

## *HDS Director Marks 1 Year Anniversary*



It's hard to believe that a year has almost gone by since I became Director of Historic Downtown Sikeston. I am thankful for a great working board, because all I could do this year was hang on for the ride. This has been an eventful year for Historic Downtown Sikeston. Weather cooperated for most of our festivals and events. The Wine Festival was our best ever, with over 600 people in attendance. It was a very enjoyable evening with beautiful weather and good wine. Unfortunately, the Cotton Festival, sponsored by Holt Agribusiness, and Sikeston in Bloom were rained out. This year's events are listed in this newsletter or on our website at <http://www.downtownsikeston.org/>, as well as our photo gallery of past events. The Farmer's Market had a very successful year. We had as many as thirty vendors on one Saturday, as well as good music, and large numbers of customers. Plans are under way to expand the market next year. I encourage you to support our local growers and farmers.

We've had new businesses move in and I encourage you to visit them. *Parengo Coffee Shop* on Malone next to *Sweetgum Gallery*, an excellent coffee bar and coffee roaster with several varieties of coffee, and *Briella Chic*, a women's boutique, on Center Street next to *Purs'N'alilty*. *Joy's Bridal Shop* has moved to the old White Elephant location, with incredible changes to the inside and façade. *The Red Carpet* is a new prom and bridal business in the old Glenda's location on Front St.. The building has been renovated and painted. Improvements are also being made to the old motor company building across from the Depot Museum. There are two new convenience stores downtown. One is the old video store on Center St. now *Quick Shop II* and *Lucky Convenience Store* located on Malone across from the Depot. Though more improvements need to be made, Downtown Sikeston is steadily becoming a thriving business district. I welcome your suggestions and comments, and especially your support for a more improved downtown, Lynn Lancaster, HDS Director (573) 380-3801 or [director@downtownsikeston.org](mailto:director@downtownsikeston.org)

## *St. Patrick's Day Celebration*



Historic Downtown Sikeston will host the St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 15 at Malone Park. The event will run from 12-4p.m. and features craft brews, food, arts & crafts, and great tunes by the band Common Thread. Tickets are \$10 per person and includes a souvenir beer stein, and beer sampling. Anyone can attend but you must be 21 years or older for the beer tasting. This is a fun event and will be held rain or shine. It is also a fundraiser for HDS. We want to thank the following businesses for their sponsorship: Grant Financial Management—event sponsor, Sikeston Jaycees—beer stein sponsor, Sam's Fine Jewelry—award sponsor, & Jeremiah's, Bob Ralph Dist., Kohlfeld Dist., Hubrew, & Bluff City Beer Co. for their support & participation. If you're interested in sponsorship call Lynn at 380-3801. For tickets -Kathy Medley 471-2780, Charlette Vanover 471-2275 or Lynn 380-3801.

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Historic clock installed by HDS on Front St.

Event sponsor for St. Patrick's Day Celebration is provided by:





### HDS Board

The goal of the Historic Downtown Sikeston organization is to help revitalize downtown through marketing, events, streetscape improvements and encouraging business growth.

- John Testa , Co-President- Newton & Co.
- Steve McPheeters, Co-President- MRV Bank
- Melissa Leible, Vice President - Dr. John Leible DMD
- Cory Fitzgerald, Treasurer - CPA, Attorney at Law
- Teresa Bye, Secretary - Retired
- Board Members:
- Bart Grant - Grant Financial Services
- Megan Parker - Falkoff's
- Rebecca Steward - Attorney At Law
- Charlette Vanover - Montgomery Bank

#### Ex-Officio Members

- Susan Lawrence - Sikeston Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Linda Lowes - City of Sikeston
- Kathy Medley - Sikeston Economic Development
- Harry Sharp - Retired (past president)
- Marcia Witt - Sikeston Board of Municipal Utilities

## ***HDS Begins Renovation of American Legion Square***

Historic Downtown Sikeston will soon kickoff a capital improvement project—the renovation of American Legion Square.

The renovation will take place in several phases as funding becomes available. The first phase includes erecting a band stand at the east end of the square. The design will be complimentary to the existing park and downtown landscape and will be dedicated to the former band director Keith Collins. This permanent structure will improve the use of the park for the public and downtown events.

HDS has dedicated \$10,000 toward the renovation project from funds raised through the various downtown events including the Fall in Love with Sikeston Wine Festival, and the St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

### ***The Renovation WISH LIST!***

The Historic Downtown Sikeston Design Committee has several opportunities for individuals, businesses and organizations to get involved in the American Legion Square project either by participating in the various stages of the renovation or monetary contributions. Large donors will be recognized with a plaque dedicated to the individual, business, organization or a memorial. All contributions are welcome. Below is a *Wish List* of items needed for the project along with the estimated cost: *Band Stand—\$30,000, 4 Park Benches—\$1,200 each, 4 Waste Baskets—\$1,200 each, Way-Finding Monument—\$2,000, At-grade water feature—\$50,000, Landscaping—\$3,000, 6 Period Lights—\$3,500 each, Flag Display—\$2,500.*

Contact Lynn at (573) 380-3801 if you would like to contribute to the renovation project.

### ***2014 Downtown Events***

The HDS Promotions Committee will once again be very busy this year with the many events planned in Downtown Sikeston. Most events are fundraisers for HDS and some are retail events organized by the downtown merchants. Mark your calendars for the following 2014 schedule:

- Battle of Sand Ridge Civil War Re-enactment* - March 1 at the Depot
- St. Patrick's Day Celebration*—March 15 at Malone Park
- Sikeston in Bloom*—May 3 at American Legion Square
- Farmers' Market*—May-Oct at American Legion Square
- Music at Malone Park*—May 30, June 6, 13, 20 & 27
- Car Show & Ice Cream Social*—July 20 at Malone Park
- Pictures with Rodeo Clowns*—Aug 9 (after parade) at American Legion Square
- Fall in Love with Downtown Sikeston Wine Tasting*—Sept 13 on Center Street
- Cotton Ramble Bike Ride & Cotton Festival*—Oct 11 at American Legion Square
- Downtown Holiday Open House*—Nov 7-9

### ***St. Patty's 5K Run for Special Olympics***

If you want to start getting in shape for the summer consider participating in the St. Patty's 5K Run for Special Olympics. Sponsored by Sikeston DPS, the proceeds will benefit Special Olympics of MO. The run will be held March 15 and start at the Depot parking lot at 9:00 A.M. Dry-fit T-shirts guaranteed with pre-registration. For more information or to register go to <http://www.sikeston.org> or contact Shane Washburn at 620-1580 [swash@sikeston.org](mailto:swash@sikeston.org) or John Blakely at 620-2050 [jblakely@sikeston.org](mailto:jblakely@sikeston.org).



New park benches and waste baskets along Front Street installed by Historic Downtown Sikeston .



Volunteers Brandy Manning & Charlette Vanover enjoy the Fall in Love with Downtown Sikeston Wine Tasting. Over 600 people attended and 8 regional wineries participated.



Kinnaman Orchards are a regular vendor at the Downtown Farmers' Market. The kick-off for the Farmers' Market season will be held on May 3 at the Sikeston in Bloom festival.



## Proposed Keith Collins Memorial Band Stand



The new Band Stand will be similar to this design.

The Keith Collins Memorial Band Stand will be the first phase of renovation plans for American Legion Square. Mr. Collins was the beloved Director of the Sikeston High School band and supervisor of music in Sikeston Public Schools from 1940 to 1970.

Mr. Collins received many great honors in his lifetime. He was State President of the Missouri Music Educators Association at one time, was featured in a national magazine dealing with high school band directors, directed the All State High School Band in clinic sessions at the University of Missouri and in concert at Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis, and received many other accolades and awards.

By the time Mr. Collins left the school system, the music program had grown to include orchestra, singing groups, and a freshman marching band, as well as the varsity marching band. In all, 54.4 per cent of all Sikeston High School students were participating in some type of performing musical organization. Keith Collins passed away in 1974.

The HDS Design Committee and Board felt that since the new Band Stand will be so instrumental in hosting musical groups downtown that it was fitting to name it after such a distinguished Sikestonian.



Lynn Lancaster accepts a \$1,000 donation for the Keith Collins Memorial Band Stand from Anita and Harry Sharp.



Ed Cowan with the Cotton Ramble Committee presented a \$2,000 check to the HDS Design Committee for the Keith Collins Memorial Band Stand. Pictured L-R, Kathy Medley, John Testa, Bob Harless, Lynn Lancaster, Harry Sharp, Ed Cowan & Melissa Leible.

## HDS Membership

Historic Downtown Sikeston, a 501(c)(3) organization is funded by contributions from local businesses, fundraisers and membership dues. If you would like to help preserve and revitalize Historic Downtown Sikeston fill out the membership form below or go to HDS website at <http://www.downtownsikeston.org/> and click on membership. Your support is greatly appreciated. Call Lynn Lancaster if you have any questions (573) 380-3801. Membership is available at the levels listed below.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Historic Downtown Sikeston (or HDS)  
105 E. Center St., Sikeston, MO 63801

- Platinum \$5,000     Family \$50
- Gold \$1000     Individual \$25
- Silver \$500     Business 4/or more employees \$150
- Bronze \$250     Business 3/or less employees \$75
- Friend \$100



Historic Downtown Sikeston  
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(573) 380-3801

[director@downtownsikeston.org](mailto:director@downtownsikeston.org)  
<http://www.downtownsikeston.org/>

Standard Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 164  
Sikeston, MO  
63801



### ***New HDS Christmas Ornament***

The 2013 Christmas ornament is a beautiful rendition of the old Sikeston High School (circa 1925-1960). The ornaments cost \$25 each and are available at the HDS office, located inside City Hall at 105 E. Center St.. They can also be purchased at the following locations:

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Susie's Bake Shoppe          | Paul's Christian Book Store |
| Personal Expressions         | Sam's Fine Jewelry          |
| Sikeston Chamber of Commerce | Depot Museum                |

Previous years ornaments are available with a limited supply. Call the HDS office to check on availability. You can also order from the HDS website <http://www.downtownsikeston.org/>, Just click on "Shop"



### ***HDS Committees***

If you are interested in serving on one of the HDS Committees or just helping with an event or project contact Lynn Lancaster.

*Design Committee* - works to improve downtown through streetscape renovation projects.

*Promotions Committee* - plans and organizes downtown events.

*Organization/Economic Restructuring Committee* - plans the membership drive and funding for the organization, and works on business recruitment and retention.



Historic light posts installed by HDS. Cotton themed banners were added last year.