



O-Town News December 2022

Season's Greetings from Age-Friendly Oxford and O-Town News!

We are pleased to connect with you again after a “pause” that turned out to be longer than we expected. While O-Town News has been quiet in recent months, there has been much going on behind the scenes. This O-Town issue offers updates on Age-Friendly Oxford, highlights on current community arts, recreation, and social events, City news, and information about a new mental health guide from the Coalition for a Healthy Community.

As you know, Age-Friendly Oxford (AFO) is a local initiative advocating for and working towards the Oxford area becoming a more livable community for older adults and residents of all ages. AFO started in 2017 when Oxford joined AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and for the last five years, committed volunteers and organizations have worked to identify and bring awareness to issues that affect the well-being of people in our community.

AFO is happy to share that its three pillar organizations—Oxford Seniors, Inc., Miami University’s Scripps Gerontology Center, and the City of Oxford—all agree that AFO’s work should continue. AFO will begin a new 5-year cycle in the AARP National Age-Friendly Network in January 2023. The Oxford area is incredibly fortunate to have the commitment and dedication of individuals in these organizations working on behalf of residents and we are excited to continue this valuable work!

Be on the lookout for a survey that will be distributed in early 2023 to help us evaluate the first five years of AFO’s work and to identify goals for the next five years.

Wishing You Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year!

OXFORD AREA BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH GUIDE

Mental health challenges can take a toll on individuals and families. Taking care of oneself by finding mental health care when needed is important. The Coalition for a Healthy Community-Oxford Area (CHC) is proud to share its new **Oxford Area Behavioral and Mental Health Providers and Resources Guide (click here)**.

This new guide provides guidance and information on how to seek out behavioral and mental health care from private practice therapists and community organizations. The listings include areas of specialty services, insurance accepted and guidance on how to get help if you or a loved one is in a crisis situation. It also includes links to psychiatric care and medications, mental health care outside the Oxford area, transportation assistance and information for immediate crises needs.

The guide is regularly updated by Coalition members, and it will soon include resources for substance use/misuse. A printable format of the guide will be available after the first of the year. Contact Amy Macechko at 513-273-3390 if you need to a paper version of the guide. *Thank you to CHC for this valuable mental and behavioral health resource guide. Well done!*

OXFORD's WINTER "WANDERLAND" ~A PASSPORT TO FUN

Welcome to Enjoy Oxford's and The Oxford Chamber of Commerce's Winter Wanderland Guide – Dining, Events & Retail passport! Available beginning the week of Thanksgiving, pick up a passport from the Enjoy Oxford office ([14 W. Park Place](#)) or the Oxford Community Arts Center ([10 S. College Ave.](#)) You may also print a Wanderland Passport from home. How does it work?

1. Pick up your passport–(participating businesses/events on the back side).
2. Begin exploring Oxford businesses and events. The more businesses & events you visit, the more stickers you get! Simply ask a friendly employee at the register or see an event staff and let them know you'd like a sticker for your passport. You do not need to make a purchase to get a sticker, though we think you'd enjoy shopping or dining at the same time! Plus, you'll be supporting local.
3. Once you've accumulated as many stickers as you wish, fill out your contact information inside the passport, then turn it in to the Enjoy Oxford office. If we're closed, you can leave it in the box on the door. Or simply take a photo of the inside of the passport and send your photos to Info@EnjoyOxford.org. ***The deadline for turning your passport is January 31st***
4. Your name will be entered in a drawing – winners will be notified. Good luck!

OXFORD AREA ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The Winter holidays and Miami's J-TERM have become fun and busy times in the community thanks to efforts of many organizations and individuals. The calendar below is only a partial listing of arts, recreation and civic activities, however, it is sure to have something of interest for everyone.

Weekly, Year-Round - Oxford Farmers Market. Saturday Mornings.9:00 am.

Uptown at East Park Place parking lot. Fresh, Local, Seasonal Foods & Goods from Friends and Neighbors. Chef cooking demos. VISA & EBT cards (food stamps) accepted.

Now - March 2023. *Since Time Immemorial - The Place of The Miamis*

Throughout 2022 the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Miami University are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their relationship that began with an unplanned visit from the Chief of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to Miami University in 1972. This exhibition highlights the history of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and their relationship with their homelands and Miami University. Mondays through Fridays, 8:00-a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Walter Havighurst Special Collections at King Library, Miami University.

Now through Jan. 23 - *Winter Break Public Skating*. Gather your friends and family and head to the Goggin Ice Center for a public skating session. Great fun for all ages and experience levels and a perfect addition to a heart healthy lifestyle and the holidays! Saturdays through Thursdays at 3:15 pm. Fridays -at 12:10 pm.

Friday, December 16 - *Magic Carpet Family Theater. A Seussified Christmas*

Carol: Dicken's most beloved story in wacky rhyming word, best told by Ghosts of Past and Present to Timmy Loo Hoo. 7:00 p.m. Oxford Community Art Center, Brant Ballroom. \$7.00 Adults. \$5.00 Child 12 and younger.

Saturday, Dec. 17 - *Skate with Santa* Santa Clause is coming to town, and he's going to be skating at Goggin Ice Center from 3:15 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission is \$7.50. Skate rental is free.

Saturday, Dec. 17 - *Hueston Woods State Park Drive in Movies at the Beach*

First movie starts at, 5:00 p.m. featuring The Polar Express followed by How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Bring your favorite blanket and join us at the beach for some winter fun! Food trucks, popcorn, and hot chocolate available.

Sunday, Dec. 18 - *Morning Hike at Hueston Woods* State Park from 11:00 am - 1:00 p.m. Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center for a guided hike. Bring transportation as you will need to drive, or be driven, to the trailhead.

Tuesday Dec. 20 - *Story Slam Oxford*. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Stories begin at 7:00 p.m. Theme: "Braving The Wilderness". Location TBD. This is a new local story-telling group modeled after the national Moth Story Group where folks share five-minute true personal narratives related to the theme, using no notes! For more information, contact Dale Erlich at dale@ehrlich-ESL.net

Saturday, Jan. 14 - *Chocolate Meltdown and More*. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Oxford Community Arts Center. Save this date for the sweetest annual event in Oxford! Chocolate Meltdown is a multi-faceted collaborative fundraiser for both the Oxford Community Arts Center and the Miami University Art Museum, with vendors featuring chocolate delicacies for tasting, chocolate-themed art exhibition, an amateur, youth, and professional baking contest, children's activities, a Chocolate themed bar, and educational materials about chocolate. This portion of the event is hosted at OCAC. The theme of this year's event is Candy Lane. It also includes: Chocolate Vendors, Uptown business participation and games and events at the parks. Thanks to OCAC, Miami Art Museum, Oxford Chamber of Commerce, Enjoy Oxford, and Oxford Parks & Recreation for this FREE, delightful mid-January event. Follow on Facebook and online at www.chocolatemeltdown.com.

Monday, January 16 – *Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration* – 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.-12:00 noon, Shriver Center, Dolibois Room. Miami University and Oxford Communities will join to celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This event will include the Talawanda Student Arts Exhibition and Keynote Speaker Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Ph.D. Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins' topic will be "I Dare You To Be The Dream." It is being sponsored by: Office of the President, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Center of Student Diversity, the City of Oxford and the NAACP Oxford Chapter. The Oxford NAACP members will be volunteering for the Oxford Food Pantry and asking members to donate canned goods to the pantry in observance of the MLK Day of Service.

Saturday, Jan. 21 - *Magic Carpet Theatre: The Cultural Centre of India*.

7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m. at OCAC Brant Ballroom. Music, dance, action, drama, glamour all comes together in Bollywood movies and dance numbers. Dancers dressed in colorful costumes, intricate jewelry and theatrical makeup will entertain you with breath-taking footwork and ancient story-telling techniques. All ages. \$7.00 Adults. \$5.00 Children 12 and under.

Now - Jan. 22, 2023 - *Miami University Rec. Center Winter Break Hours.*

The MU Rec. Center is open over the Winter break and is offering a special Winter Break Membership. Activities include indoor track, pickleball, basketball, climbing wall, swimming, and weight room. Daily hours: 6:0 a.m. -8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday; and 10:00 a.m. -5:00 a.m. on Sunday. For more information about the Winter Break Membership contact 513-529-8181 and ask for membership information. (Note: The MU Rec Center is CLOSED Dec. 24, 25, and 26 and Dec. 31 and January 1).

Now – Jan. 22, 2023 - *Silver Sneakers Classes at Miami University Rec. Center*

Mondays Circuit 10:15; Yoga 11:30

Wednesdays Yoga 10:15 (starts Jan. 2)

Thursdays Circuit 10:15

Fridays Silver Sneaker Classic 9:00; Yoga 10:15

(Note: the MU Rec Ctr. is CLOSED Dec. 24, 25, and 26 and Dec. 31 and January 1).

Monday, January 23 - Miami University Classes Resume for Spring 2023.

Friday, Jan. 27 - *10SoCo (10 South College Concert). 8:00 p.m.*

The Spirit of Harriet Tubman. Oxford Community Arts Center.

Leslie McCurdy captivates her audience with only a trunk of costumes and a barren stage. For an hour McCurdy embodies the “spirit” of Harriett Tubman and shares Harriet’s empowering story from her childhood to her elderly years.

All ages. \$18 for adults. \$15 for seniors/students. Call 513-524-8506.

And . . . don’t forget - *Miami University Athletics! Go Redhawks!*

Men and Women’s Basketball, Swimming and Diving and Men’s Ice Hockey are in full swing in December and January. For a full listing of events and ticket information visit <http://miamiredhawks.com> or call the main athletic office at 513-529-3113.

THE OXFORD CITY BEAT

Special projects and events of Interest

(selected from the City’s website at www.cityofoxford.org)

Deer Management – City permits have been issued for this season that will run through February 6, 2023. Eight deer have been harvested with six donated to the Community Meal Center to help feed those in need.

Fire Division Labor Management Committee. A second meeting of the Fire Division Labor Management Committee (LMC). The recently signed collective bargaining agreement established this joint committee of six members (three from management and three from the union). The main topic was staffing levels. The Fire/EMS Division responded to 846 Fire and 2,195 EMS calls in 2021 with a staff of 9 FT FF/Paramedics supplemented with PT staff. Both Fire and EMS calls have increased over the last 15 years except for declines in 2019 and 2020 due to COVID. In order to add additional FT staffing, additional revenue for the Fire/EMS Fund will be required. Three options were discussed including an Income (earnings) Tax increase, Real Property Tax Levy, and a Miami University student fee. The first two options would require voter approval. The third option would require the support of Miami University.

Miami University students represent the majority (estimated 65% in 2019) of the population of Oxford. Fire calls from the campus of Miami University represented a five-year average of 23.46% of all Fire calls. EMS calls from the campus had a five-year average of 18.6%. Both percentages do not include calls to off campus student housing. If the City decides to move forward with an income or property tax increase, it could appear on the May 2023 primary ballot. The next meeting is in March.

Medical Marijuana Dispensary. The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy (BOP) recently issued Provisional Dispensary Licenses for RFA II. Three additional ones (for a total of five) are located in our District (SW District 2) with two of the three located in Oxford and one in Monroe. The following are the company names and Oxford addresses for the two Oxford licenses: RJK Holdings of Ohio, LLC 5280 College Corner Pike Oxford (former Asian Food Mart) and LMTT LLC 3616-3620 Southpointe Parkway. Both locations will need to obtain a permits to build out and for a change of use. The applicant has six months to get local approval and build, after which they must pass an inspection before they can dispense Medical Marijuana.

Oxford Cemetery Association – Staff has met with OCA officers to discuss the dissolution of the Association and the transfer of the cemetery and assets to the City Staff visited the site on Nov 1 to meet with the OCA manager and discuss operations of the facility. City Council approved an agreement with OCA on Nov. 15. Legislation to accept the real property and assets is expected in December 2022.

Oxford Cottage Community. The City purchased 2.1 acres of land located at 5234 Hester Rd. and leased the land for one dollar per year to the Center for Community Revitalization, an Ohio nonprofit corporation, to build a cottage community of rental homes for transitional housing. Planning continues and CCR has altered the design of each unit due to the City's rental code and PUD public hearing process. The

newly designed cottage plan will be an open floor concept that will accommodate two people rather than six as originally planned.

Ohio EPA Clean Watershed Needs Survey 2022 – Staff has completed the required needs survey and submitted such to the OEPA. The survey attempts to measure population growth, development, and potential projects requiring funding for the next five years.

Status of Railroad Passenger Platform / BCRTA Facility(Bus) - The City continues planning functions with CSX, Amtrak, and BCRTA. The RTA project will host a passenger waiting area, public accessible restrooms, bike storage, real-time information, passenger kiosks/customer service, and intermodal transfer bays. Preliminary designs for the RTA facility may be viewed at Oxford Multimodal Facility - Butler County RTA. Jessica Greene has secured \$2.1M in funding from OKI for the railroad platform project (with a 20% local match). The RTA expects 90% plan completion sometime in December.

Utility Wide Water Quality Testing for Lead - The City sampled 30 different homes throughout the City, to analyze for the presence of lead. Results showed many samples where no lead was detected by the laboratory. The average of the samples was 1.5 ug/L. The Action Level established by the EPA is 15 ug/L. This result is lower than the 2021 average that was 1.6 ug/L.

Water Softening Project. Mike Dreisbach Service Director provided an update on the City's Water Treatment Plant Softening Project at a recent Council meeting. Four alternatives were reviewed with Council by representatives of Strand Associates. As a result of that meeting. An additional alternative (purchasing water from the City of Hamilton) was determined to be not economically feasible. The RFQ for firms to complete the design, engineering, and permitting for this project was advertised July 1, 2022. A recommendation to Council will be made in December.

. . . and finally . . .FREE HOLIDAY PARKING AT ALL METERS!

Happy Holidays from the Oxford Police Department! In keeping with tradition, Oxford City Council voted to grant FREE holiday parking from now until January 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. This applies to ALL meters in the general uptown area and down S. Campus Avenue. Just remember, the 2-hour and 10-hour time limits still apply based on the signage at the meter. We encourage using this holiday perk to easily visit your favorite restaurant or business for fun with family and friends and to help support local establishments over the holidays! #shoplocal.

O-Town News is created and distributed by volunteers with the Age-Friendly Oxford initiative. This free newsletter can be sent to readers by a e-mail, the US Postal Service and can even be hand delivered. We strive to reach as many folks as possible with information that is interesting and important to the community. If you have ideas and/or know someone who might like to receive O-Town News, let us know! Oxford Seniors at 513-523-8100 or Age-Friendly Oxford at agwhelpton@gmail.com.

*Happy Holidays from Age-Friendly Oxford and its pillar partners:
Oxford Senior, Inc., MU Scripps Gerontology Center and the City of Oxford.*