



THE PRIMARY SOURCE FOR EVERYTHING OXFORD



MESSAGE FROM MANAGER

Jennifer M. Callahan, Town Manager



Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2024 Edition of Onward Oxford! As the fiscal year end approaches, the past few months have been extremely busy. In this new edition, we cover several major recent public service milestones including the Annual Town Meeting and Election, Police Promotions, Housing and Business Surveys, and much more.

We also take an opportunity to highlight an array of upcoming special events and activities coordinated by a number of Town Departments. Popular upcoming events in town include the Summer Band Concert Series, Movies on Main, Summer Swim and Camp Program, Teddy Bear Picnic and the Library's new "Art in the Yard" installation. There are many more community events taking place all summer long also featured in this edition. I hope you and your loved ones will be able to attend or participate in some of the traditional as well as new events that make this community vibrant and engaging!

This edition of the newsletter also highlights some of our beautiful local wildlife for the birds are back in Town! Read more in the article "World-Renowned Greenbriar Osprey!" Since the installation of the Town's Osprey Webcam, there have been over 2.3 million viewers from across the nation and world! To watch these beautiful birds raise their young from eggs all the way to chicks, checkout the QR code provided in the article inside to see more.

Did you know that Oxford was recently listed in the Massachusetts Legacy Tree Program? Learn more about this unique designation shared by our Tree Warden, Jacob Mackowiak. The State's 4th largest red oak proudly stands right here in Oxford on Sutton Avenue!

Finally, a special thank you to Chairman Dennis Lamarche for his many years of dedicated service on the Oxford Board of Selectmen. The longtime Chairman's recent retirement marks the end of a dedicated public service era and is a shining example of selfless dedication to our Town. Thank you for caring about our community and your enduring public service! Also, welcome to the newly appointed Chair, Selectman Mark Lee as well as the election of Selectman Russ Rheault.

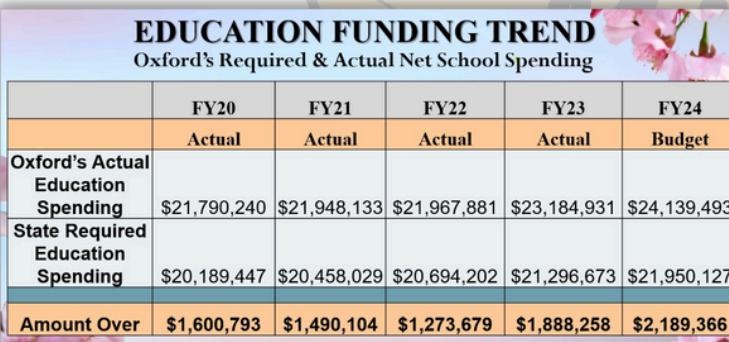
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WRAP-UP

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 24th at Oxford High School and attracted 282 registered voters. The Town Meeting warrant included a variety of articles such as the payment of prior year invoices and the increased asset limits for Senior Tax Exemptions to the Fiscal Year 2025 Operational and Capital Budgets. Oxford residents successfully passed all the articles presented despite the meeting adjourning close to midnight. Although numerous amendments were presented, only one amendment passed increasing the FY25 School Department operational budget by over \$500K by drawing down on the Town's Stabilization Fund which is for unexpected financial emergencies.



Finance Committee Chair
Corina Casey

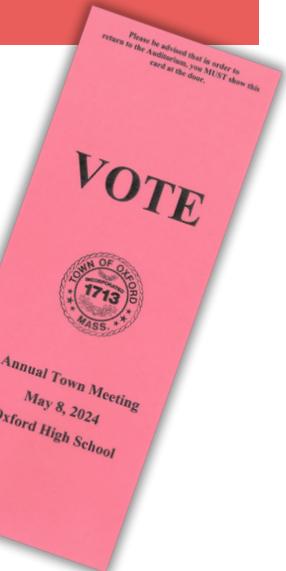
Moderator Cheryll Leblanc commenced the meeting with no reports from Town Officers or Committees and promptly proceeded to Article Two regarding the payment of prior year invoices related to sewer operations in the amount of \$4,106.87. Article Three sought to appropriate just over \$500K in Chapter 90 Highway Funding for upcoming roadway maintenance. Article Four set the routine spending limits for Departmental Revolving Accounts. Article Five established a new revolving fund for the Emergency Address Signage Program. Article Six requested to appropriate \$75K from Free Cash towards Other Post-Employment Benefits. Article Seven was presented to appropriate \$250K of Free Cash to the Town's Stabilization Fund. However, voters chose to "table" Article Seven until later that evening in an orchestrated attempt to repurpose the emergency reserve funding towards the School Operational budget.



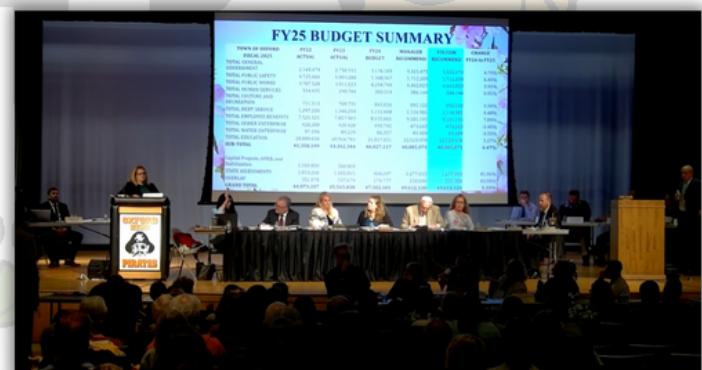
Since there was an amendment proposed to substantially cut several department budgets to pay for the proposed increase to the school budget, the Town Moderator allowed all Department Heads to present their budgets to highlight the impact any increase in school funding could have on Town services. The amendment to cut department budgets failed. Instead, another amendment to fund the School Department's additional budget request by utilizing Stabilization Funds passed which required a 2/3 vote.



Board of Selectmen Chair
Dennis Lamarche



After lengthy debate, voters supported the Finance Committee's recommendation to maintain a balanced budget, while passing the amended increase to education, resulting in an approved Fiscal Year 2025 Budget of \$50,121,922. Town Manager Jennifer Callahan noted, "This level of spending is not sustainable. Next year, over \$1M will now be needed to fund the school budget. These were all grant funded positions that were funded through one-time (Covid Pandemic) Federal Government grant monies. Oxford simply does not have the tax base to support this level of spending."



Article Eleven sought approval to appropriate \$2,015,968 in Free Cash towards the FY25 Capital Programs, including \$500K for the Department of Public Works for general roadway, dam, bridge, culvert improvements and engineering. Other FY25 Capital projects included a \$475K appropriation to the Building Improvement Fund for various municipal buildings maintenance, \$450K to replace the aged fueling system at the DPW garage, \$130K to replace a DPW vehicle, \$105K to replace the restroom facility at Greenbriar Park, \$250K to replace Forestry #2 for the Oxford Fire Department, \$55K to replace officer weapons at the Oxford Police Department and a local match of \$55K for future Green Communities projects. The total FY25 Capital Program Funding overwhelmingly passed with no further discussion.

Article Twelve authorized a five-year lease of police vehicles. Town Meeting unanimously approved the five-year lease option with the funding for the leases in the FY25 Police Department operational budget. Article Thirteen increased the whole estate and income limits for seniors over 60 to apply for tax exemptions. The passage of this article now allows for approximately eight additional senior citizens in Oxford to be eligible for tax relief.

Article Fourteen sought to authorize the continued service of Mr. Craig Gagner until age 68 with the Oxford Police Department. Having Officer Gagner continue to serve the Police Department part time provides additional manpower and greater staff scheduling flexibility. This article corresponds with special legislation before the State Legislature to allow for Officer Gagner's continued service. Article Fifteen placed a roadway opening moratorium for utility companies and/or other parties to help better preserve any newly paved roadway for up to three years.

Town Meeting concluded with revisiting the previously tabled Article Seven that sought to appropriate \$250K in Free Cash towards the Stabilization Fund. The revisited article passed unanimously and Town Meeting concluded just before midnight.

"I would like to thank all of the voters that attended to make their voices heard at Town Meeting," stated Callahan. "Additionally, I would like to thank all of the departments, boards and committees for all of their work that has gone into planning the budget for the upcoming fiscal next year."



It is important to also recognize all of our dedicated election workers who make Town Meeting run smoothly and assure only valid Oxford registered voters participate. Our Town Clerk and her staff work many hours in advance to plan, set up and account for participants and formal votes that occur during Town Meeting. Thank you for all you do!

OXFORD POLICE PROMOTIONS

Michael K. Daniels, Chief of Police

Over recent months, the atmosphere at the Oxford Police Department has been awesome, and we share in the anticipation for the upcoming summer's warmer weather. It is with great pleasure that we announce and share significant developments and events from your Police Department.

Following an extensive promotional assessment, we have elevated Sergeant Jeromy Grniet to the rank of Lieutenant, and Officer Ken Mead Jr. to Sergeant. These promotions are a testament to their dedication, hard work, and leadership within the department. The month of April was an awesome month for our Public Safety Communications Center.

Dispatcher Stephanie Dvareckas received a commendation and was awarded a stork pin by Sergeant Joseph Conlon for her emergency communications assistance in the delivery of a baby boy. The third week of April was Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and I proudly want to just take a moment to recognize Joanne Somers, Stephanie Dvareckas, Trina Deary, Amanda Cyr, Elysha Clemente, Kristina Dixon, and Dominic Esposito for their service to the community of Oxford.

The men and women at Oxford Police Department developed a Cruiser Design Committee to enhance our fleet's appearance and functionality. The Committee focused on augmenting our cruisers visibility, while also honoring the classic "black & white" cruiser aesthetic. As part of this initiative, we plan to transition all new vehicles to this updated, more visible, and contemporary design.

Changes like this reflect our commitment to progress and excellence, ensuring the Oxford Police Department continues to serve our community with distinction and professionalism.



Lt. Grniet and Sgt. Mead at Selectmen's Meeting



National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

THE END OF FEDERAL COVID GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS

The pandemic undoubtedly caused a disruption to school districts nationwide through closures, distancing, remote classes – the list goes on! Although the pandemic is over, challenges still exist for school districts across the nation as Federal COVID-related grant funding is slated to expire. This Federal funding, otherwise known as ESSER, infused hundreds of billions of dollars of short-term grant funds to school districts nationwide, and is set to expire September of 2024.

In a response to keep schools open, meet students' mental health needs, and recover from learning loss, the following grants were made available to school districts across the nation: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 (ESSER I, \$13.23 billion), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (ESSER II, \$54.31 billion), and the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ESSER III, \$121.97 billion).

The end of ESSER funding presents a crossroads for the Town of Oxford. The additional \$4.8 million that has been used to supplement the school's operational budget will no longer be available for fiscal year 2025. Leading up to and after the Annual Town Meeting, school districts across the nation experienced staff reductions related to the end of these pandemic grants.

The Oxford School Committee had approved a plan to use these federal grants to hire 36 new positions. This huge staff increase was temporary and completely supported by these one-time grants. The hiring plan was done with the understanding the increase in new hires was only possible because of the COVID grant funding and would not be sustainable within Oxford's tax levy.

The ESSER grants were allocated in the same manner as Title I funds meaning that those school districts with higher populations of economically challenged students received more funding than wealthier districts. This allocation method has a downside: poorer school districts will be impacted greater than wealthier districts when the ESSER funding goes away!



Per Pupil Expenditures: District Comparison

Oxford

Year	In-District Expenditures	Total In-district FTEs	In-District Expenditures per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupil FTEs	Total Expenditures per Pupil
2022	\$26,228,196.78	1,466.1	\$17,889.77	\$29,467,636.53	1,607.3	\$18,333.63
2021	\$22,922,101.36	1,459.8	\$15,702.22	\$25,951,604.23	1,608.2	\$16,137.05

Auburn

Year	In-District Expenditures	Total In-district FTEs	In-District Expenditures per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupil FTEs	Total Expenditures per Pupil
2022	\$39,950,537.43	2,581.9	\$15,473.31	\$41,126,549.32	2,632.0	\$15,625.59
2021	\$37,360,958.16	2,509.1	\$14,890.18	\$38,665,237.60	2,573.8	\$15,022.63

Dudley-Charlton

Year	In-District Expenditures	Total In-district FTEs	In-District Expenditures per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupil FTEs	Total Expenditures per Pupil
2022	\$54,392,061.43	3,494.6	\$15,564.60	\$58,482,317.11	3,605.0	\$16,222.56
2021	\$53,536,862.47	3,474.6	\$15,408.06	\$57,233,473.71	3,587.5	\$15,953.58

Douglas

Year	In-District Expenditures	Total In-district FTEs	In-District Expenditures per Pupil	Total Expenditures	Total Pupil FTEs	Total Expenditures per Pupil
2022	\$19,724,368.65	1,174.6	\$16,792.41	\$22,119,206.71	1,254.3	\$17,634.70
2021	\$18,692,595.50	1,148.4	\$16,277.08	\$21,439,599.19	1,242.4	\$17,256.60

desé

MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provides the public with an online portal containing school district profiles, access to data sets, visualizations, and report files. The information is regularly updated. In May, DESE released the 2024 Staffing Retention Rates and 2024 Student Attendance Report. To learn more about these updates and more please visit the state's online data portal on the QR code here:



REVENUE BUDGET

Katie McKenna, Finance Director

A major step in the budget process is the calculation of revenues. The Town cannot create an expenditure budget that exceeds what is reasonably expected to be received in revenues. The Town of Oxford receives revenue from three major sources, including taxes, the State governmental aid and local receipts. The Town must also raise money through the water and sewer enterprise funds. Lastly, the Town uses other available funds such as the ambulance receipts reserved to offset the expenditure budget.

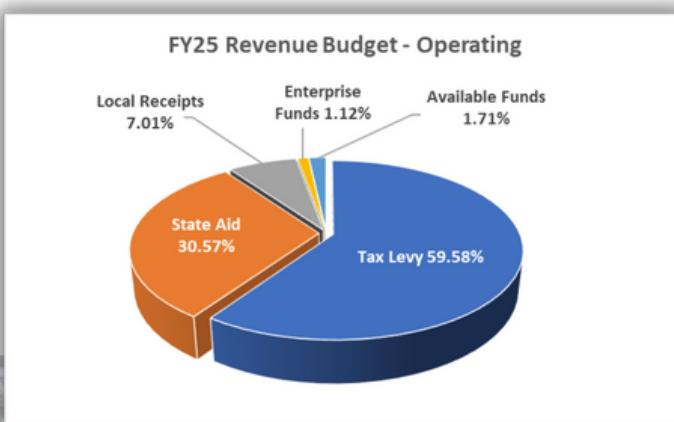


Property Taxes – FY25 Estimate \$29,559,976

In FY23, property taxes comprised over half of the Town's annual revenue, making it the most significant revenue source. This is typical of many cities and towns in Massachusetts. Property taxes are assessed on real property (e.g. land and buildings) as well as personal property (e.g. merchandise and machinery). An individual's personal effects are exempt from the personal property tax. The Board of Assessors and assessing staff are responsible for assessing the full and fair cash value of real and personal property in Oxford. Every ten years, a full revaluation must be performed in accordance with State law. Oxford completed certification in FY2023, with the next certification due for FY2028. Annual tax levy growth is constrained by Proposition 2 1/2, the Massachusetts General Law that limits the annual growth in a municipality's total tax levy (i.e., revenue generated by property taxes) to 2.5%, plus an allowance for new growth. New growth is new development in the Town or changes to properties that result in higher assessed value; it does not include increased value due to revaluation.

State Aid – FY25 Estimate \$13,640,026

State aid represented about 30% of the Town's annual revenue in FY2023. State aid is broken down into several categories, the largest of which (for Oxford) is Chapter 70 Education Aid. It is approximately 80% of all state aid. The other major category is Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA), which is approximately 18% of total state aid. Chapter 70 Education Aid – Chapter 70 education aid is determined each year by the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) using a complex formula. The formula entails calculating a foundation budget for each municipality or school district based on the number and characteristics of the pupils (e.g., low income, bilingual, or vocational) in the district.



Local Receipts – FY25 Estimate \$3,407,000

Local receipts are locally-generated revenues, other than real and personal property taxes. These made up approximately 7% of revenue in FY2023. Examples include motor vehicle excise, investment income, penalties and interest on taxes, departmental revenue, fines, and license and permit fees. The Town has a practice of conservatively budgeting these items and routinely collects approximately \$200 - \$600 thousand more than was budgeted. As a result, local receipts in excess of estimates have been a primary factor in the Town's positive year end results and free cash certifications.



THANK YOU CHAIRMAN DENNIS LAMARCHE!

Board of Selectmen Chairman, Dennis Lamarche, having nearly a two-decade tenure of public service, is stepping away from his role. Mr. Lamarche's 15 years on the Board of Selectmen is a testament to community dedication. He has also served on the Planning Board, Master Plan Implementation Committee, Central MA Metropolitan Planning Organization and various other ad hoc committees. His public service tenure embodies diligence and integrity, always leading with devotion and selfless dedication to his hometown. The Town of Oxford extends its warmest wishes for his well-deserved retirement and the new journey ahead with his family.



Chairman Lamarche with his family, the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager

Massachusetts Legacy Tree Program

Oxford Red Oak Tree Recognized by State



Jacob Mackowiak, Tree Warden

Through the Legacy Tree Program and the National Champion Tree Registry, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Forestry Program formally recognizes the largest and most interesting known tree of each species, trees of historical origins, and other trees of unique and significant importance growing within the state.

Recently, our Forestry Division had contacted the State about a unique tree specimen here in Town. As Tree Warden, I was notified about and want to share some exciting news! The big, beautiful 3-stem Red Oak public shade tree in front of 284 Sutton Avenue was accepted into the program and is now a Massachusetts Legacy Tree. The tree is the 4th biggest Red Oak, according to their measurements (Trunk Diameter, Canopy Height, and Canopy width) in Massachusetts!



To learn more visit about the state program and for updates please visit:

mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program

ESSENTIALS FOR EMERGENCIES

Laurent McDonald, Fire Chief

Disasters and emergencies can strike at any time. Keep supplies in an emergency kit that you can take with you during an urgent situation. When planning your emergency kit, start by identifying items that are essential for survival such as including a supply of food and water for you and your family that will last for several days. Secondly, consider any unique needs you or your family may have where you will need items such as infant supplies, pet food or medication. Be sure to store any perishable items in airtight plastic containers to ensure freshness and to keep the items free from pests or moisture. After essential items have been identified, include optional items such as toothbrushes, cash, and tools. With limited space, you will have to prioritize your emergency bag contents based on what is most essential to you. Keep the entire emergency supply kit in an easy to carry container such as a duffel bag that can readily be transported.



Thank you for all of your support in helping us keep Oxford a safe and enjoyable place to work and live!

Scan this QR code with your smartphone for a full Emergency Supply Checklist!



Once you have established your emergency kit, be sure to maintain it. Replace perishable items such as food or medication as needed. Rethink and update the items in the emergency kit as you and your family's needs change. Also, the location of the emergency kit is extremely important as you never know where you will be when an emergency happens. For example, you may want to have an additional kit in your vehicle in case you are on the road when disaster strikes. If you would like more information on how to prepare an emergency kit, we are always available to offer suggestions. Please contact your Oxford Fire & Emergency Services by telephone at (508) 987-6012 ext. 1202 or on the Town's website at www.oxfordma.us/oxford-fire-and-emergency-services

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

- **1 gallon of water per person per day**
- **At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food**
- **Battery-powered or hand crank radio**
- **First aid kit**
- **Extra cell phone charger**
- **Whistle to signal for help**
- **Face masks and hand sanitizer**
- **Towlettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation**
- **Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities**
- **Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)**
- **Prescription medication and glasses**
- **Infant formula and diapers**
- **Pet food and extra water for your pet(s)**
- **Important family documents**
- **Cash or traveler's checks**
- **Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person**
- **Complete change of clothing for each person**
- **Fire Extinguisher**
- **Matches in a waterproof container**
- **Personal hygiene items**
- **Paper and pencils**
- **Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for kids**

BAY PATH
Regional Vocational Technical High School

STEPS TO SUCCESS

FREE Summer MCAS Enrichment Program

Sign up on the Bay Path Website or scan the QR code



BAYPATH.NET

15 Day Program

June 24- 28 & July 8 -July 19, 2024

no classes July 1-5

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Limited bus transportation available

Who Can Attend?

- Incoming accepted Freshmen from our sending towns
- Bay Path Rising Sophomores (these are the current Freshmen)
- Bay Path Rising Juniors (these are the current Sophomores)



**PROGRAM
FILLS QUICKLY!**
Registration Deadline
June 14, 2024

AN EXCITING SUMMER AHEAD AT OXFORD LIBRARY

Brittany McDougal Bialy, Library Director

We're looking forward to the warmer months ahead and the fun programs we have lined up at the library – it's going to be a busy summer!

Starting off, we'll be holding our 2nd **For the Love of Art: A Community Art Show** in July. All ages, all mediums, all forms of artful expression are welcome – whatever creative journey the artist in each of us has taken and would love to share and inspire others. Sign-ups will begin in June, so be sure to check our website or Facebook page for more information!

Art in the Yard will be back for its seventh year – the grand opening ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM on the Library's front lawn. There will be live entertainment, along with face painting and light refreshments – fun for the whole family! You'll also get the opportunity to meet some of the artists themselves.

An Introduction to Paper Quilling Workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:00pm – this workshop is for ages 18 and older and registration is required. In this interactive session, Kulina Folk Art will delve into the world of paper quilling, exploring various tools and endless possibilities that simple strips of paper hold. Be sure to sign up on our website, as space is limited.

Our **Summer Reading Program** will begin on Thursday, June 20, 2024 and will run until August 1st. This program is for all ages, and everyone will have a chance to win a prize. Children will be able to register on our website starting June 20th, while teens and adults will be able to fill out a review form each time they visit and check out a book.

Here are just some of the Children's programs coming up – for more information, please visit our website. Registration will be required for:

- Thursday, June 20th @ 1:00pm – **Paint a Whale with Watercolors**
- Friday, June 21st @ 3:30pm – **Glow Party!** We'll play games, paint with glow-in-the-dark paint and sing karaoke!
- Tuesday, June 25th @ 3:45pm – **Book Talk & Painting**, we'll read a book about endangered birds and then paint a sandpiper with watercolors.
- Wednesday, June 26th @ 4:00pm – **Animal Adventures** will bring live animals and fossils to teach about the relationship of today's animals and their prehistoric ancestors.

A **Summer Reading Kick-off Party** will be held on Tuesday, July 2nd from 11:00 – 1:00pm and will require attendees to be registered for the Summer Reading Program. Reptile Nook will be here that day for guests to view six reptiles and amphibians, along with JumpZoneRentals with a 40ft. inflatable obstacle course. Suzi Q's ice cream will be here from 12-1pm and will be giving a free ice cream to each child in attendance.



Oxford Business Survey

Evaluate what it's like to do business in Oxford and share your business's needs and priorities in a 10-minute survey.

Local business owners and/or their representatives are encouraged to participate!

<https://bit.ly/OxfordBusinessSurvey>

Scan Here:



The Town of Oxford is partnering with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to better understand the needs and priorities of Oxford businesses.



OXFORD CABLE ACCESS DOWNLOAD THE APP!



- APPLE TV
- ROKU
- FIRE TV
- IOS
- ANDROID

WORLD-RENOWNED GREENBRIAR OSPREY!

Judy Lochner, Conservation Agent

The Greenbriar Osprey have fans from around the world as they continue to entertain us and also teach us about the amazing relationship between this pair of raptors. As soon as the two osprey arrived at the nest perched some 80 feet high, they began their housekeeping work. Sticks and other materials were brought in by the birds who continually rearrange the nest in preparation of eggs. Now that the eggs have been laid, the female osprey spends most of her time incubating the eggs while the male hunts and brings her fish. The male also takes over the incubating duties to allow the female to stretch her wings. The three eggs will begin hatching around the third week of May in the order that they were laid. The popularity of the Greenbriar Osprey Cam escalates as local and international viewers enjoy watching the chicks grow. Currently, there are over 2.3 million views of our Greenbriar Osprey by people across the U.S., Canada and Europe since the camera was installed.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to view the Greenbrier Osprey Camera



TURTLE TACTICS: KEEPING SHELLED CRITTERS SAFE

Kelly Flynn, Animal Control Officer

Spring is here and baby animal season is upon us. Our focus for this time of year is female turtles laying their eggs. Female turtles come out of the water in search of sandy soil or loose material such as bark mulch to lay their eggs. The laying season is from mid-May to early July for turtles in Massachusetts. Please be on the lookout for turtles crossing the road to lay their eggs, many species are slow moving. Avoid risking harm to yourself to assist the turtle if it is unsafe to try to dodge traffic. You can reach Animal Control by calling the non-emergency police department number, 508-987-0156, and they will dispatch us to the scene. If you do have an opportunity to safely move the turtle, move it in the same direction it was travelling, off of the roadway.

Snapping turtles present a more challenging rescue than other species of turtles. They can be very large and heavy and they are lightning fast with powerful jaws. Always use an instrument like a broom or a large plastic container to move a snapping turtle. Do not lift a turtle by their tail, this can injure their spine.

Do not take turtles home with you or relocate them to another area. They have very strong homing instincts and will try to travel back home, putting them at great risk if you move them too far away.

If you see an injured turtle, please call Animal Control so that we can get them medical care. We are very fortunate to have two excellent treatment facilities nearby, Tufts Wildlife Clinic in Grafton and the Turtle Rescue League in Southbridge. Even badly injured or deceased female turtles carrying eggs can have their eggs harvested and incubated so that her young can be released after hatching. Turtles take about twenty years to mature and a large percentage of their offspring is lost to predation, so anything we can do to help preserve these incredible animals is valuable to their survival as a species.

10 FACTS ABOUT OSPREY

- *Osprey have a transparent eyelid that protects their eyes while underwater*
- *The osprey is capable of flying over 30 miles per hour*
- *Female osprey frequently choose their partner based on the location and quality of the male osprey's nest*
- *Osprey is the only hawk that eats fish almost exclusively*
- *Osprey possess a reversible front toe and barbs that allow them to grasp fish*
- *The oldest osprey recorded was at least 25 years old*
- *An osprey may travel over 160,000 miles during its lifetime*
- *The word "osprey" means "bird of prey" in Medieval Latin*
- *Osprey can have wingspans from 4.5 to 6 feet*
- *Osprey are normally stay as couples for their lifetimes, but will separate if mating is unsuccessful*



These turtle hatchlings were taken as eggs from a fatally injured female. They were incubated and hatched by Tufts Wildlife Clinic, and then released back in Oxford.



SUMMER EVENTS ON THE COMMON



Summer Bandstand Concert Series

SUNDAYS 4-6PM

JUNE: 6/30 Holdin' Back the 60s

JULY: 7/7 Nancy Marshall
7/14 Stephen George
7/21 Far From Eden
7/28 Blue House Between

AUGUST: 8/4 Dr. Jay Acoustic
8/11 Jumpin' Juba
8/18 East Woodstock Cornet Band
8/25 East West Trio



Free, family oriented cultural events on the Common are back again this summer! Join OCC staff and volunteers for music to please all ages, silly teddy bear fun, and weekly movie nights to be enjoyed by everyone.

Join the fun

at our

Teddy Bear Picnic

Joslin Park - Oxford Town Common

July 20, 2024

11:30 am - 1 pm

Free picnic lunch for all who *pre-register

Games & Dancing

Special Guest



Bring your favorite teddy bear for a check-up at our Teddy Bear Clinic

Enjoy teddy bear stories and songs

*Pre-register online at oxfordma.myrec.com
Be sure to indicate any food allergies



Bring a chair!

ENJOY
PRE-MOVIE CRAFTS!



MOVIES
ON MAIN!
Wednesdays - 7 to 10 pm

Don't forget the bug spray!

SNACKS &
DRINKS
AVAILABLE



SUMMER PROGRAMS AT CARBUNCLE BEACH



Carbuncle Park FREE Opening Day is scheduled for **Saturday, June 15th** from **11am - 5pm** - weather permitting. Come enjoy lawn games, the splash pad and pond, crafts and music. Meet our 2024 Lifeguard Staff! Season Passes are available for purchase.



Our Carbuncle Park summer program is back! 7 weeks of full-day programming offers active, outdoor fun for children in grades 1 through 7! Early drop off and late pick up, as well as half-day options are available! Children will create, play and learn during our themed weeks. Arts & crafts, creative writing, STEM projects, athletics, lawn games, and more! Registration is still open!

OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER
summer @ carbuncle
REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

WEEKLY THEMES

HALF-DAY OR FULL-DAY OPTIONS!

WEEK 1 JUNE 24-28: PIRATE PRIDE
WEEK 2 JULY 8-12: GAME SHOW MANIA
WEEK 3 JULY 15-19: SPACE CAMP
WEEK 4 JULY 22-26: CARBUNCLE CARNIVAL
WEEK 5 JULY 29 - AUGUST 2: WORLD EXPLORERS
WEEK 6 AUGUST 5-9: SUPER HERO OLYMPICS
WEEK 7 AUGUST 12-16: COLOR WARS

MORE INFO

New this year is an introductory program for children entering Kindergarten. A mini-program! Miss Caitlin will introduce them to Carbuncle Park, activities and games we play during the Summer Program, and whet their appetites for next year!



TADPOLES WEEK 7/1 - 7/3 **\$75/RES**
AN INTRO TO SUMMER PROGRAM! **\$85/NON-RES**
5-6 YEAR OLDS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN
LOCATION: CARBUNCLE PARK BEACH HOUSE **9AM-12PM**

SENIOR FUN AND ACTIVITIES

Laura Wilson, Oxford Senior Center Director

Join us every third Thursday of the month from 9 AM - 10 AM for **Breakfast with Police Chief Daniels!** Find out all about upcoming public safety initiatives and participate in the Chief's Question and Answer Session. A great breakfast is served at 9:15 AM. This is an event you do not want to miss! Call the Senior Center today to register in advance for this popular monthly public safety session.



GET MOVING, STAY HEALTHY...

If you haven't tried out one of our exercise classes, you don't know what you are missing! Every Tuesday at 9:15 AM, Donna Freeland, Certified Silver Sneakers Instructor holds a "Strength & Balance" class. Increase your strength and balance with small weights, balls, stretch bands and light exercise. Additionally, every Wednesday at 9:15 AM, Heidi Gambaccini, Certified Yoga Instructor holds a "Chair Yoga" class. Both classes are "drop in" and only cost \$3.00 per class and most insurance companies will reimburse money for attending either of these classes! Lastly, every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00PM the Senior Center hosts "Chair Volleyball". This is FREE activity where the only rules are to stay seated and get ready to have some fun!!!



WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

Some of our weekly and monthly events include: Cribbage, Needle Working, Pitch, Dominoes, Quilting Classes, Book Club, Movie Matinee, Fire Department Public Education sessions, BEANO and Blood Pressure Clinics. The Oxford Senior Center is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for the Town's older adults (60+), any disabled adult, their families, and caregivers. Please contact us today at (508) 987-6000 if you are interested in joining us for any of our programs, events or services.



SHINE COUNSELING

Every third Wednesday, a SHINE counselor (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) is available at the Oxford Senior Center to answer all of your questions regarding Medicare. What can a SHINE counselor do for you? They can explain coverage under original Medicare (Parts A & B). They will review additional coverage options under Medicare supplement (Medigap), Medicare Advantage (Part C), and Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage plans. They can walk you through the Medicare enrollment process if you are at age 65 or assist with delayed enrollment because you have employed group health coverage. They can screen you for assistance programs that may help you pay for your medical and/or prescription coverage. Finally, they will also assist with any issues regarding your Medicare coverage. Please contact the Oxford Senior Center at (508) 987-6000 to schedule an appointment.

NEED A RIDE?

Did you know the Oxford Senior Center provides senior transportation services throughout the week? We will transport you to any municipal building for FREE or we can transport you anywhere in Oxford and provide a ride home for just \$1.75 each way! Whether it's for an appointment, shopping, banking or just visiting friends. We can accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and more! Please contact us at (508) 987-6000 to schedule your ride 48 hours in advance and we'll pick you up! We can also accommodate out-of-town doctor appointments with our WRTA van. Simply call (508) 752-9283 to register.

ENJOY OUR SENIOR LUNCHES!

Every Tuesday and Friday (excluding Holidays) the Oxford Senior Center offers hot lunches from 12 NOON - 12:30 PM. Meals are available for the low price of \$5.00 dine-in or \$6.00 take-out. Contact us 48 hours in advance at (508) 987-6000 to order your meal (Please contact us Friday before Tuesday meals and Wednesday before Friday meals). Inform our staff if you have a food allergy. Please check our weekly menu to see what's cooking!

OXFORD'S SUMMERTIME BUZZ: PERMITS, PARADES, AND POULTRY!

Laureen Gilbert, Executive Assistant, Board of Selectmen Office



As sunlight hours stretch over Oxford, the Town Hall buzzes with increased activity across all Departments. The Board of Selectmen's Office has already been bustling with yard sale requests, outdoor business permits, parade activities, and special animal permits.

From the depths of basements to dusty attics, Oxford residents are eager to rehome their past treasures. These yard sales hidden gems are waiting to be found. Shoppers have the pleasure of purchasing pre-loved goods. According to the Oxford General By-Laws, individuals who wish to have a yard sale must obtain a free permit from the Board of Selectmen. Permits can be obtained in person or by completing the online web form found at oxfordma.us/209/Board-of-Selectmen.

May brings one of the Town's major permitted events, namely the Memorial Day Parade. Each year our American Legion and VFW apply to the Board of Selectmen for permits to hold both Memorial and Veterans Day parade events. Main Street, our War Memorials and our Town Common become adorned with red, white, and blue to honor those who have served their country with bravery. The entire Board of Selectmen and Town Manager strongly support our Veterans and annually participate in both commemoration events.



As warm weather draws residents outdoors, applications for outdoor business permits by local organizations and entrepreneurs increases. Once the Selectmen's Office has received a completed application packet and approval from other departments depending on the scope of the request, the application will be scheduled as part of an upcoming Board of Selectmen's Meeting for final deliberation. The applicant is responsible for contacting the Selectmen's Office with their request and if approved by a Board vote, then there is a nominal \$25 permit fee, unless waived. From road races and carnivals to farmers markets and festivals, these permits turn our streets and Town properties into active marketplaces, competitions, cultural events, performances, fundraisers and social activity zones.



Since springtime is the "natural" time for chickens to hatch and raise their young, there have been increasing applications for special animal permits. Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the Board of Selectmen Office to apply for an "egg-sit" approval of course! If you are planning to have chickens and/or ducks (females) in combined quantities of six or less, you need to obtain a license issued by the Board of Selectmen. One can view the Application Package for Chickens and Ducks (Quantity of 6 and Under) for more details on the process or to download an actual application. Whether you require a license or special permit for animals in the Town of Oxford depends on the type and quantity of animals you intend to keep.

If you are planning to have more than 6 chickens or ducks, or any other animals, other than customary household pets, you must obtain a special permit issued by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen understand the importance of having properly permitted and publicly safe events which serve to enrich our community.

MOTORISTS: GIVE 4 FEET TO PASS

Kevin Duffy, Director of Public Works

On April 1, 2023, Massachusetts initiated the Vulnerable Road Users Law. This new law requires motorists to pass a vulnerable road user at a safe passing distance of at least 4 feet. Vulnerable road users include:

- Walkers;
- Bikers;
- People using wheelchairs or personal mobility devices;
- Scooters, skateboarders, and roller skaters, roller bladers;
- Farm equipment operators;
- People on horse and horse drawn carriages.

When passing a vulnerable road user, motorists shall use all or part of an adjacent lane, crossing the centerline if necessary, "when safe to do so and adhering to the roadway speed limit."

Roadway signs have been posted on Town roadways to serve as a reminder to motorists to help protect these vulnerable road users.

The Oxford Department of Public Works and the Oxford Police Department appreciate everyone's commitment to helping keep our roads safe for all users.

COMMONWEALTH Heroines

Representative Joseph McKenna nominated Senior Center Director, Laura Wilson, as a 2024 Commonwealth Heroine! The Commonwealth Heroine Award is annually presented by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women and only Legislators can submit nominations. Nominations are made of truly incredible women that have made significant contributions to their community. Many residents can attest to how Director Wilson is an exceptional public service leader! As a Commonwealth Heroine, Director Wilson and Representative McKenna will be attending a Statehouse Awards Celebration on Friday, June 14, 2024. Congratulations Laura, your nomination is certainly well deserved!

Commonwealth
Heroine, Laura
Wilson with State
Representative,
Joseph McKenna



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and the Town of Oxford conducted a town-wide housing survey as part of our development of a Housing Production Plan. The plan itself is a community's proactive strategy for planning and developing affordable housing by creating a strategy to enable the town to meet its housing needs in a manner consistent with the state's Chapter 40B law. A survey is one of the tools used in the plan. Once complete, the plan is submitted for state approval. An approved plan, along with a certification of compliance by the state, means future decisions (within a certain timeframe) by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) relative to 40B projects will be deemed consistent under state law. This means the Board's 40B decisions cannot be overturned. Upholding the decisions of the ZBA is an important safeguard to appropriately managing housing in town. The project team intends to submit the plan to the state later this year, after seeking additional feedback from various boards and stakeholders. Please stay tuned! In the meantime, below are some highlights from the needs survey along with a link to the full survey data.

SOME OF YOUR FEEDBACK...

There is a need for additional senior citizen housing units

Young people just getting their careers going are moving back home with no affordable place to buy

First-time home buyer communities would be helpful

Veterans! Take care of them as they have always taken care of us

44% of respondents plan to live in their current homes as they age into retirement and **anticipate being able to afford their homes** and housing costs.

33% of respondents plan to live in their current homes as they age into retirement but are **unsure if they can afford their homes** and housing costs.

6% of respondents do not plan to live in their current homes as they age into retirement **because they cannot afford their homes** and housing costs.

9% of respondents do not plan to live in their current homes as they age into retirement but **would like to remain in Oxford if there is housing available** that meets their needs.

9% of respondents do not plan on staying in Oxford for **reasons unrelated to housing affordability**.

WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY?

344 Oxford residents filled out the survey

85% of respondents are homeowners

59% of respondents have lived in town 20+ years

49% of respondents would qualify for affordable housing, based on their household income and number of people per household

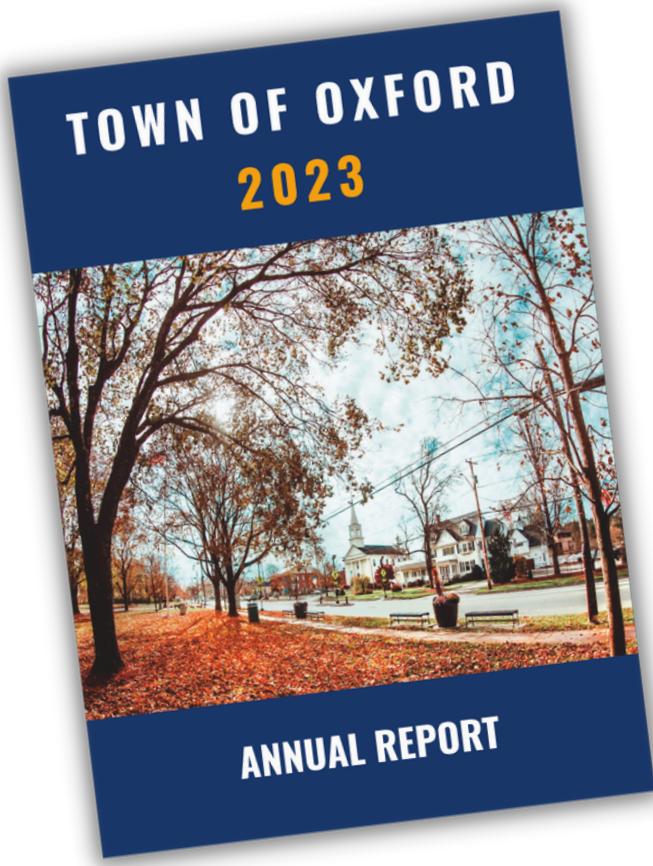


**Full Survey
Results**

Thank you to all of those who participated!



OXFORD TOWN MANAGER
325 MAIN STREET
OXFORD, MA 01540



2023 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

Have you had a chance to check out the 2023 Annual Town Report?

The Town Report features a host of information and is available on the town website at
www.oxfordma.us

Check Out our Website and Give us a Follow on Facebook 