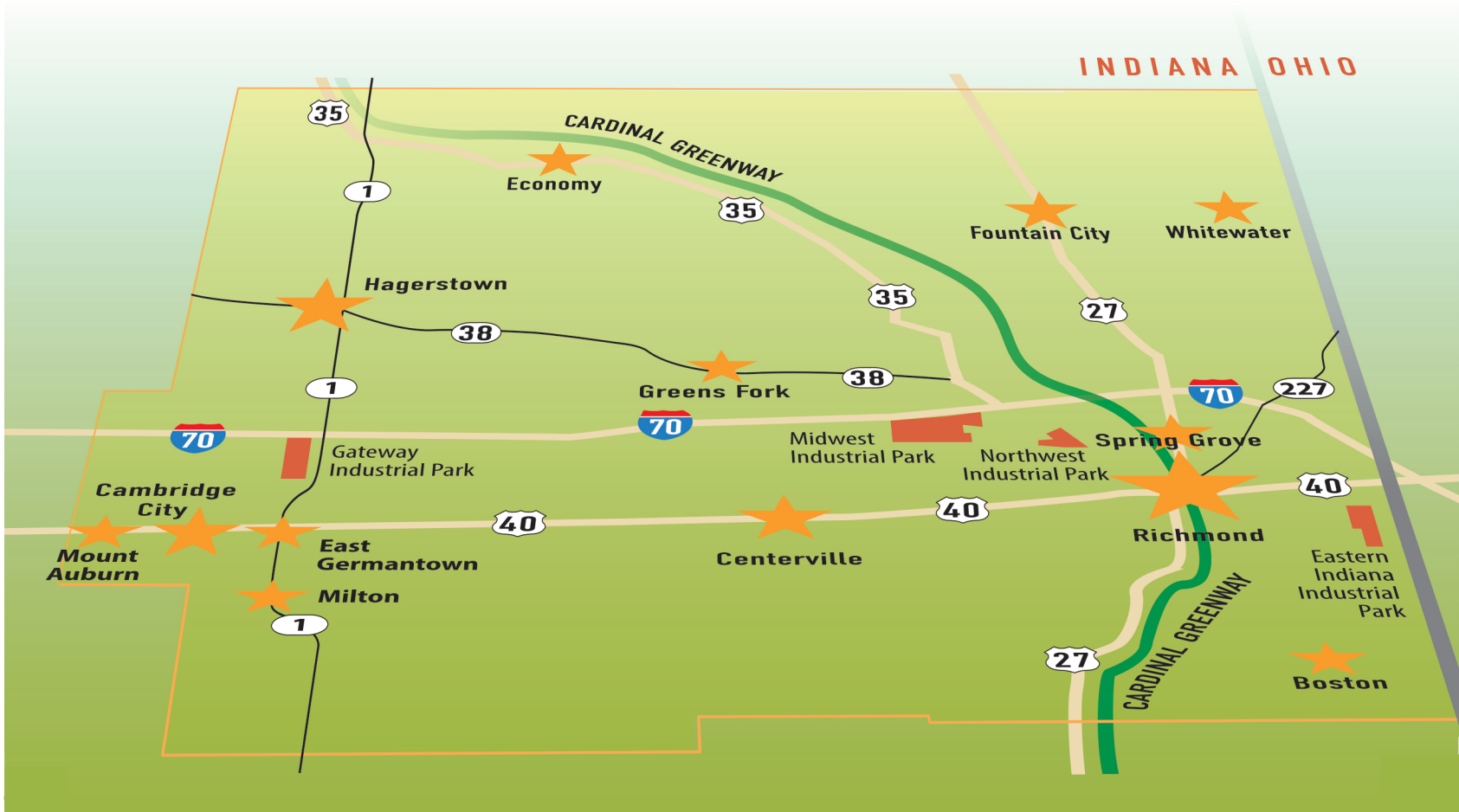


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ANNUAL REPORT

WAYNE COUNTY

C O N N E C T E D





Overview – Jim King

Hello. My name is Jim King and it was my honor and pleasure to serve as the 2022 Chair of the EDC of Wayne County Board of Directors.

People. People form the very foundation for the EDC and between our board members and our gifted staff, we have a great team in place working on creating opportunities for growth and investment in Wayne County. We are so fortunate to have the EDC team, led by Valerie, and the deep and well-formed relationships with tremendous partners at the state, region, and local levels. Truly, we are blessed with the village it takes to create success.

In 2022 we saw the expansion of five companies in Wayne County resulting in a total investment of \$44.1 million and the creation or retention of 205 jobs. We provided Economic Development Income Tax Grants in the amount of \$228,000 to assist companies with equipment purchases and workforce training. We were able to exercise our option to purchase 335 acres for Phase III of Richmond's Midwest Industrial Park and through wetland mitigation bring 20 acres in Phase I into use. With infrastructure improvements in Wayne County's Indiana Gateway Industrial Park, we are now able to market available sites and current tenants continue to expand their operations. As with all great strides, the work and commitment by the EDC team and all of its partners in 2022 helped form the basis for the now visible early 2023 accomplishments we are seeing in Wayne County economic development. Your 2023 EDC board, chaired by Sherrilyn, working together with Valerie and the staff are delivering on the promise of economic growth Wayne County needs.

Employers are still facing challenges in the attraction and retention of talent. Through workforce development efforts such as Mfg. Day and Find a Job Friday we're connecting employers to high school students to make them aware of the career opportunities available right here in Wayne County. And to make residents and newcomers aware of the quality of life and benefits of living and working in Wayne County we continue to improve and strengthen our Home in Wayne initiative. Through the MakeMyMove program we are targeting remote workers who can live and work anywhere, to make them aware of Wayne County and what it can offer.

None of this would be possible without the vision and direction of the board and the skills and expertise of our staff. I want to thank President, Valerie Shaffer; Economic Development Manager, Sarah Mitchell; Marketing and Communications Manager, Renee Doty; Business and Workforce Development Manager, Theresa Lindsey; and Office Manager, Rhonda Fisher for all their dedication and hard work to make Wayne County a place where businesses grow and succeed, and people want to live and work. We are fortunate to have the level of experience and knowledge each board member brings to benefit Wayne County. We are also fortunate to have dedicated partners working alongside us on behalf of the residents and companies in Wayne County. Our future is in good hands and our future - although always requiring careful management and the efforts of so many - is hopeful and bright. Thank you.

Partner Communities

Cambridge City • Centerville • Economy • Hagerstown • Milton • Richmond • Wayne County

Staff



Valerie Shaffer

President
valerie@whywaynecounty.com
17 years of service



Renee Doty

Marketing & Communications
Manager
renee@whywaynecounty.com
20 years of service



Sarah Mitchell

Economic Development Manager
sarah@whywaynecounty.com
5 years of service



Theresa Lindsey

Business & Workforce
Development Manager
theresa@whywaynecounty.com
3 years of service



Rhonda Fisher

Office Manager
rhonda@whywaynecounty.com
1 year of service

List of 2022 Officers and Board Members

Chair – Jim King (Cambridge City Town Council)
Vice Chair – Sherrilyn Johnson (Wayne County Commissioners)
Treasurer – Peter Zaleski (Wayne County Council)
Secretary – Kyle Turner (Centerville Town Council)

Peggy Cenova (Wayne County Commissioners)
Sayward Salazar (Mayor, City of Richmond)
Jim Tanner (Mayor, City of Richmond)
Ann Fennimore (Richmond Common Council)
Brad Robinson (Hagerstown Town Council)
Chad Bolser (Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce)
Randy Templin (Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce)
Tim Frame (Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce)

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

The EDC of Wayne County is happy to recognize the contributions of outgoing board members.

Sayward Salazar (served two 3-year terms) Served on the Marketing & Communications Committee
Randy Templin (served a full 3-year term, 2 years of second term) Served as Chair in 2020, 2021
Tim Frame (served 1 year replacing another board member, and 3 two-year terms after) Served as Chair, 2018 and served on the Marketing & Communications Committee



Business Retention & Expansion

Total projects for the year

5

Total investment
\$44,103,854

Total jobs created or retained

205

Total amount of EDIT grants provided
\$228,000



Richmond Baking Company grew their Richmond operation by adding an additional production shift and investing \$720,000 in their 120-year-old facility. The company created 38 new full-time jobs. Richmond Baking received an EDIT grant of \$24,000 to assist with the purchase and installation of new equipment and provide workforce training.



Taconic Biosciences received a \$50,000 EDIT Grant to help build a new barrier building and provide workforce training. Taconic Biosciences will offer advanced certifications to new and existing employees as well as safety training. The company invested nearly \$6.5M and will create 14 new full-time jobs in 2023.



Vandor Group, Inc. invested in both their Funeral Products & Reel Options divisions, increasing its Richmond footprint by investing \$2.8M and creating 28 new full-time jobs. Reel Options added a product line at a new facility on Progress Drive, and Vandor Funeral Products added over 17,000 square feet to its Rich Road facility. A \$38,000 EDIT Grant was provided to help with the project. In 2022, Vandor celebrated their 50th year in business!



Business Retention & Expansion

Dot Transportation, Inc., a division of Dot Foods in Cambridge City, continues to utilize its unique Earn to Learn program to recruit and train new CDL drivers. The EDC supported this program for a third time as Dot continues to expand their number of truck drivers by 16 new full-time jobs. They also invested \$5.5M in upgrading their facility that included expanding their office space that allowed previous office space to be converted into a truck driver lounge. Additional improvements to their parking lot and gate station were also made. As a result, the company was awarded an EDIT grant in the amount of \$66,000 to support their Earn to Learn program.



Johns Manville invested \$28M in new equipment essential to their production process for blowing wool insulation. The company retained 107 full-time employees and created two apprenticeship positions. An EDIT Grant of \$50,000 was provided to assist with workforce training and the purchase and installation of equipment.

Total number of
visits conducted

36

In addition to incentivizing growing companies, the EDC also provides support to existing businesses by connecting them to tools, resources, and other institutions that can support their operations. We do this by regularly meeting with them to identify their needs.



Workforce Development

Find A Job Friday (FAJF) is a program where local companies visit area high schools on scheduled Fridays during the spring semester. Employers engage with students, provide information about careers, skills needed, pay, and benefits. Participating employers in 2022 include Hill's Pet Nutrition, Reid Health, Dot Foods, Holland Colours, Belden, Menasha (formerly Colorbox), and Johns Manville.

In recognition of Mfg. Day, the EDC and Ivy Tech Community College coordinated tours for Wayne County high school students at area manufacturers. One hundred fifty-two students from all five county high schools toured two to three participating manufacturers that included Blue Buffalo, Johns Manville, Ahaus Tool & Engineering, Primex Design and Fabrication, Taconic Biosciences, SugarCreek, and Dot Foods. Ivy Tech also gave a presentation about educational pathways into manufacturing.

The EDC participated in career and hiring fairs, signing days, and on several committees supporting workforce development. We also partnered with Forward Wayne County on a survey to determine challenges working parents face regarding childcare. We are now using these results to find solutions. We continued our partnership with Purdue University and East Central Indiana Regional Partnership on our region's annual wage and benefit survey to support our employers.



The EDC would like to thank the employers who participated in these initiatives in 2022. Through your engagement we were able to expose our students to a variety of career opportunities.



Industrial Park Development

The EDC is responsible for marketing and managing two industrial parks.

Midwest Industrial Park (MIP)

Phase III Expansion

- The EDC partnered with the City of Richmond and Wayne County Government to acquire 335 acres to establish Phase III.
- Installed new billboards promoting newly available land in the park.
- Preliminary Engineering Reports are underway for wastewater and road upgrades for Phase III.

Phase I Marketability

- Wetland mitigation completed to utilize an additional 20 acres in Phase I.



Gateway Industrial Park (GIP)

- Upgrades to the Western Wayne Regional Sewer District are underway that will support the park by providing 1.8M gallons per day of wastewater treatment capacity.
- The Town of Cambridge City is planning for water improvements to the park to improve flow rates and establish a second water tower.
- All three tenants in the park continue to invest and grow their footprint in 2022. Tenants in the park include SugarCreek, Dot Foods, and Taconic Biosciences.



Marketing

H O M E I N
W A Y N E



The Home in Wayne Talent Attraction & Retention Initiative worked on a large-scale branding and marketing strategy with IronGate Creative to expand the initiative gathering research through surveys and focus groups. Focus groups included employers, high school students participating in the Golden Eagle Industries program, HYPE (Helping Young Professionals Engage), and those attending Indiana University East entrepreneurship classes.

Through MakeMyMove the EDC partnered with Wayne County Government and the City of Richmond to participate in the program to market Wayne County to remote workers looking for a new place to call home. Incentives are offered including memberships to local attractions and \$5,000 to help with moving costs; \$2,500 after the initial relocation and \$2,500 after one year of residency in Wayne County. The goal is to recruit 20 households to relocate. By the end of 2022, four new residents have moved to Wayne County from California, Colorado, Michigan, and Nevada.



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Economic Development Partnership Award - East Central Indiana Regional Partnership

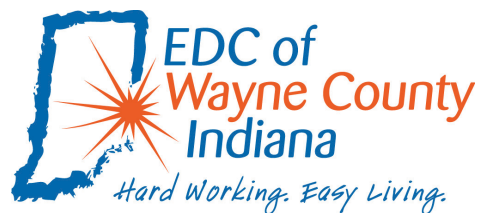
This year we want to recognize the East Central Indiana Regional Partnership (ECIRP). This regional economic development organization is made up of nine counties, of which Wayne County is included. ECIRP deserves this recognition for many reasons. For decades they have been a strong regional partner through several different programs and initiatives, including sales trips, attendance at trade shows and other marketing and lead development efforts promoting East Central Indiana. In recent years the ECIRP has expanded their reach through the development of a talent retention and attraction program, Forge Your Path, to assist member counties in recruiting talent to the area. Forge Your Path dovetails nicely with Wayne County's Home in Wayne initiative and doubles down on our efforts to attract and retain talent. Most recently, ECIRP spearheaded efforts to create and submit a Regional Development Plan to the state's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI). The work paid off in the region receiving a \$15M allocation that will be leveraged to achieve quality of life projects and programs across the region. Wayne County's READI allocation totals \$2,950,000 and is slated to be used to assist with the development of market rate apartments on the former Elder Beerman site. We would like to thank ECIRP for their ongoing partnership in our economic development efforts in Wayne County!

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ANNUAL REPORT

WAYNE COUNTY

C O N N E C T E D



Websites

whywaynecounty.com

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter on the Communication & Media webpage.

homeinwayne.com

Your talent recruitment resource.



Social Media

Facebook – facebook.com/homeinwayne



Twitter – [EDCofWayneCo](https://twitter.com/EDCofWayneCo)



Instagram – [@homeinwayne](https://www.instagram.com/homeinwayne)



LinkedIn – Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County, IN



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