

BIXBY BREEZE

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Northern Bixby Continues to Flourish

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Northern Bixby has become a fast-growing area for businesses and residents. There are a number of projects in the works this year that will continue to make this the place to live and spend time in Bixby.

Bixby is one of the fastest growing cities in Oklahoma. Rapid residential growth started in the year 2000 in north Bixby and began moving to the south from 101st to 121st. "We were very fortunate to have some high end builders developing our subdivisions with very nice additions. In 2005-2006 our residential began to move a little faster. During the time period between 2000-2011 Bixby's growth jumped from 13,000 to over 22,000 currently moving from the 32nd largest city to 20th in the state," explains Mayor Ray Bowen.

Many have decided to make Northern Bixby home thanks to the shopping, quality of life and education. "Bixby Public Schools has played a very important role in Bixby's residential growth. It is one of the finest school systems in the state and brought us many residents with families," says Bowen.

Commercial growth in the area began to flourish with the establishment of Lowe's in 2002. "In 2008, the SpiritBank Event Center and Regal Plaza were born and our commercial growth again took off to catch up with our residential growth. This development really changed the Bixby community for businesses to locate and thrive. Eight new restaurants opened in Regal Plaza to give our residents many choices. Just in the last three years Bixby has opened up over 22 new restaurants in the north and south. Also, the Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express hotels have given Bixby its first two hotels."



NEW DEVELOPMENTS: Mayor Ray Bowen pauses in front of the future site of Reasor's in Northern Bixby to discuss how the area has trended in growth.

Northern Bixby has a seemingly unnoticeable transition from Tulsa. Bowen says, "I believe having Tulsa as our northern border has brought about a logical pattern from 101st to the south with our residential growth. This process has continued as Bixby growth has continued. The commercial and residential has thrived because of the residential density in this area as well as high traffic which retail loves. The Palazzo Shopping Center, SpiritBank Event Center and Regal Plaza have given Bixby a great destination for shopping, eating, movies, concerts and hotels."

The growth in Northern Bixby has been beneficial for the entire community. "The trend has helped to grow our economy and produce much needed revenue

through sales tax while adding many new jobs in our area." To date, this new development in retail has produced over 300-350 new jobs in the community.

This year will bring a number of new developments in the area. "Reasor's will be constructing a new state-of-the-art grocery complex just south of Lowe's. It will consist of over 75,000 square feet of retail and will include a pharmacy, restaurant, coffee shop, groceries, etc."

Encore on Memorial, a 252 Class A apartment complex will be completed and open in March 2012. "It will be gated with a clubhouse, swimming pool and workout facility as well as many other amenities," says Bowen.

In addition, two very nice developments beginning in 2012 will be announced soon. "I am

very excited to share them with residents so stay tuned."

The rest of Bixby will soon follow with this trend in growth, explains Bowen. "As the North is built out, I believe you will see a normal transition moving south. We only have two or three large pieces of land left on the north side to fill up and the commercial will begin to move to the south and west of 151st and Memorial. I also think residential sub-divisions will continue on the south side of the Arkansas River and as this density is built up you will see the commercial coming with added roof tops and higher traffic counts which is what it takes to drive retail to any area."

For more information about the growth of Bixby, call 918-366-4430 or visit www.bixby.com.