

To Our Investing Partners & Special Guests,

from the President: Brien Starner



This past year (2009-2010) marks a challenging and exciting time for the Blue Springs EDC. As many of us struggle with the effects of the depressed economy, staying optimistic in the midst of this struggle has been an uphill climb. However, I am pleased to report that with your help, the Blue Springs EDC has overcome many obstacles, and we continue to focus on the core strengths of the EDC and Blue Springs in pursuing our mission even in these challenging and exceptional times.

Last year required an unusual level of persistence from staff, your board and our extended team members and allies in advancing our mission successfully. Your EDC forged ahead on multiple fronts to create economic opportunity for Blue Springs which included: the Missouri Innovation Park, meeting with and assisting dozens of our existing businesses on their growth and expansion opportunities, and exploring both near and longer term growth opportunities for Blue Springs. These efforts were undertaken and achieved **ONLY** through the strong support and leadership of your "hands-on" Board of Directors and Advisory Council.

To maximize the EDC's ability to achieve these results they developed and refined the following "task forces" that they lead in order to enhance and extend the efforts of staff with the goal of increasing our focus and efforts on business fundamentals that will boost economic opportunity for Blue Springs.

- **Existing Business Support** - Striving for stability in difficult economic times
- **New Business Development** - Focused on opportunities emerging at the Missouri Innovation Park
- **Business Environment** - Improving or enhancing existing community policies, processes and systems
- **Growth Visioning** - Examining the potential for growth in the "Big Five" geographic segments of Blue Springs (Downtown, Woods Chapel Road Corridor, 7 Hwy, 40 Hwy and Adams Dairy Parkway)
- **Financial/Organizational Sustainability** - Review and make recommendations for potential investment/income opportunities

I'm very fortunate to have the opportunity and privilege to work with and to learn from our Board of Directors and Advisory Council. The Blue Springs EDC's accomplishment of its goals is possible because of the leadership and passionate involvement of these volunteers who lead by example in forging collaboration and partnerships at the local, regional and national levels for the good of Blue Springs.

As we begin a new year of work for the current and new board members, your EDC is embracing a broader focus for growth and business opportunities in Blue Springs. These expanded focus areas include:

- **Missouri Innovation Park** – Continue to build upon an already strong relation with the University of Missouri, to pursue all available funding sources, and to strategically plan for the development of the park.
- **Entrepreneurship & New Business** – Increase existing efforts to reach out and provide assistance to entrepreneurs and new businesses that wish to grow and locate in Blue Springs through forging strategic relationships with small business and entrepreneurial organization and allies who share our vision of partnerships.
- **Light Industrial Park** – With the assistance of our Growth Visioning Task Force, develop a strategy and determine the ideal location for a light industrial park in Blue Springs that will provide larger sites and possibly buildings for our existing businesses in Blue Springs that have outgrown their existing facilities, as well as offering opportunities for attracting new employers.

I hope the excitement and passion shared by your board, Advisory Council and EDC staff is visible and contagious as we invite you to personally explore committees, task forces and other engagement opportunities that will provide even greater benefits to Blue Springs in the coming year. Keep your eyes open for future announcements and news releases regarding these efforts!

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