



## What is going on in your county?

### -ANNOUNCEMENTS-

#### **Editorial Outtakes from the Executive Director – Coming Soon to a Theater Near You**

“Monrovia, Indiana” Reviewed at Venice Film Festival (Yes, Venice Italy)

In 2017, renowned film producer Frederick Wiseman spent time in Monrovia, Indiana filming scenes that would be used to depict life in rural America. The documentary, “Monrovia, Indiana” was released for review at the 2018 Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy (August 29 – September 8), and reviews of the film are now available for public consideration.

It was my fortune (?) to stumble into the filming of the documentary when attending a Monrovia Town Council meeting in 2017 to provide an update about MCEDC efforts in Morgan County. My plans for that visit were to provide a brief report, answer a few questions and then head on down the road. Unexpectedly, my courtesy report became a much more engaged discussion involving a minority of the council members, and the spirit of the evening caught the filmmaker’s eye. For Monrovia’s sake, it was my hope that the scene would be left to fade on the editing room floor but alas, my hopes were dashed with the final cut of the movie. As an economic developer – as a general citizen of the world - it would be my preference that a prospective investor in a community – a developer, a business owner, a homebuyer or an industrialist – would never experience the negativity that was displayed that evening toward the suggestion that Monrovia could and should be a growth location in Morgan County.

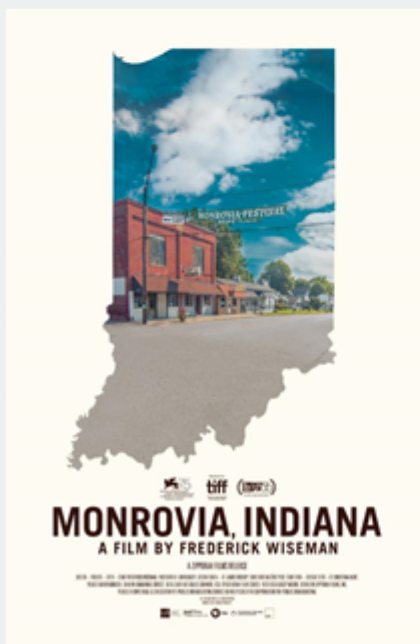
The scene also caught the attention of local residents who attended a recent, private showing of the film at a Morgan County cinema. One Monrovia who attended the showing suggested to me that my graceful handling of the unanticipated sidebar demonstrated previously unwitnessed patience when considering my well-known love of the argument for economic growth and change. The scene was also reviewed by film critics at the Venice Film Festival including Guy Lodge whose report for *Variety* noted:



“Running more mundanely through the film are a series of local council meetings, in which doggedly inconclusive debates run back and forth over such issues as...the merits of developing new business or new housing...a slightly more heated exchange that tacitly reveals the townspeople’s conservative, growth-opposed political impulses.” The review continues, “That may be the wryest, most cunning upshot of “Monrovia, Indiana’s” respectfully observed album of Americana: If there’s a bigger picture to be drawn here, the town isn’t in a hurry to see it.”

In summary, as can be concluded from comments made during my unanticipated stumbling into the filming of the documentary, “Monrovia, Indiana,” it is my contention that there is a bigger picture being drawn here, and Monrovia is an important character in that picture. Monrovia has much to offer to the future and much to receive from it as well, and the community would do well to plan for pending and probable growth and change rather than demonstrating hope that growth and change won’t happen.

- Mike Dellinger



“Monrovia, Indiana” will also be reviewed at the Toronto International Film Festival 2018 in Toronto, Canada and the New York Film Festival in New York City prior to its theatrical release on October 26, 2018 at the New York Film Forum. The film will be released November 2, 2018 in Los Angeles with top markets to follow in later in the year.