

{pulse}



*tea for two*  
*(and three, four or more!)*

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Looking for something to do?  
Something fun, something different?  
How about tea?

Sip. Don't spill. Channel your inner elegant lady. And don't forget to laugh. Brick Street Coffee Break on Caldwell Street in downtown Sumter is one of Sumter's own homegrown bistros, offering coffee, treats, and every so often, afternoon teas.

It's perfect for mothers and daughters, best friends or groups. A time to get together and do something girly, something feminine.

Though Brick Street took a break from offering the teas for some months, owner Carol Hallgren, along with friends Lee Craig and Carol Reynolds, has tweaked it a bit and is serving it up once again, fresh and piping hot.

The teas are typically held the third Thursday of the month, and reservations are necessary. And on those Thursdays, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the shop is ▶



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closed to all others, and graceful tea time takes over.

The quiet music comes on, the dainty china comes out. All the cups and saucers are different, allowing guests to admire one another's floral or antique or unique china patterns.

Three tea varieties are offered, always including Earl Grey and usually a seasonal favorite. Sandwiches, scones and "delectable" desserts are served.

Lee says the idea is to establish "as authentically a tea room as we can."

"People really enjoy it," Carol says. "They really do."

The organizers also accept appointments for private teas for group functions or bridal breakfasts.



## Brick Street Coffee Break

Carol Hallgren opened Brick Street on Caldwell Street – the city's only remaining, you guessed it, brick street – six years ago as a way to offer the Sumter community something new, unique and local.

"It is just totally different," Carol says. "A relaxed atmosphere."

Book-lined shelves beckon customers to read, and even purchase, a book of their choice. Photographs, old and new, adorn the walls.

The shop is not wide but is long from front to back. Customers can tuck themselves away in a corner or in the thick of others and chat about the days' goings on.

"I don't think there's anything anywhere in Sumter where you can find a building like this," Carol says.

Brick Street offers breakfast, lunch, virtually any imaginable hot beverage and an assortment of desserts.