



Quarterly Newsletter
2025
April 2025-June 2025



Pictured from left to right, Jessica Potts, Executive Director of Martin County Alliance, Denny Spinner, Executive Director of Center for Rural Engagemnt, Nash Dunn, President of KCARC, and Keith Peacock, VP of Manufacturing for KCARC. KCARC was named Member of the Year for the Alliance.

ALLIANCE'S 3RD ANNUAL DINNER

The Martin County Alliance's 3rd Annual Dinner was held on Friday, April 4th at the Martin County Community Building and 4H Event Center. Over 120 tickets were sold for the event. Keynote speaker Denny Spinner shared the work that the Center for Rural Engagement and Martin County have done together and spoke on leadership. Dinner was catered by Carla's Catering. KCARC was named the Alliance's Member of the Year! A live and silent auction took place during the dinner. It was a wonderful event, a great fundraiser, and even better company! Thank you to our Annual Dinner Sponsors: Shake Broadcasting, Old National Bank, Midwestern Engineers, Inc. German American Bank, Daviess Martin REMC, White River Marine and Motorsports, KCARC, Springs Valley Bank and Trust, Loughmiller Tool and Design, City of Loogootee, Greene's Body Shop, Crane Credit Union, and USG.



MARTIN COUNTY LEGACY LEADERSHIP'S FIRST COHORT GRADUATES

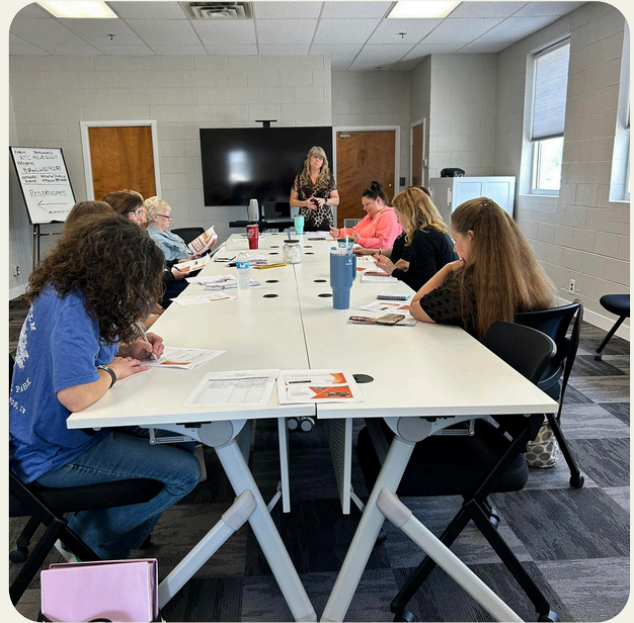
The first cohort of the Martin County Legacy Leadership program has officially graduated! Over the past seven months, 13 dedicated individuals spent one Friday each month diving deep into the unique aspects of Martin County. Their goal was to gain a deeper understanding of the community they call home and to become proactive leaders for its future.

The cohort's journey culminated in a capstone project – the Inspire Martin County Pitch Competition. This exciting event challenged participants to encourage local non-profits to collaborate on impactful projects for the greater good of Martin County. Looking ahead, the second cohort of Legacy Leadership will kick off in October 2025, with applications opening in July. Stay tuned for more information on how you can be a part of this transformative program!



HEALTHY HUSTLE: FUELING YOUR BODY AND BUSINESS LUNCH AND LEARN

Susan Ramsey Fitness LLC was our guest speaker for our April Lunch and Learn. We enjoyed hearing about how her business was started and how much it has grown! Also, the nutrition education was so worthwhile. Key takeaways: eat high dense protein meals and move your body! Being healthy is a lifestyle change, and not a quick fix.



2ND QUARTER NON PROFIT ROUNDTABLE

The Quarterly Non-Profit Round Table took place in May, drawing a fantastic turnout from our local non-profit community! Wanda Underhill and Amber Gilbertson, participants in the Legacy Leadership Program, led the discussion by sharing details about their Capstone Project and encouraging non-profits to get involved. The project, titled Inspire Martin County, invites non-profit organizations to collaborate and work together for the betterment of Martin County.

MARTIN COUNTY JOB FAIR

On May 6, the Martin County Alliance hosted a job fair at the Bowling Manufacturing building in partnership with Work One SC, Shake Broadcasting, and KCARC. The event saw 10 businesses set up booths, and over 20 job seekers come out. Anytime we can connect employers with potential employees we consider it a success!



Martin County Alliance 1st Facade Grant Program: A Great Success!



Pictured above are the Main St. Apartments in Shoals, which will be receiving updates as part of the first Facade Grant Program. Pictured below is 104 W. Main St. in Loogootee, another recipient of the Facade Grant Program.



The Martin County Alliance is proud to celebrate the success of its first-ever Facade Grant Program, which has received a fantastic response from the community. Thanks to a generous \$40,000 contribution from the Martin County Redevelopment Commission, the program was launched to enhance the downtown business districts in all three Martin County communities: the Town of Crane, the City of Loogootee, and the Town of Shoals.

The Facade Grant Program offered business owners a 1:1 match, with a maximum grant of \$4,000. This initiative was designed to help local businesses make aesthetic improvements to their storefronts—benefiting not only the individual businesses but also the overall appearance and vitality of our downtown areas.

We are proud to announce the following grant recipients:

- Star Mill Gathering Place
- 104 W. Main St., Loogootee
- Hometown Flowers
- Main St. Apartments, Shoals
- White River Marine and Motorsports
- Shoals Liquors
- SC Draperies
- Greene's Body Shop
- Chastain's Flowers & Gifts
- Machino Investing
- WL Properties
- Blake Properties: Martin County Alliance Building
- Steven Teverbaugh's Law Office
- 35th Avenue / The Bronze Bar

These businesses will use the funds to make improvements that will collectively enhance the charm and appeal of our downtown districts. The initial \$40,000 investment has sparked a total of \$106,000 in planned improvements across the area.

Improvements are set to be completed by October 31st—stay tuned for updates as these exciting changes take shape! This initiative is just the beginning of many efforts to revitalize and strengthen Martin County's downtown areas.



CASH FLOW: LUNCH AND LEARN

The May Lunch and Learn had a great turnout, with 10 participants in attendance. The topic of discussion was Cash Flow. Thank you to Sherry Wade from Crane Credit Union for being our guest speaker and for sponsoring lunch!

LEGACY LEADERSHIP CAPSTONE PROJECT

At the end of May, the Legacy Leadership Class completed their capstone project—a pitch competition featuring organizations from across Martin County working to make a difference in our community. The energy, passion, and community spirit on display were truly unforgettable! The Shoals Cornerstone Food Pantry took home the grand prize of \$725. However, the judges were so inspired by all the presentations that they personally donated \$200 to help the Shoals Beta Club purchase flag holders for veterans' graves.



Brooklyn Summers



Hannah Cook

NEW SUMMER INTERNS

These are our two new interns Brooklyn Summers and Hannah Cook. Brooklyn is a 2023 Loogootee High School graduate and currently a bachelor student at Vincennes University working to get her Business Management and Leadership degree. Hannah is a 2025 Shoals High school graduate and plans to attend Vincennes University in the fall and major in Advanced Manufacturing Automation Technology.



Art in Action: Presenting Our Work at the Americans for the Arts Conference

Jessica had the opportunity to join our regional partners at IU Center for Rural Engagement and present at the Americans for the Arts Conference in Cincinnati Ohio!

We highlighted the Rural Placemaking Studio, an innovative program from the Center for Rural Engagement, now in its second cohort. We are proud and fortunate that all three communities in Martin County have participated. In the first cohort: The Town of Crane received a new community-designed welcome sign and the Town of Shoals saw cohesive downtown business signage and a rendering for their park expansion. These visual tools have been instrumental in building capacity and supporting fundraising efforts. Shoals is currently pursuing a Crowdfunding Grant for their park project, and their new business signage is set to be installed this fall! Now, Community Action Leading Loogootee (CALL), the Loogootee Main Street group, is actively engaged in cohort two—and we are excited to see what's ahead for them!



COLUMBUS OH SITE SELECTOR VISIT

Jessica ended the month of May connecting with site selectors to showcase all that Martin County and the Radius Region has to offer. It was a great opportunity to share our region's strengths, discuss potential growth opportunities, and build relationships that can shape future investment.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

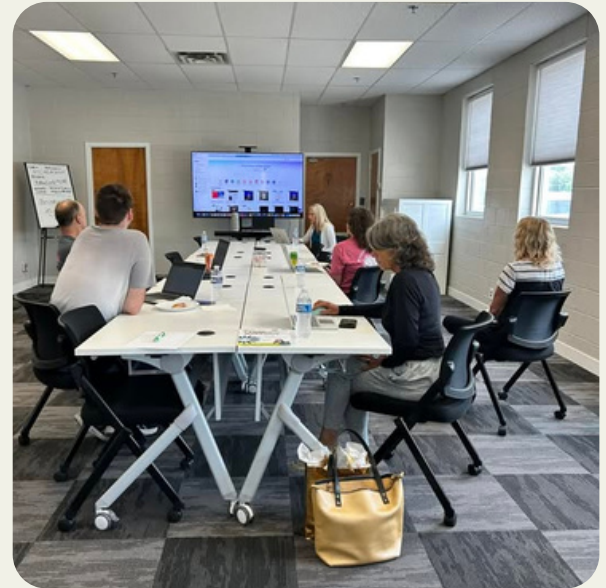
- July 16th: 12:00 PM Getting started with AI Lunch & Learn
- August 6th: 1:00 PM Martin County Quarterly Nonprofit Roundtable Meeting
- August 22nd- 12:00 PM Business Planning Lunch and Learn
- September TBD: 12:00 Workforce Services Lunch and Learn

June Lunch and Learn Recap

JUNE'S LUNCH AND LEARN WAS ALL ABOUT CANVA – AND WOW, DID WE LEARN A LOT!

LED BY BUSINESS SPECIALIST MANDE MISKEWYCZ WITH THE INDIANA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, OUR GROUP EXPLORED HOW TO:

- ✓ QUICKLY BUILD A BRAND USING CANVA
 - ✓ DESIGN EYE-CATCHING FLIERS
 - ✓ CREATE ENGAGING PRESENTATIONS
 - ✓ USE POWERFUL FEATURES TO MARKET THEIR BUSINESS OR COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
- WHETHER YOU'RE PROMOTING A SMALL BUSINESS OR LAUNCHING A LOCAL PROJECT, CANVA IS A GAME-CHANGER. HUGE THANKS TO MANDE FOR SHARING HER EXPERTISE AND TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US!



MARTIN COUNTY ALLIANCE AWARDED \$10,000 TO SUPPORT LOOGOOTEE SENIOR CENTER RENOVATIONS

The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth Inc. is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Martin County Community Foundation to support enhancements at the Loogootee Senior Center. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the Martin County Alliance, the City of Loogootee, and the Martin County Council on Aging.

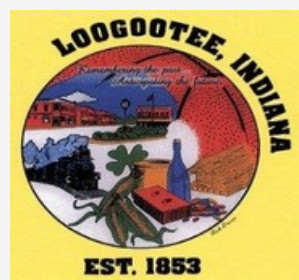
The Alliance secured the funding to improve the Senior Center facility, which is owned by the City of Loogootee and where programming is managed by the Council on Aging. With nearly 20% of Martin County's population aged 65 and older, this project represents a vital quality-of-life investment for the community's seniors.

Looking ahead, the Alliance hopes to deepen its partnership with the City and the Council on Aging by involving local high school students in Project-Based Learning (PBL) activities at the Senior Center. PBL is an educational approach that encourages students to actively engage in real-world projects, addressing complex questions and challenges.

2025 INVESTORS



J & R TOOL, INC



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Woody's Lawnservice
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Westgate @ Crane Authority



A Special Thank You to Our Supporters

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the businesses who are supporters, sponsors, and investors in the Martin County Alliance. Your generous contributions make our work possible, and we truly couldn't do what we do for Martin County without you. Thank you for being an integral part of our community's growth and success!