

# FCDC NEWS

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## FCDC Director's Update

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, I want to take a moment to express my personal appreciation to all of our FCDC members. I have just completed my first year as Executive Director of FCDC and the support you have all given me is deeply appreciated. 2020 was not what any of us expected it to be when it kicked off, but I have seen our membership and our community pull together during these difficult times. This organization has played an important and key role in our community and it was all possible because of our great members. We have helped businesses stay open and keep jobs right here in Franklin County. Your membership made a difference! THANK YOU.

### Proximity Park

As I mentioned in the last update, the park is shovel ready. The city has done a great job of getting all of the utilities in place. As a result of having this great asset in our community, we continue to get active inquiries about Proximity Park. Both



industry and commercial development folks are looking at the opportunity to locate here in Proximity Park. This is encouraging during a national pandemic.

### Wellsville

If you have not traveled through Wellsville lately you probably should go take a look. The new truck stop is bringing a large amount of activity to the community. In addition, we have a number of new businesses considering locating in the city. There are a number of plans for some new businesses in the downtown area as well. While I cannot share details at this time, it is going to be an exciting year for this great community in 2021.

### Marketing

Of course, marketing the opportunities at Proximity Park and around our county is a key element to recruiting new industry to our area. As I have mentioned, we are working with Highline Partners on a new marketing strategy, so we are more proactive than reactive in promoting the great opportunities here in Franklin County. I look forward to sharing more with you as these materials and plans come together in the coming weeks.

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## Workforce

I have shared with you that USD 290 and FCDC are taking the lead on a new career development tool. I have shared a video about this to all of our members and Dr. Cobbs has shared the same with a number of area school districts. This is going to be a great tool to help our youth of all ages learn about career opportunities in our region and across the nation. I hope all of our members will participate in a video. It is free as a member! I am also seeking sponsorships to help underwrite the cost of this

## Office Move

The renovation of the office space at the county annex is moving along very well. I anticipate I will be in my new office space on January 1, 2021. Once the dust settles and we can



gather I will certainly host an open house so you can see the space we have available to us. I want to again express my appreciation to the county for providing this space and more at no cost to FCDC.

## Membership

I continue to seek your assistance in recruiting new members to FCDC. I have a goal of a net increase of 10 members in 2021. So, I hope you all will renew your membership and we can help 10 more businesses see the value of becoming an active member with FCDC in 2021.

Invoices for the 2021 membership will go out in January and be due no later than March 30th. I hope you will renew. If you have concerns about renewing your membership, please let me know. I will be happy to visit with you.

## Annual Gathering

Due to the COVID pandemic we will not be able to hold our annual gathering this year in person. We will however have a short ZOOM meeting during the noon hour on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is our chance to say thank you to Ryan Henningsen for his leadership this year and welcome Craig Evans as our next President. We also have some folks going off of the board and new members coming on. I will send out a ZOOM invite in the coming days.

## Happy Thanksgiving

November is a time for all of us to reflect and count our blessings. Even during tough times, I know we have much to be thankful for as American citizens. As I write this, we are honoring our veterans. Thanks to their service we were able to participate in a national election once again. While the times are full of stress and division, we can unite around the joy of being able to vote and elect our leaders. We are blessed to live in the land of the free. Happy Thanksgiving to you and may you and your families have a joyful holiday.

***It is a GREAT day to live in Franklin County!***

***Paul Bean***

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