



WYTHE Economic Development News

**JOINT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF WYTHE COUNTY, WYTHEVILLE, AND RURAL RETREAT**

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Note from the Executive Director

In previous notes, I've focused on the fact that economic development is a long-term process and that, although I didn't feel confident predicting when significant projects would materialize, I was confident that significant

economic development projects would come to Wythe County. We are now seeing encouragement that success may be sooner rather than later. Recent milestones have been accomplished in the attraction of a state-of-the-art bottling plant that will result in a major capital investment and new employment opportunities. Additional details will be provided in our next quarterly issue. Additional progress continues to be made toward the possible construction of an approximately \$300 M combined-cycle gas-fired merchant power plant by Duke Energy North America. Both the Joint IDA and the Wythe County Board of Supervisors have taken formal steps in support of the project. Even more good news is provided by recognition of two local companies as among the fifty fastest growing privately held companies in the Commonwealth. All in all, the light at the end of the tunnel has been looking a little closer lately.

Alan Hawthorne

construction industry and has ten facilities in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states. The specific timing and scope of the plant will depend on the pace of recovery in construction spending from the economic slow down.

Wythe County Companies Named to "Fantastic 50" List

Wythe County has something fantastic to boast about this year. Musser Lumber Sales and Camrett Logistics have both been named to the 2001 "Fantastic 50" list compiled by *Virginia Business* and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. The list is composed of the fifty fastest growing privately held businesses in Virginia. This year marks the second consecutive year that Musser Lumber Sales has been named to the list. Musser Lumber Sales and Camrett Logistics are two of only four companies in the western half of the state to make the list and the only two west of Roanoke. Congratulations to Musser Lumber Sales and Camrett Logistics.

New Part-time Office Assistant Welcomed

We're pleased to welcome Ann Davis to the Joint IDA staff as a part-time office assistant. Ann brings considerable experience to the office, having worked for many years with one of our local manufacturers as an administrative assistant and in various other roles. Ann looks forward to serving you.



Welcome Ann.

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Lane Enterprises Chooses Progress Park

Lane Enterprises, Inc., headquartered in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, has chosen Progress Park as the site for its next expansion. Their facility will be the first to be located in the southern, rail-served portion of the park. The company produces and distributes metal and plastic drainage pipes for the

BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK

TRADITION & INNOVATION Powering Virginia



MAY 12 - 18, 2002

Business Appreciation Week Observed

Business Appreciation Week for 2002 was designated by the Governor as the week of May 12. The Joint IDA recognized this year's observance by hosting an Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament. Sixty-eight individuals, representing a variety of organizations, assembled at the Wytheville Golf Club for a fun-filled afternoon of golf. While the weather did not cooperate as much as we would have liked, the tournament



Mayor Humphrey surveys the situation.

went well. A reception followed in the banquet room of the Golf Club. Our thanks to those who participated and to those who helped

sponsor and/or donated prizes. The tournament would not have been possible without your help. In keeping with the Business Appreciation Week theme, the Joint IDA wishes to thank our local businesses for their important innovations and valuable contributions to the community.

Progress Park Phase II Improvements Underway

Sowers Construction Co. has been awarded the contract for construction of phase II infrastructure improvements in the southern part of Progress Park. Improvements being made in this phase include grading of a 25-acre pad on Lot 18 and initial grading of the Inland Port. Other improvements include the construction of a southern access road and a road/rail corridor to Lot 18. The access road will serve the new Lane Enterprises facility on Lot 31 near the southern entrance. The rail/road corridor will allow timely construction of track from the main Norfolk Southern line to Lot 18 near the center of the park. These improvements are being funded by a grant from EDA, a USDA Rural Development loan, and a VDOT Industrial Access Road grant.

Revolving Loan Fund Applications Being Accepted

The Joint IDA is accepting applications for its Revolving Loan Fund. If you are a small business needing assistance bridging the amount available from bank financing and the amount of your needs, a Revolving Loan Fund loan may be what you need. Call the Joint IDA office for information or an application package.

Executive Director Completes EDI Program

Alan Hawthorne recently graduated from the nationally recognized Economic Development Institute offered by the University of Oklahoma. He attended the third and final session of the three-year program in San Diego in March. The institute provides an opportunity to network with economic development professionals from across the nation while refining the skills needed to operate an effective and efficient economic development organization. The Economic Development Institute celebrates its 40th year of operation this year.

Morton Powder Coatings Named VVPP Star OSHA Site

Morton Powder Coatings has been named as one of only seventeen "Virginia Voluntary Protection Program Star OSHA Sites." Morton is the only such site in Wythe County. This program recognizes companies that go above and beyond the required safety programs. The program requires a joint effort from both management and nonmanagement personnel. Morton Powder Coatings has been pursuing this goal for five years. Morton Powder Coatings has also recently celebrated one million production hours without a loss-time accident. Congratulations to all of the Morton Powder Coatings team.

Area Unemployment Rates

Location	Jan-01	Jan-02	Feb-01	Feb-02	Mar-01	Mar-02
Wythe	6.6%	9.3%	9.7%	10.4%	7.8%	7.8%
Bland	4.7%	7.1%	6.7%	6.6%	5.0%	4.3%
Smyth	8.6%	9.4%	8.0%	8.3%	7.2%	7.7%
Carroll	8.0%	8.1%	9.1%	8.6%	6.7%	7.1%
Grayson	9.2%	8.9%	9.4%	7.8%	8.9%	6.4%
Pulaski	5.7%	7.8%	8.8%	14.3%	7.2%	8.1%
Galax	7.1%	6.9%	6.5%	6.9%	5.7%	6.0%
Virginia	2.2%	4.4%	2.4%	4.2%	2.4%	4.0%
US	4.7%	6.3%	4.6%	6.1%	4.6%	6.1%

Presentations Available

If your civic or other community group would like to have a presentation on Progress Park or on Wythe County economic development in general, please contact the Joint IDA office to schedule a presentation for your organization.

Wythe Economic Development News is published quarterly by the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County to inform interested parties of industrial development activities in the county and its incorporated towns. If you are not on the distribution list and would like to be added, please let us know at JointIDA@wytheville.org or call (276) 223-3370.