



150 YEARS

Pickens County Begins Sesquicentennial Yearlong Celebration!

(Pickens County, SC) Pickens County, SC - “Your Natural Destination” invites you to join us as we celebrate 150 years! It’s our sesquicentennial and we share it with neighboring Oconee County. The 1868 South Carolina Constitution divided the Pickens District roughly in half at the Keowee River to create the new counties of Pickens and Oconee. One hundred and fifty years later, we’re celebrating our shared Sesquicentennial this year.

We officially kick-off the Sesquicentennial in April 2018 and will highlight events relating to our 150th anniversary through April 2019. Pickens County and its communities have planned events every month throughout the anniversary year.

Just ahead of the big kick-off, we highlighted our growth with the groundbreaking of expanded airport hangars at the Pickens County Airport on March 13th. The hangar groundbreaking honors the life of a Pickens High School student, who died in small plane crash in 2014. Nine new aircraft hangars will be built at the airport, one will be named in memory of Dakota Jacks. His parents, Barry and Lyle Jacks, were presented with a recognition plaque at the groundbreaking.

Also in March, Pickens County employees and residents hit the streets for a full day of litter pick-up along county roadways. Working in conjunction with the Palmetto Pride state beautification project, Pickens County employees and residents cleaned up the county with #TeamedUpAndClearedUp on March 23rd.

This employee led community-wide initiative ushers in the April 13th Musical and Educational Mark Wood Electrify Your Strings Event. World-renowned performer, Mark Wood will teach high school band musicians, and then perform for the community on April 13. Wood rose to fame as string master and original member of the internationally acclaimed Trans-Siberian Orchestra. A successful solo artist in his own right, Wood writes and records original music for film and television, has released six solo albums, and tours with his band The Mark Wood Experience (MWE).

The Pickens Azalea Festival on April 20 & 21 invites the world to our beautiful county. Their theme: “When the Azaleas are blooming in Pickens, South Carolina the little town celebrates!” Entertainment and family fun showcase this annual event. <http://pickensazaleafestival.com/#entertainment>

During the following months, Pickens County cities will celebrate, and the county museum will showcase its 150th displays honoring our past and our people. **We’ll round out the summer in August with the patriotic monumental groundbreaking of the Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial in Easley at the library branch named in her honor.** Hampton was a Captain in the United States Army and the first female military pilot in United States history to be shot down and killed as a result of hostile fire. She was also the first woman from South Carolina to die in the Iraq War. Operation Dragonfly, The Kimberly Hampton Memorial Foundation and numerous groups have worked for the last few years to create a Helicopter Memorial with an authentic military chopper. The groundbreaking during our Sesquicentennial marks an historic moment and symbolizes the role women have played in providing our country’s freedom during the last 150 years.

In October, the Pickens County Historical Society will disinter and open the time capsule buried on the county courthouse lawn during the Centennial. Members will then replace it with another capsule to be opened in one hundred years. The group will also dedicate new State historical markers as part of the commemorative anniversary.

Pickens County is always a beautiful place during the Christmas season and this year it will outshine holiday lights with a county-wide grand Christmas parade. Although January 2019 will begin a new year, it will be a continuation of the 2018 yearlong Sesquicentennial ending in April.

These highlighted events are just a few of the community celebrations scheduled for the Pickens County Sesquicentennial yearlong celebration, but just the beginning of another 150 years. Come out to “Your Natural Destination” and celebrate with us!