

around town

www.historicpickens.com

FEBRUARY 2015

Pickens, Easley Officials Break Ground for Doodle Trail

By Ron Barnett, Staff Writer.

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PICKENS, SC. The ceremonial gold shovels were turned, the speeches were made, and now it's full speed ahead for the Pickens County Doodle Trail. The mayors and city councils of Easley and Pickens did the honors on Thursday in front of one of the old trains that used to run on the Doodle Line before it was abandoned, sold to the two cities and now sits just months away from becoming a walking-biking trail connecting the two municipalities. If the weather cooperates, the 7.4-mile trail should be ready for use on Memorial Day weekend, officials said.

"This is a big day for the city of Easley and the city of Pickens," Easley Mayor Larry Bagwell told the crowd of about 50 who gathered for the event. More than a dozen cyclists rode their bikes from Easley City Hall to Pickens to show their support for the new trail.

The two towns are bitter rivals on the football field, said Bagwell, a former coach of the Easley Green Wave, but they worked together for more than three years to make this project happen. "We've had some ups and downs, but in my mind it's going to be worth it in the long run," he said.



Pickens Mayor David Owens said this project is "testament" to the cooperative relationship between the two cities. Then he suggested a bet: The mayor of the city whose team loses the football game this year will have to walk the trail from one end to the other.

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

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222 W. Main Street, Suite A
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864.878.0105
9am - 4pm
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LOCAL NEWS

Doodle Trail Groundbreaking continued

“We do have a new football coach just announced, so this year will be our year,” he said. Bagwell leaned in and chortled, “We haven’t named one yet, but I bet we’ll beat you.”

All rivalry aside, the two cities are looking forward to reaping some of the kinds of benefits that Greenville and Travelers Rest have seen with the coming of the Swamp Rabbit Trail, another rails-to-trail project.

“I think it’s going to be a big impact for us,” Owens said. Pickens recently developed a bike park and greenway downtown and plans to put in bike lanes to connect the Doodle Trailhead, at State 8 and East Cedar Rock Road, with downtown just a block away.

Easley has a greater challenge in connecting its trailhead, at Fleetwood Drive, with downtown about a half-mile away. Preliminary plans for Easley’s “Doodlehead” called for a small park and picnic area, with a couple of boxcars from the old railroad. Owens said Pickens hasn’t settled on a design for its trailhead, on two acres at the former railroad headquarters. Bagwell envisions connecting the trail from downtown to a greenway that would run all the way to the J.B. “Red” Owens Recreation Complex on the other end of town. On the Pickens end, it could someday connect with trails in the mountains, he said.

The cities split the \$500,000 cost of buying the old rail line and the \$1.9 million for paving and designing the trail. The bonds they issued will be paid back out of hospitality taxes.

King Asphalt of Liberty is doing the paving, and Alta Planning + Design did the design work. The project includes repairing two bridges and installing fences. The construction actually began two weeks before the groundbreaking ceremony, Bagwell said.



LOCAL NEWS

Applications Due Soon for Main Street Challenge

Pickens Revitalization Association is excited to announce a new program for 2015, based off the very successful program of the same name in Spartanburg. The Main Street Challenge is an entrepreneurial start up competition for the purpose of generating additional retail occupancy in downtown Pickens. At the same time, it provides a means by which local, area, and regional entrepreneurs can advance their desire to expand or open a new business.

For up to two winning entries, the Main Street Challenge program will offer \$4,000 in incentives for start-up businesses, which must then open a new location in downtown Pickens by November 1, 2015. The money offered to the winner(s) will take the form of a potentially forgivable loan, determined by the business' ability to meet all requirements of the program. Winning business(es) may receive additional benefits, including: assistance with branding, marketing, advertising, online presence and promotions, as well as accounting and payroll. In addition, Pickens Revitalization Association is forming a partnership with Covenant Builders for an upfit consultation and a reduced up-fit construction fee during the finalist round.

Business concepts eligible for the competition include: new start-up businesses, franchises, an expansion or relocation of an existing location from another community, and a significant expansion of an existing local business that would branch into an additional business concept.

For the 2015 Main Street Challenge Guidelines and Application, please visit www.historicpickens.com and click on Main Street Challenge. **The first round of applications are due February 10th.**



The Main Street Challenge will follow a set timeline throughout 2015, as laid out below:

- » February 10, 2015
Round One Due: Application
- » March 2, 2015
Announce Semi-Finalists
- » April 20, 2015
Round Two Due:
Business Plan
- » May 15, 2015
Announce Finalists
- » May 28, 2015
Finalists Pitch
- » June 1, 2015
Winner(s) Announced
- » November 1, 2015
Business(es) Open

will you sweat with me?

Saturday, February 14th
Couples workout at

9ROUND

Free for your valentine
8:00 am to 1:00 pm
everybody welcome

Because the couple that
Sweats together, Stays together!

113 West Main Street Pickens, SC 29671 (864) 507-3142 www.9round.com

GIFT OF PICKENS



Get yours today!

Give the gift that stays in Pickens!

Pickens Revitalization Association is committed to continuing our very own Shop Local Initiative, Gift of Pickens! We want our local businesses in Pickens to thrive and hope you will join us!

Gift of Pickens certificates are on sale now at PRA and City Hall (cash or check only at these locations) and securely online by Credit Card or PayPal at:

www.historicpickens.com/shop-historic-pickens/gift-of-pickens/

SHOP LOCAL. SHOP HISTORIC PICKENS.

Top Ten Reasons to Shop Local:

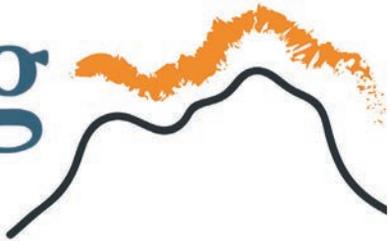
- 1. Protect Local Character and Prosperity:** Your community is unlike any other city in the world. By choosing to support locally owned businesses, you help maintain your town's diversity and distinctive flavor.
- 2. Community Well-Being:** Locally owned businesses build strong neighborhoods by sustaining communities, linking neighbors, and by contributing more to local causes.
- 3. Local Decision Making:** Local ownership means that important decisions are made locally by people who live in the community and who will feel the impacts of those decisions.
- 4. Keeping Dollars in the Local Economy:** Your dollars spent in locally owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent at national chains. When shopping locally, you simultaneously create jobs, fund more city services through sales tax, invest in neighborhood improvement and promote community development.
- 5. Jobs and Wages:** Locally owned businesses create more jobs locally and, in some sectors, provide better wages and benefits.
- 6. Entrepreneurship:** Entrepreneurship fuels America's economic innovation and prosperity, and serves as a key means for families to move out of low-wage jobs and into the middle class.
- 7. Public Benefits and Costs:** Local stores in town centers require comparatively little infrastructure and make more efficient use of public services relative to big box stores and strip shopping malls.
- 8. Environmental Sustainability:** Local stores help to sustain vibrant, compact, walkable town centers – which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss and air and water pollution.
- 9. Competition:** A marketplace of tens of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long-term.
- 10. Product Diversity:** A multitude of small businesses, each selecting products based, not on a national sales plan, but on their own interests and the needs of their local customers, guarantees a much broader range of product choices.



FEATURED PROMOTIONS and EVENTS



Gathering ON Appalachian Life in Historic Pickens



Join us as six non-profits in Pickens host the

Gathering On Appalachian Life

Saturday, February 28th

8:30am - 4:30pm

Hagood Community Center
129 Schoolhouse Street, Pickens

This festival/mini-conference includes an opening session, 4 hour-long workshop sessions, an Appalachian lunch and vendor tables/silent auction. The sessions include over 30 interactive workshops and tours on topics such as Moonshining, Primitive Technology and Artifacts, Quilting, Genealogy, the Cherokee Trail, Appalachian Music and Dance and Hearthside Cooking.

Tickets:

Before February 1: \$15 per person

February 1-27: \$20 per person

Lunch is an additional \$5.00



For more information and to register please visit www.historicpickens.com or call 864.878.4257.

Photos courtesy of Brenda Paschal

FEATURED PROMOTIONS and EVENTS

THE GREATER PICKENS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

-and-

THE PICKENS REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION

present

2015 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 local band Itchy and the Chiggers.

MARCH 6, 2015
Social Hour at 7 p.m.
Dinner to follow

THE LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT
1290 Doug Hollow Road
Seneca, SC 29672

The banquet cost is \$40.00 per person OR you may wish to be a table sponsor at one of the levels listed below:

Platinum • 16 banquet guests: \$600.00
Gold • 8 banquet guests: \$320.00

Silver • 4 banquet guests: \$200.00
Bronze • 1 banquet guest: \$60.00

All table sponsors will receive special recognition at the banquet and in the event program.
Reservations for the banquet are due by February 25, 2015 at the Chamber office.
Checks should be made payable to the Pickens Chamber of Commerce and mailed to:

PO Box 153, Pickens, South Carolina 29671

Name of Business or Organization

Sponsorship Level

Address

Individual Name and Number of Guests

FEATURED PROMOTIONS and EVENTS

FREE!

FREE!

Attractions at the AMPHITHEATER HISTORIC PICKENS

SUMMER 2015

april

16th Jamie Wright
Review

18th Azalea Festival

25th Pickens' Got
Talent

★ Cruise-In & Music
on Main Event

may

2nd Katlin Owen Band★

9th IS That So

16th Itchy and the
Chiggers

23rd The Hired Help

30th Thomas Fountain

june

6th Folsom Prison
Gang★

13th Jamie Wright
Review

20th New Dixie
Storm

27th YAMS

july

4th 4th of July
Celebration

11th Marvin King &
Blues Revival

18th Derrick Dorsey
Band

25th YAMS

august

1st The Flying
Saucers★

8th Jamie Wright
Review

15th Splitshot

22nd YAMS



7pm - 10pm
114 W. Main Street
FREE



For more information, contact the City of Pickens at 864.878.6421 or www.cityofpickens.com
or Pickens Revitalization Association at 864.878.0105 or www.historicpickens.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

20th

Cane Creek Bluegrass Band

7pm; Cafe Connections

28th

Gathering on Appalachian Life

Hagood Community Center; Pickens

8:30am - 4:15pm

see page 5 for more information

MARCH

6th

PRA/Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

7pm; The Lighthouse Restaurant

see page 6 for more information

14th

Pickens Rotary Club Spaghetti Dinner

6pm - 8pm; Pickens First Baptist Church

APRIL

16th

Jamie Wright at the Greater Clemson Blues Festival

7pm; Pickens Amphitheater

17th - 18th

Pickens Azalea Festival

www.pickensazaleafestival.org

MAY

2nd

Cruise-In and Music on Main

Attractions at the Amphitheater

7pm - 10pm; Pickens Amphitheater

8th

Blue Ridge Fest

Blue Ridge Electric Coop

www.blueridgefest.com

9th

Attractions at the Amphitheater

7pm - 10pm; Pickens Amphitheater

16th

Attractions at the Amphitheater

7pm - 10pm; Pickens Amphitheater

23rd

Attractions at the Amphitheater

7pm - 10pm; Pickens Amphitheater

30th

Attractions at the Amphitheater

7pm - 10pm; Pickens Amphitheater

JUNE

6th

Cruise-In and Music on Main

Attractions at the Amphitheater

7pm - 10pm; Pickens Amphitheater

THANKS MEMBERS!

Alexander Law Firm

Cannon Memorial Hospital

Pickens Senior Center

Pickens Dental Associates

Town & Country Florist

Behavioral Health Services

East Main Treasures

Pruitt Health

Oh Joy!

Brock's

City of Pickens

Edward Jones

Stockade Antiques

Pickens Savings & Loan

Gravelly's Law Firm

Foothills Gun and Pawn

Blue Ridge Electric Coop

Pickens Federal Credit Union

Corner Drug Store

Great Oaks Dental

Lindsay Oil Company

American Legion

Nestfeathers

GateHouse Restaurant

Chuck Dooley

TTI/OWT, Inc.

Pickens Rotary Club

Pizza Inn

Pace and Reeves

State Farm

TD Bank

Shabby & Chic

Mark Kaiser

9 Round

Durham Greene