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Main Street Hero

Award given in recognition of individuals, businesses and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to their local Main Street Program.



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Alexander City ~ Steve Robinson



A lifelong resident of Alexander City, Steve Robinson is now the president of the Alexander City Chamber of Commerce. Currently, Steve serves as a County Commissioner. He sits on the Main Street Board and the Beautification Board. Steve's leadership has been instrumental in fundraising and civic engagement. His unwavering support has helped Alexander City maintain its momentum, even amid challenges and setbacks. Steve's presence reinforces the belief that downtown is worth fighting for, and he envisions its future potential. By prioritizing hope, collaboration, and long-term planning, Steve remains a consistent local champion for our community.



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Anniston ~ Patrick "Wig" Wigley



Patrick, affectionately known as “Wig,” is a respected downtown business owner, committed community leader, and active board member of Main Street Anniston. As both an entrepreneur and civic advocate, he plays a vital role in shaping the energy and direction of downtown. Recognized for his dedication to the cycling community in and around Anniston, where he consistently champions outdoor recreation, trail connectivity, and initiatives that enhance quality of life. His passion for community building makes him a driving force behind Anniston’s continued growth and vibrancy. Overall, Wig’s long-term vision and unwavering commitment have helped shape a more connected, vibrant, and economically resilient downtown Anniston.



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Athens ~ Limestone County Commission Crew



The Limestone County Commission Crew is a dedicated team that maintains roads, public spaces, and community projects across the county. After the EF-1 tornado in December 2025, they quickly helped the City of Athens restore downtown within 48 hours. They support Athens Main Street, assist with the Farmers Market, maintain courthouse grounds, and contribute to beautification efforts, enhancing our community's appeal. Their pride in downtown Athens and commitment to local businesses help make it a better place for everyone.



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Atmore ~ Sydney McGhee



Sydney exemplifies dedication, leadership, and heart. During our leadership transition, she stepped up as Interim Executive Director, ensuring continuity and stability. As Chairman of the Promotions Committee, she goes above and beyond to advance Main Street Atmore's mission and strengthen our downtown community. Sydney combines professionalism, strategic thinking, and a deep love for Atmore in every project. Her integrity and work ethic make her an outstanding Main Street Hero. Thank you, Sydney!



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Woodlawn BHM ~ Eric Tasker



REV Birmingham is proud to nominate Eric Tasker posthumously as Woodlawn's Main Street Hero. As a small business owner of SmallBox Company, Eric chose Woodlawn as his home and dedicated his life's work to the community. He was a leader and devoted volunteer, contributing countless hours to the neighborhood. Eric's notable achievement was transforming a derelict building into the Woodlawn Courtyard, where he applied his vision by installing a shipping container and designing planter boxes filled with native plants. His care for small and minority businesses and his commitment to service were driven by his desire to improve the world. The Eric Tasker Memorial Fund, established in his honor, ensures that his legacy will continue to positively impact Woodlawn for years to come.



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Centreville ~ Jeffrey McGee



From day one, Jeff was a part of the team that helped turn an idea into action for our community - laying the foundation for our organization and setting the standard for what leadership and service to our community truly look like. He is always there to help ensure every detail is handled correctly, down to making sure our city streets are cleaned and spotless after every event and parade. Jeff is a champion for forward thinking and positivity, always celebrating the small wins. Jeff has been an inspiration and has supported our program. We would not have made the progress we have thus far without his leadership. He has been a leading force in the community, helping spur our modern revitalization efforts.



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Columbiana- Cathy Hitt



Cathy has served as Board President with dedication, significantly strengthening Columbiana Main Street over the past year. Her leadership has helped organize the board and volunteers, fostering collaboration and focus on shared goals. Cathy has been instrumental in projects that enhance the district, including public art, façade grants, and initiatives like hanging baskets to create a vibrant environment. Her efforts have resulted in a more organized, active, and visually appealing district, laying a strong foundation for future growth and success.



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Decatur ~ BCA General Contractors



BCA General Contractors, led by Brandon Price, is a for-profit construction firm dedicated to revitalizing downtown Decatur through high-quality redevelopment and strategic investment. BCA serves as a trusted partner in advancing the Main Street mission. The firm plays a role in transforming underutilized spaces into assets that support economic vitality and strengthen the district's long-term growth and appeal. BCA has also played a role in projects such as the Sonny Side Alley activation, the Morgan County Decatur Farmers Market, and string light installations throughout downtown, resulting in a more attractive, active, and economically resilient downtown district. We could not accomplish our downtown goals without BCA's partnership.



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Demopolis ~ Promotion Committee



The Main Street Demopolis Promotions Committee is a group of community volunteers, including local leaders and business owners, dedicated to enhancing downtown experiences through events, marketing, and fundraising. Their creativity has revitalized volunteer involvement and introduces innovative strategies, helping Main Street Demopolis become more self-sustaining. By meeting regularly to plan events and taking charge of setup and cleanup, they significantly ease the operational load on the director. Their enthusiasm has reignited community pride and momentum for ongoing revitalization.



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Elba ~ Linda Hodge



Linda Hodge is the editor and publisher of The Elba Clipper, the oldest continuously running newspaper in Coffee County. A journalist and record keeper of Elba, she champions local stories and community pride. Serves as president of the Elba High School Alumni Association, is a Troy University graduate, and is a past chairman of Elba Main Street, continually working to uplift and preserve her hometown. She uses her platform to uplift local businesses, celebrate community achievements, and shine a light on the people who make Elba special. She promotes Main Street initiatives through The Elba Clipper, strengthening our outreach and visibility. Linda's steady commitment makes her one of Elba Main Street's most impactful and dependable partners.



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Enterprise ~ Regena Lacey



Regena is a dedicated Board Member and Treasurer for Friends of Main Street Enterprise, with 17 years of experience as a business and property owner in the Downtown Enterprise community. She co-organizes the annual Girls Night Out event and actively supports various Main Street projects. Despite losing her storefront to a fire in 2022, Regena remains committed to uplifting Downtown Enterprise, contributing ideas, and ensuring its vibrancy. Her resilience and dedication embody the spirit of volunteerism, strengthening the community through her efforts.



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Eufaula ~ RSVP



RSVP is a non-profit connecting retired volunteers with opportunities to support our community. Main Street Eufaula relies on RSVP's help for tourism events, welcoming visitors, and important behind-the-scenes work. With the dedication of RSVP and Director Yolanda Beck, we can carry out our mission and make Eufaula a better place for everyone.



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Florence ~ Helen Norvell



Helen Norvell is well-known throughout Florence and the Shoals area for her seemingly nonstop volunteerism, community engagement, spot-on evaluation skills, and ability to work seamlessly with almost anyone. Retired after years in a nursing career, Helen returned to her hometown with an infectious enthusiasm for Downtown Florence and for projects designed to improve our downtown corridor and the quality of life for our entire community. Helen, out of her own pocket, acquired and donated a pull-behind trailer for storage that efficiently holds the larger items used during downtown events. Helen is a blessing to Downtown Florence and to all who have had the opportunity to know and work with her.



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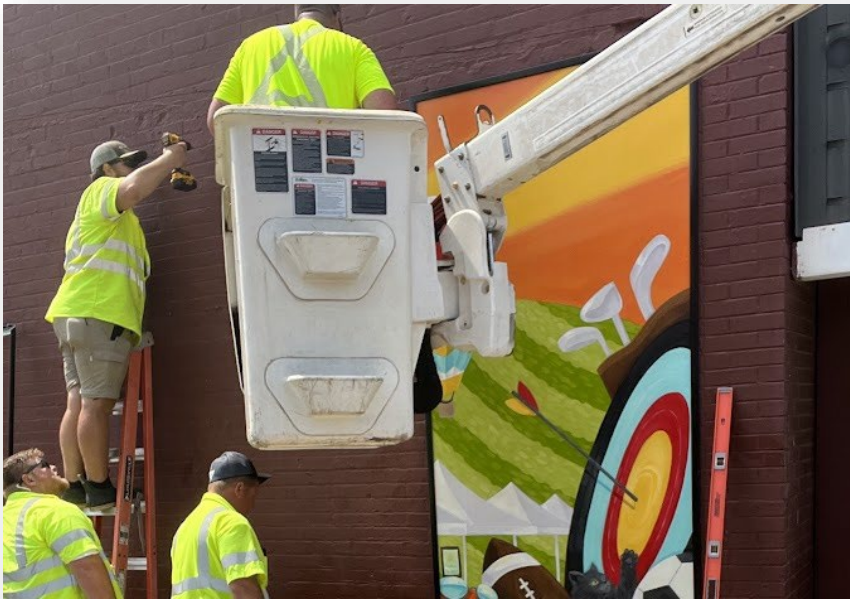
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Foley ~ City of Foley Public Works Department



The Foley Public Works team is essential to the success of Downtown Foley. Their partnership with Foley Main Street has turned many dreams into reality. Not only do they showcase skill, but their positive attitude makes them a pleasure to work with for business owners and Main Street staff alike. Their commitment to public service has earned them our Community Leader Award. Whether it's a morning street sweep or preparing for a major event, their dedication ensures that the city's public spaces are well cared for.



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Fort Payne ~ Drew Taylor



Drew is the Director of Marketing and Business Development for Complete Care Inc., a medical equipment company. He was recognized among the Top 20 in DeKalb County by the Fort Payne Times-Journal and DeKalb Living. He serves on the Fort Payne Main Street Board and the Leadership DeKalb Board. He heads the Movin for Main St 5K Glow Run committee. He is a runner and has done an excellent job of boosting fundraising for this event. He also volunteers his time to serve on the Main Street Merchants Committee and to work at all the Main Street activities and events. He has excellent, well-thought-out ideas. He has made it possible for us to get a 41-seat trolley. He is amazing!



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Gadsden ~ Ray Wetzel



Ray Wetzel leads the Gadsden Museum of Art in downtown Gadsden. After earning his painting degree from Jacksonville State University, he started at the museum as a volunteer, then worked part-time as a clerk. In January 2015, he became a full-time exhibition coordinator, moved up to Curator in July 2015, and was named Director in 2016. Ray is known for his dedication to improving our community, especially downtown, and often says, "You have to be willing to go anywhere, do anything and be willing to make sacrifices!"



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Heflin ~ Tanya Maloney



Tanya Maloney spearheaded the initiative to bring Main Street to Heflin, achieving our designation in 2016 and setting the stage for the revitalization of our downtown. Thanks to her vision, Heflin has attracted over \$17 million in private investment, resulting in new businesses and job growth. Tanya has dedicated countless hours to guiding transformational projects, such as Carillon Oaks. Her love for this community is evident in her work. As we celebrate 10 years of Heflin Main Street, it is only fitting that we honor her as our Main Street Hero.



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Historic 4th Ave ~ James Kimbrel



James has been a barber in the 4th Avenue Business District for decades and has made this his home. He is part of history, working in one of the oldest and longest-standing barbershops in the city of Birmingham. He is a leader and a roadmap of how 4th Avenue Forward serves the 4th Ave Business District. Each morning, James Kimbrel quietly enhances the district's visual appeal, beginning his day by picking up litter and supporting businesses and foot traffic. His stewardship reflects pride and community engagement, and his leadership inspires collective responsibility. His daily, unspoken actions preserve the spirit of 4th Avenue, making him a true 4th Avenue Forward Hero.



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Jasper~ Josh Gates



As the President of Jasper Main Street and now the Mayor of Jasper, Josh has consistently demonstrated vision, leadership, and a strong commitment to our community. Under his leadership, Jasper Main Street took the step into land banking, which led to the acquisition of the property that now houses both the Main Street offices and the Welcome Center. This decision didn't just affect a single building; it helped shape the future of our downtown and created a lasting asset for generations to come. Josh and his wife, Talia, are responsible for the Sculpture Trail in Downtown Jasper, which features ten historic renderings of the city as part of his President's Project in 2025. Jasper wouldn't be the same without Josh.



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LaFayette ~ Dr. Donald Busby



Dr. Donald “Butch” Busby is a remarkable Main Street Hero. During his tenure as mayor from 1996 to 2000, he worked to strengthen the city. His impact spans generations, from coaching Youth Baseball to leadership roles in Rotary International, Vision LaFayette, and LaFayette Main Street. He has been instrumental in shaping LaFayette Main Street's future. His dedication has earned him honors such as the 2025 LaFayette Parade Grand Marshal and Volunteer of the Year and Community Love Award. His service extends deeply through his community. LaFayette wouldn't be the same without him!



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Leeds~Tiffany Ward



Tiffany Ward is a leader in the Leeds community. She works in downtown Leeds as Senior Vice President of Millennial Bank, a generous supporter and member of Leeds Main Street. She serves as the Board President and Organization Committee chair, and she is active in many other organizations, as well. She was integral to the process of Leeds becoming a Main Street designated district and has helped fill gaps during the transition period in 2026. She volunteers or attends every Main Street event that she can. You can tell she loves Leeds and believes in the work Leeds Main Street is doing to revitalize our downtown. Everything Tiffany does is done with class and for the good of downtown Leeds.



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Madison ~ Bellehouse Event Venue



The Bellehouse Event Venue, located in Madison, Alabama, is a unique for-profit indoor/outdoor space in the Main Street Madison district. It serves as a versatile venue for various events, including corporate meetings, weddings, and baby showers. In 2025, they donated their space for key events, including Resource Team Week and Monthly Board Meetings. The venue has also supported community initiatives, such as the “Pet Pics with Santa” fundraiser for the local animal shelter. The owners, Rod and Brenda, play active roles in the community by strengthening relationships within the district.



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Marion ~ Donna Bennett



Bennett Book Shoppe has become a community living room hosting the Literary Council, Alabama Power's Business Development Team, book clubs, prayer groups, and open community discussions. In a small town where gathering spaces are few and far between, Donna has made her doors a welcome mat for civic life. Donna brings quiet reliability to everything she touches. She manages the collection of loan repayments from business owners who received funding through the MSM Revolving Loan Fund, originally capitalized with a USDA grant. She maintains records and provides the Board Treasurer with banking information, ensuring the integrity and sustainability of a fund that supports Marion's business community for years to come.



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Monroeville ~ South Alabama Gas



South Alabama Gas is a charter member of Monroeville Main Street. Since 2014, the company has supported downtown revitalization in Monroeville through financial investments, volunteer leadership, event sponsorships, and hands-on involvement. Multiple employees have served in roles ranging from volunteers to board members and board presidents, offering leadership, service, and guidance. Their donation of giant games enhanced the Second Saturday on the Square events, helping create a welcoming and family-friendly downtown experience. South Alabama Gas has played a vital role in helping Monroeville Main Street create a stronger, more vibrant downtown.



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Montevallo ~ Susana Vazquez



Susana Vazquez is a champion for the Spanish-speaking community in Montevallo. As the owner of Montevallo's premiere bilingual real estate agency, Su Casa Real Estate, she makes an impact every day by connecting people with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. As chair of the Dia de los Muertos Festival Planning Committee, she has led the charge for this vibrant event that has brought 3,000 people to the district for the past three years. Susana joined the Montevallo Main Street Board in 2024 and serves on the Promotion Committee. Thank you for all that you do, Susana!



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Montgomery ~ City of Montgomery Department of Economic Development



The City of Montgomery is dedicated to serving residents, businesses, and visitors through strong leadership and community development. As a key partner in economic development and neighborhood revitalization, the city has significantly contributed to the Main Street Montgomery program. This partnership has been vital for the program's long-term success, positioning Montgomery as a champion of the Main Street movement.



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Opelika ~ Buddy Ingram



Since opening Sante in late 2024, Buddy has evolved from a new downtown business owner into a cornerstone of the Opelika Main Street Board. Buddy first lent his expertise to "On the Tracks," where his curation of wine lists and logistical assistance directly increased ticket sales and elevated guest experiences. Now a vital Board Member and an advocate for downtown merchants, Buddy ensures small business needs remain our top priority. His feedback on downtown operations and unwavering commitment to Opelika Main Street make him a true leader in our district's success.



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Oxford ~ Oxford High School Ambassadors



The Oxford High School Ambassadors are selected student leaders who represent the school through a competitive application and interview process. They engage in various school and community initiatives, showcasing the positive impact of both the school and the Oxford community. As partners of Historic Main Street Oxford, they have contributed over 500 volunteer hours, enhancing community engagement and beautification downtown. Their efforts not only support individual events but also cultivate a lasting culture of volunteerism and civic pride, significantly contributing to downtown revitalization.



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Scottsboro ~ Daniel Hreha



Daniel is the City of Scottsboro's grounds maintenance worker for the downtown square and City Hall, and he plays a vital behind-the-scenes role in Main Street Scottsboro. He maintains landscaping, lighting, and overall upkeep, and assists with event setup and cleanup. More than his job title, he takes pride in downtown and works every day to keep it clean, welcoming, and beautiful for the community. His attention to detail and pride in his work have made a visible impact, with many noting that downtown has never looked better.



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Talladega ~ Lincoln Munford of Chamber of Commerce



The Lincoln Munford Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering economic growth across the greater Talladega County region. Under the leadership of Executive Director Donnie Miller, the Chamber serves as the voice of the local business community and is a vital anchor partner for Talladega Main Street. Providing advocacy, resources, and collaborative programming, the Chamber strengthens the regional economy and improves the quality of life for all residents. Leveraging their regional reach to highlight downtown, the Chamber helps successfully connect a wider audience to the Main Street businesses, reinforcing the Chamber's ongoing commitment to supporting economic vitality across the county.



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Wetumpka ~ Scott & Donna Grier



Scott and Donna Grier are longtime investors and advocates for downtown Wetumpka. Scott has run his downtown accounting business since 2016, providing him with a front-row seat to the district's growth and transformation over the past decade. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2022 and held the position of President in 2024. Donna is the owner of Company St. Mercantile and is an engaged leader in the small business community. Together, they are property owners, supporters of preservation, and champions of downtown revitalization. Their efforts reflect all four points of the Main Street Approach. We are grateful for their dedication to Wetumpka.



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