



*Creating Livability for ALL!*

## **O-Town News**

Issue #3, November 12, 2020

Greetings! We hope you are enjoying our warm, sunny days of November and that the last flush of summer lured you outdoors. Issue 3 of O-Town News updates you on what is happening in Oxford, resources you can use, Ohio's current Health Advisory and Covid-19 numbers. At all times, but especially during a global public health crisis, a better-informed community is a safer community. The information provided this week tells the story of just how many fine individuals, organizations and partnerships are hard at work to help keep community members safe and well.

In addition to keeping people up on the latest announcements during Covid, we hope to build a network of contacts in one place for ongoing communication. Please help us reach out to folks who might benefit from the information in the weekly O-Town News, especially if they do not have access to or are not able to use digital information. If you have a friend, relative or neighbor who might benefit from O-Town News, please suggest they return this form or call 513-523-8100 to be added to this mailing list.

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**Yes! Please send future issues of O-Town News to me at this address:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## COVID-19 Updates

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### ***Butler County General Health District COVID-19 Update (as of 10/31/20)***

Total # of Cases (10/31):	10,242 *
Butler County Residents (10/31):	7,838
Miami University (10/31):	2,404
Confirmed Deaths (10/31):	135
First Case Reported:	3/11/2020
Last Case Reported (so far):	10/31/2020
Confirmed Cases:	10,096
Probable Cases:	146
Age Range:	<1-101
Median Age:	35
Mean Age:	38.9
Incidence:	2,673.2 per 100,000

### ***Ohio's Public Health Advisory System for COVID-19.***

This four level color-coded system provides Ohioans with guidance as to the severity of the problem in the counties in which they live.

YELLOW/ Level 1	Active exposure and spread
ORANGE/ Level 2	Increased exposure and spread - exercise high caution
<b>RED/ Level 3</b>	<b>Very high exposure and spread – limit activities</b>
PURPLE/ Level	Severe exposure and spread - only leave home for supplies

According to Butler County General Health District, as of Nov. 5, 2020 Butler County is RED/Level 3 High Incidence. Every county in Ohio is experiencing a high incidence of the virus and the possibility of catching the virus is high.

***Current Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Travel Advisory.*** Those entering Ohio after travel to states reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19 are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days. The positivity rates come from state-level aggregate data from The COVID Tracking Project which is also the source that Johns Hopkins University uses for testing. Positivity information for Ohio's travel advisory is updated once a week on Wednesdays, using data from that Tuesday. Positivity rates may have changed since our most recent update.

Based on a 7-day rolling average of positivity rates of November 4, the affected states are:

SD	50.6%
IA	38.7%
KS	36.0%
ID	34.2%
WY	28.6%
AL	18.9%
MT	18.6%

ODH recommends 14 days of self-quarantine after leaving these locations. This advisory is intended as guidance, not a mandate. Factors such as mode of transportation, lodging, activities, ability to social distance when traveling, and your personal health factors are also important when making travel decisions for yourself and your family.

**McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital TriHealth** is partnering with the **City of Oxford** to provide COVID testing for people without insurance who have mild symptoms. Testing is by appointment or walk-in at Oxford Priority Care, 5151 Morning Sun Road., Oxford. [Hours are Monday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.. call 513-524-5522 to schedule.](#)

McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital leadership has an **“Ask”** for the community to please help get the incidences of COVID to start going back down by continuing to: 1) Physically distance at a minimum of 6 feet for less than 15 minutes; 2) Wear masks when out of the house 3) Wash hands frequently and 4) Avoid touching your face.

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## Community News and Announcements

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**Oxford Community Foundation (OCF)** The Oxford Community Foundation has taken the lead helping organizations and service providers to stay informed about the needs of community members by hosting quarterly Community Needs Awareness Meetings. The recent November meeting convened representatives from over 20 organizations in the Oxford area.

\*The OCF Sock Drive is Nov. 23-Dec. 18 and donated socks can be dropped off at the Foundation office at 22 East High Street, Oxford.

\*OCF is donating 180 sets of hats and scarves to pre-school and elementary age children in Talawanda schools. Thank you to Kath Carmean for knitting the hats and scarves and for Bob Carmean and Sue Jones for distribution. OCF announced that

\*The next OCF their grant application deadline is Dec. 15, 2020.

**The Family Resource Center (FRC)** is piloting a Cold Shelter Program this winter using several Budget Inn rooms and local rental homes to help individuals with unstable housing move into more permanent, long term housing. The FRC will also be using CARES Act funds to help individuals with transportation, auto repairs, to help folks with eviction records and with a Shoes for the Shoeless Program.

**Oxford Seniors, Inc.** has delayed their re-opening until November 30<sup>th</sup>, pending a decline in COVID positivity. While closed, the center is upgrading sinks, automatic doors, an air filtration system, and has added a new van to the fleet!

\*Adult Day Service has rehired one nurse assistant in preparation to reopen.

\*MEDICARE open enrollment runs through Dec. 7. If you need help evaluating your options call 523-8100 to talk with OSHIP certified benefits counselor Sabrina Jewell.

**Oxford Township Trustees** voted to subcontract \$116,000 of Coronavirus Relief Funds to the Talawanda School District. The Township is spending less than \$20,000 on Township related expenses resulting from COVID. The Oxford Township subcontract will help to cover Talawanda costs for two facemasks for all staff and students, touchless retrofit bottle fillers for water fountains and miscellaneous sanitizing equipment stands and supplies for buildings and school busses. Any additional funds may be used for additional laptops and wifi "hot spots" for students, substitute teachers, and unemployment expenses for furloughed or laid off staff.

**People United For Self-Help (PUSH)** also has CARES Act funds and is focusing on giving grants to low income home owners for assistance with hot water heaters and furnace repair and replacement. Call 513-523-5859 or visit 5445 College Corner Pk.

**The School Backpack Program, sponsored by St. Mary's Parish and Shared Harvest Food Bank**, is packing and delivering weekly backpacks containing healthy weekend snacks to students in need at each Talawanda elementary school.

**Kiwanis** has started a food drive to assist. Donations to the backpack program can be made anytime throughout the year to Friends of Neighbors In Need (FONIN). Please write *Backpack* in the check memo and mail to St. Mary's at 111 East High Street, Oxford, OH 45056.

**Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPPS)** opened last week for curbside shopping and pick-up, similar. Delivery service is still available. They have benefitted from a Kiwanis Kroger Gift Card fundraiser of nearly \$12,000 and are very excited to partner with the Farmer's Market to purchase a refrigerated van for safe food delivery out in the community.

**Talawanda School District Social Workers** announced there is now a Little Free Pantry in each school (like the Little Free Library) thanks to a grant from Kiwanis. Each pantry is stocked with hygiene items and nonperishable food.

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## **New Programs and Partnerships**

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The new **Talawanda School District Community Food Program** is up and running during this time of COVID response. The program is open to families living in the general Talawanda/Oxford area. Eligible families are those with a child between 1-18 years age who is either: a) learning remotely, b) being home-schooled, or c) who is not yet of school age.

Families can pick up five breakfasts and five lunches for each eligible child in their family. Meal Pick up is once a week on Mondays from 2:15 p.m.- 2:45 p.m. at the front door of any one of the three elementary school buildings:

Bogan Elementary 5200 Hamilton Richmond Road

Kramer Elementary 400 W. Sycamore Street

Marshall Elementary 6230 Oxford, Millville Road, Oxford

Eligible families are encouraged to please use this service as these meals are there for you! Those unable to make the pickup time may contact the child's school office. For more information, call 513-461-0455. Please share this information with anyone who could use this support.

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## **Volunteers Needed**

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**The Family Resource Center (FRC)** is looking for additional volunteer help with office administration duties in their office now and through the winter months. If interested call 513-53-5859

**Oxford Community Arts Center (OCAC)** - Do you knit or crochet? The Oxford Community Art Center is looking for help making scarves to wrap around trees in the yard of the OCAC During the City of Oxford's Enchanted Winter from November 27, 2020 until January 22, 2021. These scarves are for trees, so they don't have to be anywhere near perfect. Trees are very forgiving! OCAC is hoping for at least twenty scarves. The plan is to begin installing them on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and can also be added as they are created. The desired size of each scarf is 15 inches wide by 2 to 4 feet long. The color scheme desired is vibrant rainbow colors, heavy on pinks and teals. If you are interested in helping or have questions, call 524-8506.

**Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPPS)** – Now that TOPPS has resumed curbside shopping and pickup services at the pantry additional volunteers are needed. The shopping and pick-up hours are Mondays, and Thursdays from 2:45 p.m.-7:00 and Saturdays from 11:45 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. In particular, help is needed from Nov. 20 through the end of January while Miami classes are not in session and student volunteers are home for break. Contact Anne Fuehrer at 513-390-0837 or at [director@topps.org](mailto:director@topps.org).

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## **One Climate One Community Event on Nov 18**

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The League of Women Voters of Oxford will host a webinar, **One Climate One Community** with panelist from Oxford's and Miami's new Climate Action Steering Commission on November 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Those able to view the live webinar may do so at <https://tinyurl.com/OneClimateOneCommunity>. The program will also be recorded and made available on YouTube. It is expected that a summary article will be published in the Oxford Press available in Sunday's edition of the Journal News. A hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation given during the webinar can be requested by contacting Joan Potter-Sommer through Oxford Seniors, Inc., 922 Tollgate Drive, Oxford, OH 45056, (513)523-8100.

**Oxford's new Climate Action Steering Commission (CASC)** was established to provide coordination of climate issues within the City of Oxford. The commission is composed of seven members who volunteer their time to serve in this role. CASC members are Mark Boardman, Chair; Sandra Woy-Hazelton, Vice Chair; David Prytherch, Secretary; David Gorchoy; Joan Potter-Sommer; Andor Kiss; and Jason Bracken. Two members of the CASC, Mark Boardman and David Prytherch, will serve as panelists for the One Climate One Community Commission along with Co-Chairs of Miami University Climate Action Task Force, Jonathan Levy and Adam Sizemore.

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## **Oxford Food Scrap Recycling and Composting Grows**

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Did you know, It's estimated that about one-third of the items in landfills are materials, such as food scraps, that could be composted? Oxford's commercial food composting pilot program began in April of 2019 and is budgeted to continue in 2021. A central drop-off location is available 27/7 for Oxford residents to deposit their accumulated food scraps at the City of Oxford's Streets and Maintenance Division garage facility at 945 South Main Street. The marked containers are on the west side of South Main Street in the parking lot across from the Oxford Township Building. A non-profit food scraps courier service has been contracted for weekly collection and transport of the food scraps to a Class II-permitted composting facility.

Removing food scraps from waste being landfilled has several benefits:

- 1) Decomposition of organic materials in a landfill generates methane and nitrogen gases that are even worse for trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.
- 2) Controlled composting of food scraps limits or eliminates release for these gases
- 3) Composting is considered a natural process by the United Nation's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change and carbon dioxide produced here is part of the natural carbon cycle and is not considered in computations of greenhouse gases.
- 4) Removing compostable materials from the landfill waste stream leaves more space for materials that can't be otherwise processed thus lengthening the effective lifetime of the landfill facility.

The program is growing both in terms of participation and volume of food scraps being composted. In 2019, the Oxford program prevented 50,420 pounds (25.2 tons) of food scraps from going to the landfill which is an average of 646 pounds per week. To date in 2020 31,462 pounds (15.7 tons) has been collected for an average of 710 pounds per week. Every 100 pounds of food wasted in our landfills sends 8.3 pounds of methane into our atmosphere and methane is at least 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. You can lower your carbon footprint significantly by making sure all food scraps are composted instead of going to the landfill.

***Tips for participation in Food Scrap Recycling*** - A small container can be kept in your kitchen to gather food scraps during meal preparation or after a meal. Keep the stored food scraps in a cool place and keep any meat or fish scraps in the refrigerator or freezer until taken to the drop-off. Keep your containers clean to help reduce odor. Please do not place regular plastic bags in the drop-off containers. Only Biodegradable Plastic Institute (BPI) certified 6400 biodegradable liner bags may be used (e.g. Ecosafe or Biobag).

Acceptable Food Scraps

Cooked Meat and Small Bones  
Milk, Cheese and Dairy  
Fruits, Vegetables and Peels  
Flour, Bread and Pasta  
Soups and Sauces  
Dressings and Condiments  
Oils and Fats  
Eggs and Eggshells  
Seafood and Shells  
Nuts and Shells and spice

Not Acceptable Food Scraps

Milk and juice cartons or jugs  
Store-bought floral products  
Yard Waste  
PLU/UPC stickers, wrapper ties, bags,  
rubber bands, plastics, and trays

**Note:** "When in doubt leave it out." If you aren't sure if an item contains contaminate its best not to recycle it. **Questions? Call City Environmental Division 524-5274**

There is still time to boost 2020 totals by recycling your holiday food scraps. Try it!

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## What is Age-Friendly Oxford and what are the Eight Domains of Livability?

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Age-Friendly Oxford (AFO) is a grassroots, volunteer initiative started here in 2017. One of 10 communities in Ohio and 486 communities nationwide that are part of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly State and Communities. This network helps communities become more livable for people of all ages, but particularly for older adults ages 50+.

The AARP framework that is used by Age-Friendly Oxford is based on the World Health Organization's Eight Domains of Livability that are known to improve quality of life in a communities:

- \*Buildings & Outdoor Spaces
- \*Social Involvement
- \*Communication/Information
- \*Transportation
- \*Respect and Inclusion
- \*Health and Community Services.
- \*Housing
- \*Civic action and jobs

According to a 2018 survey completed for Age-Friendly Oxford by Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center, residents from the City of Oxford and Oxford Township identified four domains as priorities for this community between now and 2023:

- #1 Housing**
- #2 Transportation**
- #3. Health and Community Services**
- #4 Communication and Information**

Over the next four weeks in O-Town News we will share Age-Friendly Oxford's goals in these priority domains. AFO's primary partners are Oxford Seniors, Inc., Scripps Gerontology Center and the City of Oxford and we are fortunate to have many individuals and organizations who are supporters as well. Stay tuned!

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### Got News? Please Share!

Any Oxford area organization with information for future O-Town News issues, please contact Age-Friendly Oxford Coordinators: Ann Whelpton at 513-520-7742 or [agwhelpton@gmail.com](mailto:agwhelpton@gmail.com); or Jessie Leek at [jessie@agefriendlyoxford.org](mailto:jessie@agefriendlyoxford.org).

Until next week, be well!

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