

Hello Clarkston Residents and Business Associates!

Out of respect for the families in the Village of Oxford, I just have one communication item this week:

Oxford High School Tragedy

On behalf of the Clarkston City Council and Staff, I extend our sincerest condolences to the many families impacted by this week's shooting at Oxford High School. On many different levels, this was a heartbreaking and unconscionable tragedy. We offer our thoughts and prayers to the Village of Oxford, the Oxford Community Schools and all those affected.

We also extend our thanks and heartfelt appreciation for the many courageous students, teachers and first responders, including our own Oakland County Sheriff, that did an amazing job to act quickly, no doubt saving many other lives. We appreciate you!

Individuals and families who are struggling to cope with the tragedy and are in need of assistance are encouraged to review the attached press release from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Resources are available to help you.

If you are in a position to financially help the Oxford community, consider a donation. Genisys Credit Union, in partnership with Oxford Community Schools, is accepting donations to assist the families impacted by the tragedy. To donate to "Oxford Strong", please visit any of the 28 Genisys branch locations in Michigan ([branch locator](#)). See the attached Oxford Strong press release for more information. *(Please note that we have verified this to be a legitimate and trustworthy donation mechanism.)*

Out of respect for the victims and their families, the State of Michigan and the City of the Village of Clarkston stand in solidarity with the community of Oxford by lowering flags to half-staff. City residents, businesses, and organizations also are encouraged to display flags at half-staff until further notice.

Upcoming City Events

- Thursday, December 2nd, 4:30 PM – Zoning Board of Appeals administrative-only meeting at City Hall
- Saturday, December 4th, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM – Holiday Boutique and Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the CID library, at the CIDL.
- Saturday, December 11th, 6:00 PM – Holiday Light's Parade on Main Street, sponsored by Clarkston Community Schools' Team Rush
- Monday, December 13th, 7:00 PM – City Council Meeting at City Hall

- Tuesday, December 14th, 6:00 PM – Planning Commission Public Hearing (on Site Plan Review Ordinance change) at City Hall
- Tuesday, December 14th, 7:00 PM – Historic District Commission Meeting at City Hall
- Thursday, December 23rd and Monday December 27 – City Offices closed in recognition of the Christmas holiday.
- Monday, December 27th, 7:00 PM – City Council Meeting at City Hall (tentative)

Please stay safe this holiday season.

Jonathan Smith

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 1, 2021

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MDHHS shares mental health resources available for those impacted by Oxford school shooting

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is extending heartfelt condolences to all those affected by the tragic shooting at Oxford High School yesterday and sharing resources in support of anyone impacted by this horrible event.

“A school shooting is something we hope would never happen anywhere, but tragically occurred in our state this week,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “While no parent or child should have to experience this, it is important to take care of the mental health needs of survivors and those impacted by this tragic event. We encourage parents and caregivers to use available resources as their children navigate grief and process this traumatic event.”

According to [The National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) shootings are extremely traumatic experiences, and coping can be stressful. Children and teen’s reactions are influenced by how adults including teachers, parents and other caregivers respond. Common reactions include, but are not limited to, feelings of anxiety, fear and worry about safety of self and others; fear that another shooting may occur; changes in behavior such as increases in activity levels, decreases in concentration and increases in irritability; physical complaints such as headaches, stomach aches, or other aches and pains; and trouble staying focused and increased sensitivity to sounds.

“In the wake of the tragic shooting at Oxford High School, our hearts break for the community and families struggling to understand the loss of their beloved children and the toll of the injuries — both physical and mental — to so many others impacted by yesterday’s events,” said Dr. Debra Pinals, MDHHS medical director for behavioral health and forensic programs. “As we move forward step by step as a community, the questions and worries can be overwhelming. With anxiety and depression rates already heightened in the context of the pandemic, a tragedy like what happened at Oxford High School will need to be processed, and people will need to communicate about their concerns, even if they may be reluctant to do so. There is no shame in accessing support for emotional stress and trauma, and we encourage those who need that support to reach out to a health care provider or call 2-1-1 for local resources that can meet your needs.”

Take steps below to speak with your children about violence and help them cope through tragedy:

1. Reassure children that they are safe. Validate their feelings and let them know all feelings are okay when a tragedy occurs.

2. Make time to talk. Be patient and let children guide how much information you share by the questions they ask. Young children may need other activities like drawing or playing to identify and express feelings.
3. Keep explanations developmentally appropriate based upon age.
4. Review safety procedures both at school and at home.
5. Observe your child's emotional state. Note that children may not be able to verbally express grief and may need the help of a mental health professional.
6. Limit television viewing of the events.
7. Maintain a normal routine. A regular schedule can help with healing and aid in managing grief.

MDHHS also offers the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) in Oakland County. Residents can call or text 844-44-MICAL (844-446-4225) 24/7 for free behavioral health crisis triage, support, resource information and referral to local services. Chat is also available through Michigan.gov/MiCAL.

To learn about speaking to your children about safety, visit HopkinsAllChildrens.org.

To learn about speaking to your children about violence, visit NaspOnline.org.

If you or a loved one is concerned about suicide, call 800-273-8255 or visit SuicidePreventionLifeline.org.

To help your children manage distress after a shooting, visit Apa.org.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Genisys Credit Union is accepting donations to assist Oxford families

Oxford, MI. - Dec. 01, 2021 - In partnership with Oxford Community Schools, Genisys Credit Union is accepting donations to assist the families impacted by the tragedy that took place on Tuesday, November 30th. To donate to Oxford Strong, please visit any of the 28 Genisys branch locations in Michigan. Locations can be found here: www.genisyscu.org/locations. Checks can be made payable to Genisys Credit Union - Oxford Strong.

If you have any questions, please contact OxfordStrong@genisyscu.org

Our hearts go out to each and every one of the families and the community.