



# 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

www.theshenandoahvalley.com www.shenandoahvalleyliving.com

# Shenandoah Valley

The Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP) is your resource to explore investing in this region and connecting with key business, government, and workforce leaders. Serving as the regional economic development and marketing organization, SVP promotes the region's economic prosperity through capital investments and job creation by working collaboratively with 12 localities, over 120 private-sector investors and numerous state-wide strategic partners. Contact our team today to learn more about the opportunities and advantages for finding your company's future in Virginia's iconic Valley.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Earlier in 2025 I began a presentation by stating that this year has been...turbulent, to the amusement of the audience. You hear it on the news constantly that business likes stability. Yet in a time of unpredictability, SVP has been extremely busy with business activity.

We finished our last fiscal and calendar year on an upswing in terms of business activity. As we closed out December, we had roughly 15-20 strong prospect leads – a healthy number for us. Even better, these leads were almost all manufacturing projects and cumulatively, the projected investment totaled more than \$7 billion. We were feeling very positive about the pipeline leading into 2025 but assumed that with the start of a new federal administration that business would likely take a pause and pick up in the late spring.

January began with a flurry of new leads and the activity has not stopped. We have added approximately 20 new leads to our pipeline and total investment is exceeding \$25 billion. This project and investment pipeline is the highest in the history of SVP. Better yet, the portfolio of the sectors represented is equally impressive. While almost exclusively based in manufacturing, we have prospects representing advanced materials and polymers, heavy equipment and fabrication, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, data centers, R&D, and of course, food and beverage. We fully realize that we will turn very few of these projects into announcements. However, as anyone in sales understands, if you don't have leads, you cannot win projects. We have shown that the location, infrastructure and people of the Shenandoah Valley make a great case for business locations. I am also forever the optimist and when we get the chance, we do our best by working harder and outperforming our competition.

Last year, the subjects of housing, childcare and transportation were a part of my message. Some might think that these topics represent mission creep for economic development, and if you had asked me about our role in these issues ten years ago, I would have agreed with that sentiment. However, all three of these issues have become foundational to economic prosperity and are encompassed within the community development engagement strategy the Shenandoah Valley Partnership adopted in 2019, 2021 and 2024. Specifically, housing needs across Virginia have become such an issue that the Youngkin Administration has created the Workforce Housing Investment Program within Virginia Housing. SVP provided support to Harrisonburg and was invited to participate in a May 21 event with Governor Youngkin at the Harrisonburg Innovation Hub to announce the \$1.2 million grant supporting the Flats at West Market, and nine other projects across the Commonwealth for a total of \$16.9 million.

Site development remains a focus for SVP. We completed the feasibility study on a Regional Industrial Facility Authority for the purpose of a regional business park in which multiple localities could participate, and the results were positive for that study. Subsequently, SVP was awarded a third grant from GO Virginia to complete the due diligence work on a site in which we and the community have been steadily investing. We are moving forward with the creation of a regional park authority and developing the largest site in the region.

All the efforts, programs, and initiatives thus discussed require the partnership of many public, private and nonprofit partners. We are so fortunate to have the backing and faith of an amazing community supporting our efforts, and ultimately, success. Through the collective work partners, the region announced more than \$100 million in investment and more than 175 jobs last year. We are committed to sharing this story and have been aggressively doing so and have great plans for our next fiscal year. Thank you to all our partners for supporting SVP in driving economic growth and helping make our region a vibrant place where people and businesses choose to live, work, and thrive.

Jay A. Langston, Ph.D

Executive Director

Shenandoah Valley Partnership

## MARKETING & OUTREACH TRIPS FY24-25

Site Selectors Guild **Regional Roundtable** Virtual

Virginia Maritime International **Trade Symposium** Norfolk, VA

**Consultant Connect ECONOMIX** 

Salt Lake City, UT

**Area Development Consultants Forum** Coral Gables, FL

**I-81 Corridor Site Selector Visit** Atlanta, GA

RILA Link 2025: The Retail **Supply Chain Conference** Kissimmee Fl

**VCCS Skilled Trades Summit** Roanoke, VA

Toronto Call Trip with VEDP

Toronto, Canada

Virginia Consultants Forum

Tysons Corner, VA

**Summer Fancy Food** Conference New York, NY

# ANNOUNCEMENTS FY24-25

#### **EXPANSION**

**ANNOUNCED JUNE 2025** 



Cidery

**AUGUSTA COUNTY** 

Headquarters: Virginia 6 new jobs

**EXPANSION** 

ANNOUNCED MARCH 2025

Provides marketing, printing

and digital services

CITY OF WAYNESBORO

Headquarters: Virginia

\$5m investment

#### **EXPANSION**

ANNOUNCED APRIL 2025



Software development and IT consultancy company

#### **CITY OF HARRISONBURG**

Headquarters: Virginia 20 new jobs

# **SVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS** AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FY24-25

#### **LOCALITY**

Ms. Carolyn Bragg Board of Supervisors, County of Augusta

Mr. Tom Carroll City Manager, City of Lexington

Mr. Greg Hitchin **Economic Development** Director, City of Waynesboro

Mr. Robin Sullenberger Economic Development Authority, County of Highland

Mr. Casev Armstrong County Administrator, County of Rockingham

Mr. Peirce Macgill Assistant Director of Economic Development, City of Harrisonburg

Ms. Jenna French Director of Tourism & Economic Development, County of Shenandoah

Ms. Brandy Flint Director of Economic Development, County of Rockbridge

Mr. Mike Bender Economic Development Director, County of Bath

Ms. Kristina Ramsev Director of Economic Development, City of Buena Vista

Ms. Nina Fox Economic Development & Tourism Director, County of Page

Ms. Amanda Dimeo Director of Economic Development, City of Staunton

#### **NON-LOCALITY**

Mr. Chris Ellis Senior Vice President, **Huntington National Bank** 

Mr. Brad Cornelius CEO. Farm Credit of the Virginias

Mr. Lucas Cade **Economic Development** Manager, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative

Mr. Keith May Owner, Cottonwood Commercial Realty

Dr. John Downey President, Blue Ridge Community College

Ms. Lisa Botkin Executive Director, Shenandoah Valley Airport

Ms. Mary Mannix President & CEO. Augusta Health

Mr. Chris Weaver President & CEO, Lantz Construction Company

Mr. Charles Hendricks Principal, The Gaines **Group Architects** 

Mr. Andy Vanhook Imaginative Producer, Appeal Production

Mr. Aaron Lorson Executive Vice President, Dynamic Aviation

Mr. Bill Wilev Business Development, Howard Shockey & Sons

#### **PARTNERS**

Ms. Courtney Thompson President & CEO, Greater Augusta Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Patrice Ludwig Interim Assistant Vice President for Research & Innovation. James Madison University

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Charles Hendricks, CHAIR

Principal, The Gaines **Group Architects** 

Mr. Andy Vanhook, VICE CHAIR Imaginative Producer, Appeal Production

Mr. Chris Ellis, SECRETARY/TREASURER Senior Vice President. Huntington National Bank

Ms. Kristina Ramsey, CITY DESIGNEE Director of Economic Development, City of Buena Vista

Ms. Nina Fox, **COUNTY DESIGNEE** 

Economic Development & Tourism Director, County of Page

Mr. Keith May, PAST CHAIR Owner, Cottonwood

Commercial Realty Dr. Patrice Ludwig, JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

REPRESENTATIVE

Interim Assistant Vice President for Research & Innovation. James Madison University

#### NEW

ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 2025

#### **SERIOPLAST**

Global manufacturer of rigid plastic packaging material

#### SHENANDOAH COUNTY

Headquarters: Italy 45 new jobs • \$26m investment

#### **EXPANSION**

#### **ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 2024**



Manufactures insulated copper linesets, coils, and mini splits for HVAC equipment

#### **SHENANDOAH COUNTY**

Headquarters: Virginia 25 new jobs • \$1m investment

#### **EXPANSION**

**ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 2024** 



Produces dairy products

#### **AUGUSTA COUNTY**

Headquarters: Arizona 28 new jobs • \$59m investment

#### **EXPANSION**

**ANNOUNCED AUGUST 2024** 



Manufactures material handling equipment

**CITY OF STAUNTON** 

Headquarters: Ohio 5 new jobs • \$7m investment

#### **EXPANSION**

**ANNOUNCED AUGUST 2024** 



Manufactures broths and seasonings

#### **CITY OF HARRISONBURG**

Headquarters: Ireland 47 new jobs

### **EXPANSION**

ANNOUNCED JULY 2024



Designs and manufactures interconnect solution products for various industries

CITY OF WAYNESBORO

Headquarters: Virginia \$11m investment

**176** TOTAL NEW JOBS

TOTAL INVESTMENTS



# HIGHLIGHTS

FY24-25

## **Investor Forums and Events**

In addition to quarterly Connect events, SVP was pleased to host two in-person economic insights forums for investors and partners featuring guest speakers Tom Barkin, President & CEO Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Jason El Koubi, President & CEO Virginia Economic Development Partnership.





## At The Table Forum Debuts

SVP debuted a new format for its virtual site selector show in January of this year. What started as the virtual cooking show has evolved into the 'At the Table' forum, a quarterly show that brings the Shenandoah Valley to life through

the voices of the people who are shaping its future. Each episode dives into key topics tied to economic growth, highlighting the stories, partnerships and initiatives fueling the region's prosperity.



## **Sector Specific Roundtables**

Modeled after the successful launch of the manufacturer's roundtable in 2023, SVP added a construction roundtable to its offerings in 2025. These roundtables are facilitated by SVP and are an opportunity for those in specific sectors to come together to discuss challenges and opportunities.

## Shenandoah Valley Food + Beverage Trail

In April, SVP hosted seven food & beverage industry leaders—including executives, real estate experts, and site consultants—to highlight the Shenandoah Valley's advantages for F+B companies. These leaders, along with representatives from VEDP were able to explore the Valley's robust manufacturing workforce, strong distribution and logistics network, supporting industries and economies of scale in food manufacturing and agriculture, reinforcing the region as a prime location for food and beverage businesses.





GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

## **Site Development**

SVP completed a feasibility study on a Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA) for the purpose of a regional business park in which multiple localities could be involved. With a positive result from that study, SVP was awarded a third GO Virginia grant to complete the due diligence work on the potential Blue Mountain site in Weyers Cave.



## **Projects & Site Visits**

In FY24-25, SVP was involved with 67 projects and 8 company site visits. As of June 2024, there are approximately 35 active projects.



## **Fostering Talent Podcast Series Released**

Our newest podcast series, *Fostering Talent* is a miniseries that spotlights some of the people, programs and powerhouse initiatives shaping the region's talent pipeline. This series showcases what makes the Valley a hub for opportunity and growth.



< LISTEN NOW



## **SV Life Celebrates Episode 50**

The SV Life podcast reached a milestone 50th episode in 2025 and celebrated by turning the mic around and interviewing SVP's own Jay A. Langston as the guest. Special thanks to Andy Vanhook of Appeal Production for being the guest host.





LISTEN NOW >



## **SVP Establishes Foundation**

The SVP Foundation was established in 2024 to support initiatives, programs and services that serve as foundational assets for Shenandoah Valley economic growth or assist the partnership for economic development. Inaugural board members include: Troy Suter, Chair – LD&B; Kevin Baker, Vice Chair – The Frazier Quarry; Greg Godsey, Treasurer-Secretary - Atlantic Union Bank; Martha Kidd – InterChange Group; Debra Callison – First Citizens Bank; Wayne Whitmer – Harman Construction; Bryan Smith – Dominion Energy; Scot Lilly – Farm Credit of the Virginias.

# **REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

# Learn more about the highlights shown at **theshenandoahvalley.com/news**





**Bath County** was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund Infrastructure Grant program that will support The Village Kitchen, a commissary kitchen and food aggregator.



**Highland County** received a \$1.75M grant from the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund for the Highland Inn revitalization project.

HIGHLAND COUNTY



A \$4.5M Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) grant was awarded to **Rockingham County** to develop an approximately 20-acre pad-ready site in Innovation Village.



Caf2Code, a software development and IT consultancy company, announced an expansion in the **City of Harrisonburg** with a \$135,000 investment and the creation of 20 new tech jobs.



The **City of Staunton** was awarded a \$9M grant from the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) to fund infrastructure improvements, specifically the construction of a 1-million-gallon water tower and water supply lines, at the 300-acre Staunton Crossing industrial site.

# MAIN&WAYNE growaynesboro

Waynesboro Economic Development received two Excellence in Economic Development awards from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), receiving a gold award for the Grow Waynesboro Main & Wayne program and a bronze award for the 'Mug Mailing' business attraction initiative.

CITY OF WAYNESBORO



The Joe Wilson Workforce Center in the **City of Buena Vista** hosted a grand opening ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Mountain Gateway Community College workforce center.

CITY OF BUENA VISTA



Italian-based plastics manufacturer Serioplast announced **Shenandoah County** as the site of a new manufacturing facility with a \$25.75M capital investment and projection of 45 new jobs.



Page County Economic Development and Tourism received a 2025 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its #WHYPageCounty communications campaign.

PAGE COUNTY



The City of Lexington's Threshold Housing Commission completed a city-wide housing and infrastructure assessment with grant funding provided by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.



Dairy product manufacturer Shamrock Farms invested \$59M to expand its operation in **Augusta County**. The project will create 28 new jobs and add 81,000SF to the existing 250,000 footprint at Mill Place Commerce Park.



The **County of Rockbridge** celebrated the opening of the Rockbridge Innovation Center, a modernized and expanded career and technical education hub, at Rockbridge High School.

# SVP INVESTORS, PARTNERS AND LOCALITIES

First Citizens Bank

## **Diamond Level Investors**

Augusta Health InterChange Group, Inc. James Madison University Sentara RMH Medical Center

## **Platinum**

Atlantic Union Bank **Dominion Energy Dynamic Aviation** Partners Excavating Co. Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative Truist

## Gold

Avotek Bank of America Cottonwood Commercial Realty **DuPont Community Credit Union** F&M Bank Farm Credit of the Virginias FirstBank Frazier Quarry Goodwill Industries of the Valleys **Huntington National Bank** Nielsen Builders, Inc. Port of Virginia Riddleberger Brothers, Inc. Rockingham Petroleum Shentel **United Bank** Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative

## Silver

Appeal Production Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau Balzer and Associates Bank of the James **Blauch Brothers** Blue Ridge Bank Blue Ridge Beverage Company Blue Ridge Insurance Services, Inc. Cadence, Inc. Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital Cathcart Group Cave Hill Corporation Clark & Bradshaw Columbia Gas CornerStone Bank CrossKeys Vineyards Design Electric Dewberry **Environmental Standards** Farmer Focus

Flora Pettit Friendship Industries Froehling & Robertson, Inc. Funkhouser Real Estate Group Gaines Group Architects **GENEDGE** GreeneHurlocker PLC | Attorneys at Law Harman Construction Harrisonburg Electric Commission **Houff Corporation** Hourigan Howard Shockey & Sons, Inc. Kjellstrom+Lee Lantz & Gochenour Investment Group of Janney Montgomery Scott LLC Lantz Construction Company LD&B Insurance and Financial Services Matchbox Realty McClung Companies Merck & Company Merrick (Alliance Engineering) Momentum Earthworks NIBCO Inc. PBMares, LLP Pioneer Bank Precision Concepts International Queen City Creative Rockingham Cooperative Farm Bureau Rockingham Insurance Rockydale Quarries Corporation Shenandoah Valley Airport Shenandoah Valley Railroad Co. Skyline Roofing Spencer Home Center Staunton Innovation Hub/ Harrisonburg Innovation Hub Sunnyside Communities The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company Timmons Group Triangle Realtors Valley Engineering **Vector Industries** Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community Washington Gas Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver

## **Bronze**

**Baker Roofing Company** Blue Ridge Safety Association Brown, Edwards & Company, LLP Ecosystem Services, LLC IT Decisions Les Helmuth Pendleton Community Bank Williams Mullen

## **Education Partners**

Blue Ridge Community College **Bridgewater College** Eastern Mennonite University Laurel Ridge Community College Mary Baldwin University Mountain Gateway Community College

## Localities

City of Buena Vista

City of Harrisonburg City of Lexington City of Staunton City of Waynesboro County of Augusta County of Bath County of Highland County of Page County of Rockbridge County of Rockingham County of Shenandoah

## **Partner Organizations**

Bath County Chamber of Commerce Central Shenandoah Planning **District Commission** GO Virginia Region 8 Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce **Highland County Chamber of Commerce** Lexington, Buena Vista, Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce Luray-Page Chamber of Commerce Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce Shenandoah Valley Builders Association Shenandoah Valley Innovation Coalition Shenandoah Valley Small Business **Development Center** Shenandoah Valley Technology Council Shenandoah Valley Tourism Partnership Shenandoah Valley Travel Association Shenandoah Valley Workforce **Development Board** Virginia Career Works - Shenandoah Valley Region Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Virginia Economic Developers Association

Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Virginia Maritime Association

Virginia Port Authority





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Shenandoah Valley Life



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