

Toyota Expansion



(Photo courtesy of Toyota Motor Mfg. WV)

150 new jobs... Toyota's April 29th announcement of another expansion—this time a \$120 million expansion— will result in the addition of 150 new jobs.

According to Mr. Atsushi Niimi, President and CEO of Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, "Toyota's West Virginia power train plant is an integral piece of Toyota's growing North American manufacturing operations."

"Our West Virginia team members are world class in both quality and productivity," said David Copenhaver, Vice President and Secretary for TMMWV. "They successfully maintain very stringent quality standards, with tolerances the width of a strand of human hair, yet they are a benchmark in the industry for productivity."

"These are the type of good-paying jobs with health benefits that we're looking for more of in West Virginia," said West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin.

"Since my first meeting with Toyota over 20 years ago, I knew that they were a perfect fit for West Virginia, and this expansion proves that once again," said U. S. Senator Jay Rockefeller. "I know all West Virginians take pride as I do in our Toyota workforce, and we'll be working to bring even more great Toyota jobs to our state. Toyota is one of the flagship companies in West Virginia's manufacturing industry, and one of the most successful, innovative and exciting companies in the world. Together, West Virginia and Toyota are competing and winning." *More on Toyota's latest expansion on page 2.*

Nippon Celebration

In the photo below, Yoshiyuki Onishi, President, Nippon Thermostat of America Corp., takes a turn to paint the Daruma Doll for good luck as (left to right) Governor Joe Manchin; David Bagnall, emcee of the event; Takahiro Iwaki, General Manager, NTAC; Senator Jay Rockefeller; President Onishi and Yutaka Mizuno, President, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, WV, look on.



(Photo compliments of Alex Wilson, Photographer, West Virginia Development Office)

On June 27th, Nippon Thermostat of America Corporation celebrated a grand opening of the approximately 32,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility at Putnam Business Park in Fraziers Bottom.

Nippon Thermostat's President Onishi said he would like his company to help bring other businesses to West Virginia.

West Virginia workers will make 300,000 automotive thermostats a year in the beginning and, eventually, the company hopes to increase the production capacity to about 5,000,000 units per year.

President Onishi said that "thermostat manufacturing is our area of expertise, and we are going to be No. 1 in the world. We will not waiver in our dedication to attaining this goal, and we are even more confident in that regard, given the partnership that we have with the State of West Virginia."

The company currently employs 6 persons at the Putnam County location but expect to employ 40-50 persons within a couple of years.

More about Nippon Thermostat's grand opening ceremony on page 2.

Toyota Expansion (continued)

In the photograph at right (*photo courtesy of Toyota*) Governor Joe Manchin works on a Toyota motor. It is always nice to have a trade to fall back on in case one decides not to run for public office again.

Governor Manchin, Senator Rockefeller and other members of a recent trade mission to Japan had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Soichiro Toyoda, the honorary chairman of the Toyota Motor Corporation, during a dinner reception at U. S. Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer's home in Tokyo.



With the latest expansion, beginning in 2007, Toyota Motor Mfg, WV(TMMWV) will build 240,000 additional automatic transmissions per year. This will bring the plant's total automatic transmission capacity to 600,000 units. The fifth TMMWV expansion will increase total investment to more than \$920 million.

Since the plant was first announced back in 1996, employment has nearly quadrupled. TMMWV currently machines and assembles four-cylinder engine for the Toyota Corolla and Matrix; V6 engines for the Toyota Sienna minivan and the Lexus RX 330; and automatic transmissions for Toyota's North American-built Camry, Solara, Sienna and Lexus RX 330.

In April 2004, TMMWV officials announced an expansion to manufacture automatic transmission gears, slated to begin in 2006.

Nippon Thermostat Grand Opening Celebration (continued)

In the photo (right) President Onishi is joined by Senator Jay Rockefeller and Governor Joe Manchin for pictures at the conclusion of the ceremony on June 27th. In the photo below, people attending the event had the opportunity to get a first hand view of the people and equipment needed to manufacture the high-quality Nippon Thermostats.



Photos compliments of Alex Wilson, Photographer, West Virginia Development Office.



Diamond Electric's Eleanor Plant is Quality Plant of the Year

Quality Magazine has selected Diamond Electric Mfg. Corporation's Eleanor, West Virginia facility as the **QUALITY PLANT OF THE YEAR**. According to the magazine article, it is "Empowerment, Commitment, and Pride" that has brought this kind of recognition to Diamond Electric's West Virginia facility.

Diamond Electric employs 111 persons at its Eleanor Industrial Park facility and according to the company, it is their "people who have allowed the plant to grow from a 50,000 sq. ft. plant and a capacity of 3.4 million units to a 110,000 sq. ft. and 13 million unit capacity in less than two years.

Employees are empowered to stop the production process when they identify a defect and get the failure mode repaired before an excessive amount of product is produced. In addition, the company has taken several additional steps to reduce defects and improve product quality. These include daily error-proofing audits and layered process audits.

CONGRATULATIONS DIAMOND ELECTRIC MFG. CORPORATION ELEANOR OPERATION.



Mason/Putnam County U.S. Route 35 Committee

July brought good news and some very sad news to members of the U.S. Route 35 committee, the committee that has worked long and hard to see the new 4-lane U.S. Route completed through Mason and Putnam Counties.

On July 7th, committee members heard from Mr. Paul Mattox, Commissioner of Highways, WVDOT, that a recently-developed 6-year highway plan will bring a more focused approach to highway construction spending. Mr. Mattox estimated that it will take approx. \$138 million to do the segment from Crooked Creek Interchange to the Buffalo Bridge. He also indicated that he and Secretary Danny Ellis wanted to have the segment completed within the time frame of the 6-year plan. He also indicated that the amount previously announced for Mason County (approx. \$44 million) would be spent in Mason County.

Jack Fruth, a dedicated member of the Mason/Putnam U.S. Route 35 Committee passed away on July 19. Jack volunteered his time to serve on a number of committees and organizations.

Jack was a well-known and respected businessman, a recognized entrepreneur and a respected community leader. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends, associates and anyone who had the pleasure to meet him.

In Honor of



Jack E. Fruth
June 3, 1928—July 19, 2005

PROTEC 2005 Fund Raising

Since our last newsletter, additional donations have been received. We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for supporting Putnam County's growth by donating to the PROTEC fund raising effort.

A & L Building Supplies
American Electric Power
Branch Bank & Trust (BB&T)
Bank One West Virginia
Bio-Chem Testing, Inc.
CINTAS Corporation

Concorp, Inc.
City National Bank
Criste & Company
First State Bank
Four S Development
Jackson & Kelly PLLC
Onyx Industrial Services, Inc.
Rover Construction
WV-American Water Company

Flexsys Gone But Not Forgotten



The two photos above were taken on the morning of July 26, 2005. The photos show the former location of Flexsys America LP at Nitro. Taken looking toward the river from visitor's check-in station.



Photo above was taken looking toward the river in the direction of the former administrative building and other buildings on the site, now a vacant lot.

Governor Names Prince WVIJDC Chair

Board of Directors

<i>Stephen Andes</i>	<i>Dave Bunger</i>
<i>Wayne Bennett</i>	<i>David Copenhaver</i>
<i>James Caruthers</i>	<i>Dale Eggleton</i>
<i>Scott Edwards</i>	<i>Rick Slater</i>
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<i>Lana Newhouse-Taylor</i>	<i>David Kimberling</i>
<i>Jack McLane</i>	<i>Robert Pennington</i>
<i>Dennis Prisk</i>	<i>Courtlandt Smith</i>
<i>Nancy Smith</i>	<i>John Smolak</i>
<i>Ben Vest</i>	<i>Linda Williams</i>
<i>Thomas D. Winter</i>	

Staff : *Gary S. Walton, CEcD, Executive Director*
Gloretta Bishop, Office Manager

Phone: (304) 757-0318

West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin has appointed Mark Prince as his designee to chair the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council. The council is the state agency that coordinates the efforts of 15 state and federal agencies in arranging funding for water, sewer and economic development projects statewide. Prince is Managing Director of JPMorgan Private Client Services and CEO of Bank One West Virginia.

SBDC's 25th Year

The **Small Business Development Center Program (SBDC)** is 25 years old. Officially begun in 1980, the SBDC program has grown to 63 Lead Centers and more than 1,000 service center locations in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

The SBDA program offers free one-on-one counseling and low-cost training by experienced business professionals to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, working in coordination with federal, state, local and private sector resources. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov/sbdc.

Advantage Valley Receives \$2 Million from W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation has awarded Advantage Valley a \$2 million grant for the Advantage Valley Entrepreneurship Development System Collaborative. Partners in the grant include the lead organization, Advantage Valley, Inc., Advantage Valley Community College Network, Ashland Area Innovation Center, Center for Economic Options, Charleston Area Alliance, Vision Shared Increasing Entrepreneurship Committee, West Virginia Department of Education Entrepreneurship Programs, and West Virginia Small Business Development.

The grant will promote entrepreneurial activity in the eleven-county Advantage Valley region and produce entrepreneurial models for other communities. Funds will be disbursed over a three-year period and will be used to assist existing agencies in servicing entrepreneurs more effectively, to provide opportunities for entrepreneurs to grow their companies through coaching, networking, and increasing their access to capital and markets, and to help change policies to be more supportive of entrepreneurial activity. In addition, the proposal outlines plans for increased entrepreneurial activity in public schools and community colleges located within the region. The ultimate goal is to transform the region from a traditional to a vibrant culture of entrepreneurial activity.

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Address Service Requested

