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Coming in November:

Think like a CEO

BizNet asks local CEOs about their favorite authors, social media personalities and sources of inspiration.

Spotlight: Southern Indiana Surgery Center

By Kasey Husk

About 50 percent of surgery centers fail, according to Southern Indiana Surgery Center administrative director Betsy Smith. Few multi-specialty surgery centers make it past 10 years.

But as Bloomington's Southern Indiana Surgery Center approaches its 25th year, it continues to thrive by providing excellent patient care, a smooth intake process and lower-cost procedures. The center, which is available for a wide variety of surgical procedures, consistently receives very high patient satisfaction ratings, Smith said.

"The nurses and all the staff just love what they do," Smith said. "That shows when they take care of the patients."

Founded in 1993 by a core group of about 10 physicians, the Southern Indiana Surgery Center was a response to what the doctors saw as a growing need to facilitate same-day — otherwise known as outpatient — surgeries, which were becoming increasingly common with advances in medicine, Smith said. Until that point, doctors were largely limited to using the

Bloomington Hospital facilities for such surgeries, making it more difficult to get patients in and out.

Bloomington Hospital was invited to be involved in the development of the surgery center, and ultimately became a partner in the venture. However, the founding doctors retained management control.

The facility, Smith said, was "designed exclusively for adults and children in the Bloomington



"We give out patient questionnaires and the majority that come back are just excellent. We love to hear that."

—Betsy Smith

The Chamber's 101st Annual Meeting and Community Awards



By Jim Inman, director of marketing and communications

September 22, 2016 was not only the first day of autumn, but also the 101st Annual Meeting and Community Awards of The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. Nearly 600 attendees gathered at the Monroe Convention Center to hear from the Chamber and honor the 2016 Community Awards winners.

The Annual Meeting was opened by incoming board president Randy Lloyd. Lloyd addressed the crowd and highlighted some of the successes of the year, and thanked the outgoing members of the board of directors — Joshua James, Mark Moore, Ric Olson, Sarah Rogers and Bill Stephan. Lloyd also introduced the new members of the Chamber board — Matt Bailey, Bruce Calloway, Lauren Dexter, Mike Richardson, Scott Shishman and Kirk White.

Jeb Conrad, the president and CEO of The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, shared various highlights of the last year from the business community. Jim Inman, the director of marketing and communications for the Chamber, introduced the awards and honorees.

“We have a tremendously talented and diverse group of honorees this year,” said Conrad. “Each of the recipients has demonstrated their commitment to the Bloomington business community, and in turn a commitment to all residents of our area.”

The honorees were selected based on criteria for each award, and selected by an independent committee. Like past awardees, this year's recipients come from all areas of the community — both business and not-for-profit — and from all levels within their organizations.



This year's Community Awards honorees are:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Mark Moore, IU Health Bloomington
- **Small Business of the Year** – Sterling Real Estate
- **Medium Business of the Year** – Master Rental
- **Large Business of the Year** – IU Credit Union
- **Morgan Hutton Visionary Award** – Iris Kiesling
- **Lloyd Olcott Community Service Award** – Barbara Leininger
- **Workforce Development Award** – My Cook Pathway
- **The Chamber's Franklin Initiative Golden Key Award** – Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington and Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc.
- **Nancy Howard Diversity Award** – Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington Diversity
- **Diane Breeden-Lee Catalyst Award** – Jean Scallon
- **Ambassador of the Year** – Kyle Ellison



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Fall in Full Swing



By Jeb Conrad, president and CEO



Jeb Conrad. Courtesy photo.

“We hope our Chamber members and the community will appreciate this BizNet edition, which provides feedback on key business policies from our local candidates.”

What a great time of year to be in Bloomington and Monroe County! Schools are in full swing, the temperature gets more comfortable, leaves change color, and it's a perfect community in which to work, play and do business.

I hope everyone had the chance to participate in the activities in our community as the State of Indiana celebrates its 200th anniversary. Our Chamber is honored to serve the business community for half of that milestone and looks forward to celebrations of significance for Monroe County, the city of Bloomington and Indiana University in the future.

We hope our Chamber members and the community will appreciate this BizNet edition, which provides feedback on key business policies from our local candidates. We hope this provides you with some guidance and understanding of the candidates' business policies and vision for our community as we prepare for the November election.

I would be remiss if I did not share the Chamber's monitoring of I-69. The Chamber has continued to support the completion of this critical piece of infrastructure, but also have shared concerns over the progress of Section 5 here in Bloomington and Monroe County. This investment will provide efficient, safer connectivity for our business community for access to other markets and workforce. We will continue to advocate for the completion of I-69 to Indianapolis, but also will support our business community's interest in Section 5 to be completed efficiently and on time.

At the 101st Chamber Annual Meeting in September, the Chamber was

excited to welcome our new board of directors members and officers, and also recognize key businesses and individuals who have helped shape our business and community landscape. We congratulate those 2016 award recipients and thank our members and the community for being part of a great event.

One of the Chamber's core missions is being active in public policy advocacy, working with our county officials and the city administration on issues and opportunities impacting the business community. The Chamber team and leadership are immersed in key issues at all levels of government that are important to our members and the business landscape today and for the future.

The Chamber has submitted suggestions and comments to the city of Bloomington on the draft version of the city's Comprehensive Master Plan. This is a critical document that will generate local legislation, impact local business' operating practices and drive initiatives in our public space. We look forward to the discussions as this plan moves forward and thank our Advocacy Committee for their work.

The Chamber continues to promote the changes in the Department of Labor overtime ruling and its impact on employers. We encourage all members of the business community to educate your businesses in assessing the impacts and opportunities of this change in policy on your operations.

Lastly, The Chamber sends along our best wishes to our Lifetime Achievement award winner, Mark Moore, who will be retiring from IU Health in November. We will miss Mark as a leader and advocate for our community and we wish him the best. 

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*!



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

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Networking, Volunteering — and Cornhole!

By Kelsie Holt,
director of talent,
education and workforce

Editor's note: hYPE is a Chamber program designed to provide opportunities for young professionals to develop a personal network, grow professionally and enhance the community.

Last month, hYPE hosted a Meet Your Mayor event featuring John Hamilton. Mayor Hamilton joined us at the Irish Lion in the glen downtown to share his thoughts on Bloomington and his advice for young professionals.

To get through your 20s, Hamilton advised,

“Be kind, be useful and don't be too lazy.” Thanks again to our Mayor and the City of Bloomington for working with us on this event!

This month, hYPE is excited to host a Nonprofit Networking Night on October 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Bloomington Country Club. We are partnering with the Bloomington Volunteer Network to help young professionals find volunteer opportunities in our community.

Our goal is to connect young professionals to nonprofits with meaningful volunteer opportunities and help nonprofits find new volunteers. We hope to showcase a variety of ways to volunteer, including nonprofit board service opportunities, one-time projects and

more. To participate in this free event, please register at ChamberBloomington.org or contact Kelsie Holt at kholt@chamberbloomington.org.

Also in October, hYPE has been challenged by the Columbus Young Professionals to a cornhole tournament at Rawhide Ranch. Enjoy a beautiful day in Brown County with hYPE on Saturday, October 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for a cookout and cornhole tournament with the Columbus Young Professionals. For anyone interested, we will organize a carpool to Rawhide Ranch. We have 20 spots reserved for hYPE – so sign up now at tinyurl.com/zjbclus or contact Kelsie Holt for more information at kholt@chamberbloomington.org.



“Be kind, be useful and don't be too lazy.”

—John Hamilton,
mayor of Bloomington

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812-935-5700



CHAMBER BRIEFS

New Hires and Promotions

Library Welcomes New Associate Director

The staff and board of Monroe County Public Library welcome Jane Cronkhite as the new associate director. This is a homecoming for Cronkhite, who was raised in Monroe County. Most recently, she was a community librarian for the Santa Clara County Library District in California.

Old National Names Indy Region CEO

Evansville-based Old National Bancorp has promoted Mark Bradford to chief executive officer of the Indianapolis region. Bradford, who is also CEO of the company's north central region, has served in the role on an interim basis since June.

Sparks Joins Old National Bank

Old National Bank has announced the recent hiring of Shellie Sparks as mortgage loan officer. Sparks will provide expert mortgage financing solutions in Bloomington and surrounding communities. She has more than 24 years of banking experience including 13 years with Monroe County Bank and 11 years with Fifth Third.

Awards and Designations

Olivers Receive Tourism Award

Bill and Kathleen Oliver were recently selected as the recipients of the 2016 Will Koch Indiana Tourism Leadership Award. This

award recognizes outstanding leadership and service within the Indiana tourism industry and is the highest tourism honor given by the State of Indiana.

Bradford Receives Fundraiser Award

CFBMC Board Member and Old National Bank regional CEO Mark Bradford has been chosen as Indiana's 2016 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the Indiana chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Bradford will receive the award at the Indiana Philanthropy Awards Dinner.

McLane to Speak at Health Summit

TrainCom Ventures CEO Brenda McLane will speak at Indiana's largest gathering of wellness professionals, the 2016 Indiana Health and Wellness Summit, Sept. 21 to 22 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. For more information, visit traincom-ventures.com/blog/ or call Brenda at 765-969-0351.

Shettlesworth Receives Award

Amanda Shettlesworth, director of human resources and risk management at Bloomington Meadows Hospital, was recognized by the Indiana State Council of SHRM as the recipient of the Professional Excellence Award. Shettlesworth was also recently appointed district director for the MidEast Indiana State Council of SHRM.

Opportunities and Events

Domino's Holds Grand Reopening

Domino's, located at

CHAMBER BRIEFS
continued on page 23



HospitalRecruiting.com is a national health care job board based in Bloomington, Indiana. Health care employers use HospitalRecruiting.com to advertise physician jobs, nursing jobs, advanced practitioner jobs, allied health jobs, and non-clinical health care professional jobs. Health care job seekers may use HospitalRecruiting.com free of charge in order to apply for open positions, as well as to communicate with employers and to track positions of interest. <https://www.hospitalrecruiting.com/>



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Candidate responses are published exactly as received, with no editing. The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce does not endorse candidates.



Shelli Yoder
Democrat



Trey Hollingsworth
Republican

What ideas do you have to further strengthen and protect Indiana's defense industry?

The defense industry is an important part of our local economy. We must make sure that facilities like NSA Crane remain open and funded well into the future. I want to improve the partnerships that Crane is making with the local business community to improve our regional economy and to ensure that we can work hand-in-hand with our defense partners to create an environment in which businesses can succeed, and Crane is an integral part of that plan.

We need to return to a foreign policy that prizes strong American leadership. We have the technology and the capable military to keep the American way of life safe, but the Obama administration's failed foreign policy has only increased the resolve of our adversaries.

Additionally, national defense funding should not perpetually be held in jeopardy because our elected leaders refuse to cut wasteful discretionary spending programs. More predictable spending levels and an understanding that national defense is, and should remain, one of Washington's top priorities will be incredibly beneficial to this valuable industry.

What are your recommendations for improving bipartisan cooperation in DC? How can you help to promote compromise?

Whether you have a D or an R after your name doesn't matter, members of Congress must be able to put aside partisan talking points and do the hard work necessary to deliver real solutions for Hoosier families. When I get to Congress, I promise to put the needs over hardworking Hoosiers above partisan rhetoric, and I will strive to develop successful working relationships with members of both parties. As your representative for the 9th district, I intend to be the first one to step forward to offer real solutions for Hoosiers, and I intend to bring both parties together to accomplish that goal.

I've invested the last decade building nine businesses and creating hundreds of jobs in Indiana. We have found success in spite of, not because of government. I look forward to bringing my private sector experience to Washington to help fix problems, just like we fix them in our businesses. That means having the discipline to cut spending, balance budgets, and make plans for the future. I believe sharing these experiences with elected politicians can be informative to members of both parties as we craft legislation aimed at getting our government back on track. Hoosiers and Americans demand, expect, and need results from their government, not more grandstanding by politicians, and, as a businessman, I am focused on getting real results..

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Susie's Place — September 13, 2016

The highlights of Susie's Place's open house included the unveiling of their new medical suite and the new services they are offering, including therapy dogs. Courtesy photo.

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Russell Brooksbank

Libertarian

What ideas do you have to further strengthen and protect Indiana's defense industry?

I believe the best thing I can do, as a Congressman, to strengthen and protect Indiana's defense industry would be to help foster an environment where more companies and individuals were available to compete for government contracts. I read somewhere that one company accounted for 44% of Indiana's contracts. This is not good. We need more diversification. Too many eggs in one basket, so to speak. We need to do what we can to help other businesses start up, grow, and thrive. This can be accomplished a lot easier without the government standing in the way. Reducing regulation and taxes would help to create that favorable business climate. More Indiana companies competing for government contracts means more Indiana companies being awarded government contracts.

What are your recommendations for improving bipartisan cooperation in DC? How can you help to promote compromise?

The best thing we can do to improve bipartisan cooperation in DC is for everyone to lose the tribal mentality. We need to remember what we're sent there to do. We're not there to secure a seat for our party, or to make sure the other side loses. We're there to serve the people of our district. I will help promote compromise by remembering that and listening to ideas no matter who they are coming from. Ideas do not have a party. If it's a good idea then I'll listen to it. If it's a bad one then I'll say so. As a Libertarian, I hold similar views with members of both old parties and I will be able to find common ground with anybody.



Juannita's — August 25, 2016

Juannita's celebrated the opening of their new outdoor patio on August 25 with music, great food and a wonderful atmosphere. Courtesy photo.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following candidates did not respond to the Chamber's request for answers:

Bob Heaton — Republican candidate for State Representative, District 46

Peggy Mayfield — Republican candidate for State Representative, District 60

Drew Ash — Independent candidate for State Representative, District 61

Chris May — Republican candidate for State Representative, District 65

Answers from school board candidates and surveyor candidates can be found at ChamberBloomington.org.

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Linda K. Henderson
Democrat



Eric A. Koch
Republican

What do you think are the key items that need to be addressed in the 2017 budget session?

1. Education must be a top priority – it is the ground floor to economic development. We need to adequately fund public schools and teachers. This includes funding preschool as well as working to expand workforce development training programs. We must look at education and training as a lifelong endeavor.

2. Infrastructure needs – Indiana’s infrastructure is deteriorating- Roads, bridges, water infrastructure must be a priority in the 2017 session. Economic Development for the state and local communities is dependent upon good and safe infrastructure.

3. Drug Epidemic – The Heroin/Meth epidemic must be addressed. There must be a focus on both prevention and Intervention strategies to address this problem to have a real impact. This epidemic is impacting employers seeking a drug free workforce.

We must adequately fund education and design a long term, sustainable infrastructure plan that includes both state and local needs.

We must also ensure that public safety needs are met. I have been endorsed by the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the Indiana State Police Alliance, and the Indiana Professional Firefighters Union. My work on public safety and justice issues has also been recognized by the Southern Indiana Drug Task Force, the Indiana Rural Health Association, the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (Legislator of the Year 2015) and the Indiana Judges Association (Champion of Justice 2016).

What are your priorities in terms of managing the state’s water resources as a whole? How do you see Monroe County being affected by water issues in our state?

Indiana’s water infrastructure is aging and outdated. It is projected that Indiana will need \$16 billion dollars to address infrastructure needs for drinking water, combined sewer overflow, wastewater and storm water drainage over the next 20 years. A long term strategic plan needs to be in place and continually update so that Indiana is always improving and not lagging behind in this area.

I support the creation of the Hoosier State Infrastructure Bank outlined by John Gregg. This will allow Monroe county and other communities to apply for funds to address their infrastructure needs. Decisions about infrastructure priorities should be made at the local level.

I have been working for the past several years on water and wastewater infrastructure issues. The EPA has estimated that over the next 20 years the cost of Indiana’s water and wastewater infrastructure improvements will be \$14 billion. In some parts of the state, we have water lines over 100 years old and line loss of 25 percent. We have been proactive in data collection and are a national leader in water policy.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce? What should the priorities be in terms of job creation and business growth and expansion?

The state of Indiana should “ramp up” it support of Indiana based small and startup businesses. First and foremost the state should be proactive in supporting those businesses who commit to staying in Indiana.

The tax structure for small businesses needs to be reviewed and modified. It is my understanding that large corporations are exempt from paying local income taxes and pay only state income tax. Small businesses must pay both state and local income taxes – thus small employers pay a higher tax rate than large corporations.

The state must address the skills shortage in Indiana. We must have well trained Hoosier workforce if we are to be competitive. Adult Education must be emphasized. We must think of education and training for all ages.

We must ensure that our education system is aligned with workforce needs and continue the economic and fiscal policies that have put Indiana at the top in the Midwest and nationally.

I have been endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the Indiana Manufacturers Association, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and the Indiana Farm Bureau ELECT

Do you support legislation that would enable Monroe County to implement an additional local income tax in order to fund public transit operations?

I am a strong advocate of local control. I will support legislation that eliminates state restrictions on how city, town and county governments use their Local Option Income, Food and Beverage, Hotel/Motel and other local taxes. I believe this will allow local communities the flexibility to address local issues as they see fit.

In Monroe County, Senate District 44 includes only Polk, Clear Creek, and Indian Creek townships. I would need to evaluate the impact of the potential tax on my constituents and whether or not they feel that they would benefit generally from the services.

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Bill Breedon
Democrat

What do you think are the key items that need to be addressed in the 2017 budget session?

a. Our economy depends upon an educated workforce, and public education has been the foundation of our society for generations. We should fund it fully and equally across the state. We also need a separate line item for the voucher program so that we know exactly how much it is costing our state and how much is being drained from our public education funding.

b. Infrastructure must be maintained. Our failing bridges and roads are a disgrace, and costs Hoosiers millions in terms of car repair, accidents, etc.

c. Allocation of our surplus to address urgent needs of social services. Holding “rainy day funds” in abeyance for political appearances when our community services are under water is inexcusable.

What are your priorities in terms of managing the state’s water resources as a whole? How do you see Monroe County being affected by water issues in our state?

We need a state-wide study of water resources and we need to develop a long-term plan to deal with adequate water supply for all areas in the event of an extended drought. However, we also need to guarantee that Monroe and surrounding counties maintain enough control over the water resources in our region to provide our citizens with an adequate supply of clean water. Water infrastructure needs will be paramount from the source, to the tap, and to the sewer. We also need a General Assembly that believes in science. Climate change is real, and if we want to conserve a planet that is livable for future generations, we need to act responsibly now.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce? What should the priorities be in terms of job creation and business growth and expansion?

The current and future needs of our workforce can be summed up in three words: Education, Education, Education. This means not only providing for pre-K, elementary, and secondary education, it also means providing affordable college education which does not make indentured servants of graduates.

In addition, we need to provide for the re-education of our current workforce for the economy of the future. Alternative, sustainable energy sources are the future, and European countries are far ahead of the United States in the development thereof. Indiana should be leading the way to the future rather than lagging behind. High-speed rail, public transit, solar and wind generation, and the upgrading of our present infrastructure will provide jobs for the new economy.

Do you support legislation that would enable Monroe County to implement an additional local income tax in order to fund public transit operations?

I believe local communities should be empowered to make decisions for funding local needs. It seems that the party that likes to talk about small government wants all the power to reside in Indianapolis when it comes to funding. That is why our county roads across southern Indiana are falling apart, and that is why rural transit cannot meet the needs of our elderly and/or disabled citizens. The first step to providing a public transit option is to begin locally. This is especially the case when the super majority in the General Assembly continues to focus on private life issues with bills like RFRA and HEA 1337, the first of which cost our state millions of dollars, and the second has been declared unconstitutional.



McDonald’s West — September 8, 2016

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Penny Githens
Democrat

What do you think are the key items that need to be addressed in the 2017 budget session?

The Indiana General Assembly needs to address a sustainable funding mechanism for all of our infrastructure needs (roads, bridges, ports, airports, sewers, etc.), review the contract being considered by Governor Pence with Agile Networks that will lease out state-owned cellphone towers for the next 25 years, restrict the entities which are allowed to grant school charters, overhaul ISTEP testing, review the state's education voucher system, adequately fund education, and push programs that allow Hoosiers to earn a living wage. I would also push to review the DNR's current policy of logging in state forests and address environmental concerns such as the proper containment of coal ash ponds.

What are your priorities in terms of managing the state's water resources as a whole? How do you see Monroe County being affected by water issues in our state?

The delivery of safe drinking water is of great importance – we don't want to be another Flint, Michigan. Upgrading our water treatments plants and delivery systems is as an integral part of upgrading of our infrastructure.

To maintain Lake Monroe as a safe water source we need to gather data on current levels and sources of pollutants. Depending on the results, we may need to:

- Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce the recreational use of power boats,
- Establish regulations for septic systems,
- And/or ensure that farmers provide a buffer between their croplands and the lake's watershed.

Beyond that we need to be concerned with the "sharing" of water from Lake Monroe with Indianapolis and other locales.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce? What should the priorities be in terms of job creation and business growth and expansion?

a. We should expand solar and wind energy production, expanding these industries and bringing new jobs to Indiana.

b. If companies shift production out of the state, they should be required to pay back any tax incentives they were granted.

c. We should follow Ohio's example and survey companies to determine the skills they will be requiring of their workers over the next decade. Then we should provide that training, either in our schools or through a collaboration between Vocational Rehabilitation, Work One, and Ivy Tech.

d. We should partner with veterans to translate the job skills learned while in the military into comparable civilian professions and provide additional training if needed.

e. And, we should upgrade our entire infrastructure to help attract new industries.

Do you support legislation that would enable Monroe County to implement an additional local income tax in order to fund public transit operations?

Yes, I support such an initiative. This would allow those in need of transportation – whether it's for work, medical appointments, purchasing food, or any other reason – to move about the county more economically. In some cases, it would allow them to travel to and from their homes as they have no other reliable mode of transportation. Under the plan envisioned by Senator Mark Stoops, we would extend services to our county border and, using a park-and-ride system, we could potentially decrease traffic on our county roads. Please remember that the legislation proposed by Senator Stoops merely allows Monroe County citizens to make decisions on how such a transportation program would best benefit them.

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Matt Pierce
Democrat

What do you think are the key items that need to be addressed in the 2017 budget session?

The key issues are education, expanding economic opportunity for everyone, repairing Indiana's image tarnished by RFRA, and expanding drug addiction treatment and prevention programs.

The legislature needs to not only properly fund our public schools, it also needs to end the diversion of school funding to vouchers and the expansion of charter schools. The ISTEP test needs to be replaced, and the flawed school and teacher ratings systems that lead to high-stakes testing should be abandoned.

The legislature needs to work on increasing workers' wages and reducing the income gap. It also should pass civil rights protections for the LGBTQ community to remove the cloud over Indiana's image created by the passage of RFRA.

Legislators should increase funding to combat Indiana's drug epidemic.

What are your priorities in terms of managing the state's water resources as a whole? How do you see Monroe County being affected by water issues in our state?

I have supported efforts to study water issues in Indiana and plan for a possible prolonged drought. It makes sense to develop a plan before a crisis happens. It is also important to collect data about how much water is being used around the state and how well the water supply is meeting demand.

However, I will oppose any efforts to divert water from Lake Monroe to metropolitan areas like Indianapolis at the expense of our own community. Lake Monroe is a vital resource for our economy and to sustain the residents who live in our area. The state should work with the Army Corps of Engineers and local communities to ensure drinking water from the lake is safe.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce? What should the priorities be in terms of job creation and business growth and expansion?

The legislature should focus on developing a skilled workforce and attracting high-tech workers to the state who have skills that are in short supply.

In addition to making college more affordable, the legislature should ensure low-skilled workers can earn certificates in specialized trades that are in high demand. Ivy Tech deserves greater support from the legislature for its efforts to make certifications available.

To attract highly-skilled workers to the state and high-tech employers, the General Assembly must repair the state's tarnished image caused by the passage of RFRA. Passing civil rights protections for the LGBTQ community is the best way to restore Indiana's image as a welcoming state.

Do you support legislation that would enable Monroe County to implement an additional local income tax in order to fund public transit operations?

I worked closely with Senator Stoops on legislation to give Monroe County government the ability to consider enacting a funding mechanism to improve public transit both in the City of Bloomington and areas served by Rural Transit. Transit improvements are necessary to better help people without cars to get to work and students to get to Ivy Tech Community College. I support the right of local governments to make these kinds of decisions. Local officials are elected just like state legislators and are also accountable to their constituents. They should be trusted to make the decision for or against a tax dedicated to better transit service.

ELECTION COVERAGE
continued on page 14



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SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

region” so that they would have an option in addition to the hospital for outpatient surgeries.

“We feel confident in providing good quality care, and we have provided that to over 20,000 people,” she said.

The surgery center features four operating rooms and state-of-the-art operating equipment, said Misty Scales, business office manager at SISC for 15 years. The facility has 25 full-time staff members, among them 13 registered nurses. And while the surgery center originally required doctors who wanted to use the facility to have an ownership stake in it, that is no longer the case. As a result, 75 local doctors



Betsy Smith, administration director, J.R. Sarpa, chairman of the board, and Misty Scales, business manager, at the Southern Indiana Surgery Center. Photo by Jeremy Hogan

are now credentialed to perform procedures at the center.

The center is somewhat unusual among such

facilities because it is a multi-specialty facility, Smith said. Among the specialties represented are orthopedics, podiatry,

gynecology and ear, nose and throat, as well as pediatric dentistry for situations in which a child might need to be sedated for a procedure.

The center recently started offering total knee replacements, Smith said, and hopes to do hip replacements at some point in the future.

Credentialed doctors who want to perform surgery at the surgery center can book time to use one of the center's operating rooms. On an average

month, about 300 patients come through the surgery center, Smith said.

A major advantage of the surgery center, Scales said, is the convenience. Patients can be dropped off at the front of the building and walk right in to where they need to be. There, they are greeted by a receptionist who Scales described as exceptional for her ability to calm frayed nerves before sometimes-scary medical events. The patient enters a quieter, more private atmosphere than a hospital might have on busy days.

Patients also often find that the surgery center is a cost-effective choice, especially because it is in-network with just about every insurance carrier in Bloomington, Scales said.

And while few people look forward to medical procedures, Smith said those who have one at the Southern Indiana Surgery Center very often choose to use the facility again if they need another surgery.

“We give out patient questionnaires and the majority that come back are just excellent,” Smith said. “We love to hear that.”

Smith gives credit for the high level of satisfaction to

the staff, four of whom have been with the surgery center since its inception. All are committed to patient care and happy in their work, and it shows, according to both Smith and Scales.

“Our staff and physicians are committed to going above and beyond to provide the highest quality of care to our patients,” Smith said.

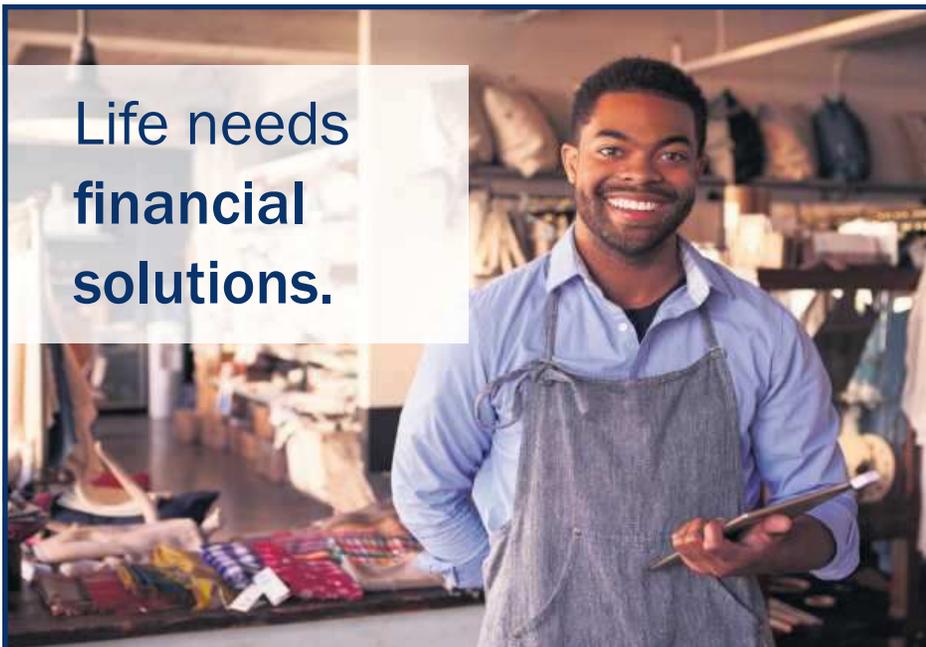
That's not to say that running a surgery center is without its challenges. Southern Indiana Surgery Center's ongoing effort has been “convincing the community and our hospital partners that our outpatient facility delivers the best care of any similar facility in the region,” Smith said.

The center is continually looking to increase the number of doctors credentialed there, and to increase the number of surgeries performed. Although 326 patients received care at the facility in August, Smith sees plenty of room for growth in the future.

And while the facility has the best patient and employee satisfaction scores of any of its competitors, according to Smith, it continually strives to improve.

“Our ongoing challenge is not only to improve those scores, but to convince those around us how valuable our facility is and how increased use of our facility would have a positive impact on outpatient care for our community,” Smith said. “We strive to have the most satisfied patients and to retain the best employees, and we have attained that by treating them all with respect, kindness and excellent medical care.”

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Leaders in Life Sciences



By Kelsie Holt, director of talent, education and workforce

Indiana has proved to be a leader in the life sciences industry with the second highest number of life sciences exports in the United States. Bloomington has benefited from this supportive environment for life sciences with the largest privately-held medical device company in the world, Cook Medical, calling our community home along with many other biotech, R&D and pharma businesses.

As a part of the Chamber's workforce development and talent retention initiatives, The Franklin Initiative is here to educate our students on the many STEM career options available in our community, along with the training and education needed for those careers. Each year, we host a STEM Career Fair for high school students to meet representatives from the life sciences industry and interact with these professionals to learn about careers in the sciences.

This year's STEM Career Fair will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Indiana Center for Life Sciences.

If your business is interested in signing up for a free booth at this event, please contact Jacob Summer at jsummer@chamberbloomington.org or call 812-336-6381. Space is limited, so please register! We ask that exhibitors



Courtesy photo

have at least one to two representatives present for the entire event. Exhibitors are encouraged to display anything that conveys the jobs and careers associated with their company. These could include, but are not limited to, colorful and interactive displays, product samples, models, tools, videos, photographs and laptops with an interactive website or program.

Thank you to our sponsors for making the STEM Career Fair possible: Cook Group, IU Health, Ivy Tech Community College – Bloomington, G.E. Appliances and Singota Solutions.

For more information on The Franklin Initiative, please contact Kelsie Holt, director of talent, education and workforce at kholt@chamberbloomington.org.



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Steve Lindsey
Democrat

Funding public education and infrastructure definitely need to be priorities addressed.



Jeff Ellington
Republican

Jobs, as the economy is the top issue with District 62 residents. People want more district employers to locate and to start up in Greene, Monroe, Daviess and Martin counties. Education: Residents want solid choices and quality education. Roads and infrastructure: Quality roads and bridges bring jobs.

What do you think are the key items that need to be addressed in the 2017 budget session?

What are your priorities in terms of managing the state's water resources as a whole? How do you see Monroe County being affected by water issues in our state?

Safe water for our district is the priority now and for the future. We need regular testing of all Indiana water resources to avoid a situation like in Michigan. Monroe County is blessed with Lake Monroe and currently has an abundance of safe water. If the state looks at using this water then Monroe County needs to be fairly compensated with input from local officials as well as the state in deciding amount and cost.

Former Governor Mitch Daniels said Lake Monroe must be kept as a local water source and not piped out to Indianapolis. That is something I agree with 100 percent. Having water management second to none also aids in local economic development, and helps prevent rationing during summer droughts.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce? What should the priorities be in terms of job creation and business growth and expansion?

Work with companies to keep good paying jobs in Indiana. We need to keep quality jobs and wages to keep up with pace of the rest of the nation. We can begin to achieve this by pursuing a living wage and tax help for companies creating good Indiana jobs.

Education is vital to the Hoosier workforce, both public and private education. But the Legislature and the governor are the ones ultimately responsible for making sure our public schools and our public universities are run well, have appropriate curriculum, and attract and retain the best teachers. An educated workforce will expand job creation and expand existing business.

Do you support legislation that would enable Monroe County to implement an additional local income tax in order to fund public transit operations?

I am never in favor of raising taxes, but this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Many people have no access to work, shopping, and or medical needs. Local people should be involved in possible solutions and in making these decisions.

I would not ask for such a tax. However, I would be interested in other ways to support rural transit.

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Chris Woods
Democrat

What do you think are the key items that need to be addressed in the 2017 budget session?

We must create a bipartisan infrastructure plan that allows for the repair and maintenance of roadways, bridges, and utility lines as well as addressing the need for high speed internet across the state. We must continue to make large investments in education, including early education opportunities for all children, while demanding transparency in terms of where the funds are spent. I also believe it is necessary to increase drug prevention and treatment funding to help combat the overwhelming drug epidemic many communities are struggling to deal with.

What are your priorities in terms of managing the state's water resources as a whole? How do you see Monroe County being affected by water issues in our state?

I will support conservation efforts to ensure resources are available for future generations and work to maintain a clean and sufficient water supply that not only meets the needs of citizens but also agriculture, industry and wildlife. We must protect the integrity of our water and sewer lines to avoid systematic failures as the lack of quality water would have a devastating effect on all counties throughout the state, including Monroe.

What can the legislature do to address needs for the current and future workforce? What should the priorities be in terms of job creation and business growth and expansion?

Invest in our citizens from the earliest years to help develop a strong and prepared workforce. Work to make higher education more affordable and expand vocational training programs to allow more people to earn a living wage while maintaining a higher quality of life. As a state we must end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and make sure the jobs that are here don't leave. In order for businesses to grow, we must have the adequate infrastructure needed including state wide high speed internet.

Do you support legislation that would enable Monroe County to implement an additional local income tax in order to fund public transit operations?

I believe in creating an environment at the Statehouse that gives local communities flexibility and control over local issues. We should also focus on providing research and programs that will help local communities decide if the return on these investments are worth it. The more control we can give back to local communities, the better off our state will be.



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Julie Thomas
Democrat



Nelson Shaffer
Republican

What are three goals for county government?

First, I will build upon the successes of recent years in implementing environmental sustainability initiatives. The county is completing an energy conservation program with an annual savings of at least \$150,000. We have a full solar panel array on two county buildings. I will pursue additional energy savings, work to improve our fleet's fuel efficiency and continue to develop our trail system. Second, I will continue to engage residents in county government. A new website will be available soon and [speakupmonroecounty.com](http://www.speakupmonroecounty.com) encourages residents to offer their input on county government. I would like to bring the citizen's academy to our website. Third, as the legislative and executive branch of county government, we can continue to focus on providing more effective and efficient operations. www.juliethomas.us

1) The county needs a more nimble, objective, positive, and innovative approach to developing businesses. This area has one of the highest poverty rates in Indiana despite abundant human and natural resources. We need active efforts to promote job growth and attract new businesses.

2) The new I-69 will improve transport and we need to recognize and use upgraded access. I have helped attract businesses to the state and would like to assist the county in better attracting new (especially high tech) businesses, growing current companies, and promoting tourism.

3) This effort would be fostered by decreasing unnecessary complexity of county rules (e.g. Urbanizing area plan), by slowing rates of tax increases, having better assessments, transparency, and actively promoting the area. We must do better!

In what ways do you think the city and county can work together to provide better services?

There are a number of initiatives that involve city-county cooperation, including the dispatch center (involving first responders across the county), the building department and the animal shelter. County and city planning staff and plan commissions recently met to discuss how to coordinate the development of the city's growth policies plan with the county's urbanizing area plan. We recognized the benefits - to area residents and business owners - of creating similar terminology for types of zones and even coordinating our zoning maps. These conversations will continue. As we strive for more efficient and effective county government, it's important to consider new ways to coordinate county-city services. However, as Commissioners, we must weigh the costs and benefits for our residents in any proposal.

Commissioners should have more exposure to the public and official liaisons with the city, IU, and other governmental units, and increased cooperation and input. Joint purchasing could save money. Perhaps even joint proposals for large projects. County government needs to become more transparent, efficient, representative, and moral. We have seen inefficient accounting, even outright corruption. Cooperation between offices and better oversight are critical. Recent lawsuits have required lower assessed values of big box stores so better assessment is required. Commissioners select representatives to more than 30 boards, commissions, and other bodies. Nomination to these are dominated by a small, entrenched group of like-minded people. More broad and fair representation is needed. We can find people from all parties, professions, and experiences to serve.

Once the Urbanizing Area Plan is adopted, the next step will be the drafting of ordinances. Do you support hiring a consulting firm or generating the ordinances within County government?

Although hiring consultants isn't always the answer, MKSK have provided invaluable assistance to the county (and our residents and business owners) in shepherding the development of the Urbanizing Area Plan. With a careful use of resources, we have managed to stretch the county council's initial funding and MKSK has completed an analysis of our current zoning ordinances in the urbanizing area and they have made some initial zoning proposals (Urbanizing Area Comprehensive Plan II). If the county council can locate the requisite money in the budget to fund the use of a consultant to help complete zoning ordinances, I wholeheartedly support this initiative. The county's planning staff can craft zoning ordinances, but it will take much more time to complete this work.

Must the urbanizing area plan be adopted as-is? Please consider carefully before adding yet another set of mandates to an already overburdened community. The urbanizing plan pays little attention to areas near the planned IU Health Campus. Consultants are not always necessary and the county has been poorly served by paid, but foreign "experts." More involvement by county residents and stakeholders would produce better plans. We do not vote for consultants. If additional ordinances are needed elected Commissioners should make them and county legal staff should be adequate to assure their legality. Consultants to resolve discrepancies between Treasurer and Auditor accounts should not be needed. Do things properly in the first place. The patchwork of county parcels with the city and vice versa needs resolved.

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Amanda Barge
Democrat

Providing Innovative Service
Being Accountable to Residents
Planning for the Future

County government has an obligation to provide services to residents at the level they deserve, find common ground among community stakeholders and chart a course using innovative ideas that will leave the county in better shape than we found it.

We must be accountable to the people. Public servants must govern transparently and honestly. And when decisions are made, public input must be solicited early and often.

County government has an important role in managing day to day responsibilities as well as making decisions that have long term effects on our quality of life. We must lead with vision and know that the decisions we make affect our county for years to come.



Paul White, Sr.
Republican

1. Government that is better responsive to the needs of the citizens. Having hours with open doors available for the public to meet with the commissioners as walk-ins or by appointment should be made, which will in turn allow more direct input into the operations of county government that affect their daily lives.

2. Monroe County needs to be more business friendly. This will attract and keep businesses here rather than going to neighboring counties. Requirements with zoning, water retention ponds and taxation, should be looked at for issue improvements.

3. Operate a government that deals with abuses of power whether it is the firing of whistle blowers or theft by elected officials or regular employees.

What are three goals for county government?

We have many opportunities to work together for the good of our residents. Sharing ideas, setting goals together and combining resources can be done in these areas:

We must work together to address resident's health and safety to keep our community thriving and reduce disease and crime.

When it comes to economic development, planning, parks, trails and historic preservation, city and county would be smart to collaborate while respecting the differences between city and county.

All of our boards and commissions ought to meet on a regular basis to ensure efforts are not duplicated.

I will encourage and foster good relationships and would encourage city-county task forces to address specific community issues as they arise.

In what ways do you think the city and county can work together to provide better services?

If the city advisory planning commission will stop being so obstinate in dealing with the state over the I-69 issue, we might be able to get the road finished with the needed interchanges. County is putting real effort into this issue and the city needs to back away from their antagonist position because it does not just affect the city.

There are duplications of service that could be merged into one service. Elimination of over regulation and zoning by the city and county will increase the freedom of the citizens' thereby increasing productivity and happiness. This will also create an inviting environment for new business, expanding the tax base and being able to reduce the tax rate.

Once the Urbanizing Area Plan is adopted, the next step will be the drafting of ordinances. Do you support hiring a consulting firm or generating the ordinances within County government?

If a consultant can save time and money, as well as provide needed expertise to get the ordinances drafted so they are consistent and predictable, then yes, I would support that.

The county hired a consulting firm at the beginning of the process so it would make sense to do so again if there are available funds. In making a decision like this, I would consult heavily with community leaders, business owners, residents and the plan commission as well as elected officials.

If this is adopted, there is currently a consulting firm that is working on guidelines and possible ordinances, such as different zoning regulations. If the county decides not to do their job in talking with those with whom the new regulations are going to affect, perhaps a consultant will. Any new imposed regulation concerning the MCUAP should be voted on by those whom it is going to impact, the land owners of record. There are many people currently who are more than disgruntled about the stealing of their rights and treasures by city and county government. These people should be listened to. This issue is driven by the City of Bloomington not Monroe County yet the City of Bloomington refuses to consider property owner wishes.

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Elizabeth Lee Jones
Democrat

It is important to invest resources in public safety. The State DOC no longer accepts level 6 felons. This has created a strain on the capacity of Community Corrections and the jail.

Most level 6 felons will serve their sentence through Community Corrections. However, if one commits a misdemeanor it could be a problem. There is a federal cap on the population of the jail, which is often close to capacity. If a work/release program were added to the options for Community Corrections to use it would relieve some of the burden on the jail. I serve on a task force that is studying possibilities for adding work/release to the continuum of programming. This is an important use for the Public Safety LIT.

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, in terms of a budget proposal?



Cheryl Munson
Democrat

Responsibility for Level 6 felons has been transferred by the State to county government, both to house offenders and to help them return successfully to society. Transferring Level 5 felons is being discussed. Our county jail population is capped by court mandate, operating just below requirements by granting early release to non-violent offenders. The current mechanism for lowering inmate count is very costly: sending inmates to another jail. While our jail is not adequately configured for a Work-Release operation, separate facilities for this valuable transition program are used in other counties. I have urged our officials to study a separate Work-Release facility and would support allocating a portion of the new Public Safety income tax revenue to fund operations, if a feasible plan is developed.

I have voted for modest income tax increases for juvenile services (0.045%) and for public safety (0.25%). Both had broad community support. Expansion of our increasingly undersized Convention Center for economic and community development is a current need. Is there broad support for this among businesses and residents? Could an increase in the current Inn-Keepers' tax cover expanded operational costs? Should the County Council consider imposing a Food & Beverage tax to support the Convention Center expansion, as is typical in many counties? While this tax was previously viewed by some as unfair to the county because most advantages went to the city, can it be restructured to benefit both areas? While I have no answers now, I promise to ask hard questions.

The County Tax Council is in the process of considering adopting a Public Safety LIT. This is a tax I am very much in support of. At this time there are many public safety issues that need to be addressed.

When any tax is adopted, or increased, it is important to consider the effects of it on the entire community. At this time it is especially important to not adopt regressive taxes, and to consider the effect of the overall tax burden on the most economically challenged families in the community.

The state allows relatively little local authority over the creation and the use of taxes. The thing that would help most with local budgeting is if the State were to increase the General Fund.

What taxes would you consider increasing and for what reason?

While the MCUAP simplifies the planning for the urbanizing area, creation of the plan and the supporting ordinances has been, and will be, quite complex. Because of this I believe it was important for the Council to fund hiring an outside consultant to create the plan, and I think it is critical that a consultant be hired for the work on the ordinances to support the plan. The Planning Department does not have the time, staff, or budget to allow them to do this work on their own in a timely manner. Without the support of the Council in hiring outside help it would be very difficult to create the needed opportunities for the public to learn about and have input into this process.

I support hiring a consulting firm because: (1) a consultant would be selected based on their experience, and their staff would have greater expertise than our county employees in turning the philosophy of a plan into a set of operational requirements; and (2) our county planning and legal staff already have responsibilities that leave little to no time for the additional work of ordinance-drafting. Regardless of who drafts the ordinances, the adoption process rests with county government and will remain open to the public.

Once the Urbanizing Area Plan is adopted, the next step will be the drafting of ordinances. Do you support hiring a consulting firm or generating the ordinances within County government?

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Geoff McKim
Democrat



Hal Turner
Republican

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, in terms of a budget proposal?

The drug abuse crisis spreading across the nation is the source of many problems and challenges the Council must face in the coming term. First, we must support programs and quality of life amenities that help our youth avoid addiction in the first place. We then need effective, evidence based programs to help addicted persons break the chains of drug addiction. We need an effective way to stop recidivism of jail inmates. We must focus on treatment and problem solving courts, which have proven to be an effective way to solve the core problems, not just the symptoms. We need community input on possibly establishing a work release center, and better treatment of mental health problems of our persons who are overwhelming the Justice system.

The proposed County Public Safety Income Tax is an outrageously backward approach to taxation. Normally, new taxes start with a NEED. After evaluating the validity of the need, the need is SIZED and PRICED. That price with added plans for handling community growth and inflation, determines the size of the TAX. In the case of the Public Safety Tax, the amount to tax us (approximately \$7,500,000.00 PER YEAR) is being determined first. About \$2,250,000.00 will go to Emergency Dispatch. Except for a few allocations made recently (about half-a-million dollars for fire departments) this tax generates about a \$5.750,000.00 SLUSH FUND PER YEAR for undetermined "safety" projects in Monroe County, Bloomington, Ellettsville and Stinesville. Safety Taxation is necessary, but DON'T TAX WITHOUT A PLAN.

What taxes would you consider increasing and for what reason?

This community has shown great support for increasing taxes that serve our youth and protect public safety. Recent increases in these areas should provide the needed revenues to better fund services. Our primary focus should now be on effective utilization of these increased revenues in the Juvenile and Public Safety areas. Proposals to increase tax revenues to support the development of tourism or economic development deserve careful consideration, with a focus on assuring that any increases don't regressively impact low-income taxpayers.

Any taxation should be preceded with demonstrated need and estimated cost. Health and safety of all citizens is paramount, as is support for judicial and incarceration systems. Next consideration for the well-being of citizens on limited income who have no hope of recovery from their situations must be given. At the very bottom of the list would be the "nice but not necessary" items. One upcoming item that we may need to consider as a new financial requirement would be services targeted to immigrant communities. Proposed immigrants for our area may not speak any English, so translation assistance will be required everywhere: Hospitals, Ambulances, County offices, 911, Retail Stores, Police Departments, Court Rooms and at all the rest of our community agencies and services.

Each potential increase, though, must be considered on its merits but also in the context of the overall burden on the taxpayer. I have given multiple presentations to Chamber and other groups on the trade-offs in various levels of income tax for our community.

Once the Urbanizing Area Plan is adopted, the next step will be the drafting of ordinances. Do you support hiring a consulting firm or generating the ordinances within County government?

Support hiring a consultant.
In 2013, the Council appropriated \$250,000 to hire a consultant to help draft the Urbanizing Area Plan (UAP); this process has widely been seen as successful, and provided numerous opportunities for local stakeholder engagement while bringing in experience and best practices.

Similarly, I support funding additional assistance drafting the zoning ordinances to implement the UAP, essential to streamlining economic development in the urbanizing area. We need to:

- Bring in outside ideas and best practices
- Allow county staff to focus on working with petitioners
- Manage the public engagement process

The expenditure can be funded from existing unspent appropriations. This one-time activity of developing a new zoning code for the urbanizing area is a vital investment in our community's infrastructure.

Neither. The immense flaws in our Urbanizing Area Plan will probably not be enough to stop its approval, so we should instead try to blunt its damage with intelligent people-generated and people-approved regulations. Sub-committees of affected residents in the fringe should work with county officials who sit on those sub-committees in ex-officio capacity. Rural residents should be responsible for helping to generate rural area regulations. Business people should have the responsibility for helping to generate business-area regulations. Environmentally knowledgeable residents should be responsible for helping to define environmental policy. We should try to restore a belief by the people that this is THEIR government for THEIR good, a government that is truly of the people. People living in the fringe should determine its fate.

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Jessica McClellan
Democrat



Ann Collins
Republican

What are your specific qualifications and experience to serve as the treasurer of the county?

I am a deputy county assessor. I am a level II Indiana Assessor/ Appraiser.

I've passed two state examinations covering Indiana's guidelines for fair and equal assessment of property. It includes 45 hours of continuing education every two years. And I've completed 3 courses and over 60 hours of coursework for level three certification, which is higher level math and work flow management. I talk to taxpayers every day about their assessments, deductions and tax rates.

I've taken almost every class this community offers on public funding while working full time and being a mom- Leadership Bloomington, the City's non-profit management class, both city and county Citizens' Academy, and a class in Indy on state funding.

I am an IU graduate with a degree in Journalism.

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?

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

This office needs to address accountability. I will delegate duties and responsibilities and be answerable for the final outcome. To do this we need full transparency of audit opinions of material weakness and professional training to correct these weaknesses going forward. The Treasurer needs to teach and model better communication and train her employees to be problem solvers so discrepancies in our books are resolved immediately.

We ask a lot of our taxpayers when we ask them to give us part of their hard earned income.

The Treasurer has to have multiple sets of eyes reviewing every transaction to make sure we are collecting and spending money in a transparent way. The Treasurer's office should be the taxpayers' watchdog.

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 answers. 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.

The County hired an outside consulting firm after a number of deficiencies in reports and internal controls were discovered. What will you implement to prevent deficiencies and ensure accountability?

The firm Hartman and Williams was hired to balance the Treasurer's Cash Book to corresponding bank accounts for the years 2012-2014. They also made recommendations as to several procedures that need to be changed in order to successfully reconcile in the future. What stands out to me is that the Auditor and Treasurer will need to work closely together as a team to find and resolve problems immediately. The Treasurer's Office staff will be given proper training to wear multiple hats and cover unforeseen vacancies in key positions. And everyone, elected officials and staff alike, need regular training on accounting systems so that transfers occur correctly and accounts are balanced.

The pledge that I, and others, have made is the best accountability tool we have. Anything else is just buzzwords. As it stands now, if an employee raises a red flag and says "my boss is stealing!" That same "boss," if an elected official, can fire them! This sounds like something from the 1930's and not something you'd find in any major company today. Again, the pledge is NOT to fire without cause. Not to fire without a proper disciplinary procedure that would include verbal warnings and positive coachings etc. Termination should be a last resort. Not a "benefit" of winning the office!



Hampton Inn – September 15, 2015
Hampton Inn invited The Chamber and members to view its newly remodeled rooms and lobby.

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Catherine Smith
Democrat



T. Ann Boehm
Republican

What are your specific qualifications and experience to act as the principal financial officer of the county?

Experience:

- Finishing 8th year of serving as the Monroe County Treasurer
- Completed a four-year term serving as the Chief Deputy Auditor and County Financial Director
- 30 years of professional engineering, engineering project management and financial management of major engineering projects, undergraduate and graduate college teaching of engineering subjects and software applications for engineering, engineering economy and engineering project finance

Education:

- Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, NC State
- Executive MBA program, Wake Forest University, Accounting/Finance

Personality:

- Dedicated, competent, efficient
- Kind, considerate, personally engaging

I hold a BA in Marine Science w/ a minor in Spanish from Jacksonville University; post grad education in accounting from the Kelley School of Business for CPA eligibility. My previous positions include credit and financial analysis from the banking industry as a mortgage analyst processing and underwriting files for residential and commercial loans with authority to approve multi-million dollar transfers; a staff accountant for a major dealership; and the Monroe county claims representative. I supervised and trained people as Asst. Manager of Lab Safety for all of IU. I have 11+ years experience with federal and state regulations pertaining to banking and mortgages and OSHA and Dept. of Homeland Security, plus database management as principle administrator and creator of programs, templates and reports.

How will you improve county's financial record keeping and ensure records are timely reconciled and maintained?

What's missing and will dramatically improve: OUTREACH.

The Auditor is the engine to the treasurer's caboose. When the Auditor doesn't engage its internal partners every financial/recordkeeping task takes longer, is more stressful, impedes accuracy, requires rework and fails to thrive.

Truthfully, it's been a hard road as treasurer to the last two Auditors (arrests, convictions, investigations, turn-over). Definitely those administrations didn't engage the treasurer. Under my leadership, communication (written, face-to-face, group meetings) will be a welcome, pleasant, affirmative, productive, expected part of a best-practices financial governance approach. Information will flow seamlessly from Auditor to Treasurer. I, along with my staff, will be available and willing to aid the new treasurer with understanding each financial element, in the spirit of cooperation and of being colleagues.

Improve efficiency by evaluating each position and the budget to see if new positions can be created or realign duties if necessary, complete cross training, create position manuals and implement student interns.

Implement internal controls by evaluating the new financial software system to understand its capabilities. Reach out to past auditors and other successful counties to get new ideas and find out what hasn't worked for them. Work with State Board of Accounts more closely.

Not fire without cause and follow the employee handbook protocol. This is not being done across the county. Good employees need to feel secure in their jobs and employees needing help should be given that chance and proper support before termination. Good employee morale is key to good work.

Specifically, how will you provide the commissioners and the county council with daily operational assistance and support?

My first hire will be a CPA as Chief Deputy Auditor. Both groups will be able to reach us 24/7 to answer questions, provide written information or data, as well as meet to work on issues and projects. The CPA, who's worked for 20+ years for Indiana DCS as a budget manager, will be assigned as liaison to the Council and Commissioners. He will regularly attend all meetings and be dedicated to completely satisfying their operational needs. All elected officials will always be welcome, treated wonderfully and provided any financial information they may need, expertly and timely. It will be my pleasure to ensure that my office seeks to exceed all expectations of excellent service.

The lines of communication will be constantly open between my office and the Council and Commissioners through better and more accurate reporting. I will offer my advice and expertise as needed at all meetings. I will not shy away from any mistakes made in the office. People do make mistakes, and as I have always done I will confront any issue head on, own up to anything my fault and work with employees to correct issues immediately.

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Therese Chambers Independent

I have worked for Monroe County Government for 25 years. I have been with the Auditor's Office for seven years, five of which I have served as the Chief Deputy Auditor. I have been instrumental in the implementation of our new property tax and payroll financial software systems. In the past I have held a Level II Assessor Certification and have a thorough knowledge of the property taxing system. I was caucused in by the Democratic Party and am now serving as incumbent Auditor.

What are your specific qualifications and experience to act as the principal financial officer of the county?

How will you improve county's financial record keeping and ensure records are timely reconciled and maintained?

Restructuring of the Financial side of the Auditor's office will aid in more accurate and accountable records. Previous Auditors have cut vital positions in this area which has created an increased workload on the remaining staff. By implementing LOW Financial software the office will be able to more easily and efficiently put in place a quality control system allowing for increased transparency to all government entities as well as taxpayers. Once the LOW system is in place employee training and cross training are key to an Auditor's Office that continues to meet all county and state deadlines. I will also propose a plan to purchase a time and attendance module making payroll a more streamlined, accurate and accountable process.

Specifically, how will you provide the commissioners and the county council with daily operational assistance and support?

Upon being caucused in as Auditor on July 29th, 2016 I immediately opened the lines of communication between my office, the County Council and the County Commissioners. My goal has been and will continue to be to keep them abreast on the implementation of the much needed internal controls recommended by the State Board of Accounts. Strict and strictly enforced internal controls are necessary to put the integrity and trust back in the Auditor's Office. I pledge to the Council, Commissioners and taxpayers of Monroe County accountability with an open door policy if elected as Auditor on November 8th.

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CHAMBER BRIEFS

Continued from page 5

2620 S. Walnut St., is having a grand opening Saturday, Oct. 15 at noon. The public is invited to attend.

Continuing Professional Education Seminar

Edward Jones is holding a Continuing Professional Education Seminar Thursday, Oct. 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bloomington Country Club. Payment for registration should go to Edward Jones at 461 Landmark Ave., Bloomington, IN 47403.

Nonprofit Board Certificate Seminar

The City of Bloomington will offer the Nonprofit Board Certificate Seminar Friday, Oct. 21 from 1 to 5 p.m. in City Hall, Council Chambers. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Bet Savich at 812-349-3472. To register, visit bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org/boardcertificateseminarregistration.

Ribbon Cutting at Eli's Sandwich Shoppe

Eli's Sandwich Shoppe, located at 601 N. College

Ave. Suite 5, will hold a ribbon cutting Oct. 27 at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

Annual Report to the Community

Save the date for The Community Foundation's annual meeting and cocktail reception, which will take place Nov. 3 at 4:30 p.m. in Ivy Tech-Bloomington's Shreve Hall. For more information, email info@cfbmc.org or call 812-333-9016.

Other

Home Instead Missing Senior Network

People suffering from Alzheimer's or another dementia may become confused and wander from their homes. It's a common symptom of such diseases. You can create an account with the Missing Senior Network at missingsenior-network.com, a free web service that can help people locate their senior loved one who goes missing.

Grant Initiative to Empower Youth

A grant initiative is prioritizing projects that empower youth. The Community Foundation of



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Bloomington and Monroe County has announced that grants are available through the Community Impact Funding Initiative. Call Marcus Whited at 812-333-9016 or email marcus@cfbmc.org.

Räke's Give Back Promotion Successful

Räke Cabinet and Surface Solutions and Laminated Tops of Central Indiana gave back to the community with the help of customers. With every sale, customers had the choice of four local organizations to which Räke contributed 2 percent

of sales, totaling more than \$3,200. This fall, they will continue the Local Give Back campaign.

Big Changes at College Mall

College Mall is continuing its large-scale development with parking lot improvements, enhanced landscaping and more. The west pedestrian entrance to the mall has closed temporarily to allow continued enhancements to parking features and demolition of the northern end, which will make way for new options.



Class 101 - College Finance & Planning – September 21, 2016

Class 101 - College Finance & Planning celebrated the opening of their new location in Winslow Plaza at 309 E. Winslow Rd!



McDonald's North – September 22, 2016

The last of the three new Bloomington McDonald's opened to the public on Thursday, September 22nd.



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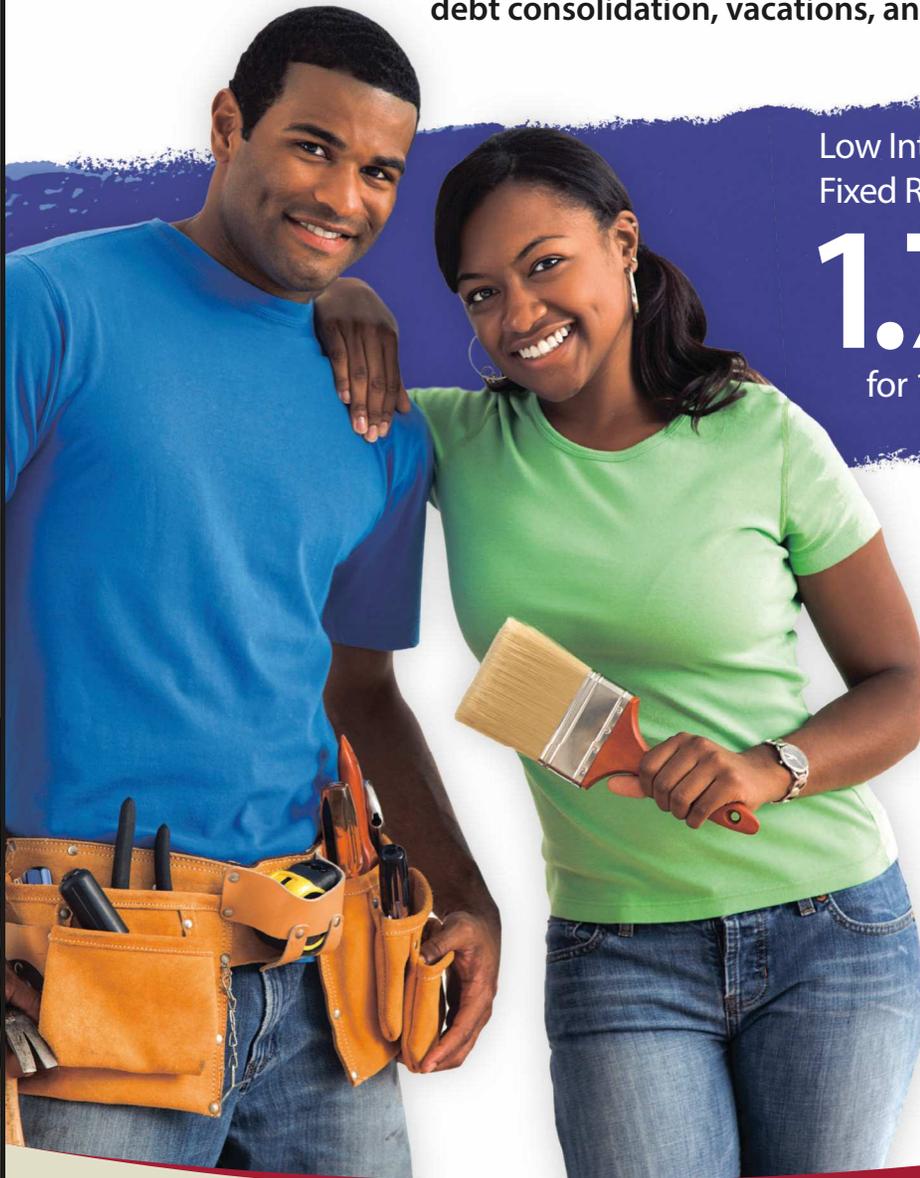
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