

## Meiji Corporation to open in Putnam County



Governor Joe Manchin, Sen. Jay Rockefeller and representatives of Meiji Corporation recently announced the opening of a new facility for the company in Putnam County. The company will lease approximately 2,000 sq. ft. of office and warehouse space at the Appalachian Railcar building at Eleanor Industrial Park in Eleanor.

“We thank Meiji Corporation for their investment and welcome them to the growing, international automotive community in Putnam County,” said Governor Manchin.

Based in Nagoya, Japan, the company distributes factory automation components, specializing in equipment for the automotive industry, but also serves

the chemical, plastics, steel, printing and processing industries.

“Meiji Corporation is located in Putnam County to support the Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia plant as well as the Japanese plants supporting TMMWV in the area,” said Courtney Williams, account manager for Meiji Corporation. “We look forward to building long-lasting relationships with our West Virginia clients and expanding our opportunities within the industries we serve.

The West Virginia Development Office, International Division, Nagoya Office, and the Putnam County Development Authority played key roles in bringing the company to Putnam County.

## TMMWV Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On May 22nd, Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia, Inc. celebrated its 10th anniversary in Buffalo.

Since the plant was first announced in 1996, employment has nearly quadrupled. TMMWV currently machines and assembles four and six cylinder engines and automatic transmissions for Toyota’s North American built Solara, Sienna, Avalon, and Lexus RX350. Gear production for the automatic transmission began in December 2005 and will fully launch by the Fall, 2006.

The growth in employment means plant-wide growth. TMMWV has expanded five times with the additions of an engine plant and an automatic transmission facility, manufacturing of the Lexus RX powertrain and a gear plant. Two of these expansions—manufacturing Lexus products and gear production—have been “firsts” outside of Japan. “In 1986, when I discussed West Virginia as a possible plant site with

Dr. Soichiro Toyoda, I could not even imagine the enormous success that the Buffalo plant would enjoy over the last 10 years,” said Sen. Jay Rockefeller.

Yutaka Mizuno, president of TMMWV, said, “We have demonstrated to both Toyota and West Virginia what our outstanding team members are capable of doing—building quality, stable and dependable power train products. We are now building approximately 1,000,000 engines and transmissions a year, which is remarkable for our more than 1,000 team members.”

Toyota currently has 12 plants in North America. In addition, two new plants are under construction in Texas and Ontario.



## PCDA Board visits Hurricane Business Park Property



*(L-R) Ben Vest, Courtlandt L. Smith, David Bunger participate in the site visit by PCDA board. Tom Winter and Wayne Bennett (background) review site maps.*

On April 11th, PCDA Board Members joined representatives from the City of Hurricane to visit the Hurricane Business Park property to review development plans for the property.

The Authority's engineers, Thrasher Engineers, also attended to discuss the sewer and water projects scheduled for the property.

In the photo at left, board members discuss the project while standing on the former Lander's Motel property located across Orchard Park Road from Midway Ford.

PCDA signed a purchase agreement in November 2004 with Wal-Mart. The site is proposed as the location for a new Wal-Mart Super Center at the Hurricane Exit (Exit 34). The development is expected to result in other new retail and commercial developments at the exit that will give residents even more shopping choices.

## Nitro Annexation Has Residents and Businesses In Uproar

In the photo (right) Putnam County Commissioner Stephen Andes talks after the meeting with Nitro City Councilman Bill Clark.

The meeting was hosted and sponsored by the Putnam County Commission to address questions and concerns that were raised by individuals and businesses in Putnam County regarding the proposed annexation of large portions of Putnam County's industrial areas into the city of Nitro.



Union, business and homeowners all spoke at the meeting and urged Nitro's council to reject the idea of trying to annex portions of the county that included the HUB Industrial Park, Rock Branch Industrial Park, the John Amos Power Plant and other residential areas.

Forest Park residents informed council members that they would be receiving a second petition from residents indicating their desire was for NO annexation! Thanks to the Commission for organizing the meeting and for Nitro Council Members for attending and participating.

## Construction in Putnam County



In the photo above workers are erecting the concrete block walls for the new Schwan's Food Service warehouse and distribution center at the Putnam Business Park. The photo was taken on June 13th. The new building is located adjacent to U.S. Route 35 in Fraziers Bottom and completion is expected in late 2006.

The photo below, right, shows construction progressing at the new Crooked Creek Interchange on I-64. The new interchange is located about one mile east of the Teays Valley Exit and will open yet another area of Putnam County for commercial and residential growth. It will take more than two years to complete.



## PROTEC 2006 Contributor List Updated

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THANK YOU to the following businesses and individuals who have donated to PROTEC to support marketing efforts of the development authority. PROTEC is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible under IRS regulations.

We sincerely appreciate the donations from these businesses and individuals. If you haven't already donated to this year's fund-raising effort, please donate today. The following companies and individuals have donated to PROTEC as of 6/15/06.

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## ICG Building Progresses

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*The photo above shows that construction is progressing on the new headquarters for International Coal Group.*

*The new 53,000 sq. ft. building is under construction at the Teays Valley Business and Industry Park immediately adjacent to Interstate Highway 64 at the Teays Valley/Scott Depot/Winfield exit (Exit 39). Construction is expected to be completed later this summer.*

## West Virginia and Putnam County Get National Attention

The May 7, 2006 issue of *The Buffalo News* was entitled "Auto Plant Thrives in Buffalo (Buffalo, West Virginia, that is)." The writer, Jerry Zremski, News National Correspondent, did a wonderfully positive article comparing the growing economy of Buffalo in Putnam County to the struggles faced in recent years with our New York counterparts. If you were not able to see the article, just let me know and I'll be happy to email you a copy of the full article (minus pictures of course).

Then, on Monday, June 12th, the *Baltimore Sun* featured an article, written by Jamie Smith Hopkins that discussed the new air of optimism in West Virginia because of a number of factors, including the coal industry's comeback, tourism, and construction. All of these factors are resulting in a resurgence of jobs in the state that is being felt from the southern coal fields to the eastern panhandle.

West Virginia has much to be proud of and being featured in outside publications helps spread the word.

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