

Aspire Johnson County

Large group meeting

Clark-Pleasant School Administration Building, Whiteland

July 26, 2017

Welcome

Kent DeKoninck welcomed everyone and spoke about how this was the second in the series about Johnson County, today being all about Whiteland/ New Whiteland. Round robin was held.

Mike McDonald from Financial Center First Credit Union, our meeting sponsor, said that he does commercial loans and has been very busy. He told us how FCFCU focuses on helping feed the hungry, financial literacy, and military veterans. They will be breaking ground in July on a Veteran's Hall of Fame memorial. For more information, visit imvhof.com

Dr. Spray, superintendent of Clark-Pleasant schools told us that the corporation had received a grade A in 2017. In an era of a lot of choices, Johnson County has great, high-quality schools. Clark-Pleasant serves the community with 5 elementary schools, one middle school and one high school where 50% of the students have Greenwood addresses. One of the elementary schools actually has a Franklin address. The Clark-Pleasant corporation, as of the 2016-17 school year, has 6500 students enrolled with over 7000 in the information system. 48% of students are on free/ reduced lunch and all the elementary schools being pretty even in this statistic. A few other facts:

The school system runs 70+ bus routes

Clark-Pleasant Middle School is rated 4-stars

Ranked by US News for top high school in the country

Selected as top workplace by Indy Star in 2017

The 2017 graduating class finished with approximately 4500 early college credits.

Pre-K programs are functioning full day, every day with 2 classrooms full of 4-year-olds.

The school corporation has incorporated a strong push for STEM from PreK through 12th grade using designated staff and curriculum. With elementary students, STEM class was rotated through like art, music, gym and quickly took over gym as a favorite by the students.

The education foundation was formed in 2013 and by 2014-15 had gained momentum. They've now disbursed \$40,000 back to classrooms.

Relationships are the most impactful between teachers and kids. Dr. Spray said that it's good to listen to the students and see what is most important to them. The administration all have a heart to help kids and not get bogged down in business.

Demographically, classes are shrinking as they get to high school. They are speculating the reason is due to the majority of homes in Whiteland being "starter" homes. This is the first year that Clark-Pleasant

schools has opened enrollment for 9-11th grades as they have a little more room to take on new students in the high school than other grades.

Maribeth Alspach- New Whiteland history

Maribeth grew up in New Whiteland with a great sense of community. New Whiteland was incorporated on July 20th, 1954. Marlin Williams developed homes on the west side of US 31 that included sanitary sewers. They had planned to be a part of Whiteland, but rest of town used septic systems, so they were the new development was denied. The residents of the new neighborhood asked for a special election and were denied. Finally, the decision was reversed and they were ordered to have a survey done- they had 16 residents, 8 were voters. They held a special election and it was unanimous 8-0 to form their own town- West Whiteland. In the end, they amended the name to New Whiteland which covered 238 acres. Now, in 2017, they have 2000 homes, a library branch, 2 churches, 2 school buildings and more. They were named one of the top 10 safest cities in Indiana. Due to a grant from the Johnson County Community Foundation, they now have defibrillators in all city buildings.

Proctor park is the newest and most visited park in New Whiteland. The city added in 2012 Hoosier Heroes Wall, and in 2014 Vietnam Veterans memorial. They are currently working on a memorial for World War II, which will hopefully be completed in 2017. The back section of the park honors first responders. The park is located at 499 Tracy Rd and is 11 acres large. If you visit the city web page, you can see a video that the high school students made about Proctor Park. All the work done for the park, has been done with donations, not tax payer funds.

New Whiteland's current population is 5472; they have 5 city councilors, 19 full-time employees, own waste water and storm water utilities. The \$342,000 of debt the city has will be paid off in 2018. Looking forward, the town is now 63 years old and they need to start working on infrastructure due to age. Planning projects for street repair, replacing playgrounds, removing diseased trees and replanting, rehab or replacing tennis courts.

To answer the question about why there are two towns, it has been discussed to merge, New Whiteland voted yes, but Whiteland voted no.

Celebrate the latest Story Walk next Saturday (August 5th) at 10am done by JCPL and an eagle scout. There will be interactive stations at County Gate Park (north of Skillman). They will also have a noon parade for National Day Out with food trucks, the Bloodmobile, police dept. and fire dept. tours from 1-6pm. Southpointe Church will be showing the Lego movie at 9pm.

Carmen Marks-Whiteland Trails/ History of Whiteland

Originally name Wheatland in the 1860's, but discovered there was already a town of that name, so the name Whiteland was selected after Jacob White, the first postmaster. There were 3 initial businesses in town at the time it was incorporated in 1886. In 1900 the population was 334; also, the interurban ran that same year on January 10th. In 1903, the interurban was extended to Columbus and in 1907 was extended to Seymour. At the height of its use, the interurban stopped every 2 hours for trips to

Indianapolis which cost \$3 and went 60-70 mph. Use of the interurban stopped after an accident in 1941.

In 1986, Whiteland turned 100 and the celebration lasted an entire month. They hosted a parade, a bicycle rodeo, a concert in the part and more. In 1986 the alley of flags began, which has now expanded to 300 flags along various roads in Whiteland. Population has also grown over the years with a big spike in the 1950's-60's, most likely from Camp Atterbury. In 2017, Whiteland has 4732 residents, but still maintains a small-town feel.

Whiteland will be celebrating community day on Sept 16 on Main Street and at the Town Hall Plaza. City has organized a trail committee and is working (after hosting a Healthier Living workshop) to be healthier. Heard comments at the workshop that the residents would like to see parks, community gardens, trails etc. Working on creating a walking path, town hall plaza, update their land use plan, and improve connectivity from their trails to other Johnson County trails. Also, the hope to establish a Whiteland Main Street organization. They've been recently adding wayfinding signs and new welcome to Whiteland signage. They are also planning a Main street corridor revamp with improved lighting, crosswalks and safe crossings to school. Also, the city established a new scholarship fund for Whiteland seniors that looks at how they are impacting their community. It looks at what they are doing, not just grades. Lastly, Johnson County Community Foundation sponsored a mural on June 25th at Crystal Graphics. Projects like this improve Whiteland for future generations.

Norm Gabehart- Town Manager

Started on town council from 1992-99. In 1992 a referendum brought town council from 3 to 5 members, plus a clerk/treasurer.

Otto Lewis was town marshal in 1964 and the first town manager.

Council is looking for growth and is working with JCDC to see what they can do to move forward. RDC is considering 10% of money from TIFF districts going directly to schools.

Departments of Whiteland: Water, sewer, street, storm water, planning, police, fire; Whiteland has a full-time staff of 21- everyone works together. Planning commission is 7 members- reviews most development/housing. Board of Zoning is a 5-member board.

Proud that emergency responder response times have been decreased to an average 3-4 minutes.

Whiteland is a Gold Level investor in JCDC; feel like they do a great job promoting Johnson County.

They are a part of the IRTC policy committee- works on opiate/ addiction issues.

Successes- 2015, Mr D's was replaced with Johnson Memorial on Whiteland Rd and US 31. Will be receiving \$60,000 from the state to sustain infrastructure. All year-long leaf and limb pickup also, utility system billing upgrade.

Future projects- detention area to be created near school. Bypass from 31 to Whiteland Road to help move trucks around the railroad.

Team Updates:

Talent

Lisa- JCPL hosted 5 At Home in Johnson County programs, just finishing last week. Well attended and will keep doing every year. They need 1 more film sponsors. October there will be interviews taking place of new immigrant residents, filmed by a Franklin college student.

Bea- August 15 C9 open house. Seniors will be able to opt in to IMPACT work ethic certification program. The program will be a part of every class- they must have 98% attendance, 6 hours of community service, a certain grade point average at C9 as well as their home school. Next year the program will be offered at every Johnson County High School. There's an article with more information in the Center Grove Monthly Magazine. Looking for non-profit for 6 hours of service and business partners to recognize certificate and provide incentives if students have it.

Growth and Planning

Eric- Small business projects- QuickBooks workshop took place with close to 50 attending. Aspire is planning on hosting a more advanced QuickBooks workshop on September 14th. Will have one session for online and one for desktop users. Trails- need to develop county-wide master plan, but have \$0. Talking to state to see if they can help.

Jody- I-69 is moving along. Aspire team urging elected county officials to be proactive. Met with Ron West, HWC has been contracted to do corridor study. Want to make sure we act now! Need to do local road improvements before I-69 comes through. A steering committee of residents has been announced.

Placemaking

Katie- Had a table at the Johnson County Fair with JCPL. Will be working more on activity book in august.

Steve Jarosinski closed the meeting at 9:35am

Next meeting will take place on August 23rd at 8am at Center Grove Administration Building (located at 4800 West Stones Crossing Road Greenwood IN 46143)

