



*Darlington County*  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

# Quarterly Update

## IN THE NEWS

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### **Darlington Raceway Museum hosts industry-appreciation event**

by Matthew Christian, Florence Morning News, May 31, 2018

"DARLINGTON, S.C. - The Darlington Raceway Museum hosted the annual Industry Appreciation Night sponsored by the Darlington County Economic Development Partnership and Darlington County Progress on Thursday.

The economic development partnership is a public-private initiative with the goal of attracting new industrial development and the expansion of existing industrial development. Darlington County Progress is the private-sector arm that assists in these efforts.

Frank Willis, executive director of the partnership, said the purpose of the event is for the community and the partnership to say thank you to industries in Darlington County for their contributions to the county including economic development and to the community at large, including schools and the raceway itself.

"Industry is very good at contributing to the community like the schools, health care and all kinds of charitable things," Willis said. "This is an opportunity for us as a county to say thank you for being here. Thank you for the jobs you create. Thank you for the capital investment you made. And thank you for all the extra things that you do for our community."

[Read more here](#)

## In This Issue

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**In the News**  
**DCEDP Spotlight Event**

## PROGRESS MEMBERS

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Next Board meeting:  
September 6, 2018  
at noon at SiMT

Annual Meeting:  
October 16, 2018 5:45 pm at the  
Darlington County Club  
RSVP by October 10 to  
[mperry@dcedp.com](mailto:mperry@dcedp.com)

## Share your news

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Do you or your company have any Darlington County news to share? If so, email us [here](#) and we'll include it in our next newsletter and on our website.

## [Join Our Mailing List](#)

## Contact Us

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Monica Perry  
Darlington County Economic  
Development Partnership  
843-413-3210



## **New industry, courthouse project in works for Darlington County**

by Jim Faile, Florence Morning News Progress Edition, June 3, 2018

DARLINGTON, S.C.— The past year has been eventful for Darlington County. Highlights have included an investment by Fiber Industries, a courthouse project, solar farms and another record year for Sonoco. Fiber Industries

A major industrial announcement came for Darlington County in August of 2017 when Fiber Industries announced it would invest \$30 million to revamp and reactivate the former Wellman Inc. Palmetto Plant off McIver Road just outside Darlington.

The announcement represented the largest capital investment and jobs project in Darlington County in three decades.

The move is expected to create at least 135 new jobs in its initial phase.

The 1.1 million-square-foot plant was closed in 2008 after its former owner, Wellman Inc., went bankrupt.

Darlington County Economic Development Director Frank Willis said the plant, at 1000 E. McIver Road, was expected to start production this spring.

Willis said the project was years in the making. "These things can have long lead times but it's huge when we get them," Willis said. "I have seen more economic activity in the past eight months than I saw in my first four years here. We have several other projects that we're positive will happen soon."

[Read more here](#)

## **Southern Current launching new solar projects in Darlington County**

by Jim Faile, Hartsville Messenger, July 16, 2018

"DARLINGTON – Southern Current, a leading developer in the residential, commercial and utility-scale solar markets, will invest \$340 million in Darlington County to expand its solar farm portfolio with 17 new individual solar projects in the county.

The company is an owner and developer of utility-scale solar energy facilities across the southeastern United States.

The South Carolina Department of Commerce announced the new solar projects in Darlington County in a news release issued Monday.

With an in-house team of development professionals, the company manages projects from site selection and origination through construction and operation.

Darlington County officials revealed in April that the company was

planning to spend as much as \$354 million on solar projects in the county when the Darlington County Council approved an ordinance to establish fee-in-lieu-of-taxes agreements with Southern Current."

[Read more here](#)



### **Interim president says FDTC in a good place**

by [Melissa Rollins](#), Editor, *News and Press*, July 24, 2018

With the start of a new fall semester fast approaching, Florence-Darlington Technical College Interim President Ed Bethea is optimistic that the new school year will be a good one. After taking over the president role in March, Bethea has put plan into action to get the school on a firm foundation.

"I don't know what the time frame will be for hiring a new president so I am basically implementing a strategic planning process that we are going to start fairly soon," Bethea said. "It is going to include a lot about the things that we need to do here to put us on good financial footing." Bethea said that a large part of that includes finding a way to accurately predict and track enrollment.

[Read more here](#)

### **DCEDP SPOTLIGHT EVENT:**

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*Save the Date for the*



*Annual Meeting & Reception*

*Guest Speaker: Burnie Maybank*  
*Former Director of the SC Department of Revenue*  
*& Nexsen Pruet Attorney*

*October 16, 2018*

*Darlington Country Club*  
*125 Country Club Road,*  
*Darlington, South Carolina*

*5:45-6:30 Annual Meeting*  
*6:30-8:30 Reception*



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**Visit our website at [www.dcedp.com](http://www.dcedp.com)**