



Something Miraculous Happened Wednesday

That was how the [South Hill Enterprise described](#) our regional economic development meeting in Mecklenburg County last week. While I wouldn't go as far as to say our meeting was a miracle, we appreciate the recognition of our efforts to revitalize the struggling economy of Southern Virginia.

During the past 14 months, Governor McDonnell and I have made economic development and job creation our top priority. We have paid special attention to helping revitalize the economy of rural parts of Virginia. On Wednesday I was proud to participate in three events that were emblematic of our efforts and progress in Southern Virginia.

Reiss Manufacturing announces at least 40 new jobs in Blackstone



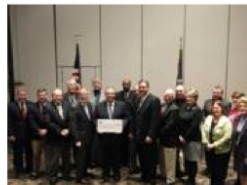
Our first stop was at Reiss Manufacturing in Blackstone, where I announced the creation of at 40-55 new jobs at Reiss Manufacturing as a result of a partnership between Reiss and Newport News Shipbuilding to produce an environmentally-friendly radiation shielding material for the healthcare, nuclear power and homeland security industries. Reiss has already hired 40 new people and will anticipate adding 10-15 more employees in the near future.

Bolling hosts regional economic development luncheon in South Hill

Along with Sen. Frank Ruff, Del. Tommy Wright, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Tobacco Commission, I hosted a luncheon in South Hill with representatives from localities in the eastern part of Southern Virginia to encourage these localities to consider creating a regional economic development organization to jointly promote the region's assets and recruit new business and jobs to the area.

Experience has proven that localities are much more successful in winning economic development projects when they work together to market their region instead of competing as individual localities against one another for those same projects. This part of Southern Virginia does not currently have a regional economic development organization, but many of the local representatives were very open to the idea and they are now taking steps to achieve this goal.

McDonnell and Bolling announce formation of Southern Virginia Regional Alliance



Later in the day, I was pleased to announce the establishment of the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (SVRA), a regional marketing partnership between the cities of Danville and Martinsville, and the counties of Halifax, Henry, Patrick and Pittsylvania. The Alliance will help promote the assets of the six participating localities and take the lead in coordinating their economic development efforts. The Alliance was made possible by a \$200,000 state grant, which was matched by the participating localities and the Tobacco Commission. The Alliance is a great example of what we can accomplish when we work together, and we have been working to put the Alliance together for the past year. We are very pleased that these efforts have proven successful. I am confident that the Alliance will help advance our economic development efforts in Southern Virginia.

While each of these events represents another success in our effort to get Virginia's economy growing again and create jobs, we still have a long way to go to make certain that every Virginian who wants a job can find a job. However, we are off to a solid start and are making the right decisions to allow all regions of Virginia to take advantage of the economic recovery.

Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling

P.S. - Please take a minute to read these press accounts of our efforts and successes to date in Southern Virginia.

[Something miraculous happened Wednesday](#) – South Hill Enterprise Editorial - *"Bolling proposed the counties join together to market the region as whole, argued that they would all benefit from the economic success it brought to the whole region... It was a very simple, almost common sense idea, and it caught on in those assembled. Within an hour of wiping the last of his dessert from his mouth the assembled county representatives were raising hands and exclaiming how much they loved they idea and wanted to get involved...it was almost mind-numbing to see someone present a good idea, have it recognized for what it was and immediately start working to make it a reality."*

[Bolling proposes regional economic development partnership](#) – South Hill Enterprise - *"It is a tremendous blueprint," said Bolling, noting that he would like to see the state help the eastern counties in Southern Virginia form a similar alliance. "We have a great chance to do it. The real question is, is it something you want to do?" The response from the assembled leaders was a resounding "Yes!"*

[It's up to us: together or separate](#) – Danville Register & Bee Editorial – *"With every visit to the Dan River Region, Gov. Bob McDonnell and Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling keep a campaign promise to work to bring new jobs here — and be regular visitors. Last week, it was Bolling's turn, and he brought with him a new spin on a smart idea. The newly formed Southern Virginia Regional Alliance is an attempt to market Danville, Martinsville and the counties of Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania and Halifax to the world."*

[Region's localities form alliance for marketing](#) – Martinsville Bulletin – *"Many workers are willing to cross city and county lines to get to their jobs, and companies are attracted to regions — and not necessarily geographical boundaries — that best suit their needs, officials said Wednesday during an announcement of a new regional economic development alliance."*