



## City of Bellevue Economic Development

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### NEWSLETTER – JULY 2020

Still experiencing a world-wide pandemic, we need to be mindful of all the Governor's directives but let us consider our motto **BELLEVUE STRONG**. Our local merchants have families to support as we all do but they need us and our financial support now. Make sure you continue to support all local merchants. The State of Ohio has emphasized 'We Are All in This Together', so continue that theme as we help them ramp back up and move them forward. Let us be positive and support what we have. These mom & pop stores are here because they have invested in the City and want to be here. If we do not support them, we will face another empty storefront. Shopping local also guaranties you better customer service during and after the sale.

As I am out and about around the City I hear or am asked, why can't we get a Wal-Mart here or a Target or Chick-Fil-A? I would welcome any of those businesses, but the fact of the matter is Bellevue's demographics do not meet major retailer's standards.

Even though I have made many attempts at larger retailers and large food franchises, many say the region demographics do not warrant building here. One other factor to note is these retailers are pulling back on new builds (unless it is a major metropolitan area). As they analyze all the recent data with the movement of on-line shopping where people can have their order delivered to their home, in most cases within two days. Social & electronic media has changed the way we shop, bank & conduct our daily lives.

What this office can do is support what we have here now and continue to attract those smaller name retailers that we are lacking that will consider Bellevue as the right fit for their product or service.

Attracting more manufacturers and small businesses to Bellevue is a very high priority of this office. As you bring in new business, you bring in new families beneficial to **Bellevue City Schools** and to the City. We now have plenty of new housing opportunities, a positive factor when these manufacturers critique and score the City. Initially, new companies look at the talent pool to fill their positions but then look at three factors: housing, schools and parks and recreation. Bellevue scores very highly on those three requirements. The **Community Reinvestment Area (CRA)** also scores very high on the list. Bellevue has a great base of manufacturing here now and a large slant toward the auto industry and that is a result of the workforce, infrastructure and rail service that is in place.

The City is diligently working toward cleaning up some of the blighted properties around town. You will start to see some of those properties come down as we work with the State of Ohio who has allowed appropriated **state funds** to be used for this purpose.

Some updates on new and existing businesses.

**Bellevue Family Dentistry** – Dr. Nathan Prueter whose practice is currently located on Northwest St. had the groundbreaking of his beautiful new facility on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Hats off to Dr. Prueter for his continued commitment to the Bellevue community. If you travel west on Historic Route 20, you will see his ongoing construction on the south side across from The Bellevue Hospital.

**Dollar Tree** – They had their opening in July down at the Village Square Plaza at 250 Castalia St. We welcome Dollar Tree and anticipate new retailers joining that plaza very soon.

**Firelands Federal Credit Union** – After a slight delay in plans due to the pandemic, FFCU opened their corporate offices and drive-thru facility on June 30. This building completely changed the landscape on Main St. Thanks to

their management team and Board of Directors for having that vision to make an impact in the City they got their start in.

**Prairie Ridge Subdivision** – The model condo is complete and available to view. Contact Howard Hanna, Gary J. Strayer Realty and ask for Gary Strayer or Terri Timmis to look at the new model home. If you are interested in buying a condo or residential lot, they will help you out. Developed by **The Bellevue Hospital Foundation** this housing subdivision is a much-needed asset for the City, those residents who would like to build and take advantage of the city-wide **Community Reinvestment Area (CRA)** real estate tax abatement.

**The Amsden House** – Congratulations to the new owners Chris Caputo and Tabatha Shumway. Thanks for keeping a Bellevue landmark in operation. Thank you, John Jr. & Diana Famulare, for all the years serving Bellevue. Enjoy retirement.

**Michael Winthrop, President & CEO of The Bellevue Hospital** – Congratulations and good luck are in order as Mike will officially retire on August 31, 2020. The City appreciates his vision as he expanded health care services, technology, and facilities due to his commitment to the community and City of Bellevue. Enjoy your retirement Mike. Timothy A. Buit Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer was selected to the position of President as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

A shout out to the City workers for hanging the new flag banners and electronic flags and to **Gridiron Foundation** for purchasing the banners and brackets. Also, to the **Committee To Grow Bellevue (CTGB)** for the great job with the flowers around town.

At **Central Park** look for new decorative sidewalk lighting to be installed soon and adding to the beauty of that area of the City.

Finally, great job by **Bellevue City Schools** figuring out a classy way to honor our well deserving **2020 Senior Class** with a parade and personalized graduation ceremony. Will we see that parade become a **Bellevue tradition?**

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](http://www.cityofbellevue.com) .