

Newcastle

One of the fastest growing communities statewide



By Jayson Knight
Managing Editor

Economic Development Director for the City of Newcastle is former Newcastle Chamber of Commerce Director Jeannette McNally. She said Newcastle is one of the fastest growing communities in the state right now, and could be growing even faster than projections estimate.

“We are one of the fastest growing cities in Oklahoma right now,” McNally said. “They’re estimating, since the 2010 census, until last year, we have grown at least 29 percent. Last year, we had 178 single-family home building permits. We’ve got approximately 1500 residential lots that have been approved through either planning commission, city council, or both.

“A lot of those are site-ready, some of them are still in the planning stages, but we’ll have 1500 lots available, and that’s not counting the upcoming addition where land has been purchased and they’re in the planning stages now. With growth, there are always challenges. We just purchased land for a wastewater treatment facility. Now, we’re going through the planning process of engineering different sizes of wastewater treatment plants. We have to decide if we need a bigger one now, or wait and make those decisions for longevity. With all this growth that is coming we’re trying to plan ahead as much as possible.” She also talked about the

“They’re estimating, since the 2010 Census, until last year, we have grown at least 29 percent. Last year, we had 178 single-family home building permits.”

Jeannette McNally
City of Newcastle Economic Development Director

city being prepared for new businesses.

“With residential growth, comes commercial growth,” McNally said. “We have a multitude of new commercial buildings that are under construction now, and new parcels of land that have been recently purchased where we will have structures in the future.

“We have a lot more traffic. The city has done a few things to add some additional streets. We’ve also reached out to ODOT to do some studies at some of our intersections to see about stop lights in the future. We’ve added some new safety features down Main Street for crosswalks. We have a lot more kids here, and a lot more traffic. We’re trying to get ahead of the curve when it comes to growth, and look to do things that we can do to be proactive.

“At the five-year mark, they were saying we would be at 21 percent growth, and I think when that 2020 Census comes out, we’re all going to be surprised. I think the number is going to be even higher than 29 percent, just looking back at the

last few years how many home permits we’ve done. Then, we see so many home permits we’ve done, and we know there are so many new additions coming up, that are under construction now. Those permits are just now starting to come in. I think those numbers are going to increase every year, as the land gets developed.”

Newcastle hasn’t just been attracting residents. They’ve also caught the eye of several new businesses, like Thru Tubing, an oil field company, that has purchased land in Newcastle to bring their corporate offices and a manufacturing plant.

“They already had rented some spaces here in Newcastle where their international offices are,” McNally said. “Now, they’ve purchased land and they’re bringing their entire operation here to Newcastle. They employ a lot of people and that will be on Highway 62. We have some other buildings coming up that we know are going to bring in some restaurants, some additional retail, and some much-needed office space.”



-Staff photo by Jayson Knight

A construction worker carries drywall for a project in Newcastle. The city is one of the fastest growing in the state, according to Economic Development Director for the City of Newcastle, Jeannette McNally.