

Randolph County Developments

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March 2016

Mega Site Project Update



Thrive in the Heart of North Carolina.

Development of the Greensboro-Randolph Mega Site project remains a top priority for Randolph County and our regional partners, and significant strides have been made in recent months. On January 5, the NC Railroad announced an agreement to purchase 875 acres within the megasite footprint, adding to another 575 acres already owned or optioned by Randolph County and the Greensboro-Randolph Mega Site Foundation. The NC Railroad's announcement is the culmination of over three-and-a-half years of effort to assemble the site. On February 9, another major hurdle was cleared when the Randolph County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the rezoning of the megasite property to heavy industrial conditional district.

The site certification process is well underway and is being completed by site consultants with KPMG, an international tax, consulting, and site selection firm. The goal of certification is to offer verification to prospective clients that any potential barriers to development have been removed and that full build-out can be achieved within 18 months of the site being selected for development. As a part of the consulting contract, KPMG is also providing marketing recommendations to ensure that the site and messaging are presented effectively to international clients. In addition to KPMG's certification process, the megasite leadership team will also pursue site certification through the State of North Carolina's certification program.

The marketing website (www.greensboro-randolphmegasite.com) continues to experience heavy traffic since its launch in September, and we are optimistic that interest will grow as word of the site spreads. The EDC is also actively marketing the site to site selection consultants who provide location services to major companies. In early March, the Randolph County Commissioners approved a contract with the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite Foundation and the NC Railroad to jointly market and develop the site. The six-year contract stipulates that any manufacturing end user create a minimum of 1,750 jobs.

Design and engineering work for utilities and transportation are in the works. Engineering firm HDR, under contract with the City of Greensboro, is continuing to work on plans to bring water and sewer infrastructure to the mega site. The planning process, which will include engineered drawings, permitting, and right-of-way acquisition is expected to conclude in 2017. Using NCDOT standards, the Greensboro-Randolph Mega Site Foundation has secured the services of Zapata LJB to design an interchange on US Hwy 421 to ensure safe and appropriate highway access to the site.

The mega site is continuing to gain outside recognition as a first-class location with great potential to land a large-scale manufacturing facility.

Business News & Announcements

In February, Randolph County was awarded a \$220,000 Building Reuse Grant from the NC Department of Commerce to assist Archdale-based **Ace Avant Concrete Construction Company** with renovation of a vacant building. In January of last year, Ace Avant purchased property on Poole Road in Archdale with plans to relocate a portion of the operation to relieve overcrowding at its headquarters on Seminole Drive. The grant award is part of a \$1.5M project which will create a minimum of 22 new jobs for the company. In business since 1990, Ace Avant is a privately owned specialty subcontractor which performs concrete construction, site grading, site utilities, and specialty concrete work. www.aceavant.com

In January, **AEC Narrow Fabrics**, known locally as Asheboro Elastics, announced plans to downsize its operation and layoff approximately 90 employees from its plant on Yzex Street in Asheboro. According to a letter issued by the company, the decision was necessitated by ongoing financial losses. The company's Park Street location in downtown is not expected to be impacted by the downsizing. AEC Narrow Fabrics manufactures knitted, woven, elastic, and rigid narrow fabrics for a wide variety of industries. www.aecnarrowfabrics.com

Scott Martin has recently been named as plant manager of **Americhem's** facility in Liberty, replacing Jim Huston who was transferred to a company facility in Ohio. Martin is a long-time Americhem employee who most recently served as a process engineer for the company's Concord, NC plant. Americhem manufactures color concentrates and additives for the plastics industry. www.americhem.com

Congratulations to Kim Markham of **Asheboro Recycling Center** for receiving the Citizen of the Year award at the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce annual meeting which was held in January. Markham was recognized for his active involvement in the community, both past and present. Asheboro Recycling is a full service recycling facility and the largest scrap metal processing facility in Randolph County. www.ashebororecycling.com

Carolina Bronze Sculpture in Seagrove has initiated a partnership with the Town of Seagrove by installing the first of several temporary sculpture installations in the center of town. Owners Ed and Melissa Walker hope the installations will further promote a community already known in the arts community as a pottery center. Carolina Bronze is also making plans to create a sculpture garden and half-mile walking trail around a pond on the company's property. The Walkers plan to complete the installation by August of this year and dedicate it in October during the 38th annual Tri-State Sculptors Conference which Carolina Bronze will host jointly with STARworks in Star, NC. Carolina Bronze is a fine arts foundry serving artists, architects, museums, and non-profits throughout the world. www.carolinabronze.com

Kennametal and **The Timken Company** have both been named again among the world's most ethical companies. The rankings, conducted annually by Ethisphere, include 131 companies from 21 countries across five continents. Kennametal has been included in the rankings since 2012, and Timken for six of the past seven years. Kennametal operates a local plant in Asheboro, and Timken's local facility is in Randleman. For a full listing of the Ethisphere rankings, visit <http://worldsmoethicalcompanies.ethisphere.com/honorees/>.

Ramseur-based **Kraftsman Trailers** continues to grow and add production space. In 2014, the company completed a 16,000 square foot expansion to its Ramseur facility. In order to handle continued growth, Kraftsman expanded again in late 2015 by opening a second location in a 133,500 square foot building in Albemarle. Both locations manufacture trailers and also offer sales and service. Kraftsman manufactures and sells a complete line of industrial grade open trailers, ranging from light utility to car haulers to heavy duty equipment trailers. www.kraftsmantrailers.com

Following a year of preparation, **Pallet Plus** recently relocated to property on Trinity Road in Trinity which formerly housed the Gilbert Hardwoods business. The new facility provides Pallet Plus with much-needed space to meet current demand and offers room for future expansion as the business grows. Established in 2006 by Keith Fraley, Pallet Plus supplies pallets, crates, and lumber to meet a wide variety of customer needs. For more information, contact Fraley at 336-887-1810.

2016 marks 25 years of business in Randleman for **Metals USA**. Since its opening, the building has been expanded and a rail spur has been added. The facility now has 80 fulltime employees, not including the employees of Green Lines Transportation which has an on-site presence and provides dedicated transportation services to Metals USA. The Randleman operation is part of the Metals USA Flat Rolled division and primarily processes steel and aluminum coils for a variety of industrial users. www.metalsusa.com

The **Oliver Rubber** facility in Asheboro celebrates 50 years of operation in the community this year. Although ownership has changed hands several times over the past five decades, the facility has remained in continuous operation. Oliver is now owned by Michelin which has continued to reinvest in equipment and facilities to ensure many more years of production. The Asheboro plant manufactures tread rubber for retread truck tires. www.oliverrubber.com

T-shirt maker North by South has tapped Randleman's **Salem Neckwear** to make a pocket t-shirt with the pocket made out of necktie material. North by South sells tees for men and women, and the company's website offers 25 different pocket designs. North by South founder Matt Aronson, a Greensboro native, is the brainchild behind the t-shirt which blends "the laid-back luxury of the South with the cutting-edge class of the North." Salem Neckwear has been manufacturing premium men's neckwear in Randleman since 1946. www.salemneckwear.com www.northbysouthapparel.com

In February, investor-owned electric utility Southern Company agreed to purchase PowerSecure International, parent company of Randleman-based **PowerFab**. Headquartered in Atlanta, Southern Company operates regulated utilities in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida. PowerFab manufactures package generators and above-ground UL tanks at its Randleman facility. www.powersecure.com

Gary Williams, owner of Franklinville-based **Stallion Air**, recently opened **Viking Hose and Fittings** along with several business partners. The store, located at 664 W. Academy Street in Randleman, formally opened in late February. Williams was motivated by a lack of retail options inside of Randolph County for local industry, including Stallion Air, to purchase high quality hydraulic and pneumatic hoses, tubing, and fittings. Stallion Air manufactures high pressure breathing air compressors utilized in emergency services and industrial markets. www.stallionair.com www.vikinghose.com

Stickley Fine Upholstery recently appointed Bob Arsenault as Director of Upholstery and manager of its Archdale production facility. Arsenault also serves as Director of Case Goods for the company and makes frequent visits to Archdale from his office in New York. Stickley's Archdale facility manufactures high-quality upholstered furniture for the residential market. www.stickley.com

In February, Asheboro-based **Technimark** announced the launch of its new healthcare division, **Technimark Healthcare**. The launch follows Technimark's December acquisition of Ci Medical Technologies of Latrobe, Pennsylvania which the company billed as a strategic expansion into the healthcare market. According to a company press release, "The new division expands Technimark's healthcare business by combining its global footprint, technical capabilities and financial resources with Ci Medical's blue-chip customer base and decades of experience in the healthcare market, including product development, scientific molding, contract manufacturing, assembly, packaging and logistics." Randolph County's largest industrial employer, Technimark is a global injection molder servicing healthcare, consumer packaging, and industrial markets. www.technimark.com

In early January, Asheboro-based **J.P. Thomas & Company**, known locally as Thomas Tire, closed on the purchase of the former Goodyear plant located on Pineview Road in north Asheboro. The company has outgrown its downtown location on Cherry Street and plans to relocate after the renovation is completed. Thomas Tire is actively marketing some highly developable outparcels on the former Goodyear property for industrial and commercial use, so future development there is likely. J.P. Thomas & Company owns and operates eight Thomas Tire and Automotive locations as well as East Coast Tires, a tire and wheel distribution facility.

www.thomastire.com www.eastcoasttires.com.

Thomas Built Buses, whose property straddles the municipal boundaries of High Point and Archdale, is celebrating 100 years of business this year. The company began in 1916 as a manufacturer of street cars and has transformed into a leading manufacturer of school buses. This month the company announced plans to add a second shift at its local plant which makes the Saf-T-Liner C2 school bus to meet increased demand. The company anticipates adding about 200 jobs to fully staff this second shift. This announcement comes on the heels of a \$12M expansion completed in June of last year which also added 200 jobs. www.thomasbus.com

We recently learned that **UltraCraft's** parent company, Norcraft, was acquired in May of last year by Fortune Brands Home & Security. Fortune Brands is a publicly traded company which also counts MasterBrand Cabinets among its holdings. Located in Liberty, UltraCraft maintains a thriving business manufacturing kitchen and bathroom cabinetry. www.ultracraft.com

Employees at **Uwharrie Chair Company** in Archdale have purchased the business from the previous owners and relocated the operation to 5873 Parker Street at the corner of Uwharrie Road. Uwharrie Chair Company manufactures high-quality outdoor furniture made either from domestic, pressure treated pine or Premium Uwharrie Polymer made from recycled pre-consumer vinyl. www.uwharriechair.com

Wells Hosiery and Apparel in Asheboro was featured in a recent Triad Business Journal article as the manufacturer of Bootights, a product developed by Chicago entrepreneur Shelby Mason. A combination of socks and tights, Bootights were devised by Mason as an alternative to wearing boots with a pair of socks pulled on top of her tights. According to the article, Bootights have been featured on Oprah and The View and can be purchased at Belk, Dillard's and Zappos.com. The full article can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Wells Hosiery & Apparel is a leading U.S.-based manufacturer of hosiery, seamless wear, and cut-and-sew apparel. www.wellshosiery.com

EDC News & Announcements

Randolph County continues to spearhead a county-wide strategic planning process which commenced in October of last year. Meetings have been well attended with participation by a wide range of citizens and organizations from across the county, including the EDC staff. The planning process, which is expected to wrap up within the next couple of months, is focused on the themes of public health, safety, and well-being.

In November, EDC President **Bonnie Renfro** was appointed by Governor McCrory to serve as a member of the Randolph Community College Board of Trustees. The board is comprised of business and community leaders from across the county and offers direction and oversight to the college.

In November, **Kevin Franklin**, EDC existing business and industry coordinator, traveled to Indianapolis to complete the second week-long session of Oklahoma University's Economic Development Institute. The course is designed to provide professional economic developers with up-to-date knowledge and tools necessary to

succeed in today's constantly changing economic development marketplace. Franklin plans to complete the course with a final session in November of this year.

On December 16, the EDC hosted an **international trade forum** featuring presenters from the Small Business and Technology Development Center, the U.S. Commercial Service, and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. Representatives of seven companies from Randolph, Guilford, and Chatham Counties attended, with at least two of these following up with the EDPNC for additional assistance.

On February 25-26, **Bonnie Renfro** attended the annual Site Selectors Guild which was held this year in Nashville, Tennessee. While the conference offered informative workshops on a variety of topics, Renfro's primary purpose in attending was the one-on-one access to site selection consultants who assist companies in their location decisions. Attending the Guild offered Renfro the opportunity to actively market Randolph County and our sites, including the Greensboro-Randolph Mega Site, to the consultants.

On April 14, the EDC will host an information session on **workbased learning opportunities** in partnership with **Randolph County Schools** and **Asheboro City Schools**. The meeting will be held at 10:00 at the conference center in RCC's CEIC building. The purpose of the session will be to share the mutual benefits of placing students in the work setting to expose them to the workplace and to provide hands-on training so that today's students can gain the skills needed to become tomorrow's workforce here in Randolph County. There are a variety of levels of workbased learning opportunities with which students, schools, and businesses can collaborate including job shadowing, internships (both paid and unpaid), and apprenticeships.

US Hwy 64 Bypass Project

On February 23, NCDOT held a public information meeting at Randolph Community College to provide an update on the US Hwy 64 Bypass Project which is underway in the Asheboro area. The project is an effort to alleviate congestion on Dixie Drive in Asheboro as well as to add a connector to provide better access to the NC Zoo. The bypass will be a four-lane controlled access highway and will total 16.4 miles, including the zoo connector. The project is actively moving forward with right-of-way plans approved in January and construction anticipated to begin in July. NCDOT estimates the total project cost, including right-of-way acquisition, at \$355,644,450. Updated project maps as well as project contact information are available at www.ncdot.gov/projects/asheboro.

EDC Partnership News

Please help us welcome **Dewberry Engineers, Inc.** in Danville, Virginia, joining at the **Platinum Level** and **Triad Heating and Cooling** in Asheboro, joining at the **Bronze Level** as our newest Partnership members.

We also appreciate recent Partnership renewals by the companies listed on the follow page. Among these, a special thanks to **Ace/Avant Concrete Construction Company**, **Brookline Furniture**, **Insurance Associates of the Triad**, and **Metals USA** for increasing their Partnership level this year.

Diamond (\$2,500)

Duke Energy
Technimark

Platinum (\$1,500)

Ace/Avant Concrete Construction Co.

Gold (\$1,000)

First Bank
Samet Corporation
Waste Management

Silver (\$500)

Acme-McCrary Corporation
Bank of North Carolina
Braxton Culler, Inc.
Cherry Bekaert, LLP
ECS Carolinas, LLP
Insurance Associates of the Triad
Metals USA
Sentry Fire Protection
The Timken Company

Bronze+ (\$350)

Brookline Furniture

Bronze (\$250)

Best Cartage/Best Logistics
Chief Express
Elastic Therapy Inc./DJO Global
Engineered Steel Products, LLC
Euliss Propane Company
Four Seasons Furniture
Gavin & Cox
NC Zoological Society
North State Communications
Oliver Rubber Company, LLC
Ready Telecom/Community Web
Summey Engineering Associates, PLLC
Tower Components, Inc.
UltraCraft

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. For member information please visit www.rcedc.com and click on the Development Team tab.

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