



"Uptown" by Julia Ruscio

JANUARY 2024

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If you have information to be shared in O-Town News, you can submit online at <http://bit.ly/O-Town-News-Content> or call **(513) 529-2914** for assistance with completing the online submission form. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

If you would like to receive O-Town News either by postal mail or email, contact info@agefriendlyoxford.org or call **(513) 529-2914**.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As 2024 begins, we look forward to new beginnings, new goals, new challenges, and new opportunities to reach out to others and build connections between Oxford area community members of all ages.

In the pages of this issue, you'll find some of those opportunities and we look forward to keeping you informed of more opportunities as they arise throughout the year.

And, because (almost) everyone will soon be asking: Miami's Spring semester classes begin **January 29**.

Correction: The dates listed for Hanukkah in the December issue of O-Town News were incorrect. The correct dates for the 2023 Hanukkah celebration were December 7-15. The O-Town News team sincerely apologizes for this error.

Together, building a healthier community



Since 1997, the Coalition for a Healthy Community - Oxford Area is committed to taking action to promote a healthier community by making the healthiest choice the easiest choice for residents of all ages. The Coalition's service area includes the geographic boundaries of the Talawanda School District, including the City of Oxford, Miami University, Hanover Township, Milford Township, Oxford Township, and Reily Township.

By utilizing environmental strategies to create community-level change over the past two decades, the Coalition continues to improve health outcomes throughout the greater Oxford area. Under the guidance of the Leadership Team, strategically comprised of representatives of major sectors of the community, the Coalition mobilizes the Oxford area to address the priority findings of the McCullough-Hyde | TriHealth Community Health Needs Assessment.

The Coalition's Leadership Team and workgroups have an intentional focus on increasing access and eliminating barriers to healthcare and resources in four identified areas:

- Alcohol & Other Drug Use**
- Mental Health**
- Active Living**
- Healthy Eating**



The Coalition publishes two helpful resources that are free and available to the public through the Coalition website:

- The Oxford OH Area Behavioral and Mental Health Providers and Resource Guide
- The Oxford Area Food Access Calendar

SAFELY DISPOSE OF EXPIRED OR UNWANTED MEDICINE

Secure Monitor Disposal Locations

CITY OF OXFORD POLICE 101 E. HIGH ST.	OXFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE 925 S. MAIN ST.	MIAMI UNIVERSITY POLICE 4945 OXFORD - TRENTON RD.
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MAKING THE HEALTHIEST CHOICE, THE EASIEST CHOICE.

WWW.HEALTHYOXFORDAREA.COM



SPOTLIGHT: OXFORD AREA SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSING

Oxford Area Solutions for Housing (OASH) (pronounced “Ohsh”) started as a collaboration between members of the Oxford Presbyterian Church's Eradicating Systemic Poverty (ESP) Team and the Oxford Homelessness Network (OHN), two groups focused on the dual issues of housing affordability and homelessness in the Oxford community. Individuals from each organization serve as facilitators for OASH’s work: Jenny Bailer and Anne Bailey from ESP and Ann Fuehrer and Diane Ruther-Vierling from OHN



The OASH Vision:

We envision the Oxford area as a loving, compassionate, accepting community where no one wants for safe, secure housing.

OASH utilizes a community engagement process that includes people across the community to identify issues and resources, gaps in resources, and solutions. OASH held its first community-wide meeting in April 2023 and continued to meet monthly throughout 2023. OASH volunteers have worked to develop goals and action plans around six community sectors that affect or are affected by homelessness: government, human services, civic and faith groups, economy, education, and philanthropy.

This past fall, OASH received a grant from the McCullough-Hyde Hospital Foundation to conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) count to identify the number of people who are homeless/unhoused in the Oxford area. The PIT count occurred in early December 2023 and was modeled after the national PIT count event that occurs in January each year. The information gathered from PIT counts is used to assist in planning and targeting interventions for those who struggle with issues of poverty and homelessness and to provide data for local organizations to apply for grants and programs that may assist these individuals and families. Historically, the national PIT count conducted in Butler County has not included Oxford, so this was the first time that a count was conducted focusing on the Oxford area.

OASH plans to continue its work in 2024 and invites the participation of anyone in the community who cares about the problem of homelessness and wants to make a difference. Those with lived experience of homelessness are especially welcome.


The next OASH meeting will be held:

Mon. January 22

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Oxford Presbyterian Church Seminary Building,
104 E. Church St., Oxford (on the corner of Church St. and Poplar St.)
Food and beverages will be provided. All are welcome!



 oash@oxfordpresbychurch.org

FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS IN OXFORD

Wed. Jan. 3 - Dine in or pick up at United Methodist Church, 14 N Poplar St.

Mon. Jan. 8 - Dine in or pick up at Oxford Seniors, 922 Tollgate Dr.

Wed. Jan. 10 - Dine in or pick up at Faith Lutheran Church, 420 S. Campus Ave.

Wed. Jan. 17 - Dine in or pick up at St. Mary Church, 15 S. Poplar St.

Wed. Jan. 24 - Dine in or pick up at Holy Trinity Church, 25 E. Walnut St.

Wed. Jan. 31 - Dine in or pick up at Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main St.

All dinners begin at 5:30 p.m.

Memory Café

Fri. January 19

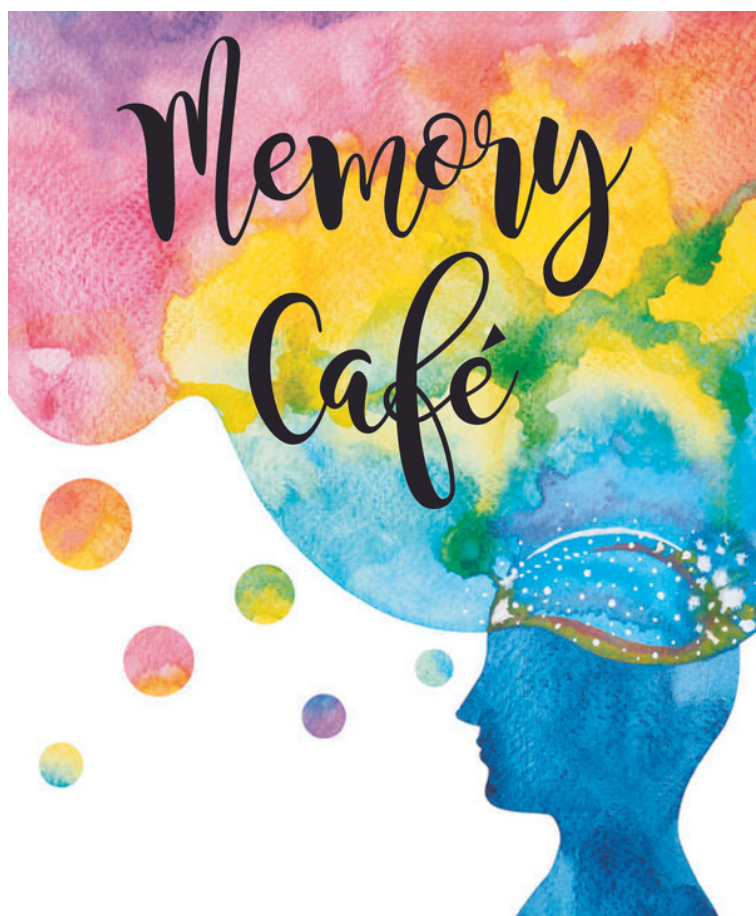
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Oxford Lane Library

Memory Cafés are spaces in which people living with dementia, their caregivers, and other community members can come together to socialize, enjoying music, games, and conversation in a supportive environment.

Registration is required in advance and a care partner or family member is required to accompany participants living with dementia. Please call (513) 523-7531 to register.

Cafés are open to those age 18 and older.



About Town



Wed. Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Yoga with Bernadette Unger - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Join us for a stretch with local yoga teacher Bernadette Unger. The class is suited for all fitness levels and offers modifications for all poses. Bring a yoga mat and a towel. Age Group(s): Adult. (513) 523-7531

Thurs. Jan. 4 - Ultimutt New Dog Welcoming Tips - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* It's National Train Your Dog Month! Join certified trainer Jeff Silverman and his dog from Training Tracks Canine Learning Station for a session on dog training and home prep basics to welcome your newly adopted dog into your family. (Please leave Fido at home!) Age Group(s): Adult, Teen. (513) 523-7531

Sat. Jan. 6, 20 - Artist's Makerspace - 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Explore the makerspace on the 2nd floor where you will find various tools and art supplies for self-guided crafting. Age Group(s): Adult, Teen (14 and up). (513) 523-7531

Sat. Jan. 13 - Chocolate Meltdown - 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Oxford Community Arts Center.* Chocolate Tastings & Sales. Chocolate Bake Off. Hot Chocolate. Kids Activities. Contact ocac@oxarts.org or (513) 524-8506

Sat. Jan 13 - Adult Talent Show - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Sign up to be a performer or audience member for the Adult Talent Show. Performers are amateur singers, actors, jugglers and magicians! All skill levels are welcome. Audience members will view local talent and vote for their favorite acts. Bring a can of food to donate as a "ticket" (not required). Age Group: Adult. Registration required for both performers and audience. To register, call (513) 523-7531

Sun. Jan 14 - Dungeons and Dragons - 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Experience the tabletop roleplaying game that started it all. Experienced game masters will lead players through a self-contained adventure. Players are welcome to bring their own character (level 5, official rules only) or choose a premade character available at the event. All levels of experiences are welcome. Age Group: Adult. Registration required. To register, call (513) 523-7531

Wed. Jan. 17 - The Bookwormhole - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. *Gaslight Brewhouse, 325 S. College Ave, Oxford.* Ready to hurdle into the Bookwormhole for sci-fi/fantasy adventures and far out discussion? This session will address *The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu. Purchase of food and drink optional. Organized by Oxford Lane Library (513) 523-7531

Sun. Jan. 21 - Make & Bake Artisan Italian Loaves - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Oxford Lane Library.* Join expert baker Michelle Kovach from Cracking Crust Microbakery to create two classic Italian loaves: focaccia and ciabatta. In this hands-on workshop you will learn how to mix, fold, and shape the dough plus learn tips for baking it at home. Information on sourdough starters will also be covered. All supplies included. Age Group: Adult. Registration required. To register, call (513) 523-7531

Fri. Jan. 26 - Board Game Battle Royale - Oxford Lane Library. Sign up for a little friendly board game competition. Teams of two will play flash rounds of 4 classic board games ending in a battle royale between the top scoring teams. If you don't have a partner, you can find one at the event. Age Group: Adult. Registration required. To register, call (513) 523-7531

Public Skating at the Goggin Ice Center

Great fun for all ages and experience levels and a perfect addition to a heart healthy lifestyle. Figure or hockey skates may be worn and both are available for rent in infant size 6 to adult 14. Skate aids are available for kids ages 9 and under. Free Wi-Fi available.

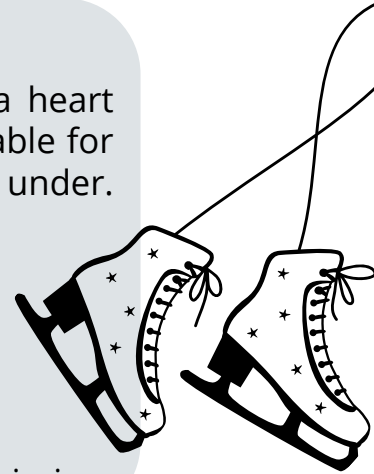
Tues. Jan. 2 - 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. \$7.50 Admission

Fri. Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 - 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. \$5 Admission

Fri. Jan. 5, 12, 26 - 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Sat & Sun. Jan. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 27, 28 - 3:15 to 5:00 p.m.

Mon. Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Jr Day Skate - 3:15 - 5:00 p.m. \$7.50 Admission



Tues. Jan. 2 - Miami University Men's Basketball vs Western Michigan - 7:00 p.m. *Millet Hall.*

Wed. Jan. 3 - Miami University Women's Basketball vs Toledo - 7:00 p.m. *Millet Hall.*

Wed. Jan. 10 - Miami University Women's Basketball vs Kent State - 7:00 p.m. *Millet Hall.*

Fri. Jan. 12 - Miami University Swimming & Diving vs Cincinnati (Co-Ed) - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Corwin M. Nixon Aquatic Center.

Fri. Jan. 12 - Miami Hockey vs. Western Michigan - 7:05 p.m. *Goggin Ice Center.*

Sat. Jan. 13 - Miami University Men's Basketball vs Eastern Michigan - 1:00 p.m. *Millet Hall.*

Sat. Jan. 13 - Miami Hockey vs. Western Michigan - 7:05 p.m. *Goggin Ice Center.*

Tues. Jan. 16 - Miami University Men's Basketball vs Bowling Green - 7:00 p.m. *Millet Hall.*

Sat. Jan. 20 - Miami University Swimming & Diving vs Kenyon (Co-Ed) - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Corwin M. Nixon Aquatic Center.

Sat. Jan. 20 - Miami University Women's Basketball vs Bowling Green - 7:00 p.m. *Millet Hall.*

Sat. Jan. 27 - Miami University Men's Basketball vs Akron - 1:00 p.m. *Millet Hall.*

Wed. Jan. 31 - Miami University Women's Basketball vs Central Michigan - 7:00 p.m. *Millet Hall.*



Helpful Resources

Family Resource Center

5445 College Corner Pike, Building 2 , Oxford, OH 45056
(513)-523-5859, Email: director@frcoxford.org

Family Resource Center (FRC) assists individuals and families with the necessary resources, advocacy, and assistance to achieve their own self-sustainability: securing housing, assisting those with economic hardships, ensuring basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, transportation), obtaining and retaining employment, and accessing financial, education, and work supports.

Oxford Lane Library

441 S Locust St #2126, Oxford, OH, 45056
(513)-523-7531, Website: <https://www.lanepi.org/>

Lane library provides materials, services, access to computers and electronic resources, and a variety of events for adults and children. Most services and events are free.

Oxford Free Clinic

110 North Poplar Street Oxford OH, 45056
(513)-524-5426, Website: <https://oxfordfreeclinic.org/>

Oxford Free Clinic provides basic medical care and access to medications prescribed for treatments. The gynecology free clinic operates on the second Wednesdays of every month to provide free women-specific care.

Oxford Seniors

922 Tollgate Dr. Oxford, OH, 45056
(513)-523-8100, Website: <https://www.oxfordsenior.org/>

Oxford Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m. for members to use the facilities and participate in many forms of recreation. Oxford Seniors also provides Adult Day Care Services, Meals on Wheels, Transportation, and other supportive services.

Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services

5445 College Corner Pike, Oxford, OH, 45056
(513)-523-3851, Email: director@topss.org

Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services (TOPSS) serves families living in the Talawanda school district. Customers are able to shop once per week and choose their items according to their household size and preferences. Nutritional information and foods to meet specific dietary restrictions are available. "Emergency food" boxes are available on a limited basis to those in need who live outside of the Talawanda School District.

Thread Up Oxford Uptown Threads

5156 College Corner Pike, Oxford, OH, 45056
127 W Church St. , Oxford, OH, 45056
(513)-273-1701, Email: threadupoxford@gmail.com

Thread Up is committed to changing the community's relationship with textile more responsibly and creatively. Thread Up accepts donations of textile goods at both the Church St. and College Corner Pike locations and provides free and low-cost gently used clothing at the Uptown Threads location on Church St.