

Welcome Back Home.

CDC TO CELEBRATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT 2016 E.D. SUMMIT

In late 1995, local business and civic leaders began meeting as the Economic Planning Commission of Pulaski County. At their December meeting, the members renamed the entity the 'Community Development Commission of Pulaski County' (CDC) on the recommendation of Steve Seifert, who at that meeting had formally accepted the offer to serve as the first executive director of the organization. On 19 December, a resolution of the County Commissioners formally established the CDC, outlining the original makeup of the organization and laying out guidelines for membership, funding, and management effective 1 January 1996.

Twenty years later, the CDC has expanded from seven appointed members to those original seats and eight at-large positions. Nearly 40 persons have served on the Commission for at least three years — many for more —, and numerous others have served shorter stints. Including current staff members, about a dozen directors, interim directors, and assistants have implemented the CDC's projects and programs.

On Tuesday, 1 March, the CDC will hold its annual reorganization meeting at 6:30p.m. at the Winamac Event Center. At 7:00, the annual Pulaski County Economic Development Summit commences.

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Did you know ...

that the Small Business Administration offers small-business loans and loan guarantees, assistance with venture capital, training and counseling, help with government contracts, and more?

Contact us to learn more!

Winamac Students Complete Fourth Business Plan Competition

Baseball may be (rightly!) America's pastime, but Winamac seems to hold a special place in its heart for that indoor game of strikes, spares, and gutterballs. In three of the four business-plan competitions conducted in Brandon Burgess's classroom at Winamac Community High School since 2012, one of the proposed endeavors has been a bowling alley. This past semester's winning plan belongs to Becki Fox and Mallori Hoffmann's Spares and Strikes, situated on State Road 119 in the former Alexander's.

In a close second place came Michael Beckner's Winamac Inn, a hotel recognized by all as a missing necessity in our community, located on Market Street at the northern edge of downtown.

Other projects proposed by this most recent batch of future entrepreneurs were a sporting-goods store focused on bicycling and cross-country skiing; a retail store that is a hybrid between a brick-and-mortar consignment shop and online marketplaces such as eBay; a carpet-cleaning company; a café operating out of the Vurpillat; an ice-cream parlor; and a microbrewery (a favorite at the CDC).

Many thanks go out to this year's judges from the CDC and Chamber of Commerce, with special gratitude to Angie Anspach and Refined for contributing gift certificates as prizes for first- and second-place finishers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

the Town of Winamac on the progress made on and near the Winamac Parkway!

the Pulaski County Advisory Plan Commission and County Commissioners on the adoption of the new Pulaski County Unified Development Ordinance!

all of the new local officials elected in November to serve their communities!

Hometown Collaboration Initiative: Pulaski County team selects capstone project, plans expanded tourism support

“And I really don’t care for the way your company left me in the middle of nowhere with keys to a car that isn’t there. And I really didn’t care to walk down a highway and across a runway to get back here to have you smile in my face. I want a car RIGHT NOW!” [Expletives deleted!]

We’ve all been there, Steve Martin, but, really, who needs the hassle of a car when you can feel the fresh air — and the occasional bug — in your face as your lower limbs lead you past deer, daffodils, and dogwoods down a quiet country road?

Pending State approval of the project, Cranes, Trains, and Pedalmobiles: the Pulaski County Bike Route Network proposes to offer such an alternative.

After almost a year of meetings, emails, and a cross-county tour, the Pulaski County Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI) team, along with a “token-tourist” special guest, convened in mid-December, breaking bread and brainstorming like never before, ranking ideas, comparing options, and ultimately deciding that one potential project, more than any other, could attract tourists to our fair realm while creating a new quality-of-life amenity for residents and being a truly countywide endeavor.

Treating the Panhandle Pathway (Trains!), the Winamac Parkway, and any future northward extensions as a spine for the system, the HCI team intends to work with County Highway and the Kankakee-Iroquois Planning Commission’s traffic-

counting team to find the best roads throughout the county to designate as Pulaski County Bike Routes. Routes will, to the extent practicable, be laid out to connect to each other, to communities, to the trails and the river, and to other appropriate points. As the amusing appellation asserts, one terminus will be in the environs of the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area (Cranes!). Route and wayfinding signs will be employed to keep local riders and tourists on Treks on the right path, whatever their destinations be.

About a decade ago, a similar project was undertaken; one signed route still connects the Winamac Town Park and Monterey. Any remaining documentation from this earlier attempt will be used, if possible, to cut down on time and costs; any funds not required for traffic counting and signage would be put toward marketing the new on-road bike-route network to two-wheeled tourists.

In addition to approving Cranes, Trains, and Pedalmobiles, the HCI team agreed that a formal tourism plan for Pulaski County should be developed. Currently in its earliest stages of being drafted, this plan will guide the Community Development Commission and the soon-to-be-established tourism advisory committee (comprising representatives of local tourism-oriented businesses) as efforts to market Pulaski County as a destination and to improve cooperation amongst local tourist attractions are amplified.

Downtown doings: Movement at Market and Main

“Indiana Main Street (IMS) was established to provide economic revitalization and professional assistance to participating communities. IMS encourages the revitalization and restoration of downtown areas in Indiana cities and towns. As the traditional heart and hub of government, commerce, justice[,] and social interaction, the downtown business district portrays a city’s overall image.” These are the words used by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) to introduce visitors to its IMS Webpage.

“[D]owntown ... portrays a city’s overall image.” Over the last few years, a number of entrepreneurs have breathed new life into the heart of Winamac, filling once-vacant spaces with new retail options; expanding dining opportunities; and generally adding vibrancy to a district that sorely

needed it — often while involving themselves in local programming that has further helped to enliven the lands between the Tippy and the trail.

Recently, Town officials, downtown stakeholders, and CDC staff have met, amongst themselves and with OCRA officials, to work toward establishing Winamac as an official IMS community. With this designation will come new opportunities for grants, access to new resources, a stronger case to be made for applying to the State’s Stellar Communities program, and, perhaps most important of all, a stronger, more cohesive set of stakeholders interested in making Winamac paradise on the Tippecanoe.

For more information, contact the CDC or Winamac Town Hall; learn more at <http://www.in.gov/ocra/mainstreet.htm>.

PULASKI COUNTY, PARADISE ON THE TIPPECANOE



(Image credit: Scott Roudebush)

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As in past years, Executive Director Nathan P. Origer will present a State of the County Economy address, dinner will be provided, and a keynote speech will be offered. In celebration of 20 years of economic- and community-development efforts, however, the 2016 Summit will be an elevated affair: the keynote will be made by the highest-profile guest speaker to date; a cash bar will be available; and a toast to the past, present, and future of Pulaski County and the CDC's efforts will be made. Special VIP invitations have been sent to all past staff and past members who served a minimum of three years (one full term).

Bill Konyha, former economic-development director for Wabash County, Indiana, past officer of the Indiana Economic Development Association, and now executive director of the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) will address attendees after the State of the County Economy is presented. A knowledgeable leader and exceptional speaker, Mr. Konyha has already spearheaded positive changes in his short tenure; OCRA has had a tremendous impact on Pulaski County over the last decade.

For more information, contact the CDC office.

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Our Mission

Pulaski County Economic Development's mission is to promote and to improve the quality of economic development throughout Pulaski County in pursuit of excellence through the following endeavors:

- *Supporting the expansion and continued investment of Pulaski County businesses.
- *Recruiting new business and industry into Pulaski County.
- *Promoting tourism and the increase of transient spending in Pulaski County.
- *Developing and supporting business services such as workforce development, infrastructure, planning, financial programs, technology initiatives, and entrepreneurial programs.
- *Conducting charitable and educational activities

Pulaski County Community Development Commission/ Economic Development 2015-2016 Leadership

President: Bill Champion, Fratco
Vice-President: Lawrence Loehmer, Town of
Monterey/Loehmer's Hardware and Farm Supply
Secretary: Gregg Malott, Pulaski Memorial Hospital
Membership Officer: Larry Brady, Commissioner
Board member: John Plowman, Town of Winamac/
Link Environmental Equipment

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