

IT'S BEEN A GREAT FIVE YEARS !
**Blackwell Area Chamber of Commerce
& Industrial Authority**
Shane Frye – Executive Director

WOW! It is amazing to see the things we have accomplished in just five years....and exciting to know more will come in the future!

“Start by doing what is necessary...then move into doing what is possible...then in the near future you may begin to reach the impossible...” St. Francis

Below are highlight accomplishments that the Chamber/BIA were involved in at various levels...from driver's seat direction...to just creating the positive environment.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT...a good start.

- Blackwell now has a better interstate entrance and interchange to the I-35 corridor that brings thousands of visitors to our area...re-work of I-35 Exit 222 Interchange completed.
- Blackwell is now the home to a new \$6 million State Visitor's Center on I-35 welcoming travelers into northern Oklahoma...
- Blackwell now has the first phase completed of a revitalized downtown district with new pedestrian sidewalks and street lighting...hopefully more can be done.
- Blackwell just dedicated a new \$11 million Elementary School facility now filled with students. Bond issue and facility accomplished by joint efforts of Public Schools, Chamber, BIA, and City.
- Improvements to the Doolin Flag Plaza...with permanent planters & landscaping...time for a new LED-type electronic marquee...
- Establishing and funding the OK Centennial Clock plaza at the Top of OK Museum...
- Commitment to restore & preserve the historic Sante Fe Railroad Depot...let's keep the momentum...
- Initial process in developing a multi-purpose community walking/biking trail enhancement...what a wonderful community asset when completed.
- Instrumental in developing a response, coordination and technical assistance behind the scenes directed at proper environmental remediation and clean-up of areas within Blackwell in conjunction with Freeport-McMoran Corp., BIA, City of Blackwell, ODEQ, and EPA. Will aid in solving current and past problems...allowing for future growth and quality of life.

CHAMBER- B.I.A. Facilities improvements -

- Renovation of Chamber/BIA offices, meeting rooms, and restrooms allowing for better staff work space and modern updating for this primary chamber membership & business resource center.
- Three BIA facilities received major renovation and upgrades for better tenant company use...two more will begin soon. Two new industrial buildings constructed...all within the Blackwell Industrial Park.
- BIA property acquisitions of 160 acres for future industrial development expansion needs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT...playing at a higher level.

- Through focused joint team effort finalized settlement agreement worth \$1.9 million on behalf of the Blackwell Industrial Authority...seed money for future impact.
- Through sustained efforts...partnered with ODOT Rail Division to preserve Short-line rail by planning improvements, securing funds, and upgrading rail service operation to serve the Blackwell Industrial Park (BIP).
- Created the most unique Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District within the state = TIF District includes city and county area...good tool to have in the toolbox.
- Recruitment and relocation of the following new businesses = 140 New Jobs!
 - Englobal Engineering & Technical Services
 - G & C Concrete Co.
 - HMT Manufacturing
 - Cool Rush Water and Ice
 - Malibu Trucking
 - Golden Harvest Seed Co.
 - MJ & H Fabrication, Inc.
 - Blackwell Regional Livestock Auction
 - Domino Travel Plaza
 - Higher Class Aviation
- Provided assistance and support allowing retention and expansion to existing businesses = 90 New and Retained Jobs !
 - Great White Energy (formerly A&J Acid)
 - BIPO Mfg.
 - BiState Cotton Producers Cooperative
 - Blackwell Northern Gateway Railroad
 - Best Western Motel
 - Rainsand

- At present...working with three major prospects selecting Blackwell as a best location ...upon final development will create \$150 million in new capital investment and projected to create 250 jobs within the next three years! How's that for "local stimulus".
- Provided support and welcomed new and expanded retail & commercial businesses established including:
 - Gottigo's Pizza
 - Northern OK Payment Services
 - Lucas Lanes
 - IBRH North Clinic (renovation)
 - Pizza One
 - Dollar General
 - Corner Café
 - The Lock Shop
 - Blackwell Counseling Services
 - All About You Salon
 - Shaggy Chic Salon
 - Resu-wreck-tion Auto body
 - CRC & Assoc. Accounting
 - Peep's Mtn. Preschool
 - Taco Mayo (remodel)
 - Glamour Salon
 - TNT Cheer & Gymnastics
 - Curves for Women
 - Anytime Flowers
 - Shepherd's on S. Main St.
 - Loftis & Wetzel (expansion)
 - Shutter Full of Dreams
 - Blackwell Community Outreach
 - Blackwell Tru-Value Hardware

...and many more...

CHAMBER - BIA improved programs and supported partnership efforts:

- Blackwell selected as the Flagship Community for the 2005 Rural Economic Development Initiative for the OK House of Representatives ! Great recognition!
- Two Time Winner of the KOCO – Top Five Communities- On the Road Tour ! Blackwell is on the Map!
- Improved community & public information protocol...to properly address special interest groups, multi-media requests, and protective measures against external risk factors...
- Much improved Governmental relations at the Federal, State, and Local levels...Blackwell now has a better reputation.
- A much improved Leadership Blackwell program...people are getting motivated. Several community improvement projects and larger volunteer base developing.
- Revival of the Chamber Ambassador program...more to come.
- Improved coordination of major special events including Kay Co. Free Fair; Spring Festival; Homecoming activities; OKC Philharmonic Christmas concert; and Independence Day Celebrations...seems like our Chamber is always there working hard.
- Improved Tourism Development Program...now meeting all required Open Meeting-Record Act requirements...a better functioning program serving our area.
- Increases in Chamber membership; revenues; and community leadership initiatives.

- Chamber supported the City of Blackwell's first phase of major improvements at the Public Library, Top of OK Museum, Fairgrounds, school corridors, Electrical system limb removal; water service and wastewater treatment;
- Instrumental in the effort to have Blackwell Industrial Authority dismissed from an environmental plaintiff class-action suit.
Common sense prevailed and the Blackwell Industrial Authority was dismissed.
The volunteer leaders serving on the BIA Board of Trustees and the BIA - Chamber staff endeavored to persevere and deserve recognition for their patience, strategy, and ability to serve the Blackwell community while being a target of false rhetoric, libel, and slander. The BIA has always been committed in providing assistance to the city, state, and federal agencies in redeveloping properties that could remain useful for future economic benefit of our community.

***IMAGINE WHAT WE COULD DO WITH A DEDICATED EFFORT TO DEVELOP A
FORMALLY ADOPTED LONGTERM VISION PLAN FOR BLACKWELL ???***

Blackwell has a bright future with much potential...with an outstanding Industrial Park and geographic location that provides best logistical, transportation, and infrastructure to support growing company needs for the 21st century.

Let us challenge ourselves to set a formal vision that addresses improvements in housing opportunities; better streets and drainage; enhancements to public areas and parks; replacement of aging public infrastructure that includes water distribution, sewer collection, and electrical power, and last, but not least, continued business attraction efforts on all fronts...industrial to retail development.

WE HAVE DONE GREAT THINGS...WE HAVE MORE WORK TO DO !

BELIEVE IN BLACKWELL !