

# Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

1200 N. Telegraph Rd, Dept 412 - Pontiac, MI 48341-0412 - (248) 858-0720 - Fax: (248) 975-9555

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## **Oakland County Roofers Help With Hurricane Katrina Clean-Up**

(January 31, 2006)

A crew from Spencer Roofing Company in Commerce Township, Michigan leave tomorrow, Wednesday, February 1, for Hattiesburg, Mississippi to help a town damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Owner David Spencer and three associates will fly to Hattiesburg as part of a team from Main Street Oakland County who will help repair the old Hattiesburg High School, a structure destined to become the University of Southern Mississippi's Department of Art and Design and Museum of Art. Damage to the building and the amount of clean-up has significantly delayed the rehabilitation project. Spencer and his crew are volunteering their time to patch the roof before rainwater does further damage to the structure. They plan to have the temporary roof repairs and tarp installed before their scheduled return to Detroit on Thursday, February 2. An online slide presentation can be seen at [www.albertassociates.com/slideshow-2.html](http://www.albertassociates.com/slideshow-2.html)

"There are just no roofers to be found in Hattiesburg," said Bernice Linton, Director of the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association, who put out the call for assistance to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "They're saying it would be up to three years before they could get to our project. By then, the wind and the rain damage would put this building beyond saving. We're so grateful Oakland County is coming to help."

Earlier this month, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson announced that a team to include members from Main Street Oakland County will assist in Hurricane Katrina clean-up efforts in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in late February. Around 40 team members will travel by bus to Hattiesburg, leaving Friday, February 24 and returning Sunday, March 5, 2006. In addition to assisting a fellow Main Street program, the assistance team will develop hands-on skills in disaster preparation & response training, historic preservation & building rehabilitation training, and leadership and team building skills.

Main Street Oakland County (MSOC), a leader in providing support to traditional downtown communities, responded to the call from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to provide

assistance to other Main Street communities damaged by Hurricane Katrina. MSOC Coordinator Bob Donohue made contact with the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association and worked out an assistance plan.

The response to MSOC's call for volunteers was overwhelming. A waiting list had to be set up for the more than seventy community volunteers who offered to join the assistance team. Volunteers, Oakland County Main Street managers, MSOC staff, family members, as well as local contractors will make up the team.

Transportation and supplies are being made possible through donations provided by the Oakland County Economic Development Corporation, the Oakland County Business Finance Corporation, James Lumber Company of Ortonville, Spencer Roofing of Commerce Township, Metro Aircraft Instruments, Inc. of Waterford, Oakland County and the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association.

Farmington, Ferndale, Highland, Holly, Keego Harbor, Lake Orion, Ortonville, Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, Royal Oak and Walled Lake are members of Main Street Oakland County. More than \$334 million has been reinvested in Main Street communities in Oakland County since the program was formed here in 2000.

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