

Job fair to ease stressing economy



Written by Becca Piscopo (O-N-E Staff Writer)

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Some residents will soon say to their families, "I got a job."

With Catawba County's high unemployment rate, Ethan Allen Operations Inc. in Maiden is hosting a job fair at its manufacturing facility, 700 South Main Ave., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 16 and 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 17.

Ed Lane, Ethan Allen's director of human resources and safety, said the company will "hire a number of people relatively soon."

Since Ethan Allen's operation facility in California shut down, Lane said the company is absorbing its production.

"We're actually going to start hiring a little sooner than we anticipated," Lane said. "It's not solely because business has improved."

Ethan Allen received a state grant to assist with hiring employees over the next three years. Lane said the company decided a job fair was the best way to reach out residents who are looking for work.

Prospective employees must have a GED or high school diploma in order to qualify for a position.

When people arrive to fill out an application, administration will ask questions and find out if they are qualified for any positions.

According to Lane, available work includes frame builders, spring-up line, cover and cushion sewers and cushion fillers for first and third shifts. Potential employees can apply for first shift work, which includes inside upholsters, trimmers or outside upholsters and inspectors.

Panel builders, router operators and material handlers are the positions available for third shift.

"Those are the kind of jobs people can learn really quickly," Lane said.

Senior project managers will give prospective employees a minitour in different production areas.

Since the manufacturing facility will be up and running for the job fair days, Lane said children aren't allowed with their parents in the plant.

"Insurance regulations prohibit children in the facility," Lane said.

Lane said the company hopes for a large number of people, from various work backgrounds.

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Remember:

-Job Fair Details:

-When: 8 to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 16

-Oct. 17, 8 a.m. to noon

-Must have GED or high school diploma

-First and third shift jobs available.

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