

40-acre industrial park planned

Approximately eight acres remain available

BOB LEWIS | BA LEDGER
September 30, 2008

The Broken Arrow Economic Development Corp., working with local banks and the Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority, is "fast tracking" to develop a new 40-acre industrial park on the north side of Houston Street east of Lynn Lane.

In the latest issue of the organization's *Business Resource Digest* magazine, Narissa Rampey, BAEDC chair, is quoted as saying the new park is adjacent to an existing industrial area and is in the process of being rezoned for heavy industrial use. Occupancy negotiations are in the final stages with six firms representing about 400 retained and new jobs and more than \$20 million in capital investment, Rampey said.

Final design, financing and development plans are also in progress.

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Some of the companies planning to relocate to the park will own their plants, others have chosen to lease facilities from the BAEDC, she said. Approximately eight acres remain available for sale or BAEDC will build to specifications and lease to a qualified tenant.

That land should not remain available long, Rampey believes, since the BAEDC, over the past year, has identified a number of companies seeking to expand in BA that could not find acceptable commercial property.

The BAEDC's strategy is to make the park as "green" as possible with every aspect of development aimed at being Earth-friendly, noted BAEDC President and CEO Mickey Thompson. Being encouraged also is the addition of "safe rooms" in all construction plans to help protect employees from Oklahoma's often unpredictable and violent weather.

"The BAEDC has taken a big step in pursuit of this development and we anticipate additional opportunities will arise for new and existing business growth," Thompson said.

There are 14 industrial park areas in Broken Arrow and most are full or are zoned light industrial.

The BAEDC is a partnership between the business community, city government and Broken Arrow Public Schools. It is governed by a six-member private sector board and operates with staffing assistance from the Broken Arrow Area Chamber of Commerce.

Local businesses interested in securing more information on the facility are asked to contact Deb Marshall, vice president of business retention and expansion at debmarshall@brokenarrowedc.com.