



RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

A publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

The Heart of North Carolina's Economic Future

November 2012

60 Minutes...The Rest of the Story

60 Minutes aired a profile of Randolph County in late October, with the premise that our community represents the struggle, success, and loss of manufacturing in the US during the last several years. There have been lots of comments about the story, both positive and negative. In the words of the late Paul Harvey, *Now for The Rest of the Story*.

The story shared only part of the story about our community and economy. Certainly we have challenges but our spirit and commitment are strong. Our community is filled with resilient, hard working entrepreneurs. We are bootstrapping our economy upward and proud of our community. You are important voices about Randolph County to your peers and business connections. Please share our county's positive story whenever you get a chance.

Over the last four years, the manufacturing sector has seen significant growth across Asheboro and Randolph County from new and expanding industries:

- 1,391 new jobs announced
- \$272,415,000 in new capital investment
- 2,257,000 square feet of vacant space sold or leased to new users
- 710,000 square feet of new construction for manufacturing

Site Selection Magazine announced that, for the fifth year in a row, the Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) earned a Top 10 national ranking for attracting new industry among similar-sized areas in 2011. Asheboro and Randolph County are included in the three-county MSA.

And the good news doesn't stop there...

Asheboro has been named a **Certified Retirement Community** by the NC Department of Commerce. The award designates communities that offer unprecedented quality of living that is desirable to retirees including demographics, housing, healthcare, leisure and cultural opportunities.

Asheboro and the Piedmont Triad region are home to the **nation's second largest Interstate Highway system**. Completion of Interstates 73 / 74 in Randolph County is scheduled for early 2013, creating an artery linking the Midwest to the southern Atlantic coast.

Randolph Community College is celebrating 50 years of outstanding service in 2012. The college will open a new LEED certified training center in January 2013. The project is funded by a voter approved sales tax to meet capital needs growth of the College.

Asheboro City and Randolph County Schools announced that student graduation rates are now over 80% in the most recent school year. 83% of our graduates plan to seek higher education upon graduation.

The best news of all is that our people are our greatest resource. There are countless individual stories from those who built strong companies and sustain them here as well those who chose our community as the preferred place to live, work, and grow their business. We'll keep sharing those stories and working hard to reinvent, rejuvenate, and renew our economy.

Existing Industry Coordinator Transition

The EDC is saying goodbye next month to our friend and colleague Harry Lane. Harry has done an outstanding job for the last seven years working with our number one customer...the companies that call Randolph County home today. Harry joined the EDC in 2005 and immediately began to provide value added service to business and industry across Randolph County. He has strengthened our program by connecting companies to effective resources and connecting companies to one another. Harry is a valuable contact for our companies and a great ambassador for the EDC. Immediate Past Chair Wayne Thomas said, "A huge thank you to Harry for representing the EDC with impeccable class and professionalism. Your hard work and dedication will be missed."

Harry plans to retire at the end of this year and enjoy time with family and on the golf course. Rumor has it that his wife Brenda has a honey do list if he gets bored. A native of Asheboro, he has really enjoyed reconnecting with friends and colleagues in his work for the EDC. We are going to miss him and his positive outlook and great sense of humor. You can send your own best wishes to Harry at hlane@rcedc.com or 336.626.2233 or PO Box 2001, Asheboro NC 27204.

Kevin Franklin will join the EDC as the new Existing Industry Coordinator at the first of the year. Kevin is currently Town Administrator for the Town of Ramseur, serving in that role for the last six years. As a local government official, he has worked closely with the companies in Ramseur during his years as Town Administrator and he understands the challenges they face and the resources available to help. He is currently coordinator of the NC STEP program in Ramseur, a two-year economic and community development program focused on small towns.

"Kevin is an outstanding choice to continue the important work of supporting our existing industries. He is a talented problem solver and dedicated public servant and a great addition to the EDC team," said Mike Whitehead, EDC Chairman. As a member of the EDC Board for the last two years, Kevin has consistently supported our EDC program and the important role we fill. He will be a valuable member of our team in this new opportunity.

Franklin is a graduate of Bob Jones University and has completed the Municipal Administration Course at the UNC School of Government and is a graduate of the Rural Economic Development Institute at the NC Rural Center. He and his wife Julie have two sons and reside in Ramseur. He is Associate Pastor of the Faith Baptist Church since 1998.

New Business to Business Connection – ManufacturedNC.com

NC manufacturers have a new web based business resource, www.manufacturednc.com. The service is a statewide portal for manufacturing companies to help connect them to potential customers. Designed as a supplier match program specific to manufacturers with a NC presence, the new resource recognizes that 90% of industrial buyers use the internet and that 50% selected suppliers based on internet connections. It is a free service for companies to list their capabilities and specialties so that as someone searches the web for "metal fabricator" or something similar, they can access information on NC companies with these services.

Visit the website to enroll your company and use the searchable database for suppliers. The program is funded by the Industrial Extension Service at NC State University and the NC Rural Center to help North Carolina manufacturers identify and connect with new markets.

Business Announcements

United Furniture Industries is planning an expansion that will add 70 new jobs to its Archdale operation. The company is one of the largest domestic seating manufacturers in the US and has grown its North Carolina workforce to over 1,000 in ten years. The City of Archdale will seek grants to fund sewer extension to service the site. UFI employs 490 workers in Randolph County today.

Hyosung USA announced the closure of their Asheboro wire operation by the end of 2012, displacing 310 workers. Hyosung purchased the former Goodyear wire business in summer 2011 and cited global economic pressure in the decision. Goodyear retained ownership of the property and will work with the EDC in marketing the site to a new user in 2013.

Energizer Holdings announced a global restructuring and rationalization of its household products division to reduce costs and improve efficiencies. Asheboro's battery manufacturing and packaging operations will be retained and battery production will be relocated to Asheboro from the closing of a Missouri plant. There will be some job reduction in Asheboro with initial target of 40 management positions and the consolidation of a warehouse located on Central Avenue. Some packaging function will be outsourced to co-packers. Energizer has operated in Asheboro for more than six decades, producing alkaline batteries.

The former Foley's building and equipment located at 4015 Cheyenne Drive in Archdale will be auctioned on November 28, 2012. The 102,000 square foot facility is located in Archdale Industrial Park with former use in furniture manufacturing and most recently as a wholesale and distribution operation. Visit the EDC website at www.rcedc.com and click on the D-R Building under the real estate link for more building information. For auction information, call Rogers Auction Group at 336-789-2926 or visit www.rogersauctiongroup.com.

Sealy announced in October that it would be acquired by Tempur-Pedic in 2013, pending regulatory approvals. Sealy is the nation's largest mattress company with headquarters in Archdale. They employ approximately 400 employees at the corporate office and manufacturing plant in Randolph County. The companies plan to operate as separate divisions following the merger with complementary product lines.

Automatic Vending Service is being acquired by Canteen, a division of The Compass Group, based in Charlotte. The Asheboro operation will continue to serve regional customers with vending services from the north Asheboro facility. The AVS Catering Service and Banquet Centre was not part of the transaction and will continue to operate the catering, hospitality and office furnishings business at the current location.

Randolph County was well represented at the recent **Rural Partners Forum**, the annual meeting of the NC Rural Center. **Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco** spoke about the changing face of manufacturing, especially in rural areas. Rural manufacturing represents 19.3% of all wages and 20% of the state's gross domestic product. **Faylene Whitaker** of Whittaker Farms talked about the impact of agriculture and agribusiness in Randolph County and rural North Carolina, citing her family's transitions in farming and retail. **Bonnie Renfro** presented information about the Building Reuse Grant program to put vacant buildings back into service by private sector companies. Randolph County has participated in seven projects since 2005, resulting in 437 jobs, \$36 million in tax base, and 995,500 square feet of productive reuse. **The Towns of Ramseur and Liberty** were present, as current participants in the NC STEP (Small Town Economic Prosperity) programs. **Former Speaker Harold Brubaker** was named a Rural Champion for his stalwart support of rural economic development.

Partnership News...

Randolph County Partnership is the member organization of the EDC. Through their dues, our members invest in economic development in Randolph County in marketing, recruitment, existing business and industry services, and industrial product development. Partner members are listed on the EDC website, included in existing business & industry directories, and receive services and referrals from the EDC. **Partnership members are listed below in their billing cycle.**

Please visit the website, www.rcedc.com for member information and click on Development Team.

Thanks to the following companies for renewing their membership with the Randolph County Partnership.

Platinum

First Bank

Gold

CenturyLink

Samet Corporation

Silver

Automatic Vending Service

Carolina Bank

Chandler Concrete Company, Inc.

CommunityOne Bank

Klaussner Furniture

Randolph Telephone

RE/MAX Central Realty

Bronze

Asheboro City Schools

Asheboro Recycling Center

Best Cartage/Best Logistics

Euliss Propane Co.

Express Employment Professionals

Insurance Associates of the Triad

Metals, USA

Oliver Rubber Company, LLC

Personalized Products & Promotions

Petty's Garage

Piedmont Natural Gas

Shelco, Inc.

Stimmel Associates, PA

The John Plant Company

UltraCraft

Wayne Industries, Inc.

193 people like our page and the EDC has **327** friends –Like our page.

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