



**Down On**

# **Main Street**

**Kingstree Wakes Up**  
Benches, Hanging Baskets, Mural  
add colorful touches downtown

**Facade Grant**  
Benefits

**Kingstree Live Keeps**  
Up the Beat

**PREMIER ISSUE**

# Blocktober Fest

31

OCTOBER

6:00-9:00 PM

MAIN ST. AND  
ACADEMY ST.

KINGSTREE, S.C.



- FOOD TRUCKS

- TRUNK OR  
TREAT

- PICTURE  
STATION

- GAMES

- BLOW-UPS

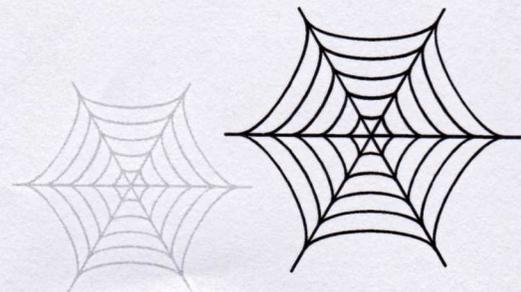
- SHOPPING

- HAUNTED  
HOUSE

6:00, 7:00, 8:00 showings of:

**It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown**

Movie Showing in the old Holt's building located on the corner of Mill St. and Academy St. Bring a blanket to sit on to enjoy the showing.





THERE ARE THINGS ABOUT GROWING UP  
IN A SMALL TOWN THAT YOU CAN'T  
NECESSARILY QUANTIFY

BRANDON ROUTH



# Contents

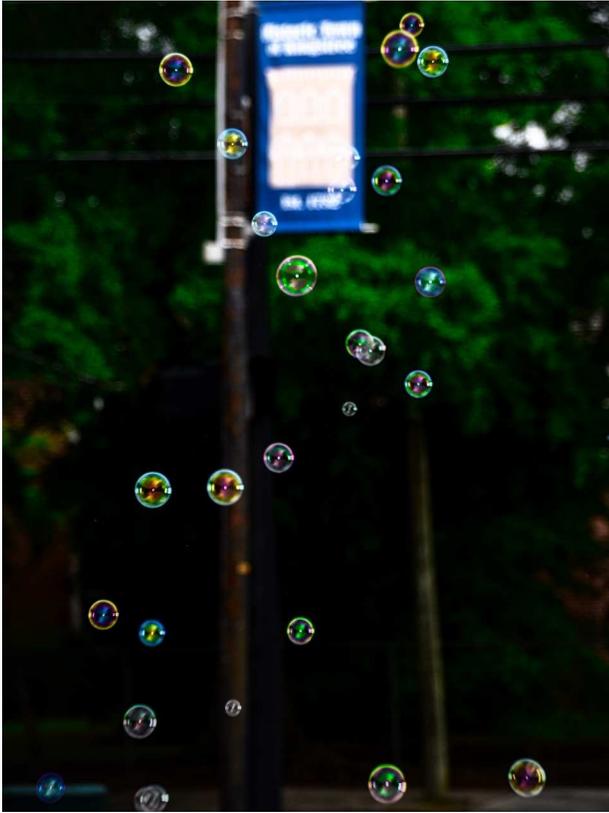


pg. **8**

## Coming Alive

Benches, hanging baskets, and window displays add color to the streets of downtown Kingstree.

# Contents



PHOTOS BY LINDA BROWN

## Eggstravaganza

**16** Egg hunts, games, and lots of fun were the hallmark of the Easter Eggstravaganza.

## Moving Forward

**19** Kingstree will participate in a road mapping exercise in September to give the town tools for moving forward.

## Facade Grant Benefits

**10**

HomeTown Chamber leverages facade grants from Town of Kingstree to improve the appearance of its building.

## Kingstree Live

**12**

In its third year, the Kingstree Live summer outdoor concerts keep up the beat.

## Downtown Dine Around

**14**

Main Street Kingstree welcomed Spring with a downtown event filled with shopping, food, and fun.





## ***Calendar of Events***

September 28	The King's Table
September 29	Afternoon at Thorntree
October 10	Wine Down with the Arts
October 10-12	Pig Pickin'
October 31	Blocktober Fest
November 2	King's Tree Trials
November 14	Wine Down with the Arts
November 24	Holiday Open House/Tree Lighting
December 5	Ghosts of Christmas Past
December 10-12	Road Mapping Exercise



# *Down On Main Street*

**PUBLISHER**  
Town of Kingstree

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
Linda W. Brown

**TOWN OF KINGSTREE**

Mayor Darren Tisdale  
Town Manager Richard Treme

Town Council C.M. "Bubba" Hammet  
Luester McCullough  
Michelle Butterworth  
Chris Williams  
Monica Murdaugh  
Andrea Kelley

**MAIN STREET KINGSTREE**

Director William Freeman  
Organization Chair Deanne Russo  
Design Chair Pam Tisdale  
Promotions Chair Martha Burrows



**HOW TO REACH US**

**PHONE NUMBER**  
843-354-7036

**EMAIL**  
linda.w.brown@gmail.com

© 2019 by Town of Kingstree. All Rights Reserved.  
Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. *Down on Main Street* is a registered trademark of Publisher. Printed in the United States of America.

# The Mayor's Desk



**Darren Tisdale is in his fourth year as Mayor of Kingstree.**

**W**elcome to the first issue of *Down on Main Street*, a magazine celebrating Kingstree and all it has

been accomplishing. We are excited to take this opportunity to share with you the story of how a little color and greenery have added life to downtown Kingstree, as well as to remember some of the events we've shared this year, like this summer's Kingstree Live concerts, our Downtown Dine Around in March and our Easter Eggstravaganza in April.

In addition, we'll give you valuable information about the Facade Grant Program, established by the Kingstree Town Council, which helps building and business owners give the fronts of their buildings new life and curb appeal. I'd like to encourage all business and building owners to find out if they qualify for a grant and to take advantage of the program if they do.

We also look ahead to our participation in a road-mapping exercise, scheduled to take place December 10-12. During these three days, a team of planning experts will be talking to Kingstree residents about the vision we have for what Kingstree can become. They will, after these conversations, come up with a plan to develop a brand for the town, based on our strengths; to give us an analysis of what kinds of business we should pursue to make our downtown more successful; and a map of potential streetscape improvements they believe will make the town more attractive. Please plan to attend the public meetings when they are officially announced, and if you are invited to participate in one of the smaller group discussions, I urge you to do so.

For now, sit back and enjoy a look at our most recent accomplishments.

Darren Tisdale  
**Mayor of Kingstree**

# Vibrant touches give downtown a boost

Benches, hanging baskets, and window displays add color to the streets



PHOTOS BY LINDA BROWN

“*All along Main and Academy streets new hanging baskets bring pops of color to the downtown.*”

It only takes a short walk or drive through downtown Kingstree's historic district to see that the town is waking up. Over many years of its history, Kingstree has often been encouraged to waken from its slumbers and move into the modern world. Today, many signs point toward just such an awakening.

Hydrangeas are now blooming in the median along Main Street, adding touches of color and warmth to the area. The median began as a mini-park in 1908 when the ladies of

the Kingstree Civic League cleared it from what is now Longstreet to the Black River bridge and planted it with shrubs and flowers. Today, the median runs from the bridge to Jackson Street.

Also on Main Street, the historic Williamsburg County Courthouse, built in 1823 from a Robert Mills design, boasts a patriotic display of flags along the iron fence. Farther down Main Street, two empty buildings now have colorful decora-

## Benches, baskets, and mural all help add color

tions in their display windows. Julia Cribb, a rising senior at Williamsburg Academy, has taken on the job of decorating the windows this summer as a service project she will use in a scholarship application. The windows of the old Belk Department Store now show a patriotic country scene, while the windows of the old Drucker Drugstore are decked out in a beach scene.

All along Main and Academy streets, new hanging baskets bring pops of color to the downtown as one part of Main Street Kingstree's effort to make downtown the inviting heart of the community. In addition, anyone visiting these two streets Monday through Saturday will have classic rock music as a companion while walking down the street.

On Academy Street, the entrance to the newly-redesigned and enlarged parking lot is flanked by benches, also a Main Street project and donated by businesses, industries and individuals. Matching benches are also placed further down Academy, on Main Street, and on Hampton Avenue. A mobile mural, painted



by members of the community, hangs on Academy Street adjacent to the parking lot. And across Academy Street, the HomeTown Chamber has renovated the front of its building with the help of a Facade Grant from the Town of Kingstree (see page 10.)

We've only begun to scratch the surface of downtown Kingstree's potential. There is still much that needs to be done, but downtown is awakening and making a start toward real, sustained improvement.

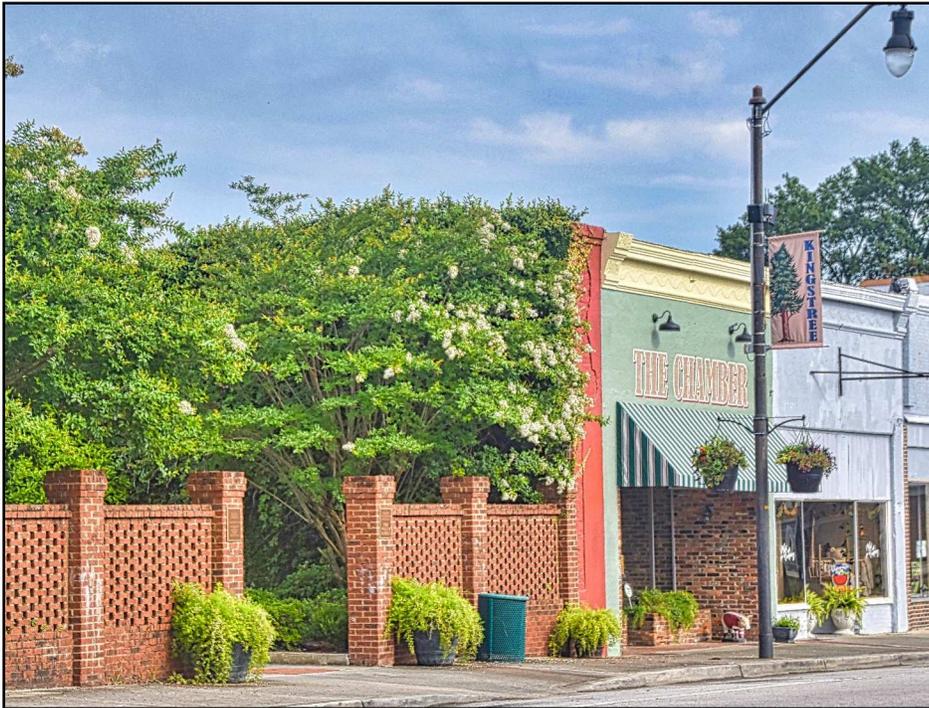
More businesses are expected to engage in facade work in the next few months, and other projects are in the planning stages.

So, take the time to ride or walk around downtown Kingstree. And come back often. you never know what might be added. As retired newspaperman J.E. Norment commented about Kingstree in 1914, "Kingstree has awakened and put on the garments of freshness and youth..."

***A trailer-load of hanging baskets wait to be put up (opposite page). Above, a straw hat graces one of the windows of an empty building on Main Street.***

# Facade Grant Benefits

HomeTown Chamber leverages Facade Grants to improve appearance.



PHOTOS BY LINDA BROWN

One of the first things about a town that visitors notice is whether or not the buildings downtown are pleasingly painted and if the buildings' signs are eye-catching. In an effort to help building and business owners in downtown Kingstree give their buildings a more appealing facade, the Town of Kingstree is making facade grants available.

The town council put aside \$10,000 for this purpose last year,

and the same amount is available this year. Building and business owners may apply for up to \$2,500 if they match the amount of the grant. The buildings, however, must meet all building and fire codes to be eligible to receive one of the facade grants.

Grant applications are available from the Main Street office at the depot. The first step in applying is for the potential recipient(s) to meet with the

town's planning official and fire marshal to make sure the building qualifies. If paint colors are not on the town's approved list or if signage is involved, the applicants would then meet with the Architectural Review Board to get approval. The completed grant application is then reviewed by Main Street Kingstree's Design Committee for final approval.

Early this year, the Chamber completed



a redesign of the facade of its building on Academy Street. The Chamber was able to leverage a facade grant from the end of one fiscal year with another from the beginning of the next fiscal year, along with its own matching contributions, to give it more money to work on its building.

Restaurant, Monkey Botton Boys, LLC, also obtained a facade grant for its sign on Main Street.

At the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year, Main Street's Design Committee approved four facade grants.

These included a \$2,500 grant for

Williamsburg Funeral Home, 332 E. Main Street for a new colonial brick design sign.

The Paisley Pearl, 136 North Academy Street, also received a \$2,500 grant for phase I of a facade renovation. The first phase will involve painting the entire exterior of the building and replacing the awning. Plans are to apply for another facade grant for phase II which will cover signage.

Jack Edwards was granted \$2,500 for work on the building he owns at 108 S. Academy St. This building is for sale. He will use the money to paint all of the

**“The Gym on Mill Street was awarded a \$2,000 grant for painting and replacing the canopy on the building.”**

exterior of the building. He also plans to renovate the exterior stairway on the south side of the building.

The Gym on Mill Street was awarded a \$2,000 grant for painting and replacing the canopy on his building.

Work has to be completed before the applicant is able to actually receive the funds. Once work is completed, the town will inspect the work

to make sure it is completed before issuing a check. Businesses and/or building owners have 90 days to complete the work.

Building owners are eligible, but business owners may also apply as long as they have written permission from the building owner.

Anyone interested can get an application at the Main Street office.

# Kingstree Live's third year keeps up the beat



**M**usic and dancing. Hula hoops and beach balls. Fun and laughter. All these are ingredients that make up Kingstree Live, the monthly summer concert series, held one Friday each month May through August at the depot.

This summer's participants have grooved to the music of Flashback, the Party Band, at both the May and the July concerts, The Maxx Band from Atlanta in June, and are eagerly awaiting the August concert from The Mighty Kicks.

Concert sponsors this year are the Town of Kingstree, the Williamsburg County Tourism Board, FTC, Santee Electric Cooperative, DSM, and Farm Bureau. The concerts also include games for children, and those who attend the concerts can either bring a picnic or buy food from the Monkey Bottom Boys restaurant, located in the depot.

The concerts are part of the Main Street Kingstree effort to revitalize downtown Kingstree into the heart and soul of the community. This is the third summer in which there have been concerts, although only the second year of a full slate of concerts throughout the summer.

The bands perform on the deck of the historic Kingstree Depot, built in 1905. Part of the charm of the summer concerts is watching both freight trains and AMTRAK as they pass by during the concerts. Kingstree is most fortunate that AMTRAK still stops four times a day with two northbound trains and two southbound. Passengers from as far away as the Grand Strand come to Kingstree to catch the train.



# Downtown Dine Around

Main Street Kingstree, welcomed Spring with a downtown event filled with shopping, food, and fun.



Article by **Linda Brown**  
Photography by **Linda Brown**

Main Street Kingstree welcomed Spring on March 21 with a new downtown event.

One hundred twenty ticket holders spent a fun-filled evening strolling around Main and Academy streets in downtown Kingstree, dropping into shops which stayed open late that evening, sampling food provided in several of the stores, and laughing and talking with old friends and new acquaintances at one of the several tables set up in the middle of Academy Street for the evening's festivities.

Those attending exchanged their tickets for wrist bands at a tent on S. Academy Street between Donna's and Polly Ann's. An array of appetizers were available under the tent. Officers of the Kingstree Police Department were stationed on Main Street to stop traffic to allow guests to make their way across the street to continue the evening on Academy Street.

Beer and wine were available in Welch Park, with soup served in the Home-Town Chamber office. Sandwiches were available at Cheryl Ann's salon, with a vast array of desserts

provided at Holt's Jewelry and China.

As the guests wended their way down Academy, which was closed to traffic, jazz from speakers on the fence at Welch Park, provided a mellow sound.

Tables set up down the middle of Academy Street gave those attending plenty of space to sit and enjoy their food on the first official evening of Spring 2019. Each of the tables was decorated with gorgeous flower arrangements, ranging from sunflowers to hydrangeas.



Colorful flower arrangements graced the tables at the Downtown Dine Around.

**“As the guests wended their way down Academy, which was closed to traffic, jazz from speakers on the fence at Welch Park, provided a mellow sound.”**

Many hope that Main Street, Kingstree, will make the Downtown Dine Around a continuing event, and plans are underway for a bigger and better event next spring.

# Eggstravaganza

Egg hunts, games, and lots of fun were the hallmark of the Easter Eggstravaganza.

On April 13, children of all ages gathered in downtown Kingstree for an Easter Eggstravaganza.

Games were set up in the middle of Academy Street, and kids both young and old enjoyed blowing bubbles, bowling, and hand painting.

The Easter Bunny was on hand in Welch park, and many of the youngsters, and a few oldsters, too, had their pictures taken with him.

At 11 a.m., the younger children were escorted to the grounds of the County Courthouse on Main Street for an Easter egg hunt, while the older ones also hunted eggs,

but at the Kings-  
tree Depot.

Each egg contained a small toy or token, but mixed in among the regular eggs were a number of “golden” eggs that contained money, which thrilled the children who found them, including one who proclaimed that he had found “two hundred million dollars.”

As the morning warmed up, Pelican’s Snoballs arrived to help everyone cool off.

This was the first event of its kind in Kingstree and was sponsored by Main Street Kingstree. Approximately 300 people attended the event.



WRITTEN BY **LINDA BROWN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **LINDA BROWN**



CHILDREN HAD FUN with paint, hula hoops, bubbles, and other games at the Eggstravaganza.



**THE BLACK RIVER** is one of the Town of Kingstree's greatest natural resources.

---



# Moving Forward

Kingstree will participate in a road mapping exercise in December to give the town tools for moving forward.

This December citizens of the Town of Kingstree will participate in an exciting exercise that will help determine the future direction of the town.

December 10-12, a group of professional planners will meet with residents, organizations, town officials and others to come up with a roadmap for Kingstree. This will include rebranding the town, market analysis, and streetscape design.

Leading the team is Randy Wilson, architect, the principal at Community Design Solutions. He will be joined by Tripp and Ben Muldrow, Andy Kalback, Jenny Boulware, and Mary Haley Thompson.

Over the three days, the group will hold

two town hall meetings, as well as meeting with smaller groups. By the end of their stay, they will have formulated what they believe is a feasible plan for Kingstree to use in the years ahead to position itself for greater success.

To prepare for this exercise, the Organization Committee of Main Street Kingstree identified the major economic drivers already present here.

They identified food, history, industry, and nature as the town's strong suits and that the town should take advantage of its natural resources, such as Black River, and its long history, as the first inland settlement in South Carolina.

**We are a community of possibilities, not of problems.**

We are action takers.  
We are optimistic.

*It's not about what this town used to be.*

**We have people right now, assets right here, and we can take action right away. We don't need another plan, another committee, or another meeting.**

*We can  
do it now!*

We create the moments that show what this town could be and the places that take our breath away, if only just for a moment. What we create doesn't have to be permanent to create possibility. We don't care about titles or who holds official positions. The people who do hold titles may not think like us. *That's OK.*

No one can stop us from doing the little things that really matter. We'd rather help 10 people try their own ideas than to hold a vote and tell everyone to support the "winner." That might be more efficient, but efficiency isn't our goal.

*Community is our goal.*

We try everyone's ideas. We don't let statistics and negative reports beat us up. Those numbers are nothing but a snapshot in time. What we do next is up to us. We aren't changing our town to attract others to come save us.

**We are valuing the people who are here now and what we all want to create together.**

That means everyone, every single one. People of all ages, all ethnicities, all backgrounds, all incomes, people who are new in town and people who have been here for generations.

*All of us have ways of doing things, culture and things to share.*

**We all want a thriving town with a future for generations. We thrive by doing more business together.**

*We have  
everything  
we need.*

We celebrate the entrepreneurs, business people, dreamers, makers, artists, experimenters, performers, crafters, bakers, upcyclers, junkers, people who sell in booths and homes and parking lots and trucks and sheds. **Together we prosper, right here where we are.** We are creating the community we want one small step at a time. It's nothing short of a revolution in how we build our town together.

*IdeaFriendly.com*

*Welcome to Kingstree,  
an Idea Friendly town.*

# *Pig Pickin'* FESTIVAL

BBQ COOK-OFF



**\$15,000**  
in prizes

**October 10-12, 2019**



LIVE MUSIC FOOD CARNIVAL  
CAR SHOW GOLF TOURNAMENT PARADE

