

# Your Progress explained...

**Hillpointe Groundbreaking:** Hillpointe, LLC broke ground this year on a major distribution project at Exit 42 on Interstate 95, bringing a \$40 million investment and 500,000 square feet of new industrial space to Glynn County. Located in Tradewinds Technology Park, the development marks the first vertical construction at the site. Half of the facility will be occupied by Hillpointe Developers to warehouse and distribute construction materials, while the remaining space is already leased to other tenants as speculative space. With demand continuing to rise, Hillpointe is already planning an additional 150,000+ square feet to further expand operations in the area.

**JB2 Groundbreaking:** A 60,000-square-foot manufacturing facility is currently under development at Exit 42 off Interstate 95. The project, owned and operated by a major online retailer, is expected to be officially announced by Q4 of 2025. With a \$30 million capital investment and the creation of 50 new jobs, this facility further establishes Exit 42 as a hub for advanced manufacturing and logistics in Glynn County. With this addition, the Golden Isles Development Authority has now successfully sold all of its property at Exit 42 to Hillpointe and JB2 Partners, two key players fueling growth at Tradewinds Technology Park.

**Buc-ee's Ribbon Cutting:** On July 1, 2025, Glynn County celebrated the grand opening of Buc-ee's at Exit 42 with hundreds of local residents and travelers in attendance. The 74,000-square-foot travel center brings approximately 200 jobs to the area, with most employees residing in the City of Brunswick. The celebration highlighted the success of recent interchange improvements, which handled the heavy traffic seamlessly on opening day. Buc-ee's marks a major milestone in the continued growth and momentum at Exit 42.

**Georgia Breakbulk GRAD Certification:** This year, the Golden Isles Development Authority achieved GRAD certification for the Georgia Breakbulk Logistics Park, a 1,500-acre, rail-served industrial site located adjacent to GA Hwy 82 and Exit 29 on Interstate 95. This designation—Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development—significantly enhances the site's marketability by confirming its readiness for industrial investment. It's a major win for GIDA and the Golden Isles, ensuring we remain competitive in today's fast-paced project environment and well-positioned to attract large-scale logistics and manufacturing opportunities.

**OneGeorgia Grant:** The Golden Isles Development Authority was awarded a \$2 million OneGeorgia grant through the Rural Site Development Initiative to enhance infrastructure at the Georgia Breakbulk Logistics Park, a 1,500-acre, GRAD-certified, rail-served site at Exit 29. The funding will support critical improvements including road access, water and sewer extensions, and site preparation—further boosting the park's readiness and appeal to industrial users. This investment strengthens Glynn County's ability to compete for large-scale economic development opportunities.

**Share the Future Aerospace Addition:** Recognizing the Golden Isles' strong aviation heritage, the Development Authority launched a new matching grant program to support growth in the aerospace sector. The initiative helps businesses train and hire workers in aviation mechanics and avionics, while also supporting facility upgrades and workforce-related equipment needs. Companies are eligible for up to \$15,000 in matching funds, reimbursed upon project completion—strengthening our local talent pipeline and positioning the region for continued aerospace success.

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**GIDA/Wings of Grace Partnership:** In Q2 of 2025, the Golden Isles Development Authority awarded a \$40,000 grant to Christ Flight Ministries to expand access to aviation maintenance training in Glynn County. This investment—funded through a Georgia Power Company workforce grant—supports hands-on instruction for students pursuing FAA certification, helping to strengthen the region’s aviation workforce. The program removes financial barriers, saving students an average of \$12,000, and aligns with GIDA’s mission to build a local talent pipeline for the growing aerospace sector.

**GIDA Commercial Investment Support:** This year, the Golden Isles Development Authority adopted a new commercial investment policy to attract high-impact businesses that enhance our economy and community. The policy supports projects that bring at least \$50 million in new capital investment, generate the majority of their revenue from outside Glynn County, create a minimum of 25 quality jobs, and introduce unique offerings to the local market. Through this initiative, the Authority is prepared to offer tailored incentives—subject to Board approval—to projects that align with our long-term vision for economic growth and prosperity.

**Talent Discovery Showcase:** In September of 2024, the Golden Isles Development Authority hosted the first-ever Talent Discovery Showcase during Downtown Brunswick’s First Friday, drawing students, families, and professionals to explore local careers in the skilled trades. Held at GIDA’s downtown office, the event featured interactive exhibits from key workforce partners, including Coastal Pines Technical College’s Mobile Welding Lab, Golden Isles College and Career Academy’s heavy machinery simulators and Wings of Grace’s aeronautical flight simulator. The event also spotlighted the Keep Glynn Running campaign, connecting residents to career pathways and training resources. As part of the broader Golden Isles Talent Development Strategy, the Showcase energized the community around the opportunities available to grow Glynn’s workforce.

**3rd Annual Manufacturing Appreciation Dinner:** In October of 2024, the Golden Isles Development Authority hosted its Annual Industry Appreciation Dinner at Silver Bluff Brewing to celebrate the businesses powering Glynn County’s economy. The event recognized standout achievements with awards presented to: King and Prince Seafood (Manufacturer of the Year), Wallenius Wilhelmsen (Innovation Excellence Award), One Love Organics (Locally Grown Manufacturer of the Year), and Julie Martin (Dave Smith Award). With support from generous sponsors, the evening honored the vital role of local industry and reaffirmed GIDA’s commitment to supporting sustainable growth and job creation across the region.

**Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Growth:** The Golden Isles Development Authority continues to strengthen its partnership with the Lucas Center for Entrepreneurship, sharing a collaborative space in Downtown Brunswick that serves as a hub for small business innovation. Over the past three years, the Lucas Center has supported more than 700 entrepreneurs and expanded its reach into McIntosh and Camden counties. Coupled with GIDA’s Share the Future grant—awarding over \$120,000 to help local small businesses grow—this partnership is fueling a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem across the region.