

# Switzerland County Economic Development Strategy Update Newsletter

## What's New:

- *SCEDC Begins Regional Study*
- *County Participates in Regional Group*
- *Switzerland County Featured in National Magazines*
- *Planning Phase of Markland Business Park is Nearly Complete.*



## SCEDC BEGINS REGIONAL STUDY

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation has initiated a new research project that could change the way that Switzerland County looks at itself and its surrounding region.

The goal of the project is to establish a "Greater Switzerland County" statistical region that will enable the community to better understand and market its regional workforce and

economy. This project has gained new importance since the completion of Kentucky Highway 1039 has considerably shortened the drive time to many surrounding areas.

Being able to identify the County's regional economy and present it to prospective businesses is critically important. The information gathered will be essential to effective planning and marketing.



**A better understanding of Switzerland County's surrounding region will create a competitive advantage**

## COUNTY PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL GROUP

Switzerland County will be represented on a committee that will oversee a new workforce development project sponsored by the Lilly Endowment Inc. The EcO15 project seeks to create a world-class advanced manufacturing workforce in Southeast Indiana by building the basic worker training infrastructure that will enable companies to customize training for their needs. It also seeks to raise the basic level of education and workforce training in the region.

The initiative will be guided by a 40-member regional advisory council. Representing Switzerland County on the EcO15 Advisory Council is Jon Bond, of SCEDC, Pam Acton, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, Virginia Reeves, representing the Switzerland County School System, and Robert Tedesco, Switzerland County's representative on the Region Nine Workforce Investment Board.

## SWITZERLAND COUNTY FEATURED IN NATIONAL MAGAZINES

Switzerland County has recently been featured in two national economic development and industrial site selection magazines. *Expansion Solutions* features Switzerland County in its April/May issue.

*Expansion Solutions* has a nationwide circulation of approximately 20,000 with the magazine's primary readership consisting of site location consultants and corporate real estate brokers. Each issue of the publication ex-

plores business expansion and relocation trends as well as community success stories.

The county was also highlighted in the September, 2006 edition of *Site Selection* magazine. *Site Selection's* coverage was in an article that discussed Honda's new facility in Greensburg, Indiana and its effect on the surrounding region. These are just recent examples of positive attention drawn by Switzerland County's Economic Development efforts.

## PLANNING PHASE OF MARKLAND BUSINESS PARK IS NEARLY COMPLETE



The pre-construction planning phase of the Markland Business Park's development is nearly complete.

The first phase of development of the Markland Business Park is expected to be completed soon. Switzerland County purchased the property for the facility in March, 2007. Formal planning for the park began in early April, 2007, with the hope of initiating utility and infrastructure construction within 18 months. In order to present a more attractive site to prospective employers, county leaders have taken the time to conduct all pre-construction planning and permitting before marketing the site.

The planning phase of the project has involved more than just site work. The Switzerland

County Economic Development Corporation has been visiting industrial parks throughout the Midwest to identifying what facility designs have been successful in other areas. Interviews have also been held with site location consultants and industrial real estate specialists to determine what park designs might be appealing to prospective businesses.

Site development planning for the project has included coordination with the utilities that are expected to service the park, identification of what upgrades will be needed for utility systems in the area and what utility easements will be needed inside the

park. Approval of the overall site development plan was needed from several state agencies. This included approval of the facility's roadway and drainage plans.

As this planning phase nears completion, construction is expected to begin in the fall. The first construction project is likely to be the widening of the main water line by the Patriot Water Company and installation of water lines into the park. Additional projects expected to begin within the next six months include the installation of electrical service and early roadway construction.



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