

Prevail 2020

A YEAR IN REVIEW

to **OUR INVESTORS**

Each year, we reflect on what we can accomplish when we work together. 2020 was the epitome of the teamwork that is inherent in Jonesboro's DNA.

A pandemic. A tornado. Each, by itself, is enough to send a community reeling. But not Jonesboro.

Once again, we found the heart of our community on full display. We helped others by literally picking up the pieces after the storm and putting on our masks to protect others before ourselves.

Our industries grew. Colson Group and Camfil USA are currently building new factories. Nice-Pak is in the process of doubling production. Nestlé has announced a major expansion. Ritter Communications opened a state-of-the-art data center. All of these things happened during the worst financial crisis in years.

These continued investments in Jonesboro happen because of our greatest asset, our people. That is why we don't just survive. We thrive. It is why we will prevail.

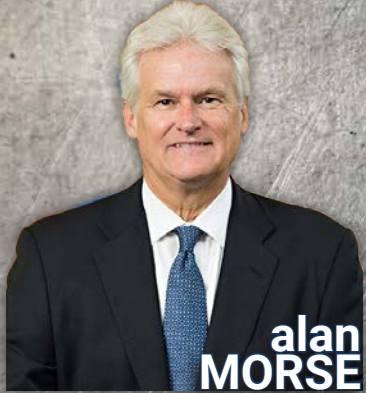
Thank you for your continued support of Jonesboro Unlimited as we create our future. We are looking forward to an exciting 2021!


ALAN B. BARKER

CHAIRMAN, JONESBORO UNLIMITED



board of **DIRECTORS**



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WILLIAMS**



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**murray
BENTON**



**kent
BRIDGER**

keep on **ROLLING**

“A watershed moment” were the words used when Colson Group CEO Tom Blashill announced to Colson employees in 2020 that they would be building a new facility in Jonesboro. The 146,000 SF facility will replace the existing Colson plant on Airport Road and be **state-of-the-art** with a new metal stamping center, new robotic welding, and new steel plating lines. **Always essential**, Colson’s castors, one made specifically for medical equipment, became even more valuable as the pandemic grew. The new facility is scheduled to be open by autumn of 2021.

An aerial photograph of a large, rectangular industrial construction site. The ground is mostly dirt and gravel, with some construction equipment and materials scattered across the site. A red line marks the perimeter of the site. In the foreground, there is a paved road and some trees. The word "colson" is written in large, bold, red, lowercase letters across the center of the site, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its right.

colson®

data **DRIVEN**

VERY FEW PROJECTS can say they stayed on schedule in 2020. Ritter Communications' Data,

Technology Center was one of them. This one-of-a-kind facility will be a **“significant new contributor to economic development in Northeast Arkansas and the region,”** according to Governor Asa Hutchinson. The 8,544 square-foot facility brings **industry-leading** data security and privacy certifications, providing business customers a highly secure, offsite location to store data and IT infrastructure.



300 ADDITIONAL JOBS

Nice-Pak has been growing since the wet-wipe maker arrived in Jonesboro over 10 years ago. In 2020, disinfecting wet-wipes became an essential staple for every home. **With demand soaring**, production increased to a 24-7 operation and that was just the start. In November, Nice-Pak announced the Jonesboro facility would be adding 300 more associates by the end of 2021, **doubling the production capacity** in Jonesboro. With the addition of another production line and the increased hiring, it amounts to a **\$50M investment in Jonesboro**.



\$100 MILLION

That's the investment in Jonesboro by Nestlé. Just days before Christmas the company announced it would be **adding another 90,000 SQFT** and hiring an **additional 100 people** in Jonesboro over the next two years.

The move once again showed how **Jonesboro's manufacturing base is essential** amid every type of economic climate. The expansion at Nestlé includes the addition of a new production line to make Hot Pockets.



industry **ON RAILS**

Rail infrastructure is critical. In Jonesboro rail service has led major manufacturers like Nestlé, Frito-Lay, and Trinity Rail Maintenance to call Craighead Technology Park home. Soon, those and other large-scale employers in the park will have even **greater capacity** to move their products. A grant totalling **\$2.5M** from the U.S. Department of Economic Development and the Delta Regional Authority will lay the groundwork for nearly 10 acres of rail storage in support of the Craighead Technology Park. The grant makes room for **120 additional rail cars and adds 125 new jobs.**



staying **HOME**

Rebuild and reinvest. Camfil APC took a direct hit in the March 28, 2020 tornado. The company's main production building was destroyed. But **Camfil leaders pushed on.** A temporary facility was found to keep people working and the production of vital air pollution control products continued. Months later, **plans were announced** for a brand new Camfil APC facility to be built in the Craighead Technology Park. The goal is to open the facility in early 2022.



outcomes & **IMPACT**

The goal was the creation of 2,500 direct new jobs at the completion of our first five-year strategic plan. That was **achieved after only three years**. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Jonesboro prevailed, **creating 842 new jobs** in 2020 across our five target industries. With Jonesboro employers adding \$87M in capital investment, over **\$550M has been invested** in our thriving economy since the start of our five-year plan.

3,965
Direct New Jobs
In Four Years

2017

1,268

2018

916

2019

939

2020

842

Data comes from Jonesboro Unlimited's Survey of New and Expanded Industries