

Switzerland County Economic Development Strategy Update Newsletter



County Economic Development Strategy Now Available

Switzerland County's Economic Development Strategy is now available both in print and online. The strategy is the product of an eight-month planning effort between government, business, and community leaders. SCEDC brought community representatives together in four strategic planning sessions.

The purpose of these planning meetings was to identify assets and liabilities within the county and to develop both short-term and long-range goals for improving the county's competitive position and encouraging economic growth.

Once the final plan was approved, it was printed and distributed to state and local leaders. One component of the strategy was to produce quarterly updates, like this one, to keep the community and other interested parties up to date on the county's economic development efforts.

The Strategy can be viewed online at <http://www.switzerlandusa.com> or you can receive a printed copy by calling the SCEDC office at 812.427.9100.



Switzerland County's Economic Development Strategy is now available.

What's New:

- *Economic Development Strategy Unveiled*
- *Economic Development Corporation Formed*
- *County Receives Grant for Website*
- *Small Business Seminar Planned*

Economic Development Corporation Formed

The first action step in Switzerland County's Economic Development Strategy was to create a non-profit corporation to carry out economic development activities. From this suggestion, the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation was formed.

The corporation's nonprofit status will allow it to easily receive grant dollars from philanthropic foundations as well as state and federal government. It also provides a tax incentive for other organiza-

tions to assist in funding the county's economic development efforts.

The corporation will oversee the implementation of the economic development strategy and assist in the growth and location of businesses in Switzerland County.

Broadband and Agribusiness Committees Formed

Switzerland County's Economic Development Strategy called for the development and execution of a strategy to deploy affordable high-speed internet access to existing businesses and potential development sites. To achieve this, the Economic Development Corporation has formed a broadband committee.

In addition to internet capacity, the committee is looking into improving wireless phone access within the County. The Broadband committee held its first meeting in late May.

Another group called for by the

economic development strategy was an agribusiness advisory group the help make agriculture more profitable in Switzerland County. This group will attempt to coordinate resources and promote awareness in agribusiness, agri-tourism, and alternative crops.



An NX business seminar will begin on September 22

County Receives Community Comeback Grant

Switzerland County has been awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to develop a top-quality presence on the World Wide Web. The grant will be matched with \$2,500 from the county and \$500 from the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation. The Grant is part of the Community Comeback Project, designed to help communities that have suffered job loss due to national trade policies.

Switzerland County's Economic Development Strategy called for the creation of a website to make economic development information on the county more easily accessible to companies and to market the county as a great place to do business. In addition to providing economic information, the new site will be able to link to existing sites in the county.

A portion of the site will be dedicated to graduates of the Switzer-

land County School system. This will allow high school graduates who no longer live in the county to receive updates on business and job opportunities in the region.

The grant also includes funding to create economic development marketing material for the county. Work will begin on the project immediately and the new website is expected to be unveiled in early 2006.

Small Business Seminar Planned

A website will help Switzerland County get the word out about their economic development progress.

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation, along with the Switzerland County Tourism Commission have announced the launch of the NX Small Business Training Program. The program is designed to help people in the area with a business idea, in writing their business plan and turning their idea into a working business. The course will be in-

structed by the Southeastern Indiana Small Business Development Center and local volunteers. The program will be helpful, not just for those considering starting a new business, but also those who are already in business and would like to learn the latest management techniques. Course topics will include legal forms of business, finance, accounting, marketing research, marketing

and advertising—all taught by experts in their fields. The program will begin Thursday, September 22, 2005 and meet each Thursday night from 6pm-9pm for ten weeks. Courses will be held at the Switzerland County Public Library in Vevay. Tuition is reimbursable upon completion of a business plan.

New Economic Development Director



**Economic Development Corporation
Appoints Director**

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation has appointed a director to help implement the county's economic development strategy and to assist in the growth and attraction of business in the area. Jon Bond has been named the director of the Corporation. He began his duties on May 2.

Jon is a native of Switzerland County and a graduate of Switzerland County High School. He is a graduate of Hanover College, the Indiana University School of Law, and the Economic Development Institute of the University of Oklahoma.

Prior to joining the Economic Development Corporation, Jon worked in Indianapolis, as the Director

of Operations for the Indiana Economic Development Council, where he assisted community and regional groups in preparing economic development strategies. He also served as Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Planning for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

The Economic Development Corporation office is currently hosted at the Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation offices at 317 Ferry Street.