

Advance

Florence County Progress Newsletter

Issue 6

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Florence County Progress introduces new logo

Florence County Progress, the private sector arm of the Florence County Economic Development Partnership, has updated its logo.



With the help of an image committee led by Jumana Swindler, Vice President of

Marketing at McLeod Health and Florence County Progress board member, the logo was developed in collaboration with community organizations including McLeod Regional Medical Center, Francis Marion University, LHWI Advertising and M+M Printing.

Jill Lewis, Chief Development Officer at Signature Wealth Strategies and Chair of the Florence County Progress Board of Trustees, said the new logo is designed to reflect the forward momentum of the rapidly growing Pee Dee area.

“Florence County has made tremendous strides in recent years, and Florence County Progress has been instrumental in moving the county forward,” Lewis said. “We wanted a clean, modern logo to reflect the many positive changes happening in this area.”

Florence County Progress was created in the early 1980s by area business leaders to provide private sector support and leadership to the publicly funded economic development program. Progress' mission is to promote, implement and support activities designed to improve the economic development of Florence County and to maintain a quality climate for business and industry.

Board members voted to approve the new logo. Members are: Jill Lewis (Signature Wealth Strategies), John Bankson (Wells Fargo), Joan Billheimer (First Reliance Bank), Jumana Swindler (McLeod Health), Buddy Brand (Stifel), Jamie Carsten (South State Bank), Buzz Rogers (WebsterRogers), Jeff Payne (Turner Padgett Graham & Laney), James Tolston (North American Assemblies), Nick Townsend (Inn at the Crossroads) and Grey Raines (Raines Hospitality).

International company ARCTIC to locate in Florence County

ARCTIC, an international company specializing in computer cooling devices, will locate its first American venture in Quinby with plans to convert the former IGA building in the Quinby Plaza into a combination of warehouse and office space.

ARCTIC, headquartered in Hong Kong, China with operations in Germany, will use its new facility in Florence County to distribute products throughout the United States. Employees have been hired for warehouse and marketing positions with more set to be hired for sales positions.

Florence County discovered ARCTIC at a Select USA Investment Summit last year where Lauren Stanton, Assistant Director of Florence County Economic Development Partnership, met with ARCTIC representatives. The Gould Business Incubator, proximity to ports and business-friendly climate were key factors in ARCTIC's decision to locate in Florence County.

Operations are currently taking place at the Gould Business Incubator until renovations are complete at the Quinby facility.

For more information about ARCTIC or the various products they offer, visit the website https://www.arctic.ac/us_en/.



Florence named in Top 10 job markets for 2018

Florence placed seventh on the list of top ten U.S. job markets for 2018 according to USA Today in an article released in June.

The list was compiled by Zippia, a California-based job search site, which used data from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics considering factors such as local wages and unemployment. Florence's high employment, low jobless rate and high average wage make it an excellent opportunity for job seekers.



Member News

Honda Marks 20 Years of Powersports Production in South Carolina

Honda celebrates milestone with contributions to local community organizations

HONDA

Honda of South Carolina Mfg., Inc.

Honda associates and guests celebrated the 20th anniversary of production at Honda of South Carolina Mfg., Inc. (HSC), which makes all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and side-by-side (SxS) vehicles for North American and global markets.

HSC also marked the completion of a \$45 million expansion project announced in 2016, and the production of its 3 millionth ATV since manufacturing began in July 1998.

“Today’s milestone is a tribute to the outstanding Honda associates here in South Carolina who are committed to making quality products for our customers every day,” said Gary Mabrey, president of HSC. “Their skills, knowledge, creativity, talent and dedication have made HSC a success over the last 20 years.”

As part of the \$45 million expansion project announced in 2016, Honda added 115,000 square feet to the plant and 250 more jobs to meet strong SxS demand. The project added new weld equipment, new buildings and expansions at the plant to improve production efficiency and a new paint line to enhance quality and color variations. The plant also added automated guided carriers and lift assist devices to support quality, logistics, safety and ergonomic improvements for associates.

Since it was established in July 1998, HSC employment has grown from 200 to almost 1,000 associates, and the plant has quadrupled in size.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary milestone, HSC made contributions to four local organizations which help make the Timmons ville area a great community to live and work.



Florence School District Four received \$20,000 for their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) lab, the city of Timmons ville received \$10,000 to support a green space initiative and the Florence County Library received \$10,000 to support the Timmons ville branch. In addition to the three monetary donations, HSC donated a TRX420 Rancher ATV to the Sardis-Timmons ville Fire Department.

“These organizations share our belief and commitment in helping make society a better place, and it is an honor for Honda to support them,” Mabrey said. “We

know these organizations will use the contributions from Honda to provide services and educational opportunities for the community.”

Blue Ribbon Management and Consulting

Craig Butler, Founder, and Jeannette Glenn, Senior Partner of Blue Ribbon Management and Consulting, presented at the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals Spring Conference.



Butler and Glenn engaged an audience of more than 1,000 workforce development professionals with their Community Partner Resources: From Vision to Sustainable, Scalable, Repeatable and Efficient Execution workshop.

They also announced the launch of the company’s new website. For more information about Blue Ribbon Management and Consulting or their workforce development presentation, visit their website www.myworkforcebutler.com.

Carolinas Hospital System

Carolinas Hospital system was awarded Chest Pain Center Accreditation with Primary PCI from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC), in recognition of the hospital’s commitment to the highest standards in the country for heart failure care.

Carolinas Hospital System has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing on-site evaluations by a SCPC review team.

“This is momentous not only for our hospital and patients, but the community as well,” said Vance Reynolds, CEO, at Carolinas Hospital System. “We are committed to providing superior emergency and cardiac care to the residents of Florence and the Pee Dee region.”

CAROLINAS
HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Forum Spa

Forum Spa invites you to join them for a ‘spa’cation this summer. Enjoy the Island Retreat Spa Package for only \$189. This package includes an island mango full body sugar scrub followed by a 60 minute full body massage and island mango pedicure and manicure combo.

Call 843-661-3801 for a reservation or book online at www.forumspa.net



P.O. Box 100549, Florence, SC 29502 | 843-676-8796
www.florencecoprogress.com

Upcoming Events

Florence County Progress CEO Breakfast
SiMT Executive Dining Room
Wednesday, September 19
7 – 8 am
Invitation only

This is an exclusive event for Florence County industry leaders. Breakfast will be provided by Out in Left Field catering.

For more information or to RSVP, call 843-676-8796 or email cpackett@florenceco.org.

Florence County Progress Quarterly Networking Event
Glenview Farm
1540 Center Road, Timmonsville
Thursday, September 20
5:30 – 7:30 pm

All members are welcomed to enjoy an evening of networking. Local Motive will provide beer samplings and Out in Left Field will provide catering services for the event.

For more information or to RSVP, call 843-676-8796 or email cpackett@florenceco.org.