



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 Great Recession (Dec. 2007 – Jun 2009) has been over for more than two years now, but it’s certainly easy to find folks who say it still feels like one—or are at least worried about a double dip recession. The great concern about our economy has been its inability to create new jobs at a pace that will make a dent in the approximately 14 million unemployed Americans. U.S. employ-

ment peaked at a bit over 147,000,000 just prior to the official beginning of the Great Recession and has only recovered to about 140,500,000 from a recession low of under 137,000,000, a modest recovery at best. Wythe County was slower to peak, reaching its highest employment during the summer of 2008 at around 15,350, and had a lesser percentage drop to 14,500 (6.5% vs 7.1%) than in the U.S. employment. What has been more encouraging is the 7.5% rise from the recession low to a new employment high of over 15,500 while the U.S. employment has only increased by 2.7%. May the momentum continue.

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traditional industrial applications.

The acquisition did not include the Louisville, OH, large liquid-filled remanufacturing operation or Evatran LLC, developer of PluglessPower for charging of electric vehicles, which had previously been spun out as a separate company.



Company officials announce sale of MTC Transformers at a September 1 ceremony.

Swiss Company Buys MTC Transformers

The Schaffner Group, based in Luterbach, Switzerland, has acquired the Wytheville division, as well as the sales office based in Roanoke, of MTC Transformers. The acquisition will deepen the Schaffner Group’s capabilities in dry-type power transformers as well as establish a more visible presence for the company in the North American market. The U.S. company will operate as Schaffner MTC Transformers. The integration of MTC products with the global marketing capabilities of the Shaffner Group is expected to create growth opportunities for the Wytheville facility.

MTC Transformers produces a broad range of specialized transformers and magnetics with applications in subway systems, aircraft carriers and submarines, and various renewable energy projects including hydro, solar, wind, and fuel cell applications in addition to

VEDP Selects New President and CEO

The Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) has selected Martin Briley as its new President and CEO following a six-month national search. Mr. Briley will succeed Jeff Anderson who served as President and CEO of VEDP for six years.

With 25 years of national and international business development and management experience, Mr. Briley has most recently served as Executive Director of the Prince William County Department of Economic Development.

VEDP’s mission is to enhance the quality of life and raise the standard of living for all Virginians, in collaboration with Virginia communities, through aggressive business recruitment, expansion assistance, and trade development, thereby expanding the tax base and creating higher-income employment opportunities.

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Industry Recognition Award Presented

The Joint IDA presented its Special Recognition Award to Quadrant EPP USA during the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce annual dinner held on November 14 at the Wytheville Meeting Center. The award recognizes Quadrant's contributions to the local community.

The Quadrant Group, headquartered in Lenzburg, Switzerland, is a global leader in the manufacturing of high performance thermoplastics and composites. The Wytheville operation began in 1974 (previously operating as Polymer and Polypenco) and currently employs approximately 80 associates at this location.

The Wytheville facility has a strong tradition in employee safety and is a Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) program facility. They recently achieved three years of injury-free operation. This represents over 386,100 hours without a single recordable injury.

Specific community contributions include support of Relay for Life, Chautauqua Festival, and United Way. They also fund two scholarships to Wytheville Community College and a scholarship to the Governor's School.

Some of the criteria used by the Joint IDA to evaluate nominated companies' impact on the community include: impact on area's economy, management principles and ethics, consistent and quality employment, growth and corporate investment, and direct contributions to the community.



Quadrant EPP USA receives the Joint IDA's Special Recognition Award for 2011.

Lot 24 Project Completes Second Year of Grading

At the end of the second year of construction on Progress Park Lot 24, work has been performed on a significant portion of the 160-plus acre pad. The site is projected to be completed by the end of the next construction season.



Regional Unemployment Rates

Location	July-10	July-11	Aug-10	Aug-11	Sept-10	Sept-11
Wythe	9.8%	7.7%	9.6%	7.5%	8.8%	7.0%
Bland	6.9%	6.0%	6.8%	5.9%	6.0%	5.8%
Smyth	11.7%	9.4%	11.4%	9.7%	10.9%	9.1%
Carroll	11.2%	9.2%	11.3%	9.7%	10.8%	9.0%
Grayson	11.3%	8.4%	11.4%	8.7%	10.1%	8.4%
Pulaski	9.0%	7.0%	9.4%	8.0%	7.8%	6.6%
Galax	10.8%	8.7%	11.0%	9.2%	10.9%	9.3%
Region*	10.3%	8.2%	10.3%	8.6%	9.4%	7.9%
Virginia	7.0%	6.2%	7.0%	6.5%	6.5%	6.4%
US	9.7%	9.3%	9.5%	9.1%	9.2%	8.8%

*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 or call (276) 223-3370.