

JUNE 2024

A Word from Hunter...

The buzz of summer excitement is in the air! As we eagerly await the sunny days ahead, there's no shortage of family-friendly activities to enjoy right here in the heart of our community. From theatre camp at the Oxford Performing Arts Center to the Market on Main and our quarterly downtown clean-up days, there's something for everyone to dive into this season.

Back by popular demand are the Second Friday on Main and Market on Main events! Join us on the second Friday of each month from now to September for an evening filled with food trucks, live entertainment, a car show by Hartwell Masonic Lodge No. 101, art vendors, a kids' zone, and downtown shopping. And don't forget to mark your calendars for the third Saturday of the month, also from now to September, when Market on Main returns with its artisan and craft vendor market, live performances, another car show, family-friendly activities, and more downtown shopping and dining.

So come join us as we embrace the spirit of summer and celebrate all that downtown Oxford has to offer!



In early May, Main Street Alabama had the pleasure of hosting the Main Street America 2024 Now Conference, a gathering of Main Street Directors, board members, downtown development professionals, and community leaders from across the United States and even Japan! Attendees from Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Texas, and Washington came together for insightful discussions and engaging experiences in East Alabama. The tour commenced in Heflin, exploring Carillon Oaks Heflin, the Pinhoti Trailhead, and Cahulga Creek Park. Moving on to Oxford, participants enjoyed lunch at Hubbard's Off Main before visiting the Oxford Performing Arts Center, Southern Girl Coffee Roasting Co., and the eagerly anticipated Spring Street Station at the historic Oxford Railway Depot. Wrapping up in Anniston, the itinerary included visits to Anniston City Market, Freedom Riders National Monument, the new Federal Courthouse, Noble Street Park, Coldwater Mountain Brewpub, and the Sinclair Social.

This Place Matters

Since 2005, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has designated May as National Preservation Month, a time to honor and champion historical sites and heritage tourism. Central to this endeavor is the Trust's iconic campaign, "THIS PLACE MATTERS," which aims to raise public consciousness about the importance of safeguarding, conserving, and honoring significant locations and properties across the nation.

During the entirety of May, Historic Main Street Oxford took center stage, spotlighting a diverse array of downtown properties—both commercial and residential—that are currently on the market. Among the featured landmarks were the Brock House (Oxanna Victorian), Oxford Coin Laundry

Building, Blue Springs Cotton Mill, the Bentley House, and others. Visit <u>Historic Main Street</u> <u>Oxford's Facebook</u> to learn more!





SNOW HOUSE 200 East 2nd Street 1887







SNOW HOUSE 200 East 2nd Street 1887



Upper photos- The East 2nd Street house was built in 1887 by Clark Snow, son of Oxford's early settler, Dudley Snow. At one time, the home was described as Oxford's least-altered example of late Victorian architecture. Clark Snow was a successful buggy salesman.

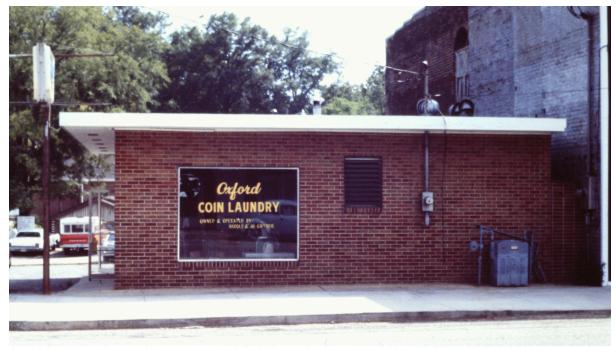
Lower photos- The Oxford Coin Laundry Building, located at 30 East Choccolocco Street was built in the early 1960s. The now late-Harold Guthrie, opened the Oxford Coin Laundry in 1964 and operated the business for several decades. At opening, services were advertised as "new modern ticket operated washers & dryers." Subsequently, the building housed Classic Mortgage & Finance, Above & Beyond, and The Shop on the Corner.





OXFORD COIN LAUNDRY BUILDING 30 East Choccolocco Street ca. 1960s







OXFORD COIN LAUNDRY BUILDING 30 East Choccolocco Street ca. 1960s



Meet Wren Munroe

Meet our new marketing assistant for Historic Main Street Oxford, Wren Munroe! He is an Oxford native and recently graduated from Auburn University with a degree in marketing. Wren specializes in analytics, digital marketing, and graphic design. Before graduating college, he worked for the City of Oxford's Parks & Recreation Department for seven years. Wren enjoys high school and college football, weight lifting, reading, and walking his dog, Ryder.



Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

On May 15, a display of community unity unfolded as students from Oxford City Schools and Calhoun County Schools, alongside law enforcement personnel, city employees, firefighters, school staff, and devoted community members, came together for the Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

This cherished tradition has grown into a nationwide symbol of solidarity among officers, who, during Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, seize the opportunity to give back to the very communities they serve. With reverence and pride, the Guardians of the Flame carry the torch

across the state each year, culminating in a triumphant entry into the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics.







Market on Main

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Market on Main! For more information, please visit <u>here</u>.

3rd Saturday, May - September 2024 8 AM - 1 PM

Artisan and craft vendor market, live entertainment, car show, kids zone, downtown shopping, and much more!

DATES

Saturday, June 15 Saturday, July 20 Saturday, August 17 Saturday, September 21



Second Friday on Main

Food vendor and art vendor applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Second Friday on Main season! For more information, please visit here.

2nd Friday, May - September 2024 4 PM - 9 PM

Food trucks, live entertainment, car show, art vendors, kids zone, downtown shopping, and much more!

DATES

Friday, June 14 Friday, July 12 Friday, August 9 Friday, September 13



Downtown Litter Clean Up Days



Business Development Workshop Series

To empower the local business community, the City of Oxford collaborates with Historic Main Street Oxford to provide a rich variety of business development workshops. These workshops are not only free but also accessible to all interested individuals. Secure your spot by registering in advance here.



JULY SMALL BUSINESS MARKETING PLAN

Thurs., July 25 at 6-7:30pm

AUGUST BUSINESS SUCCESSION PLANNING

Thurs., Aug. 29 at 10-11:30am

SEPTEMBER LEADERSHIP IN EVERY GENERATION

Thurs., Sept. 26 at 10-11:30am





Oxford Performing Arts Center

The Oxford Performing Arts Center's Fall 2024 Season Reveal is planned for Friday, June 28, 2024. For more information, visit here!





Spotlight Business of the Month - Hubbard's Off Main

In December of 2013, a culinary gem emerged in the heart of downtown Oxford- Hubbard's Off Main. Nestled at 16 East Choccolocco Street, this charming eatery quickly became synonymous with authentic Southern cuisine served within the storied walls of a historic locale.

Formerly a bustling music store for over three decades, the building holds a rich legacy as a gathering place for local musicians, who would convene to share stories and hone their craft. Today, remnants of its musical past linger in the air, enhancing the dining experience with a sense of nostalgia. It's a space where history converges with modern-day dining, creating an atmosphere both distinctive and welcoming.

A favorite among the discerning palates of Calhoun County, Hubbard's Off Main beckons hungry

patrons seeking not only exquisite cuisine but also a friendly atmosphere to share with friends and family. Situated conveniently across from the Oxford Performing Arts Center, it stands as an ideal destination for those looking to cap off an evening with a memorable meal and perhaps a refreshing libation.

16 East Choccolocco Street Oxford, AL 36203 256-403-0258





Then & Now- Cotton Building



Above- Early photo of Main Street looking north, ca. 1910. The Cotton Building is to the far left.

Below- Present view of the Cotton Building on Main Street. Notice the facade has been altered than originally constructed.

The Cotton Building has served as a grocery story, hardware store, antique store, and even city hall. It was built in the 1890s on the former site of the Arlington Hotel. In the 1920s and 30s, it was used by the Oxford Fire Department as "fire hall," and from the 1920s-1952 it was Oxford's city hall.

In 1979, Oscar Cotton, a local pastor, veteran, and businessman, purchased the building where it became Cotton Furniture. Today, it is Cotton Antiques.

Photo courtesy of Historic Main Street Oxford.



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:

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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