

# Industry Alexander

A publication of the Alexander County Economic Development Corporation



## Caye Home Furnishings to Open New Facility in Alexander County

Alexander County officials announced on September 14th that Caye Home Furnishings, an international manufacturer of custom home furniture will open a new facility in Alexander County.

Over the next three years, Caye Home Furnishings will invest \$1.4 million and create at least 128 new jobs. The company will locate in the former Broyhill Furniture facility located on NC Highway 90 East adjacent to the Alexander Industrial Park.

Caye Home Furnishings LLC, headquartered in Mississippi, manufactures living room furniture and case goods including products marketed under the Stratford and Stratolounger name brands. The company has a total of five manufacturing facilities located in Mississippi, Florida, two in China and one in Star, N.C.



According to Karl Leo, Caye's Chairman of the Board, "Our Caye team is excited about the opportunity to expand our North Carolina operations. We appreciate the cooperation and assistance of the State of North Carolina and Alexander County Commissioners in making this a reality. We also thank the Alexander County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Taylorsville Savings Bank who have partnered with Caye and its affiliate in this venture."

Wayne Stewart, Caye's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, commented, "We chose to locate in this area because of the outstanding workforce

and business environment. Our company continues to grow even during these challenging economic times and we hope to have the plant operational within the next 30 days."

In addition, Caye Home Furnishings is partnering with two other companies which will result in additional employment. Participating with Caye Home Furnishings in the overall project are Industrial Timber and North Carolina Foam & Sales. Industrial Timber is an existing employer in Alexander County and will create 17 new jobs as a direct result of Caye's location,

while North Carolina Foam & Sales will create 20 new jobs in Alexander County. The new jobs created by Industrial Timber and North Carolina Foam & Sales will be located in the same facility with Caye Home Furnishings.

The combined efforts of the three companies will result in the creation of a total of 165 new jobs and the combined annual payroll for the companies will be approximately \$4.7 million.

"The new jobs and the payroll that this project is bringing come at a very fortunate time for Alexander County," said Alexander County Commission Chairman Darrell Robertson. "With the current economic conditions, we have many citizens who are unemployed, and I am extremely pleased that our citizens will have the opportunity to seek employment with these new compa-

nies. I'm glad that Caye Home Furnishings, Industrial Timber, and North Carolina Foam & Sales recognize the tremendous pool of skilled and dedicated labor which can be found in Alexander County. The board of commissioners are appreciative of the efforts of these companies and the efforts of state officials to make this project happen."

While no direct local government incentives were provided to Caye Home Furnishings by the county, the Alexander County EDC with assistance from Alexander County Government, is participating in the project by purchasing approximately 90 acres of the 118 acres included in the project site. The 90 acres will be owned by the EDC and will be marketed as part of the existing Alexander Industrial Park.

"The addition of this property to the existing industrial park will be beneficial for long-term economic development activities," noted EDC Chairman Andrew Jackson. "The EDC Board of Directors is extremely pleased to participate in a project which creates much needed employ-

ment immediately and enhances future industrial opportunities."

A key factor in this project is a \$250,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"North Carolina, known worldwide for producing fine furniture, remains a leading player in this vital manufacturing sector," Gov. Perdue said. "Our state's skilled workforce and superb quality of life continue to attract growing companies like Caye Home Furnishings."

The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches.

Please join the Economic Development Corporation in welcoming Caye Home Furnishings to Alexander County. For more information about Caye Home Furnishings, visit their website at [www.cayefurniture.com](http://www.cayefurniture.com).

## Additional Features Added to BLNC

The North Carolina Department of Commerce's Business Link N.C. (BLNC -- pronounced "blink" - [www.blnc.gov](http://www.blnc.gov)) Web site for small-business owners is evolving. New buttons have been added for "events" (including Classes, webinars, seminars and events), "information" and "recovery" (Links to State and

Federal Recovery Web sites). There is also a new live chat feature.

In addition, BLNC is now on Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). Since the launch of BLNC in January, the website has received over 21,000 hits to the site and hundreds of referrals to the BLNC Partners.

## HMHEC Becomes Appalachian State University Center at Hickory

Four educational institutions in the region recently signed a memorandum of understanding establishing an educational partnership known as the Appalachian State University Greater Hickory Partnership.

The agreement between Appalachian State University, Catawba Valley Community College, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, and Western Piedmont Community College will facilitate expansion of Appalachian's degree offerings in Hickory and in Caldwell and Burke Counties, according to Dr. Kenneth E. Peacock, chancellor at Appalachian State University.

The partnership will ensure that higher education opportunities are provided to citizens in the

geographic areas served by the partner institutions.

As part of the agreement, the Hickory Metro Higher Education Center will be disbanded and become the Appalachian State University Center at Hickory. The partnership is designed to provide post-community college educational opportunities at the member community colleges and will be known as the Appalachian State University Center at Hickory, the Appalachian State University Center at Burke, and the Appalachian State University Center at Caldwell. The North Carolina Center for Engineering Technologies located in Hickory will also be part of the ASU Greater Hickory Partnership.

To facilitate operations of the

partnership, Appalachian has appointed Dr. Jane Everson as director of the partnership. Dr. Everson will organize program assessment efforts, recruitment, promotion and student support services, and will be a liaison with each community college in the partnership. Appalachian also will provide staffing in keeping with programming and service needs at each location. Centralized administration of the Appalachian programming at the four facilities in the partnership will be located at the Appalachian State University Center at Hickory.

An advisory council composed of regional leaders with a commitment to higher education and workforce development will advise the partnership director on matters relating to the educational needs of the region.

In addition, a programming committee, comprising representatives from Appalachian, the presidents (or their designees) of each partner community college,

and representatives of business and industry, will be established. The committee will help the director identify and develop educational programs at each of the facilities in the partnership.

"This action formalizes Appalachian's commitment to the region by agreeing to locate degree and non-degree credit programs and administrative staffing at these locations, and to reimburse each community college for classroom and office space used in accordance with current practices approved by the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System," said Dr. Stan Aeschleman, provost at Appalachian.

The EDC is excited about these changes and the higher education opportunities that are available to Alexander County citizens and those within your workforce. More information is available at the Appalachian State University Center at Hickory's website at [www.hmhec.org](http://www.hmhec.org).



## Saving Money While Reducing Waste

Waste Reduction Partners (WRP), previously known as the "Waste Reduction and Technology Transfer" Program, was established in 1992 through the collaborative efforts of the Tennessee Valley Authority, Land-of-Sky Regional Council, and the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. The WRP mission is to work for a sustainable economy, healthy environment, and better quality of life throughout North Carolina. The program was formed to assist Western North Carolina businesses, industries, institutions, and governmental entities reduce waste and utilize natural resources more efficiently with free-of-charge services.

### What services do they offer?

Waste Reduction Partners, a team of highly experienced staff and volunteer retired engineers, architects and scientists, provides North Carolina businesses and institutions with waste and energy reduction assessments and technical assistance.

WRP services are typically grant-sponsored or supported through technical service contracts to provide technical assistance to its clients at no-cost. All services are nonregulatory and confidential. Examples of services offered include Energy Efficiency Assessments, Water-Use Efficiency Audits, Solid Waste Reduction, Product Development

Mentoring, Pollution Prevention Strategies, Environmental Management Systems, and Environmental Sustainability Programs.

### How can WRP assist you as a manufacturer?

The WRP team conducts onsite assessments of manufacturing facilities and provides consulting services, assisting industries to improve environmental and energy management through efficiency techniques that save money.

Waste Reduction Partners serves any nonresidential organization in North Carolina. WRP engineers and scientists have helped over 1,300 businesses, non-profits, and public institutions reduce utility costs by over \$23 million since 2000 through improved energy management, waste reduction strategies, and water conservation plans. If you think the WRP could assist your company visit their website at [www.wastereductionpartners.org](http://www.wastereductionpartners.org), send them an email at [wrp@landofsky.org](mailto:wrp@landofsky.org) or call their Asheville office at 828-251-7476.



## Need More Space?

Industrial and commercial buildings and land options available in Alexander County are posted on our website [www.AlexanderEDC.org](http://www.AlexanderEDC.org)

## New Program From NC Commerce

In an effort to better understand the changing needs of businesses within the Charlotte region, the North Carolina Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Small Business Technology & Development Center, is preparing to reach out to businesses with greater than ten employees in our area. This will be done via the Department of Commerce's call center and by conducting face-to-face visits with industries in Alexander County.

This twelve month pilot program will identify target companies, assess their needs, and refer them to organizations that can

provide needed services. The Charlotte Regional Economic & Workforce Recovery Initiative is assisting Commerce in preparing the survey questions and scripting their employees on what to say when calling. Some companies in Alexander County have already been contacted while others will begin receiving survey calls in the next few months.

If you have questions related to the survey please contact the Economic Development Corporation or Uconda Dunn, Existing Industry Specialist with the North Carolina Department of Commerce at 704-547-5736.