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A Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Publication

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Above: The Ground Floor is a teen center at the Monroe County Public Library. Photo courtesy MCPL. **Right:** Adam Stichter and Maggie Farwig plan a video project in the digital creation lab. Photo by David Snodgrass.

Spotlight: Monroe County Public Library

By Kasey Husk

As executive director of the Monroe County Public Library, Marilyn Wood spends a lot of time talking to a lot of different people about what the library has to offer.

During these conversations, the feedback is almost always the same.

“There is rarely a time when I don’t hear, ‘I didn’t know the library did that!’” said Wood, the library’s leader for the past two years.

For many, the word “library”

conjures up an image of a warehouse of books, Wood said. But today’s libraries have found they need to evolve to meet the growing needs of the community, and the nearly 200-year-old Monroe

County Public Library is no exception. The result is a vast and ever-changing slate of programs, resources and more — available right in the heart of Bloomington’s downtown and at its branch location in Ellettsville — all free of charge.

“In this age of fake news, we are people who can help you find the real stuff.”

— Marilyn Wood, executive director



Coming in May: What’s brewing?

See what’s new in local brew — beer, wine, spirits and coffee.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

12 hYPE Game Night

19 Primetime Business in a Briefcase and Business After Hours and BBQ Cook-Off



SPOTLIGHT
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on page 7

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.

Chamber Day at the Statehouse

On March 14, Chamber staff attended the 2017 Chamber Day at the Statehouse, along with dozens of other Chambers from around the state. Speakers at the event included Governor Eric Holcomb, Representative Brian Bosma, Senator Luke Kenley, and Secretary of State Connie Lawson.

Save the Date: 2017 D.C. Fly-in

Wednesday, Sept. 27 and Thursday, Sept. 28
Join your fellow business leaders for the



Chamber members and staff join Representative Jeff Ellington at the Indiana Chamber Executives Association's annual Chamber Day at the Statehouse. Courtesy photo.

Indiana Chamber's Annual Washington D.C. Fly-in. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your lawmakers and promote the critical interests affecting your company before the Indiana congressional delegation. By participating, you will build important relationships while giving voice to the Indiana business community's concerns on important federal issues.

New City Trash Plan

The city council approved a more modernized sanitation system for city residents to replace the current sticker operation. Last year the city formed the Sanitation Modernization Advisory Committee to evaluate current operations and determine an automated method for solid waste. The new operation will offer

weekly trash and recycling pick-up. All residents will receive a 64-gallon recycling cart and select a 96-gallon, 64-gallon, or 35-gallon cart for solid waste. Solid waste and sanitation charges will be added to residents' utility bills. Monthly costs will range from \$4.82 to \$18.52.

Annexation

In February the mayor proposed annexing seven

areas of Monroe County, which would add almost 10,000 acres and increase the city's population by 15,000. Area 1 has now been split into three areas. At the March 29 city council meeting, council members voted down Area 6 after residents submitted a petition stating they would remonstrate if annexed. Any areas approved will not be part of the city until 2020.

The city will hold a public hearing on May 31, 2017, on the proposed areas. The City Council will consider adoption of the ordinances on June 28, 2017. For more information and to see the maps of the proposed areas, please visit bloomington.in.gov/annex.

2017 General Assembly

The Indiana General Assembly started its 2017 session with more than 1,000 bills filed. The budget will be the top priority, but lawmakers are focusing on a range of other issues

including pre-k expansion, transportation, local government, taxes and energy. The Chamber's Legislative Council reviewed the bills to identify those that may be of significance to Chamber members. As the session continues, we will post updates on the advocacy portion of chamberbloomington.org. Below are a few bills the Chamber is currently following. To see the full list please visit our website.

HB 1001: State Biennial Budget

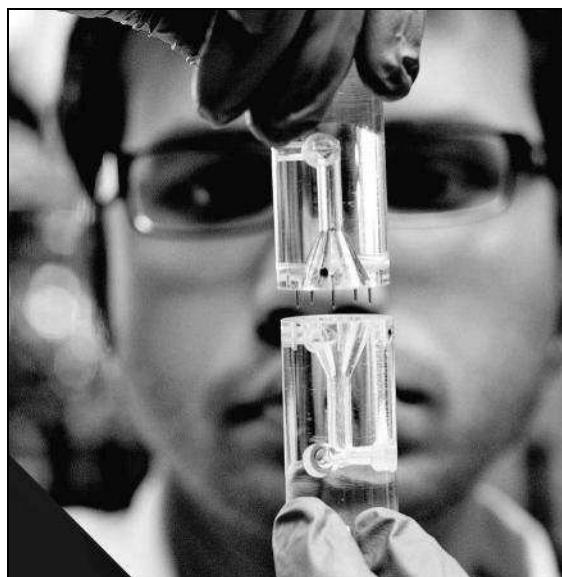
This bill appropriates money for capital expenditures, the operations of the state, delivery of Medicaid and other series, and K-12 and higher education.

A few highlights of the \$32.14 billion budget package include:

-A 1.7 percent increase each year in K-12 education funding – \$348 million over the biennium

ADVOCACY UPDATE

continued on page 15



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Innovate Indiana is bringing the discoveries of IU researchers out of the lab and into the marketplace. That means more cures, more businesses, and more lives changed—making a stronger Indiana for all of us.

Learn how IU makes Indiana stronger at go.iu.edu/innovatebiznet.



INNOVATE INDIANA

Have questions about Chamber advocacy?

Contact Anne Bono
812-336-6381
abono@ChamberBloomington.org

Spring Brings Opportunity



Jeb Conrad. Courtesy photo.

Spring is officially upon us, which means college basketball reaches its pinnacle, Major League Baseball kicks off and school spring breaks are complete. It's a great time of year to explore our community and visit our local businesses!

Your Chamber is following many issues that could potentially impact our membership and the business community. As you are aware, the most-discussed current topic centers around the City of Bloomington's proposal for annexation to expand the borders of the city limits.

This is, and will be, a heavily-discussed and emotional issue. The Chamber has been following this proposal closely and continues to research impacts to the business community and on local government. Expanding the city limits is an opportunity to debate how our community is positioned for tomorrow's economy, workforce access and quality of life. We will keep our members up to date as we analyze the impacts and we have a web page dedicated to providing the business community with this analysis at chamberbloomington.org.

We also thank our members who were able to join our staff and chambers from around our state for the Indiana Chamber Executives Association Legislative Drive in Day. Our Chamber continues to track key legislation that could impact us, including advocating for key issues of importance in our legislative agenda. The Advocacy Update in this issue of BizNet gives more detail.

Spring also launches the Chamber into our busy event and program schedule.

We hope to see you all at our April 19 Primetime Business After Hours, where we will showcase not only many of our new members, but also many of our existing members — including our local Bar-B-Que experts. Read more in this issue of BizNet.

It seems appropriate that we are also opening nominations for our Women Excel Bloomington Awards this month. Our Chamber recognizes the contributions and impacts our local women leaders have on our community and encourages nominations to highlight some of those women. Mark down May 24 for the WEB Awards Luncheon, which will feature Teri Moren, IU women's basketball coach, as our speaker.

Another Chamber event that offers the perfect way to network and interact with our partners is our annual golf outing. This year's event will be held at the Bloomington Country Club June 8.

The Chamber expects to be faced with many changes, challenges and opportunities to serve as

the voice of business in Bloomington and Monroe County. With support and guidance from our members, board of directors and quality staff, you can count on your Chamber to keep you informed, up to date and engaged in issues impacting our community and the business environment and our community.

We support our tag line, "Better business. Better community." We look forward to working with our community leaders for continued success in making greater Bloomington an even greater place to live, work, play and do business.



"Expanding the city limits is an opportunity to debate how our community is positioned for tomorrow's economy, workforce access and quality of life."



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

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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.

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Happy Spring, hYPers!

We are honored to announce that hYPe has been selected for a Downtown Promotion Award from Downtown Bloomington, Inc. DBI is a leader in creating a vibrant atmosphere downtown and their vision is what everyone would want for their community — a safe, welcoming environment, an active and exciting place for businesses and their employees and a cultural



center for our community. hYPe is thrilled to be a part of promoting our downtown and sharing the excitement with young professionals. We are grateful to receive this recognition and invite you to celebrate with us April 6 at 5 p.m. at DBI's annual meeting at the Monroe Convention Center.

Also this month, we're excited to host a game night April 12 from 5:30 to 7:30

p.m. at Bluetip Billiards. We're bringing other games to play as well, so bring your friends for an old-school game night! Thank you to Bluetip Billiards for hosting our group.

In May, hYPe is planning our second Bring Your Boss luncheon. We want to give young professionals the opportunity to take their boss to lunch — on us — and create a space for networking with high-level executives in Bloomington with a focus on mentoring



hYPers network at a recent event. Courtesy photo.

and learning. This year, the Bring Your Boss luncheon will be held Thursday, May 11 at the DeVault Alumni Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This free event will also feature a panel

discussion regarding talent attraction and retention for Bloomington. Panelists include Pete Yonkman, president of Cook Group, and Natalia Rayzor, employee development

officer at the IU Credit Union.

To learn more about hYPe and sign up for our email list, please visit chamberbloomington.org/hype. 

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Contact: Holly Davis
812-275-7555 

New Hires and Promotions

Acting Director for City Department

Frank Sabatine will serve as acting director for the City of Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department while a national search for a new director is underway. Sabatine served as associate vice president of economic development at Ball State University from 2007 until his retirement in 2013.

Riker and Roddye Join Firm

Cheyenne N. Riker and Justin D. Roddye have joined Clendening Johnson & Bohrer, P.C. as Associate Attorneys. Riker previously worked as an attorney in Northwest Indiana and Roddye previously worked as an attorney in Tennessee and served as a Deputy Prosecutor with the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office.

Gormal is Senior Director of Operations

CarDon & Associates has named Gregg Gormal its senior director of operations. In this role, Gormal will oversee daily operations for all the company's communities across the state of Indiana, including financial and clinical outcomes, acquisitions and development, marketing, human resources, regulatory issues and workforce development.

Bloomington SCORE Members

The local SCORE chapter announces the addition of three new members with various fields of expertise: Han Tun — Kelley School of Business, information technology and systems, entrepreneurship; Kyle Vest — retail store management, financial advisor, military veteran, intelligence support; Tom Zoss — business, law, communications, for-profit and nonprofit leadership, fundraising.

FMCCS New Board Members

The Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools welcomes the following new board members: Steve Bishop of German American Bank, Anna Hazinski of Solution Tree, Nancy Goswami, a medical professional, Kim Rohlfing of Cook Group and Janet Stake, a retired educator.



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Elaine's Cleaning Service Corp. is a commercial cleaning company that has been providing service to our clients for more than 26 years. Currently we service 16 locations and offices in Bloomington. If you care to check our work, visit the Uptown Building, Wick's Building or Fountain Square Mall in downtown Bloomington. We are a service company that focuses on our clients' needs immediately, not a week later. We care. Contact us at 812-876-4193 or visit ethomsen852@yahoo.com.



Harmony Gardens is the Bloomington-based landscape service born out of the experience and passions of Zac Simpkins and Kathleen Anderson-Nekola. It is our goal to help establish and sustain low maintenance and dynamic landscapes that beautify your home. Whether you are looking for particular plants, advice, or professional help designing and caring for your property, we are there to help from beginning to end. Visit harmonyplants.com.

Supporting Students

April is a busy month for The Franklin Initiative! We have several programs for students in Monroe County, including mock interviews and a day of job shadowing for the freshman students participating in the Preparing for College and Careers class at the Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship. Our Mock Interviews Program provides students with an opportunity to practice their interviewing skills in a safe, supportive environment with a business professional and allows students to receive feedback for future interviews. This program will be held April 13 at The Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship.

Our Job Shadow program allows high school students the chance to explore careers by observing and interacting with people on the job. We match high school freshman with professionals from local organizations with careers in which the students have an interest. The Job Shadow Day will be held April 21.

If your business would like to host a high school student for job shadowing, or if your employees would

like to volunteer for any of these programs, please contact our Franklin Initiative program associate, Jacob Summer, at jsummer@chamberbloomington.org for more information. Your support is critical for our students as they learn the soft skills needed for their future careers.

Also this month, we are hosting the annual Employment and Job Skills Fair for high school juniors and seniors April 18 at Hoosier Energy. Students will have the opportunity to talk to a wide variety of local organizations about careers in their businesses. Through this experience, students are given the opportunity to make connections for potential summer jobs, internships and volunteering opportunities.

HR professionals are also on hand to give students helpful information on interviewing, resume writing and the impact of social media on the hiring process. Thank you to our sponsors for making this event possible — Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc., the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, Ivy



Tech Community College Bloomington, JP Morgan Chase Bank, Hoosier Energy, John Bethell Title Company, Rogers Group, TASUS and Building Associates.

The Franklin Initiative is also excited to support Lemonade Day Monroe County. Lemonade Day is a free youth program that teaches kids how to start, own and operate their own businesses using the time-tested model of a lemonade stand. Participants are taught how to create a budget, set profit-making goals, serve customers, repay investors and give back to the community. They keep the money they make and are encouraged to spend some, save some and share some of their profits. Businesses and organizations throughout Monroe County will be hosting stands and donning shades of yellow to show their support. Sign up for Lemonade Day and learn more at LemonadeDay.org/Monroe-County.





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Women Excel Bloomington

It's time for the 8th Annual Women Excel Bloomington (WEB) Awards! The Chamber is currently accepting nominations for women in the Bloomington area who demonstrate outstanding leadership in influencing the growth of others in the community or in their professional organization.

“The Women Excel Bloomington awards recognize outstanding leadership and community engagement.”

We are fortunate to live in a community filled with dedicated women who share their talents in many ways,” said Jeb Conrad, president and CEO of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. “We encourage all who work or volunteer alongside these individuals to nominate them for a 2017 WEB award.”

The WEB Awards will be held Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at the Henke Hall of Champions on the north side of Memorial Stadium. Teri Moren, the head coach of the IU women's basketball team, will be the guest speaker.

Nominations may be made electronically at chamberbloomington.org. A nomination form is available on the website or by calling 812-336-6381. All nominations, electronic or printed, must be submitted by Friday, April 14, 2017 at 4 p.m.



Seven women were 2016 Women Excel Bloomington award winners. Top row, left to right: Kathy Romy, Lesley Bolton, Kerry Thomson, Sue West. Bottom row, left to right: Valerie Peña, Sue Talbot, Joyce Poling. Courtesy photo.



The Value of Volunteering

How local businesses contribute to the community through volunteerism

By Holly Thrasher

According to Bet Savich, director of the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network, workplace volunteerism makes good sense.

“When corporations make community involvement a priority,” she said, “Everybody benefits.”

Savich would know; she is one-half of the staff responsible for the Bloomington Volunteer Network. Part of the government of the city of Bloomington, the Volunteer Network aims to “build a strong, healthy and engaged community by connecting volunteers of all ages with opportunities to serve and by providing resources

to volunteers and agencies in order to build creative and effective volunteer projects, programs and partnerships.”

The word “volunteer” might conjure images of intense and dramatic work:

arranging sandbags, providing first aid or raising a roof in the blistering heat. But Savich insisted that volunteerism doesn’t have to take a lot of time, and can easily be incorporated into any work environment. Small, at-work initiatives could include a blood drive, food drive, or school supply collection.

The Bloomington Volunteer Network provides a database of needs for community organizations, and a visit to their website, bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org, can help you find the project that works best for your team. Individuals and businesses can also subscribe to their weekly e-newsletter, which contains

timely updates about ways to support community organizations.

Individuals and businesses can also visit the opportunity calendar at bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org/calendar to find volunteer opportunities that require no more than one day’s commitment: marketing, writing, information technology, event management, multimedia projects and other special activities that can make use of employees’ professional skills without requiring much of their time.

Savich cautioned business leaders to engage employees in volunteer work only if the business is willing to both motivate and support their volunteer efforts.

Helping area organizations can lead to increased morale and job satisfaction, but institutional support is critical to these outcomes. While it can be hugely impactful to shut down a business for one day so all employees can volunteer “on the ground,” not all companies have the flexibility to do this.

Some, though, such as Hanapin Marketing, have dedicated one day per year to serving the community. For two consecutive Martin Luther King Jr. holidays, the company spent an entire work day supporting Wheeler Mission Ministries, the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, Stone Belt, Hoosier Hills Food Bank and the Indiana Veterans’ Home in West Lafayette. Beyond this dedicated day of service, Hanapin Marketing also offers each of

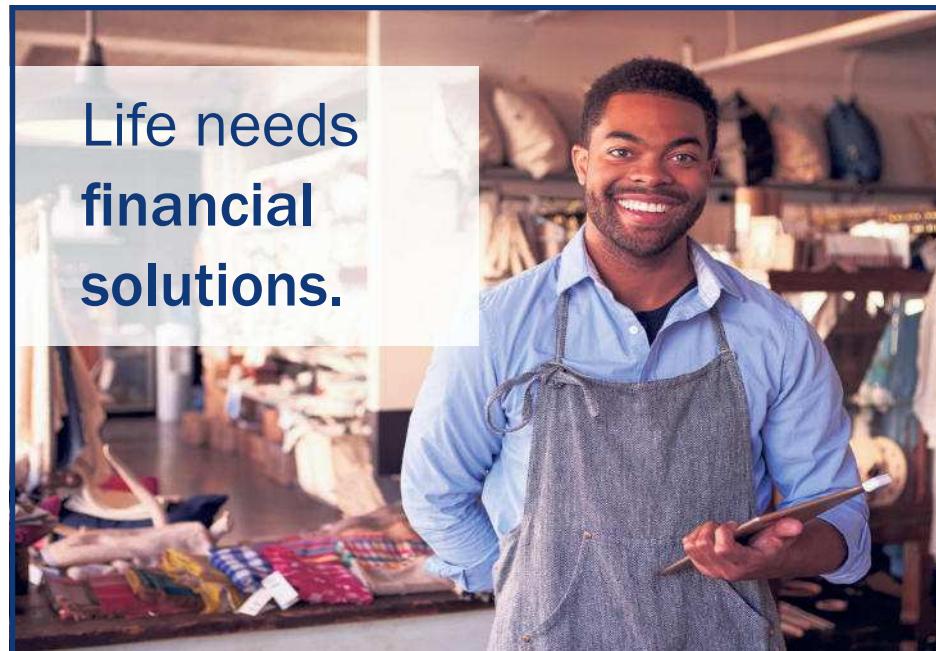
“When corporations make community involvement a priority, everybody benefits.”

—Bet Savich



Bet Savich is the director of the Volunteer Network. Photo by David Snodgrass.

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its employees up to eight hours of paid volunteer time annually. In 2017, employees will support Area 10 Agency on Aging, Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army.

The First Step

No matter how much time a business can commit to volunteer efforts, Savich suggests the following approach: “Learn about our community’s organizations and contact one or two that you want to support. Discuss with them what ways they could engage your organization in skilled or pro bono service. In this way you can use your skills and talents to further their mission and build their capacity to serve both their clients and our community in meaningful and effective ways.”

And regardless of what your collaboration looks like, Savich said, don’t forget to tell employees about the good work that is happening. On websites, and in newsletters and other corporate communications, highlight the volunteer efforts of your staff.

“Reward and recognize employees for their extraordinary community service,” advised Savich.

“This not only elevates employees who have made significant contributions to their community, but it also motivates their colleagues to do the same.”

Indeed, when a business or organization encourages employees to participate in local volunteer work, the benefits reach multiple audiences. A business can enjoy enhanced visibility, improved public perception, increased consumer loyalty and the team-building benefits inherent to volunteer work, which serve as

a boon to the work environment. Employees often experience improved attitude and job satisfaction, as well as enhanced teamwork and leadership skills.

“They get a break from the norm — a chance to do things in ways they don’t normally get to do them. They value the fact that they have a way to demonstrate their values and passions through their job,” said Savich.

Good Business Sense

Volunteerism is critically important to Old National Bank, according to region president Scott Shishman.

“Our cash is just as green as our competitors,” Shishman said. “In order to differentiate ourselves, we need to get involved in the community.”

He added that while this makes good business sense, it is simply the right thing to do.

“We gain so much benefit from the Bloomington community, we are obligated to give back through volunteerism ... Bloomington businesses possess a tremendous amount of talent that volunteers. This talent is crucial to helping Bloomington become a great place to live.”

Old National Bank gives its employees up to 24 hours of paid time off each year for volunteer work; in 2016, area Old National employees logged more than 6500 hours of volunteer

time. One of the company’s largest volunteer endeavors, familiar to many readers, is Bloomington 100 Men Who Cook. For the last six years, this event has raised more than half a million dollars for several non-profit organizations. The 2017 beneficiary is Indiana University Health Children’s Therapy Center, which provides comprehensive pediatric rehabilitation services such as occupational and speech-language therapy for children of all ages.

Shishman explained that the majority of volunteer time donated by Old National Bank employees happens on the day of the 100 Men Who Cook event. Company volunteers do nearly every essential task for this event: they set up, decorate, load and unload vehicles, assist the chefs and provide guest services.

“Old National Bank won an American Bankers Association Foundation Community Commitment Award in 2016 for this ongoing program — one of many Old National does under its corporate social responsibility banner,” Shishman said.

Beyond the benefits to volunteers, there are of course the direct results from the volunteer work itself. Charitable organizations and local nonprofits rely on local volunteers, many of them from businesses, to conduct day-to-day operations. Such efforts can improve

“We gain so much benefit from the Bloomington community, we are obligated to give back through volunteerism.”

—Scott Shishman, regional president, Old National Bank

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VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

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COMMUNITY



A volunteer helps children at The Boys and Girls Club career day. Courtesy photo.



Carmen Pike, Valynda Laird, Mary Albanese and Christine Carver work together to shovel mulch onto tarps for transport around the park as volunteers from Indiana University Health. Photo by Chris Howell.



A Solution Tree employee volunteers at The Rise. Courtesy photo.



Old National Bank employees volunteer at a Habitat For Humanity build site. Courtesy photo.

VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

Continued from page 8

the level and quality of their services, create direct cost savings, provide social impact for both the volunteers and service recipients, and strengthen relationships between service organizations and the larger business community.

Savich noted, “When you bring business people into the nonprofit sector, they use their connections and spheres of influence for the greater good.”

A Crucial Role

Leaders at two local not-for-profit organizations, Volunteers in Medicine and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), insist that volunteer involvement is critical to their success — and demonstrate that when employers give their staff time to volunteer, priceless partnerships can be forged.

Nancy Richman, executive director of Volunteers in Medicine, noted that some of the same volunteers who helped VIM when it opened ten years ago are still involved with the organization. Other Indiana University students have come to help for an academic year and continued to volunteer throughout their time at IU. And many of the volunteers remain in touch with VIM, even years after their volunteer days have ended.

“Over the past ten years, VIM has had the pleasure of hosting lay volunteers from a number of businesses, in particular, Boston Scientific, Baxter and Cook Group,” Richman said. “These volunteers provide essential services such as patient registration

and scheduling, medical records and data entry. Our medical volunteers come to us from Premier Healthcare, IU Health Bloomington Hospital, the IU Student Health Center and many dental, pharmacy, and clinical volunteers from private practices in the community.”

In addition to day-to-day work force assistance, Volunteers in Medicine also receives in-kind support from local companies including Smithville Communications, Probleu, CFC Properties and Shredding Unlimited.

Kristin Bishay, executive director of Monroe County CASA, explained that while a large part of their volunteer base comes the retired population, the most important factor in successful recruiting is a

flexible schedule.

“The majority of our volunteers are retired,” Bishay said. “A volunteer needs flexibility in their job to be an effective CASA. We always encourage an employee to speak with their employer about what they are doing ... It’s the flexibility that matters.”

When it comes to recruiting volunteers from area businesses, Bishay said, “We find that educating the employer is the best first step.”

Both Bishay and Richman believe that when businesses have a clear

“Over the past ten years, VIM has had the pleasure of hosting lay volunteers from a number of businesses. These volunteers provide essential services.”

—Nancy Richman, executive director, Volunteers in Medicine

understanding of what their organizations do and the diverse volunteer options they offer, employers are more likely to encourage staff members to volunteer for them. Volunteers in Medicine, CASA and

VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

continued on page 10

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VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

Continued from page 9

other local organizations often send staff members to meet with teams of employees about group volunteer opportunities.

Naturally, different organizations seek different skill sets among their volunteers. For example, Volunteers in Medicine is currently looking for volunteers who fluently speak languages other than English. CASA requires a thorough application process, including a background check, for each of their volunteers, in addition to rigorous training and mentoring procedures.

Heart and Soul

Most people who participate in volunteer work probably don't do it for the praise — although that doesn't stop organizations from expressing it. Every November, Volunteers in Medicine publishes a thank-you ad in The Herald-Times and Richman notes that there are a number of plaques, signs, and other public declarations of VIM appreciation for their essential volunteers.

“Perhaps even more importantly,” added Richman, “is how we treat volunteers at the clinic. Our volunteers are thanked every day, every shift, and treated with respect and kindness. The heart and soul of the VIM clinic is in our employees and volunteers, and we make sure they know how grateful we are.”

Bishay said that in addition to an annual celebration luncheon, CASA often sends birthday cards and thank-you notes to the volunteers who help keep the organization running. The CASA website also features a volunteer of the month section, where people can learn a little more about the hardworking folks who give their time and hard work to such a demanding cause.

Savich reiterated the importance of internal company recognition for staff members who volunteer in the community.

“Celebrate your employees,” she said. “Reward and recognize employees for their extraordinary community service. This not only elevates employees who have made significant contributions to their community, but it also motivates their colleagues to do the same.”



Dr. Jhondra Funk, a veterinarian at Bloomington Veterinary Hospital, volunteers at a new clinic operated by the Monroe County Humane Association. She talks about tests and medications as Julie Gray, also a volunteer, holds Nola. Photo by David Snodgrass.

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Pam Willis Joins the Chamber



Pam Willis. Courtesy photo.

The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome Pam Willis to the team. Pam has been named the new director of finance and operations.

Among her duties, Pam will be responsible for managing all aspects of the Chamber and the Chamber's Foundation finances and day-to-day operations. She will serve as the office manager in addition to various financial duties.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Pam spent sixteen years working for UPC Insurance in St. Petersburg, Fla. She served in multiple roles with the company, ultimately as the senior treasury analyst for the organization before returning to her home state of

Indiana in early 2017.

"We are pleased to have Pam join our team at the Chamber. She brings a great deal of experience and knowledge to the position," said Jeb Conrad, president and CEO of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.

Pam replaces Heather Robinson, who left the Chamber to accept a position with the Bloomington Hospital Foundation. 

Join us for Primetime!

Have you marked your calendar for Wednesday, April 19? Do you have your booth reserved for Primetime? Are you ready for some great food, including a fun barbecue competition?

We will have it all at the Chamber's annual Primetime Business in a Briefcase and Barbecue Cook-off!

Primetime is a great opportunity to not only meet other Chamber members and their businesses but also show off some of your business' products and services. Chamber members can set up a display table, bring information about their business and network with Primetime exhibitors and attendees. In 2016, Primetime featured more than 60 different local businesses, and more than 400 Chamber and community members visited Primetime. Primetime is a community event — anyone can attend, at no cost.

Of course, one of the highlights of Primetime is our Barbecue Cook-off. We invite several local barbecue teams and restaurants to share samples of pulled pork, chicken, ribs and brisket with Primetime attendees. Judges award the barbecue teams with a variety of honors at Primetime, so you know the barbecue will be wonderful. Primetime will be part of the Chamber's monthly Business After Hours networking event.

This year's Primetime Business in a Briefcase and Barbecue Cook-off will be held Wednesday, April 19 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Chamber members may purchase a half table space (four feet) for \$100 or a full table (eight feet) for \$200. Chamber members who have joined since July 2016 are eligible for a complimentary half or full table for \$100. If you have been considering joining the Chamber, now is the time! Primetime is a perfect opportunity to meet other Chamber members and share your business.

For more information about Primetime, and to reserve your table space, please call 812-336-6381 or email info@ChamberBloomington.org. Please visit chamberbloomington.org and click events to register. 

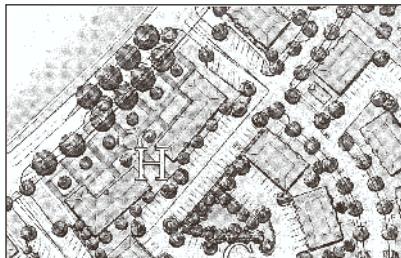


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The Chamber is excited to welcome Allison Allen and her State Farm Agency to Bloomington's east side. Allison can meet all your insurance needs and offers banking and annuities as well. Visit Allison at 2666 E. 2nd Street or at allisonalleninsurance.com. Courtesy photo.


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CHAMBER BRIEFS

Continued from page 5

Community Events Manager

Leslie Brinson, a long-time program coordinator for the Banneker Community Center, has been selected as the department's new community events manager. Brinson will guide the community events area that includes the farmers' market and the summer Performing Arts Series of free concerts in city parks.

Awards and Designations

Monroe Hospital Award

Monroe Hospital has been named one of America's Best Hospitals for Emergency Care by the Women's Choice Award. The award recognizes excellence in emergency care based on time patients spent in the emergency department. Learn more at womenschoiceaward.com/awarded/healthcare/.

Indiana's Best Places to Work

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce has named the 100 companies on this year's Best Places to Work in Indiana list, which represent more than 25 industries and 20 cities throughout the state. These businesses include Hanapin Marketing, JA Benefits, Weddle Bros., Schmidt Associates, Blue & Co., Hylant and Edward Jones.

Knust Marks 40th Year

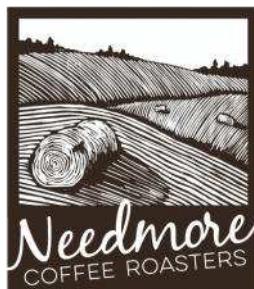
Congratulations to Susie Knust, SVP, consumer loan manager, as Feb. 22 marked her 40th year with The Peoples State Bank! During her time at the bank, Knust has been a valuable part of the bank's growth and success.

Local Super Lawyers

Lonnie D. Johnson, who does civil litigation defense, James F. Bohrer, who does estate planning and probate law, Stacy F. Thompson, who does personal injury medical malpractice defense and Kelly J. Pitcher, who does personal injury medical malpractice defense, have been named 2017 Super Lawyers. All work for Clendening Johnson & Bohrer, P.C.

Indiana Tourism Award Winners

The inaugural Indiana Tourism Awards, presented by Midwest Living, were recently awarded. They honor tourism businesses that are creative, innovative and maximize



Needmore Coffee Roasters is a woman-owned coffee bar and small-batch roastery in Bloomington dedicated to roasting organic, ethically-sourced coffee from the finest small-scale farmers around the world. Visit us at 104 N. Pete Ellis Unit E on Bloomington's east side. Shop online and learn more about our direct trade and Fair Trade coffees and how we help others locally and internationally at needmoreroasters.com.



Please welcome **Allison Allen** as our newest State Farm Agent, located at 2666 E 2nd St. Allison studied business at Indiana University and worked as a team member in the Lisa Allen agency. She has been busy training her team and looks forward to being a leader in the insurance agency. Joining her team are Travis, Bekah, David and Ashli. They look forward to serving the area by offering auto, home, health, life and banking products. Visit allisonalleninsurance.com or call 812-339-3011.



Hello, fun! **Pedego Bloomington Electric Bicycles** offers sales and rentals of the COOLEST electric bicycles. Riding bicycles is made super fun again! Located at 224 N. College Avenue in downtown Bloomington. Come check out the latest in cruising or commuting, all with outstanding quality and comfort. Open Tuesday through Friday 1 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 812-287-7764. Check us out on Facebook, Yelp or at pedegobloomington.com.



Founded in 1923, and guided by fourth-generation leadership, **Garmong Construction** specializes in construction management and design-build delivery systems for public and private sector clients. Garmong is also one of Indiana's premier fast-track commercial-industrial contractors. Office locations include Indianapolis, Terre Haute and Evansville. Garmong was recently ranked the seventh-fastest-growing private company in Indianapolis by the Indianapolis Business Journal and was a nominee for 2017 General Contractor of the Year through the Indiana Subcontractors Association. Visit garmong.net.



Do you have open aide shifts? Compliance issues? Is the burden of the 2017 Federal CoPs causing you sleepless nights? We can help. **The Home Health Training Center** provides personal care assistant and certified home health aide training services. Keep your patients safe, optimize outcomes and maintain compliance by partnering with us for your initial training program, competency assessments and ongoing annual education needs. Visit homehealthtraining.org to learn about our cost effective staff training solutions.



Indiana's online university is regionally accredited, respected and affordable. WGU Indiana offers high quality, competency based, online bachelor's and master's degree programs in business, teacher education, IT, and health professions. Tuition is charged at a flat rate of \$6,000 each year and covers all coursework completed in that time. The more courses you complete each term, the more affordable the degree becomes. Visit indiana.wgu.edu/ for more details.

CHAMBER BRIEFS

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CHAMBER BRIEFS

Continued from page 12

the dollars invested. Visit Bloomington received an award for Best Leisure Travel Promotion and Best Visitor Guide for Marketing Budgets over \$300,000.

Opportunities and Events

Register for Lemonade Day

This year's Lemonade Day will be held May 20. Kids will learn lessons on budgeting, finding an investor, repaying a loan, marketing, advertising, handling money, customer service and philanthropy. Learn more at monroecounty.lemonadeday.org or contact Amy Swain at lemonadeday@bgcbloomington.org.

Adoptee Network Conference

The Indiana Adoptee Network will hold a Spring Conference called Building Bridges of Connection April 21 and 22 at the Monroe Convention Center. Accommodations are available at Courtyard by Marriott. CEUS are available for this conference. Learn more at indianaadopteenetwork.org.

Spring Mailing Seminar

The Bloomington Postal Customers Council Spring 2017 Mailing Seminar is April 26 at the IU Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center, 1000 E. 17th Street, from 8 a.m. noon. Cost is \$20 and pre-registration is required. Topics include updates from the USPS, direct mail, design and acronyms. Contact John Butcher at 812-331-4228 or jbutcher@heraldt.com.

Freitag & Martoglio Grand Opening

Please join us as we celebrate the grand opening of Freitag & Martoglio, LLC, Attorneys at Law. Following a ribbon cutting, hors d'oeuvres will be served at their new office at the Johnson Creamery Building Thursday, April 27, 4 to 6:30 p.m. at 400 W. 7th Street, Suite 110.

Other

\$50,000 Gift and Terrace Dedication

Ivy Tech and Harrell-Fish, Inc. dedicated Ivy Tech's North Terrace with a limestone plaque unveiling. The event was in tribute to HFI, whose \$50,000 gift to Ivy Tech Bloomington's capital campaign in 2015 was among the first committed to the effort by Bloomington-based businesses.

New Housing Year Looks Encouraging

Existing home sales activity hurtled upward as buyers closed 4,521 transactions in January 2017, a 5.2 percent rise from a year ago. The Indiana Real Estate Markets Report obtains data from the state's Multiple Listing Services (MLS), including the Broker Listing Cooperative (BLC) in central Indiana.

JENNY'S NAILS & PERMANENT MAKEUP

Jenny's Nails & Permanent Makeup is located at 1000 N. Walnut St. Suite C in Groves Square Plaza between 14th and 15th Streets, near Bloomington's downtown and IU campus. Services include manicures, pedicures, gel and acrylic sets, waxing and permanent makeup. This is the place to go for intricate nail design. Schedule your appointment today. Visit jennynails.schedulista.com.



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Singota Solutions New Technology

Singota Solutions announced it has completed installation of the pharmaceutical industry's most advanced manufacturing technology for use in filling injectable drug products into vials, syringes and cartridges. The centerpiece of the technology addition is the Vanrx Pharmsystems SA25 robotic work-cell.

Join Bloomington Country Club

Become a member of Bloomington's only private country club and start enjoying the benefits of membership today. Discounts are available now during the spring membership promotion, which runs through June 3. Email Chris Coffey, general manager, at ccoffey@bloomingtoncc.com.

College Mall to Open Think Geek

College Mall, a Simon mall, has added another retailer to the vast and quickly-expanding lineup this spring. Think Geek will open March 24 and will be the newest retail option available to Bloomington-area shoppers.

AmeriCorps joins Energy Challenge

The Monroe County Energy Challenge (MCEC) will be working with an AmeriCorps team this spring to provide free attic insulation and air sealing for income-qualified homes in order to reduce energy costs. The team will work alongside contractors and experienced Energy Challenge personnel to insulate between 25 and 30 attics.

Bloomington's First Blow Out Bar

College Mall welcomes a new retailer to the mall's quickly-growing lineup. Blast Hair Salon is Bloomington's first blow out bar, a trendy East Coast concept for patrons seeking a quick hair fix. The salon specializes in quick hair treatments and spray tans.

Buskirk-Chumley Theater Seeks Input

BCT Management, Inc. is conducting a survey as part of the planning leading up to and beyond the theater's 100th anniversary in 2022. Your participation in the survey will help it continue making the Buskirk-Chumley Theater a place for everyone. To take survey, go to surveymonkey.com/r/BCT17.



Singota Solutions celebrates the installation of the pharmaceutical industry's most advanced manufacturing technology for use in filling injectable drug products into vials, syringes and cartridges. Courtesy photo.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

“We are a very community-centered library,” Wood said. “Over the years we’ve worked closely with partners in our community to be available for all sorts of resources.”

The Monroe County Public Library dates back almost 200 years, when it was originally opened within the Monroe County Courthouse, she said. In 1918, the county received the funds to open a Carnegie library at a location just across the street from its current location at 303 East Kirkwood Avenue. In 1970 it moved to its present location, which was then a 35,000-square-foot facility. In 1997, it underwent an enormous expansion to its current 135,000-square-foot size.

“It was a huge expansion of our services to meet the needs of our growing community,” Wood said.

The expansion of services is a constant for the library, which is always looking for community input to find out what Monroe County residents need from MCPL. A recent result of such input, Wood noted, was the

decision to open two new spaces in the library in 2015: a teen center and a digital creation lab.

At the teen center, The Ground Floor, adolescents ages 12 to 19 have a safe space to explore their interests, socialize, play or work on schoolwork. Various areas of the space are dedicated to video gaming, creative endeavors like painting or sewing, or meeting space for teens to work on group projects or practice for a presentation.

The space has been so popular that Wood intends to include a similar space in planned renovations of the Ellettsville branch of the library, she said.

The Level Up digital creativity lab, meanwhile, includes video and audio production studios and computing space dedicated to allowing users to stretch their creative muscles. Users can create their own video and music productions, work on graphic or web design projects or try their hand at coding and game creation.

“Both of those were from community input and

SPOTLIGHT

continued on page 15



Marilyn Wood, director of the Monroe County Public Library. Photos by David Snodgrass.

MCPL EYI

Facts about the library

- Services, including library cards, are free to all people living in Monroe County.
- For those living outside Monroe County, there are some borrowing options. See mcpl.info.
- Patrons and organizations can reserve meeting rooms, study rooms, technology facilities and exhibit spaces.
- Volunteers can help with a variety of library programs by calling 812-349-3050.
- The library’s values include: accessibility, freedom of expression, inclusiveness, integrity, lifelong learning, respect and service.

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Congratulations to the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County on their new space and growth with Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. Courtesy photo.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 14

surveys that moved us in a direction of, 'how we can help the community develop lifelong skills that could either help them with job related needs or, for the teens, (develop) proactive social skills, leadership skills and problem-solving skills,'" Wood said.

The library also offers numerous resources for nonprofit organizations and small business owners, said Mike Berg, communications and marketing director. Library card holders, for example, can access Lynda.com an online learning platform where individuals could study anything from music production to advanced autoCAD — for free.

And along with these resources come experts to help library members figure out how to use them. The library offers an enormous range of programming throughout the year, Berg said.

The Level Up lab has weekly workshops where members of the community can learn technical and design skills from experts in the community. This spring, for instance, offerings will include workshops on basic application development and introduction to Adobe Photoshop.

Each year, the library offers more than 1,700 free programs, Berg said. It is a number that assures there is something for just about any interest. Its children's programming, which includes story times in the mornings and evenings to suit different families' schedules, is also very popular, Wood said.

With a wide range of offerings, it is perhaps no surprise than more than 60,000 people attended a program at the library in 2016, while visits to the library totaled about 950,000, Berg said. Those visitors checked out more than 2.5 million items, including electronic materials, which now account for about 10 percent of circulation. That circulation puts the Monroe County Public Library's circulation among the top 10 in the state, Wood said.

But just as useful as the books, computers and software in the library are the people, Wood said.

"The library is a resource with expert staff as well," Wood said. "We have people who really do know how to help people find information. In this age of fake news, we are people who can help you find the real stuff."

Immediate plans for the future of the Monroe County Public Library include an upcoming renovation of the Ellettsville branch of the library. But beyond that, Wood and Berg said, the challenge will be continuing to listen to the public and meet the needs of the community.

"We always have to be changing and evolving," she said. "Our mission is to enrich lives and strengthen our community. So that means we have to be out in the community and listening well to the people in our community to make sure we are evolving to meet their needs."

In the meantime, Wood had a message for those who haven't set foot in the library in a few years.

"Come back and rediscover your library," she urged.



ADVOCACY UPDATE

Continued from page 2

- \$4 billion to higher education
- \$5 million to the governor's office for substance abuse prevention, treatment and enforcement
- \$500,000 for homeless veterans
- A 24 percent salary increase for state police officers
- \$6 million to double-track the South Shore Line

HB 1002: Transportation Infrastructure

This bill addresses the need for a long-term and sustainable road funding plan in the state. The bill increases the fuel tax by 10 cents, adds a \$15 registration fee for all vehicles, includes a \$150 annual fee for electric vehicles and earmarks the state's sales tax on gas for roads. The bill passed the House and was amended in committee to increase the gas tax over two years. The committee also added a \$100 annual fee for commercial vehicles, a \$75 registration fee for hybrid vehicles and a \$5 fee on tire purchases. The bill now heads to the Senate floor for a vote.

SB 558: Leasing and Sales of Real Property

This legislation passed out of the judiciary committee in the

House after passing the Senate last month. This bill will prohibit local governments from adopting inclusionary zoning, which is an ordinance requiring a portion of new construction to be affordable or to pay fees in lieu of developing the affordable units. In August, Mayor John Hamilton announced a plan to increase affordable housing with a short-term plan to review pilot approaches and a long-term plan to adopt an ordinance.

I-69 Section 5

INDOT officials have pushed back the completion date for Section 5 to May 31, 2018. According to the Indiana Finance Authority, the new agreement with the developer includes the following:

- Two northbound and two southbound lanes will be continuously open through the greater Bloomington area beginning August 15, 2017.

- Four lanes will be open from Sample Road to Martinsville for IU events, such as home football and basketball games, beginning August 15, 2017.

- Four lanes will be continuously open from Sample Road to Martinsville on or after March 31, 2018.

The Chamber continues to host monthly I-69 Local Collaboration Group meetings with elected officials, city and county planning and transportation staff, INDOT, I-69 Development Partners, business leaders, and members of the MPO.

For more information on Section 5, and traffic updates, visit i69section5.org.

I-69 Section 6

INDOT released the Tier 2 draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Section 6 of the I-69 Evansville to Indianapolis project. The DEIS recommends a preferred route and footprint and includes the 10 locations and types of exits, 16 overpasses or underpasses, and new local access roads. The DEIS can be reviewed online at in.gov/indot/projects/i69/2515.htm. The public may submit comments using the online comment form located at in.gov/indot/projects/i69/2463.htm. Section 6 is estimated to cost \$1.5 billion and construction is scheduled from 2020 to 2026.

I-69 Section 6 will upgrade the majority of existing State Route (SR) 37 to interstate standards between SR 39 in Martinsville and I-465 in Indianapolis, a distance of approximately 26 miles.



Welcome **Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market** to Bloomington's west side! The sneak peek friends and family night kicked off with a ribbon cutting outside, followed by snacks and store specials inside. Courtesy photo.



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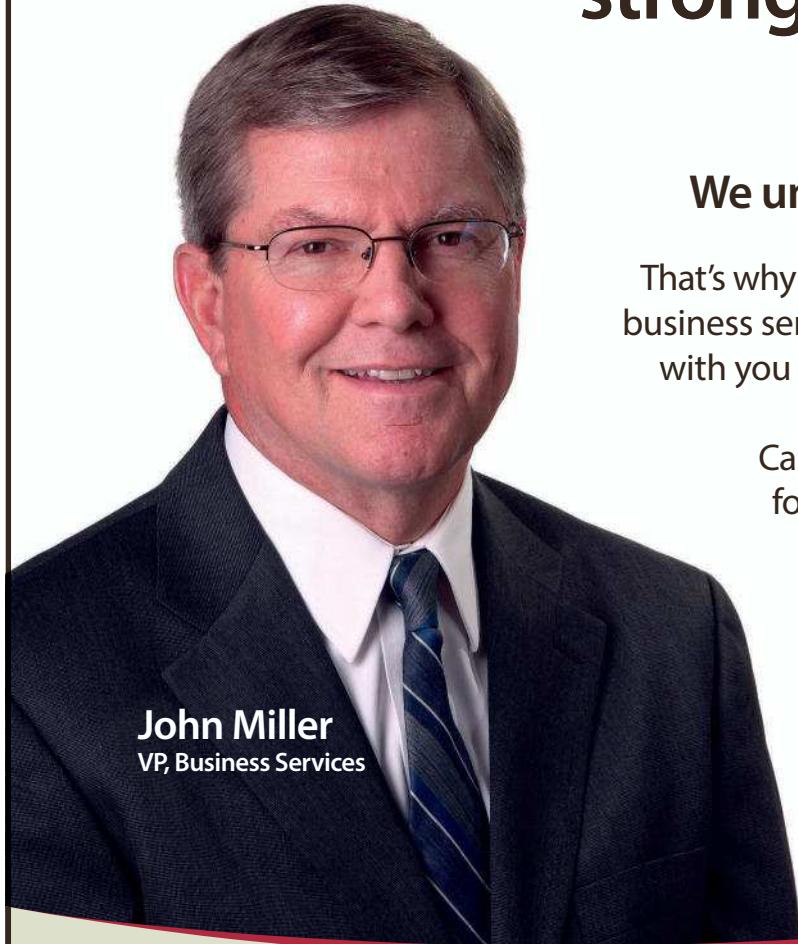
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