



# SPRING NEWSLETTER

.... From the Best Little Town Around



As many of you are probably aware, the Village of Bolivar will be two hundred years old in 2025. To prepare for this milestone, the Village will be forming a Bolivar Bicentennial Commission. The commission will in essence be a mayoral advisory committee, which will help plan and prepare for what I hope to be a historic celebration. Anyone wishing to join the commission should send an email to [mayor@villageofbolivar.com](mailto:mayor@villageofbolivar.com) or drop off a letter at the Village office.

The last piece of news I want to leave you all with is the fact I will be stepping down as mayor effective April 5<sup>th</sup> and leaving the position in the capable hands of Ted Finlayson. It has been my sincere pleasure to serve this community. During the last two years we have been able to clean up the ODOT fence line and expand the parking area behind the Canal Street businesses. We also removed many dangerously large trees, cleaned up the brush and scrub trees on the west end of town and improved the access road to the reservoir. Being mayor has given me the opportunity to meet and learn from many of you, but it is time for me to focus on priorities outside of being mayor. I want to thank you all for your support and for allowing me to serve this community. It has truly been an honor. Like all of you, I will be looking forward to what the future holds for the "best little town around".

Best,

Tim Lang

The Town Formally Known as . . .

## KELLEYSVILLE

Bolivar was first plotted in August 1825 and named Kelleysville in honor of Alfred Kelley. Kelley is considered the "Father of the Ohio and Erie Canal" for his successful legislative attempt to establish the Ohio and Erie Canal. But what is even more interesting is that before he helped establish the Canal he was the first prosecutor of Cuyahoga county (1810), he was unanimously elected the first Mayor of the Village of Cleveland (1815) and elected as the youngest member of the Ohio legislature.

Kelley was directly responsible for designing and surveying the route the Canal would take across the state. Consequently, when in May of 1825 the route he plotted was certified by the Ohio legislature, the Village of Kelleysville was plotted in August of that same year around the soon to be built Canal. Nine streets (Plain, Pine, Poplar, Cherry, Water, Tuscarawas, Sandy, Laurens and Walnut) with 109 lots were originally plotted. But it appears in 1826 Alfred Kelley kindly asked the founders of Kelleysville to change the name. At his bequest the town was renamed Bolivar in honor of Simon Bolivar who was widely regarded as the the liberator of South America.

In an ironic twist, Alfred Kelley's two brothers must have liked the idea of a place named Kelley, because in 1840 Datus and Irad Kelley bought what was at the time known as Sandusky Island and renamed it Kelleys Island. All of which means nothing, but it's kind of cool to know that our town was originally named for a man that many said was slightly larger than life and a central figure in the industrialization of Ohio.

## Compost reminder

- Please place all materials in thick-walled refuse containers or biodegradable paper bags
- Cut all limbs to 4ft length to ensure compliance with the townships compost requirements
- Make sure all containers are free of trash and rocks and weigh less than 40lbs



# Looking to the Future

The Village has been discussing what to do with the property where the Intermediate school currently sits. Tusky Valley has repeatedly assured us they intend to turn the property over to the village after the building has been demolished. The question has been what to do with the property after the village takes possession. Several different ideas have been suggested, including saving the building and turning it into a community center; however, the proposal which appears to have the most direct positive impact on the community is the one being made by the Bolivar Community Church.

Their proposal would turn part of the property into Cardinal Community Park. The name pays homage to Bolivar High School, which used to stand on the property and whose mascot was the Cardinals. The park hopes to have a splash pad, paved walking trail, outdoor pavilion, and an amphitheater along with a Challenger baseball field. The remaining portion of the property could be converted to lots which would allow the village to work with a developer to build newly constructed housing. This development would allow the village to recoup much of the revenue we will lose once the school is closed.

The decision on what to do with the school and the property it sits on is a big one because it will impact us all for generations to come. This proposal is by no means a final verdict, just an initial vision from the church as to how the property could potentially best serve the community for years to come. I would encourage you all to take a look at the below rendering as well as the various suggestions being made. Weigh the pros and cons of each and make council aware of what you think should be done with the property.

## Cardinal Community Park

