

Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation
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Megasite Project Update



Twenty-five leaders from Randolph County and Greensboro traveled to Spartanburg on April 17 to visit the BMW plant and to hear from local government, education and economic development officials about the impact of BMW on their community and best practices and lessons experienced along the way. The key message was partnership and teamwork for the good of the community as well as leadership when tough decisions are required. Leadership and commitment from the Governor to local government leaders are essential for success.

BMW located in a rural area on a major highway twenty years ago. Today they employ 8,000 workers and have invested \$8 billion to create a state-of-the-art automotive assembly operation with 5.6 million square feet. The statewide impact is 37,777 jobs and \$16.6 billion in annual economic impact. BMW's presence has been a catalyst for the location of other companies, both suppliers and those attracted by the area's business assets.

BMW forged strong partnerships with the area community colleges which have aligned curriculum to meet BMW certification requirements. The colleges established a BMW scholars program, a two-year community college program that includes part-time work and employee benefits for eligible students. They partner with local school systems from elementary to high school to ensure every student graduates ready for a two or four year college.

Locally, significant progress has created momentum for the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite. Randolph County Commissioners have purchased 255 acres within the site and have scheduled a public hearing for June 1 to consider additional land purchases. The City of Greensboro is moving forward with pre-construction activities to extend water and sewer to the site including design, permitting, and environmental assessment. A public information meeting is planned for June 18 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Providence Grove High School in Randolph County. Marketing plans are underway with branding, logo, and a website to be launched by mid-July. The Megasite team is working tirelessly to ensure the site is "ready to go" for a major manufacturing employer.

NC Senate to Consider Economic Development Legislation

The State's efforts to recruit large companies to NC have been hamstrung since early this year when the Jobs Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program reached its funding cap. Since that time, Governor McCrory has been pushing hard for the General Assembly to take up economic development legislation that would allow NC to compete for large-scale projects – including recruitment of an automobile assembly plant. In March, the NC House approved HB 117, the "NC Competes Act," and referred it to the Senate, which has been considering its own legislation. On May 12, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger announced plans to debate economic development legislation in the Senate chamber. Approval is critical to any large-scale project in Randolph County, including the regional effort to attract an automobile assembly plant to the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite.

Pathways to Prosperity

At an April 14 press conference Dr. Stephen Gainey, Superintendent of Randolph County Schools, Dr. Terry Worrell, Superintendent of Asheboro City Schools, and Dr. Bob Shackelford, President of Randolph Community College, announced a collaborative effort to prepare students for careers in advanced manufacturing. Called Pathways to Prosperity, the initiative will ensure clearly defined instructional pathways in Computer Integrated Machining, Welding Technology, Mechatronics Engineering Technology, and Electrical Systems Technology. Upon program completion, students will have marketable skills for jobs which will be available right here in Randolph County. A copy of the Pathways to Prosperity report is available here: <http://bit.ly/1JlvqQP>.

Business Announcements

Ace/Avant Concrete Construction Company successfully petitioned for a rezoning of the property at 5320 Poole Road in Archdale and subsequently purchased the property. The company plans to eventually relocate its operations to the Poole Road location. Ace/Avant offers a variety of turnkey services including site preparation, foundations, floor slabs, tilt-up walls, paving, concrete repair, joint filling, and polishing. www.aceavant.com

On April 14 **Ambella Home Collection** in Archdale was featured in a Triad Business Journal story about the company's journey to establishing its first U.S.-based manufacturing facility (view the article here: <http://bit.ly/1cvRAel>). On April 16, Ambella held a ribbon cutting for its new facility at 503 Aztec Drive in Archdale where they manufacture high end residential upholstered furniture. www.ambellahome.com

Digger Specialties in Randleman is expanding its facility by 10,000 square feet and pouring concrete for additional outdoor storage. The expansion will house much-needed warehousing space. Headquartered in Indiana, Digger Specialties makes vinyl and aluminum fencing, railing, and columns. www.diggerspecialties.com

Asheboro-based **GARCO, Inc.** was recently acquired by Covanta, a publicly traded company specializing in waste disposal, renewable energy, and waste-to-energy conversion. Now operating as a division of Covanta, GARCO continues to provide a full range of environmental, industrial, and recycling services. www.egarco.com
www.covanta.com

Asheboro-based **Klaussner Home Furnishings** has partnered with Trisha Yearwood – country music star, best-selling cookbook author, and Food Network show host – on a new furniture collection which debuted at the spring High Point Market. The 80-piece collection includes 30 upholstered pieces manufactured by Klaussner in Asheboro. The Yearwood partnership comes on the heels of a successful collaboration with Greensboro artist Bill Mangum which debuted last year. www.klaussner.com

On May 4, Post Holdings completed its \$1.15 billion acquisition of **MOM Brands**. With the acquisition, Post is now the nation's third-leading manufacturer of ready-to-eat cereal. MOM Brands operates a manufacturing facility in north Asheboro. www.mombrands.com

When **PEMMCO Manufacturing** couldn't find sufficient skilled machinists to meet growing production demand, the company contacted Randolph Community College for assistance. PEMMCO and RCC are now working together to develop a registered apprenticeship program to prepare employees for PEMMCO's high-tech work environment. PEMMCO Manufacturing is a precision CNC machining shop which manufactures components for a variety of industries. www.pemmcomfg.com

Plastics Color Corporation has recently completed a wholesale corporate rebranding initiative including the new logo seen here. Based in Illinois, the company also has locations in Asheboro, Los Angeles, and China. Plastics Color Corporation manufactures custom polymer solutions, compounds, colorants, and additive masterbatches for clients around the globe. www.plasticscolor.com



PowerFab in Randleman is growing its operation with an 8,000 square foot expansion to an existing building and construction of another 8,000 square foot building. PowerFab is a division of Wake Forest-based PowerSecure, a publicly traded company which provides energy technologies and services to electric utilities and their large industrial, commercial, institutional and municipal customers. The Randleman facility manufactures package generators and above-ground UL tanks. www.powersecure.com

In April, **Technimark** honored the first six graduates of Technimark University. Randolph Community College served as Technimark's primary partner in this effort to promote professional development opportunities for existing employees. TMU currently offers five degree areas: scientific molding, Lean Six Sigma, management, maintenance/automation, and tooling. Headquartered in Asheboro, Technimark is a global custom plastic injection molding company. www.technimark.com

More Vacant Buildings Filled

Vacant buildings across Randolph County continue to be reoccupied as more companies are experiencing growth. **Metropolitan Warehouse** recently leased and occupied roughly 150,000 square feet of the building at **537 Archdale Boulevard** in Archdale. The remainder of the 220,000 square foot building is occupied by Style Crest.

The former **Carrick Turning Works** property in Trinity has been purchased by High Point-based **Verellen Furniture**. Verellen has begun renovations to the building with plans to relocate to Trinity.

Much of the former **Ramtex building** in Ramseur is now under lease by five different area companies which are utilizing the space for warehousing.

The former **Kinro building** in Liberty is under contract with an existing Randolph County industry which plans to maintain its current facility and add a new production line in the Kinro building. Additional details will be made available in the next newsletter.

EDC News & Announcements

EDC President Bonnie Renfro continues to make megasite-related presentations to boards and civic organizations across the county and region. Recent presentations have been made to the High Point Board of Realtors, the Asheboro Airport Authority, the Asheboro Rotary Club, Mid-State Rotary Club, Liberty Rotary Club and the Archdale/Trinity Chamber of Commerce.

On March 26 the EDC hosted its annual **Planning Retreat**. EDC Board members, elected officials, and other stakeholders were present for a constructive conversation about efforts to prepare Randolph County for the possibility of a large-scale manufacturer such as an auto assembly plant. Discussion targeted three specific areas of preparation: infrastructure, land use planning, and workforce and training.

On April 1, **Bonnie Renfro** served as a judge for the Asheboro City Schools STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) competition.

The **EDC's Product Development Committee** met on April 13. Led by John Grey, the committee continued to focus on greenfield industrial sites by identifying each site's stage of readiness and assessing what elements need to be addressed to ensure maximum marketability.

On April 14, **EDC Existing Business and Industry Coordinator Kevin Franklin** participated in a Business Retention and Expansion workshop in Durham sponsored by the NC Economic Developers Association. Franklin served as a presenter for a session about innovative ways to engage existing industry in recruitment efforts.

The latest in a series of EDC-sponsored **Strategic Infrastructure Forums** was held on April 30 and focused on workforce readiness. The forum featured leaders from Asheboro City Schools, Randolph County Schools, and Randolph Community College sharing information about **Pathways to Prosperity**. This initiative will create advanced manufacturing career pathways from grades 9-14 starting with the 2015-16 school year.

The **EDC Annual meeting** will be held at AVS Banquet Centre on Tuesday, June 23, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Partnership News

The Randolph County Partnership is the member organization of the EDC. Through annual dues, our members invest in economic development in Randolph County by supporting marketing, recruitment, existing business and industry services, and industrial product development. Partner members are listed on the EDC website and included in existing business & industry directories, and they benefit from services and referrals from the EDC. **Partnership members are listed below based on their renewal dates.** For member information please visit www.rcedc.com and click on the Development Team tab.

We appreciate recent Partnership renewals by the following companies:

Diamond

Duke Energy

Silver

Rheem

Bronze

Allen Tate Relocation

Asheboro Nissan, Inc.

Fairfield Inn & Suites

GARCO, Inc.

Hunt Country Components, Inc.

JL Furnishings, East LLC

McKenzie Properties and Investments

PEMMCO Manufacturing

Piedmont Natural Gas

Pugh Funeral Home

Sapona Manufacturing Company, Inc.

The Courier-Tribune

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