

City receives \$10K grant for Commerce Park

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The City of Crawfordsville has been awarded \$10,000 to help market the Commerce Park.

The Montgomery County Division of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors welcomed city officials at their meeting Tuesday morning to honor them with the grant.

Brienne Delaney, Economic and Community Development Liaison for MIBOR, said that 13 grants were given in 2008, totaling \$100,000. She said they received 45 applications asking for \$1.5 million in total.

"The plans are to continue (the grant program)," she said.

She said that since 2006, MIBOR has awarded \$360,000 for community improvement and economic development. Montgomery County Economic Development received \$11,000 in 2007 from the program.

Linda Williamson, who was hired by the Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission in August to market the park, said that the MIBOR grant will account for 20 percent of the city's marketing plan for the park.

Crawfordsville Mayor Charlie Coons said that Commerce Park's success is important to the whole community.



The Paper photo by Rick Holtz

The city received 10 percent of the total grant dollars awarded by MIBOR for 2008.

"It is nothing but a plus for us all," he said.

Local realtor and MIBOR member Steve Zachary said that getting businesses into the Commerce Park will help the real estate market.

"Bringing jobs helps sell houses," he said. "It bolsters the market. It helps our housing industry."

Local realtor and MIBOR member Leslie Cooper-Pyle served on the review committee that awarded the grants. She said that her appointment to the city's Plan Commission did not affect her judgement in reviewing the applications.

"We were divided into groups of two," she said. "We would review the applications, then

present them to the whole committee."

She said the whole committee narrowed down the applicants before choosing this year's 13 recipients.

"It talks us two days of reviewing," Cooper-Pyle said.

She said the sheriff's department and Crawfordsville Main Street also applied for grants.