



Tipton County Economic Development Corporation

Development News

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GETRAG Construction Begins

Work continues at the site for the new GETRAG / Chrysler Group Transmission plant located at the intersection US 31 and State Road 28 in Tipton County. The steel framework is going up on a portion of the 804,000 square foot facility. The company has set a completion date for the construction for mid 2008 and will begin producing annually more than 700,000 energy efficient dual-clutch transmissions in June 2009.

Located east of where the facility will be built, new County Road 560 West has been cut, paved and striped. This road will be utilized for shipping and receiving.



NEW CHAMBER DIRECTOR BEGINS WORK, NEW BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS IN THE WORKS

The Tipton County Chamber of Commerce announced in August that they hired Jennifer Servies as the Chamber's new Executive Director. Jennifer follows in the steps of former Chamber Director Diane Timm, who retired the end of August after sixteen years of service. Jennifer is a life long resident of Tipton County. She brings experience from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce that will be valuable to the development of Tipton County and to the Tipton Chamber itself. In her spare time, she is an assistant softball coach at Tipton High School.

"I am looking forward to meeting and working with the business community. I have a lot of new fresh ideas that will be implemented in the upcoming year that will reach out to the community. Everyone will have a chance to participate and get involved," Jennifer said. Since coming on board, she has successfully planned several community events to date.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Jennifer at (765) 675-7533 or by email at jservies@tds.net.



TAPs Rapid Response Initiative to Serve Affected AcraLine Workers

By William Keir, TCEDC Executive Director

Since my arrival in 2005, Acraline Products has had four different owners / parent companies. The newest owner, The Doncasters Group, acquired the company in May of this year. Doncasters is a large international manufacturer who employs 4,800 people across Europe, the USA and Mexico. In reviewing their latest acquisitions, they found they had excess capacity at a facility they own in California, and decided to relocate Acraline to that location.

Our main concern is the well being of the local workforce at Acraline, approximately 114 employees. The company filed the required WARN (Worker Adjustment & Retraining Notification Act) notification on August 13th. That notice states that the facility will cease operations on or before June 30, 2008.

We immediately notified our state Department of Workforce Development (DWD) partner, Tecumseh Area Partnership (TAP), to initiate the Rapid Response Initiative for services to the affected employees. These services are provided under the provisions of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

After the initial meetings take place between management and union officials, we will be able to start meeting individually with all employees to assess their needs. Assistance / services normally available in these circumstances under Dislocated Worker Services may include, but are not limited to:

- Special job search assistance workshops that have proven to be extremely effective in reentering the labor market. Curriculum includes Skill Identification, Resume Preparation, Interview Skill Development and Non-Traditional Job Search Activities.
- Case management services; develop a full employability development plan.
- Basic readjustment services such as outreach, job club, supportive service, relocation assistance, counseling, program orientation, and job development.
- Retraining services, basic and remedial education and English as a second language training. When appropriate, entrepreneurial training may also be provided. (note: qualifications include ability to access financial aid) Training services must be directly linked to employment opportunities in the local area.
- Coordination with other state and local service providers.
- Employment counseling and skills assessment.
- Career counseling and information.
- Information on educational institutions and training programs.
- Specific employer information.

Indiana Work One Centers serve as a clearinghouse for local employers. Up to date job listings on the state's CS3 computer network are now available. One can also connect with the state's network of job training programs established through the WIA.

We believe that we can obtain local re-employment for many of Acraline's employees, as we have several local expanding manufacturers. We also have time to start and possibly complete some training programs after skill assessments are completed. The state DWD, the City, the County and the Tipton County Economic Development Corporation will work constantly to ensure that all of the affected employees are re-employed as soon as possible!

THANKS TO GOLF INVITATIONAL SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

The Chamber of Commerce and Tipton County EDC wish to extend our sincere thanks to the following sponsors and contributors of our 14th Annual Golf Invitational that was held July 20 at the Tipton Municipal Golf Course. The event was a successful one thanks to their participation and the participation of all involved.



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84 Components; Baker & Daniels; Barnes & Thornburg; BRS Mechanical; Irving Materials Inc. (IMI); Lauth Property Group; Midwest Sheets, Inc.; MJ Insurance; Package Right Corporation; Roberts & Dybdahl, Inc.; Schneider Corporation; Steel Parts Federal Credit Union; TDS TELECOM; Tipton Hospital; Tipton Precast, LLC

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CONTRIBUTORS

Bob's Standard; Dan Young Tipton, LLC; Jack Miller, Golf Pro; Manpower, Inc.; McCormack Printing Impressions; Staffing Resources, Inc.; TDS TELECOM; White's Meat Market; Young's Water Conditioning & Appliances; Jan Smith

For information on our 2008 Golf Invitational or to guarantee your sponsorship or team registration, contact the EDC at (800) 461-4907 or (765) 675-7417 or the Chamber at (765) 675-7533.



Our 2007 Investors Acknowledged



As of the printing of this issue of Development News, the following companies and individuals have joined the efforts of the TCEDC by investing in our efforts through their financial support for 2007. Without their investment, our efforts to retain existing industry, recruit new companies and effect change would not be possible. We salute them for their investment and continued support. In partnering together, more can be accomplished!

Professionals

Baker & Daniels LLP
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Mrs. Gene Doversberger
Dave & Debbie Gillam
Monty & Kandi Henderson
William Keir, CEcD
Nancy Nicholson
Allen & Carolyn Perry
Donald & Char See
Joe VanBibber

Special thanks to
**Tipton County and
the City of Tipton**

Are you an Entrepreneur?

Do you want to start your own business? Have you already started and just need to get to the next level? Then the Small Business Development Center is available to assist you.

Every month in Tipton, on the first Thursday of the month, the “**Launching Your Business**” seminar is presented at the Extension and Education Center at the Tipton fairgrounds. This 2-hour seminar held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will give you the tools you need to launch that business you’ve always dreamed about. It will also help you take your new company out of the “hobby” stage and into the credible business venture you desire it to be. You will be able to learn from experts who have already successfully built businesses and receive hands on experience to guide you through the process. This seminar will help you get those ideas out of your head and onto paper. It will allow you to create action plans to move your ideas into reality, and it will get you motivated to build that dream business you’ve always wanted.

Call the Small Business Development Center at 765-454-7922 for more details. For immediate access, log onto www.ncisbdc.org. Call today and Launch Your Business!

Director's Message...

from the desk of William Keir, CECD, Executive Director of Tipton County EDC



Work continues on Getrag Transmissions Corporation Project

As many of our county residents have seen, much work has been occurring at the project site at US 31 and SR 28. Much of the initial site work is complete, and concrete is being poured.

Throughout the processes leading up to the announcement of the project on June 18th, there were many questions raised by residents. Most of these were good thoughtful questions, and questions that deserved answers. Many of them had to do with the incentives being offered, and the financing of the project infrastructure that needed to be built for the project. The answers given at that time were that nothing was finalized, and that it would all take place in the future. Well, the future is now!

We (the county) are right in the middle of the public processes of considering the incentives of tax abatement and tax increment financing (TIF) for the project. These are all advertised meetings and hearings that are open to the public. The new Redevelopment Commission (RDC) has met to establish the geographic boundaries of the TIF district and to approve an economic development plan for that area. The Board of Commissioners and County Plan Commission have also met concerning those issues. County Council has met to consider tax abatement for the project, and held one public hearing on September 18th. Additional public meetings and hearings will be held in October and November concerning both of these proposed incentives. The processes for both proposed incentives are strictly following the law, Indiana Code (IC). Attorneys for all parties are working closely with our elected officials to set up the proper procedures, and to answer any and all questions thoroughly.

In May, County Council held a Special Meeting (public) exclusively for the presentation of information concerning finances related to TIF districts, bonds and tax abatements. That presentation was conducted by Gary Malone, Executive Partner of H.J. Umbaugh & Associates, the county's financial consultant for this project. Mr. Malone also represented Greensburg for the successful Honda project. Our elected officials have taken every opportunity to become educated on these processes, so they can make the very best decisions for the county. And as our representatives, they can also answer our questions concerning the process, and have engaged the state's top financial and legal consultants to also assist us.

These public processes will continue for a couple of more months. With our form of government in the United States, this is how we have agreed to do it.

Even though we have elected representatives to make decisions for us, our government remains participatory. That means that we interact with our elected representatives at the meetings where the decisions are made, according to the law. If you have any questions, I encourage you to contact your elected officials, attend the meetings and ask questions, research them on-line, and/or call our office.

Basic articles describing tax abatement and TIF can be found on our web site at <http://www.tiptonedc.com/index.asp>. Simply click on "News & Views" and see the First Quarter 2006 Issue for an article on tax abatement, and the First Quarter 2007 Issue for an article on TIF.



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Package Right Corporation purchased by Smith & Ferguson

Package Right Corporation, a Tipton manufacturer of jigsaw puzzles and board games, was purchased in September 2007 by John and Jane Smith of Lafayette and Bob and Lisa Ferguson of Kempton from Mike and Patty Cassidy the original owners and founders. John and Bob are long-time employees of Package Right, having worked for the company for 14 and 12 years respectively.

“We know the business and we know the employees,” said Smith when describing his desire to alleviate any concerns from the employees and others in Tipton. “This isn’t an outside management team that is being thrown into the mix. Bob and I have worked side by side with our many colleagues at Package Right since before the company moved to Tipton in late 1997.”

Smith now serves as President of the company. “Mike has been a great friend to all of us at Package Right for many years. We will miss his knowledge and experience, but even more we will miss seeing him on a daily basis,” said Smith. Cassidy will continue to serve on the company’s Board of Directors. Ferguson is serving as Vice President and will continue to oversee maintenance and engineering.

Cassidy founded Package Right in 1991 and leased a building in Westfield, Indiana until they relocated in 1997. Plant expansions occurred in 2000 and in 2006. The facility encompasses approximately 80,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space at its location in the Tipton County Industrial Park located on the northwest corner of Tipton. Prior to forming Package Right, Cassidy served in many roles at Warren Industries in Lafayette, Indiana. His career in puzzles and games began in 1979 as a cost-accountant. He became President of Warren Industries in 1984 and served in that role under three separate owners: Warren Eggleston, Random House Publishing, and Rose Art.

Smith praised “the dedication of many long-term employees” who have made the company the leading private label manufacturer of jigsaw puzzles and game boards in the United States. Its customers include many significant brand names that stock the shelves at all major retailers.

Smith joined the company in 1993 as Project Manager. He served as Accountant, Shipping Manager, Production Control Manager, Plant Manager, Sales Manager, and Vice President of Sales. He holds an MS in Industrial Administration from the Krannert School at Purdue. In 1995, Ferguson joined the company after leaving the Manufacturing Management Trainee Program at Ingersoll Rand. He holds degrees in Industrial Management and an MS in Industrial Administration from the Krannert School at Purdue.

“John and I met during the course of our studies at Purdue”, said Ferguson. “When we were in school, Mike was a guest speaker in one of our classes. Ironically, John nudged me and said ‘I have to see about working for him some day’. Fifteen years and many memories later, we have seen this amazing journey come full circle as we have just finished buying Package Right from Mike and Patty.” To learn more about the company, visit their website at www.packageright.com.



TIPTON PRECAST - The Value of SBA 504

For Shawn Maddox, the value of SBA 504 financing is clear every day he comes to work at his company - Tipton Precast. His company manufactures sanitary and storm sewer structures and components that are installed in subdivisions, municipalities, commercial development, and industrial development.

“The loan allowed us to grow more quickly. We were able to purchase equipment that we normally wouldn’t buy that early,” Maddox says. An example is a dry cast machine that enables his company to produce large concrete structures for sanitary and storm sewers.

“Three people can make 150 dry cast pieces in a day,” Maddox says. By contrast, traditional wet casting requires the concrete pieces to dry for 8 hours. Tipton Precast uses wet casting for limited run, custom pieces.

First Farmers Bank & Trust, Tipton and Indiana Statewide CDC provided the SBA 504 loan to Tipton Precast. Tom Dolezal of First Farmers says, “SBA 504 financing really helped Shawn. The Statewide CDC is good to work with and funded two loans for the company, one for equipment and one for real estate.”

Maddox started Tipton Precast two years ago after a career as an excavator. Now, other excavators are among his customers.

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Proudly Serving Indiana for Over 20 Years

The Indiana Statewide Certified Development Corporation (ISCDC) is Indiana’s largest lender of funds from the U.S. Small Business Administration 504 loan program. SBA 504 funds can provide long-term fixed-rate financing for a business’s fixed assets including real estate, existing buildings, construction of new buildings, and purchase and installation of equipment. The minimum project size

is \$125,000 and there is generally a requirement for job creation.

Cambridge Capital Management Corp. is a closely held, private company specializing in the management of non-traditional sources of capital. Cambridge Capital has managed the Indiana Statewide Certified Development Corporation (ISCDC) since the program’s inception in 1983. Since that time, over \$938 million in projects have been approved (ISCDC provided over \$344 million), allowing more than 950 companies to expand. More than 25,000 jobs have been created or saved through ISCDC financing.

Cambridge Capital is your entry into a variety of funds for any business expansion purpose. Funds managed by Cambridge have provided over \$423 million to more than 1,157 companies. These companies include a variety of companies in the manufacturing, service and retail sectors.

In addition to the funds currently under management, Cambridge was instrumental in starting similar funds in West Virginia and in the Cleveland, Ohio market. Consulting activities have also brought this fund management expertise to Minnesota, California, Missouri and many other locations.

This information was provided by:

Cambridge Capital Management Corporation
4181 E. 96th St., Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46240

(317) 843-9704

www.cambridgecapitalmgmt.com



“From small seeds, mighty businesses grow.”

Community Events...

REALTORS® Association of Central Indiana Announce September Winners of Tipton County Beautification Project

The REALTORS® Association of Central Indiana has announced the September 2007 winners of the Tipton County Beautification Project. The Residential winner is homeowners Gary & Sharon Pennock of 412 E Jefferson Street, Tipton. The homeowners removed all the overgrowth from the front exposing the dwelling. They replaced windows, doors, the roof, and installed vinyl siding and shutters, making it a true transformation.

The Business winner is Rex Byers Heating & Cooling, 1590 W 600N, Sharpsville. They had the opportunity to purchase this property and move their already established business. The property has been cleaned up and refurbished to accommodate the business. It has become a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

August residential winner was Timothy and Saraya Davis of Tipton. Commercial winner for August was Dale Meyers, owner of Quick Cup in Tipton.

HOW IT WORKS

September ends the 2007 season of the Beautification Project for Tipton County. The REALTORS® Association along with Ace Hardware, Pizza King, Horton's Hardware, Jean's Flowers, Tipton Community Theatre, Gaiser Heating & Cooling, First Farmers Bank, and Culligan Bottled Water are proud to have sponsored this event.

The purpose of the project is to acknowledge property owners that improve the exterior of their properties for the better by remodeling, planting, cleaning up and painting to make Tipton County a more beautiful place to live and work. Winners receive a photo plaque of their property, a gift from a participating sponsor and a project winner sign for their yard.

FALL CANDIDATES FORUM PLANNED

The Fall Candidates Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16 at 6:00 PM at the C.W. Mount Community Center in Tipton.

Opposed candidates with opposition are invited to participate in this forum. Candidates vying for the contested races include:

City of Tipton Mayor	Angela Grosvenor (R)	Daniel Delph (D)
City Judge	Robert (Bob) West (R)	Lewis Harper (D)
Council District 1	Michael Dollens (R)	Grant Baker (D)
Council District 2	Joe VanBibber (R)	Shay Dell (D)
Council District 3	Richard Rippy (R)	Barbara Cardwell (D)
Council District 4	Vickey McCorkle (R)	Marty Bond (D)

This event is sponsored by the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce and in conjunction with Hometown Television (CITV), the Tipton County Tribune, Kokomo Tribune (CNHI media), and WIOU Radio (1350 AM).

Remember to cast your vote on Election Day, November 6.

Tipton County EDC MISSION STATEMENT

TCEDC is a private not-for-profit corporation governed by its Board of Directors and organized for the purpose of promoting economic development, increase the number of available employment opportunities, enhance the strength of the business sector, and create economic stability in Tipton County.

TCEDC 2007-08 OFFICERS

James Ashley, Chair
Warren Baird, 1st Vice Chairman
John Graham, 2nd Vice Chairman
David Reep, Secretary
Ronald Warren, Assistant Secretary
Jackie Cardin, Treasurer

2007-08 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STAFF

William Keir, CEcD Executive Director wkeir@tds.net	Debra L. Gillam Administrative Assistant degillam@tds.net
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Visit us on the Web at www.tiptonedc.com

**Tipton County EDC Development News
is published quarterly**

ROCK-N-ROLL WITH ELVIS ON THE SQUARE

Bruce Borders "The Mayor of Rock-N-Roll" to play October 13th on the Tipton County Courthouse Lawn

Tipton, IN... On Saturday, October 13th from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM, the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with State Senator Jeff Drozda and State Representative Eric Turner are sponsoring 'Elvis on the Square'. 'Elvis on the Square' is a non-partisan community event. Election Candidates will be introduced. The Tipton Cruise-In, Art Guild, Farmer's Market, Lilly LeGarde Fine Gifts and other local craft vendors will also be in attendance.



Bruce Borders '*The Mayor of Rock-N-Roll*' is the world's first only Elvis impersonator to be elected as a Mayor and as an Indiana State Representative. Bruce served as Mayor of Jasonville, IN for eight years. He was elected to the Indiana House of Representative in 2004. Bruce currently represents House District 45, which includes portions of Greene, Daviess, Sullivan, Knox and Vigo Counties. Bruce Borders and his City Council Band have been featured on David Letterman, The Oprah Winfrey Show, Joan Rivers, CNN, Entertainment Tonight, Access Hollywood and at the Las Vegas MGM Grand.

For more information log onto www.bruceborders.com. Questions regarding this community event please contact the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce at (765)675-7533.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Tipton Community Theatre

Tipton Community Theatre opens their 2007-2008 season with an all time favorite musical *The Wizard of Oz*. Celebrating their 15th season by bringing back this very successful show from the 1996-1997 season, director Jason Plake promises all the magic a journey over the rainbow with Dorothy, Toto, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion can bring, plus exciting new special effects. Performances are November 2-3-4 and 9-10-11 at the Tipton High School Auditorium.

Many Oz cast members were in the original production, some as Munchkins now return in adult roles. Amy Fishback returns in her original role as Glinda, the Good Witch, and Nolan Pyke, who directed the 1996 production, now plays the Wizard. Caitlin Burnham, a THS student and Young Original member, fills the role of Dorothy. Larry Nierzwick plays Scarecrow, Seamus Hawkins, Lion and Brendan Hawkins as Tin Man. Angel Mumaw plays the Wicked Witch. The cast will also feature over 30 area children as Munchkins.

Bring the entire family to see the classic children's literature piece *Charlotte's Web* brought to life on stage. This will feature TCT's Young Performers directed by Amanda Parton. Come join Wilbur (he's some pig), his talented and determined spider friend, Charlotte and all the other enchanting animal favorites on the farm. Performances are January 25-26-27 at the Tipton High School Auditorium.

Two comedies designed to tickle your funny bone and leave you in stitches complete our season. *Dearly Departed* is a hilarious comedy about the beleaguered Turpin family that proves living and dying in the backwoods of the Bible Belt South is seldom tidy and always comical. Directed by Margy and Top Fletcher, the performances will be March 7-8-9 at the Tipton High School Auditorium. And finally, don't miss middle-aged men behaving badly in the Neil Simon classic comedy, *The Odd Couple*. Felix and Oscar, two divorced men, who are different as night and day, decide to share an apartment. Their idiosyncrasies soon have them at each other's throats. Performance dates are May 2-3-4 at the C. W. Mount Community Center.

Individual ticket prices for the 2007-2008 Season are: **MUSICALS:** \$12.00 Adults, \$10.00 Seniors (55+), or Students (13-college), and \$5.00 Children (2-12) and **PLAYS:** \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for Seniors/Students, and \$5.00 for Children. Tickets for the Young Performer's production are \$5.00 for adults and seniors, \$3.00 for students and children. Our Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 pm and Sunday's at 2:00 pm.

Patrons can save up to **30%** by purchasing season tickets. The Standard Season Ticket, valid for all four shows with reserved dates and reserved seating are \$30.00 Adults/\$26.00 Seniors. Our flexible Anytime Pass includes six (6) tickets that may be used all at once or throughout the season is priced at \$50.00 Adults/\$45.00 Seniors. Visit the Tipton Community Theatre website at www.tiptontheatre.com or call Pam Pottenger at 765-675-3775 for more information.

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