

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Director's report (February 16-March 15, 2018)

- Project Roof update. This lead/prospect was discussed by me at a prior Committee meeting. Company officials to visit sites in our County (Sauget and Dupo, plus Collinsville) this coming Monday and Tuesday (March 19 and 20). A STL Regional Chamber lead.
- Issues & Eggs breakfast (Wednesday, April 4) at Belle-Court in Belleville sponsored by the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce. We suggested to the Chamber that Sheila Sweeney (St. Louis Economic Partnership) and her senior staff be the speakers regarding our regional Amazon HQ2 efforts; what we learned; and our regional econdev path forward.
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC) annual entrepreneurial business plan contest. We are a \$1,000 sponsor.
- Starting the process to add territory to the St. Clair County MidAmerica Enterprise Zone to assist a new business in Lebanon. We selected Moran Economic Development after a consultant RFP process to assist us.
- Meetings: IDOT's new Freight Grant Program informational meeting for local governments on February 23 in Collinsville (attended with County Board Chairman Mark Kern, County Engineer Norm Etling, and Randy Georgen also with the County Highway Department); meeting with Trudy Bodenbach in my office on February 27. Trudy is the new Community Development Director for Madison County; I spoke to the February 28th lunch monthly meeting of the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. (LKSI). This month the meeting was held in New Athens. We are members and are asked to speak to the group at least annually; attended the March 1st State of the City/Village lunch presentation highlighting activities and future projects in both the City of Fairview Heights and the Village of Swansea. The event is sponsored by the Metro East Regional Chamber of Commerce. I attended with County Board Chairman Kern; on March 2nd County Board Chairman Kern and I gave former St. Louis Mayor Vincent Schoemehl, Jr. a familiarization tour of the River Bridge District along and near the East St. Louis riverfront and environs followed by lunch at the Casino Queen; on March 5th I attended a daylong annual Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA) conference in Carlyle; on March 7th I attended a Lebanon TIF Joint Review Board meeting at City Hall as the County's representative; March 8th I attended the quarterly civic leaders/Congressional District Directors briefing at Boeing HQ in St. Louis along with John Hughes and Tim Cantwell; on March 12th Paul Ellis, the new Economic Development Director for the City of Fairview Heights, stopped by my office; and March 14th I attended the annual New Athens TIF Joint Review Board as the County's representative.
- Social media: Facebook page has 2,308 "likes" which is + 18 since last month and Twitter has 674 "followers" which is + 17 since last month.