



Welcome to

**DOWNTOWN
BELLAIRE**

Michigan

**Bellaire Downtown
Development
Authority**

**January 2017
Newsletter**

Downtown Bellaire Vision

After years of planning and lots of hard work by the Bellaire Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board, the Village of Bellaire recently approved a Development and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan designed to promote economic growth in the DDA District and support an overall stronger community.

Since the Bellaire DDA's establishment in 2014, they have discussed and worked on a variety of projects of interest to area stakeholders including park improvements, downtown beautification, and infrastructure improvements including public walkways and parking, as well as wayfinding and parking signage.

The DDA plans to build on their momentum and accomplish even more in 2017. A few of the projects identified in the Development and TIF Plan for action this year include: communicating with the Village and State regarding sidewalk plans; bicycle parking options; educational programs for downtown stakeholders; and creating a "buy local" program in partnership with the Chamber. [To view the Development and TIF Plan click here.](#)



Michigan Redevelopment Ready Communities Program

Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) is a free state-wide certification program that supports local units of government to become development ready and competitive in today's economy. It encourages communities to adopt innovative redevelopment strategies and efficient processes that integrate transparency, predictability and efficiency into their daily practices building confidence among business and developers. Engaging in this program will soon become a requirement for taking advantage of Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) downtown improvement incentives.

Through this program, the municipality will evaluate themselves in six key areas including: Community Plans and Public Outreach, Zoning Regulations, Development Review Process, Education and Recruitment, Redevelopment Ready Sites, and Community Prosperity to see what improvements can be made and what barriers may be impeding on growth. The RRC certification is a formal recognition that a community has a vision for the future and the fundamental practices in place to get there.

Once the community completes the self-evaluations, passes a resolution, and attends a mandatory training they will be eligible to submit an application and become formally engaged in the program. Communities accepted into RRC will receive services and assistance from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) in identifying and marketing their most important redevelopment properties. The program also provides real estate development

Northern Lakes Economic Alliance will be assisting communities through the process of becoming RRC certified. For more details on the program or training please contact the NLEA at 231-582-6482.



Mark your calendars for the next business after hours, January 26, 2017 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm at Moka/Starlight sponsored by Edward Jones, \$3 per person. This networking event is designed to help participants make new business contacts, develop potential new customers, and build exposure for their businesses.

