

# sync<sup>®</sup> NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Michael Egger (left), co-owner of EGGER Wood Products with Governor Cooper.

## European Furniture Company to Create as many as 770 jobs in Davidson County

EGGER Wood Products, one of Europe's leading wood-based materials suppliers has selected Davidson County as the location for the company's first U.S. manufacturing plant.

**Governor Roy Cooper** announced the company's investment at a ceremony held at Davidson County Community College yesterday (July 24). The company's development plans include creating 770 jobs over the next 15 years with a proposed \$700 million investment. The first phase, creating 400 jobs, will happen over the next six years.

"Furniture manufacturing is part of North Carolina's legacy, and our top-flight workforce gives EGGER an edge as they enter the U.S. marketplace," said **Governor Cooper**. "North Carolina offers international manufacturing companies everything they need to succeed, including strong infrastructure, proximity to suppliers and customers, and skilled workers."

A family-owned company based in Tyrol, Austria, EGGER Group operates 17 plants and 25 sales offices worldwide, providing a wide range of products for the furniture, wood construction and flooring industries. The facility in North Carolina will be a state-of the-art particleboard manufacturing plant and EGGER's first U.S. manufacturing operation. The facility will contribute to the regional economy by purchasing



## Funding Workshops Announced for Communities Interested in N.C. Main Street

North Carolina communities interested in being considered for awards from the N.C. Main Street Solutions Fund must attend a special workshop prior to submitting an application for consideration.

A new round of these workshops has been announced by the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center, which will hold three application workshops in the coming weeks:

- Wednesday, August 9 - Sanford - 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 15 - Edenton - 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, August 17 - Morganton - 11:00 a.m.

The Main Street Solutions Fund is administered by the North Carolina Main Street Center, part of the Department of Commerce. Currently, as much as \$607,000 is available for future grants.

For more information, contact Dan Becker, Grants Administrator for N.C. Main Street at (919) 814-4668 or via email at [dan.becker@nccommerce.com](mailto:dan.becker@nccommerce.com)



## Registration Open for September Manufacturing

wood byproducts from sawmills and working with a range of local suppliers for additional services.

"Today's announcement is the perfect example of the manufacturing resurgence that we're experiencing in the state," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "We're confident EGGER has made the right decision and will thrive here in North Carolina."

"Having our own production facility in North America is vital for EGGER to tap into the market and become a significant player for the growing demand in the U.S. for wood-based materials," said **Walter Schiegl, EGGER Chief Technology Officer** and member of the executive board. "Our sales activities in the U.S. have already proved our product range is highly attractive for architects, designers, wholesalers and industry customers. With the Davidson County production site, we will be able to enhance our customer relationships, ensuring product availability and speed of delivery. Our goal is to position ourselves as the leading brand for wood-based solutions in the U.S., as we are already in Europe."

EGGER's expansion in Davidson County will be facilitated, in part, by performance-based grants from both the Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) and One North Carolina Fund programs. Over the course of the 12-year JDIG, the project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$1 billion. Using the program's standard formula that takes into account the new tax revenues generated by the new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$5.3 million, spread over 12 years. The project's One NC grant award is for up to \$2.5 million.

Partnering with [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [North Carolina State University](#), [Davidson County Community College](#), [North Carolina Railroad](#), [N.C. Department of Transportation](#), [N.C. Department of Environmental Quality](#), [Duke Energy](#), [Norfolk Southern](#), and the [Golden LEAF Foundation](#).

[Read more.](#)



## County Leaders Approve Seymour Johnson AFB and Dare County Range Joint Land Use Study

A study to enhance economic development in Dare County and areas surrounding the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base was recently released by a specialized policy committee.

## Conference

mfgCON, the premiere conference focused on manufacturing innovation in North Carolina, will be held September 19-20 in Winston-Salem. The conference provides two days of presentations, breakout sessions and networking opportunities offering the newest ideas, tools and resources in manufacturing. The goal of the conference is to share practical advice that can deliver immediate results.

This year's conference features [four topic tracks](#): Talent Development, Business Growth, Emerging Technologies & Innovation and Leadership & Culture. The conference will also feature keynotes on cybersecurity and robot-based automation.

New this year is the "Meet the Experts" program, which will offer attendees the opportunity to meet one-on-one with top subject matter experts to discuss strategies and issues related to the manufacturing environment.

[Register online today.](#)



Lynn Jenkins of Valle Crucis demonstrates throwing a pot at the Folk Art Center in Asheville. Photo: Dale Neal.

## ARC Aims to Promote 'Craft Trails'

Traditional arts - like pottery, quilts, music and more - are part of Appalachia's culture. They are also important to the region's economy and are the focus for a new initiative from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

In western North Carolina alone, the craft industry generates a \$206 million regional economic impact annually. The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (BRNHA), based in Asheville, is currently hosting a series of listening sessions as part of an ARC-supported effort to develop a network of "craft trails" to promote and brand the area's arts industry. In addition to the listening

The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Seymour Johnson AFB and Dare County Range will serve as a living planning document to help the communities align local development in ways that are compatible with military activities near Seymour Johnson AFB and the Dare County Range.

The study was approved and formally accepted by the JLUS Policy Committee, which consists of county, municipal, state, and federal officials and other partners. The study process identified tools, activities and procedures to preserve operational missions and mitigate adverse impacts to military activities and community growth.

The study recommends strategies for mutually beneficial development practices that foster the peaceful coexistence of the military and surrounding communities. A grant award from the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment and matching contributions by the North Carolina Department of Commerce made the study possible. The state is seeking additional DOD grant funding to implement the study's recommendations.

More information is available online at [northeastncregionaljlus.com](http://northeastncregionaljlus.com)

sessions, BRNHA will conduct market research and site documentation, as well as develop a web portal and brochure for an initial 75 sites across a 25-county region.

Investments like these are part of ARC's strategic plan to leverage the region's natural and cultural assets. These assets can connect, promote, and increase revenues for independent artists and crafts workers, leading also to economic growth for related industries, including food service, hospitality, retail, and outdoor recreation.

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## N.C. in the News

- [N.C. Ports Connects To Queen City Express Next Week](#) (*WilmingtonBiz.com* - July 20)
- [Catawba County Economic Development Corporation tackles challenge of building space for new businesses at annual meeting](#) (*Hickory Record* - July 20)
- [DPAC ranks 6th in the world among arts venues](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - July 18)

### About Us

*SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)*

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