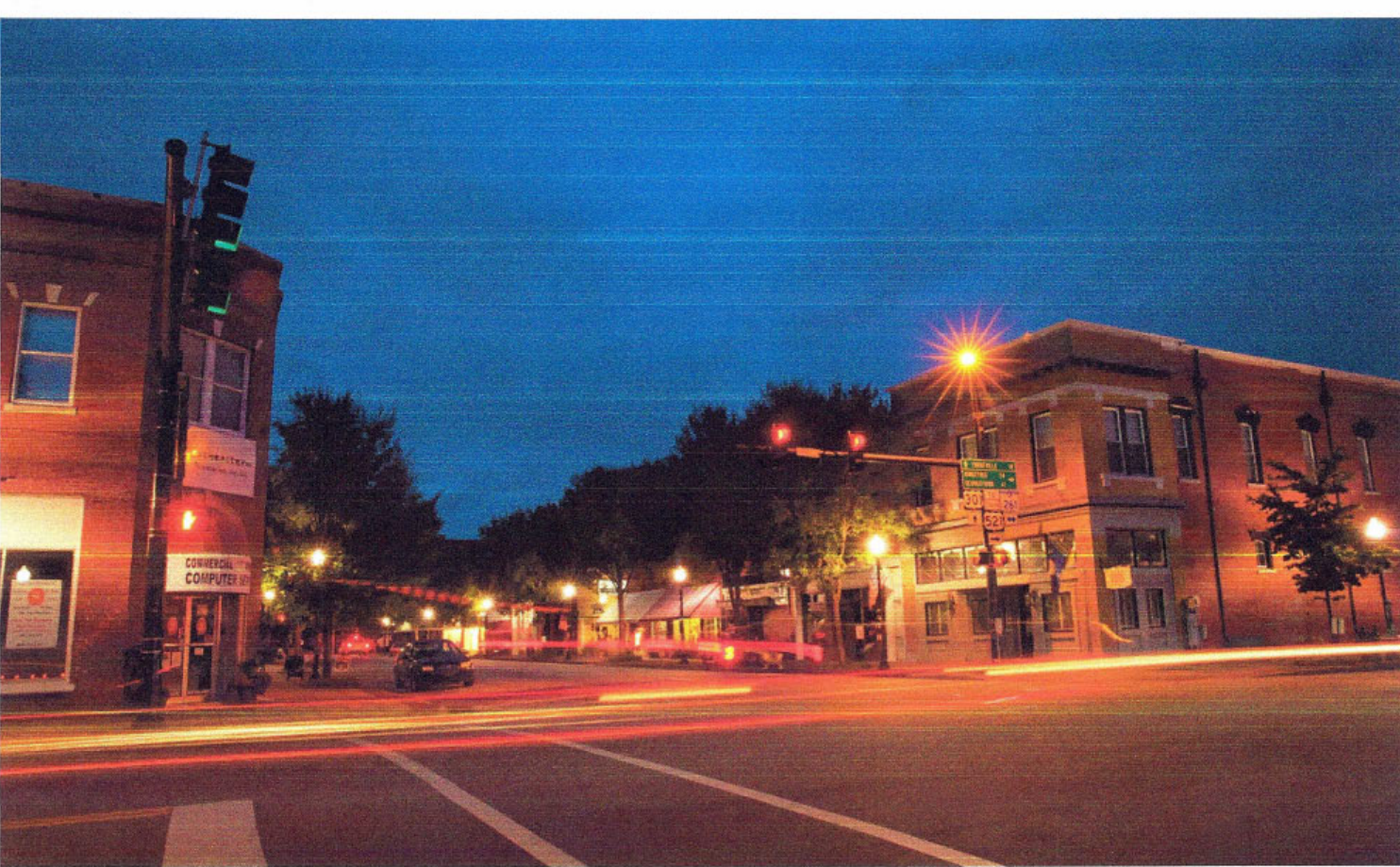

Big Growth in Smaller Places

STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EFFORTS PAY OFF IN NEW JOBS,
INVESTMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

IN 2013, A TOTAL OF 3,000
JOBS WERE RECRUITED
TO RURAL COUNTIES IN
SOUTH CAROLINA.

SPIRIT PHARMACEUTICALS,
STARFLO CORP.
AND TRIMACO HAVE
FOUND SUCCESS IN
SMALL COMMUNITIES.

RURAL COUNTIES SEEING
MAJOR GROWTH INCLUDE
ORANGEBURG, LAURENS,
HAMPTON AND CLARENDON.



Located in Clarendon County, downtown Manning recently gained five new retail businesses.

By Nan Bauroth

Spirit Pharmaceuticals is thinking big in a smaller community. The wholesaler and distributor of over the counter/generic products will open a new packaging and manufacturing facility and has opted to invest \$12.2 million in a former Federal Mogul facility in Summerton, a community of about 1,000 people in Clarendon County.

The 296 jobs the project will generate are part of the 19 percent – 3,000 jobs in total – recruited to the state’s rural counties in 2013.

The force propelling this rural job infusion is a laser focus on economic development initiatives at the local and state level that ensures a supply of industrial parks and facilities available for multiple types of companies and industries.

“Orangeburg, Laurens and Hampton are good examples of counties that have done yeoman’s work when it comes to development of product,” says Maceo Nance, small business and rural development director at the South

Carolina Department of Commerce. “All of them have established at least one new industrial park over the last three years.”

This determined commitment to job growth in rural counties is also evident in initiatives such as the Rural Infrastructure Authority, which has awarded nearly \$3.8 million in grants for 14 water, sewer and drainage projects in 13 counties across the state.

Clarendon: The Good Life

Marie Land, chairman of the board of directors of Main Street Manning, is involved in the revitalization of the historic community of 5,000 residents. Ribbon-cuttings have already been held for five new retail businesses in the heart of downtown, and the housing market is experiencing an uptick. Land says everyone in town wants the same thing.

“We love the fact that we are rural, with wide open spaces, so our goal is a quality environment that offers a good education that leads to good jobs,” she says.

Clarendon County recently installed



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Located in Manning, Trimaco offers paint sundries, surface protection products, and cleaning and paint prep products, including drop cloths, wipers, masking paper and film, and protective wear.

natural gas, and the city and county joined forces to provide water services. Another asset is the Manning campus of Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter, which offers workforce training programs and a business incubator.

"Businesses considering coming to Clarendon County can locate on site with us while we train their employees," says Dr. Tim Hardee, president of the college. "We've had several companies located in the incubator for six months to a year while the county was building a location for them in an industrial park."

CCTC can also help train 20 to 2,000 employees in a workforce.

Positive Working Environment

Employees in rural counties such as Clarendon express contentment with their jobs

and their quality of life.

Jamie Dennis, a welder for 25 years at Starflo Corp., a division of the William Powell Co. that makes industrial valves in Manning, has never worried about being laid off.

"The company is always thriving financially," Dennis says. "They have expanded three times, which has created more job opportunities. Everybody stays because it's a great work environment."

Bobby McDonald, a machine operator at Trimaco, which manufactures a variety of paint sundries at the company's plant in Manning, says, "It's a joy to get up every morning and come here. I look forward to each day because it's a challenge, and I am always increasing my skills. We've introduced new products and had an increase in employees after getting new customers."

Both Nance and Hardee attribute the rural job boom to a realization by small communities of the critical role a skilled workforce plays in their well-being.

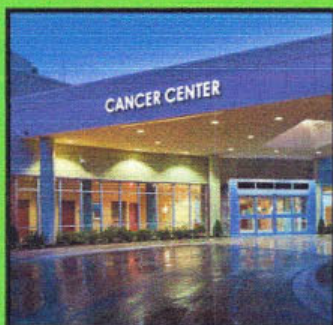
"We have had a change in local leadership when it comes to understanding economic development and the need to invest in their community," Nance says.



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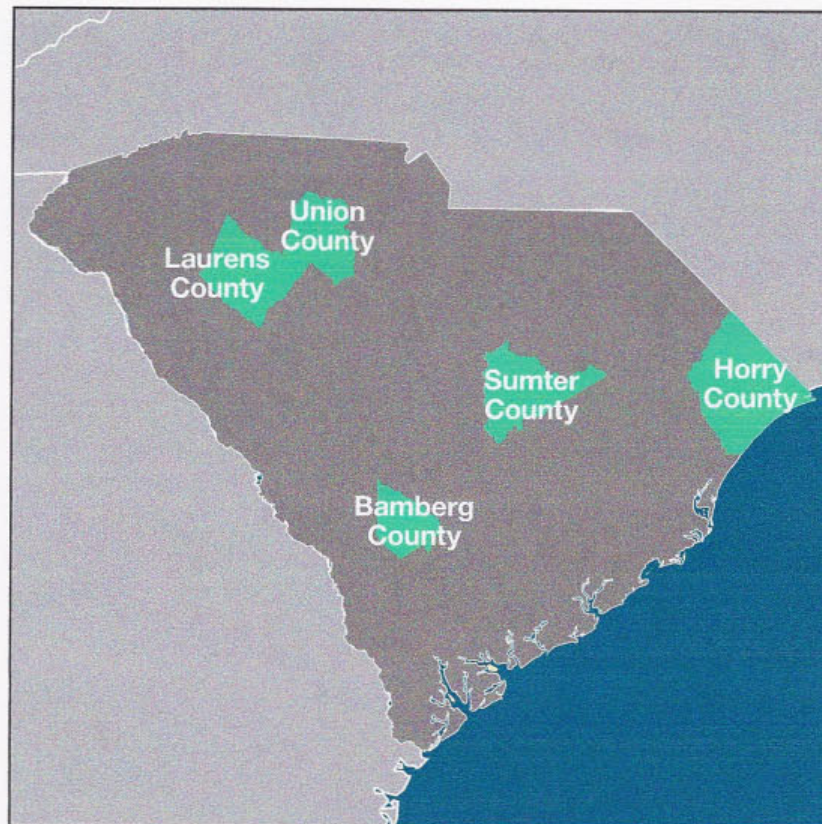


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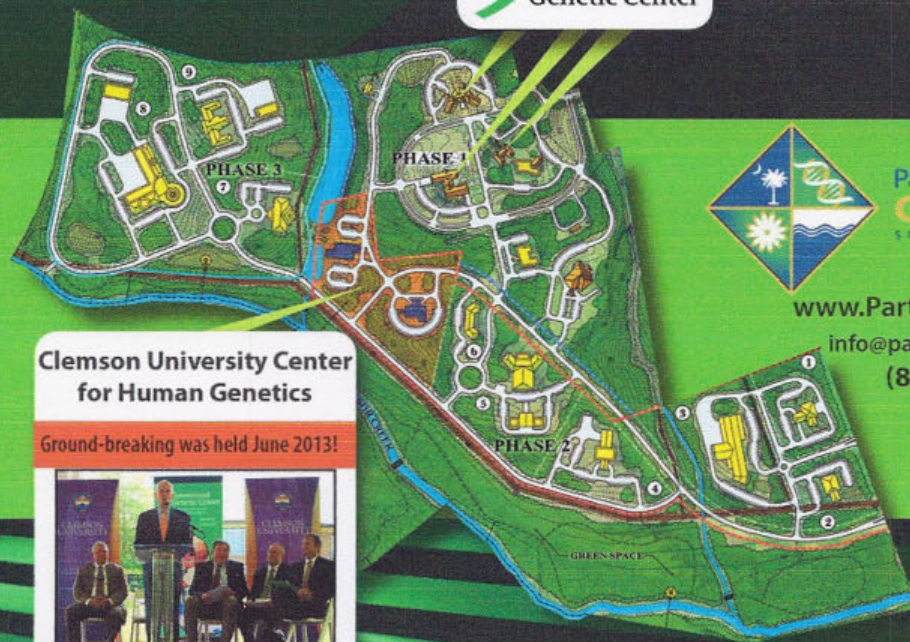
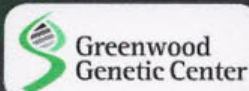
BIG DEALS IN SC

Rural development highlights:

- » **Continental Tire:** Investing \$500M in a Sumter County facility that will employ 1,600
- » **Belk:** A \$40M e-commerce fulfillment center in Union County will support 294 jobs
- » **Masonite:** Located a \$14M facility in Bamberg County that will bring 159 jobs
- » **ZF Transmission:** Expanded in Laurens County, a \$175M investment that will create 450 jobs. ZF's total investment has grown to more than \$600M and 1,600 jobs.
- » **PTR Industries:** Relocating manufacturing operations and a corporate headquarters to Horry County, creating 145 jobs.



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