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Southeast FAM Tour Highlights I-73/74 Micro Region Which Includes Anson County

Eleven site selection consultants and commercial real estate brokers joined county, regional and state leaders for a familiarization tour of the I-73/74 Micro Region earlier this month. The three-day "FAM tour," which highlighted Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties, followed closely on the heels of a similar event organized last fall in the Greater Wilmington micro region.

"Fam tours let site selection consultants get up-close-and-personal with our communities and the regional assets that connect companies to their location strategies," says Steve Yost, president of The Southeastern Partnership. Consultants themselves recommend such regionally oriented FAM tours as an efficient, effective way to showcase economic amenities. "The centerpiece of the FAM Tour was the candid, face-to-face meetings we organized with local industry representatives," says Chuck Horne, chairman of the Anson Economic Development Corporation. Plant managers, business owners and human resource professionals shared with consultants their own objective view of how the region stands apart from competing business destinations.

Ten existing industry leaders spanning a cross-section of sectors discussed their experiences in the micro-region. "Collectively, these managers lead companies that employ more than 2,000 people here," says Pat Corso, executive director of Moore County Partners in Progress.

Local economic developers each presented to visiting consultants, offering insight into sites and parks, infrastructure and programs. The regional approach provides a unique opportunity for the rural counties to build relationships with top business influencers. "It is only by joining together that we could organize this level of outreach," said Martie Butler, economic developer for Richmond County. Consultants also met with elected officials and "walked" available sites, she adds. "That part was priceless," Butler says.

Among the sites reviewed by consultants was the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Industrial Park, one of the region's largest industrial properties. "The FAM tour was a highly beneficial event," says Scotland County Manager Kevin Patterson.

"The event was a collaborative effort, fully supported by our counties and allied partners, and this demonstrated to the consultants how well our area supports companies," says Amanda Whitaker, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Economic Development Commission. Southeast Region allies participated in the events and helped financially with sponsorships. They included utilities, banks, railroads, business services firms and healthcare providers. The FAM tour included dinner and train trip courtesy of Aberdeen Carolina Western Railway.

Commerce Secretary John Skvarla and Chris Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, shared statewide perspectives and responded to questions and comments from consultants. "These individuals, as well as their peers in the location advisory industry, make up a very important audience for state, regional and local marketing efforts, and they represent a primary source for business recruitment deals that we compete for," Chung says. "I applaud The Southeastern Partnership and its member counties for hosting this group, so that we can all showcase some of the many reasons why North Carolina is an optimal place to do business."

A public-private partnership headquartered in Elizabethtown, N.C., The Southeastern Partnership collaborates with county governments in seeking to "provide strong economic development leadership in southeastern North Carolina through innovative marketing and collaborative regional initiatives that will support the creation of new jobs, generate capital investment, and secure new business locations." Member counties include Anson, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Hoke, Montgomery, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland and Wayne.

For additional information, visit www.ncse.org.

Click It or Ticket - It's the Law

Fifty percent of the people ejected from a vehicle crash are killed, according to the commander of the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Colonel Bill Grey. "Wearing your seat belt is the single most effective action to protect yourself in a crash," Grey said at the annual Click It or Ticket press conference held May 23 at the Highway Patrol training track. "Click It or Ticket, every seat, every time. It's the Law."

Nearly 200 law enforcement officers gathered to send the public a message that using seat belts and child safety seats does save lives. From May 23 to June 5, one of the busiest travel weekends of the year, officers and troopers will be stepping up their enforcement of the seat belt laws.

Gov. Pat McCrory declared May as Seat Belt Safety Awareness Month saying that the safety and security of the citizens of North Carolina are vitally important, and that an estimated 545 lives were saved during a four-year period because of people using their seat belts.

Department of Transportation Secretary, Nick Tennyson said there is a clear advantage to buckling up - that 415 drivers or occupants who were unrestrained, died in wrecks last year.

Wake Med Trauma surgeon Dr. Miren Schinco also spoke to the audience about the importance of seat belt safety. "We see the consequences of people not wearing their seat belt," Schinco said. "Sixty percent of the people we see were not restrained."

She said people state that seat belts are uncomfortable, but are broken bones comfortable? Some depend on air bags, but they don't disperse the amount of force an accident victim is feeling. Others say they'd rather be thrown than crumpled in a car, yet there is a 75 to 80% increase in death with ejections or severe brain injury.

Dr. Schinco said other victims have said they weren't going far, yet most crashes occur within 25 miles of the home at a speed less than 40 miles per hour. Others, she said, have said, "It's only me," yet it's not. Law enforcement, hospital personnel and family are all effected by traumatic accidents.

Sponsored by the Governor's Highway Safety Program, North Carolina's Click It or Ticket program began in 1993 and nearly every law enforcement agency in the state participates in the Click It or Ticket program. It is one of the most intensive law enforcement efforts of its kind, and North Carolina's program serves as a model for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. North Carolina has an 89.9 percent buckle rate. The Click It or Ticket Program aims to get every motorist in America to buckle his or her seatbelt. Click It or Ticket. Every Seat. Every Time. It's The Law.

Men for Change 2016

Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center is asking the men of Anson County to take a pledge this Father's Day to create a community free from violence for women and children.

We began the fundraiser on May 18, 2016 and will continue through June 17, 2016, asking men to take this pledge:

"I pledge to seek equality and respect in all my relationships with women. I commit to lead by example, to be a role model to other men and a mentor to our younger generations to create a community and future, free from violence for our women and children."

An insert will be in The Express Newspaper the week after Father's Day in June listing the name of each contributor. Individual pledges are \$5. To pledge In Honor or In Memory of someone will cost \$10. Any business that would like to pledge will be asked to donate at least \$25.

We need YOUR help so that every man in our county has the chance to participate. There will be a special prize awarded to the person raising the most money!!

The proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assaults within Anson County. ACDVC is a nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Tax letters will be mailed after June 27.

If you would like to be participate in selling pledges, please contact Gail Dove at 704-694-4499 for details. If you want to make a donation to Men for Change 2013, our mailing address is ACDVC, PO Box 694, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

ACDVC would like to say a special thank you to Allen Lyon from The Express Newspaper, Pizza Hut, Med Northcutt and Paul Dove for their generous support and contributions to this fundraiser!

Parks and Recreation Summer Youth Sports Camp

Anson County Parks and Recreation is offering their annual Summer Youth Sports Camp at Little Park for ages 9-12. Participants will play a variety of sports which include basketball, flag football and wiffleball.

Preregistration runs until June 15 at Little Park. The camp begins on Monday, June 20, running from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information contact Jeff Waisner at 704-695-2550, Wendell Small at 704-695-2782 or Morris Gatewood at 704-694-5751.



4th Golden Sweetheart Event Held at BRLC

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center's Fourth Annual Golden Sweetheart Event was held recently, and it was a real success with four honorees and all the attendees enjoying an evening of fellowship. The ages of the Golden Sweethearts were 91, 89, 86 and 77. The seniors, volunteers and children all had a wonderful time.

BRLC Director Carol Smith said, "The community's continued support has made this organization and building into a place of great blessing for many. We continue to break through barriers as the lives of people are being changed. The community's generous outreach has made this possible, along with the help of BRLC's great volunteer's support."

"Anson County has changed tremendously through the birth and administering of BRLC's Programs," Smith concluded. "This could not have happened without you standing with us."

Pictured above from left are, Rosa Brewer, Annie Townsend, Lula Little and Andrew Smith.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

Anson Property Selected as 1 of 8 NC Locations for Duke Energy Site Readiness Program

**Town of Wadesboro owned property to participate in company's economic development initiative
Duke Energy helped recruit more than \$1.2 billion in capital investment and more than 3,200 new jobs to North Carolina**

Duke Energy has selected eight North Carolina properties for participation in this year's Site Readiness Program to prepare them for business and industrial development. The company's award-winning endeavor identifies high-quality industrial sites in its service areas then collaborates with county leaders and local economic development professionals to develop a strategy for providing water, sewer, natural gas and electricity to the parcels.

The locations include:

- The Burlington #3 site in Alamance County is a 200-acre tract that is the next industrial vision for the county's growth. As a local economic developer, I consider this program to be a real value-add to our own local efforts and appreciate Duke Energy being a proactive partner," said Mac Williams, president of the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce. "This program focuses on local property issues, which helps communities prioritize limited local resources to better compete for jobs and tax base."

- A 73-acre site in Anson County owned by the town of Wadesboro. Located between Highway 109 North and Airport Road, it is a prime location for an industrial park.

- The 160-acre Boardman site is a joint venture between Guilford and Rockingham counties, and will be the first development in a historically rural part of both counties. The site is strategically located on what will become the new I-73 corridor coming south out of Virginia.

- A more than 300-acre site in Lenoir County is situated off the NCR/Norfolk Southern main line on a rail spur leading to the NCGTP. This site has the potential to accommodate warehousing, distribution, refrigeration and other projects. "The site readiness program enables communities, especially rural ones, to make sites ready for economic activity," said D. Mark Pope, executive director of Lenoir County Economic Development.

- A 140-acre site in Rowan County in the Henderson Grove Church Road area is being evaluated as a potential future site for the newest development projects.

- The Wade Matheny Farm site is the newest industrial location in Rutherford County. This 153-acre site located next to Forest City is adjacent to the U.S. 74 Bypass with excellent access to both I-85 and I-26. The site also offers the potential for rail service. Tom Johnson, interim executive director, Rutherford County Economic Development said, "Duke's engagement in the rural parts of North Carolina is unique and very much appreciated and more specifically this program directly led to the location of a \$500,000,000 project a few years ago."

- The Scotland County Airbase Road site in Scotland County is a 364-acre property the county has plans to acquire. The site has infrastructure in place located near Wagram, close to the former West Point Stevens facility, and is adjacent to Cascades Tissue.

- The Bryan Holdings property in Wayne County is 118 acres and has all infrastructure either in place or nearby. The site is located near the new Highway 44 connector to I-795.

After each site's state of readiness has advanced, Duke Energy's business development team strategically markets each of them nationwide to companies looking to expand or relocate their operations.

Sierra Nevada Brewery is an example of an economic development win for the state. Henderson County tourism and economic activity have been boosted by the brewery. And it all started with a piece of property, a vision for the future and a partnership with Duke Energy.

"The Site Readiness Program has certainly been a success for us and the counties we serve," said John Geib, Duke Energy's director of economic development. "So far, we've won 20 major projects on those properties, resulting in about 4,300 jobs and \$3.5 billion in capital investment. Sierra Nevada alone represents nearly 100 jobs and more than \$108 million of that investment. This program is a cornerstone of our efforts to increase the awareness of high-quality industrial sites across the Carolinas."

Duke Energy works with McCallum Sweeney Consulting, a nationally known consulting firm based in Greenville, S.C., to conduct site studies. McCallum Sweeney has been instrumental in many high-profile automotive and industrial relocations and expansions.

Duke Energy's economic development efforts are perennially recognized by Site Selection magazine in the publication's annual list of "Top Utilities in Economic Development."

In 2015, Duke Energy helped recruit more than \$1.2 billion in capital investment and more than 3,200 new jobs to North Carolina. Since 2005, a dedicated team of experts recruited customers with capital investment of approximately \$21 billion. Those efforts produced more than 81,000 associated jobs for the state.

So what's the secret to a winning record when it comes to growing the economy? "Economic development is a team sport - we work with many groups and companies in different capacities throughout the economic development process," said Stu Heishman, Duke Energy's vice president of economic development. "We get the results we do by providing dependable, affordable energy to the industries, businesses and residential customers we serve in the Tarheel State."

For more information about Duke Energy's economic development programs, visit considerthecarolinas.com.