



## Battle Creek Rotary Club Newsletter: The RotoScoop Week of October 25, 2021

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July 2021- 2022

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### Battle Creek Economic Development John Hart

John Hart, Development Director for the City of Battle Creek's Office for Small Business Development spoke to Rotary Members on Monday. Battle Creek has eighteen districts and while many efforts have focused on the downtown his office tries to focus on other districts as well. He explained the main types of activities of which his office is charged.

**Acting as a Business Liaison:** This can include working with people that want to start a business and helping them understand and get through all the regulations from various agencies such as the zoning commission or public health. They do site visits and look at building and business plans to avoid issues that might slow progress.

**Business Retention & Attraction:** The development office employs any incentives they can leverage to attract and keep businesses. Covid 19 Relief assistance with rent and mortgage payments and helping start-ups find business space are two examples of the ways in which the office can help.

**Provision of Technical Services:** The office can help by facilitating code reviews, property appraisals, land surveys, review site plans, and environmental assessments.

**Small Business Incubation:** The Development Office has created a number of environments that start-ups can utilize to keep expenses down while they build their businesses. BC Cargo is a downtown space where businesses can set up mini-shops and start selling without a lot of overhead. A commercial kitchen and concession stand is available in Kellogg Arena for retail food services to use. Most recently they have helped "Soul Good" create a ghost kitchen pilot. Soul Good offers take out and delivery only meals, which eliminates the expense and



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challenges of indoor restaurant service while building a customer base.

Creating a Sense of Place: Several recent efforts at Place Building include creating the Social Common District downtown, bringing kayaking rental to the area, and facilitating festivals and street events on a regular basis. The office also prints and distributes marketing materials for all events.

For more information go to: [www.smallbusinessbattlecreek.com](http://www.smallbusinessbattlecreek.com)

### Announcements

**Applicant for Membership:** Laurie Cook  
Classification: Senior Services  
Sponsor: Karla Fales

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Foodbank, Monday, November 15, 2021  
In place of our regular meeting. Meet at the Foodbank at noon. Lunch will be provided.

**Membership Minute:** Bring a friend to lunch. No pressure!

**Interested in serving on the BC Rotary Club Board or on a committee?** We are in the process of drawing up the ballot for our next election so contact President Tom ([t.ebeling@att.net](mailto:t.ebeling@att.net)) or Secretary Rita McPhail ([rita@rita@mcphail.com](mailto:rita@rita@mcphail.com)) and let us know.

**We are now meeting in person** at the Kool Center as we did before the pandemic. We will continue to provide a Zoom link up to members as long as it is needed. We use the same Zoom link and password for every meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://zoom.us/j/93233115265> Meeting ID: 932 3311 5265 Passcode: 049691

### Upcoming Programs and Events

11/1/2021	District Governor Visit	Rita LaMoreaux
11/8/2021	GVSU BCPS partnership	Al Shifflet, GVSU
11/15/2021	VOLUNTEER AT FOOD BANK	At the Foodbank

Contact Karla Fales if you have any ideas: [KFales@carewellservices.org](mailto:KFales@carewellservices.org)