



O-Town News, Issue #9 and Survey

December 28, 2020

The end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021 – a time that will go down in history for its multiple, global crises. It is always a quiet time in the Oxford area, and even more so this year. While most are grateful for our peaceful surroundings, we are not at ease and for the coming year and the challenges that are ahead.

We hope O-Town News has served to help friends and neighbors feel connected, and maybe even comforted during these times, by knowing more about the supports, services and enrichments that abound for citizens and residents in the Oxford community. The O-Town News pilot has been well received and we hope we are on the right track. Now that the CARES Act funding has expired its time to evaluate the pilot, find funds and fashion a plan for the best way to proceed, if that is what is desired and possible.

How Can You Help Keep O-Town Information Flowing?

1. Most Importantly, take the short O-Town News survey included in this Issue.

Your feedback will help us improve and apply for funding. Both paper and digital surveys are available. All surveys are anonymous.

Paper Survey: A paper survey with an addressed postage paid envelope is included in Issue #9 for those receiving O-Town by US Postal Service. It only takes a few minutes to complete the survey, put it in the envelope and drop it in the mail to Age-Friendly Oxford, P.O. Box 206, Oxford OH 45056.

Electronic Survey: a link is available to access an electronic survey. Click on eight questions, hit done and you are done! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W25RW67>

2. Make sure you are on the OXVILLAGE LISTSERV to continue receiving announcements electronically from Age-Friendly Oxford. To share your email address so it can be added to the listserv, please call Oxford Seniors, Inc. at 513-523-8100 or e-mail Jessie Leek at jessie@agefriendlyoxford.org or Ann Garrison Whelpton agwhelpton@gmail.com

3. Help others (friends, neighbors, and family members) sign up for future Age-Friendly Oxford information so they are in the loop too. Your referrals should use the same information in listed above to sign up

BUTLER COUNTY COVID-19 DATA Updated 12/18/2020

BUTLER COUNTY COVID-19 CASES		
22,508	706	23,214
Confirmed Cases	Probable Cases	Total Cases

Report COVID-19 Concerns

If you have safety concerns related to COVID-19, you may make a report to the City by calling 513.524.5237 or completing a form online at the City website. Please be prepared to provide as much detail as possible when making a report. Reports with specific information including addresses, names, etc. provide significantly more value in our efforts to curb the spread of COVID. Digital photo/video evidence can be emailed to SCropenbaker@cityofoxford.org.

For the **Oxford Police non-emergency line call (513) 523-4321.**

There's a Coronavirus Vaccine — Now What?

From Rachel Nania, AARP, December 18, 2020

Here are some of the important things you should consider when it comes to the coronavirus vaccine and steps you can take to prepare if you choose to take the vaccine:

Realize your place in line. Health care workers and staff and residents of nursing homes and assisted living centers should go first. But with more than 18 million health care workers and roughly 1.3 million nursing home residents, according to federal data, that could take some time. Take stock of your personal situation — your profession, your age, your underlying health conditions — and pay attention to the news from health officials in your area.

Start the discussion with your health care provider. If you're confused about where you fit into a vaccine's guidelines, talk with your health care provider and get a recommendation that's going to be specific to your medical history.

Cost should not be an obstacle. The hundreds of millions of vaccine doses that the federal government pre-purchased will be free to the public, the CDC confirms. Providers and companies may be able to charge a small fee for giving the vaccine, but this cost should be picked up by private and public insurance. People who don't have insurance will be covered by a relief fund.

Keep up with prevention efforts. While you wait for a vaccine — and even after you get one — continue with prevention efforts such as wearing a mask, social distancing and frequently washing your hands. It's going to take a while, likely several months, to get a large enough percentage of the population vaccinated to the point where the spread of the virus slows.

Get the facts. There are a lot of COVID-19 vaccine misconceptions swirling around in social circles and on social media. It's important to get the facts from reputable sources. A few tips from the CDC and its partners: Check to see if the health information you're reading was reviewed by health experts before it was posted, and make sure the content is current. Even then, "The internet does not replace a discussion with a healthcare professional," the CDC cautions.

CITY AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

NAACP Oxford to host Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration with Creative Arts Exposition

The NAACP Oxford Ohio Unit will host the annual community Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. This year's celebration will be all virtual including a Creative Arts Exposition. The exposition will begin on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18, 2021 and continue through the end of February as February is Black History Month. Participation in the Creative Arts Exposition is open to all in the community and NAACP Oxford is seeking creative arts submissions from all ages. Submissions may be inspired by the life of Dr. King, or topics of civil and human rights in general. Entries must be submitted no later than 2 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Please send a digital copy to wengleak@miamioh.edu. For information and instructions on how to make non-digital submissions, contact Ann Wengler, Oxford NAACP; 513-255-5171.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Oxford residents may place live Christmas trees at the curbside for disposal on regularly scheduled refuse collection days. Trees will be picked up and recycled by the City of Oxford Street Maintenance Division. No yard waste tags are required for this service. Residents are asked to remove ALL decorations from the tree prior to setting the tree at the curbside. This holiday pick up service does not include wreaths or garlands. Any questions should be directed to the City of Oxford Streets and Maintenance Division at 513.523.8412. This seasonal service will conclude by January 29, 2021.

Oxford Climate Action Committee Update

In an ongoing effort to meet Oxford's commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors, the CASC continues to coordinate climate action efforts of the City and offer recommendations for both the 2021 budget and the development of the multi-year comprehensive plan. The first meeting of CASC for 2021 is expected to be held virtually on January 14, 2021. Mark Boardman, CASC Chair, recently participated in an international roundtable discussion hosted by Green Energy Ohio and the Center for a New American Security to share ideas and information on climate action at the

local level. For information about the Committee, contact Joan Potter-Sommer, Coordinator of Outreach through Oxford Seniors at (513) 523-8100.

The Family Resource Center offers New Housing Programs

The Family Resource Center (FRC) is offering and coordinating two new programs for those in need of housing assistance. The need for a cold shelter during the winter months for those without housing has been discussed in the community for several years. CARES Act funds were allocated by the City of Oxford to the FRC to begin the cold shelter project. The Cold Shelter Project uses rooms at the Budget Inn near the FRC for short-term stays for individuals who would otherwise be out in the cold.

A second program, Transitional Living, is for people who need housing for a longer period of time while they find employment or alternative housing arrangements. The Transitional Living program uses two multiple-bedroom homes suitable for families, made available by Bob Blackburn, a local property owner.

Both programs have met with immediate success in terms of not just demand and occupancy but also with connecting residents with other living needs to get on their feet and be independent, such as job leads, childcare, transportation and reparations for past evictions. The long-term goal is for the housing programs to continue with more permanent funding from other budget areas and housing funds. For information contact Brad Hoblitzell at Family Resource Center, 513-523-5859.

And Finally – for 2021

Age-Friendly Oxford's Leadership Advisor Group and volunteers extend an optimistic wish for the coming new year to bring health and hope your way.

Aaron Abbott

Robert Bell

Pamela Collins

Steve Dana

Richard Daniels

Jeanne Glaser

Lanny Hargraves

Jennifer Heston-Mullins

Brad Hoblitzell

Lindsey Houlihan

Michele Ittel

Fran Jackson

Sabrina Jewell

Jessie Leek

Sherry Lind

Holli Morrish

Lisa Newman

Dave Prytherch

Carla Blackmar Rice

Kate Rousmaniere

Bud Scharf

Steve Schnabl

Mike Smith

Ann-Garrison Whelpton

P.S. . . . Don't forget to complete your O-Town News survey! Thank you!

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

513-523-8100