



# WYTHE Economic Development News

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

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## Note from the Executive Director

Balance. Spiritual, physical, emotional. Eating, sleeping, recreating. Work, family, church, community. We all strive to maintain balance in our increasingly complex lives. Balance is also a prerequisite to a successful economic development program. Balance is required between an

emphasis on large employers and on small businesses. Balance is also needed in efforts to recruit new industry into a community and a strong support program for existing companies. This newsletter issue highlights this balance of large and small and of new and existing businesses. Business Appreciation Week, Industry Awards, and a new small business incubator director all highlight support for small or existing businesses. Announcement of Duke Energy North America's evaluation of a Wythe County site for a merchant power generator that would result in the largest ever capital investment in Wythe County and continuing efforts to market Progress Park are examples that focus on the new and large.

pass near the proposed generating facility and would provide the fuel for the potential project. DENA is evaluating multiple sites throughout the United States to locate new gas-fired generating plants.

Site evaluation, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality permit applications, and community compatibility assessment are under way. Public information meetings will be scheduled once permit applications are submitted. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Virginia Department of Business Assistance are assisting with the project.

## BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK

*Setting the Prosperity Standard*



May 13 - 19, 2001

## Business Appreciation Week Recognized

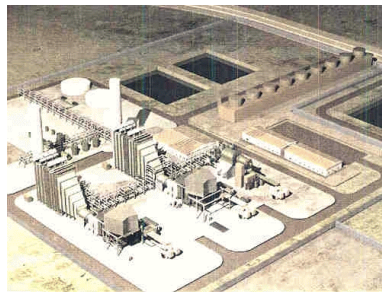
The Joint IDA joins Wythe County and the towns of Wytheville and Rural Retreat, along with the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, in extending our recognition and appreciation for the valuable contributions made by local businesses to the community and to the excellent quality of life we experience in Virginia.

## Joint IDA Presents Industry Awards

The Joint IDA's annual presentation of awards recognizing local industries was held April 24 in conjunction the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of

## Duke Energy Evaluates Wythe County Site

Duke Energy North America (DENA) is evaluating a site adjacent to the Jacksons Ferry substation near the New River in southeast Wythe County for a 620 MW gas-fired merchant power plant. Duke Energy Gas Transmission has previously announced the Patriot Extension, which will extend a 95-mile 24" gas transmission line from Wythe County through Carroll, Patrick, and Henry counties into North Carolina. The Patriot Extension is expected to



**DENA combined-cycle gas generator.**

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Commerce's annual membership dinner. The following companies were recognized for their tenure in Wythe County.

**5 years**  
Oak Hall Industries, LP

**10 years**  
Acrylife, Inc.  
Shenandoah Designs

**15 years**  
G & W Manufacturing Co.  
Morton Powder Coatings  
Simply Country  
Tectonics, Inc.

**20 years**  
Austinville Limestone Co.

**30 years**  
Javatec, Inc.  
Patcon, Inc.

**40 years**  
Donnkenny  
Apparel, Inc.



Joint IDA presents award.

The 2001 Beautification Award was presented to Crisp Manufacturing in recognition of landscaping and other efforts to enhance the external appearance of the company's facility in Rural Retreat. Wytheville Technologies, Inc., was welcomed and recognized as the newest member of our industrial community. A special award was presented to Bland County for its crucial role in the formation and initial Participation Project of the Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority. Wytheville Technologies, Inc., was the first revenue sharing project among local jurisdictions under the Virginia Industrial Facilities Act. Wythe County and Wytheville were also recognized for their participation in the Crossroads Industrial Facility Authority.

## Southwest Regional Enterprise Center Hires Director

The Southwest Regional Enterprise Center (SREC)—a nonprofit organization representing Bland, Carroll, Grayson, and Wythe counties, Galax City, and the towns of Hillsville, Independence, and Wytheville formed to develop small business incubators in the region—has partnered with the Smyth Enterprise Center (SEC) to jointly hire a new director to oversee the further development of the SEC

and to work to establish business incubator locations in Galax and Wytheville in the next two years. The Joint IDA Executive Director and Vice Chairman serve on the SREC board of directors. We welcome Carolyn McCorkindale to her new position and look forward to working with her to assist in new business creation in Wythe County.

## Thank You to Billboard Sponsors

Sponsorship for the continued lease of the billboard along I-77 and I-81 advertising Progress Park has been obtained. Special thanks are extended to the following for their investment in marketing Progress Park.



**Platinum**  
Alpha Signs  
Duke Energy Gas Transmission  
Duke Energy North America

**Gold**  
AEP  
First Century Bank  
H. S. Williams Co.

**Silver**  
Sprint  
Wetherington, Melchionna,  
Terry, Day and Ammar

Additional contributors: Blue Ridge Bank; Catron Insurance Co.; HR Directions, Inc.; J. M. Turner & Co.; Lacy, Campbell & Assoc.; Lester Properties; Peed & Bortz; Thompson & Litton; and United Cities Gas Co.

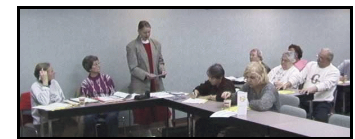
## Region's Unemployment Rate Remains High

Although Virginia's unemployment rate remains low at under 2.5%, Wythe County and surrounding counties continue to experience some of the highest rates in the Commonwealth. Continued soft employment in the truck and auto sector coupled with corporate consolidations and import competition in traditional industries within the region combined to produce unemployment levels that haven't been seen in recent years.

Location	Jan-00	Jan-01	Feb-00	Feb-01	Mar-00	Mar-01
Wythe	8.0%	6.7%	6.3%	9.7%	5.3%	7.8%
Bland	11.1%	4.7%	9.6%	6.7%	8.3%	5.0%
Smyth	6.5%	8.6%	6.5%	8.0%	5.9%	7.2%
Carroll	8.0%	7.9%	6.8%	9.1%	5.8%	9.0%
Grayson	5.9%	9.3%	6.1%	9.4%	5.7%	8.9%
Pulaski	12.1%	5.6%	7.5%	8.8%	6.9%	7.2%
Galax	5.2%	7.0%	4.1%	6.5%	3.0%	5.7%
Virginia	2.6%	2.2%	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%	2.4%
United States	4.5%	4.7%	4.4%	4.6%	4.3%	4.6%

## 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.



Roundtable on Poverty presentation

**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 540-223-3370.