

# FCDC NEWS

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## FCDC Director's Update

### **Workforce, Workforce, Workforce!**

Wow, what a challenge it currently is to our business and industry to attract and keep quality employees. FCDC continues to support your efforts to find employees. We have taken many personal calls from you asking for help. We continue to promote the numerous job and career

opportunities that exist right here in Franklin County. We have reached out to parents of the spring graduates to encourage these young folks to look at a career right here in their hometowns.

While we work on some band aids to try and help you find workforce, we are also working on some longer-term solutions. USD 289 is partnering with FCDC on Workkeys certification for our county. This program can help our area schools identify and prepare students for work specific to the skills sets of your individual industry or business. This can reduce your recruitment cost and increase retention.

In addition, we are launching our NEPRIS career development program in USD 290 this fall. This will again help us create a pipeline of students that can move right into our local workforce. It will educate students on the career opportunities that are available with or without a college degree. We will use this tool to also educate parents on the options that are available for their child as to work and education after high school.

I have been vaccinated and I think many of you have been as well. FCDC is moving to a more public position. I will be coming to visit you at your location to share with you about our workforce initiatives. There will be ways for you to participate and promote your business directly to potential employees. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Speaking of seeing you soon. FCDC is hosting a Recruitment and Retention Panel Discussion at Ottawa University on June 11th. We will meet in the Hasty Room in the union on campus in Ottawa. We already have over 25 RSVP's and hope even more of you will attend this informative event.

Also, FCDC is hosting an after hours social on June 17th from 5:00 – 6:00 at Corner Market. Finger food, water and tea will be provided. If you would like a soda or adult beverage, you are welcome to purchase one at the bar. We hope you will come connect and say hello to each other as we come out from under this pandemic.

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Our industry luncheon “series” was very popular before the pandemic hit. Our “series” only consisted of one luncheon at the Walmart Distribution Center but many of you shared that you truly enjoyed this event. Stay tuned, we will be hosting another industry luncheon later this summer. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yes, another event. August 26th FCDC is hosting a job fair at Legacy Square. We will have food trucks, KOFO on location, and music from the Bop Daddy’s. The Kansas Works mobile van will be on location as well. All members that want to have a table/booth at this event to recruit employees is welcome to participate. There is no charge, you only have to bring your own table and chairs. We will send out an RSVP for this event in the coming weeks. Nonmembers of FCDC can participate for a fee of \$50, or they can join FCDC and participate for free. We will also hand out chamber bucks to the first 100 guests. The event will be from 3:00 – 7:00. We hope to work with our high school partners on having students participate during the afternoon hours. Stay tuned.

As you can see, FCDC is spending considerable time on workforce. It does not end with the events and activities listed above. Yes, there is more.

FCDC has contracted for a housing study. This study will include Wellsville, Ottawa, and the I35 corridor between the two cities. This study will assist our city and county leaders as they consider plans for future housing. More roof tops in our area will help our workforce issues.

### **Wellsville Strategic Plan**

FCDC is also hosting a strategic planning session for the City of Wellsville on June 9th. A group of city leaders and county leadership will spend time with consultants from the Docking Institute to work on strategic plans moving forward for Wellsville. It is exciting to work with the city as they prepare for a very bright future.

### **Proximity Park**

What is happening at Proximity Park you say? Well, current activity has slowed. We had hoped for two site visits in May, but they have both been delayed. They indicate they are both still very interested, but the timelines have slowed. On a brighter note, our marketing materials for the park went out to over 200 real estate developers, brokers, and industries in May. I am starting to receive phone calls expressing a desire to learn more and our website traffic has picked up considerably. So, the word is getting out and people are getting excited to learn more about Proximity Park.

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

***Paul Bear***

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