

EDA News

This newsletter is published quarterly by
The Front Royal-Warren County Economic Development Authority
PO Box 445 . Front Royal . VA . 22630
540.635.2182 . www.wceda.com

Volume 18, No. 3

March 2017

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Site Prep Work Begins at Avtex for IT Federal, LLC Project

Dirt is being moved from several construction sites in Front Royal and Warren County to bring the 30 acre IT Federal site up to grade even with Kendrick Lane. This phase of the site work will require approximately 50,000 square yards of fill dirt.

Dirt is being moved from the new middle school project, the bridge project and the

Leach Run Parkway project. "This is a win-win for everyone," said Jennifer McDonald, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority (owner of the Avtex site). "IT Federal will not have to pay for much of the dirt being deposited and the other construction projects won't have to pay to have the dirt removed."○



IT Federal's plans include construction of an office facility for a data processing and storage operation, bringing well-paying technology jobs to Front Royal.

"It's been tedious," said Patty Wines, Chairwoman of the EDA. "But, nothing about this site is average or run-of-the-mill, so there are no comparisons. We're just glad to finally be moving forward."○

Spring



"We're just glad to finally be moving forward."

EDA Submits Its 2015-16 Annual Report to the Community

The Economic Development Authority recently delivered Annual Report 2016 to the Community.

“We enjoy the process of reporting on our activities during the previous fiscal year,” said Jennifer McDonald, Executive Director of the EDA. “It becomes a living inventory of our accomplishments as well as an instrument for measuring our success in accomplishing the goals and objectives set forth by the Board of Directors through our Strategic Plan.”

EDA’s accomplishments for 2015-16 include:

- Assisted sixty-seven (67) businesses with location or expansion in Front Royal-Warren County in fiscal year 2015-16;
- Created 235 new jobs, including 107 industrial jobs, 32 retail jobs, 21 office jobs, 18 trade related jobs, 19 restaurant jobs, 3 technology jobs, and 35 temporary construction jobs.
- Assisted Toray Plastics America and Interbake expansions projected to create an additional investment of \$62 million and 61 new manufacturing jobs;
- Sold 30 acres at Avtex to ITFederal, LLC, a data processing company that will build a 67,000 square foot facility in three phases to house technology jobs (at salaries ranging from \$40,000/year to
- \$120,000/year) and mixed-use retail; ITFederal is due to break ground on this project in Spring 2017.
- Served as Project Manager for the Leach Run Parkway project connector between John Marshall Highway and Happy Creek Road; this project is 2/3 complete and projected for completion in June 2017.
- In discussions with developers and users for the Afton Inn (Main Street anchor building);
- Continued work with a potential user of the old Town Hall building;
- Continued work with Town on a connector road between Kendrick Lane and West Main Street creating a traffic short-cut and connection to downtown Front Royal;
- Continued work on building a 36-unit workforce housing project to serve the middle income workers of Front Royal-Warren County. This project was approved by the Front Royal Town Council on November 14, 2016;
- Created a regional entrepreneur networking club, VENTure (Valley Entrepreneur Network) that met monthly for two years and populated the first regional entrepreneurship competition;
- Developed a regional entrepreneur competition in partnership with SBDC, NSVRC, People Inc., Shenandoah County, Clarke County, Page County, etc., encompassing the Northern Shenandoah Valley Planning District area. This program of education and competition has been highly acclaimed throughout the region and at the SBA in Richmond Virginia;
- Currently working on the second year of the program (RISE 2017);
- Assembled the Workforce Roundtable committee of community leaders, industry leaders, public school officials to address workforce challenges;
- Became host site (at Avtex) for CDL Training through Lord Fairfax Community College Workforce Solutions.

This is just some of the work outlined by the EDA in its Annual Report 2015-16.

“We’ve had a very busy and productive year and look forward to completing several large projects in 2017. Our commitment is to the health of our community and quality of life for its citizens,” said McDonald.

To read the Annual Report 2015-16 in its entirety:

www.wceda.com/abouteda.



Since 1999, SYNERGY HomeCare has been changing lives with personalized and comprehensive home care plans that allow people to maintain their quality of life and independence. SYNERGY HomeCare provides a variety of non-medical, in-home services that allow people of any age to maintain their independence and remain in familiar surroundings. Our services can help meet the needs of the elderly or disabled, accident victims, new parents, and people recovering from illness, sports injuries or surgeries. Our success comes from treating each of our clients and caregivers with the dignity and respect they deserve, and a caring team that delivers customized quality services with reliability and friendly helping hands. The office of SYNERGY HomeCare of NorthWest Virginia is at 1105 N. Royal Ave. in Front Royal. We can be reached at 540-636-0038 or www.synergyhomecare.com.

Development Review Committee Improves Efficiency

For many new businesses navigating the inspections, permitting and occupancy process is daunting. But, in a business community with two separate governmental entities – it can also be confusing and frustrating. The Front Royal Town and Warren County offices, along with the Economic Development Authority have worked hard over the years to streamline the process, educate the public and new business owners and make the experience efficient and less costly in time and money.

In the past several years, some changes have occurred that hopefully will accomplish those goals. The County established the Development Review Committee. The Committee meets once a month in the Caucus Room at the Government Center.

The purpose of the Committee is “to

offer a venue where staff members of various County, Town and State departments can discuss development applications of mutual interest that may affect Town and County in an effort to foster better communication between the departments and streamline the permitting process for the public.

The Committee includes representation from Warren County Building Inspections Department, Warren County Planning Department, Front Royal Planning Department, Front Royal Public Works Department, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Health, Rappahannock Electric Company and the Front Royal-Warren County Economic Development Authority. The Committee is not designed as a decision-making entity, but rather is a place to discuss procedures, questions and concerns between the departments and the agencies. The County

Planning and Zoning staff is responsible for preparing the agendas and conducting the meetings.

The Committee has been meeting for two years now, and the results are remarkable.

“This is one of the best things the community leadership could have ever done,” said Jennifer McDonald, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority.

“It gives us the opportunity to all sit together and work through complex projects; it puts us all at the same table and on the same page so that we know what to tell the client going forward; and if the client wants to attend and ask questions – they are free to do so. It’s a very efficient exchange of valuable information and I’m certain it has made doing business here a lot easier.” ○

New County/Town Inspections and Permitting Software

Warren County and Front Royal Town staff went live with the EnerGov building inspections and zoning software in November 2016.

EnerGov is specifically designed to automate and centrally connect critical processes. EnerGov facilitates governmental operations in managing land use and all types of regulatory permitting, including the often complex processes of intake, submittal routings, fee calculations, approvals and inspections.

The software is interactive and is shared between the Town and County Planning and Zoning offices.

“Configuration is now beginning for the public interfacing phase of the software called Citizen Self Service,” said Doug Stanley, Warren County Administrator.

“This feature of the software will allow citizens to apply for permits online, view public record permits, manage their permit activity, and much more.”

“The new software is amazing,” said Jennifer McDonald, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority. “It allows the customer to view the real-time status of their project; and shares that information between the County and Town Planning offices. It is a significant enhancement of efficiencies for our community.” ○



**The
Economic Development Authority**

Post Office Box 445
Front Royal, VA 22630

www.wceda.com |
www.facebook.com/frwceda

T 540.635.2182 | F 540.635.1853

Jennifer R. McDonald, DFCP
Executive Director
mcdonald@wceda.com

Missy Henry
Administrative Assistant
mhenry@wceda.com

Marla Taylor Jones
Editor, Director of Marketing
jones@wceda.com

Board of Directors

Patricia S. Wines, Chairwoman
Greg Drescher, Vice-Chairman
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Economic Development Authority
PO Box 445
Front Royal, VA 22630

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Farewell and Welcome!

The EDA Board of Directors and Staff would like to bid farewell to Bill Sealock, who served for five years on the EDA Board. Mr. Sealock was elected to Town Council and will be serving there.

We would like to welcome Brendan Arbuckle, Plant Manager at Toray, as our new Director who will take Bill Sealock's seat on the Board.

Save The Date: April 18, 2017



The Front Royal-Warren County community is invited to attend the **RISE 2017 Entrepreneurship Competition Event** to be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 5:00pm at The Corron Center at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Virginia.

The event will offer exhibits, pitch competition, refreshments and awards to the top small business entrepreneurs in the Region! The Audience will vote for their favorite for the Peoples' Choice Award!

Tickets are \$10 at the door, which will go to the "Peoples' Choice" winner. The audience votes for the favorite competitor who will be awarded the cash collected at the door.

Join us for a fun evening of entrepreneurship and support your local business stars! ○

Wine & Craft Festival 2017



The 31st Annual Virginia Wine and Craft Festival is just around the corner. Join us on Saturday, May 20th, from 10am – 6pm in historic downtown Front Royal, VA for shopping, live music, kids games and of course, wine tasting.

Saturday admission – \$25 in advance or \$30 at the gate for those who wish to wine taste. Free general admission. Advance tickets can be purchased in a number of ways; you can visit the Chamber of Commerce at 201 E. 2nd Street, Front Royal, the Front Royal Visitor Center at 414 E. Main Street, Front Royal or purchase them on the website.

<http://www.wineandcraftfestival.com/>