



## **ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT – FEBRUARY 12, 2019**

**Michael Meek, Executive Director**

- 66 NEW LEADS received
  - 25 “still active” prospects as of January 25, 2019.
- SOUTH CASTELL VISIONING PROJECT – Adopted by City Council.
- LOOP 337 WIDENING – kicked off \$43 million project in October. Hunter Industries well underway. Completion estimated for Summer 2020. MPO selects River Road-Loop 337 overpass project as priority. \$9.5 million. Plus signal synchronization project.
- SPARK SBDC Annual Stats for 2018 (fiscal year):
  - 16 business starts
  - 12 business expansions
  - 104 jobs created
  - 46 jobs retained
  - \$4 million in capital investment
- Annual Economic Benchmarks published – 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- Rusty Brockman retired from Chamber effective March 15, 2018. Chester Jenke hired as new Vice President of Economic Development as of February 19, 2018.
- New 70,000 sq. ft. recreation center (Das Rec) opened July 2018. 13,000+ members.
- New website launched May 2018.
- Broadband initiative RFP distributed Spring 2018. 7 proposals received.
- NBIDC receives Economic Excellence Award from TEDC for 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- ASR project via NBU receives long-term lease at airport from FAA
- City and NBIDC purchase 151 acres at Klein Road and FM 1044 for new sports park. NBIDC allocated \$2.5 million for upgrades to two NBISD middle school fields. Project completed.

- NBIDC changes name to NBEDC.
- NBEDC allocates \$260,000 to downtown sidewalk extension from Hill to Academy.
- Veramendi Development permanent road off Loop 337 completed. Builders selected for new home construction to begin by February 2019. 1.5 million sf of commercial space in next sector plan. Includes housing, parks, detention dam.
- Airport Master Plan update completed. To City Council in early 2019.
- Export Analysis completed for New Braunfels by Texas State MBA students. Targets FOI clusters.
- New Braunfels and Comal County #2 in nation for population growth percentage (July 2016-17). City also ranked in top 20 for actual population growth in one year (+6,000).
- TASKUS BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER – Hired first 100 employees by year end and 450 within three years. Utilizing 42,000 sf of Heritage Business Center #1.
- GBRA TO OPEN OFFICES HERE – To house administrative, finance and engineering off Common Street.
- CTTC NETS \$130,086 FROM TWC – for job training on CNC machines
- INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS ACTIVE – Most activity in many years seen by NBEDC staff and local major commercial brokers.
- RIVER MILL – \$100 million capital investment planned. Reata Real Estate. Example of industrial re-use that will revitalize neighborhood. Hotel, apartments, retail, office space.
- SEASONS GROUP – Electronics manufacturer locating to Titan Industrial Park off FM 1101. 200 jobs. 50,000 sf. \$14 million capital investment.
- CALENDARS – 250,000 sf lease in Stream Realty Building. 66 full-time jobs. \$5 million capital investment.
- CITY COMP PLAN – Adopted August 13 by City Council. Voted top Texas plan for 2018. Steering Plan Chair Ron Reaves named Top Public Official in state. Ceremony in Galveston October 18.
- TASKUS BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER – Leased 42,000 sq. ft. at Heritage Business Center for 450 jobs. Incentives approved at City and County.
- KOONTZ CORPORATION – constructed 59,000 sq. ft. of office space – PARKVIEW PLAZA.
- Comal County ranked #2 in population growth (July '16-July '17) in nation (+5.1%)

- Marketing Initiatives

- Pitch Tab – inaugural event drew 100; 7 “pitches”
- October 4 Job Fair – 300 attendees; 30% hire rate
- 22 prospecting missions attended, including missions with state, 10-35 Alliance, and via Team Texas.
- Attended San Antonio Mobility Coalition meetings and events throughout 2018. Meek completed term on SAMCo Executive Committee. Continues on SAMCo Board of Directors.
- Hosted Commercial Brokers Luncheon May 15.
- MD/NB initiative successful. Assisted with recruitment of 5 physicians to date with 33 site visits.
  - Hosted Comal County Medical Society September 4.
- Four EDF Luncheons held plus three Board Socials.
  - Also published Quarterly E-newsletters.
- Advertised in July issue of Site Selection Magazine.
- Staffed NBMA and their monthly luncheons.
- BRE Program featured updated mugs for giveaway at retention visits with local primary employers.
- New Braunfels ranked 3rd in nation for Vet’s Choice of City.
- New Braunfels Top 5 in nation for Millennial, Gen Z, and Gen Z demographic percentage increase of population growth.