

Randolph County Developments

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NC Wins 2017 Prosperity Cup

Site Selection Magazine has named North Carolina the winner of its 2017 Prosperity Cup. A big deal in the economic development arena, the award ranks all 50 states annually on business climate and activity. North Carolina also garnered the top spot in 2015 and tied with Texas for the win last year. The criteria used by Site Selection include measures such as the count of new and expanded facilities, total capital investment in new and expanded facilities, total new jobs created, and state tax climate among other measures. The article about North Carolina's win, including a detailed list of the scoring criteria, is available [here](#).

EDC Annual Meeting to be held June 20

The EDC will host our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 20, at 8:00 a.m. at AVS Banquet Centre. Our meeting this year will have a dual focus. First, we will celebrate Bonnie Renfro's retirement and her many years of service to the EDC. Second, Bonnie's retirement announcement has created a positive environment to review our organizational structure and program of work. EDC chairman John Grey and vice chairman Elbert Lassiter will present a preview of opportunities coming to the EDC. EDC Partnership members will receive invitations, but the business community is also welcome. Seating is limited so advanced registration is required. Tickets are \$25 and must be secured by June 12. Please RSVP to Lisa Bennett at either 336-626-2233 or lbennett@rcedc.com

Business News & Announcements

Archdale-based **Ace/Avant Concrete Construction Company** has broken ground on a new headquarters building at 5358 Poole Road in Archdale. The company purchased the property in January of 2015 and has also renovated several buildings on the property. The new two-story structure, which will be visible from I-74 at Cedar Square Road, will feature a design reminiscent of the region's mill heritage. Construction is anticipated to be complete by the first quarter of 2018 at which time the company will relocate from its current facility on Seminole Drive in the Archdale Industrial Park. Ace/Avant is a concrete contractor with expertise in foundations, tilt-up walls, slabs, paving, and grading and utility work. www.aceavant.com

The acquisition of **Acme-McCrary Corporation** by **MAS US Holdings** was made official with a document signing on April 3. The new company, MAS Acme USA, will be housed at the company's production facility on Pritchard Street in Asheboro. MAS will invest \$20 million in equipment and facility renovation in Asheboro and will create at least 133 new jobs while retaining all of Acme's current personnel. In addition to a total of \$300,000 in performance-based grants awarded by Asheboro and Randolph County, MAS was also awarded a \$575,000 performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund. A copy of Governor Cooper's press release is available [here](#). www.acme-mccrary.com www.masholdings.com



Americhem now has a new CEO according to an April 4 [press release](#) issued by the company announcing Matthew Hellstern as CEO. Based in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Americhem has a manufacturing facility in Liberty which manufactures colorants and additives for the plastics industry. www.americhem.com

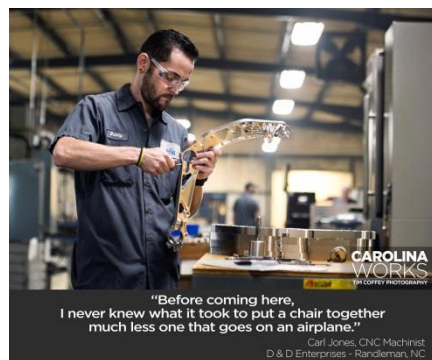
Littlejohn & Co., a Connecticut-based private equity firm, issued a [press release](#) on February 1 announcing the acquisition of Brown Jordan International (BJI), parent company of **Charter Furniture** in Liberty. According to BJI CEO Gene Moriarty, "The Company's low-cost, domestic manufacturing and distribution footprint is a strategic asset and we welcome Littlejohn's expertise and support to help us execute on a number of high-return continuous improvement initiatives to deliver even more value to our customers." Charter Furniture manufactures upholstered furniture for the hospitality industry. www.charterfurniture.com

Asheboro-based **Klaussner Home Furnishings** announced an expansion of its well-received Trisha Yearwood collection at the spring High Point Market. According to [Furniture Today](#), the 35-piece collection called Coming Home includes bedroom, dining, and occasional furniture with "styling [that] combines modern farmhouse with industrial and antique vintage designs." In addition to the new Yearwood collection, Furniture Today [reports](#) that Klaussner also launched a new line of Complete Comfort Control products which incorporates app-based controls into its motion furniture. The Complete Comfort Control app is available for free on IOS and Android devices. Klaussner is a manufacturer of residential and outdoor furniture. www.klaussner.com

Asheboro-based **Sapona Plastics** has been [awarded](#) a \$250,000 Building Reuse Grant from the NC Department of Commerce to assist with renovations of the 91,000 square foot former Luck's warehouse which Sapona purchased in March. All told, the company plans to invest nearly \$3 million, including the property purchase price, to grow the business in Seagrove and Asheboro. In order to secure and retain the funds, Sapona must expend more than \$500,000 in renovation costs and create and retain at least 25 new jobs over a two-year period. Sapona Plastics is an injection molding facility which manufactures a wide variety of products including grill brushes, lip balm tubes, fiber optics products, and many more items. www.saponaplastics.com

SouthCorr Packaging broke ground in April for an expansion at its Asheboro facility. The company made its decision after receiving an offer for local and state performance-based incentives totaling \$465,000. State grant award announcements can be found [here](#) and [here](#). The nearly 50,000 square foot expansion will result in investment of more than \$8 million and creation of 22 new jobs with an average salary of \$36,200. The new portion of the building will house an additional corrugated sheeting operation with some capabilities beyond what the current line can offer. www.southcorr.com

Photographer Tim Coffey has continued his work showcasing Randolph County manufacturers as part of his Carolina Works project celebrating North Carolina manufacturers. His goal is to photograph manufacturers in all 100 counties of the state. In his words, "I want this project to lift people up and feel good about manufacturing in North Carolina. From what I've seen so far, there are some phenomenal manufacturers in Randolph County." Coffey has completed photo shoots at **Elastic Therapy, Inc.** in Asheboro, **Trinity Furniture** in Trinity, **D&D Enterprises** in Level Cross, and **EG Industries** in the Seagrove area, businesses that offer a great representative sample of the county's core industries of textiles, furnishings, machining, and plastics. Photos of these companies are available for viewing on Coffey's [blog](#) as well as on his [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Our March newsletter featured a photo from Elastic Therapy, so here are photos from the other three companies.



Pathways to Prosperity Receives Golden Leaf Grant

Pathways to Prosperity, a collaboration of Randolph Community College, Randolph County Schools, and Asheboro City Schools, recently received a \$960,000 vote of confidence from the Golden Leaf Foundation. A collaborative effort, Pathways to Prosperity is an effort to create a seamless transition from school to the workplace. The grant, which is focused on an advanced manufacturing pathway, will provide funds to upgrade the existing metals program at Randleman High School, and create new metals programs at Asheboro and Eastern Randolph high schools. RCC will also benefit with funds for new equipment and instructors. The required 20% local government match has been committed by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners using a portion of the annual payment from Waste Management for use of the Great Oak Landfill.

Additional EDC News & Announcements

EDC staff continue to participate in marketing trips promoting the community and our sites, including the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite. Kevin Franklin was part of a regional group which paid visits to site selection consultants in Chicago May 1-2. Additional marketing trips are on the calendar in upcoming weeks and months.

The EDC will host a workshop on May 18 titled **“Succession Planning: Developing a Business Exit Strategy.”** The session will be held at RCC from 1:30-3:30 and the public is invited. There is no cost for the event. Subject area experts from the Small Business & Technology Development Center will be the primary presenters. Joining them will be representatives from the NC Budget & Tax Center and Broughton Consulting, LLC. For more information or to register for the workshop, please contact Kevin Franklin at either kfranklin@rcedc.com or 336-626-2233.

EDC Partnership News

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

Diamond (\$2,500)

Duke Energy

Gold (\$1,000)

Waste Management

Silver (\$500)

The Timken Company

Bronze (\$250)

Allen Tate Relocation

Asheboro Nissan

McKenzie Properties & Investments

North State

PEMMCO Manufacturing

Randolph Health Medical Group

Summey Engineering Associates

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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