

OXFORD BANK SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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Every local business has a story worth sharing with the community. That is the belief behind Oxford Bank's "Business Spotlight" series – to shine spotlight on all of our favorite local businesses and connect businesses with their surrounding communities.

This month's spotlight is The Shabby Crown Boutique and Art Studio of Lake Orion.

Amanda Wilcox: What inspired you to start your business?

Shonna: I've always wanted to have a boutique. God has given me a talent of creating art, and I've been able to sell it and make a living from it. So I want to be able to share it and open my own business. I've always loved to be able to go picking and thrifting, and I've been able to create beautiful, custom art from it. Friends have asked me to help them decorate and design their homes, and I love being able to do that too. It's always been a passion and I'm able to create beautiful pieces and have my own place. I am so thankful to be able to open up the doors every day and invite people in!

AW: What products/services do you sell?

S: I sell a lot of jewelry and one of a kind pieces. I LOVE mosaic. It's my favorite item to create. Shabby mosaic art is a true passion of mine, and I teach classes on it right here in the store! I use vintage china and jewels and create one of a kind items like coasters. There is class in April to learn how to make them, and I have a mirror class I am going to open as well. Bowls, bobbles, you can mosaic anything! But I also sell for local creators as well; oils and lotions as well as some local art pieces. Classes are my passion and I cannot wait to share with other people the gifts I've been given and the pieces others can create out of anything.

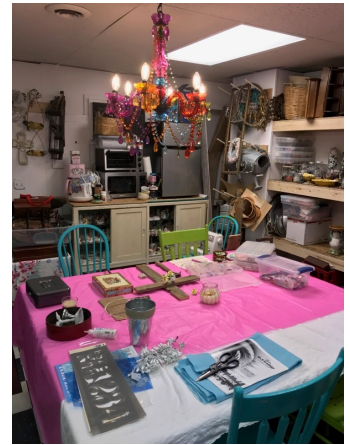
AW: What's the one thing your business is known for, over your competitors? Why are you known for that?

S: Locally sourced and handmade items. And our classes- they are one of a kind! I want to teach mosaic classes so that people can make their own beautiful creations to take home with them. I'd love to have art parties or pallet parties if people are interested. We can customize any type of party for whatever anyone wants! I just want to be able to get together and share what we can do together with a fun group of friends! There aren't many places that you can shop in and create your own customized pieces in- so it sets me apart and makes us unique!

AW: What has been your business' proudest moment? Why?

S: Creating the crown to go on top of our sign that's going to go up. We've got a lot of blood sweat and tears in to this shop and my husband and I have put everything in to getting the shop ready to open and actually opening the doors. Having my husband help with every step of the way has been the best help I could have. I'm incredibly thankful to be here.

AW: What has been the biggest risk you ever took for your business? What was it, what could have gone wrong, and what was the end result?





I don't want to disappoint anyone and I don't want to not be able to sell for the other local vendors that I have in the shop. I want to help them and keep my business open. We have our life into this business right now so everything is at risk but I know god has put me here and opened the doors here for me to be able to open them every day.

AW: Tell us something interesting/fun about your business.

S: My husband has helped me get this place up and running while he still works for himself full time. More than half of the items in the store are hand made by me. I love creating and thrifting and making my own pieces out of scraps. Making something from nothing is beautiful to me and I love making one of a kind pieces that I know are mine and going in to someone's home.

AW: What's the most popular product that you sell?

S: The sugar scrubs are very popular; a wonderful girl makes them and lives in Oakland county as well. The jewelry is also very popular. So many things that I have here are from other small business owners trying to make their own business grow too. We are all in this together, I'm happy to help promote for them and they help promote for me too. My own mother who is 80 years old helps make wash cloths and other cute things. We are all so invested. I know there are other boutique and gift shops in the area, but we not only have all of these local items and creators, but we have classes so you can be a creator or your own! I love that!

