

# News 100

## Kershaw County Committee of 100

March 2006

### 2005 a Solid Year for Economic Development

Kershaw County completed another successful year for economic development in 2005. Not only did three new companies locate in the County, but two existing industries expanded as well. These announcements resulted in \$35,500,000 in capital investment and 184 new jobs. Just as significant is the fact that the County did not experience any significant plant closings or layoffs in 2005.

Of the five announced projects, four are automotive or transportation related companies. This trend reflects a growing presence of automotive suppliers in Kershaw County. In addition, the County continues to attract international investment with the arrival of Hengst, the community's first German-based company.

The County also continued its successful shell building program with the sale of Steeplechase Shell Building #2 to Forgitron. A major initiative this year will be the completion of another shell building for the County to market.

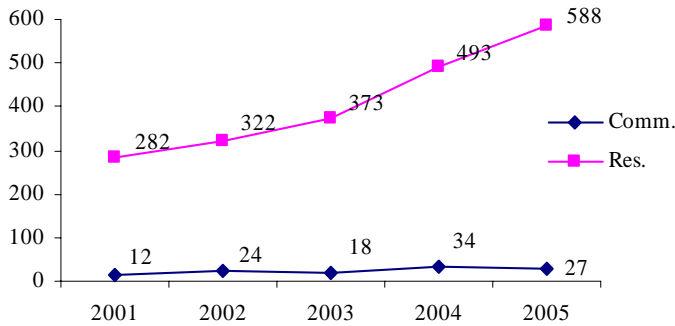
<b>Date</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Investment</b>	<b>Jobs</b>	<b>Product</b>
<b>February</b>	Hengst	New	\$12,000,000	60	Automotive Filters
<b>August</b>	Dana Corporation	Expansion	\$5,000,000	65	Light & Heavy Axles
<b>August</b>	Martins Machine Company	New	\$500,000	10	Precision Machine Shop
<b>October</b>	Forgitron	New	\$14,000,000	35	Aluminum Automotive Wheels
<b>November</b>	SC Yutaka Technologies	Expansion	\$4,000,000	14	ATV Parts
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$35,500,000</b>	<b>184</b>	

Other major projects for 2006 include:

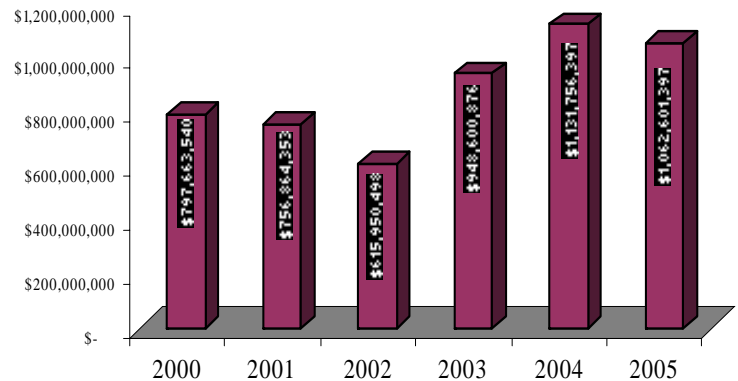
1. Completion of an entrance road to Governor's Hill Business Park,
2. Completion of water main extension to Governor's Hill Business Park,
3. Begin work on initial infrastructure at the new office park to include roadway, water and sewer.

# Economic Indicators 2005

**Building Permits  
2001-2005**



**Retail Sales 2000-2005**



	<i>January 2006</i>	<i>Annual 2005</i>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>		
Kershaw County	6.6	6.8
South Carolina	6.2	6.7
United States	4.7	5.1

The local economy in Kershaw County remained strong despite an unemployment rate above the state and national average. Fortunately, no significant layoffs or closings occurred last year in Kershaw County. Retail sales remained strong topping the \$1 billion mark for the second straight year. Residential building permits also remained strong with another record breaking year. Commercial building permits remained stable with several significant projects such as SC Yutaka Technologies expansion, Tractor Supply, Chili's, and Zaxby's.

## New Members

- John Bankson  
*Wachovia Bank*
- Barbara Jordan  
*Century 21*
- Michael Jones  
*Carolina Home  
Place Services*
- Dennis Shealy  
*McCrory  
Construction Co.*

## Marketing Activities

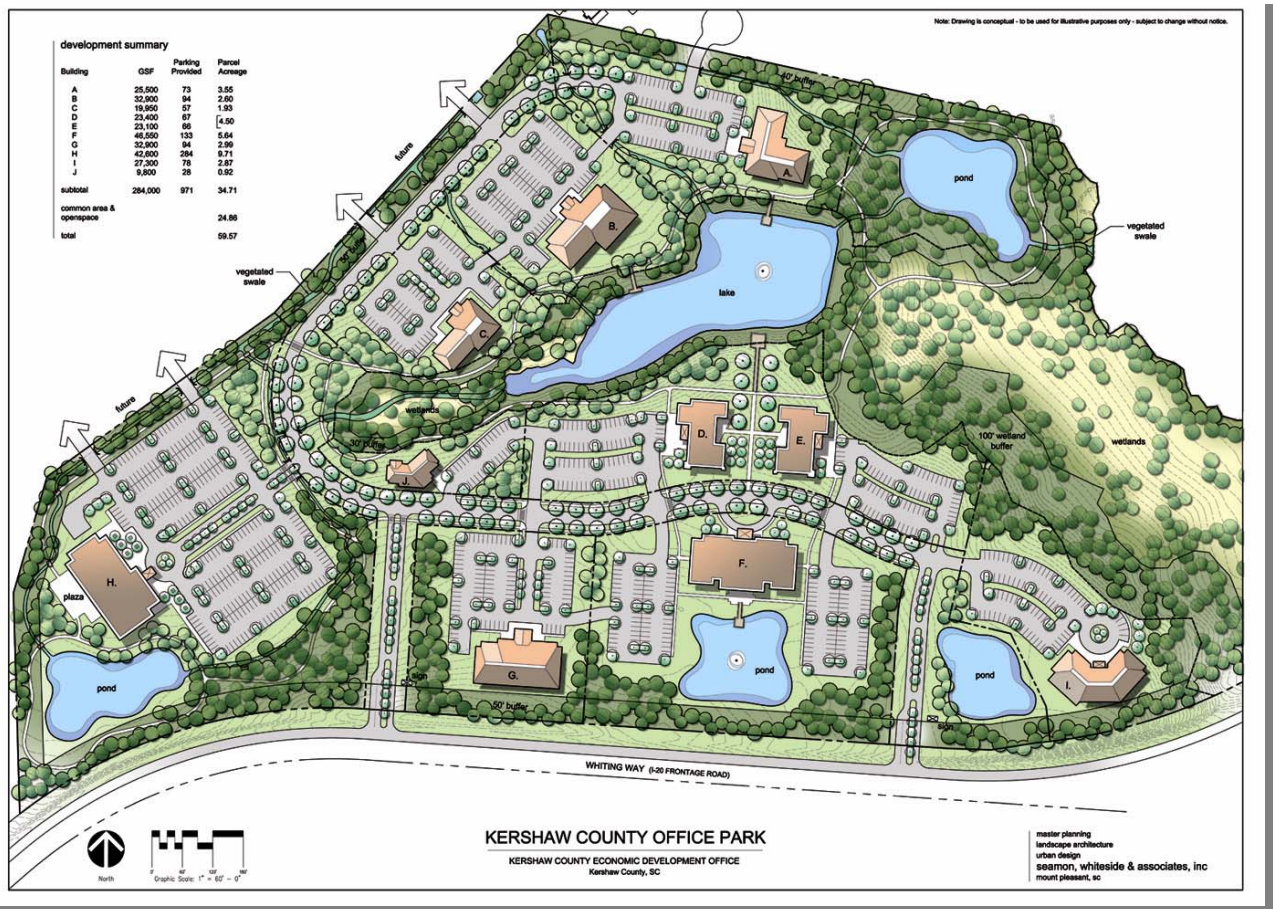
- Aug. 2005 - New website launch
- Oct. 2005 - European Marketing Trip
- Jan. 2006 - Legislative Meeting - Washington DC
- Site Selection Consultants Trip - Atlanta/Greenville
- Feb. 2006 - Central SC Alliance
- Site Selection Consultants Regional Tour
- April 2006 - SAE Automotive Trade Show - Detroit, MI
- May 2006 - Site Selection Consultants Forum - Chicago, IL

## Office Park Master Plan Completed

A preliminary master plan for the new office park at Exit 87 in Elgin is complete. Seamon, Whiteside and Associates of Mt. Pleasant have been working on the plan since September 2005. The yet to be named park features 60 acres located at the intersection of White Pond Road and Whiting Way offering excellent interstate access for companies.

The plan features 9 lots ranging in size of .92 acres to 9.71 acres. As currently planned, the park could accommodate at least 284,000 square feet of office space and is planned for 971 parking spaces. The park features a pond with walking trails and heavy landscaping. The plan also includes a layout for infrastructure and conceptual design of the entrance and signage.

The County purchased the 60 acre parcel in January 2005, with financial assistance of Fairfield Electric Cooperative. This initiative is a result of a recommendation from the Economic Development Strategic Plan completed in 2003. By attracting office projects to our community, the County will continue to diversify its economic base. The idea is to capitalize on the growth in Northeast Columbia and the large numbers of commuters traveling to Columbia everyday for work.



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## Annual Meeting Set for May

Please mark your calendar for the Committee of 100's Annual Meeting to be held **Wednesday, May 3, 2006** beginning at noon. This year's luncheon will be held at the Health Resource Center in Camden. The keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting will be Joe Taylor, newly confirmed Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Taylor will give an update on activities from the SC Department of Commerce.

Also, the following companies will be recognized for their investment in Kershaw County in 2005:

Hengst USA  
Forgitron  
Martins Machine Company  
SC Yutaka Technologies  
Dana Corporation

Also, new board members will be elected at the meeting. Nominees for this year include Chuck Nash (*State Farm*), Donnie Weeks (*Kershaw County Medical Center*), Bill Hart (*Fairfield Electric Cooperative*), and Greg Newman (*Century 21*).

### Committee of 100 Board of Directors

Chuck Nash,  
*Chairman*

Karen Eckford,  
*Vice Chair*

Deebo Kelly,  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Donnie Weeks

Rudy Kohn

George Gibson

Tony Paradiso

Jean Duncan

Jack Hicks