

### **CARROLL CLOSES ON TECHNOLOGY PARK**

December 30<sup>th</sup> marked the official closing on the 116 acre tract that will be used to develop the Carroll Business Technology Park off the Carrollton 166 Bypass.

This collaborative project between Carroll County and the City of Carrollton has been a top priority for the community since the inception of the Carroll Tomorrow strategic plan in 2001. The site is ideal evidenced by the existing IT neighbors such as the AirTran Airways call center, Greenway Medical and,

most recently, Fogo Networks. The strategically located redundant high-speed fiber connectivity and Carrollton's Zeeweed fiber-membrane water filtration system, the Park will be a magnet for a wide variety of technology firms, including data, networking, bio-med, clean tech and research and design.

The County plans to start construction and the median cut by March, 2010. Carroll Tomorrow is currently working closely with the County,

the Development Authority of Carroll County (DACC) and others to determine the park's overall design and other details of the development.

Carroll Tomorrow is developing a marketing package highlighting the Park's attributes for distribution to state development managers. In addition, Carroll Tomorrow currently has one active prospect (Project Wild) that is considering locating in the new park.

### **SOUTHWIRE DEVELOPS NEW CLEAN PRODUCT**

The federal government recently announced Carrollton-based Southwire is one of two Georgia companies awarded millions in federal tax credits through a \$2.3 billion clean energy-manufacturing program. Southwire will get \$2.2 million in tax credits to re-equip its manufacturing lines to make cables designed specifically for solar and wind energy transmission.

In addition, Southwire has received approval from the Carrollton Payroll Development Authority for the issuance of a bond package the company will use to develop a facility that will allow for the production of electric transmission lines, creating a number of local jobs and protecting even more.

The authority agreed to issue up to \$88 million in bonds for the local wire manufacturer. Southwire will use the money to finance the construction of a new facility at the company's Carrollton headquarters. As part of Southwire's Energy Division this new facility will, for the first time, give the company the capability to manufacture a transmission line that carries electricity from a power plant to various substations and homes.

### **FOGO NETWORKS EXPANDS IN CARROLLTON**

*Fogo Networks* is a technology-solution firm that was created five years ago. The company is now headquartered in Carroll County and has offices in Douglasville along with an off-site co-location in downtown Atlanta. Fogo has recently purchased an existing facility in Carrollton that is located across the street from the new Business Technology Park which they will convert to a tier 3 data center.

The facility will house computer systems and associated components to run the applications that handle the core business and operational data for size of businesses and organizations. Fogo will provide off site backup solutions and disaster recovery protection.

### **DECOSTAR EXPANDS**

Decostar has recently expanded its operations to the Sugar Foods building in Villa Rica. The expansion created approximately 30 net new jobs and the possibility of more in the future. This expansion is a result of a recently awarded contract producing parts for the Chattanooga Volkswagen plant, as well as other contracts that have yet to be announced.

As of January 2010, Carroll Tomorrow has successfully closed out the original EDGE Grant that played a crucial part in the recruitment of Decostar Industries, the largest state project in 2004. The OneGeorgia Authority grant through the Carrollton Payroll Development Authority (CPDA), was used for road and infrastructure to the company's facility in Carrollton which currently employs 650.

### **BURSON CENTER RECOGNIZED**

In a report to Congress and the White House by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the Burson Center has been cited as the "best practice" incubator in the eight-state southeastern region.

The recent report highlighted some of the successes in the Burson Center's history, including 51 businesses helped since

opening its doors in 2006 creating 117 jobs and reinvesting roughly \$6 million back into the area economy.

The incubator continues to collaborate with Georgia Tech, SBDC, SCORE and UWG Richards College of Business, offering business assistance programs, training, counseling and office space to the six county west Georgia region.

## **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009**

### **Stronger Economy**

- Increased Prospect Activity (Domestic and International)  
Project Industries: Manufacturing, Food Processing, Call Centers, Health Care
- Multi-Species Project – assisted in scope of work for UGA feasibility analysis and purposed business plan
- Film Industry—Burson Center hosted casting calls, pre-production activity for Red Five Entertainment film 'The Way Home'; and pre-production and screening of film short 'Beast of Burden' winner of the film festival awards in Atlanta, New York and Seattle.
- Preliminary work on collaborative with Heard County
- Existing Industry Assistance
  - Business Retention & Expansion Program (BREP)
  - Southwire, Carlisle, Decostar, Pilgrim's Pride
- Angel Investor Group – a multi county partnership under development

### **Enhancing Quality of Life**



- Hosted Leadership Georgia
- Tourism and Recreation – Banning Mill, John Tanner State Park, Georgia Quilters Museum, Villa Rica Gold Mine Museum, Carrollton Train Depot, Villa Rica Outdoor Amphitheater

- Working with NAACP - coming to Carrollton in 2010 for Annual State Convention

### **Quality Workforce and Education**

- Georgia Work Ready program development
- West Georgia Technical College – merger, video and board involvement
- University of West Georgia – Long Range Planning, Student Services, Board of Visitors, Executive Roundtable, Booster Club, Wolf Caravan, Master Facilities Plan, Facilities Management, Reorganization; Development Authority financing of over \$60 million in revenue bonds for the Greek Village and the Athletic Complex
- Carroll County Schools – Technical High School charter and \$3 million in grant monies

### **Planning and Infrastructure Development**

- Carroll 500-year flood – worked with local leadership and FEMA in supporting impacted businesses and industries
- Temple GRAD site designation in progress
- Site analysis on potential new development/industrial park(s)
- Support and analytical assistance for Carroll County Water Authority's reservoir permit from Ga. EPD



- City of Villa Rica sewer system expansion
- Nominations to the State Regional Water Council

### **Local Government and Leadership**

- Bowdon Town Hall Meeting—revitalizing after loss of Carlisle industry
- Work with other communities—Georgia Tech will feature Carroll Tomorrow's work with Troup County
- Hosted UGA Fanning Institute Development Authority Certification Training
- City of Villa Rica site analysis and long range planning with City Manager's Office
- Served as staff to Development Authorities—Bowdon IDA, Villa Rica IDA, Villa Rica Downtown DA, Dev. Auth. of Carroll County, Carrollton Payroll DA, and Carrollton Redevelopment Authority
- Hosted Greater West Georgia Joint Development Authority—Carroll, Douglas, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, Polk and Troup; and two visiting counties, Co-weta and Floyd – reorganizing for regional advocacy and promotion
- Worked with several private property owners
- Hosted Project Manager's Day—14 Project Manager's from GDEcD, GA Power, GEMC, AGL, WGTC and Electric Cities of GA



### **Other**

- Advocacy—Carroll County Day at State Capitol and Legislative Trip to DC
- Continued reorganization of Carroll Tomorrow and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
  - Joint Finance Committee—funding opportunities
  - Joint Executive Committee—operations and branding

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tomorrow

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