



# WYTHE Economic Development News

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

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**Fall 2004**



## Note from the Executive Director

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation for the valued guidance, support, and encouragement that Chairman Steve Irvin has provided to me during my tenure as executive director. Steve is stepping down after serving two four-year terms on the Joint IDA board of directors, most of that time as chairman. I know that all citizens of Wythe County join me in thanking Steve for his enthu-

siastic commitment to fostering economic development in Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat. Steve, you will be greatly missed. May God bless you and yours in all your future endeavors.

*Alan Hawthorne*

## Local Company Transports Capitol Christmas Tree

Congratulations to Wythe County's Camrett Logistics, which was chosen to transport the nation's Capitol Christmas tree through 33 Virginia communities on its way from Highland County to Washington, DC.



## Executive Director Wins International Award

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) named Joint IDA Executive Director Alan Hawthorne as the 2004 New Economic Developer of the Year. The award is presented annually to an economic development practitioner who has excelled in his or her first five years in the profession. Dr. Hawthorne received the award at IEDC's annual conference in St. Louis on September 20, 2004. IEDC is the nation's largest economic development professional organization.

This award would not have been possible without the support of our

many local business and government leaders and our regional and state ED partners. Thank you to all who have worked with the Joint IDA over the years. Your support is appreciated.

## Joint IDA Welcomes Angela Pack

Many of you have had the opportunity to work with Linda Lester over the last five years. She has been an integral part of our operations. It is with regret that we report Ms. Lester has decided to pursue other opportunities.

While the Joint IDA is sorry to lose Ms. Lester and wishes her the best, we are pleased to announce that Angela Pack joined the Joint IDA as administrative assistant on November 15. A native of Wythe County, Ms. Pack has a diverse professional background that includes experience in retail management, manufacturing, distribution, and real estate as well as administrative assistance. She holds a BS degree in Political Science (Public Administration) from Radford University and is a graduate of Rural Retreat High School.

The Joint IDA is excited about Angie joining our staff. She will be working with many of you in the months ahead.



**The Joint IDA welcomes new administrative assistant.**

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

## Virtual Building

The Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority, a regional economic development group comprising Bland County, Wythe County, and Wytheville, is developing a new tool that will help market Progress Park. Known as a “virtual building,” this tool involves the development of a graded building pad, available infrastructure to serve the pad, and preliminary architectural plans. Permits for the construction of the building are also obtained in advance. All that remains is the construction of the building. The advantage of a virtual building is that it significantly reduces the time to completion of construction because most preparatory work is already completed and used quickly to construct the building. Plans for the virtual building can be easily modified to meet a prospect’s needs. The virtual building plans are being developed by Thompson and Litton, Inc., in collaboration with BurWil Construction. A grant from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership is offsetting part of the cost of the virtual building.

## Annual Industry Awards

The Joint IDA’s annual industry tenure and special recognition awards were recently presented in conjunction with the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce’s membership dinner. Congratulations to this year’s winners.

### TENURE AWARDS

#### 10 years

*Dalton Enterprises  
Electro-Finishing Services  
J. J. Haines and Company  
R.H. Sheppard Co.*

#### 15 years

*Appalachian Hardwood and Dimension*

#### 20 years

*Hutchinson Sealing Systems  
S&W Fertilizer*

#### 30 years

*Quadrant Engineering Plastic Products  
Wythe Power Equipment*

#### 50 years

*Southern States Wythe County Co-Op*

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

*Pepsi Bottling Group*

Congratulations also to board members George Johnstone and Danny Gordon for their Chamber awards.

## SB&D Highlights Progress Park As Super Site

*Southern Business and Development* identified the South’s top industrial sites in its Summer 2004 issue. The magazine chose Progress Park as the highlighted Super Site in Virginia and stated that “In the purest definitions, Progress Park is a Super Site.” *SB&D* defined Super Sites as sites with a minimum of 500 acres and then judged candidate sites on criteria such as proximity to four-lane roadways, planned and existing infrastructure, and cooperation of landowners. The Super Sites listing can be viewed online at [www.sb-d.com/issues/summer2004/features/SuperSitesRevisited.asp](http://www.sb-d.com/issues/summer2004/features/SuperSitesRevisited.asp)

## Inaugural Industry Employment Prep Class Held

The ACT Work Keys program is an increasingly utilized tool for workforce training and has the support of several states including Virginia. The region’s community colleges, in conjunction with several local manufacturers, have developed the Industry Employment Prep class, which utilizes ACT Work Keys assessment tools. An important component of the class is an assessment of the participants’ skills in math, reading, and locating information. Testing of these skills, with an appropriate score, will result in the issuance of a gold, silver, or bronze Career Readiness Certificate. The Career Readiness Certificate program was recently announced by Governor Warner. The class is valuable training for relatively new current employees and as pre-employment training for potential employees. The first IEP class was held in September at Wytheville Community College, and feedback from local plant managers was positive. WCC plans to offer the class as frequently as demand justifies. The program is intended for both the currently employed and the job seeker. Contact the Joint IDA at 223-3370 or Joe Bybee of WCC at 223-4717 for more information.

## Regional Unemployment Rates

Location	July-03	July-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Sep-03	Sep-04
Wythe	7.9%	6.8%	4.3%	4.8%	4.3%	4.3%
Bland	5.2%	4.0%	3.2%	3.7%	3.0%	2.3%
Smyth	8.6%	5.6%	7.6%	5.1%	8.1%	4.8%
Carroll	12.6%	6.7%	6.2%	5.7%	5.5%	4.8%
Grayson	13.2%	7.1%	4.7%	5.7%	4.8%	5.0%
Pulaski	12.8%	7.0%	5.2%	6.8%	4.7%	5.4%
Galax	21.7%	10.5%	5.7%	8.1%	5.6%	6.8%
Virginia	4.1%	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%	3.3%
US	6.3%	5.7%	6.0%	5.4%	5.8%	5.1%

### 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.