Welcome to the Dublin-Laurens County Development Authority’s quarterly newsletter! We share our newsletters via email with the objective to reach out to stakeholders, site consultants and economic development partners to keep them up to date on our most recent announcements, the progress of our existing projects, and community news.

Dublin-Laurens County is under construction!

In 2016, Dublin-Laurens County announced two new industries and two expansions of our existing industries. In 2017, we are seeing the fruits of our labor as these announcements are becoming a reality. Thus far this year, we have celebrated the ribbon cutting of Polymer Logistics, watched as Valmiera Glass’s Phase II grows, celebrated the hiring of their first set of employees for their new facility, and benefited from the growth in our economy in all sectors. The economic growth is visible, and we are continuing to work together to capitalize on #BuildingDublinLaurensCounty!
Polymer Logistics Cuts Ribbon on New Facility

Polymer Logistics celebrated the Grand Opening of their Dublin, GA Service Center on Thursday, March 30. Strategically located with easy access to Interstates 16 and 75, the Service Center will support the company's rapidly growing customer base in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

The facility will provide Reusable Plastic Container (RPC) pooling, sanitizing, and redistribution logistics to service Polymer Logistics customers. It is the fifth Polymer Logistics Service Center in the US, joining operations in Salinas and Riverside, CA, San Antonio, TX, and Portage, IN. Polymer Logistics owns and operates its service centers across the country.

The Dublin Service Center incorporates the latest technology for energy conservation, product handling, and high-capacity reusable transport container washing, sanitizing, and drying. The state-of-the-art tunnel washer provides advanced spin-drying and folding capabilities, as well as the latest Worker and Food Safety features for customers and employees. The facility, built by local construction company, Dublin Construction, has high efficiency lighting, variable frequency drivers and compressors to manage energy consumption, and thermal insulation on water and steam pipes to maintain temperature and reduce energy use.
The Georgia Department of Labor released the "Georgia Employment & Wages - 2016 Averages" report on Friday, June 23, 2017. The report compiled the average number of establishments, average employment, and average weekly wages in Georgia counties during the 2016 calendar year. Laurens County added 464 new jobs in 2016 - a 2.6% increase from 2015 to 2016. The community also experienced a tangible increase in average weekly wages going from $698 per week to $730 per week representing a 4.6% increase. Economists predict every dollar of payroll circulates throughout the local economy six times. The increase in average wages throughout the manufacturing sector specifically, will lead to increased economic impact for retail, service and other sectors.

"The Dublin-Laurens County Development Authority and our elected officials have focused on our number one priority, which is to create good jobs, and these numbers reflect the fruit of our labor. Adding 464 new jobs in one year proves that our community is growing and thriving!" said Roger Folsom, DLCDA Chairman.

In 2016, the Dublin-Laurens County Development Authority announced a total of 595 new jobs which consisted of new investment and existing industry expansions. The impact of the new job creation will begin to be reflected in the 2017 Department of Labor figures once the new and expanding companies complete their construction and begin hiring. On May 17, 2016, TriStar Aerial announced their relocation into Downtown Dublin to create 30 jobs, and Polymer Logistics, an Israeli-based company, announced a Dublin-Laurens County location and the creation of 110 new jobs on May 19, 2016.
80% of new jobs are created by existing industries, and two existing industries in Laurens County provided for the bulk of the new job creation announced by the Development Authority in 2016. In September, SunTek Pet announced 30 new jobs, a 40,000 sq. ft, expansion to their current facility, and the purchase of two existing industrial facilities. Valmiera Glass Group also announced the expansion of their North American headquarters and manufacturing operations in Dublin-Laurens County which will create 425 new jobs and an overall capital investment of $90 million through 2022. The manufacturing sector currently employs over 2,000 people in Laurens County.

Valmiera Glass Hires First Set of Employees from OFTC Training Program

P-D Valmiera Glass USA Corp hosted their first hiring ceremony for students in the Maintenance, Mechatronics, and Fiber Forming Customized Training Program at Oconee Fall Line Technical College on Tuesday, May 2. Eighteen current students from the Maintenance, Mechatronics, and Fiber Forming training programs were chosen for full-time employment at the Phase 2 Furnace Expansion in Dublin and presented with hiring certificates from Valmiera.

These students have traveled to Valmiera's home plant in Latvia for the past four months in three week sessions for continued training and will have the option of helping at the plant's Phase 1 facility in Dublin until
The Valmiera Glass Phase II facility is close to completion with an estimated start of production in early 2018. The facility is close to 500,000 sq. ft. and will house the company’s 425 new employees.

Valmeria Glass's Phase II Facility Construction Progresses
Let us tell you why Dublin-Laurens County is the 'Business Heart of Georgia'

Existing Industry Resource Guide

The Dublin-Laurens County Development Authority is here to assist local companies with expansion and growth. With the wide variety of manufacturing and distribution industries located in the Dublin-Laurens County area, we know the importance of working with our existing industries to ensure they continue to succeed and retain high-skilled employees. The staff with the Development Authority visits with each industry one-on-one throughout the year to discuss their current business state and to learn the challenges they may be facing.

We act as a conduit between the company, state, and local resources to help your business grow!
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube for daily updates!

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