

Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation


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COVID-19 Brings Disruption, Opportunities


When we published our January newsletter, we could not have anticipated the disruption that COVID-19 would bring. During this time of uncertainty, the EDC has been focused on communicating with our stakeholders, sharing resources and information, and supporting our local industry. Our stakeholders have expressed appreciation for our efforts and timely communication. The EDC has compiled a number of relevant resources [on our website](#) to make it readily available in one location.

When the EDC learned that supplies of PPE were limited at Randolph Health, we put out a call to our local manufacturers and many responded. As a result, the local hospital now has access to masks which are critical for the safety of hospital personnel. “We love making connections between local suppliers and customers,” said EDC president Kevin Franklin. “It has been great to see our Randolph County industry answer the call to help meet this need right here in our community.”

Governor Cooper’s stay at home order has had a disparate impact on local manufacturers depending on their essential business status. Some manufacturers have closed voluntarily out of concern for employees, declining orders, or inability to receive necessary components. Some have closed for the month of April in accordance with the state-wide stay at home order for non-essential businesses and operations. Others are seeing orders increase or they are pivoting to make PPE to meet local, regional, and national demand.

 **AEC Narrow Fabrics** in Asheboro has seen a spike in orders for narrow elastic bands used in face masks and shields needed by medical personnel and potentially sick individuals. According to a [March 15 article](#) in the Greensboro News & Record, AEC has been working to fill a 3-million-yard order for a Texas company making millions of masks. *AEC Narrow Fabrics manufactures narrow fabrics for applications including apparel, bedding, medical, and automotive.* www.aecnarrowfabrics.com

 Over the past year, **Aeolus Filter Corporation** in Archdale has completed facility renovations and added equipment which has positioned the company to better supply much-needed product for the pandemic. Thanks to the new equipment, Aeolus is better prepared to offer HEPA filters and face mask media, both high demand items. The company now has local processing capabilities to produce surgical and N95 media in addition to HVAC filter media for commercial, industrial, and institutional applications including hospitals and other health care facilities. *Aeolus Filter Corporation manufactures and sells high quality filtration products, primarily for the HVAC industry in North America.* www.aeoluscorp.com

 A [March 22 article](#) in the Hickory Daily Record highlights production of medical masks with a Randolph County connection. Conover-based Nufabrx has developed an antimicrobial mask to help meet pressing demand, and the production is mostly being done at Asheboro’s **Bossong Medical** using a production process previously developed for Hemp Squeeze in collaboration with Nufabrx, Founder’s Hemp, and Bossong. *Bossong Medical is a manufacturer of medical compression hosiery products made in the USA for the global market.* www.bossongmedical.com



On March 31, [Area Development reported](#) that American Leather Holdings is “shifting its manufacturing capabilities to produce masks and gowns for individuals who are working on the front lines fighting the virus.” One of the American Leather Holdings companies participating in this initiative is **Brookline Furniture** in Archdale which will dedicate some of its personnel for PPE production. According to the Area Development article, the American Leather family of companies will produce up to 20,000 masks and 5,000 gowns per week. *Brookline Furniture is a manufacturer of upholstered seating for the hospitality industry.* www.brooklinefurniture.com



On March 19, Asheboro-based **Klaussner Home Furnishings** [announced](#) that the company is dedicating a portion of its production space to help produce face masks due to nationwide demand. The company is also seeing increased demand for foam needed by hospital bedding suppliers. *Klaussner manufactures for the home furnishings industry and is one of America’s largest furniture companies.* www.klaussner.com



Trotters Sewing Company in Asheboro has experienced a spike in demand for masks and other PPE. Since the company is a contract cut and sew operation, Trotters is well positioned to help. For Trotters, however, this is more than just a business opportunity, it’s about meeting a need. “We are working with the Carolina Textile District and the Manufacturing Solutions Center to work with other manufacturers like us to pull resources together to help,” stated Lori Trotter. *Trotters Sewing is a family-owned contract cut and sew business.* www.trotterssewing.com

Business News & Announcements



High Point-based **Allred Metal Stamping** was featured recently on Fox Business Network’s Manufacturing Marvels segment which aired during Lou Dobbs Tonight. The [two-minute segment](#) highlights the company’s wide variety of capabilities and services. In a follow up [interview](#) by the High Point Enterprise, company president Mickey James expressed being surprised about the opportunity that “fell into our lap.” James and a group of fellow investors purchased a controlling interest in Allred Metal Stamping in 2011 and they have seen the company grow from 16 to 45 employees. *Allred Metal Stamping is a custom metal stamping shop which specializes in high to medium volume production runs of progressive metal stamping dies.* www.allredmetal.com



High Point’s **DARRAN Furniture** was recently [recognized by Interior Design](#) as a Best of Year 2019 product winner. The company’s Chameleon line was the winner in the Contract Case Goods category. Chameleon is described on the [DARRAN website](#) as “a curated collection of desking, simple storage and screen solutions that are easy to configure and personalize from a hand-selected palette of wood, felt and acoustical materials.” *DARRAN Furniture is a woman-owned, family-operated, high-quality mid-priced furniture manufacturer recognized for a broad spectrum of wood desk collections, reception stations, conference tables and seating solutions.* www.darran.com



On February 20, Randolph County was awarded a \$230,000 Building Reuse Grant from NC Commerce to assist with an expansion at Thomasville-based **Lawrence Industries**. The expansion is needed to meet increasing customer demand for the company’s injection molded window hardware. Lawrence Industries services customers across the country and prides itself on producing 100% of its hardware in Randolph County. The company will add 15,000 square feet and invest \$2,675,000 including new manufacturing equipment. The company will also create at least 29 new fulltime jobs. *Lawrence Industries is a leader in the design, tooling, and production of high-performance, lead-free, American-made composite window hardware.* www.lawrenceindustriesinc.com



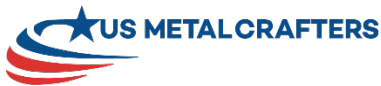
On January 31, Chroma Color Corporation [announced](#) the acquisition of **Plastics Color Corporation** which has a plant in Asheboro. A [press release](#) from PCC states that the combined strengths of both companies will allow customers to be better served. *Plastics Color Corporation is a global leader in color concentrates, functional additives and custom polymer masterbatches.* www.plasticscolor.com



Triad Corrugated Metal in Asheboro was featured recently on Fox Business Network's Manufacturing Marvels segment which aired during Lou Dobbs Tonight. The [two-minute segment](#) highlights the company's manufacturing capabilities for metal roofing. *Triad Metal Roofing manufactures roofing panels and provides metal roofing, building systems, and accessories.* www.triadmetalroof.com



The Timken Company, which has a plant in Randleman, has been recognized again by Ethisphere as one of the world's most ethical companies. According to a [Timken press release](#), the company is receiving this designation for the 10th time. The list of 2020 honorees includes 132 companies spanning 21 countries. A full list of honorees is posted on the Ethisphere [website](#). *The Timken Company is a global industrial leader with a portfolio of engineered bearings and power transmission product brands.* www.timken.com



US Metal Crafters, which straddles the Archdale-High Point municipal boundaries, was featured in a February 18 [Triad Business Journal article](#). Steve McDaniel, owner of US Metal Crafters, built the company on the assets of the former Speed Metal Fabricators which he purchased from a Chinese interest in late 2018. With a focus on quality, American-made parts and on-time delivery, McDaniel sees significant growth opportunity over the next five years in the 120,000 square foot facility. *US Metal Crafters provides a full-service approach to the metal crafting industry including laser cutting, metal stamping, roll forming, fabrication, assembly, and in-house tool and die shop.* www.us-metalcrafters.com

EDC News

The [March 13 issue](#) of the Triad Business Journal featured a spotlight on Randolph County which focused on business and industry, tourism, and education assets in the county. Specific to the EDC's work on industrial support and development, the issue includes an [article](#) which provides an update on the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite.

On March 21 the EDC hosted the second Randolph Industrial Council meeting which focused on workforce development delivery services. Six different workforce programs were presented to the 25 industry leaders in attendance.

The Greensboro-High Point MSA, which includes Randolph County, was recently ranked 6th in 2019 project activity among similar size metros (population 200,000-1,000,000). [Site Selection](#) magazine completes an annual ranking of corporate facility investments.

Kevin Franklin, EDC president, traveled to Atlanta in March to participate in the annual Site Selectors Guild, a conference with the top site selection consultants.

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 would like to welcome **Hubbell Industrial Controls** in Archdale as our newest Partnership member at the Silver (\$500) level! Hubbell Industrial Controls is a worldwide leader in DC contractor technology and products for use in the control of overhead cranes, locomotives, transit vehicles, oil and gas drilling rigs, mining vehicles, and alternative energy conversion systems. www.hubbell.com/hubbellindustrialcontrols/en/

We greatly appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed below. We currently have 116 [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

Platinum (\$1,500)

StarPet/Indorama Ventures

Gold (\$1,000)

Samet Corporation
Waste Management

Silver (\$500)

Metals USA

Bronze (\$250)

Brookline Furniture
Elastic Therapy, Inc./DJO Global
Four Saints Brewing Company
Hampton Inn
Randolph Packing Co.
Tower Components, Inc.

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