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ALSO: Several Lamps, Set of Haviland "Apple Blossom" China Blue & White Spode Plates, Cambridge "Rose Point," Good Brass, Bookends, Decorative items, Various RUGS, Wall Décor, Household items, Appliances, Electronics Sewing machine & Serger, Some tools, Planters & Pots.

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Community urged to support Main Street

By Main Street Clinton Board President David Parker

A lot can happen in a decade.

Ten years ago, in 2007, I was a freshman at Mississippi College, new to both the university and Clinton. I remember the small-town charm of the

city being one of the decisive factors in my decision to attend MC. I had the sense that the people of Clinton were warm and inviting—the sort of folks that you'd want to spend the next four years around. That estimation proved true, as it has time and time again.

In those early days, I'd often leave the campus

to take a walk around the city, and I'd typically find myself in Olde Towne. The bricks have a certain charm, so I enjoyed taking in their character. As I wandered, however, I was always a bit surprised that so many of the downtown shops were perpetually empty. There was a lot of potential, no doubt, but few signs of life.

What a difference ten years and Main Street Clinton can make!

Now, a decade later, the same stroll is animated, colorful—fully alive. Local merchants line both side of the bricks, and doors are wide open with smiles. Kids run in and out of Brick Street Pops, turbo-charged on the flavor of the week. If you find the right vantage point, you'll often see the full patchwork of pitch-top tents, all lined up for another Olde Towne Market. The giant screen is hard to miss on movie nights; even though its dark, you can still make out the crowd, spread out on blankets and lawn-chairs, all gathered to watch Frozen or Beauty and the Beast. The new string-lights over the streets will help your eyes adjust, but, if you can't see, you can always follow your nose to Grumpy Dave's Kettle-Korn. This and more has all been realized because of Main Street's commitment to our city's growth.

Change has come to Clinton Boulevard, too. Murals and art installations line the district. A number of shops have taken advantage of façade grants, attracting customers with new promotional materials and a fresh look. If you visit on the right day, you may even find yourself swept up in a city-wide pep rally for Clinton High or completely stuffed with barbecue after the annual "BBQ on the Bou-

levard." Here, too, you'll find Main Street's fingerprints.

These vital celebrations and restorations don't just happen on their own, of course. Each one has required a grand vision, diligent planning, and an army of workhorse volunteers. Main Street has offered Clinton all

these things since 2007, and, after a decade of events and economic promotion, it's plain to see how Main Street paved the way, brick by brick, for the revitalization, beautification and growth of our city—the proof is literally everywhere.

Take, for example, the Red Brick Roads Music Festival, a two-night

concert series that garners statewide and regional acclaim for Clinton. Main Street and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce worked together to recruit artists, coordinate vendors and promote the event far and wide. Their efforts were not without reward; over 5,000 people attended this year. While the vocalists were music to guests' ears, the surge in new customers was the kind of steady beat that Clinton's merchants undoubtedly enjoyed the most. I could never have imagined that sort of response all those years ago.

This success and others are certainly to be shared, however. Main Street's continued commitment to civic engagement and economic growth are only possible with a community that believes in its mission. For cheering and celebrating at every Caterpillar Parade, for shopping local, and for your donations and volunteerism in these past years, we thank you. Our work would not be possible without your generosity. Year after year, event after event, I'm reminded just why Clinton first felt like home so many years ago. As we plan for our coming year, however, we need your continued support to keep our momentum. Main Street, a nonprofit, depends on your contributions to fund our many community celebrations and economic development programs.

As we move ahead, please consider becoming a member of Main Street Clinton today so that we might continue to make Clinton a dynamic place to live, work, shop and play—this year, next year, and in the decade to come.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about how to join Main Street Clinton, call 601-924-5472.