

FCDC NEWS

Paul Bean—Executive Director | paul@thinkfranklinco.org



FCDC Director's Update

I am incredibly proud of how our local government, industry, banks, and businesses have responded to the COVID 19 pandemic. We have come together as a community and are working hard to support our employees, customers, and community. All of you should be proud of the work you have done and are doing during these uncertain times. It truly is A Great Day to

Live in Franklin County. THANK YOU!

Proximity Park

We continue to have interest in Proximity Park and other areas within our county for industry development. Some of the “active” inquiries have slowed, but we continue to see some movement. We have a project that moved us to round two this month. We also had a site visit planned just as the pandemic began to shut things down. I have stayed in contact with the president of that company and he plans to make a visit as soon as the restrictions are lifted here and where he is located.

Other New Industry

The two projects I have mentioned before are still moving forward. We have new industry coming to the city of Ottawa and to Williamsburg. Both of these projects have been slowed by COVID 19 but are moving forward. The plans to locate and open up are still moving forward.

Workforce

Workforce is an area that has changed 180 degrees. We went from trying to find folks to unfortunately having to let folks go or reduce their hours. Fortunately, this is not the case for all of our area industry. We have openings and need for workers in our senior care centers and logistics industries specifically.

Communication

While our gatherings have been put on hold, we continue to work to provide you valuable information. We will continue to work to keep you up to date on the status of the pandemic in our region and funding opportunities to support your businesses. Any time you have a question and think we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are here to serve you.

We continue to get good support from the radio and newspaper here in Ottawa. We also are putting out information on the FCDC Facebook page. We even send out some information on Twitter.

Marketing

FCDC is spending some of this time to update our marketing materials. We have new banners and are working on a new video of Proximity Park. Once that is completed, we will work on a new video for Ottawa and Franklin County. The commercial property listings have been updated and you can view what is available. This is all part of the process of updating our FCDC Web page.

We will be working on new printed and digital materials as well. It is important to have these materials handy for all the areas in our county that are available to promote to potential industry. We need updated information about our county, so we are working to get these items created. We want to be ready to move quickly once the crises has passed.

Membership

I am happy to share that we are ahead of last year in membership dues collected. As of today, we have received more support than during the entire year last year. We also have some members that have not been able to pay their dues yet but have indicated they plan to do so. We have new members as well. If you know of a business that is not a member and could benefit from joining FCDC please let me know and let them know as well! You can see a listing of our members on our web page. The support FCDC has received from its members has been fantastic. Thank you for your investment in our economic development and current industry support.

Odds and Ends

As I write this update we are in the middle of a challenge to all members. I ask that you please consider helping Hope House. I know many of you have been helping in a number of ways. THANK YOU. If you plan to help Hope House this month, please just send me an email. I want to make sure you are entered in the drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to PrimeTime Grille. I want to thank them for participating in this promotion. Remember, we have two winners this time! For those of you still reading this letter here is your prize. FCDC donated \$250 dollars to Hope House. So, as a member in good standing you have already donated to Hope House. So, email me to enter the drawing!

At this time, I am not certain we will be able to gather for our planned Industry Appreciation social in June. However, we will work to reschedule and not cancel this event. We had a social planned at the Speak Easy in the basement of the old post office. We will still be doing some things to celebrate Industry Appreciation Month in June. Stay tuned.

We are working on moving forward with our organizational meetings, but via the internet. The board and executive boards will continue to meet. In addition, our committees for Proximity Park, Marketing, Workforce, and Member Services are working on setting up video meetings as well. So, FCDC continues to function and work for you and our community.

During the stay at home order I am working some in the office and some from my home. If you cannot catch me at the office, please know you are welcome to email me or call me on my cell phone at 785-214-2856. I am here to serve you.

It is a GREAT day to live in Franklin County!

Paul Bear

Paul Bear

Executive Director

Franklin County Development Council

785-521-3707 (A New Direct Line)