

A message from our city

Greetings:

As we welcome in 2012, Batavia has a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

During the final days of 2011, the city's administrative and planning staff was very busy dealing with a wide variety of new developments. The newest addition to the US Headquarters for Aldi Grocery Stores which is located along North Kirk Road was in the final stages of finalizing construction of the new six story office building. In addition, Aldi was also adding a refrigeration warehouse to their Batavia complex which will enhance the shipping capacities of this facility and the firm's site still has plenty of room to grow and expand in the future.

A new wide array of refreshment and eating establishments were also in progress of setting up business in our town. Out on Randall Road, the long awaited opening of the Golden Corral buffet was coming together under the ownership of operator Sam Gibson. The welcome entry of Mr. Gibson into the Batavia business community comes with the knowledge that he already owns and operates a highly successful Golden Corral in Schererville, Indiana which serves as a training center for Golden Corral manager candidates throughout the midwest. Mr. Gibson advises that he is most eager to get the Batavia store into operation and anticipates the official opening in the near term of 2012. Also on Randall Road, the city staff was in the process at the end of the year of reviewing the construction plans for the new Chick-Fil-A restaurant on the southwest corner of Randall Road and McKee Street. In addition to these items, the staff was also reviewing plans for a major addition to the Wal-Mart Store which will bring a full service grocery to the Batavia location.

Downtown, was also abuzz with new construction and remodeling ideas. December 17th marked the grand opening of Aliano's Ristorante at the southwest corner of North Island Avenue and Houston Street where a freshly prepared Italian food menu is featured. Additionally, the city staff was in very active discussions with McDonald's for a total new look and design of their downtown home. Likewise, across the street from McDonald's the staff was in ongoing talks with Batavia Enterprises for a major rebuild of their strip center which is proposed to include a new Walgreens Drug Store and relocation of the Prairie Path Bike Shop to the former Washington Mutual space just west of Panera Bread's store. It is expected that the City Council will be acting on the plans for both the McDonald's and Walgreens projects during 2012.

Of special interest as 2011 rolled into the history books was a number of still to be decided business decisions by prospective new business owners eyeing downtown Batavia as a place to set up shop. The city staff as the clock rolled into 2012 had at least five different eating and refreshment establishments considering downtown Batavia locations as sites for new businesses. Additionally, plans were progressing to commence North River Street from Wilson to State Streets as the first stretch of our downtown Streetscape Enhancement Program with construction hopefully starting in 2012.

On another subject, the record breaking success of the 2011 Batavia High School Football Team gives our town much to be proud about. Our team took to the field with a true passion and brought a level of intelligent insight to each play that was thrilling and admirable to watch and cheer onward. Thank you 2011 Bulldogs for adding a glorious chapter to the BHS history book. We all look forward to the 2012 run.

Finally, a sincere thank you is due the staff of the Batavia Public Library for stepping up and offering a much needed civic service for many of our residents. On a regular basis we witness residents, many of which are senior citizens, in need of technical assistance in attempting to deal with computers or technology related devices. Now the staff of the library is offering onsite services for residents who have questions or needs in responding to technology challenges. If you find yourself in need of some basic tech support, remember the staff of the Batavia Library stands ready to help you out. This is a commendable act of public service that truly fills a need of many of our citizens. Thank You Batavia Public Library for stepping up to fill this civic void.

Welcome to 2012

Jeffery D. Schielke, Mayor

