



“At Barringer General Store, we carry a lot of local products—South Carolina made products. That’s our emphasis. We have everything from artisan-made products to SC grown food products. We also support local artists and makers.

And it’s all presented like an old general store.

I really believe in our downtown. And being a person who was born and raised here, it’s cool to see it come back to life and be a

part of its comeback. I’m old enough that I can remember when Sears closed and moved to the mall, so every day I come down here it’s exciting to see it grow and evolve and become such a vibrant area.

There’s so much potential.

Florence has a feel of true Southern hospitality. We’re a laid back community, distinctly different from the Lowcountry and other places.

I have people come here all the time and they’ll ask me about downtown restaurants, and I tell them about Victors and Town Hall, and sometimes they’re intimidated by upscale places because they’re in t-shirts and shorts. But I’m like, look, you’re in Florence. Just walk in and own it. Nobody’s going to have a problem with it because that’s just Florence—you live your life and enjoy your life. We’re just laid back here. You’ll walk into a restaurant and somebody with more money than you can imagine is sitting next to a guy who works at the factory.

I’ve lived all over, and not many places make you feel like you’re welcome, whoever you are. But Florence does, and more people are seeing that.

We have a lot of people visit us from Charleston or Charlotte to spend the weekend here, and they’ll say “We like to come here because you can breathe.” They’re looking for a place that is laid-back and with a slower pace, where you can sit on the street with a friend and just hang out and talk.

That’s us. That’s Florence.”

—Tim Sawyer, Barringer General Store