

# The Developer

Volume 10, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2019

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## In The News...

- Jamison Door Ribbon Cutting
- Triangle Tech Coming to Franklin County
- Letterkenny Welcomes New Commander
- F&M Trust to Acquire former Danfoss Drives Headquarters
- FCADC Annual Industry Dinner Held September 5th

## ...Message from Mike



I am like a broken record constantly repeating the same line..." there are lots of things going on in and around Franklin County." As you will read, the third quarter was a continuation of the last 10 quarters. Among those "things" going on include the sale of the former Danfoss building located at 1500 Nitterhouse Drive, Chambersburg-to-F&M Trust and purchase of the F&M Trust building located at 20 South Main Street, Chambersburg; we welcomed Jamison Door-BMP to the Wharf Road Industrial Park on August 21<sup>st</sup>; ATW, one the largest trailer manufacturers in the country, acquired Bri-Mar Manufacturing, which is expected to significantly increase production; Penn State and its energy partner BP Solar broke ground on the largest solar project to be developed in the Commonwealth; and in June we welcomed LTC Dennis K. Williams, II as the new commander of the Letterkenny Munitions Center and in August we had the privilege to welcome Colonel Gregory Gibbons as the new commander of the Letterkenny Army Depot. Finally, we hosted 475 business and community leaders at our 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Industry Appreciation Dinner, for which we thank all those who generously sponsored, donated door prizes and/or simply attended.

While each project announcement has significant implications for our local economy, the decision of Triangle Tech to establish a Franklin County presence in the Welding Training Center located at 1669 Opportunity Avenue stands to be one of most impactful projects of which the FCADC has been involved. Triangle Tech is a long-established, very successful, Pennsylvania-licensed post-secondary vocational trade school. While in time multiple programs will be offered, they will start with a welding curriculum beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>. I encourage both businesses and individuals to contact Triangle to learn more.

The fourth quarter looks to continue the momentum, which will keep us busy. That said, if there is opportunity for our office to avail assistance in support of your operation, please do not hesitate to contact us. All the best!

## Local Unemployment Rate 3.3%

On August 27th the Pa Department of Labor and Industry reported that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.3%. Franklin County tied for the sixth lowest unemployment rate in the entire state in July. Additionally, the Department reported that over the past year, jobs in the County were up 1.8%, or 1,100. Statewide job growth was reported to be .5%. Finally, there were more than 2,300 online job postings for Franklin County in May which represented an increase of more than 130 postings since May 2018.

## Triangle Tech Coming to Franklin County

### Post-Secondary Trade School First of Its Kind in County

Pittsburgh-based two-year technical school, Triangle Tech, Inc., is opening a Chambersburg facility to better serve the world class manufacturing employers in South Central Pennsylvania. Founded in 1946, Triangle Tech is an industry leading technical school that offers hands on training in small classes, taught by highly experienced instructors. The local facility will offer post-secondary students the opportunity to earn an *Associate Degree in Specialized Technology (AST) in Welding and Fabrication Technology* in just 16 months, as compared to the more traditional 24-month Associate programs offered at other schools. Triangle Tech is fully accredited by the Pennsylvania State Board of Private Licensed Schools under the Pennsylvania Board of Education and is approved to provide federal and state financial aid programs to students. For more information on Triangle Tech, the Chambersburg facility, and the Welding Fabrication Technology program, check out [www.triangle-tech.edu](http://www.triangle-tech.edu) or call 800-874-8324. Classes forming now!



## WEDnet PA Provides Training Dollars for Pennsylvania Employers

The Workforce and Economic Development Network of Pennsylvania (WEDnet PA) can provide qualified PA employers with training dollars for training new and existing employees. Funding can be used for a wide range of training needs, categorized as either *Essential Skills Training* or *Technical Skills Training*. The keystone of the program is its ability to be responsive to the needs of Pennsylvania's business community through a flexible and easy-to-use system. An important element of this system is that businesses determine their own training needs and can select among a wide range of training providers (the WEDnetPA partners, third-party providers or in-house staff) as well as how and where the businesses will receive the training (onsite, offsite or online). The local WEDnet office is located at Shippensburg University and can be reached at (717) 477-1123, Ext. 3381. For more information, qualification guidelines, and they types of skill sets covered by the program visit [wednetpa.com](http://wednetpa.com).



## Jamison Door-BMP Cuts Ribbon on New 50,000 SF Manufacturing Building



On August 21st officials from Jamison Door-BMP were joined by customers, employees, and community leaders from the greater Waynesboro area in officially opening the Company's new production facility. The 50,000 SF property is located within the Wharf Road Industrial Park in Waynesboro. Jamison is expected to employ 36 people at the facility with an opportunity for employment growth in the future. The FCADC served as the project developer, in addition to construction management, FCADC services also included the facilitation of low interest financing from the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority and approval of LERTA benefits from Washington Township and the Waynesboro Area School District. For more information on Jamison Door and their products, check out [jamisondoor.com](http://jamisondoor.com).

## Letterkenny Army Depot Center Welcomes New Commander *Change of Command Ceremony Held August 15th*

On August 15th COL Gregory K. Gibbons assumed command of the Army Depot (LEAD). COL Gibbons, replaces outgoing commander, COL Stephen Ledbetter. A native of New York state, COL Gibbons was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps upon graduation from Virginia Tech. His previous assignments include deployments in various sustainment, supply, and planning, capacities around the world, including Germany, Bosnia, Iraq, Japan, Turkey, and Afghanistan. COL Gibbons also commanded Hawthorne Army Depot from 2014-2016. Following that command, he served as the assistant executive officer to the Commander, Army Materiel Command (AMC) in Huntsville, AL. His decorations include the Bronze Star (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab, among many others. His military education includes the US Army War College where he received a Master's in Strategic Studies. He also attended the US Marine Corps Command and General Staff College and has a Master's in Military Studies from the Marine Corps University. COL Gibbons is married to the former Shelli Dumais and they have two children.





## *F&M Trust to Acquire Former Danfoss Drives Property in Chambersburg*



Franklin Financial Services Corporation and its subsidiary F&M Trust recently announced plans to relocate their corporate headquarters and operations center to a larger, state-of-the-art building at 1500 Nitterhouse Drive in Chambersburg. The bank is purchasing the former Danfoss manufacturing facility for \$7 million from CFDC, LLC, an entity jointly owned by the FCADC and the

Chambersburg Area Development Corp. (CADC). The 67,000 square-foot LEED Gold certified building, constructed in 2009 on an 11-acre parcel. F&M Trust is selling its 41,000 square-foot corporate headquarters located at 20 South Main Street, for \$3.3 million to CFDC. F&M will continue to provide lobby and retail services in downtown Chambersburg, however the second and third floor professional office spaces will be available made available for lease from CFDC. The move to Nitterhouse Drive is expected to be completed in late 2020 after the bank has completed renovations. The facility will house 145 employees with room to add more in the future.

## **Penn State and Lightsource BP Partner on Major “Solar Farm” Facility**

On September 6<sup>th</sup> Penn State University and Lightsource BP held a ground breaking ceremony for a 70 megawatt “solar farm” which will be located in Newburg. The project is the



**PennState** lightsource bp

largest “solar farm” currently under development in the Commonwealth. In addition to Penn State President Dr. Eric Baron, Governor Wolf also provided remarks at the event. The project represents an estimated \$75 Million investment by Lightsource BP. Lightsource is a division of energy giant, BP. According to Penn State, the project will provide 25% of the University’s annual power demand and will help to reduce University Park’s carbon footprint by an estimated 35%.



## FCADC Podcast Program Launching Soon

The FCADC is in the preliminary stages of developing a new “podcast” program focusing on issues that impact the economic development and quality-of-life of Franklin County...of course with a little fun mixed in. Topics may include, workforce development, growth & development, healthcare, tourism, as well as interviews with business, civic, and cultural leaders across the County. Stay tuned for additional details. We are targeting an early 2020 launch with episodes available on the FCADC website and streaming services like Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

## ATW Acquires Chambersburg-based B Wise Trailers

On August 5<sup>th</sup> it was reported that ATW, a Texas-based industry leader in the manufacture of trailer and truck beds, acquired longtime Chambersburg manufacturer B Wise Trailers (formerly Bri-Mar Trailers). B Wise manufactures over 100 different trailer models under the B Wise and Bri-Mar brands. ATW brands include Big Tex Trailers, PJ Trailers, CM Truck Beds, and RC Trailers. Locally, B Wise operates in a 414,000 SF production facility on Wayne Avenue.



## The FCADC Celebrates its 33rd Annual Industry Appreciation Dinner

The FCADC's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Industry Appreciation Dinner was held on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at Green Grove Gardens. The event, which honors those Franklin County employers both large and small, was SOLD OUT with more than 475 in attendance. The Baxter Group, Inc. was presented with the Small Business of the Year award; Epiroc Drilling Tools, LLC was recognized as the Large Business of the Year; and John M. Van Horn was presented with the 2019 Zane A. Miller Award. Featured entertainment was the nationally renowned political sketch comedy troupe, the Capitol Steps. Videos of the award winners and the WTFI newscast can be found on the FCADC website and Facebook.



Mike Ross presents Jocelyn Melton, President, The Baxter Group, Inc. with the 2019 Small Business of the Year Award



Keith Mackling, GM, Epiroc Drilling Tools, LLC. accepts the 2019 Large Business of the Year Award



John M. Van Horn, Director of the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority accepts the 2019 Zane A. Miller Award

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