

Augusta Activities

**The monthly newsletter of the
Development Authority of Richmond County**

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www.AugustaEDA.com

New Spec Building Program Announced by Dev Authority

The Development Authority of Richmond County announced at the July meeting of the Board of Directors that a new speculative building program will begin as soon as possible.



NBTY's new 400,000 SF facility, formerly Bill's Dollar Store

The decision to build more industrial space in Augusta-Richmond County was prompted by the recent sale of the Bill's Dollar Store building in South Augusta. With the sale, a 400,000 square foot available building was taken off the Development Authority's inventory, along with four other large industrial buildings. The 237,000SF VF Playwear Building and

the 273,000SF Liz Claiborne Building were leased by RBW Logistics, the 100,000SF President's Bakery Building was leased by CRL Logistics, and the 45,000SF Hayes Warehouse was leased by BumbleBee Foods...all within the past three months.

The Development Authority of Richmond County is in negotiations at this time with two private developers for the construction of two speculative industrial buildings in excess of 100,000SF. More details will be forthcoming.

Currently, the largest available buildings in Augusta-Richmond County are a 122,000SF facility on Gordon Highway, an 80,000SF facility on Marvin Griffin Rd, and a 50,000SF facility on Tobacco Rd.

Approximately 65% of all industrial inquiries initially are looking for an available building. The spec buildings to be built in Augusta are projected to be in the 100,000SF range, with 24'-28' ceiling heights and no floor. The concrete floor will be poured depending on the requirements of the new tenant/owner.

Existing Industry Program Begins

The revitalized Existing Industry Program of the Development Authority of Richmond County began in August.

Laurie Davis was named Manager of Existing Industry and Finance this past spring. Laurie will coordinate the visits to Augusta's manufacturing, distribution and related industries, according to Walt Sprouse, Executive Director of the Development Authority. The Existing Industry Program will focus on personal visits to area plant managers to encourage the company's continued expansion and growth, inform the companies of new statewide and business programs for training, financing and transportation.

One of the major highlights of the Existing Industry Program has been the quarterly plant managers meetings, spearheaded by Michele Baxley of IFF. The Development Authority will work with Baxley in the months and years to come to coordinate future meetings and events specific to existing industries.

Development Authority Chairman Loren Perry said, "Our existing industries are our top priority. New announcements usually get the headlines, but we are equally excited about an existing industry's expansion. We'll work hard for each of our fine companies locally."

The Existing Industry Program is vital to the community, according to Davis. "Our goal is to insure that our fine Augusta companies know they have an ally with the Development Authority of Richmond County. We will encourage their expansion in terms of investment and new jobs, and work with local agencies for the overall economic stability of the county."

Check Out the Website!

We are getting lots of attention from our excellent electronic marketing tool...www.AugustaEDA.com

In addition to the latest news and information about new jobs and investments in Augusta-Richmond County, the website highlights Augusta's available sites and available buildings. A variety of statistical data is kept up-to-date, and interactive maps show highways, sites and buildings. Many users of the website have told us it is one of the best economic development websites in the country!

One of the goals of the Development Authority is to have our web address in front of project managers throughout the country. The website is regularly used by site selection consultants in Atlanta, New York, Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix and Greenville, project managers with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and the development professionals with the Georgia Allies including AGL Resources, BellSouth, Georgia Power, MEAG, Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, and others.

MISSION

The Development Authority of Richmond County (DARC) is the single point of contact for developers, project managers & consultants for economic development projects in Augusta-Richmond County.

The DARC is responsible for the recruitment of these new businesses in the areas of industrial, manufacturing, distribution, corporate & regional headquarters, customer service centers, and assistance with other major economic development projects in the county.

The DARC focuses on the many existing industries of Augusta-Richmond County to insure their continued expansions and retentions.