



## FUN, FITNESS, AND PHILANTHROPY MARK “OXFORD DAY” FESTIVITIES IN THE TOWN OF OXFORD, MARYLAND



*The annual celebration in April includes an old-fashioned parade*

**Oxford, MD** – Nestled on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Town of Oxford may be diminutive (its population numbers less than 1,000), but its charm, big heart, and character are anything but. Debuted in 1994 to celebrate those qualities, Oxford Day is a dawn-to-dusk, family-friendly fête full of fun, fitness, food, and philanthropy for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Oxford Day will take place on Saturday, April 30, 2011 with every resident, organization, and business in town working together to throw a full-day party. The theme this year is “Kids and Community.” Fun events for visitors of all ages include the following:

- *The Oxford Day Parade.* The parade, complete with bands, eco-friendly floats, gawk-worthy cars and trucks, and a bagpiper, runs along Morris Street from 11:00 a.m. to noon.
- *Family Hour in the Park.* This yearly event held before the Parade gives children an opportunity to go back to the simple things in life – such as bean bag toss, face painting, a small fishing pond game, and even a clown!
- *Cooperative Oxford Laboratory Programs.* The mission of the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, an arm of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) located on South Morris Street, is to provide scientific information and tools that help better balance ecological, social, and economic goals for the Chesapeake Bay. On Oxford Day the lab will be reaching out to kids with hands-on marine science activities and exhibits providing fun information about the Chesapeake Bay and its watery denizens.
- *Oxford Flower Basket Competition.* The Oxford Day Committee is sponsoring the third annual Oxford Day Flower Basket Competition to celebrate Oxford, spring, families, and guests. Entries by residents and businesses will be displayed on doors, fences, posts, porches, and more, with first through third place winners receiving ribbons on April 29.
- *Oxford-Bellevue Ferry Runs.* Celebrating its 328<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2011, the ferry will mark Oxford Day by commencing its 20 minute round-trip runs one hour early, at 8:00 a.m. Kids ride free, and can even visit the wheelhouse to play captain, but everyone will enjoy this scenic, historic, and relaxing experience.
- *Free Skipjack Sails.* Grownups *and* kids will have the opportunity to take a complimentary sail on the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester*, a rare Chesapeake Bay oyster dredge boat.

- *“To Sara – with Love” Exhibit.* The Oxford Museum will host the grand opening of its newest exhibit: wartime valentines sent his bride by Captain William L. Benson, captain of the Oxford-Bellevue ferry from 1938 to 1974.
- *10K Run and 5K Fun Walk.* The races begin at 8:00 a.m.! Proceeds benefit breast cancer support services provided by Susan G. Komen Foundation to patients and their families in the mid-shore region.
- *Dog Show and Dog Walk.* Residents’ precious pooches will be strutting their stuff in style on Oxford Day. Proceeds will benefit event sponsor Talbot Humane Society.
- *Music, Food, and Fun Galore.* Musical entertainment will be provided by a variety of favorite local performers; fabulous fresh food provided by a number of not-for-profit groups, the Oxford Market, and local restaurants will be offered all around town; and kids’ activities will be organized throughout the day.

Visitors are warmly welcomed to come on over and experience tiny-but-terrific Oxford, Maryland on this very special day.

*The Town of Oxford, Maryland: docks, daydreams, discoveries, and so much more*

### **About Oxford, Maryland:**

The historic town of Oxford, Maryland, founded in 1683, is located in Talbot County on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Until the American Revolution, Oxford was an international shipping center, surrounded by tobacco plantations and home to a number of prominent national figures. Later it thrived on oyster harvesting and packing and other watermen’s trades, even as tourism and leisure activities increased. It guards its peaceful personality, architectural integrity, and small-town virtues to this day, while warmly welcoming visitors from right next door and around the world. The Oxford Business Association welcomes inquiries by telephone (1-410-745-9023) and at its website ([www.porttoxford.com](http://www.porttoxford.com)); the Town of Oxford website has a calendar of events ([www.oxfordmd.net](http://www.oxfordmd.net)); additional information regarding Oxford Day can be found on its website ([www.oxfordday.org](http://www.oxfordday.org)); and the Talbot County Office of Tourism offers comprehensive information and trip planning services at its Easton office (1-410-770-8000) and on its website ([www.tourtalbot.org](http://www.tourtalbot.org)).

### PRESS INFORMATION

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