

# Local business expands custom home operation

Growth and success has put one Powhatan-based business in a position to expand its operations.

Dreaming Creek Timber Frame Homes, Inc. started in the construction business in 1975. Since 1980 it has devoted itself to designing and building custom timber frame structures, both nationally and internationally. Dreaming Creek was established in 1986.

Powhatan resident Bob Shortridge is the company's founder and president. He has participated in timber frame projects across the country as well as in Europe and Russia.

The basic timber frame joining techniques evolved between 500 and 200 B.C. According to Fred Neurohr with Dreaming Creek, the technique was refined over the centuries in medieval Japan and Europe. The ancient building technique utilizes mortise and tenon

joinery and wooden pegs. Today there are timber frame structures still in use that are more than a thousand years old. The process became almost a lost art until its revival in the United States about 30 years ago.

The company recently announced a major expansion and relocation of their design studio and manufacturing beamery in Floyd County. "Because of the economic promise it offers in this region of southwestern Va., we anticipate the attendance of state and local officials at the grand opening." Neurohr said the grand opening was held Sept. 6.

Shortridge told employees at a recent company meeting, "We are pleased to be participating in the exciting new Floyd Regional Commerce Center Industrial Park facility in Floyd. As this wonderful new facility helps us grow, we're not only excited about

Dreaming Creek's future, but also the future of both Floyd county and Powhatan County."

Dreaming Creek is dedicated and committed to preserving the ancient craft of timber framing. The Powhatan-based company is recognized as one of the premier design and manufactures of custom residential and commercial timber frame structures in the country.

"I am very pleased to see this Virginia-based company expand in Floyd County. Dreaming Creek is a great corporate citizen providing valuable jobs for the people of the New River Valley," Gov. Mark Warner said.

The facility in Floyd County is located on an 11-acre tract. Phase one includes a 23,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and a two-story, 4,000-square-foot timber frame office housing its design studio.