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COVERING EMPORIA, GREENSVILLE AND SURROUNDING AREA

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## Bolling's visit chance for showcasing area

### Emporia first stop on tour

By AMY FLOYD  
Staff Writer

When Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling asked for suggestions for sites to see while touring rural Virginia, Jack Davenport was quick to mention two local businesses in Emporia—Toll Integrated Systems and the Hotel Virginia.

"I'm glad that Bolling is coming here as it presents a good opportunity to showcase the Emporia/Greensville County area," said Davenport, executive director of the Emporia-Greensville Industrial Development Corp.

Bolling will host a breakfast for area Republicans at the Hotel Virginia at 7:30 a.m. Thursday. The hotel, which is owned by Hannah Barrett, is just one of the buildings on Halifax Street being restored for business use.

"Davenport stated that he felt like our project was a good ex-



Lt. Gov. Bolling

ample of the effort being made to restore the downtown area," said Barrett, who is president of the Emporia Downtown Development Association.

While the breakfast at the hotel will allow Bolling and others attending the rural tour of Virginia to see how the Emporia area is making good use of its older facilities, the visit to the new Toll Integrated Systems facilities in the Greensville Industrial Park will highlight the area's effort to bring in new businesses. The tour of the new facilities is scheduled for 8:45 a.m.

According to Davenport, the Toll expansion will create 100 new jobs. Toll Integrated Systems is the child company of Toll Brothers, the nation's leading builder of luxury homes.

The business produces housing components for the use of Toll Brothers, including windows and interior doors, which will be warehoused at the new facility.

He stated that it was a good example of how the City of Emporia and Greensville County officials cooperate to bring new employment opportunities to the area.

The Emporia-Greensville businesses are just two of many stops that Bolling has scheduled as part of his three-day, nine-locality tour of Southside. Other destinations include Community Memorial Hospital and Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center in South Hill.

"We're always in Northern Virginia, Richmond and Hampton Roads," said Bolling. "I think it's important to spend time in rural Virginia. I want to govern all of Virginia. I am committed to learning about the problems we face and the success we experience in every part

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of Virginia."

To better realize those problems and successes, Bolling has set aside the first week of each month to visit a different part of rural Virginia.

"I look forward to discussing the challenges we face in important areas like education, economic development and health care with leaders in Southside Virginia," Bolling said of the principles on which he will focus while in office.

Bolling, who lives in Mechanicsville, served as a member of the Virginia Senate from 1996-2005 before being elected as lieutenant governor. Bolling has also served as a member and chairman of the Hanover County board of supervisors. Many Virginian Republicans see Bolling as being a candidate for governor in 2009.

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