

THINGS TO DO

JAN. 3

Movie Matinee, 2 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 12-18. Watching "Maleficent."

JAN. 6

Time to Hibernate Story Time, 10:30 a.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 10 S. College Ave. For ages 4-6. Children may bring a blanket and pillow. 513-523-7531

JAN. 8

Open Mic Night, 6 to 8 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 12-18. Show care a special talent in a coffeehouse style. Call or stop in library to sign up.

JAN. 11

Super Science @ Your Library: Tour of the Universe - You Are Here, 2 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 7-11. Registration required. 513-523-7531

JAN. 14

Whovians United, 5:30 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 12-16. Meet other Whovians and discuss the events and theories surrounding Peter Capaldi's Doctor as well as watch some fan-favorite episodes and discuss the latest Whovian literature.

JAN. 15

Third Thursday Book Club, 3 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. Registration required. Books available at circulation desk upon request. 513-523-7531

JAN. 17

A Snowy Day Story Time, 2 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 3-5. Registration required. 513-523-7531

Coffee Tasting with the Oxford Coffee Company, 10 a.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. Registration required. 513-523-7531

JAN. 18

Super Science @ Your Library: **Fantastic Foods for Fuel**, 2 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 9-11. Registration required. 513-523-7531

Arm Knit an Infinity Scarf, 3:30 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 12-18. Learn the basics of arm knitting and complete your own infinity scarf in less than an hour. Registration required. 513-523-7531

JAN. 23

Minecraft and 3-D Printing, 6:30 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 9-11. Registration required. 513-523-7531

JAN. 29

Open Mic Night, 6 to 8 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 12-18. Show care a special talent in a coffeehouse style. Call or stop in library to sign up.

JAN. 31

Appalachian Folk Music for Kids, 2 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 8-11. Registration required. 513-523-7531

FEB. 1

Super Science @ Your Library: **Edible Geology - Graham Cracker Plate Tectonics**, 2 p.m. Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 8-10. Registration required. 513-523-7531

FEB. 2

Valentines for Veterans, 6 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 5-11. Make valentine cards for veterans. 513-523-7531

FEB. 11

Whovians United, 5:30 p.m. at Oxford Lane Library, 15 S. College Ave. For ages 12-16. Meet other Whovians

CLOSER LOOK MIAMI MAKEOVER

Miami University building, borrowing



Renovations and construction got under way this summer at Kreger Hall at Miami University. Miami's physics department will move to Kreger Hall, which will receive new instructional and research laboratories, departmental offices and classrooms. GREG LYNCH / STAFF

Projects include dorms, student center

By Amanda Seitz and Chelsey Levingston
Staff Writers

OXFORD – Miami University's rural Oxford campus has turned into a construction zone during the last five years as officials have renovated or demolished dozens of buildings, all while racking up an unprecedented \$679 million worth of debt.

This past year capped the busiest construction year yet with more than \$182 million worth of projects, including new dorms, dining halls and the Armstrong Student Center all being unveiled to students.

And the work isn't over. Just this month, trustees approved the campus' single most expensive project in the university's 205-year history with a \$98.3 million renovation of the North Quad dormitories. But officials said they won't drive the university into further debt to complete future projects on tap for the campus.

"The conversation we've had with the board (of trustees) is, we believe we're in a hiatus period in regards to further borrowing," said David Creamer, the university's finance director.

Campus face lift

University trustees approved a 2009 "Miami Makeover" plan to rebuild dining halls and residences across the campus. That's led to the biggest construction boom in Oxford since the 1950s and 1960s, when the university



Among construction projects finished in 2013 at Miami University were new dorms and a dining hall, as well as the geothermal plant situated on the Western Campus area of the college. FILE

added more academic and dorm buildings to accommodate a swelling number of baby boomer students, Creamer said. A half-century later, many of those buildings need a face lift, triggering the recent flurry of activity, he added.

"We're in largely what is a preservation mode as well as modernization," he said of the buildings.

The Shriver Center, constructed in 1958, for example, was replaced this year with a \$53.1 million student center, that opened in February and features leather chairs, \$1,000 lamps, a theater, as well as a diner-themed eatery for students. The second phase of that project is slated to cost \$21.5 million and open in 2017. A \$2.6 million Goggin Ice

Arena upgrade and \$83.75 million spent building new dorms and a dining hall, as well as the geothermal plant situated on the Western Campus area of the college, were among other construction projects finished this year.

Most of those projects are paid for with donations or using student fees. A \$110 fee for the Armstrong Student Center is billed to students every semester, for example.

Some projects, however, have used taxpayer money. State funding paid for most of an \$18 million renovation of Kreger Hall, an academic building, finished this fall. And \$19.5 million in taxpayer-funds will help to revamp Shiedler

Miami continued on A4

COMMUNITY

Citizens honored for their service

Effort by the Kiwanis Club and the Oxford Press is in its 63rd year.

By Bob Ratterman
Contributing Writer

OXFORD – Five individuals are being honored for their service to the community with the 2014 Citizens of the Year recognition, looking at contributions this year as well as those over many years.

Jack Southard and Ann Whelpton are being honored as Citizens of the Year for activities specifically in the past year, while three others – Connie Malone, Joanne McQueen and Sarla Waikar – have been named Citizens of the Years for long-term efforts.

The Citizen of the Year program is in its 63rd year, started by Avis Cullen, the former editor and owner of The Oxford Press, to recognize people in the community who have made significant contributions to life in the Oxford community.

The annual effort is co-sponsored by Oxford Kiwanis Club and The Oxford Press and recipients each year are presented with a certificate of recognition. Those will be presented at a weekly Kiwanis Club meeting early in 2015 and the Kiwanis Club pays for framing the certificates being presented.

Recipients each year are chosen at a meeting of previous recipients in early December with consideration given to all written nominations from the community.

A backbone of the program is that the announcement is kept secret from the honorees until the last issue of the paper in the year.

Jack Southard was recognized for his work leading the fund drive campaign for the Oxford Community Arts Center.

"Under Jack's leadership the Oxford Community Arts Center's successful 'From the Inside Out' capital campaign has brought about cornice and roof repair as well as porch restoration. Remaining improvements, provided by funding of this campaign, will continue to safeguard the building over time," wrote Sarah and Jim Michael in a nomination to the selection committee.

Sarah Michael said last week Southard's efforts on behalf of the arts center are only a reflection of his overall efforts on behalf of the community he adopted.

Citizens continued on A5

Also inside

» Meet the Citizens of the Year honorees, A2

LOCAL

Malone

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She is the one who initiates and executes the gigantic organizing operation.

Empty Bowls set a record for money collected for the Oxford Community Choice Pantry last year with a total of \$8,025 and that mark was passed with this year's \$9,225 total for a two-year total of \$17,250.

That brings the total from the past 10 years to

more than \$60,000. That money has helped many in the Talawanda School District, said Edna Southard, president of the board of directors of the food pantry. She has volunteered at Empty Bowls and seen the work that goes into it. She has also seen what the proceeds provide to the pantry to go out to the homes of families served by OC-CP.

"Last year, the pantry experienced more than 300 household visits each month. We depend

heavily on the community to meet those needs, in food donations, volunteer hours and monetary donations," Southard said this past week. "Funding from Empty Bowls is a wonderful example of community involvement in helping feed those less fortunate."

She said there were 4,033 household visits to the pantry last year with 184 new households registered over the course of 2013, which included double-digit new clients in ten of the 12 months.

While raising money is the primary concern, Empty Bowls also seeks to raise awareness of hunger in our community with signs and banners for visitors to see while they are enjoying their lunch.

The nomination closed with this Q & A:

Q: What would happen if Connie Malone were not the visionary, leader, organizer, publicizer and energizer?
A: "Nothing. There would be no Oxford Empty Bowls."

Citizens

continued from A1

"He continues to do other community things. He just joined Rotary. He is always thinking ahead to the community and saw how important the arts center would be to the community and helped make that happen," she said.

"I believe he thinks the arts center is a true contribution to the community and is very proud of what happened."

A chance conversation led Ann Whelpton into a project that began a public vision of what Oxford could be like for older residents and growth of the Oxford Village Network this year has laid a groundwork for those discussions.

Whelpton serves on the board of the United Way of Oxford Ohio and Vicinity and board members were conducting site visits, which took her to Oxford Seniors to speak to director Joan Potter Sommer.

"We talked about the Senior Center and how I would like to start a village. I had been reading about villages and we connected," Potter Sommer said. "Gene Willeke, Ann and I met and the forum grew from that."

The forum, "Growing Older in Oxford - Our Future, What's Possible? What's Preferable?," was held in September 2013. The Oxford Village Network grew from that and the two women have served as co-chairs.

"Ann was instrumental in organizing. Her organizational skills are tremendous," Potter Sommer said.

"Other than that, she is studious in the way she pursues a topic. She goes online and gets information. She became knowledgeable about the village concept and attended a meeting by Village to Village."

Connie Malone is being recognized as a Citizen of the Years for her ongoing efforts to help feed local families through the annual Empty Bowls lunch. Money raised from the event goes to the Oxford Community Choice Pantry to help their mission of serving residents of the Talawanda School District experiencing food insecurity.

Empty Bowls is a community effort involving not only the Oxford community but the Miami University community as well.

Students in ceramics classes at Miami and Talawanda High School make bowls for the project as well as others who make them at You're Fired. Those attending the event pay \$10 and choose a bowl in which they are served soup and the meal includes drinks and desserts and people keep the bowl they se-

lected as a reminder of the need of many people to have food for their families.

Edna Southard, president of the board of the pantry, said this year's move to the Oxford Community Arts Center from its long-time home at the Oxford Methodist Church, was appropriate for more than just the needed extra space.

"The pantry has 'community' in its title and the arts center has 'community' in its title. It's all about community," Southard said.

Joanne McQueen grew up in Oxford and has worked since a young age to make the community more inviting and inclusive.

In a nomination letter, Kathy McMahon-Klosterman said that McQueen has championed the cause of women's equality and has worked to promote fairness in many venues.

"Joanne McQueen has an unquenchable curiosity. She asks questions, she wonders about the world and as she finds answers, she shares them with her community," McMahon-Klosterman said in her nomination. "Joanne McQueen has guided us to look at our past so that we might peer into the future to become the best Oxford possible."

The third Citizen of the Years honoree is Sarla Walker whom came to this country at a young age and has not only made it her home, but become known for her sharing her cooking skills and providing a welcoming home to many, including Americans in need as well as Miami students from her native India.

Holly Wissing wrote in a nomination letter that Walker's story is similar to those of many immigrants who entered the United States but differs in one way from many of them.

"In many ways, Sarla's story is a classic illustration of the contributions of immigrants to our country. Sarla left family, friends and all that was familiar behind when she came to the United States with her husband Vasant, who completed his PhD in statistics at Florida State University in the mid-1960s. Vasant accepted a job as a statistics professor at Miami University, and so began a new life for the couple," Wissing wrote.

"But where Sarla's story diverges from that of many immigrants is in her ability not only to cherish and share her homeland's traditions but to create a home where everyone has felt welcome—Indian, American, native, foreign, young, old, and the list goes on."

Contact this contributing writer at bratterman@gmail.com.

McQueen

continued from A2

plished women.

For many years, she and the NOW chapter had the Oxford mayor declare Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day to coincide with the national celebration of the passage of the 19th amendment to the constitution.

McMahon-Klosterman noted that McQueen created a mail order business "Fantastic Feminist Enterprise," for which she developed a doll—the Fantastic Feminist—as an alternate to Barbie dolls as a model for young girls. Fantastic Feminist had a wardrobe of clothes show-

ing women in important positions, a judge's robe, a racecar driver, an astronaut among others. This doll was featured in Ms. Magazine's list of non-sexist holiday toys in the 1980s.

While working at Follett's Bookstore, McQueen designed window displays to showcase women's achievements for Women's History month and interviewed and borrowed photos from members of the Oxford African-American community to showcase during Black History month.

As an entrepreneur, McQueen opened Joanne's Vintage Clothing and used the store to educate college students about histor-

ical periods when they rented costumes. She presented "style shows" to sororities and fraternities with commentary on political issues of the past and the relationship to present.

As a founding member of the MOON food cooperative, she has worked to educate the community on healthy eating. The board met for years planning for a physical site and she continues to share ideas to support the coop as a growing enterprise in Oxford and Butler County.

As a member of the Oxford League of Women Voters, McMahon-Klosterman said McQueen and two others guided the league in having Bonham House designated a histor-

ical site. She had found that Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the suffragist and sister-in-law of Miami University President Stanton, stayed in the house when she was lecturing in Oxford. She also speaks to MU classes about the women's movement and its history in Oxford.

McQueen was an early supporter of the Oxford Community Arts Center and served on the financial advisory board. She has also been active with Oxford Community Theatre, donating 600 costumes to OXACT when she closed her vintage clothing business. She currently serves on the OXACT board and is in charge of the costume shop.

Southard

continued from A2

person" in a nomination for the honor.

"The exterior of the building now announces the vibrancy of what happens within. Jack's effective, energetic leadership and participation in the OCAC board continues to draw community members to become involved in improving and expanding the activities of the center," the Michaels wrote.

Sarah Michael expanded on his service to the Oxford Community Arts Cen-

ter this past week, saying Southard has been involved in many areas of the arts center's activities as well as the fundraising, noting that he is in his sixth year as a member of the board of directors, which he will leave in March. Those six years have included serving three years as president and now finance committee chairman.

"Jack chaired the last major fundraiser, which raised more than a million dollars for renovations. He spearheaded many, many other activities at the arts center," she said, adding

much of his fundraising work was out of the public eye. "Many of his activities were behind-the-scenes, approaching donors and making people aware of what an asset the arts center is."

She said his work both on raising money for the center as well as promoting it and its many programs have helped transform it into what it is today.

Southard's other volunteer positions over the years as a varied menu included in the Michaels' nomination: board member and president of the

Miami University Summer Theater (MUST); board member and treasurer of the Oxford/Western Tennis Association; Leadership Chair of the United Way of Oxford; Senior Warden (twice), Vestry Member and currently Assistant Treasurer of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church; Oxford City Council member for seven years; Oxford Planning Commission; and current member of the Oxford City Parking Commission.

Contact this contributing writer at bratterman@gmail.com.

Waiker

continued from A2

second home for me. This was even more important when I lost my mother in 1989, when I was a senior at Miami. The Waiker home was always a safe haven for me and I felt very much a part of the family."

Wissing noted that the Years honoree was an early supporter of MOON Cop and her efforts included preparing a benefit dinner in 2004 as well as regularly donating items for other fundraising events.

She is also a supporter of those suffering from Autism. Not content to merely write a check to the special school Joe and Mary

Lou Barry's grandson attends on the East Coast, Waiker has for two years cooked a five-course meal to help the school. Oxford residents Joe and Mary Lou Barry supported her nomination telling about that effort to help the school.

"In March of 2012 we received a donation from Sarla and Vasant Waiker for Reed Academy's fundraiser, Go the Distance for Autism, in our grandson P.J. Barry's name. Sarla said in her note that 'her mind was working hard to figure in which way she could help raise more money for the betterment of those beautiful children.' Reed Academy is a special school for young people on the autism spec-

trum and P.J. is fortunate to be a student there," the Barrys wrote. "If we were able to arrange a site, Sarla asked to donate her cooking skills to provide a dinner for anyone wishing to enjoy one of her meals. We might add, in addition to her cooking skills, she spent untold hours shopping, preparing and serving the dinner. All proceeds from the dinner went to Reed Academy in P.J.'s name."

Rajesh Garuda, a former Miami graduate student in business, recalled the Waiker hospitality from his time in Oxford 1984-86.

"I was one of many students who benefitted from Sarla's commitment to help new students from India assimilate in the lo-

cal community in particular, and American society at large, including through cultural events. Whether it was the Dayton Symphony Orchestra or an Indian classical artist performing in Louisville, Kentucky, Sarla and Dr. Waiker went to great lengths to coordinate rides with local families to ensure new Indian students could enjoy the local cultural scene while meeting new people," Varma wrote. "Coming from a small town in north-west India, I'd never had such opportunities and I was able for the first time to enjoy live performances by some of the most renowned Indian classical musicians, including sitar maestro Ravi Shankar himself."

Contact this contributing writer at bratterman@gmail.com.

Whelpton

continued from A2

done to prepare for a population that is aging, but still active and needing a host of services, and what Oxford will look like in the future in providing for those needs.

They held a follow-up session in February on transportation and in April on housing.

Whelpton explained in her nomination letter Oxford has a high percentage of seniors who need services. The percentage of seniors 55 and older here, she wrote, is approximately 40 percent (not including students), compared to the national average of 14 percent.

"This highlights the economic impact of seniors in the Oxford area and the need for a broad range of services and housing options. By creating a network of people and information working to support vital retirement services and safe and affordable aging in place, the Oxford Village Network actively pro-

vides community, communication and inclusion for Oxford's current and

future senior citizens," she wrote.

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Season III Jan. 10 - Feb. 14
Lessons on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday
Tots, Basis 1-8, Adults, Hockey I & Bridge Class offered

Jr. RedHawks

Learn to Play Hockey

Beginner Session III 6 weeks, Jan. 13 - Feb. 21
Lessons on Tuesday & Saturday
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