

Economic Growth Is Continuing Favorably Chamber Says

Economic growth is continuing favorably despite the sluggish national economy, according to new and expanded business figures released by the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

Employment figures (new jobs) have nearly doubled those of 1981 through the third quarter of the year. A total of 202 firms have announced either new or expanded facilities for the first nine months of the year, down by ten percent from a year ago and only slightly below the five year average of 216 firms.

The 202 firms will invest \$295 million in facilities totaling 4.6 million square feet and create 4,299 jobs.

Among the major announcements during the third quarter were the following: the W.B. Scott hotel-office complex at South Brevard and East Independence Blvd., (40 million); Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company's University Research Park facility (36 million); the 2020 Randolph Road Medical office condominiums (4.8 million); the Highland Park Commerce Center at I-77 and Tyvola Road (10 million); and the Brainard Strapping Division of Sharon Steel on Westinghouse Blvd. (5 million).

WITH JAMES CUTHBERTSON

Jame's Notes:



The Chamber's quarterly report, along with the semi-annual Metrolina New and Expanded Manufacturing Report, is available at the Chamber for \$2.

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The Hechinger Company, a mid-Atlantic chain of 34 specialty retail do-it-yourself home centers, will open two new stores in Charlotte.

John W. Hechinger, President, and Richard England, Chairman, indicated the company will open two stores of 60,000 square feet with an additional 20,000 square foot outdoor garden shop.

One unit will be located at the intersection of Independence Blvd. and Rama Road, east of Charlotte.

The other will be located at the corner of Pineville and Woodlawn Roads, southwest of uptown Charlotte.

Founded in 1911, Hech-

inger Company is one of the largest do-it-yourself home improvement centers in the mid-Atlantic region and caters exclusively to the amateur do-it-yourselfer; in the care and repair of his or her home and garden. The company has continued to buck the current economic trend which has dampened the performances of most retailers. They currently are enjoying record sales and earnings for the second quarter of their current fiscal year.

Two hundred permanent jobs will be created by the expansion.

A typical Hechinger home center is 60,000 square feet under roof and stocks over 40,000 different items from fastenings to insulation, framing material, sheathing, plumbing, and electrical supplies, windows, housewares, unfinished furniture, lamps, hardware, paint and hand tools. An outdoor garden

a field of 90 candidates to direct the operations of the consolidated water and sewer systems for the city of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

CMUD operates two water and five wastewater treatment plants; has a workforce of 567 employees and an annual operating budget of \$29 million.

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center contains an additional 20,000 square feet for nursery supplies.

Annual sales for each store typically surpass seven million.

Currently the company has more than 3,700 employees in 34 stores throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C. where it has a 400,000 square foot central distribution center.

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Joseph C. Stowe Jr., 38, director of the Hopewell, VA regional wastewater system, has been named director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department (CMUD). The appointment is effective November 22nd.

Stowe was selected from

usually hired by security firms or businesses with their own security forces.

In addition to learning the basics of guarding buildings and grounds, Andy says the students learn to design security plans and to protect trade secrets on computer from rival companies.

Students specializing in safety and health prepare to work for insurance companies or for companies to which numerous Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations apply. Such companies often hire staff members knowledgeable of OSHA rules to make sure they are in compliance.

Investigations majors study such subjects as protection of executives; coping with terrorism; electronic security devices; and crime scene technology. These graduates are often hired by law firms, private investigators and insurance companies.

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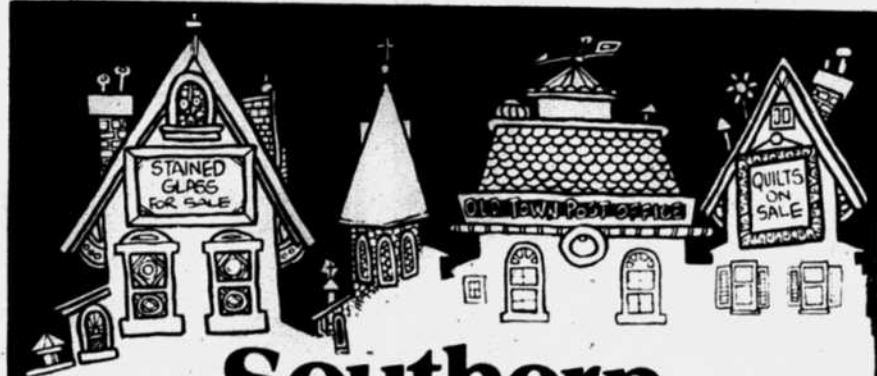
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is \$3.50. Advance tickets cannot be used on Preview Night. SHOW ADMISSION:
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