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Attica-Bellevue-Bloomville-Republic Local News



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It's Apple Picking Season - Yum!

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Bellevue's Mayor Gives "State of the City" Report

By Phil Wheeler, Staff Reporter

Mayor Kevin Strecker gave his 7th annual City Report to an appreciative group of enthusiastic listeners on Thursday, September 9th at the City Council Chambers. The crowd enjoyed a lunch from Bone Boys BBQ and listened as the Mayor shared the news of the City.

To start his speech, the Mayor posed a question, "Have any of you wondered what your community does with your tax dollars?", and then answered it with "I can't wait to tell you all about it."

"Accountability, Trust, Commitment, and Dedication are all words that we hold high," said Mayor Strecker, "we here in the City are dedicated to the service and safety of all of our citizens, and to finding new ways of promoting our community." He spoke to the City Employees "focus and the know-how", and that they have the "tools to carry out their jobs completely."

The Mayor spoke about some of the projects that were either started or completed in this past year. Among them, he listed Autokiniton being awarded the contract to build frames for the all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning pickup. The 8.5 million-dollar investment to develop their plant created 150 new



Mayor Kevin Strecker addresses the crown at the annual "State of the City" presentation.

jobs. The City was awarded Ohio EPA grants to install a level three electric EV charging station. The Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) was expanded to the Central Park area and has done very well.

Mitsubishi Chemical Performance Polymers acquired additional production from a shuttered Warren Michigan plant. Omni Fiber began to run their fiber optic lines to the City in 2022, giving residents another option for internet and streaming. Christy Machine and Conveyor purchased the old Gordon Lumber Company location and is in the process of moving their manufacturing operation from the City of Fremont.

The downtown area saw new shops open - Laughlin Outdoor Living, Balance Nutrition, the Unique Wellness Center, Century 21 and Brookshire Hathaway Realty, Sheer Illusions and Cardinal Inc.

The Mayor mentioned changes to the Police Department: A new digital fingerprint system has been purchased and is now up and running. With this system, the City is now able to do the BCI and FBI web checks or background checks, and digitally send them to the state.

The City has budgeted for new police car and was able to purchase a used 2018 Dodge already outfitted for the new K9 unit and K9 Officer Suki.

See Report on B5

Apple Picking Pointers

Apple picking is a beloved autumn tradition. Apple picking season tends to begin in mid-to late-September and ends sometime in early October. That makes apple picking a perfect activity as it's both outdoors and at a time of year when the weather is generally pleasant no matter where you live.

Individuals interested in apple picking this fall can take heed of these tips to ensure their trip is fun, safe and successful.

Contact the farm in advance. Apple picking is a wildly popular activity, so expect a crowd to be there on a typical autumn weekend. If the farm is open several days per week, ask which days are the least busy and schedule your trip when foot traffic figures to be minimal.

Choose firm apples without bruises. According to Pickyourown.org, apples should be crisp and firm. Don't worry about the color of the apple, as color is not an indicator of ripeness. Instead, Pickyourown.org advises people to ask the farmers which apples are ripe, which is determined by how long it's been since the trees flowered.

Gently place picked apples into your basket. Pickyourown.org recommends gently placing apples into your basket after picking them. Tossing them into the basket may cause bruising, which can lead to the apples spoiling prematurely. While it depends on the variety, many apples that are not bruised tend to last a long time, especially when stored in a cool place. So, taking care of them when picking them can mean you get to enjoy apples for several weeks.

Clean apples before eating them. The Food and Drug Administration notes that produce can be contaminated even after it's been picked and brought home. The FDA advises consumers to wash their hands for 20 seconds with warm water and soap before and after preparing fresh produce. Produce should be rinsed before it's peeled so any lingering dirt and bacteria are not transferred from the knife onto the fruit or vegetable. If bruising has occurred, cut away the damaged or bruised areas before preparing or eating it.

Apple picking is a beloved autumn tradition that can be even more fun when employing a few strategies designed to make it more safe and fruitful.

Obituaries

Mary C. "Micki" Tester, 80, Bellevue
 Vera Jean Ash, 68, Bloomville
 Don O. Davis, 83, Bloomville

Area Football Roundup

Bellevue - 26 Norwalk - 0	Seneca East - 46 Upper Sandusky - 44	South Central - 0 Vermilion - 55
Buckeye Central - 15 Mohawk - 56	Clyde - 26 Cardinal Mooney - 36	Monroeville - 46 Crestview - 34
Woodmore - 30 Willard - 35	Berkshire - 19 Edison - 62	Liberty-Benton - 50 Port Clinton - 14

