

BRADLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Celebrating Bradley County

Tis the Season! This time of year we reflect and give thanks. So let's reflect on what Warren and Bradley County have achieved in 2014.

Jobs have come to Warren. Ozark Mountain Poultry opening a deboning operation in October has brought over 200 much needed jobs to Warren. These recently employed workers will hopefully have a brighter holiday season. The City of Warren and BCEDC are thankful OMP chose to locate in Warren.

OK Foods in Hermitage has made a recent \$10 million equipment investment, which may result in additional jobs in Hermitage. OK Foods is one of the largest fully-integrated chicken producers in the world. We are thankful they have a footprint in Bradley County and we hope they will continue to grow in the area.

Clearwater Paper is working with Arkansas Midland Railroad to expand the side rail at Fulghum Fibers in Warren, who produces wood chips for Clearwater Paper. Clearwater Paper needs rail space for 2 additional cars for increased chip production. Increased activity on the short line rail helps to insure the continuation of our local railroad.

The Arkansas State Highway Department and AR Midland RR have entered into a \$3 million contract to rehab the short line RR from Warren to Dermott. These are much needed improvements to increase the rail speed. These improvements will benefit existing industries and be an incentive to new industry looking for a location. We are thankful the State of Arkansas supports our rail system.

The City of Warren has begun installing water and sewer around the 189 By-Pass. The completion of this project will allow the development of the industrial property around the By-Pass, which will lead to additional jobs for the citizens of Warren and Bradley County.

Progress is being made at the Shooting Range. Once the Shooting Range is complete it will have a great economic impact in the area. Tournaments for all sports such as shooting, baseball, softball and soccer bring large numbers of families to an area. These

large groups may stay in our motels and bed and breakfasts, dine in our restaurants and shop in our stores. Visitors have a positive impact on the area businesses, but they also impact the city and county tax revenue. When tax revenues are increased, the City and County can invest more in the area's infrastructure and improve the livability of our community.

This is but a few of the good things happening in Bradley County. We have a bright future with even better things to come.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL AND
HAVE A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

DON'T FORGET BUY LOCAL and save...

About this time last year I discussed the importance of "Buying Local". I discussed how supporting our local merchants keeps money circulating in our community, how it impacts our tax revenue and how it provides jobs for our residents.

I talked about how you save on travel expenses when you don't shop out of town and the importance of knowing who you are shopping with.

But, I didn't follow my own advise. Last Christmas my son who lives out of state asked for a pair of hunting boots that he found in a major sporting goods catalog. He sent me the information and I ordered the merchandise without looking anywhere else. A few weeks later I was shopping at Bradley County Farmers Coop and found the exact boots for about 20% less. They also had several other things that he had been considering. The boots I had purchased had a no return policy so I could not purchase from the Coop at a lower price. This proves my point. It is much better to shop local. Not only can you save money, but by working with local merchants you know their policies.

I learned my lesson. I now look locally when shopping.

HOW CAN BCEDC HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES?

BCEDC can help your business in such areas as:

- Land and building acquisitions
- Financial packaging
- Demographic and economic data
- Incentive packaging
- Workforce training
- Plant expansions
- Entrepreneurial and small business development

MEET AT MOLLY'S FOR THE 7:00 AM MONDAY MORNING MEETING

Don't forget to shop Warren's local merchants.

A few of the small businesses to consider in Warren are:

Cato's

Spinning Wheel

Busy Bee

Randall's Antiques

Word's on a Shirt

Wired of Warren

Premiere Video/Tan

More Stuff

Main Event

Lumberjack Yamaha

Gannaway Drug

TRC Outlet

Junkin' Around

Massey's

Bradley County Farmers Coop

December 2014 Jobs Update		
Bradley Co. Employers	# Emp.	Openings
AR Superior Federal CU	13	0
Armstrong Flooring	251	1+
Ashcraft Wood Products	20	0
Bradley Brand Furniture	5	3
Bradley County	69	0
Bradley Co. Medical Ctr.	240	24
Chapel Woods Health & Rehab	unavailable	unavailable
City of Hermitage	6	0
City of Warren	52	1
First Presbyterian Childcare Ctr	21	0*
First State Bank of Warren	31	0
Fulghum Fibers	10	0
Hermitage Schools	78	0
New Beginnings, CASA	18	0
Oasis Trading	43	0
OK Foods	15	0
Ouachita Hardwood	41	0*
Ozark Mountain Poultry	230	1
Potlatch	163	0
SE AR Community Action Corp.	83	0
SE AR Human Dev. Ctr.	292	8
Super Valu Foods	57	1**
The Mad Butcher	62	3***
Townsend Flooring	32	0*
UAMS/KIDS FIRST—Warren	19	0
Union Bank	8	0
Warren Bank & Trust	38	0
Warren School Dist.	296	1
TOTAL	2193	43

*Taking Applications **Applications on Thur. ***Applications on Mon., 1-4 pm

Existing Business & Industry Meetings Are Continuing

The Existing Business & Industry Meetings continue to meet monthly at SEACBEC. The businesses and industries have come together with BCEDC and the SEACBEC staff to develop the training needs for the companies current and future employees.

There is a shortage of qualified skilled labor in Warren, Arkansas and the entire U.S. The Existing Business & Industry group recognizes this shortage and are working to correct the problem. Jonalyn Reep and the SEACBEC instructors are listening to the companies as they explain the training they need SEACBEC to provide. SEACBEC is responding by researching programs that may provide the required training.

AEDC has programs that the industries and SEACBEC

JOB OPENINGS AT:

Armstrong Flooring: Has Ongoing True Temp production worker positions. The positions are typically long term with the possibility of becoming perm. Interested candidates apply at ESA in Monticello. Permanent positions may be found at www.armstrong.com as they become available.

Bradley Co. Medical Center: Has job openings for 15 PRN Positions, 8 F/T and 1 P/T Position. For information on job openings and to apply go to — www.bradleycountymedicalcenter.com/jobs

Ozark Mountain Poultry: Contact the Arkansas Workforce Center in Monticello, AR at 870-367-7105 for employment information.

Potlatch Corporation: View employment opportunities and apply at www.potlatchcorp.com. Potlatch is an EEO/AA /Veteran employer with competitive wages and benefits.

SE AR Human Development Ctr.: For job openings information go online to www.arstatedjob.com

The Mad Butcher: Has openings for a F/T Cake Decorator and 2 P/T positions. Applications taken at The Mad Butcher on Mondays from 1-4 pm.

can possibly develop to accomplish their goals. Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor of UAM College of Tech-Crossett met with the group at the November meeting and explained how UAM-Crossett set up their Apprenticeship Programs and Existing Workforce Training Programs. Ms. Rushing offered to help Warren establish their program, when ready.

Another goal of the businesses and industries is to provide information to students and their parents about the different job opportunities offered in manufacturing. Over the last several years it has been stressed that everyone must have a college degree. This is great if you want or have the means to go to college. But, the importance and advantages of technical training has been lost. Not all students are inclined to go to college and they may not realize they have other options. If students are offered the opportunity for technical training in high school there may not be as many drop-outs. As business & industry become more computer-

HOW CAN BCEDC HELP

BCEDC

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arkansasiteselection.com

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Warren School Dist.: Has an opening for a F/T Food Service Worker. For details on job openings and to apply contact the Warren School Dist at 870-226-6738 or online at www.edline.net/pages/warren_sd

If your company would like to list job openings in the BCEDC Newsletter call 870-226-3760 or email bradleycountyidc@sbcglobal.net

ized the need for technically trained employees grow.

The Existing Business & Industry Meeting members want to reach out to students and explain their need for electricians, plumbers, millwrights, welders, computer operators and multi-trade maintenance people. These skilled workers can make a very good salary, in some cases as much or more than college graduates.

The members recognize the need to begin now to develop their future employees.

BECOME A PART OF BCEDC

CALL 870-226-3760

AND ASK ABOUT

MEMBERSHIP