



# RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

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## Randolph County Economic News

There is no doubt that the national, regional and local economies are facing challenging times. Statistics paint a picture of housing slowdown, rising unemployment, credit constraints, soft retail sales, and downsizing of production. Randolph County is experiencing all of these issues. Although we've been spared large-scale layoffs, many of our existing industries are quietly reducing jobs, reducing hours, and delaying expansion plans. Most companies are working hard to stay in business until the economy improves.

On the positive side, several businesses are seeing record demand for product and increased sales. The EDC is proud to share some very positive news about Randolph County's economy and the businesses and people that are finding success.

**Kennametal** has announced a major expansion of its Asheboro operation that will add \$20 million investment and 70 new jobs. Kennametal will produce a new line of very specialized, high tech carbide cutting tools at its Asheboro operation that currently employs 175. The company received incentives from Asheboro, Randolph County and the State of North Carolina for the project. Hiring will begin immediately and the project investment will occur over the next three years. The project will result in \$2.4 million in increased payroll dollars in our county.

**Randolph Moore Custom Seating LLC** has leased a 44,000 square foot facility in Asheboro to expand its operation. The company supplies customized seating to US Army and Air Force bases as well as resorts and cruise lines. The frame shop will remain in Moore County with the upholstered operation expanding to Asheboro. The expansion will double the company's capacity.

**G Force South** has purchased Tex Racing and is relocating its production to Asheboro from Montgomery County. G Force produces transmissions for NASCAR and the purchase will add the rear ends for racecars to its product mix. The acquisition will add 20 new jobs to the Asheboro operation along with equipment and parts inventory. G Force purchased the former Sew Special facility in 2005.

**Brisco Apparel** secured a \$350,000 investment from the NC Rural Center to enhance its operation in Ramseur. The company purchased the former Ramseur Interlock facility in 2006 and expects to add 33 new jobs to its 85 current employees. Brisco Apparel produces specialty active wear with screen-printing, embroidery, and appliqué for sale in retail outlets.

**OFS Brands**, parent company of **Carolina Business Furniture** in Archdale, has purchased Loewenstein Inc. All production will be relocated to the Archdale facility from High Point. Loewenstein was a division of Brown Jordan International, a company that also owns **Lodging by Liberty**. Some Lodging by Liberty jobs had been relocated last year to High Point when Loewenstein secured incentives to relocate from Florida. All of those jobs are returning to the Liberty operation that employs 70 workers today. Lodging by Liberty will continue to operate at its long-time location.

**Randolph Hospital** is opening its new outpatient center and cancer center in the next few weeks. The expanded facility will provide state of the art technologies for treatment and patient services. The 58,000 square foot facility offers the best available services close to home for Randolph County residents.

**Rheem** is doubling office space at its Randleman operation. The company will add 7,000 square feet of additional office space within the existing facility. Rheem is the replacement parts and accessories sales and distribution operation for Rheem air-conditioning and heating and Ruud water heaters. The expansion will be completed in early 2009.

**SouthCorr Packaging** employees are celebrating 5 years with no lost time accidents. The five years represent 653,442 man-hours with over 5 billion square feet produced. Congratulations on an impressive safety record.

**Alumni Works** has located in a portion of the former Laughlin Hosiery Mill facility in Randleman. The family owned company fabricates aluminum railings, fencing, pool enclosures, and some vinyl products. The company then transports and installs the railings and fencing at the customer site. They employ 12 workers.

**Crossway Protective Coatings** has relocated to Level Cross from Greensboro. The company employs 35 and applies protective coatings for industrial and commercial use.

## Farewell and Salute to Don Childers



Randolph County EDC and Randolph County businesses will say farewell to long time outstanding ally and friend Don Childers as he retires on October 1st. Don is the Dean of Business & Industry Services at Randolph Community College. For more than 35 years, Don has committed every day to helping the business and industry of our county to be more successful by delivering the highest quality training programs for new and incumbent workers.

Don was winner of the 2004 Partner in Progress, the highest honor of the EDC. His contribution to the employers and employees across Randolph County is exceptional. Through his tireless efforts, Randolph County companies have improved the quality of their workforce through customized user-friendly training. Equally important, Randolph County residents have improved their income and long-term employment opportunities as they have increased their skills and knowledge.

Don is always cheerful, optimistic, and has a can do attitude. He finds resources when none are available and is the unsung hero for the companies and residents of Randolph County. The EDC salutes Don for his dedication to the people of our community and extends every good wish in his well deserved retirement as he enjoys time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

If you wish to send a note or call, he can be reached at 336.633.0228 or [dnchilders@randolph.edu](mailto:dnchilders@randolph.edu) or PO Box 1009, Asheboro NC 27204. Don, we will miss you.

## Marketing & Other News

**New York Marketing Trip** – Randolph County EDC President Bonnie Renfro and Heather Sauls of the Piedmont Triad Partnership called on real estate and site selection consultants in New York City from September 9-11. The trip is a continuation of the Partnership's program to maintain regular contact with expansion and relocation consulting firms headquartered in key markets throughout the United States and comprised seven direct calls. Observations from the consultants are that many clients are seeking relocations and consolidations to minimize costs and that companies are repositioning their operations to achieve maximum value and efficiency. Financial services, logistics, internet fulfillment, and alternative energy sectors are the most active.

**Commerce Picnic** – Preparations are underway for the annual picnic in Raleigh for our allies at the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Each year the EDC hosts Commerce developers for a picnic at Pullen Park featuring Randolph County food and Seagrove pottery. Invitations will be mailed later this month to our members and elected officials. The NC Dept of Commerce is often the first contact for companies considering North Carolina for business investment and growth.

**Randolph County kudos** – Randolph County was named one of the Top US Counties with outstanding use of technology by the Center for Digital Government. Counties were recognized for innovation and technical progress in the use of technology to deliver services. Randolph County ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in counties under 150,000 in population. The only other NC county recognized was Wake County.



## Partnership News

The Randolph County Partnership is the member organization of the EDC. Partner members are listed on the EDC website, included in existing business & industry directories, and receive services and referrals from the EDC. Please visit the website, [www.rcedc.com](http://www.rcedc.com) for member information. Thanks to the following companies that have renewed their membership with the EDC.

**Thanks to the following members who have renewed their membership:**

### Gold

BB&T  
CommunityOne Bank  
Energizer  
First Bank  
Randolph Electric  
Membership Corporation  
Samet Corporation

### Silver

Chandler Concrete  
EMBARQ  
Goodyear Tire & Rubber  
Klaussner Furniture  
Randolph Hospital  
Randolph Telephone  
RE/MAX Central Realty

## Bronze

Advisors Financial Center, LLP  
Asheboro City Schools  
Automatic Vending Service, Inc.  
AVS Catering  
BJ Con-Sew  
Brubaker & Associates, Inc.  
Commonwealth Hosiery Mills, Inc.  
Euliss Propane Co.  
Express Employment Professionals  
Insurance Associates of the Triad  
J. H. Allen, Inc.  
Kayser-Roth  
Kirkland, Inc.  
Manhattan American Terrazzo Strip  
Meredith Transport, Inc.  
Myrick Construction, Inc.  
North State Communications  
Oliver Rubber Company  
Piedmont Natural Gas

Pugh Lubricants  
Randolph Bank  
Randolph Community College  
Randolph County Schools  
Randolph County Tourism  
Ridge Funeral Home & Cremation  
Shaw Enterprises, LLC  
Shelco, Inc.  
SouthCorr Packaging  
Stan Byrd Realtors  
Stuart Bowman Auto Centre, Inc.  
The John Plant Co.  
The Wooten Company  
Triad Design Group  
Trinity Furniture  
UltraCraft  
United Brass Works, Inc.  
Wayne Thomas Chevrolet- Cadillac

**Check out the EDC website at [www.rcedc.com](http://www.rcedc.com) for member information.**