



### Economic Development Monthly Report – June 2018



#### BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

Staff is developing the Business Ambassador program to help reach all businesses through local ambassadors who will visit businesses on behalf of the Economic Development Department and obtain answers to questions and have a general visit.

The Oakbridge Business Park has seen significant activity lately.

Shawn Stern Computer Services is moving from Richmond to Powhatan. Work is currently underway in a vacant suite in the Oakbridge Business Park, with an anticipated opening in late summer. Shawn Stern Computer Services employs 11 people.



A site plan for the Crazy Rooster Brewing Company in Oakbridge is under review.



CC Landscaping's headquarters is now under construction in Oakbridge.

New Horizon Bank has opened their doors to the newly finished location. They plan to have a ribbon cutting on July 26th. They have also opened a new headquarters office on New Dorset Circle.

Powhatan Habitat for Humanity had a grand opening on June 16th of its new offices at the renovated old fire station leased from the EDA.

Building permits were issued for an autorepair business on Rocky Oak Road.

Colony Construction has submitted a site plan to add a maintenance shop building to their existing plant in South Creek.

McDonalds has submitted a site plan for a new building, across from the existing McDonalds.

A site plan for a Dunkin' Donuts in Flat Rock is under review.

A site plan for a new office for Barnes Insurance, adjacent to SET Cleaning, is under review.

A rezoning application for a commercial development across from South Creek to include a Hardee's and O'Reilly Autoparts is under review.

A rezoning for the Stone Ridge commercial development has been submitted.

Building permits were issued to convert a barn at Fairview Farms into lodging units.

A certificate of occupancy has been issued for the restaurant El Jinette, which occupies the space formerly of PVA.

Construction continues on the Morris Industries/Steel office.

Building permits were issued to add an additional paint booth to DRP Collision.

A CUP is under review for a concrete septic tank forming operation, adjacent to Moslow Wood Products.

A CUP is under review for a country inn and event center on Huguenot Springs Road.

The CUP for the veterinary clinic off of Route 711 was renewed in June.

Hobby Hill Farm Fresh will add tables and seating this month, in response to customer requests.

Sweet Shop launched a newly designed lobby, with expanded quick service food options.

A rezoning application was received for Capital Granite & Marble (“CGM”) to move their location from Chesterfield to Powhatan, near County Line Road. CGM is a cutting edge retailer and finisher of stone products employing 70 people, projecting to grow that number to 110 with the move to Powhatan. The plan includes room for future expansion of light industrial uses as well as leasable space for office/retail.



Construction continues on the expansion of Blue & Gray Self-Storage.

Powhatan Family Vision is expanding, moving from its current 1,800sf space to the larger 5,770 sf building in front of its existing location.

Three Crosses Distilling will be opening its doors in early August.

The Mill at Fine Creek is expanding to add a bakery kitchen.



## TOURISM

Staff continues to promote local events happening in the Powhatan community through social media (Facebook and Twitter).

The Discover Powhatan Facebook page continues to increase its followers.

The Discover Powhatan website is being updated to be current with all other platforms.



Powhatan County officially joined Richmond Region Tourism. County staff visited the Richmond Region Tourism group on June 15<sup>th</sup> for the onboarding meeting where their staff introduced themselves and informed Powhatan of the areas of their specific roles. A Powhatan tour has been set up for August 24<sup>th</sup> for the Richmond Region group to better see Powhatan’s tourism assets and serve us. A separate visit has been planned to have our recreational facilities toured by the Richmond Region Tourism sports section, which already has interest in our fields for large tournaments.



## BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Staff has created a Guide to Business Licenses to attach to all business license applications to better guide the process of obtaining a business license for new businesses. This guide is also listed on the website.

Staff continues to update the VEDP VaScan website to include all newly available properties. Staff has reached out to realtors and is currently receiving information back from various companies with property information. The new VEDP website launched on June 18, 2018.

Staff has completed the Economic Development website which went privately live on May 31<sup>st</sup> and will be reviewed by the EDA at their July meeting prior to a public launch.

Staff is continuing to work with an industrial-scale agricultural prospect to establish key infrastructure needs as well as site placement.

Staff is reviewing possible marketing strategies for business attraction with various outlets.

Staff has made connections with various outdoor sports companies to promote new outdoor water sports adventures on the James River at the Powhatan State Park as well as Maidens Landing.



## NEWS

- Mabel's Café has made the NBC12 Richmond news for their crazy shakes in the *12 About Town* section.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Rockin' At Independence- July 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>** Starting at 6-9:30 pm
  - July 12<sup>th</sup>- Triple Threat Band
  - July 19<sup>th</sup>- Main Street Station Band
  - July 26<sup>th</sup>- Fredd's Unplugged Band
- **New Horizon Bank Ribbon Cutting – July 26<sup>th</sup>**

## Internal Reporting Only - Confidential

Staff made BRE visits to ProForma, Essex Bank, C&F Bank, SanAir, Mattress Direct & Vintage Shack.

**ProForma-** ProForma has a solid business base and reports that they have no workforce issues and easily finds employees. They stated internet as a utility issue with Comcast needing to be faster. Overall a satisfied business in Powhatan, who may have a need to expand in their existing location in the future.

**Essex Bank-** Essex reported no issues with workforce or utilities. They would like to see more small business development programs offered to small businesses. They offered their upstairs as a meeting place for any classes, training or meetings for those programs. Would like to continue to see the county making connections for businesses.

**C&F Bank-** C&F Bank reported to issues with workforce or utilities. They would also like to see small business development programs and connections with other businesses.

**SanAir-** SanAir reported their main reason for doing business in Powhatan as no BPOL taxes since the savings allows for more ability to put funds towards certifications in various states they do business in. They have some difficulty in finding employees in the geology and biology field who want to do the kind of work SanAir does.

**Mattress Direct-** Mattress Direct reported no issues with workforce or utilities. They have expanded their business to a new location adjacent to their previous one with around 5,000 sq. ft. The expansion also includes the introduction of some furniture pieces added with mattress sales. They plan to do a ribbon cutting around August/September to introduce the new space and products. They stated that promotion was appreciated for their business.

**Vintage Shack-** Vintage Shack reported no issues with workforce and the desire for better internet instead of DSL. They are constantly bringing in new products and have had huge success with the location on Route 60 with various travelers coming through as well as visitors passing from campgrounds and state park. They are planning a one year anniversary event coming soon. They only would like help with promotional plans from the county which staff is working on.

