

around town

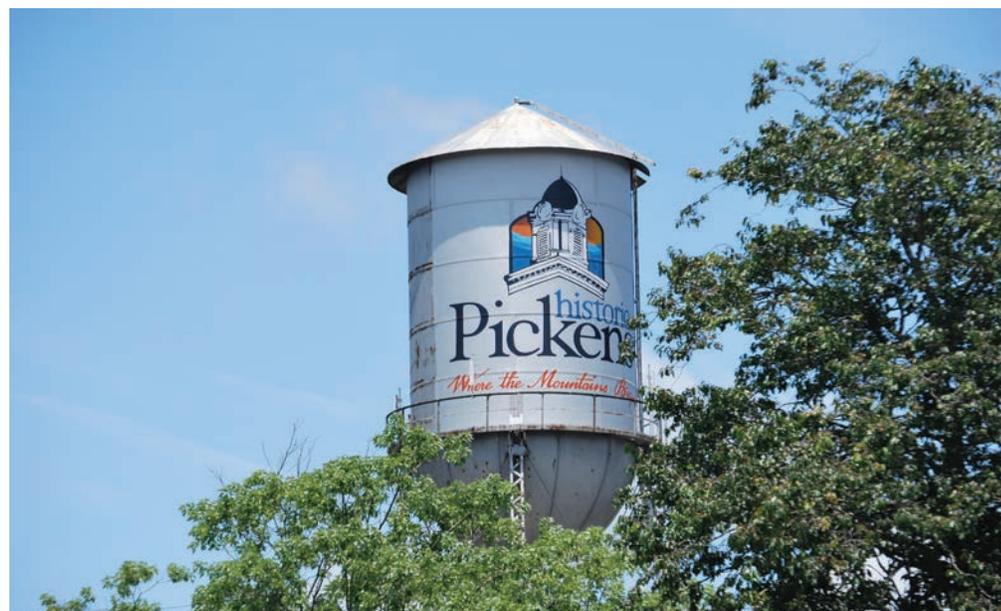
www.historicpickens.com

JANUARY 2017

PRA Awarded Community Pride Grant

The Pickens Revitalization Association has been awarded a 2017 Community Pride Grant in the amount of \$10,000 by PALMETTO PRIDE, a non-profit organization created by the Legislature in response to citizens' concerns about the amount of litter in South Carolina. They fight litter through Education, Enforcement, Awareness, and Pick-up. Their mission is also to Beautify South Carolina.

This grant will be used to help beautify the Pickens Main Street and Downtown area. The work will be done by employees and volunteers from the PRA and the City of Pickens. If you would like to volunteer to help in these efforts, please email the Pickens Revitalization Association Director, Wilson Perkins, at wperkins@pickenscity.com



Pickens Revitalization Association is dedicated to the enhancement, preservation and sustainable growth of Pickens' historic downtown area.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OFFICE

222 W. Main Street, Suite A
Pickens, SC 29671
864.878.0105
9am - 4pm
Monday - Friday



LOCAL NEWS

Big Things Are Happening at the Doodle Trail Head

As some of you may have heard the City of Pickens has some exciting news in regards to the Doodle Trail Head. The City has been awarded several grants over the past year which are laying the financial foundation for this project. Currently our trail head is in desperate need of a face lift but at the same time we are mindful of preserving the legacy of the Pickens Railroad which has played a significant role in our City's history. During the work at the Rail Depot the City intends on preserving and re-using any features or remnants of the old depot that might be uncovered.

Site History

The 1.86 acre site was developed as a passenger train depot with railway yard and shipping warehouses as early as 1889. The City of Pickens purchased the facility in 2013 along with the 7.5 mile rail line. In 2015, the Doodle Trail, a multi-use asphalt trail, was constructed on the 7.5 mile rail line between the cities of Pickens and Easley. The 1.86 acre rail depot site currently sits idle waiting for cleanup and redevelopment into a trail head for the Doodle Trail.

Research was conducted and we have found that there were warehouses on site that burnt down in the 1950s. In the 1960s a cinder-block building was constructed to do rail car maintenance. The site buildings, which are considered a blight in the community, are contaminated with asbestos containing materials (ACM) and is perceived as unsafe due to the appearance of the dilapidated buildings and the perceived environmental stigma associated with the site. The roof and interior of the structure have declined to a point where they are becoming unstable and pose a safety and health risk to local residents and visitors to the Doodle Trail. Currently the dilapidated cinder-block building sits vacant and is a slum and blight property we wish to transform into the Pickens Doodle Park.

Funding Leveraged

Several grants have been awarded to aid in the revitalization efforts happening at the trail head. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Clean-up Grant was awarded to the City to remove the lead and asbestos materials from the building. The South Carolina Recreational Trails Program awarded the City funding to extend the trail from the parking lot to run parallel the rail depot to allow access to Highway 8 and to make a safer connection to the Downtown in addition to a new South Carolina historical marker.

The City is currently working with the SC Department of Transportation in creating additional wayfinding signage to direct users of the Doodle Trail to downtown. The South Carolina Department of Commerce awarded the City funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program for the demolition the rail depot building, the cement pads, and part of the wall along E. Cedar Rock Street. These three grants have given this project a total of \$396,790 in award funding. To further leverage these significant awards, the City is applying for a 1 million dollar project through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant that will be used to create the new Pickens Doodle Park. By incorporating everything into a 1 million dollar project, the City is trying to leverage some of the current grant funds with the ARC grant which will provide a better end product at a lower cost to the City..

LOCAL NEWS

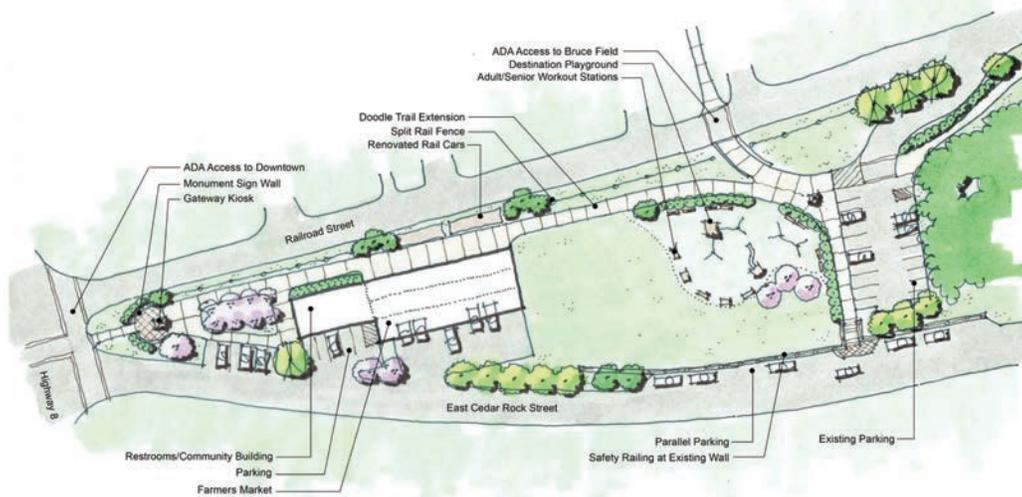
Goals of the overall Pickens Doodle Park project include: providing outdoor recreation to residents and visitors; attracting tourism and stimulating the regional economy; attracting and retaining employers and new businesses as well as their employees. Park facilities will include a Pickens Rail Depot replica, open air Farmers Market structure, ADA compliant restrooms, ADA accessible ramp down to Railroad Street, ADA compliant playground equipment, outdoor exercise equipment, and an informational kiosk just to name a few. **Attached is a sample rendering of the park but this is not the final design**

Timeline

Work will begin on the Trail Head in the spring of 2017 with the start of the EPA Grant to remove the hazardous materials from the building. If selected for funding from the ARC Committee work will commence at the trail head as follows; demo of the building, followed by the extension of the trail to Highway 8, and finally the creation of the new park by fall 2017 with a completion date of Memorial Day 2018.

ARC Pickens Doodle Trail project that incorporates the RTP & CDBG Components

Appalachian Regional Commission Grant Application {\$1M for full project}	January 2017
Asbestos Removal	April 2017
Expected ARC Notice on Grant Approval or Not	June 2017
In-Kind Work by City & Partners	July - December 2017
Final Design & Bid Documents Completed	September 2017
Demolition & Construction Bids Received	December 2017
Demolition & Construction Begins	January 2018
Pickens Doodle Park Completed	May 2018



LOCAL NEWS

Bivens Hardware Still Going Strong After More Than 90 Years



Bivens Hardware has been serving the Pickens community since 1923. The Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce recently named Bivens its member of the month for December. The business has been a mainstay on Main Street in Pickens for over 90 years, according to Heath Fields, who operates the business with his uncle, Robert Bobo. The business began in 1923 and has been in the family for five generations. The business's earliest incarnation was as Heath, Bruce, Morrow - a general store. "They sold everything from wagons to dynamite," Fields said. "The safe in the office still has Heath, Bruce, Morrow on it. It was so heavy they couldn't move it, so they just rolled it across Main Street, was the story I've always been told."

Fields' great-great-grandfather, TL Bivens, purchased the general store, moved it across Main Street, and re-named it Bivens Hardware Company. TL's son Hank took over the business. When Hank retired, he turned the business over to his son-in-law, Don Bobo, Fields' grandfather. Don retired about 18 months ago. "Back in the day they were everything," Fields said. "Planters, horse-drawn carriages, everything you'd need to hook up the mules. Now it's more general hardware. We try to have a lot of the stuff that's harder to find in other places - keep all that stuff in stock." The store offers a good selection of plumbing supplies, he said.

When Chamber Director Kim Smagala was opening her business, she discovered a leak in her building late one night. When Fields' wife, Lauren, saw a Facebook post about the leak, she told her husband. "(Fields) came over and opened up the store, and we got plumbing supplies to fix that leak that was happening in the middle of the night," Smagala said. "Hardware stores don't do that for you very often." Fields believes the store's customer service is what sets it apart from others. "Some people aren't used to it," Fields said. "They don't want you standing over them - they're not used to it. But once they figure out what you're doing, they're grateful for it." Growing up, he saw Robert and Don and how they dealt with customers. "You deal with the same person from when you're greeted to when you check out," Fields said. "I can't think of anywhere else that does that."

The store offers a good selection of products for its customers. It also offers flexibility, something that a big box store may not be able to provide. "We've got nails by the pound," Fields said. "You can get literally half a dozen of these and half a dozen of these, and you don't have to buy boxes. All my nuts, bolts and screws we try to sell individually, so you can literally buy what you need and not five boxes that you get two bolts out of." The store cuts pipe by the foot. "I'll sell you 6 inches or 60 feet, whatever you want," Fields said. "There's not many still doing that." The store repairs windows and screens as well. "That's something that makes us different," Fields said. If they don't have an item on hand at the moment, it's no problem. "If you can wait a few days, I can usually get it in there for you," Fields said. "I don't mind ordering stuff for people." He said the look of the store hasn't changed much over the years. "Around us, there's been a lot of change," Fields said. "There's always new stuff coming out, but people tell us it's like walking into a museum. Still the same wood floors, that tin stamped ceiling. Sometimes I laugh and tell Robert I feel more like I work in a history museum and not a hardware store." Out of towners often come in just to take pictures. "It's charming," Smagala said. "They think they're stepping back into Mayberry. The best thing about Pickens is it's so quaint. Bivens is the essence of a small town community that's not too big for its britches. I think Bivens is going to be around for a long time."

FEATURED PROMOTIONS and EVENTS

6TH ANNUAL!!! winter bluegrass jubilee



PLUS A FEATURED PERFORMANCE BY
Y.A.M.S. STUDENTS!!

JAMMING!!
workshops!!

TICKETS ONLY \$12!

FOOD!!
vendors!!

Sat. Jan 21, 2017 - Doors Open 10am
Pickens High School - Pickens SC

INDOOR BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT:

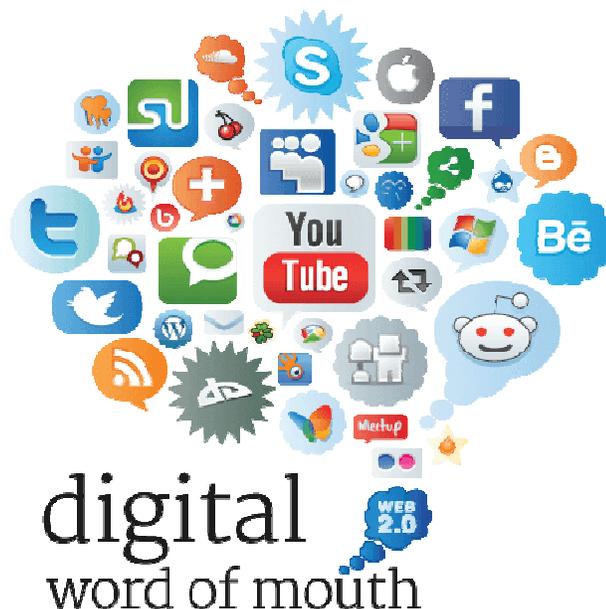
YAM YOUNG APPALACHIAN MUSICIANS

www.winterbluegrassjubilee.com



FEATURED PROMOTIONS and EVENTS

Social Media For Business



Register for our 1st Workshop of the year!

Social Media for Business Workshop

January 31, 2017

Time: 8:30-10:30 AM

Location: 222. W Main St., Pickens, SC 29671

This will be a 2 hour practical development class. You will leave with knowledge, tools, and in most cases we will be able to help you set up at least one platform to assist in marketing your business. This will be very informal and will mostly consist of Q & A to help target your specific needs. If you have a laptop or Smartphone, please bring it.

To Register Visit:

www.PickensChamberofCommerce.com

\$10 for Members \$20 for Non-Members



**GREATER PICKENS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

where the mountains begin

FEATURED PROMOTIONS and EVENTS

THE GREATER PICKENS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

and

PICKENS REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION

present the

2017
ANNUAL

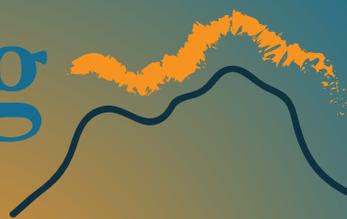
BANQUET

The Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce and Pickens Revitalization Association invite you and your guests to join us for a night of dining, dancing and fun with the Jake Bartley Band

MARCH 3, 2017

THE LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT

Gathering
on
Appalachian Life
in Historic Pickens



SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH

8:30am - 4:30pm

Pickens Community Center
129 Schoolhouse Street, Pickens

Join us for a fun day of learning about life in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Glimpse how our ancestors worked, played, and lived in this area. Learn how to cook, play music, sing, dance, do fiber arts, learn about your family's genealogy and history of Native Americans in our area, and on and on. Spend a day with us enjoying the Pickens way of life!

★★ www.cityofpickens.com/goal ★★

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

21st

Ring in the New Year at Hagood Mill

10am - 4pm; 138 Hagood Mill Road
visit www.visitpickenscounty.com

21st

6th Annual Winter Bluegrass Jubilee

10am; Pickens High School Auditorium
visit www.winterbluegrassjubilee.com

28th & 29th

Reconstruction of Manse Jolly presented by the Birchwood Center for Arts & Folklife

7pm (28th) & 2pm (29th); 129 Schoolhouse Street, Pickens

31st

Social Media For Business Workshop presented by the Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce

8:30am - 10:30am; 222 W. Main Street, Pickens

FEBRUARY

18th

Deep Winter Blues

10am - 4pm; 138 Hagood Mill Road
visit www.visitpickenscounty.com

MARCH

3rd

Annual Banquet

7pm; The Lighthouse Restaurant
visit www.pickenschamberofcommerce.com

4th

Gathering on Appalachian Life

8:30am - 4:30pm; 129 Schoolhouse Street, Pickens
visit www.cityofpickens.com/goal

18th

Kids Fest

10am - 4pm; 138 Hagood Mill Road
visit www.visitpickenscounty.com

THANKS MEMBERS!

Alexander Law Firm	Brock's	Corner Drug Store	Pizza Inn
Cannon Memorial Hospital	City of Pickens	Great Oaks Dental	Pace & Reeves
Pickens Senior Center	Edward Jones	Lindsay Oil Company	State Farm
Pickens Dental Associates	Stockade Antiques	American Legion	TD Bank
Town & Country Florist	Pickens Savings & Loan	Nestfeathers	Shabby & Chic
Behavioral Health Services	Flowers By Virginia	GateHouse Restaurant	Mark Kaiser
East Main Treasures	Foothills Gun and Pawn	Roper Law Firm	9 Round
Pruitt Health	Blue Ridge Electric Coop	TTI/OWT, Inc.	Durham Greene
Oh Joy!	Pickens Federal Credit Union	Pickens Rotary Club	Domino's
South State Bank	Cornell-Dubilier	Buddy & Cisco's Bistro	Enrapt, LLC
Pickens Azalea Festival	Southern App. Outdoors	Appalachian Ale House	Morris on Main
Bee Well Honey	Martha's Marvelous Munchies		