



P. O. Box 53 • Knox, IN 46534 • [www.starkecounty.com](http://www.starkecounty.com)  
574 . 772 . 5627 • 800 . 359 . 5627 • fax 572 . 772 . 5912

**DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Knox, IN – the Starke County Development Foundation held its annual board of directors meeting in Knox on Monday, April 11, 2005. During the meeting, the board elected a new slate of officers to lead the foundation during the next year.

The new officers are: President – Gene Blastic; Vice-President – Nancy Dembowski; Secretary – Jim Wagner and Treasurer – Mat Swanson.

The Starke County Development Foundation is a private organization working to attract and retain industries and jobs in Starke County. The foundation is also responsible for marketing and maintaining the three industrial parks in the county (Hamlet, Knox and North Judson).

“While, we’re very pleased to have Gene Blastic as the new president of the board,” said Terry Kimmel, Executive Director of the foundation. “I really can’t say enough about the leadership provided by our outgoing president Ben Osinski. Ben has been a great asset both to the foundation and the Starke County community.”

Osinski was President of the foundation during its recent successful campaign to have a rail spur and loading dock built into the Knox Industrial Park and has been instrumental in focusing the board on the foundation’s goal of encouraging growth and retention of the existing industries in Starke County. In a report to the Board Kimmel indicated several Industries that have located or are expanding in Starke County including Spaw Properties; LLC, J W Hicks, Inc.; I P Callison & Sons; Sabre Manufacturing, LLC.

During the meeting, the board of directors also discussed the Starke County Development Foundations ongoing support of the Community Alliances to Promote Education (CAPE) Grant, the 4 Community Grant that is funding the upcoming Parents As Teachers program that will be administered by the Healthy Families organization and local chapter of Junior Achievement.

The foundation is also currently in the process of developing a five-year strategic plan that will fine-tune and focus the goals and mission of the Starke County Development Foundation. This process will require input from many different segments of the Starke County community.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terry Kimmel  
Executive Director  
Starke County Development Foundation  
574-772-5627