



JIM CARNs

COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 5

THE CARNs CHRONICLE

ISSUE 4

Welcoming Expansion of Brookwood Pharmaceutical

“I am excited to welcome Brookwood to Jefferson County and elated at the cooperation of state, county, and city entities to produce this significant achievement. Brookwood’s leading position in the polymer based drug delivery industry is a definite asset to our community. The 300 new jobs created by Brookwood will broaden the County’s employment opportunities in the higher wage technology sector I have long advocated as vital to growth in Jefferson County.” – Jim Carns



Birmingham based Brookwood Pharmaceutical, launched in January of 2005, is a world leader in drug delivery and biomedical uses of polymers. Brookwood’s technology is being developed for clinical application in treatment of cancer, arthritis, diabetes, alcoholism, psychosis, ocular diseases and bone and nerve regeneration. In July of 2007 Minnesota based SurModics, a leading provider of surface modification and drug delivery technologies to the healthcare industry, acquired Brookwood.

Brookwood is a part of billion dollar industry helping to create economic growth in Alabama. The United States biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries generate annual revenues of \$193 billion, and employ more than 400,000 people. The average wage in this industry is \$72,600 which is 86% higher than the U.S. private sector average. Also, each job in the biotech industry generates an estimated 5.8 jobs in other industries. But most importantly, each dollar in biotech earnings translates into an estimated \$2.90 in earnings for other industries.

In 2007, after experiencing continued growth, it became apparent that Brookwood had outgrown their state of the art facility and would need to relocate. The question became whether this expansion would take place in Alabama or Brookwood be moved to Minnesota. Realizing the possible economic loss that could ensue, local and state leaders put together an incentive package in order to keep this vital biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry in Jefferson County.

The cooperative efforts of the Metropolitan Development Board and elected officials like Commissioner Jim

Carns, chair of the Jefferson County Department of Economic Development, succeeded. SurModics was persuaded to invest in facility expansion in Birmingham at the site of the previously owned and operated Parisian Saks location and warehouse on Lakeshore. This announcement was made in April of 2008.



Industry growth in Jefferson County

SurModics expansion investment is expected to be approximately \$30 million. Brookwood will begin staff expansion upon building construction. Within the next three to five years approximately 300 employees with chemistry and manufacturing backgrounds will be hired by Brookwood.

Furthermore, the purchased facility allows for expansion to support additional manufacturing as the company continues to grow.

**Commissioner
Jim Carns**

716 Richard Arrington
Jr Blvd N
Suite 230
Birmingham AL
35203-0100

Telephone:
205.325.5503
Fax: 205.325.5960