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Have you met your new neighbors? According to the 2013 development update delivered at a Developers Roundtable on Feb. 14, a total of 360 homes with an average value of \$192,000 and an average size of 2,450 square feet were built in Burleson in 2013. The number of homes was up 25 percent over 2012 figures. The average value was up 30 percent compared to 2012.

New homes built in Burleson in the 2000s averaged between \$100,000-\$130,000. Over half of the new homes were over 3,000 square feet, more than twice the percentage seen in 2012.

If you live in the Mistletoe Hill, Shannon Creek, West Bend South, and Hidden Vistas neighborhoods, your neighborhood is one of those actively expanding. The City's development services department is expecting even more in 2014. The projection is for approximately 400 new homes with an average value of \$200,000 plus.

"Home construction isn't anything new to Burleson, but the type of homes being built in the last 12-18 months is trending in the direction we would like to see," Economic Development Manager Justin Bond said.

Homes aren't the only development to change the face of Burleson. The up and comers include LKQ, Chicken E headquarters, Sam's Club, and AxoGen, a bio-tech firm. These projects will add more than \$50 million in non-residential value to the city. There could also be another 260,000 square feet of additional commercial development, including Toyota, Hyundai, Petco, Old Town medical office, Stuart Industries, and Kroger Marketplace.

Homes and buildings aren't the only changes. The City is expanding infrastructure at HighPoint Business Park for additional privately-held industrial developments nearby. At the Feb. 17 council work session, Economic Development Manager Justin Bond talked to council about a Main Street project to brand and spruce up the core of Old Town Burleson. Old Town could also see a college expansion project. Go a little further south, to the intersection of Gardens Boulevard and Johnson Avenue, and you could see a new commercial center there in 2014.

The crystal ball shows the long range improvements, including the extension of Alsbury Boulevard over the railroad tracks out to Hulen Street. This is the first leg of the eventual connection to Hwy. 121. Ellison Street, Main Street, and Renfro Street should see improvements down the road as well.

Staff, the planning and zoning commission and city council have worked together to change the standards for multi-family design to emulate Encore and Dolce Living apartment complexes. Council approved boosting the number of multi-family allowed units per acre from 20 to 24. The designs for Old Town Burleson were also tweaked to restrict the use of metal façades, as well as encourage mixed-use and residential growth in Old Town.