

Randolph County Developments

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EDC Annual Meeting Highlights Apprenticeship Randolph

On June 19, the EDC hosted its 33rd Annual Meeting at AVS Banquet Centre in Asheboro. The theme of this year's meeting was [Apprenticeship Randolph](#), a new program which pairs high school students with local manufacturers seeking to grow their own workforce in this time of worker shortages and low unemployment rates. The keynote speaker of the morning was Chris Harrington, director of operations at Asheboro-based Elastic Therapy, Inc. Harrington shared an overview of the apprenticeship program and offered insight about the value of the program from the perspective of an Apprenticeship Randolph partner employer. He concluded his presentation by recognizing partner companies and organizations whose collaboration resulted in a successful inaugural year. A digital copy of Harrington's slide deck is available by contacting the EDC. Following the keynote address, Jonathan Mroczkowski, a current student apprentice at Jaeco Precision, shared some brief thoughts about the opportunities being afforded to him through Apprenticeship Randolph.



Each year, the EDC confers the Partner in Progress award to an individual or organization that promotes and supports the work of economic development in Randolph County. In keeping with the program theme, this year's award recipient was Nancy Cross, Director of Career Technical Education for Randolph County Schools. Cross took the urging of a local business leader to heart and worked tirelessly to coordinate the creation of a youth apprenticeship program in Randolph County. She was recognized for her leadership, dedication, vision, collaboration, organization, and determination to take Apprenticeship Randolph from idea to reality. The award was presented by EDC Board Chairman Elbert Lassiter.



Randleman Chamber Recognizes Local Businesses

On May 22nd, at its 70th anniversary Annual Meeting, the Randleman Chamber of Commerce recognized several Randleman-area businesses, including four manufacturers. **Hughes Furniture Industries** received the John Banner Randleman Award, recognizing the qualities exemplified by the city's founding father. Hughes Furniture manufactures upholstered residential furniture out of facilities in Randleman and Asheboro. **Rheem's** replacements parts distribution facility was honored as Randleman's Industry of the Year. The Chamber also recognized **Commonwealth Hosiery Mills** and **United Brass Works** with the Centennial Plus award, given in honor of their community leadership and success in sustaining their businesses through the decades despite challenges such as economic downturns.

Business News & Announcements

A May 21 [article](#) in the Triad Business Journal reported that Archdale-based **Fixxus Industrial Holdings** is growing and expecting to double its current workforce of 42 in a year's time. The growth is coming on the heels of new financial backing, a result of the Warren Equity Partners acquisition of Fixxus parent company Superior Industrial Maintenance Company. Formerly known as Crossway Coatings, Fixxus is a specialty coatings contractor which applies USDA-approved coatings in food-grade facilities. Fixxus provides its services nationwide to a wide variety of food-processing clients. www.fixxus.com

Jomel Industries has promoted two new executives according to a June 7 [article](#) in Bed Times Magazine. Bill Smith now serves as president of Jomel Industries and Lila Walker is now president of Jomel Seams Reasonable, a division of Jomel Industries. Walker's role includes responsibility for three Jomel Seams Reasonable facilities including one in Trinity. Jomel Seams Reasonable is a cut and sew company which supplies the bedding industry. www.jomel.net



Asheboro-based **PEMMCO Manufacturing** was one of thirty-three companies recognized at the recent Honda Power Equipment Supplier Conference which was held in Greensboro. According to a Honda [press release](#), the Swepsonville, NC Honda Power Equipment facility was serviced by 170 OEM suppliers in 2017. Suppliers were recognized for outstanding achievement in the areas of quality and delivery. PEMMCO was one of thirteen companies to receive an Excellence in Delivery award recognizing the strong track record of on-time deliveries. PEMMCO is a precision CNC machining facility offering CNC milling, CNC turning, and assembly work for a variety of industry sectors. www.pemmcomfg.com

On June 1, **StarPet** in Asheboro celebrated fifteen years of collaboration with its parent company, Thailand-based Indorama Ventures. The event, which was [covered](#) by the Courier-Tribune, featured speeches by corporate leadership who touted the quality personnel at StarPet as those who are responsible for the company's competitive advantage. The celebration concluded with the company's annual safety and attendance award ceremony. StarPet manufactures polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a polymer which is used to manufacture products such as water bottles, juice containers, and other similar items. www.indoramaventures.com

The Dart Foundation made two recent grant awards in Randolph County according to articles in the Courier-Tribune. Although separate from **Dart Container Corporation** which operates a production facility in Randleman, both organizations were founded by William Dart and eligibility for Dart Foundation grants requires proximity to a Dart production operation. The Randolph Community College Foundation was [awarded](#) \$100,395 for purchase of a coordinated measuring machine and a certification cart, items which will serve the advanced manufacturing programs at RCC. In addition to RCC, the Randolph County School System received a grant [award](#) of \$49,765 which will fund the purchase of Chromebooks for four schools. The Randleman Dart facility manufactures plastic cups, lids, and other similar single-use containers. www.dartcontainer.com

Ernie Green Industries has announced a potential investment at its Seagrove facility which could lead to the creation of 12 new jobs. Made public at the June meeting of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, the proposed project to install additional clean room space would result in investment of approximately \$240,000. EGI has solicited grant assistance from the state for the project and initial review is pending at the state level. Headquartered in Columbus, OH, EGI is a global plastic injection molding company which manufactures both industrial goods and medical devices. www.egindustries.com

In June, Asheboro-based **Klaussner Home Furnishings** announced a new outdoor furniture line in a successful ongoing collaboration with artist William Mangum. The collection is named Urban Retreat and is part of Mangum's Carolina Preserves collection, according to an [article](#) in Furniture Today. The Urban Retreat collection was showcased at the ICFA Preview Show which was held in Chicago July 17-19. Klaussner manufactures upholstered furniture for residential use. www.klaussner.com

A July 7 article in the Courier-Tribune [reports](#) that **Oliver Rubber's** Asheboro plant has been recognized with a Safety and Health and Improvement Program (SHIP) award by the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association. A wholly owned subsidiary of Michelin North America, Oliver Rubber was one of four U.S. Michelin plants to receive the SHIP award. Classified as a USTMA Excellence Award, the SHIP award "is presented to facilities that receive a 'Days Away Restricted and Transfers' (DART) rate that is 75 percent better than the average achieved by other USTMA plants." Plant manager Steve Scruggs credited the recognition to the hard work and dedication of the Oliver Rubber employees.

EDC News & Announcements

The EDC announced a new slate of officers and welcomed new Board members at June's Annual Meeting. The new slate of officers for the 2018-19 year is Chairman Clyde Phillips with James River Equipment, Vice Chairman Billy Hardin with UNITS Storage, Past Chairman Elbert Lassiter with RCC, and Secretary/Treasurer Dave Craven with Fidelity Bank. Four Board members were acknowledged for their service as their terms ended: John Grey, Chris Lackey, Nelson Smith, and Eric Ward. New Board members Bob Crumley with Crumley Commercial, Carlos Dias with Technimark, Todd Schwarz with Schwarz Properties, and Donald Simmons with Magnolia 23 restaurant.

On May 23, Sprouse participated in a legislative day in Raleigh hosted by the North Carolina Economic Development Association (NCEDA), a professional organization dedicated to improving the business climate in North Carolina in order to better position the state for expansion and corporate location decisions. The participants met with local lawmakers to promote the organization's [legislative priorities](#).

At the end of May, Sprouse and several other economic development partners spent three days in Chicago meeting with site selection consultants to promote Randolph County and the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite. Over the next couple of months, Sprouse has additional marketing trips planned to Michigan, Atlanta, and Philadelphia.

Sprouse, Franklin, and EDC marketing manager Lisa Bennett participated in the NCEDA's annual professional development conference at Wrightsville Beach in mid-June. Sessions included updates from NC Commerce, NCDOT, and the EDPNC; helpful tips on marketing; panel discussions on transportation and Opportunity Zones; and an introduction to foreign trade and investment directors representing North Carolina in Japan, China, and South Korea.

On July 11, Franklin coordinated industry visits in Trinity to introduce business leaders to congressional field representatives from the offices of Congressman Walker and Senators Burr and Tillis. Trinity Mayor Jesse Hill and city manager Debbie Hinson also participated. The team visited Elite Displays & Design, Ennis-Flint, Jowat, Trinity Furniture, and Verellen Furniture.

Sprouse attended the [Energizing Rural NC](#) conference in Pinehurst on July 12-13. Sponsored by the EDPNC, the event was an effort to raise awareness and inspire actionable strategies for rural economic development, with a special focus on the building blocks of infrastructure, workforce, education, health, and leadership.

EDC Partnership News

The EDC is pleased to welcome **Draper Aden Associates** as our newest Partnership member, joining at the Bronze level. With offices across North Carolina and Virginia, DAA is a full service engineering firm which provides civil, environmental, geotechnical, solid waste, and structural engineering; site planning and engineering; and construction inspection services throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. www.daa.com

We greatly appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed below. We currently have 114 private sector members and would welcome new partners. Please direct membership inquiries to Lisa Bennett at 336-626-2233 or lbennett@rcedc.com.

Diamond (\$2,500)

J L Darr & Son, Inc.
North Carolina Railroad

Platinum (\$1,500)

Ace/Avant Concrete Construction, Inc.
Post Consumer Brands
Timmons Group

Silver (\$500)

ECS Carolinas LLP
Rheem Sales Company

Bronze (\$250)

Allen Tate Relocation
Asheboro Nissan
Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce
BJ ConSew, Inc.
Covanta Environmental Solutions
Engineered Steel Products, LLC
McKenzie Properties & Investments
PEMMCO Mfg.
Powder Works, Inc.
Pugh Funeral Home
Ralph's Frame Shop
Sapona Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank

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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