

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NewAllen Alliance Forges Ahead to Secure Funding for East Allen County's Rural Revival Initiative

EAST ALLEN COUNTY, IN, August 20, 2018 – The NewAllen Alliance, a coalition of seven communities, has been working diligently to improve quality of life and create an atmosphere for private investment to occur in the rural East Allen Region. Building off of the collaborative priorities established in the New Allen Strategic Investment Plan (2016), this work has culminated in the development of East Allen's Rural Revival Initiative (Revival).

NewAllen Alliance, in cooperation with the Allen County Board of Commissioners, submitted a concept proposal of the Revival to the Indiana Regional Stellar Communities Program in April of 2018 and was notified shortly thereafter that they were shortlisted as one of six finalists to compete to be a Stellar Communities Designee. Two of the six regions will be chosen.

The Revival is a collective action of seven communities with one bold vision – to connect communities through improved quality of place. Targeted investments into downtowns, parks, trails, sidewalks, and housing are all part of a portfolio of over \$50 million in projects. Over the last four months, NewAllen Alliance communities have been fine-tuning preliminary project designs. See www.newallenalliance.net for more information on proposed projects. The website will be regularly updated as preliminary project designs are completed.

Funding available through the Indiana Stellar Program includes \$4.5 million in Community Development Block Grants, \$2 million in Rural Transportation funds, \$800,000 in annual Housing Tax Credits, \$250,000 in Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation dollars, and \$35,000 for Rural Health.

According to the Stellar Indiana website, “The Stellar Community Program approach to comprehensive rural community development is unique by its attempt to improve rural communities in a way that is 1) rooted in emphasizing partnerships and collaboration among multiple public agencies and community partners and 2) focused on combining state resources to make wide-ranging quality-of-life impacts as opposed to separate, piecemeal, incremental improvements. Therefore, cooperation and funding from local governmental entities, county-wide partners, private donors and investors, in addition to resources brought to the table by the State of Indiana, are critical to the competitiveness of the proposed portfolio Revival of projects. The following meetings have been scheduled to date to discuss local commitment of funding toward project proposals. Additional meetings may be scheduled as part of the approval process.

August 20th, 2018: Woodburn City Council Meeting, City Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

August 22, 2018: Grabill Town Council Meeting (Sept. 5th Vote), Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

August 23, 2018: Allen County – Fort Wayne Capital Improvement Board, Grand Wayne Center @ 8:30 a.m.

August 23, 2018: Leo-Cedarville Town Council Meeting, Town Hall @ 6:00 p.m.

August 28, 2018: New Haven City Council Meeting, City Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

August 31, 2018: Allen County Commissioners Meeting, Council Courtroom, Suite 035, Citizens Square @ 10:00 a.m.

Sept 5, 2018: Monroeville Town Council Meeting, Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

Allen County Council Meeting, To Be Determined

“The culmination of all of these projects into one proposal shows the vast impact we plan to make in the East Allen Region”, states Kent Castleman, President of the NewAllen Alliance. “It is exciting to have all of the efforts of three years of planning coming together in such a positive way. We thank our local elected officials for getting behind the vision and helping us showcase the benefits of East Allen County.”

A complete Revival Regional Development Plan application is due to the State of Indiana on September 21st and designations will be made December 6th. If selected, the region would have four years to complete projects. Further public engagement would be incorporated into the full design and implementation phases of each project.

About the NewAllen Alliance: Organized in 1991, the NewAllen Alliance is an all-volunteer organization that works to bring people to the table who have a passion to see the East Allen County communities of Harlan, Hoagland, Grabill, Leo-Cedarville, Monroeville, New Haven, and Woodburn thrive and excel. Its mission is to create a unified voice for the communities in East Allen County to foster a coordinated effort in community and economic development, resulting in new investment, job creation, and improved quality of life.

The NewAllen Alliance Strategic Investment Plan, rolled out by the collaborative in October 2016, was awarded the 2017 John Keller Award for Planning Initiative by the American Planning Association Small Town and Rural Planning Division. The NewAllen Plan, aimed at retaining and attracting high-quality jobs to the East Allen County communities and integrated the region's collaborative values and strategies with the individual goals and objectives of these rural towns so near, but distinctly separate, from the urban areas of Allen County.

More information about the Indiana Regional Stellar Communities Program: More information on the opportunity can be found at this link: <http://www.in.gov/ocra/2763.htm> .

<https://calendar.in.gov/site/ocra/event/crouch-announces-2018-stellar-communities-program-finalists/>

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