

# Randolph County Developments

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



*Thrive in the Heart of North Carolina.*

Development of the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite project remains a top priority for Randolph County and our regional partners, and significant strides continue to be made. With a growing list of preliminary items completed, the megasite project team is now focused on infrastructure development and marketing. Great progress has been made with respect to infrastructure. The City of Greensboro is around 90% complete with the design and engineering of the water and sewer infrastructure which will be needed to serve the site. With this phase of the project wrapping up, the next step will be to begin acquiring easements and start with construction. In addition to water and sewer infrastructure, Duke Energy is in the midst of a siting study to determine how to best serve the megasite's projected power needs. An initial public meeting was held July 12 at Southeast Guilford High School to provide information and solicit feedback from area residents (see media reports [here](#) and [here](#)). A second public meeting was held in Climax on September 13, at which time Duke shared information about up to 14 potential routes to bring power to the site. Formal route recommendations are expected to be available sometime in the first quarter of 2017. The final piece of infrastructure planning which is currently in process is for transportation. Using NCDOT standards, the Greensboro-Randolph Mega Site Foundation is funding preliminary evaluation and design of interchanges on US Hwy 421 to ensure safe and appropriate highway access to the site.



*September 13 Duke Energy Siting Study Meeting*

With most major development hurdles cleared and site certification secured, the megasite team is intensely focused on marketing the site. EDC president Bonnie Renfro and a team representing the site spent two days in Atlanta last month meeting with consultants who assist clients in siting large OEM projects. Feedback was positive, and additional marketing trips are being planned. A professional marketing firm has also been retained to assist with product messaging, development of high quality marketing collateral, and implementation of final improvements to the website which is found at [www.greensboro-randolphmegasite.com](http://www.greensboro-randolphmegasite.com).

## Business News & Announcements

In July, the OEKO-TEX Association announced that Asheboro-based **AEC Narrow Fabrics** was awarded the OEKO-TEX Standard 100 certification. According to an [announcement](#) posted on AEC's website, the certification "ensures that AEC narrow fabrics have been tested and are free of harmful levels of more than 300 potentially harmful substances." According to AEC president Charles Adams, the voluntary certification, which was secured for AEC's El Salvador and Honduras manufacturing facilities, "is an important element of our overall quality assurance and product safety programs." AEC Narrow Fabrics manufactures narrow fabrics for a wide variety of applications including the apparel, bedding, medical, and automotive industries. [www.aecnarrowfabrics.com](http://www.aecnarrowfabrics.com)

Mark Woodward, plant manager at **Baker Furniture's** High Point upholstery plant, was promoted in July and now also serves as plant manager of the company's case goods facility in Hildebran, NC. Baker Furniture is a manufacturer of quality residential furniture and is a member of the Kohler family of companies.

[www.bakerfurniture.com](http://www.bakerfurniture.com)

**Carolina Bronze Sculpture** in Seagrove will host portions of this year's Tri-State Sculptors Conference which will take place October 6-9. In addition to sessions designed to meet the specific needs and interests of sculptors and art educators, a keynote address and events at Carolina Bronze on the 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-8:00 p.m. are free and open to the public. Events will include demonstrations and dedication of the new Carolina Bronze Sculpture Garden. Additional information about the conference is available [here](#). Carolina Bronze Sculpture is a fine arts bronze foundry serving artists, architects, museums, and non-profits throughout the world. [www.carolinabronze.com](http://www.carolinabronze.com)

According to building permit reports, **Carolina Frames** in Asheboro will invest around \$230,000 to construct a 10,189 square foot addition to its facility on Green Farm Road. Carolina Frames owner Chris Isom requested rezoning of a portion of the property to accommodate the expansion, and the request was granted by the County Commissioners at the August 1 meeting. According to a statement by Isom recorded in the meeting minutes, the addition will provide additional warehousing space needed due to the company's growth.

On August 29, Archdale-based **Häfele America** hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of its headquarters building. The \$5 million expansion will add 18,000 square feet to the facility which currently stands at 26,000 square feet. In addition to the expansion, the existing structure will be renovated with improvements slated to include a new HVAC system, an open office concept, and new showroom. Construction has commenced and is scheduled to be completed by the fall of next year. Although there are no immediate plans to add jobs in correlation to the expansion, the Triad Business Journal [reports](#) that the expanded facility will have room to house up to 50 more employees and that the company could add as many as 100 new positions in Archdale over a five to ten-year span. The groundbreaking ceremony featured comments by Archdale Mayor Bert Stone and Häfele America president and CEO Paul Smith. Additional media reports about the groundbreaking event can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#). Häfele manufactures and distributes functional hardware and specialty fittings. [www.hafele.com](http://www.hafele.com)



A new business is preparing to open in Trinity's Turnpike Industrial Park. **Prime Syntex** purchased the building at 6980 Pikeview Road in June and final work is being completed to ready the building for production. Prime Syntex will manufacture synthetic filament yarn at the facility and initially plans to hire and train eight fulltime employees. Business owner Ganga Thulahalli selected Trinity for his startup due to its central location, access to suppliers, and available workforce.

This month, Asheboro-based **Safe-T-Works** was among 100 U.S. companies and organizations which participated in a U.S. Department of Commerce Trade Winds forum in Latin America. The purpose of the forum was to help connect participating companies with business opportunities in the region. In addition to servicing clients in NC and across the U.S., Safe-T-Works provides services in the UK, the EU, and Costa Rica, and Safe-T-Works is hoping to further expand into Latin America. Safe-T-Works provides drug and alcohol testing, background screening, US DOT compliance services, and a variety of training programs for clients. [www.safetworksinc.com](http://www.safetworksinc.com)

**Wells Hosiery and Apparel** in Asheboro has made the news twice in the past couple of months. An August 7 [Washington Times article](#) cited Wells as playing a role in the manufacture of training suits used by the U.S. Olympic rowing in Rio. The seamless suits were developed and knitted at the Speizman International Seamless Development Lab in Charlotte, and finished at Wells Hosiery and Apparel in Asheboro. In addition to the Olympic garb, a September 14 [news release](#) cited Wells as the manufacturer of a new hosiery brand called Hipstik

Legwear which will offer low-rise, opaque tights. Developed by a husband and wife team, Hipstik launched on Kickstarter and plans to begin selling product through the company website next month. Wells Hosiery and Apparel is a hosiery, seamless, and cut and sew manufacturer which has operated in Asheboro for nearly forty years. [www.wellshosiery.com](http://www.wellshosiery.com)

## Asheboro Named All America City

The City of Asheboro was one of only ten recipients of this year's All America City Award, an annual recognition conferred by the National Civic League. This year's awards were conferred in June in Denver, with the winning communities showing successfully highlighting efforts to "ensure that all our children are healthy and successful in school and life." Asheboro was selected from among twenty finalists this year with a presentation showcasing the work of the Randolph County Partnership for Children, Communities in Schools of Randolph County "Backpack Pals," and Asheboro High School's "Second Chance Breakfast." A [June 20 article](#) in the Courier Tribune provides additional detail. The recognition is a great honor for Asheboro and the All America City seal is being proudly displayed throughout the city.

## Randolph County and Asheboro Partner on Road Extension

At the July 11 County Board meeting, commissioners approved a request to partner with the City of Asheboro to extend New Century Drive from McDowell Road to Veterans Loop Road. The city and county will participate equally in the cost of constructing the road, which will provide enhanced access to the jail and the county's new 9-1-1 communications center which is under construction, and will also open up over 60 acres for future industrial development. Water, sewer, and power infrastructure are already in place. The county approved an allocation of \$138,282 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund which matches funds already approved by the City of Asheboro for the project. Media coverage in the Courier-Tribune can be accessed [here](#).

## RCC Offering HR Training, Services

Randolph Community College is now an HR Certification Institute Approved Provider which will offer a variety of opportunities for the local HR community. Training and testing programs will be available through RCC's Continuing Education program. Among other offerings, local HR professionals will now be able to sit for the PHR/SPHR exam at RCC, and a prep class for the new aPHR credential will also be offered. For more specific information about the HR services RCC can now offer, contact Debbie Field, Coordinator for Continuing Education Programs, at [dsfield@randolph.edu](mailto:dsfield@randolph.edu) or 336-633-0219.

## Additional EDC News & Announcements

On July 18 the EDC hosted a session to inform area business and industry leaders about upcoming changes to the U.S. DOL's overtime rule. Roughly 30 individuals turned out to hear CAI's Emily Hinesely present an overview of the rule change along with implementation strategies. Among other things, the new rule, which will become effective on December 1 of this year, raises the minimum annual salary threshold of an exempt employee from \$23,660 to \$47,476.



On August 22<sup>nd</sup> Randolph County Schools hosted a CTE Rally at the Randolph County Senior Adults Center in Asheboro. The teachers participated in break-out sessions throughout the day, including a session on workforce

trends presented by the EDC's **Bonnie Renfro** and **Kevin Franklin**. In addition to the break-out sessions, the 80+ Career and Technical Education teachers had the opportunity to meet with business and industry representatives who were on hand to share about the skills and training which will be needed by today's students to pursue a successful career in the manufacturing sector.

EDC Board member **Dave Craven** has been appointed by NC House Speaker Tim Moore to serve on the Economic Development Partnership of NC Board of Directors. The appointment was effective August 25. "I look forward to serving our great state in this capacity," he stated. Craven is VP for Business Development at Fidelity Bank and works out of the Ramseur branch office.

At the end of August, EDC president **Bonnie Renfro** participated in a marketing trip to Atlanta to share information about the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite with site selection consultants, contractors, and allies.

## EDC Partnership News

The EDC is excited to welcome two **new partnership members**: the **North Carolina Railroad Co.** joined at the Diamond level and **Johnson Controls** joined at the Silver level.

We also appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed below.

### Silver (\$500)

Fidelity Bank  
Klaussner Home Furnishings  
Landmark Builders  
McRae Roofing, Inc.  
Randolph Communications  
Randolph Community College  
RE/MAX Central Realty  
RubberMill, Inc.  
S&ME, Inc.  
Thomas Built Buses

### Bronze (\$250)

Advisors Financial Center LLP  
AVS Catering, Inc.  
Brubaker & Associates, Inc.  
Commonwealth Hosiery Mills, Inc.  
Costa Sanders  
Davis Martin Powell & Associates  
Deep River Fabricators, Inc.  
Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP  
Elite Displays & Design Inc.  
James River Equipment Co.  
Manhattan American Terrazzo Strip Company  
PIP Printing of Asheboro  
Randolph Land Development  
Ridge Funeral Home and Cremation Service  
Sapona Plastics, LLC  
Triad Design Group  
Village Printing

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 and 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

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