



Economic Development Group of Wabash County



Dedicated to Creating Economic and Employment Opportunities for the People and Businesses of Wabash County.

EDG Receives Nationwide Attention in Expansion Solutions Magazine

Economic Development Group of Wabash County, Inc. received nationwide attention in the Expansion Solutions Magazine. This magazine is designed to inform key site selection consultants and corporate real estate brokers about progressive communities and the benefits that are offered by each community. Below is an excerpt from the story...

“Located in the center of America’s heartland is an area in the midst of an economic rebirth squarely focused upon 21st century enterprises. With a highly-skilled area workforce of approximately 185,000, Wabash County produces everything from woodworking machinery to energy drinks. Service industries include industrial machining, plating, information technology, heat treating, sand blasting, welding and rigging, construction and building maintenance, biofuels and aluminum siding.



Bill Konyha, President and CEO of the Economic Development Group of Wabash County, Inc., is very enthusiastic about the future of Wabash County because of the progress made in the past two years. Long tied to the American automobile industry almost to the point of dependence, the county has begun to experience positive results from its efforts to move toward new growth industries that hold far greater potentials for the county and the North East Indiana Region.

One major draw of Wabash County for growing businesses is.....



To read the rest of the story please follow the link below
http://www.expansionsolutionsmagazine.com/wabash_county

EDG Board of Directors

Jeffery Kellam, Chair

Ken Perkins, Vice Chair

Dan Hannaford, Secretary

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Actions of the Board

Economic Development Group’s monthly board meeting was held on November 13th at 7:30 am in the EDG Board Room. The board reviewed minutes from the October Board Meeting, monthly financial reports, loan portfolio and the President’s Report. Three New Business Items (NBI) were brought in front of the board for approval.

NBI 11-08-01 advocated support to a local business for tax abatement of personal property taxes for that company’s modernization plans. NBI 11-08-02 authorized the staff to draft and execute loan documents to make a revolving loan fund working capital loan in the amount of \$16,000 for a business in North Manchester. NBI 11-08-03 asked the board to authorize a loan guaranty from the OCRA Entrepreneurship Development Program in support of Stage Promotions, Inc. All three NBI’s were approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45am.

President's Report November 2008

These items were reported on by the President:



William S.
Konyha
President

- Living Essentials, Inc. - The company selected Briner Building as its general contractor. The Redevelopment Authority took the necessary steps to transfer the property to Chai Distribution. LLC, the distribution affiliate that will operate the distribution center. The City, EDG, United Engineering, Briner, the utility companies, the local surveyor, Chai, the Redevelopment Authority, the City Attorney, and many others are working hard to complete the transaction and get the construction started as soon as possible.
- Stage Promotions– EDG has the business plan and loan application from this company and we intend to submit it for approval under the OCRA funded Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP). This is an opportunity to attract an established arts related business into downtown Wabash. It is very consistent with the intent of the EDP. The company has been in business for more than 10 years, it has significant local ownership, it has been profitable and there is ample security.
- North Manchester Main Street Annual Dinner– The President attended this function representing the EDG and the Indiana Main Street Council. While there he spoke briefly as he was there to support the Main Street effort in North Manchester. The President is beginning his third year as the Chairman of the Indiana Main Street Council.
- The President attended the Orthopedic Device Technologies conference in Fort Wayne. While there he met a number of vendors and suppliers to the orthopedic industry. EDG acquired a list of the conference attendees and are beginning a target marking campaign with a focus on these firms and this industry.
- Northern Illinois University (NIU)- NIU contacted the President and asked him to attend a conference in early 2009 as a speaker. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs recommended the President to NIU.
- Training Grants– EDG brought in IEDC and WorkOne to a meeting with Custom Cartons, Crossroads Bank, Visionary Computers, Next Marketing and Peabody Retirement Community to discuss various training programs funded by the state. The requirements of each program were discussed and applications reviewed with HR representatives of each company. EDG will follow up to determine which of the companies complete the process.

Renewal Time is Here...

***Don't forget to continue your support of the EDG
by renewing your membership for 2009!***



Wabash County Young Professionals Network

The Wabash County Young Professionals Network (YPN) is a progressive group of young professionals working to enhance Wabash County through community networking, projects, and youth development.



One of YPN's main goals is to help stop the "brain drain" that Wabash County has been fighting in recent years. They want to accomplish this by connecting college bound students and YPN members with the hope that this will lead to internships, future job offers and opportunities that will bring the students back to Wabash County after graduation. Other goals include throwing monthly mixers for the purpose of networking and getting young professionals more involved in community events and projects.

The board has been working diligently to put together a schedule of events, mixers and fundraisers for 2009. They are actively looking for members and sponsors. If you are interested in becoming a YPN member, sponsor, or just attending one of their mixers please contact one of their board members or visit their website for more information.

<http://www.wabashchamber.org/ypn/home.php>

YPN Board Members are Scott Munday, Visionary Web; Megan Steele, Beacon Credit Union; Abby C. Hoy, EDG of Wabash County, Inc.; Lindsey Beverly, City of Wabash; and Josh Steele, First Merchants Bank.