

Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation
November 2016

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 nearly complete with the design and engineering of the water and sewer infrastructure which will be needed to serve the site, and an application is pending with the Golden LEAF Foundation in an effort to secure funds to assist with the cost of the infrastructure. Additional details are available in an October 18 [article](#) published by the Greensboro News & Record. 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. Two public meetings have already been held to provide information and gather feedback from area residents. 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 Megasite Foundation is funding preliminary evaluation and design of interchanges on US Hwy 421 to ensure safe and appropriate highway access to the site.

With most major development hurdles cleared and site certification secured, the megasite team is intensely focused on marketing the site. In addition to a marketing trip in August, EDC president Bonnie Renfro and a team representing the site are working to schedule future meetings with consultants who assist clients in siting large OEM projects. 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.

Business News & Announcements

Seagrove-based **Chief Express** brought home awards again from the annual NC Trucking Association conference which was held in Asheville. The company was awarded second place Safest Local Fleet in the 0-1,000,000 miles category and honored for Zero Accidents Local Fleet 0-1,000,000 miles. In addition, Chief's David Hilton received the 2016 NCTA Driver of the Year award. Chief Express is a truckload carrier which provides service locally and across a 34-state region. www.chiefexpress.com

Trinity-based **Gary J. Younts Machine Co.** is contemplating an expansion and relocation to another parcel in Trinity near the current facility. The 29 year old business has outgrown its building and is making plans to construct four new 15,000 square foot buildings on 8.68 acres owned by Mr. Younts. The company has requested assistance from the City of Trinity to connect to public sewer which does not yet serve the property. If the sewer need can be effectively addressed, the company will invest an estimated \$4 million to construct the buildings and will create at least 15 new jobs over a two year period, more than doubling the current workforce of 14. Grant applications will be reviewed by the City of Trinity and Randolph County at upcoming meetings. Younts Machine is a job shop which manufactures machined parts for a wide variety of customers.

Method Sourcing Corporation is relocating from NY to Archdale to the former Meredith Transport facility at Interstate Business Park. The company develops, designs, and imports home products for wholesale and direct distribution. They specialize in tabletop, decor, and bedding and supply a diverse group of major brands and retailers such as Peacock Alley, Pottery Barn, and True Value. Owners Steve and Valerie Greenstein and six other employees and their respective families will relocate to the Triad with 28 total jobs expected within five years. Their wholly owned brands Bamboozle, Tiny Footprint, and Flybuster all focus around easy to use and ecofriendly items for the home. Their eco chic flagship line Bamboozle utilizes sustainable bamboo to create dishwasher safe and biodegradable homeware for everyday use.

General Insulation Company opened a facility in Trinity in April. The Trinity plant is one of 53 GIC facilities across the U.S. and Canada, and just the second branch operation in North Carolina as the company seeks to expand its customer base in the state. Asheboro native and industry veteran Tara Hoover has been hired to serve as the general manager of the Trinity branch. Headquartered in Massachusetts, GIC is a fabricator and distributor of insulation and related products including weatherization products, safety products, HVAC accessories, firestop products, and abatement products for commercial, residential, and industrial contractors.
www.generalinsulation.com

We'd like to welcome **Jomel Industries** to Randolph County. Headquartered in New Jersey, Jomel recently opened a facility at 6221 NC Hwy 62 in Trinity. The local facility's primary function is to provide cut and sew services for the bedding industry. Company leadership is pleased with the location and available workforce, and intends to put down roots and grow the business in our community. www.jomel.net

Klaussner Home Furnishings debuted a new William Mangum collection at the recent High Point Market. According to an [article](#) in Furniture Today, this is the fifth licensed Mangum collection offered by Asheboro-based Klaussner. The Simply Urban collection "offers 30 pieces of bedroom, dining and occasional furniture with clean, mid-century-inspired forms." Klaussner manufactures and supplies upholstered furniture, as well as bedroom, dining room, and occasional furniture and memory foam bedding. www.klaussner.com

In other **Klaussner** news, City of Hope's International Home Furnishings Industry (IHFI) group will honor Klaussner CEO Bill Wittenberg with City of Hope's 2017 Spirit of Life Award. The presentation will be made on April 23 at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro. City of Hope is a world leader in cancer and diabetes research and treatment, and the IHFI chapter was founded in 1965 to assist in fundraising. Wittenberg will be honored this year along with Wayfair co-founders Niraj Shah and Steve Conine. Additional information is available in a Furniture Today [article](#) and on City of Hope's [website](#).

On October 21, **Metals USA** celebrated 25 years of operation in Randleman. The company invited community leaders for a tour of the facility followed by a catered meal for guests and employees. Among those in attendance were Congressman Mark Walker, State Representative Pat Hurley, and County Commissioners David Allen, Darrell Frye, and Stan Haywood. Metals USA's Randleman facility is part of the company's flat rolled and non ferrous division which processes and sells coiled and sheet metals. Metals USA is part of the Reliance Steel and Aluminum family of companies. www.metalsusa.com



On October 15, Asheboro's **Oliver Rubber** facility celebrated 50 years of operation in the community. The facility originally opened in 1966 as a Harrelson Rubber plant and was purchased by Oliver in 1982. The celebration included employees and their families, community leaders, and special guests. The Asheboro facility manufacturers retread products for the truck industry. Oliver is part of the Michelin family of companies. Additional detail is available in a corporate [press release](#). www.oliverrubber.com

Petty's Garage in Level Cross is expanding and pursuing new opportunities with a project under consideration that will expand the size and scope of the business and add jobs. The proposed project will expand the manufacturing of automotive parts and provide increased capacity for the custom restorations and modifications, including the OEM aftermarket business, for which Petty's Garage is so well known. The company also has future plans to bring engine building, which is currently outsourced, back to the garage and to establish a classic car dealership on the property. Planned capital investment in the project totals \$2,415,000, and the project would create 17 new fulltime jobs adding to the 33 already employed fulltime at Petty's Garage and the Richard Petty Museum. Petty's Garage has requested state assistance for this project in the form of a Building Reuse Grant to help with the cost of facility renovation and repairs. Randolph County will hold a public hearing on December 5 to consider authorizing the \$170,000 grant request and committing to the \$8,500 local government grant match requirement. Founded in 2008, Petty's Garage is Richard Petty's high performance speed shop which specializes in all high performance upgrades including superchargers, custom projects, and restorations. <http://pettys-garage.com/>

Jeff McNeill was recently promoted to general manager of **SouthCorr Packaging** in Asheboro. An Asheboro native, McNeill is a long-term employee and most recently served as plant manager. Owned by Interstate Paper, SouthCorr Packaging is a corrugating facility which supplies custom order corrugated sheets to customers. www.southcorrpackaging.com

Wright Global Graphics with headquarters in Trinity recently [announced](#) the promotion of Garry Jones to VP of Manufacturing. Jones has been with the company since 1987. Wright Global Graphics provides a wide array of commercial graphics and printing services. www.wrightglobalgraphics.com

Several Randolph County companies were recognized by the Triad Business Journal recently. **J.P. Thomas & Company** in Asheboro ranked #4 among the largest women-owned businesses in the Triad with 149 employees, and High Point's **DARRAN Furniture** came in at #6 on this list with 133 employees. With 79 fulltime employees, **Trinity Furniture** in Trinity was listed as the second largest minority-owned business in the Triad. This year's Fast 50 list included Sophia-based **Engineered Steel Products** at #31 and **J.P. Thomas & Company** at #34.

RCC Receives \$1M Haas Foundation Grant

Following an announcement in May, Randolph Community College was formally awarded a \$1 million grant from the Gene Haas Foundation on October 7. Local officials, students, RCC staff, and industry leaders gathered for the ceremony which included not only the presentation of a check, but also the unveiling of signage for the newly renamed Gene Haas Computer Integrated Machining Institute at RCC. According to Dr. Shackelford, RCC president, "The funds will help us close both the skills gap and the interest gap in Computer-Integrated Machining. We'll close the skills gap by continuing to provide the very best in machining education; and we'll close the interest gap by using some of the funds to expose high school students to the career possibilities in advanced manufacturing." Industry demand for trained machinists consistently exceeds supply, and RCC is committed to helping prepare more students for great careers in advanced manufacturing. For more information about the grant award and naming ceremony, click [here](#) and [here](#) for RCC press releases.



Manufacturing Day 2016

According to its dedicated [website](#), “Manufacturing Day is a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers.” Manufacturing Day officially occurs on the first Friday in October, but Randolph County events took place a week later on October 14. In an effort to help close the manufacturing interest gap and bring awareness of local manufacturing careers, 250 eighth grade students from Randolph County Schools, Asheboro City Schools, Uwharrie Charter Academy, and Montgomery County Schools participated in a day singularly focused on manufacturing. The day began with industry tours with students visiting a manufacturing facility in their region. A number of local manufacturers participated, including PEMMCO Manufacturing, CPP Global, Jaeco Precision, Timken, DARRAN Furniture, Energizer, Klausner, Sapona Plastics, and K-M Machine Company. Following plant tours, students convened at RCC for lunch and a panel discussion of local industry leaders. The day concluded with tours of RCC’s advanced manufacturing program facilities for demonstrations and hands-on activities.

Apprenticeship Randolph Takes Shape

After several years of prodding by Nelson Smith of IV-S Metal Stamping in Archdale, a formal high school apprenticeship program will soon be a reality in Randolph County. Dubbed Apprenticeship Randolph, the program is taking shape with industry support and the guidance of local school systems and RCC. The program will initially focus on the need to fill advanced manufacturing positions in areas such as machining and mechatronics. As of this writing, ten companies have committed to participating in the program. Although there are many details still to finalize, Apprenticeship Randolph will generally be modeled after program information provided by Guilford Apprenticeship Partners. Broadly speaking the scope will be as follows:

- Rising high school seniors meeting eligibility requirements will apply for a limited number of available positions with sponsoring companies.
- Students who successfully complete the application process will begin the program by working through a six-week summer pre-apprenticeship.
- Students who successfully complete the pre-apprenticeship period will be invited to continue as an apprentice through their senior year of high school, splitting the day between school and the workplace.
- In years 2-4 of the program, apprentices will be employed fulltime by the sponsoring company where they will work four days per week and attend RCC tuition-free the fifth day.
- Upon completion, the employee will have a career opportunity, marketable job skills, a journeyman certification, and a two-year college degree with no out of pocket expenses.

For additional details about Apprenticeship Randolph, contact Nancy Cross, Career Technical Education Director for Randolph County Schools, at either 336-318-6062 or ncross@randolph.k12.nc.us.

Reenergizing EDC Committees

The EDC has three volunteer committees – Product Development, Marketing, and Membership – which complement our program of work and provide guidance and community input. While the Product Development Committee is active, we are seeking to reenergize the Marketing and Membership Committees with quarterly meetings beginning in January. The Marketing Committee focuses on ideas to help promote Randolph County as a great place to do business, and the Membership Committee focuses on sustaining and growing our membership role and ensuring that our partners are receiving value from their membership. We are seeking volunteers willing to serve on any of our committees. If you are interested in serving, please contact [Lisa Bennett](#).

Additional EDC News & Announcements

The State of North Carolina again ranked 2nd in the annual business climate rankings published by Site Selection Magazine. Georgia held onto the lead spot for the fourth year in a row. The rankings are based 50% on a survey of site selection consultants in which they rank states by their business-friendly climate, and 50% based on objective data about project information about corporate facility projects. Full rankings and additional details are available in the [article](#).

The EDC was pleased to once again sponsor the annual Elected Officials Picnic which was held on September 28 and hosted by the the City of Trinity at Linbrook Heritage Estate. The event was well attended by state and local officials from across the county. EDC Board Chair **John Gray** delivered comments on behalf of our board, several of whom were in attendance. **Kevin Franklin** represented EDC staff at the event.

On October 19 **Bonnie Renfro**, EDC president, gave a presentation at the NC Institute of Medicine Annual Meeting. Economic Development for a Healthier North Carolina was the program focus. Renfro shared Randolph County initiatives to promote health and wellness aligned with the 2016 county strategic plan and the impact on the local economy and workforce.

All members of the EDC staff attended the Piedmont Triad Partnership's annual State of the Region meeting which was held in Winston-Salem on October 27. Susan Cameron, president and CEO of Reynolds American was the keynote speaker. Following the keynote address was a data-driven review of the economic realities and outlook for the Piedmont Triad Region presented by Ted Abernathy, founder of Economic Leadership, LLC. A copy of Abernathy's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Bonnie Renfro attended the Asheboro-Randolph Chamber of Commerce annual planning retreat over the weekend of October 28. The theme of this year's retreat was "Navigating the Future" with a focus on the County's recently-completed Strategic Plan. The retreat featured presentations by Renfro and other community leaders and resulted in a variety of strategies to make our community an even better place. For a more complete summary of the event, check out Annette Jordan's [article](#) in the Courier-Tribune.

On November 4, **Bonnie Renfro** participated in the Archdale-Trinity Chamber's annual planning retreat. Community partners from the state, county, and city levels provided updates and discussed collaboration with the Chamber and each other. The retreat was held at Black Lake Retreat Center south of Asheboro.

Kevin Franklin has successfully completed coursework for the Oklahoma University Economic Development Institute, a program which provides economic development professionals with the knowledge and tools needed to succeed in today's ever-changing marketplace. OU EDI requires 117 hours of coursework, which Franklin completed over a three-year period. OU EDI is the only professional level program of its type in the U.S. and is designed to align with industry standards established by the International Economic Development Council.

EDC Partnership News

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

Platinum (\$1,500)

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Silver

Chandler Concrete Company

Insurance Associates of the Triad

Bronze (\$250)

Asheboro City Schools

Blue Ridge Geological Services, Inc.

Burge Flower Shop

Chief Express

Datamark Graphics, Inc.

Euliss Propane Company

Express Employment Professionals

Fairfield Inn & Suites

Hampton Inn

IV-S Metal Stamping

Pallet Express

Randolph County School System

Shelco, LLC

Bronze (\$250) continued

Stan Beck Insurance

Stimmel Associates, PA

Supertex/Liberty Industries, Inc.

The John Plant Company

The Wooten Company

Trinity Furniture, Inc.

UltraCraft

United Brass Works, Inc.

Uwharrie Builders

Units Moving & Portable Storage

Wayne Industries

Weaver Cooke/Kirkland

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 and click on the Development Team tab.

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