

March 2025

A Word from Hunter...

Spring is just around the corner, and there's no better time to get out and explore Historic Downtown Oxford. Whether you're shopping at our local retail stores, visiting our professional service businesses, or admiring the beautiful historic architecture, downtown offers something for everyone.

Recently, Main Street Alabama hosted its annual Legislative Day on the Hill in Montgomery. This important event allows Main Street communities from across the state to connect with lawmakers and advocate for the continued growth and revitalization of our historic downtowns. I had the opportunity to meet with Senator Keith Kelley and Representative Chad Robertson to discuss the impact of Main Street initiatives in Oxford and beyond.

As we welcome March, we also celebrate Women's History Month. A large portion of downtown's businesses are owned and operated by women, each bringing unique contributions to our community. We encourage you to show your support this month by shopping, dining, and doing business with these incredible entrepreneurs who help make Historic Downtown Oxford such a vibrant place.

Thank you for your continued support of our downtown district. We look forward to seeing you soon!

See you downtown!

Hunter Gentry Director, Historic Main Street Oxford

HMSO Annual Meeting- Grant Presentations

On March 5, Historic Main Street Oxford Director Hunter Gentry joined Main Street Alabama for the annual Legislative Day on the Hill in Montgomery. This event provided an opportunity for Main Street directors across the state to meet with their legislators and advocate for downtown revitalization and small business support. During the visit, Gentry met with Senator Keith Kelley and Representative Chad Robertson to share updates on Historic Downtown Oxford. Discussions highlighted last year's new business openings, economic impact figures from private and public investments, and the use of historic tax credits for the redevelopment of the Oxford Railway Depot. Through these efforts, Historic Main Street Oxford continues to champion economic growth and historic preservation, ensuring a vibrant future for downtown.





Celebrating Women-Owned Businesses

March is Women's History Month, a time to honor the achievements of women in business and beyond. In Historic Downtown Oxford, women entrepreneurs play a vital role in shaping the local economy and community. Of the approximately 70 businesses in the district, nearly 38% are owned and operated by women, including Downtown Beauty Company, Madi Lou's Boutique, Sarah Cavender Metalworks, Stepping Stones To Success Counseling & Consulting, Tutor Tots, Team Rehabilitation, Inc., Visions Salon, and many more! Women-owned businesses have made a significant impact nationwide. According to Wells Fargo, they added 1.4 million jobs and generated \$579 billion in revenue amid the pandemic, showcasing resilience and growth. In Oxford, some of the longest-operating businesses led by women include Cotton Antiques & Collectibles (est. 2008), Hubbard's Off Main (est. 2013), R&R Travel Service (est. 1987), Sarah Cavender Metalworks (est. 1993), Southern Girl Coffee Roasting Co. (est. 2014). This month, we celebrate these entrepreneurs' dedication, innovation, and contributions to making Historic Downtown Oxford a thriving destination for business and community.





Daylight Savings Time

This Sunday, March 9, 2025 – don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour! Make sure to adjust them Saturday night or Sunday morning so you're on time for the weekend.



Oxford Performing Arts Center

The show goes on at the Oxford Performing Arts Center! Tickets for all performances are now on sale. Don't miss your chance to enjoy an incredible lineup of events in March 2025!



Microchipping Event by Animal Advocates of Calhoun County

Animal Advocates for Calhoun County - AACC is hosting a FREE Microchipping Event for Dogs and Cats on Saturday, March 15th at 10 AM -1 PM at Simmons Park- 400 Main Street, Oxford, AL 36203.

MICROCHIPPING EVENT

FOR DOGS & CATS

FREE!

\$60 - \$100 VALUE

Sponsored by: Animal Advocates for Calhoun County (AACC)

Saturday March 15 10 - 1:00

Simmons Park 400 Main Street Oxford, AL



Dogs MUST be on 4-6' leash - NO retractables. Cats must be in carriers. Cleaning up after your pet is expected.

PLEASE CONTROL YOUR PET AT ALL TIMES.



World Changers is Back!



World Changers Returns This Summer to Impact Our Community!

A volunteer organization comes to Oxford to help improve the quality of life for local residents.

Exciting news for Oxford! World Changers is returning this summer to make a difference in our community.

They will be in Oxford from June 24 to 27, 2025.

Homeowners in Oxford can apply for assistance with deck repair/replacement, handicap ramp, exterior paint, and vinyl siding. The volunteer organization is here to help improve the quality of life for local residents. If you or someone you know could use their assistance, apply today! For more information about this organization, visit: www.world-changers.net

Deadline: Applications are due by March 21, 2025.

In order to be considered, homeowners must complete their applications and attach a copy of their income statement and a copy of their deed.

Homeowners within the city limits of Oxford can pick up an application at the Oxford City Clerk's office inside Oxford City Hall. Address: 145 Hamric Dr E, Oxford, AL 36203.

For any questions regarding eligibility, please call Alan Atkinson Oxford's City Clerk's office at 256-832-1562.

Coffee with a Cop

Join the Oxford Police Department and the Calhoun County Area Chamber for a morning of coffee and conversation at Le Coin des Artistes.

When: Friday, March 28, 2025 **Time:** 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Where: Le Coin des Artistes- 12 East Choccolocco Street

This event is a relaxed opportunity to connect with local law enforcement and community members. Bring yourself and enjoy a cup of coffee (purchases are on your own). We look forward to seeing you there!



Cindy Williams with the Oxford Arts Council invites you to help celebrate Oxford, Alabama, at its best by

participating in a writing contest.

To celebrate the city's new tagline, "Oxford, Alabama at Its Best," participants are encouraged to be creative

and share a poem or essay about their memories of places in Oxford or our communities that epitomize

Oxford at its finest; humorous occurrences in Oxford's history that illustrate Oxford at its best; individuals

who personify Oxford at its best; or events that highlight Oxford at its best.

Adult Contest Details:

The contest is open to all adults aged 19 to 100.

Submission Deadline: June 16, 2025.

Winners will be recognized during Oxford's 4th of July celebration at Oxford Lake and at various

community events. Selected entries will also be featured in publications and on social media.

Submission Guidelines:

Entries should be no longer than 500 words and must be original. Plagiarism, submissions created by others,

or AI-generated content will not be accepted.

Please submit all entries here!

For any additional information, email oxfordartscouncil@gmail.com



Available Commercial Property



231 East Choccolocco Street Click here for more information!



1330 Barry Street- \$500 a month Click <u>here</u> for more information!

Available Residential Property

Interested in moving to Historic Downtown Oxford? Check out these available residential properties for sale.



207 West Oak Street- \$119,000.

Click <u>here</u> for more information!



211 West Oak Street- \$110,000. Click here for more information!



925 Luttrell Street- \$214,900. Click here for more information!



1208 Barry Street- \$70,000. Click here for more information!



1214 Barry Street- \$70,000. Click <u>here</u> for more information!



211 Spring Street- \$199,900. Click here for more information!

Women's History Month- Women of Oxford

Eliza Harrison Campbell (1831-1912) was formerly enslaved by William Harrison. She worked as a cook for most of her adult life, and married James Campbell. Very little information is known about her life. She was buried in Oxford Memorial Gardens Cemetery near the grave of William Harrison.

Nancy Ophelia Victoria Allen Aderholt (1854 - 1958) was, at one time, the oldest living citizen of Oxford. She was the daughter of Rev. Asa and Serena Cunningham Allen. Aderholt lived through the Civil War, the Spanish-America War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. During her life, she saw many advancements in technology and changes in Oxford.

Maud McLure Kelly (1887 - 1973) was the first female to practice law in Alabama. She was the granddaughter of Samuel C. Kelly, former mayor of Oxford during the 1870s. Kelly worked to ensure women's suffrage and was an advocate for the underserved and poor. Before her death, she worked at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Georgia Pyles Ellison (1897 - 1949) worked at the Oxford Lake swimming pool for 30 years. Ellison was a native of Hobson City.

Fannie McClellan Jenkins (1915 - 2000), daughter of Edgar and Adella Hill Jenkins, served as one of the first female officers for the Oxford Police Department in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Jenkins received her education at Clay County Schools and Jacksonville State University. She was a schoolteacher, postmaster, and a member of the Oxford Church of Christ.

Norma Smith Martin (1931 - 2016), was the first woman elected to serve on the Oxford City Council from 1984 until 2000. Martin was an educator, civic and community champion, and wife of the former Mayor Earl Martin. She was a charter member of the Oxford Arts Council and member of Oxford First Baptist Church.

*It should be noted that **Maude Shears Shortnacy** was the first woman appointed as a council member in 1980 after the death of her husband, Claude Shortnacy. She served for five months. Two other women have followed- **June Land Reaves**, 2004 - 2012 and **Charlotte Young Hubbard**, 2012 - present.





Eliza Harrison Campbell (left)

Nancy Ophelia Victoria Allen Aderholt (right)





Maud McLure Kelly (left)

Georgia Pyles Ellison (right)





Fannie McClellan Jenkins (left)

Norma Smith Martin (right)

Calendar of HMSO Events & Committee Meetings

To stay up-to-date with all things happening in Historic Downtown Oxford, please checkout our newly improved calendar <u>here!</u>

Dine, Shop, & Explore!

Historic Downtown Oxford offers a unique experience for everyone including, but no limited to a first class performing arts center, a locally owned and operated coffee shop, variety of speciality shops, a Southern home-cooking restaurant also locally owned and operated, two art galleries, three historic churches, and walking distance to homes listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage and National Register of Historic Places.

A full directory listing can be found <u>here</u>.

About Historic Main Street Oxford (HMSO):

Historic Main Street Oxford (HMSO) is an economic and community development organization that focuses on the Four Point Approach strategy of organization, promotion, design, and economic vitality as outlined by Main Street America. The Four Point Approach makes Main Street an effective tool for a community-based, volunteer-driven, grassroots revitalization efforts. HMSO was created in 2014 when Oxford became a Designated Main Street Community by Main Street Alabama.

Vision Statement:

Historic Downtown Oxford will become Northeast Alabama's destination for arts, dining, entertainment, shopping, and special events.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Historic Main Street Oxford is to enhance downtown vibrancy, preserve its history, empower its community of business, and foster a center of activity for residents and visitors.

Our Team:

Jeremy Cruse, owner of The Terrortorium

Karen Grammer, owner of The Main Olive
Charlotte Hubbard, city council member & owner of Hubbard's Off Main
Robin Leonard, board secretary & downtown resident
Gerry Lyons, Oxford Police Department
Debbie Nothdurft, retired Oxford City Schools
Gwen Parrish, board chair & owner of The Vine Chiropractic
Ben Stewart, Oxford Fire Department
Donna Timmons, board secretary assistant

Hunter Gentry, director
Wren Munroe, marketing assistant



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