From the Desk of Jeff Banning / Quality of Life ~

Does your community have a good "Qualify of Life"? What is it that makes your community any better than the next community? Have you ever really thought about that? Why do you live where you live? For many it is their place of employment. For others it might be the schools, the taxes or the location. It's your hometown, where your relatives live, or it is the great parks, trails and natural surroundings. Whatever it is, you should appreciate where you live.

I have had the conversation many times over with people after they return from vacation, back to Indiana, and the comment is "I could live where I was just vacationing"! Pick the place, whether a mountain ski trip, beachfront location, the big city or the wilderness, the places we vacation have great quality of place. They have great opportunities for R & R, eating or adventuring. But all good things will eventually become "home". It is hard to believe that the place we love to vacation would become old hat, but after a period of time it will become your "home" and it will become common, just like where you might live today.

I like to take the approach that I am a long-term Hoosier that loves Indiana and all it offers. Quality of life is what you make it and Indiana has many, many places to visit and see.

This past month I have been to all four corners of the state wandering. From Fair Oaks Farms to Mounds State Recreation Area, Chain of Lakes State Park, Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, Jasper Pulaski State Fish & Wildlife Area, J. Edward Roush Reservoir, Willie & Red's to Bird's BBQ, Dunn's Bridge, Ambia, Talbot, LaSalle State Fish & Wildlife Area, Huntington, Columbia City, Albion, Fort Wayne, Evansville, Princeton, Vincennes, Spencer, Batesville, Greensburg and Columbus!

There are so many great places to visit and see and every community has a "Quality of Life" that suits those that reside there. It should be our goal as community leaders to improve our quality of life where we live so that our communities might grow, be vibrant and so we can attract new residents and businesses. Let's make Indiana that place where people want to live because we have the "Quality of Life" people are looking for. And let's make it that when we vacation to those oceans or mountains or big cities, that we want to come back to our "home" and our quality of life. Make your community the best place it can be!

~ Jeff Banning