

Aspire Johnson County Large group meeting

Taxman, Bargersville

September 27, 2017, 4-5:30pm

Kent DeKoninck welcomed everyone. Round robin was held.

Financial Center First Credit Union, our meeting sponsor was thanked.

Nathan and Leah Huelsebusch- Taxman

Celebrating 3rd anniversary in Bargersville. Not Indiana natives- from Ohio. Before coming to Bargersville, they were in Brussels Belgium, having relocated there for work. When they came back, they decided that Center grove made sense to live because of where they were working at the time. Liked this community for when they start a family, but went downtown a lot. Johnson County /Center Grove needed something unique, came up with an idea to try on a small scale. Put together business plan, found this building in Bargersville. Adamant against setting up in a strip mall, they wanted something that had a unique feel. This building had been vacant for 2 years- it had rotten dry wall, water damage from a roof leak. They purchased the building, had a business plan, met with town council to get a tax abatement. Town council took a risk with them! Restaurant was not part of the original design...it became clear that people wanted more than beer. They wanted to sit and really spend time here. Developed a farm-to-table centric menu- heirloom vegetable farm in Bloomington- use almost all Indiana vendors for protein except for seafood.

Leah- community aspect was huge for them. The community here is what they are seeing on a regular basis.

Nathan- first year of operation: 730 barrels brewed, each year almost doubled: 2000, 2nd year, 4000 3rd year, on track for almost 7000 for 2017. Very fortunate that local business owners are open to carrying a local brand- Target and Kroger are willing to sell their beer. Challenge of working with a large corporation when they self-distribute. Have to have a team to rotate the product seasonally. It has been an uphill challenge. They set up a meeting with Meijer (in Grand Rapids) and agreed to 3 stores carrying Taxman Beer initially. Recently they asked for 12 more stores based on sales. Meijer said that they would let them do even more than that!

Greatest joy is building community through craft beverages and through food (their mission). It's a family business! Kirby is Nathan's sister and their accountant. Her husband is the chief production officer.

Company is growing- Fortville just opened last month. They now have 110 employees total.

Farm to table: Living in Belgium Leah could meet farmers and see the goats that were making the cheese. There was no option like that in Greenwood. Looking for outlets to buy local food and build relationships with local farmers. Support community by working with farmers and using what they actually have- create a synergistic relationship. They offer grass fed local never frozen beef. Leah is on board of slow-fed group. She gets to meet farmers and see that they are working day and night.

Nathan was asked to highlight what makes a Belgium beer. It has 4 major components: barley, hops water and yeast. Main difference is type of yeast. Belgian yeast has a flavor on the back end – esters that are produced during the back end- banana, clove flavors etc. Also, very high in alcohol. Candied sugar- like rock candy: light and dark. Provides a very easy fermentable source for the yeast. Taxman focuses on very traditional styles of beer, but have some fun styles for seasonals. Still a very young beer market in Indiana. Has a lower craft share than other states...there is a lot of room to grow. Likes introducing people to beer that they've never tried before.

Jeff Beck- Johnson County Resident, history of Bargersville

Daughter says there is more to life than Bargersville- moved back home this year (from Florida). Has a lot of pride in this town of 4500. Seen a lot of progress in Bargersville.

Town was started roughly 1850. Town was divided into two sections 135/44 and the area in downtown (New Bargersville). Jefferson Barger gave the town his name. Jefferson and a sibling came to Indiana and landed in Shelby county. Moved to Johnson County and at 144 Jefferson Barger donated 12 lots of land. Made his living here as a wagon maker and became prosperous here. Old Bargersville has a saloon, town residents of 77 ran the saloon owner out of town. During the 1850's this was a wilderness area 135- was called 3 notch road. Indians kept track by marking the trees with 3 notches. Residents would drive cattle from here to Indianapolis. 144 was known as Old White / Wide? Rd.- first white road in the state of Indiana- used trees to make it flat. 8 feet x 3" laid down next to each other to make a road- no drainage. \$1200-1500 per mile to make the road.

Old Bargersville started to cease to exist until railroad came through. Dinner train used to come through from Indianapolis to Morgantown. Lasted 1 year or so, but didn't take off. Santa train in December- line wraps around town hall. This building, when Jeff grew up, was Alton Hardware. First floor was hardware, glasses, dishes, nails by the pound. Arcade pinball then Tristate... glad to see it renovated now. Bargersville might even get a stoplight! Bank had the first drive up window in the 1950's, You could visit Weddle's pharmacy to get a milkshake, your prescription. Dunn's restaurant- greasy spoon but you could play pinball- attracted the kids. Regal grocery store- two aisles- very traditional. Had an honor system if you couldn't pay. Red's was a good neighbor, Umbargers, and the Masonic lodge. People really make up this community- farm bureau co-op and Umbarger's grain. Nichols cabinet company used to be tomato processing plant. Employed a very large amount of Bargersville population- The Hoosier Tomatoes.

Jeff told a story of Bargersville resident Cecil Milo. He was given permission to fly his B17 over his parent's farm in Bargersville. On it's second pass they threw out flyers saying "I love you" for his family. Killed during his mission in WWII.

At Morgantown and Smokey Row road- water tower supplied the town. Gentleman had a duty to turn on tower for Bargersville. Seniors connected garden hoses from nearby home, shot the water up in the air to simulate the water tanks being full. Bargersville ended up running out of water for 2 days from this prank.

Used to be a movie show downtown on Saturday nights. Now downtown is moving forward and doing well. Two Cent road- always thought (250 North, south of town) it was a shortcut through a farmer's property? Has a plaque at Johnson County road that it used to be a toll? Jeff wants to tell the historical people it's wrong.

Dana shared that it's interesting Infrastructure comes up in each presentation – each man was required to spend 12 hours doing road improvements. Bargersville is 3rd largest community in our county- has a government system and a town council.

Marty and Ro Umbarger-

Ro- on Bargersville town council, life-long resident; family lived in community for over 150 years. Heard about Greenwood/ White River township merger talks. Got together and decided they would annex themselves to Bargersville rather than being absorbed into Greenwood. Probably 95% voluntary annexation. Went from 1500-2000 to over 4000 people. Has map to pass around. Gained a lot of land mass and population. Over 7000 people. Has a president and vice president on town council, street, planning, police dept. utilities. Owns all of their utilities: water, electric, storm water, waste water. Meet 3x per month 2 afternoons and 1 evening town council meets. Electric serves over 3000 people. Currently expanding residential developments. Drive out 144 to Morningside- 89 homes being built, Saddleclub 147 homes, walnut grove elementary grove- 860 students will attend that school. Will be moved from Maple Grove. South Grove Commons north of 135, Aspen Trace- just got added onto with new duplexes and cottages. Aspen Trace was given- First tax abatement (brand new tool of alternative abatement) Taxman was their second! Great leap of faith by Taxman to establish in Bargersville. Mentioned more developments, a lot of residential development coming which will hopefully generate more commercial development. Don't have a mayor, don't have a town manager. Probably need to look at out- superintendent report to all of the councilors. Hired director of Economic Development recently- will help spread the word on what Bargersville has to offer. People love Center Grove Schools and want their kids to attend their and that's why they are getting so many developments here.

What challenges do they see: making sure they have the infrastructure in place for all of the development. Bargersville extends to 37. Right now, they don't have wastewater out that far. Huge challenge. Working on plan for development- comprehensive plan developed 5-6 years ago. Parks/ amenities- purchased land near 144/ 37 purchased acreage to develop a park there. Received a grant from Indy for trails from 135 down Old Plank road to parks in 2019. Sidewalks- any new development has to have a pedestrian pathway, so hopefully will be more connected. Who manages? Development department- volunteer, no paid staff.

Main Street organization in Bargersville- all volunteer main street that promotes the town. Struggled a bit- hard to get people involved- got grant for downtown plan. Also working with the county on plan for I-69 with steering team. Looking towards future and thinking ahead so they can tell the state what they want. Not Carmel, but they have 2 roundabouts.

Each community is a little different in how they govern. Thinking ahead. Always have those founding families that make a difference.

Marty Umbarger- Umbarger Grain and Feed

Welcome to Bargersville! Marty moved here from Whiteland. Oldest surviving business 1939- 4th generation. Daughter Erica is here too- lives in Bargersville.

Roy Umbarger (grandfather) worked in Bargersville territory- grain salesman. Almost everyone was a farmer. Farmer's bank- went to Roy and said that a lot of the farmer's had to travel to the mill. Said he had land by Old Plank Road and Baldwin Street.

Gave him 2 years free rent to start a business. Didn't want to do it. One son graduated in 1940 from Whiteland, Marty's dad voted yes to start the business. Dad went off to WWII- radio/ morse code- 4th out of a class of 268. Took the army into Oikinawa. Marty's a true baby boomer- arrived 9 months later 1945. June of 1947 grandfather passed away at age 54, dad was 25. They couldn't handle two homes- moved in with grandmother and his dad trying to build the business. Greatest generation built the business. Marty went off to college- Univ. of Evansville with business degree, but dad said that the business would feed 3 families. Went off and worked something else- lived in NY, Ohio, came back to the business in 1971. Gave it a go and got into fertilizer business, chemical, feed. Competitor sold in the 1980's- they purchase their business. His son is now a partner in the business, bought Marty's brother out. His dad was always keeping the books, hired 3 people to take his place, but no one could fit the bill. Rowana offered taking the place, but Marty turned her down, but they gave it a go.

Agriculture is tough, but it's a wonderful business, a greatest export that we have in the US. Only true positive export. 21 million dollars of sales, ship feed to over 30 states. Largest show feed mill in the US- from right here in Bargersville. Graduated in 1969, was going to join the marines, but instead joined the National Guard and served for 45 years.

Johnson County is a great place to live!

Major general for 11 years for the National Guard- Umbarger Way in Franklin is named in his honor.

One of the themes- people make these places and communities. This is what matters- see the passion and love that they have for their business.

Next month the topic will be all about Franklin

Kent DeKoninck/ Steve Jarosinski- last year did first annual fundraiser- 30 donors in 30 days. Information sent out with link to JCCF. Tax deductible through community foundation. ONLY fundraiser for the year! Very gracious donors, but these donations go a long way. Aspire is here to tell people to continually make Johnson County better.

Kent- revenue enhancement- JCDC /helps support Aspire Johnson County. Exceeded expectations last year. Anything you can do would be great!

Steve- Marty was on the board at JMH – appreciate all that Mary has done

Eric- Aspire is here to grow – take a photo and share on social media.

Let us know if you like this afternoon format- send Jennifer or Dana and email.

Next meeting at Franklin College in October.