



VISIONS OF BELEN

May 16, 2019

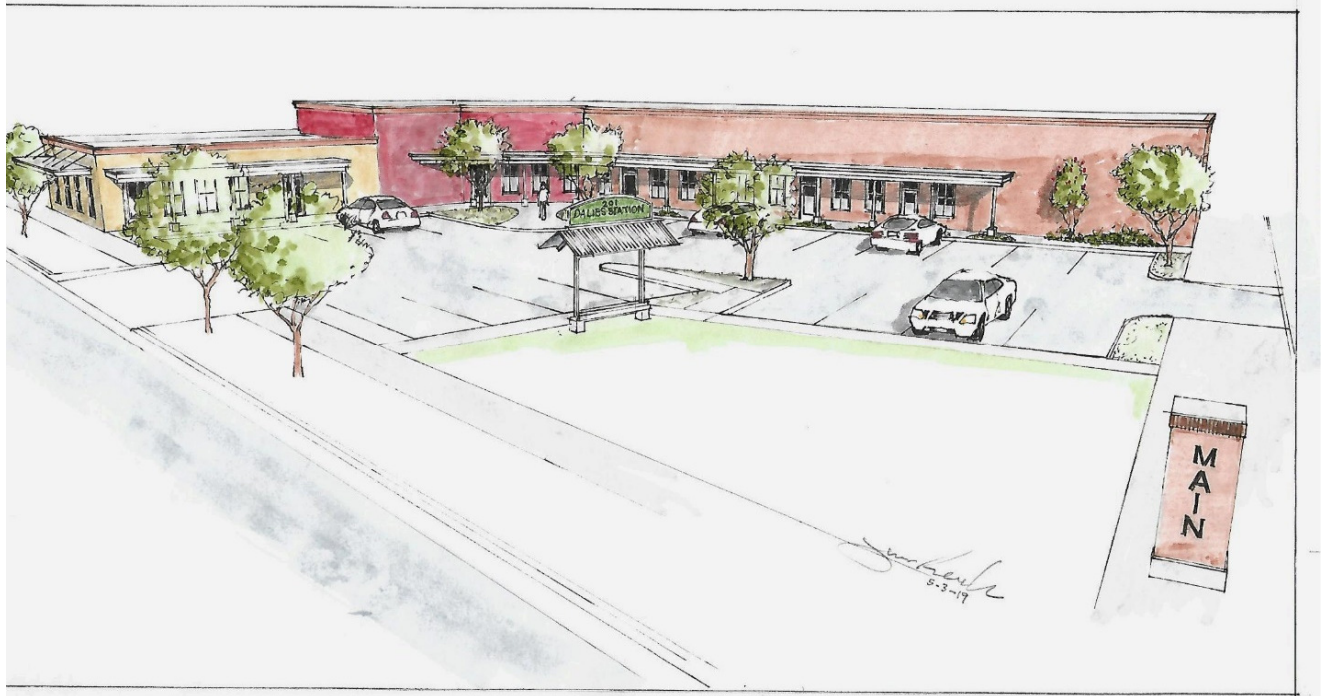
Vision of Belen is a monthly feature in our newsletter which provides illustrations of how buildings and vacant lots in our MainStreet District might look. Sketches of existing buildings show how they might be improved to make them attract more businesses and potential customers. For vacant lots which is currently on the market, we might provide sketches of potential building solutions. These Visions of Belen could have a significant economic impact on adjacent businesses, our district as a whole and our community in general.

This month we are featuring some ideas for developing what I believe is one of the best retail locations in Belen. This lot is on the northeast corner of Main Street and Dalies Ave. Currently it is being used as a tire store.



Figure 1 Existing building at Main and Dalies

The sketch below illustrates how the building might be repurposed to house retail spaces and possibly a restaurant. Key features to this repurposing include the addition of windows for merchandising which is key to retailing.



The architectural style has been altered to reflect the districts history. Most of the historic buildings that once stood in this area had roofs over the storefronts to soften the effects of the hot summer sun and protect shoppers from inclement weather. Those types of overhangs have been incorporated into this possible solution. I have also added a brick band at the top of the walls (hard to see at this scale), this was a common territorial style element found on old buildings in this area.

In keeping with the MainStreet theme of Railroading, I thought it would be smart to name this facility to reflect the all important influence the railroad has had on our community, thus I named the facility "Dalies Station".

The parking has also been reconfigured to allow for some landscaping to make it attractive, inviting and lure shoppers in. As shown there would be enough parking for a small restaurant and retail spaces and there is room to expand the parking a little.

For our Visions of Belen we try to look at the best case scenario for our community because we want the best for the people of Belen and if that is what we show it will be what people start to expecting. If you have any comments you want to share you can contact us at the Chamber of Commerce offices on Dailies Ave. or come to our News at Noon lunches every last Thursday of the month at 11:30 am. Check with the Chamber Office for the location, we would love to see you there.