



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF OXFORD



## MESSAGE FROM MANAGER

**Jennifer M. Callahan, Town Manager**

Welcome to the latest edition of Onward Oxford! This newsletter has been an important communications tool to reach residents, enhance awareness of town services and increase citizen engagement. We are always striving to improve communications and outreach and you may have noticed these efforts over the past year! In addition to this newsletter, we have enhanced our social media presence and installed the digital message board in front of Town Hall. We have also captured many community events through our Cable Access Department which are available on the local cable access channels and YouTube. Additionally, we have provided increased online services to better serve residents and businesses.

Throughout the next Fiscal Year, there are several communications initiatives we will be actively working on to continue to move the community forward. We will be looking to upgrade the Town website to provide an enhanced user experience and improve the dissemination of public information. You will see a survey on your experience using the Town website and looking for your ideas to help guide areas for improvement. We will also be exploring the feasibility of adding new features and modules to the website.

Improving our new Cable Access Department continues to be a priority. In addition to live streaming, we will be launching a new video on demand repository in the next several months. Our videographers will be out in the community capturing major Town events and spotlighting Town Departments. We will also be launching an "Onward Oxford" audiovisual series to highlight Town sponsored events and programs.

Over the next several months and into the fall, you may see Department Heads out in your neighborhood sharing information about town services and identifying resident and business concerns and needs alike. Come out and say hello! As always, Onward Oxford!



# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RECAP

On Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 183 registered voters in the Town of Oxford descended upon the Oxford High School Auditorium to vote at the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Town Meeting warrant included twenty-one articles ranging from routine, housekeeping articles to the annual operating budget to the removal of the Oxford Police Department from the provisions of Civil Service.

"It is a remarkable achievement to have every article sponsored by the Town's Administration pass at Town Meeting," said Town Manager Jennifer Callahan in reference to the nineteen articles sponsored by the Town Manager, Department Head or Board or Commission emerging successful. "By working together with a unified voice, the townspeople supported all of the many worthy budget priorities and equally important nonmonetary articles outlined by Department leaders."

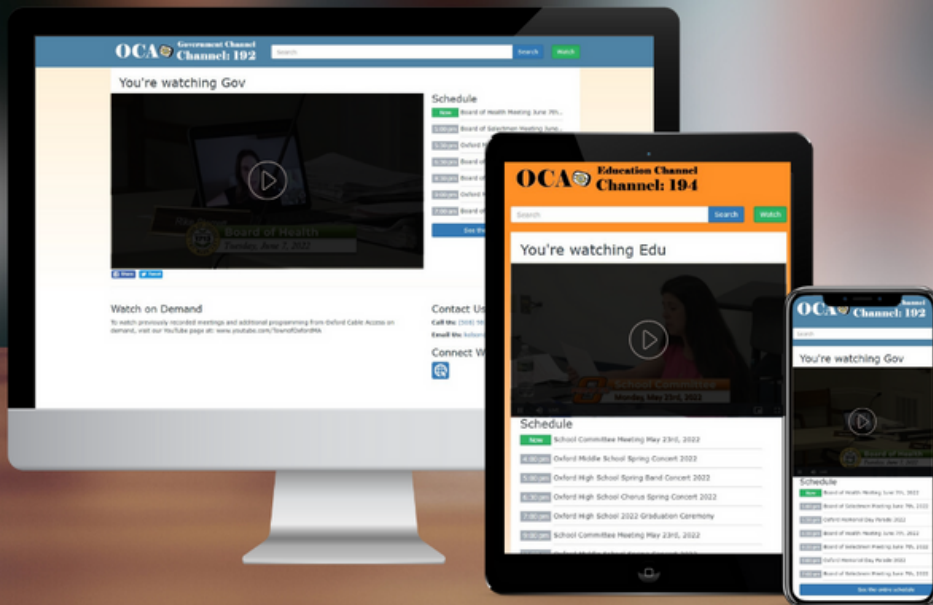
The approved Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget of \$45,496,629 represented a 2.7% overall increase over the previous Fiscal Year. The largest percentage of funding requested, representing 46% of the total budget, was appropriated to the Oxford Public Schools and Bay Path

Regional Vocational Technical High School. The biggest funding request was for the Fire/EMS Department to fund four additional firefighter/EMS positions. "After two years of relying on our frontline personnel to directly address the challenges raised by the pandemic, funding for these additional positions will provide necessary coverage at both fire stations to reduce the existing burden on staff that is exhausted and to reduce overtime," she said.

The Fire/EMS Department was not the only Public Safety Department to have significant changes following Town Meeting. After healthy debate, Town Meeting voted to remove the Oxford Police Department from the provisions of Civil Service. Removing Oxford from Civil Service, enacted by the Legislature in 1884, will allow greater flexibility in the hiring and promotional process and the Town can determine what hiring preferences to acknowledge, offer its own examination process, and have a more robust candidate pool moving forward. These approved changes align the Police Department with other Town Departments by transferring the appointment of the Police Chief and other members of the Department from the Board of Selectmen to the Town Manager and incorporate the "strong chief" provisions.

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## NOW STREAMING ONLINE



## OXFORD CABLE ACCESS- NOW STREAMING!

Do you want to watch meetings in the Town of Oxford live, but don't have cable? We are now streaming the Government Channel and Education Channel live.

Visit [oxfordma.us/cable-access](https://oxfordma.us/cable-access) for this links to the live stream.

For videos "on demand" visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/townofoxfordma](https://youtube.com/townofoxfordma).



# Town Meeting continued.

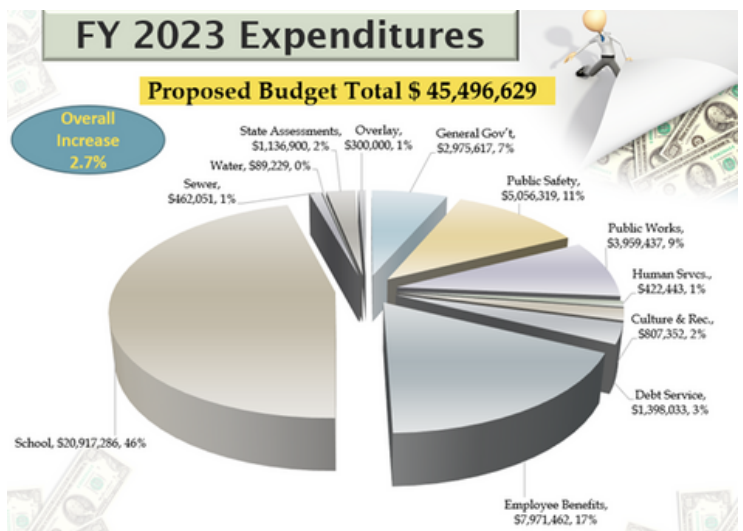
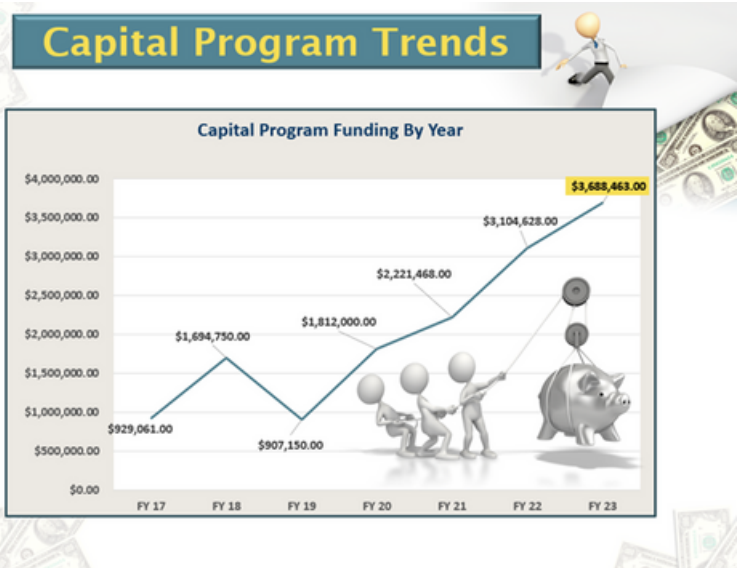
Town Meeting voters also approved a robust Capital Program for Fiscal Year 2023 in the amount of \$3,281,432, with over 70% of the funding coming from Free Cash and none of the funding coming from the levy. The largest Capital appropriation of \$1.5M was for the Department of Public Works Roadway/Dam/Culvert Engineering, Repair, Restoration, and Improvements. This includes funds to supplement Chapter 90, rehabilitate McKinstry Pond Dam, and make additional pedestrian improvements on Main Street. Other Capital projects include roof replacement at the Fire Department, major siding repairs at the Chaffee and Barton Schools, field irrigation, and a new ambulance.

The Planning Board forwarded four amendments to the Oxford Zoning Bylaw. All of the amendments were overwhelming

approved at the meeting which now will be sent to the Attorney General's Office before final acceptance by the Town. These amendments included an increase to the Marijuana Overlay District, a change in zoning on Route 20 from R-3 Residential to General Business, a simplification of the process to apply for a Special Permit for owners of split-zoned properties, and a new Chapter to address Large-Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Town Meeting concluded with two articles submitted by Citizen Petition to amend the General By-Laws. The first article which addressed the Town Meeting procedures was soundly defeated by the voters. The second dealt with adding a new Chapter to the General By-Laws to prescribe conduct and procedures for meetings of Town bodies passed by a narrow margin of 56-50 and now moves onto the Attorney General for review.

"I thank all of the department heads, staff, committees and boards for all of the detailed work undertaken in advancing meaningful warrant articles associated with the priorities we have collectively shaped for the community," stated Callahan. "It is this important advance-work that allowed the voters to come better prepared to support all of the town-sponsored articles. Without question, the quality of professional communications and departmental expertise used, to break down and present complex matters, is having very positive results in assisting residents to make the best decisions for the Town."





# Summer Safety Tips

## Protect against bugs

*Never leave stagnant pools of water around the house  
Apply insect repellent  
Always check for ticks*

## Practice Food Safety

*Be sure to wash your hands before preparing or serving food  
Consider the temperature*

## Practice Summer Sun Safety

*Use sun-protective clothing  
Apply sunscreen  
Wear sunglasses*

## Stay cool

*Try to stay in the shade and out of the sun*

## Prevent Dehydration

*Make sure to drink plenty of water*

### Tricks to avoiding ticks:

- Use EPA-approved bug repellents.
- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts with long pants when outside so ticks are more visible.
- Tuck your pants into your socks.
- Stick to main pathways and the center of trails when hiking.
- Check for ticks once a day. Look inside and behind ears, along hairline, back of neck, armpits, groin, and behind your knees and toes.
- Remember to check your pets for ticks as well.

### Keep the mosquitos from biting:

- Use EPA-approved bug repellents.
- Wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirt and long pants.
- Repair broken doors and window screens with holes.
- Stop mosquitoes from laying eggs in or near water by emptying and scrubbing any items that hold water.

## SUMMER HEALTH TIPS FROM THE OXFORD BOARD OF HEALTH

### Rike Sterrett, Director of Public Health Services

The Oxford Board of Health's mission is to protect and promote the physical, mental, and environmental health of the Oxford Community, reduce health inequities and respond to and prepare for public health concerns. Therefore, we want to pass along some tips for staying safe and healthy this summer.

Summertime promises fun and sunshine but is also associated with an increase in food poisoning, sunburns, and tick and mosquito bites.

#### Food safety tips include:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and warm water before handling/preparing food.
- Make sure to refrigerate perishables within 1 hour if it's 90F or warmer to prevent spoiling.
- Separate raw food from cooked food to prevent contamination.
- Use a thermometer to make sure food reaches the appropriate internal temperature.
- Wash produce thoroughly.

#### Sun safety involves:

- Using a sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15.
- Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours and after getting wet or sweaty.
- Use sunscreen even on cloudy days.
- Stay in the shade.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses when out in the sun.

Don't forget to also stay cool and hydrated this summer. As John Mayer said, "Cause a little bit of summer is what the whole year is all about."

Have a fun but safe and healthy summer and contact the Board of Health with any questions or concerns. You can also follow the Board of Health on Facebook for any updates and for good public health practices: [www.facebook.com/OxfordBOH](https://www.facebook.com/OxfordBOH).





# ART IN THE YARD IS BACK AT THE LIBRARY!

**Brittany McDougal Bialy, Library Director**

The Oxford Free Public Library is excited to announce the return of Art in the Yard for its 5th year after a two-year hiatus. This year's exhibit was made possible thanks to generous funding from the Oxford Cultural Council and bankHometown. A new feature we are offering this year is audio tours! Using your smartphone device, you will be able to scan a QR code found at any of the sculptures which will prompt you to download the app called Otocast. Otocast is an app generated to enhance the exhibit experience. Listen to clips from the artists themselves and hear about what their sculpture means to them. We hope you stop by and view this year's sculptures - Art in the Yard will run now through December 4, 2022.



## RUEL FIELD DISC GOLF NOW OPEN!

Oxford's newest recreation feature- a 9 hole disc golf course is now open! The course features 2 teepads per hole, 1 for family/beginners/kids and 1 for ams/pros. This is a tight wooded course that is perfect for perfecting your putter/midrange game. Some holes are true par 3s but can be birdied with the perfect shot!

This course could not have been possible without the help from the Oxford DPW, which performed both the construction and obtained funding through the Cecilia J Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trust.

Thank you to Jacob Mackowick of the DPW for making this project a reality for families to enjoy!





# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT- DISPATCHER JO-ANN SOMERS

**Jennifer Warren-Dyment, Asst. Town Manager**

If you have ever called the Oxford Police Department, dialed 911, or listened to the Police scanner, you likely have been greeted by the voice of Jo-Ann Somers.

Somers, who has resided in Oxford her entire life, is also the Town's longest serving employee! She began full-time with the Town the morning after her high school graduation, but had already begun learning the ropes on nights and weekends while still a student.

Over her four-plus decades of service to the Town she has seen many changes to the profession of Dispatch, now referred to as Telecommunications. "The biggest changes have come in the area of technology," she said. She commented on the changes to the radio frequencies, faster and more efficient computer and mapping systems, and Enhanced 911, among other changes. Somers went on to say that although there have been advances made in technology, the call volume has greatly increased over the years.

When asked about the one thing she would tell residents about the role of a Dispatcher, she said "when you call 911 we have 90 seconds to dispatch an ambulance and we may seem like we are being rude or cut off the caller, but we are trying to get the information we need". Somers said to always be prepared to tell the Dispatcher your name, address, and telephone number, and the issue at hand. She also stated that folks sometimes call 911 regarding non-emergencies, but they should be using the Police business line.

As a lifelong resident of Oxford, Somers sometimes knows the caller on the other end of the line. In these situations, she tries to distance herself and remain unattached, but when the call concludes, she sometimes has to stop and cry. Knowing the Town intimately and that she is helping her neighbors and their families is what has kept her in the profession so long. "When people come up to me in the grocery store and thank me for being on the other end of the line, I know that my work is meaningful and important," she said.

Somers is also known for her generosity and volunteerism. Years ago, she was involved in an effort to ensure every child in Oxford had toys to open on Christmas, even if their family could not afford them. This evolved into Operation Santa and the Children's Christmas Party. She has also been involved in the Oxford Fire Department, the Community Emergency Response Team, the Medical Reserve Corps, and the Central MA Animal Disaster Response Team.

In four to five years, Somers believes she will retire and plans to spend her days watering flowers at Home Depot and hopes to travel more to Canada!



# SERGEANT MICHAEL GIFFORD AWARDED MEDAL OF MERIT

**Anthony Saad, Police Chief**



Early in the morning hours of May 20, 2022, at 0055 hours, a call was made to 911 by a resident of 45 Leicester Street that her home was on fire. Officers and emergency personnel were dispatched. Sergeant Michael Gifford was the first to arrive at 0058 hours when he observed the home to be fully engulfed with intense flames, heat, and smoke.

Upon initial observation, Sergeant Gifford was able to locate an individual on the north side of the residence who was on the ground covered with a utility tarp. Bystanders had covered the person with the tarp to shield him from falling glass and debris from the burning home. This individual had jumped from the second-floor window to escape the flames. In doing so, he had sustained serious injuries which included a broken leg and second, and third degree burns to three quarters of his body.



With the residence fully engulfed in flames, Sergeant Gifford approached the man and discovered that he was conscious. Sergeant Gifford then placed the tarp on the ground next to the man and was able to roll him onto it. The Sergeant then dragged the man approximately fifty feet away from the flames and smoke to safety, thereby allowing EMT personnel to tend to him.

This daring action by the Sergeant gave this person an opportunity to survive this tragic event. Had the individual been left in the position that he was initially found, he would have surely perished at the scene. A quote in the Oxford Police Department Squadroom states, "Bravery is not the absence of fear, but action in the face of fear."

On behalf of the department, we proudly put forth Sergeant Gifford for a Medal of Merit. The Medal of Merit is the Department's second highest award and shall be awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by taking action in an extremely hazardous situation. The action shall be one of conspicuous bravery or heroism beyond the normal call of duty, but to a lesser degree than is required for the Medal of Valor. The individual shall have performed the act while facing imminent danger that may have resulted in great bodily injury or death. On June 21, 2022 the Oxford Board of Selectmen voted to award Sergeant Gifford the Medal of Merit.



**OXFORD'S "GREAT GARDEN" CONTEST**  
Nominate yourself, your neighbors, or complete strangers for Oxford's Great Garden Contest. Visit [www.oxfordma.us](http://www.oxfordma.us) for an application form!





# SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AT JOSLIN PARK BANDSTAND

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## June

**30: GRADE "A" FANCY 5-7**

## July

**10: DW & THE SHAKEMAKERS 3-5**

**17: TRACK DOWN 3-5**

**21 MARK & RAIANNE 5-7**

**24: ONE LAST BLAST 3-5**

**30: FAR FROM EDEN 3-5**

**31: DON'T TELL DAN 4-6 \***

## August

**4: HOLDIN' BACK BAND 6-8**

**11: JUMPIN' JUBA 5-6:30\*\***

**14: THROWBACK TO THE 60'S 3-5**

**21: BLUE HOUSE BETWEEN 3-5**

**28: DR J ACOUSTIC 3-5**

## September

**11: GRADE "A" FANCY 4-6**

Concerts sponsored by Oxford Cultural Council & MassCultural Council,

\* Sponsored by Oxford Women's Club, \*\* Sponsored by Oxford COA



# **MOVIES ON MAIN! OXFORD'S FREE SUMMER MOVIE SERIES ON THE COMMON**

## ***July Features***

***13: DOLITTLE***

***20: SOUL***

***27: THE GOONIES***

## ***August Features***

***3: ENCANTO***

***10: JUNGLE CRUISE***

***17: AMERICAN UNDERDOG***

**Food Trucks and Children's entertainment begin at 7PM**

**Sponsored by the Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trust, Bank Hometown, Oxford Cultural Council**



## **OXFORD'S FIRST TOWN-WIDE ANNUAL YARD SALE**

Clean out those closets, garages, and basements! Register your Yard Sale address online with the Town of Oxford at [oxfordma.us](http://oxfordma.us) AND the Oxford Community Center at [oxfordma.myrec.com](http://oxfordma.myrec.com) by September 2, 2022.

We will advertise each participating address. Space will also be available for rent at the Oxford Community Center and the Town Common.

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 8AM - 1 PM**





## CARBUNCLE POND... A TOWN GEM!

### Judy Lochner, Conservation Agent

Legend has it that Native Americans tossed a sacred stone into the pond to prevent their enemies from obtaining it during a battle. This gemstone was a carbuncle; a deep red stone that is said to illuminate from the bottom of the pond during certain lighting conditions. Whether you believe this legend or not, town officials believe that Carbuncle Pond is a gem worth investing in.

Over the past several years, the park at Carbuncle Pond has become new and improved due to the hard work of various Town departments and public support. The beach house has been rebuilt, a Splash Pad has been constructed, the playground equipment has been replaced, the beach sand replenished, the parking lot re-paved and an abutting wooded lot has been

acquired, all for the enjoyment of Oxford residents of all ages and abilities. Multiple events are held at the park each year including the annual Family Fishing Festival & Fun Day which took place just a few weeks ago. The beach house is used quite often by Town departments as well as for private functions. The beach and Splash Pad will be opening soon for summer enjoyment and fishing continues to be a favorite sport for locals.

Managing water quality of the pond is of utmost importance for the safety of users and is the most important factor affecting aquatic life. To facilitate a healthy environment in the pond, The DPW's Conservation division commenced several proactive initiatives.

The DPW retained a local lake and pond management firm to monitor the pond for algae, nuisance water weeds and assess water quality conditions in Carbuncle Pond.

According to aquatic biologists from the firm, algae blooms have been increasing in numbers over the past few years in Massachusetts ponds as we have witnessed in Carbuncle Pond. In order to reduce the frequency of these potentially harmful blooms, an aeration system was installed in the pond last fall. This system consists of six diffusers and a compressor that injects oxygen into the bottom of the pond at various locations. Phosphorus, a nutrient that feeds the algae, is reduced when oxygen is increased, thereby mitigating the risk of algae blooms.

Residents can also help reduce nutrients that enter the pond by eliminating the use of fertilizers containing phosphorous and maintaining septic systems. The DPW, in coordination with MassDOT, also plans to review nearby storm drain systems that outlet directly into the pond. Material picked up by rainwater contains not only nutrients but other substances that can impair water quality. Our goal is to devise solutions for enhanced treatment of runoff to ensure the highest quality stormwater feasible enters the pond.

Another proactive measure that Town residents recently voted to incorporate is a Town By-Law prohibiting the use of gas and diesel powered motorboats and recreational vehicles on and in Carbuncle Pond. Fuel leaks can be very harmful to aquatic wildlife and in some cases fatal when gills and outer coverings are affected. All of these initiatives will help ensure enjoyment of the pond now and for future generations, making Carbuncle Pond a true gem!







## SUMMER GRILL SAFETY

**Laurent McDonald, Fire Chief**

Ah Summer! We made it through the cold of winter and the rainy days of spring. Summer official begins June 21st this year and that means barbecuing and picnics. If you're like me, you enjoy barbecuing in the summer months. Now is a good time to go over some summer fire safety tips to ensure your barbecuing and grilling experiences result in enjoyment rather than an incident gone horribly wrong.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Fire Incident Reporting Statistics (MFIRS), between 2016 and 2020 Massachusetts fire departments responded to 427 fires involving grills, hibachis, and barbecues. These fires caused 15 civilian injuries, 6 firefighter injuries, and \$4 million in property damage. Let's look at some safety tips you can follow to ensure you and your precious family don't become one of these statistics.

The best way to prepare for your safe grilling experience is to always follow your owner's manual for your grilling unit and practice the safety tips provided in this article.

Grills produce both high heat and carbon monoxide (CO) gas, so it is important you always grill outdoors and away from combustible materials and structures. While it may seem convenient and tempting, please do not use your grill on a porch, balcony or deck with a roof, overhang, or wall (other than the exterior of the building). Only use your grill on open first floor porches, decks or patios if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or the porch is at ground level and keep it away from the house and deck railings. Keep your grill a minimum of 10-feet from the side of a building and ensure it is not underneath overhanging branches. Do not use your grill on fire escapes. If you have pets and/or children, ensure they remain at least three feet away from an operating grill. Children should never be allowed to play near grills or propane cylinders. Always keep matches, lighters, and lighter fluid away from children.

In addition to cooking food more evenly, gas grills are safe and convenient to use when they are assembled and used properly. Gas grills are fueled by liquid propane which is pressurized and requires

special handling and storage. Ensure you read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for the storage cylinder and the grill.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable cooking experience, make sure the lid of a gas grill is open before turning on the gas cylinder and lighting the cooking jets. Propane can build up inside and result in a serious flash fire or explosion once ignited. If you smell gas while cooking this may be due to a leak in a valve or supply hose. Be sure to turn off the stove and gas if safe to do so, move away from the grill and call 911 from a safe location. Do not attempt to move the grill. Never leave an operating grill unattended. When you finish cooking, close the storage cylinder, and wait for the flames to go out. Once the burner jets are no longer emitting flame and the gas has stopped flowing, close the burner valves. Allow the grill to cool before putting on your protective cover.

Storage and handling propane is another important step in the safe grilling experience. Please keep all propane outdoors, at least 10 feet away from building openings such as doors, windows, and dryer vents, and 20 feet away from air intake vents and ignition sources. Do not smoke while handling a propane cylinder. Store propane cylinders upright in an outdoor, shaded area; do not leave cylinders in a vehicle; cylinders should not be used, stored, or transported where they can be exposed to high temperatures or physical. Before turning on the gas, check to ensure all connections are tight and secure.

If you think there is a leak, you can check by dabbing the connections with a solution of soapy water and turning on the gas momentarily. If bubbles occur, there is a leak that must be fixed before

*Continued on next page.*



# Grill Safety continued.

the grill is used. Do not use matches or lighters to check for leaks.

As part of a routine maintenance procedure for your grill, check the tubes to the burners for blockages resulting from insect nests or from grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear any blockages. Clean the grease trap every time you grill. If you have a storage cylinder or grill that needs repair, take it to a propane dealer or a qualified appliance repair person. It is a good practice to replace propane cylinders that are old, rusty, or showing any other signs of disrepair.

If you like to use charcoal rather than propane to grill, here are some useful charcoal grill safety tips. Use only charcoal starter fluid to light your charcoal. Never use gasoline, kerosene, or other flammable/combustible liquids to start a fire in a grill. Never add lighter fluid to burning briquettes or hot coals as doing so may cause a flash fire and result in serious burn injuries.

Remember, charcoal briquettes give off carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly so always use charcoal grills outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Never use charcoal grills indoors, including in a garage with the door open as CO can accumulate enough to incapacitate you in an enclosed space. For proper disposal of grill ashes, allow the coals to burn out completely and then cool for 48 hours before disposal. If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, thoroughly soak them in water before putting them in a metal container. Grilling is a favorite pastime and as American as baseball, apple pie and Chevrolet. Follow these safety tips to ensure you and your family enjoy this and all your future summers.



# HUGUENOT OAK UPDATE

The Huguenot Oak located on the corner of Huguenot Road and Russell Lane was the last Oak standing of the three historic original Oak trees said to have been used by the Huguenot's to locate the path leading to the Fort. The sentinel, which was over 400 years old, had been declining in health for several years and ceased blooming. The difficult decision was recently made to remove the tree which was becoming a safety hazard.

Stephen Esposito, Operations Manager for the Oxford DPW, crafted several beautiful clocks using wood salvaged from the oak that will be displayed across town buildings to keep the legacy of the oak alive!



# WHO HANDLES THE MONEY- THE ROLE OF THE TREASURER/COLLECTOR

**Jillian Patch, Treasurer/Collector**

## **Duties and Responsibilities of the Collector**

The Collector's primary function entails the collection of taxes, motor vehicle excises, betterments, and special assessments in accordance with the commitment list and warrant prepared by the Assessors. State Laws detail the way the Collector proceeds in enforcing the collection of all committed taxes. Upon receiving the tax list or commitment and warrant from the Assessors, the Collector sends a tax bill to each assessed property owner. The bill is in a form approved by the Commissioner of Revenue. Once a week, or more often, the Collector pays over to the Treasurer all money received from the payment of taxes and interest.

A Tax Collector establishes and maintains an effective and reliable record keeping system. All money received should be deposited as quickly as is reasonably possible. If payment is not received by the Collector within the statutory period, a demand for payment must be sent to the taxpayer before collection enforcement procedures may be initiated. Such collection enforcement procedures include: 1. Issuing a warrant to a deputy collector requiring the collection of unpaid taxes (real estate, personal property, motor vehicle. 2. The perfection of a tax taking for real estate taxes. A tax taking perfects the lien that arises automatically upon the commitment of a tax on real estate. Upon the taking, title vests in the city or town, subject to the taxpayer's right of redemption or until such time as that right has been foreclosed. 3. The institution of a civil suit. Tax collectors work aggressively to collect all bills committed to them as uncollected revenues may substantially impact a town's financial position in an unfavorable manner.

## **Duties and Responsibilities of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer serves as custodian of various financial documents, such as insurance policies, fidelity bonds of other town officials, and deeds to all municipal property acquired by deed. The Treasurer regularly advises administrative officers, finance committees, and others concerning the financial condition of the city or town, providing factual information upon which appropriating, and budgeting decisions may be made. The Treasurer diligently maintains tax title accounts, conducts sales of land of low value, in proper circumstances, and prepares documents required to petition for foreclosure, when appropriate. Ultimately, the Treasurer bears responsibility for the closing and reconciliation of all books and accounts in the Treasurer's office, including the cash book, warrants (including vendor, payroll, and special warrants), bank accounts (checking accounts, trust funds, and bond and coupon accounts), retirement funds, debt records, and tax title accounts. The Treasurer's responsibilities also include a major role in the issuance of municipal debt.

Town Treasurers report to the Town Accountant, or to the Finance Committee, the amount of debt and interest due in the next fiscal year at the time they submit their budget estimates. Only the Treasurer may pay out public money. In Oxford, even then, the Treasurer may only make payments upon the signature of the Town Manager. The Treasurer maintains custody of stabilization funds, pension reserve funds, trust funds, enterprise funds, investments, and all other funds of The town not specifically allocated to other agencies.

The Treasurer regularly and carefully prepares all obligatory reports, including (a) cash reconciliations (b) reports to the accountant of all receipts and balances; reports of payroll deductions (c) an annual report, which includes a statement of receipts and disbursements, a statement of debt, and, in the absence of trust commissioners, a report of trust funds, and (d) reports required to be submitted to the Bureau of Accounts.



***Oxford Treasurer/Collector Jillian Patch  
and Assistant Treasurer/Collector  
Cheyenne Cusson***



# SENIOR CENTER VOLUNTEERS ROCK!!!

**Laura Wilson, Director**

On April 21st, the Senior Center recognized it's AMAZING, DEDICATED, and DEPENDABLE volunteers with a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. Lunch was a delicious buffet donated by P&D Pizza, and a Make Your Own Sundae buffet for dessert. Entertainment was provided by Stephen George Music. A fun time was had by all that attended!



Our volunteers do a variety of things from; knitting and crocheting hats, scarves, mittens and blankets that are donated to Oxford's Operation Santa, Harrington Hospital Cancer Center, St Vincent's Medical Center Family Birthing Center, Worcester Refugee Assistance Project, Care Central VNA & Hospice, Veterans Inc., Catholic Charities, Project New Hope, Worcester Fellowship, Brookside Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, and the Meadows to name a few. We also have faithful volunteers that help serve lunches on Tuesdays and Fridays. Senior volunteers also assist with assembling our monthly newsletter and so much more.



## JULY EVENTS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

**LUNCHES SERVED TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 12-12:30 (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)**

**WALKING CLUB TUESDAYS @ 8:45 AM**

**JULY 8- FREE MOVIE "DOWNSIZING" @ 12:45**

**JULY 14- MEN'S COFFEE GROUP @10 AM**

**JULY 15- FIRE/EMS PRESENTATION @ 12:30**

**JULY 27- HIP HOP DANCE CHAIR EXCERCISE @ 11 AM**

# STATE MAKES PERMENANT CHANGES TO VOTING

Michelle Jenkins, Town Clerk

## Voting by Mail

Massachusetts voters now have the option to vote early by mail in all elections, with no excuse required. To request your Vote by Mail ballot, all you have to do is submit a signed application to the Town Clerk's Office.

For the Fall Elections, Vote by Mail applications will be mailed in July and September to every voter who has not already requested a mail-in ballot. These applications will be pre-addressed to the Town Clerk's Office and postage pre-paid.

Applications can be submitted by mail, email, or fax. If you are emailing your application, you need to sign it in a way that can be compared to your hand-written signature. Electronic signatures, scanned applications, and photos of applications are acceptable. Typed signatures cannot be accepted.

## Applying for a Primary Ballot

If you are applying for a primary ballot, and you are not registered in a party, **you must indicate which party's ballot you want to receive.** If you do not provide a party on your application, you will not receive a primary ballot.

If you are unenrolled (commonly called "Independent") or enrolled in political designations, you are allowed to vote in the party primary of your choice. Your ballot choice will not affect your party registration.

## Application Deadlines

Any mail-in ballot must be requested in writing at least 5 business days before Election Day.

Application deadlines for 2022 are listed below. Your application can only be accepted if it has reached the Town Clerk's Office by the deadline.

**Apply as early as possible**, especially if your ballot will need to be mailed out of town. The U.S. Postal Service recommends allowing up to 7 days for mail delivery. To ensure you receive your ballot with enough time to mail it back, you should apply 2-3 weeks before Election Day.

## Returning your Ballot

There are several options for returning your ballot. You may return your ballot by:

- Mailing it back using the envelope you will be provided
- Hand-delivering your ballot to the Town Clerk's Office
- Dropping your ballot in the outside secure lock box at the rear of the Memorial Town Hall, 325 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540

### Ballots cannot be dropped off at a polling place on Election Day.

For the September 6, 2022, State Primaries, **your ballot must reach the Town Clerk's Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.** Ballots that arrive after that time – even if they are postmarked on or before Election Day – will not be counted.

For the November 8, 2022, State Election, ballots returned in person or by the drop box must be delivered by 8 p.m. on Election Day. **Ballots returned by mail from inside the United States must reach the Town Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on November 11, 2022, in order to be counted. Mailed ballots received after 8 p.m. on Election Day can only be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day.**

## Early Voting in Person

All Early Voting in Person will be held at the Oxford Senior Center, 323 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540. For the September State Primaries, In Person Early Voting will take place August 27th to September 2nd. And for the November State Election, In Person Early Voting will take place October 22nd to November 4th. Hours for In Person Early Voting will be released at a later date.

And, as always, you may still vote the "Old Fashioned Way" and go to your polling place on Election Day and cast your ballot in person!!!!

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

5 PM, Monday, August 29, 2022 - Deadline for September 6, 2022 State Primaries

5 PM, Tuesday, November 1, 2022 - Deadline for November 8, 2022 State Election



# IMAGINE



# 2050

**We want to  
hear your  
Vision for 2050:**



**[CMRPCRegionalServices.org/Survey](http://CMRPCRegionalServices.org/Survey)**



**What should  
our economy  
look like?**



**How do we  
preserve the  
environment?**



**How do we  
achieve  
equity?**

#### **What is Imagine 2050?**

As a region-wide comprehensive planning initiative, Imagine 2050 will establish long-range strategies for our 40-community region. We aim to identify the resources, problems, possibilities, and needs of the region, which will inform a plan to improve the welfare and prosperity of those who live, work, and visit Central Massachusetts.



**[cmrpcregionalservices.org/Imagine2050](http://cmrpcregionalservices.org/Imagine2050)**