

Randolph County Developments

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Workforce Development is Key



Hopewell Elementary Hosts Career Truck Fair for 5th Graders – Young people can't prepare for careers they don't know about, so early exposure to career options is an important component of career and technical education. In Randolph County, there is a growing list of events created to expose students to, and stimulate interest in, local careers. On April 4, the Randolph County School System's CTE program organized the community's first Career Truck Fair at Hopewell Elementary School in Trinity. All fifth

graders in the Archdale Trinity area attended the Truck Fair which featured over thirty specialized vehicles. The students learned about the trucks and, more importantly, about the career opportunities related to each vehicle. The RCSS plans to host the Career Truck Fair on an annual basis.

Navigate the Future of Business and Workforce Employer Symposium – Many employers could benefit from workforce development services, but they often remain unaware of the resources available to them. On April 30, area service providers sponsored an Employer Symposium focused on sharing resources and demystifying the process of receiving workforce assistance. More than fifty participants representing twenty-four private employers and a dozen agencies participated in interactive presentations covering topics such as customized training, job fairs, recruitment of veterans and former offenders, and grant opportunities. For more information about the symposium presentations and contact information for presenters, please contact Lisa Martinez at 336-625-5128 ext. 202 or lisa.martinez@nccommerce.com.

Business News & Announcements



On April 18 the City of Archdale was [awarded](#) a \$135,000 Building Reuse Grant from NC Commerce to assist **Aeolus Filter Corporation** with building renovations to accommodate additional production capacity. Work is well under way at the facility, and

renovation costs of \$285,000 will result in 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. *Aeolus Filter manufactures and sells high quality filtration products for a variety of industries, including automotive and HVAC.* www.aeoluscorp.com

April 27 was International Sculpture Day, and Seagrove's **Carolina Bronze Sculpture** joined the celebration by hosting an event at their new satellite location at the Historic Luck's Cannery in Seagrove. Guests were able to participate in a scratch mold workshop and iron pour, and view demos of blacksmithing and ceramic sculpture. Carolina Bronze is one of the first tenants in the Historic Luck's Cannery, and this satellite location allows for much-needed expansion. *Carolina Bronze Sculpture is a fine arts foundry specializing in bronze and aluminum casting and fabrication.* www.carolinabronze.com





On April 18 the City of Archdale also received a Building Reuse Grant to assist **CovenantMade**, an Archdale-based manufacturer of custom cabinets, expand to meet increased demand. The \$65,000 [award](#) grant will help the company renovate its current facility to grow its finishing, assembly, and shipping/receiving departments.

CovenantMade will invest \$243,000 in the renovation and create at least 13 new jobs. *CovenantMade manufactures mid- to high-end custom cabinets for the residential market.* www.covenantmade.com



In early April, Ron Alciati joined EG Industries in Seagrove as the new plant manager. Alciati replaced outgoing manager Wade Stauffer. The EDC would like to welcome Ron to Randolph County. *EGI is a plastic injection molding company with headquarters in Ohio.*

www.eqindustries.com



Hubbell Industrial Controls, Inc. in Archdale is making plans to expand. The company currently manufactures in the Archdale Industrial and plans to add four new engineering jobs and ten additional operators. The engineering team, including the current local engineering department, will be housed in a now-vacant building across the street from the main facility. The vacant building will require substantial upfits, and the City of

Archdale has applied for a \$125,000 Building Reuse Grant from NC Commerce to assist with the renovation costs. Grant award announcements are scheduled for June 20. *Hubbell Industrial Controls, Inc. is a member of the Hubbell Industrial Products Group, which is part of Hubbell Incorporated (NYSE: HUBB), an international manufacturer of quality electrical electronic products.* www.hubbell.com/hubbellindustrialcontrols/en/



On May 14, **Liberty Trailers** in Liberty hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of its 52,000 square foot expansion, doubling the size of the facility. The company announced expansion plans in September of 2018, and Randolph County government was awarded a \$300,000 Building Reuse Grant by NC Commerce in November of last year to assist with the project. The expansion area will allow paint and finish operations to be separated from fabrication. Liberty Trailers committed to creation of 24 new jobs and \$2.5 million

investment in new construction as a condition of the grant. An [article](#) in the Courier-Tribune provides additional detail about the ribbon cutting event and project. *Liberty Trailers is wholly owned by Rensselaer, Indiana-based Talbert Manufacturing. Liberty Trailers manufactures a variety of heavy capacity trailers for the Talbert Manufacturing and Ferree Trailers brands.* www.talbertmanufacturing.com

Pallet Express in Liberty was recently honored as the Large Business of the Year by the Liberty Chamber of Commerce. The company was recognized at the Chamber’s well-attended 50th anniversary banquet on April 13. *Pallet Express is a pallet recycling facility.*



Staley-based **Manhattan American Terrazzo Strip Company** was recently [noted for its role](#) in providing divider strips for the new San Francisco

Transit Center which was named the 2019 Terrazzo Job of the Year by the National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association. “Divider strip supplier” may not sound significant on the surface, but the role entailed using divider strips to create the [artistic design](#) seen in the flooring of the Transit Center. *Manhattan American specializes in divider strips and custom design for terrazzo floors and other flooring systems.* www.manhattanamerican.com

EDC News

The Economic Development Partnership of NC (EDPNC) featured the Randolph County EDC in its 2018 [Annual Report](#). The [article](#) highlights the collaborative relationship among the EDPNC, the EDC, and Randolph County industry which resulted in the announcement of six expansions in 2018. Combined, the expansions are expected to create up to 113 new jobs and over \$5 million in capital investment. Also highlighted in the article was Asheboro's **PEMMCO Manufacturing** which was one of six Randolph County companies to benefit from a Building Reuse Grant award by NC Commerce in 2018.



In March the North Carolina Economic Development Association (NCEDA) recognized retired EDC president **Bonnie Renfro** as a Member Emeritus. Renfro was among seven retired economic development professionals to receive the honor at the NCEDA's spring conference in Pinehurst. Renfro was an active member and leader of the NCEDA, serving a term as president of the organization. She was well-known across the state for her leadership in the field, serving on a variety of committees and boards which heading up the Randolph County EDC. "Our success didn't occur by accident," said NCEDA President Mark Pope. "Today's NCEDA is built on the firm foundation left by our previous leaders."

EDC Vice Chairman **Billy Hardin** was recognized as Business Person of the Year by the Liberty Chamber of Commerce at its April 13 meeting.

In May, EDC interim president **Kevin Franklin** received a Master Practitioner certificate after completing the Advanced Economic Development Leadership program. The two-week course is sponsored by a consortium of four universities – the University of Alabama, Clemson University, the University of Southern Mississippi, and TCU – and is designed to provide relevant and timely training for the economic development professional.

The **EDC Annual Meeting** will be held June 18. Open to our Partnership members and local government allies, this year's event will feature a megasite update with a program titled "Greensboro-Randolph Megasite – On the Path to Success." For more information about the event, please contact Lisa Bennett at lbennett@rcedc.com or 336-626-2233.

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.

We greatly appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed below. We currently have 118 [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.

Silver (\$500)

BB&T

ECS Carolinas, LLP

MAS Acme USA

Metals USA

Rheem Sales Company

Supertex/Liberty Industries, Inc.

Bronze (\$250)

Capital Bank

Gavin & Cox

Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau

McKenzie Properties & Investments

Oliver Rubber Company, LLC

PEMMCO Manufacturing

Randolph Health Medical Group

Summey Engineering Associates, PLLC

Trotters Sewing Company

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