

Aspire Johnson County

Large group meeting

Center Grove School Administration Building, Greenwood

August 23, 2017

Welcome

Kent DeKoninck welcomed everyone. Round robin was held.

Melissa from Financial Center First Credit Union, our meeting sponsor, spoke about FCFCU is here to benefit everyone in the community.

David Pfeiffer from Johnson County Museum of History presented about Johnson County history and transportation through the years. The Johnson County Museum is located on Main Street near the Artcraft if you haven't been.

Indiana became a state in 1816- (showed map) Knox county was the bulk of the state! In 1818 the new purchase agreement (between US government and Miami tribe) opened up the majority of Indiana for settlement.

Jacob Whetzel purchased land in western Indiana and created an east/ west trace with his son and others. They started in Franklin County and ended in Waverly.

How did people travel here? At this time, people followed rivers, stream, game trails, or they made their own roads. (There were no permanent Native American settlements in Johnson County).

John Campbell and his family were the first settlers in Johnson County- settled in Edinburgh; his daughter was the first baby born. Close second was Abraham Sells, settled in White River township in 1820.

Johnson County was organized on December 31, 1822. The Johnson County courthouse was completed sometime in the 1880's. Franklin was chosen as the county seat after debate between Edinburgh and Franklin. Johnson County was named after Indiana's supreme court judge John Johnson nominated in 1816 and died in 1817.

Greenwood was incorporated in 1823, first was called Smocktown then officially named Greenfield, then changed to Greenwood. Some of the earliest roads in the area were Madison State Rd (now us 31). Three Notch Road (now State rd 135) which was a Native American road, and Mauxferry road, which lead to a ferry. Early residents were required to work up to 12 days per year to maintain roads in township. In 1833 Johnson County had 144 miles of gravel roads. In 1840, the railroads came. 1902, the Interurban started carrying passengers from Indy to Louisville. Main Street in Franklin and Madison Avenue in Greenwood were built wider to accommodate the interurban train. Once cars were introduced, the interurban was shut down in 1941. Looked at more images of transportation over the years in Johnson County; the museum will be doing a new exhibit on transportation in 2018.

Jeff Beck- White River township resident presenting on Center Grove history. He was born and raised in White River township, near Mallow Run.

In 1825, 1st documented school for Center Grove. Mrs. Samuel Parks started a school in her home after the death of her husband. School started at 9am, after chores, until 3pm Monday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday were for working on the farms. Typically, school year was from Sept 13- April 29th; teacher average salary ranged from \$6-\$12 per year.

1915 list of teacher requirements: must wear 2 petticoats, can't loiter downtown, can't marry during school term, must clean and start fire in classroom.

3 of the remaining home are left out of 7 that were used as Center Grove classrooms. In 1882 at Stones Crossing and Morgantown Road, Eliza Evans owned 31 acres and sold 3 acres (at \$100 each acre) to the school. School started in 1883 and went up to 8th graded. 1884 was the first freshman class. In 1888 4 men graduated and in 1889 was the first class with a woman graduate. In 1908, the first school was raised and a new building was built. Then it became a certified school with 1st- 12 grade all in one building. Bangersville had a school from 1911-1932 near the Nichols Cabinet company. In 1932 the Center Grove school was destroyed by fire and rebuilt. The gym started being used by the community regularly for meetings.

Coach Swede Chambers pushed for the mascot to be the Swedes- they used that name for 2 years, then came up with the Trojans. The name was voted on and red and white became the school colors instead of red and yellow. Ted Dollen came up with the fight song. 1957 was the school's first touchdown in the game to Greenwood High School (Center Grove lost the game).

Jeff and Jack Russell worked to set up historical items at the main entrance of the high school- be sure to check them out.

Ron West- County Commissioner presented on Johnson County government. Happy to announce the Johnson County has the best group of elected officials. We tend to focus on the national or state elected officials, but the local level has the most effect on our community's education, public safety, property rights, streets and roads. Ron's work as a county commissioner is to make the county a better place.

I69- recently contracted with HWC to formulate a plan to develop along the corridor for commercial and industrial use.

Jails in Johnson County- \$40 million dollar budget for Johnson County and 75% goes to criminal justice system- probation, juvenile detention, judges, etc. Think of what we could do if we had that 75%. How do we deal with this? Some may think we need to lock them up and throw away the key. We are now more involved in juvenile detention- focusing on programs, therapy, & after release programs. Drug addiction and mental illness are where the majority of criminal behavior stems from.

The jail has 322 beds with a current population of 406...overcrowded. Faced with a dilemma- need jail expansion because state mandate says that people serving 365 days or less have to remain in county jail- which has caused overcrowding. State is closing their facilities, where they used to pay us \$35 per day to house their prisoners.

Drainage- Started getting inundated with calls from property owners about failing pipes. The responsibility falls on the homeowners to repair since they are on private property. Ron is working on a program called CHAMP- county health and maintenance program, so that the county can work with HOA to allow easement rights to assess homeowners amortized fees over 10-15 year period to pay for improvements. Stormwater- has meeting next month to start drafting the language to be introduced in 2018.

911 center consolidation that collected own food and beverage tax. Mitch Daniels wanted to build Lucas Oil, so invited all councils to adopt 1% food and beverage tax. The county collecting it could keep ½% and give the other ½% to Lucas Oil up to 5 million dollars. Found out that we were paying the full 1% to the state and not keeping any; discovered that the state owned Johnson County \$605,000; \$283,000 was repaid.

Instead of a wheel tax, suggested a gas tax, but was told no by the state; 5 million gallons of gas are sold per month at the 4 truck stops in Johnson County.

Dana noted that the county council handles fiscal responsibilities and the 3 county commissioners work like “town managers” for unincorporated Johnson County.

Dr. Rich Arkanoff, Superintendent, Center Grove Schools

Not everyone realizes that Center Grove Schools are the schools for Bargersville, part of Greenwood and unincorporated area of Johnson County.

Vision: All students receive exceptional education experience #E3CG

Center Grove has a great reputation- work a lot on branding. Ask residents/ parents to tell them when they miss the mark.

Class of 2017 earned 6 million in scholarships. Earned national, state, regional, & sectional titles for performing, fine arts, and athletics.

Has a strategic plan to build academics, guarantee viable curriculum for K-12. Focus on essential learning of the state standards. Organized meetings for teachers and improved teachers with professional development. A lot of young teachers are now in Center Grove- hired 47 in 2017-18. T-Lead- voluntary training to lead in the school district.

Character education part of the strategic plan- worked on corporation wide. “Effort” is the character for August, which is shared at all the schools.

Innovation center: STEM, mobile learning devices, redefining learning spaces- very collaborative and multimedia...not a quiet library. The innovation center repurposed a maintenance building for creative projects.

Focus on safety, security, and stewardship for their buildings.

Student activity center- suspended running track, will be opening in November.

Will have to grow high school in the next couple of years. Lots of growth in district- trying to be fiscally minded- build after the students get here. Oct 10th, breaking ground on Walnut Grove Elementary school- near Bargersville, to open in 2019. This is the 3rd year in a row that they've had the largest kindergarten class ever. If the kindergarten enrollment hits 4061, then they need a new elementary and they have to redistrict. Most of the elementary schools have the capacity to hold 800 students. New middle school will probably have to be built in 2035. Why? Lots of home developments planned. Will probably need an additional elementary in 2025- takes 2 years to build. Walnut Grove will focus on solar power to offset costs and reduce its carbon footprint.

\$.9902 property taxes (Greenwood \$.8548) hasn't been increase in 10 years. Visit centergrove.k12.in.us/experienceCG to see 360 degree photos of the schools. Facilities are offered to the community to rent. Also, residents can use walking track for free if a White River resident. Coming soon, silver card for 62+. Will get residents in for free to all football, drama productions, basketball games. Will be delivering to assisted living communities to engage their residents.

Tech integration- it's a tool for students. I pads, Chromebooks are integrated into everyday life. Need a balance of screen time. It's not a wow factor anymore; it's an expectation. They have a ratio of 3-1 students per device. Textbooks are available online with a set of books per classroom.

Coffee chats with the community will be starting up September 7th at MI Homes (model home) at Saddle Club road. You can meet with Dr. Arkanoff for open conversation from 7:30-9:30pm. There's a link for more information on the school's website.

Dana- all teams have been meeting- contact us to get involved.

Steve Jarosinski thanked everyone for their patience for the meeting running long.

Next meeting will be taking place on September 27th at Taxman from 4:00-5:30pm *note time change

