

# Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

May 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. On April 13, the NC Railroad closed on the purchase of 630 acres for \$8.5 million. The remaining 230 acres of the railroad's commitment are under contract with sales pending.

The site certification process by KPMG is nearing completion, and certification by the State of North Carolina is under way. 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.

The marketing website ([www.greensboro-randolphmegasite.com](http://www.greensboro-randolphmegasite.com)) continues to experience heavy traffic since its launch in September, and we are optimistic that interest will continue to 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 conjunction with a joint marketing agreement between Randolph County, the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite Foundation and the NC Railroad, EDC president Bonnie Renfro attended a site selection consultant meeting May 10-12 to meet with consultants and promote the megasite and other Randolph County properties.

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 Greensboro-Randolph Mega Site Foundation has also agreed to provide up-front funding for Duke Energy's engineering plan to provide sufficient power to the megasite. Duke Energy will reimburse these project costs when a client commits to locating on 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

On April 19, the NC Department of Labor and the Asheboro-Randolph Chamber of Commerce hosted the annual Safety Awards Luncheon at AVS Banquet Centre. A number of Randolph County manufacturers and local governments were recognized for their safety records, including the **City of Asheboro, Randolph County, Dart Container, Georgia Pacific, Acme-McCrary, Southern Classic Seating, Chandler Concrete, Matlab, United Furniture Industries, Sapona Manufacturing, Sentry Fire Protection, and The Timken Company**. The Courier-Tribune published a complete listing of awards recipients by category which is available [here](#).

Dennis Beaumier was recently named the plant manager of **Dart Container's** Randleman plant. Beaumier replaces long time manager Steve Ridgill who retired from the company in December. Dart's Randleman facility manufactures polystyrene cups and lids under both the Dart and Solo brands. [www.dartcontainer.com](http://www.dartcontainer.com)

Randleman-based **Hughes Furniture** continues its strong growth and has made an offer to purchase the remaining 35 acres of land owned by the EDC in the West Randleman Business Park. The company has expressed interest in constructing a 300,000 square foot distribution center on the site and adding 50 related jobs, 25 of which would be at the new DC. Because of Randolph County's financial interest in the property, a public hearing will be held before the Board of Commissioners at 6:30 p.m. on June 6 to consider the offer. Hughes Furniture is the third-largest manufacturing employer in the county with over 800 employees. The company manufactures upholstered residential furniture. [www.hughesfurniture.com](http://www.hughesfurniture.com)

Asheboro-based **PEMMCO Manufacturing** will host a plant tour and presentation on May 18 as part of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership's mfgNC Connections program. PEMMCO won the inaugural Leadership Award for Workforce Development at NCMEP's mfgCON conference in October of last year. PEMMCO is a precision machining company specializing in CNC machined components. [www.pemmcomfg.com](http://www.pemmcomfg.com)

**Randolph Electric Membership Corporation**, headquartered in Asheboro, took top honors among small employers in the Triad Business Journal's "Triad's Healthiest Employers" competition. The competition ran from August to December of last year, during which time REMC employees lost a collective 250 pounds. REMC serves more than 31,000 consumer members in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham, and Alamance counties. [www.randolphemc.com](http://www.randolphemc.com)

**RubberMill** in Liberty recently wrapped up a comprehensive rebranding process which included updating the company's logo and marketing materials as well as an overhaul of the website. Established in 1985, RubberMill is a privately owned company which manufactures and sources a wide variety of rubber and related products. [www.rubbermill.com](http://www.rubbermill.com)



In March, 11 **Technimark** employees graduated from Technimark University in the program's second class. According to the company website, "Technimark University was created to support the growth of the company, through supporting the professional growth of the Technimark team." Technimark has also begun renovation of a facility in Asheboro for a new R&D center. Based in Asheboro, Technimark is one of the largest independent injection molders in the world, boasting facilities in the US, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the UK, Germany, and China. [www.technimark.com](http://www.technimark.com)

**Teleflex**, parent company of **Arrow International** in Asheboro issued a WARN notice on May 9 providing additional information related to an initial WARN notice issued by the company in May of 2014. According to the May 9 notification, the workforce reduction at the facility is ongoing with an additional 84 jobs impacted between May and July of this year. According to the notification, most of the operations in Asheboro are being transferred to Mexico and Czech Republic. According to a May 8 article in the Courier-Tribune, a company official

stated that most of the transfer of work should be completed by the end of 2017. A full listing of the local positions being eliminated is available [here](#). Arrow International manufactures and packages medical devices in Asheboro. [www.teleflex.com](http://www.teleflex.com)

Southwestern Randolph High School senior Lauren LaPlant was awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship by **The Timken Company** Charitable and Education Fund, Inc. LaPlant's father, Scott LaPlant is the manager of manufacturing at Timken's Randleman plant. The Randleman facility manufactures tapered and cylindrical roller bearings for heavy equipment. [www.timken.com](http://www.timken.com)

## EDC News & Announcements

Following several years of vacancy, the former Roush Racing property in Liberty was purchased by Billy Hardin on December 31 of last year. Portions of the facility are now leased, including a short-term lease by ROUSH CleanTech which has a contract with an area company to convert delivery trucks from fuel to propane. Mr. Hardin is seeking additional tenants for the remainder of the available space.

The March edition of Site Selection Magazine published rankings of the top MSAs of 2015 with respect to facility project investment. The **Greensboro-High Point MSA**, of which Randolph County is a part, tied for 9<sup>th</sup> place among metro areas with populations from 200,000 to 1,000,000. The region reported 31 projects that met or exceeded Site Selection's criteria of at least 20 new jobs, 20,000 square feet of new construction, and \$1 million investment. The full listing is available [here](#).

On March 23 **Kevin Franklin**, EDC existing business and industry coordinate, served as one of four judges for the Asheboro City Schools STEAM competition. Middle and high school students teamed up and were tackled the challenge of designing a product that would improve the experience of athletes, coaches, and/or fans at the upcoming summer Olympic games in Rio.



On April 14, the EDC hosted a **Work-Based Learning Information Session** in partnership with Asheboro City Schools, Randolph County Schools, Uwharrie Charter Academy, and RCC. Representatives from a dozen Randolph County manufacturers were on hand to learn about a variety of ways to engage with schools and students to begin generating a pipeline of future employees. Opportunities include business-to-school interactions (speaking engagements, volunteering through JA, etc.), school-to-business interactions (plant tours, job shadowing, etc.), internships, and apprenticeships.

Businesses learned how these interactions work, who to connect with in the schools, how to engage with a targeted group of students based on course work and interest profiles, and how to share current job openings for students. The feedback was positive, and a follow up meeting will be held in June to specific to apprenticeships.

North Carolina continues to rank at the top of the list of states with a great business climate and corporate project activity as evidenced by the **NC's #1** rank for 2015 (along with Texas) in *Site Selection Magazine's* Prosperity Cup. According to the magazine's May edition which announced the Prosperity Cup winners, the rankings are "based on an index of 10 criteria that measure corporate project and business climate attractiveness." The full article is available [here](#). In addition to the high ranking in the Prosperity Cup, North Carolina ranked third in *Chief Executive Magazine's* 2016 ranking of the Best & Worst States for Business. Five hundred thirteen CEO's were asked to rank states based on criteria such as friendliness of tax and regulatory regime, workforce quality, and living environment. The full listing is available [here](#).

**Randolph County** is finalizing 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. A final draft of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board of Commissioners in a joint meeting with the Steering Committee on May 17 at 6:00 p.m at AVS Banquet Centre. Visit the [plan website](#) for additional information about the process and to access a copy of the Strategic Plan.

On May 10-12, EDC president **Bonnie Renfro** made a marketing trip to Texas to participate in a site selection consultant conference. Attending the conference offered Renfro the opportunity to actively market Randolph County and our sites, including the Greensboro-Randolph Mega Site, to the consultants.

On June 21<sup>st</sup> the EDC will host our **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting** at 8:00 a.m. at the AVS Banquet Centre. Our speaker this year will be Chris Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC). The EDPNC is the private arm of the state's economic development efforts and works in close partnership with the NC Department of Commerce. Chung serves as the first CEO of the recently-created EDPNC and filled the post in January of 2015. Invitations for the Annual Meeting will be sent out in the next few weeks; this is a ticketed event and requires advance registration. For more information contact Lisa Bennett at either [lbennett@rcedc.com](mailto:lbennett@rcedc.com) or 336-626-2233.

## EDC Partnership News

We appreciate recent Partnership renewals by the companies listed below!

### Silver (\$500)

BB&T  
CommunityOne Bank  
The Courier-Tribune

### Bronze (\$250)

Allen Tate Relocation  
Asheboro Nissan, Inc.  
Bank of the Ozarks  
Covanta Environmental Solutions  
Hunt Country Components, Ltd  
JL Furnishings, East LLC  
McKenzie Properties & Investments  
Randolph Medical Associates  
Randolph Packing Co.  
Sapona Manufacturing Co., Inc.

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](http://www.rcedc.com) and click on the Development Team tab.

Randolph County Economic Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 2001 | 145 Worth Street | Asheboro, NC 27204  
336-626-2233 | [www.rcedc.com](http://www.rcedc.com)  
@Randolph\_EDC | [facebook.com/RandolphEDC](https://www.facebook.com/RandolphEDC)

