



## O-Town News – September 2021

Greetings in September! Town is full, schools are open, the dog days of summer and Labor Day have come and gone, and swimming pools are closed. September is always a big transition time in the Oxford area. We are happy to reconnect with you one more time and hope this issue of O-Town News will help you feel informed. Age-Friendly Oxford continues to seek funding to keep O-Town News coming. You will hear from us again as we are able.

### **What's Coming Up? What's Going On? Mark Your Calendar!**

#### **Oxford Seniors Masters Games – September 13<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>**

Oxford Senior Masters Games, which began on Monday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, will continue through Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Both indoor and outdoor events are scheduled with most activities being held at Oxford Seniors, 922 Tollgate Drive. There is a \$10.00 entry fee to participate. The awards ceremony and luncheon for Masters Games participants will be held on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Call 513-523-8100 for more information.

#### **Opening Minds Through Art Classes. Registration Remains Open. Classes begin September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Are you interested in joining a virtual Opening Minds Through Art (OMA) class this fall? In this program, offered by Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center, older adults are invited to meet weekly with students to discuss art and music, and to create original drawings, stories, and poetry. No art background or preparation is necessary! The students will come prepared for every session. All participants must be able to use Zoom. One participant wrote, "I found both in form and content our much too brief time together fascinating, surprisingly challenging, and very well presented."

There are still openings for the Friday class. *The first Friday class is 9/17: Fridays, 10:45-11:30 AM ET.* Please sign up here ASAP:

[https://miamioh.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eQJsYtGPWYBr3Jb](https://miamioh.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eQJsYtGPWYBr3Jb)

**Opening Minds Through Art (OMA), In-Person Classes, Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m., Oxford Seniors, 922 Tollgate**

Join Miami University students from Scripps Gerontology Center's Opening Minds Through Art (OMA) program for fun and free abstract art making sessions! No background in art is required and all project steps and supplies will be provided by the students. All ages and abilities are welcome. This is a great opportunity for intergenerational connection and creative expression. Art sessions will be held Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. through Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Weekly sign up is requested and available at Oxford Seniors. For questions about the program, contact OMA at 513-529-2914.

**Red Door Community Concert #3 - Freedom Sounds: Songs of Resistance, Hope, and Transcendence, The Tammy Kernodle Trio Friday, September 17, 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 25 East Walnut Street. Free and open to the public.**

This concert is the third in a series of six Red Door Community Concerts at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. This musical creation will explore how black music, represented in various forms, has served as an incubator of narratives of hope, resistance, and perseverance that mark the long struggle for equality and social justice in America. Join Dr. Tammy Kernodle, a professor of Distinguished Music at Miami University, on piano and vocals, and her friends, bassist Tanya Cox and percussionist Robbie Wilson as they weave a musical tapestry through songs that promote messages of love and redemption during this time of uncertainty.

**UniDiversity Festival, Friday, Sept. 17, 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Oxford Uptown Park, Free and open to the public**

The Annual Latin American and Caribbean UniDiversity Festival kicks off Hispanic-Latino American Heritage Month, providing a portal for intercultural connections and civic engagement. This event brings the community together in an evening of family fun, dance, food, and friendship; all in the open air!

**Kiwanis Pancake Day...*a different experience!* Saturday, Sept. 18, 9:00 a.m.-noon; Talawanda High School, 5301 University Park Blvd.**

The Oxford Kiwanis Pancake Day promises to take on a new flavor for this year. Due to COVID-19 concerns regarding large group gatherings, Kiwanians have altered the way their pancakes will be distributed. This year they will offer a drive-through experience for Pancake Day! The same delicious pancakes will be available, but customers will be safely served as they remain in their vehicles. Tickets are now available from any Kiwanis

member for \$6.00 per adult or can be purchased on-site for \$7.00. Children under five will be served at no cost. Adults will receive four pancakes and two sausages and children will be served two pancakes and one sausage. All meals will also include a choice of milk or juice along with butter, syrup, and utensils. Oxford Kiwanians hope to return to their normal gathering format in April 2022. Sincere appreciation goes to all those community sponsors who contribute in so many ways and to the many volunteers who make Pancake Day happen. As always, all the proceeds from this major Kiwanis fundraiser are directed to the children of the community.

**Age-Friendly Oxford Housing Webinar - Impacts and Options:  
How Municipalities Can Improve Housing Choices for Older Adults  
Thursday, Sept. 23, 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. via Zoom**

The altered demographics of America (including Oxford, Ohio) have produced a growing need for homes that are more accommodating as our abilities change over time. This presentation responds to an increasing need for information about our changing population as it applies to design, and housing policy issues in the 21st century. *Most older adults find themselves needing new or remodeled homes in order to safely sustain the activities that bring them meaning and purpose and allow them to live as independently as they can manage.* The housing sector, private agencies and governments are all increasingly called on to help create or renovate homes that are more supportive for older adults. But the need is growing faster than stakeholders can respond.

This information session will address the emerging housing crisis for older adults, review the ways local services and budgets can be burdened as a result, cover the basics of age-friendly and universal home design features, and discuss opportunities for improved housing options for older adults.

This is a virtual ZOOM event and registration is required no later than Wednesday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Please go to <https://forms.gle/GDMCegsEHCjrsA2A> to register. You will then receive an email confirmation with the ZOOM link for the webinar.

**Oxford Seniors Annual Meeting – Friday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> ,1:30 p.m.**

The Oxford Seniors Annual Meeting takes place on Friday September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at 922 Tollgate Drive. A quorum of 50 members is needed. Signed proxies are available to members who cannot attend but are willing to assign their vote to another member or to Executive Director Steve Schnabl. Proxy forms are available in the office through September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 pm. The meeting will include voting on the proposed slate of officers for the Board of Trustees for two-year terms through September 2023. The

proposed slate includes Kate Rousmaniere, President; Dave Dennett, Vice President; Bob Coley, Treasurer; and Randy Allman, Secretary/Immediate Past President. Standing for election to two-year terms as Trustees are Edna Southard, Ed Theroux and Leping You. Nominations from the floor can be accepted with written permission from the nominee. Jessica Kopp and Kelly Spivey will be recognized as retiring board members.

### **Local Businesswomen Host Seminar Series for Area's Older Adults Contemplating a Move –First seminar of the series is Monday, OCT 4<sup>th</sup> after work.**

Two local residents are working to create an educational (and social!) seminar series appealing to the “empty nester community in the Talawanda School District. Oxford businesswomen and Talawanda graduates Denise Gifford and Marion Schloemer will bring local experts together once a month to deliver in-person seminars from October 2021 to July 2022. The first seminar of the series, “**Demystifying the Move Process**”, will address the key concerns for Boomers and Seniors considering a move in the next two to five years. It will be held Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Oxford Seniors building at 922 Tollgate Drive. The idea behind this seminar series originated when Marion and Denise each began helping older adults, including their own parents, to 'demystify' the moving process. Marion has recently returned to live in Oxford, and she has launched a new business, Lyn's Daughter, a seniors' life-planning and organizing service. Denise, a real estate advisor with Keller Williams, is also working with Todd Homes to help create age-friendly housing options in Oxford.

Additional information for the upcoming learning series can be found at <https://www.lynsdaughter.com/senior-seminars> with regular updates via Facebook or by calling Denise Gifford at 513-290-1443.

### **Oxford Seniors Annual Appeal - Ends September 30th**

September is National Senior Center Month. September 30 also marks the end of our local Oxford Seniors Annual Appeal. Oxford Seniors provides essential services and plays a crucial role in enriching health, safety, and quality of life for adults aged 50+ in the Oxford area. The mission of Oxford Seniors aligns closely with the mission of Age-Friendly Oxford and therefore, AFO encourages community members to donate, become a member, and/or support Oxford Seniors in other ways such as volunteering or attending programs.

This year's Annual Appeal goal of \$45,000 is ambitious but necessary due to COVID-19 related loss of revenue from 2020 and 2021. Without Oxford

Seniors as a strong community center of support, the quality of life in Oxford would be diminished for hundreds of local families. Oxford Seniors and its amazing staff are Oxford gems. Thank you, Oxford Seniors, for all you do and have done for generations of Oxford area residents of all ages! For more information on membership or to donate to the Annual Appeal, contact Oxford Seniors at 922 Tollgate Drive, Oxford, Ohio 45056 or 513-523-8100. Ask for Steve, Sabrina, or Jeanne.

**Hueston Woods Apple Butter Festival – Saturday and Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Doty Homestead, 6924 Brown Rd.**

The Hueston Woods Apple Butter Festival provides a glimpse of 19th century farm life and features continual creation of apple butter in the pioneer fashion throughout the event. In addition to apple butter sales, a wide variety of apples, cider, pumpkins, and gourds can be purchased during the festival. Tours are conducted through the Doty homestead and the barn, both of mid 1800s vintage and exhibiting a broad display of museum artifacts. Each year demonstrations of pioneer crafts are featured along with a theme program. Admission is \$4.00 per person; children under the age of 12 are admitted at no cost. Proceeds are directed to the historic preservation goals of the Oxford Museum Association.

**Oxford Chamber of Commerce Wine and Craft Beer Festival Saturday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> , 2:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m., Oxford Uptown Park**

The Chamber's biggest annual fundraiser, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Oxford Wine and Craft Beer Festival will be held Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m.-10 p.m. in the Uptown Oxford Park. Enjoy wine, music, cuisine, tastings, and a beer garden. Family activities will be held from 3 p.m.- 6 p.m. in the Farm Market Corner complete with hayrides. (Miami University's Fall Break is Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.)

**Oxford Parks and Rec. - Wine and Design Class at Hanover Winery Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm, Hanover Winery, 2165 Morman Rd, Hamilton.**

Gather some friends and family and enjoy a night of crafting fun at our local Hanover Winery on Morman Road. The October 14<sup>th</sup> craft will be decorative wooden signs. Please register by October 11<sup>th</sup>. Stop by or call the TRI at 513-523-6314 for more information.

## **Oxford Community Arts Center Receives \$87K Donation! Fall Classes Start Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

At a recent board meeting, the Oxford Community Arts Center (OCAC) received an anonymous donation of \$87,000. Staff and board members expressed surprise, excitement, and deep gratitude. As a non-profit community arts center, approximately 25 % of OCAC's operating budget comes from individual donations. While OCAC continues to recover from 2020, a gift of this size is rare and has a high impact in helping OCAC continue to serve the Oxford community with arts events, classes, concerts and more.

"The gift was quite unexpected and amazingly generous" said OCAC Executive Director, Heidi Schiller. "We are extremely grateful for the donor's generosity. A majority of the check will go toward preservation activities which will keep our historic building in good condition. The rest will be divided among several areas of need."

OCAC has increased in-person activities this fall. September activities include the monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday event and The Lexington Children's Theatre performance of "The Little Mermaid" on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Fall classes start the week of September 20<sup>th</sup> and include a range of art, movement and other creative courses. For more information, go to the OCAC website or call 513-524-8506.

## **News from Our City Council and City Administration**

### **Oxford Comprehensive Plan Update**

#### **Public Input Sought Beginning the week of October 18th**

The 2021 Comprehensive / Strategic Plan Update Steering Committee seeks your input. The Steering Committee has met twice and a Preliminary Information Booklet has been published online and is also available in print at the Oxford Municipal Building, 15 South College Ave. Input from the general public will be sought beginning the week of October 18th. There will be in-person and virtual options to provide input. A recorded virtual meeting will be available that week for citizens to review options and instructions for providing input. If you are unable to access information online, the phone number for the City of Oxford is 513-524-5200. The completion of the updated strategic plan (print and online) is projected for late 2022.

### **Elections**

City Council elections take place Tuesday, November 2nd this year, so campaign season is here! City Council plays an important role in shaping the present and future state of Oxford, so it is crucial that your voice is

heard through your vote to ensure the new council's initiatives align with the public's wants and needs.

**Important dates regarding the election:**

- **September 17th:** General election absentee ballots must be ready
- **October 4th:** Deadline for voter registration for the 2021 election
- **October 5th:** Early voting begins
- **November 2nd:** Election Day

**Updated COVID-19 News**

Oxford's City Council held a special meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup> during which a new ordinance was passed that **requires face coverings to be worn while inside a public business or any public transportation vehicle.** This ordinance will be in effect until December 13, 2021 but is subject to change depending on the number of COVID-19 cases in the area and public health guidelines. Individuals who do not comply with the mask mandate could be fined up to \$100.

**Exemptions from the mask mandate include:**

- Individuals with a medical condition that inhibits their ability to wear a mask safely
- Religious facilities
- Individuals inside private workplaces
- Individuals actively eating or drinking
- Individuals actively exercising or playing sports
- Individuals who are involved in public safety

**Who Inspires You?**

In our Older Americans Month issue (May 2021) of O-Town News, we asked readers to send us a sentence or two about an older adult who inspires them. Five readers responded. Unfortunately, we don't have space to print the eloquent essays in their entirety. However, we do hope you will enjoy reading a synopsis of how some of your Oxford neighbors inspire others through their kindness, generosity, and perseverance.

Mary Jo Clark inspires Judith Kalbous with her warm and faithful friendship, her generosity of time, and her lessons about living in the moment and letting go of those things you cannot change. Judith is also inspired by Mary Jo's spirit of optimism and adventure.

Pru Dana inspires Steve Dana as she has shown herself to be indomitable during the pandemic. While dealing with personal challenges of her own, Pru resolutely carries on her civic work and cares tenderly for family, even those many miles away.

Sue Killy inspires Barbara Cox through her encouragement to set challenging goals and work hard to achieve them. Barbara says that years ago, Sue pushed her to do what she thought impossible and even now, Sue continues to push her up those seemingly insurmountable hills in life.

Jane Strippel inspires Terri Spahr Nelson through her longtime social justice activities and her compassion, generosity, and spirit of justice for all. Terri sees Jane as a trailblazer and a beacon of light.

Charles Teckman inspires Jack Fryman with his dependable help in getting to many appointments (some even in Cincinnati), never missing a single one. Jack admires the way Charles always keeps his car in good running condition, gassed up, and ready to go.

**Age-Friendly Oxford would like to express our appreciation to our 2021 Fall Semester Capstone Intern, Sydney LaCour, for her help in creating this issue of O Town News. Thanks Sydney!**