



**OFFICE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

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**THOMAS R. GALLIGAN**  
MAYOR

# Press Release

*Please treat as request for coverage*

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Enterprise zone tax advantages allow Jeff's UEA to make local improvements**

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. – Money generated from Jeffersonville's two urban enterprise zones is being used to strengthen neighborhoods and businesses, to draw people into one of the zones and to help preserve history within one of the zones.

"Our board is very excited about the types of programs we've been able to fund," said Diane Swank, president of the Jeffersonville Urban Enterprise Association's board of directors, which manages the city's enterprise zones on behalf of city government and the River Ridge Development Authority.

Jeffersonville's zones will generate nearly \$477,000 this year, all from state tax breaks granted to qualifying investments within them. When an investment qualifies for the state tax benefit, half of the tax that would have been paid is forgiven by the State of Indiana, 49 percent is paid to the local Urban Enterprise Association and 1 percent is paid to the state.

This year the Jeffersonville Urban Enterprise Association has committed \$67,500 to Jeffersonville Main Street Inc., which includes funds for storefront and front porch projects, downtown activities and project administration; \$30,000 for marketing to the Jeffersonville Carnegie Library Foundation, a private foundation that is seeking another tenant for its building in Warder Park; \$25,000 for the Clark County Museum; \$10,000 for Smokin' on the River, a state championship barbeque competition that brought more than 5,000 people to downtown Jeffersonville in June and is now Indiana's second-largest barbeque competition after only its second year; a \$5,000 challenge grant to the Southern Indiana Minority Enterprise Initiative for the African American Heritage Trail; \$5,000 to Grow Jeffersonville, a business networking group founded by the city in 2009; and \$4,000 each to the Cherry Hill, Franklin Commons and Rose Hill neighborhood associations, all of which are located within the city's downtown zone. The association also rents the parking lot at the northeast corner of Spring and Market streets for \$1,500 per month, providing more parking for downtown shops and restaurants and more convenient parking for RiverStage, the Jeffersonville Family Festival, Smokin' on the River and the accompanying Arts on the Ohio.

In early December 2009, the Urban Enterprise Association approved \$185,000 to contribute to the local match for \$3.1 million in improvements to Salem-Noble Road, a joint venture between Clark County, the City of Jeffersonville and the River Ridge Development Authority on which the county is the lead agency.

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Paul Wheatley, who directs the city’s redevelopment department and its urban enterprise zones, said, “These contributions – generated from state and local business taxes – have been yielded to local control, specifically for community reinvestment. It is really an amazing opportunity.”

Wheatley added, “The state allows urban enterprise zones to be established in areas that are in need of economic assistance. An urban enterprise association is committed to improving the business environment and the quality of life within the zone or zones it manages. The traffic signal at Salem-Noble Road, for instance, will help protect not only people who work at the River Ridge Commerce Center but also anyone trying to access Ind. 62 from Salem-Noble Road.”

According to the Indiana Department of Revenue, there are 25 urban enterprise zones in Indiana, including Jeffersonville’s two and one in New Albany. Most communities are limited to just one zone, but the River Ridge Commerce Center – formerly the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant – qualifies as an urban enterprise zone because it is a decommissioned military facility that is being converted to private-sector use.

Though the Jeffersonville Urban Enterprise Association manages two enterprise zones, all funds must be spent within the zone in which they were collected.

The River Ridge zone was established in 1998, while the Jeffersonville zone was created in 2000, during Mayor Tom Galligan’s second term. The Jeffersonville zone includes a mixture of business and residential property, while the River Ridge zone includes only properties zoned for business because the federal law prohibits the facility from residential developments.

According to the Association of Indiana Enterprise Zones, for each dollar in zone-related tax savings statewide, there is an average of \$10 in private capital investment made within zones.

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***Editors/Reporters:***

- *Association of Indiana Enterprise Zones: [www.aiez.org](http://www.aiez.org)*
- *Enterprise Zones are established under Indiana Code 5-28-15.*
- *Enterprise Zone Investment Credits are established under Indiana Code 6-3.1-10.*
- *Official Enterprise Zone maps are maintained by the Indiana Department of Revenue and can be found at the following addresses:*

*Jeffersonville: <http://www.in.gov/dor/3635.htm>*

*River Ridge (formerly Indiana Army Ammunition Plant): <http://www.in.gov/dor/3644.htm>*