

Advance

Florence County Progress Newsletter

Issue 11

December 2018

Progress Members Enjoyed Holiday Networking Event



Member News

Carolina Bank Brings New Banking Hub and Jobs to Downtown Florence

Carolina Bank opened the doors this week to their new headquarters and retail branch in the heart of Florence. The newly renovated building – formerly the Art Trail Gallery - serves as the company’s financial and administrative hub and houses a modern retail banking center, administrative offices, as well as broker, insurance and mortgages offices.

The \$4.5 million renovation of the building marks a significant financial and personnel commitment to the Florence downtown area. Carolina Bank shifted its administrative and training staff, along with lending, information technology and mortgage staff to the new Florence location.

“Florence – especially the downtown area – has seen rapid and exciting growth. We have been in partnership with many of the businesses downtown for some time now and it just makes sense to create a banking hub in our largest market,” said Brian Falcone, senior vice president. “There is a great deal of opportunity in Florence and we are pleased to be a part of the growth in the area.”



Before



After

Assurant Announces Retirement of Deb Davis



Assurant, which employs more than 1,300 employees in Florence, announced that its local site leader, Deborah Davis, will be retiring. Davis has been with Assurant since 2004, moving to Florence to manage the facility. Under her leadership, the company has added more than 1,000 employees in Florence and expanded the services provided by the center, which manages insurance-related services for some of the country’s largest mortgage lenders.

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Some of Davis' most notable achievements during her time with Assurant have come from her leadership of the company's involvement in our community. She served on numerous boards including School Foundation, the United Way, the Florence Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA and the Advisory board for First Reliance. She was a member of the Rotary Club and led Assurant's participation in Relay for Life, and during her tenure, her team participated in several Habitat builds.

Stepping into the local leadership role for Assurant will be Sandra Eckert.

Hope Health Commemorates World AIDS Day

A large crowd braved the threat of inclement weather and turned out for the annual HopeHealth AIDSWalk at Central United Methodist Church in Florence on Saturday, Dec. 1. The walk concluded a successful week of community events commemorating HIV/AIDS and raising awareness of the epidemic's continuing impact on our communities.



Now in its 21st year, AIDSWalk featured a free "Walking Tacos" lunch and an educational program with guest speaker Rick Felder. Felder, who has lived with AIDS for more than 30 years, discussed advances in HIV treatment and overcoming the stigma surrounding the disease.

New Member

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee Area, Florence

The purpose of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee Area is to promote the social, educational, health, leadership and character development of boys and girls during critical periods of their growth.

Contact Kayla Jebaily at kjebaily@bgcpda.org or 843-662-1142.

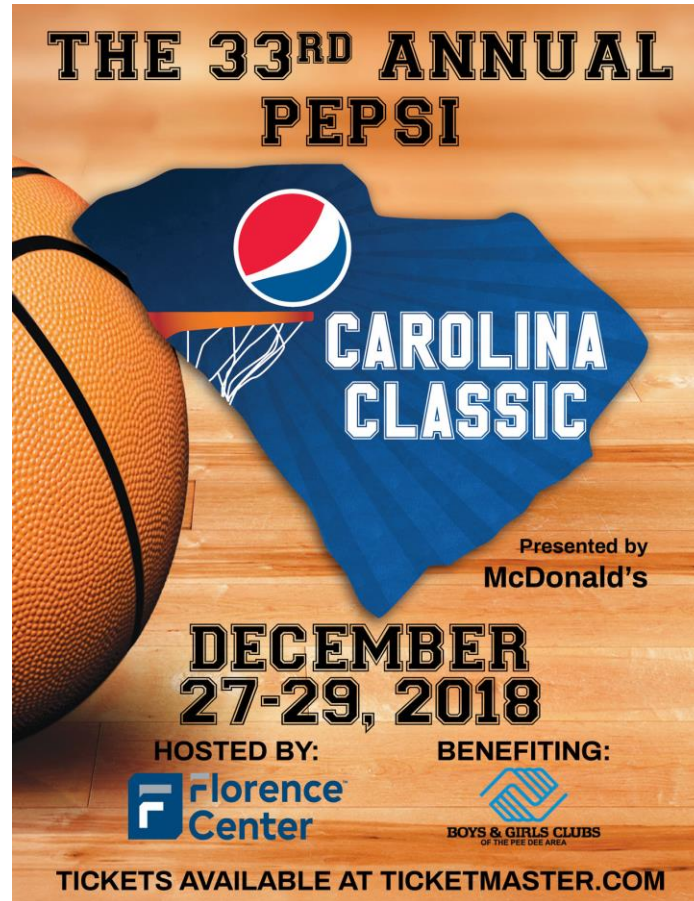


BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE PEE DEE AREA

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Upcoming Events

33rd Annual Pepsi Carolina Classic
December 27 - 29
Florence Center



For more information, visit <https://www.florencecenter.com/events/2018/carolinaclassic18>.

FCP Annual Membership Luncheon
Thursday, January 17
SiMT
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Keynote Speaker: Shea Tighe, chief engagement officer, STEM Premier

STEM Premier is the first online solution that assists students in designing a career pathway, educators in recruiting top talent to their schools and employers in developing a stable, continuous talent pipeline.

STEM Premier creates a world of possibility by bringing together:

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- Current & Future Talent from middle school and high school to college and PhD
- Resources, including scholarship opportunities, internships, and career opportunities
- Mentorship
- Teachers
- Guidance Counselors
- Parents
- Colleges & Universities
- Companies & Corporations



STEM Premier brings talent out of the shadows, and levels the playing field for all students - no matter who they are or where they live.

This is the platform where the tools, resources, data and connections collide allowing schools and organizations to out-educate and out-innovate the competition in the 21st century.

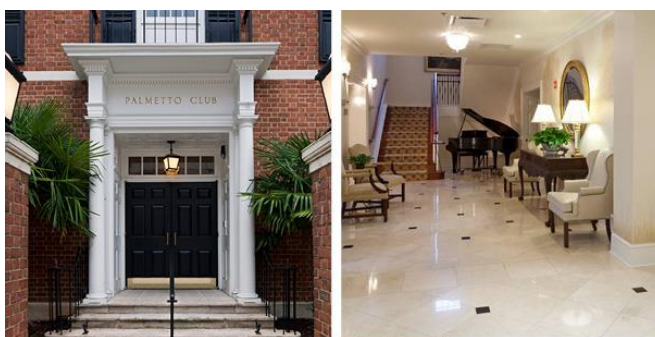
It all boils down to one goal: Create prosperity and possibility for students, educational institutions and companies -- together.

17th Annual Florence County Legislative Day
Wednesday, February 13
Columbia Museum of Art
6 – 8 PM

Florence County Progress and Florence County Economic Development Partnership will host the annual Florence County Legislative Day Wednesday, Feb. 13, in Columbia.

A luncheon (invitation only) will be held at the Palmetto Club, 1231 Sumter St., beginning at 1 p.m., but guests are invited to arrive as early as noon. The Palmetto Club enforces a dress code (collared shirt, neat pants and non-athletic shoes for men; similarly appropriate attire for women).

The day will conclude with a reception at the Columbia Museum of Art, 1515 Main St., from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. All members are invited.



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