

On A Roll[®]

Hytrol Breaks Ground On New Warehouse



Plus:
Three Projects Wrapping Up
New Trail At Craighead
Record Sales Tax Revenue

Hytrol Keeps Rolling

New Warehouse Brings More Than Storage

Hytrol continues to expand. The Jonesboro-based conveyor system manufacturer broke ground for its new 150,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution center on June 24th. When completed, the new facility will serve as Hytrol's main warehouse.

"Our company is growing rapidly, and we require a larger warehouse facility," said President David Peacock. "By selecting to be a part of the E-Commerce Park, we will be consolidating from three warehouses to one and removing extra equipment from our main plant."

The new warehouse is the first announced project in E-Commerce Park. Haag-Brown, the developers of E-Commerce Park, says it will provide up to 3 million square feet of logistics, warehouse, and manufacturing space.

"This is the result of two companies who have been dedicated to the support and growth of Northeast Arkansas for many years," said Josh Brown, developer of the project and a principal in Haag Brown Development. "Hytrol has been a cornerstone of Northeast Arkansas for decades, and we're excited to invest in the future of Northeast Arkansas with them as a partner to ensure that our area continues to be competitive for the variety of industries that call this area home."

The addition of the new warehouse will have the secondary benefit of creating more space at Hytrol's main facility on Highland Drive.

Hytrol will use that newly created space for administrative functions, including its panel shop, non-manufacturing support activities, and the company's engineering department.

The announcement marks the latest chapter in Hytrol's growth in the last two years. In 2021, Hytrol expanded its operation by adding a manufacturing facility in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Hytrol leaders say building the new warehouse in Jonesboro shows Hytrol's continued commitment to investing locally.

"It is important for us to show our dedication and commitment to Northeast Arkansas," stated Vice President of Corporate Development Bob West. "The creation of this center will serve not only to benefit Hytrol but the surrounding area as well."

Ramson's Inc. of Jonesboro will build the new facility. The goal is to have the project completed by the Spring of 2023.



Project Updates

Colson Project Nears Completion

Colson keeps on rolling with the transition into their new facility. Robert Somers, Colson's VP of Global Quality & Safety, says they are 80% complete with the move from the Airport Road site to the new building. Somers says they plan to have 95% of the operation moved by the end of September. The remainder of the work is scheduled to be finished by the end of the year.

Colson still has roughly a dozen machines and lines operating and warehousing at the Airport Road site.

The new plant includes processes they didn't have on Airport Road. Somers says a new stamping press, robotic welder, and a zinc plating line are in use at the new site.



Spirit Ready To Wrap Up Construction

One more step and Spirit Fitness will begin the move into its new facility on Barnhill Road. Officials at Spirit say the company's new 150,000 SF warehouse will be operational in August. Right now, they say they are waiting on racking installation before the move-in process can begin.

The \$10M project will house Spirit's Technical Support Department and Warranty Parts Department, creating approximately 40-50 new jobs. Spirit's current facility on Nestle Road will remain in operation when the new site opens.

Spirit says they have already begun to hire extra people in anticipation of the beginning of operations in August.



Camfil Looking Toward Move-In

Equipment is being set into position at Camfil APC's new facility with an eye on starting production in the 3rd quarter.

Officials at Camfil say the new 247,000 SF factory in the Craighead Technology Park is still in the construction phase, with the installation of factory infrastructure at the top of the list. They expect to complete the factory infrastructure in mid to late August.

Camfil officials add the plan calls for finishing the factory offices in October. When complete, production will begin sometime in the 3rd quarter. According to Camfil, the move into the offices will follow in the fourth quarter.



Fun Day At “Work”

Local Interns “Get To Know Jonesboro”

Over 20 interns. One big day!

Our Get To Know Jonesboro event had its largest class on June 24th. We hosted summer interns from various Jonesboro companies for the second straight summer. This year, Hytrol, Frito-Lay, and Waddell, Cole, and Jones sent us their best and brightest for a day of activities.

The students came from as far away as Pennsylvania to spend their summer in Jonesboro. Our goal was to ensure they knew as much as possible about Jonesboro before returning to campus in the fall.

The program’s purpose is to give the interns a better feel for the community we hope they want to call home someday. Christy Valentine, Manager for Academic Partnerships for Hytrol, says Get To Know Jonesboro is the perfect fit.

“As part of the internship program, we love for the participants to enjoy everything Jonesboro offers. The group has fun and experiences the true sense of community and family that defines Jonesboro. We believe this helps convince them to pick Jonesboro when choosing a place to start their careers.”

The day included a bit of education and a lot of fun. The interns learned about Jonesboro’s history at the Crowley’s Ridge Nature Center. That stop included seeing a live feeding of the Nature Center’s alligator.

The fun parts? Laser tag at Hijinx, packing boxes of canned goods at the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, coffee at Shadrachs, and lunch at Lost Pizza.

Not a bad day.

“Jonesboro Unlimited and the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce do an incredible job of making these students feel welcomed.” Valentine said, “We are grateful for their hard work and dedication.”

We can file it under “workforce development,” but it’s about creating a bond between the interns and our community. One we hope will leave a great impression on the interns as they get ready to begin their careers.

With the memories made through Get To Know Jonesboro, and the incredible opportunities our city has to offer, we know Jonesboro will be on their shortlist when the time comes to enter the “real world.”



Quality of Life

New Trail At Craighead Forest

Patrons at Craighead Forest Park are getting a new walking and cycling path. Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales says a 1,400-foot path is under construction along the road at Access Five. That is the road that leads from the main road at Craighead Forest Park to Rotary Park Playground, the splash pad, and the kid fishing pond.

Kapales says the 10-foot wide path will run alongside the East side of the road, accommodating cyclists and pedestrians. He says the project cost is \$150,000. He expects completion by the end of October.

Progress At Shooting Sports Complex

The new Jonesboro Shooting Sports Complex continues to take shape. An official Grand Opening was held in May to celebrate the project's progress.

According to posts on the Shooting Sports Complex's Facebook page, the dry weather has allowed dirt work to move along much quicker. Work at the rifle and pistol clubhouse is progressing with the drywall now in place.

Bill Campbell, with the City of Jonesboro, says the current focus is on completing the maintenance building. Campbell adds that the maintenance building, trap field, and range building should be done by the end of the year or early 2023.



Healthcare

NYITCOM Graduates Latest Class

NYITCOM at Arkansas State University continues to fulfill its mission to increase the number of doctors serving Arkansas and the mid-south.

NYITCOM at A-State's third graduating class produced 108 new physicians. According to NYITCOM, more than half of the graduates matched with residency programs that will keep them in Arkansas or the region.

There are now 25 NYITCOM at A-State alumni in residency programs in Jonesboro at St. Bernards, NEA Baptist, and UAMS Northeast.



Commercial Development

Finding frozen treats south of the bypass just got easier. A new Dairy Queen is coming to the corner of Stadium Boulevard and Fox Meadow Lane, right in front of Bill's Cost Plus. Opening in late 2022, it will be Jonesboro's third DQ.



Bath and Body Works is returning to Jonesboro. The world's largest bath shop chain's newest location is in Caraway Plaza between Petco and Rack Room Shoes. This store replaces its previous location in the Mall At Turtle Creek. The store will open in September.



Guthrie's Fried Chicken has chosen Jonesboro as the home of its first franchise in Arkansas. You'll find the newest Guthrie's on Caraway Road in front of Kroger Marketplace. Construction is already underway.

Construction has begun for the new Goddard School for Early Childhood Development in Jonesboro. The 8,800 SF school is in Hill Park, just off Brown's Lane. The Jonesboro location is the fifth Goddard School in the state.



NEA Baptist is building a new Urgent Care Plus on Apache Drive. The 18,000 SF facility will house Red Wolf Clinic Primary Care and Outpatient Imaging services. It will be the largest project for NEA Baptist since the opening of the main medical campus in 2014.

Tiger Correctional Services is preparing for a move. The commissary, food service, and jail management software company broke ground on a new building in June. The 18,000 SF office is at 2508 West Washington. Olympus Construction says the project's targeted completion date is late 2023.



Fox Meadow Elementary students will eat lunch in a new cafeteria before the end of the year. Work begins in late July on expanding the school's cafeteria. Tate General Contractors is heading up the \$600,000 project.

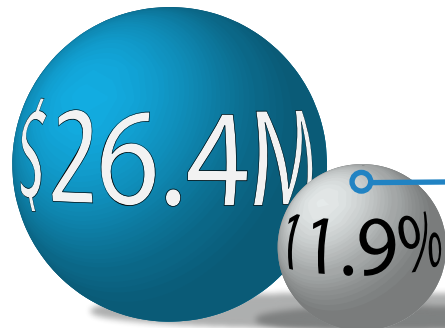
ARCare is the newest resident in the Southwest Business Center on Southwest Drive. The 4,000 square-foot endcap will serve as ARCare's regional corporate office and brick-and-mortar insurance agency.



Jonesboro High School is adding a 43,000 SF Activity Gymnasium. The three-story, \$11.5M project includes a new weight room, volleyball gym, and new locker rooms. Nabholz says the project should be finished by the fall of 2023.

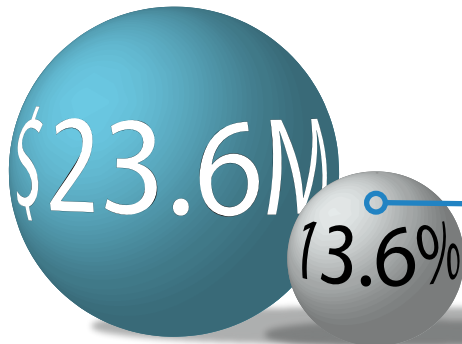
Sales Tax Revenue

Year-To-Date: City & County Combined (2.0%)



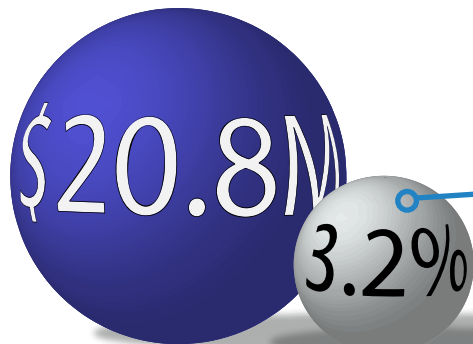
2022 / *jan
thru
june*

○ Increase in collections over 2021. 27% increase over 2020



2021 / *jan
thru
june*

○ Increase in collections over 2020.



2020 / *jan
thru
june*

○ Increase in collections over 2019.

Commercial Construction

Year-To-Date 2022-2020



2022 / *jan thru june*

Includes \$63M in permits (16) for new construction



2021 / *jan thru june*

Includes \$54M in permits (32) for new construction



2020 / *jan thru june*

Includes \$8.5M in permits (12) for new construction

Permit totals include: new construction, apartments, additions, alterations, & signs

Residential Construction

Year-To-Date 2022-2020

2022 / *jan
thru
june*

Includes 160 permits for new
home construction (\$31.6M)

296
Permits

\$37.5M

2021 / *jan
thru
june*

Includes 270 permits for new
home construction (\$40.4M)

385
Permits

\$46.9M

2020 / *jan
thru
june*

Includes 242 permits for new
home construction (\$30.7M)

389
Permits

\$36.5M

Permit totals include: new homes, additions, alterations, duplex, storage, & swimming pools

Home Sales*

January Through June 2021-2022

2022 / *jan
thru
june*

83% increase in six-month sales since 2017. 903 homes sold in first six months of 2017.

1,656
Homes
Sold

2021 / *jan
thru
june*

22.5% increase in sales over previous year. Record six month sales total at that time.

1,694
Homes
Sold

*Home sales by price point were not available for all months. Only total home sales shown.