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A Gift for Giving

Compassion in Our Community



INSIDE: Tonne Winery in the Spotlight



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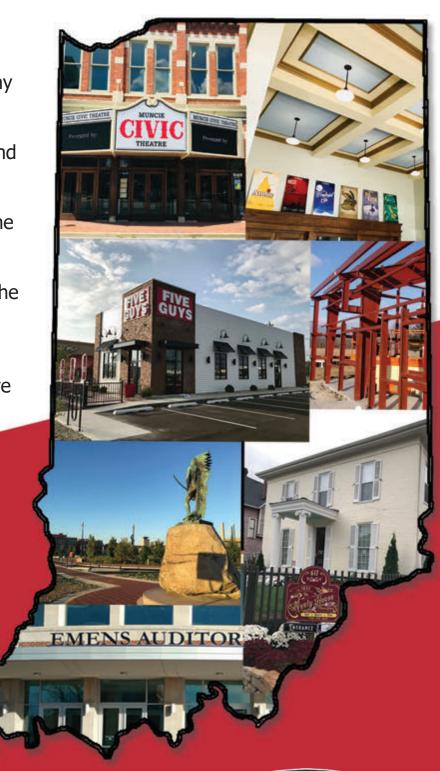


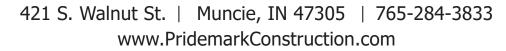


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A WORD

The words hit me like thunder. I'd never thought of it in those terms before. But, once I considered these four words, assembled so simply and brilliantly by the Sagamore Institute, I was instantly struck by the gravity of their truth.

"All compassion is local."

That statement appears on the Institute's website, in a section about investing in communities, the very practice that drove our community to the top of the Public Good

Index's Charitable Giving category.



JAY JULIAN
Chief Economic
Development Officer,
President/CEO

Taken in their individual parts, the words aren't tacitly profound – just mundane parts of speech. But, the concept they portend is thoughtful and weighty, tempered with a wisdom rooted in the essence of responsibility, of community, and of caring for that community and all of its members.

Yes, all compassion is local. Here in Muncie-Delaware County, we seem to understand this, as we enjoy a top ranking for charitable giving among Indiana's 11 major

cities. We're the smallest of those metros, for sure. But, our caring – our willingness to share our time, talent and treasure, is rated even higher than our capital city, Indianapolis.

In this issue, we take a look at that ranking, who made it, and why. We also talk to some of our community's most avid philanthropists and others who exercise compassion daily, looking out for our most vulnerable fellow citizens.

But, that's not all we have in store this time around. This issue of *Alliance* continues our extended look at "Hidden Gems" in Muncie-Delaware County, including Royerton's Tonne (rhymes with sunny) Winery, the Marilyn Glick Center for Glass, and the David Owsley Museum of Art.

A robust line-up of local business leaders is featured in our Homeward Found feature. This time around, we queried Mark Ervin of the Beasley-Gilkison law firm, Jeff Howe at Old National Bank, Mia Johnson of Ivy Tech and our transplant – one that has adopted our community as their home, Huntington native Kent Shuff, co-owner of Vera Mae's Bistro.

As always, thank you for helping make Muncie-Delaware County a thriving, prosperous and compassionate place to work and live. We're so very proud of all you do!



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A Study of Indiana's Major Cities A Study of Indiana's Major Cities INNOVATIVE IDEAL BEAL BERNATE

On the Cover

Muncie's passion for giving in the spotlight

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Whilanthropy

TIME TALENT TREASURE

Muncie's Robust Philanthropic Profile Leads Indiana's Major Cities, According to Sagamore Institute's Public Good Index

Time, talent and treasure.

Those are the cornerstones of philanthropy, and those who selflessly share them have made Muncie a shining star of charitable giving in Indiana.

According to the Sagamore Institute's annual

Public Good Index (PGI), which examines challenges and solutions in communities that receive the Institute's Renewal Fund Investments, Muncie-Delaware County is number one in philanthropy. Statistically, this community edged out other, larger cities like Fort Wayne, Carmel and even Indianapolis.

"While there are challenges," the annual report said, "Muncie has numerous assets to benefit society. The charitable giving in this city exceeds all other major cities ... Maintaining high

civic participation creates stronger communities by providing opportunities to collaborate in community development, and Muncie is home to people who are devoted to fostering a greater community, having the second highest number of civic, social, religious and political organizations in the state."

Indianapolis was ranked second in charitable giving.

Launched in 2017, the Public Good Index is the

brainchild of Sagamore Insitute's Vice President Troy Riggs, who described the PGI as a "deep data dive" on Indiana's 11 major cities, as well as the nation's 50 largest cities. The study looks at city challenges, such as crime, hunger, education achievement gaps, homelessness, etc., as well as solutions, like nonprofits, volunteerism philanthropy, and social entrepreneurship. identify crisis Designed to situations in a given community, the PGI isn't all good news for any community.

Yet, Muncie-Delaware County cut a sharp figure among its much larger peers, some of which include Indianapolis, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Carmel and others, with its top-





Supporters of the 100 Men Who Cook event dine at the Horizon Convention Center.

rated philanthropic endeavors. Moreover, this community's civic involvement score came in second with its praiseworthy 11.6 civic organizations per 10,000 people.

And why not? Philanthropy and nonprofit groups go hand in hand, like nutrient-laden soil nurturing a fruit-bearing tree.

But, there aren't any artificial fertilizers or short-cut elixirs in this community's soil. Rather, what feeds its sturdy, ever-blossoming tree of charitable giving are the same three things that began this story: time, talent and treasure.

The individuals, nonprofits and businesses that undertake this critical role rely on those

three ingredients day in and day out, to help grow the community, address the needs of its less fortunate citizens, and help improve the overall quality of life therein.

Old National Bank President Jeff Howe is one such example, a business executive accustomed to sharing his time and talents, as well as his own treasure. Howe initiated the popular fundraising event "100 Men Who Cook" in 2009 as way to help underserved citizens all over the county.

The annual event takes place at the Horizon Convention Center and features "celebrity" chefs, who vie for tips as they compete with others and their own food creations. Attendees join in silent



Howe said he is proud of that number, but confessed that the generosity of the Muncie-Delaware County community doesn't really surprise him anymore.

"There are a lot of folks here that have a lot of compassion – compassion for those who have struggles," Howe said. "Many of them are willing to share some of the good fortune they have to make life better for those whose situations aren't quite as good."

"We've been very blessed that it's not only a local quality, but also one embodied by the many folks who've moved here," he explained, "whether it was with the hospital, the university or with industry. They've remained here because they fit here. And part of the reason they fit here may be because they have that same thoughtfulness and compassion for other folks."

Benevolence is at the heart of Howe's fundraiser, which is outside the extensive corporate giving conducted by his employer, Old National Bank. The 100 Men Who Cook effort, which Howe said is totally self-funded, has resulted in untold benefits for the community's less fortunate, including baby crib and diaper giveaways, child mentoring programs and funding disbursements to a range of local nonprofits, among many others.

"It's amazing to be able to participate in this,"

"If people are solving problems for other people, then their motives don't matter." – Jeff Howe



Kelly Shrock, President Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County

he said. "It's possible because the whole community comes together."

In philanthropy, unity of purpose is a big key to success. Unifying the community's nonprofit resources has been a goal of Kelly Shrock's. As president of the Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County, Shrock said she's involved in a growing, one-of-a-kind collaborative grant-making program that aims to pool its resources.

Aside from all the various programs and initiatives funded by the Foundation, she said additional funding efforts are made by this ad

hoc group of nonprofits. Shrock said the goal is to concentrate resources while demonstrating collaboration among the various entities, which have collectively chosen local substance abuse and prevention as their focus issue.

"This is the only group like this in the state that we know of," Shrock told Alliance. "We've convened meetings of the county's various funders for many years now. We learn from each other. We discuss best practices and topics of importance in the different communities we serve."

So far, it's working. Initiated in 2017, the program in 2018 amassed \$23,000, which was dispersed in multiple grants aimed at abating drug addiction. In awarding their grants, the group's principal players research local nonprofits in search of worthy programs to fund. Using an invitation-only grant giving process the collaborative funding organization targets and rewards effective efforts, inviting three to five

(continued on page 12)



PUBLIC GOOD INDEX

at SAGAMORE INSTITUTE

Muncie, Indiana

Population: 70,087

City Rank: 11 out of 11 major Indiana cities

Civic Involvement

11.6

organizations
per **10K** people
providing the
opportunity for
involvement

2nd Highest

major Indiana cities

YWCA

Domestic violence shelters, transitional housing for women in recovery from substance abuse, and mentoring program for at-risk girls

Public Safety Personnel

15 per 10K residents

3rd Lowest

major Indiana cities

Unemployment

12.6% 2015

3rd Highest

major Indiana cities

Charitable Giving

(County Giving)

3.81%

Highest

major Indiana cities

Housing Cost

\$681 per month

Lowest

major Indiana cities

15.3%

annual income

Home Ownership

42.9%

3rd Lowest

major Indiana cities

Violent Crime

5.14% per 1K

5th Lowest

major Indiana cities

Transportation

\$8,823

Average

Transportation Cost

Lowest

major Indiana cities

BY5

Project connecting kindergarten readiness to economic success

Urban Gardening Initiative

Community gardening initiative, encouraging local food production

Food Insecurity

17.7% population

\$9,443,000 Shortfall

3rd Highest

major Indiana cities

Sagamore Institute's Public Good Index Explained

IDENTIFYING TOUGH, urban problems and finding realistic solutions is the goal of the Sagamore Institute, a nonprofit thinktank headquartered in Indianapolis. The Institute was co-founded by Jay Hein and Dan Coats, a retired U.S. Senator and former Director of National Intelligence.

According to Hein, a primary obstacle to adequately understanding community problems and employing practical solutions results from what he calls, "Infobesity," a condition brought on by "too much information but not enough wisdom."

The Institute's Public Good Index (PGI) effectively treats Infobesity because, Hein said, the report's data is "presented clearly and in the right context to understand each community's relative health, to compare other communities, and to make decisions."

The PGI's primary goal is to identify problematic situations within communities so that leaders can help vulnerable citizens connect to the widespread prosperity and economic vitality Indiana has been enjoying.

"Hoosiers certainly have a tradition of ensuring all citizens have the opportunity to succeed," said PGI co-contributor and Institute Vice President Troy Riggs in the Index's introduction. "This is the fundamental reason why the Sagamore Institute has taken the initiative to develop the Public Good Index. The goal of the PGI is to assist both government and community leadership in identifying the issues leading to a degradation of the quality of life of many of Indiana's major city residents."

The PGI uses color coding as it identifies what is working well (green), areas of caution (yellow) and crisis (red). Riggs said leaders can use the PGI to help them establish long-term goals and objectives aimed at helping those who are struggling.

Not only will the Index assist community leaders and philanthropists in future planning, it will also, according to Riggs, "help citizens hold government leadership accountable for addressing the issues that have led to a degradation of quality of life of many fellow Hoosiers."

The PGI focuses on Indiana's 11 major cities, including Muncie, Fort Wayne, Evansville, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Carmel, Bloomington, Fishers, Gary, Hammond and South Bend. Indexes were also created for America's 50 largest cities.

Although the PGI touted lots of good news for each city, there were, of course areas of concern as well. For example, in terms of yellow or cautionary items, the study indicated Muncie has the third highest unemployment rate of the 11 major cities, as well as being third lowest for home ownership.

In the red "crisis" areas, the PGI identified a relatively high childhood poverty rate, ranking Muncie second highest of the major cities. Another crisis involves voter participation. According to the study, less than half of eligible voters cast ballots in 2016 – the group's second lowest.

Yet, there was plenty of green on Muncie's report, too. Aside from the high marks for charitable giving and civic involvement, housing costs and transportation costs were the lowest in Muncie. The YWCA's women's outreach programs, the "BY5" kindergarten readiness program, and the city's urban gardening initiative were also identified as "green" programs that are working well.

"Public leadership, in consideration of the results of the PGI study, can explore solutions to the topics in red, monitor those in yellow, and continue to strive for excellence for those in green," the PGI said of Muncie.

To download a copy of the Public Good Index, visit www.sagamoreinstitute.org. ◆

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organizations to apply for grants.

Not all of the invited nonprofits make the cut, of course. But, if the program continues growing, it could be yet another major charitable giving mechanism in Muncie-Delaware County.

"This year we have \$36,000," Shrock said. "We're making our 2019 grant announcement next month! Next year, we already have a \$50,000 goal."

While the community's lofty place atop the PGI's charitable giving column surprised many, Shrock was not shocked. She's seen caring local citizens in action, generously sharing their time, talent and treasure.

"We have daily conversations with folks around the community - with folks that come in seeking ways to meet their own philanthropic goals," Shrock said. "They're passionate about helping their community. They're passionate

"They're passionate about helping their community. They're passionate about arts and culture and community betterment. They're passionate about making Muncie the best it can be." – Kelly Shrock

about arts and culture and community betterment. They're passionate about making Muncie the best it can be."

Those words are music to the ears of someone equally enamored with Muncie-Delaware County's unity in charitable causes: Jud Fisher, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Ball Brothers Foundation (BBF), a nonprofit whose decades-long benevolent actions have

underwritten and helped lead dozens of worthy local causes.

Dedicated to improving the quality of life locally and regionally, the Ball Brothers Foundation asserts itself through a variety of initiatives, including, but not limited to, Ball State University, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, Camp Crosley/Muncie YMCA, Cardinal Greenway Inc., Cornerstone Center for the Arts, the Indiana Youth Institute and Minnetrista Cultural Foundation.

"Quite simply," Fisher told Alliance, "charitable giving is built into the DNA of the people of Muncie-Delaware County. Our community has a rich history of philanthropy that stretches back far, far into the past. While certainly there are well-known names that have long been associated with charitable giving in this community, it really is the citizens of Muncie and Delaware County who have built our legacy

institutions through their generosity."

Fisher called on several examples of community giving, including efforts to finance the community's first YMCA. "In 1911, F.C. and E.B. Ball offered

a financial gift to assist with the purchase of a building for the Y," he explained. "In just a short matter of time, the citizens of Muncie raised \$109,000 for the building fund. Just think of that amount of money in 1911. That is incredible generosity."

As a way of illustrating that local charitable giving isn't just done by well-endowed nonprofits and individuals, Fisher also cited the 1964

construction of Emens Auditorium as a prime example of average citizens' selfless giving.

"As the old story goes, half of the cost of constructing the building was donated by the

surrounding community – by factory workers, businesses, by Ball State employees, alumni, and individual citizens who made large and small gifts alike."

"I also think of The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County, one of the earliest community foundations to be established in Indiana," Fisher continued. "This community raised \$1 million from citizens back in 1985 to establish the foundation, turning around the next year to raise \$1 million more. This is who we are as a community. We are a generous people who care about

one another and want to see good things happen. This is the incredible legacy of our community."

Though dwarfed by its much larger counterpart, Indianapolis, Muncie-Delaware County nevertheless outperformed the larger city in the charitable giving category – a fact Fisher attributed to the community's close nature.

"I think this goes back to our core identity

"While certainly there are well-known names that have long been associated with charitable giving in this community, it really is the citizens of Muncie and Delaware County who have built our legacy institutions through their generosity." – Jud Fisher

as a community," he said. "This is a small city made of dozens of neighborhoods which, historically, were very close-knit. There has always been an underlying care and concern

here for one's neighbors. In many ways, that is lived out in the way that community members give of their time and money, both formally and informally. We have a very robust nonprofit sector with outstanding organizations that are working hard each day to make this community better. People gravitate toward the good and want to invest their own resources in causes that are making a difference. People in this community know each other and care about each other. In a world that is often seen as an increasingly hostile place, this makes Muncie and Delaware



Jud Fisher, President & Chief Operating Officer Ball Brothers Foundation

County even more special."

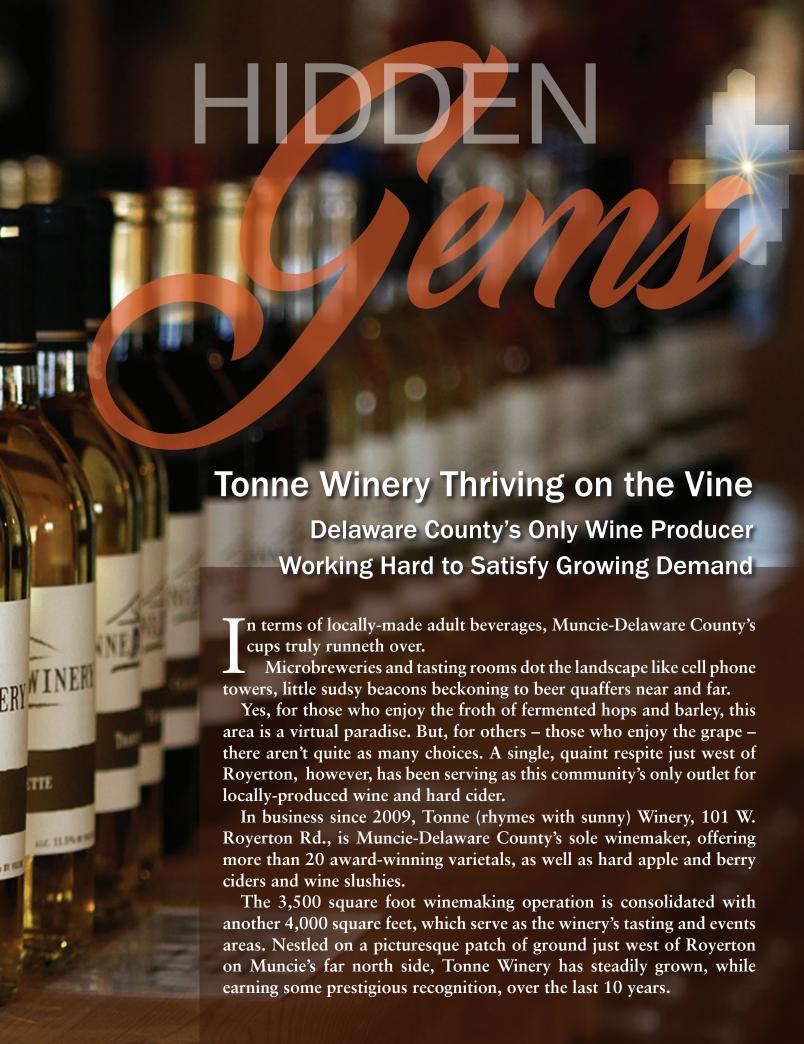
Still, that special quality is reliant on this recipe for good's three main ingredients: time, talent and treasure.

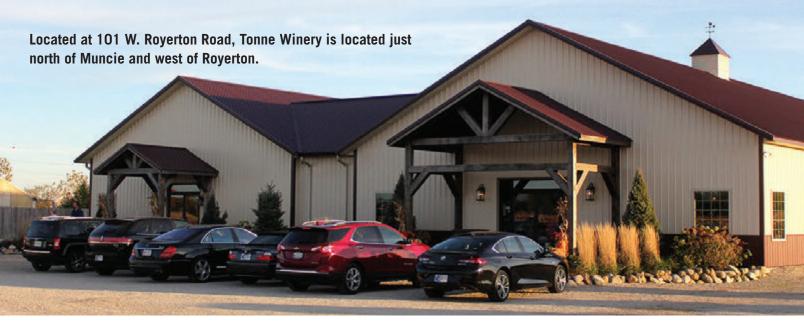
"In my view," Fisher concluded, "all three are deeply important. Our community's nonprofits are fueled by volunteers, by financial contributions, and by people who lend their expertise to solve pressing problems. Each have

their place. Muncie and Delaware County's ranking as #1 among major Indiana cities for charitable giving is also buoyed by our ranking as #2 among major Indiana cities for civic involvement. I couldn't be more proud of this standing - this shows the true heart of our city and

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Co-owners Larry Simmons and Kevin Tonne leveraged their respective loves for horticulture and food science as they planted their flag and launched the operation. Tonne told Alliance that steadfast community support coupled with he and Simmons' quest for excellent wine have made it all possible.

"I'd say probably 80 to 85 percent of our support comes from within this community," Tonne said. "We welcome in a lot of local talent with the musical entertainment we offer. Our repeat customers keep coming back and they seem to enjoy the music. We've had great support from the local community."

But, Tonne may be exercising his ample modesty when he credits live music with the winery's popularity. The truth is, Tonne's locally-fermented wines have scooped up a passel of high-profile accolades. In 2014, for example, the winery won the Indy International Wine Competition's Governor's Cup, earning the moniker, Indiana Winery of the Year.

Since then, Tonne Winery has taken top honors for its Indiana-grown Traminette varietal, which in 2014



A large event space allows the winery to offer live entertainment indoors, a respite from cooler fall temperatures.



was named Indiana Wine of the Year. Three years later, it earned the title, Indiana Traminette of the Year. Their other products have earned three gold medals and dozens of silvers and bronzes, making it one of Indiana's most decorated wineries.

That's just fine with Tonne. He and Simmons, who serves as an elected member of the Indiana Winery and Vineyard Association Board of Directors, work hard and collaborate regularly as they craft their products. Simmons spent years researching the world's best winemaking processes before going forward with the business launch.

"We do the tasting and together we make the decisions on what to change," Tonne told Alliance. Our spouses and some employees get involved sometimes. We ask their opinions, too. We try to make as pleasant a wine as we can - wines that finish well."

It must be working. Tonne Winery has grown steadily since its inception. Their initial offerings included only five wines. That number shot up to 10 varietals only a few months later, however.

Today, the wine list has grown to 21, and the sheer volume of wine sold has more than doubled, going from 3,000 gallons annually to more than 7,000.





Mirroring that growth are the live entertainment and food options Tonne and Simmons have added to help draw new customers.

"Four years ago we had to expand because we were doing more weekend things, more entertainment," Tonne explained. "So we needed more seating, and we added on an event room. Then we added on a patio."

While the winery isn't equipped to serve food, some snacks are available, including Boar's Head cheeses and DeBrand Chocolates. Since it's good practice to have food available for people consuming alcohol, Tonne and Simmons welcome in a variety of local food trucks, providing a valuable food option for winery customers.

"It's been a tremendous success," Tonne said. "Our sales are definitely increasing. We're ahead of last year's numbers and that's always our goal."

Similar to their exhaustive creation techniques, Simmons and Tonne are equally circumspect when it comes to adding new non-wine features to their decadeold business.

"We've tried to do a lot of different things to try to grow the business," Tonne confided. "Hard ciders and slushies bring in different customers, because we have different things for people to try."

Food trucks, live entertainment, different seating

options – they're all in the mix at Tonne Winery. But, for now, Tonne said the operation is in a holding pattern.

"We're trying to keep up with what we've already got going on. We plan to continue increasing the amount and variety of entertainment we have, and we want to continue introducing different wines in the next year or two, growing our wine list. Trying to keep all those wines in stock takes a bit of effort," he laughed.

Learn more about the winery by visiting www. tonnewinery.com. ◆



With a bevy of Indy International Wine Competition medals under its belt, Tonne Winery is Muncie-Delaware County's sole wine producer.

A MEMBER OF THE INDIANA WINERY AND VINEYARD ASSOCIATION (IWVA), Tonne Winery is part of an established, but still emerging Hoosier wine scene.

Though dwarfed by its much larger cousin, craft beer, winemaking in Indiana has nevertheless gotten a firm foothold. A number of trade organizations and related websites have sprung up around the industry, offering support, networking opportunities and increased connectivity with potential customers.

Aside from the IWVA, there's the Indiana Wine Grape Council and the Purdue Wine Grape Team, both aimed at supporting Hoosier vintners with horticultural

expertise, best practices, marketing savvy and overall industry guidance and governance.

Freestanding organizations, like the Heartland Wine and Ale Trail and Wineries of Indiana's North East Tour each offer stops at Tonne Winery, which is also on the Indiana Grown Wine Trail, a statewide agricultural initiative promoting locally grown products and encouraging Hoosiers to buy local. Currently, there are 42 Indiana wineries participating in that program.

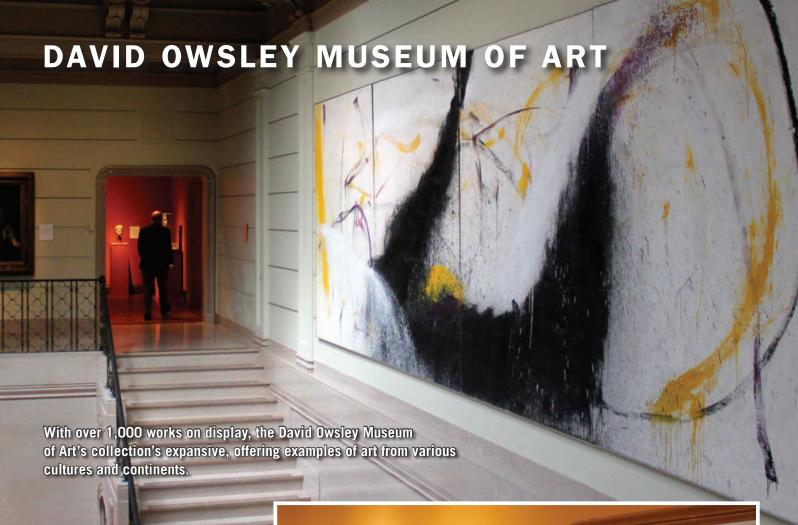
Additionally, Muncie-based Hops & Vines, a microbrewery and winery tour company, makes regular stops at Tonne Winery.



Colorful, interesting and often world-class, these quiet Ball State facilities welcome the general public to learn and experience alongside students



The museum's art collection ranges from large, wall-size canvasses to small items, often housed in lighted display cases.



ith more than 11,000 items, and featuring works from renowned artists like Andy Warhol, Edgar Degas, Hokusai and John Watson Gordon, Ball State's David Owsley Museum of Art (DOMA) is truly one of Muncie-Delaware County's hidden gems. Standing proudly in the heart of the campus on West Riverside Avenue is the stately Collegiate Gothic-style building designed by architect George F. Schreiber. Opened in 1936 and officially named the Ball State Museum of Art, the name was changed in 2011 to honor David T. Owsley,

grandson of Frank C. Ball (one of the five original Ball brothers). Owsley earned that commemoration by donating 2,300 pieces of art from his private collection in addition to a \$5 million planned gift.

DOMA is one of only four Indiana art museums featuring what is known as an "encyclopedic, world art collection," which provides examples of artwork and related information from various world cultures.

But, while the Owsley Museum's stature has grown



into yet another prestigious attraction in Muncie, its origins were much more humble, beginning in 1892, when a group of area women convened the Art Students' League. After a series of popular exhibits and presentations, the league blossomed into the Muncie Art Association in 1905.

For years, its art holdings found a home along the hallways of Muncie's public schools. That all changed



when the Ball brothers established the Indiana State Normal School (a forerunner of Ball State) in 1918. Shortly thereafter, the Muncie Art Association's entire collection was moved there. Later, in 1931, university leaders opted to construct a permanent home for the growing art trove, and Schreiber was contracted to design the structure.

Even then, however, the building was not dedicated exclusively to the art collection. It was a fine arts learning center where graphic artists and musicians could learn and grow. The school's foreign language, English and social sciences departments also resided there.

Over the years, those departments found other homes on the Ball State campus. In 2012-2013, the museum expanded its gallery space to encompass most of the building.

Aside from gallery viewing, patrons can attend a variety of other events at the museum.



With artwork from all over the world, The David Owsley Museum welcomes visits from University students as well as area K-12 classes.

Aside from simply being open for browsing, The David Owsley Museum of Art offers a variety of events and rotating exhibits throughout the year.

GLICK CENTER

Just down the street from the David Owsley Museum of Art is another hidden gem, another world-class art amenity made possible by Hoosier philanthropy.

Tucked away on the university's southwest side, near Christy Woods, is the Glick Center for Glass, a fashionably modern, 10,000-square-foot structure – the sole intent of which is to help Ball State University promote and support contemporary art glass.

A \$5 million gift from late Indianapolis art glass collector and award-winning philanthropist Marilyn K. Glick underwrote the facility, which saw its grand opening in 2011. The center anchors an art glass education program launched by the university in 2010.

With space for 30 undergraduates, 12 graduate students and three faculty members, the Glick Center has both hot and cold glass shops, including two massive furnaces for glass heating. Additionally, there are kiln casting and mold making shops, an imaging lab, studio space,

Ball State graduate student, Victoria Hutchinson, works on an art glass project at the Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass on West Riverside Avenue.







According to the University, The Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass is a premier glass facility, emphasizing simple, easy-to-maintan spaces that are not over-engineered and are ultimately flexible.

an exhibit area, and state-of-the-art equipment throughout the building.

Designed by RATIO Architects, the structure is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified and ties in with the University's massive geothermal heating and cooling program.

"The center's studio spaces, equipment, faculty, and staff support a broad-based and dynamic undergraduate and graduate curriculum in contemporary glass, as well as community outreach and education about the glass arts," the University said on its website.

Glick's advocacy for art glass wasn't relegated to the public's appreciation for finished products.

She wanted people to witness the creation of glass artwork. As such, visitors to the Glick Center are enthusiastically encouraged to visit it, though arrangements should be made in advance.

"Artists are often working in the hot shop, which supports a range of processes including blowing and hot sculpting," the University said. "Visitors can observe artists through the viewing window, on LED screens, or examine the glass artworks on display in the cases."

Teachers in grades K-12 are also able to schedule field trips to the Glick Center. To arrange field trips or visits, contact Glass Studio Manager Slate Groves at 765-285-6620. ◆

Designed by RATIO Architects, the structure is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified and ties in with the University's massive geothermal heating and cooling program.



Ball State graduate student Jack Lee Christeon III blows glass.



Students' glass art projects are sometimes sold as fundraisers for the Glick Center for Glass.

(continued from page 13)

our county."

Indeed, this community's charitable giving is very widespread, encompassing everything, from large philanthropic nonprofits like the Ball Brothers Foundation to tiny bake sales held in neighborhood church basements. There also philanthropic are endeavors underway at a

number of Muncie-Delaware County businesses, and this article does not even begin to touch on



The check that put the 10th annual 100 Men Who Cook fundraiser over the million dollar mark is presented at the Horizon Convention Center.

the long roster of good deeds afoot here at this very minute. •



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"We have a moral obiligation to enhance our commitment to Muncie—to our neighbors and to the next generation.

"Simply put, Ball State and Muncie are better together."

Geoffrey S. Mearns President Ball State University



UNIVERSITY

Schools Anchor Yorktown's Resurgence

n uptick in new home construction is signaling a revitalization in Yorktown.

Town Manager Pete Olson believes the community is rebounding from a downturn in the real estate market that occurred following the 2008 housing collapse and resultant recession.

Olson said Yorktown's quality of life, driven by its high-quality school system, continues to attract new residents.

"Our schools have been ranked in the top 15 school systems in the state," he said, referring to state evaluations and independent rankings done by the magazine U.S. News and World Report.

"We're one of few school corporations outside of metro areas, like Indianapolis or Chicago, to make it up there with the Avons, the Plainfields, the Zionsvilles and the Carmels."

"That's a great achievement when Yorktown schools are in the same conversation with those schools," he

said. "It's definitely something that people consider when they're looking to relocate in Delaware County. Our school system provides great opportunities for people who have kids looking for a high quality education."

Great schools aren't the only things driving Yorktown's celebrated quality of life, however. A variety of other amenities are helping create a community that prides itself on its ability to lure new residents. Morrow's Meadow, a sprawling, wooded, riverside park, is very popular with residents, Olson said, while a large, relatively new sports park is also attractive to potential residents.

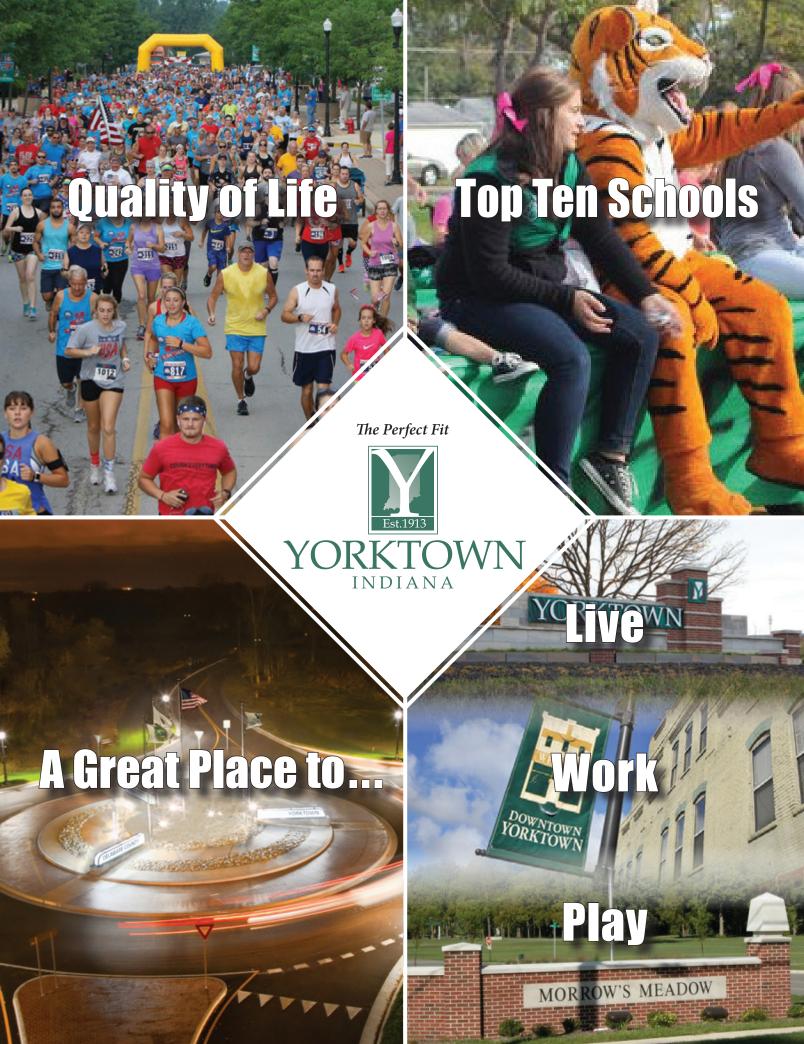
Additionally, a growing, multi-use trail system, six miles of which were recently constructed, links neighborhoods and parks. Olson said the town plans to connect all the trails and sidewalks with Yorktown's downtown, which is also undergoing revitalization.

But, to Olson, Yorktown's celebrated quality of life and its resultant growth circles back to its award-winning educational facilities. "Our school system provides great opportunities for people who have kids looking for a high quality education," he explained. Our school system is one of our biggest assets. Overall, Yorktown schools offer a students a comprehensive

education to prepare them for the future. We have high performing educational opportunities, along with quality sports and extracurricular activities. There are really good opportunities here for students of all types to come in and achieve. We see people relocating here because of the opportunities available here."

YORKTOWN FACTS:

- ◆ The town of Yorktown sits in Delaware County's Mount Pleasant Township, a few miles west of the Muncie metropolitan area.
- ◆ While the 2010 census indicated 9,405 residents, recent estimates put the population at over 11,000.
- ◆ Situated at the confluence of White River and Buck Creek, Native Americans believed Yorktown to be "tornado proof" because of that intersection's unusual configuration, though this not a proven scientific fact.
- ◆ Four schools call Yorktown home: Yorktown High School (9-12), Yorktown Middle School (6-8), Yorktown Elementary School (3-5) and Pleasant View Elementary School (K-2).
- Enjoying their highest enrollment since the 1970s, Yorktown schools currently educate about 2,650 students.
- Noted Hoosier rocker Carl Storie, lead singer of the Faith Band, hails from Yorktown.
- ◆ The 60-acre Yorktown Sports Complex encompasses 20 soccer fields, five baseball/softball fields, a 10,000 square foot YMCA training facility and more.



Homeward Found

Who they are; what they do; what made them stay



Mia Johnson







Age: 39

Company & Title: Ivy Tech Community College, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Hometown: Muncie. Indiana

High School/Year Graduated: Muncie Central High School, 1998

Extracurricular Activities/Class Officer: Yearbook

College Attended, Year Graduated: Ivy Tech Community College, 2003; University of North Carolina-Charlotte, 2006; University of Phoenix, 2011; Indiana Tech, 2016

Family: Husband, Wayne Johnson; sons, Miles, 11, and Walker, 8

You grew up in this area. What made you choose Muncie-Delaware County as your home base?

I came back to the area after finishing my bachelor's degree in North Carolina. Wayne, with whom I had recently reconnected, was in Indy and most of the family was still here. It just felt like the best move for me.

O you have a memorable teacher or mentor at local schools? If so, please explain what made them special and the impact they had on your life and career.

A I remember Charlie Osborn at Storer Elementary. I had him for both fifth and sixth grade. While all my teachers were great, I knew that he cared about me and my family. He held me accountable and made learning fun.

Please describe what makes Muncie-Delaware County schools a good fit for your family.

Our home is in Del-Comm school district. My boys currently attend Royerton Elementary School. While I wish there was more diversity there, the academics at the school are incredible. I enjoy living about five minutes away from their school and that they ride the school bus to and from school every day.

In terms of recreation, what are the best local attractions for you, your family and your coworkers/employees?

I LOVE shopping local! I have been working at the downtown location of Ivy Tech for about five years now and love the businesses there. You can find me double-fisting vanilla honey pear hot tea from Caffienery every morning. I'm at Twin Archers for lunch Tuesday through Friday and stalking Heidi J Hale's shop daily. I am constantly telling my coworkers new to downtown about all the joys of working downtown. My family goes to the Farmer's Market nearly every Saturday during the summer months.

In your opinion, what makes Muncie-Delaware County a great place to live, work and raise a family?

A Muncie is the perfect size - I know my neighbors, coworkers and business owners by name. There are exciting things to do and see here. I cannot see raising my family anywhere else.

Personality Quickies

Early Bird	Night Owl Neither, perhaps an Afternoon Peacock?
Spicy	Mild
Elevator	Stairs
Vegetarian/Vegan	Carnivore In between - don't eat beef or pork (20+ years)
Tan	Pale
Dream	Plan
Coffee	Tea
Diet	Exercise
Read	Watch TV/Surf Internet
Talk	Listen
Fast	Strong
Stay In	Go Out
Drive	Walk/Ride Bike
Water	Soft Drink
Travel Abroad	Close to Home
Always Breakfast	Never Breakfast
Beer	Wine
Do It Now	Put it Off
Sit	Stand
Grit	Talent
Punctual	Tardy Always Tardy for the Party
Salty	Sweet



Mark Ervin

BEASLEY GILKISON





Age: 60

Company & Title: Beasley & Gilkison LLP, Attorney/Partner

Hometown: Muncie, Indiana

High School/Year Graduated: Muncie Central High School, 1977

Extracurricular Activities/Class Officer: Student Council, National Honor Society, FCA,

Varsity Golf and Tennis, JV Basketball, other miscellaneous stuff.

College Attended: Ball State, BS 1981, MA 1985, IU McKinney School of Law, JD 1992 **Family:** Wife, Molly (owns and operates Molly's Dance Gallery, a dance studio for ages 3 to adult in Selma); Daughter, Priscilla, 31, dance instructor and choreographer in the Muncie and Selma communities; Son, Zach, 30, Assistant Principal at Perry Meridian High School in Indianapolis; Two Shih Tzu's, Bear, age 4, and Bubbles, age 3.

You grew up in this area. Why did you move back to Muncie-Delaware County?

Though I never really left, there are really many reasons why I've stayed. First, for me the quality of life is outstanding. Between Muncie, Delaware County and Ball State, there are so many opportunities to create one's own home. The wide range of recreational offerings, the arts, athletics, cultural events, diverse population, and the large number of good-hearted, hard-working, generous, kind, and fun residents are unique for a community of our size. Second, living in Muncie and Delaware County has allowed me to be close to family, including my parents, as well as my wife's parents. This is something I've treasured.

On you have a memorable teacher or mentor at local schools? If so, please explain what made them special and the impact they had on your life and career.

Many teachers, professors, and mentors have had a huge positive impact upon my life. Two teachers, however, are charter members of my personal hall of fame. Mike Flanagan, my sixth grade teacher at Emerson Elementary, made learning fun. He also expressed confidence in me and my abilities, and he helped me understand that I could be successful in school and in life. Also, Joe Rogers, my seventh grade science teacher and track coach at McKinley Middle School, was both a terrific teacher and role model. He set high standards and was tough, but fair. Mr. Rogers also made academic achievement something to be proud of and not something to hide – not always an easy task with middle school boys.

Please describe what makes Muncie-Delaware County schools a good fit for your family.

To me, our schools aren't just good enough, they are excellent and excellence can be measured in many ways. For example, we have outstanding, dedicated and caring teachers, a diverse student population, citizens who value educational opportunities for all students, and an amazing array of resources that give students the opportunity to succeed on whatever path they choose to take through life.

In terms of recreation, what are the best local attractions for you, your family and your coworkers/employees?

A For me, it would be Cardinal Greenway and the ability to attend Division 1 sporting events at Ball State. For members of my family, it would include a wide range of cultural, educational activities and athletic events, whether as participants or spectators.

In your opinion, what makes Muncie-Delaware County a great place to live, work and raise a family?

A First and foremost, it's all the wonderful, caring and interesting people who reside here. Add to that terrific amenities, proximity to the greater Indianapolis metropolitan area, and the opportunity to achieve a great quality of life.

Personality Quickies

Early Bird now	Night Owl before
Spicy	Mild
Elevator	Stairs
Vegetarian/Vegan	Carnivore
Tan	Pale (tannish)
Dream First	Plan Second
Coffee	Tea
Diet	Exercise
Read	Watch TV/Surf Internet
Talk	Listen
Fast	Strong
Stay In	Go Out
Drive	Walk/Ride Bike
Water	Soft Drink
Travel Abroad	Close to Home
Always Breakfast	Never Breakfast
Beer	Wine
Do It Now	Put it Off
Sit	Stand
Grit	Talent
Punctual	Tardy
Salty	Sweet

Homeward Found

Who they are; what they do; what made them stay



Jeff Howe







Muncie Northside

Age: 60

Company & Title: Old National Bank, President

Hometown: Born in Quantico, Va., moved to Muncie, my adopted hometown

High School/Year Graduated: Muncie Northside High School

Extracurricular Activities/Class Officer: Football, wrestling, track, newspaper 4-H, Scouting, Junior Achievement, FFA: Boy Scout until age 15, Junior Achievement College Attended, Year Graduated: Ball State University, 1981

Family: Wife, Brenda; daughter, Kristina; son, Jason; four grandchildren

You grew up in this area. What made you choose Muncie-Delaware County as your home base?

I lived in Muncie from the age of 13 until 28 before moving A to advance my career. We were fortunate to live near enough to visit Muncie regularly to ensure that our children had a close and active bond with their grandparents and cousins. When the opportunity to return to this community - so important to me and my family - presented itself, it was an easy decision.

Do you have a memorable teacher or mentor at local schools? If so, please explain what made them special and the impact they had on your life and career.

My school experience is very unusual. During my K-12 years, igwedge I attended 14 schools all over the United States. I was lucky to start and complete high school at Muncie Northside. I have many special memories and tremendous respect for many teachers in Muncie, both those I met during my time in school and since my return to Muncie. I was blessed to have a few coaches, like Jim Metzler, Terry Hitchcock and Don Fields, who helped me through the loss of some of my closest family members. Their compassion and understanding reinforced the teachings of parents, which is always good for a teenager.

Please describe what makes Muncie-Delaware County schools a good fit for your family.

Years ago, I heard someone describe teachers in a way that struck me. The spirit of his characterization is that a teacher's life deeply influences the lives of others. They are the bedrock on which every school stands; perhaps more important than the bricks and mortar of the buildings in which they teach. Their work remains with us for generations. I believe that description to be accurate and think the teachers I've met in this area exemplify it.

In terms of recreation, what are the best local attractions for you, your family and your coworkers/ employees?

We love spending time on the Cardinal Greenway. I'm a big fan of the Muncie Symphony Orchestra, Muncie Civic Theatre and we also enjoy the YMCA.

In your opinion, what makes Muncie-Delaware County a great place to live, work and raise a family?

I think it's the people who live here. I have the good fortune A to work with people at the bank and many outside the bank that are working hard to make our community the best it can be ... for everyone. Thoughtfulness, compassion and generosity are *alive and thriving in this community.*

Personality Quickies		
Early Bird	Night Owl	
Spicy	Mild	
Elevator	Stairs, but graduating to elevators	
Vegetarian/Vegan	Carnivore	
Tan	Pale	
Dream	Plan A, often followed by Plan B, and then Plan C	
Coffee (morning)	Tea (lunch)	
Diet	Exercise (don't do enough of either)	
Read while listening to TV	Watch TV/Surf Internet	
Talk	Listen	
Fast	Strong-ish Strong-ish	
Stay In	Go Out	
Drive	Walk/Ride Bike (as much as possible)	
Water	Soft Drink	
Travel Abroad	Close to Home	
Always Breakfast	Never Breakfast	
Beer	Wine	
Do It Now	Put it Off (depends on what it is)	
Sit	Stand (equal time doing both)	
Grit	(Talent)	
Punctual	Tardy (depends on where I'm going)	
Salty	Sweet	

New Arrival

Who they are; what they do; what made them come here









Age: 59

Company & Title: Vera Mae's Bistro, co-owner

Hometown: Huntington, Indiana

High School/Year Graduated: Huntington High School, Class of 1978

College Attended: Ball State University, Class of 1982

Family: Mother, Fran; three sisters, Connie, Brett and Beth; husband, Steve Fennimore

You grew up elsewhere. What brought you to Muncie-**Delaware County?**

I came to Muncie in the fall of 1978 to attend Ball State University.

What community characteristics were you seeking when you found a home here?

To be honest, I was not (especially at such a young age!) seeking any community. It just happened!

In what specific ways has Muncie-Delaware County lived up to those expectations?

Although Huntington is my "real" home, Muncie is my true home and always will be. It has given me a very good life filled with beautiful people, relationships and opportunity.

In terms of recreation, what are the best local attractions for you, your family and your coworkers/ employees?

We enjoy the Minnetrista, David Owsley Museum of Art, our unique and historic downtown, Ball State University, the Academy of Model Aeronautics and Prairie Creek Reservoir.

In your opinion, what makes Muncie-Delaware County a great place to live, work and raise a family?

The major reason why Muncie is great is because of the wonderful people here - and I'm being very serious when I say that. Also, the cost of living here in East Central Indiana cannot be beat. Muncie is full of opportunity and affords the chance to start and grow a business that could not be done (financially) in a larger metropolitan city; or should I say it would be much more difficult.

Personality Quickies

Early Bird	Night Owl for sure!
Spicy	Mild
Elevator	Stairs
Vegetarian/Vegan	Carnivore
Tan	Pale
Dream	Plan
Coffee	Tea
Diet	Exercise
Read	Watch TV/Surf Internet
Talk	Listen
Fast	Strong
Stay In	Go Out
Drive	Walk/Ride Bike
Water	Soft Drink
Travel Abroad	Close to Home
Always Breakfast	Never Breakfast
Beer	Wine Neither
Do It Now	Put it Off
Sit	Stand
Grit	Talent
Punctual	Tardy
Salty	Sweet

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