



# WYTHE Economic Development News

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

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### Note from the Executive Director

A major effort of the Joint IDA over the past couple of years has been the planning and execution of a significant site development project in the southwest corner of Progress Park. Although Progress Park has significant logistical advantages with intersecting interstates and Class I rail service plus substantial, and often redundant, utility capacities that are very attractive for large,

transformative advanced-manufacturing projects, it has heretofore lacked a large, construction-ready site for a rail-served project. Due to the multi-year timeline required to prepare such a site, no prospect could realistically consider Progress Park for such a mega project in the past. The Joint IDA, with funding support from Wythe County and the Virginia Tobacco Commission, has contracted with Branch Highways, Inc. to prepare a 167-acre pad on a 232-acre lot (see back page item). Wythe County has just received a \$3 million dollar grant from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to develop supporting infrastructure extensions for Lot 24 (see item below). Progress is indeed being made in Progress Park.

*A lan Hawthorne*

shovel-ready sites in attracting companies that can have a transformational impact on the Commonwealth and its economy. The full press release can be found at [www.governor.virginia.gov/news/viewRelease.cfm?id=457](http://www.governor.virginia.gov/news/viewRelease.cfm?id=457).

In a related development, the Virginia Tobacco Commission announced in late summer an additional \$1 million grant award to the Joint IDA to assist with costs of the Lot 24 site project.

### Procurement Technical Assistance Center

The mission of the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) is to provide specialized and professional assistance to individuals and businesses seeking to sell, or currently selling, goods and services to the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, state, and local governments. This assistance may consist of, but is not limited to, bid match service, outreach, training, and counseling services.

The PTAC for southwest Virginia is located at Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands. Under a partnership arrangement with Wytheville Community College, the PTAC now provides services at WCC, making access easier for local companies. The PTAC is funded through a cooperative agreement between Southwest Virginia Community College and the U.S. Department of Defense, administered by the Defense Logistics Agency.

Interested businesses and individuals may contact Judy B. Sayers, PTAC Procurement Specialist, at (276) 228-5066 or [judy.sayers@sw.edu](mailto:judy.sayers@sw.edu).

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### Wythe County to Receive \$3 Million for Progress Park Through New State Program

On November 5, 2010, Governor Bob McDonnell announced the first recipients of funds from Virginia's Major Employment and Investment (MEI) Project Site Planning Grant Fund Program. Wythe County will receive a \$3 million site improvement grant to support further development of the Lot 24 project in Progress Park, principally supporting infrastructure development.

The MEI Program is designed to assist localities with site planning and improvements to help attract "mega projects" or projects that will involve more than \$250 million in private capital investment and the creation of more than 400 new full-time jobs. In his remarks, Governor McDonnell noted the importance of large scale,

## Industry Recognition Award Presented

The Joint IDA presented its Special Recognition Award to the Mount Rogers Industrial and Developmental Center (IDC) at the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce annual dinner held on November 15 at the Wytheville Meeting Center. The award recognizes Mount Rogers IDC's contributions to the local community. The IDC provides job opportunities and training for individuals with disabilities, while also manufacturing products for U.S. government entities and providing manufacturing services for local industries and businesses.

The Wythe-Bland IDC Center, located in Wytheville, provides employment for 72 disabled individuals. The Wythe-Bland Center has successful partnerships with Hutchinson Sealing Systems, Klöckner Pentaplast, Somic America, Gatorade, and Wordsprint.

The IDC Wythe-Bland Center grew from a small operation originally located along Rt. 52. In 2005, the IDC acquired its current Wythe-Bland facility, a 42,000 square foot building located in the Fairview Industrial Park. The new facility has allowed for growth in employment and sales.

Over the last year, the IDC has been able to provide additional employment opportunities for clients as a result of securing a contract for production of an "advanced combat shirt" used by the military. In 2010, the IDC celebrates 35 years of service to Wythe County and the surrounding region. Congratulations to the Mount Rogers IDC!



The Mt. Rogers IDC receives the Joint IDA's Special Recognition Award for 2010.

## Lot 24 Project Makes Substantial Year 1 Progress

Approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of material have been moved as this first construction season nears a conclusion. Below are renderings of projected status of "at grade" areas at the end of 2010 and as of July 1, 2011.



## Regional Unemployment Rates

Location	July-09	July-10	Aug-09	Aug-10	Sept-09	Sept-10
Wythe	11.0%	9.8%	10.8%	9.6%	10.0%	8.8%
Bland	8.0%	6.9%	7.8%	6.8%	7.6%	6.0%
Smyth	11.5%	11.7%	11.8%	11.4%	10.7%	10.9%
Carroll	10.8%	11.2%	11.1%	11.3%	11.2%	10.8%
Grayson	10.7%	11.3%	11.0%	11.4%	10.5%	10.1%
Pulaski	11.8%	9.0%	11.9%	9.4%	10.6%	7.8%
Galax	9.2%	10.8%	9.7%	11.0%	10.6%	10.9%
Region*	11.0%	10.3%	11.2%	10.3%	10.5%	9.4%
Virginia	6.9%	7.0%	6.9%	7.0%	6.7%	6.5%
US	9.7%	9.7%	9.6%	9.5%	9.5%	9.2%

\*Overall regional rate includes Wythe County and the contiguous counties of 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](mailto:JointIDA@wytheville.org) or call (276) 223-3370.