



O-Town News

Issue #2, November 5, 2020

Welcome to the second issue of **O-Town News**, a hardcopy newsletter sharing news and announcements from around town and township. We appreciate the positive comments we received last week on our first issue and encourage you to help us get the word out. If you know someone who might like to receive a hard copy of O-Town News due to difficulty accessing electronic information or simply because they like to read and keep paper news, please feel free to share your newsletter with them. They may receive their own newsletter by calling 513-523-8100, returning the request form at the end of this newsletter or e-mailing info@agefriendlyoxford.org. We will happily add anyone to our mailing list! Thank you to the City of Oxford and Oxford Seniors for their support. Enjoy!

Community Announcements

Butler Behavioral Health is offering free mental health consultations through December 24. Consultations can be via telehealth options or in person at 10 N. Locust St. Suite C-1, Oxford. Call 513-896-7887 for more information or to schedule.

Coalition for a Healthy Community Oxford Area (CHC) reported another successful Medication Disposal Day. Over 40 residents dropped off 69 lbs. of expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications in one day for incineration. Oxford Township Police collected an additional 18 lbs. of discarded medications. Community members can continue to safely discard old medication any time throughout the year at three locations:
Oxford Police Department, 101 East High St., Oxford
Oxford Township Police Department, 925 S. Main St., Oxford
Miami University Police Department, 4945 Oxford Trenton Rd., Oxford.

To assist community members with proper use of daily prescription medications, The Coalition for a Healthy Community Oxford Areas also provides **free pill organizers**. Call 513-523-8100 to request a pill organizer.

League of Women Voters will host **One Climate One Community** webinar, November 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Panelists will be Mark Boardman, Chair of the Climate Action Steering Committee for the City of Oxford; David Prytherch, Oxford City Council Member; Jonathan Levy and Adam Sizemore, Co-Chairs of the Miami University Climate Action Task Force. The City of Oxford and Miami University both recently signed climate action/carbon reduction agreements; while each entity is operating within a separate framework, the overall goals are the same. This forum will discuss common goals and how we can partner as a community to achieve these ambitious goals. There will be several task forces formed by each entity to specifically define the steps necessary to reduce our community's carbon emissions. After outlining the goals of the city and the university, the forum will open discussion to all participants. This is a virtual event, but a written summary of the presentation will be available. Contact Joan Potter-Sommer at 513-523-8100 to request a copy.

Oxford Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC) is a new commission established to provide coordination on climate issues within the City of Oxford. CASC came about as a result of Council's endorsement last year of the Global Covenant of Mayors of Climate and Energy (GCoM). Oxford is now one of 10,000+ cities from over 135+ countries on six continents that pledged to engage in a multiyear process to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and increase access to sustainable energy. The work of the Oxford Climate Action Steering Commission is integral to the City meeting the directives of the global initiative. One such directive is to conduct a Community Scale Inventory for greenhouse gases. This inventory will assess emissions originating either within or outside of the city that are the result of activities initiated by persons or entities residing in the city.

All area residents are invited to participate as able in public forums designed to promote understanding and collaboration in climate planning and action. For more information contact Joan Potter-Sommer through Oxford Seniors, Inc., 922 Tollgate Drive, Oxford, OH 45056, 513-523-8100.

Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPPS), serving 250 local clients, has resumed choice shopping at the Pantry. Curbside Shopping is by appointment only. Those interested should call Candace Roseman at 513-839-1841 for an appointment.

Butler County General Health District COVID-19 Update (for Butler County Residents as of 10/30/2020 reporting)

Total cases (10/24)	9,298
Permanent Butler County (10/24):	6,910
Miami University (10/24):	2,388
Confirmed Deaths (10/24):	133
First Case Reported:	3/11/2020
Last Case Reported (so far):	10/24/2020
Confirmed Cases:	9,096
Probable Cases:	202
Age Range:	<1- 101
Median Age:	32
Mean Age:	37.6

Oxford Area Locations for COVID-19 Testing

CVS Pharmacy Minute Clinic -123 W. Spring St. Oxford, Ohio 45056.
No-cost drive-up testing (please do not enter the store for testing). Call 513-523-6378 for current hours.

McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital Urgent Care/TriHealth

Oxford Priority Care - 5151 Morning Sun Rd. Oxford, OH 45056. Testing is by appointment or walk-in. Free for those who are uninsured. Open Monday-Sunday from 10:00am.-6:00pm. Call 513-524-5522 to schedule.

The Little Clinic at Kroger –300 S. Locust St. Oxford, Ohio 45056. This clinic is located inside the store at the front. Open Mon-Fri 8:30am – 7:30pm., Saturday 8:30am – 5:00pm, Sunday 9:30am-5:00pm. Closed for lunch daily from 1:30-2:00pm. Walk-in testing or by appointment. Testing is free for those who do not have insurance. Call 513-273-2115 to schedule or for more information.

How to Celebrate Thanksgiving Safely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Cynthia DeMarco, M.D. Anderson

Got plans for a big Thanksgiving Day celebration? Not so fast. Before you send out invitations or make travel arrangements, keep in mind that there continue to be tens of thousands of new COVID-19 cases diagnosed in the United States each day, and we're not anywhere close to achieving herd immunity. That means the risk of COVID-19 infection is still very real — and should be weighed carefully before you make your Thanksgiving plans.

Keep Thanksgiving celebrations as small as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, larger gatherings could put you at risk for COVID-19 this year — especially when two of the most effective methods of preventing the spread of the coronavirus continue to be wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

“The best way to stay safe this Thanksgiving is to have a small family gathering with only the people in your immediate household,” says infectious diseases and infection control expert Roy Chemaly, M.D. “Everything — airports, airplanes, gas stations and hotels — tends to be more crowded at this time of year, but you can minimize your exposure to crowds by celebrating at home.”

Find safer ways to enjoy cherished traditions. If you can't bear the thought of missing certain Thanksgiving traditions, try to find ways to enjoy them more safely. That could mean doing all of your holiday shopping online, watching even local parades from home on TV, swapping recipes in advance with extended family members and connecting virtually on the holiday itself.

Dine outdoors. Another option might be to host a small, socially distanced outdoor celebration, especially in areas of the country enjoy more temperate weather. This could reduce the risk of both droplet and aerosol transmission.

Minimize your chances of COVID-19 exposure. The most important thing to do this Thanksgiving is to minimize your chance of COVID-19 exposure whenever you can. That is especially true if you have cancer patients or other family members in the household who are at high risk of contracting the virus or developing severe complications if they should catch it.

“Avoid any location where there are going to be crowds, such as shopping malls on Black Friday or marathons and parade routes,” adds Chemaly. “Maintaining proper social distance is almost impossible in those situations.”

Ask visitors to get tested. If you have a college student or other family member who is coming home from out of town, ask them to get tested before traveling to see you. Consider having everyone in the house wear a mask and observe social distancing measures during their visit.

“A week or a long weekend is not enough time to self-quarantine effectively,” adds Chemaly. “So, it’s better to be safe than sorry.”

Flu and COVID-19- The Key Differences (Ohio Department of Health)

Onset - FLU symptoms begin 1-4 days after infection. COVID-19 symptoms begin as early as 2 day after infection or as late as 14

Complications - FLU complications can occur but are less likely because of immunity built up over time. COVID-19 is a new virus, so most people have no immunity. Severe respiratory complication may come on extremely quickly.

Hallmark Symptoms - FLU symptoms are fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, headache, and body aches. COVID -19 are similar plus with those infected sometimes experience loss of taste and smell.

Spread - Both FLU and COVID-19 can spread from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another and mainly by air droplets. COVID-19 is more contagious among certain people and age groups than the flu. Also, the virus can spread more quickly and easily than the flu, resulting in continuous spread, also called superspread.

November Community Calendar
(courtesy of Enjoy Oxford)

Monday, November 9, 7:00 p.m. Oxford Area PFLAG
Oxford Seniors, 922 Tollgate, Oxford, OH

Tuesdays Nov. 10, 17, 24 12:00 noon- Oxford Kiwanis Meeting;
LaRosa's Community Room

Wed. Nov. 11, Veterans Day, National Holiday

Wed. Nov. 11, Oxford Parks and Rec. Veteran's Day program (see back page
of this newsletter for more detail)

Wednesdays: Nov. 11, 18, 25 9:15 a.m.- AM Workout;
TRI Community Gymnasium

Wednesdays: Nov. 11, 18, 25 12:00 noon- Oxford Rotary Club Meeting.
LaRosa's Community Room

Fridays: Nov. 13, 20 All day. Miami RedHawks WEAR RED FRIDAY

Sat. Nov. 14 9:00am-2:00pm. Empty Bowls 2020 Walk Up Bowl Sale; Oxford
Community Arts Center

Fri. Nov. 20 Miami University last day of in person and remote classes.

Sat. Nov. 21- Thurs. Dec. 31, All Day. Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale
Memorial Park, Uptown. Oxford

Mon. Nov. 28-Tues. Nov. 29, All Day. Remote study days for MU students.

Wed. Nov. 30-Tues. Dec. 8 Remote Final Exam week for MU students.

Tues. Dec. 8 End of exams and Fall Semester for Miami University.

Administrative Staff Highlights from the City of Oxford Nov. 3, 2020

City Manager Office:

The polystyrene ban has been delayed until December 2021. The City, working with Miami, has applied for a \$2M grant through Jobs Ohio for the renovation of the Elm Street Building.

Finance:

Awards totaling \$1.2M in COVID response made in the following categories:

Public Health- \$329,973

Basic Needs- \$209,000

Educational Resources- \$343,186

Economic Sustainability- \$343,518

Parks and Recreation:

The drive-through Circus was a success with over 500 vehicles passing through. Veterans Day virtual ceremony Wednesday, 11/11/20 at 11:00 AM. Water bottle filling stations will be installed in public spaces like park/trails. Registration for Letters from Santa program is now open through 11/29/20.

Community Development:

Reviewing RFPs for proposed Amtrak station at Chestnut Fields facility. Comprehensive Housing Study and Needs Analysis draft complete by Bowen National Research. Study findings to be presented to the public after staff review.

Service and Engineering:

Applied for a grant to support the installation of an electric car charging station. The Walnut St/Elm St sanitary sewer replacement construction will occur from Nov. 2 through Nov.9, 2020.

Police Department:

OPD staff members completed Youth Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper training. Over 69 pounds of expired medications were submitted to the OPD for safe disposal on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Oct. 24, 2020.

Fire Department:

Ordered additional protective equipment for staff for the upcoming flu season. There is a vacant full-time Firefighter/EMT position available with the OFD.

**Oxford Parks and Recreation Special Programs
Veterans Day**

While this year has necessitated changes in the annual Oxford Parks and Recreation Veterans Day Ceremony, there is still an opportunity to honor our Veterans. The Veterans Wreath will be uptown at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (Main and High) from the hours of 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Veterans Day. There will be red carnations available if you would like to place a red carnation on the wreath to honor veterans no longer with us. There will be white carnations available and you may take a white carnation in honor of persons currently serving our country. Oxford Parks and Recreation will also honor our Veterans through a video they have created. The video will be shown on a screen uptown in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020. The video will also be shown on the Oxford Parks and Recreation Facebook page at the same time.

Letters from Santa

Would you like to have Santa Claus send a personalized letter to your child? Let Oxford Parks and Recreation handle the long-distance North Pole communications. We will make sure Santa receives all requests and mails a personalized note back to your little one(s). Letters will be mailed by December 14. Cost is \$5 per letter for city residents and \$5.50 for non-city residents. Call Oxford Parks and Recreation for more information 523-6314. Requests for letters must be made by Sunday, November 29, 2020 but if you are calling to request letters please do so by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 27, 2020.

Help Spread the O-Town News

Please send the O-Town News newsletter to me at this name and address:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Optional) Phone: _____ E-mail _____

**Return to Age-Friendly Oxford P.O Box 206 Oxford, OH 45056
Or call 513-523-8100**