



The Growing Edge

Greater Statesville Development Corporation

In This Issue

LEADERS ADDRESS ECONOMIC ISSUES

KEWAUNEE EARNS MILITARY CONTRACT

CANADIAN MANUFACTURER OPENS STATESVILLE SALES OFFICE

Hot Topics

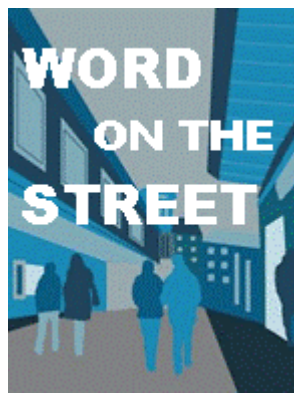
Ever read an article in *The Growing Edge* and wish you could comment on it? Now you can! The Growing edge is now a weblog where you can read and comment on the most current issues affecting the Greater Statesville business community. Have your say today at thegrowingedge.wordpress.com.

In the "Economic Concerns" letter issued by the GSDC and the GSCC, several companies are listed by name as having relocated or expanded in Greater Statesville over the past 12 months. This was not intended to be a comprehensive listing of economic development activity over that period, but rather a quick mention of some of the most recent activity. We apologize for any misunderstanding. We appreciate the contributions of all our local companies. It was not our intent to leave anyone out.

John will be hosting the next Breakfast Buzz on Tuesday,

Issue: # 3

OCT 6 '08



NC Gubernatorial Candidates State Their case at NCEDA Fall Conference

North Carolina gubernatorial candidates Bev Perdue and Pat McCrory addressed the Fall Conference of the North Carolina Economic Developer's Association in Concord last week. Each candidate was given an opportunity to present their qualifications and platform, and then answer questions from the audience of about 500.

In his remarks, Pat McCrory stressed his experience in economic development, both in his position with Duke Energy and as mayor of Charlotte, and spelled out his "10 Part Plan" for economic development in North Carolina. He suggested that his #1 role as Governor would be to "sell the state" to businesses looking to relocate here, and repeated his belief that economic development should be about, "job, jobs and jobs." He specifically noted that, while he wants to create jobs in biotechnology and advanced manufacturing, he would not forget that "20th century" jobs like agriculture and tourism are also important to the economy. He suggested that he would try to eliminate "internal competition" within the state by working with the different regions to find and exploit their "unique niche," and



November 18th from 8-9 at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina. The topic will be determined by a poll. Click [here](#) to vote for a topic of interest to you.

Save The Date

October 10, 2008

Piedmont Healthcare Live After Five
Featuring the Part Time Blues Band
5 PM - 8 PM
Downtown Statesville, NC

October 22, 2008

Committee of 100 Luncheon
Speaker: Alankar Naik, Global
Operations & Supply Chain Doosan
Infracore Portable Power
Noon - 1:30 PM
Civic Center
Statesville, NC

October 24-26, 2008

Carolina Balloon Fest
Statesville Regional Airport
Statesville, NC

October 24-25, 31-1 (Nov.), 2008

Haunted Statesville
Statesville, NC

November 13-14, 2008

Transitions '08 Nonprofit Conference
Mitchell Community College
Statesville, NC

November 18, 2008

Breakfast Buzz: Topic TBD
8 AM - 9 AM
Mitchell Community College
Statesville, NC

would tie funding for education to workforce needs. He also sees the need for North Carolina to get into the "energy business," and to develop a long-term transportation plan. He considers himself a "conservative advocate of targeted incentives" and favors limiting incentives to companies that "make a product," later clarifying that this would include high-wage, knowledge-based companies like those in research and development and life sciences. He mentioned "call centers," in particular, as a type of business he would not consider a good candidate for incentives.

McCrory went on to say that in his experience North Carolina's relatively high income tax is one of the key obstacles keeping more businesses from locating here and forcing many businesses currently located here to consider moving elsewhere. He concluded by criticizing what he perceives as the weaknesses of the current administration's economic development efforts, stating that he would be more personally accessible to work with area developers and assist clients looking to relocate in North Carolina, and would consider economic development a "major priority" of his administration.

For her part, Bev Perdue took a somewhat different approach in her remarks to the group, focusing more on her personal experiences growing up in rural Virginia, overcoming obstacles (often from her own party) in rising to the position of Lieutenant Governor, and success in helping save military bases and grow the "new economy." She recalled reading, shortly after her moving to the state in the late 1950's, that North Carolina was the second poorest state in the nation, and how that inspired her, as a young woman, to take action to make things better. She noted that fifty years later, North Carolina is frequently listed among the best places to live and work, earning awards from publications such as Site Selection, which has named the state #1 for business climate six of the past seven years.

Like McCrory, she re-affirmed her commitment to economic development in all 100 counties in the state, and indicated that she would also make herself available to meet with potential clients and would maintain funding for economic development activities. She specifically mentioned popular-economist Thomas Friedman's belief that, "green will rule the world for 50 years," as being a major influence on her thinking on economic development. She cited her involvement in a number of success stories; the expansion of the military presence in the state, the effort to recruit companies such as Dell and Google, and the development of the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis.

Just For Fun



It's That Time of Year!

Although not as well-known or well-

GREATER STATESVILLE DEVELOPMENT AND CHAMBER

loved as the Peanuts Christmas Special, *It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* was must-see TV in the Marek household from 1966 until... well, we watched it last year. My favorite part is the completely non-sequitur "Snoopy WWI Flying Ace." You can see the whole episode on YouTube. Pour yourself a glass of milk, pop open a couple of Dolly Madison Zingers (the original sponsor) and turn back the clock a couple of decades.

Quick Links

[GSDC Website](#)

[The Growing Edge Blog](#)

[Mitchell Community College Website](#)

[PSNC Website](#)

Join Our List



LEADERS ADDRESS ECONOMIC ISSUES

LETTER ACKNOWLEDGES CONCERNS, REITERATES STRENGTH OF LOCAL ECONOMY



On October 3rd, Mike Smith and David Bradley sent a joint letter to the Board of Directors of the Greater Statesville Development Corporation, the Board of Directors of the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Statesville Committee of 100, Greater Statesville Chamber members, selected government officials in Statesville, Troutman and Iredell County and local media outlets.

Dear Supporters,

We are writing to address to the recent bad economic news that our community and our region has encountered. It goes without saying that this is a difficult time for our nation's economy as a whole, and the recent announcement by Kohler that they are closing their Canac Kitchens Division and shuttering their Statesville facility has certainly brought that point home. We understand that many people in the Greater Statesville area will be directly affected by this news, and that many more will be affected, directly and indirectly, by the news coming from Charlotte, New York and Washington, D.C. over the past several days. This string of negative events, unprecedented in recent memory, has cast a decidedly downbeat mood upon our community and has lead some to question the vibrancy of our economic future and the direction they should take as businesses and individuals in these difficult times.

The Greater Statesville Development Corporation and the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce remain enthusiastic in our belief that this region has a winning formula for growth and development based on our commitment to recruiting and supporting advanced manufacturing and technology companies, and encouraging the types of retail, residential and health care development that support a high quality of life. While the Canac Kitchens closing is certainly a significant event and will undoubtedly have an immediate and distressing impact on the displaced workers and their families, it is important to note that Kohler's action was prompted by the downturn in the housing and construction markets and the failure of the Canac Kitchens Division as a whole to remain competitive in the marketplace. It is in no way a reflection upon the Greater Statesville business community, the local workforce or the desirability of our region as a business destination.

The Kohler announcement is especially disappointing because our community is accustomed to winning. Over the past 12

months, companies such as Doosan Infracore, Asphalt Paving Equipment, Eddie's Welding, Keco Coatings and Providência have chosen to relocate their businesses here or expand their existing facilities. Indeed, Kohler had decided just a few months ago to consolidate manufacturing operations from Ontario, Canada to Statesville. As part of that consolidation effort, our existing and expanding industry program, in partnership with Mitchell Community College, has been working with the company to provide advanced training for their employees. Fortunately, those workers, whose skills and marketability have been significantly enhanced by this training, will remain a part of the Greater Statesville community, and will become a tremendous asset as we market their availability to the next major industrial client.

There is an adage that adversity reveals character. Our country, our region and our county are facing an adverse economic situation. Now is the time for us to come together as a community and help. We have two suggestions for how:

1. Contact your nationally elected representatives (numbers are at the end of this letter) and demand that partisan politics be thrown out the window. Ask them to solve the short term confidence and credit crisis now. To place blame on any one person, group or party does nothing to solve the issue at hand.

2. Buy locally! Perhaps now, more than ever, we must make sure that we spend our time, effort and money locally. Consider Statesville and Iredell County an investment. When you spend your money at a local dining establishment, retail store or industrial supplier, your investment rolls over and multiplies throughout the community; creating jobs, adding to our collective prosperity and helping to minimize the effect of the downturn in Statesville and Iredell County.

The attributes that make Greater Statesville a winner have not changed. We still have a skilled job-ready workforce; our business climate is still one of the most accommodating in the country; we are still located at the intersection of two major Interstates; we are still minutes from the largest lake in North Carolina; and we are still 38 miles from the nation's second largest financial center. North Carolina has been the number one state for business six of the past seven years and Statesville has been the number one micropolitan area for new business three of the past four years. Although these are unquestionably difficult times, these fundamental facts have not changed and this community remains positioned for success over the long term.

KEWAUNEE EARNS MILITARY CONTRACT

Statesville-based Kewaunee Scientific Corp. has



been awarded a contract in the amount of \$73,254.00 to provide laboratory equipment and supplies to the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Redstone Arsenal facility. The contract was awarded through the NCMBC's Matchforce program.

MatchForce is a web-based tool provided by the State of North Carolina and the North Carolina Military Business Center to individuals and government purchasers worldwide to companies in North Carolina. The tool matches: government purchasers to NC suppliers; individuals to job opportunities with NC companies; and NC companies to government business opportunities, potential business partners, and potential employee profiles. To visit MatchForce.org, click [here](#).

CANADIAN MANUFACTURER OPENS STATESVILLE SALES OFFICE

Canadian manufacturer Jig-A-Loo Inc. has opened its first American office in Statesville.



The Montreal-based company markets a silicone-based lubricant and water-repellent spray that fixes squeaks and fights rust. Consumers use the spray on household and garden items. Industrial companies can use it on machinery.

Jig-A-Loo recently launched a new sprayable spackle in a can dubbed Jig-A-Patch.

Jig-A-Loo USA Inc. has leased an office at 206 Cooper St. It has five employees and plans on expanding during the next year. The local office will be used for sales.

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