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Lonn Stuckwish (Berkshire Hathaway) **Brian Thompson** (Seymour Aviation Authority) Mike Weir (Town of Medora) **Brian Wheeler** (Brownstown EDA) Bruce Wynn (First Financial Bank)

JCIDC Staff

Jim Plump Mary Winburn Tammy Hamp Jackie Hill Jody Deckard

Workforce Partnership

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SEYMOUR AMONG BEST U.S. MICROPOLITANS

Seymour continues to improve its ranking as a top 100 micropolitan in the United States for economic strength, according to the 2022 ratings which were released in February.

The study by POLICOM Corporation showed Seymour ranked 56th in the country out of 543 micropolitans, just outside of the top 10% and an improvement over 2021 when Seymour was 83rd in the nation. This continues a trend that started in 2016 when Seymour broke into the top 100 of micropolitans. which are defined as an area with a city of at least 10,000 people but less than 50,000. There are 26 Indiana communities that qualify.

POLICOM ranks all Metropolitan and Micropolitan areas for "economic strength" which is the long-term tendency for an area to grow in both size and quality. Twenty-three economic factors are taken into consideration over a 20-year period to gauge improvement and current ranking.

Hamp joins JCIDC Staff



Tammy Hamp joins the staff as Administrative Director of Jackson County Industrial Development **Corporation replacing Mary Winburn** who retires in April. Tammy takes responsibility for all administrative functions of JCIDC as well as providing support to the Executive Director and Board of Directors.

Tammy, a native of Seymour and a graduate of Seymour High School, has lived in various cities, (20 of those years spent in Cleveland), but has always been proud to say she was born and raised in Seymour, Indiana. In 2019 her husband, Brian, accepted a position in the Wealth Management department of JCBank, bringing her back to her hometown and providing a taste of small town living for her husband. Brian and Tammy have 2 grown daughters. The youngest attends Ball State completing her master's degree in Athletic Training while their oldest lives in Juneau, Alaska with her husband and their two young children, making Brian and Tammy happy grandparents.

"The best part of returning to the area is seeing the growth of Seymour while maintaining the small town feel I remember," said Tammy, adding she enjoys reconnecting with people and places dear to her soul knowing that the best is yet to come.

Beatty Insurance Force Construction Berkshire Hathaway Harrell-Fish Inc. Duke Energy Indiana American Water Jackson County REMC Jackson County Bank

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JCIDC Quarterly

1st Quarter 2022



Alexus Morris Winner of the 2021-22 Maverick Challenge

See story on page 3

CUMMINS, DONNELLEY PLAN NEW INVESTMENT

Cummins and R.R. Donnelley announced expansion plans for their Seymour locations during 1st guarter of 2022.

The Seymour City Council approved tax abatements totaling \$20,447,494 for Cummins during its meeting on March 28th, and abatement for Donnelley in the amount of \$654,000 at the January 10th Council meeting.

Cummins will invest over \$19.4 million in machinery and equipment and \$1 million in real property, which will allow them to retain 892 workers. Donnelley will purchase new manufacturing and information technology equipment, and will retain their current workforce of 111.



President's Report—2021

by Kevin Gabbard, JCIDC Board President

While much of the focus during 2021 seemed to be on the seemingly never-ending COVID pandemic and the attempt to return to some sense of normalcy, economic activity was strong in Jackson County.

Among the highlights ...

In May, the State of Indiana and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation announced plans for a new program: READI (Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative), which was to be funded with \$500 million and a goal of promoting strategic investments that would make Indiana a magnet for talent and economic growth.

Jackson County joined with Bartholomew and Jennings counties, as well as the Town of Edinburgh, to form The South Central Indiana Talent Region, which was awarded a \$30 million grant in December.

The South Central group had applied for \$49.5 million from the READI program (which would ultimately total \$378.6 in new investment in the region when public and private dollars were added). Of that, Jackson County's projects totaled \$7.4 million and included workforce development/training, infrastructure, housing, medical and destination projects. In addition, there were tri-county projects that were designed for possible use by developers and other entities in all counties.

With the announcement from the IEDC, the region steering committee started meeting in January to bring the projects within the \$30 million limit, and that project is expected to continue throughout much of 2022. Jackson County was represented by Jim Plump and Jackie Hill of JCIDC as well as Dan Davis, CEO of the Community Foundation of Jackson County, Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson, and Matt Reedy of the Jackson County Commissioners on the steering committee.

In the midst of the READI grant work, the U.S. Census Bureau released information for the 2020 census ... and Jackson County ranked as the fastest growing rural county as well as the 7th fastest overall in Indiana! Of Indiana's 92 counties, Jackson County ranked 7th with a growth rate of 9.6% over the past decade as the population grew from 42,376 in 2010 to 46,428. All 6 counties ranked above Jackson County were in metropolitan areas.

In addition, the City of Seymour showed a 23.2% population increase and was shown with a 2020 population of 21,569, plus the 2 townships that include Seymour (Jackson and Redding) had growth rates of 15.4% and 23.1%, respectively ... totaling population of 28,346. The Town of Brownstown also showed a 2.6% increase from the 2010 census and has population of 3,025, and Jackson County received a positive editorial for its growth in the Indianapolis Business Journal.

2021 also saw the return of JCIDC's annual Reports. Reviews and Rewards Luncheon in November, which featured Gerry Dick, host of Inside INdiana Business as guest speaker. Dick provided an overview of business across the State of Indiana, and also had kind words for the economic activity that has taken place in Jackson County over the past 12 months.

"If you look at Jackson County in particular, a couple of things stand out," he said. "One, there have been some big projects that have been announced ... and what I think is as big as any development here is the news from the Census that showed the population in Jackson County increasing at a rate that's about twice the state average."

During the event, Dr. Eric Fish, CEO of Schneck Medical Center, was honored by JCIDC for his work with industry during the COVID pandemic.

The industrial growth referenced by Dick was, indeed, significant as 2021 saw promised investment hit \$105,777,400, which was the 5th highest of all-time, and the 2nd time Jackson County has been above \$100 million since 2014. In total, 10 projects were announced that allowed investment to exceed the \$100 million level.

Of course, the outstanding business and industry community of Jackson County have made this happen with the support of JCIDC staff, Board of Directors, elected officials and many other partners.

I can't say enough about all of these groups, but I want to focus on the JCIDC staff that includes Plump and Hill, as well as Mary Winburn and Jody Deckard. Combined, those four bring almost 100 years of economic development experience to the office every day.

However, that line-up will change in 2022 as Mary Winburn, administrative director of JCIDC since March, 2003, is retiring in early 2nd quarter, and Tammy Hamp has been hired to replace Mary; we wish Mary the best and applaud all of the great work she has done over the past 19 years.



SHS STUDENT WINS COUNTY AND REGIONAL MAVERICK CHALLENGE

After a year of conducting the Maverick Challenge virtually, we were excited to bring back a hybrid version for 2021-22 and the year concluded on a high note. Alexus Morris, senior at Seymour High School, was named the county winner receiving \$2,000. She along with nine other finalists presented their business plans to a panel of business professionals on January 19th. Morris' plan entitled "No Borders" is a translation firm focused on bridging the gap between native and non-native speakers in the community with emphasis on hometown hospitality.

In addition to the award presented to Morris, Tier 2 awards, receiving \$900 each, were presented to Hudson Fritz (BCHS); Laikyn Horton (BCHS); the teams of Aspen Rhodes and John Polbito (SHS), and Jaylee Baker, Kenny Kelly, Lilly Kelly (SHS). Brooklyn Osborne

(SHS), Parker Windley (SHS) and Ruthie Bingham (TLHS) placed at the Tier 3 level and were awarded \$500 each. Participation awards of \$150 went to Tabitha Sleepy (SHS) and Natalie Pena (SHS).

Morris represented Jackson County at the regional competition on February 19th. She competed virtually against teams from six surrounding counties and placed first earning her an additional \$1,250.

The Maverick Challenge is a partnership between JCIDC, Jackson County Chamber, and Brownstown Ewing Mainstreet with JCB providing funding support of the program. Since 2011, Jackson County students have earned \$77,375 at the county, regional, and state levels.

COUNTY STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR VEX **ROBOTICS WORLD COMPETITION**

County robotics teams were excited to be back in action following the pandemic and several teams qualified for both the state and world competitions. With the help of Dallas Goecker, four local tournaments were held at Immanuel School with teams from Immanuel, Seymour, Brownstown, and Home School qualifying for the state.

"Being our first year to participate, I was blown away by how well my team did this year!" said Jamie Temple, Brownstown Elementary team leader. "One of my teams gualified for the state and we are so excited to see what's in store for next year."

Five teams from Immanuel and one team from Seymour Middle School gualified for the World Competition May 8th through 12th Lauren Bode and Daniel Body, Immanuel, and Micah Yee and Nikita Cox, SMS, plan to attend the World Competition in Dallas, Texas. "This is the first year for both Seymour boys to compete," said Amy Miller, Seymour Middle School team leader. "They meshed well together and worked as a team to get the job done at State and are looking forward to experiencing the World Competition."

"We were excited to have Brownstown Elementary join our program this year with such great success and are looking forward to adding Crothersville Elementary next year," said Jackie Hill, JCIDC Workforce Partnership Director. "It is rewarding to see the VEX program grow and expand in our county schools, but more importantly, to watch the students work as teams and reach their goals is worth every penny and minute invested."



Dawn Jones, SHS Instructor; Jackie Hill, JCIDC Workforce Partnership; Arann Banks, Brownstown Ewing Main Street Representative; Alexus Morris; Marvin Veatch, President and CEO of JCB; Dan Robison, Jackson County Chamber Director; Greg Prange, SHS Principal

JCIDC WELCOMES INTERN

Jayden Gossar has joined the JCIDC staff serving as an intern for the spring semester of the 2021-22 school year. Jayden is a senior at Seymour High School and plans to attend IU and will study Interna-

tional Business/Management at the Kelley School of Business. He intends to study a foreign language abroad.

His hobbies include film, classic literature, reading, writing, music, learning foreign languages, hiking, wildlife and landscape photography, snow sports, and most important, travel....his passion lies with traveling the world.

His favorite quote is "To see the world, things dangerous to come to, to see behind walls, draw closer, to find each other, and to feel. That is the purpose of life." – Walter Mitty

Jayden will be assisting with career awareness activities scheduled as well as working with staff to update employment numbers and other duties as needed.

JCIDC Workforce Partnership