



# WYTHE Economic Development News

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

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## Note from the Executive Director

As many communities across the Commonwealth are wrapping up a variety of Business Appreciation Week activities acknowledging the many contributions made by businesses and industries, we again tip our hats to our local companies who are such valuable

contributors to the community's success. Whether decades-long contributors or new members of the local business community who are just beginning what we trust will be decades of important contributions, we salute you. Among the most valuable recommendations that we share with a prospective new industry evaluating Wythe County as a potential location site are the testimonials provided by our existing local industry. May you all have a successful and productive year as we all contribute to making Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat better places to live, work, and raise our families.

*Alan Hawthorne*

## Chamber After-Hours

To celebrate its fifteenth anniversary and its move into new office space, the Joint IDA is hosting a Chamber After-Hours Mixer on June 10. The event will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Joint IDA office located at 190 South First Street in Wytheville.

Our co-hosts for the evening are Peed and Bortz LLC and Squires Tavern. Peed and Bortz is a Christiansburg-based civil/environmental engineering firm that has participated in various projects in Wythe County, including planning and development of Progress Park. Squires Tavern, located on Main Street in Wytheville, will be providing refreshments for the event. The restaurant is owned and operated by Carolyn Copenhaver.

The Joint IDA will provide information on current and historical industrial development activities at the event. We appreciate the support of our co-hosts

and hope you will be able to attend. The Joint IDA, Peed and Bortz, and Squires Tavern look forward to seeing you on June 10. To RSVP, contact the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce at (276) 223-3365.

## Top Performance Recognized

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced that the Joint IDA has been named as one of three finalists for its 2004 Excellence in Rural Economic Development Award. The winner will be recognized during award ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol during EDA's annual conference in June. The Joint IDA could not have accomplished what it has without the support of numerous groups and individuals. Thank you to all who have supported and assisted us over the years. It takes numerous parties from industry and government on the local, state, and federal levels working together to bring projects to fruition.

Based on 2003 per capita performance measures recently released by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Wythe County was again among the state's leaders in economic development. Using a weighted ranking of new job creation, new capital investment, and number of project announcements on a per capita basis, Wythe County ranked number one among counties in the Commonwealth and as the second overall jurisdiction behind the City of Radford. Wythe County is also the top jurisdiction in Virginia for the most recent three-year period. For more details, please refer to press releases at [www.WytheIDA.org/pressrelease.htm](http://www.WytheIDA.org/pressrelease.htm).

### *In this issue . . .*

Note from the Executive Director . . . . .	1
Chamber After-Hours . . . . .	1
Top Performance Recognized . . . . .	1
Progress Park Access Road Named for Former Virginia Governor . . . . .	2
Virginia's aCorridor Creates New Website . . . . .	2
Joint IDA Annual Golf Tournament Successful . . . . .	2
Local Industry Announcements . . . . .	2
WIB to Hold Strategic Planning Retreat . . . . .	2
Regional Unemployment Rates . . . . .	2

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

## Progress Park Access Road Named for Former Virginia Governor

The access road to Progress Park from Peppers Ferry Road has been designated E. Lee Trinkle Drive by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors. A native of Wytheville, Trinkle served as governor of Virginia from 1922 to 1926 and was later president of the State Board of Education. In both capacities he promoted excellence in education through educational training facilities and standards for teacher certification.

## Virginia's aCorridor Creates New Website

Virginia's aCorridor, a regional economic development marketing group based in Marion and serving the Mount Rogers Region, has unveiled its new website, [www.acorridor.com](http://www.acorridor.com). Visitors to the website can access information on sites, buildings, utilities, workforce, and other items of interest to prospects, existing businesses, and the general public.

## Joint IDA Annual Golf Tournament Successful

The 2004 Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament was a huge success thanks to participants and supporters. The tournament was held in conjunction with Business Appreciation Week across Virginia. A record twenty-four teams played in this year's tournament. Thank you to all who participated or helped sponsor the tournament.



## Local Industry Announcements

Two Wythe County industries recently announced new or expanded operations. Klöckner Pentaplast of America is expanding its Rural Retreat facility with the addition of a new transverse-direction-oriented film-tendering line to produce shrink film for labeling applications. This continues growth begun with the 2002 announcement of a major expansion in its rigid film production capacity.

Diversified Manufacturing Solutions (DMS) is now operating in the Fairview Industrial Park in Wytheville. DMS provides outsourcing options for local manufacturers. The company specializes in providing a local cost-effective option for traditionally labor-intensive manufacturing as an alternative to outsourcing overseas. Announcements can be found at [www.WytheIDA.org/pressrelease.htm](http://www.WytheIDA.org/pressrelease.htm).

## Workforce Investment Board to Hold Strategic Planning Retreat

The New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board will hold a Strategic Planning Retreat on June 9, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at New River Community College. This is an excellent opportunity for Wythe County businesses and industries to provide input into the WIB's planning process. A data scan of the current workforce, economic, and educational environments of our region will be reviewed as the board conducts a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis leading to key strategic goals for the coming year. A working lunch will be provided for all attendees. Positive RSVPs should be sent to the NR/MR Workforce Investment Board at [MHolliday@nrvc.org](mailto:MHolliday@nrvc.org) or (540) 633-6766. Additional information regarding the NR/MR WIB is available at [www.nrmrwib.org](http://www.nrmrwib.org).

## Regional Unemployment Rates

Location	Jan-03	Jan-04	Feb-03	Feb-04	March-03	March-04
Wythe	6.2%	6.0%	7.4%	5.4%	6.8%	5.0%
Bland	4.4%	3.9%	5.0%	4.0%	4.2%	3.5%
Smyth	11.5%	7.4%	10.9%	6.3%	10.6%	5.9%
Carroll	6.6%	6.7%	6.4%	6.1%	6.3%	5.4%
Grayson	7.9%	4.6%	8.1%	4.4%	7.6%	4.0%
Pulaski	5.5%	8.8%	8.4%	8.0%	7.6%	7.4%
Galax	5.3%	5.0%	5.9%	4.4%	5.9%	6.0%
Virginia	4.2%	3.9%	4.2%	3.6%	4.1%	3.4%
US	6.5%	6.3%	6.4%	6.0%	6.2%	6.0%

## 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.

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**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.