



Fall 2025 Edition

ONWARD
OXFORD

THE PRIMARY SOURCE FOR EVERYTHING OXFORD



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Jennifer M. Callahan, Town Manager



As the seasons change and we welcome the fall, I would like to take this opportunity to share the progress our community has made and the priorities we are carrying forward.

Over the past year, the Town has successfully secured several competitive state and federal grants. These awards have supported projects ranging from infrastructure improvements to accessibility initiatives and recreation enhancements. Every grant dollar represents not only financial support, but also recognition that our community is planning responsibly and investing in projects that matter to residents. By carefully aligning grant opportunities with our local needs, we are stretching tax dollars further and ensuring that important projects move forward without placing additional burdens on the local budget.

Our current focus includes significant infrastructure investments, accessibility upgrades in public buildings and gathering spaces, and enhancements to public safety. These efforts are grounded in our long-term vision of creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community for all. Progress is being made not only on highly visible projects such as roadway improvements and facility renovations, but also on planning efforts that will guide the Town's growth and resiliency for years to come.

This work is strengthened by the dedication of our boards, committees, and volunteers, who continue to bring energy and thoughtful insight to the decisions that shape our future. I encourage every resident to remain engaged, whether by attending a meeting, offering feedback on initiatives, or participating in local programs. The success of our community depends on the collective effort of all who call this Town home.

I am proud of the significant steps we have taken together, and I remain committed to advancing the priorities that residents have voiced as most important. Thank you for your trust and partnership as we continue this work. I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and enjoyable fall season.

OXFORD'S EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PLAN

Jennifer M. Callahan, Town Manager

Massachusetts has experienced a decline in student enrollment over the past two decades across both K-12 public schools and higher education institutions. Since 2005, the student population in the Town of Oxford has decreased by over 700 students. This is more than the number of students currently enrolled at both Chaffee and Clara Barton Elementary Schools combined.

The annual budget process allows for adjustments each year to account for changing student populations. However, while student numbers may rise or fall, the school buildings themselves are not dynamic. They must still be maintained, repaired, heated, insured, and staffed. These represent a substantial and ongoing cost to taxpayers.

Recognizing this challenge, the Town Manager, working in partnership with the Board of Selectmen, established a mutual goal to examine the long-term sustainability of Oxford's educational facilities. In fiscal year 2025, under this shared direction, the Educational Facilities Study was launched. This study will evaluate whether Oxford's school buildings are sufficient to meet current student needs, identify how the community can best serve future generations, and determine the most effective use of existing educational spaces.

This effort demonstrates a commitment to both fiscal responsibility and educational excellence. It ensures that decisions about Oxford's school facilities are made with the benefit of careful analysis, long-term planning, and the best interests of students and taxpayers.

This Educational Facilities Plan is to be accomplished through a student enrollment projection, educational programming analysis, and a building conditions assessment. These factors will be used to make recommendations to the Town of Oxford for future building purposes, alterations, and grade configurations that will support educational programming, provide a superior education for all students, maintain School Committee class size guidelines, and support educators' needs.

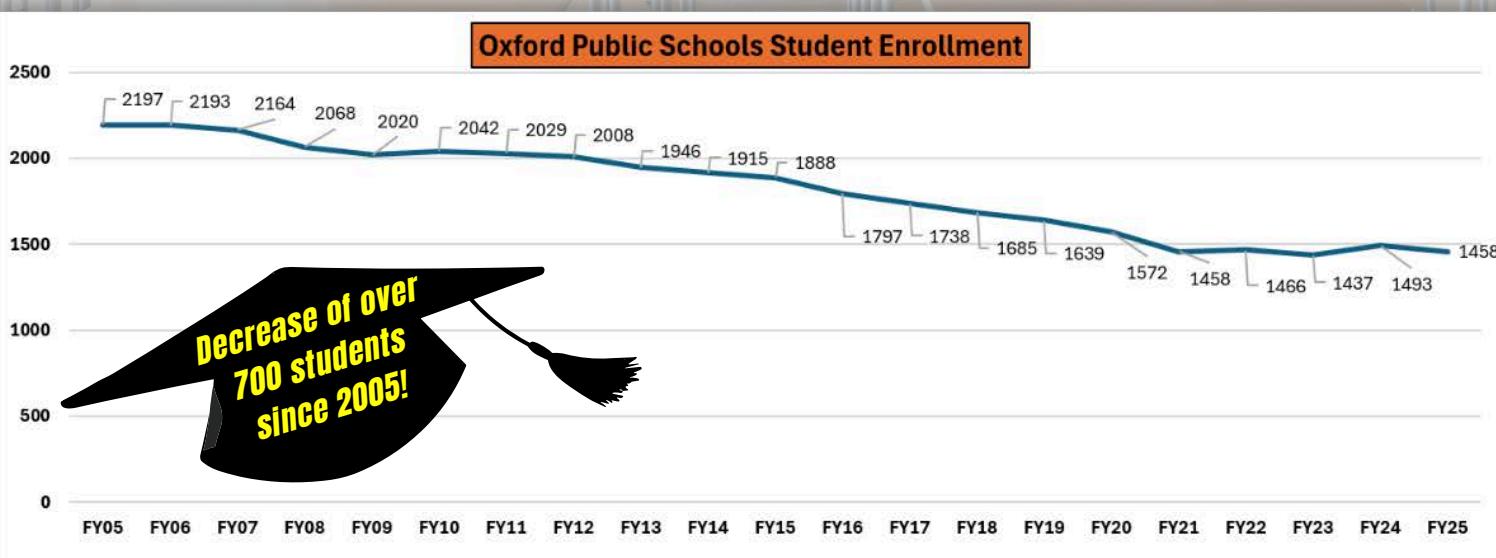


The Town Manager's Office applied for a Community Compact Best Practices Grant to support the development of an Educational Facilities Plan, and the Town was awarded \$50,000 through this grant program. The Town of Oxford issued a formal Request for Qualifications in early January 2025, which generated interest from 30 firms. Twelve firms submitted complete qualifications and project proposals. The submissions were evaluated, and Arrowstreet was unanimously recommended as the top firm for the project.

For over twenty years, Arrowstreet has worked with numerous municipalities and school districts in Massachusetts, helping them to assess and plan for their long-term facility needs.

Arrowstreet's scope of work includes several key tasks: First, they will oversee a ten-year student enrollment projection using both cohort-survival methods and demographic modeling to assess impacts from local housing trends, fertility rates, and migration patterns. The student enrollment analysis will be conducted by RLS demographics and will utilize a variety of data sources including census data, live births, vital statistics and other data sources to arrive at a realistic projection for future student enrollment.

The firm will also perform a visual building conditions assessment of the Town's four existing school facilities, identifying necessary repairs, upgrades, or potential replacements, based on available documents and site visits.



EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PLAN CONTINUED...

Building site visits will be conducted by Arrowstreet's team of 15 engineers and facility professionals. The information gathered from the site tours will be used to prepare a comprehensive building condition report which will be utilized in both the long-term education facilities planning recommendations and towards planning future capital investments and priorities.

Finally, Arrowstreet will lead an educational planning process, including a collaborative workshop with school and municipal leadership to identify long-term goals and space needs. This work will inform the development of planning recommendations related to school consolidation, facility upgrades, or new construction. The completed deliverables will include enrollment forecasts, grade configuration options, cost estimates, and a comprehensive strategy to guide future capital investment decisions.



FALL HAPPENINGS AT THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

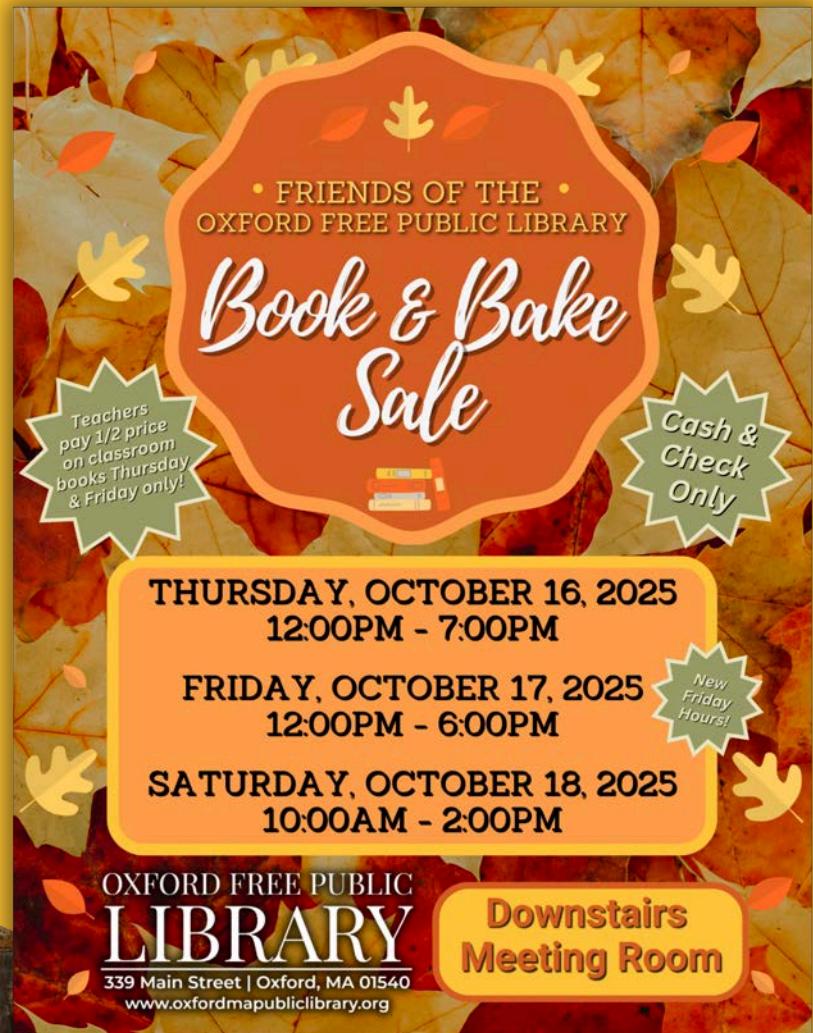
Brittany McDougal Bialy, Director

It's hard to believe fall has arrived, but the start of this new season means our annual Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale is here! The sale will run from Thursday, October 16th to Saturday, October 18th. The Friends will try new hours for Friday this year, in the hopes of giving more people the opportunity to stop in after work. The hours will be Thursday 12pm - 7:00pm; Friday 12pm - 6pm, and Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm. As always, teachers pay ½ price on classroom books, Thursday & Friday only. We look forward to seeing you there - just think of all the literary treasures you may find!

The library will be launching a new events calendar on our website beginning in October - we are excited to be offering this new events keeper to our patrons, as it will make registration more of a breeze! Be sure to be on the lookout, as we have many fun programs planned for the upcoming autumn months.

For those not aware, the library holds a monthly art exhibit titled Artist of the Month. This exhibit allows local artists to display their work for the entire month, located on the main floor of the library. We are always looking for new artists - if you are interested, please contact the Library Director, Brittany McDougal Bialy, to be added to the schedule! She can be reached at bmcdougal@oxfordma.us.

We look forward to seeing you at the library!



SLOW DOWN IN SCHOOL ZONES

Michael Daniels, Chief of Police

As I begin my third year serving as your Chief of Police, I want to thank the residents of Oxford for your continued support of our Police Department. These past few years have brought both challenges and accomplishments, and I remain proud of the partnership between our officers and this community.

Fall is always a busy season, with school back in session, the days getting shorter, and before long, we'll be preparing for winter. I ask that you keep safety in mind: slow down in school zones, watch for children and cyclists, and take a few extra minutes to prepare your homes and vehicles for the colder weather ahead.

I also want to acknowledge the hard work of our officers and staff. Their commitment to professionalism and service is what allows us to keep Oxford safe, and I am grateful for the support they receive from this community every day.

Looking ahead, one of our biggest challenges is staffing. Traffic safety remains one of the top concerns we hear from residents, and we need more resources to strengthen enforcement and make our roadways safer. Just as important, our schools would greatly benefit from a dedicated School Resource Officer, someone who can focus full-time on student safety, building relationships, and providing support to staff and families.



These are not just department goals, they are community needs. Your support will make the difference in helping us secure these resources and move Oxford forward.

My door is always open, and I encourage residents to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or ideas on how we can better serve. Thank you for making Oxford not just where we work, but a community we're proud to serve.

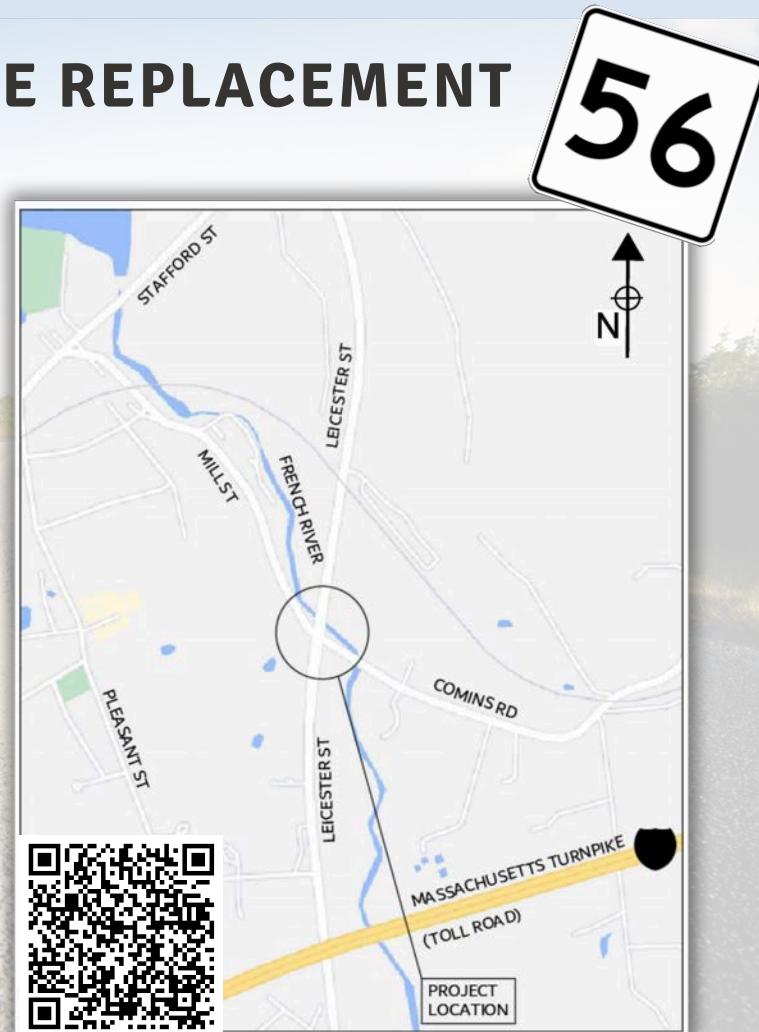
LEICESTER STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Kevin Duffy, Director of Public Works

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is overseeing the design and construction for the bridge replacement of Leicester Street Bridge on State Road 56 as part of the Next Generation Bridge Program. The bridge spans across the French River just North of the intersection with Comins Road and Mill Street. The project includes bridge deck replacement, mill and overlay of the approaching roadways, new guardrail, pavement markings, and minimum six foot shoulder to facilitate access for pedestrian and bicyclist access.

The project completed 75% design documents in May 2025 and design continues to advance to 100% design. In anticipation of construction document preparation and construction, the Town will be acting in support of the project to obtain the necessary easements in the coming months.

The project is scheduled for bidding in January 2027 with construction to take place during Spring 2027. Construction will be completed as an accelerated bridge construction method project where the bridge is reconstructed in just a few weeks' time, rather than the full construction season, in a safe, cost effective manner. Doing so will also significantly reduce the impacts of abutters and roadway users. The project is programmed for approximately **\$4.0 million** dollars through the 2027 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization. This is yet another state funded project.



SUMMER 2025 PAVING PROJECTS

Peter Gerhard, Assistant Director of Public Works

The 2025 paving season is coming to an end with over 15 roads resurfaced this past summer. Through a \$60,225 MassDOT Complete Streets grant award and local roadway rehabilitation funding, the Oxford Department of Public Works oversaw the construction of an accessible sidewalk that connects Monument Drive to Charlton Street as well as reconstructing the roadways on Camp Hill Drive, Corbin Road, Gardner Street, and Monument Drive (from Corbin to Charlton). These roadway improvements and accessible pedestrian facilities provide critical connectivity from the existing sidewalk network on Monument Drive to Charlton Street and downtown. The entire project for these roadways and sidewalks cost just under \$282,000 which was under budget.

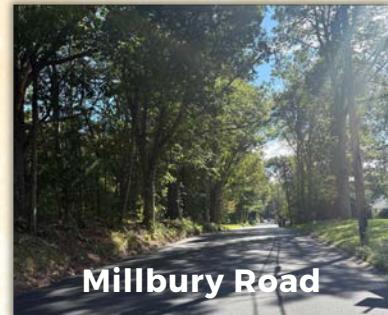
Hot mix asphalt shim & overlay resurfacing was performed on Cherdon Lane, Thayer Street, Norwood Court, Virginia Lane, Maple Avenue, North Water Drive, Old Depot Road, Depot Road (Main St – Old Worcester Rd), Newton Avenue, Millbury Road (28 Millbury Rd – Federal Hill Rd), and Millbury Boulevard. The total project cost for these roadways also came in under budget at \$450,000. The work is expected to provide stable roadway surfaces for years to come. In addition to roadway resurfacing projects, preventative maintenance fog seal surface treatments and creak seal general maintenance were performed on over two dozen roadways. General and preventative maintenance treatments are critical to extend the life of the existing roadway infrastructure and are an important part of the Town pavement management program.



Old Depot Road



North Water Drive

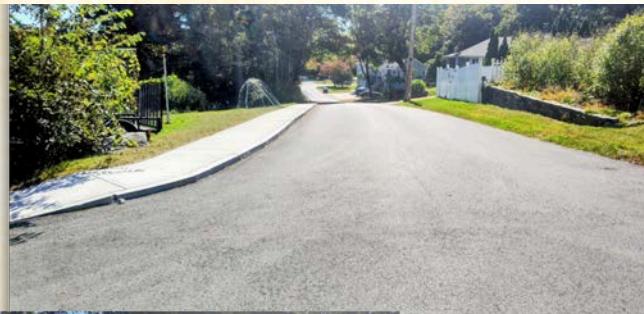


Millbury Road



Millbury Boulevard

THE WORD ON THE STREETS...



Monument Drive



Cherdon Lane



Camp Hill Drive

DON'T FUSS, TAKE THE SENIOR BUS!

Laura Wilson, Senior Center Director

The Council on Aging / Senior Center transportation services provide Oxford residents, 60 years of age and older, and disabled adults (under the age of 60) with access to shopping, medical appointments, pharmacy, bank, hair appointments, etc.

It is a shared ride service. You may be traveling with other riders who are going in the same general direction as yourself. All transportation is curb-to-curb. Passengers must be able to travel independently. Drivers are NOT able to assist passengers. If more assistance is needed, it is the rider's responsibility to arrange for a personal care assistant, family member or friend to travel with them. We have two vans for transportation:



Our in-town van offers rides anywhere within the Oxford town boundaries at the cost of \$1.75 each way. Call the Senior Center at (508) 987-6000 to arrange for a ride within town and we will pick you up!

The WRTA Paratransit van offers rides outside of Oxford to any of our "neighboring" towns for medical appointments, shopping, out to eat, social visit to a friend. **ZERO FARE until June 30, 2026.** Call directly to the WRTA (508) 752-9283 to arrange out-of-town rides.



2025 OXFORD VETERAN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

When: Wednesday, November 5, 2025

**Where: Oxford Senior Center
323 Main Street**

**Who: Oxford Veterans and one guest
Seating times: 11:00 am or 1:30 pm**

(Please specify seating time you would like.)

**RSVP by Oct. 28, 2025, to Dave Adams, Oxford
Veterans Service Officer @ dadams@oxfordma.us or
508-987-6034 ext. 1105**

WHAT'S NEW WITH OXFORD FIRE/EMS?

Laurent McDonald, Chief Fire/EMS

The Town of Oxford is proud to announce the latest addition to the Oxford Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) fleet: a brand new 2025 Road Rescue Metro-Medic F550 4x4 ambulance. The new vehicle was delivered in August, representing a major upgrade in the town's emergency response capabilities.

This advanced ambulance is replacing a 2013 model, which was approaching the end of its service life. The acquisition of this new apparatus is the result of a concerted effort and careful planning by the town, Fire Chief Laurent R. McDonald, and a dedicated committee. It was approved by a Town Meeting vote in 2022, and the department began its design process following supply chain shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Deputy Chiefs Belanger and Sellers worked tirelessly to specifically design the new Ambulance 1 to meet the needs of Oxford's first responders. The vehicle is a Type I ambulance, built on a rugged Ford F-550 chassis with a 4x4 drivetrain, which will allow for enhanced response capabilities in all weather conditions, especially during the challenging New England winters.

Key features of the new ambulance include:

- A powerful 6.7L Diesel Powerstroke engine, providing the necessary power for emergency situations.
- Upgraded safety features, including a 4x4 drivetrain and Liquid Spring rear suspension for a smoother, safer ride.
- A spacious, modern interior with an ergonomic layout and new medical equipment provisions to ensure the highest level of patient care.

The addition of this modern, robust ambulance will directly benefit the citizens of Oxford by allowing the fire department to continue providing timely, professional, and reliable emergency medical care. The department extends its gratitude to the Chief, the Town leadership and citizens, and the committee members for their hard work and support in making this important investment in public safety a reality.



The Town of Oxford is also proud to announce the recent delivery of a new, custom-built 2024 Ford F-550 Forest Firefighting Vehicle, a significant upgrade to its municipal fleet. This turn-key vehicle, made possible by an annual town meeting vote in May of 2024, represents the town's ongoing commitment to providing its departments with the best possible equipment to serve the community.

Working in collaboration with industry experts at Bulldog, the Town's department was able to define and execute this complex project. The result is a purpose-built vehicle with a range of specialized features designed to improve efficiency, safety, and performance for a variety of tasks.

The 2024 Ford F-550 is a formidable vehicle, boasting a 19,500-pound Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). Its off-road capabilities have been significantly enhanced with a Buckstop SuperSingle Conversion and LiftKit, allowing for superior traction and performance in challenging terrain. The conversion replaces the rear dual-wheel setup with a single, larger wheel, which also provides a smoother ride and more tire options. The added clearance from the lift kit, coupled with the super single conversion, required a custom "pump panel" at the rear of the vehicle to make pump operation easier for the crew.

In terms of emergency response, the F-550 is equipped with a full Whelen CORE warning package, ensuring high-visibility and auditory alerts with its advanced lighting and siren system. A Havis center console provides a rugged and ergonomic workspace for in-cab technology and controls.

The truck's utility features are equally impressive. It includes a Warn 10,000-pound MultiMount Winch with a 100-foot synthetic rope, offering versatile and powerful recovery options. Storage is maximized with a crossbody transverse compartment featuring a slide-out tray that extends 70% from both sides of the vehicle, as well as high-quality R.O.M. Corp. RollUp compartment doors for quick and easy access.

A CET Fire Pumps skid unit, powered by a Honda gas motor, is plumbed directly into the Ford's fuel tank for maximum operational longevity. This unit features "PumpNRoll" capabilities, making it highly effective for fighting roadside fires and other incidents that require a rapid response with continuous movement. The vehicle is also equipped with dual 100-foot powered hose reels for quick deployment. For electrical reliability, the vehicle is managed by a Kussmaul Electronics LPC20, along with a Super Auto Eject with Bar Graph door, which ensures a constant battery charge and automatically disconnects when the vehicle is started.

TWO MILLION SECURED IN APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR ROUTE 12 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



**Congressman
Richard Neal**

Town Manager Callahan is pleased to announce that Congressman Richard Neal has secured two million dollars for the Oxford Route 12 Roadway Rehabilitation Project in the Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding Bill. The Congressman's leadership and advocacy have been instrumental in advancing this critical infrastructure initiative for our community.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Congressman Neal. We will continue to monitor the legislative process as the funding remains contingent upon the final passage and enactment of the bill. Let's keep our fingers crossed that Congress finally passes the budget or a continuing resolution that keeps this important local funding intact!

This funding will support essential preconstruction activities, including final design, easement acquisitions, environmental permitting, utility coordination, and other key preparations. These steps are necessary to position the project for timely construction and long-term success.

Since 2019, Oxford has worked diligently to modernize the one-mile corridor between Front Street and Fairlawn Avenue. The project will improve safety, accessibility, and sustainability by providing ADA-compliant sidewalks, protected bicycle lanes, upgraded traffic signals, traffic calming measures, and modern stormwater infrastructure. Collectively, these enhancements will create a safer, more inclusive, and environmentally resilient corridor for all residents and visitors.

The Town has already reached the 25 percent design milestone, thanks to a significant local capital investment of approximately \$445,500 in engineering services, supported by extensive staff coordination and robust public engagement. This progress ensures that Oxford remains on track within the 2026-2030 State Transportation Improvement Program.

2025 GRANTS YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Public Safety Grants:

MIIA Risk Management Grant for Body-worn Cameras **\$10,000**

SAFE Fire Program for Student and Senior Fire Safety Education **\$6,659**

Operational and Technical Grants:

Healthy Summer Youth Jobs Grant to support OCC Summer Program Staffing **\$10,771**

FallonHealth Community Impact Grant to support the Oxford Senior Lunch Program **\$1,000**

Taft Charitable Trust Grant to support Oxford Community Center Operations **\$10,000**

Taft Charitable Trust Grant to support the Oxford Senior Center Lunch Program **\$10,000**

Culture and Recreation Grants:

MassTrails Grant to support the Regional French River Trail Project **\$500,000**

Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant to support the Oxford Farmers' Market **\$2,500**

Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant to support the Winter Festival **\$5,000**

Mass Cultural Grants for Local Cultural and Performing Arts Programs **\$13,000**

Janet Malser Humanities Trust Grant to support OCC Summer Concert Series and Theatre Programs **\$10,000**

Stanton Foundation Grant for Dog Park benches, shade structure, obstacle course, leash rack **\$18,929**

**OVER
\$6.6 MILLION
IN GRANT
FUNDING FOR
2024-25 !!!**

Service and Infrastructure Grants:

Complete Streets Grant for Sidewalk and Accessibility Improvements **\$60,225**

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for Reconstruction of McKinstry Pond Dam **\$1.0M**

Complete Street Grant for New Sidewalks, Curb Ramps, and Crosswalk Improvements **\$215,775**

Home Depot Foundation Grant for OCC and DPW Storage Containers and Flooring Materials **\$11,716**

Green Communities Grant for OHS Transformers & OCC Lighting and Weatherization **\$233,000**

Department of Conservation and Recreation's Urban and Forestry Challenge Grant for Tree Planting **\$23,670**

Asset Management Planning Grant for Culvert Inventory & Assessment **\$98,000**

Massachusetts Department of Transportation Grant for Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure **\$20,775**

Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants **\$206,100** and **\$218,500**

Mass Dept of Transportation Next Generation Bridge Project Leicester Street Bridge **\$4.0M**

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!!!

The 2025 Employee of the Year award goes to Stephanie Christensen in the Office of Land Management! We formally recognize and acknowledge her outstanding commitment and contributions to the Department of Land Management over the past year. Stephanie's dedication, hard work, and attention to detail have not gone unnoticed and her exemplary efforts have positively impacted not only the Town Hall, but also the Town of Oxford as a whole.

Stephanie has proactively taken the initiative to improve communication and workflow across the Building, Board of Health, and Planning offices. Her contributions have increased operational standards to new levels and her initiative has brought about a more cohesive and efficient environment that benefits both staff and the community.

We regularly receive excellent feedback from customers and contractors alike, often hearing comments such as, "Stephanie in your office is great!" This consistent praise is a testament to her professionalism, helpfulness, and positive attitude.

Stephanie's ambition to support the department—especially during times of high workload—is deeply appreciated by both me and her colleagues. Her energy and optimism continue to inspire and uplift those around her.

We are truly grateful to have Stephanie representing the Office of Land Management. Her contributions reflect the highest standards of public service, and we look forward to her continued success!

This annual recognition program was initiated in 2020 as a priority of Town Manager Callahan, who strongly believes in highlighting the achievements of our employees and celebrating their service to the community. Since then, we have proudly continued this tradition each year, and it has become an important way to express gratitude to those who go above and beyond in public service!



Stephanie Christenson and Patrick Dahlgren, Building Commissioner

BAZAAR AND RAFFLE PERMITS

Michelle Jenkins, Town Clerk

In Massachusetts, conducting a raffle requires a permit and is strictly regulated under state law (M.G.L. Chapter 271, Section 7A). Only certain nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for a raffle permit. These include religious, educational, charitable, fraternal, civic, or veterans' organizations, as well as clubs organized for nonprofit purposes. To qualify, the organization must have been actively operating in the state for at least two years.

The application process begins through the Town Clerk's office. The organization must submit a completed application form, documentation proving its nonprofit status (such as a 501(c)(3) letter or registration with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office), and the names of three officers or members responsible for conducting the raffle. The application must also include a description of how the net proceeds will be used. A small fee of \$10 is required in Oxford. Once submitted, the application is forwarded to the Chief of Police for review. If approved, the Town Clerk issues the permit, which is valid for one year.

Once permitted, the organization may conduct unlimited raffles within that year, though other types of fundraising events like bazaars or "casino nights" may be limited to a few times annually. After each raffle, the organization is required to pay a 5% excise tax on the gross proceeds to the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, typically within 10 days. Additionally, an annual financial report must be filed at the end of the permit year. This report includes details on the number of raffles held, total proceeds, expenses, how the funds were used, and the names and addresses of any prize winners who received more than \$250. The report must be signed by the organization's designated members and an accountant.

Importantly, raffle tickets must be sold in person. Massachusetts law does not permit online raffles. Also, 50/50 raffles and other games that distribute cash directly from ticket sales may fall outside legal limits and should be carefully reviewed. All records associated with the raffle, including ticket logs, financial reports, and membership lists, must be retained for at least one year, or up to three years if the organization reports to the Attorney General. Please contact the Town Clerk's office at 508-987-6032 ext. 1 for more information on bazaar and raffle permitting.

FOOD SAFETY FOR DOGS

Kelly Flynn, Animal Control Officer

Many common human foods can be dangerous or even toxic to dogs, and it's important for pet owners to be aware of these risks. Chocolate is one of the most well-known toxic foods for dogs. Chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine, both of which can cause vomiting, seizures, heart issues, or even death, especially in darker varieties. Grapes and raisins are also highly toxic and can lead to sudden kidney failure, even in small amounts. Onions, garlic, and other members of the allium family (including powders and cooked forms) can damage a dog's red blood cells, potentially causing anemia.



Another extremely dangerous substance is xylitol, a sugar substitute found in sugar-free gum, candy, and baked goods. Ingesting even a tiny amount can lead to a rapid drop in blood sugar and liver failure. Caffeine, found in coffee, tea, and energy drinks, overstimulates a dog's heart and nervous system, while alcohol—like in beer or fermented dough—can cause vomiting, breathing problems, coma, or death. Macadamia nuts are another unexpected hazard, often causing muscle weakness, vomiting, tremors, and overheating. Cooked bones, though they might seem like a treat, can splinter and cause internal injuries or blockages. Avocados, especially the pit and skin, contain persin, which can be toxic in large amounts and pose a choking risk.

While some foods aren't acutely toxic, they can still be harmful over time or in large quantities. Excessive salt can lead to sodium poisoning, while fatty foods increase the risk of pancreatitis. Dairy products may upset a dog's stomach, as many dogs are lactose intolerant. Raw meat or eggs can carry bacteria like salmonella or E. coli, and raw eggs may interfere with biotin absorption, leading to skin and coat problems.

As alternatives, dog-safe treats like carrot sticks, apple slices (without seeds), blueberries, plain cooked chicken, or pumpkin can be healthy and safe. Always consult a veterinarian if you're unsure whether a food is safe for your dog, and if your pet ingests something toxic, seek emergency veterinary care immediately.

OXFORD CABLE ACCESS

DOWNLOAD
THE APP!

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

cablecast



2025 Annual Town Report Cover Photo Contest!

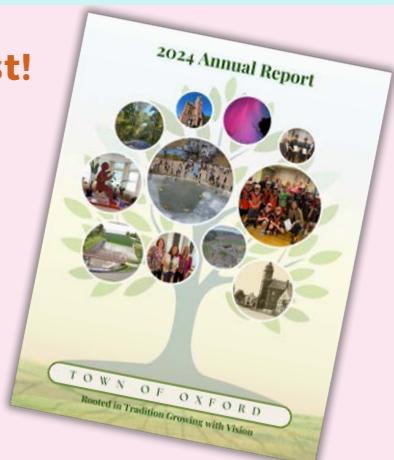
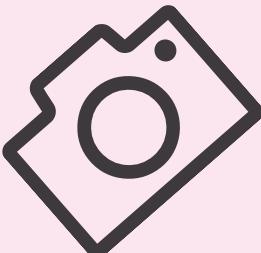
The Selectmen's Office invites residents to submit photo entries for the 2025 Annual Town Report Cover Page!

Email entries to: bos@oxfordma.us

Please include your name, address, and telephone number.

- Images should be at least 2200 pixels wide (or 1 MB in size)
- File Types: JPEG, TIFF, PSD, PNG
- Resolution: 72 dpi or higher
- Color Mode: RGB or CMYK

Deadline: December 12, 2025



OXFORD RECEIVES FIFTH BUDGET AWARD!

Katie McKenna, Finance Director

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded the Town of Oxford, Massachusetts, its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Oxford has received this prestigious recognition! This award represents an important triumph by the Oxford Financial Team and reflects the ongoing commitment of the Town's leadership and staff to uphold the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

To receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, Oxford had to meet nationally recognized guidelines that assess how well a budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. Budget documents are evaluated in four major categories, encompassing 14 mandatory criteria. Each section must be rated "proficient" or higher for a jurisdiction to qualify for the award.

With over 1,700 participants in the GFOA's Budget Awards Program, Oxford stands among the leading government entities committed to transparency, efficiency and accountability in public finance. Award recipients are recognized as leaders in budgetary excellence and serve as models for other governments across North America. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) supports over 22,500 members by advancing excellence in public finance through best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research to benefit both finance professionals and the communities they serve.

TAX BILL FAQ

Cheyenne Cusson, Treasurer/Collector

What if I do not receive my bill in the mail? Can the interest/penalties be waived?

You should contact the Collector's office at 508-987-6038 opt 2 if you did not receive a bill. MGL Section 60 Section 3 states that failure to receive a tax bill does not negate the validity of the bill and/or penalties and interest it may accumulate.

How often are excise tax bills issued?

Any registration active and showing as garaged in Oxford with the Registry of Motor Vehicles as of 1/1, will have an excise tax bill issued in February due March. There are several more excise commitments throughout the year for any registration changes after 1/1. If you sell, trade, or junk a vehicle, you may be entitled to an abatement and should contact the Assessor's office at (508) 987-6038 opt 3.

How often are real estate and personal property taxes issued?

Real estate and personal property taxes are issued semi-annually. 1st half of a fiscal year is issued 7/1 and typically due 10/1 and the 2nd half is issued 12/31 typically due 4/1. All homeowners will receive a bill in the mail even if their mortgage company pays the taxes on their behalf.

How often are sewer taxes issued?

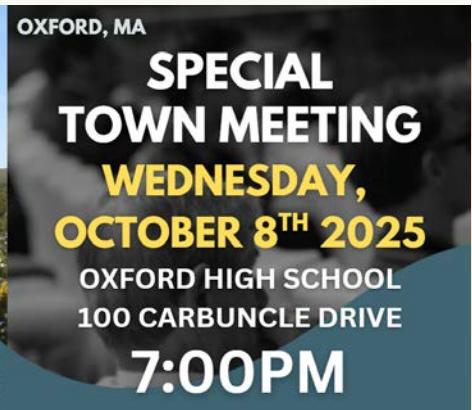
If your property has sewer serviced by the Town, you should receive a bill quarterly. Any questions regarding a sewer bill, contact (508) 987-6006.

How can I make a payment?

Payments can be made in person via cash, check, or by credit/debit card (fee for excise payments is 3.75% of total due and fee for real estate, personal property, and sewer payments is 2.95% of total due). Payments can also be made online at oxfordma.us. Go to online payments and choose which type. Credit/debit card fees the same as listed above or can use echeck and only a \$0.50 fee. Partial payments can be made for real estate, personal property, and sewer taxes. Partial payments cannot be made towards excise taxes.



Scan this QR code with
your smartphone to view
the FY26 GFOA Budget!



A GREAT SUMMER & MORE PROGRAMS TO COME!

Shelley Lambert, Community Center Director

The summer came and went in a flash, as we tried to pack in as many memorable family experiences as possible! We had a wonderful line-up of films for our Movies on Main series this year! We would like to thank Justin at BDJ Entertainment for making those summer nights so spectacular. Our Concerts on the Bandstand series welcomed some new and some returning musicians and bands. Thanks to all who joined us for afternoons of music, dancing, and sunshine! This was one of the best years we have had at the Carbuncle Recreational Summer Program, as we worked to integrate a multitude of on-site field trip experiences for our participants. Local departments and companies such as Central Mass Scuba, Oxford Cable Access, Oxford Police Department, Rich Valley Stables, and Clowning Around with LeeLee, just to name a few, provided hands-on educational presentations and activities ranging from pony rides and face painting to film production and crime scene investigation! We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the generous grants which helped fund all of these summer activities! Janet Malser Humanities Trust, Taft Charitable Trusts, Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trusts, Mass Cultural Council, Oxford Cultural Council, and United Way ASOST Summer Grants. We look forward to seeing you at our Fall programs and events!



*Movies on Main
Summer Feature*



*OPD on-site for Mystery
Mayhem: Mock CSI*

Elementary Afternoons

ESCAPE ROOM

Nov. 11th 1-3pm
Grades 3-6

FUNDED IN PART THROUGH THE
CECILIA J. SMOLENSKI-MILLETTE CHARITABLE TRUST

SAFE SITTER Essentials

SafeSitter Essentials | 5.5 hours | Grades 5-8
Students learn tips to manage behavior that will help them stay in control of themselves and the children in their care. Students learn the ages and stages of child development, as well as practicing diapering, injury management, and business skills.

UPCOMING CLASSES:
10/10/2025 & 11/26/2025
9AM-10:30AM

SAFE@HOME by SAFE SITTER

Safe@Home | 90 minutes | Grades 3-6
Students learn how to prepare safe habits, how to respond to unsafe situations, and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies. Students are also introduced to the Safe Sitter's First Aid Chart and learn a system to help them assess and respond to injuries and illnesses.

UPCOMING CLASSES:
12/29/2025 & 2/17/2026
9AM-2:30PM



SCAN HERE

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Friendsgiving

OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER
PUZZLES | CRAFTS | GAMES | SNACKS

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF PEANUTS-THEMED FUN,
GRATITUDE, GAMES & PRIZES

Grades 6th-8th 11/24
Grades 3rd-5th 11/25
Grades K-2nd 11/26
12-1:30PM

REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.OXFORDMA.MYREC.COM

OXFORD'S OFFICIAL HALLOWEEN DATE

FRIDAY, OCT 31ST

6PM TO 8PM



Sewer Upgrades Completed on Route 20 — Connections Now Available

Town Manager Callahan is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Route 20 sewer infrastructure improvement project, marking a significant step forward in the town's ongoing commitment to modernizing public utilities and supporting future growth. The project, made possible through a \$2.8 million MassWorks Infrastructure Grant awarded in 2021, is now ready to accommodate new sewer connections from property owners along the corridor.

This infrastructure investment was designed to support economic development and increase the availability of municipal sewer services along one of Oxford's busiest commercial and transportation routes. With the installation of new sewer lines and connection points in front of eligible properties, the Town has ensured that property owners will be able to access the new system without disrupting the recently reconstructed roadway.

Residents and business owners who wish to connect to the new sewer line can now begin the process by submitting a sewer connection application. Applications are available online through the "Permits" section of the Oxford Department of Public Works (DPW) website. Those who prefer to speak directly with staff or have questions about the process are encouraged to call the DPW at (508) 987-6006 for assistance.

Concept Plans Begin for New Municipal Parking Lot

The Oxford Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Town Manager's Office, is moving forward with concept plans for a new municipal parking lot at the corner of Freemont Street and Charlton Street. This initiative reflects a key goal set by the Board of Selectmen in partnership with the Town Manager.

The proposed lot is strategically located to serve several major community destinations, including the Oxford Senior Center, Town Hall, and local downtown businesses. By improving parking availability in this area, the project aims to better accommodate residents, employees, and visitors—particularly during peak hours and town events.

In addition to addressing current parking needs, the new lot is expected to support the Town's broader revitalization goals. These include enhancing walkability, easing on-street congestion, and improving the overall downtown experience.

Early design concepts are currently being reviewed, with a strong focus on safety, ADA compliance, traffic flow, and landscaping. As planning continues, public input will be a critical part of the process to ensure the final design aligns with the community's needs and priorities.

Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to share your feedback on this important project!



French River Regional Trail Project: 82 Charlton Street Update

Design work is progressing at 82 Charlton Street, a key property in Oxford's vision for the French River Regional Bike Path. This property is situated along the proposed future rail trail corridor and is being considered as a potential access point for the new trail. The Town is currently advancing design concepts that prioritize connectivity, safety, and community use. Early plans explore how the site can serve both recreational users and the broader public.

As part of the planning process, we are evaluating how 82 Charlton Street can enhance trail access, provide rest or parking areas, and improve the visual landscape along the route. The project team is also considering sustainable design elements in line with the trail's environmental goals.

Please visit the "French River Regional Trail Project" on DPW's webpage to learn more about the entire project, view current trail plans, a video presentation, and general updates. Future announcements and community information sessions will be posted on the webpage and the Town's website.



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Save the Date

TOWN OF OXFORD 6TH ANNUAL

SCARECROWS ON THE COMMON

Saturday, October 25, 2025
11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Joslin Park- Town Common 352 Main St.
GAMES - CRAFTS - SNACKS - VENDORS & MORE

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SAVE THE DATE
Sat, Dec 6



**OXFORD'S ANNUAL
HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE &
BANDSTAND TREE LIGHTING**

Presented by OFD & OCC

Parade float registration forms are available online:
oxfordma.us



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**OXFORD'S ANNUAL
Fun, Frost & Family
WINTER FESTIVAL**

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday January 31, 2026



**CARBUNCLE
POLAR
PLUNGE!**

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

**CONTESTS,
FIRE PITS,
S'MORES**

**VENDOR FAIR,
LIVE MUSIC &
ACTIVITIES**

WAYFINDING IN OXFORD

Clear and attractive wayfinding is more than just signs. It is how a community welcomes residents and visitors, highlights important destinations, and creates a sense of place. Good wayfinding guides people safely and efficiently to public buildings, parks, cultural landmarks, and recreational facilities, while also strengthening community identity.

Recognizing this importance, the Town Manager Callahan made wayfinding a priority project, and the Board of Selectmen set a goal to see it through. Together, they established a working group comprising staff, local officials, and community representatives to shape the design and function of Oxford's new system. This team has been hard at work reviewing concepts, identifying destinations, and making sure the system reflects both the history and the future of our Town.

The result is a comprehensive package of signs that will not only direct people to key locations like Town Hall, the Library, and the Clara Barton Birthplace, but will also showcase Oxford's pride in its heritage and commitment to accessibility and navigation.

This project is just the beginning. As the designs move into production and installation, residents can expect to see more updates on the progress. Wayfinding is an investment in both community character and economic vitality, and it is exciting to see Oxford take this important step forward. Stay tuned, there is much more to come!



THE IMPORTANCE OF RECREATIONAL SPORTS

Caitlin Peters, Community Center Program Coordinator

In a world full of competition, we pride our recreational basketball program on being a place where children of different experience and confidence levels can find enjoyment through skill-building, teamwork, and individual growth. By keeping our program recreational, we reduce the level of pressure children experience during game time. Removing intense competition provides a balance to the overall well-being of youth by fostering social connections that are not influenced by high-performance standards and cultivating a balanced lifestyle, free from burnout and fatigue. Youth participation in recreational sports can actually lead to better performance in competitive environments later in life, as it helps develop confidence, strength, and a well-rounded personality through the pursuit of one's own passions and interests.

Beyond the physical benefits, our recreational basketball program emphasizes the importance of character development and lifelong lessons. Sportsmanship, respect, and perseverance are values that our coaches instill in every player, both on and off the court. These experiences not only help children become better athletes but also prepare them to be strong leaders, compassionate teammates, and active contributors in their schools and communities.

We are very grateful for the returning families we see year after year, who make this program possible. We cannot wait to see you all back on the court!



ATHLETICS

SOFTBALL PITCHING CLINICS

WITH COACH KEITH

6 WEEKS OF SMALL GROUP LESSONS

LIMITED TO 5 PITCHERS PER GROUP



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

GROUP 1: 5:30-7 PM

GROUP 2: 7-8:30 PM



SESSION 1

OCTOBER-
NOVEMBER
10/15-11/19

SESSION 2

DECEMBER-
JANUARY
12/3-12/17 &
1/7-1/21

SESSION 3

FEBRUARY-
MARCH
2/4-3/11

SCAN CODE



NON-RESIDENTS \$90 / RESIDENTS \$75

BRING YOUR OWN CATCHER & EQUIPMENT

START SMART ATHLETICS

BETTER SPORTS FOR KIDS.
BETTER KIDS FOR LIFE.



START SMART TEACHES KIDS, AGES 3-6, THE
BASIC MOTOR SKILLS NEEDED FOR ORGANIZED
SPORTS AS THEY WORK ONE-ON-ONE AND
SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH THEIR PARENTS.



SUNDAYS
NOVEMBER 9TH-DECEMBER 14TH
8:15-9:15AM
\$85 RESIDENT | \$95 NON-RESIDENT



SUNDAYS
NOVEMBER 9TH-DECEMBER 14TH
9:30-10:30AM
\$85 RESIDENT | \$95 NON-RESIDENT



SUNDAYS
DECEMBER 21ST-JANUARY 25TH
8:15-9:15AM
\$85 RESIDENT | \$95 NON-RESIDENT



WINTER RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL

REGISTRATION

OPENS 9/30 CLOSES 11/6

EVALUATIONS

GRADES 3 & UP GRADES 1 & 2
SATURDAY 11/8 SUNDAY 11/9

PRESEASON CLINICS

TUESDAY 11/25

COACHES CLINICS

GRADES 3 & UP GRADES 1 & 2
TUESDAY 11/18 THURSDAY 11/20



2025-26