



Bill Covell was recently named the new economic development director for the city of West Carrollton.

April 2, 2008

News Release

WEST CARROLLTON NAMES NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – The city of West Carrollton recently appointed Bill Covell as the new director of economic development.

Covell currently serves as the economic development administrator for the city of Centerville. He will start his new position in West Carrollton on Monday, April 14.

His experience in Centerville includes the recent development of the Miami Valley Hospital's 117-acre, \$100 million campus on Wilmington Pike as well as the LifeCare Hospital scheduled to open in 2009.

Covell also coordinated the "Heart of Centerville" development project which included the construction of several new restaurants such as City Barbeque, Graeter's Ice Cream and Panera Bread in the historic section of Centerville. "The key to that project was the consolidation and expansion of existing parking into city-owned parking lots that serve the businesses in the district," Covell said.

The opportunity to explore different economic development challenges was the top reason for Covell's interest in the West Carrollton job, he said. "I'm also looking forward to the chance to work with Brad Townsend again," he said.

Covell first worked with Townsend 1990 in Springboro when Covell hired Townsend to serve as his assistant city manager. Their paths crossed again in 1997 when Covell worked as part-time economic development director for the city of Carlisle, where Townsend served as city manager. Covell has also served as the city manager in Riverside and the assistant to the mayor in Evendale, Ohio.

"He has been a long-time friend and mentor of mine," said Townsend. "I'm pleased that he has decided to come over and join our team."

Townsend said that he is confident in Covell's ability to set up an economic development program that will be one of the best in the Miami Valley. "I know that he loves a challenge and he will definitely have one here," Townsend said.

Covell said his first priority in West Carrollton will be business retention, he said. "My top priority will be keeping what we've got," he said.

Covell said he plans to partner with Montgomery County's Business First program and begin making several business calls to local businesses to better understand their needs.

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For media interviews, call **Bill Covell** at (937) 428-4766. Call **Brad Townsend** at (937) 859-5181.