



Spring/Summer 2025 Edition

ONWARD
OXFORD

THE PRIMARY SOURCE FOR EVERYTHING OXFORD



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Jennifer M. Callahan, Town Manager

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2025 Edition of Onward Oxford! In this edition, we review the results of the recent Annual Town Meeting, recent override ballots, provide an update on the school building repairs, introduce the Community Resource Dog, highlight some of the recent accolades the Town of Oxford has received and much more!

The Onward Oxford newsletter is an important public communications. Since 2021, it is mainly provided electronically on our Town's website and is typically published four times a year. We also provide limited print copies at our senior center, community events, town hall and town meetings. Once a year, we do a mailing to extend our outreach to keep all residents informed. All of the design, content and editing are done in house by department heads and the Town Manager's Office. All of our staff are pleased to provide you with timely information and highlights of the work they do on behalf of our community.

MOODY'S RATING

As the Town prepares to begin major capital improvements this summer at our schools, we recently underwent analysis and review of our credit rating. The last credit opinion was obtained in 2017. I am very pleased to report, Oxford has received a Moody's MIG 1 Bond Rating which is the highest rating for short-term debt borrowing! This rating denotes superior credit quality and is considered to afford excellent protection for municipal borrowing. Moody's credit opinion noted Oxford **"benefits from a stable tax base, conservative fiscal management and budgeting practices. Over the past five years, the town's conservative management has resulted in improved financial condition, including significantly decreased debt burden and increased revenues"**. This credit opinion strongly supports the major financial measures and practices our Financial Team has undertaken.

With start of the new fiscal year on July 1st, I want to share with residents that they can view our budget documents online. Also, we have recently submitted our final FY 2026 Budget for review by the prestigious national Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Oxford has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA for four consecutive years and we are hoping our improvements to our submission makes it another award winning year! This award is the highest form of

recognition in governmental budgeting. Such attainment represents a significant achievement by our Town. The Town has a number of ways we provide transparency throughout our budget process and you can see our budget and capital documents, including our annual GFOA budget documents on Cable TV as well as on the town's website at <https://www.oxfordma.us/159/Budgets>.

VERRIDE RESULTS

Recently, the Town voters sent a very clear message regarding operational budgets which is to fund them within the existing levy with annual revenues. This was demonstrated by the defeat at the ballot box of two departmental requests seeking overrides to fund police and school operations. The margin of defeat was significant for both override questions. The Annual Election turnout was 1,543 total voters. The Police Override results were 537 voting in support of the

BALLOT QUESTION-Police Dept	vote 1						
YES		136	90	169	137	5	537
NO		304	193	256	229	1	983
Blanks		2	4	9	8	0	23
TOTALS		442	287	434	374	6	1543
BALLOT QUESTION-School Dept	vote 1						
YES		124	78	138	113	0	453
NO		317	205	289	252	6	1069
Blanks		1	4	7	9	0	21
TOTALS		442	287	434	374	6	1543



override and 983 voting not in support. Similarly, the School Override was 453 in support and 1,069 opposed to the ballot question. Despite these overrides not passing, both departments are committed to providing quality services and programs to our resident families and businesses. Our Financial Team will continue to innovate with our Police Chief and Superintendent to provide essential quality programs and services with the understanding the Town has limited resources and revenues to meet both high standards and public expectations.

EDUCATION FACILITIES PLANNING

Planning for the future of our public schools and educational needs is a mutually shared high priority for the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Manager. Every community should develop a plan to ensure it will be able to provide the best education possible that a community can reasonably expect to support. Student enrollment in Oxford has declined over the past two decades from over 2,261 students reported in 2003 to just 1,437 students reported in 2023. In an effort to meet the requirements of this shifting student population, the Town of Oxford has contracted with Arrowstreet Inc. to conduct a Long-term Facilities Study of the School District. The results from the study will serve as a roadmap to best serve the needs of Oxford students' educational programming requirements in the most fiscally responsible manner. The study includes a student enrollment projections, educational programming analysis, and a building conditions assessment. This planning process is expected to cost approximately \$70,000. Manager's Office applied for and received a \$50,000 Community Compact Best Practices Grant for the project in the Fall of 2024.

After a competitive qualifications-based search involving over a dozen firms, Arrowstreet Inc. was chosen to lead the design and planning efforts of the educational facilities study. Arrowstreet, Inc. is an award-winning, Boston-based architecture and design firm that has assisted clients with strategic planning of their operations and facility needs since 1961. Arrowstreet's staff of architects, interior designers, planners, and experience designers possess a wide range of skills in planning, programming, building technology, environmental design, and construction. The educational facilities final report will document district goals and methodology, the condition of each of the buildings, facility upgrade needs, educational visioning process, prioritization of needs, and more! We are excited to commence this project in June 2025!

LET'S TALK OXFORD HISTORY!

Jean O'Reilly, Oxford Historical Commission



Ever wonder where Charles Lindbergh landed in Oxford? Curious about the location of the Huguenot Oak? Join us every second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM at the Oxford Senior Center for an engaging and interactive discussion on the history of Oxford, Massachusetts.

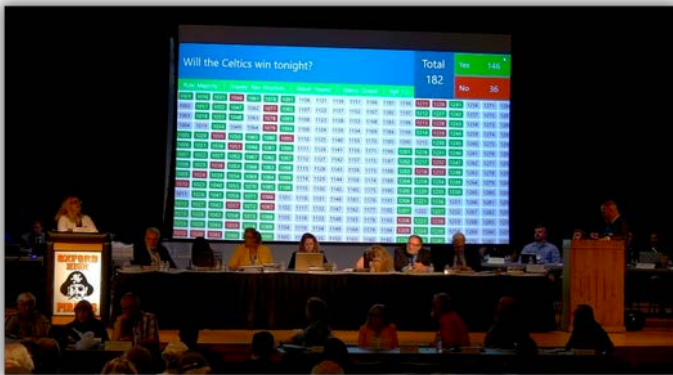
Sponsored by the Historical Commission, this ongoing program is now in its third year! We offer a welcoming space for community members to explore and share the rich history of our town. Each session features local historical facts, stories, and discussion. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions and contribute their own knowledge and memories.

Whether you have a question, a story, or just a passion for local heritage, all are welcome! These events are free and open to the public, and are proudly sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission. Come share, learn, and connect with your community through its fascinating past!

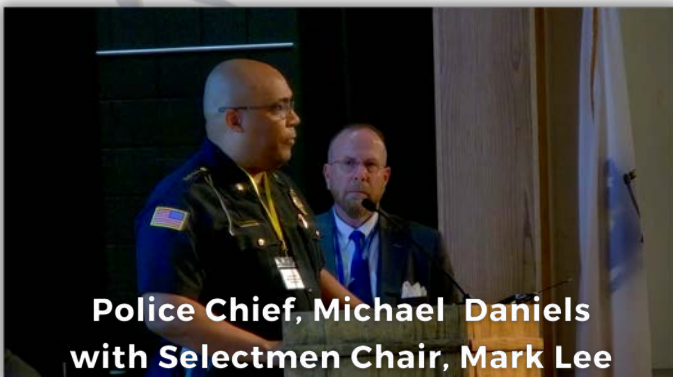
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WRAP-UP

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 7th, 2025 at Oxford High School with 222 registered voters that attended. The Town Meeting concluded after midnight with only twenty articles for consideration. Although several amendments were proposed to the Fiscal Year 2026 Operational and Capital Budgets, no amendments were successful with articles three through sixteen, all being passed as originally presented.

The meeting began at 7:00 PM by Town Moderator, Cheryll Leblanc with a test of a newly implemented Electronic Voting System. Voters were encouraged to check their clicker numbers on the screen with a test vote to ensure the integrity of the system. Board of Selectmen Chair, Mark Lee, led Article One with a report from the Board of Selectmen that highlighted Town achievements over the past year. These accomplishments included Oxford receiving the 2024 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the New England Botanic Garden Award and the 2025 MassDOT Innovation Award. Article Two sought authorization to pay prior year invoices and was passed over. Article Three requested the appropriation of \$806,930 in Chapter 90 Highway Funding for roadway improvements. Article Four was a housekeeping item and set the spending limits for Departmental Revolving Accounts. Article Five sought to appropriate \$50K from free cash to the Compensated Absence Fund and Article Six appropriated \$80K from free cash to Other Post-Employment Benefits.



Article Seven and Article Eight were proposition 2 ½ override articles for the Police and School Departments, respectfully. Article Seven requested to supplement the FY26 Police budget in the amount of \$273,621 and Article Eight requested to supplement the FY26 School Department budget in the amount of \$494,255. The use of this funding primarily focused on school safety as presented by both the Chief of Police and School Superintendent. Oxford voters in attendance passed both articles leaving the outcome of these requests to the ballot at the Annual Town Election scheduled for May 20th, 2025.



**Police Chief, Michael Daniels
with Selectmen Chair, Mark Lee**

Article Nine sought Town Meeting adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget in the amount of \$51,388,256. After several amendments were proposed and lengthy debate was had, the balanced FY26 Operational Budget was passed as originally recommended by the Finance Committee with no amendments. Similarly, Town Meeting passed Article Ten, the FY26 budget for PEG Access (Local Cable Programming) in the amount of \$162,241.

Article Eleven sought appropriation in the amount of \$1,794,870 from free cash to fund the FY26 Capital Programs, including \$500K for general roadway, dam, bridge, culvert improvements and engineering, \$345,750 to the Building Improvement Fund for various municipal buildings maintenance, \$128K to replace a DPW truck, \$25K to replace two (2) lawnmowers that are used for field and cemetery maintenance, \$30K to install accessible parking at Ruel Field, \$29K for improvements to Ruel Field, \$500K towards emergency radio dispatch communication equipment upgrades, \$85K to replace a Fire/EMS vehicle, \$87,120 for improvements of the tennis courts at Greenbriar Park, and \$65K to make repairs to the ceilings and flooring at the Oxford Community Center. Finally, \$50K was requested from Sewer Enterprise Fund retained earnings to make repairs to the sewer pump stations in town. The Finance Committee did not recommend the tennis court repairs and Fire/EMS replacement vehicle funding; however, after some debate the total FY26 Capital Program Funding was passed. Article Twelve sought to provide retirement credit for on-call, intermittent and reserve fire fighters. Previously, for fire fighters that worked part-time in Oxford and went on to work in another community, their part-time service was ineligible for buy-back in the retirement system. This article was passed making this prior part-time service eligible for retirement credit. Article thirteen requested appropriation in the amount of \$92,682 from Ambulance Receipts to cover the remaining costs of a new ambulance that was previously appropriated.



Fire Chief, Laurent McDonald

Article Fourteen requested to increase the existing senior and veterans tax exemption amounts to up to double the state's base amount. This article passed resulting in increased tax exemptions for all eligible veterans and senior effective July 1, 2025. Article Fifteen requested an appropriation in the amount of \$25K from free cash for the water quality testing, permitting, and treatment of Carbuncle Pond to prevent the annual cyanobacterial blooms that have resulted in the closure of the beach.

Article Sixteen sought to completely strike and rewrite the Oxford Zoning By-Laws regarding In-Law apartments and/or accessory dwellings. The new Zoning By-Law language would

modernize and clarify the bylaw by replacing outdated language with a comprehensive Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) framework, as the new state law requires. It allows ADUs by right in certain zoning districts, increasing housing options for families, seniors, and caregivers while maintaining neighborhood character. Lastly, the changes set clear standards for size, design, parking, and septic compliance to ensure ADUs are safe, functional, and compatible with existing homes. Article Seventeen sought to amend the dimensional requirements of the Oxford Zoning By-Laws by eliminating the "Regularity Factor", giving more flexibility in lot shapes while maintaining existing setback rules. A newly standardized Dimensional Table clarifies lot size, coverage, and setback rules across all zoning districts, reducing arbitrary decisions. Yard regulations would allow limited encroachments like porches or chimneys while maintaining safety distances between buildings. Finally, a new Local Initiative Housing provision lets the Planning Board approve higher-density affordable housing under specific conditions and with local discretion.

Town Meeting concluded with passing over the last three articles that were submitted by citizens as the petitioners were not present at the meeting to provide any information on the articles.

It's important to recognize and thank all of our dedicated staff and election workers who help make our Town Meetings run efficiently and ensure that only valid Oxford-registered voters participate. The Town Clerk and her staff put in countless hours planning, organizing and managing the event - everything from set-up to recording formal votes. Their hard work and commitment are essential to the success of our local democracy. Finally, thank you to the residents of Oxford for another successful Annual Town Meeting!



SENIOR CENTER HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

Laura Wilson, Senior Center Director

In May 2025, the Oxford Senior Center proudly hosted its second annual Senior Health & Wellness Fair, bringing together a wide array of local organizations and services to promote healthy living and community connections for older adults. The event was a tremendous success, welcoming seniors from across the community for a day dedicated to health education, wellness screenings, and valuable resources.

Attendees were offered free blood pressure screenings and had the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from numerous partner organizations, including the Oxford Board of Health, Care Central VNA & Hospice, Connections Physical Therapy, and Tri-Valley, Inc. Public safety teams from the Fire Department and Police Department were also on hand, offering wellness tips and answering questions about community safety.

Other participating organizations included Veterans Services, the Oxford Food Shelf, the Oxford Community Center, and the S.O.S. Support Group, all of which shared info about the services and support available to Oxford's senior residents.

The Fair served as a meaningful reminder of the importance of proactive health care, community partnerships, and the strong network of support available to Oxford's older adults. Events like this not only promote physical wellness, but also reduce isolation and help connect residents with the resources they need to live safely and independently.

The Oxford Senior Center extends its heartfelt thanks to all the agencies, volunteers, and vendors who gave their time and expertise, and to the many community members who attended with enthusiasm and curiosity. Your presence and participation are what make events like this impactful and worthwhile. Looking ahead, we remain committed to creating welcoming spaces where seniors feel empowered, informed, and connected!



HOMESTEAD DECLARATION FAQ

Mary Petro, Assistant Assessor

In Massachusetts, a Homestead Declaration is a legal document that homeowners can file to protect the equity in their primary residence from certain creditors. This protection is particularly beneficial for shielding your home from unsecured debts.

What Is a Homestead Declaration?

A Homestead Declaration is a document filed with the Registry of Deeds in the county where your home is located. By filing this declaration, you can increase the amount of equity in your home that is protected from unsecured creditors.

How to File a Homestead Declaration

- Obtain the Form: Download the appropriate form from the Worcester Registry of Deeds website or obtain it in person.
- Complete the Form: Fill out the form with accurate information about your property and ownership.
- Notarize the Form: Sign the form in the presence of a notary public.
- Submit the Form: File the notarized form at the Registry of Deeds in the county where your property is located.
- Pay the Fee: There is a filing fee of \$35.

Local Registry of Deeds Offices

Please visit the Worcester County Registry of Deeds website or office to obtain the necessary forms and information about filing a Homestead Declaration. <https://massrods.com/worcester/homestead-information/>

Filing a Homestead Declaration is a straightforward process that can provide significant protection for your home. If you need assistance or have specific questions about your situation, please contact the Assessor's Office at 508-987-6038 ext.1051

Important Considerations

- Primary Residence Only: The homestead protection applies only to your primary residence. Vacation homes or rental properties are not eligible.
- Not a Substitute for Insurance: Homestead protection does not replace homeowners insurance or liability insurance.
- Does Not Protect Against All Debts: The protection does not apply to:
 - Mortgages or home equity loans
 - Court-ordered judgments for child or spousal support
 - Federal or state tax liens
 - Debts contracted before the homestead declaration
 - Liens resulting from Medicaid benefits



SOLD OUT

June 12th - Rhode Island Bay Lighthouse Newport Cruise!

SOLD OUT

June 24th - Boat Cruise & Lunch at Samuel Slater!

LIMITED

September 11th - Red Apple Farm Fun, Fanfare & Delights!

SOLD OUT

October 2nd - Winnepesaukee Train Lunch Excursion!

SENIOR CENTER BUS TOURS



Fairy Day at Oxford Farmers' Market

Obtaining quality, nutritious, local food shouldn't be a fairytale.

June 20th, 2025

2pm-6pm

Joslin Park - Oxford Town Common

"YOUNG AT HEART CAFE"

LUNCH ♥ MENU

SERVED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

AT 11:45 AM

TAKEOUT MUST BE PICKED UP BY 12:30 PM

PLEASE CALL 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO ORDER

\$5.00 DINE-IN | \$6.00 TAKE OUT

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

508-987-6000

MEET COOPER - OPD'S COMMUNITY RESOURCE DOG

Michael Daniels, Chief of Police

The Oxford Police Department proudly introduces Cooper, our new Community Resource Dog! Cooper, a playful English Lab, joined the department this spring as part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen community connections and enhance wellness support across town.

Unlike a traditional K9, Cooper's job isn't chasing suspects or sniffing out evidence his mission is emotional support and community engagement. Whether greeting students at school, visiting the Senior Center, or attending local events, Cooper brings comfort and calm wherever he goes. He's already become a favorite among staff and residents alike.

Cooper resides with his handler, Officer Heather Picking, a dedicated 10-year veteran of the Oxford Police Department. Officer Picking has been instrumental in bringing the Community Resource Dog program to life. She researched extensively to find the right breeder and ultimately partnered with Boonfield Labradors to select the perfect puppy for our community. Cooper was chosen from a litter based on his temperament and compatibility with Officer Picking, ensuring they would form a strong bond to serve Oxford effectively.



Police departments are increasingly using Community Resource Dogs like Cooper to provide support during stressful situations, help with de-escalation, and offer comfort to those experiencing crisis or trauma. He's also been a great bridge-builder between the department and community members, especially our youth.

We're excited about Cooper's already positive impact and look forward to expanding his role in community programs over the coming months.

If you see us out and about, don't hesitate to say hello—Cooper would love to meet you!



Story Time at the Oxford Free Public Library

EXTREME HEAT SAFETY TIPS

Laurent McDonald, Chief of Fire & EMS

Recognize Heat Illness

- Learn the signs of heat exhaustion (heavy sweating, weakness, cold/clammy skin) and heat stroke (high body temp, confusion, no sweating, rapid pulse).
- Get medical help immediately if symptoms occur.

Stay Cool

- Do NOT rely on fans as your main cooling source—they don't lower body temperature in extreme heat.
- Know local cooling centers (e.g., libraries, malls). Call your local health department for nearby options.

Keep Your Home Cool

- Cover windows with drapes or shades.
- Weather-strip doors and windows to seal in cool air.
- Use window reflectors to bounce heat away from your home.
- Add insulation to block heat entry.
- Install and use attic fans to vent hot air.
- Set up window air conditioners and seal any gaps around them.

Get Financial Help

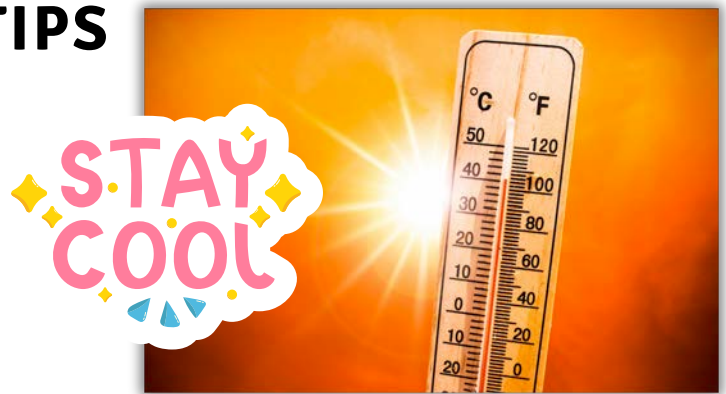
- Struggling with cooling costs or home upgrades? Contact LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) for assistance.

Never Leave Anyone in a Parked Car

- Never leave people or pets in a closed vehicle—even for a short time. Temperatures can rise rapidly and become deadly.

Keep Cool Indoors

- If you don't have air conditioning, find a nearby cooling center.
- Take cool showers or baths to lower your body temperature.
- Use your oven less to help keep indoor temperatures down.
- Wear loose, light-colored, and lightweight clothing.



Stay Safe Outdoors

- Limit outdoor activity, especially during midday (hottest part of the day).
- Find shade and wear a wide-brimmed hat.
- Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water, even if you're not thirsty.
- Avoid high-energy activities like exercise or yard work during peak heat.

Check on Others

- Check on family, neighbors, and older adults, especially those without air conditioning.

Keep Pets Safe

- Make sure pets have cool water and shaded shelter.
- Avoid walking pets on hot pavement – it can burn their paws.

Be Ready for Power Outages

- Extreme heat can lead to power outages. Learn how to stay safe during an outage by visiting your local utility provider or emergency management site.

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS SIGNS

Ivan Kwagala, Public Health Director

If you're feeling ill from the heat, contact your healthcare provider for advice and try to shelter in place. In a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 immediately. For more detailed info, visit the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) or National Weather Service.

HEAT STROKE – Medical Emergency

Signs:

- Body temperature above 103°F
- Red, hot, dry skin with no sweating
- Rapid, strong pulse
- Dizziness, confusion, or unconsciousness

What to Do:

- Call 9-1-1 immediately
- Move the person to a cool, shaded area
- Remove outer clothing
- Apply cold, wet cloths or ice packs to the head, neck, armpits, and groin
- If possible, soak clothes with cool water
- Elevate their feet

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Signs:

- Heavy sweating
- Pale skin
- Muscle cramps
- Weakness, tiredness
- Fast or weak pulse
- Dizziness, headache
- Nausea, vomiting, fainting

What to Do:

- Move to a cooler place
- Remove excess clothing
- Sip water or sports drinks
- Rest and cool down
- Call your provider if symptoms worsen or last more than an hour



HEAT CRAMPS

Signs:

- Muscle spasms or pains (especially in the stomach, arms, or legs)

What to Do:

- Stop physical activity and move to a cool location
- Gently stretch affected muscles
- Sip water or electrolyte drinks
- Seek medical advice if cramps last longer than an hour or worsen



OXFORD CABLE ACCESS



DOWNLOAD THE APP!

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



cablecast

A BUSY SUMMER AHEAD AT THE OXFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY!

Brittany McDougal Bialy, Director

We're looking forward to the warmer months ahead and all the fun programs we have lined up at the library! Starting off, we'll be holding our **3rd Annual 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 eighth year – the grand opening ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025 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.

Our **Summer Reading Program** will begin on Thursday, June 24, 2025 and will run until August 6th. 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 24th, while teens and adults will be able to fill out a review form each time they visit and check out a book.

Upcoming Children's Programs – for more information, please visit our website. Registration will be required:

Tuesday, June 24th @ 10:30am – **Summer Reading Kick-Off with the Poop Museum** (yes, really!) followed by a visit from **Suzi Q's Ice Cream** @ 11:30am.

Tuesday, July 8th @ 11:30am – **Floral Pressing with Ms. Deb**, we'll press flowers using air dry clay!

Friday, July 11th @ 10:00am – **Storytime with Bracken Hill Farm**, join us on the front lawn and meet some special animal guests!

Tuesday, July 15th @ 11:30am – **Watercolor Fish Painting with Ms. Deb**

Friday, July 25th @ 1:00pm – **Confident Kids Workshop**

Upcoming Teen Programs – dates and times to be determined, so please check our website for more information! **"By the Sea"**

Soap Making with Kulina Folk Art (this will be for both teens & adults), **Minecraft** movie showing, **Dungeons & Dragons**, **Microwave Breakfast Burrito in a Mug**, and even more to come!

Upcoming Adult Programs - for more information, please visit our website.

Tuesday, July 1st @ 6:00pm – **Matt York Concert on the Library Lawn**

Tuesday, July 22nd @ 5:30pm – **Pastel on Slate Program with Ms. Deb**

We look forward to seeing you at the library this Summer!!

oxfordmapubliclibrary.org

facebook.com/oxfordfreepubliclibrary



COMMUNITY EVENTS - OCC SUMMER UPDATES

Shelley Lambert, OCC Director

The staff at the Community Center is pleased to bring another summer of fun activities to the Bandstand and Joslin Park.

Please join us for these free events!

Join the fun at OCC's Teddy Bear Picnic

Joslin Park - Oxford Town Common

July 19, 2025

11:30 am - 1 pm

Free picnic lunch for all who *pre-register

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 19!



Teddy Bear Clinic

Special
Guest

*Pre-register online -
scan QR code or visit
oxfordma.myrec.com
Be sure to indicate any
food allergies



Games &
Dancing

Enjoy teddy bear stories and songs



**OXFORD
FARMERS
MARKET**

Third Friday of each month June through October

Town Common
2pm - 6pm
June 20
July 18
August 15
September 19
October 17

Check out our Facebook page for up to date information

**SEE YOU
THERE!**

**MOVIES
ON
MAIN!**

**SEE
NEXT PAGE
FOR FULL LIST
OF MOVIES!**

Summer Bandstand Concert Series



JUNE:

6/29 Holdin' Back the 60s 4-6pm

JULY:

All July and Aug Concerts 3-5pm

7/13 Dr. Jay Acoustic

7/20 Far From Eden

7/27 East West Trio

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

AUGUST:

8/3 Reminisants

8/10 Rock Blockerz

8/17 East Woodstock Cornet Band

8/24 Double Shot

Presented by Oxford Community Center with generous funding from:



Mass
Cultural
Council

Janet Malser
Humanities
Trust



Bring a chair!
Crafts for kids!
Hosted by OCC

MOVIES ON MAIN!

Wednesdays - 7 to 10 pm

Don't forget the bug
spray!
Weather permitting



**6
WEEKS!**

OCC BASKETBALL ★★ SKILLS & DRILLS ★★ SUMMER 2025

Come train with the best!
Clinics run by OHS Varsity Coach P
OCC Outdoor Basketball Court



-SATURDAYS-
6/14-7/26

K-2nd COED 9-10am
3rd-4th COED 10-11am
5th-6th COED 11am-12pm

NO PROGRAM 7/5

Prices & More Info
available online



SIGN UP
oxfordma.myrec.com

-SUNDAYS-
6/15-7/27

7th-12th BOYS 5:00-6:00pm
7th-12th GIRLS 6:00-7:00pm

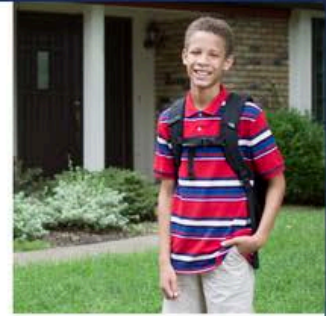
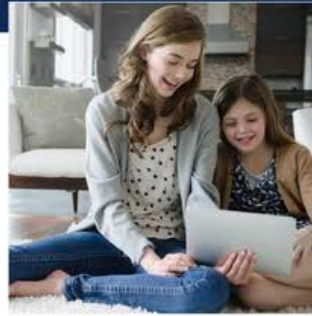
NO PROGRAM 7/6

Limited Slots!
Claim yours now!

SAFESITTER

HOME ALONE SAFETY
BABYSITTING SKILLS
CHILD CARE TRAINING

Safe Sitter® programs equip participants with essential skills for staying home alone and caring for younger children.





CRAFTS

SONGS

OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

TADPOLES WEEK 7/1 - 7/3
AN INTRO TO SUMMER PROGRAM!
5-6 YEAR OLDS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN
LOCATION: CARBUNCLE PARK BEACH HOUSE

\$75/RES
\$85/NON-RES
9AM-12PM

SPORTS MANIA WEEK 7/8-7/10
GAME ON! LET'S PLAY!
3.5-6 YEAR OLDS
LOCATION: OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

\$70/RES
\$80/NON-RES
9AM-12PM

UNDER THE SEA WEEK 7/22-7/24
FIN-TASTIC FUN FOR ALL!
3.5-6 YEAR OLDS
LOCATION: OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

\$70/RES
\$80/NON-RES
9AM-12PM

READ-ALoud

GAMES

SNACKS

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Eric Rumsey, Town Planner

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are becoming a vital part of the housing solution in Worcester County, offering flexible living arrangements for seniors, young adults, and small households. Locally, we have taken proactive steps by adopting an ADU bylaw that allows units of up to 900 square feet. This provides homeowners the opportunity to create secondary living spaces whether for family members or as rental housing while preserving neighborhood character.

Oxford continues to collaborate with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to ensure our policies align with regional planning goals and reflect best practices. CMRPC has provided valuable technical guidance to help communities like ours adopt zoning that encourages responsible growth while protecting community character.

As housing costs continue to rise and demand for smaller, more affordable units grows, ADUs offer a sustainable, low-impact way to increase housing supply. They also support multigenerational living, aging in place, and incremental neighborhood growth all priorities identified through regional and local planning initiatives. By enabling ADUs, Oxford is not only addressing present-day housing needs but also preparing for a more inclusive and adaptable future.



MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN WATER REVOLVING FUND

The Town of Oxford's Department of Public Works has been awarded a significant grant in the amount of \$98,000 through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) 2025 Intended Use Plan. This funding comes under the Asset Management Planning (AMP) Grant Program, which is designed to assist municipalities in proactively managing their water infrastructure assets to ensure long-term sustainability and regulatory compliance.

This particular grant will support the development of a comprehensive culvert inventory and condition assessment across the town. The project will involve systematically identifying the location, size, material, and structural condition of culverts throughout Oxford. The data collected will be entered into an asset management system, providing the Town with a critical tool for tracking the status and lifecycle of these important stormwater structures.

Culverts play a crucial role in managing stormwater flows, reducing the risk of localized flooding, and protecting roadways and other infrastructure from water damage. Many of Oxford's culverts are aging and have not been formally assessed in decades. With changing weather patterns and increasing storm intensity due to climate change, it is more important than ever to have a clear understanding of which culverts may be undersized, failing, or in need of immediate attention. The outcome of this effort will be a prioritized plan for culvert repair and replacement, helping to ensure the Town allocates its resources most efficiently. In addition to improving public safety and protecting critical infrastructure, the project will also support broader environmental goals by reducing sedimentation and improving water quality in local streams and wetlands.

This is a proactive and strategic step forward in the Town of Oxford's long-term stormwater infrastructure management and resilience planning! Congratulations to the Oxford Department of Public Works!



Lowe's Pond Dam Project Website

The website serves as the project's official information hub and displays detailed plans, timelines, and key milestones from initial site preparation to upcoming work like sediment excavation and the pedestrian bridge installation.

You can also checkout the news section and an events calendar to inform the community about project developments.

The page has contact information for questions or to provide feedback on the ongoing project. Take a look!



Project Website



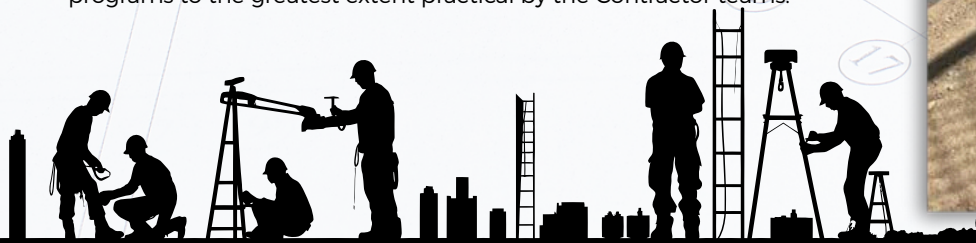
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Kevin Duffy, DPW Director

In December 2023, Town residents voted in support of undergoing a \$10M borrowing to address identified structure issues at three Town schools including foundation repairs, roof replacement, and siding replacement. Portions of the foundations at Chaffee and Clara Barton Elementary Schools we experience significant cracking and loss. Roofs at Chaffee and Clara Barton are past their expected service life while portions of the High School roof system continue to leak. Lastly, siding at Chaffee and Clara Barton have been prone to failure and not watertight. The borrowing authorization allowed the Town to move these projects forward beginning July 1, 2024.

The foundation repairs at Chaffee and Clara Barton were the first project completed during Summer and early Fall 2024. The repairs were engineered by Nitsch Engineering and reconstruction of the foundations was completed by Folan Waterproofing and Construction Co. Preliminary investigations identified that the impacted foundations were limited to the foundations of addition structures constructed in 1956 at both schools. The original 1954 structure foundation and the 2002 addition foundations did not show signs of deterioration, and no work was conducted on these foundations. The foundation repairs included removal of impacted concrete and rebar reinforcement along with installation of new, epoxy coated rebars, concrete patching and finish work.

The High School roof and Elementary School roof and siding repairs are scheduled for construction this Summer season. The Town has been engaged with an Owners Project Representative, P-Three Inc., and an Architect, Habeeb and Associates, since the Fall of 2024. The design team was able to fast track structure investigations and design work at the schools to get the project designed, bid, and ready for Summer 2025 construction. The roof replacement at the High School will be completed by Capeway Roofing Systems while the two elementary school projects will be completed by Greenwood Industries Inc. The Contractor teams are now busy planning to kick off the "summer slammers" as soon as schools are done with the 2024-2025 school year. Throughout construction, the schools will have Summer programming at the under construction facilities, but every effort will be made to reduce the impact to those programs to the greatest extent practical by the Contractor teams.



NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK!

This year's theme, "People, Purpose, Presence," highlights three cornerstone ideals that motivate public works professionals to serve in their communities every day. Meeting the needs of people is what gives public works its sense of purpose. Many times, public works professionals will never meet those whose lives have been impacted because when things are going right, no one knows that public works is there. Yet, with or without fanfare, public works is ever present, working in the background to advance quality of life for all.

Thank you Oxford DPW for all that you do!



**PEOPLE
PURPOSE
PRESENCE**

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK • MAY 18-24, 2025

MUNICIPAL INNOVATION AWARD: ENGINEERING

The Town of Oxford received the Municipal Innovation Award in the Engineering category at the MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference!

The Town of Oxford's Department of Public Works and Nitsch Engineering worked to update our MassDOT Tier 2 Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. Together, we developed goals for analyzing and improving the Town's existing Complete Street network. After the project list ranking was completed, we created a comprehensive report and strategic plan.

Of those top five projects, the Town has since successfully applied for two MassDOT Tier 3 Grants to make improvements at Sigourney Street and Fremont Street.

The Town prioritized these two street segments as they had a history of drainage issues and were also listed for full-depth pavement reconstruction on the five-year pavement management capital improvements program (Chapter 90). The redesign of these two roadway segments includes multi-modal accommodations, green infrastructure, and a new drainage system. As the Town is currently improving our stormwater quality per federal and state requirements, and because there was a lack of closed drainage on these roadways, the projects included stormwater infiltration devices and the conversion of seven excess parking spaces into a bioretention basin. This is the first Town-owned green infrastructure (Town Hall Rain Garden), providing infiltration and stormwater quality improvements of the runoff of these roadways.

Through these projects, the Town of Oxford innovatively accomplished three separate goals by utilizing different funding sources to reconstruct and improve these streets.



DPW Director, Kevin Duffy & MassDOT Deputy Administrator, Carrie Lavallee



Town Hall Rain Garden

Happy Retirement



Judy A. Lochner

Thank you for your 31 years of dedicated public service to the Town of Oxford!

Conservation Commission | Board of Selectmen | Town Manager Jennifer Callahan

"Retirement is not the end of the road. It is the beginning of the open highway."

Thank you!



Amy E. Frick

The Town of Oxford extends its heartfelt gratitude to Amy Frick, for her recent contributions and public service as the former Vice Chair and Secretary of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee Member and Trustee of the Cecelia J. Smolenski Millette Charitable Trusts.

Over the past four years, Ms. Frick has demonstrated dedication, diligence, and integrity in her service to our community. As she embarks on a new chapter with her family, we offer our warmest wishes and deepest appreciation!

Also, congratulations and welcome to newly elected Selectmen Joshua Boyda and Dave Cornacaholi!



Pollinator Habitat Community Challenge

Local residents, businesses, schools and other community members are invited to participate in the *Pollinator Habitat Community Challenge* by replacing a portion of your lawn or hardscape with native plants. Any size counts, from one square foot to 500 square feet, it all adds up and will make a difference for local wildlife and pollinators. The goal is to provide one acre (43,560 square feet) of new native plantings as an alternative to monoculture grass or hard surfaces. Plantings can take the form of a wildflower meadow, small or large garden, raised bed, deck planter or window box.

Why Native Plants?

Pollinators need nectar and pollen from native plants for energy and nutrition, they need specific plant species for their larvae to feed on, they need chemical-free environments to thrive in and they need stop-over places for resting.

Due to loss of habitat and use of herbicides, pollinator populations have been declining over the years. By simply including local native plants in our yards and community, we not only help the pollinators, we are helping ourselves.

Who are the Pollinators?

Butterflies, bees, beetles, bats and birds that transfer pollen among flowers which starts the plants' reproduction process creating berries and seeds that we and wildlife depend on for food.

What are the benefits to you?

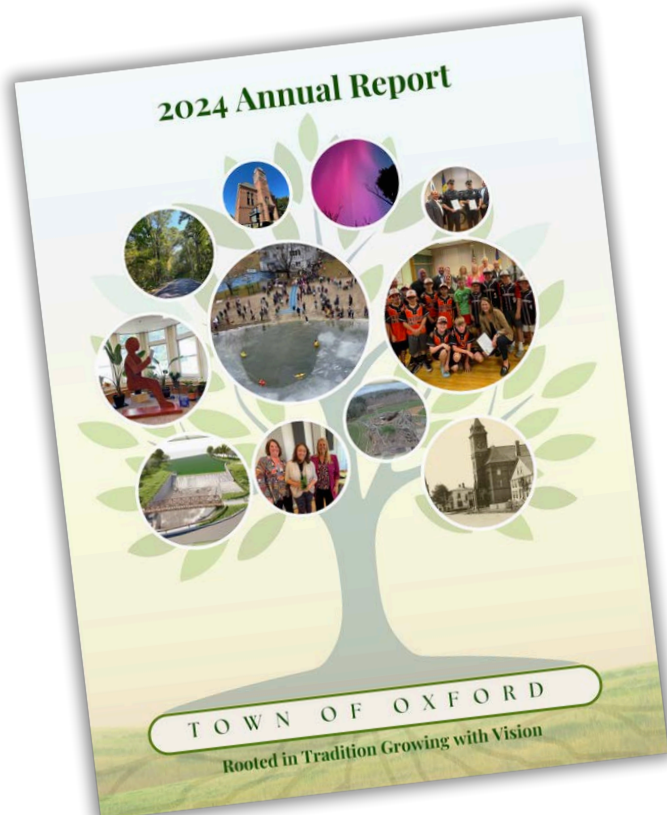
- You will have more spare time due to less maintenance
- You will be saving money on gas for your lawnmower
- You will not need to fertilize native plants
- You will not need to water native plants once established
- You will have a more productive vegetable garden
- You will be adding beautiful flowers to your landscape
- You will enjoy watching the pollinators in action!

What are the benefits to the environment?

- More food, shelter, resting spots for native butterflies and bees
- Less carbon emissions from gas lawnmowers
- Less fertilizer contaminating waterbodies
- Increases biodiversity that supports the "food web"
- Promotes healthier soil due to deeper roots of native plants vs. grass



OXFORD TOWN HALL
325 MAIN STREET
OXFORD, MA 01540



2024 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

Have you had a chance to
check out the 2024 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

