



Economic Development Monthly Report – May 2018



BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

Staff has started BRE visits to various top companies in Powhatan with the accompaniment of a VEDP BRE representative to help match businesses with incentive opportunities.

Staff is continuing to work on a plan for a “Guide to Doing Business” in Powhatan for clearer steps in the process to opening a business.

Staff continues to meet with current businesses to help retain their business and find alternative locations for their expanding businesses. Through this process, staff located a site suitable for an expanding business and helped keep them in the county.

Staff has researched various awards to nominate Powhatan businesses for in order to promote their achievements.

Staff has visited various businesses to discuss current status and offer assistance to promote business.

Staff co-hosted and attended the 3rd Annual Chamber Business Appreciation breakfast for businesses.



TOURISM

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

The Discover Powhatan Facebook page has increased its followers by roughly 10% over the last month since April.

The county has joined the Richmond Region Tourism group and has planned a visit to be introduced to the team. Staff has already provided information to the group to start the process of compiling tourism attractions for the county.



BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Staff has created a database of available lots and buildings for quick access for future prospects. Currently there are 13 buildings and roughly 63 lots available for either lease or sale by commercial realtors.

Staff has been actively working on updating the VEDP VaScan website to include all previously mentioned properties. Staff has reached out to realtors and is currently receiving information back from various companies with property information. At the beginning of 2018, the VaScan website showed three active properties. The property listings was at 21 in May and now is at 31.

Staff is in the finishing stages of the completion of the new Economic Development website with a soft unveiling to go live on May 31st.

Staff is continuing to work with the agricultural prospect to establish key infrastructure needs as well as site placement.

Staff has met with energy companies to discuss natural gas capabilities in Powhatan.

Staff is planning marketing strategies for business attraction with various outlets to be determined soon.

MISCELLANEOUS



Chadwick Orchids made the news for their flowers being presented to the last five First Ladies of The White House.



- **Summer Kickoff- Shalom Farms 1 Year Anniversary – June 9th** 1-4 pm
 - Local BBQ lunch with Shalom Farms produce and Fine Creek Brewing beer.
- **Classic Car Cruise-In with DJ Blade @ Mabel's – June 15th** Starting at 5 pm
- **Village Vibe Concert – June 15th** at 7 pm
 - Music by The Taters with Moonbounce, dunking booth, Kona Ice and raffles.
- **Habitat for Humanity Re-dedication/Grand Opening – June 16th** 10 am-12 pm
- **Batteau Festival – June 23rd** Ending at Maidens Landing.
 - Scenic view of event from Powhatan State Park boat landing.
- **Rockin' At Independence- June 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th.** Starting at 6-9:30 pm
 - June 7th- Double Down Band
 - June 14th- The Mashup Band
 - June 21st- The Soul Proprietors Band
 - June 28th- South of James Band

Staff made BRE visits to Luck Stone, Computer Upgrade King, PIEtech and Independence.

Luck Stone- reported that BRE visits were nice and would appreciate annual/bi-annual visits to check in. The company is doing really well and very busy with no major needs at this time. Manager reported that there the Powhatan site is one of the safest sites for workers and have had no accidents or lost time from accidents in 14 years due to their job safety training. Manager also reported that there was a new concrete recycling program that they will be starting soon that no one else is doing, which staff will follow up on to help promote. VEDP rep offered to research avenues for incentives with DEQ and the VA Port.

Computer Upgrade King- reported that their business is growing at a very fast pace and expansion plans are in the works. They will be expanding within their current building and taking over two other units that are connected to theirs in Oak Bridge. Owners explained that they are planning to hire around 50 new employees once the expansion happens. The company is also working with the high school to let students intern with the company. The owners stated that they have had no workforce issues and hiring was easy, employees love working in Powhatan. VEDP rep offered to research workforce incentives for the new employees being hired as well as look into a VA Port issue.

PIEtech- reported that their business is growing with the second location in Chesterfield at Westchester. The expansion at the Headquarters has been delayed for now. The owner asked that the economic development department be more involved with the businesses.

Independence- reported that they are doing well with the many ventures that they have taken on. Owner would like to work with other businesses in the county as well. Owner would like to see the facilities used for more events and collaborations. Various projects are in the works for different types of events happening there.

