



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Kevin Bronson
OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR
WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

June 21, 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sandvik Coromant expanding Oconee County operations

This week the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the Oconee Economic Alliance announced Sandvik Coromant, a tooling solutions supplier, is expanding operations in Oconee County. The \$29.4 million investment will improve the company's Westminster production facility. Part of Sandvik, a global industrial engineering group, Sandvik Coromant produces carbide inserts and round tools used in the metal cutting industry. The company's Oconee County operation manufactures more than 2,300 standard article and customized carbide inserts. The investment will provide updated machinery and automation processes to Sandvik Coromant's world-class carbide manufacturing facility located at 2424 Sandifer Blvd. in Westminster. Operations will be phased in over four years.

Westminster Juneteenth Luncheon

The City of Westminster hosted 82 attendees on June 19 at Magnolia Manor and Awarded Recreation Director Herb Poole the City of Westminster Juneteenth Award of Excellence. We extend a special thanks to sponsors BASF and Blue Ridge Bank, M.C. Cassie Moore, Magnolia Manor, keynote speaker Dr. Sonya Ramsey, and the Juneteenth Committee.

Water/Sewer Supervisor

The vacant position for the Water and Sewer Supervisor has been filled by Christopher Todd, bringing with him 12 years of utility experience. Christopher has previously worked for AT&T UVERSE, Powdersville Water, and most recently, at Homeland Park Water.

This Week in Rec: An Update from Recreation Director Herb Poole

- 8U softball and 10U softball all-stars qualified for the state tournament. The state tournament will be held in Monks Corner June 21-23.
- Signups for fall sports end on June 28. The participation numbers will pick up as we approach the deadline at the end of the month.
- The ongoing Summer Feeding Program will continue through the week of July Fourth. The School District will take off that week, but the recreation department is seeking donations to continue the program for that week without SDOC's funding. Reach out to Herb Poole or the Recreation Department's Facebook page for more information.
- The scoreboard for Yousef Field has been ordered. It should be in around mid-July.
- Restrooms for Yousef Field are in. The Utilities Department is working on installation plans.

USDA-RD Water System Projects

Two contractors are being utilized to install the water system improvements funded by the USDA-RD. Both contractors are on schedule.

Arrowood General Contracting is responsible for a grouping of projects entitled Division 1.

- The project areas for Division 1 are: Dawn Drive; Dixon Rd; Phillip Lear; and Dr. Johns Rd.
- Dixon road is complete, and all customers are now hooked up to the new line and 1 new customer has been connected.
- They have finished laying pipe south on Dr. Johns Rd and have connected it to the Tabor Road line and the remainder of south Dr. Johns Road.
- Arrowood has successfully pressure tested this section and bacteriological testing came back negative for bacteria. These tests were sent to SCDHEC and approval to operate has been received. Arrowood will begin making customer connections next week on the completed sections.
- Arrowood currently has approximately 1000' of pipe left to be installed.
- Service connections have begun on Chauga Road and Philip Lear Road.

Payne, McGinn, and Cummins is responsible for Division 2.

- The project areas in Division 2 are: sections of Highway 76; Welcome Church Rd to Berry Farm Rd; and Berry Farm Rd to Cleveland Pike Rd.
- The connection of this new section to the existing line at Cleveland Pike Road is complete.
- The Section of line on US 76 has been opened to the system and is operating. 7 new fire hydrants are now in operation.
- PMC has completed the installation of all pipe in their division. Welcome Church Road and Berry Farm Road have passed sampling and is awaiting SCDHEC approval to operate. All of Welcome Church Road has received SCDHEC approval to operate. They have begun making connections to existing and new customers. Approval from SCDHEC on Berry Farm Road is expected in the coming days.
- The valves needed to make the connection to Cleveland Pike Road have been installed and the electrical service from Blue Ridge has been installed. The technicians installing the SCADA controls have made their connections and are awaiting SCDHEC approval to test operations.
- A connection to the completed line on US76 at the booster pump station has been made and the old 6" pvc line has been shut off.
- Water is on in the new line, so ALL fire hydrants on Division Two are available for use by the Fire Department if needed.

Westminster Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will next meet on July 15th.

OJRSA

Nothing to report.

PMPA

The PMPA Board will meet June 27, 2024. An agenda has not yet been published.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

~~June 25, 2024 at 9:00 am Finance & Administration Committee at OJRSA - CANCELLED~~

June 27, 2024 at 10:00 am PMPA Board Meeting at PMPA

July 1, 2024 at 4:00 pm OJRSA Board Meeting at OJRSA

July 4, 2024 City Offices closed in observation of Independence Day

~~July 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm Westminster City Council Meeting at the Westminster Fire Department - CANCELLED~~

July 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm Westminster Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall

August 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm OJRSA Board Meeting at OJRSA

August 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm Westminster City Council Meeting at the Westminster Fire Department

July 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm Westminster Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall

August 22, 2024 at 10:00 am PMPA Board Meeting at PMPA

City Council Meeting Schedule

July 9, 2024	6:00 PM	Cancelled	October 8, 2024	6:00 PM
August 13, 2024	6:00 PM		November 12, 2024	6:00 PM
September 10, 2024	6:00 PM		December 10, 2024	6:00 PM

Special Events Calendar

June 27, 2024 from 4:00-7:00pm, the Depot – NEW LOCATION

(Local produce, moved from Anderson Park to the Depot to accommodate expected number of vendors and to beat the heat). Also on the following evenings:

- July 11
- July 25
- August 8
- August 22

July 3, 2024 at 7:00pm, Main Street Westminster

(Reggie Dieon with the Upper District is hosting live music or an open mic at the Upper District on the first and third Wednesday of each month through the Summer.)

September 6-7, 2024 South Carolina Apple Festival – Downtown Westminster

(more details to come)

October 11-12, 2024 South Carolina Bigfoot Festival – Downtown Westminster

(more details to come)

October 31, 2024 Boo on Main - Downtown Westminster

(more details to come)

Harry M. Lightsey III
Secretary

SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Henry McMaster
Governor

For Immediate Release
June 19, 2024

Sandvik Coromant expanding Oconee County operations

Company investing \$29.4 million to improve production facility

COLUMBIA, S.C. – [Sandvik Coromant](#), a tooling solutions supplier, today announced it is expanding operations in Oconee County. The \$29.4 million investment will improve the company's Westminster production facility.

Part of Sandvik, a global industrial engineering group, Sandvik Coromant produces carbide inserts and round tools used in the metal cutting industry. The company's Oconee County operation manufactures more than 2,300 standard article and customized carbide inserts.

The investment will provide updated machinery and automation processes to Sandvik Coromant's world-class carbide manufacturing facility located at 2424 Sandifer Blvd. in Westminster.

Operations will be phased in over four years.

QUOTES

"Oconee County has been our home since 2002. Sandvik Coromant's Westminster site is the company's state-of-the-art carbide manufacturing plant in North America and is known for its highly engaged, committed and passionate people. We always want to make sure that we have the most current machinery and technology to serve our North American and global customers. This investment helps and supports the company's long-term sustainability and strategic initiatives. We very much appreciate the local partnership with Oconee Economic Alliance and the support we get from the county and state. We look forward to our continued partnership and growth for both our company and the community."

-Sandvik Coromant Production Unit Director Arun Pattanik

"We are happy to see Sandvik Coromant continuing to invest in Oconee County. This announcement is a testament to the thriving business climate we have cultivated in South Carolina that continues to benefit our existing companies."

-Gov. Henry McMaster

"Today's announcement from Sandvik Coromant is another win for our state's advanced manufacturing industry. We congratulate the company on this \$29.4 million investment and look forward to its continued success in Oconee County."

-Secretary of Commerce Harry M. Lightsey III

"I am pleased with Sandvik's commitment to expanding operations in Oconee County with an additional \$29 million investment. This expansion underscores Sandvik's confidence in our community's skilled workforce and robust economic environment. Since 2002, Sandvik has been a wonderful corporate citizen in Oconee County, and we look forward to the positive impact this investment will have in the future on local employment opportunities and economic growth in our region."

-Senate President Thomas C. Alexander

"Oconee County is thrilled that Sandvik Coromant will be investing and growing its Westminster operation. They are one of our most respected manufacturers and have consistently exceeded their growth expectations in Oconee. This is a testimonial to the outstanding business climate Oconee affords to industry. We thank Sandvik for their commitment to our community and appreciate the partnership we enjoy with them."

-Oconee Economic Alliance President Jamie Gilbert

FIVE FAST FACTS

- **Sandvik Coromant is expanding operations in Oconee County.**
- The company is investing **\$29.4 million in its Westminster production facility.**
- Sandvik Coromant is a **producer of manufacturing tools and machining solutions.**
- The investment will be used to **purchase new machinery and increase automation processes.**
- The company is located at **2424 Sandifer Blvd. in Westminster, S.C.**

About S.C. Department of Commerce

As South Carolina's leading economic development agency, the Department of Commerce works to recruit new businesses and help existing business grow. S.C. Commerce has recruited world-class companies to South Carolina such as BMW, Boeing, Continental, Giti Tire, LPL Financial Holdings, Mercedes-Benz Vans, Samsung, Toray and Volvo Cars and also supports startups, small and existing business, innovation and rural development initiatives. S.C. Commerce partners with the [S.C. Technical College System](#) via [readySC](#) to support workforce training and recruiting, and with the [S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce](#), which provides worker training and employment opportunities within the state. With a strong international footprint, the Palmetto State has consistently been among the top in the nation for attracting jobs through foreign

direct investment on a per capita basis – recognized by multiple economic development publications for its pro-business climate. For more information, visit www.SCcommerce.com.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kelly Coakley

Director of Marketing and Communications

South Carolina Department of Commerce

(803) 737-1998

kcoakley@sccommerce.com

www.SCcommerce.com