

Randolph County Developments

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EDC Meeting Outlines Transition, Recognizes RCC and School Systems

The EDC Annual Meeting was held on the morning of June 20 at AVS Banquet Centre in Asheboro. This year's meeting focused primarily on the pending retirement of long-time EDC president Bonnie Renfro and the steps underway to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership. EDC vice chairman Elbert Lassiter announced that Greensboro-based Jorgenson Consulting is under contract to conduct a nationwide [search](#) to fill the vacancy. Lassiter is chairing a local search committee which is working closely with Jorgenson throughout the search process. In addition to the executive search, another local committee, led by EDC Board member John Grey, is reviewing and updating the EDC's bylaws. This review is ongoing, but is anticipated to result in additional representation by elected officials on the EDC Board. The transition on the board is expected to take place in August. We would like to recognize the following EDC Board members who will be retiring after 3 years of service: Dave Craven (Fidelity Bank), John Geib (Duke Energy), Jeff Gerlock (Blue Ridge Geological Services), Kennan Hill (Chief Express), and Steve Foley.

The EDC regularly engages with a variety of partners working hard to advance economic development in Randolph County, and at our Annual Meeting we announce our Partner in Progress award winners. This year the EDC recognized Asheboro City Schools, Randolph County Schools, and Randolph Community College for their successful efforts behind a local Pathways to Prosperity workforce initiative. Because of this collaboration, students across the county can enjoy a seamless pathway from local high schools to postsecondary training at RCC and into great advanced manufacturing careers right here in Randolph County. The Courier-Tribune provided excellent [coverage](#) of the meeting and award.



Renfro Retires, Receives Old North State Award



Bonnie Renfro officially retired from the EDC on June 30 following 22 years of service, 18 of which were as president of the EDC. In recognition for her outstanding contributions to Randolph County and North Carolina, she received The Old North State Award at the EDC's Annual Meeting on June 20. EDC Chairman John Grey presented the award which is issued by the governor and recognizes individuals with 20 or more years of fulltime service to the State of North Carolina.

Although retired, Renfro is providing contracted services on a part time basis as the EDC's interim president, a role which will continue until the search for a new president is completed and a successor is named.

Greensboro-Randolph Megasite Update

The Greensboro-Randolph Megasite team continues to promote the site and prepare for success. On June 22 the City of Greensboro hosted an information meeting at Providence Grove High School and invited area residents who may be impacted by the extension of water and sewer lines to the site. City of Greensboro staff and representatives of HDR – the engineering firm working on the project – were on hand to speak with residents and provide information. Design and engineering work is complete and the city is making plans to begin acquiring rights-of-way so the installation can move forward quickly when a client selects the site.

On June 23 a marketing event was held on the megasite to showcase the site to business development allies including engineers, developers, contractors, brokers, and members of the business recruitment team at the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. Attendees were treated to a site tour, a great meal, and networking opportunities.

In the budget approved late last month, the state included additional incentive consideration under the Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) for “transformative” projects which result in minimum investment of \$4 billion and creation of at least 5,000 jobs. Under the new provision, eligible companies can receive repayment of 100% of state income-tax withholdings for up to 25 years. The Greensboro-Randolph Megasite is among a small handful of NC sites ideally suited to attract a manufacturer of this magnitude.

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 Triad Business Journal [reports](#) that the company plans to invest approximately \$5 million on the new 22,000 square foot headquarters building. Upon completion, the company will relocate all of its employees from its current Seminole Drive facility in Archdale. Ace/Avant is a concrete contractor offering a variety of services including foundations, floor slabs, tilt-up walls, paving, polishing, and grading and utilities. www.aceavant.com

This year **BJ Con-Sew** in Asheboro celebrates its 25th anniversary. Founded in 1992 by Jerry and Barbara Trotter, the business is now in its second generation of ownership and management under the husband and wife team of Todd and Lori Trotter. BJ Con-Sew is primarily a cut and sew business, but also offers services in grommeting, sonic welding, and packing and shipping. www.bjconsew.us

Computer Designs, with a facility in Liberty, is under new ownership and has a new name – **Nelipak Healthcare Packaging**. Nelipak announced the acquisition in an April 3 [press release](#). The release states that “Under the Nelipak Healthcare Packaging brand, Computer Designs will further develop its thermoformed packaging products and service capabilities for the healthcare market.” The Liberty facility will also continue to manufacture thermoformed packaging for a variety of markets outside of the healthcare industry. www.nelipak.com

Construction of **Häfele America Company’s** expanded headquarters building in Archdale is on schedule and should be complete by September according to CEO Paul Smith as quoted in the [Triad Business Journal](#). The addition is finished and the contractor is currently renovating the existing space as part of the \$5 million project. When complete, the new HQ will have the capacity to house more than 200 employees. Häfele America serves customers and distributes furniture and architectural hardware from its Archdale campus. www.hafele.com

IV-S Metal Stamping now has a new name – **Speed Metal Fabrication Corporation**. The company began transitioning to new ownership in May of last year and is now under the full ownership of Hangzhou China-based

CJK Enterprise. The new name is a rebranding by the new ownership, but employees and commitment to quality remain unchanged. Situated on the Archdale/High Point boundary, Speed Metal Fabrication is a full service metal stamping, roll forming, tube bending, and fabrication provider.

The EDC welcomes **Piedmont Custom Meats** to Asheboro. PCM recently acquired the former Yates Ham facility in Asheboro to expand its operations and production capacity. Headquartered in Caswell County, PCM is a USDA-inspected slaughter and processing plant that offers slaughter, fabrication, custom cutting, and packaging for a variety of meats. Due to increased demand, the company plans to open an additional cutting and packaging plant at the Asheboro location. The former Yates building has been vacant for several years, and PCM anticipates investing just over \$4 million to upfit and equip the facility. The company anticipates creating a minimum of 40 new jobs in Asheboro and hopes to be open by the end of the year. www.piedmontcustommeats.com

Post Consumer Brands' Asheboro facility is the company's sole producer of Oreo O's cereal which have recently been reintroduced and will be available nationally by January. According to the [Triad Business Journal](#), the cereal was last produced in 2007. With new specialized equipment, the Asheboro facility was well-equipped to manufacture the cereal which utilizes real Oreo cookie crumbs in the production process. Oreo O's are just one of several new cereals being manufactured in Asheboro including "Malt-O-Meal Chocolatey Chip Cookie Bites, Post Honey Oh's, three new Post Shredded Wheat varieties (Cinnamon Roll, Berry, and S'Mores), and three flavors of new Post Great Grains hot cereals (plain, maple brown, and blueberry)." www.postconsumerbrands.com

On June 29, DS Smith Plc [announced](#) that it will acquire 80% of Indevco Management Resources Inc. which holds the equity in Interstate Resources, parent company of **SouthCorr Packaging** in Asheboro. Headquartered in London, DS Smith has 26,000 employees in 37 countries and specializes in corrugated and specialized plastic packaging. SouthCorr is a manufacturer of corrugated sheeting and is currently constructing an addition to its facility. www.southcorr.com

Trinity-based **Wright Global Graphics** has expanded its operations in China according to a June 2nd [article](#) in Furniture Today. The new 32,000 square foot facility more than doubles the amount of space previously occupied by the company. The expansion allows the company to increase its capacity and broaden its services. Wright Global Graphics offers its customers graphic solutions including printing and label manufacturing. www.wrightglobalgraphics.com

Pathways to Prosperity Receives Golden Leaf Grant

On July 13, the Golden LEAF Foundation awarded Randolph Community College a grant for \$960,000 for the Pathways to Prosperity advanced manufacturing initiative. A collaborative effort including RCC and both local school systems, Pathways to Prosperity is an effort to create a seamless transition from school to the workplace. The grant will provide funds to upgrade the existing metals program at Randleman High School, and create new 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.



Apprenticeship Randolph Up and Running

[Apprenticeship Randolph](#) continues making positive strides in its inaugural year. The twelve Apprenticeship Companies received applications from 44 high schools students, eventually inviting 18 students to participate in a seven-week summer pre-apprenticeship program while also taking two related courses at RCC. The Courier Tribune detailed the program and its participants in a June 16 [article](#). Students successfully completing the pre-apprenticeship will be invited by the employers to become the first official cohort of apprentices in the program. A program and formal signing ceremony is being planned for early August. Students in the program will then split time evenly between the workplace and school as they complete high school. Years two through four will see apprentices spending 80% of the work week at their place of employment and the remaining 20% earning a manufacturing technology degree from RCC.

EDC Partnership News

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

Diamond (\$2,500)

JL Darr & Son, Inc.
NC Railroad Company

Platinum (\$1,500)

Post Consumer Brands
Timmons Group

Silver (\$500)

BB&T

Bronze (\$250)

Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce
BJ Con-Sew, Inc.
Covanta Environmental Solutions
Davis-Martin-Powell Associates
Engineered Steel Products, LLC
Hunt Country Components, Ltd
JL Furnishings, East LLC
Powder Works, Inc.
Pugh Funeral Home
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 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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