



WYTHE Economic Development News

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

190 South First Street

Wytheville, VA 24382 :: Phone (276) 223-3370

E-mail JointIDA@wytheville.org

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Note from the Executive Director

For the first time in modern history (and maybe ever), Wytheville has been the host of a setting Vice President's visit, an event that is unlikely to occur again soon, if ever. Virginia once again finds itself at the center of the national political arena as the peak of the fall election campaign approaches. With the exception of this presidential election and the immediate past one, this is

relatively rare in modern times.

One of the benefits of this attention is the significant amounts of campaign spending that is befalling the Old Dominion. By some reports, Virginia has to date been a top recipient of this year's campaign spending. Regardless of the election outcome, it's a plus that some of the extensive spending is occurring here.

A lan Hawthorne

VEDP FAM Tour Visits Progress Park

Virginia's aCorridor region, including Wythe County's Progress Park, welcomed a bus load of special visitors on June 5, 2012. The bus ride was part of a Familiarization Tour of the region organized by Tom Elliot, Executive Director of Virginia's aCorridor, with support from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. The FAM tour participants included six members of the site consultants guild, VEDP representatives, local economic development officials, and local dignitaries. The tour was envisioned as a high visibility opportunity for Virginia's aCorridor and highlighted the region's strategic sites, including Progress Park.

The two-day tour of the region began with a reception hosted by Lieutenant Governor Bolling at the Heartwood Artisan Gateway in Abingdon on June 4. On June 5, the tour participants loaded the bus for site tours. At a luncheon in Marion, a well-received presentation by Carolyn Dankowski of Gatorade highlighted her company's experiences with the workforce development partnerships that the region offers. When the tour arrived in Wythe County, the participants were given a tour of Progress Park, including

Lot 24, which is in its last stage of construction.

The Site Selectors Guild is a professional association comprised of the world's most respected site selection consultants. The mission of The Site Selectors Guild is to advance the profession of international corporate site selection by promoting the profession and by providing education, networking, and other services to those involved in the industry.

Vice President Biden Speaks in Wytheville

As part of a two-day tour of Southern and Southwest Virginia, Vice President Joe Biden made a campaign stop in



Wytheville Mayor Trenton Crewe welcomed the Vice President to Wytheville.

Wytheville on August 14. Over 500 people gathered at Spiller Elementary School to see the Vice President.



Joint IDA board chair Linda DiYorio poses with Vice President Biden.

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State Incentive Program Targets Job Growth

The Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP), a division of the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, partially reimburses qualified companies for costs associated with recruiting, hiring, and training employees. The VJIP program is available to projects that create basic employment that brings new income into the state, stimulates additional employment, and is the basis for further economic growth. These businesses must directly or indirectly derive more than 50% of their revenues from out-of-state sources.

There are two ways that a company can qualify for reimbursement for the creation of new jobs: the New Jobs Program (for companies that employ 250 or more people) or the Small Business New Jobs Program (for companies with less than 250 employees companywide). The New Jobs Program requires a minimum 25 new jobs within 12 months of first hire, \$1 million of new capital investment, and the project must put Virginia in competition with at least one other state or country. The Small Business New Jobs Program requires a minimum five new jobs within 24 months of first hire and \$100,000 of new capital investment. For both programs, only full-time jobs paying at least \$9.79/hour qualify, and funding will not be awarded for positions laid-off within a year of applying.

VDBA also offers a Retraining Program to qualified companies to assist with keeping the workforce competitive in a global environment. The Retraining Program partially offsets costs associated with training employees on new technologies. For companies with 250 or more employees, the program requires at least 10 jobs needing retraining and \$500,000 of new capital investment. For companies with fewer than 250 employees, the program requires at least five jobs needing retraining and \$50,000 of new capital investment. Only full-time jobs paying at least \$9.79/hour qualify.

Contact the Joint IDA and we'll schedule a visit to discuss your project.

Wytheville Hosts Klöckner Pentaplast Global Technical Operations Event

The Wytheville Conference Center was recently the site of Klöckner Pentaplast's first global operations meeting. From May 8–10, 2012, management from the manufacturing, technical, logistics, and quality functions gathered to develop strategic growth solutions. Countries represented were: US, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, United Kingdom, Portugal, Spain, Thailand, Russia, Switzerland, and China. It felt a bit like a United Nations session that week.

Also attending was President and COO for the Americas, Michael Tubridy; global Chief Technology Officer, Hans-Joachim Kogelnik; and global Chief Executive Officer, Christian Holtmann.

Wytheville was selected for the conference due to its proximity to the company's Rural Retreat plant. This plant is the location of the world's largest calender line and Klockner's shrink label production lines. The plant also serves as the training site for employees who will be staffing KP production facilities around the world.



Klöckner Pentaplast global team meets in Wytheville.

The Klöckner Pentaplast Group is the world's leading producer of films for pharmaceutical, medical device, food, electronics, and general-purpose thermoform packaging, as well as printing and specialty applications. The company's Rural Retreat plant has been a key local employer for over two decades.

Regional Unemployment Rates

Location	Apr-11	Apr-12	May-11	May-12	Jun-11	Jun-12
Wythe	7.2%	6.4%	7.9%	6.1%	7.8%	6.6%
Bland	5.4%	5.5%	5.9%	5.2%	6.3%	6.2%
Smyth	9.0%	8.4%	9.5%	8.4%	9.8%	9.0%
Carroll	8.7%	8.1%	8.5%	7.7%	9.4%	8.7%
Grayson	10.5%	9.4%	10.7%	8.2%	10.1%	8.1%
Pulaski	6.8%	5.6%	7.3%	6.4%	7.7%	6.9%
Galax	9.0%	9.3%	8.5%	7.3%	10.6%	8.1%
Region*	8.0%	7.2%	8.4%	7.1%	8.7%	7.7%
Virginia	5.8%	5.4%	6.0%	5.5%	6.5%	6.0%
US	8.7%	7.7%	8.7%	7.9%	9.3%	8.4%

* Overall rate for the region including the Counties of Wythe, Bland, Smyth, Carroll, Grayson, and Pulaski, and the City of Galax.

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.