



Fiscal Year End Report

Brownsville Haywood County Chamber of Commerce

2016-17 Board of Directors

Joe Barden, Chairman, Barden Construction
D. J. Brewer Chair-elect, Brownsville and Bells Funeral Homes
Clinton Francis, Past Chair, InSouth Bank
Gwen Gavin, City of Brownsville
Sheronda Green, Golden Circle Insurance
Mirian Jones, Supreme Lending
Ray Jones, Boys & Girls Club
Brenda Lonon, Brownsville Housing Authority
Jim McAdams, State Farm Insurance
Lowry Pearson, Food Giant
Jan Prine, Lasco Fittings
Shane Rogers, Treasure Chest
Regen Thornton, First South Bank
Marquis "Q" Tyus, Flex Fitness
Don Tennyson, Self Employed
Beth Wilson, Carl Perkins Advocacy Center

Ex-Officio Members

Allan Sterbinsky, Mayor, Stanton
William Rawls, Mayor, Brownsville
Franklin Smith, Mayor, Haywood County
Larry Livingston, Treasurer, Board of Education
Teresa Russell, Superintendent, Haywood County Schools
Glenn Stoots, Teknor Apex, Chamber Ambassador President

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Economic Development and Growth

- Teknor Apex announced a \$32 million dollar, 200,000 square foot expansion with plans to add 50 new jobs. This was assisted with a \$2 million grant facilitated through the ECD
- Main Street figures show that 12 new businesses have located in downtown Brownsville, adding an additional \$1 million revenue into the tax base.
- We are currently working on a 70-100 room hotel property, one very large retail project on the bypass and have an industrial recruiter scheduled for a visit in August.
- The Chamber's new website has averaged 450-500 unique visits since it went on line in 2016. That means that we're averaging over 6,000 visitors per year, and of those, over 50% are new inquiries.
- The Chamber hosts the operations of Main Street, hold quarterly Industrial Roundtables, quarterly JECDB meetings, and hosts the regular meetings of the Brownsville Haywood County Industrial Board.
- Received a grant from USDA to upgrade our electronic infrastructure. This will include faster WIFI, a 10 computer lab for workforce and skills training, and audio-visual upgrades.
- Brought Celtic Fest to Brownsville
- In 2016, the Chamber hosted 290 business, community and educational meetings in our facilities, and have logged 127 from January to the end of June of this year.
- Attended 30 various conferences, 15 training sessions to promote Brownsville and Haywood County to consultants and ECD professionals
- Helped issue \$15,000 in grants to workforce through Three Star
- Completed Community Vision Analysis with the UT Institute for Industrial Studies and JECDB to qualify for \$50,000 in Asset Enhancement grant funding. The grant is being broken into 3 separate projects, health, marketing and sign wayfinding.
- Instrumental in funding and implementation of the Farmers Market play park through Blue Cross/Blue Shield and KaBoom
- Secured funding for "Made in Haywood" recruitment video and website.

Regional and Community

- Participated in TCED training for State Certified Economic Developer
- Recertified as a Three Star Community, now celebrating two decades of certification
- Implementing Junior Ambassador program to place 2nd year Youth Leadership Students into ex-officio board positions in the community
- Worked with community officials to help facilitate the "Leader in Me" program into the county school system
- Working with the school system and Jackson State Community College to bring a satellite campus to Brownsville
- Haywood County Youth Leadership Graduated 27, and Adult Leadership graduated 9 new community leaders,
- Main Street facilitated the City of Brownsville's Application for a CDBG facade grant to update downtown buildings.
- Supported and promoted Mayor Bill Rawls Healthy Moves Initiative, working with the Agriculture Extension office to place adult exercise equipment at Farmers Market Park.
- Provided Annual Budgets to City of Brownsville and Haywood County
- Facilitated First Annual ECD Governors Rural Task Force, hosted Governor Haslam's Broadband Signing
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