

Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation
March 2019

Sprouse Retires from EDC

On January 2, EDC president Walter Sprouse announced that he would retire, effective March 31. Sprouse, who helped to establish the Randolph County EDC in 1985, returned as head of the organization in November of 2017. In his retirement announcement, Sprouse cited several health issues and a desire to spend more time with his grandchildren. The EDC Board has established a search committee and has begun a process to fill the vacancy. During the transition period, EDC VP Kevin Franklin has been named as Interim President.

Workforce Development Remains Top Priority



In December, the Asheboro City Schools launched a new initiative called **Comets2Careers**, an umbrella approach to work-based learning in Asheboro City Schools. The initiative will start in middle school and continue through high school with the goal of helping students to become part of the highly skilled, employable workforce of Randolph County. Students can participate in a career exploration program in partnership with the East Side Local Development Corporation. Partnering with Randolph Community College and Randolph County School System, career exposure activities such as Manufacturing, Health Care, and Agriculture Days and summer camps provide students an opportunity to learn more about Advanced Manufacturing, Health Science, or Agriculture through industry visits and hands-on experiences over multiple days. In addition, students can participate in job shadowing and/or internships through either the Career & Technical Education Program or the community partnership program. Rising seniors headed straight into the workforce with less than a four-year degree can participate in a paid four-week summer work study held in collaboration with Randolph NCWorks. Through the Comets2Careers program, Asheboro City Schools wants all students to see the benefit of the continuum of work-based learning experiences and a clear pathway to career success.



Apprenticeship Randolph continues to grow with the addition of four new industry partners: Unique Tool and Manufacturing in Franklinville, United Brass Works in Randleman, Jowat Corporation in Trinity, and Thomas Tire in Asheboro. There are now twenty industry partners, providing a variety of options for students interested in participating in the program. Apprenticeship Randolph began with a focus on advanced manufacturing, but the addition of Thomas Tire expands the scope of career options in the program. Students interested in participating for the 2019-20 school year are currently in the interview phase of the process. For more information visit www.apprenticeshiprandolph.com.

In a tongue-in-cheek nod to Groundhog Day, partners including the Asheboro and Randolph County school systems, RCC, the Asheboro-Randolph Chamber, and local businesses hosted the **Randolph County Job Shadow Day** on February 1. More than 70 high school juniors participated in what the partners hope will become an annual event. Students had the opportunity to spend a day learning about a wide variety of employment options including manufacturing, health care, law enforcement, government, food services, and more. The Courier-Tribune [published](#) a full list of participants.

Business News & Announcements



On November 29, Archdale-based **Ace/Avant Concrete Construction Co.** hosted a grand opening at its new headquarters facility located on Poole Road in Archdale.

The company relocated its offices from the Archdale Industrial Park. The new two-story structure, which is visible from I-74 at the Cedar Square Road exit, features a design reminiscent of the region's mill heritage. An [article](#) in the Triad Business Journal provides more in-depth coverage of the event. Ace/Avant offers complete site and concrete construction services, allowing the company to start a job with raw land and carry it through to a completed concrete structure. www.aceavant.com



Archdale-based **Aeolus Filter Corporation** is planning to renovate a portion of their facility to accommodate additional production capacity. The expected renovation cost is \$285,000 which will lead to installation of new equipment with a value exceeding \$1 million. The company has also committed to creation of eleven new jobs associated with the project. The City of Archdale has approved submission of a Building Reuse Grant application to NC Commerce, seeking \$135,000 in funding. Grant awards will be announced on April 18. Aeolus Filter manufactures and sells high quality filtration products for a variety of industries, including automotive and HVAC. www.aeoluscorp.com



Asheboro Recycling Company has been awarded a \$20,000 grant by NC DEQ's Recycling Business Assistance Center. The funding will assist ARC to upfit an abandoned rail spur on its property, allowing the company to increase shipping efficiency and expand markets. The company anticipates creation of up to four new jobs associated with the project. Asheboro Recycling Center is a full service metal recycling facility serving individuals and corporate customers.

www.ashebororecycling.com



A November 16 Furniture Today [article](#) reports that **Baker Furniture**, which has its upholstery facility in High Point (Randolph County), has reorganized its executive team. Mike Jolly has been named president, filling the position previously held by Russell Towner. In addition to a new president, Baker also announced the following leadership changes: Jay Paschall has been named senior vice president of sales; Erica Wingo has been named vice president of merchandising, and Mike Kuo has been named vice president – showrooms. Baker Furniture is a manufacturer of high end case goods and upholstered furniture.

www.bakerfurniture.com.



According to a March 21 [article](#) in Furniture Today, Sophia-based **Braxton Culler** has been licensed to manufacture indoor and outdoor furniture for the new Hilary Farr Designs Collection. Farr, star of HGTV's popular Love It or List It show, has partnered with five licensees, including Braxton Culler to produce the new collection which will debut at the High Point Market in October. Braxton Culler manufactures indoor and outdoor furniture for the residential market.

www.braxtonculler.com



Caraustar, which operates facilities across the country, including Randleman, has a new owner. Greif, and industrial packaging and services firm, closed on the \$1.8B acquisition on February 11, according to a [release](#) posted on the Greif website. Caraustar is a manufacturer of high-quality recycled materials and paper products. www.caraustar.com



CovenantMade, an Archdale-based manufacturer of custom cabinets, is expanding due to increased demand. The company has outgrown its current facility and is leasing a neighboring building which will house the relocated woodworking department and administrative offices. When that transition is complete, the company will renovate its current facility for expanded finishing, assembly, and shipping/receiving departments. CovenantMade will invest \$243,000 in the renovation and create at least 13 new jobs. The City of Archdale has approved submission of a Building Reuse Grant application requesting \$65,000 to assist with renovation costs. CovenantMade manufactures mid- to high-end custom cabinets for the residential market. www.covenantmade.com



On March 22, Fibertex Personal Care hosted a grand opening celebration for its new facility in Asheboro. In August of 2017, Denmark-based Fibertex selected Asheboro as its first North American production facility announcing investment of \$114 million and creation of 145 new jobs. The grand opening was well attended and featured brief comments by Fibertex CEO Mikael Axelson, Fibertex Managing Director Dan Ellingson, and Asheboro Mayor David Smith. The ribbon cutting was followed by facility tours. The first phase of production, which will begin in April, will be a printing process on nonwoven materials used in products such as diapers and pull-ups. Fibertex also plans nonwoven production at a later production phase. An [article](#) in the Courier-Tribune provides more detailed coverage and photos of the grand opening event. Fibertex Personal Care is one of the world's largest manufacturers of spunbond/spunmelt nonwoven fabrics for key components in baby diapers, sanitary napkins, and adult incontinence care products. www.fibertexpersonalcare.com



Archdale-based **Häfele America Co.** is branching into the hospitality business, according to a November 28 [article](#) by the Triad Business Journal. In 2017 Häfele completed an expansion of its Archdale headquarters facility, and the new division will add 11 new employees to the facility. Häfele is a leading source of hardware, fitting systems, lighting, and electronic locking systems. www.hafele.com



On December 19, J.P. Thomas & Co. hosted an open house of its new facility in Asheboro. Formerly the Goodyear wire plant, owners Sally and Bryan Thomas transformed an aging, dilapidated structure into a showplace for their corporate office, training center, and warehouse facility. J.P. Thomas is the parent company of Thomas Tire and East Coast Tires.

www.thomastire.com



The **Metals USA** facility in Randleman saw a leadership change in December of last year. Scott Stafford was named general manager following the retirement of long-term GM Rich Pokrin. Stafford, also an experienced Metals USA employee was promoted from the plant manager position. 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

Rhode Island-based **Nelipak Healthcare Packaging** recently announced the closure of its Liberty facility and relocation of production to other established locations. The closure was scheduled to be complete by the end of March. Approximately fifteen local employees were impacted, most of whom have already secured employment at other local businesses. The property was listed with a broker several months ago, and the EDC has learned that it is now under contract.



On February 13, Oliver Rubber's Asheboro plant was awarded the 2018 Spirit of North Carolina Award by the United Way of North Carolina. According to United Way of NC [website](#), Oliver Rubber was one of 33 companies to receive the honor based on seven "standards of excellence" including campaign participation, donations received, volunteer culture, and collaborative work in the community. Oliver Rubber manufactures retread rubber for the commercial truck tire industry. www.oliverrubber.com



According to a February 29 [article](#) in the El Paso Times, Asheboro-based Technimark is expanding its El Paso medical device manufacturing plant. The article states that the company plans to add clean room space, invest \$8.7 million in new machinery and equipment, and add 104 jobs over four years. Technimark is a global leader and manufacturer of high-value injection-molded packaging and components serving the consumer packaging, healthcare and industrial markets. www.technimark.com



In November, **The Timken Company's** Randleman facility received Carolina Star recognition from the NC Department of Labor. According to an [article](#) in the Courier-Tribune, "the The Carolina Star program is designed to recognize employers and employees who have implemented effective safety and health management systems and maintain injury and illness rates that meet the criteria for participation." NC Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry presented the award and praised Timken's achievement. Timken is a world-leading manufacturer of bearings. www.timken.com



Speed Metal Fabrication in Archdale now has a new owner and a new name – **US Metal Crafters**. Stephen McDaniel acquired the company in the fourth quarter of last year, retaining the workforce and promoting experienced management. The company offers a variety of services including metal stamping, roll forming, laser cutting, fabrication, assembly, and an in-house tool and die shop. www.us-metalcrafters.com.



Wellmark Plastics in Asheboro has been awarded a \$40,000 grant by NC DEQ's Recycling Business Assistance Center. The funding will cover a portion of Wellmark's investment in a new filtration system to remove contaminants from recycled plastic. Wellmark anticipates the creation of two new jobs affiliated with the project. Wellmark is a large-scale, post-industrial plastic-waste recycler. www.wellmarkrecycling.com

Upcoming Events

On April 30, Randolph Community College will host a workshop titled "Navigate the Future of Workforce and Business." Sessions will cover a range of free workforce services available through partners such as RCC, the NCWorks Career Center, the State of North Carolina, and the Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board. Topics will include hiring and retaining qualified employees, grant programs, customized training, job fair opportunities, and more. For more information or to register, please contact Lisa Martinez at lisa.martinez@nccommerce.com. Registration is open until April 15.

On May 29, the NC Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NCMEP) will sponsor a mfgNC Connections event at PEMMCO Manufacturing in Asheboro. The event will run from 9:00 11:30 a.m. and will feature a presentation by a representative of PEMMCO and a plant tour. mfgConnections is designed to offer NC manufactures unique opportunities to promote and grow NC manufacturing, share operational best practices, connect with peers, and localize supply chains. For more information or to register, please contact Joyce Spivey at 919-447-7785 or joyce.spivey@edpnc.com.

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.

The EDC is pleased to welcome five new Partnership members!

- **Fibertex Personal Care** joined as a Platinum level (\$1,500) member. Located in Asheboro, Fibertex Personal is one of the world's largest manufacturers of spunbond/spunmelt nonwoven fabrics for key components in baby diapers, sanitary napkins, and adult incontinence care products. www.fibertexpersonalcare.com
- **StarPet/Indorama Ventures** joined as a Platinum level (\$1,500) member. Headquartered in Thailand, the StarPet facility in Asheboro manufactures PET polymers for PET bottles, sheets, and other applications. www.indoramaventures.com/en/worldwide/781/starpet-inc
- **J H Batten, Inc.** joined as a Silver level (\$500) member. Based in Walkertown, NC, is a general contractor specializing in design-build projects. www.jhbatten.com
- **ARC-Markham Metals** joined as a Bronze level (\$250) member. Asheboro Recycling Center is a full service metal recycling facility serving individuals and corporate customers. www.ashebororecycling.com
- **Four Saints Brewing Company** joined as a Bronze level (\$250) member. Located in downtown Asheboro, Four Saints offers a variety of year-round and seasonal beers. www.foursaintsbrewing.com

We greatly appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed below. We currently have 119 [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)

Duke Energy
Technimark

Platinum (\$1,500)

Randolph Electric Membership Corp.

Gold (\$1,000)

Samet Corporation
Waste Management

Bronze (\$250)

Asheboro City Schools
Braxton Culler
Brookline Furniture

Bronze (\$250)

Chief Express
Datamark Graphics, Inc.
DS Smith Packaging Asheboro
Elastic Therapy Inc./DJO Global
Euliss Propane Company
Fairfield Inn & Suites
Four Seasons Furniture
FourthElm Construction
Hampton Inn
NC Zoological Society
Randolph Health
Randolph Packing
Stan Beck Insurance
Tower Components, Inc.
Triad Heating & Cooling
United Brass Works, Inc.

Randolph County Economic Development Corporation
176 N. Fayetteville St. | Asheboro, NC 27203

336-626-2233 | www.rcedc.com

[@Randolph EDC](#) | facebook.com/RandolphEDC

