

• Pilot News Viewpoint •

Economic development investing in resources

Investing in your business?

Whether it's advertising, marketing, personnel, technology or equipment, business people know that investing in their business is a key to success and sustainability.

That's why it's encouraging that the Marshall County Board of Commissioners wisely endorsed the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation's investment in strengthening its organization and enhancing its services.

Timing is crucial. In this instance, all involved have perfect timing.

The mission of the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) is to *expand and diversify the economy of the county by fostering investment in new and existing facilities and creating entrepreneurial capacity.*

Led by Executive Director Tom Turner and a strong board of directors headed by Chairman Roger Umbaugh, the MCEDC received the county's blessing last week to embark on expanding its programs and services by outside means. Enterprise development – in particular assisting small businesses in Marshall County – has been a key element for the MCEDC.

Grant writing and lending expertise for business retention and expansion are ways MCEDC can help.

The MCEDC has contracted with a local small business development expert and an experienced regional grant writer to aid Marshall County businesses and governmental units in planning and securing grants.

This is a wise investment.

As Marshall County rebounds from economic recession, existing businesses need resources to take advantage of conditions and advance to prosperity. Prospective businesses – and the jobs they bring – are always welcome to join our Marshall County community too.

The MCEDC's renewed focus in both areas will ensure that we – as a county community – are moving in the right direction.

– By Rick Kreps, for the Pilot News editorial board.