



*Tipton County Economic Development Corporation*

# NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 11 ~ Issue 2

April – May – June 2005

## Tipton County EDC to Host 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The board of directors and staff of the Tipton County Economic Development Corporation will host their 18th Annual Meeting on Monday, June 6. The event will be held at the Tipton Elks from 5 to 7 p.m. Michael S. Maurer, President of the newly formed Indiana Economic Development Corp. (IEDC) will be the keynote speaker. Governor Mitch Daniels formed the IEDC to replace the Indiana Department of Commerce in February 2005. Mr. Maurer's biography can be found on page 3 of this publication.

During the evening awards will be presented to our 5 and 10 year supporters as well as four distinguished awards. Nominations are now being accepted for the four awards that include: Ida Matthews Award for Corporate Citizenship; TCEDC Entrepreneur of the Year; Donald F. See Leadership Award; and the Young-Nichols Business of the Year Award. To nominate a business or individual to receive an award, complete the Award Nomination Form on page 6 and mail to Tipton County EDC at 136 E. Jefferson St., Tipton, IN 46072 or fax the completed form to (765) 675-8917. Deadline for nominations is May 25, 2005.

The event is open to the public. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available as well as cash bar. Those who plan to attend are asked to RSVP to (765) 675-7417 or email degillam@tds.net no later than Monday, May 30.

### Chamber & Economic Development Corporation

## Date set for 12th Annual Golf Invitational

Mark your calendars now for Friday, July 15. The Chamber and Economic Development Corporation will host it's 12th Annual Golf Invitational at Tipton Municipal Golf Course. Registrations and sponsorships are now being accepted. Early registration is recommended as this event has become very popular and registration is limited. 36 Foursomes are expected to play in this tournament for cash and other prizes.

There are many ways that you and your business can participate in this event. As a golfer, register to participate, enjoy a catered lunch and the opportunity to network with business and community leaders. The \$50 Registration Fee covers cart/greens fees, lunch and a day of golf. The tournament is a 4-member scramble format. Registration begins at 10 AM, lunch will be served beginning at 11 AM.

Corporate and tee sponsorships are available for businesses and professionals—a great opportunity to market your business name? By serving as a sponsor, your name will reach hundreds of people with on-site signage exposure. Sponsors will be mentioned on Hometown Television (Tipton's channel 19). Sponsorship fees are \$350 for Corporate and \$100 for a Tee. Contact the Chamber at (765) 675-7533 or EDC at (765) 675-7417 for additional information. Registration forms are available at the Chamber and EDC offices at 136 E. Jefferson St., Tipton.



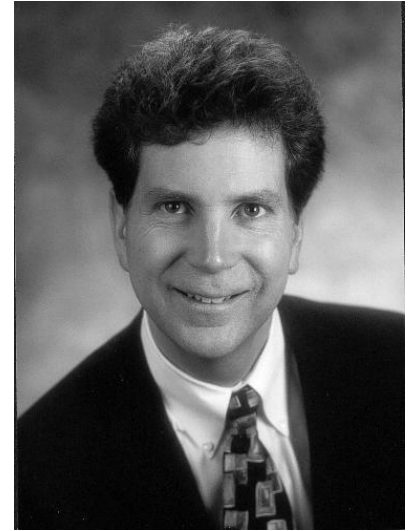
*Building a better community ~ Advocates for business ~ Working together for you and your business*

## WILLIAM KEIR TO SERVE AS TIPTON COUNTY EDC DIRECTOR

William Keir has been named the Executive Director of the Tipton County Economic Development Corporation.

Keir has served as Director for the Galion Industrial Development in Galion, Ohio for the past 13 years where he was responsible for all business expansion, retention and attraction in the Galion area. He has more than 20 years of professional experience in business retention and expansion, export development, marketing, and revolving loan fund and enterprise zone administration. Prior to his tenure with the Galion Industrial Development, he served the Baltimore County Economic Development Commission and Baltimore Economic Development Corporation.

Keir, a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, holds a degree in Business Administration/Economics. He is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) and an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP). His professional memberships include the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), Mid-America Economic Development Council (MAEDC), and the North Central Regional Development Alliance (NCORDA).



TCEDC Chairman and Search Committee member Don Havens stated, “Mr. Keir’s personality, education and experience will bode well for economic development in Tipton County. He will be another valuable professional resource of the type we find in leadership in our schools, hospital, utilities, library, and other vital institutions.”

Keir succeeds William Konyha who resigned in October 2004 and now serves as Executive Director of the Economic Development Group in Connersville, Indiana. Joe VanBibber, a member of the TCEDC board of directors, has served as Interim Director since Konyha’s resignation. Keir assumed his duties March 14. See the Director’s Report on page 4.

## TCEDC Board Member Profiles . . .

*In this and future issues of News & Views, EDC staff hopes to acquaint our readers with who we are by providing information about the individuals who serve on the board of directors of the Tipton County EDC.*

**Warren Baird’s** interest in improving quality of life for Tipton County citizens and encouraging appropriate Economic Development were what motivated him to serve on the EDC board of directors. Warren is one of 10 EDC directors who represent Agriculture / Business / Commerce and Industry in the county. He has been a Weather observer for the National Weather Service for 28 years and is involved in the management and protection of Natural resources, most especially Forestry and Wildlife. Warren and his wife Judy reside in Cicero Township and have three children, Carol Christenberry, Greg and Brent Baird. He is owner / operator of Oak Grove Farm. A graduate of Sharpsville High School, he also holds a Design Certificate from Tri-State College. Warren is a member of Cicero Christian Church, Farm Bureau Natural Resource Committee and supervisor of Tipton County Soil & Water Conservation District. He is retired from Delco Electronics and



Federal Crop Insurance Adjuster.

**Greg Summers** serves on the board of directors as a Tipton Common Council appointee. He is a Tipton resident and owner of Photography by Gregory located in Tipton. Greg and his wife Kim have two children, Nicole Eller and Justin. Greg is involved in the community serving as a Corporate Sponsor for the Relay for Life and a volunteer in several children’s programs at his church. He enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, nature photography, golf, basketball and volleyball.

## IEDC President to be Keynote Speaker at TCEDC Annual Meeting



Michael S. ("Mickey") Maurer's career as an attorney and entrepreneur has included cable television, film production, radio broadcasting, newspaper publishing and banking. An Indianapolis native, Mickey graduated from North Central High School in 1960. He attended the University of

Colorado and graduated in 1964 with a B.S. in accounting. He is a member of Beta Alpha Psi accounting honorary society. Mickey attended Indiana University School of Law where he received a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1967. He was a writer and an editor of the Law Journal. He successfully completed the CPA examination, and is admitted to both the New York and the Indiana Bars.

In the early 1970's, Mickey was a pioneer in the initial development and operations of cable television systems, throughout Indiana and Michigan. Shortly thereafter, with partners, Mickey developed the first Indianapolis racquetball facility, which ultimately grew into the second largest chain of racquetball clubs in the country.

He is President and CEO of Maurer/Shaw Productions, Inc., which produced the theatrical film, "Diving In." The film has been shown on HBO/Cinemax.

Mickey is Chairman of the Board of MyStar Communications Corporation and IBJ Corporation. MyStar owned and operated WTPI-FM and WZPL-FM and WXNT-AM in Indianapolis until they were sold in 2004. IBJ owns and publishes The Indianapolis Business Journal, Court and Commercial Record, The Indiana Lawyer, and Indianapolis Prime Times.

Mickey serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of The National Bank of Indianapolis, a financial institution he founded in 1993.

In 2001, Mickey established "Mickey's Camp," a charitable endeavor that has raised over \$400,000 for central Indiana charities.

In 2005, Mickey was named President of the Indiana Economic Development Corp. by Governor Mitch Daniels.

Mickey enjoys leadership through active participation as a director of numerous business, civic, educational and philanthropic organizations.

He received the L.L. Goodman Award in 1990, the David M. Cook Memorial Award in 1992 and the Ernst & Young Supporter of Entrepreneurship award in 1992. He was named to the North Central High School Alumni Hall of Fame in 1993, and in 1994 received the B'nai B'rith Isidore Feibleman Man/Woman of the Year Award and National Multiple Sclerosis Hope Award. University of Indianapolis awarded him the Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws, April 1995.

Mickey was named a winner of the 1996 Indiana Jefferson Award given annually by The Indianapolis Star to recognize outstanding volunteerism. He also received a Spirit of Philanthropy award from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis that year. In 1996, he was inducted into the Indiana University School of Law Academy of Law Alumni Fellows. In 1997, he was presented the Americanism Award of the Anti-Defamation League at a dinner in his honor. In June 2000, Heritage Place recognized him as one of the 2000 Hoosier Heritage Civic Leadership Honorees.

The Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee presented the Charles L. Whistler Award to him November 1, 2000. This award recognizes an individual's demonstration of a visionary, future oriented outlook in his or her approach to civic activity and outstanding service in bringing together the public and private sectors to work for civic improvement. He was inducted into Junior Achievement's Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame in March 2001. In 2001, he received Indiana University's highest tribute to an alumnus, the Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Mickey is a regularly published contributor to the New York Times crossword puzzle. His hobbies also include skiing, biking, mountain climbing, woodworking and underwater photography. In 1999, he successfully summited Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. His underwater pictures have won numerous awards and have been displayed in the Waters Building at the Indianapolis Zoo, The Hilbert Circle Theater, The National Art Museum of Sport and the Indianapolis Art Center. In 2003 Mickey authored a book of his underwater photography entitled "Water Colors." Mickey is married to Janie Maurer, and they have three children and four grandchildren.

### Support TCEDC through MARSH SUPERMARKETS Community Shopper™ Program

When you purchase MARSH products, MARSH donates 1% of the purchase price to TCEDC with no cost to you or our organization. Registering is easy. To sign up online, visit the MARSH website at [www.marsh.net](http://www.marsh.net) and click the 'Community Shopper™' icon. Simply provide the requested information and enter our **Express Code #351675022**. It's that easy! Contributions paid to our organization in 2004 through this program were \$52.97.

Remember to do your shopping at MARSH and generate 1% of the purchase of Marsh-brand products to our organization. There's no easier way to show your support and generosity so why not join today!!

# Director's Message...

*from the desk of William Keir*

Prior to applying for the advertised position of Executive Director for the Tipton County EDC, I researched the Tipton County community and the EDC on-line. Tipton appeared to be a community with all of the important assets for positive economic growth: a good hospital that is staying current in their industry; two very well ranked school systems; a good library; a community center; new housing developments; positive population growth; low unemployment rate; recent company expansions; part of an "MSA" (metropolitan statistical area – ours is the "Kokomo MSA"), and nearby "big city" amenities. These are "assets" you don't create – you either have them or you don't. They are all "Positive" assets, and Tipton County has them all!

The next step was to interview with the community (after they selected me to do so), and find out what the people are like. I liked all of them, and they liked me, and we agreed that I would take the position.

What I have found since my first day on the job (3-14-05) is that the greatest community asset is the people of Tipton County. There seems to be an atmosphere of positive communication in all of the organizations and public bodies. That is not to say there are no disagreements or differing opinions, but so far they have always been presented constructively. By doing that, the community allows for the democratic sharing of ideas and opinions, and continues to move forward and enjoy economic growth. In my experience, this is uncommon, and is Tipton's greatest asset.

Another great asset is the active participation of the community's many volunteers on boards and in public service. I have attended many meetings since my first day, and all members of City and County Council, and the TCEDC Board actively participate at the meetings. This means that all points of view are heard, all opinions voiced. In other words, democracy in action! Again, this is uncommon, and another great asset that will enhance positive economic growth.

The assets I researched on-line were very good, and let me know Tipton was a place I would want to live. But the "people" assets I have found after coming to Tipton have given me the greatest excitement about Tipton's economic future. It is the "people" assets that will keep us moving forward in the direction the community desires.

This is evidenced in my first week on the job: two new local expansions with the possibility of investment over \$200,000 and new jobs of over 15; a possible new site for business location; and a new prospect proposing a \$3.5 million project.

## Tipton County EDC MISSION STATEMENT

The TCEDC was organized for the purpose of promoting economic development, to increase the number of available employment opportunities, to enhance the strength of the business sector, and to create economic stability in Tipton County.

### TCEDC 2004-05 OFFICERS

Don Havens, Chair  
James Ashley, First Vice Chairman  
John Graham, Second Vice Chairman  
David Reep, Secretary  
Ronald Warren, Assistant Secretary  
Patrick N. Logan, Treasurer

### 2004-05 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Madonna Alderson County Council	Warren Baird County Plan Commission
Tom Dolezal County Commissioner	Dr. Robert Schultz Tipton Community Schools
Mike Harlowe Hospital Administrator	Jackie Cardin Business
Mark Noble Agriculture	Beth Roach County Council
Dr. Jack Hughes Business	George Ogden Mayor of Tipton
James L. Powell Financial Institution	David B. Quigley Attorney at Law
Jan Smith Business	Steven Smith Business
Greg Summers Common Council	Ted A. Tetrick Financial Institution
Richard Timm TDS TELECOM	Dr. Lee Williford Northern Community Schools
David L. Voris Agriculture	Joe VanBibber City Plan Commission

### DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Richard W. Holland	Ray E. Noble
Allen Perry	Robert M. Schram
Donald F. See	

### STAFF

William Keir Executive Director <a href="mailto:wkeir@tds.net">wkeir@tds.net</a>	Debra L. Gillam Administrative Assistant <a href="mailto:degillam@tds.net">degillam@tds.net</a>
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is published quarterly

# US 31, The Freeway

By Monty Henderson, EDD project director for North Central Indiana Economic Development District

Proposed improvements to US 31 have been in the news for many years. This article will attempt to bring readers up to date on this major highway project in North Central Indiana. The first meeting that I attended regarding US 31 was in Peru back in the mid 90's, when the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) began to share their vision of the future US 31 in the Kokomo area.

That plan was eventually withdrawn, as was the toll road study. The US 31 Coalition was created to promote the corridor and a broader state study of the highway from Indianapolis to South Bend was performed. As a result, three separate US 31 INDOT projects are ongoing today:

- Southern Hamilton County, from I 465 through the SR 38 intersection
- Kokomo Bypass from two miles South of the Tipton – Howard County line, around Kokomo and up to the Howard - Miami County line Plymouth (US 30 interchange) to South Bend

At our February 3, 2005 North Central Indiana Economic Development District board meeting, Dennis Faulkenberg, the executive director of the US 31 Coalition spoke. He informed the board that the coalition's goal is to ensure that the entire route from Indianapolis to South Bend becomes an interstate standard freeway. The US 31 Coalition is represented and funded by various business and governmental entities along the corridor to express their interests and concerns.

Mr. Faulkenberg estimated that the final Environmental Impact Study should be complete by December 2005 on the Kokomo Bypass and shortly thereafter, the Record of Decision (ROD, a federal milestone) will be obtained. Then there will be a two year design phase, a two year real estate acquisition phase, followed by two years of building. This tentative schedule would accommodate a completed Kokomo bypass around the year 2011.

According to information gleaned from INDOT's long range plans, it would appear that a motorist may be able to drive the entire 122 miles from Indianapolis to South Bend on a "freeway" sometime in the 2020's. The more congested and heavily traveled portions in Southern Hamilton County, around Kokomo, and North of US 30 may be completed around 2017. Planned Improvements and the proposed "ready for contract" (and construction) dates are as follows:

- Hamilton County, multiple segments with different start dates from 2007-2015
- Plymouth to South Bend 2011
- Kokomo Bypass segment 2015
- Reminders of Hamilton County and Tipton County 2021
- Miami County 2023
- Fulton County and Remainder of Marshall County 2025

The majority of the Tipton and Hamilton County segments are slated to have six travel lanes, with eight or more lanes through Westfield and Carmel. As I returned from an Indianapolis meeting in February, I observed survey crews out in Hamilton County on US 31 performing preliminary work. Hamilton County will likely possess the first portion of the "new US 31" to be constructed. Complex interchanges, such as the one at 146<sup>th</sup> Street will significantly change the landscape along the highway.

Other, more rural areas will require little, if any real estate acquisitions. The Kokomo Bypass is proposed to be an entirely new road built on a new right-of-way. While these dates are posted on the INDOT web site, there is always the possibility of dramatic changes due to the political climate and funding availability on the state and federal government levels.

The following points are provided by the US 31 Coalition:

- The project would provide \$3.20 in benefits for every \$1.00 of cost."
- "2,600 accidents and twelve fatalities per year would be prevented by improving the corridor to interstate quality."
- "Average speed along the length of the route is projected to drop to 36.1 mph if no improvements are made."
- "An interstate quality US 31 will promote the economic vitality of this region. Indiana residents and businesses, as well as tourists to Indiana, will benefit from improving this corridor."

One of the greatest deterrents to economic development in North Central Indiana is the absolute absence of an interstate quality highway anywhere in our region. We are fortunate to have the current US 31 and greatly improved US 24. These two four lane highways intersect at the heart of our region. But, many site selectors for companies insist on locations within a very close proximity to an interstate standard freeway.

Communities that compete with our region for industry, such as Lebanon, Lafayette, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Marion, Muncie, Anderson, and Indianapolis all have interstate highways, putting us at a disadvantage when prospective companies "shop" in our neighborhoods.

A North-South freeway aligned along the route now known as US 31 will provide new economic opportunities for our communities and may also bring the distinction of an "interstate" highway, sorely needed to attract new industry.



## INDOT Commissioner...

# “U.S. 31 is a Priority”

Nearly 70 U.S. 31 supporters traveled to Indianapolis on March 17, 2005, to participate in the third annual U.S. 31 Coalition Legislative Day. The day began with a briefing in the Supreme Court Chambers by INDOT project manager, Christine Baynes. During that briefing, Ms. Baynes updated the group on the progress of the U.S. 31 corridor, stating that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the St. Joseph and Marshall County segments could be expected within a month, with the Record of Decision (“ROD” - the last step in the environmental process) released shortly thereafter.

The environmental documentation for the Hamilton County portion of the U.S. 31 project is following a similar timeline, with the ROD expected to be released by June 15, 2005. While that work continues, INDOT has proceeded with initial survey and design work in order to expedite the project. While the north and south segments near the end of their environmental phases, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Howard County segment will be released within the month, with public hearings scheduled shortly thereafter.

After the briefing, a luncheon was held for U.S. 31 supporters and legislators involved in the progress of the U.S. 31 corridor. Twenty-three legislators and many local officials heard from INDOT about the need for the project. Dennis Faulkenberg, Executive Director of the U.S. 31 Coalition, began the program by discussing recent statements by staff members of Governor Mitch Daniels, who said that the Governor has given his

word that projects including U.S. 31 will be delivered.

Commissioner Tom Sharp then discussed the importance of corridors like U.S. 31 in moving international goods through Indiana, in light of the goods movement across the northern part of the state. Commissioner Sharp continued by describing how the department's highway projects will be prioritized, saying that the project's impact on economic development will be the most important criteria for the prioritization of the projects, after which he said that the U.S. 31 project is well positioned for INDOT's priority list.

The above article was provided to the Tipton County Chamber by Ice Miller of Indianapolis. Reprint permission was granted.

