

100 years strong



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The High Point Economic Development Corp. recognized the 100th anniversary of Thomas Built Buses.

Thomas Built celebrates 'boom time' at EDC meeting

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HIGH POINT — High Point's largest manufacturing employer is continuing to add to its workforce.

Thomas Built Buses representatives told the High Point Economic Development Corp. board of directors Wednesday that the company has hired 250 employees in the past two months at its C2 school bus-making plant on W. Fairfield Road.

"Right now, it's more or less a boom time for us," said Chief Financial Officer Chris Redhouse.

The plant, which straddles the High Point and Archdale boundary, underwent a \$12 million expansion that was made possible by incentives grants of up to \$372,098 from four local governments.

Thomas Built Buses expects to have more than 1,800 employees in High Point by the end of the year, up from about 1,630.

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The company is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

City Councilman Jason Ewing presented a resolution proclaiming 2016 as "Thomas Built Buses Year" in the city.

The company was founded in High Point in 1916 as Perley A. Thomas Car Works, which made streetcars. It transitioned to a school-bus manufacturer in the late 1930s.

Archdale Mayor Bert Lance

Stone presented the company, which is a subsidiary of Daimler Trucks North America, a key to the city.

EDC representatives and elected officials said the plant's success shows the importance of collaboration between local governments, who teamed up with the state in 2002 in providing an incentives package to retain Thomas Built Buses, which was considering an expansion in Gaffney, South Carolina.

They said the same dynamic is at play in the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite in northeastern Randolph County, where officials hope to lure an automotive plant.

Officials are seeking state certification for the 1,450-acre site, and the city of Greensboro plans to extend water and sewer service to the property.

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