

# Searcy City Center to welcome Old Navy

**EMMA JONES**  
digital content editor

Because the Searcy residents voted in favor of the tax, the City of Searcy will now have more money go toward city infrastructures, police and fire departments. Betsey Bailey, the school and community coordinator for Searcy Public Schools and member of the Move Searcy Forward committee, said she believes the tax becoming permanent is an important step for the future of Searcy.

"I believe that [because the tax was passed], companies like Old Navy see that Searcy is progressing or moving forward, then they will be more inclined to develop here," Bailey said. "The one-cent is crucial for economic development as businesses want to know that they are setting up in a location that is going to be fruitful for them and that the city is going to bring more people in through new families settling in the area or through tourism."

Harding admissions counselor Jane Chandler said several friends sent her the post from Dalrymple because they knew how excited she would be about the news.



Graphic by DALRYMPLE COMMERCIAL

"We don't really have many clothing options in town, so I think it's really great that we're getting a place of such high caliber that can cater to men, women and children," Chandler said. "I think from an admissions standpoint, I'm excited to hopefully get more stores like

Old Navy and restaurants too, which show we are moving in a good direction."

As of press time, no official date has been released as to when construction will begin on the retail store.



People gather around the Beats & Eats Thanksgiving table in downtown Searcy on Nov. 7.



Photos by MADISON MEYER

A square dance team teaches people how to square dance in downtown Searcy on Nov. 7.

## Thankfulness Beats and Eats celebrates members of the community

**SOPHIE ROSSITTO**  
community editor

A local organization brought music, food and family activities to downtown Searcy on Sunday, Nov. 7, to express thankfulness for city workers and community members.

Beats & Eats hosted its annual Thankfulness event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The organization introduced new activities this year such as square dancing and train rides for kids, Beats & Eats coordinator Heather Kemper said.

At the event, workers set up banners on which people could sign their names and write thank you notes to various Searcy departments and organizations. Beats & Eats coordinator Marka Bennett said her group planned to give the banners to each organization after the event.

The Beats & Eats committee also brought back their extensive Thanksgiving table, consisting of 25 to 30 tables lined up along Arch Avenue, Bennett said. Four food trucks opened at 11 a.m. to provide meal options for people. Bennett said the

event emphasized the spirit of living in a small community.

"We can sit down next to our neighbors or people we don't know and get acquainted with new people, sitting there together having a Thanksgiving meal," Bennett said.

Kemper said that for the first time, the Beats & Eats committee held its Thanksgiving event on a Sunday to avoid scheduling conflicts with fall sports and other events. The group also moved the start time from the evening to the morning so people could enjoy warmer temperatures.

Bennett said that this year, Thankfulness Beats & Eats occurred on the same day as Holiday Open House, an annual event in which many local stores open their businesses and hold special Christmas sales. Bennett said her committee made lists of participating businesses to hand out to people at Beats & Eats.

"One of our goals in Beats & Eats is to support local entrepreneurs and shops," Bennett said.

Kensett First Baptist Church kicked off Thankfulness Beats & Eats with a full

worship service in Citizen's Park, Bennett said. The church's praise team, The Pursuit, performed worship songs until noon, and a bluegrass band provided music from 12:30-2 p.m.

Bennett said that on the square, a family fun zone offered pumpkin-themed activities for children, and a square dance team from Rose Bud, Arkansas, came to teach and perform square dancing from noon to 2 p.m.

Aaron Overstreet and his wife, Jamie, brought their two young children to Thankfulness Beats & Eats. They said the atmosphere at the event was friendly and lively.

"It's fun, it's family oriented," Aaron Overstreet said.

Bennett said the Beats & Eats committee started in 2017 and now consists of about 25 volunteers. Kemper said the organization formed with the goal of turning Searcy into a place people would be proud to live in.

"And so Beats & Eats, we think, has helped promote and kind of emphasize some of the good qualities of our community," Kemper said.



Photo by MADISON MEYER

A bluegrass band performs live music at Citizen's Park on Nov. 7.

## Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership

THE DEGREE THAT KEEPS WORKING AFTER YOUR 8 TO 5

sponsored ad

The Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership is an interdisciplinary academic degree that focuses on individual and team success. The field of organizational leadership includes many factors that are part of the daily life of a leader.

This degree can help take your leadership, communication and organizational skills to the next level — not just in the office, but out in the world, living your life.

Common skills that are focused on include the ability to establish goals, strategize plans, recruit teams, communicate effectively, manage conflict, carry out plans, develop individuals and teams and evaluate organizational effectiveness.

Organizational leadership is an ideal field of study for students who care about people and systems, and have a desire to use their leadership abilities to help others.

For more information, visit [harding.edu/maol](http://harding.edu/maol) or email [maol@harding.edu](mailto:maol@harding.edu).

