

Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

November 2020

NC Ranks #1 In Business Climate Ranking

Site Selection Magazine completes an annual ranking of state business climates, and the recently-released [2020 ranking](#) places North Carolina and Georgia in a tie for the top spot. The ranking is based on a survey of corporate executives and site selectors as well as an index of project counts. North Carolina has been near the top of the ranking for the past several years and held the top spot from 2005 to 2010. Workforce, favorable tax climate, location, and competitive incentives, among other things, continue to get noticed by companies looking to expand or relocate. The ranking quantifies what we already know – the state of North Carolina is a great place to do business!

New Businesses Locate in Randolph



In July, Tony Tsai, owner of California-based **Ariston Hospitality**, acquired two adjoining properties in High Point to establish an east coast presence for his expanding hospitality furniture business. Although primarily in Guilford County, the building at 1581 Prospect Street extends across the county line into Randolph, resulting in a collaborative effort between the High Point and Randolph County EDCs to assist the company. Total investment by Ariston Hospitality over the next two years is expected to exceed \$1 million, including property acquisition and significant upgrades to the previously vacant property. The company will also create at least fifteen new jobs in the next two years. In an effort to assist with building renovation costs, Randolph County took the lead by submitting a Building Reuse Grant application in the amount of \$90,000 to NC Commerce. The City of High Point committed to provide eighty percent of the required local government grant match, should the grant be awarded. Grant award announcements are scheduled for December 10. We are grateful for the collaboration across the county line with our colleagues at the High Point EDC! *Ariston Hospitality manufactures custom hospitality casegoods and seating in its factories in California and Asia.* www.aristonhospitality.com



On November 12, the ownership of Chicago-based **Sedia Systems** acquired a 10+ acre parcel in Asheboro in order to consolidate its manufacturing operations at a single site, allow for anticipated future production growth, and expand its engineering and other corporate support staff. The purchase includes a 60,000 square foot plant at 335 Commerce Place as well as an adjacent 2,800-square-foot office building. Both structures will undergo extensive updating and renovation before Sedia Systems occupies the space in early 2021. The company is committed to investing at least \$1,500,000 in the project and creating at least fourteen new high paying jobs. “We’ve been looking aggressively for a long-term home for Sedia Systems to flourish and we found it in Asheboro,” said Sedia Systems CEO Wilson Troup. Asheboro and Randolph County offered \$36,532 in local incentives and submitted a Building Reuse Grant application in the amount of \$100,000 to NC Commerce to help offset building renovation costs. Grant award announcements are scheduled for December 10. *Sedia Systems is a leading global manufacturer of lecture hall and auditorium furniture, offering the widest range of fixed seating in the industry for education, corporate, healthcare, government, and public assembly markets.* www.sediasystems.com

Business News & Announcements



Randleman-based **Alumiworks** was recently [recognized by the Triad Business Journal](#) on its 2020 Fast 50 list. Coming in at number 35 on the list, Alumiworks reported revenue of just over \$10 million and an employee count of 82. The company is no stranger to the Fast 50 list, landing on the list for the last several years - at number 19 in 2019 and number 5 in 2018. Rankings are based on revenue growth as determined and verified by Smith Leonard using a formula that weighs both dollar and percentage change for each company for the three most recent fiscal years. *Alumiworks is a manufacturer of a variety of metal products including stairs, rails, and structural steel.* www.alumiworks.net



In April, High Point's **DARRAN Furniture** publicly committed \$200,000 to [Americares](#) to support COVID-19 relief efforts. The company raised money by donating a percentage of sales proceeds, and they recently [reached the \\$200,000 goal](#). *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



Engineered Steel Products in Sophia was also [recognized by the Triad Business Journal](#) on its 2020 Fast 50 list. The company was 25th in this year's ranking of the fastest growing companies in the Triad and last showed up on the 2018 Fast 50 list. *Engineered Steel is a structural steel fabricator focused on partnering with general contractors who build commercial, retail, and industrial buildings.* www.engineeredsteel.com



Future Foam has successfully requested rezoning of sixty-six acres in Archdale as a possible location for a new facility. The Iowa-based company has facilities in both High Point and Archdale, and increased demand has the company considering expansion options. The property is in close proximity to the existing Archdale fabrication plant, making it a good fit logistically. However, Future Foam has not yet acquired the land, so it's possible that the new industrial zoning could benefit another future user. *Future Foam is a manufacturer of foam for a variety of uses including furnishings, bedding, and carpet cushion.* www.futurefoam.com



Piedmont Furniture Industries in Ramseur was featured in an [October 16 NPR news story](#) about the boom of home furnishings sales during the pandemic. Angie McWherter, president of Piedmont Furniture, was interviewed and she shared about the opportunities and challenges of trying to meet strong customer demand for PFI's furniture. *Piedmont Furniture Industries is a manufacturer of comfortable, stylish, bench made household furniture.* www.ctcphi.com



Archdale-based **Pineapple Fabrics** and sister company Keepsake Quilting recently announced the opening of the Pineapple Fabrics Keepsake Quilting Factory Outlet Store at 505 Aztec Drive in Archdale. The 10,000 square foot retail space opened in October. "Pineapple Fabrics has operated seasonal outlet sales at the current location since late 2015 and the huge success of these sales gave us great confidence that there was a need for another brick and mortar fabric retailer in North Carolina," stated Rick Kimelman, Owner of Pineapple Fabrics and Keepsake Quilting. "Customers would plan trips from places as far as California to visit the sales and we hope that this outlet can be a catalyst for economic growth in Archdale and the surrounding areas." *Pineapple Fabrics was founded by Rick and Dot Kimelman in 2015 and offers a wide range of precut fabrics to anyone who loves to sew or wants to learn.* www.pineapplefabrics.com



Indorama Ventures, parent company of Asheboro-based **StarPet**, is considering an investment in the Asheboro facility to add recycled PET to the company’s product line. The proposed investment would be used to renovate existing space, purchase new equipment, and add warehouse space. The City of Asheboro has submitted a Building Reuse Grant application in the amount of \$100,000 to NC Commerce to assist with renovation costs. Grant award announcements are scheduled for December 10. The city and Randolph County also offered an incentive package to StarPet equivalent to fifty percent of anticipated new tax revenue over a five-year period. *StarPet manufactures PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) which is primarily used as raw material in the manufacture of bottles, sheets, films, fibers, filaments, and other specialty products.*
<https://www.indoramaventures.com/en/worldwide/781/starpet>



Anyone who has taken a recent trip to the beach has almost certainly seen the ubiquitous [Shibumi Shade](#) fluttering in the coastal breeze. According to the company’s website, the product is “designed and sewn in North Carolina.” We are proud to report that the Shibumi Shade is sewn right here in Asheboro at **Trotters Sewing Company**. Trotters picked up the contract several years ago and has seen continued expansion of this product line as the shade has grown in popularity. *Trotters Sewing Company is a family owned and operated contract cut and sew business.* www.trotterssewing.com



According to an [October 31 article](#) in the High Point Enterprise, **Wright Global Graphics** of Thomasville recently donated \$20,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater High Point. The gift will be used to “enhance remote learning and academic assistance efforts at the clubs.” *Wright Global Graphics provides a variety of print-related services including labels and stickers, retail and event graphics, mattress branding, and creative design services.* www.wrightglobalgraphics.com

EDC Hosts First Industry Appreciation Day

On October 29, the EDC hosted the first Randolph County Industry Appreciation Day. While we all love a new project announcement, this day was all about recognizing the county’s existing manufacturing operations and their positive impact on everything from employees to charitable giving in our community. For this year’s Industry Appreciation Day we invited industry leaders to drop by for breakfast or lunch to go. For those who participated, we held a drawing and gave away door prizes. The celebration closed with a virtual afternoon session recognizing Milestone Achievement Award winners (see list below); we are in the process of delivering a framed certificate to each of these facilities. Our plans for a bigger celebration through the month of October – Manufacturing Month – were thwarted by COVID-19, so look for more to come in October of 2021!

- 60 years: Hendrix Batting Company
- 50 years: Ward Tool & Die
- 40 years: Davis Wood Industries of Franklinville
- 35 years: Asheboro Machine Shop, J.P. Thomas & Company
- 30 years: Ace/Avant Concrete Construction Company, Best Cabinet Company, Hughes Furniture Industries
- 25 years: ABC Fastening Systems, Chief Express, Covanta Environmental Systems, Engineered Ideas & Components, RubberMill, Wellmark
- 20 years: Continental Carbonic, DST Manufacturing, Kraftsman
- 15 years: G-Force South, NC Upholstery, Rheem, Snavelly Forest Products
- 10 years: Allen Machine & Fabrication, Amor Furniture, Caraway Creek Custom Baits, Davis Metal Works, Liberty Recycling Center, New Earth Fabricators
- 5 years: Ambella Home Collection, Lowder Steel

Randolph EDC News

Due to recent project activity our inventory of **industrial product** (ready sites and buildings) in the county is limited. Consequently, product development has been a key element of our program activity, and it is a critical component of both new industry attraction efforts and expansion needs of existing industry in the county. In an effort to address the need, the EDC has recently taken action to conduct Phase 1 environmental studies on four sites across the county, partnered with Randolph County and the City of Randleman for sewer design services for a prospective industrial park, and engaged the services of an engineer to develop a plan that can be implemented to take the remaining property at the EDC-owned West Randleman Business Park from rough grade to pad-ready status. These efforts can help get sites ready, but building inventory is also needed, and we are engaged in discussion with a couple of developers that may ultimately help fill that void. We will continue to provide relevant updates in future newsletters.

The EDC recently established a **LinkedIn page** for our organization (better late than never, right?). We invite you to follow us at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/randolph-county-nc-edc> for regular updates and information about activity in Randolph County and our region.

On December 10 from 7:30-9:00 a.m., the EDC will host a virtual **Randolph Industrial Council** meeting which will focus on attracting, engaging, and retaining Millennial and Gen Z employees in a manufacturing environment. Asheboro's own Dr. Jonathan Thill, co-founder of VentureAsheboro, has studied this topic extensively and will serve as our presenter. His presentation will include a generalization of what motivates the younger generations (let's try to understand where they're coming from) and concrete examples of what employers can and should be doing to maximize engagement (let's try to figure out how to attract and retain these younger employees so they can become productive team members and tomorrow's company leaders). Participation in RIC meetings is open exclusively to industry leaders in the manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution sectors. If you fall into one of these categories and would like to participate, please email Kevin Franklin at kfranklin@rcedc.com. Randolph Industrial Council meetings are held quarterly and offer leaders of our industrial facilities a forum for sharing, learning, and networking.

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.

Congrats to EDC Partnership members **Fourth Elm Construction, Pinnacle Financial Partners, and Samet Corporation** for their [designation by the Triad Business Journal](#) as being among the thirty-five best places to work in the Triad!

We greatly appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed on the next page. We currently have 111 [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)

Klaussner Home Furnishings

Gold (\$1,000)

Crumley Commercial

Silver (\$500)

BB&T

Chandler Concrete Company

Insurance Associates of the Triad

Landmark Builders

Pallet Express, Inc.

RubberMill, Inc.

S&ME, Inc.

Sapona Plastics, LLC

Uwharrie Builders

Bronze (\$250)

Bank OZK

Burge Flower Shop

Covanta Environmental Solutions

Elite Displays & Design Inc.

Express Employment Professionals

James River Equipment Co.

North State

PrintLogic, LLC

Pugh Funeral Home

Randolph County School System

Sam's Marine International

Shelco, LLC

The Wooten Company

UNITS Moving & Portable Storage

Village Printing

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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