



# WYTHE Economic Development News

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

**190 South First Street :: P.O. Box 569**

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

**Fax (276) 223-3427 :: E-mail [JointIDA@wytheville.org](mailto:JointIDA@wytheville.org)**

**Winter 2009**



## Note from the Executive Director

During my nearly ten years as executive director of the Joint IDA, I've had the good fortune to serve with two outstanding board chairmen, Steve Irvin and Joe Freeman. Each had the proper balance of support, guidance, vision, and appreciation for the policy role of a board of directors, and much was accomplished under their leadership. With Joe's retirement from

the board and the appointment of Jennifer Jones (see article) to replace him, the board recently elected Dr. William Snyder as the new Joint IDA board chair and Dave Elmore as vice-chair. As President *emeritus* of Wytheville Community College, Bill brings a wealth of experience from many years leading a key regional educational organization, in addition to various volunteer roles in the community. His experience and insights, especially in the workforce development arena, give confidence that past outstanding leadership of the Joint IDA will continue. I and the other staff look forward to working with Bill, Dave, and the rest of the board to continue the Joint IDA's contribution to help make our community a great place to live, work, learn, and play.

*A Ian Hawthorne*



*Hi Nicely addresses Recognition Luncheon.*

Creative Glass and Mirror, Wytheville Metals, Hutchinson Sealing Systems, S & W Fertilizer, Quadrant Engineering Plastic Products, Wythe Power Equipment Corp., and Southern States Wythe County Co-Op.

To view the full press release, see [www.wytheida.org/pressreleases.aspx](http://www.wytheida.org/pressreleases.aspx).

### *In this issue . . .*

Note from the Executive Director . . . . .	1
VWC Member Speaks at Recognition Lunch . . . . .	1
Business/Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament . . . .	1
Entrepreneur Express Coming to Wytheville . . . . .	2
New Board Member . . . . .	2
Regional Unemployment Rates . . . . .	2

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

## VWC Member Speaks at Recognition Lunch

Virginia Workforce Council member Hiawatha Nicely was the keynote speaker at the Joint IDA Tenure Awards Luncheon on January 22 at the Wytheville Meeting Center. Mr. Nicely, who is also a member of the New River-Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board, shared his insights regarding workforce development initiatives and accomplishments in Virginia.

The Joint IDA extends its thanks to Wytheville Office Supply for sponsoring the luncheon.

The following companies were recognized for their contributions to the community over extended periods of time: Dalton Enterprises, Electro-Finishing Services, J.J. Haines and Company, R.H. Sheppard Company, Appalachian Hardwood and Dimension,

## *Business/Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament*

*May 14 at Wytheville Golf Club*

Recognizing the current unique economic environment, the Joint IDA is partnering with the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce to hold a single, jointly-sponsored golf tournament this year. A captain's choice tournament will be held the afternoon of May 14. Sponsorships will be available from either the Joint IDA or Chamber. Local business and industry leaders are urged to participate. Additional details and registration forms will be available soon. In the meantime for further information, please contact the Joint IDA office at 276-223-3370 or the Chamber office at 276-223-3365.

## Entrepreneur Express Coming to Wytheville

Business owners and potential entrepreneurs from Wythe and Bland Counties and the surrounding area are invited to attend *Entrepreneur Express: Moving Your Business Forward*, a workshop designed to provide information on available business resources and deliver practical, hands-on training covering key elements of business practice. The event is sponsored by the Joint Industrial Development Authority, Bland County Economic Development Authority, Southwest Regional Enterprise Center, Wytheville Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce. The workshop will be held on Thursday, April 30, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Wytheville Meeting Center. Admission is free and lunch will be provided; however, advance registration is required. For more information and to register, visit [www.vastartup.org](http://www.vastartup.org) or call 276-223-3365.

## New Board Member

Jennifer Jones is Wythe County's new appointee to the Joint IDA board of directors. Ms. Jones, who is the executive director of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce, replaces Joe Freeman, who served as a board member for eight years.



*New board member  
Jennifer Jones*

Also, Wytheville reappointed David Elmore for a second four-year term.

## 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.



**ENTREPRENEUR  
EXPRESS**

**Moving Your Business Forward!**

ATTN: Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs

You are invited to attend the

### ENTREPRENEUR EXPRESS WORKSHOP

Thursday, April 30, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Wytheville Meeting Center  
333 Community Boulevard  
Wytheville, Virginia 24382

Register at: [www.vastartup.org](http://www.vastartup.org) or call 276-223-3365

Lunch Provided



**Entrepreneur Express** is a series of FREE workshops offered throughout Virginia that provide interactive discussions and exercises covering key elements of business practices, hosted by your Virginia business partners.

#### Segments Will Include:

- HOW TO START & OPERATE A BUSINESS
- GROWING YOUR BUSINESS/MARKETING STRATEGY
- FINANCING/MANAGING RESOURCES
- AVAILABLE RESOURCES & RESOURCE FAIR

Admission is free  
Advanced registration required

#### Presented by:

Virginia Department of  
Business Assistance  
Virginia Tourism Corporation  
Virginia Cooperative Extension  
SCORE  
Virginia Small Business  
Development Center Network

#### Sponsored by:

Wythe County Joint Industrial  
Development Authority  
County of Bland Economic  
Development Authority  
Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of  
Commerce  
Southwest Regional Enterprise Center  
Wytheville Convention & Tourism  
Bureau

## Regional Unemployment Rates

Location	Oct-07	Oct-08	Nov-07	Nov-08	Dec-07	Dec-08
Wythe	3.8%	6.4%	3.8%	7.2%	3.9%	7.6%
Bland	3.3%	5.1%	3.1%	5.6%	3.5%	6.5%
Smyth	5.4%	5.6%	5.2%	6.0%	5.5%	6.8%
Carroll	5.4%	7.2%	4.7%	8.6%	4.6%	9.6%
Grayson	5.1%	7.0%	3.5%	7.3%	3.8%	9.1%
Pulaski	3.9%	7.0%	4.0%	7.4%	4.3%	7.6%
Galax	6.0%	6.7%	4.6%	7.6%	4.6%	10.9%
Region*	4.6%	6.6%	4.3%	7.2%	4.4%	8.0%
Virginia	3.0%	4.2%	3.0%	4.6%	3.2%	5.2%
US	4.4%	6.1%	4.5%	6.5%	4.8%	7.1%

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

**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.