

Kennel booking online

An Indianapolis startup looks to become the Expedia of pet lodging. **18A**

Indy versus Minneapolis/St. Paul

Convention cities contrasted in QuickHits. **20A**



FOCUS

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HOSPITALITY/MEETINGS/TOURISM

Bill McGowan 1984-2002

- 1972: Indiana Convention Center is completed.
- 1973: Market Square Arena opens.
- 1974: Market Square Arena opens.
- 1975: Do It Best convention, which continues to meet twice a year.
- 1976: The first major hotel brand to locate downtown, Hyatt Regency Hotel, opens, complete with the state's only revolving restaurant.
- 1977: Indianapolis hosts its first NCAA men's Final Four at Market Square Arena. It's the first big step in a long-term relationship with the NCAA.
- 1978-1979: The multi-event National Sports Festival comes to town, introducing Indianapolis as a major player in world-class sporting events.
- 1980: The Hoosier Dome (later renamed RCA Dome) is built. Two exhibit halls are added to the convention center.
- 1981: Colts move to Indianapolis, raising the city's image as a major-league sports town.
- 1982: Indianapolis draws an international field of competitors and spectators to the Pan Am Games, a key tuneup to the 1988 Olympic Games.
- 1983: Two-story convention center expansion includes a new lobby and registration area, and skywalks to Westin and Hyatt Regency hotels.
- 1984: City makes first attempt to attract Super Bowl, but loses out to Minneapolis.
- 1985: Circle Centre mall opens, providing a critical downtown retail anchor. Fire Department Instructors Conference arrives.
- 1986: City lands nation's largest motorsports trade show, staged by Performance Racing Industry.
- 1987: Conesco Fieldhouse opens. Cedia, one of the largest electronic trade shows, arrives. NCAA opens headquarters here.
- 1988: Market Square arena is demolished.
- 1989: Gen Con gaming convention arrives.
- 1990: Cedia departs, planning to return to the expanded convention center in 2011.
- 1991: The Conrad Indianapolis luxury hotel opens.
- 1992: City bids for 2011 Super Bowl, but loses to Dallas.
- 1993: City wins bid to host the 2012 Super Bowl. Lucas Oil Stadium, the new home of the Indianapolis Colts, opens. It includes 183,000 square feet of contiguous exhibition space plus 12 meeting rooms and party deck.
- 1994: RCA Dome is demolished to make way for convention center expansion. New midfield terminal at Indianapolis International Airport opens.
- 1995: International Motorsports Industry Show arrives to fill space vacated by the departure of Performance Racing Industry after 2004.
- 1996: Indiana Convention Center expansion adds 254,000 square feet of exhibit space and 63,000 square feet of meeting space, making it the 17th-largest in the country.
- 1997: JW Marriott opens as the city's largest hotel, with 1,005 rooms.

Movers & shakers

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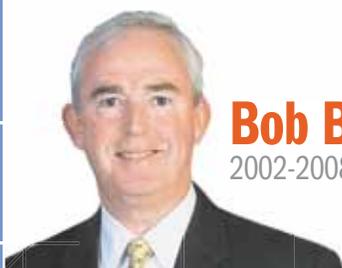
In an industry where it often takes three to five years to consummate a deal and as long as a decade to plan and build infrastructure, losing a point person every couple of years isn't ideal.

So when Don Welsh announced his jolting departure as CEO of the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association in January, hearts sank among the city's hospitality leaders.

"Don was really talented, he had a lot of energy, and made a lot of promises," said John Livengood, president of the Restaurant & Hospitality Association of Indiana. "Then all of a sudden, he

See next page

The imminent arrival of the third ICVA chief in three years raises questions about stability



Bob Bedell
2002-2008



Don Welsh 2008-2010

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Leonard Hoops 2011-

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AP photo

Source: IBJ research