

News 100

Kershaw County Committee of 100

August 2006

Forgitron Celebrates Its Grand Opening

Forgitron, Kershaw County's newest manufacturer, held its grand opening with a celebration on May 23, 2006. The event provided guests with a tour of the building, including a demonstration of the production process, and an opportunity to meet the members of Forgitron's manufacturing operation and corporate management team.

Forgitron is a family owned business started by brothers Greg and John Hadgis of Clinton, Ohio. The company announced in September 2005 their intention to purchase Shell Building #2 in Steeplechase Industrial Park. First phase of the operation includes a \$14 million investment and a staff of 35. The company manufactures forged aluminum wheels for the truck and automotive markets using the latest rotary forging technologies.

Tom Smith is the new plant manager bringing with him 33 years of experience in forging most recently with Kaiser Aluminum in Erie, PA.

The company purchased the 78,000 SF shell building and twenty acres of land giving Forgitron ample room to expand.

Vice-Premier of China Visits Haier

The world came to Camden, South Carolina on April 10, 2006 when the Vice-Premier of China and the National Basketball Association's Commissioner visited Haier's plant. Accompanied by First Lady Jenny Sanford, Vice Premier Wu Yi spent the morning in Camden listening to presentations by Haier. As part of the ceremony, Haier officials announced long range plans for expanding the Camden facility by adding 800 jobs and investing \$100 million.

Also part of the event included a visit by NBA Commissioner David Stern, who was in town to ink an endorsement deal with Haier. The multi-year alliance will allow both companies to co-promote their brands in the United States and China. Details of the deal have not been disclosed.



Greg and John Hadgis, owners of Forgitron, celebrate the company's grand opening as Steve Kelly looks on.



Vice Premier Wu (2nd from right) is given a tour of Haier as First Lady Sanford (3rd from left) and Dave Parks (2nd from left) looks on.

Commerce Chief Addresses C100 Annual Meeting

On May 12, 2006, the Committee of 100 held its Annual Meeting at the Health Resource Center in Camden. This year's guest speaker was Joe Taylor, newly appointed Secretary of Commerce in Columbia. Secretary Taylor gave the audience an overview of activities at the SC Department of Commerce. Changes at Commerce include additional money for marketing and staff as well as the creation of a closing fund. This fund will provide another tool for the Governor to close important deals.

Also at the meeting, Vice Chairman Karen Eckford recognized those companies that invested in Kershaw County last year. Accepting awards at the meeting were representatives from Hengst, Forgitron, Martins Machine Company, SC Yutaka Technologies, and Dana. These companies announced investments of more than \$35 million and the creation of 184 jobs in 2005.



Steve Kelly presents a Carolina Cup poster to Secretary of Commerce Joe Taylor

Mark Your Calendar!

The Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament will be held on October 2, 2006 at the Camden Country Club. Registration forms will be mailed out at the end of August.

New Officers and Board Members Elected

At its annual meeting May 12, three board members were elected to serve three year terms and one position vacated by Tony Paradiso:

Chuck Nash, *State Farm*

Donnie Weeks, *Kershaw County Medical Center*

Greg Newman, *Century 21 Bob Capes Realtors*

Bill Hart, *Fairfield Electric Cooperative* (will fill vacated position)

At its June 12th meeting, board members elected the following as officers for 2006 – 2007:

Chuck Nash, *Chairman*

State Farm

Karen Eckford, *Vice-Chair*

National Bank of South Carolina

Jean Duncan, *Treasurer/Secretary*

INVISTA

Office Park Name Unveiled

Have you ever had trouble coming up with a name for a newborn child? Recently, Kershaw County had the same problem when deciding on a name for the new office park in Elgin. In this case, Council turned to county employees for ideas. After receiving numerous suggestions, Council chose a hybrid from two names to come up with Wateree Executive Park.



In other news related to the office park, the County and Kershaw County Medical Center have entered into an agreement for KCMC to purchase up to 10 acres in the park for a new medical facility. Planning is underway and groundbreaking is expected in 2007.

C100 2006-2007 Budget

Membership Dues have been mailed out and are due at this time. If you know of any C100 prospects please let us know and we will contact them.

Income

Fund Balance	\$6,809
Membership Dues	\$16,250
CD Income	\$200
Misc. Income	\$100
Golf Tournament	\$8,500
Total Income	\$31,859

Expenses

Annual Meeting	\$2,500
Dues & Subscriptions	\$2,100
Existing Industry Expenses	\$1,000
Marketing	\$3,500
Marketing Trips	\$8,000
Miscellaneous	\$1,250
Newsletter	\$700
Postage	\$300
Printing	\$200
Prospect Expenses	\$1,250
Golf Tournament	\$8,500
Promotional Items	\$500
Website Development	\$250
Total Expenses	\$30,050

NEW MEMBERS

Dan Cantey,
Cantey Construction
Gene Wise,
Target Corporation
Diane Martin,
Century 21
Frank McCormack,
*Southern Industrial
Constructors*

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We're on the Web!
www.kershawcountysc.org

Committee of 100 Board of Directors

Chuck Nash,
Chairman
Karen Eckford,
Vice Chair
Jean Duncan,
Secretary/Treasurer
Donnie Weeks
Rudy Kohn
George Gibson
Bill Hart
Deebo Kelly
Greg Newman

Upcoming Events



July 10-20	Detroit Marketing Trip
September 24-25	China Investment Forum in Chicago
October 2	Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament, Camden Country Club
November 19	Colonial Cup Races

