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## The Olive Scene wins “Best Main Street Business of the Year” Award at Heritage Ohio’s Annual Awards Ceremony

Kent, Ohio—Heritage Ohio awarded the “**Best Main Street Business of the Year**” to The Olive Scene of Vermilion. Owner Tracy Lockhart, accepted the award Tuesday, September 23 at Heritage Ohio’s Annual Preservation and Revitalization Awards Ceremony held at the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center. The Awards Ceremony is held in conjunction with Heritage Ohio’s Statewide Conference.

### ***Best Main Street Business of the Year – The Olive Scene***

**This award is presented to the owner(s) of a Main Street program business with innovative strategies.**

*The Olive Scene's owners began their business in 2011 in Rocky River, Ohio and expanded to Vermilion in 2012. The owner, Tracy Lockhart, is a Vermilion resident who said they were looking for a historic downtown location with an abundance of foot traffic. The Olive Scene sells specialty olive oils and vinegars. They have tastings, events and are always happy to demonstrate and inform the customers about their products. Recipes are readily available both in the store and on their website.*

*The Olive Scene employs 10 people, 5 full-time and 5 part-time. They are branded in their signage, decor and clothing. Main Street Vermilion has been a partner with The Olive Scene from the beginning. The business began with a booth at the local Farmers Market in the summer. They have continued to participate as a vendor and demonstrator at the Market and frequently donate bottles of olive oil and vinegar for gifts and prizes at events. The Olive Scene is a co-sponsor of Lake Erie Shores and Islands "Come to Vermilion" advertisement and is a Business Member of Main Street Vermilion.*

“All the communities, projects, and individuals receiving awards today have demonstrated a local commitment to sustaining and growing the preservation and revitalization movement. Ohioans are concerned about the future of their heritage,” stated W. Kevin Pape, Board Chair of Heritage Ohio. Added Pape, “The inspiration these award winners provide to other communities will pay dividends far into the future.”

More than 20 communities, organizations and individuals submitted nominations for consideration. The awards recognize the numerous preservation and revitalization accomplishments of downtowns and neighborhoods across the state. The Selection Committee reported an increased level of quality in nominations, awarding 12 categories at this year’s event.

Heritage Ohio is the statewide, not-for-profit preservation organization, dedicated to encouraging and assisting people and organizations to protect, preserve and revitalize Ohio’s heritage. Formed in 1989, Heritage Ohio has more than 500 members ranging from individuals and households to organizations and local governments. In 2002, Heritage Ohio was designated as the statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Heritage Ohio encourages the development, redevelopment and improvement of downtown and neighborhood commercial districts. Heritage Ohio works as a catalyst for downtown development by bringing together downtown organizations, conducting statewide seminars and conferences and providing a network to share knowledge, common experiences and challenges concerning downtowns. Learn more at [www.heritageohio.org](http://www.heritageohio.org).

Heritage Ohio has received support from the Ohio Development Services Agency Office of Community Development, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and several Ohio corporations.

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