



City of Bellevue Economic Development

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NEWSLETTER – JULY 2021

'In the Summertime' greetings from the Economic Development Desk.

DORA – **Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area** – thank you Bellevue for your overwhelming support of this project. When Mayor Strecker, Councilman Bill Brugnone and this office started the initial talks in fall 2020 regarding this DORA we researched many other cities and how they handled and presented their ideas to the community. Although some think this just helps those in the restaurant or bar business, totally untrue. Our goal is two-fold, rejuvenate the downtown and help ALL small business owners who invested in our town. Business owners who are not a restaurant, bar or private club can elect to participate in the DORA or not. We found in communities that have a DORA foot traffic and shopping has picked up and helped stores increase traffic into their stores. This is just one tool in the toolbox as we will continue to formulate ideas to help all downtown business owners on a continuous basis. We heard from many folks, and they want to support downtown if there is reason to. With well over 90% positive responses to the DORA community survey we believe Bellevue will support Downtown.

Downtown Building Demolition – I would like to explain the City's position regarding the demolition of the former Ben Franklin building.

Believe it or not, this process began in 2015 under former Mayor Berkey and Safety-Service Director Crosby. All the proper channels were followed to notify the owners at that time giving them the option to bring the building compliant. With no response from the owners, fast forward to September 2015. A public notice was published in the Bellevue Gazette 'Notice of Proposed Demolition'. This publication was based on support letters from the

Bellevue Fire Chief, Huron County Public Health, and Richland County Department of Building Regulations in so many words, condemning the building based on some comments mentioned in the letters. Unfit for human habitation, total disrepair of roof and entire building, unsafe conditions, crumbling material, water damage, and basically unsafe. When all the timelines passed, and the City had the legal authority to demolish the building, Council could not come up with the funds to demolish the building as the budget would not allow.

When I began this job in June 2018, one of my main goals was to follow-up on that project, for the safety of the downtown and auto traffic that passes that building every day on Historic Route 20. Those walking in front or out back of the building were also subject to falling debris. To preserve the neighboring buildings, immediate action was necessary. It was obvious the former owners could care less of investing \$1M+ into the building to bring it up to code. In late 2020, our present City Council had the same concerns many of us had on the second floor of the City Centre. For the safety of our citizens, the building needs to come down. I thank them for working feverishly to find a way to accomplish that in a short time. We never want to demolish a building or home, but if the safety and health of our community is in jeopardy, we will do just that.

There are some long-range plans for the area, but for now, we have addressed a serious issue and feel we have accomplished that for the safety & health of all.

Frame It & More – Located at 119 E. Main St., Roberta & Paul relocated from New York state to set up this much needed shop. Anything you can bring in they will frame it with real wood choice custom framing. Welcome to Bellevue Paul & Roberta!

Bubbarock Meat Company – This company formed many years ago when Ryan (Rock) Ray, brother Chris (Wrench) Ray and Bubba (Ryan) Nottke came up with this concept. Bubba a butcher for the past 28 years decided to bring real world butcher expertise to produce the best tasting most cost effective and consistent products available. He will feature beef, poultry, chicken, seafood, jerky and much more. Located at 1606 W. Main St., Bellevue, open 6 days per week.

Central Park - New sidewalk LED lights were installed by City crews in mid-April. This project was supposed to happen in 2020, but everyone knows why it did not. Thanks to **The Committee To Grow** for help in financing the purchase of the lamp posts. A classy addition to our downtown centerpiece.

Bellevue Cemetery – Thanks to a forward-thinking vision by **Mayor Kevin Strecker** the Cherry Blvd. entrance to the cemetery is now spruced up with an aesthetic and welcoming entrance. Working with **Perry's Plantation** this project was a long time coming, but worth the wait.

Klutch Cannabis – Out of Akron with Council's support, hopes to be operating a dispensary by the first of the year in the former Family Video building at 798 W. Main St. Medical marijuana is a growing industry in the State of Ohio and currently there are 53 dispensaries open. To be eligible to buy product at a dispensary, one needs to obtain written certification from a state-licensed physician and register to obtain a state-issued medical marijuana card. Ohio dispensaries are open to card-carrying medical marijuana patients and must suffer from one of the state's 25 medical conditions which include Cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, HIV/AIDSs, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's, PTSD, Glaucoma, and others.

Designics – Opened for business in the former Gazette building at 107 N. Sandusky St., Corey Johnson and staff can handle all your design, lettering, vehicle wrap, promo products and more. Your One Stop Graphics Shop!

Randy Ladd Construction – Randy Ladd Construction office has moved in the former Oddo's Barber Shop building on the south side of Main St. downtown.

You Can Be An Artist – Open in downtown Bellevue at 115 E. Main St. next to Frame it and More. Whether a beginner or just want to 'brush up' on your skills stop in and be an artist.

This issue along with past issues of the Economic Development newsletter can also be found on the City's web site at www.cityofbellevue.com .