

LaPorte County

TAKE CHARGE

"People Planning for Tomorrow"

Summary Report

June 25, 1992

Vision

We envision LaPorte County to be a dynamic county, recognized for its investment in its people, economic vitality, and rich quality of life, and to be a model for innovative leadership and supportive citizenry.

LaPorte County Take Charge is a citizen-based strategic planning effort initiated by the LaPorte County Extension Office and Purdue University. Over 500 volunteers have participated in this open process during the last 18 months. It is hoped that in the face of external threats to and emerging opportunities for our community, the citizens of LaPorte County will "take charge" today for a better tomorrow.

General Recommendations

1. Encourage everyone to think "LaPorte County"- consumers, homemakers, educators, professionals, farmers, government officials, retirees, businesses, governmental, social service, and private agencies - seek common ground and cooperate to help all the county prosper.
2. Reduce barriers to communication and travel within LaPorte County, (i.e. toll free phone service and accessible roads and transportation, and centralized media channels.)
3. Reward positive attitudes and efforts by those striving to improve.
4. Celebrate the diversity, cultural/ethnic heritage, and rich resources in LaPorte County.
5. Make plans to periodically repeat this citizen-based planning process

Steering Committee Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Maggi Spartz, Chairman	3320 S. Franklin St. Michigan City, IN	(H) 879-5622
Brad Allamong	M. C. Chamber of Commerce, 200 E. Michigan Blvd.	(W) 974-6211
Merle Bannwart	921 W. Co. Road 900N. LaPorte, IN 46350	(H) 362-4888
George Dearborn	LaPorte Bank & Trust Co., P.O. Box D, LaPorte, IN 46350	(W) 362-0404
Kathryn Dearborn	0352 East 650 South, LaPorte, IN 46350	(W) 362-0404
Jim Jessup	103 E. Young St. Hanna, IN 46340	(W) 797-3785
Phyllis Kelly	The News-Dispatch, 121 W. Michigan Blvd. M.C., IN 46360	(W) 874-7211
Marti McDonald	316 H Street, LaPorte, IN 46350	(H) 362-6300
James Mitzner	207 S. Ohio Street, Wanatah, IN 46390	(H) 733-2731
Leigh Morris	LaPorte Hospital, P.O. Box 250, LaPorte, IN 46350	(W) 326-2344
John Pugh	Planning Department, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City,	(W) 873-1419
Dick Reel	County Extension, County Complex, 5th Floor, LaPorte, IN	(W) 326-6808
Charles Sparks	Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce, 414 Lincolnway	(W) 362-3178
Mary Jane Thomas	LaPorte City Hall, 801 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, IN 46350	(W) 362-8220

Take Charge is an educational program provided through the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. Assistance for this program included support from, but not limited to, Purdue University and the LaPorte County Extension Office.

Economic Development

Goals

1. To clearly understand the economic development climate in LaPorte County.
2. To catalogue and evaluate existing economic development efforts within LaPorte County.
3. Come to consensus on future economic development goals for the County.

Recommendations

1. **County Government should:**
 - a. Hire a county planner
 - b. Clarify the role of the county Economic Development Commission
 - c. Rebuild county roads
 - d. Strive for cooperation among all governmental units to foster economic development
2. **Develop a county-wide clearinghouse for economic development.**
3. **Fully develop privately-owned industrial sites.**
4. **Strive for greater diversification of our industrial base and work to create more jobs for young people.**
5. **Emphasize retention and expansion of existing employers.**
6. **Generate more jobs in the commercial service sector.**
7. **Target economic development efforts which enhance our environment.**
8. **Enhance public awareness of the need for effective economic development.**

Members

Leigh Morris, Chairman (Office Phone: 326-2344)

**Dale Alspaugh
Russell Arndt
George Averitt
Thomas Boyd**

**Lee Brady
Andrew Carson
Chris Foust
Jack Gabbert**

**Nancy Henry
Mary Kaczka
Rölene Kalwitz
Marti McDonald**

**Gail Natale
Don Millbranth
Robert Schaefer
Charles Sparks**

Health Care

Goals

The goals of the Health Care Task Force centered on five issues perceived as the most pressing health needs of the residents of LaPorte County.

1. The increasing number of working poor and their families who do not have health care benefits through their employers, or who do not financially qualify for *Medicaid*.
2. The number of physicians and dentists who refuse to provide treatment to *Medicaid* recipients, thus limiting the recipient's health care access.
3. The need for *Medicare* patients to obtain prescription drugs if they cannot afford supplemental insurance and do not qualify financially for *Medicaid*.
4. The high infant mortality rate in LaPorte County.
5. The limited availability of transportation to and from health care providers.

Recommendations

1. Health care providers in LaPorte County must begin a dialogue to address the regional health care needs of the residents of LaPorte County.
2. Formation of a coordinating committee composed of health care providers and informed citizens to establish a comprehensive long range plan and to work with the legislature to insure funding and governmental support for health programs. This support and plan would be based on the premise that all LaPorte County citizens should receive a basic level of health care.

Issue #1:

1. Work with the hospitals to establish medical and dental clinics for the working poor.
2. Encourage various LaPorte county medical and dental associations to help serve the poor.
3. Encourage schools and/or County Health Department to provide regular student health education.

Issue #2:

1. Consider creating and funding a clinic in association with hospitals staffed with paid professionals.
2. Continue to support the existing Open Door Clinic.
3. Increase Health Watch participation throughout LaPorte County.
4. Support legislation that prevents lawsuits against volunteering professionals. Encourage the LaPorte County Medical Society to draft and circulate a letter of support for this action.

Issue #3:

1. County-wide financial aid is needed for the Open Door Clinic to continue to dispense low cost prescriptions.

Issue #4:

1. Increase the role of the school nurse or health department to include parenting and prenatal education for young parents.
2. Continue supporting area prenatal clinics.
3. Investigate additional obstacles that may impede continuation of prenatal clinics, (i.e., reduced funding)

Issue #5:

1. Form a LaPorte County medical health care coordinating committee to assure maximum utilization and awareness of existing health programs and services. Transportation needs should be included.

Members

Ross Lawrence, DDS; Chairman (Office Ph: 362-3962)

Kathy Abba
Rev. Nancy Algar
Clifford Arnold
Jackie Hansen

Rosemary Hostetler
Dr. Larsen Kneller
Kathy Krachinski
Tamar Macharaschwili

Ruth Monroe
Leigh Morris
Glenna Perkins
Mary Stence

Warren Troyer
Isabelle White

Education

Goals

Major Goals

1. Make children our first priority
2. Remove obstacles to effective educational processes.
3. Create an atmosphere conducive to educational development of each LaPorte County citizen.

Corollary Goals

1. Assess LaPorte County's educational strengths and weaknesses.
2. Provide opportunities for our children, youth, and adults to discover, develop, and use their talents and abilities constructively.
3. Foster the kind of life-long learning that emphasizes individual rights and sound reasoning.
4. Involve the whole community in the educational process.

Recommendations

1. Educate citizens to the fact that children and excellence in education are top priorities.
2. Initiate a county-wide volunteer/mentor program.
3. Data collection and evaluation of strategic plans & curricula of schools and youth services.
4. Adopt and promote the "America 2000" goals locally while including the arts and humanities as an equally important component.
5. Provide educational and social measures to promote a strong work ethic.
6. Provide more time and opportunities for teachers to enhance their academic and teaching skills.
7. Join regional efforts to find equitable financing for schools.
8. Explore the need for an alternative county high school.
9. Explore the need for a community college.
10. Make sure our schools provide education which teaches sound reasoning and provides a liberal arts foundation for every student, including the non-college bound.
11. Establish exit criteria for grades 4, 8, and 12.
12. Coordinate county educational efforts wherever beneficial.
 - a. Publish a county-wide educational resource directory.
 - b. Create county-wide educational interchanges and/or consortiums.

Members

Kathryn Dearborn, Chairman

Dr. Kurt Acton
Kathryn Bartels
Beth Barthof
Steve Bayer
Barbara Birchfield
George Dearborn

Jon Groth
Charles LaFrance
Roger Luekens
Ruth Minich
Marcia Morris
Gail Natale

Dennis Neary
Peggy Ondrovich
Bill Patterson
Dick Reel
Mary Lou Simerlein
Scott Simerlein

Maggi Spartz
Tom Thode
Sera Thompson

Roads & Transportation

Goals

1. Gather, research and obtain information on existing funding, administration, maintenance and priorities that impact the county highway system.
2. Make recommendations for a long-term road improvement plan for the county.

Recommendations

1. Hire a competent, experienced highway engineer to develop a set of road building standards. The engineer would pre-plan and specify preliminary work before any large scale road repair program begins. The engineer would cooperate with the County Highway superintendent and report directly to the County Commission.
2. Develop a primary and secondary road plan that would enhance our ability to attract federal funds.
3. The County Commission would set County Highway Department operating policies and be responsible for the efficient operation of the department.
4. The County Council would fund the efficient operation of the Highway Department.
5. The County Highway Department superintendent and engineer would be given the authority and responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the department.
6. When the above recommendations have been instituted, then a source of funds for a large scale highway repair program would be needed. Estimated annual cost of the required road repair project would be \$30 million and would take 10 years to accomplish. It is unlikely that state funding will increase over present levels.

Members

Phillip W. Cross, Chairman: (Office Ph: 325-4286)

Delvin Hostetler
Robert Monroe
Dr. Edwin Mueller
Bud Perkins
Michael Schultz

Contributors

State Rep. Mary Kay Budak
County Comm. Michael Quinn
County Comm. Merle Bannwart
Bradley Allamong, John Gardner
Tom Dent

Government Funding/Taxation

Goals

1. To analyze the history of LaPorte County funding and budgets.
2. Make recommendations for the needs of the future.
3. Show how state government, schools, and other entities influence the cost of government within the county, with focus on trends in 1981, 1985, and 1991.

Recommendations

1. Recommend that county leadership adopt new methods to analyze current budget expenditures. Control procedures are needed to make sure the 5% freeze does not become a ceiling for department budget increases.
2. Consideration of position of a full-time county planner to implement the goals and procedures for sound fiscal policy.
3. Any changes in tax revenue sources, (i.e. option taxes) should be directed to specific projects preferred by the public.
4. Educate citizens about county government funding.

Members

Larry Smith, Chairman: (Office Ph: 362-4041)

Chris Brady
Mary Kay Budak
Andrew Carson

Ed Gondeck
Charles Morgan
Sigurd Pererson

John Vail
Sherry Waters
Max Wilson

Child Care

Goals

1. Establish accessible, affordable, high quality child care facilities in LaPorte County.
2. Institute community resource and referral services.
3. Help parents enhance their parenting abilities.

Recommendations

1. **Assist LaPorte County families to find affordable, accessible, high quality child care.**
 - a. Operate accessible childcare centers in LaPorte and Michigan City.
 - b. Increase the number and enhance the quality of family day care homes in LaPorte County.
 - c. Have in place systems to help families pay for child care, (i.e. Step Ahead vouchers, United Way pilot project, Employers Dependent Care Assistance Programs, (DCAPs.)
2. **Provide residents with comprehensive, county-wide Resource & Referral Service.**
 - a. Have a toll-free phone number answered by specialists with database of providers.
 - b. Have walk-in sites with brochures and personal contact to get child care information.
3. **Provide parents opportunities to enhance their parenting abilities.**
 - a. Michigan City Child Care Consortium will offer parent training & support services at four levels in collaboration with the M. C. Area Schools Early Childhood Education Program.
 - b. M.C. Child Care Consortium & LaPorte YMCA Child Care Committee will coordinate scheduling of parent education programs to maximize use of resources.

Members

Dr. Janice Katz, Contact (Office Ph: 873-2966)

Shirley Hermesen

Steve Boklund

Dan Bryda

M.C. Urban Enterprise Assn., Community Service Center Task Force

Susan Hay

Dom Liberatore

Mickey Webb

Bill Henning

LaPorte YMCA Child Care Committee

Michigan City Child Care Consortium

Solid Waste

Goals

1. Develop and implement 20 year plan to reduce waste sent to landfills 40% by 1996 and 60% by the year 2001.
2. Investigate and develop markets for recyclable materials.
3. Provide all LaPorte County residents an improved environment in the future.
4. Gain citizen input and support of the waste management plan and efforts.

Possible Alternatives

1. **Economic incentives and legislative strategies**
 - a. Bans on selected materials at the landfill or variable landfill rates for selected materials.
 - b. Solid Waste District support of container deposit legislation.
 - c. Solid Waste District and governmental procurement policies favoring recycled materials.
 - d. Economic and tax incentives.
 - e. Waste audits.
2. **Education and public awareness programs**
 - a. Public service announcements.
 - b. Development of informational and promotional materials.
 - c. Demonstration programs and workshops.
 - d. School programs and curriculum development.
 - e. Posters, videos, and slide presentations.
3. **Programs of waste reduction through reuse.**
 - a. Backyard composting and mulching.
 - b. Promotion of charitable reuse organizations.
 - c. Promotion of organized waste exchanges.
 - d. Technical assistance to commercial organizations to develop waste reduction and recycling programs.
4. **Programs targeting the recovery of source-separated recyclables.**
 - a. Recyclable materials drop-off and buy-back centers.
 - b. Residential curbside collection.
 - c. Intermediate processing center.
 - d. Yard waste composting.
 - e. Household hazardous waste drop-off centers.
 - f. Construction material and wood processing facilities.
5. **Mixed waste processing programs**
 - a. Processing of mixed residential waste and select commercial waste for the recovery of recyclables.
 - b. Processing of mixed waste for composting.

Members

Lynn K. Waters, Director: Office Ph: 326-6808 Ext 408

LaPorte County Solid Waste District Board

Mayor Elmo Gonzalez, President

Evelyn Baker

Merle Bannwart

Mayor Robert Behler

Christine Brady

Michael Quinn

Norman Pahs

Solid Waste Advisory Board

Clifford Arnold

Al Austin

Howard Conley

Sue England

James McCarty

Karin Bauchrowitz

Alice Lindborg

Leon Meyers

Chuck Oberlie

Bob Schacht

Daniel Thompkins

Natural Resources

Goals

1. Preservation

Explore and promote both public and private methods of preserving LaPorte County's natural land resources. Preservation methods should include a broad range of human uses including recreational, agricultural, commercial, as well as ensuring there is ample resources to sustain diverse flora, fauna, and acceptable water and air quality vital to the health and well-being of the population.

2. Water Quality

- a. Develop a thorough understanding of how the natural water system functions in the county and the impact of development on those systems.
- b. Help establish policies to maintain our water quality and supply to acceptable levels and to insure future generations will enjoy the same or better water quality as we do today.
- c. Inventory the various agencies and groups involved in monitoring water quality and impact on water systems.

3. Land Use Planning

- a. Understand present land use plans and regulations and find ways to evaluate the impact of economic growth, both industrial and residential, on our natural resources.
- b. Help to develop sound plans to control and balance growth and still preserve the integrity of our natural resources.

4. Public Information and Education

Identify key information not currently being delivered regarding the above topics and find suitable ways to educate the public.

Members

Ken Soderberg, Chairman: Office Ph: 326-6808

**Jim Arndt
Phyllis Benn
Dean Heise
Rolene Kalwitz
Terry McCloskey**

**Ann Milner
Dawn Milner
Lee & Celia Parsons
Liz Ridenour
Maggi Spartz**

**Harry E. Starkey
Lois Thomas
Powell Travis
Theresa Wohokvich
John Yates**

Culture & Quality Of Life

Goals

1. To encourage awareness of the importance of culture and the Arts to the quality of life of the people of LaPorte County.
2. To identify existing county services which could serve as possible vehicles for the improvement of the quality of life in LaPorte County.

Recommendations

1. To encourage the development of a county-wide beautification project.
2. To promote activities which develop knowledge and understanding of the diverse ethnic and cultural groups in LaPorte County.
3. To investigate alternative avenues to art education for young people in order to fill the gap left by reduced funding in our schools.
4. To seek methods of transportation to community events for older or disadvantaged county residents.
5. To explore activity and entertainment possibilities for the county youth.
6. To support those activities of other Take Charge Task Forces which benefit LaPorte County quality of life.

Note: This Task Force needs volunteers. Anyone interested can leave a message for Janet Kempf, Chairwoman, at the Extension Office at: 326-6808 Ext. 271!

Government/Duplication of Services

Goals

1. To identify areas of duplication in services in LaPorte county.
2. Identify those that would be suited to consolidation and explore ways to consolidate.
3. Identify potential costs/savings and benefits of such measures.

Recommendations

1. To identify opportunities to eliminate duplication of service or consolidate services among the various components of local government in LaPorte County, starting with purchasing, personnel management, and building maintenance.
2. Employ a full-time county administrator or planner to coordinate improvements and linkages with other agencies.
3. Appoint a "Blue Ribbon" committee to investigate the possibility of utilizing some form of City/County Uni-Gov type program in LaPorte County.

Note: This Task Force needs volunteers. Anyone interested in taking part should contact John Pugh, Chairman: Office Ph: 873-1419

Housing

No formal "county-wide" work is being done in this area. Efforts such as Habitat For Humanity in both Michigan City and LaPorte, Concerned Citizens For The Homeless (Michigan City), Christmas in April, The Michigan City Housing Authority, the Community Development Corporation (Michigan City), The Urban Enterprise Association, and possibly other groups could be coordinated for maximum results.

Note: Anyone interested in helping to coordinate the various housing efforts in LaPorte County, or studying other aspects of housing in the county, please contact the County Extension Office at 326-6808 or 873-7014 Ext. 271!

LaPorte County
TAKE CHARGE
"People Planning for Tomorrow"

The County Update for March 1993:
or
What's Happened Since the People's Plans Were Unveiled?

Introduction

The TAKE CHARGE effort began as an idea posed by Purdue University in the Fall of 1990. Purdue, through the County Extension Service office, conducted three evening workshops with LaPorte County citizens. These caring citizens took a hard look at the county as a whole and came to a consensus on 11 issues key to the future well being of the county.

Task forces were formed by these committed volunteers, who spent the next 15 months studying their issues and seeking solutions. On June 25, 1992 at Countryside Christian Church, the task force conclusions were displayed to the public.

Note: The following is a partial list of outcomes that support the recommendations of the task forces. These outcomes may or may not be a direct result of the TAKE CHARGE process. Some events reported here may have happened entirely independently of the TAKE CHARGE process, but do reflect movement toward recommendations of a task force. The responsible parties will be recognized when possible. **The purpose of this report is to point to positive indicators that show promise for the future of all citizens in LaPorte County, regardless of who or what the source.**

If activities in this list are missing or incorrect, please call:

Maggi Spartz at 879-0327 or 326-7191 or Dick Reel 326-6808, ext. 271.

Health Care

1. **LaPorte County Collaborative Health Program for the Medically Indigent:** The Open Door Health Clinic in Michigan City and LaPorte Hospital have joined together to - *"Provide residents of LaPorte County access to primary health care services, even if they lack resources to pay for these services."* LaPorte Hospital Community Health Center is slated to open in April of 1993 and will collaborate with the Open Door Health Clinic to share certain resources and information. Contact either Susan Grace, RN Director of LaPorte Hospital Community Health Center at 326-1234, or Marilyn Wroblewski, Director of the Open Door Clinic, at 872-6766.
2. **Hospital Administrators and CEO's Meeting:** Top personnel from all three major health care providers are meeting regularly to discuss shared goals.
3. **Benefit Held to Combat Low Birth Weight Babies:** The Northwest Indiana Celebrity Golf Classic, with celebrity Claude Akins, was held September 10, 1992, at Briar Leaf Golf Club to raise money for the Maternal Health program. This was a joint effort between the Indiana State Board of Health, St. Anthony Hospital and Health Centers of Michigan City; it was the idea of a group of concerned county business and civic leaders. Contact: Gail Ashmore, Director of Development, at 874-0412.
4. **County Extension Service Begins Offering a "Healthy Baby" Program:** Annetta Jones, Extension homemaker, has begun programs in Michigan City to help teen parents learn about caring for their babies. Annetta can be reached at 326-6808 Ext. 271.

Child Care

LaPorte County United Child & Family Services Initiative: A unique group collaborates to *"Assist families of LaPorte County in finding accessible, affordable, high quality child care and family-related services to maximize the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of all children in LaPorte County."* Representatives from the LaPorte YMCA, the Michigan City Child Care Consortium, the LaPorte and Michigan City United Ways, the Urban Enterprise Association, and the Indiana State Step Ahead Program have joined forces to dramatically improve child care & family services in LaPorte County. For LaPorte call Steve Boland at 325-YMCA, or Michigan City, call Janice Katz at 873-2966.

- LaPorte County is the FIRST in Indiana to distribute child care vouchers to income-eligible families.
- The LaPorte Child Care Center has been expanded and a center is scheduled to open in Michigan City this spring. This brings the number of licensed centers in LaPorte County to four.
- A free Resource and Referral Service is available to county residents to help match families and child care providers with the information they need. Special software was purchased and installed to manage this data and can expand as a central source for all community resources.

Roads & Transportation

1. **County Highway Engineer Proposed:** County Commissioner Steven Wurster presented a proposal to the commission to form a committee charged with developing a job description and hiring requirements for a professional highway engineer. The Commission passed the measure on Feb. 16, 1993. Two TAKE CHARGE Task Force members were chosen to serve.
2. **County Commissioners Attend "Road School":** Commissioners plan to attend "Road School" at Purdue on March 2, 3, & 4.

Cooperation/Duplication of Services

1. **The Unity Foundation of LaPorte County Is Formed:** "Leaders from LaPorte County join together to create a new philanthropic organization to create a permanent pool of funds and to act as responsible stewards to administer those funds and distribute them according to the donors wishes and the needs of LaPorte County to enrich the quality of life throughout the county." It may also serve as a catalyst and convener of unusual and unlikely partnerships. For information call Maggi Spartz at 879-0327 or 326-7191.
2. **LaPorte and Michigan City Chambers of Commerce Work Together:** Both Chambers are meeting and looking for ways to work jointly to further economic development in LaPorte County. On November 6, 1992, they jointly hosted Candidate's Forums.
3. **Some Shining Examples of Cooperation:** See above efforts in child care and health care for indigent.

Education

1. **County School Superintendents Meeting Monthly:** All five administrators are meeting monthly to discuss shared concerns. A legislative breakfast was held in November to develop communication channels with elected officials. Call Roger Luekens at 362-3313.
2. **Volunteer Database Planned:** Matching volunteers with organizations who need volunteers, particularly educational institutions, would be accomplished by utilizing the software and computers for the county-wide resource and referral service. This software is currently being set up at the LaPorte YMCA. Call Kathryn Dearborn at 362-0404.
3. **Peer Mentoring Trial Begun:** Youth Service Bureau expands Big Brother/Big Sister program to match students and LaPorte and Elston high schools with elementary school children to help youth develop a sense of caring for others and learn the importance of volunteerism. Contact the Youth Service Bureau at 362-9587 or 879-5151.
4. **LaPorte County Leadership Begins Ninth Year:** The program aimed at developing community leaders enters its ninth year of educating existing and emerging leaders in key issues and leadership skills. For information call Dick Reel at 326-6808, ext. 271.

Economic Development

1. **Efforts by Chambers of Commerce Toward Success:** Some TAKE CHARGE recommendations are being considered by the LaPorte and Michigan City Chambers of Commerce. Contact: Charlie Sparks at 362-3178 or Brad Allamong at 874-6221.

2. **Prospective Businesses Make Bid For LaPorte County:** Economic development efforts by both Chambers and NIPSCO etc. are ongoing. Two businesses are serious about county locations.
3. **LaPorte Improves Industrial Park:** City of LaPorte votes to improve industrial park. Grants written for funding. For more information call Mary Jane Thomas, LaPorte City Planner, at 362-8260.
4. **Michigan City Completes Quality of Life Video:** A video describing the benefits of living and doing business in the Michigan City area are featured. Video and accompanying information packets will be available from the Michigan City Chamber.
5. **LaPorte County Video Complete:** LaPorte County Convention & Visitor's Bureau finish 3 part video to promote tourism. Call Heidi Cleveland at 872-5055.

Government Taxation/Funding

1. **Extension Service Sponsors Hands-on Look at the State Budget:** On February 8, 1993, Purdue conducted a workshop for citizens on the current state budget, while giving participants a chance to "balance" it. For more information call Dick Reel at 326-6808.
2. **Joint City Council Workshop:** LaPorte City Council and Michigan City Council met on February 25, 1993 to share ideas on how to reach the financial needs of our communities. Further workshops to be scheduled.

Solid Waste

- 20 year plan submitted to the state in July, near approval now. For an Executive Summary call Lynn Waters at 326-6808.
- Grant secured for innovative waste reduction and processing program in state penal institutions.
- Quinticounty Conference held Feb. 4, 1993 on "ECO-Nomic" opportunities for handling waste and creating jobs.

General TAKE CHARGE Progress

1. **Lower Phone Rates Between Area Cities:** Reduced rate "Call Packs" now are available for calls between Michigan City, LaPorte, and Westville. Reduced rates are **NOT AUTOMATIC** - you can sign up now by calling your local phone company.
2. **TAKE CHARGE Moves Forward:** Implementation Committee was formed and is meeting to find ways to tackle the BIG job of implementation.
 - TAKE CHARGE participants continue to learn and explore county-wide issues and solutions.
 - TAKE CHARGE Summary Reports are available at the county Extension Office. Call Dick Reel at 326-6808, ext. 271.
 - Reports have been distributed and presentations have been made various groups in the county.
3. **More Appear to "Think County-Wide":** Consciousness of county-wide focus has risen in some areas with the realization that we can't do it alone. The economic climate and changing community needs will require much more cooperation & collaboration.