



Switzerland County Economic Development Strategy – Set for 2015 Update

It is important to always look ahead to determine what Switzerland County can do to better prepare itself for the future. In terms of Switzerland County's economic development efforts, this means studying what can be done to better position the county for success.

Improving our local economy is a long-term challenge that requires long-term planning but also calls for adjustments when circumstances change. The work plan for economic development in Switzerland County is outlined years in advance in Switzerland County's Economic Development Strategy. The strategy and its 2011 update can be found online at www.switzerlandusa.com/strategy. When these plans were written, the entire community was invited to add their ideas. Those who chose to participate have played a key role in building the county's future. Those who have not offered their input yet will get another chance this upcoming year when the plan is updated again. The Switzerland County Economic Development Strategy is updated every five years, giving the entire community a chance to weigh in on what is important to them.

Updating our Economic Development Plan will be a year-long process that will begin with your suggestions on what the County should do for long-term success. In the summer 2015, community input will be requested. The total process of developing the new strategy will take approximately nine months. The finished product will guide Switzerland County's economic development activities for the next decade.

FREE Certification Training for Switzerland County Residents

Switzerland County residents are eligible for the WorkINdiana program, which allows you to earn your high school equivalency certificate or improve your skills in an Adult Education classroom, AND earn a career certificate giving you the boost you need to get the job you want. There are over 30 certifications available to help start a career in Advanced Manufacturing, Business Administration and Support, Health Care, Hospitality, Information Technology, or Transportation and Logistics.

Residents who do not have a high school diploma can enroll in a free, one-on-one class that will prepare you to take the High School Equivalency examination. After 12 hours of class, residents are eligible to begin a WorkINdiana certification program...and many residents will qualify for free tuition.

Residents who have earned their high school diploma are also eligible for free tuition for a certification program after completing at least 12 hours of an adult education course, such as resume writing or successful work habits.

Interested residents should contact WorkOne Southeast in Madison at (812) 265-3734, or visit the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center on Tuesdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

The WorkOne office at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center is a partnership between WorkOne Southeast and EcO15, the SCEDC's workforce development initiative.

SCEDC Reports on Progress

Because SCEDC's work is guided by a written economic development strategy, it comes with built-in accountability and ways to measure success. One way to measure success is by actual economic impact. In the last five years, The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation has worked to bring over two million dollars in grants to Switzerland County. During that same time period, businesses directly assisted by the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation have invested over five million dollars in Switzerland County and paid a projected 3.2 million dollars in wages. They have also been assessed over \$150,000 in property taxes, lowering rates for every taxpayer in Switzerland County.

A key element of the county's economic development plan was to have usable sites for new employers to locate. This task has now been achieved and, so far, the results are encouraging. Industrial Parks are a long term investments. In our region, the vast majority of new industrial location announcements were made on industrial property that had been developed for over fifteen years. Even though early success is rare, the Markland Business Park is now preparing to welcome its third industry, barely a year after final construction was completed.

We have worked with existing and start-up businesses as well. In 2014, The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation partnered with Vevay Main Street to bring a business consultant to Switzerland County for seminars and one-on-one meetings with any interested business.

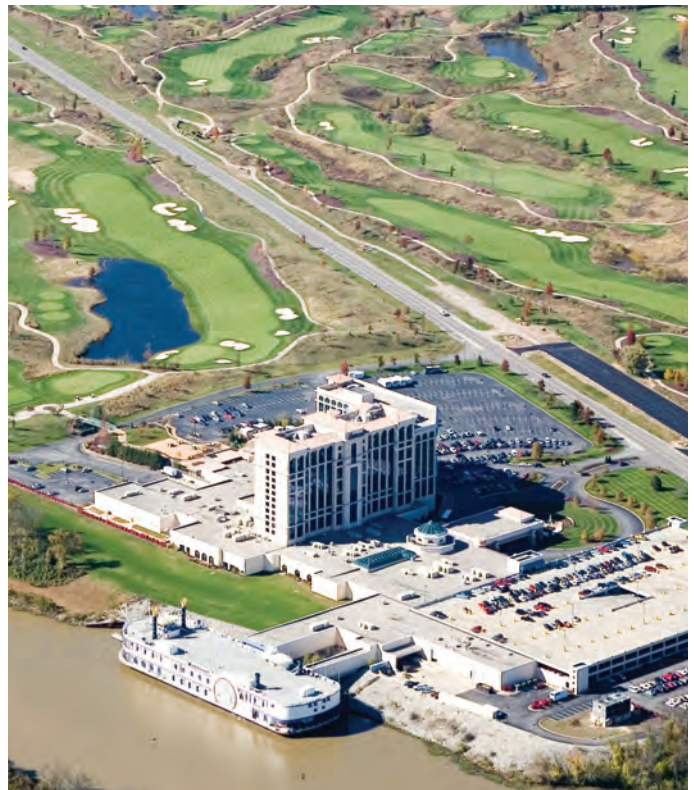
We partnered with Chambers of Commerce from Jefferson, Scott, Jennings, and Carrol counties to put on the third annual Regional Business Expo. This year, the Expo was held at the Mid-America Science Park in Scottsburg. The expo will be in Madison in 2015.

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation offers a Tools for Business Success section on its website. This is a free resource to guide new and existing businesses, including startup, financial, hiring, regulatory and other information. This tool can be found on the Switzerland County Economic Development website at switzerlandusa.com.

Another key component in the County's Economic Development Strategy was to create better tools to improve training and skills within the county's workforce and to help employers get the workforce training they need. In 2014, workforce training efforts at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center (TEC) were rewarded with additional grant dollars from the EcO15 Program. This project is a collaboration with the Community Foundation of Switzerland County and has resulted in over 1.3 million dollars of education and training funding into our community since it began. College credit courses, Certified Nursing Assistant training, and High School Equivalency are just a few examples of the training our residents can now receive right here in Switzerland County.

The County's overall economic health is improving but we still have a long way to go. Total employment in Switzerland County increased in 2014 but we are still below our pre-recession employment levels by 3.7%.

More details on SCEDC's activities can be found in our 2014 Annual Report to the Community.





New Medical Office Coming to Vevay Carrol County Hospital Announces New Vevay Clinic



Vevay, IN – The Carrol County Memorial Hospital has announced that a new clinic will be opening in Vevay later this year. The facility will be a primary care facility, where patients can visit without an appointment. The clinic will be open initially from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

The Carrol County Memorial Hospital already had a strong presence in Switzerland County, providing medical direction to the Switzerland County Emergency Medical Service and occupational medicine services to the Belterra Resort and Casino. This will be the first time, however, that the hospital has provided service in Vevay for the public at large.

An additional medical clinic in the county should provide another option for affordable care and the overall wellness of county residents. The new clinic has already received approval from the Carrol County Memorial Hospital Board of directors and now awaits regulatory approval from the State of Indiana. The clinic is expected to be open by spring, 2015.

Certified Nursing Assistant Courses Now Available at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center

Of all the occupations available in the Switzerland County region, jobs in health care are among the most numerous. Health care jobs pay well, and nearly every single health care job requires some level of specialized training.

For residents who are interested in direct patient care, the Certified Nursing Assistant is the first step on the large health care career ladder.

A certified nursing assistant, or CNA, helps patients or clients with healthcare needs under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). The regular responsibilities of a nursing assistant vary based on where you work. Nursing assistants can work in a wide variety of settings, such as nursing homes, hospitals, adult day care centers, personal homes and assisted living facilities. In many cases, the nursing assistant serves as the RN's or LPN's eyes and ears. Nursing assistants

fulfill basic quality-of-life needs for patients, and since nursing assistants have daily contact with patients, they are gatherers of vital information about the patients' conditions for their supervisors.



The Switzerland County Technology and Education Center has partnered with the Tri-State Health Care Training Academy to offer CNA classes at the TEC Center. The three-week course included two weeks of on-site practice at a health care provider and one week of classroom instruction.

The entire cost of the Certified Nursing Assistant course can be paid by the WorkINdiana program for Switzerland County residents who qualify.

Interested residents should contact the Tri-State Health Care Training Academy at 812.571.4079 for information on tuition assistance and a schedule of training courses.



Community Welcomes

J & L Extreme Machine to Markland Business Park

Florence, IN – A new manufacturer supplying the automotive industry began production in the Markland Business Park in January 2015. J & L Xtreme machine manufactures exhaust components for a variety of diesel engines. The company will be located in the Markland Center, a 10,000 square foot facility constructed by Switzerland County in 2012.

The company has been in operation since 2011. Company President James Peters is a Switzerland County native and has worked in the automotive supply industry since 1988.

Like most small manufacturers the company will start out at their new Switzerland County location was just a handful of employees. Employment is expected to grow to 20 employees over a three-year period. Jobs at the facility are expected to pay above the county average wage and will require workers with advanced manufacturing skills.

The total economic benefit to the area of the location and operation of J&L Extreme Machine is estimated at more than twelve million dollars over the next ten years.

It was possible to bring a company like J&L Xtreme machine to Switzerland County because of the investment in land and infrastructure Switzerland County made at the Markland Business Park and because of the existence available building at the park, also constructed by the county.

Switzerland County received a grant from the US Economic Development Administration to construct infrastructure in the 100 acre Markland Business Park in 2010. Construction was complete in 2013. The site has been certified as Shovel Ready by the State of Indiana. The Markland Center was constructed in 2012.

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