



### **E&R Expansion February 2004**

E & R, Inc. has expanded in Lenoir County constructing a new 21,000 SF office/warehouse facility and a 7,200 SF garage on 33 acres located on Energy Drive (off U.S. 258 North). They have invested over \$1.2 million and will employ an additional 25 workers.

E & R, Inc. is a locally owned family business specializing in electric utility installations of high voltage power lines, substations, and sports field lighting. The company was founded by Elwood Whaley and Rex Nelson in 1970 with only three employees and has grown to more than 125 employees in January 2004 with an annual payroll of \$4.57 million, and annual sales of \$13.9 million. E & R, Inc. is licensed in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland. They have a fleet of approximate 100 licensed vehicles in Lenoir County, plus trenchers, backhoes, cranes, and other excavating equipment. They recently received a \$2.1 million contract to maintain the street lights in Raleigh, Cary, Morrisville, Garner and Wilmington. The company serves municipals, EMC's, private utility companies, private industries, state and federal governments. Lenoir County is pleased that Elwood & Eunice Whaley and their children Gary Whaley, Jan Jones, Sandra Abashian, and Dr. Craig Whaley, owners of E & R, Inc., decided to expand in Lenoir County. E & R is operated by Elwood and Gary Whaley.



Development Department.

### **Alside Window Company, Kinston, NC expands for the second time in two years.**

Alside Window Company will add 210 new jobs beginning in January, 2004 and an additional \$750,000 capital investment. This is the second expansion for Alside's Kinston Plant in the past two years. In 2003 the company added \$1.5 million in capital investment and 90 jobs. With the addition of these jobs, Alside Window is one of the largest employers in Lenoir County with a total of 600+ jobs. We are delighted to have Alside Window Company as one of our major employers, said Mike Jarman Executive Director of the Lenoir County Economic

Alside initially came to Kinston in 1988 to manufacture vinyl windows. Their initial employment was 150 employees and the capital investment was \$4 million. Sixteen years later, the company boasts of 600 plus employees and the facility and equipment are valued in excess of \$11 million.

Alside began in Akron, Ohio in 1947 when the company's founder Jerome J. Kaufman invented America's first residential baked enamel aluminum siding. In 2004, the company manufactures vinyl windows, siding, soffit, trim and accessories. They have wholesale locations in 48 states and are developing international markets.

## West Pharmaceutical Services Official Opens March 12, 2004



On Friday, March 12, 2004 cheers echoed through the hallway of our new West Pharmaceutical facility. A shipment of syringe stoppers prepared to leave, the first in 14 months. "This is a good day, a day we'll remember for a long time." said James Grady, a shift supervisor. "It's the first real step toward recovery. It's a sign that we're back. Lenoir County is proud to have West back as part of our manufacturing community.

The new West facility, formally the Lenoir County Shell Building, located in the 70 West Industrial Park has been at partial production for the last several weeks. West manufactures syringe tips and other rubber stoppers used in medical equipment and will employ about 200 people.

Welcome home and best wishes for continued success to plant manager Troy Player, and West Pharmaceutical.

## Cam international has formal ribbon cutting May 5, 2004



CAM International Trading Corporation announced its plans to relocate to Kinston, NC on May 5, 2003. On May 5, 2004, they proudly cut the ribbon for their new 30,000 square foot facility situated on a four-acre site located at 1257 Enterprise Boulevard, Hwy. 70 West Industrial Park. Lenoir County provided the four-acre site at no cost to CAM International as an incentive to move their operation from New York to Kinston, NC. Sovereign Real Estate Corporation constructed the facility and Cam International signed a lease/purchase agreement. The

project is valued at \$2 million and will create an estimated 30 new jobs. Cam International processes, packs and distributes spices and extracts under the "Spice Bouquet" and "Gourmet Spice" labels, as well as other food products throughout the United States. Along with the manufacturing facility is a retail gift shop for specialty items. Before relocating to Kinston, the company operated out of Ronkonkoma, NY.

October 12, 2004

By Karen McConkey—Kinston Free Press



### SMITHFIELD EXPANDING

A \$5 million incentive package offered to Smithfield Packing Co. by Lenoir County and Kinston has convinced the company to expand its operations here to the tune of \$80 million. The new plant will create 206 new jobs, according to Lenoir County Economic Development Director Mike Jarman, Smithfield officials, local leaders and North Carolina Governor Mike Easley. The announcement of the deal was made at the future site of Smithfield's new plant on Parrott Dickerson Road. Easley

and city and county leaders welcomed the signing of the new economic development contract that will cost the city \$1.9 million up front and the county, slightly more than \$3 million in incentive money. In return, Smithfield Packing will spend more than \$80 million on the nearly 50-acre site on Parrott Dickerson Road, right behind the back entrance to West Pharmaceutical Services. The 180,000 square-foot plant expects to employ an additional 206 workers within the next five years. The average wage at the plant will be around \$11.85 per hour, Oscar Herring, chairman of the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners, said.

Easley congratulated all entities in putting the deal together." Part of the teamwork involved is education and training." Easley said. Both were instrumental in North Carolina's continuing quest to bring new business to the state, added to the region's strong work ethic. Tim Seely, president of Smithfield Packing, said the company identifies strongly with North Carolina, even though its corporate roots are in Smithfield, Va. Seely said the Kinston plant is operating at maximum capacity and the company's \$80 million-plus investment to build an additional plant should assure Lenoir County of Smithfield's intent to remain a vital employer here. No jobs at the West Vernon Avenue operation will be lost as a result of the new plant, officials said. The company will have the option to move employees from one location to another to meet product demand. The company expects to break ground in the first quarter next year, and operate at full capacity by April 2006. It will process and pack a ham product Smithfield sells nationally and internationally. The West Vernon Avenue plant is celebrating its 26<sup>th</sup> year as one of the community's top employers and top taxpayers, County Manager John Bauer said. Smithfield has 577 workers on its Kinston payroll. Kinston Mayor Johnnie Mosley said when Smithfield Packing first came to Kinston it invested \$500,000 to open its plant. Now, Mosley said, "They are spending more than \$80 million. That's a very large step forward." Bauer said the county's investment comes from funds set aside for economic development, along with some costs defrayed by this year's sale of the hospital. He said it is as important to invest in companies already in the community as it is to court new ones to the area. Commissioner Chris Humphrey agreed, saying the county had to look at the upfront costs as a long-term investment in a company that has served residents well. "We have to look ahead and make long-term investments to stay competitive," Humphrey said.

### BEST DIAMOND Packaging announces growth.

Lenoir County commissioners voted unanimously Monday October 20, 2004 to award Best Diamond a performance-based incentive for 2005-06 and 2006-07. The company plans to add 20 full-time employees to its work force of seven full-time workers.

The expansion will result in Best Diamond having an overall tax base of \$5 million.

The company, in its agreement with the county, will add 15 jobs in 2004 to its manufacturing work force and another five jobs in 2005. The performance incentive will be paid if the company meets its projected employment increases. County Manager John Bauer said Best Diamond and the county have been finalizing the contract for the past few months, and the company is ready to begin its expansion.

Commissioner Chairman Oscar Herring said it is a time for growth for the county, and the announcement of Best Diamond's intent to expand, coupled with last week's announcement of an \$80 million expansion of Smithfield Packing, is an additional bonus.