

# Augusta Activities

The monthly newsletter of the  
Development Authority of Richmond County

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[www.AugustaEDA.com](http://www.AugustaEDA.com)

## NBTY Announces Augusta Plant

NBTY, Incorporated, a major manufacturer of vitamins and nutritional supplements, announced on June 29<sup>th</sup> that Augusta is the location for their new \$40,000,000 manufacturing facility. NBTY purchased the former Bill's Dollar Store building in South Augusta and will initially create 250 new jobs. The NBTY announcement in Augusta is one of the largest manufacturing announcements in the State of Georgia for 2005. The location decision was made by Loren Perry, Chairman of the Development Authority of Richmond County, at a press conference immediately following the June 29<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Chairman Perry said, "The Augusta community always looks to the Development Authority to hit a home run in the economic development field. Well, today we hit it out of the park."

The Authority approved industrial revenue bonds for \$40,000,000 for NBTY. Employment will begin in a few months, with production starting later this year.

NBTY produces more than 1,500 nutritional supplements under several brand names including MET-Rx, Sundown, Rexall, Nature's Bounty, Carb Solutions and CarbWise. It also produces private label brands for WalMart and other major

chains. Fortune magazine named NBTY as one of the nation's fastest growing companies in 2004. The Development Authority of Richmond County recruited NBTY for more than 11 months in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Economic Development.



**Three Major Announcements in  
Two Weeks for Augusta.  
(Check Out Page Two!)**

Page Two of the newsletter has information about the major retail project for Augusta...The Village at Riverwatch...and the major expansion at Castleberry's. Check out the total investment and total new jobs of projects announced since June 29<sup>th</sup> with the assistance of the Development Authority.

# Village at Riverwatch, \$100M, 800 jobs

The MG Herring Group, a Dallas based shopping center developer, announced plans to build a major new lifestyle shopping center, to be known as the "Village at Riverwatch" in Augusta. The state-of-the-art retail development will be on a 132-acre site at Riverwatch Parkway and Interstate 20 in Augusta, adjacent to the Augusta Canal. Ground breaking is set for March 2006 with a Grand Opening in Fall 2007.

"This is truly a team effort on behalf of the community to work together to bring this very large complex here to Augusta," said Walter Sprouse, Executive Director of the Development Authority of Richmond County. "700-800 jobs will be created here with an investment close to \$100,000,000. It's going to have a major impact on the community."

The project will initially consist of approximately 800,000 SF and will include major new stores for Dillard's and Belk department stores. The project has been in the works for more than a year, according to Sprouse.

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## 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.

# Major Expansion at Castleberry's

Castleberry/Snow's Brands will add as many as 200 new jobs this year and invest more than \$9,000,000, adding two new food lines to their Augusta processing facility.

Thanks to a joint venture with Kellogg's to produce imitation meat products, 66 new jobs will be created at the Augusta plant. The relocation of a Bumble Bee chicken processing plant currently in Alabama will create about 120 more jobs and bring new re-sealable pouch packaging to the Augusta facility. Additional investments at the Augusta location are expected later in the year.

The Development Authority of Richmond County was successful in obtaining a grant from the OneGeorgia Authority in the amount of \$302,835, to be used for the construction of a rail spur to the expansion for the new ventures. The rail spur was made possible with the cooperation of Sonoco Products and CSX.

## Recent Totals With These Three Augusta Announcements:

### **NBTY**

*(Project Started: October 18, 2004)*

\$40,000,000 investment

250 new jobs

### **Village at Riverwatch**

*(Project Started: June 22, 2004)*

\$100,000,000 investment

800 new jobs

### **Castleberry's**

*(Project Started: May 25, 2004)*

\$9,000,000 investment

200 new jobs