

Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

November 2019

EDC Kicks Off Randolph Industrial Council

On Thursday, November 14, the EDC hosted an inaugural meeting of the Randolph Industrial Council. The event was well attended, with 40 representatives from 22 different industries from across the county participating. Inspired by internal EDC conversations and spurred by a specific industry request, the Randolph Industrial Council is an effort to bring together diverse manufacturers from all corners of the county to get acquainted, share ideas, learn from one another, and seek opportunities to do business with each other. Scott Fogleman with Nufabrx was the keynote speaker for the November event, with a presentation focused on technology and innovation in the textile industry, some of which is taking place right here in Randolph County.



The EDC plans to host quarterly meetings of the Council touching on topics relevant to manufacturing. A volunteer steering committee comprised of industrial representatives will help drive content. In addition to quarterly meetings, we plan to host additional events to further engage our manufacturing base.

The EDC is committed to supporting our county's manufacturing base, and the Randolph Industrial Council is part of that effort. Collaboration and the free flow of ideas generated through the Council will serve to enhance the manufacturing environment in Randolph County.

Business News & Announcements



Braxton Culler in Sophia recently announced a licensing collaboration with Hilary Farr, co-host of HGTV's "Love It or List It" series. The Hilary Farr Designs collection, which includes both indoor and outdoor furniture, debuted at October's High Point Market.

According to an [article](#) posted on [furnituretoday.com](#), the business relationship began a couple of years ago when Farr reached out to Braxton Culler and requested furniture for "Love It or List It." A positive experience led to Farr expressing interest in designing a furniture line for Braxton Culler. According to Furniture Today, "the new Hilary Farr collection includes five upholstery groups, a wicker/rattan group, modular outdoor furniture, a complete bedroom, a wicker/rattan bed, fabric upholstered bed and an assortment of accent furniture." *Braxton Culler is a family owned and operated furniture company that offers product lines for the entire home, patio, and outdoors.* www.braxtonculler.com



Asheboro-based **Founder's Hemp** will receive \$150,000 in funding thanks to a Building Reuse Grant awarded to the City of Asheboro to assist with a renovation project. The company will renovate existing warehouse space by constructing five new clean rooms to expand its extraction capacity.

The clean rooms will meet the supplement grade processing standards. Total investment in the project, including machinery and equipment, is anticipated to exceed \$400,000, and the company is committed to creating at least fifteen new jobs with an average annual wage of \$35,667. *Founder's Hemp is a vertically integrated hemp company and a leading provider of premium hemp extracts, products, and services.* www.foundershemp.com



klaussner
home furnishings

On November 7, **Klaussner Home Furnishings** in Asheboro [announced](#) that Terry McNew was named CEO of the company. He officially joined Klaussner in his new role on November 11. According to the press release, "McNew brings nearly 40 years of operations, manufacturing and sales experience to Klaussner." His prior role was as president and CEO of MasterCraft Boat Company. McNew succeeds Bill Wittenberg who held the position since 2010. Wittenberg has transitioned to a role on the company's board of directors. *Klaussner Home Furnishings is a vertically integrated manufacturer of residential furniture.* www.klaussner.com



The North Carolina Zoo was recently awarded a \$9,300 Environmental Stewardship Grant from Asheboro's **Oliver Rubber** through its parent company, Michelin North America. The grant will help fund environmental education programs at the zoo. According to an October 24 [article](#) in the Courier-Tribune, the NC Zoo conducts more than 600 educational programs annually in addition to the programs offered to students participating in school-related field trips. Oliver Rubber is a long-time supporter of the zoo and a corporate member of the North Carolina Zoo Society. *Oliver is a manufacturer of top-quality retreads.* www.oliverrubber.com



PEMMCO
Mfg.

PEMMCO Manufacturing in Asheboro recently secured its ISO 14001 Environmental System Management certification. Part of PEMMCO's corporate strategy, the certification is evidence of the company's commitment to reducing or eliminating the negative environmental impacts of products, services, and activities. Although not a motivating factor for PEMMCO, the certification has shown the added benefit of opening the door for new business from customers concerned about environmental stewardship. *PEMMCO Manufacturing is a precision CNC machining supplier.* www.pemmcomfg.com



Trotters Sewing Company in Asheboro was just awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Rural Energy for America Program. The USDA program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Trotters Sewing Company upgraded to LED lighting throughout their 50,000 square foot facility located on Industrial Park Ave. in Asheboro. They also upgraded their outdated HVAC systems to new energy efficient systems, replacing 7 units. "Through the REAP grant, which was learned about from the guidance of Kevin Franklin of RCEDC, we were reimbursed for approximately 25% of the costs of the total project," said Lori Trotter, Business Manager of Trotters Sewing. "Not only did we save money on the project with the grant monies, but we are going to see savings in the company with the energy efficient improvements, as well as help the environment. This was a win-win for our company in so many ways." *Trotters Sewing Company is a family-owned contract cut and sew manufacturer which employs approximately 50 people. They recently celebrated 27 years of business in Randolph County.* www.trotterssewing.com

EDC News

The EDC now hosts an updated [sites and buildings database](#) on our website. A partnership with the Economic Development Partnership of NC powered by GIS Planning, the updated system offers enhanced information and search tools. While primarily focused attraction of new business to available sites and buildings in Randolph County, the tool offers much more analysis including city and county profiles, demographic information, labor force data, and much more. A powerful tool for the EDC, the information is also available for use by the public.

On November 7, the EDC hosted a group of approximately twenty community leaders for a tour of the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite. The group received a brief history of the effort to attract a transformational project to Randolph County to help counter the manufacturing job losses sustained in the region. The Courier-Tribune participated in the tour and provided coverage in a November 8 [article](#).

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'd like to welcome our newest Partnership members.

- **PrintLogic**, a full-service Asheboro print shop, joined at the Bronze (\$250) level! PrintLogic offers printing, marketing, advertising, graphic solutions, direct mail, and fulfillment services. www.printlogicllc.com
- **Piedmont Staffing Solutions**, an Asheboro staffing agency, joined at the Bronze (\$250) level! Piedmont Staffing offers employers a wide variety of services including liability insurance, unemployment benefits, drug screening, background checks, and more. www.piedmont-staffing.com

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.

Gold (\$1,000)

Crumley Commercial
Timmons Group

Silver (\$500)

Landmark Builders
Pinnacle Financial Partners
S&ME, Inc.
Uwharrie Builders
WeaverCooke/Kirkland

Bronze (\$250)

Allen Tate Relocation
Burge Flower Shop
Express Employment Professionals
James River Equipment Co.
Pallet Express
Randolph County School System
Randolph Land Development
Sam's Marine International
Shelco, LLC
Smith & Allen, LLC
Units Moving & Portable Storage
Trinity Furniture
Wayne Industries, Inc.

Randolph County Economic Development Corporation
176 N. Fayetteville St. | Asheboro, NC 27203
336-626-2233 | www.rcedc.com
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