

ihcda

WINTER ISSUE 2018



the magazine



Page 10

Jessica Love:

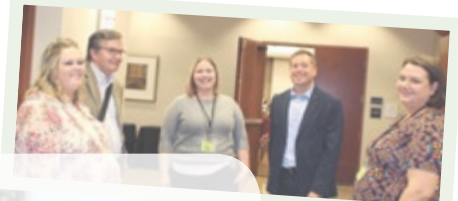
Helping to Strengthen
Indiana Communities





a note from
Jake's desk

Artwork by Gracie Sipe

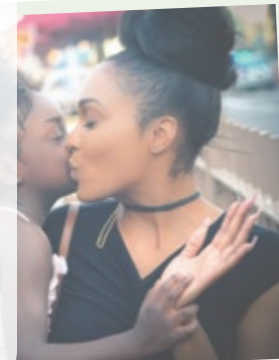
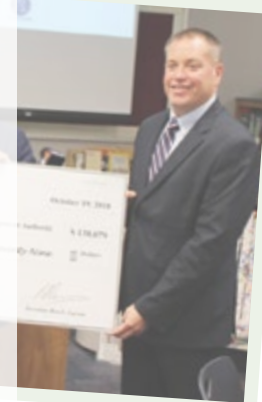


A Look Back at 2018

As I look back and reflect on 2018 I am very proud of the progress we have made at IHCD. This would not have been possible without an extraordinary staff working closely with our vast network of partners like you to advance our mission to provide housing opportunities, promote self-sufficiency and strengthen communities. Under the direction of our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, we accomplished a number of milestones in our 40th year as an agency.

Jake

Executive Director
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Jessica Love: Helping to Strengthen Indiana Communities

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As a quasi-state agency, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority is committed to serving the entire spectrum of housing, from homelessness to homeownership.

Our charge is to provide housing opportunities, promote self-sufficiency and strengthen communities, in order to build an Indiana with a sustainable quality of life for all Hoosiers in the community of their choice.

As part of the Lt. Governor's Family of Business, we work with other state agencies, private and not-for-profit entities and local units of government to help develop innovative solutions for housing and comprehensive community development.

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Gleaners Provides a Helping Hand to Hoosiers Facing Homelessness

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana has a long history of helping Hoosiers. With a mission of “leading the fight against hunger” they jumped at the opportunity to assist with the 2019 Point-in-Time Count in Indiana.

To start, they offered shelf stable items like deodorant, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste they had on hand. However, when their staff heard what was going on the supply list started to grow.

“We were about 200 toothbrushes short so one of our employees went out and bought them herself,” said Alexandra McMahon, Director of Community and Corporate Engagement at Gleaners. “She has a real passion for helping the homeless. She also collected more than 400 blankets. We were all pleased at the opportunity to support this year’s Point-in-Time Count.”

In total, Gleaners and their staff provided enough items for 1,500 Hoosiers facing homelessness.

“We are extremely grateful for Gleaners and their partnership on preparing care packages during the Point-in-Time Count,” said Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch.



Once completed, the care packages were boxed up and delivered throughout the state.

Once completed, the bags were delivered to regional Point-in-Time coordinators and distributed during the 2019 Point-in-Time Count on January 23rd.

“We are extremely grateful for these donations,” Angie Ciski, Region 5 Point-in-Time Coordinator and Director of Veterans’ Services at Jackson Street Apartments in Kokomo. “They will help make the count much more impactful.”

The Point-in-Time (PiT) Count is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single date in January. It is a requirement for each Continuum of Care by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In Indiana, all counties outside of Marion County are part of the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care. IHCD serves as the collaborative applicant for the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care. The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP) is the Continuum of Care for Marion County. 🏠



Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch (center) is pictured with Brad Meadows (left) and Brian Philps (right) from IHCD. The three helped Gleaners staff and other volunteers prepare care packages.



A sample of one of the care packages. Each one consisted of one food and one non-food bag of supplies.



Residents of Meridian Park in Kokomo are pictured outside of their unit.

Faces of HOME

By **Samantha Spergel**, Director of Real Estate Production &
Lauren Anderson, Real Estate Department Intern



The Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) also known as HOME has provided quality and affordable housing to Hoosiers through funding supplied by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Over the past 25 years, IHEDA has dispersed over \$260 million to complete affordable housing projects across Indiana, and funded over 24,000 units through rental and homebuyer construction, down payment assistance and tenant-based rental assistance. In the past five years alone IHEDA has been able to fund almost 800 units of affordable housing through its HOME program. During

IHEDA's 2017 Program Year, IHEDA partners completed 162 units of rental housing.

As a recent recipient of HOME funding, Bona Vista has utilized support in establishing three affordable local housing projects: The Vistas, Laguna Commons, and Meridian Park, located in Kokomo, Indiana.

Bona Vista opened their doors in 1958 with a foundation of supporting parents, and continues to provide programs that serve as a vehicle for children and adults with disabilities to live independently. Today, Bona Vista serves over 2,000 individuals daily through 14 core programs.



*The 2018 Program Year is in progress and concludes on June 30, 2019.

Bona Vista prioritizes individual-based services that are designed around the specific needs of residents to live their best supported lives among the Bona Vista community. In addition to providing affordable housing, Bona Vista engages the community of Kokomo with adult and child services to improve the overall quality of life in Kokomo.

According to Brianne Boles, President/CEO of Bona Vista, the HOME Program provided through IHCD has given Bona Vista the opportunity to collaborate with local businesses to provide affordable, handicap accessible housing with ADA accommodations. Among the 32 supported living units in Kokomo, residents are able to live independently by having the resources to access public transportation, look for employment, grocery shop, and attend community activities. Though the growth has been incredible, the dedication of Kokomo and Bona Vista remains consistent.

"Being a part of integrated housing options for persons with disabilities has been an amazing journey to witness. The client excitement, success and pride each person takes in living independently with peers is such a joy to see. Everyone, disabled or not, strives to be an active participant in their community. The persons we serve are no different. Bona Vista gets to play a part in the lives of the people we serve, and help them live to their maximum potential. Seeing those persons served, each having their own version of success, is truly a humbling experience", said Boles.

The residents and the community have both enjoyed the most recent HOME-funded project, Meridian Park. The 13-unit, new-construction development contains one single building, with four "living pods" in which 3-4 efficiency units share a common living room, dining room and laundry room. Each person's unit also contains a small private kitchenette, as well as their own private bedroom and bathroom.

The project, funded in 2016, involved a high level of collaboration between Bona Vista and the City of Kokomo. The City of Kokomo donated the property to Bona Vista and assisted in the façade design of the building. Residents boast that living at Bona Vista creates

HOME by the numbers

- Since 1992, IHCD has received **\$358,958,718** in HOME funding. This has allowed us to support the completion of **4,323** rental units and serve **541** families receiving tenant-based assistance.
- **61%** of rental activities have gone to persons between **0-30% Area Medium Income** (AMI).
- For every **\$1 of HOME funding, \$7.28** of other private funding is leveraged.
- **\$94 million of HOME funding** has been reserved for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs).

an environment conducive to being involved in the community. With a park across the street, residents of Meridian Park are able to socialize with one another and cultivate an inclusive and welcoming community. A Meridian Park resident stated they enjoyed the newness of the housing, and how residents enjoy the nearby park.

Bona Vista gets to play an integral role in each resident's amazing journey of living independently. "Housing is such an accomplishment, and Bona Vista will continue to expand services in an effort to achieve success through encouragement, independence and inclusion!" 🏡



Pictured above are photos from the Meridian Park grand opening on May 1, 2018 in Kokomo. Among the attendees for the celebration was Indiana Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch.



A Small But Mighty Community

By **Carmen Lethig**, Placemaking Manager

It all started like many of these projects do. In 2015 Josh Bird and other Yeoman Indiana community members voiced concerns about the condition of an old abandon building in the center of town. But because the citizens of Yeoman were used to working together on festivals and community clean-up days, they decided to partner with the Town and tackle the issue together. By the end of 2015, they purchased and demolished the building. For the next two years they worked on the Yeoman Park Project, a phased plan to transform the recently vacant space to a place where area children could safely play and wait for the school bus.

The residents collaborated for those two years to develop the plans and raise money for the park's implementation through personal donations, corporate donations, and events like golf scrambles and festivals. The first phase of construction started in late 2017 and resulted in a covered structure on the site for kids to stay out of the elements when waiting for the school bus.

"We are a small but might community" was the introductory line of Yeoman's project story on their CreatiNG Places crowdfunding project page. The campaign was the last phase of the Town's funding efforts for the Yeoman Park Project, which is located adjacent to the community center. Once constructed, the park will offer three playground spaces for different age groups: a swing set, paved walkways, a perimeter fence, landscaping, signage, benches and trash bins. Despite the Town's small population of 136 people, the Town surpassed its \$13,500 crowdfunding goal with 222 donations. The donations really



were a community group effort with some raised through sports tournaments, business donations, and even \$71 from a donation jar. But most donations were made by individuals that have a connection to the town—that live in the town, live nearby or that hold Yeoman close to their hearts. It is the kind of town that sees little turnover because of its quiet country living, its history and its proximity to other towns. This sentiment and the Town's daily social media postings resulted in two donations from outside of Indiana—one from Ohio and one from Colorado. Yeoman also leveraged its relationships and proximity to Delphi and Monticello in the fundraising efforts as well, thereby receiving help spreading the word and getting donations from nearby residents and businesses.

Bird, the project's lead coordinator, says Yeoman means a lot to him personally and that it is a great place to raise a family. He has worked on the project for the last three years and is looking forward to seeing it utilized. The project should be finished in the first half of 2018.

To learn more about Yeoman or the Yeoman Park Project check out:

www.patronicity.com/project/yeoman_community_park#/
and www.facebook.com/TownOfYeomanIndiana 🏠



Jessica Love:

Helping to Strengthen Indiana Communities



From the Heart of Dixie to the Heartland of America

Born and reared in Selma, Alabama, Jessica Love was interested in going to college out of state. After showing an interest in smaller schools, her parents recommended that she look at Taylor University.

While her parents had no direct connection to the Christian liberal arts college located in Upland, Indiana, they did have one with Grace College. After attending Southeastern Bible College in Alabama, Jessica's father attended Grace Seminary in Indiana and knew people that attended Taylor.

Storyteller by nature

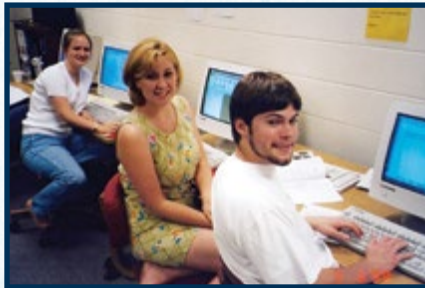
With her father's support and encouragement, Jessica developed a passion and skill to write and tell stories. She can distinctly remember working with him on writing assignments for her 10th grade honors English class.

"Some people paint or draw," said Jessica. "I express myself through words. Those who know me know I like to talk, and I'm a storyteller by nature."

This led her to majoring in Mass Communications/Journalism. After briefly considering a career as a TV news anchor, she was recommended by a professor to join the school newspaper staff. After serving as editor of Taylor's newspaper and yearbook, it only made sense for her to embark on a career in print media.

Life in the Fast Lane

The life of a reporter is very exciting yet demanding. It often requires long and inconsistent hours. This can certainly be said for Jessica's first job after college. Despite knowing they did not typically hire locals, she applied for the LifeStyle section editor position in Selma, Alabama. In this role, she covered politics with the newspaper, including the election of the first African American mayor of the city. Due to her hard work and dedication, she was promoted to Managing Editor and oversaw the entire newsroom staff.



Jessica (center) is pictured in the journalism lab at Taylor University. At the time, Jessica was editor of the college newspaper *The Echo*. Pictured with her are Kendra Lightfoot Beutler (left) and Mike Schueler (right) who also contributed to the newspaper.

Career Shift

Jessica's father was meeting one day with the Executive Director of a regional planning commission in Alabama. He asked the man what it was that he did. After finding out, and without hesitation, he said to the man: "I think my daughter could do that. She's looking for a job."

Despite her father's bold assertion, Jessica was very happy to be "an adrenalin junkie hopped up on news beats and deadlines." In fact, she had no plans to change jobs and wasn't looking. But, she indulged her father and interviewed for a position with the planning department of that organization. This



Jessica is pictured with her parents Travis and Becki Barnes.

led her to taking on a position in community development that she “wasn’t necessarily educated or trained to perform.”

“Even the interns had masters degrees in public administration or public policy,” added Love.

Despite taking the long, roundabout way into community development, she quickly developed a passion for it. She also found that, while she was not specifically trained in the field, her writing and management skills helped her out immensely. Particularly, with grant writing and community engagement.

Her experience in print media helped her tell the stories of the residents they assisted. She loved meeting with them to capture their story to demonstrate the need for each project she worked on.

An Alabama Heart and an Indiana Soul

After dating her soon-to-be husband long-distance, Jessica tackled three major life events within two weeks. She moved to Indiana, got married and went on a honeymoon and started a new job at the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (now Prosperity Indiana). Fortunately, she was able to continue doing much of the same work at IACED that she previously did at the South Central Alabama Development Commission.



Jessica is pictured with Prosperity Indiana staff members at their 2018 Holiday Party.

As Executive Director, Jessica is responsible for all aspects of Prosperity Indiana’s operations. Overseeing a network comprised of community development professionals and supporters, she sees engagement with members as critical to informing organizational vision and strives to empower the team to achieve strategic goals.

While she was born and raised in Alabama, Jessica has always felt a connection to Indiana.

“I actually say that I have an Alabama heart and an Indiana soul,” added Love. “Something just kept bringing me back here over the years. And it seems now I am here to stay.”

Transition to Executive Director

With the departure of Executive Director Andy Fraizer, Jessica Love was promoted to Executive Director of Prosperity Indiana in early 2018. Since both she and her team had been with the agency for some time, she knew she would need to make some changes to make the position her own. This meant eliminating technology from staff meetings, having team members take turns leading and putting out a puzzle for her and the staff to do during downtime.

“These changes may seem small, but they were shocking to our heads down, computer screens up mentality,” added Love. “Our office is very different now.”

Probably the biggest challenge for Jessica was getting comfortable in her role as a visionary. In past roles, her focus was on “How do we get things done?” As the leader of the organization, she continues to focus on how things are getting done, but she also works to motivate her staff to make Prosperity Indiana the best organization it can be; something her father knew she could do.

“When Andy announced he was leaving, my dad emailed me, and very sweetly listed a series of strengths he saw in me,” added Love. “One of the words on the page was visionary.”

The Future for Prosperity

Under the tutelage of Jessica and her more than 17 years of community development experience, Prosperity Indiana is in the process of developing and rolling out a new mission, vision and values along with their strategic plan. One of the major focuses of the plan is to ensure they add as much value as possible to their membership. Prosperity is also a convener in partnership with the new Opportunity Investment Consortium.

“The work around the Opportunity Zones gives us a chance to connect with more people and more closely with partners and have greater impact in low income communities,” added Love. 🏠



Grace Halderman is pictured in the community room at Ashbury Pointe on December 8, 2018 at a party to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Ashbury Pointe Resident Grace Halderman *Celebrates 100th Birthday*

On December 8, 2018, the Ashbury Pointe staff invited Grace Halderman's family, friends and fellow residents for a party to celebrate her 100th birthday. Grace has been a resident at Ashbury Pointe II, a senior independent living facility in Pendleton, since 2008. After growing up in East Central Indiana, Grace moved south where she lived for many years. She returned to her hometown of Pendleton to be close to her family. Her daughter recently became a resident at the expansion of Ashbury Place.



Grace Halderman is pictured with friends, family and Chuck Heintzelman, Principal of Milestone Ventures at her 100th birthday celebration.



CSH Summit 2018 in Los Angeles.

2019 CSH National Summit To Take Place in Indy

CSH, a recognized leader in supportive housing solutions, is hosting its **CSH Summit 2019** in Indianapolis on April 30–May 2, 2019. CSH selected Indianapolis for their national summit in part because of its long-standing presence in Indiana and the annual **Supportive Housing Institute**.

What is the CSH Summit?

The CSH Summit 2019 will bring together thought leaders from many professional fields across the country including affordable housing, medical and mental healthcare, education, IDD, child welfare, justice reform, addiction treatment, homelessness response and community planning.

How do I register?

Early-bird registration is open now until March 1, 2019. You can register at www.csh.org/summit



CSH Summit 2019 offers many opportunities to connect with key people in important sectors like housing, healthcare, child welfare, justice, education, workforce development, and more.

Visit

www.csh.org/summit



Join us in Indianapolis

CSH SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SUMMIT APRIL 30-MAY 2

CSH.ORG/SUMMIT



Elkhart Clarinet Factory Sees New Life as Senior Housing in Elkhart

By **Ryan Hamlett**, Real Estate Production Analyst

Elkhart has a well established reputation for being the RV Capital of the World which dates back to 1948, when nearly 100 companies in and around Elkhart County were building camping trailers. But how many of us also recognize that Elkhart has the distinction of being the Band Instrument Capital of the World as well? For over a century, millions of instruments have been built in buildings throughout Elkhart by companies like C. G. Conn, Vincent

Bach, and H. & A. Selmer Co. Recently, Commonwealth Development Co. helped save one such building on Elkhart's near-north side. Less than a mile from downtown, where Main crosses Simonton Street, sits a non-descript brick industrial building; one likely to not have won any architectural awards, but one that looks like it has a story to tell.

In the early part of the 20th century, when Indiana played rival to Michigan for leadership in automobile manufacturing in the Midwest, the father and son team of E.C. and Martin Crow, helmed the Crow-Elkhart Motor Co. At the peak of their production, when they and their 170 employees were constructing 30 cars a day, they built a two-story building at 1119 N. Main St., across the street from



their factory. Constructed in 1917, the building housed a showroom and service station and housed offices on the second floor. However, Crow-Elkhart was one of dozens of early car manufacturers whose early successes were short-lived. Their last roadster





rolled out of the factory in 1923 and their factory and showroom were vacated soon after.

The former Crow-Elkhart building was leased to other automobile companies until 1927, when it was acquired by the H. & A. Selmer Company, a burgeoning producer and importer of clarinets and other instruments. George Bundy, then president of Selmer, relocated his company from New York City to Elkhart, to take advantage of the scores of skilled instrument workers who had already been drawn to the city by C. G. Conn Ltd., the world's largest manufacturer of band instruments.

Initially, Selmer's production was so small that Bundy continued to lease out the ground floor, including an adhesive manufacturer, leading

for producing some of the world's highest quality instruments. In 1948, Bundy diversified their products by introducing a low-cost line of molded plastic instruments targeted towards students and school music programs.

In 1965, they expanded upon the original Crow-Elkhart building to make room for their continued growth. Eventually, Selmer grew larger than C.G. Conn, the company that inspired (and helped bankroll) their move to Elkhart. After a series of different conglomerations and corporate ownerships throughout the 1970s-90s, Selmer merged with United Musical Instruments (owners of C.G. Conn) in 2003, forming Conn-Selmer. The following year, Selmer vacated their 75,000 sq. ft. Main St. factory building, leaving its future in peril.

That was until 2016, when Commonwealth Development Co. was awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits to redevelop the Crow-Elkhart/Selmer Building into 55 units of senior housing. The Gardenvue Senior Apartments are so named for its proximity to Elkhart's Wellfield Botanic Gardens, to which all residents will have access. 🏡

“
Tearing it down, as structurally
sound as it was, didn't make
a lot of sense...
– Lavon Johnson, President and CEO
of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

competitors to refer to Selmer as “the little place over the glue factory.” Over time, Selmer gained a reputation



Five Questions About Place with *Levi Rinker*

Downtown Development Director, City of Anderson



By **Carmen Lethig**, Placemaking Manager



CL: Why did you get into your role as Downtown Development Director in Anderson?

LR: My life passion deals with both the arts and creative business development. When I came on board with the City of Anderson, our Mayor told me to treat downtown like a blank canvas and create something vibrant. It is truly one of my favorite collaborative mixed media pieces!

CL: Why is promoting place important to you?

LR: It sounds ridiculously redundant, but a successful “place” must give a person a sense of identity in the time-space continuum. It is a confirmation of their existence or an affirmation acknowledging one’s sense of being. If you can provide a way to let someone know they are in the right place, at the right time and a part of something significant, you are winning. In turn, they will then promote it for you.

CL: What is most important to highlight when promoting place?

LR: User experience is most crucial. Whether a place allows for quiet personal reflection or engages interaction with strangers, spaces must be meaningful, adaptable, and useful in how they serve the public.

CL: How does art play a role in reaching your community’s goals?

LR: Art is the bridge. It is the connecting tool, the common ground, and the amphitheater for greater things to happen.

CL: I wanted to talk to you so that others could hear your story about the role you have played in helping Anderson achieve its goals; and how art and place are parts of that process. Given that context, what is the one thing you want our readers to know?

LR: I returned to my hometown to play my role as a healer, a giver, and a facilitator for growth. I believe any organization (private or public sector) that brings an artist or entrepreneur’s perspective to the table is better equipped to fully maximize their potential. Either by habit, talent, or just pure definition of the trade, artists take relatively flat structures and change them into dynamic experiences. If you don’t have an artist in your tool belt (or in life in general), you are missing joy, meaning and understanding. Adopt an artist today!





Members of the Logansport MCMV group and their kayak wayfinding map produced as part of their MCMV project.

Students Help Improve Quality of Life Their Way

By Claire Graham, 2017-2018 MCMV program participant



My Community, My Vision (MCMV) is an exemplary student-based municipal group that works in various ways to envision a new life for our county. Receiving an initial grant of \$5,000 from IHCD gives room for endless redevelopment possibilities. Anything from public art to revitalizing public spaces is within reach for the MCMV students.

For the Logansport MCMV group, we chose a more out-of-the-box reach for our use of the funds. We decided our town, which houses two nearly untouched rivers, needed something involving both the citizens of Logansport and the nature around us. To do this, we decided those aforementioned rivers would be the perfect vehicle to provide that connection. My team and I decided to pursue a startup for a kayak rental facility that would require mapmaking, photos of the spaces, investors, insurance, and many other aspects of business building to complete. Brainstorming with city government officials like the Parks Department and other redevelopment committees gave us a greater insight to our goals.

While we still see that project as an end goal of sorts, we also focused our efforts on smaller projects throughout

the past several months. These projects included bringing more attention to our local farmers market by hosting live music and raffles there, creating an interactive community sign to place at various events in the city, and collecting bottle caps across the Logansport School Corporation to recycle into benches to be placed around the community. These projects are simply precursors to the larger-scale projects we as a team have been concocting and continue to see progress in consistently.



Claire Graham

Personally, I feel very connected to My Community, My Vision because of the great strides being made by myself and my classmates. We have all learned a great deal about city planning and the rewarding (but potentially slow) steps that we work hard to take. By being a part of this assembly of bright students we form a new appreciation for our community and hope to fuel positive change into it. 🏡



Flaherty & Collins Properties, in partnership with WellSpring, developed, constructed and manages The Retreat at Mineral Springs, comprised of the renovation of the historic Martinsville Sanitarium (Kennedy Home) and the Morgan County Sheriff's Residence and Jail. The project, in conjunction with the Morgan County Historic Preservation Society and the City of Martinsville, makes The Retreat at Mineral Springs a community-based endeavor to help meet the City's need for senior housing. The project consists of 38 apartments, with a mix of one bedroom and two bedroom units, for seniors 55 and older. The development also preserves two of the City's most significant historic landmarks.

Martinsville: Rooted in History, Embracing the Future

At a restaurant table in her beloved Martinsville, Mayor Shannon Kohl sat across from Craig Fenneman. With passion and exuberance, she shared with the leader of Artesian Group, LLC her ideas and goals to revitalize the city's historic downtown shortly after taking office in 2016. Inspired by her words and shared vision, Craig told Mayor Kohl that he and his wife Mary, along with Doug and Paula Molin, would get to work.

Little did Mayor Kohl know at the time that this meant immediate purchases of two downtown buildings by Craig and Artesian Group—at 10 East Morgan Street and 18 East Morgan Street. It also meant subsequent purchases of more than 18 additional downtown buildings.

"The Mayor's ideas and goals for a revitalized downtown as outlined in her administration's 100-Day and now 200-Day plans were right in line with our long-term goals for Martinsville," Fenneman said. "We would not be doing these rehabilitation projects if it were not for Mayor Kohl's and the City Council's vision of an improved downtown and their support of and assistance for our efforts."

While restaurants and businesses were quickly being identified to fill these revitalized buildings, affordable senior housing was at the top of the wish list for Mayor Kohl who knew how difficult it was for older residents to find options close to downtown.

MARTINSVILLE CITY OF MINERAL WATER

Earning the nickname City of Mineral Water for its well-known mineral water sanitariums, Martinsville has been the county seat of Morgan County since its founding in 1822. The name “Martinsville” was given to the community in honor of its surveyor, John Martin. Located in south-central Indiana immediately southwest of Indianapolis, Martinsville’s 2016 population was 11,669.

“**Retreat at Mineral Springs** can really be viewed as a catalyst for the downtown redevelopment,” said Kohl. “Much like Craig and Artesian, Flaherty and Collins has been an excellent partner. The work they did and the care they showed on the building was incredible. It also helped to fill a major need in our city for residents 55 years and older.”

In addition to the downtown square, a focus in Martinsville is to improve the look of the city. This has been done by increased trash clean-up and better communication to residents. This has become increasingly important due to the I-69 expansion.

While construction of **I-69 Section 6** is not planned to start until 2020, the city had an economic impact study done to determine the best way for I-69 to positively impact Martinsville. This report was provided to INDOT during the open comment period.

“We have known for years about the I-69 expansion,” added Kohl. “This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to positively impact our community. We want to make sure we get all we can.”

Revitalization is expected to continue in Downtown Martinsville in preparation for the I-69 expansion. Along with this are infrastructure and park improvements which are planned throughout the city.

“The community has come a long way in a short period of time,” added Kohl. “We have stressed to our residents that this is not a “change” but rather we are preserving the great history of Martinsville.” 🏡



Artesian Group LLC’s purchase of more than 20 downtown buildings to be rehabbed has led the revitalization efforts of Martinsville’s historic downtown square.



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