

# Town of Oxford

Founded 1683    Incorporated 1852

## From the Commissioners of Oxford:

2020 will go down in the books as a year like no other for many reasons, but **AS WE ALL WELCOME THE NEW YEAR, it is worth a few moments to reflect on the positives of the past year for our little town.**

2020 saw the completion of what is certainly the largest monetary public improvement ever undertaken by the town, the upgrade of our outdated lagoon wastewater system to a

new state of the art biological Enhanced Nutrient Removal system, greatly improving our discharge into Town Creek, along with supporting equipment improvements like new generators and a new alarm system, and all constructed at a height safe from potential flooding.

2020 saw the start of a major rehabilitation of the oldest water main in town, located deep under the road base of North/South Morris Street. A project that was seemingly impossible for many years was accomplished through the use of new technology allowing for rehabilitation of the existing pipe without tearing up the road. It was a complicated process and the cooperation and patience of our residents was greatly appreciated. The remaining work should be completed in January.

2020 saw the commitment of 2.4 million in grant dollars from MD DNR Coastal Resilience Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Coastal Resilience Fund in support of natural improvements to the Strand Beach area to protect the beach and road infrastructure from the impacts of sea level rise.

2020 saw the old Ballfield slowly morph into a community park environment with a new hill created from remnant soils from a nearby bio-swale expansion, and plantings of trees, shrubs and meadow grass through a collaboration of neighboring towns and counties known as the Healthy Waters Working Group, partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and with funding from the NFWF. Work will continue with stormwater improvements in the park from this same collaboration and the incorporations of park amenities through a previously awarded Maryland Community Parks and Playground Program Grant.

2020 saw the town's acceptance into the coveted FEMA CRS Program, a Community Rating System that provides insurance discounts for policy holders in the mapped floodplain in communities that go above and beyond the required FEMA regulations. Most of our policies will receive a 15% discount.

And most importantly, 2020 saw the resilience of the citizenry of Oxford. Through the most taxing of circumstances we all rose to the occasion. We learned that we could live with "masks on", we could all "Zoom", take out was the next best thing to eating out, and we could still be a community even if it was virtually or from the other side of the side street. Kudos to the Community Center, the Museum, the Library, the Fire Department, our churches, our restaurants and our vendors for quickly adapting and keeping us all involved in our community and being there when they were needed.

We are by no means 'out of the woods' yet, but as a community we will continue to persevere.



The Town Building is currently closed to the public. Staff is working and all functions of the government are operating. You can reach the office at 410-226-5122, email Cheryl at [oxfordclerk@goeaston.net](mailto:oxfordclerk@goeaston.net) and Lisa at [town-office@goeaston.net](mailto:town-office@goeaston.net).

Commission and Board meetings are held virtually and dates, times and participation links are provided on the town website [www.oxfordmd.net](http://www.oxfordmd.net) - please join in!



PO Box 339, 101  
Market Street,  
Oxford MD 21654

## OXFORD POLICE DEPT.

Do not give out information !!!  
There are many scams surrounding the COVID-19 epidemic, please do not respond to emails or phone calls without first checking their authenticity.

[www.talbotcovid19.org](http://www.talbotcovid19.org) is legitimate Talbot County website for COVID-19 information.

**In an emergency ALWAYS dial 911**



[oxfordcc.org](http://oxfordcc.org)

**Follow the Oxford Community Center on Facebook, watch previous live shows on YouTube, and check the OCC website for the latest offerings, including the following:**

**Oxford Walks 21654** - Walk for wellness! Collectively walk a total of 21,654 miles as a community. Registration is ongoing and walking continues through the end of April. Visit the OCC website for information.

**Monday Meal & Music** - Catered take-away dinner and free virtual mini concert. Orders can be placed online.

**Steady and Strong w/ Janet Pfetter** - Tuesday's and Thursdays by Zoom! Go online to register for classes.

**Oxford Fine Arts 2021** - Planning is underway for the 37th Fine Arts Show in May. More information can be found on the OCC website.

As we continue into the New Year we are still bringing some of the lessons learned in 2020, including the need to continue to practice Social Distancing and to wear our Masks whenever we cannot distance ourselves. As expected January will be a rough month following the holidays, and as positive case rates increase locally all of us must do our best to prevent the spread, for our own health and the health of our family, friends and neighbors. If the opportunity presents itself to acquire a COVID-19 vaccine, please take advantage of the it, so that we can all get back to a somewhat normal life sometime soon.



[oxfordmuseummd.org](http://oxfordmuseummd.org)

**Have you taken a virtual visit to the Oxford Museum lately!**

There are so many exhibits and interactive virtual tours you will get lost in the history. Grab a warm drink and settle in front of your computer for a new experience.

A few of the offerings include A Walking Tour of Oxford - which you can literally do from your chair or perhaps use your phone and walk the streets; A Virtual Tour of the Museums 2019 Exhibits, allowing for full enjoyment of all of the displays within the museum; and if you want to do a little shopping visit their online Museum store.

Lastly, there is a lovely tribute to our beloved former Commissioner Gordon Graves, whom we lost on Christmas Day. His many contributions to our community are lovingly detailed. The Museum was one of his many passions, and undoubtedly as a history buff, one of his favorites.

There are so many questions as to what Spring of 2021 is going to look like and whether we will see the return of our beloved Oxford events... Right now it is a little too early to speculate on whether conditions will improve over the next few months. Please check our website and Facebook page for updates and current events.

[www.oxfordmd.net](http://www.oxfordmd.net) / Facebook: @townofoxfordmd

**Did you know... Oxford Churches are providing daily inspiration and virtual services**

**Church of the Holy Trinity**

Facebook: @HolyTrinityOxford

[www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org](http://www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org)

**Oxford United Methodist Church**

Facebook: @OxchurchUMC

**Waters United Methodist Church**

Facebook: @WatersUnitedMethodistChurch

<https://watersumchurch.wixsite.com/waterschurch>

