



O-Town News – May 2021

Greetings! May bring us May Day, Mother's Day, the peak of springtime, the mass exodus of students from Oxford, and Memorial Day. Did you know that May is also ***Older American Month?*** The theme this year is "Celebrating Communities of Strength" featuring the Aging Network, with the special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities. In this issue, we will highlight local and state initiatives unfolding to help make the Oxford area a better place to live for older adults.

This past year has shown us many ways in which the Oxford area is a community of strength. A big shout out goes to Oxford Seniors, Inc and Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center for all that their staff and volunteers do for older adults. For one thing, the work of Age-Friendly Oxford couldn't/wouldn't happen without their on-going support. On behalf of the Oxford community, THANK YOU! You make us a stronger, better community!

Celebrating the Wisdom of Our Elder Friends. *Who Inspires You?*

O-Town News often highlights community level efforts to make the quality of life in the Oxford area good for people of all ages. Yet, it is often individuals who inspire us the most. Our older adult friends serve as role models, not just in coping with the pandemic, but in everyday life by relying on a lifetime of experiences and perspectives. One might call this wisdom.

This past year, older adults have been in the news headlines a great deal and not for positive reasons. Adults age 65+ have borne the brunt of serious illness and death as a result of COVID-19. Let's now create an opportunity to celebrate some of our local older friends and relatives in a positive way by recognizing their caring, strength and resilience during a

difficult year as they continue to inspire us and make our community stronger.

Who is and older adult who inspires you with their strength, experience and perspective? Please take a moment to celebrate them by sharing a sentence or phrase about them with O-Town News – include their name and a sentence or phrase about how they inspire you. their name and how they inspire you. O-Town News will we will highlight these individuals in the June O-town News. Please indicate if you would like your name attached or if you would prefer you note to be anonymous. Email your note to info@agefriendlyoxford.org or send it by US Mail to Age-Friendly Oxford, P.O. Box 206, Oxford, OH 45056. This will be fun!

JUST RELEASED FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT ON AGING

2020-2022 **Strategic Action Plan on Aging**



The Ohio Department on Aging Strategic Action Plan on Aging (SAPA) is a prioritized plan that addresses the many challenges identified in the [2020 Summary Assessment of Older Ohioans](#).

The goal of the SAPA is that all **Ohioans live longer, healthier lives with dignity and autonomy** and that **disparities and inequities among older Ohioans are eliminated**. To achieve this goal, the SAPA provides a comprehensive roadmap that requires public and private collaboration to improve outcomes for older Ohioans. The infographic below represents an executive summary of the strategic plan:

Miami University Joins Global Network of Age-Friendly Universities

By Jessica Stark Rivinius, Miami University News and Communications

Miami University has been accepted into the Age-Friendly University (AFU) global network, comprising more than 70 universities that have endorsed the 10 Age-Friendly University Principles and committed themselves to becoming more age-friendly in their programs and policies. Miami is only the second university in Ohio to receive such a designation.

"This designation is a very important message about Miami University's commitment to age inclusiveness," said Suzanne Kunkel, executive director of the Scripps Gerontology Center.

"Miami established one of the first graduate programs in gerontology in the world, and is home to one of the nation's most vibrant gerontology research centers. The AFU designation recognizes those accomplishments, and opens the door to new initiatives to be more intentionally welcoming and inclusive to people of all ages," she said.

Home to the prominent [Scripps Gerontology Center](#), Miami has a long history of positive contributions to research, education and service in aging, and has recently set a higher standard as an age-inclusive organization by committing itself to address unintended ageism and increase its efforts to serve learners of all ages.

Miami has woven the 10 principles of the network seamlessly into its community. For instance, it incorporates older adults in core activities of the university, from emeritus faculty serving on thesis and dissertation committees to offering more than 70 courses and events each semester through the Institute for Learning in Retirement. Each year, the Miami Alumni Association hosts [Grandparents College](#), an event that allows Miami alumni and their grandchildren ages 8-12 to come together for a three-day educational experience on Miami's Oxford campus. Miami has also been a partner in the [Age Friendly Oxford](#) initiative, which works to create a livable community for people of all ages.

[Opening Minds Through Art](#) (OMA) is one of the more unique programs at Miami, said Elizabeth "Like" Lokon, OMA's founder. "Miami students support older adults living with dementia to express their creativity. Not only does this promote intergenerational connections, but it also creates beautiful artwork," she said. This intergenerational program is now being used in more than 200 facilities across the U.S. and Canada.

Miami Online, formerly known as eLearning Miami, is widening access to online educational opportunities for older adults and other non-traditional students. Last year, [Miami's Institute for Learning in Retirement](#) moved its programming online in order to meet the needs of its students during the global pandemic. Due to its popularity and success, online delivery will continue to be an option even after in-class programming resumes.

Further informing the university's research and teaching agenda, Scripps Gerontology Center conducts a wide range of aging-related research in areas that include demography, long-term services and supports, caregiving, program evaluation, the aging workforce, and arts and dementia programming.

"Our research is centered on providing good, useful information for decision makers that can improve the lives of older adults and their families," Jane Straker, director of research at Scripps, said.

Through undergraduate courses and academic programs in gerontology, Miami works to educate its student body about aging and the complexity and richness it brings. In addition, Scripps Gerontology Center offers lunchtime presentations and public lectures on aging-related topics for the entire university community.

You Are Invited to: "Designing Your Age-Friendly Home"

May 27 - 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

A virtual webinar presented by

Richard Duncan, the nation's leading authority on Universal Design

Co-hosted by

AARP, Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center, Oxford Seniors, Inc.
and the RL Mace Institute of Universal Design

According to a 2019 survey and report of residents age 50+ living City of Oxford and Oxford Township conducted by Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center, many Oxford area residents want to remain in the area to age-in place, or age in community. 68% of area residents age 50+ reported that homes with features of universal design are important to them for aging in place. Further, nearly 30% of Oxford residents age 50+ indicated they are likely to move to a different home within Oxford.

NOW is the time to learn about home design features and how they impact your safety, convenience, independence and longevity in your home.. These features are also used in home remodels. With six new home

developments being proposed for the Oxford area, many residents may be considering a housing change. When creating a home including features of Universal design, it is simple and more cost effective to do so in the early stages of home design and planning, although such features are important when considering a remodel an existing home.

To join the “Designing Your Age-Friendly Home” free webinar, please pre-register at this registration link: After <https://forms.gle/K8F1oNEVMXafcRvc8>. After registering, an invitation to a ZOOM event will be sent to you in a separate email. For those without digital access, call Jeanne at Oxford Seniors at 523-523-8100 to receive a packet of information after the presentation. You may also email info@agefriendlyoxford.org.

City Of Oxford Announcements

(from the City of Oxford May 3, 2021 E-Newsletter)

Oxford Spring Yard Waste Pickup Program --Oxford residents may dispose of brush and yard waste (no grass) at the curbside on normal refuse pick-up days, free of charge. From March through November this service is available every week. This yard waste pick-up program is designed to handle typical residential yard trimmings. It is not designed to pick up excessive amounts of debris left by a tree trimming service or landscaping company. Requirements:

- *tie brush in bundles no longer than three feet in length and not heavier than 50 pounds. You should tie brush with a natural fiber cord (cotton, linen, twine). We will not accept brush tied with wire, plastic, or nylon cord.
- *Place smaller yard waste items in paper bags and leave the bag open. Yard waste will not be accepted if it is placed in cans or in plastic bags.
- *Place yard waste items separate from refuse.
- *Limit yard waste to six (6) bundles or bags per pick up and place yard waste at the pick-up site no later than 7:00 a.m. on normal refuse days.
- *Items that are non-conforming to these criteria will not be classified as yard waste and will not be picked up by City crews.

COVID 19 Vaccines Are Still Available.

Call the City of Oxford’s COVID Vaccine Hotline for more information:
513-524-5238

Tax Deadline Reminder

The United States Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service extended the federal income tax filing deadline to Monday, May 17, 2021 and the State of Ohio has also extended it’s deadline to May 17, 2021.

City of Oxford Job Openings

A listing of job openings with the City of Oxford is available on the city's website. Currently listed are openings for:

* seasonal employment with the Parks and Recreation Department such as Concession Staff, Lifeguards, and Summer Camp Staff.

*Administrative Assistant

*Part-time Firefighter/EMT Paramedic

Applications for employment can be downloaded from the City's website or can be mailed to you or picked up at the Municipal Building at 15 S. College Ave or call the City at 524-5211 if you have any questions.

City of Oxford Administrative Updates (as of May 3, 2021)

From the City Manager's Office (524-5201)

An application was submitted to Duke Energy for a \$50K Planning Grant. These funds would be used for staff support to research employer needs in several industries seeking skilled workers and workforce development initiatives to build education programs through local educational partners.

The City of Oxford continues to monitor developments for HB157 and SB97. These legislative actions would allow jurisdictions of residence to collect income tax from employees who are working from home rather than the jurisdiction where they worked pre-pandemic. The City of Oxford's estimated loss in income tax revenue would be \$1.5 million, which represents a 16.7% reduction of the estimated FY 2021 income tax revenue.

From the Parks and Recreation Department (523-6314)

- Aquatic Center memberships are now available!
- Swim lessons available this summer at the OCP Aquatic Center! See our Activity Guide (pages 18/19) for details. There are several free options for lessons thanks to the generosity of the Oxford Lions and Oxford Rotary.
- Summer Camp registration is now open and filling fast!

From the Oxford Police Department (Police Office Manager 524-5247)

Thank you to the members of our community who took advantage of our Prescription Take Back Day on Saturday, April 24. We were able to collect

over 200 pounds of expired and unwanted medications. If you have medications you need to safely dispose of, please bring them to the Oxford Police Department at 101 E. High Street.

From the Services and Engineering Department (524-5206)

Work is underway along High St. and Patterson Ave. installing several landscaped pedestrian islands to improve pedestrian safety. This project is a joint effort with Miami University to address road crossing concerns.

Oxford Climate Action Steering Committee Update

Members of the CASC and City Staff recently heard final presentations from the Miami University's Professional Service Project students working with the City on the Green House Gas Inventory and Climate Resilience projects. A formal presentation of the recommendations will be shared, soon, with City Council.

Reminder: Send Age-Friendly Oxford the name of an older adult friend and a sentence about how they inspire you with their wisdom.

We will enjoy your person and tribute together in the June O-Town News!

Email to info@agefriendly.org.

Mail to Age-Friendly Oxford, P.O. Box 206 Oxford, OH 45056
