

## **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS – SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

*"What is really good—and there is much that is good—let us stand by, and make it better if we can." – Atticus Haygood c. 1880*

### **WHAT IS REALLY GOOD ABOUT OXFORD?**

- (1) The people that live here
- (2) Our Christian heritage (16<sup>th</sup> National Shrine of the Methodist Church)
- (3) Our inclusive nature—our diversity
- (4) Our relationship to (our "partnership" with) Oxford College of Emory University
- (5) Oxford is open and green—our spaciousness
- (6) The safe, healthy environment to raise our children
- (7) You can walk from one end to the other—it has a "human scale"
- (8) Not an industrial or commercial "complex"—it is residential
- (9) Approximately 300 new students enter the town every year, contributing their vitality and energy
- (10) Cultural activities and educational opportunities at the College—the town is always invited!!
- (11) Oxford has "unique architecture"—eclectic
- (12) It is a place where there is a "school of higher learning"
- (13) We have diversity in size, architecture, etc. in our homes
- (14) Kids can walk to school—Palmer-Stone Elementary Cousins Middle Schools provide a sense of "community-oriented" education
- (15) Our website ([www.cityofoxfordgeorgia.com](http://www.cityofoxfordgeorgia.com))
- (16) The town has an original "master plan" laid out in 1837—"and we need one now, if we are to thrive"; "if you're going to keep the beauty in Oxford, you're going to have to plan for it"
- (17) People feel safe here—clean water; adequate police, fire, etc.
- (18) Oxford is part of a larger community—i.e., Newton County, Metro Atlanta, etc.
- (19) Oxford residents seem committed to "connectivity" with the larger community—not isolationist
- (20) We have a "sense of community"—not an impersonal town
- (21) Oxford has an excellent original plan—we should revisit it
- (22) We have "progressive leadership" in the City Council—they are looking forward
- (23) Oxford is somewhat "buffered" from "encroachment"—i.e., there is space between our residential areas and the commercial/industrial development
- (24) Oxford is "an oasis"—it has an identity
- (25) We have a friendly police force
- (26) Oxford has a small town atmosphere
- (27) We have memories of the past—e.g., Allgood Grocery Store
- (28) Oxford offers "great services"—leaves, sticks, garbage—and people give a little extra to the town
- (29) We have a "generational memory"—our identity now is tied to our identity then
- (30) We used to have some "community-scale" commerce
- (31) It is a friendly place
- (32) Many folks that grew up in Oxford have returned—most to raise their families
- (33) Oxford has a variety of churches
- (34) Palmer-Stone Elementary School is a community asset
- (35) We are integrated (racially)—"we are neighbors"
- (36) Our Fire Department has good capabilities (13 volunteers)
- (37) Oxford is blessed with many volunteers dedicated to the community

## WHAT CAN WE MAKE BETTER?

- (1) We need a community-oriented store
- (2) We need more money (i.e., revenue) to sustain the services and facilities we have—"How are we going to pay for all this stuff?"
- (3) Periodic explanation of City finances
- (4) A form of "regular communication" for town folks
- (5) We need to take necessary steps to maintain our fire protection capabilities—we need "rapid response" capability 24/7
- (6) We need better information about the services—e.g., the information about the Oxford Fire Department is "inconsistent"
- (7) Oxford's Fire Department needs more support from the Mayor and City Council—they need to "Get involved!!"
- (8) We need to keep our Fire Department and Police Department; they respond to the needs of the community—"What will we lose in terms of friendliness and dedication to personal service...?"
- (9) Make sure decision-making in the town is made based on sound, reasoned analysis and not on heresay and innuendo (or personal agenda)
- (10) We need to communicate better—"Let's get the info right, and then let's get the right info to the right people"
- (11) We need to analyze/evaluate our electrical services infrastructure—What is the feasibility and cost of putting it under ground?
- (12) We need to keep and support our police force
- (13) We need to reduce traffic on Emory Street
- (14) We need to "stave off" the expansion of Covington Airport and the potential jet traffic (more frequent than now)
- (15) We need to better regulate rental properties
- (16) We can raise property taxes, inspect for safety, etc. to make it less attractive to own run-down rental property
- (17) We need to finish the sewer lines throughout the rest of Oxford
- (18) Improve the "City Barn"—"We take no pride in the upkeep of the City Barn; there is no reason it should look like crap"
- (19) We should look at adding some more sidewalks
- (20) How can we address industrial noise?
- (21) We need a place for kids to play—What about Palmer-Stone?
- (22) We need to increase our "bargaining power" with others who have the ability to affect our lives—e.g. local industries, City of Covington, Newton County, etc.
- (23) We need to let folks know what is available in Oxford—tourist info?
- (24) We need to maintain our sidewalks better—estimates suggest it would cost \$200K to put a sidewalk from Palmer-Stone ES to Oxford Square (subdivision)
- (25) We need to maintain the trees
- (26) Keep the Post Office!! "Can we look at the Post Office and other facilities from a multi-use perspective?"