



WYTHE Economic Development News

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

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Fall 2012



Note from the Executive Director

Congratulations to Joint IDA Chair Linda DiYorio for receiving the prestigious Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented to Chair DiYorio and Co-Recipient Jack Hunley, who is a member of the Wytheville Town Council, at the Chamber's annual meeting and awards

ceremony held at the Wytheville Meeting Center on November 15. Ms. DiYorio has served the region and especially Wythe County in numerous ways during her many decades of service. It is an honor and a pleasure to have her as my board chair. Thanks for all you do for the community.

The local chamber is to be commended for its outstanding program of service recognitions presented at its annual meeting each year. Most of the recipients devote much time and energy serving their fellow citizens, and it is important that this service be acknowledged and appreciation expressed.

A lan Hawthorne

The community and the Joint IDA staff and board will miss the economic development leadership that Dave has provided for Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat during his tenure.



Good luck, Dave.

Evatran Recognized for Technology Innovation

The Southwestern Virginia Technology Council has recognized Evatran LLC with its award for High Tech Innovation/Entrepreneur of the Year. The award was presented to company CEO Tom Hough by Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade Jim Cheng at the Council's October 25, 2012, awards banquet.

The High Tech Innovation Award recognizes a Southwest Virginia company that has developed an innovative technology with high potential for commercial success such as Evatran's "Plugless Power" hands free charging device for electric vehicles.



Evatran CEO Tom Hough receives award from Secretary of Commerce & Trade Jim Cheng.

Tobacco Commission Awards Grant for Progress Park Site Development

The Virginia Tobacco Commission has awarded the Joint IDA a \$150,000 [grant](#) to help with site development on Lot 30, the site of the formerly proposed Inland Port along the southern boundary of the park. The project will create a building pad, suitable for a 400,000 sq. ft. building with rail service, using excess fill material from the nearby MEI mega-project Lot 24 site.

Former Joint IDA Vice Chair Completes Term

Joint IDA board member and prior Vice Chairman Dave Elmore will be retiring from the board at the end of his term in December. Dave will be completing his second four-year term on the board and has served as the vice chairman during six of those years.

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Industry Recognition Award Presented

The Joint IDA presented its Special Recognition Award to Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing & Hydraulics, a division of Swanson Industries, during the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce annual dinner held on November 15 at the Wytheville Meeting Center. The award recognizes the contributions that Mid-Atlantic has made to the community.

Swanson Industries, headquartered in Morgantown, West Virginia, is a worldwide leader in the manufacture, supply, and repair of hydraulic components, especially for the fluid power, construction, and mining industries. Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing & Hydraulics opened its Rural Retreat facility in 2001 and currently has 85 employees.

Mid-Atlantic is active in several local business activities. The company is a member of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce and has served as a sponsor of the Annual Golf Tournament, the Business Etiquette Luncheon, and the Leadership Development Program. They are also active with the Joint IDA as a member of the Wythe Manufacturing Council and a sponsor of the Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament.

Mid-Atlantic is also very involved in charitable activities. Some of the local fundraisers that they have participated in include: the Muscular Dystrophy Association, American Heart Walk, Relay for Life, United Way, Wythe County Sheriff's Office, and the Wythe County Santa Shop.



Mid-Atlantic Operations Manager Todd Schoppe receives the Special Recognition Award from Joint IDA Chair Linda DiYorio.

2012 Economic Census Forms Arriving Soon

Every five years, the Census Bureau conducts an economic census that provides a comprehensive picture of American business, from the local level to the national level. The economic census serves multiple purposes. It provides data that is used to calculate the gross national product, the producer price index, and other calculations, as well as providing the data vital for the creation of effective public policy. In November and December, more than 4 million businesses, including 410 in Wythe County will receive Economic Census forms. The forms are to be returned by February 12, 2013. Completion and return of the responses are required by law. General information about the Economic Census can be found at: business.census.gov.

VEDP Announces New Operational Structure

Martin Briley, President & CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, unveiled VEDP's new marketing strategy and organization at the VEDA Fall Conference in Roanoke on October 12. A recent operational study of the organization determined that, while VEDP's core mission is centered around business recruitment, non-recruitment activities have been increasingly dominating their operations. In an effort to correct this, the organization has undergone a divisional realignment. The new organizational structure now includes a division singularly focused on Business Attraction. This division will include regionally focused program managers and a new division head. After a nation-wide search, VEDP chose Mike Lehmkuhler to serve as Vice President of Business Attraction. Mr. Lehmkuhler is very familiar with Wythe County, especially with Progress Park as he formerly served as team leader of VEDP's Strategic Properties Initiative and prior to that as Team Leader and Project Manager on many projects considering Progress Park.

Regional Unemployment Rates

Location	July-11	July-12	Aug-11	Aug-12	Sept-11	Sept-12
Wythe	8.2%	6.9%	7.7%	6.6%	7.2%	6.5%
Bland	6.3%	6.2%	6.1%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%
Smyth	9.8%	9.2%	9.9%	8.7%	9.3%	8.5%
Carroll	9.8%	8.6%	10.0%	8.4%	9.1%	8.3%
Grayson	9.2%	8.4%	9.3%	8.8%	8.8%	8.1%
Pulaski	7.2%	7.2%	8.0%	6.7%	6.4%	6.2%
Galax	9.4%	8.8%	9.7%	8.4%	9.9%	7.3%
Region*	8.6%	7.9%	8.8%	7.6%	8.0%	7.2%
Virginia	6.4%	5.6%	6.5%	5.8%	5.6%	5.6%
US	9.3%	7.6%	9.1%	8.2%	8.8%	7.6%

*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.