

Randolph County Developments

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17 New Students Signed for Apprenticeship Randolph

After a successful inaugural year for Apprenticeship Randolph, 17 students were signed on August 9 for the second year of the program. The signing ceremony was the culmination of months of preparation including school information sessions, company open houses, applications, and a summer pre-apprenticeship program. This year's apprenticeship cohort comes from Asheboro City Schools, the Randolph County School System, Uwharrie Charter Academy and homeschool. Upon completion of the four-year program, apprentices will have marketable job skills, workplace experience, a journeyman certificate, a degree



in manufacturing technology from RCC, and significant earning potential. Accepting new apprentices this year are Allen Machine & Fabrication, DS Smith, EG Industries, Elastic Therapy, Energizer, Hubbell, MAS Acme, PEMMCO Manufacturing, Post Consumer Brands, Sapona Plastics, and Technimark. In total, there are now 31 apprentices in the program including the 14 students who successfully completed the first year of the program. For more information about the program, visit the Apprenticeship Randolph [website](#).

EDC Staff Assists Businesses with Grant Applications

With the assistance of EDC staff, applications were recently submitted to NC Commerce requesting Building Reuse Grant funding to assist five Randolph County manufacturers with expansion plans. Scattered across the county, these growing businesses are **Liberty Trailers (doing business as Ferree Trailers)** in Liberty, **Ambella Home Collection** in Archdale, **Trinity Furniture** in Trinity, **PEMMCO Manufacturing** in Asheboro, and **FPE NC (doing business as Ernie Green Industries)** in Seagrove. Preparation and submission of the applications required the EDC to coordinate with the business management teams, the Economic Development Partnership of NC, NC Commerce, and the local government officials who formally approved the funding applications. The combined grant requests total \$815,000 based on company commitments to create 79 new fulltime jobs and invest at least \$4,790,000. Grant award announcements are scheduled for October 18. A more detailed description of each project can be found in the **Business News & Announcements** section of this newsletter.

Business News & Announcements

Several Randolph County manufacturers and distributors have recently been recognized by the Triad Business Journal in several areas. This year's [Fast 50](#) list of the fastest growing companies in the Triad includes [Alumiworks](#) in Randleman, [Engineered Steel Products](#) in Sophia, and [PEMMCO Manufacturing](#) in Asheboro. Trinity-based [Trinity Furniture](#) finds itself atop of this year's list of the [Largest Triad Minority-Owned Businesses](#). Last, but not least, two Randolph businesses are in the top five [Largest Triad Women-Owned Businesses](#) with [J.P. Thomas & Co.](#) coming in at #2 and [DARRAN Furniture](#) at #5.



Ambella Home Collection is eyeing an expansion in Archdale. The Texas-based company opened its Archdale production facility in 2014 to manufacture upholstered furniture. Ambella is now bursting at the seams and employs 48 highly-skilled workers. To accommodate growth, Ambella has secured an option to purchase the former Carson's Hospitality building, also in Archdale. At 114,000 square feet, the Carson's building is twice the size of Ambella's current facility. Ambella anticipates an October closing date, and plans to invest over \$400,000 to renovate the building. The additional space will accommodate the company's plans to create at least twelve new fulltime jobs over the next two years. The City of Archdale has submitted a Building Reuse Grant application to NC Commerce, requesting \$150,000 to assist the company with renovations. *Ambella is a wholesaler of high-quality home furnishings to furniture retailers and the design community.* www.ambellahome.com



On August 14, Pexco LLC [announced](#) the acquisition of **Custom Extrusion, Inc.** which is based in Massachusetts and has a facility in Asheboro. Headquartered in Atlanta, Pexco is a specialty plastics extruder with plants in the U.S. and Mexico. Pexco is, in turn, owned by AEA Investors, a global private equity group. Asheboro's Custom Extrusion facility is now operating as a division of Pexco. *Custom Extrusion is a custom thermoplastic extruder providing components to a variety of industrial market segments.* www.pexco.com



Ernie Green Industries will invest at least \$240,000 to install a new clean room in Plant 1 on its Seagroves campus, enhancing the company's medical device manufacturing capacity. The new clean room is necessitated by growing orders from Advanced Animal Diagnostics (AAD) in Morrisville which offers livestock producers rapid, on-farm diagnostics. Although primarily dedicated to AAD, the clean room will have additional production capacity for other customers. EGI is shifting its production focus from industrial products to medical devices, and the new clean room will move the facility another step in that direction. EGI is committed to creation of 12 fulltime jobs directly associated with the new business which will be generated by production in the new clean room. To assist, Randolph County has submitted a funding applicant requesting \$60,000 from NC Commerce's Building Reuse Grant program. *EGI is a plastic injection molding company with headquarters in Ohio.* www.egindustries.com

The owners of **Ferree Trailers** plan to add 52,000 square feet to their Liberty facility, doubling production space. Established locally in 1949, the company was acquired in 2014 by Talbert Manufacturing based in Rensselaer, Indiana. The acquisition was a positive move for Talbert, adding a new market, expanding manufacturing capabilities, and adding an East Coast distribution center to the growing business. Continued increase in demand has necessitated the Liberty expansion which will allow paint and finishing to transition to the new building, increase weld-out capacity in the current structure, and streamlining overall production flow. Talbert anticipates investing \$2.5 million in new construction and \$700,000 in equipment, and adding 24 new fulltime jobs in addition to the 30 current employees. Randolph County has submitted an NC Commerce Building Reuse Grant requesting \$300,000 to assist with expansion costs. *Ferree Trailers and Talbert Manufacturing produce flatbed and gooseneck trailers for logging, equipment hauling, etc.* www.ferreetrailers.com www.talbertmfg.com



On July 18, **Klaussner Home Furnishings** was among nine home furnishings companies honored at the Home Furnishings Manufacturing Solutions Expo in Greenville, South Carolina. According to an [article](#) in *Furniture Today*, Asheboro-based Klaussner was the honoree for Operational Excellence for demonstrating "an ongoing commitment to domestic manufacturing through investments in operational efficiency." *Klaussner is a manufacturer of upholstered residential furniture.*

www.klaussner.com



Asheboro-based **PEMMCO Manufacturing** will expand its facility by 15,000 square feet, growing production area by over 30%. The precision machining company has seen annual growth of

15% or more, with a large share of the growth in production of components for the aerospace industry. PEMMCO constructed its current facility seven years ago and has since grown the business, added jobs (there are now 86 fulltime employees), and filled the building with machinery and equipment. PEMMCO anticipates investing nearly \$700,000 in construction costs and \$500,000 in equipment while adding 20 new fulltime jobs. The City of Asheboro has submitted an NC Commerce Building Reuse Grant requesting \$250,000 to assist with the expansion costs. PEMMCO president Rick Powell stated, "We love it here, we're glad to be able to hire people, and we want to be able to continue to grow." *PEMMCO is a precision machining company with services including CNC milling and turning as well as assembly.* www.pemmcomfg.com



Due to business growth and product diversification, **Stallion Air** will soon be relocating to a larger facility in Franklinville. In April, Stallion Air's owners purchased a 10,000 square foot building on Faith Rock Road in Franklinville, and a 6,000 square foot expansion is under way. Upon completion, the new building will be 60% larger than its present leased facility, housing 14,000 square feet of production area and 2,000 square feet for offices. Stallion Air president Gary Williams is pleased with the opportunity to grow into a larger building which can be configured to Stallion's production flow, creating a more efficient work environment. The current workforce of 12 is anticipated to grow after the company occupies the new facility. Williams is targeting the first of November for a move-in date. *Stallion Air is a manufacturer of state-of-the-art high pressure breathing air compressors utilized in emergency services and industrial markets.*

www.stallionair.com



An [article](#) posted on healthcarepackaging.com reports that Asheboro-based **Technimark** recently broke ground to expand a facility in

Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The 80,000 square foot addition will more than double the size of the current plant. A similar expansion is also slated for a facility in El Paso, Texas. Both facilities manufacture product for Technimark's healthcare division which produces a variety of specialty medical components and finished medical devices. *Technimark is a global leader and manufacturer of high-value injection-molded packaging and components serving consumer packaging, healthcare, and industrial markets.* www.technimark.com



Trinity Furniture will soon begin construction on a 6,600 square foot addition to its production facility in the City of Trinity. The company plans an investment of roughly \$300,000 for the

project, including installation of a new fire detection and prevention system throughout the 100,000+ square foot plant. The project is a culmination of a year-long revision of the production layout and overall flow of the manufacturing and warehouse space. Despite the increased efficiencies resulting from this project, expansion remains necessary due to growth of over 20% at the company. The company has grown consistently since its founding in 1984 and the pending expansion will be its tenth. Trinity Furniture has a fulltime workforce of 84 and will add 11 new jobs related to the expansion. The City of Trinity has submitted a \$55,000 request for an NC Commerce Building Reuse Grant to assist with the company's expenses. *Trinity Furniture is a manufacturer of quality seating serving a variety of end users including healthcare, university, judicial, military, and office customers.* www.trinityfurniture.com



After over 26 years in business, **BJ Con-Sew, Inc.** is changing its name to **Trotters Sewing Company**. Since its inception in 1992, the Asheboro-based company has been owned and managed by the Trotter family, and the name change comes as the third generation of the family is now employed at the company. According to a press release issued by the

company, the name change “reflects the company’s goal of continuous progression in the contract cutting and sewing industry.” Although the name is changing, the location, the management team, and the company’s commitment to quality and service will remain unchanged. *BJ Con-Sew/Trotters Sewing Company is a family-operated cut and sew business which also offers services such as grommeting, sonic welding, and packaging and shipping.* www.bjconsew.us

EDC News & Announcements



The EDC is now sporting a new look with a recently-updated logo. Rather than a wholesale change, the update incorporates a new color scheme and replaces the heart over Randolph County with a starburst design for a more industrial feel. The EDC is also working with HD Web Studio on a full-scale revamp of the website. The design concept has been approved, new photos have been submitted, and edits to content are underway. The final product will be ready to roll out soon.

The Randolph County EDC will soon relocate into new office space at 176 N. Fayetteville Street. Earlier this year, Randolph County purchased the former First Bank building in downtown Asheboro, and renovations are nearly complete. The new office offers a more visible location, ample parking, and a sizable conference room to host clients and meetings – a much-needed upgrade. Final touches are in the works, and the move should take place within a couple of weeks.



From August 30 to July 2, EDC president Walter Sprouse attended the CAR Management Briefing Seminars in Traverse City, Michigan, to promote the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite. Hosted by the Center for Automotive Research (CAR), the event showcased speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors including automakers, suppliers, media, government, and academic institutions.

EDC Partnership News

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.

The EDC is pleased to welcome three new Bronze level Partnership members!

- **Line Drive Graphics** in Ramseur offers custom apparel and promotional items and can handle small orders to large quantities. The company specializes in traditional screen printing, but also offers digital printing and quality custom embroidery. Customers can supply artwork, or an in-house graphics department can help with custom design. www.linedrivegraphics.com.
- **Sam’s Marine International** provides parts and service for yachts produced over the past four decades. Headquartered in Ramseur, Sam’s Marine has a second location in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Founded by former Hatteras Yacht employees, the business specializes in replacement parts for Hatteras and Cabo Yachts. www.samsmarine.com
- **Smith & Allen, LLC** is an Asheboro-based general contractor headed by the team of Doug Allen and Shannon Smith. The firm specializes in commercial and residential projects. www.smithandallen.com

We greatly appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed below. We currently have 117 [private sector members](#) and would welcome new partners. Please direct membership inquiries to Lisa Bennett at 336-626-2233 or lbennett@rcedc.com.

Platinum (\$1,500)

J.P. Thomas & Co., Inc.

Silver (\$500)

Chandler Concrete Company, Inc.

Courier-Tribune

Fidelity Bank

Klaussner Home Furnishings

Landmark Builders

Randolph Community College

RE/MAX Central Realty

S&ME, Inc.

Bronze (\$250)

Advisors Financial

AVS Catering, Inc.

Brubaker & Associates

Burge Flower Shop

Commonwealth Hosiery Mills, Inc.

Costa Sanders

Davis-Martin-Powell & Associates

Deep River Fabricators

Elite Displays & Design Inc.

Manhattan American Terrazzo Strip Company

Randolph Vocational Industries, Inc.

Ridge Funeral Home

The Wooten Company

Triad Design Group

Village Printing

Wayne Thomas Chevrolet-Cadillac

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