

2008 Business Achievement Award Winners

Carroll County Agribusiness Award

Lippy Brothers, Inc.

Lippy Brothers, Inc., located in Hampstead, was founded in 1965 by Ed, Joe, Donald and Wilson Lippy. Under the current management team of Ed, Donald and Brad Rill, Lippy grows and harvests over 9,000 acres of corn, barley, wheat, snap beans, soybeans and hay and produces 390,000 eggs a day.

Lippy Brothers recently completed two major projects that will benefit the agriculture community. The first project was the development of a customized mobile computer information technology known as “Digital Mapping”. This technology will collect, maintain and analyze detailed crop production data. Results will be used to maximize crop yields, improve management practices and lower input costs. The technology is available to farmers everywhere.

The second project to advance agricultural production is the addition of a new grain handling facility including a new grain unloading pit, grain elevator with downspouts, load-out tank and truck scale. This new grain handling facility was necessitated by a newly developed soybean export opportunity that will provide a competitive soybean market for local and regional grain producers. Just this year alone, Lippy Brothers has purchased over 400,000 bushels of soybeans totaling nearly \$6 million in transactions.



Congratulations and thanks to Lippy Brothers for helping to ensure the continued viability of agriculture in our community.

Carroll County Business Expansion Award

General Dynamics Robotic Systems, Inc.

In 1991, a small machine shop called F&M Manufacturing incorporated in Hampstead, Maryland with two operating divisions: F&M Machine and Robotic Systems Technology (RST). Lean on

staff, but heavy on determination and vision, the partners of F&M Machine landed contracts with the United States Postal Service and the US Army. In 1997, this truly “home-grown” business constructed their first building in Westminster, a beautiful new 80,000’ building designed to carry them well into the future.

In 1999, having established an outstanding reputation as tactical robotic and automated systems



developers, General Dynamics Land Systems bought F&M/RST forming General Dynamics Robotic Systems. An explosion of growth followed and GDRS quickly found itself spread among several locations across Westminster. In 2006, another 150,000’ building was constructed, surely enough space for the future.

Yet, before this building was even finished, discussions were well underway about the need for even more space. With two main buildings and several smaller operations to manage, the

company wanted to maximize efficiencies. Company officials considered several location options, ultimately selecting the Industrial Development Authority’s Westminster Technology Park as the preferred alternative.

The new 40,000’ build-to-suit, developed by Conewago Contractors, is the third GDRS building along the MD 97 corridor. Now, with over 450 employees in nearly 300,000’ of building space, the “GDRS Campus” is something that we are very proud to showcase.

Carroll County Design Award

The Hampstead Marketplace; B&G Hampstead, LLC

The Hampstead Marketplace, owned by B & G Hampstead LLC, was developed by Michael Brooks and Donald Goldman, trading as Brooks & Goldman Realty, and leased primarily by Adam Kaftol of the same firm. It is the newest retail development in the Hampstead area, featuring an open-air Main Street design, set off with a prominently featured clock tower, and setting a new standard for a Carroll County main street.

“Redefining shopping and dining in the northern Carroll County market”, the Hampstead Marketplace is ideally situated on MD Route 30 at Eagle Ridge Court. The development boasts 68,000 sq. ft. of retail space featuring merchants such as CVS Pharmacy, PNC Bank, KFC/Taco Bell, Sleepy’s, Five Guys Burgers and Fries, Quizno’s and Snap Fitness. The construction was completed in 2007, and, as a testament to the retail consumer demands in Carroll County, the center is already 88% leased.



We would like to recognize Brooks & Goldman Realty, for their vision in bringing this standard of development to Carroll County. The following firms are also to be recognized for their creative and imaginative work on the project: ARIUM architects; general contractor Chesapeake Contracting Group; paving and excavating contractor C. J. Miller; and civil engineers Morris & Ritchie Associates.

Carroll County New Business Award

GSE Systems, Inc.

Carroll County is thrilled to welcome GSE Systems to our community. GSE Systems, a provider of simulation and training services to power, manufacturing and government industries, moved to Eldersburg in July 2008.

The Department became involved with GSE in early 2007 upon learning of their decision to leave their facility at the end of their lease in 2008. The company, then located in Baltimore County, began pursuing existing buildings in other jurisdictions. After careful consideration the Board formally approved the move into the office space at the former London Fog headquarters.



GSE Systems has three decades of experience with over 100 customers in over 40 countries. They employ over 150 people worldwide at locations including Sweden and China. The corporate headquarters in Eldersburg employs 85 professionals. Growth plans will create more job opportunities for local citizens.

The arrival of GSE Systems to Carroll is significant: it indicates a level of confidence that the Carroll County marketplace can support growing, professional, knowledge-based firms.

Carroll County Small Business Award

The Barbour Group, LLC; Karen Barbour, President

The Barbour Group LLC provides surety bonds and commercial insurance services to companies in 27 states. Founded in 2002, TBG is recognized as one of the most knowledgeable brokers specializing in surety bonds.

2008 has been a remarkable year for Karen and The Barbour Group. Earlier this year Karen was named the *2008 Maryland Small Business Person of the Year* by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Karen also received



Maryland's *TOP 100 Minority Business Enterprise* (MBE) award. *Inc.* magazine named The Barbour Group as one of the fastest-growing private companies in the U.S.

Karen actively participates in many noteworthy construction trade associations. She is vice chair of the board of the Minority Building Industry Association and has served on the boards of the American Subcontractors Association of Baltimore and the Washington Building Congress. Her participation on public policy matters has improved access to bonding for qualified small and minority contractors.

Carroll County Tourism Industry Award

Thierry Bompard, Co-Owner Best Western Inn and Conference Center

Thierry has been a strong supporter of the Tourism Office's mission for many years, quick to donate the use of a room whether for the Governor's Conference on Tourism or a travel writer visiting our county. He has managed the Best Western for 11 years and has recently purchased the Best Western along with his partner Frank Reagoso.



As you all know, the Baltimore Ravens spend several weeks each summer at the Best Western and we believe Thierry's customer service has helped keep the team here in our County.

Thierry has also served on the Tourism Council Board since November 2000 and has served as the Treasurer for the Council since 2002, including handling funds for the production of two Visitor Guides during that time.

As a local business partner, we are grateful to Thierry for his support of the Tourism efforts in Carroll County.

Carroll County Workforce Development Award

Random House, Inc.

Random House is very committed to the personal and professional development of each and every employee.

Through their generous tuition reimbursement program, employees can take a general interest class or pursue a degree with the financial support of the company. The program provides reimbursement of up to \$3,500 for undergraduate and non-credit course work and up to \$5,000

for graduate level course work, each year. Many employees seek and ultimately realize their higher education goals while applying the skills learned to their daily work.

With increasing office technology skills required in the workplace, Random House partnered with Carroll Community College to provide convenient on-site computer training. Over 80 employees were trained in Microsoft Office products such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access.



As technology advances, work processes need to change. When Random House implemented their new "voice technology" for Distribution order processing, employees received on-the-job training in the new system which ultimately resulted in improved operational efficiency.

Random House is a company that strongly believes that their biggest return on investment begins with the training and development of their employees.

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