

INDIANA'S GREAT SOUTHWEST

the new frontier for talent & business

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News

Success
Stories

Community Development

Regional Cities

Connectivity and flexibility themes at IAMC Conference

Southwest Indiana along with economic development organizations from throughout the world played host in Indianapolis to the Industrial Asset Management Conference (IAMC) where the theme of the "Internet of Things" for manufacturing and the impending fourth industrial revolution shined a bright light on Indiana's Great Southwest.

The region's story was an inspiring one in describing select Regional Cities projects that will drive both connectivity and innovation in product development as well as the University of Southern Indiana's Applied Engineering Center with its iFactory Festo, helping our region's manufacturers find the best methods of production through flexible processes while engineering students learn.

As a sponsor of the conference, the Coalition was asked to submit an article to be published in the IAMC's Dispatch as well. The article, "Southwest Indiana gaining momentum through leadership and Regional Cities" was published in August with a link below.

[IAMC Article: Southwest Indiana gaining momentum through leadership and Regional Cities](#)



Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb speaks with Greg Wathen at IAMC Conference. Photo courtesy of IEDC



Regional Cities Update: Multi-Institutional Academic Health Science and Research Center

The new Multi-Institutional Academic Health Science and Research Center led by Indiana University will be the recipient of \$9 million in Regional Cities funding to add clinical research in the downtown Evansville campus. The \$70 million, 145,000 square foot facility is scheduled to open with 500 students and faculty in late Spring of 2018. Once complete, the campus will accommodate up to 1,800 medical and health science related students.

Hear from Dr. Steven Becker about how this powerful collaboration will be an asset that will not only change healthcare in the region but the economic bottom line.

[View video now](#)

Streetscapes, Facades and Infrastructure... Oh My!

A strong, vibrant downtown district... every community wants one. However, the reality is that a large majority of downtown districts throughout our nation have turned into tired business districts with little to no economic activity. Locals drive for many miles to purchase the same items they once were able to purchase just minutes from home. In an age where economic vibrancy is critical for ongoing sustainability, many communities are reconsidering their downtown districts as untapped resources to be leveraged as growth opportunities for existing and new business ventures.

The methods for revitalizing and activating those downtowns are varied and include things as simple as adding planters along sidewalks to tasks as complex as burying utility lines and realigning downtown parking. The cost for tackling these items is just as varied.

So what is a rural, Indiana community to do when tasked with the seemingly insurmountable job of paying for these upgrades?

To start with, if not already so designated, a community should consider becoming an Indiana Main Street community. In doing so, the community will leverage the national model for rural downtown development and will learn about best-practices for achieving its desired redevelopment goals.

Once an established Main Street Community, rural communities in Indiana have an opportunity to leverage grant funds to assist with the high-cost of some of the more expensive downtown development projects; specifically streetscapes, façade renovations and downtown infrastructure rehabilitation. Through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Main Street Revitalization Program (often referred to as MSRP), communities have the opportunity to apply for up to \$500,000 to assist with these types of projects.

Several communities located in Indiana's Great Southwest are currently Main Street communities and are eligible to pursue these funds for their downtown enhancement projects. For communities

who are not designated Main Street communities, there is a clear-cut path to becoming so designated and for developing the tools to aid with rejuvenating downtown districts.

If your community is not a Main Street Community, we can point you in the direction for starting such an initiative. If your community is a Main Street Community, we can assist you with determining a path for leveraging funding to help with your downtown revitalization initiatives.

Click the button below for more information on revitalizing your downtown district or getting started with the Main Street Program.

[Main Street Revitalization Information](#)

Business Feature



Springleaf Financial, which has been providing responsible and transparent personal loan products in hundreds of communities around the country since 1920, changed its name to OneMain on October 1st. The company was founded in Evansville and currently employs over 1,100 team members in the Tri-State area.

[About OneMain](#)

OneMain (NYSE: OMF) is America's premier consumer finance company offering responsible and transparent personal loan products. For over 100 years, the company has been providing personalized, best-in-class service at more than 1,800 branches in 44 states. The company's iLoan internet lending division also provides customers the opportunity to complete the loan process entirely online. The company has more than 11,000 team members who proudly support the communities in which they live and work. For additional information, please visit OneMainFinancial.com.

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