

# Best <sup>of</sup> Oxford

**AJAX DINER**  
BEST OF THE BEST

**THE OXFORD EAGLE**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2010

# Voters determine who's the best

Democracy is alive and well in Oxford.

That's one of the conclusions that can be drawn from the results of The Oxford EAGLE's 2010 Best of Oxford contest.

Even though the number of Best-of categories were thinned this year, voters still came out in droves — especially when it came to online voting. For the first time in the six consecutive years we've conducted this popularity contest, online voters topped the 1,000 mark.

Perhaps it was The EAGLE's snazzy new website — if you can forgive a little shameless self-promotion — that increased the participation of online voters. Or it may be that with each passing year, more of our readers are getting more comfortable participating in web-

## And the winners are ...

**As we've done in year's past, we like to reward those who take the time to submit a ballot in our annual Best of Oxford contest. We randomly pick the name of one person who submitted a ballot via the Internet and another who submitted a paper ballot. Each one gets a \$50 gift certificate to one of the winning businesses. This year's winners are Ellen Leppa (Internet voter) and Donna Pickens (paper-ballot voter). Congratulations!**

based forums.

More than likely, however, is that what's driving many of the people to vote in the Best of Oxford contest is the quality of the candidates — especially when it comes to businesses.

Given the difficult economic times

we've struggled through the past couple of years, those businesses that have been around for a few years and yet still continue to provide a service valued by their customers during a recession, obviously have a loyal following.

These businesses have managed to

find a way to adapt to the changing economy and retain their customer base. And one way customers can show their appreciation to these businesses is by casting a ballot in the Best of Oxford contest that identifies the business as the best in its category.

As always, many of the races were close. Some winners from previous contests won their category again, while other categories had some, who had come close to winning before, finally come out on top.

Our congratulations go out to the winners and the near-misses, as well as all the voters who cast a ballot. We look forward to your participation in the 2011 Best of Oxford contest!

— Jonathan Scott

## Highlights Inside

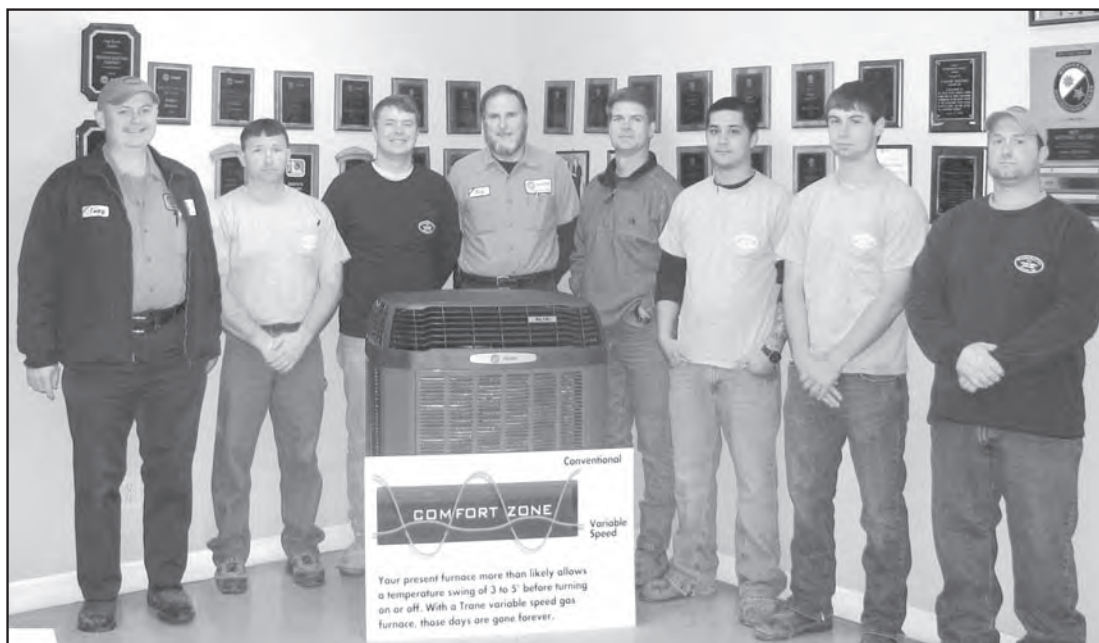
Best of the Best – Ajax Diner  
Best Local Band – One Mile South  
Best Bartender – Spencer Posecai  
Best Oxford-themed Website - EAGLE

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Best Law Firm - Tannehill and Carmean  
Best Kept Secret – The Book Nook  
Best New Addition (Since 2009) – Lenora's

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# Being the best law firm means knowing when to listen

BY ALYSSA SCHNUGG

Staff Writer



**Matt McKenzie (l-r), Rhea Tannehill, Jay Carmean and Edward Bogen lead the law firm of Tannehill and Carmean.**

After working at the Tollison Law Firm for several years, attorney Rhea Tannehill decided in 2003 it was time to go hang out his own shingle.

He worked alone for a year before he was joined by attorney Jay Carmean, who had worked alongside Tannehill at the Tollison firm.

“Rhea took me under his wing and really taught me how to practice criminal and personal injury law,” Carmean said about his partner.

The partnership clicked, and in a small town full of lawyers, Carmean and Tannehill have carved out a niche for themselves. The firm won this year’s award for Best Law Firm.

Carmean credits his staff and fellow attorneys and their knack for treating clients with consideration for winning the award.

“When someone is coming to see us, it generally means they’re not having a good day,” he said. “The staff we have right now — from the receptionist to the paralegal to the runner — is the best we’ve ever had. They deal with the clients on a daily basis a lot more than (the attorneys) do.”

Attorney Matt McKenzie joined the firm in 2006. Edward “Josh” Bogen Jr., senior partner in the law firm

of McGee and Bogen in Leland, serves as of counsel for Tannehill and Carmean.

While the firm still has a heavy emphasis on personal injury and civil and criminal trial work, they also extend the reach of their practice into a variety of other fields, including wrongful death; worker’s compensation; divorce; real estate; wills and estates;

litigation; motor vehicle accidents; casino liability and debt collection.

“The No. 1 important thing is communication,” Carmean said. “I’ve seen other lawyers who might do a good job with a case, but they don’t stay in contact with the client or have an open-door policy. The client might be happy with the outcome, but they aren’t happy with the attorney.”

The firm has nine full-time employees — including the attorneys, and three part-time employees.

Last year, Carmean found himself without his partner when Tannehill, who was out of town this week when Carmean spoke with The EAGLE, was deployed overseas in Afghanistan as a Judge Advocate General officer in the 168th EN BDE of the Mississippi Army National Guard, where he’s a legal advisor to his commander, prosecutes soldiers who are charged with a crime and assists other soldiers with legal issues as they arise while in service. He spent nearly a year away from Oxford, his family and his law firm.

“Since Rhea started the firm and worked alone for a year getting it established, I always felt I owed him a year anyway,” Carmean said, “It was difficult when he left, but also exciting. People came out of the woodwork to send us business.

“So we’re even,” he added with a chuckle.

To contact the Tannehill & Carmean law firm, call 236-9996.

—alyssa@oxfordeagle.com

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### 20 YEARS

**Brenda Starks - Customer Service**

**Willie Mae King - Dryclean Finish**

### 15 YEARS

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### 10 YEARS

**Patricia O'Hara - Dryclean Finish**

### 6 YEARS

**Lawanda Brassell - Laundry Shirts**

**Kalestia Gipson - Laundry Finish**

### 4 YEARS

**Stephanie Wiley - Laundry Shirts/  
Dryclean Finish**

### 2 YEARS

**Tasha Smith - Customer Service**

### 1 YEAR

**Cindy Booker - Inspector/Customer Service  
Formerly with Whirlpool 16 years**

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Senior Ole Miss - Criminal Justice**

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