



## **O-TOWN NEWS – February 2022**

Happy February! After a January (and J-Term) break, O-Town News is back this month with a lot of information – all good news we think! For fun we are using an approach from early journalism based loosely on a genre of news reporting called “*Beat Reporting*” to organize information for this issue of O-Town News. *Beat Reporting* focuses on a particular sector of information over time. We hope this will help us with writing and be easier for readers to follow from newsletter to newsletter. Let us know what you think! Read on to learn more about:

**Oxford’s City Beat  
Oxford’s Community Beat, and  
Oxford’s Age-Friendly Beat**

### **OXFORD’S CITY BEAT CITY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **OXFORD TOMORROW The City of Oxford’s Comprehensive Plan Update**

As a follow up to content appearing in the November edition of O-Town News, the City of Oxford is gearing up to begin **PHASE 2** of the Comprehensive Plan update in an effort to gauge community members’ perspectives on growth, development, and change in Oxford over the next 10-20 years. It has been 14 years since Oxford last updated its Comprehensive Plan and much has changed since then. Citizens of all ages and walks of life are urged to get involved and let their voices be heard.

Below is a recap of the 3 phases of the Oxford Tomorrow planning process:

#### **Phase 1: Where We Are (Summer/Fall 2021) – Complete**

This phase involved creating a shared understanding of current conditions, recent trends, and pertinent issues. A Steering Committee was established by City Council and has thus far met on six occasions since May 2021. Equipped with information from City staff and consultant firm

MKSK, the Committee participated in a number of brainstorming exercises to further develop a sense of existing challenges and opportunities.

### **Phase 2: What We Heard (Winter/Spring 2022) – Current Phase**

During this phase, the community will be engaged through a variety of methods including at least two public input sessions and several online tools including a survey, ideas wall, and interactive map. Input received will help to inform what the City should continue doing (where it is excelling), and what the City should do differently moving forward.

### **Phase 3: Moving Forward (Spring/Summer 2022)**

During this phase, a draft Comprehensive Plan will be developed based on the public feedback received in Phase 2 and presented to the Steering Committee for review and refinement. At least one public open house event may be held to showcase draft plans and recommendations, before moving through the official approval process by City Council.

### **How do I participate?**

The first public input event will be held on **FEBRUARY 16th from 6:00-7:30pm**. As a precaution to the spread of the Omicron variant, the event will be held virtually on Zoom. Visit [www.oxfordtomorrow.org/get-involved](http://www.oxfordtomorrow.org/get-involved) and click on “Registration Link (Zoom)” to pre-register for the virtual event. The event itself will include an educational presentation by the City’s contracted consulting firm MKSK, as well as opportunities for interactive polling and Q&A within the Zoom platform. **All members of the public are encouraged to register and attend on February 16!**

### **Where can I learn more about Oxford Tomorrow?**

All Oxford citizens are encouraged to visit the project website to uncover more information about the planning process. The homepage can be accessed at [www.oxfordtomorrow.org](http://www.oxfordtomorrow.org) and will be updated frequently throughout the process. You can also keep an eye out on the City’s main website ([www.cityofoxford.org](http://www.cityofoxford.org)) and [City E-newsletter](#) for updates.

Information on existing conditions and demographic trends can be found in the **Preliminary Information Booklet**, which is accessible on the website (click on “Documents” under the “Other” tab in the top red header of the website). To request a hard copy of the Booklet, contact Planner Zachary Moore at 513-524-5204 or [zmoore@cityofoxford.org](mailto:zmoore@cityofoxford.org).

**No computer access?** For those who cannot access the virtual input session the City is developing ways to share written drop-off comments. Watch for more

details in the March O-Town News. Again, City Planner Zachary Moore is than happy to take calls at any time from citizens interested in the Comp Plan process. Call Zachary at 513-524-5204.

## **Information from City of Oxford E-Newsletter and Staff Reports**

### **City Council Reinstates Mask Ordinance**

On January 18, 2022, the Oxford City Council re-instated the Face Mask Ordinance. This ordinance is in effect until March 1, 2022. Face masks are required indoors in all public spaces. When possible, the ordinance asks that individuals wear CDC recommended masks including 3-ply surgical masks, KN 95 masks, and N 95 masks. When those masks cannot be used, a cloth mask is allowable. Some exemptions to this ordinance include:

- Children under age 2

- When an individual is actively eating or drinking

- When an individual is participating in a sport

- When in private workspace not open to the public

- When acting in an official capacity as a public safety employee

Do you need a mask? Call the City Manager's office at 513-524-5238. City Council also passed a resolution encouraging all residents to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available at Oxford pharmacies:

CVS	513-523-6378
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Kroger	513-523-7323
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Walgreens	513-523-4683
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Walmart	513-524-3744
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### **Expanded Polystyrene Ban**

On February 4, 2020, the Oxford City Council updated Oxford Codified Ordinance 521.14 banning expanded polystyrene disposable products by restaurants and other foodservice businesses in the City of Oxford. The State of Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 242 which stopped the City from enforcing our local ordinance. The provisions of this state law ended on January 15, 2022. This means that Oxford's local ordinance is now in effect.

Oxford's local food establishments are allowed to use up their existing containers. All re-orders should comply with the new local ordinance. The ban on polystyrene is limited to disposable food containers made by expanded polystyrene. It includes carryout containers, cups, plates, trays, bowls, and lidded containers.

## **Highlights from City Staff Reports**

On January 18, City Council approved Preliminary Plans for two major new housing projects:

- Owl's Landing – Brookville Road - 86 single-family dwellings in a Planned Unit Development (PUD). Owner/Developer, Todd Homes. LLC.
- Oxford Court Village – Oxford-Reily Road/Melissa Drive/Dana Drive – 42 Affordable Senior Housing Units. Owner/Manager, Episcopal Retirement Services. Developer, Model Group. Council's approval of this proposal allows Episcopal Retirement Services and Model Group to apply for competitive funding from Ohio's Housing Finance Agency. A decision in May 2022 by the State will determine if this development proceeds.

City Staff are reviewing options for consultants to assist in creating a master plan for the remainder of the City's 47 acre Western Knolls property on Oxford Reily Road. With Planning Commission's recent Episcopal Retirement recommendation, a plan for the remainder of the property would assist City Council in determining how best to move forward.

Steve Schnabl, Executive Director of Oxford Seniors met with Sam Perry and Doug Elliott to discuss possible options for a new Senior Center location including the city owned land off SR 732 South.

## ***~OXFORD'S COMMUNITY BEAT~ COMMUNITY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### **Greater Oxford Community Foundation Scholarships Now Available.**

Each year, the Greater Oxford Community Foundation awards a variety of scholarships to students pursuing education at a university or trade school after their high school graduation. Scholarships are available based on financial need, academic merit, and for students pursuing specific fields. Encourage a high school senior to apply for one of many scholarships at [www.oxfordfdn.org/scholarships](http://www.oxfordfdn.org/scholarships).

### **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Red Door Community Concert on Feb. 11.**

Steinway artist Frank Huang brings Chopin, Price, Medtner and Poulenc to life! Concert time is 12:15-1:00pm. Free and open to the public. Masks are required. The Red Door Concerts are co-sponsored by Oxford Community Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, Butler Rural Community Connection and Matinee Musicale.

**League of Women Voters of Oxford panel discussion, “A Conversation About Election Integrity,”** is being organized by Miami University Menard Family Center for Democracy. The online event will take place on Monday, February 28, 7:00pm. In this discussion, Ohio election officials, party leaders and scholars will discuss the recent erosion of public confidence in elections and safeguards in place that ensure a fair accounting of the vote. Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Oxford, Eastern Butler County League of Women Voters and Menard Family Center for Democracy. On Zoom: Pre-register at <https://miamioh.zoom.us/j/84481221234>.

**Oxford Chamber of Commerce recently held it’s Annual Meeting “Red Bricks to Progress” Awards Ceremony** honoring our Businesses of the Year. Congratulations to this year’s honorees-Gaslight Brewhouse and Gloyeske Family Chiropractic. Thank you to these businesses for serving the Oxford Community so well! Also, save the date for the Oxford Wine & Craft Beer Festival on Saturday, May 21, 2022!

### **Oxford Community Arts Center - Upcoming Events**

\* *Friday, Feb.4 – Friday Night Lights - 7:00 p.m.* in the theater.

Feature: Strictly Ballroom. Runtime: 1hr.32min. PG-some language, sexual context and violence. Popcorn and water available prior to the movie.

\* *Friday, Feb. 11 – Second Friday Celebration of the Arts.*

Celebrate a new month of fine and performing arts! Starting at 6 pm, stop by to view work from local and regional artists in one of three art gallery spaces. While enjoying complimentary hors d’oeuvres and wine, browse the Art Shop on the first floor or meet one of our Resident Artists on the third floor. At 7:30 pm, move into the Brant Ballroom for a free concert or performance.

**Oxford NAACP and Miami University offer on-going celebrations honoring the legacy and dreams of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** The Oxford NAACP and Miami University hosted a recorded/virtual Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration with an accompanying virtual Creative Arts Exhibit, curated by members of the Oxford NAACP Unit. The MLK Creative Art Exhibit is a collection of artistic works of students’ and community artists’ self-reflections and artistic expressions of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy and Black History. Special thanks to the students and artists who submitted entries, as well as the parents, teachers, Dr. Ann Wengler (chair), Sue Bartow, NAACP committee and community supporters for making this exhibit a reality. The virtual program and art exhibit will be available through February 2022. The MLK Creative Arts Exhibit can be viewed online via the link <https://www.oxfordhnaacp.com/>. The recorded Annual Dr. Martin Luther King

Jr. Celebration event program can be viewed online via the link [MLK Day 2022: Honoring the Legacy](#)

**The Oxford NAACP Branch Executive Board** thanks the greater Oxford community members for their continued support. We encourage everyone to continue honoring the legacy and dreams of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by taking actions to promote/demand fair districting, fair elections, protecting the vote and defending our democracy. As a community, we must work together to make a difference.

**Upcoming NAACP Events:**

\*February 7, 2022, 7:00 pm–Virtual Oxford NAACP general meeting.

\*February 11, 2022, 7:00 pm, Oxford Community Arts Center–Opening of Paula Smith’s Art Exhibit. Ms. Smith is an artist, educator, entertainer, and a member of the Oxford NAACP Executive Board.

\*February 11, 2022, 7:30 pm, Oxford Community Arts Center – Musical Performance by “The Godfather of Music” Melford Edwards. He is a recipient of the Oxford NAACP Outstanding Diversity Educator Award, an educator and entertainer.

**Oxford Parks and Receptions Plans Fun for All Ages!**

-Bows & Bowties Dance Friday, February 11 7-9pm at Talawanda Middle School for an adult and their date(s) grades K-12.

-Toddler Tuesdays Open Gym – Tuesdays at the TRI 9-11am through March 15<sup>th</sup>. Ages 1-4.

-The Wee Series: Wee Create Rainbow Windsock. March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6pm at Oxford Seniors for ages 3-5.

-Wine & Design Night: Bunny Pots. March 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Hanover Winery. Ages 18+.

Registration for above programs is available in person at the TRI Community Center or online at [opr.recdesk.com](http://opr.recdesk.com). Questions? Call (513)-523-6314.

**Oxford PFLAG’s February Community meeting February 14 at 7 pm**, will be a book discussion. The book we are reading is “Troublemaker for Justice” by J Housman, W Naegle and M Long. Please email [oxfordareapflag@gmail.com](mailto:oxfordareapflag@gmail.com) to be sent a Zoom link for the meeting. Location Oxford Seniors, 922 Tollgate Dr.



## **~OXFORD'S AGE-FRIENDLY BEAT~ NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**AARP Modified Tax appointments** are now available at Oxford Seniors beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call Oxford Seniors to sign up 513-523-8100.

**Miami University Opera - Senior Night:** You are cordially invited to attend the light-hearted Miami University Opera, "The Light in the Piazza." This is a special Senior Night on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, Gates Abbeglen Theater, Miami Center for Performing Arts. \$12 for a Seniors ticket. For tickets visit [MUOPERA.COM](http://MUOPERA.COM). Transportation available from Oxford Seniors. Call 513-523-8100 to sign up.

**Join Miami Hockey fans on Friday, February 25** for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *You Can Play Initiative* at the hockey game of Miami University vs Minnesota Duluth, 7:05 pm Goggin Arena. Call Oxford Seniors at 513-523-8100 to sign up. Tickets must be purchased by individuals.

**Duplicate Bridge** -on Wednesday evenings, at 6 pm at Oxford Seniors.

**Senior Seminar – Topic: MEET UP. Monday February 28, 5:30-7:00pm** (refreshments at 5:00). MEET-UP is a national social program that helps people with similar interests meet like-minded people for fun social activities. There are MEET UP groups all across the country for all kinds of interests and activities (e.g. hiking, photography, dating, cooking, movies, travel). A representative from a Cincinnati MEET UP group will be on hand to explore starting a MEET UP group in Oxford. Questions? Contact Denise Gifford or Marion Schloemer [Marion@Lynsdaughter.com](mailto:Marion@Lynsdaughter.com).

**Know someone who needs a job? Oxford Seniors is hiring a driver.**

A part time driver position is available for weekday hours to assist older adults and others with mobility limitations with pre-scheduled local trips in Greater Oxford (using senior center vehicle). Background check, drug screen, doctor's approval and clear driving record needed. Must be capable of helping those in wheelchairs or with other mobility aids. Must be able to carry groceries or packages from van into riders' homes. Required training is provided. Apply in person at Oxford Seniors, 922 Tollgate Drive, Oxford. EOE.

**Opening Minds Through Art (OMA).** You are invited to connect with Miami University students to discuss art and music, and to create original drawings, stories and poetry. No art background or preparation necessary. One participant

said: *“Meeting on zoom with the students every week to explore music, art, and poetry was a high point of the week for me. They absolutely were – and are -a bright spot for me. One of the many perks of living in a college town!”*

There are two options for participation:

\*In-person classes at Oxford Seniors start on **February 9** and will be held weekly on Wednesdays from 3-4pm. Please call 513-523-8100 to register.

\*Remote classes **start the week of February 21, 2022** (10 times total). All remote participants must be able to use Zoom. To register, please email [ScrippsOMA@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:ScrippsOMA@MiamiOH.edu). Space is limited, sign-up soon.

**Council On Aging (COA) is seeking Oxford area volunteers.** There’s a nationwide shortage of home health aides. The impact of this shortage can be felt throughout our region and COA tells us that the Oxford area is particularly difficult to reach with these services. The COA is developing a new technology in the form of a Home Health Aide App. to help directly match those seeking in-home health aide care with home health aides or others who provide such services. They need help testing the new app. Volunteers may be of any age and need not be using or seeking home health aide. To volunteer one needs a smart phone and time for one or two 20-minute phone calls or two email exchanges between now and the end of February. If you are able to help test the new app. please email [coa@gaslight.co](mailto:coa@gaslight.co). (correct-there is no “m” on this email address). Someone from the COA team will contact you within 5-10 days.