

# Todd Dickerson Brings Economic Development Experience To Waterville Organization

**BY KAREN GERHARDINGER**  
MIRROR REPORTER

Even before Todd Dickerson's official November 1 start date, the newly hired Waterville Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) coordinator had easily pulled off his first assignment: bringing three national site selection experts to Waterville for the group's annual meeting.

On Wednesday, November 8, Tim Feemster of Texas and Jason Hamman and Greg Myers of the Cleveland area will tour Waterville, then join a panel discussion on "Why Waterville? Growing Our Community" at Browning Masonic Community from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The feat of drawing these site selectors to town showcases just how effective Dickerson can be in this newly created role, said WEDC president Tim Pedro.

"The hours Todd spends working for us will be premium hours," Pedro said. "He has the credentials and experience in economic develop-

ment to hit the ground running. He knows regional and national site selectors that want to expand or relocate."

Formed in May 2012, the WEDC has about 25 members who pay dues and work together to promote Waterville as a prime business location. When founding member Phyllis Hyder retired in December, the board decided to seek a consultant to work as a part-time coordinator. Dickerson's resume quickly stood out, Pedro said.

With a bachelor of science in business administration from The University of Toledo, Dickerson has a strong background working with industries in civil and environmental engineering, architecture and construction. He served in business development with Regional Growth Partnership and Mannik & Smith, and currently is a commercial realtor with the Reichle Klein Group (RKG) — a position he will retain while also working for the WEDC.

During his first several



**Todd Dickerson**

months with the WEDC, Dickerson plans to gather private sector, industry and civic leaders together for a SWOT — strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats — analysis.

"We need to play in our sandbox and stick to our strengths," he said. "We need to figure out what we're good

at and compete to the best of our abilities."

He'll take an inventory of the existing office, warehouse and other space, as well as available land.

Dickerson also will meet with local businesses to learn more about their needs and goals.

"To do economic development, you have to get undercover and see what they want. Listen and ask questions without expecting a predetermined answer," he said.

Dickerson hopes to serve as a conduit for Waterville businesses to learn more about opportunities for hiring qualified employees, securing grants and expanding. Working closely with the current business base is vital,

he said, because often businesses move due to dissatisfaction with their current location.

When looking at potential investors, Dickerson said it's important to find out what's driving their decision to move, in order to better meet their needs. It could be a desire to consolidate operations, expand geographically, reduce the cost of doing business or look for productivity opportunities, he added.

With RKG, Dickerson has contacts throughout the nation, including a company seeking 100 acres for a distribution center and an engineering firm looking for a 10,000-square-foot office that's move-in ready.

"The challenge is that when companies are making

decisions we've got to have the product — we need buildings for them to consider," Dickerson said.

Dirt and logistics are big draws, and Waterville has both. For example, the US 24 access makes Waterville ideal for an automotive-related company, because it is centrally located between Detroit, Fort Wayne and Marysville.

And, for the WEDC, the mission is to find potential customers that would be a good fit with zoning, available land and acceptance by city leaders and the community.

To register for the annual meeting, call (419) 309-7708 or e-mail [info@watervilleedc.org](mailto:info@watervilleedc.org) by Friday, November 3.

## Area Police Officers Train Using Shared Simulator

**BY KAREN GERHARDINGER**  
MIRROR REPORTER

Within just a few hours, area police officers encountered a mentally ill man off of his medication, a domestic dispute and a routine traffic stop that turned into a deadly situation.

With the Virtual Training Firearms Simulator (VTFS), Waterville Township, Waterville and Whitehouse police officers experienced real-life situations to test reflexes, judgment and negotiation skills — without the risk.

The three area departments teamed up to rent the \$40,000 system for four days in October, at a cost of \$315 each.

"The area is growing. That's why we're really happy our agencies can get along well enough to bring this training in," said Waterville Police Sgt. Gabe Rogers. "It hones our skills to provide better police protection. It's one of the better tools we have."

While it was set up in the Waterville Fire Department training room, officers were able to train around the clock in shifts. The system was also used by the 17 students in the Citizens Police Academy (CPA), a 10-week program for residents.

The VTFS consists of a large screen on which hundreds of scenarios can be por-



**Waterville Police Sgt. Gabe Rogers trains with the Virtual Training Firearms Simulator, which is being monitored by Whitehouse Deputy Chief Todd Kitzler and Whitehouse Police Sgt. Brad Baker.**

MIRROR PHOTO BY KAREN GERHARDINGER

trayed life-size on the screen. All scenes are recreations of real encounters experienced by law enforcement officers throughout the United States.

The prompts for the officers and CPA students mimicked the brevity of information often given officers, such as, "A mother states that she's being threatened by her adult son, who is off his meds."

No information is given on the type of weapon, mental illness or past criminal history before the officer steps in front of the screen to negotiate with an obviously

agitated man.

"We don't always get a lot of information, either from the caller or the dispatcher," said Whitehouse Police Sgt. Brad Baker. So when pulling up to a scene, officers just assume someone will have a gun, either with a concealed carry permit or otherwise, he said.

For the training, an administrator watches how well the officer takes com-

mand of the situation with words and action, then chooses one of several outcomes — including having a suspect shoot, stab, run or lay down a weapon.

The training is not only a way for officers to safely experience a variety of situations while using weapons ranging from a Taser to an assault rifle, it gives officers a chance to meet and share ideas, Rogers said.

## WHITEHOUSE LIBRARY NEWS

### Whitehouse Library Offers Events

The Whitehouse Library has announced the following upcoming programs and events:

• **Volunteers Needed** — Do you have two hours a week to donate to the library? The library is still in need of volunteers from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Call the library at (419) 877-9088 or stop by 10651 Waterville St. to fill out an application.

• **Saturday Children's Program** — Saturday, November 4 from 11:00 a.m. to noon for pre-K through third grade. Monster Madness will feature stories, crafts and snacks. Parents are asked to stay with their children.



**Qualifications matter when choosing a Judge.**

**Re-Elect Judge Gary Byers**  
**Maumee Municipal Court**



"For 24 years, our families and our neighbors have trusted Judge Byers to protect crime victims. He is fair and is trusted by the police as well as lawyers. Judge Byers has been there for us. Join me in supporting him for re-election!"

**Andrea Luna**  
Retired Deputy Sheriff

*Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Judge Gary Byers*

## LEGAL NOTICE

**Monclova Township**  
**Monday, November 13, 2017, 5:30 PM**  
**Meeting Room, 4335 Albon Rd.**

Monclova Twp Board of Zoning Appeals has scheduled a public hearing to consider a variance to Section 9.2(A) of the Zoning Resolution. Applicant is requesting a 9-foot variance of the required 10 foot side yard setback to accommodate a garage addition at 8210 Monclova Rd.; applicant: M. Jones.

Text & map of this request is on file in the Zoning Office, 4335 Albon Rd. Office Hours: Mon 12-4; Tues-Fri 8-4 or call 419-865-7857.

*By Order of the Monclova Twp. Board of Zoning Appeals*



**ANTHONY WAYNE**  
**MENU**

**Monday, Nov. 6 – Friday, Nov. 10**

**Monday:** Chicken Fingers, Roll/Promise Cup, Steak Fries, Garden Salad, Peaches.

**Tuesday:** No School.

**Wednesday:** Stir-Fry Chicken, Vegetable-Fried Rice, Chicken Eggroll, Pineapple, Vegetable.

**Thursday:** BBQ Hamburger on a Bun, Baked Beans, Blackberries.

**Friday:** Pepperoni Calzone, Baby Carrots and Dip, Applesauce.