

Love of Travel Turns into Couple's Website

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Mapping their vacation online was not satisfying to Paul and Laurie Lindauer.

'It's been frustrating to try to find information all in one place,' said Paul Lindauer. 'You might have a great site out there in Denver or Kansas City or a state might have a great site, but there is not one location that has everything.'

'States or cities and even small regions may have a Web site with all of the attractions applicable to go to, but if you're going across state lines and traveling to places like Denver or Cincinnati, you want places to stop along the way,' said Laurie Lindauer.

The Belleville couple wanted a way to not only find their destination, but stops along the way. However, they found that many Web sites merely provide links back to other Web sites. They wanted something that was more complete, and you could also do great searches by key words that could be organized by category.

So the Lindauers took their love of travel and launched their own travel Web site, GuidePostUSA.com, in June. The Web page provides tourists a one-stop spot to plan their travel itinerary by way of state-of-the-art GPS technology that pinpoints every stop and attraction from landmarks to restaurants and shopping centers.

Paul Lindauer quit his job as director of youth and adult ministry and creative programming at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows after 13 years to make it happen. Laurie Lindauer takes care of the couple's children but works when she can. They opened their office at 1026 Caseyville Ave. in Belleville.

'It's been on the back burner,' Laurie Lindauer said. 'We just decided to take the plunge.'

'It's just something we wanted to do, to compile a lot of the information we have from books or magazines you see. Our favorite thing to do is to stop by visitor centers with brochures and cards and racks of things, and we fill our whole bag.'

The Lindauers hired a contractor to design GuidepostUSA and have added data plotting many destinations. The Web site lists museums, art galleries, golf courses, antique shops, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, parks, hotels, resorts, amusement parks, farms, historical and cultural landmarks, botanical gardens, visitor centers, zoos and more.

'We have other states on there with a lot of information, but not as comprehensive as Illinois and Missouri,' Paul Lindauer said.

Any tourism site operator or destination may create their own listing on GuidepostUSA for free. Premium online listings that offer detailed information including e-mail and Web site links, photos and logos, are available for an annual subscription of \$50.

'We've entered a lot of the information, ourselves,' Paul Lindauer said. 'The individual places are encouraged to do it and put information on for free. We've worked with convention and visitors' bureaus and chambers of commerce and asked them to send us their information and get the word out to their constituents.'

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