HISTORIC
OXFORD
MAIN STREET
— ALABAMA —

### **AUGUST 2024**

#### A Word from Hunter...

I am thrilled to share some exciting news and upcoming events with you. Recently, Wren Munroe, our Marketing Assistant, and I attended the 11th annual Main Street Alabama conference and awards banquet in Monroeville, where we proudly accepted three prestigious awards for Historic Main Street Oxford: Excellence in Business Development, Excellence in Placemaking, and Main Street Hero, awarded to the Oxford Performing Arts Center. This recognition is a testament to our community's hard work and dedication.

We were also honored to receive an official Congressional Record presented by Congressman Mike Rogers's office and an official Proclamation from Mayor Alton Craft in celebration of Historic Main Street Oxford's 10th anniversary. These accolades reflect the vibrant and thriving community we continue to build together.

Our downtown is growing with several new businesses opening their doors soon. In September, we will celebrate ribbon cuttings for Madi Lou's Boutique and Kelly Right Real Estate- Kacie & Nicole Team. As we wrap up the summer season, don't miss the final Market on Main and Second Friday on Main events.

We're also offering a fantastic opportunity for personal and professional growth. Kristin Scroggin from genWHY Communication Strategies will lead a free workshop on "Leadership in Every Generation." This is a valuable chance to gain insights into leading across different age groups and making a positive impact in your workplace and community.

As always, we are committed to keeping our downtown beautiful. Please consider joining us for our next litter cleanup day in September. Volunteers are essential in maintaining the charm and cleanliness of our streets.

Looking ahead to October, we have an exciting lineup of family-friendly and even pet-friendly events, including Oxfordfest, Fall Market on Main, Witches Ride & Walk on Main, Howl-o-Ween

on Main, and Trick or Treat on Main. These events are great opportunities to connect with the community and enjoy all that downtown Oxford has to offer.

Finally, I'd like to spotlight our August Business of the Month, Oxford First United Methodist Church. Rev. Delaney Holloway graciously led a tour of the church and its beautiful grounds for our local merchants. Additionally, our Design Committee presented beautification awards of excellence to Tammie Shaddix State Farm Agency on Snow Street (commercial) and the Boullemet family on Main Street (residential) for their exceptional contributions to our community's aesthetic appeal.

Thank you for your continued support of Historic Main Street Oxford. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and celebrating all that makes our downtown a special place.

### Main Street Alabama Awards of Excellence

Main Street Alabama held its eleventh annual Awards of Excellence Banquet at the Community House in Monroeville to celebrate the successes of local programs on August 15. Main Street Alabama's President and State Coordinator, Mary Helmer Wirth, and Assistant State Coordinator, Trisha Black, recognized projects and individuals who made significant contributions to their communities. The Awards of Excellence program highlighted the tremendous impacts of these honorees in their respective areas. The Awards of Excellence recognized winners in the categories Capital Campaign, Public/Private Partnerships, Volunteer Development, Promotion, Marketing, Business Promotion, Business Development, Placemaking, Property Activation, Non-Historic Building Design, Planning and Public Spaces, and Historic Rehabilitation.

Local Main Street programs also selected a Main Street Hero that honored an individual, business or organization that made an outstanding contribution to their program and was recognized at the Toast to Heroes Reception sponsored by Regions Bank prior to the banquet.

#### Awards of Excellence in Business Development: Business Development Workshop Series

In early 2023, Historic Main Street Oxford and the The City of Oxford, Alabama launched a free Business Development Workshop Series for local businesses, covering topics like Downtown Resources & Incentives, Small Business Marketing Plan, Leadership in Every Generation, Fire Safety & Emergency Planning, and How to Use Canva. Nearly 400 participants have benefited, with the most popular session being "Leadership in Every Generation" by Kristin Scroggin of genWHY Communications. This initiative has equipped businesses with essential skills and fostered community collaboration.

Awards of Excellence in Placemaking: Downtown Historic Plaque Project

In the fall of 2023, Historic Main Street Oxford completed its Downtown Historic Plaque Project to recognize downtown landmarks. This initiative highlights buildings based on their architectural style, era of construction, significance, and current state, integrating Oxford's history into the present community. Ten buildings received bronze plaques noting their name, year of construction, and address. Each plaque is accompanied by a sidewalk sticker with a QR code linking to a webpage that provides a brief history and historic photos of the building.

#### Main Street Hero: Oxford Performing Arts Center

The Oxford Performing Arts Center (OPAC) serves as the primary arts and entertainment venue for northeast Alabama located in the heart of Historic Downtown Oxford. Established in 2013 within the former Oxford City Hall and Police Department, the center has become a cultural cornerstone for the region. The facility boasts a 1,200-seat main theatre, a 200-seat studio theatre, and two art galleries, providing a versatile space for a wide array of performances and exhibitions. Dedicated to enriching the community through the arts, OPAC plays a vital role in fostering cultural engagement and artistic expression in the region.



From left to right: Wren Munroe (Main Street Oxford Marketing Assistant), Karla Eden (Main Street Anniston Director), Hunter Gentry (Main Street Oxford Director), Ross McGlaughn (Heflin Police Chief), Tammy Perry (Main Street Heflin Director), Glory Crews (Heflin Main Street Board Member), and Tanya Maloney (Main Street Alabama).

### Historic Main Street Oxford Recognition

Historic Main Street Oxford recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and was honored with a framed copy of the Congressional Record in recognition of its ongoing and successful efforts to revitalize downtown Oxford!

Congressman Mike D. Rogers honored Historic Main Street Oxford's accomplishments by placing a statement into the Congressional Record on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. A framed copy of this record was later presented to Oxford's Main Street Director Hunter Gentry, Mayor Alton Craft, members of the city council, and members of the HMSO Board of Advisors by Shea Snider Miller, director of community relations for Rep. Rogers, during a ceremony at City Hall on Monday, August 12, 2024.



From left to right: Mike Henderson (City Councilmember), Gerry Lyons (Main Street Board Member), Charlotte Hubbard (City Councilmember), Hunter Gentry (Main Street Director), Donna Timmons (Main Street Board Member), Alton Craft (Mayor), and Shea Snider Miller (Director of Community Relations for

## **Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings**



Join us for the ribbon cutting of <u>Madi Lou's Boutique</u>! We're excited to welcome the new business into our city and celebrate them on Thursday, September 12th at 10:30 AM. This business offers traditional boutique items as well as a trucker hat bar & permanent jewelry. They also book parties and pop up events.

429 Main Street, Oxford, AL 36203



Join us for the ribbon cutting of <u>Kelly Right Real Estate- Kacie & Nicole Team!</u> They're opening at a NEW LOCATION in Oxford on Friday, September 27th at 10 AM.

614 Hale Street, Suite B, Oxford, AL 36203

### Second Friday on Main





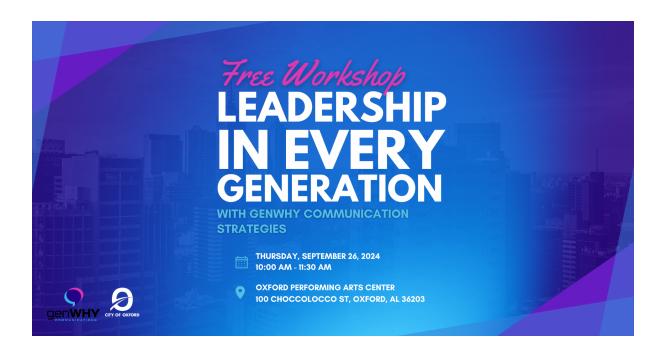
### Leadership in Every Generation

Don't miss out on the opportunity to attend "Leadership in Every Generation," a presentation by Kristin Scroggin with genWHY Communications Strategies on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

The business workshop will be held at the Oxford Performing Arts Center from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

At the workshop, you can expect to learn about generational diversity and communication. This event is open to all local and regional managers, supervisors, business owners, as well as governmental officials and employees. Admission is free.

Register here.



## Downtown Litter Clean Up

\*\*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED\*\*

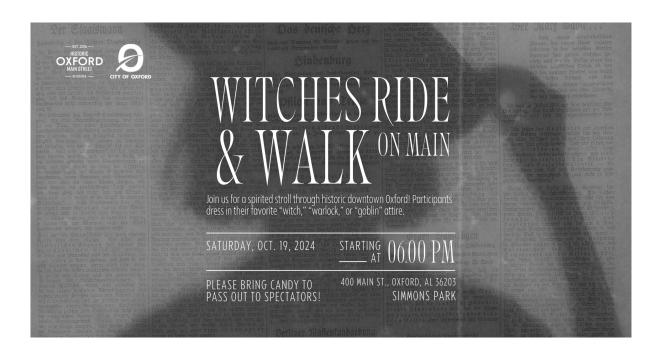
Historic Main Street Oxford has scheduled four litter cleanup days for downtown throughout 2024, with the next one planned for Saturday, September 28, from 9 AM to 11 AM.

We need volunteers to help make this event a success. All supplies, including litter grabbers, buckets, gloves, and bags, will be provided, along with refreshments. If you would like to participate, please register so we can adequately prepare for everyone. Register <a href="here!">here!</a>



#### **October Events**





Participant Registration for Witches Ride & Walk on Main.



Dog Registration for Howl-o-Ween on Main.

Pet Vendor Application for Howl-o-Ween on Main.



Vendor Application for Trick or Treat on Main.

### Spotlight Organization of the Month

Oxford First United Methodist Church, located at 216 Snow Street, has been a significant part of the Oxford community since the 1840s. The original building, erected around 1840, was a simple structure with hand-cut weatherboarding, shutters instead of windows, and candle lighting. This structure served the congregation until 1872 when the current church building was started. Although construction was delayed by the Panic of 1872, the building was completed in 1875. During this time, the Methodist congregation worshipped with the Presbyterians.

The church's interior has been modified twice, with the pulpit initially located at the south end of the sanctuary, later reversed, and then returned to its original position in the 1960s, with the floor leveled. Notable features of the church include a tower bell by the McNeely Co., a solid walnut pulpit built by Elbert Green Morris, rose-colored windows, a stained-glass portrait of "Christ in Gethsemane," and a pipe organ purchased in honor of H. T. Stanford. The church also acquired handbells in 2003 and a baby grand piano in 2005. The Tommy Moore Memorial Center, completed in 1986, serves as the Family Life Center. The church is known for its rich history, community involvement, and wide range of activities for all ages.

Our Mission

Oxford First United Methodist Church exists

to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

Oxford First United Methodist Church is

Jesus-Centered, Grace-Filled, and
committed to Transforming Lives for Christ.

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https://oxfumc.org/ 216 Snow Street Oxford, AL 36203 (256) 831-3221

Sunday School- 9:15 AM Sunday Worship- 10:30 AM & 5 PM



## Commercial Award of Excellence

Historic Main Street Oxford is proud to honor <u>Tammie Shaddix -State Farm Agent</u> with the 2024 Commercial Award of Excellence! Their efforts to maintain and enhance the charm of their property

contribute greatly to the character of our downtown. Thank you for playing a key role in preserving the unique beauty of Oxford!





## Residential Award of Excellence

Historic Main Street Oxford is thrilled to award the Boullemet Family with the 2024 Residential Award of Excellence! Their dedication to preserving the beauty and character of their home through meticulous maintenance sets a shining example for our community.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping Oxford's historic charm alive!



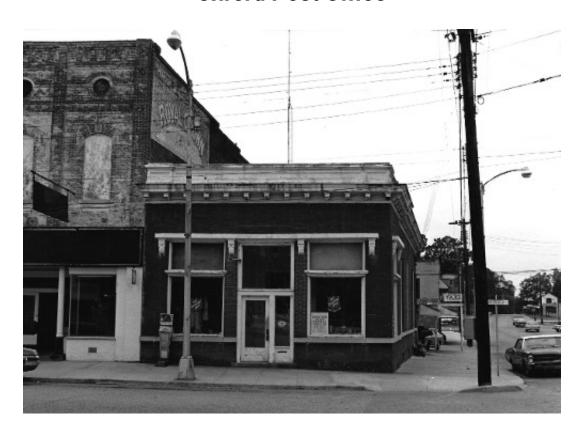


# **Oxford Performing Arts Center**

The Oxford Performing Arts Center recently announced its Fall 2024 performances. View the lineup and on-sale information <a href="https://example.com/here/">here!</a>



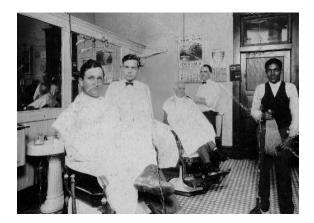
### **Oxford Post Office**

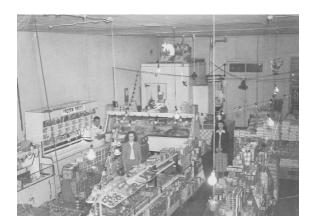


Once Oxford's post office for nearly 40 years, this building was constructed in 1915 and has a rich history. In the 1920s, the rear of the building was home to J. F. Adams' barber shop, and the rest of the building was even once a grocery store (Worthy's Cash Store), the Salvation Army, and office of *The Oxford Sun*.

In 1952, the First State Bank of Oxford found its home here until the mid-60s. Eventually in the 1990s, Stinson-Howard Fine Jewelry operated in this building until the later part of 2021.

Research by Hunter Chase Gentry and written by Julie Skinner Mangham, November 2023





## 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 here.

#### 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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#### Our mailing address is:

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