Smart Business Grows in Greene

Spring 2020

Greene County, Ga
Economic Development

ECON DEV GREENE

A newsletter of economic development activity in Greene County Georgia

Novelis Announces Expansion & Modernization

ATLANTA, Oct. 30, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- **Novelis Inc.,** the world leader in aluminum rolling and recycling, today broke ground on a $36 million investment to expand and upgrade recycling capacity at its Greensboro, Ga. facility. The investment includes adding state-of-the-art equipment for aluminum scrap recycling, a new baghouse for improved dust mitigation and enhanced designs for safer and more efficient traffic flow. The company expects to complete the project by fall of 2021.

The investment will expand Novelis' capabilities in automotive closed-loop recycling, a process to take aluminum scrap created during stamping and recycle it for new vehicle production. Closing the loop preserves the value of the alloy, reduces cost, minimizes environmental impact and establishes a secure supply chain. The facility will also continue to recycle used beverage cans for the beverage packaging industry.

"As automakers continue to choose aluminum as the sustainable material of choice, we are investing in our recycling capabilities to increase the amount of recycled content in new vehicles and reduce carbon emissions," said Marco Palmieri, Senior Vice-President and President, Novelis North America. "This investment aligns with our purpose of Shaping a Sustainable World Together and demonstrates our commitment to helping our customers meet their sustainability targets."

In addition, the upgrades will also enhance the facility's safety systems. For example, the new design will more effectively separate pedestrian walkways from mobile equipment traffic. (Continued on Page 2)

(L-R) Tom Boney (Chief Operating Officer, Novelis North America), Bert Brantley (Chief Operating Officer, Ga. Dept. of Economic Development), Marco Palmieri (President, Novelis North America), Beatriz Landa (Novelis Greensboro Plant Manager), Kevin Shutt, (V.P. of Operations, Novelis North America), Rabun Neal, Chairman, Greene County Development Authority and Gary Usry, Chairman, Greene County Board of Commissioners participate in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Greene County Board of Commissioners

Gary Usry, Chairman

Dist. 1 Angela Walker Deering
Dist. 2 Jeffery L. Smith
Dist. 3 Dee Lindsey
Dist. 4 Ernie Filice

Byron Lombard, County Manager

In This Issue

Page 1-2 Novelis Announces Greensboro Plant Expansion

Page 3 Commercial Businesses Continue to Grow in Greene County

Page 4 Piedmont Water Building Future Capacity for Water Treatment in Lake Oconee Area

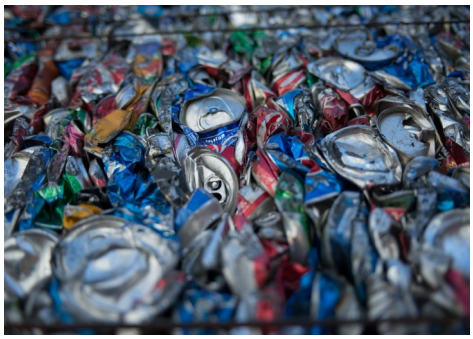
Page 5 Georgia Xtracts to Open Hemp Extraction Facility in Union Point

Page 6 Greene County Unemployment Rate Jumps to 10.2% in April

Page 6 January-May 2020 Building Permit Activity

Page 7 –8 Respond When You Receive Your 2020 Census Invitation

Page 9 COVID-19 Virus Pandemic Brings Difficult Challenges to Greene County



Novelis' Greensboro, Georgia, facility was the first stand-alone Used Beverage Can recycling facility in the company and is now responsible for pioneering the majority of Novelis' recycling technologies.

Novelis Announces Greensboro Plant Expansion & Modernization

(Continued from Page 1)

"Our team of 145 employees in Greensboro has a proud tradition of offering innovative solutions in aluminum recycling," said Beatriz Landa, Novelis Greensboro Plant Manager. "This investment enables us to continue to modernize our facility and capabilities to serve an even broader customer base for years to come."

"Congratulations to Novelis on this exciting expansion in Greensboro," said Governor Brian P. Kemp. "Any time one of our home-based companies expands, it is good news for business in Georgia. Novelis' 40-year history in Greensboro has created countless opportunities for hardworking Georgians in the region, and I look forward to watching their continued success in the years to come."

"Here in Georgia, manufacturing is an important ingredient to our thriving economy," said Congressman Jody Hice. "As a global leader in the aluminum industry and the largest recycler of aluminum in the world, I'm thrilled Novelis is growing its footprint in the 10th District. The expansion of the Greensboro plant is indicative of its sustained success, and I look forward to a flourishing partnership in the years to come."

Opened in 1980, Novelis' Greensboro facility is responsible for pioneering the majority of Novelis' recycling technology.

About Novelis

Novelis Inc. is driven by its purpose to shape a sustainable world together. As a global leader in innovative products and services and the world's largest recycler of aluminum, we partner with customers in the automotive, beverage can and specialties industries to deliver solutions that maximize the benefits of sustainable lightweight aluminum throughout North America, Europe, Asia and South America. The company is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, operates 23 facilities in 9 countries, has approximately 11,000 employees and recorded $12.3 billion in revenue for its 2019 fiscal year. Novelis is a subsidiary of Hindalco Industries Limited, an industry leader in aluminum and copper, and metals flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group, a multinational conglomerate based in Mumbai, India. For more information, visit novelis.com.

Commercial Businesses Continue to Grow Around Greene County

Lake Oconee Eye Clinic/Vision Source has a new 9,500 square foot facility under construction at the corner of Lake Oconee Parkway (SR 44) and Westend Drive.

The Garages at Lake Oconee will include as many as nine new buildings to accommodate sixty 22 foot by 54 foot garage units with climate control, restrooms (toilet and lavatory), electricity and other amenities for motor home parking within an exclusive gated property located Park Court behind Pickle Barrel.

Reynolds Lake Oconee continues to expand boat storage for their communities. The latest addition under construction is a new 20,750 square foot, 120 boat dry-stack storage building at the **Reynolds Landing Marina.**

Teramore Properties has purchased property in downtown Siloam and has begun demolition and clearing for the construction of a new **Dollar General. Dollar General** has built new stores for relocations in Greensboro and Union Point in the past three years. The Siloam store will be a new location for Dollar General. Expect opening by the end of 2020 or early 2021.

Taylor Freeman, owner of **Vertical Vegetation Management, LLC** based in Albany, Georgia, has purchased land across U. S. 278 from the Greene County Regional Airport and has constructed a 6,250 square foot hangar base for spraying operations in the Northeast Georgia region. Vertical Vegetation Management provides aerial applications of herbicides and fertilizer for forestry, right-of-way, agriculture, and aquatics.

Lake Oconee Vision Source *under construction at corner of Lake Oconee Parkway (SR 44) and Westend*

The Garages at Lake Oconee *under construction with the first three of nine planned buildings.*

New indoor boat storage building at ***Reynolds Lake Oconee, Landing Marina***

Taylor Freeman , Vertical Vegetation Management*, hangar across from Greene County Airport.*

Piedmont Water Building Future Capacity for Water Treatment in the Lake Oconee Area

In October 2019, Piedmont Water Company broke ground for its water treatment plant at Reynolds Lake Oconee. The plant will replace 28 ground-water wells that currently provide drinking water to the Piedmont water system and will treat and distribute up to 2 million gallons per day (MGD). Water from the plant will serve the Reynolds Lake Oconee, Del Webb, and the commercial corridor along Lake Oconee Parway/S.R. 44 from Carey Station Road to the Lake Oconee Village commercial district. The plant is designed for expansion as needed, up to 5 million gallons per day.

The project has been planned by Piedmont since the early 2000s but was delayed by the recession of 2008. A sustained period of strong residential growth and commercial activity in the area to be served and an overall improving economy created the right conditions to start the project. Adam Shaifer, President and CEO commented at the groundbreaking ceremony, "We are very pleased to have started construction on this facility, which will provide treated surface water to over 13,000 residents in Greene County. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first ever privately funded, owned, and operated surface water treatment plant built for potable drinking water purposes in Georgia. We are very proud to be able to play this role and make this investment in the community."

Now, after 8 months of construction, the project is well underway, making great progress and is projected to be completed and operational early in 2021. Progress on the project can be viewed at the Piedmont Water Company website at https://www.piedmontwater.com/ . Once opened, the $15 million project expects to hire up to seven new employees to support the operation of the plant.

Established in 1992, Piedmont Water Company provides water and sewer services to over 30,000 people. The company owns and operates over 56 systems in 13 counties in Georgia. Piedmont's sister company, Fortis Engineering Solutions, provides design, construction, and maintenance services to land developers, builders, and municipalities.

Piedmont President Adam Shaifer (center) pictured with company founders Jerry Shaifer (left) and Chris Adams (right) at the groundbreaking ceremony in October.

Construcion in progress at the Piedmont Water water treatment plant near Reynolds Lake Oconee.

Georgia Xtracts to Open Hemp Extraction Facility in Union Point

Georgia Xtracts, one of the first licensed hemp processors in the State of Georgia are manufacturers and processors of industrial hemp. As a result of the Georgia legislature passing the **Hemp Farming Act** at the end of the 2019 legislative session, hemp farming and processing is coming back to Georgia after a hiatus since the 1940s. The Act allows farmers and businesses to cultivate, handle, and process hemp and sell hemp for commercial purposes.

GAXtracts plans to re-purpose one of the old industrial buildings in Union Point for industrial hemp processing and extraction of CBD oil. The company will hire 200 over the next year, at an initial starting wage of $15.00 an hour. The manufacturing plant will use molecular extraction on mature hemp plants to produce pure CBD oil, high in cannabinoids, and low in THC (.3 percent or less).

In addition to hemp plant processing and extraction, the company plans to manufacture a wide variety of CBD products, ranging from topically applied cosmetic products to medically applied or ingested supplements under private label agreements with many of the nation and world's leading CBD and health care supplement companies. Research conducted in Union Point and at the GAXtracts facilities in Watkinsville, Georgia, will continually test for product purity and attempt to establish the gold standards for the CBD industry in manufacturing.

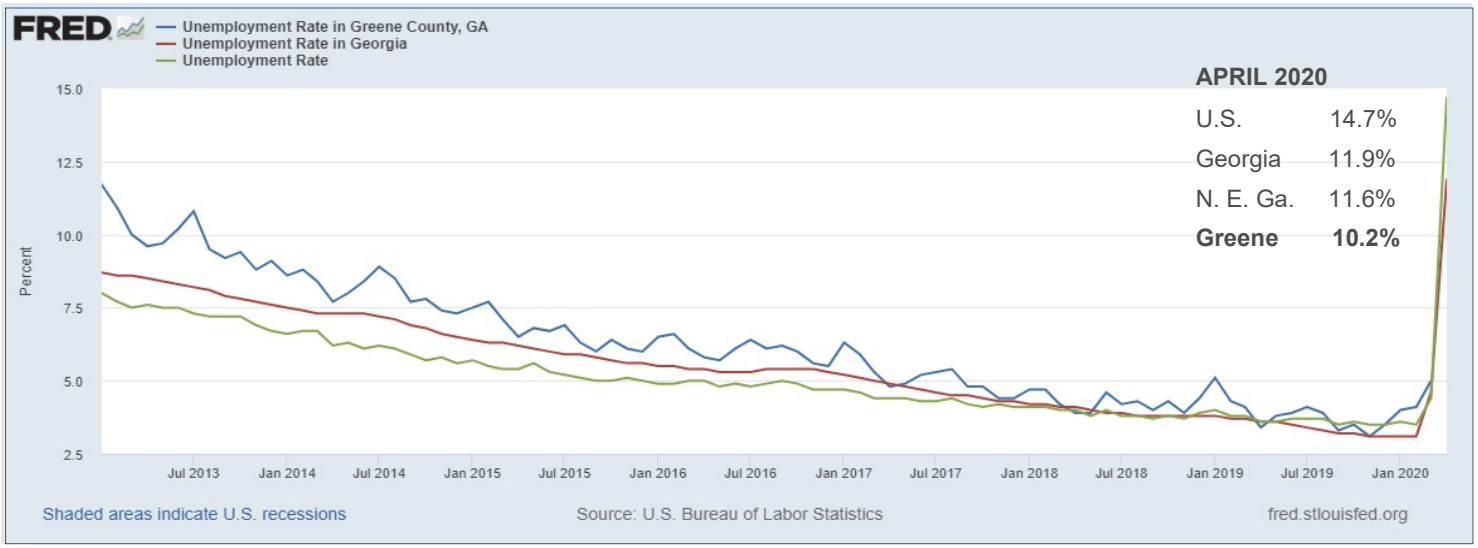
Working with the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, GAXtracts has selected the most resilient strains of the hemp plant for planting and harvesting in several types of Georgia soil. The pair are also working on the genetic exclusion of all THC from a future strain of the hemp plant.

GA Xtracts has been working with the City of Union Point, Greene County and building owners since December 2019 to locate their operations in Union Point. Greene County looks forward to continuing to support this new venture in a positive way.

Greene County Unemployment Rate Jumps to 10.2% in April

Dropping to 3.1% in November 2019, the lowest rate in 30 years, the unemployment rate in GREENE COUNTY jumped to 5.0% in March 2020 and skyrocketed to 10.2 % as a result of layoffs caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The last time the unemployment rate for Greene County was higher was July 2013 at 10.8%. Initial unemployment claims jumped to 445 in March and 1744 in April for a 2020 year to date total of 2287. The total initial claims for the entire year of 2019 was 401.

April 2020 is the fifth consecutive month the unemployment rate has increased, a trend mirrored by the Northeast Georgia Region at 11.6 %, Georgia at 11.9% and the U.S 14.7%. March and April rates reflect the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting loss of jobs. We are hopeful that many of these jobs will return as businesses reopen with modified operations. A significant area of impact upon Greene County was to the hospitality and tourism industry.

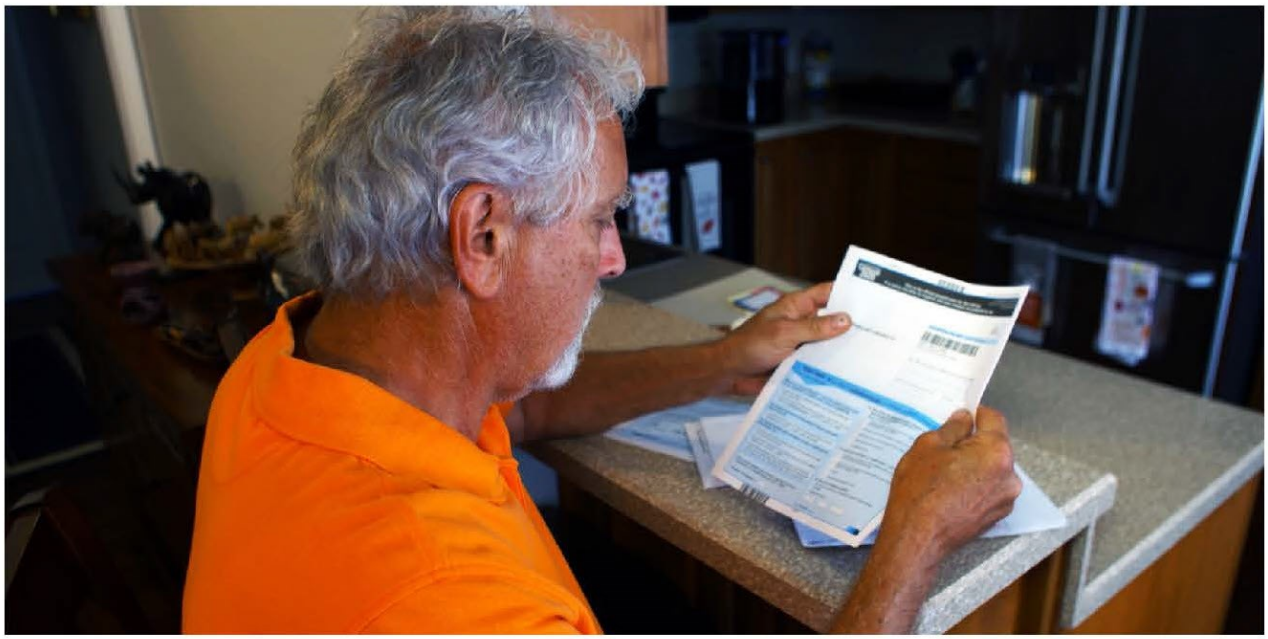


Source: https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/GAGREE3URN

JANUARY TO MAY 2020 VS. JANUARY TO MAY 2019 COMPARISON OF BUILDING PERMIT VALUATIONS

(UNINCORPORATED GREENE COUNTY—GREENSBORO & UNION POINT NOT INCLUDED)

	JAN-MAY 2020	JAN-JUNE 2019	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
ADDITIONS/RENOVATIONS	$ 3,278,539	$ 3,493,360	$ -214,821	-6.15%
LAKE DOCKS, SEAWALLS	$ 956,705	$ 1,300,694	$ -343,989	-26.45%
NEW RESIDENTIAL	$53,901,162	$45,874,557	$ 8,026,605	17.50%
COMMERCIAL	$ 2,998,409	$ 1,819,000	$ 1,179,409	64.84%
POOLS	$ 1,831,776	$ 1,328,000	$ 503,776	37.93%
OTHER	$ 1,531,341	$ 1,349,245	$ 182,096	13.50%
EXEMPT PROPERTIES	$ 0	$ 100,000	$ -100,000	-100.00%
TOTALS	$64,497,932	$55,264,856	$ 9,233,076	16.71%



Respond When You Receive Your 2020 Census Invitation

If your area hasn't received census materials yet, we will deliver them soon. Please respond when you receive yours.

Why haven't I received a census invitation yet?

Census workers drop off census materials to some communities that don't generally receive mail at their home using a city-style address like "101 Main Street." COVID-19 delayed delivery to some communities.

What areas are affected?

Census workers will deliver census materials soon to areas that:

- Have homes without city-style addresses.
- Have city-style addresses for emergency services, but they are not used for mail.
- Receive mail at PO Boxes.
- Have had homes or mail delivery significantly affected by major disasters (for example, parts of California affected by recent wildfires).
- Have high concentrations of seasonally vacant housing.
- Have a mixture of the above examples.

Can I respond now?

Please wait to respond until you receive your census materials.

Connect with us
@uscensusbureau

For more information:
2020CENSUS.GOV

D-FS-GP-EN-024

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States® Census 2020

In your area, the best way to respond is with the unique Census ID we provide. When you receive your materials, you can choose to:

- Complete and mail back the enclosed paper questionnaire.
- Call to respond using your Census ID.
- Respond online using your Census ID.

What if I've already responded?

We're working to match the address you provided to our address list, but we may need to visit you later.

If we can't match your address, census takers may visit to verify the address you provided and may visit to collect your responses in person. We want to ensure we count everyone.

Will I have time to respond before the census ends?

We've extended the deadline to respond. Census workers will drop off census materials soon, and you'll have plenty of time to respond with your Census ID.

If you don't respond when you receive your Census ID, a census taker will visit later to collect your responses in person.

Why can't you mail me the census information?

The census counts people where they live. Many households in your area don't receive mail at their home's physical location.

To make sure we reach everyone, census workers will:

- Canvass the area for places people might live.
- Use a laptop to update our address list.
- Link a census questionnaire to your home's physical location and leave it at your front door.

Why can't I respond now without my Census ID?

Responding with your Census ID ensures you are counted in the right place.

For 95 percent of the country, we can link responses to the right place by using a mailing address. This doesn't work in some communities. For example:

- If the post office delivers your mail to a PO Box, we can't count you at the post office or follow up with you there if you don't respond.
- Rural route addresses (e.g., RR5, Box 9) may represent a mailbox along a roadside, not necessarily your home's location, making it harder to count you in the right place.

How can I track my community's response?

View our interactive 2020 Census Response Rate map at <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>.

When will you drop off the materials?

The Census Bureau is resuming dropping off materials on a phased schedule across the country. This effort does not require interaction with households, and census workers will follow the most current federal, state, and local guidance.

Find the latest updates at <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html>.

Connect with us
@uscensusbureau

For more information:
2020CENSUS.GOV

D-FS-GP-EN-024

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States® Census 2020

COVID—19 VIRUS PANDEMIC BRINGS DIFFICULT CHALLENGES TO GREENE COUNTY

While the Covid-19 virus pandemic has set in upon our entire world, it seems that almost every part of our lives have been affected. We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives in our Greene County community as well as all others. Our overall economic well being and, for some, there very livelihood from their jobs has been directly impacted. However, the people of Greene County have pulled together, as they always do in a time of crisis, to help lessen the grief and burden upon those most impacted to:

- Honor our hospital, nursing home, assisted living, EMS, police, fireman, delivery personnel and other heroes who have cared for loved ones who are victims of the virus and helped slow the spread of the virus
- Inform our public of the requirements and guidelines to follow to stop the spread of the virus and stay safe
- Assist those in need through countless non-profit support efforts
- School system administrators and teachers pivoting to keep our children learning virtually for the remainder of the school year
- Provide information and support to help businesses who desperately needed access to government relief programs like the federal Payroll Protection Program and economic Injury Disaster Loans to sustain them through the shut down period and back on their feet for new and creative ways o re-open and re-build

We are caring and giving community for which we should all give many thanks.

Greene County, Ga
Economic Development

To find out more about Greene County and business development opportunities in our community contact:

Sam Young
Economic Development Director
Greene County
Board of Commissioners
1034 Silver Drive
Greensboro, Georgia 30642
706-454-7022
syoung@greenecountyga.gov

To receive the EconDev newsletter email:

info@greenecountyga.gov

This train car parked in the industrial park was adorned with a message which we all must work to accomplish in our community, state, country and world. Stay safe, Greene County!