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Subject: “Haywood taxpayers are out around half a million dollars to the Asheville chamber”.

In an attempt to stay relevant, **Cory Vaillancourt** of the smn tabloid created an article - ‘[Real \(estate\) problems: Concerns emerge over what Pactiv Evergreen might leave behind](#)’, Written by **Cory Vaillancourt** Wednesday, March 22, 2023, and inadvertently blew lid off the Asheville Chamber of Commerce soaking Haywood County Taxpayers money for nothing!

There are various amounts of money being bantered about on how much Haywood County Commissioners have thrown into this money pit, ranging from < \$750,000 - \$1.6 Million >. The common denominator to this fiasco is **David Francis** (pick a title). On www.haywoodtp.net

[County Commissions blow another \\$100K, paid to AVL Chamber of Commerce next year. For What? Nothing! WTF? 2/12/2023...](#)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/230212-100K-ForAVL-ChamberExtension.pdf>

and on the county website [re: Public Comment by Van Walker]

https://haywoodcountync.granicus.com/player/clip/276?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=d3ff3de36700a658dbd5e118383db7db

So **Cory Vaillancourt** decided to interview Byron Racki, president of beverage merchandising for this article. Read his view of the benefit Haywood County Taxpayers have received from this money dump over to the Asheville Chamber of Commerce!

“ ... Byron Racki, president of beverage merchandising, said during the meeting that the facility, which sits within Waynesville’s extraterritorial jurisdiction, wouldn’t immediately close but would see substantial job cuts of perhaps two-thirds or three-fourths of its workers.

Racki also said that Pactiv Evergreen was exploring strategic alternatives for the 260,000-square foot facility, built in 1960 on 35 acres.

If one of those strategic alternatives is to close it down completely, it may not be easy to fill.

Five years ago, Haywood’s chamber of commerce entered into an innovative deal with the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce to co-market Haywood’s available sites alongside Asheville’s. One of Haywood’s most attractive, the Beaverdam Industrial Park, still has capacity.

The deal thus far has produced a lot more interest in Haywood’s available sites, and the county’s come close to landing “the big one” several times, but it still hasn’t happened, and **Haywood taxpayers are out around half a million dollars to the Asheville chamber for the effort. ...**”.

Sigh.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
Haywood County Taxpayer