



# WYTHE Economic Development News

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

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**Fall 2002**



## Note from the Executive Director

For most of us this is the time of the year to express thanksgiving for our many blessings. This has indeed been a successful year for economic development in Wythe County and the towns of Wytheville and Rural Retreat, with over \$100 M in private capital investment and nearly 400 new jobs being reported this quarter alone. As

we've emphasized before, it takes many partners to facilitate successful expansion and recruitment projects. I want to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have assisted in these recent announcements. Additionally, I want to acknowledge that luck does indeed play a significant role, although I'm a strong believer in the old adage that the harder you work and the better prepared you are, the luckier you get. May you and yours have many blessings, and take time to be thankful for them.

*Alan Hawthorne*

The Virginia Department of Business Assistance will provide workforce training services.

## Klößner Pentaplast Expands in Rural Retreat

Governor Mark Warner visited Klößner Pentaplast's Rural Retreat facility on November 13 to announce a facility expansion. Through a \$34 million investment, Klößner Pentaplast will construct a 70,000 sq ft addition to their facility and will create 108 new jobs. Headquartered in Gordonsville, Virginia, Klößner Pentaplast is the

## Pepsi Bottling Plant in Wytheville Is Official

Governor Warner announced that The Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc., has chosen Wytheville as the location for its new 300,000 sq ft facility. At full capacity, the Wytheville facility will employ over 200 people and represent a \$65 million capital investment. The facility will be built along I-77 and I-81. Site grading is under way and should soon be complete. The Pepsi Bottling Group is the world's largest manufacturer, seller, and distributor of Pepsi-Cola beverages with over \$8.5 B in sales.

This project is the second offered by the Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority to its member jurisdictions of Wytheville, Bland County, and Wythe County as a revenue share project. In addition to the equity investments made by the Crossroads members, six local banks assisted by providing a project loan that allowed the authority to provide the land for the production facility. The Virginia Department of Transportation will assist with access road funding. The Town of Wytheville will upgrade water and sewer services to the site.



**Governor Warner presents GOF check for Klößner expansion to Chairman McDaniel and President Goeke.**

largest producer of high-quality rigid film in the Americas. Klößner Pentaplast will install additional calendared rigid vinyl film capacity for packaging, print, and specialty applications at the Wythe County facility. Governor Warner approved a \$250,000 grant from the Governor's Opportunity Fund to be matched by Wythe County to assist with site preparation. The expansion also qualified for a \$200,000 Virginia Investment Partnership grant and a Major Business Facility Job Tax Credit.

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

## New Progress Park Industries Announced

The Joint IDA welcomes the two newest residents of Progress Park:

### Brewer Automotive Components

Headquartered in Brewer, Maine, BAC is a joint venture between Somic Ishikawa in Japan and Lemforder Fahrwerktechnik in Germany. BAC manufactures steering components for customers such as Toyota and Subaru.

### Atsumi Car Equipment

As the second Japanese company in Progress Park, the highly automated ACE manufactures wheel hubs for Toyota and other auto manufacturers.

Both of these companies are currently leasing space in the Wytheville Technologies building. Press releases are available at

[www.wytheida.org/pressrelease.htm](http://www.wytheida.org/pressrelease.htm).

## Annual Awards Banquet

The Joint IDA presented awards during the annual Chamber Awards Dinner on November 18. Recipients of this year's awards are:

### Industry Tenure Awards

#### 40 years

AMSCO Products, Inc.  
Williams Manufacturing, Corp.

#### 25 years

Coalfield Services  
Mt. Rogers IDC

#### 15 years

WordSprint Commercial Printing  
Wythe Stone Co.

#### 5 years

Cochran Industries  
Commonwealth Mfg. and Development  
Musser Lumber Sales

### New Industry Awards

Atsumi Care Equipment  
Brewer Automotive Components  
Mid-Atlantic Mfg and Hydraulics, Inc.  
Ryder Systems, Inc.

### Special Recognition Award

AMSCO Products, Inc.



Special award presented to AMSCO Products

## Joint IDA Website Now Includes Information on the Board of Directors

Recent updates to the Joint IDA website include new press releases, information regarding the Joint IDA Revolving Loan Fund, and a new page that introduces the Joint IDA's Board of Directors. As before, information on available sites and buildings and past issues of our newsletter may be found on the site. Please bookmark the website at [www.WytheIDA.org](http://www.WytheIDA.org), and let us know what else you'd like to see on our website.

## Wythe Manufacturing Council Scholarship Fund

The Wythe Manufacturing Council recently approved a scholarship fund open to Wythe County students pursuing certain technical programs at Wytheville Community College. John Hawkins of PowerShot Tool Company is serving as Chairman of the fund-raising committee. The number of offered scholarships will depend on the level of funds raised. Call the Joint IDA office for information.

## Unemployment Rate Continues to Improve

While unemployment in the Mt. Rogers region is still higher than state and national averages, the trend of decreased unemployment in recent months is encouraging. Some economists have referred to the current national economic recovery as a "jobless recovery" since new job creation over the past year has been dismal. However, this has not been the case for Wythe County. With several expansions in 2002 and the recent announcement of new operations from Pepsi Bottling Group, Atsumi Car Equipment, and Brewer Automotive Components, and the Klöckner expansion, the recovery for Wythe County should involve new and meaningful job creation. Overall, 2002 has been a successful year for new job creation.

Location	Jul-01	Jul-02	Aug-01	Aug-02	Sept-01	Sept-02
Wythe	11.2%	7.3%	7.8%	6.0%	7.0%	5.6%
Bland	5.6%	5.5%	5.2%	3.9%	5.0%	3.7%
Smyth	6.9%	10.6%	6.4%	10.0%	8.1%	10.5%
Carroll	15.3%	11.0%	11.6%	11.3%	7.0%	5.7%
Grayson	16.1%	12.4%	9.8%	14.3%	8.5%	7.7%
Pulaski	11.8%	5.6%	8.2%	5.0%	7.5%	4.7%
Galax	17.0%	16.0%	8.0%	17.8%	5.8%	4.6%
Virginia	2.9%	4.1%	3.1%	4.2%	3.3%	4.1%
US	4.8%	6.0%	4.9%	5.7%	4.7%	5.4%

## 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.