

Randolph County Developments

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Randolph Site Selected for Duke Site Readiness Program

Duke Energy has selected a new potential industrial park in the Randleman area for participation in its Site Readiness Program. Located at an interchange on I-74, the 175-acre site is in a prime development location. The EDC has partnered with the City of Randleman and Randolph County to fund a water/sewer feasibility study with positive results, and we are excited to take this next step with Duke Energy. There are three primary benefits to participation in the program: 1) Strategic Development Group, a South Carolina-based site selection consultant firm, will help evaluate the site and then make recommendations via a prioritized list of next steps; 2) Stimmel Associates, a civil engineering firm out of Winston-Salem, will map the site, determine buildable area, and develop conceptual plans showing what a potential project could look like; and 3) Duke will provide a \$10,000 grant which will help cover the cost of additional due diligence which will be conducted on the site.

Business News & Announcements



Braxton Culler, a Sophia-based furniture maker, was recently acquired by Classic Home, according to a March 15 [Furniture Today article](#). The acquisition provides Classic Home a domestic upholstered furniture presence; Classic Home's line is manufactured at its Indian facilities. Braxton Culler will retain its brand and Braxton Culler III, founder and CEO of his eponymous company, will remain with the company during a transition period. Braxton Culler was founded in 1975 and currently occupies about 410,000 square feet with 125 employees. A recent [blog post](#) by Tim Stump on [furnituretoday.com](#) highlights a brief history of Braxton Culler and weaves in mentions of several other Randolph County furniture names. *Braxton Culler manufactures upholstered furniture for the residential market as well as wicker and rattan furniture for patio and outdoors.* www.braxtonculler.com



Iowa-based **Future Foam** is considering growing its presence in the Triad. The company, which pours foam at a High Point facility and has a foam fabrication plant in Archdale, has successfully requested rezoning of approximately one hundred seventy acres in Archdale for light industrial use. In March, the company closed on the purchase of sixty-six of those acres located on US Hwy 311. According to a [March 9 article](#) in the High Point Enterprise, Future Foam is proposing to construct a new fabrication facility on the sixty-six acres. The property is located in the city's extra-territorial zoning jurisdiction, and the company has not yet submitted development plans or an annexation petition. *Future Foam is a family-owned manufacturer of foam products with facilities in the U.S., Europe, and China.* www.futurefoam.com



Lancaster Customworks has outgrown its 18,000 square-foot Archdale facility and is making plans to construct a new 50,000 square-foot building to accommodate a growing volume of orders. The company is reviewing several site options, and the City of Archdale and Randolph County have offered an incentive proposal totaling \$66,500 to encourage Lancaster to select a site in Archdale. The company anticipates

new investment of \$3,040,000 in real and personal property and more than doubling its workforce from 18 to over 38 over a five-year period. The company has not yet announced a location decision. *Lancaster is a manufacturer of high-end residential upholstered furniture made by master craftspeople who consistently produce a superior bench made product.* www.lancasterccu.com

NUFABRX On February 10, NC Governor Roy Cooper [announced](#) that **Nufabrx** was one of 13 winners of the 2020 Governor’s Export Awards. The company received the Export Innovation Award; according to the announcement, “Nufabrx uses a patented technology to embed active ingredients and medications into fabrics for socks, compression sleeves, workout clothing and gloves that allows controlled release of pain-easing treatments. When the coronavirus hit, the company also began producing a reusable antimicrobial, copper-infused face mask. Over the past two years, Nufabrx has exhibited in EDPNC-funded booths at trade shows in the United Arab Emirates and Chile.” Conover, NC-based Nufabrx recently opened its Innovation Center in Asheboro in partnership with Bossong Hosiery which serves as a production partner. www.nufabrx.com

Manufacturer Recognitions



Two local manufacturers have been recognized among the 2021 Apprenticeship NC Outstanding Award Winners. Caleb Baudoin with **Hubbell Industrial Controls** (Archdale) is the Outstanding Registered Apprentice, and **Elastic Therapy, Inc.** (Asheboro) is the Outstanding Consortium Member. Both Hubbell and ETI are members of Apprenticeship Randolph. For more information about Apprenticeship Randolph, visit www.apprenticeshiprandolph.com.



Ethisphere publishes an annual listing of the “World’s Most Ethical Companies.” Among the 135 companies honored in 2021 are two manufacturers with Randolph County connections. Hubbell, parent of **Hubbell Industrial Controls** in Archdale, is on the list for the first time. **Timken**, with a Randleman facility, is being recognized for the 11th time. Ethisphere reviews the following areas to determine honorees: governance, leadership and reputation, ethics and compliance program, culture of ethics, and environmental and social impact. For a full listing of 2021 honorees, visit www.worldsmoethicalcompanies.com.

Randolph EDC News

On March 11 the EDC hosted a virtual **Randolph Industrial Council** meeting with Phil Mintz, director of the NC Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NCMEP), as our presenter. Mintz addressed some of the new economic development directives of the Biden administration and highlighted NCMEP’s role in supply chain development. A copy of the presentation is available upon request to kfranklin@rcedc.com.

In the world of economic development, we often find that what we do is a mystery to the general public. Even within the economic development profession there are different organizational and delivery models. To help folks understand who the Randolph County EDC is and what we do, we recently completed a [30-second intro video](#). Check it out to get acquainted with our office and services.

Over the past year, the EDC has been working to refresh our marketing materials and messaging. We’re on the home stretch with updates to our website. If you haven’t been on our site recently, visit www.rcedc.com to see the recent updates and information.



On March 29 the EDC hosted Congressman Ted Budd in visits to five manufacturing facilities across the county: Allen Machine & Fabrication, Fox Apparel, Jackson Furniture, and Technimark in Asheboro, and Aeolus Filter Corporation in Archdale. Congressman Budd serves the newly redrawn 13th Congressional District in North Carolina and has been eager to become acquainted with individuals and businesses in Randolph County. Local constituent needs or inquiries can be addressed to Congressman Budd’s Asheboro office – 222 Sunset Avenue, Suite 101; 336-610-3300.

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 110 [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

Gold (\$1,000)

Samet Corporation

Silver (\$500)

Metals USA

UltraCraft

Weaver Cooke/Kirkland Construction

Bronze (\$250)

ARC – Markham Metals, Inc.

Brookline Furniture Company

Datamark Graphics

Elastic Therapy, Inc. / DJO Global

Four Saints Brewing Company

Four Seasons Furniture

Randolph Packing Co., Inc.

Tower Components, Inc.

Triad Heating & Cooling, Inc.

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