

Lincoln county

PHOTOS BY
RICKY McGEE



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAYETTEVILLE-LINCOLN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD



Lincoln County, located in Southern Middle Tennessee on the Tennessee/Alabama border, may not be one of Tennessee's largest counties, but what it lacks in size and population it makes up for in quality and accomplishments.

Just 25 miles north of Huntsville and 78 miles south of Nashville, Lincoln County, with county seat Fayetteville, is within 500 miles of 76% of major U.S. markets. While its population is just above the 30,000 mark, Lincoln County boasts a high-ranking public school system, one of the state's lowest unemployment rates and one of the top county fairs in Tennessee.

Municipal Analysis Services of Austin, Texas, ranked Fayetteville in the top 10% of cities nationwide in terms of efficiency. What's more, the city administrator, city fire chief, city building and codes official and the director of economic development have all been recognized by their peers as being the best in their fields in the state of Tennessee.

Nathan Ward, director of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Development Board, says he anticipates 10% new growth to the area.

"We are the only county in Tennessee that has partnered with Huntsville to have a presence to reach out to new BRAC employees," he says.

BRAC (which stands for Base Realignment and Closure Committee) announced in 2005 it would move its operation from Virginia to Huntsville in 2007, creating approximately 5,000 civilian and military jobs. Ward anticipates a percentage of these employees finding homes to Lincoln County.

"We are the only Tennessee county that geographically touches Huntsville, Alabama," says County Executive Jerry Mansfield. "We mirror its county in size, but we offer a country style of life. People who work at BRAC or at other Department of Defense locations can travel just 30 minutes home and be removed from that work atmosphere."

Carolyn Denton, executive director of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, says she expects new residents to feel at home right away in Lincoln County.

"The people of Fayetteville are community- and family-minded," Denton says. "Everybody is willing to help do whatever it takes to make our community outstanding."

Residents have known for a long time that Lincoln County offers a high quality of life. And businesses—new and existing—are discovering the same.

“We offer a transportation system,” Mansfield says, “especially for the automotive supplier.

“For companies that depend on travel time, we are sitting on a tripod of four-lane highways, one of which leads directly, just 15 minutes, to I-65. And we will soon have a four-lane highway that leads to I-24 in Winchester.

“We have a transportation system that would benefit any company locating here.”

Three local companies recently announced expansions.

“The Goodman Company added three new assembly lines to its Fayetteville plant,” Ward says. “They added 800 new jobs,” representing a \$6 million investment.

Headquartered in Houston, Goodman is the second largest manufacturer of residential and light commercial heating and air conditioning products in the United States.

“Goodman is the largest employer in the county and provides top wages,” Ward says. “In December of 2005, the company announced it would add 300 new jobs. In March, that figure was increased to 800.”

The new jobs help the county maintain its low unemployment rate.

“We have unemployment below 5%,” Ward says. “We are a top 10 county in terms of low unemployment rates in the state. The



Rambo Farms

downside to low unemployment is that it's more challenging to recruit new industries because of the potential difficulty in finding workers—but meeting that challenge is part of my job.”

Fortunately, the county's low unemployment hasn't stopped existing industries from growing.

“Copperweld Bimetallic Products is locating its corporate headquarters here,” Ward says. “This secures 100-plus jobs.”

Copperweld Bimetallic Products manufactures alternatives to copper wiring.

Ward says Frito-Lay made a small expansion about a year ago, adding 65 employees to its facility that manufacturers Doritos, Lays and Ruffles.

Lincoln County is home to two industrial parks, including Bullington Industrial Park and a new 200-acre park.

“The new park will be located off of Hwy. 64,” he says. “[The road is] being widened. We're also in the process of putting in utilities.”

Ward says there is still space available in the park that is home to C&S Plastics, a plastics injection molding company and Nissan supplier. Other companies located here include Gregory, makers of automotive racking systems and Franke Contract Group, which manufactures kitchen equipment for clients such as McDonalds.

“Another of our existing companies is First Class Printing, a high-tech printer,” Ward says.

When it comes to recruiting new companies, Ward says he works as a team with county, city and Chamber officials. And he says the area has a lot of selling features.

“We have low taxes, good infrastructure and a good location, close to I-65 and just 20 miles from Huntsville, which is a 100,000+ market,” he says. “When we recruit, we bring in as many partners as we can. One stick is easy to break; a

bundle of sticks is much harder.”

Denton says the Chamber holds seminars for economic and community development.

“We arrange counseling through the Small Business Administration,” she says.

The area has a good, solid workforce. “Our people have strong agricultural ties,” Ward says. “They are not afraid of a hard day's work for an equal day's pay.”

Lincoln has more than just hard-working employees going for it. The Toyota Engine Plant is located in Huntsville, “just a county over,” Ward says. “We're strategically located and are a good spot for suppliers.”

Lincoln County is also home to unique products. “Prichards' Rum is made here,” Ward says. “The rum has won several awards. It's made with the same spring-fed water used by the Jack Daniels facility.

“Jack Daniels uses a charcoal mellowing process that is called the Lincoln County process. That means that even though its facility is located in Moore County, part of Lincoln County is in every bottle of Jack Daniels.”

Ward says the Lincoln County area has a thriving tourism industry.

“Our fair is number one in the state,” he says. “We also have harness horse racing.



MAJOR NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS

Goodman Co. <i>air conditioners & furnaces</i>	1,600
Frito-Lay Inc. <i>snack foods</i>	500
Copperweld Corp. <i>bimetallic wire</i>	150
Franke Contract Group <i>stainless steel kitchen equipment</i>	115
Hydro Aluminum <i>aluminum auto parts</i>	100
C&S Plastics <i>injection molding</i>	95
Gregory <i>metal rack and pallet manufacturer</i>	68
First Class Printing <i>printing</i>	65

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Lincoln County Events

Each year, Lincoln County is the home of three of Tennessee's major festivals, attracting thousands of visitors to its area.

The 102nd Lincoln County Fair

Held this year from Sept. 9-16, includes Tennessee's only harness racing as well as livestock shows, exhibits, entertainment, attractions and rides. More than 100,000 people attend the weeklong event.

www.lincolncountyfairinfo.com



"Lincoln County is very scenic with gently rolling areas. The Elk River has some great trout fishing and canoeing. Fayetteville has a vibrant square, with a movie theater, pool halls and a whittler's bench where men come out and whittle. It's very unique. Fayetteville has a small town feel, but Huntsville is nearby, with everything you would want from a big town."

Denton says the tourism committee is run under the Chamber.

"Promotion of our county is done through us," she says. "We man the visitor's center and welcome centers. We're just 15 miles from Lynchburg, and we're close to Huntsville. We're located between two interstates, and we get a lot of travelers."

Fayetteville has many public parks and recreational facilities with tennis courts, and baseball, softball and soccer fields. Lincoln County ranks in the top five counties in Tennessee for hunting and is the number one county in terms of wild turkey population.

Lincoln County was home to the Borden milk processing plant, the first modern industry to locate to the South in 1927. The former plant now serves as the Lincoln County Museum.

Through the Chamber, the county is home to a Student Advisory Board, a Youth Leadership Program and a Leadership Program.

"The Student Advisory Program brings sophomores, juniors and seniors to volunteer during the school year," Denton says. "We award a scholarship each year."

Leadership classes help foster leadership qualities, Denton says.

"The adult class completes a project each year," she says. "One class created the Father's Memorial Park along the river. Another class landscaped a gazebo at the nursing home."



Workforce & Education

Lincoln County students are served by two school districts: The Lincoln County Fayetteville City school systems.

The Lincoln County School System serves a student body of just over 4,000 with eight schools, including six K-8 schools, a ninth grade academy and a comprehensive high school that serves the county's 10th-12th grade students. The system recently invested \$16 million into its building program to bring the system to its current configuration.

The Fayetteville City School System serves grades K-9 and is made up of one elementary, one intermediate and one junior high school. The system, with a student body of just under 1,000, recently spent \$1 million in building and grounds renovation, which included a new practice field for football and soccer. Fayetteville City Schools received the 2005 Award for Excellence in Education Programs from the Tennessee School Boards

The Lincoln County Bluegrass and Crafts Festival

Held the fourth Friday and Saturday in September at the county fairgrounds. This year marks the event's fifth year, with something for everyone. Visitors can enter one of the musical or dancing competitions with a chance to win some of the \$8,000 prize money. The festival, held Sept. 22-23, 2006, includes music, food and crafts.

www.lincolncountytn.com/bluegrass

The 14th annual Fayetteville Host of Christmas Past festival

The second weekend of November, Fayetteville comes alive with the spirit of Dickens. The Festival includes storytelling, craft demonstrations, musical performances, high tea, children's activities and candlelit tours of the town's historic streets. The event also includes a home tour and craft show.

www.hostofchristmaspast.com



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Association for its Intersession Remediation Program.

"We offer a broad-based curriculum at our high school, and it serves our grades well with high graduation rates and a high percentage of students going on to college or other career training," Mansfield says. "We also have a great athletics program, with football being our mainstay."

Motlow State Community College has a branch campus located in Fayetteville. The school, which also has campuses in Moore County, McMinnville and Smyrna, offers two-year degree programs as well as non-degree programs that prepare students for job readiness in the fields of business, industry, government, early childhood education and health professions. The Fayetteville location is the school's smallest campus, serving approximately 500 students.

The Don Sundquist Center for Advanced Technologies is located adjacent to the Motlow campus and opened in 2001. The school serves as a workforce development training center for business and industry in the Lincoln County area. The school offers a plastic injection molding school as part of its School to Work program. The Computer Integrated Manufacturing center, housed in the Sundquist Center, also provides training for area businesses. (The Sundquist Center is conveniently located near Bullington Industrial Park.)

"This is a huge advantage for our county," Ward says. "Especially since it is close to the industrial park. The state has training

KEY CONTACTS

Jerry Mansfield • County Executive
Lincoln County
112 Main Ave. S., Room 101
Fayetteville, TN 37334
(931)433-3045

John Ed Underwood Jr. • Mayor
City of Fayetteville
110 Elk Ave. S. Fayetteville, TN 37334
(931)433-6154

Nathan Ward • Director
Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial
Development Board
110-B South Elk Ave., Fayetteville, TN 37334
(931)433-0607
www.fayettevilletn.com/idb

Carolyn Denton
Fayetteville-Lincoln County Chamber
208 South Elk Ave., Fayetteville, TN 37334
(931)433-1234
cocf@vallnet.com
www.vallnet.com/chamberofcommerce

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grants and that helps us capitalize on this program. There is also meeting space that can be used by companies.”

Ward says Lincoln County became part of the Imagination Library in its first year.

“We were one of the first counties to participate,” he says.

Lincoln County is home to one private school. Riverside Christian Academy, which opened in 2001, serves students in grades pre-K-12 and is a ministry of the Riverside Church of Christ.

Services & Infrastructure

Water & Sewer Fayetteville Public Utilities, (931)433-4501.

Natural & Propane Gas Fayetteville Public Utilities, (931)433-4548.

Electricity Fayetteville Public Utilities, (931)433-1522.

Telecommunications BellSouth, (931)557-6500.

Health Care

The Lincoln County Health System serves the county. It includes Lincoln Medical

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION				
YEAR	1980	1990	2000	2004
COUNTY	26,483	28,157	31,340	32,392
Fayetteville	7,651	7,338	6,994	6,996
Labor Force in County • 31,450				
Annual High School Graduates • 485				
Unemployment Rate • 4.5%				

Source: Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development and U.S. Census Bureau

Center, a full-service county-owned acute hospital built just five years ago.

“We reduced the beds by about two-thirds and primarily operate outpatient care here,” Mansfield says.

Denton says specialty doctors come from Nashville or Huntsville, using satellite offices in Fayetteville. The health system also includes two long-term health facilities, EMS service, home health service and a free-standing rehabilitation and wellness center that includes a pool, aerobics classes and gymnasium.

Transportation

Roads U.S. Hwys. 64, 231 and 431; State Highways 50, 110 and 121. I-65 is located 16 miles west of Fayetteville and is accessible

TAX RATES

PROPERTY TAX (per \$100 assessment)	
Residential	25%
Industrial	40%
Personal Equipment	30%
COUNTY	\$2.23
Fayetteville	\$1.54
Sales Tax	
Local	2.25%
State	7.00%
TOTAL	8.5% - 9.5%

(6% for food and food ingredients for human consumption)

SOURCE: State of Tennessee Economic and Community Development

by U.S. Highway 64, a four-lane highway.

Air Fayetteville Municipal Airport can accommodate corporate aircraft. It includes a 6,000-foot runway. International service is available at the Huntsville/Madison County International Airport, 35 miles south or at the Nashville International Airport, 78 miles north.

Trucking Fayetteville is served by nine motor freight companies.

Water The Tennessee River Port is located near Huntsville, 25 miles away.

Rail CSX transportation serves southwest Lincoln County. **tn**

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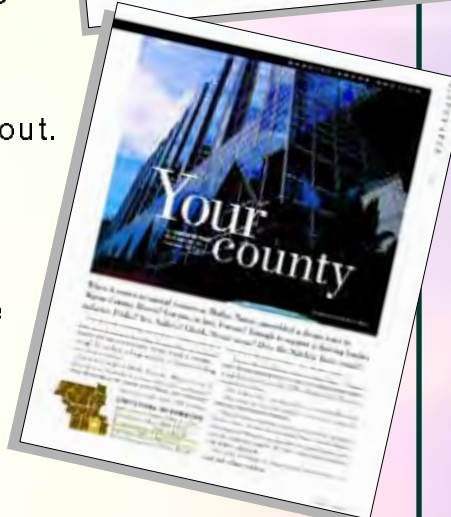
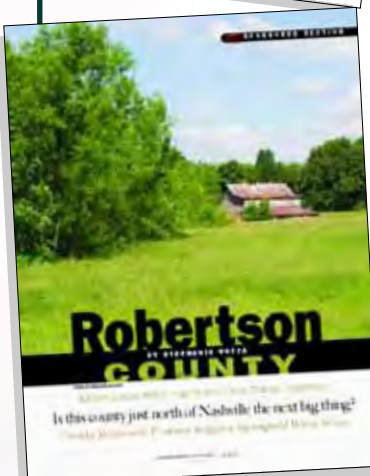
For counties to attract new corporate headquarters and facilities in today's competitive environment, they need the right tools.

They need credible, comprehensive information that sends a clear message to business leaders, recruiters and anyone else who might be looking across the state or across the nation for the perfect place to start, relocate or expand a business.

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