



# WYTHE Economic Development News

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

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### Note from the Executive Director

The Wythe Manufacturing Council recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. (Actually we didn't celebrate, but we should have.) The WMC comprises the larger manufacturers in Wythe County and has representation by each manufacturer's top local manager (typically the plant manager) plus one other senior manager. The council

addresses issues of common interest and priority for the member companies.

Early in its existence, the WMC identified workforce development as one of the top priorities for the long-term health of the local manufacturing environment. The council successfully urged the creation of such programs as career coaches in each of the middle school/high school pairs in the county and the new manufacturing technology program. The WMC has also provided scholarships to attend WCC.

*Alan Hawthorne*



*Gatorade President Chuck Maniscalco and Vice President Jim Lynch are joined by Wythe County Board of Supervisors Chair Bucky Sharitz in celebrating the LEED Certification.*

### Gatorade Earns LEED Gold Certification

The Blue Ridge Gatorade facility in Wythe County Progress Park is now the largest food and beverage plant certified at the LEED gold level by the US Green Building Council (USGBC). The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program recognizes companies that meet certain audited criteria for energy efficiency and reduced environmental impact in their facilities. The Blue Ridge Gatorade facility incorporates features for minimizing water and energy usage in production among other things. Gatorade also allowed about half of its Progress Park Lot 12 site to remain a greenfield. Gatorade has had a positive impact on the region through its quality jobs and its support of many community functions. It can now add environmental stewardship to that list. Congratulations to Director of Hot Fill Supply Chain Arnie Wodtke and Operations Manager Carolyn Dankowski and their team for achieving this honor. The Blue Ridge Gatorade plant has been operating in Wythe County Progress Park since 2006 and is one of the largest manufacturer

employers in the county. To learn more about the USGBC LEED gold certification of the Blue Ridge Plant, see [www.csrwire.com/News/8319.html](http://www.csrwire.com/News/8319.html).

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[www.WytheIDA.org](http://www.WytheIDA.org)

*Congratulations to Joint IDA Administrative Assistant Danielle Skeens and husband Ricky on the birth of a son, Camden Stanley.*

### Tobacco Commission Awards Grant for Progress Park Sewer Project

The Virginia Tobacco Commission has awarded a \$150,000 grant for the construction of a sewer line in Progress Park. The line will extend sewer service to Progress Park's southern portion by connecting to the interceptor that serves sewer lines in the northern part of Progress Park. The interceptor conveys wastewater to the Max Meadows Treatment Facility. Details of the grant are available online at [www.WytheIDA.org/pressreleases.aspx](http://www.WytheIDA.org/pressreleases.aspx).

## Joint IDA Welcomes New Board Member

The Town of Rural Retreat has appointed Dale Yontz as its representative on the Joint IDA Board of Directors. Mr. Yontz succeeds Dr. David Johnson who resigned upon acceptance of the provost position at Southside Community College. Mr. Yontz works at Duke's Printing and as an auctioneer. He also serves on the Rural Retreat Town Council. The Joint IDA welcomes Mr. Yontz and wishes Dr. Johnson success in his new role. All board member profiles are online at [www.WytheIDA.org](http://www.WytheIDA.org).



*The Joint IDA welcomes Dale Yontz as Rural Retreat's new board member.*

## Citizens Deploys Broadband to Part of Wythe County

Citizens, a Floyd-based telecommunications cooperative, recently deployed fiber to Progress Park, Fairview Industrial Park, and other areas in Wythe County. This increases the telecommunication infrastructure serving the industrial parks and provides choice of vendors to industries. (Embarq also provides broadband services to Progress Park and Fairview Industrial Park.) Citizens can provide high-speed internet service to industries requiring gigabit-level service. This fiber cable expansion provides transmission speeds not previously available at Fairview Industrial Park. For more information, visit [www.citizens.coop/bizsolutions/](http://www.citizens.coop/bizsolutions/) or contact Joy Gardner at (540) 745-9544.

## New Guidance Plan for Wythe County Published

Wythe County has recently published the third update of its *Wythe County Comprehensive Plan*. Required by Virginia of all local jurisdictions and often used as a reference for various planning activities, the plan gives direction for the use of land, addressing both the natural and the human-created environment. Wythe County's first comprehensive plan was published in 1976, and it has been regularly updated since then. The document is prepared by the county's Planning Commission with public input at various stages prior to approval and publication by the Board of Supervisors.

The plan includes descriptions of the land (e.g., topography, soils, hydrology, climate, jurisdictional history, and historic sites), an outline of governmental structure, and discussions of the county's population, housing, economy, community services and facilities, and transportation. The plan also presents land use and development tools and issues, outlining land use constraints and ordinances and consolidating the plan's listings of goals and recommendations for each topic discussed. The plan contains over a dozen maps and nearly five dozen tables, as well as other illustrations and appendixes. A six-page summary of findings, opportunities, and concerns is also included. The plan is available online at <http://www.wytheco.org/compplan>.

In addition to the countywide plan, comprehensive plans for both the Town of Wytheville and the Town of Rural Retreat are available. Wytheville's plan can be found at [www.Wytheville.org](http://www.Wytheville.org), and soon Rural Retreat's can be found at [www.TownofRuralRetreat.com](http://www.TownofRuralRetreat.com). (You can call the town office at 276-686-4221 for access to the plan until the website redesign is complete.)

## Regional Unemployment Rates

Location	Apr-06	Apr-07	May-06	May-07	June-06	June-07
Wythe	4.3%	4.5%	3.6%	5.0%	4.0%	4.9%
Bland	4.0%	3.6%	3.7%	3.7%	4.1%	4.6%
Smyth	4.1%	4.7%	3.9%	4.6%	4.4%	5.1%
Carroll	4.9%	5.3%	4.5%	5.4%	5.5%	5.7%
Grayson	5.3%	5.0%	5.1%	4.8%	6.3%	4.6%
Pulaski	3.9%	6.0%	3.5%	6.8%	3.9%	6.4%
Galax	6.7%	5.2%	5.9%	4.9%	7.1%	5.2%
Virginia	3.1%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	3.3%	3.2%
US	4.5%	4.3%	4.4%	4.3%	4.8%	4.7%

## 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](mailto:JointIDA@wytheville.org) or call 276-223-3370.