

Debra WIMPEE

Class of 1990

Just about everything Debra Wimpee touches comes up roses – especially an award-winning downtown redevelopment project that’s near and dear to her heart.

This year’s Great Graduate from the Class of 1990 moved to BA in the sixth grade. She and her husband, Glenne, graduated from BAHS together and their three children have followed in their parents’ footsteps.

In 2009 Wimpee launched what was destined to become a diverse business resumé when she opened a boutique store on Main Street. That experience, she says, opened her eyes to the potential of what then was a struggling area and kindled within her a flame that made it virtually impossible not to take a hand in rebuilding The Rose District.

During the four years she owned and operated her store, Wimpee got involved in the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and served on that organization’s board of directors. She continues to serve as an advisory board member of the BA Salvation Army. She created “Turn BA Pink,” a cancer awareness program designed as a tribute to her late mother-in-law, Ruth Wimpee. That undertaking was followed by a dazzling array of highly

successful special events, including the ShamRock the Rose Festival, Street Eats on Main, Summer Solstice, Cinco de la Rosa, Holiday Pop Up Shops and Red, White and Brew.

Many people don’t realize Wimpee has a management company through which she oversees two commercial real estate enterprises. What is well known is her election to the City Council in 2017, and her use of that platform to expand on an earlier venture called BA Buzz to spotlight all the good things she believes people need to know about Broken Arrow.

In recognition of her multitude of accomplishments, Wimpee received a Tulsa 40 Under 40 award, and was named Retailer of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. A Rotarian and active member of The Church at Battle Creek, she has also been named a Paul Harris Fellow, received a Community Organization Best of Broken Arrow award, was honored with a Beacon Award for philanthropy and volunteerism and 2019 Woman in Municipal Government of the Year Finalist.

City Manager Michael Spurgeon calls her “Broken Arrow’s best cheerleader” because of her devotion and tireless efforts on behalf of the city.

