



Newsletter

October 2011

Welcome NEW Members!

ICE Recycling

Wells Fargo

Palmetto Pulpwood & Timber*

SteelFab of SC*

Fred Salley Photography

Griggs Floyd & Grantham

Methodist Manor

Angus Palm

McLeod Health (upgrade)*

UPS

Stealth Security, LLC

Choate Construction

Cale Yarborough Honda*

Nucor - Vulcraft *

Provident Business Financial Services

Fuss & O'Neill*

WMBF

Talon Temple - GFG

Munn & Associates

Pinnacle Network Solutions

Gregory Poole

ERA Leatherman (upgrade)*

Adam Crosson - REMAX

Gail Grice - REMAX

Century 21 - Bellray*

Assist2sell - Chad Yates

Prudential Segars

(* indicates Pacesetter Member)

Florence Economy Rising – OTIS Elevator

Otis Elevator Company, a unit of United Technologies Corp, announced on September 16th, that it is opening a new manufacturing center in Florence, South Carolina. The new facility will consolidate much of Otis' North American new equipment operations and will bring more than 360 jobs to South Carolina.

"Otis is excited to bring the production of its energy efficient elevators to the city of Florence," said Didier Michaud-Daniel, president of Otis Elevator Company. "The collocation of our new equipment operations will significantly improve our ability to incorporate global innovations into the North American market, and more quickly respond to our customer's needs."

Michaud-Daniel added that, "Our new facility in South Carolina will become Otis' manufacturing center of excellence for the U.S. and Canada."

The Florence facility will produce all new elevators that have not been produced anywhere else in North America, such as the innovative Gen2[®] elevator. The Gen2 incorporates green technology, including ReGen™ drives and LED lighting as standard. Hydraulic elevators with improved efficiency will also be produced at the new location. These elevators use much less hydraulic fluid than existing models and require less space.

"Attracting a world-class business like Otis Elevator Company is a big win for Florence County and South Carolina as a whole. We're going to celebrate Otis' decision to invest in our state and create 360 well-paying jobs," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

The 423,000 square-foot facility, which will feature a 150-foot test tower, will include manufacturing, engineering, a contract logistics center and field support operations. The co-location of these functions, currently situated in four different cities, will reduce lead times improving both speed to market and the customer experience.

"We welcome Otis as a new corporate citizen to Florence and the Pee Dee Region," said Senator Hugh K. Leatherman. "It is a proud day when Florence County, South Carolina proves that manufacturing jobs can be placed here and that we can compete in a global market."

"New jobs, especially high paying manufacturing jobs in today's economy are not only a testament to the strength of Otis as a company, but also the aggressive approach Florence County takes to economic development. We are happy to welcome Otis and look forward to a long, successful partnership," said Florence County Council Chairman, K.G. "Rusty" Smith.

Chairman of the Florence County Economic Development Partnership, Dr. Charles Gould stated, "The investment into Florence County by Otis Elevator proves once again that we are on the radar of the largest corporations in the world. Our proactive economic development team has brought us another success."

The facility is expected to begin operations during the second quarter of 2012.



Otis

A United Technologies Company

Florence County Economic Development Partnership Florence County Progress Inc.



9th Annual Florence County Legislative Day



Florence County Legislative Day went off without a hitch in Columbia on Tuesday, April 26th in Columbia. The day started with a luncheon at the Capital City Club of about 180 Florence County Progress members and members of City Council, County Council, and the Florence County Legislative Delegation. The evening reception at the Columbia

Museum of Art was well attended with approximately 400 in attendance including many of South Carolina's House of Representative and Senators. Many Florence businesses were able to showcase their business while mingling with the legislative delegation. This day was started 9 years ago by Florence County, the City of Florence, and Florence County Progress. Planning for 2012 Legislative Day has already begun and be sure to 'Save the Date' for Tuesday, March 20th, 2012. Sponsorship and Exhibitor invitations will now be for Florence County Progress Members only. We're looking forward to next year!!

Our Newest Staff Member: Project Manager, Jeff A. Wood

Jeff came to Florence with his wife, Jennifer from Charleston, West Virginia in late April. He is a graduate of West Virginia Institute of Technology, and also received IEDC Certification from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute.

Prior to accepting the project manager's position, Jeff served at Energy Development Specialist from the West Virginia Division of Energy.



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Know someone interested in joining Florence County Progress Inc. or think someone would be a good member? Call Katie at 843-676-8796 Or kwyllie@florenceco.org

UPCOMING PROGRESS EVENTS

- ❖ Golf Tournament & Oyster Roast – Thursday October 27th. 5:30 at CCSC
- ❖ Annual Meeting – TBD
- ❖ 2012 Legislative Day: March 20th, 2012