



"Uptown" by Julia Ruscio

APRIL 2024

Highlights in this issue:

- Community Engagement.....2
- Outdoor Pursuits.....3
- Local Events.....4-6
- Helpful Resources.....7

If you have information to be shared in O-Town News, you can submit online at <http://bit.ly/O-Town-News-Content> or call (513) 529-2914 for assistance with completing the online submission form. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

If you would like to receive O-Town News either by postal mail or email, contact info@agefriendlyoxford.org or call (513) 529-2914.

NO FOOLIN'

April is a big month in the greater Oxford area! Oxford is a prime viewing spot for the April 8th total solar eclipse and the City of Oxford and multiple community partners have been hard at work planning the **Total Eclipse of the Parks** event series to commemorate the occasion. This month's issue contains a special insert providing information about the eclipse, what to expect, safety tips, and opportunities to celebrate with family and friends.

Some folks are wondering about the meaning behind "Total Eclipse of the Parks" and why there are community members (especially those in their 40's and 50's) who start singing "Turn around..." when they hear it mentioned.

The name is a play on words of a popular song released in 1983 by recording artist Bonnie Tyler titled, "Total Eclipse of the Heart (Turn Around)". It was a #1 hit in the U.S. and has been featured in many movies and TV shows throughout the years since its release.

Blue Shirt Bunch

The **Blue Shirt Bunch** is a group of community volunteers committed to helping folks make connections and have a friendly person to sit and/or talk with at local events. If you see the blue shirt symbol next to an event, it means that a member of the Blue Shirt Bunch will be there and would be happy to have you join them. If you are interested in becoming a Blue Shirt Bunch member, contact Age-Friendly Oxford at info@agefriendlyoxford.org or call (513) 529-2914 and ask for Jennifer Heston-Mullins.



Sat. April 20 Talawanda High School



Oxford Kiwanis Pancake Day

7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tickets are available from any Kiwanis member and are good for pancakes, sausage, and a beverage. \$6.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door, \$2.00 upcharge for premium pancakes (blueberry, chocolate chip, strawberry, gluten free). Children under 5 free.

F.R.E.S.H Air Fair

(Family Resources and Education for Safety and Health)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Have fun and learn about resources that are available to help promote safe, healthy homes, neighborhoods, and communities.



Community Conversation: Volunteering

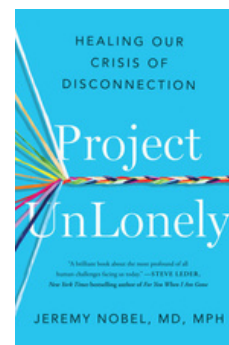
Wed. April 24 - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Oxford Lane Library

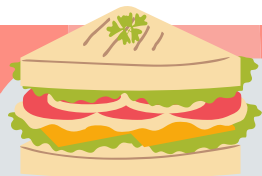
Are you feeling lonely? Looking for a sense of purpose? Wanting to improve your job skills? Needing to improve your physical or mental health? This Community Conversation will explore the benefits of volunteering, how to find the right volunteer opportunities, and ways to improve the greater Oxford area community through volunteerism. Free and open to the public!

Community Book Discussion

Oxford Seniors and Age-Friendly Oxford are hosting a discussion of the book, **Project UnLonely: Healing Our Crisis of Disconnection** next month on May 6. To participate, all you have to do is read the book and show up for the discussion.



This book gives insight into the current epidemic of loneliness and offers solace, hope, and solutions!



FREE COMMUNITY MEALS IN OXFORD ALL MEALS 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.



Wed. Apr. 3 - Dine in or pick up at United Methodist Church, 14 N Poplar St.

Mon. Apr. 8 - Dine in or pick up at Oxford Seniors, 922 Tollgate Dr.

Wed. Apr. 10 - Dine in or pick up at Faith Lutheran Church, 420 S. Campus Ave.

Wed. Apr. 17 - Dine in or pick up at St. Mary Church, 15 S. Poplar St.

Wed. Apr. 24 - Dine in or pick up at Holy Trinity Church, 25 E. Walnut St.



Hueston Woods



Sat. Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27 - Wildlife Invasion - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Lodge for a close look at Ohio's wildlife.

Sat. Apr. 6, 21 - Raptors of Ohio - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to get a close look and learn about some of our resident birds of prey.

Sat. Apr. 6 - Eclipse Science Program Q&A - 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center and join a naturalist to ask questions and learn more about the upcoming eclipse.

Sat. Apr. 6 - Night Hike - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Indian Mound in the Campground for a nighttime adventure. Please wear appropriate footwear. Leave your flashlights in the car; we will hike by moonlight.

Sun. Apr. 7, 20 - Orienteering - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to learn to navigate with a map and compass. We will be off trail; long pants are recommended.

Sun. Apr. 7 - Fox Talk - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to see our resident foxes and learn about their interesting life stories.

Sun. Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Archery - 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Archery Range to learn the art of the bow.

Sat. Apr. 13 - Wildflower Hike - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to join a naturalist for a hike through the forest in search of spring wildflowers.

Sat. Apr. 13 - Reptile Show - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center for an up-close look and discussion about our native, scaly residents.

Sun. Apr. 14, 28 - Fossil Expedition - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center and join a naturalist to search for signs of prehistoric life and collect fossils.

Sun. Apr. 14 - Give a Hoot: Don't Pollute - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to join a litter pick up, see an owl up-close, and learn why a clean environment is important for the species.

Sat. Apr. 20 - Great Council Conversation - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet in the Lodge lobby to learn about Ohio's newest State Park.

Sat. Apr. 20 - Creekin' - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to explore what creatures can be found in one of the park creeks.

Sun. Apr. 21 - Earth Day Hike - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to join a naturalist for a stroll through the woods to celebrate Earth Day.

Sat. Apr. 27 - Afternoon Hike - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to join a naturalist for a stroll through the woods.

Sat. Apr. 27 - Cast Netting - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to learn how to throw a cast net and see what kind of fish you can catch.

Sun. Apr. 28 - Big Woods Hike - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Hueston Woods.* Meet at the Nature Center to journey to an old growth forest.

About Town



Tue. April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Bluebird Coffee Klatch - 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. *Reily Township Community Center, 6093 Reily Millville Rd.* Enjoy a cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate and baked goods while conversing with friends. Hosted by Reily Township Good Neighbors in collaboration with the Coalition for a Healthy Community - Oxford Area.

Thurs. Apr. 11 - Once Upon A Crime - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Share theories, clues, and information with other true crime sleuths. This club will focus on different crimes using books, podcasts, documentaries, and more. To register, visit the Oxford Lane Library website or call (513) 523-7531.



Fri. Apr. 12 - Red Door Community Concert: The music of John Zappa's band, Now Hear This - 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. *Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 25 East Walnut St.,* Contemporary jazz - electric, funky, and organic. Music with an exotic flavor and groovability that reflects experiences with funk, blues, contemporary jazz, Latin and world beat music. It's not a retrospective - it's a new sound that is born of these experiences



Sat. Apr. 13 - The Guitar Club of Miami Ohio - Battle of the Bands 2024 - 2:00 - 10:00 p.m. *Uptown Memorial Park.* The Guitar Club of Miami Ohio will be hosting the Spring Battle of the Bands. This event will be a head-to-head competition where several bands fight for the chance to win the title of Battle of the Bands Champion. Enjoy a day of amazing musical performances accompanied by food shared with friends.

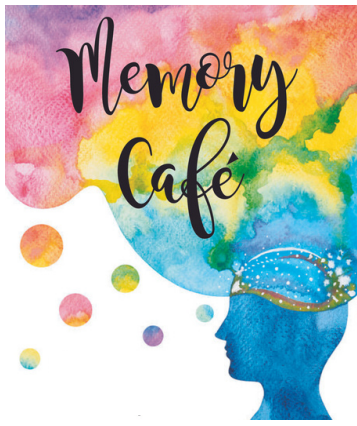
Mon. Apr. 15 - Poetry Reading & Workshop with Ohio Poet Laureate - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* It's National Poetry Month! Join Kari Gunter-Seymour, Ohio Poet Laureate, as she shares her poetry and writing methods. Though she will present virtually, we ask all participants to register to attend at the library; she will interact with attendees and answer questions! For ages 16 & up. To register, visit the Oxford Lane Library website or call (513) 523-7531.

Sat. Apr. 20 - Oxford Community EarthFest 2024 - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Uptown Memorial Park.* EarthFest is an Earth Day celebration that brings together organizations from Miami's campus and businesses in Oxford to collaborate and promote sustainability. It's an engaging event for the whole family with live performances, games, and activities for all ages.

Sun Apr. 21 - Global Friendship Spring Picnic - 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. *Peffer Park, 900 S. Patterson Ave.* Join students from around the world and local community members for a picnic at Peffer Park. Games, fried chicken, veggies and dip, and drinks will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring a game or dish to share. Registration required. Questions? Contact Dan Sinetar, dansinetar@MiamiOH.edu or (513) 529-5623.



Sun. Apr. 21 - Chess in the Library - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Bring your board, your curiosity, and your tactics for a friendly game of chess. Mr. Heilman, a local chess teacher who teaches introductory chess concepts to kids, will be available for coaching and questions. Refreshments provided.



Mon. Apr. 22 - Spring Garden Series - Hydroponics in the Library - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Do you want to grow your own food indoors year-round? Alex Miller from 80 Acres Farm will give a brief lesson of hydroponics and demonstrate how to make your own grow system. To register, visit the Oxford Lane Library website or call (513) 523-7531.

Fri. Apr. 26 - Memory Café - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* This is a space for people living with Alzheimer's and other memory loss. Enjoy music, games, and conversation in a supportive environment. A care partner or family member is required to accompany participants. To register, visit the Oxford Lane Library website or call (513) 523-7531.

Sat. Apr. 27 - Ox Chalks the Walks - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Oxford Community Art Center, 10 S. College Ave.* Discover Oxford's sidewalk chalk art festival, enjoy sidewalk art contests, professional chalk art demonstrations, food trucks, craft vendors, and live performances by Flowing Grace Dance and Oxford Folk Jazz. This inclusive community event invites people of all ages to unleash their creativity on the walkways around the OCAC. Registration is required to participate in the art contest and space is limited. Register online for Art Contest, by phone at (513) 524-8506, or onsite. Don't miss this vibrant celebration of artistry and community spirit!



Sat. Apr. 27 - Adult Poetry Slam - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Maybe you're a poet and you didn't even know it. Or maybe you're onomatopoeically gifted and can crash, snap, and boom the room with your verse. Sign up to read whatever original poetry moves you have. If you'd prefer to listen to the local lively lyricists, register to attend and snap the night away. Refreshments and hip ambience provided. To register, visit the Oxford Lane Library website or call (513) 523-7531.

Sun. Apr. 28 - Cookout For A Cure - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Uptown Memorial Park.* Join us for "Cookout for a Cure" to raise money for breast cancer education and awareness as well as the Jimmy V. Foundation. This philanthropy event is organized by Zeta Tau Alpha & Delta Chi. This event, will include a live band, grilling food, hanging out, & playing yard games in the park.

On Campus



Mon. Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - English Language Café - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. *MacMillian Hall Rm. 017, 531 E. Spring St.* All members of the Miami community and nearby communities, including family members of Miami students, faculty and staff, who are looking to develop their English language skills are welcome. This is a supportive and safe space to practice English! There will be English language and U.S. culture activities for all levels and ages. Questions? Contact: international@MiamiOH.edu or call (513) 529-8600.

Fri. Apr. 5, 12, 19 - Noon Skate: Friday Public Skating - 12:10 - 1:10 p.m. *Goggin Ice Center, 610 South Oak Street.* Friday's noon skate is a great lunchtime break! Special \$5 admission with FREE skate rental. BONUS - Healthy Miami - show your Miami ID for FREE admission & skate rental.



Tues. Apr. 9 - OxMag Spring Street Reading and Launch Party - 7:00 p.m. *Bachelor Hall Rm. 337, 301 S. Patterson Ave.* The Spring Street Reading Series features graduate student writers from Miami University's Creative Writing master's program and is held monthly throughout the academic year. This session's featured readers are Kyle Williams, Matt Farley, Joshua Konecke, and Chris Bowyer. This session will also be in celebration of the latest issue's launch, so there will be snacks and drinks. All are welcome!

Wed. Apr. 10 - Art Museum Open Late 2nd Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. *Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum, 801 S. Patterson Ave.* Join us at the Art Museum for extended evening hours on Wednesdays.

Wed. Apr. 10 - Reclamation of Acid Mine Drainage as a Medium for Change - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. *Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum, 801 S. Patterson Ave.* Artist Talk with John Sabraw, Artist, Environmentalist, & Professor of Art at Ohio University and reception in conjunction with *The World In Which We Live* exhibition. Sponsored by Three Valley Conservation Trust and MU FOCUS Program.



Tues. Apr. 16 - World Voice Day - 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. *Armstrong Student Center, Pavilion C, 550 E. Spring St.* World Voice Day is a global annual event dedicated to the phenomenon of voice celebration. The aim is to show the enormous value of the voice in people's daily lives. Presented by the University of Cincinnati Professional Voice Center and Miami University's Departments of Music and Speech Pathology and Audiology. Register for one of two sessions, 1-3 p.m. or 4-6 p.m. For more information or to register, call (513) 529-2310.

Fri. Apr. 19 - Guerilla Opera Concert - 7:30 p.m. *Center for Performing Arts: Souers Recital Hall, 420 S. Patterson Ave.* Guerilla Opera is a punk ensemble that is deeply committed to the principles of social justice. Punk embodies art that emerges from the need of those who feel oppressed to challenge the status quo, question authority, and advocate for individual rights and equality. The spirit of punk culture is the fight for systemic change through rebellious works of opera theater.

Sat. Apr. 20 - Corpse Wine - 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum, 801 S. Patterson Ave.* Dionysiac Imagery and the Fermentation of the Dead in Roman Sarcophagi. Archaeological Institute of America in partnership with Dayton Society Chapter. Mont Allen, Associate Professor, Classics and Art History, Southern Illinois University.



Sat. Apr. 20 - Music & Tours at the Art Museum - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum, 801 S. Patterson Ave.* Join us on the third Saturday of each month for special music from 1-2 PM, and Docent-Led Drop-in Tours 2-4 p.m. Enjoy and learn about the artworks on exhibit!

Sat. Apr. 20 - Steel Band: 30th Anniversary Concert - 7:30 p.m. *Hall Auditorium, 101 S. Campus Ave.* The Miami University Steel Band celebrates its 30th anniversary with a gala concert featuring current members and alumni performers presenting a variety of music. To buy tickets, call (513) 529-6333. Adults \$8; Seniors/Students/Youth \$5

Sat & Sun. Apr. 27 & 28 - Sounds of Summer Ice Show - 2:30 p.m. *Goggin Ice Center, 610 S. Oak St.* \$10 tickets available at the Pro Shop. Kids under 5 are Free. Email Goggininfo@miamioh.edu for more information.

Helpful Resources

Family Resource Center

5445 College Corner Pike, Building 2 , Oxford, OH 45056
(513) 523-5859, Email: director@frcoxford.org

Family Resource Center (FRC) assists individuals and families with the necessary resources, advocacy, and assistance to achieve their own self-sustainability: securing housing, assisting those with economic hardships, ensuring basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, transportation), obtaining and retaining employment, and accessing financial, education, and work supports.

Oxford Lane Library

441 S Locust St #2126, Oxford, OH, 45056
(513) 523-7531, Website: <https://www.lanepi.org/>

Lane library provides materials, services, access to computers and electronic resources, and a variety of events for adults and children. Most services and events are free.

Oxford Free Clinic

110 North Poplar Street Oxford OH, 45056
(513) 524-5426, Website: <https://oxfordfreeclinic.org/>

Oxford Free Clinic provides basic medical care and access to medications prescribed for treatments. The gynecology free clinic operates on the second Wednesdays of every month to provide free women-specific care.

Oxford Seniors

922 Tollgate Dr. Oxford, OH, 45056
(513) 523-8100, Website: <https://www.oxfordsenior.org/>

Oxford Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m. for members to use the facilities and participate in many forms of recreation. Oxford Seniors also provides Adult Day Care Services, Meals on Wheels, Transportation, and other supportive services.

Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services

5445 College Corner Pike, Oxford, OH, 45056
(513) 523-3851, Email: director@topss.org

Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services (TOPSS) serves families living in the Talawanda school district. Customers are able to shop once per week and choose their items according to their household size and preferences. Nutritional information and foods to meet specific dietary restrictions are available. "Emergency food" boxes are available on a limited basis to those in need who live outside of the Talawanda School District.

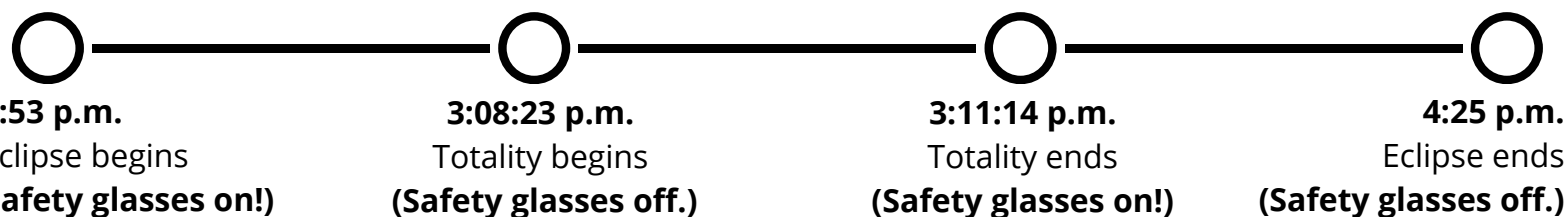
Thread Up Oxford Uptown Threads

5156 College Corner Pike, Oxford, OH, 45056
127 W Church St. , Oxford, OH, 45056
(513) 273-1701, Email: threadupoxford@gmail.com

Thread Up is committed to changing the community's relationship with textile more responsibly and creatively. Thread Up accepts donations of textile goods at both the Church St. and College Corner Pike locations and provides free and low-cost gently used clothing at the Uptown Threads location on Church St.

Eclipse Information

Eclipse Timeline in Oxford on Mon. April 8



Safety



When the eclipse is not in totality, **eclipse safety glasses must be worn** when looking at the Sun! Eclipse safety glasses are not just any sunglasses: regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are **not** safe for viewing the sun. If glasses meet the safety standards, they should have “**ISO 12312-2**” printed on them. Proper handheld eclipse viewers should have the same indication.

Free eclipse safety glasses will be distributed at Total Eclipse of the Parks events.

Reminders



The Butler County Emergency Management Agency predicts that Butler County will see 500,000 to 700,000 visitors during the eclipse. Some careful planning can limit any inconveniences this influx of visitors may cause so that all can fully embrace the magic of the eclipse.

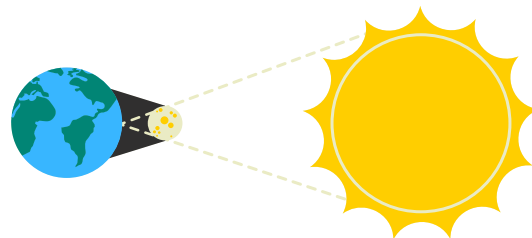
2 - 4 weeks before the eclipse:

- Stock up on groceries, gas, and supplies.
- Make plans for communication with family and friends on April 8th. A high volume of cellular activity could cause limited service.

April 6th - 8th:

- Give yourself more time to get places to account for traffic. Know the schedule of events so that you can avoid areas where there could be delays.
- Be patient with local businesses and visitors!

Q&A



What is a solar eclipse?

On April 8th, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America - this happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. The sky will become completely dark, as if it were dawn or dusk.

What does it mean to be in the path of totality?

When you hear "the path of totality" it is referring to any location where observers will see the Moon completely cover the Sun.

Where can you view the solar eclipse?

Only 15 lucky U.S. states will be in the path of totality, including Ohio. Butler County is the best spot to view the eclipse and experience totality in the Cincinnati region!

Total Eclipse of the Parks Events




It will be a **Total Eclipse of the Parks** in Oxford the first weekend of April 2024 for a celestial celebration event we haven't seen in over two hundred years and won't see again until 2099. Total Eclipse of the Parks is sponsored by several community partners including the Oxford Community Arts Center, Miami University, Enjoy Oxford Visitors Bureau, the Oxford Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Lane Public Library, and the City of Oxford.

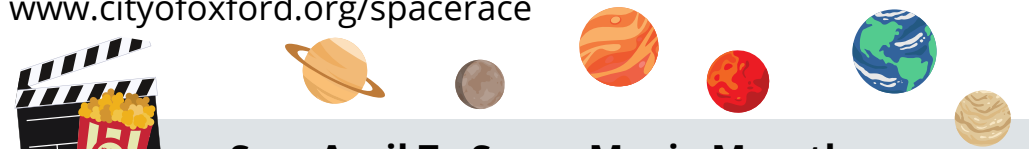
Thurs. Apr. 4 - The Imminent Solar Eclipse - 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. *Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum, 801 S. Patterson Ave.* Join Jerry Riesenbergs (Institute for Learning in Retirement) and Prof. Stephen Alexander (Department of Physics) for a lecture on the upcoming April 8 solar eclipse, including how best to experience this special astronomical event. Virtual and in-person event. Free and open to all. To register, visit <https://cvent.me/oL2IZy> [choose NON-MEMBER].

Fri. Apr. 5 - Movie screening of 2001: A Space Odyssey - 2:00 p.m. *Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum, 801 S. Patterson Ave.*

Fri. Apr. 5 - Magic Carpet Family Performances Presents Mister C: Air Is Everywhere! - 7:00 p.m. Oxford Community Arts Center, 10 S. College Ave. Join Mister C, creator and host of the regional Emmy-nominated show Full STEAM Ahead, for an evening of captivating science, lively music, and immersive media exploring all things air! Mr. C is a 20-year educator renowned for his engaging approach to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education. For inquiries or to buy tickets, call (513) 524-8506. Adults \$7; Children \$5.

 **Sat. Apr. 6 - Eclipse Festival - 1:00 - 10:00 p.m.** *Uptown Memorial Park.* Kickstart the festivities in the heart of Oxford, Ohio. This family-friendly event will feature a galaxy of space-themed activities, live music, and an array of food trucks serving up treats and craft beers. Music Lineup: 1-3 p.m. The Sunburners, 4-6 p.m. HiFi Honey, 7-9 p.m. White Lighters.

Sun. Apr. 7 - Space Race - 9:00 a.m. *Leonard Howell Park, Bonham Rd.* Celebrate a celestial event by participating in the Space Race, a galactic 5k and 10k run through scenic trails. Registration is required and space is limited. Race packets can be picked up Saturday night at the Total Eclipse of the Parks Festival in uptown Oxford or onsite the morning of the race. Free onsite parking available on race day. Stick around after the race for an out-of-this-world after party with music, food trucks, and beverages for runners and spectators until 2:00 p.m.! Register at www.cityofoxford.org/spacerace



Sun. April 7 - Space Movie Marathon

 **2:30 p.m. - Muppets from Space** - Oxford Lane Library, 441 S. Locust St.

3:00 p.m. - Cocoon - Oxford Seniors, 922 Tollgate Dr.

4:00 p.m. - Space Jam: A New Legacy - Armstrong Student Center, Wilks Theater, 550 E. Spring St.

5:30 p.m. - The Martian - Oxford Community Arts Center, 10 S. College Ave.

 **8:30 p.m. - E.T.** - Uptown Memorial Park



Mon. April 8 Eclipse Watch Parties

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Uptown Parks
Oxford Community Park

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Cook Field, Miami University

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Richard and Carole Cocks Art
Museum Sculpture Park