

OXFORD BANK SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

WRITTEN BY NICK CUNNINGHAM, PERSONAL BANKER

Every local business has a story worth sharing with the community. That is the belief behind Oxford Bank's exciting new "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 on a local sports bar in downtown Oxford, **The Ox Bar & Grill**.

The Ox Bar & Grill, also known as "The Ox," has been thriving since the doors opened over seven years ago. Owner, John Gjakaj, was inspired to open a sports bar in 2009 to provide the local community with a family-oriented dining experience, seven days a week. The Ox has a comfortable modern day, upscale atmosphere with reasonable prices.

I sat down with John Gjakaj to talk about their business and what keeps them going:

NC: In one sentence, describe your business.

JG: We are a quick service restaurant, offering a wide variety of food and drinks to satisfy everyone's taste. I wouldn't serve anything that I wouldn't serve to my family.

NC: What is your favorite product that you sell?

JG: The ribs, pizzas, and steaks are our best sellers, but my favorite is anything with the devil's dip. It's a secret recipe and a must-try!

NC: What is the hardest part about owning a restaurant?

JG: The hours... We are known for consistency in our food and in our service. In order to excel at both, it takes time. There is a high turnover rate [in the restaurant business] and it is extremely important to train employees properly so the customer is happy in every interaction.

NC: What is the easiest?

JG: There is nothing easy about owning a restaurant. I find it important to make sure you have a team of hard working people in place [like any business] so the day-to-day operations run as smooth as possible.



The Ox Bar & Grill is located in Downtown Oxford, next to Centennial Park.



NC: What do you love about the community where your business is located?

JG: Between Oxford and Lake Orion, they are the best two communities I have ever been to and I've been all over the country. It is great to see neighbors who know one another and look out for each other's well-being. I couldn't ask to be a part of better communities!

NC: What does the future look like for your restaurant?

JG: We want to keep adapting, stay fresh, stay current. New ideas and additions are a huge part of the business and definitely something to watch for on our menu!

The Ox Bar & Grill

Location: 22 Washington St., Oxford, MI 48371

Phone: 248-628-1400

Website: www.oxbarandgrill.com

Hours: Sunday: 12PM-10PM

Monday - Thursday: 11AM-11PM

Friday and Saturday: 11AM-12AM

If you are interested in taking part in our "Business Spotlight" series, please contact Nick Cunningham by email at ncunningham@oxfordbank.com.