inn.

“I see an increase in people wanting to come and stay for a weekend or a few days,” she predicted.

Thus far, the first four sections of the highway have been completed, connecting Evansville with Bloomington. A segment connecting Bloomington and Martinsville is currently under

construction, and the final piece—from Martinsville to Indianapolis—is still in the planning stages.

Visit Bloomington Executive Director Mike McAfee said it is hard to pinpoint exactly how much I-69 is already responsible for Bloomington and Monroe County’s continued growth as a destination for tourists at this point. The area’s cultural attractions,



Mike McAfee, executive director, Visit Bloomington
Courtesy photo.

the university and its downtown attractions like the B-Line trail are helping promote a healthy tourism industry. I-69, however, brings with it the easy access that will help open



“And they’re off” said a construction worker as the first set of cars entered southbound Interstate 69 on the southwest side of Bloomington in December 2015. Photo by David Snodgrass.

up more tourism from the southwest.

Right now, McAfee said, Evansville is a decent

market from which to draw tourists but it does not bring nearly the numbers that feeder cities like Indianapolis and Chicago do. Having easy access could change that.

Lynn Coyne, president and CEO of the Bloomington Economic Development Corp. agrees.

He described a faster and safer route to Bloomington as a “huge benefit because it provides access to the community, both inbound and outbound.” Bloomington’s already attractive tourist destinations will encourage more people to come to the area, while the interstate should bolster tourism to the natural attractions in more rural areas along the route.

Local hotels and restaurants are likely to benefit from increased traffic, McAfee said, adding that “the number one thing

visitors do is eat, by far.” McAfee anticipates more of each cropping up in town, particularly

“Part of our job is to get these people to stop and get them off the road, adding that some of its efforts will include proper signage to direct tourists to attractions and into the heart of downtown to eat, shop and stay.”

—Mike McAfee, executive director, Visit Bloomington

on the north side of town and along the highway where interstate travelers need easy access. He said Visit Bloomington is already working on the most aggressive marketing campaign in the history of its bureau, and that will include using outdoor billboards “for the first time in a long time.”

“Part of our job is to get these people to stop and get them off the road,” McAfee said, adding that some of its efforts will include proper signage to direct tourists to attractions and into the heart of downtown to eat, shop and stay.

For Baer, the highway has already been a boon for business. During the interstate’s construction, Holiday Inn has frequently hosted members of the crews working on the road, filling as many as 20 to 30 rooms per night. When the interstate is completed, she has even higher hopes of future business growth. While she believes Bloomington is small enough that everywhere will benefit from the highway access, she particularly expects to see the north side, where

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I-69 OPPORTUNITIES
continued on page 13

I-69 OPPORTUNITIES

Continued from page 12

Holiday Inn is located, experiencing growth.

Having more restaurants and stores near her hotel can only be good for business, said Baer, noting that visitors looking to choose a hotel like having easy access to things they need.

“I’ve been through highway renovations in Evansville when they were bringing in a new highway, and business increased simply because we had support businesses coming in,” she said. “It’s a domino effect. Every time you

have a new business, you have more people coming to town. I believe we’ll continue growing all the

way up to I-69 to Indianapolis.”

With the interstate providing a quicker trip to Indianapolis, Baer said she can even envision getting more overflow traffic from visitors to the state capital, as she did when Indianapolis hosted the Super Bowl.

“With a major highway, we’ll pick up transit business because people will be traveling further on I-69,” she said.

In that pass-through traffic brought by the

highway, Coyne sees potential for long-term community gains.

“It’s very possible that [travelers] will stop and enjoy the environment here,” he said. “Remember, Bill Cook was traveling through when he decided this would be a place to start a business.”

Coupled with another coming development, the stakes for Bloomington’s future could be even higher, McAfee said. IU Health is in the midst of creating a new regional academic health campus in Bloomington, a fact that now has some people comparing Bloomington to Austin, Texas, about 25 years ago. The Texas capital experienced dramatic growth when two things happened: an interstate connected it to Houston,

and a new regional medical center opened.

While McAfee noted that Austin has the added

independent music and art scenes, and both are liberal enclaves in otherwise conservative states.

Still, McAfee said that as Bloomington grows it will be important to be responsible with our growth.

“We need to make sure we have the proper wayfinder signage, we need to make sure the infrastructure is there, we need to make sure we’re being responsible with any problems we might have with public safety—just making sure people have a quality experience,” he said.

Beyond those practicalities, he added, “It is important to us to protect our image ... that local identity, that uniqueness that Bloomington offers.”

“It’s very possible that [travelers] will stop and enjoy the environment here. Remember, Bill Cook was traveling through when he decided this would be a place to start a business.”

—Lynne Coyne, president and CEO, Bloomington Economic Development Corp.

advantage of being a state capital, the two cities have their share of similarities. Both are college towns, both have growing

The prospect of growth similar to Austin—which has retained its quirky charm—is one McAfee and others find very welcome.



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1. What is your position on the expansion of the convention center? If you are supportive, how do think it should be structured and funded?



Elizabeth Lee Jones

Democrat

I believe the convention center has served our community well, especially the city. I am appreciative of the way it has made space available for community events, some of which have outgrown the facility. I would like to see it expanded in a scale appropriate to the community and the area it is in. Because the city benefits disproportionately from the convention center I would be comfortable with the city having ownership. If the county continues to own the convention center I would prefer an increase in the Innkeepers tax to provide for the expansion. There may also be some City TIFF or CREED funding available. I would not support a county wide Food and Beverage tax.

2. What is the single most significant issue you see facing Monroe County in the coming term and what is your specific plan to address that issue, both in terms of budget and policy proposals?

There are many critical issues facing Monroe County. I am focusing on the serious need for a community corrections center. To save money the state no longer accepts level 6 felons, and is sending those currently incarcerated back to their counties. They cannot be sent back to the state prison unless they commit a felony. Most are non-violent felons, many sent to prison because of repeated probation violations, a misdemeanor. Right now the only option is to put them in the county jail, which has a cap on it. Frequently someone is released to make room for another. A corrections center allows for an intermediate level of supervision.

If a public safety tax is enacted it could help pay for the staffing of the center.

3. How do you think the County can work with the City to better serve business and residents?

An example of County/City cooperation is the new dispatch center which happened because of a willingness on both sides to enter into a partnership!

Another example is the involvement the City has had in the plan for the urbanizing area of the County. This is an important plan for both businesses and residents. One of the objectives of the plan is to radically simplify the zoning to make it easier for anyone to tell what can and cannot be done with any particular piece of property. This will help residents determine what the future is likely to hold for property they are considering buying. Businesses will find it much easier and less expensive to determine where they should locate and to receive the relevant permits.



Geoffrey W. McKim

Democrat

The Convention Center should be expanded, as part of a comprehensive approach to downtown redevelopment, including the Trades District and Switchyard Park. The Convention Center functions as a community center as well—and expansion will increase its value to our not-for-profit and arts groups.

Expansion needs to be context-sensitive and well-integrated into the downtown area. It should support vibrant, B-line-fronted, neighborhood development. The City of Bloomington should assume control of the Convention Center—it is an anchor downtown institution, well-suited for close oversight by the City. Funding should include a mixture of private investment and tourist taxes, as well as CRED/TIF funding for infrastructure. At present this is an underutilized asset, which holds great promise for contributing to the quality of life in the community.

Maintaining and growing wages in Monroe County. This is critical both in the operations and budget of county government (income tax plays an ever-increasing role in our budget) and in the well-being of the community.

My plans are to continue what I've been working on for the past 8 years on Council. I will continue to:

- Fund investments in infrastructure, like the west side transportation project
- Advocate for the redevelopment of former contaminated brown-fields to create manufacturing jobs for Monroe County residents
- Support incentives to grow strong businesses, create, and sustain hundreds of good jobs in manufacturing, logistics, and life sciences
- Continue to champion investments in quality of life amenities that make the area attractive both for business and existing residents, like trails and parks

We must keep the channels of communication open between all local units of government. We have a new Mayor of Bloomington; this represents an opportunity to start regular dialogues about issues of mutual interest. These steps have already begun, and should be continued and expanded.

More specifically, the City and County can work together by:

- Cooperating on joint efforts, such as our partnership to support the Indiana small Business Development Center, joint fueling opportunities, etc.
- Coordinating planning and zoning, particularly in the urbanizing area, to ensure consistency of planning and to ensure that any annexation is done to the benefit of residents
- Serving together on the MPO policy board to ensure our community makes its investments in transportation infrastructure wisely and effectively

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Cheryl Munson

Democrat

The Convention Center is both a widely used "community center" for local and regional businesses, not-for-profits, and IU programs, and a facility that hosts out-of-town organizations and groups. In both capacities, it has become too small. The economic impact of visitors to our community has been well documented.

I favor a mix of funding –increased Innkeepers' tax, city TIF and economic development funds, and if needed a modest food and beverage tax for the city (not the county) – to accomplish an expansion that is appropriate for Bloomington. With cooperation between the county and city, the city can take charge of funding and management. An expanded facility must be right-sized, keeping our "college-town" character and not competing with much larger facilities in Indianapolis or French Lick.

Public safety is the principal issue, and it has two parts:

- The operating costs of the county-wide emergency services Dispatch Center have far exceeded our share of the revenue from the state-collected 911 funds.
- Community Corrections program needs have expanded as a result of D-felony state inmates being returned to local jails. Our jail operates at or just below the court-imposed cap on the number of inmates, but without a work-release program that prepares inmates to return to the community.

There is wide interest in the county and city in exploring a local, dedicated Public Safety income tax (a LOIT, maximum 0.25%) to fund operations of the Dispatch Center and for expanded Corrections programs. This small tax may be the best solution.

Shared values and mutual needs can lead to cooperation, which must be truly two-sided, focused on specific services or outcomes, and well-documented in written agreements. One recent example was the city-county partnership to construct and furnish the emergency services Dispatch Center. Looking ahead, in addition to cooperatively funding the Dispatch Center operations and expanding the Convention Center (noted above), I hope to explore:

(1) a city-county Health Clinic, like the one presently operated by the county, to serve all local government employees and to reduce expenses for employee benefits; and

(2) increased recycling through the local Solid Waste District, with the city's collected recyclables being combined with the county's to generate greater revenue and reduce costs.

Regular city-county meetings would improve communication.

2. What is the single most significant issue you see facing Monroe County in the coming term and what is your specific plan to address that issue, both in terms of budget and policy proposals?

3. How do you think the County can work with the City to better serve business and residents?



During early voting for the 2014 election, stickers are ready for voters. Photo by Jeremy Hogan

Contact Your Elected Officials

The Chamber's website has a complete list of your local, state and federal officials:

ChamberBloomington.org/elected-officials

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1. What are your qualifications to serve as surveyor of our county?



Kevin P. Enright
Democrat

Civil Engineering School, IUPUI; GIS mapping, Indiana University; Survey Technician Certificate, National Society of Professional Surveyors. Sixteen years experience as County Surveyor.

2. As mandated, the surveyor serves as an ex officio member of the county planning commission. What plans do you have for evaluating and managing the potential impacts of future growth throughout the urbanizing area of Monroe County?

The county surveyor is a full member on the Plan Commission, the only seat voters elect directly to this nine member board. Participation in creating the 2016 Monroe County Urbanizing Plan is critical for locating appropriate infrastructure in optimal growth areas.

3. In addition to serving as an ex officio member of the county planning commission, the surveyor also serves as an ex officio on the county drainage board. How will you identify and prioritize existing storm water problems and improving of roadside drainage?

Duties on the Drainage Board are critical in decisions affecting property owners. Also pertinent has been my role as president of the Storm Water Management Board since 2008. Adopting the 2016 Storm Water Long Range Plan will prioritize spending \$12 million for community water projects for the next 20 years.

4. What is the single most important issue you see that the surveyor's office needs to address, and how will you resolve it?

Integrating emerging technologies into county government is a huge challenge. GPS surveying and GIS mapping were obscure topics when I started 20 years ago. Both are nearly household terms today. The shifting changes over the next 20 years will be as great as the last two decades.

Russell J. Stanger
Republican

No response provided.

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1. How do you view the state of the county's revenue and financial situations and where can improvements be made?

2. What is the single most important issue you see that the Treasurer's office needs to address, and how will you resolve it?

3. What are your qualifications to serve as the treasurer of the county?



Ann Collins
Republican

Looking at all investment possibilities and saving the county money on banking fees would be a priority. With a county this size, and the money we collect, banks should not be nickel and diming us on bank fees/interest. If they want our business, they will offer services to show that. We will also solicit ideas, from the public on cost saving methods because, after all, they are the ones putting the trust in the office to operate in the best interest of the county. As treasurer, unfortunately, I wouldn't have a great deal of influence with revenue policy but within my office, I can increase proficiency in collection activities, enhancing county revenue.

Communication with other offices. This applies not only to other department heads but to other Treasurer Offices throughout the state. Internally, department heads should meet regularly to determine what works best for the taxpayer and not what works best for us. We should put processes in place that offer a streamlined experience so taxpayers aren't bounced from one office to another looking for answer. Externally, we should pull from other counties the "best practices" they use in being efficient and good watchdogs of the county monies. We have a wealth of information from not only our own employees but other counties. We need to use that as often as we can.

I have a business degree from the Ohio State University, I've managed resources from personnel to millions of dollars in investments. We don't, however, have a qualification problem with local government, as much as an ethics problem. I'm the only candidate that has a plan to fix it. By pledging to keep existing employees and never firing without cause, office employees will be my checks and balances with no fear of termination for discovering wrong doing. To be blunt, candidates not making this pledge should be questioned about their integrity because how are they going to have checks and balances when those people can be removed for discovering problems? For what reason could anyone want the power to fire without cause?



James Hans Huffman
Democrat

Since 2009, there have been several changes at the state level that have had an impact on revenue streams at the local level. Property tax caps, the elimination of the inheritance tax, and changes to business personal property taxes have had a significant effect our revenue. Monroe County has weathered these changes better than many counties by relying on a "rainy day fund" that is nearing exhaustion. Finding new revenue sources, while working to reduce costs, is the balanced approach Monroe County must take to continue providing services, and every county department has apart to play. As manager of the county's investments, I have helped by increasing investment income each year. As Treasurer, I will work with our banking partners to continue this trend.

I believe the biggest challenge facing the Treasurer's Office, as well as all of County Government, is how to continue providing the current or increased level of service to our residents using fewer resources. Like any other business, government is only as good as the people involved. Attracting talented workers, providing training and retaining those employees is essential. Over the last seven years, the Treasurer's office has worked as a team to assist taxpayers. By keeping this team intact and taking greater advantage of electronic and online resources, I will ensure that we continue to meet every taxpayer's needs. This will also help reduce costs and lead to a more environmentally efficient office.

I am currently Chief Deputy Treasurer, and a member of the Indiana County Treasurer's Association serving on the Legislative Committee. I began as a Deputy Treasurer, taking payments and assisting taxpayers, so I know the office from the ground up. I manage the County's bank accounts and investments that often exceed \$100,000,000. I coordinate tax collections, serve as a liaison to the county council and Board of Commissioners, and provide support for the employees of the Treasurer's Office. Prior to joining County Government, I was a small business owner. Born and raised in Monroe County, I was taught to have a heart for service and a collaborative spirit. I believe in a team approach to accomplish tasks and provide quality services for Monroe County's residents.

Candidate responses are published exactly as received, with no editing. Additional questions and answers can be found on the Chamber's website at chamberbloomington.org/advocacy

1. How do you view the state of the county's revenue and financial situations and where can improvements be made?

2. What is the single most important issue you see that the Treasurer's office needs to address, and how will you resolve it?

3. What are your qualifications to serve as the treasurer of the county?



Jessica McClellan
Democrat

Monroe County Government is working hard to address challenges we continue to face from state and local funding sources to create a sustainable revenue stream for county operations. The Treasurer, as caretaker of county funds, holds critical information about the balance of our bank accounts. I will ensure that three key improvements are made. First, I will examine the process used to balance county accounts and strengthen the accountability of public spending. Second, as Treasurer I will create a new environment of collaborative communication and information sharing. Third, I have a thorough understanding of the property assessment formula and the implication of the assessment on tax bills. I will apply this knowledge to provide superior customer service to tax payers.

My goal is to earn the public's trust. There are a number of internal challenges faced in the Treasurer's Office that must be addressed before we can be successful in rebuilding the public's trust in local government. I am committed to improving the professionalism of the office. I will collaborate with local leaders and the Indiana County Treasurer's Association to improve staff training. I will insist on better quality control and transparency measures. I will foster a new culture of cooperation within our department to work with other departments on shared goals. I will focus on serving the public and being answerable to the public about financial information.

I am a deputy Assessor. I have in-depth understanding of the backbone of property taxes- assessed value. My daily work consists of meeting with taxpayers and evaluating their property to explain why their assessed value went up or down. I also work with the state to review reports and analyze data for compliance with professional standards. I work in collaboration with the Auditor and Treasurer to keep our data integrated and accurate. I have experience managing components of large projects in my previous role of Commissioner's Office Manager. I am honored to be a Hoosier Hills Food Bank board member and finance committee member. I take the role of tax collector very seriously and I will treat every taxpayer equally and with respect.

2016 Women Excel Bloomington Awards

Each year, seven women are recognized by the Chamber for their outstanding leadership in influencing the growth of others in the community or in their professional organization. These prestigious business leadership awards will be presented at the Women Excel Bloomington (WEB) Awards luncheon.

The ceremony takes place May 11 at Indiana University's Henke Hall of Champions inside Memorial Stadium. WEB attendees will hear a bit about the backgrounds of these remarkable women and what they mean to the local community. WEB winners serve as an inspiration, helping others to excel as they lead by example. They may be employed in either the business sector or a not-for-profit organization.

"Women Excel Bloomington awards are business awards that recognize dynamic leadership and mentorship at its best. The Bloomington area is rich with women who demonstrate these traits that drive success and make lasting differences in their workplaces and in our community," said Jeb Conrad, president and CEO of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations were due April 8 and the award winners will be profiled in an upcoming issue of BizNet. For more information about the awards and ceremony, please see chamberbloomington.org or call 812-336-6381. 



Last year's winners were, from left to right, Carol Weiss-Kennedy, Cindy Kinnarney, Jennie Vaughan, David Sabbagh accepting for Linda Simon, MaryFrances McCourt, Suzy Yeagley, Tina Peterson, and Kelly Frank. Courtesy photo.

CHAMBER VOICES

Continued from page 3

stakeholders together ensures the best opportunities for success in Bloomington and Monroe County.

We also congratulate our region on the Regional Opportunities Initiative grant. This \$42 million grant from the Lilly Endowment will provide resources and strategies for the future success of the region, including Bloomington and Monroe County.

Your Chamber is leading in 2016 and we thank our board of directors, committees and staff for driving excellence in our strategies. Thank you to all our members for all you do for the community! 

Spotlight: Hannah House

By Kasey Husk

Hannah House executive director Tina Tuley-Lampke was an expectant mom and full-time student seeking a master's degree in social work when one of her classes required her to imagine her dream program.

Tuley-Lampke—acutely aware of how much more difficult her own pregnancy would be without a supportive husband, financial resources and health insurance—envisioned a program that could step in to support pregnant women and new moms dealing with less-than-ideal situations,

especially homelessness.

“It gave me a heart for single moms and dads,” she said of her pregnancy. “I kept thinking, ‘I can’t imagine how they do this with one or two or three children and a partner who isn’t completely on board.’”

Just a few short years later, Tuley-Lampke’s vision became a reality with the opening of Hannah House, a maternity home that offers shelter, support and counseling to pregnant women and new mothers during some of the most challenging times of their lives. It is more than a place to live, she said. It is a place where women can change the course of their lives.

And the faith-based

organization does it all at no cost to the residents.

“We see Hannah House and the Hannah Center as a refuge,” she said. “It is a safe place where people can come and receive the help they need without worrying about how to pay for it.”

Hannah House is an offshoot of the Hannah Center, an extension of the center’s longstanding mission to help struggling pregnant women and families. Hannah Center—formerly known as the Crisis Pregnancy Center—was founded in 1986 and since then has provided free pregnancy tests, counseling, parenting classes, material support and much more to parents and families in crisis. The program, which changed its name last December as a reflection of the fact that it serves families well beyond pregnancy, can help parents with everything providing diapers to getting registered for Hoosier Healthwise insurance. It also helps connect clients



Hannah House is a maternity home that offers counseling and support to those in crisis situations. Photo by Jeremy Hogan.

with other resources in the community.

“A large percentage of our clients have a history of being abused as children or have been the victims of rape or domestic violence,” she said. “So a lot of times, the pregnancy is just sort of the starting point for really getting them surrounded with the services they need, either through here or through other agencies in the community.”

Hannah House, located at 808 N. College Ave., was founded in August 2000

as a response to a need in the community for a place for pregnant women experiencing homelessness to stay. While several other shelters already existed in the community, none of them were equipped to meet the unique needs of pregnant women or very young infants.

Hannah House is home to as many as eight pregnant women or new mothers at a time, all of whom are allowed to remain in the home for up to six months after their children are born.

During that time, residents are required to continue their education, as well as working with their case manager to get connected to the resources they need.

“All the women there are involved in at least 25 hours a week of education or vocational training,” Tuley-Lampke said. “They can have a part-time job, as long as school is going well.”

She added that educational efforts have been very successful. “We have over 98 percent success rate of getting

women and teens either back in school or enrolled in college.”

Contrary to the stereotype of crisis pregnancies happening mostly to teenagers, Hannah House has worked with women of all ages, ranging from 14 to 53 years old. Some have been women who dropped out of school after fifth grade, while others have held doctorates and were fleeing domestic violence. Others have faced prison or are struggling with drug addiction.

“We are not a shelter. We do shelter people, but we are a therapeutic program,” Tuley-Lampke said. “We are here for people who want a life change, who want to be healthier people. As long as they are saying, ‘I do want to give this a try, I want my life to be better and healthier,’ we try to give them a try.”

Most residents stay at Hannah House for about four months after the

SPOTLIGHT
continued on page 20

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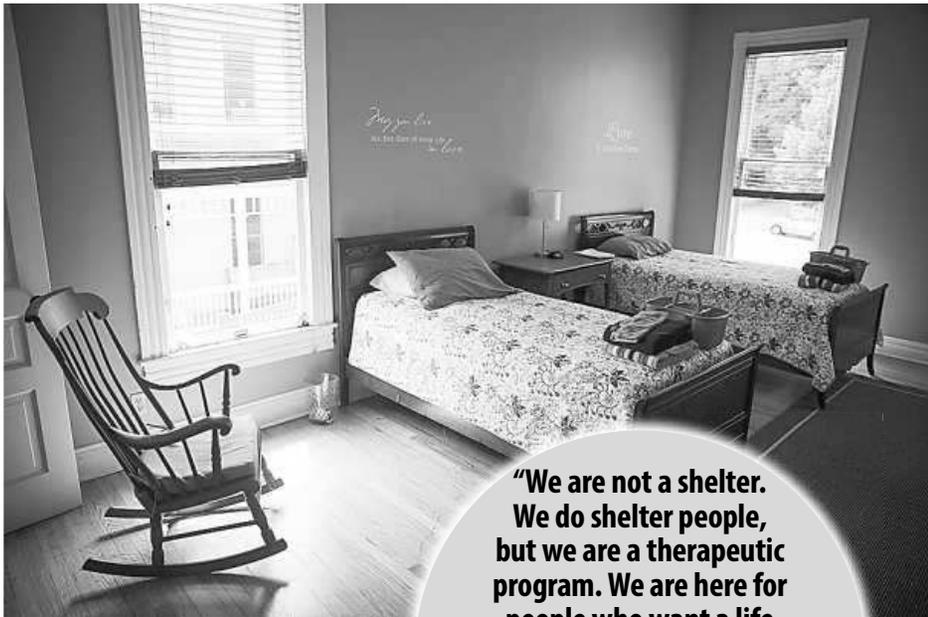


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In Hannah House rooms, visitors are greeted by positive sayings above the beds like "May you live all the days of your life in love," and "Love is spoken here." Photo by Jeremy Hogan.

"We are not a shelter. We do shelter people, but we are a therapeutic program. We are here for people who want a life change, who want to be healthier people."

**—Tina Tuley-Lampke,
executive director,
Hannah House**

learn skills, like cooking, that they will need when they move on to their own apartment.

"Monday through Friday we do a family-style dinner with everybody together," Tuley-Lampke said. "We put our cell phones in a basket, staff included, and eat dinner together."

"The way we express our love of life is by serving the moms and dads," she said.

"It is our job to make sure a mom and dad have all the resources they need to make the best choice for their baby."

Hannah House does not receive funding through Medicaid, something that Tuley-Lampke said she was warned it would be impossible to manage without. Instead, it is entirely privately funded—save for a few thousand dollars in grants over the years—by local individuals, businesses and churches in the community. Many of these organizations see supporting the program as a way of upholding the tenants of their faith, while other donors just feel passionately about supporting a program that cares for mothers and children beyond birth.

Hannah House/Hannah Center is a member of the Chamber. To learn more about membership, please visit ChamberBloomington.org. **B**

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 19

birth of their children, but former residents have access to their case managers for five years.

Tuley-Lampke said staff at Hannah House strives to provide a homey atmosphere. There is no chef or maid, and the women are expected to do their share of the chores. The home serves a little like a training ground for living on their own, as they



Congratulations to **Weddle Bros. Construction Co., Inc.** on their new location at 2182 W. Industrial Park Drive.

CHAMBER BRIEFS

Continued from page 5

received by Thursday, April 21 and will be delivered on Wednesday, May 4. To order kit visit bgcbloomington.org.

Tickets On Sale for PALS Event

People and Animal Learning Services, Inc. will hold the 12th Annual PALS Mane Event Friday, April 29 at 6 pm at Indiana University's Alumni Hall. Guests are invited to dress in their best Kentucky Derby attire. For more information email ManeEvent@palstherapy.org or call 812-336-2798, ext. 18.

Bloomington Postal Customer Seminar

Bloomington Postal Customer Council will hold its 2016 Spring Mailing Seminar Wednesday May 11 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Indiana University Alumni Center at 1000 E 17th. Topics include international mail, the USPS Small Business Tool and more. For more information or to register call John Butcher at 812-331-4228 or email jbutcher@heraldt.com.

Other

Crane Credit Union Expands Services

The members of Crane Credit Union voted to convert the financial institution's federal charter to a state charter. The new state charter enables Crane to have more flexible membership eligibility requirements, allowing the credit union to better serve its members. More information is available at cranecu.org.

Fastsigns Unveils New Website

Fastsigns of Bloomington launched a new responsive website with consultative search functions. Visitors can view a searchable photo gallery with thousands of in-action product images and create private ideabooks for inspiration. Customers' "My Account" dashboard provides pre-filled forms and online quote history. For more information visit fastsigns.com/2020.

CHAMBER BRIEFS

continued on page 21



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Franklin Initiative Update



April is a busy month for The Franklin Initiative. Spring brings preparations for the next Reality Store, helping with Lemonade Day activities, setting up an Employment Skills Fair for area high school students and pairing students with local businesses for a job shadow day on April 15. Let's dive in to a few of these volunteer opportunities.

The next Reality Store will be April 13 at Jackson Creek Middle School. For those of you unfamiliar with the program, the Reality Store is a simulation that helps students appreciate the realities of life and achieve a better understanding of personal finance. Prior to the activity, each student is assigned an educational level based on their GPA and the average salary of a 28-year-old working with that degree.

The students then visit sixteen stations—staffed by our volunteers—to determine how to spend their salaries and make ends meet, budgeting for transportation, housing, clothes, food and so on. This

volunteer opportunity enlightens students and encourages them to consider extending their educational career.

Shift times for volunteers are from 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., with breakfast provided, and noon to 2:45 p.m., with lunch provided. To sign up please contact Franklin Initiative program associate Jacob Summer at jsummer@chamberbloomington.org.

In other Franklin Initiative news, Lemonade Day will be held on May 21. This is a community-based program dedicated to teaching children how to start, own and operate their own business using the time-tested model of a lemonade stand.

Hundreds of children participate in lemonade day each year. The program is free and the kids get to keep all of the money they earn. To register your child, visit Bloomington.LemonadeDay.org. Contact Bloomington's Lemonade Day city director, Amy Swain, at lemonadeday@bgcbloomington.org for more information on volunteering

or hosting a lemonade stand outside of your business.

The Employment Skills Fair for area high school juniors and seniors is also coming up. Students will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from local employers, practice interview skills and speak with HR representatives about how to navigate the path to employment. The following sponsors make this opportunity possible: Holiday Inn, Ivy Tech Community College, Wal-Mart, Bloomington Ford, CFC Properties, G.E. Appliances, and John Bethell Title Company.

For more information on any of these programs and The Franklin Initiative, please contact Kelsie Holt, director of talent, education and workforce, at kholt@chamberbloomington.org or 812-336-6381.

The Reality Store is a product of INFBPW/Indiana Women's Education Foundation, Inc. and any future use requires prior notification at 765-345-9812 or bpwin@msn.com.



Courtesy photo.

CHAMBER BRIEFS

Continued from page 20

Davis Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

J. Blue Davis is pleased to announce the fifth anniversary of being an owner/operator in private dental practice in Bloomington. Davis, a 2005 graduate of the IU School of Dentistry, continues to enjoy serving and being a part of the Bloomington community. The practice can be reached at dentalwellness.com or 812-339-3427.

Part-Time Jobs Fair

Join the Career Development Center for the summer part-time jobs fair Tuesday, April 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Indiana Memorial Union-Alumni Hall. To maximize your

recruiting efforts with IU students—the largest labor pool in Bloomington—please email Nick Bragin at nbragin@indiana.edu.

Tomaro Launches Live Radio Show

Award-winning Bloomington Remax real estate agent Deb Tomaro will be launching a live radio show weekly on VoiceAmerica Radio. Tune in to the Variety Channel for Deb Tomaro's Real Real Estate Show Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at voiceamerica.com or download episodes from iTunes.

Cairril.com Launches New Services and Site

Cairril.com has rolled out two new services to boost clients' efficiency

and profitability. Cairril.com Design & Marketing is refocused on branding, graphic design and web development. Cairril.com Project Management shepherds projects for software, architecture and customer service. Cairril.com Business Consulting helps organizations overcome communication breakdowns. More information is available at cairril.com.

Realtor Association Expands Jurisdiction

The Bloomington Board of Realtors application to the National Association of Realtors to expand its current jurisdiction of Monroe County and Owen County to include nearby Greene County was recently approved. Research found

it was a natural progression for expansion and inclusion. Find more information at homefinder.org.

LifeDesigns Announces Crawford II

LifeDesigns received low income housing tax credits for Crawford II, which will further reduce costs for the city of Bloomington in the areas of emergency room use, incarcerations and uninsured medical expenses. It will provide homes for 35 people experiencing chronic homelessness in Bloomington. More information is available at lifedesignsinc.org.



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The Nuts and Bolts of

By Kasey Husk

Proponents of Interstate 69 have long predicted the highway—when completed—would be an economic boon to Indiana, paving the way for new businesses and industries in the area.

For local contractors, it already has.

The 142-mile, multi-year, multi-billion dollar project has meant plenty of opportunity for businesses involved in every facet of the construction industry—from preliminary environmental studies to paving the finished product. In some cases, that's even translated into hiring more staff or expanding field offices.

"It was important, very important to us," said David

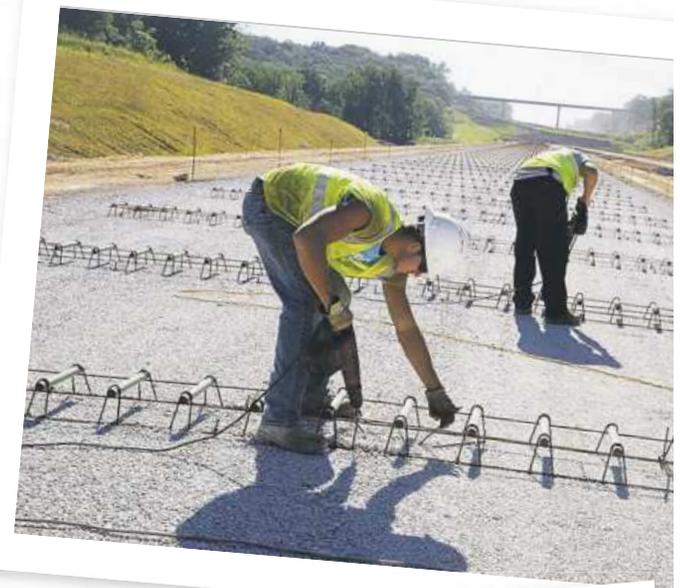
Goffinet, Evansville branch manager for Lochmueller Group. "We've been in existence since 1980, and we have worked on many, many projects at this point, but this was the biggest endeavor we ever had the opportunity to work on."

When completed, the I-69 project will ultimately have cost in the neighborhood of \$3 billion dollars, which Hoosier Voices for I-69 executive director Anne Bono said presents a great opportunity for local subcontractors involved with the project. The sheer length of the project has also meant for steady work for those contractors over a long period.

"You have to expect that the local businesses that are subcontractors and working with the I-69 partners are making a significant amount



Above: A worker cuts pavement on Ind. 37 as part of I-69 construction north of Bloomington. Photo by Jeremy Hogan. **Right:** Gary Rodman, left, and Seth Marian prepare a lane of I-69 West of Breeden Road to be paved during construction in July 2015. Photo by Jeremy Hogan. **Below:** This aerial photo shows I-69 construction between Crane Naval base and Highway 37 near Bloomington in July of 2013. Photo by Chris Howell.



Anne Bono, executive director, Hoosier Voices for I-69 and director of advocacy and public policy, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. Courtesy photo.

of money," said Bono, who is also the director of advocacy and public policy for the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. "It's really helping our local business."

Just as important has been the timing of I-69, construction on which began during a time when the economic downturn and housing crisis was affecting the construction industry badly.

Goffinet said building the road "meant so much throughout the Midwest and especially here in our state, especially here in our contractor world," because it created work for a variety of contractors, including consulting firms like Lochmueller Group and the businesses that hauled dirt, paved roads, built bridges and more.

"It was a major shot in the arm in a really rough stretch in our country's history with the economic downturn and recession," Goffinet said. "That was big."

Lochmueller Group has worked on environmental studies for the I-69 project off and on over the course of many years, Goffinet

NUTS AND BOLTS
continued on page 23



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NUTS AND BOLTS

Continued from page 22

said. It was chosen to conduct the first phase of the environmental studies—called Tier 1—and then was hired as program managing consultant to oversee the consulting firms that conducted Tier 2 environmental studies on each of the six sections of the interstate.

For E&B Paving, the project has led to the company's expansion to Bloomington "just as a result of having so much work down there," said business development manager Kevin Kruckeberg.

E&B Paving is part of the development team currently responsible for Section 5 of the interstate—which runs from Bloomington to Martinsville—and was the prime contractor for eight miles of Section 4, running from Crane to Bloomington. It also worked with other contractors on earlier sections of the road.

The firm ended up purchasing the Bloomington assets of contractor Dave O'Mara, acquiring an office and staff in Bloomington and four asphalt plants in the city and one in Martinsville. The company also hired a new manager and relocated staff for its new Bloomington office.

"It is serving as our presence in the Bloomington area for much longer than the duration of the [I-69] project," Kruckeberg said. "We're going to continue operations in the Bloomington area and southwest Indiana."

Since moving to the area, Kruckeberg said, E&B has picked up work with the City of Bloomington, Indiana University and the surrounding counties.

"It has led into other opportunities for us," he said.

Of course, the construction has not been without its challenges, much of which can be attributed to unique nature and sheer scope of the project. Construction of the interstate system began in the 1950s and was "more or less finished" by the 1970s, according to

"You have to expect that the local businesses that are subcontractors and working with the I-69 partners are making a significant amount of money. It's really helping our local business."

—Anne Bono, executive director, Hoosier Voices for I-69 and director of advocacy and public policy, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

Goffinet. It is rare to see a new interstate created on previously untouched land, but that was exactly what was required for 94 of the project's 142 miles.

Across that distance, Goffinet said, Indiana threw "pretty much every geologic feature that the Midwest has to offer" at planners and workers.

Workers had to cope with impacts from coal and natural gas, karst terrain, wetlands, farm land and more. Some areas would have a soft sand base, others clay and still others limestone.

Kruckeberg said section 5 is a little easier because it is traveling along the existing IN-37 corridor, but agreed that terrain differences were a challenge

on earlier sections, making it "a little different than working everywhere else." Environmental concerns were a top concern, Kruckeberg said, such as making sure karst features were not being disturbed by the construction.

Still, Goffinet and Kruckeberg are both proud to have had an impact on a project they predict will have

a profound effect on Indiana well into the future.

Kruckeberg said the highway, which will run from Canada to Mexico, adds to Indiana's reputation as the crossroads of America. He expects to see what he calls "extreme growth" all the way from Bloomington to Evansville, especially with more business parks that want to have logistical hubs

along a major thoroughfare.

Likewise, Goffinet said, it is hard to understate the importance of the highway in adding to Indiana's transportation capabilities. The state's highway

Left: Karst terrain, shown in this 2013 photo of the I-69 route, was one of the geologic features Lochmueller Group considered in its plans. Karst topography is formed when soluble rocks dissolve and is characterized by sinkholes and caves. **Below:** In this photo from 2012, land is for a connecting road to I-69. Highway construction gave a business boost to many businesses involved with clearing, construction and paving. Photo by David Snodgrass.

networks now run north and south, east and west and connect with ports on the Ohio River, another major freight transportation mode.

"The capacity of Indiana to serve the freight needs of this country—it's the best circumstance you could ever be in from that standpoint," he said.

Goffinet summed it up boldly.

"I think I could argue quite convincingly that this single facility may be the single most significant statewide investment that we've ever made when it comes to a transportation investment in my generation." **B**



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