

RUSHVILLE'S *HOOSIERS* CELEBRATION: PREVIEW OF COLLABORATION POTENTIAL FOR STELLAR COMPETITION

Rushville, Ind. – April 15, 2016 – Rushville's recent hosting of the movie *Hoosiers* 30th anniversary celebration is a classic example of the collaboration the City is capable of demonstrating as community leaders prepare to compete as a finalist in Indiana's 2016 Stellar Communities Designation Program.

According to Mayor Mike Pavey, the anniversary celebration far exceeded community expectations.

"This wonderful community event would not have happened without the collaboration between Rushville, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the Knightstown Hoosier's Gym where much of the movie was filmed, Beautify Knightstown, and the Milan Museum. We believe this type of collaborative venture is the sort of partnership and teamwork State officials are looking for as they consider which of the finalist communities should be designated as Stellar Communities," Pavey said.

Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Executive Director Chris May noted there are few groups or municipalities where the Hall of Fame would have attempted an event of the magnitude of the movie celebration.

"*Hoosiers* anniversary celebration turned into a great collaborative effort we deemed successful beyond our wildest dreams. It was a truly unique and memorable event," May said.

According to event chairman Brian Sheehan, the inspiration for arguably the greatest sports story ever told came through Rushville and the City's Memorial Gym where the regional basketball competition was held in 1954.

"On top of the anniversary event being an enjoyable success for all who attended, we raised more than \$10,000 for our Princess Theater Restoration Project, making the movie anniversary celebration a double win," Sheehan said.

Pavey believes Rushville's selection as a Stellar finalist shares real similarities to *Hoosiers*.

"There is no doubt Rushville is the 'Hickory' among our Stellar competitors. There also is no doubt Rushville is a stellar community, committed to the success of our comprehensive plan and a vision for a stronger city with a bright future," Pavey said. "We look forward to the opportunity to show State officials that the 'little guy' can still come out on top."

As City leaders enter the Stellar finalists' competition phase which will include developing a Strategic Investment Plan due by July 1 and hosting a delegation of State officials for a tour of local projects this summer, Pavey emphasized there will be opportunities for Rushville residents to become involved.

"The development of our Strategic Investment Plan will be an intense process to outline in detail our vision of next steps to transform key parts of the community. Residents will be encouraged to provide ideas and feedback throughout the process because we know the best ideas often come from the great people living in Rushville," Pavey said. "I encourage all of our residents to watch for future announcements with details of how they can become involved."

Rushville is one of six finalists up for one of two Stellar Community designations. Division 1 finalists are those communities with a population of 6,000 – 50,000 and Division 2 finalists are those communities with populations of 5,999 or fewer.

Shelbyville and Warsaw join Rushville in the Division 1 category, with Rushville's population of 6,158 making it by far the smallest finalist in this category, ranking 86th out of 89 other cities' population size in this division with Shelbyville and Warsaw ranking 28th and 44th respectively.

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For questions or interview requests, contact Mayor Pavey at 765-932-3735.