



THE ALLIANCE AND IU PARTNER ON MARTIN COUNTY COMMUNITY PLANNING

Indiana University and the Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth are teaming up to raise awareness of the natural beauty, small-town charm, national employers, and community assets that make Martin County a wonderful place to live and visit. The full team, community, and students will focus on Martin County's natural resources, including its parks and trails, and housing opportunities that would be attractive to visitors and prospective residents. Conducting a deep dive to map assets, community needs and opportunities and the broader context of Martin County, student teams will identify areas for economic and community development as first steps in the semester-long engagement.

FALL 2023 MARTIN COUNTY MANUFACTURING DAY

On September 29th, The Alliance collaborated with both Loogootee and Shoals Community schools and hosted a Manufacturing Day event for the 120 eighth graders in Martin County. Manufacturing Day is an event that is celebrated nationally every year in the Fall. The eighth graders ventured out of the classroom for the day and toured Gold Bond Building Products, Red Fox Cabinets, J&L Tool, and Country Pines Printing. Thank you to Martin County Community Foundation for sponsoring the event. The students toured local businesses, enjoyed a pizza lunch, and were presented shirts commemorating the day, designed and printed by ME Screenprinting and Embroidery.





INDIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION VISITS MARTIN COUNTY

Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) visited Martin County in July. We did a site visit at SC Draperies located on Main Street in Shoals and Jug Rox Farm at the Shoals School. How many tours are you taken on where you leave with some fresh foods from the garden? It was a beautiful day in Martin County, and Jessica enjoyed connecting IEDC to another small business and showing off some of our future workforces' talent. It means so much more coming from the students, and the pride they have in telling their story and the hard work put in on the farm is priceless. Thanks for the tour Ms. Megan Hawkins!

THE ALLIANCE HOSTED A MARTIN COUNTY JOB FAIR

On August 24th, the Martin County Alliance collaborated with Workforce Development Region 8 and hosted a Job Fair at the Martin County Community building. Around 20 businesses participated in the event, and over 45 people came out to attend the "How to Work a Job Fair" workshop and meet with employers. The event was a great success and feedback from job seekers and employers was overwhelmingly positive. Watch for another Job Fair next Spring!



TAX INCREMENT FUND LUNCH & LEARN

The Alliance hosted a Tax Increment Fund (TIF) Lunch and Learn on Wednesday, July 19th. Representatives were here meeting with community members to discuss how the program works. TIF programs provide funding for economic development and quality of place opportunities in counties where they are located. For more information about TIFs, contact the Alliance at martinalliance@martinalliance.org.

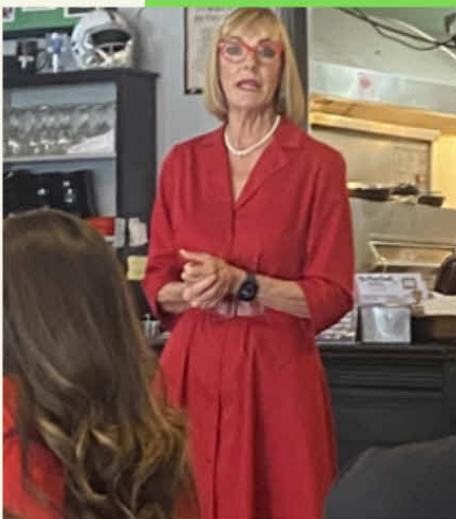


EFFORTS ARE GAINING TRACTION TO SAVE A HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BUILDING

The Alliance hosted a meeting in collaboration with The Town of Shoals and several regional partners to brainstorm funding opportunities to save the building at 232 Main Street, formerly known as the NuTap. Regional partners in attendance included USDA, Regional Opportunities Initiative, Inc. (ROI), Radius Indiana, Southern Indiana Development Commission (SIDC), Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and Indiana Landmarks. Efforts to save this historic structure are ongoing.

ALLIANCE IS TRACKING NONPROFITS

In conjunction with Donaide, the Alliance offered a workshop on August 22nd for businesses and nonprofits to discuss how we could better connect and support each other. There are new tools available that make communication and recordkeeping more efficient and effective. If you're a part of a local non-profit group, contact us to ensure that you're on our list to receive updates.



WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEET

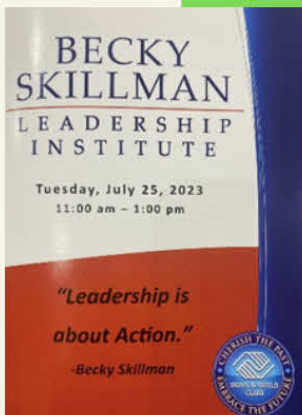
Jessica attended a bi-monthly Women in Economic Development meeting on August 2nd, hosted by Radius Indiana. Women working in the field in Southwest Indiana gathered to network and share challenges facing their communities. Guest Speaker Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch gave insight into her journey through various leadership roles. Martin County is very fortunate to have regional partners like Radius Indiana and Regional Opportunities Initiative Inc. (ROI) who bring us together and offer networking opportunities.

NEW COUNTY BUSINESS

Southern Indiana Business Report shared a great article about one of Martin County's newest businesses, Red Fox Cabinetry & Design. The Alliance was fortunate enough to help with the 5-year tax abatement for this business. Getting everything in line to grow their operation, we expect great things from Red Fox Cabinetry and Design in the coming years!



BECKY SKILLMAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Jessica attended a program at the Becky Skillman Leadership Institute on July 25th. Keynote speakers were Randall T Shepard, former Chief Justice of Indiana and Douglas Boles, President of Indianapolis Motor Speedway. They shared advice on leadership, discussed how to encourage members of our organizations, be receptive to new ideas, keep people happy while still getting the job done and view everything in life as an opportunity. It was a very productive lunch session!

INPUT NEEDED

The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth is undergoing a strategic planning process. To strengthen the Alliance and expand future efforts, we are seeking feedback from businesses and community leaders. Please take a few minutes and complete the anonymous survey, posted on our Facebook page on August 9th.





MORE GOOD NEWS!

Heartland Development Marketing Group LLC (HD-MG) has found a new home in downtown Shoals! Located at 314 Main Street, HD-MG is the newest investor in the Alliance! Owner Grant Sherfick is the perfect example of talent that was raised in the area, left, and came back. Thanks for returning and investing in Martin County and the Alliance!

MIDWEST DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Jessica spent the week of August 18th in Springfield, IL, at the Midwest CDI conference networking with regional development professionals. Rural-focused, the conference concentrated on the types of challenges faced in Martin County. A sincere thanks goes out to Hoosier Energy for offering the scholarship that paid for Jessica to attend and for their continued investment in Martin County!



ATTENTION MARTIN COUNTY!



Local resident and Indiana University School of Medicine third-year student, Chase Salmon, is conducting research on rural communities and telehealth. All residents of Martin County who are 18 or older are eligible to participate in his anonymous, confidential survey. If interested in helping our local medical student and ultimately improving healthcare options for Martin County, please complete this survey. It can be found at https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_QpPXImd7X91dO2W

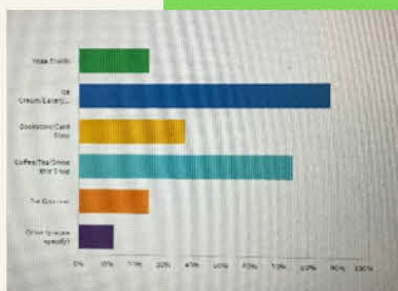


2023 MARTIN COUNTY FAIR

The Alliance participated in the Martin County 4-H Fair July 7th-11th. We shared our newsletter and information about the Alliance, gave away goodies and Alliance T-shirts and promoted opportunities available in Martin County. Thanks to everyone who dropped by our table, signed up to receive the newsletter and left comments!

WORK ANNIVERSARY

On August 8th, Jessica celebrated 1 year with the Martin County Alliance staff and team! The Alliance has been Quality of Place driven this year and is emphasizing retaining the talent in our communities. Some successes of the past year include being part of a grant-writing team that worked on a \$600,000 READI grant to help with a new housing project in Loogootee, a \$5000 Duke Energy marketing grant, a \$3500 Hoosier Uplands grant for the Shoals Art Class mural, facilitating a \$21,000 revolving loan through USDA to help a business get started, hosting a Manufacturing Readiness Roundtable, resulting in a local business being awarded \$87,500 to help with equipment costs and Martin County's first participation in Manufacturing Day. On to another year of progress!



LOCAL BUSINESS POLL

What businesses do residents want in their communities? Well, we asked them in a survey and the results were clear! We're hungry people! Top vote-getters were an Ice Cream/Bakery/Sweet Shop and Coffee/Tea/Smoothie Shop. If you have an idea for a new business, come talk to us!

MEMBERS NEEDED

Help Martin County grow! The Alliance is continuing to expand memberships. With over 40 participating businesses in 2023, we hope to grow considerably in 2024. We are expanding the levels of membership for next year, so spread the word! No business is too small to be a part of the great things happening at the Alliance!



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Oct 6 - Martin County Alliance Golf Scramble**

The Alliance will host a Golf Scramble for investors at West Boggs Park Lakeview Golf Course. Lunch at 1100, tee time 1200.

- **Oct 7 - Hindostan Day**

The Alliance will be participating in the third annual Hindostan Day event at Hindostan Falls. The theme this year is **Circling Back to Community**. Music, arts & crafts, food, beautiful scenery and history of the area.

- **Mar 14, 2024 - Martin County Chamber of Commerce and Alliance Annual Dinner**

Plans for the annual dinner are underway! It will be held in the Lower Level of St John's Community Building. Along with the dinner, there will be awards presented, a silent auction and featured entertainment. Save the date and plan to attend!

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM COUNCIL

The mission of the Martin County Tourism Council is to develop and promote the tourism economy in the county. With input from businesses, organizations, civic groups and other community members, the Council focuses efforts on identifying and promoting quality of life tourism opportunities for local and regional residents.

Martin County has abundant scenic locations and places for outdoor recreational opportunities, so plan an outing this fall in your home county!

Tourism meetings are held monthly at the Community Learning Center and everyone is invited to take part! Email mctourism22@gmail.com for more information!



Don't forget the video contest for Martin County High School students with top prizes of \$500 and \$250. Videos should be 30 - 60 seconds and demonstrate why Martin County is Indiana's Natural Treasure! Refer to our Facebook page or our website for more information!
visitmartincountyindiana.com

Projects that foster friendliness and togetherness make a region grow!

Take a totally unremarkable corner of your town and give it charm.

OUR MISSION

The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth, Inc., will facilitate and support economic activity, and stimulate economic growth and well-being of the community by enhancing workforce development, expanding housing options, engaging with local businesses and positively affecting tax revenues.

Martin County Alliance Members

INVESTORS

German American Bank Corp
 HD-MG LLC
 Cash Waggner & Associates, PC
 ME Screenprint & Embroidery
 Shake Broadcasting, LLC
 Loogootee Marathon/Rocket Fuels
 KCARC
 Midwestern Engineers, Inc
 Loughmiller Machine, Tool & Design
 Daviess-Martin County REMC
 Springs Valley Bank & Trust
 RTC Communications
 US Gypsum
 Town of Shoals
 NAVSEA

SPONSORS

National Gypsum
 Duke Energy
 Daviess County Metal Sales, Inc
 Metal Tech Roofing
 Blake Funeral Home
 Bulls Eye Auto Wash
 Angela B Smith, DDS

SUPPORTERS

Muffler Menders Auto Repair Inc
 Hoosier Uplands
 Gregory Farms
 Loogootee Eye Center
 White River Marine
 Hawkins Health Care
 The Body Shop Gym
 J & R Tool
 St Vincent de Paul Society
 Carla's Catering
 Crane Credit Union
 Greene's Body Shop
 Harvest Health & Rehab
 Bauer Family Enterprises Inc
 Martin County Chamber of Commerce
 Kerns Insurance
 Lett & Jones Attorneys
 Memorial Hospital & Health Care Center
 Work One
 Gold Door Title, LLC

OUR VISION

The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth, Inc. will implement improvements in all aspects of business, quality of life, and community engagement to stimulate economic growth overall in Martin County.