

Fall 2022 Edition



ONWARD
OXFORD

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF OXFORD



MESSAGE FROM MANAGER

Jennifer M. Callahan, Town Manager

The Fall Season Is Officially Here!

I hope you and your family have had the opportunity to check out our recent community events, which include the Annual Scarecrows on the Common, Public Safety Day, and the Thank-A-Vet Craft Event. The Town of Oxford is proud to host events that empower the community and bring families and friends together. If you have not done so, I highly encourage you to visit the Town's website for upcoming events that might interest you.

Staff and I continue to work diligently to keep our community moving forward. I am pleased to share with you some exciting announcements and recent happenings:

Lower Electricity Rates: Last spring, I worked with our Energy Consultants from Good Energy to go out to the market early in advance of NGRID announcing its winter electric rates in the fall. On behalf of the Town, I locked in a new two-year (2022-2024) rate for both Basic and Green Energy supply hoping they would be more favorable than those anticipated from NGRID. The new supplier will be Direct Energy. NGRID recently announced their winter residential rates which will more than double per kilowatt to 33.8 cents! I am extremely pleased to inform Oxford residents our new aggregation supply rates are about 50% less for both Basic (15.5kWh) and 100% Green (18.4kWh) supply products. Program participants will be receiving a letter detailing the new rates and what their options are in terms of continuing. See inside this edition for more information!



Distinguished Budget Award: I am very excited to share our Financial Team was able to secure the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for our current fiscal year's Annual Budget! This is our second award from the GFOA and represents a significant achievement for our public boards and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting!

Website Updates: The Town Manager's Office recently received \$38,000 from the Commonwealth Compact Grant Program to update our website! This state funding is in addition to the appropriation approved at Town Meeting to make much needed website improvements.

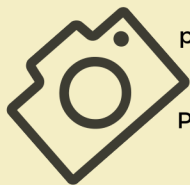
School Improvements: Some more great news to share is that the Massachusetts School Building Authority Board (MSBA) meeting voted favorably to authorize Oxford to enter the Accelerated Repair Program for the Clara Barton and Chaffee School roof projects. Oxford is one of only 16 communities in the state to enter the funding program this year. The vote by the MSBA represents another important milestone in collaboratively addressing major capital improvement projects for our school district.

Affordable Housing: Earlier this fall, the state announced the Town of Oxford will receive a technical assistance grant to develop a Housing Production Plan (HPP) to better understand local needs and identify community goals. The Plan will be prepared in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development guidelines. The final document will include a comprehensive housing needs assessment and detail housing production goals and strategies aimed at meeting community needs over the next five years.

Business Networking: Last month the Webster Dudley Oxford Chamber of Commerce held a local government event at Point Breeze in Webster for members. I was one of three guest speakers and presented on the status of Oxford's economic development, planning and business initiatives. The event was well attended, and I was able to make some new local business contacts looking to partner in more ways with our community!

As you can see there are so many great things going on in our community, and so much more covered in this edition!

2022 Annual Town Report Cover Photo Contest!

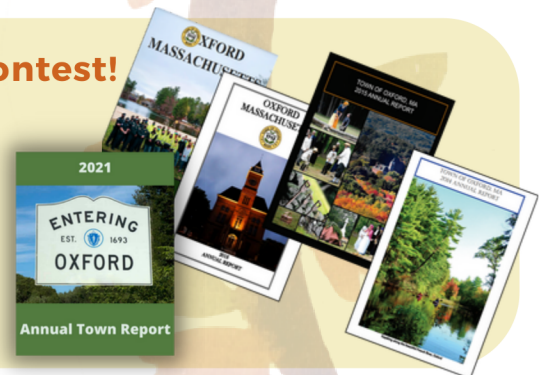


The Selectmen's Office invites residents to submit photo entries for the 2022 Annual Town Report Cover Page!

Email entries to: bos@oxfordma.us

Please include your name, address, and telephone number.
Photos must be in JPEG format.

Deadline: December 15, 2022



MORE THAN BOOKS!

Brittany McDougal Bialy, Library Director

There are always ongoing engaging activities for families with young children that are sponsored by the Oxford Library each month. This month, make sure to sign up your children for the **Make a Candy Corn Printed Teddy Bear** event. It will be held in the story time room on November 8th at 10:00 AM. Registration is required.

For adults we have the **Holiday Harvest** scheduled for November 16th at 6:00PM. Topics covered include how to construct a fun, colorful buffet, table-scaping techniques 101, healthful recipe handouts, easy wine and spirit batch recommendations. Get Board Certified with a Cheeseboard primer and learn easy entertaining ideas!



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WRAP-UP



On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, the Special Town Meeting was held at the Oxford Middle School. The thirteen articles discussed that evening ranged from general housekeeping to the acquisition of property. The meeting began with a welcome by Town Manager, Jennifer Callahan, who spoke about the Community Information Bags handed out to voters prior to the meeting as well as the new Electricity Aggregation Program rates. The Manager's Report was followed by Oxford Community Center Director, Shelly Lambert, who provided an overview of the Community Center Feasibility Study progress. A recent Community Forum was held seeking feedback from residents regarding some proposed renovation ideas of the current Community Center.

After the reports from the Town Offices and Committees, Article Two a proposed increase of the prices of cat and dog licenses, was considered with minimal discussion. Out of 25 area Towns, Oxford had been the lowest cost for dog and cat licenses. The cost of dog and cat licenses had not been increased since 1987. Following a successful vote in favor of increasing the fees, the new license fees were increased to \$10 for spayed and neutered dogs and cats and \$15 for those who are not spayed or neutered.

Town Meeting voters approved a number of financial items to enhance savings and fund various initiatives and programs such as Capital Stabilization (\$100,000), Energy Expenses (\$200,000), Unemployment Compensation (\$250,000), additional funding to the FY23 IT Budget (\$50,000), the costs for redesign and implementation of a new Town Website (\$50,000) and additional funding for PEG Cable Access (\$30,000).

The eighth article was an important goal of the Oxford Commission of Disability which allows the use of fines from handicap parking violations to be directly used for supporting local disability programs and outreach. Some of the items the fines may be used for include: handicap parking signage and monitoring, improved accessibility for parks and playgrounds, assistive technology such as listening devices and closed captioning, and programs to raise awareness.

The most discussed article of the evening was the acquisition of the property located at 82 Charlton Street. The parcel was blighted with a small building that had not been maintained for a number of years. However, the purchase of the property will assist the Town with meeting its objectives associated with its Open Space and Recreation Plan, expanding tourism efforts, and achieving economic development goals. The Town requested \$95,000 to purchase the 15.5 acre parcel that has immense potential for a number of uses. Many residents came forward to express their support regarding the acquisition of the property which ultimately passed with a overwhelming support.

The last two articles were zoning amendments. The first was to extend the Village Business Zoning District along Sutton Avenue by 50 feet to provide additional opportunities for creative reuses of vacant properties, while safeguarding the traditional character of the area. The final article sought to amend the zoning bylaw to allow single-family homeowners to make interior renovations for additional living spaces without needing to apply for a special permit for an in-law apartment. All thirteen articles passed with unanimous approval!



Russell C. Rheault
Town Moderator



Oxford Middle School Auditorium
Fall Town Meeting

BENEFITS AND TRAINING ARE KEY

Joanne Frederick, Human Resource Specialist



On January 11, 2022, the Board of Selectman voted to replace Fallon Health Plan with the Massachusetts Strategic Health Group as the new insurance provider for the Town employees and retirees. This was due to Fallon Health discontinuing its employer-sponsored health insurance plans effective July 2022. Over the summer, the Human Resource Department successfully migrated over 500 hundred employees and retirees to the new health insurance plan. Active employees were converted to Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, while retirees were transferred over to Aetna. One of the big features of the new insurance is that it provides nationwide access to healthcare. There are also additional benefits such as health coaching programs and behavioral health services.

Ongoing employee training is a particularly important mechanism for career advancement and growth in learning new job skills across all departments. Over the next several months, the Human Resource Department will be coordinating some vital upcoming training sessions for our employees. Investing in our employees improves safety, performance and compliance with important workplace standards. We believe such training is beneficial for all Town employees and helps our municipality retain a stable workforce. The greatest asset of local government is its people!

NEW FROM OXFORD CABLE ACCESS!

Kaylee Olson, Production Media Coordinator



Oxford Cable Access is thrilled to announce its new Video on Demand website! Now you can view content from OCA all in one place! In the coming months, we will phase out the Town of Oxford Youtube Channel and host our content exclusively on our website. In the meantime, we will continue to update the Youtube Channel until January 1st, 2023. All programming is organized into categories, like Youtube playlists, so you can access what you're looking for with ease. We will be launching tutorials on how to navigate the new website so be on the lookout for those as well.

In addition to being able to view our programming all in one place, you will now be able to follow along as you watch meetings with Chapters! Meeting recordings will now have a Chapter feature allowing you to skip to each item on the agenda. Simply select which agenda item you'd like to view, and the video will automatically skip to that portion of the meeting.

Oxford Cable Access is continuing to improve programming and provide new and exciting features for the community.

You can find the new website at www.oxfordma.us/cable-access.

A smartphone screen displaying the Oxford Cable Access app interface. The screen shows sections for "Live Streams" with "OCA Government Channel" and "OCA Education Channel", "Board of Selectmen Meetings" with video thumbnails, and "Community Forums". A green play button icon is overlaid on the bottom left of the phone.

DOWNLOAD THE APP!

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

OXFORD CABLE ACCESS - ON THE GO!

Now you can watch Oxford Cable Access on the Cablecast App!

Visit oxfordma.us/cable-access for full instructions on how to download.



OXFORD
CABLE  ACCESS



A NEW FACE AT OPD

Anthony Saad, Chief of Police

We are excited to welcome Lysa Dell'Aquila (right) to the police department and her position of 'Senior Clerk'. Lysa is an Oxford resident who comes to us with fifteen (15) years of experience in the public school system, and eleven (11) years in the healthcare field. You may recognize Lysa from her time here in Oxford at the Clara Barton Elementary School where she was the 'Administrative Assistant to the Principal' from 2010 through 2019. Prior to joining us at the Police Department, she was the 'Secretary to the Principal' at the Central Tree Middle School in Rutland. Lysa will be directly assisting our long time 'Executive Assistant' Deb Light (left) in completing many of the administrative demands and tasks that are required to support our staff.

Deb has worked for the town for 36 years! She spent sixteen (16) years in the School Superintendent's office on Sigourney Street (no longer there) as a clerk and then administrative assistant. From there, she joined the police department in 2002 as an Administrative Assistant to then Chief Charles Noyes. She has since worked with three (3) additional Chiefs in her twenty (20) years here (Boss-Hassett-Saad). You may see Deb and Lysa when you come into the station to request copies of police reports or filing an application for a firearms license. Both Deb and Lysa are vital components in maintaining the overall proficiency of the department. We are fortunate to have them as members of our team!

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

Our Police Association recently visited our seniors with the 'Suzy Q' Ice Cream truck and handed out FREE ice cream to Wheelock St. and Liberty Lane Housing residents!



**OFFICERS
PICARD,
FAIRBANKS,
BRYN, CONLON,
SHADIS &
LOSEE WERE
ON HAND WITH
SUZY Q OWNER
BILLY PUTIS**



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FALL UPDATE

Jared M. Duval, P.E., Director of Public Works

The Oxford Department of Public Works is thrilled to announce we have yet again been successful in obtaining a sizeable grant to improve our aging infrastructure and enhance mobility throughout Town!

In July of this year, we learned the Town's Tier 3 project application under MassDOT's Complete Streets Program was approved in the amount of \$224,000. Oxford was one of sixteen communities across the Commonwealth to receive an award as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 round 1 of grants. The award comes after an extensive Town-wide planning effort to update our Complete Streets Tier 3 Prioritization Plan, also funded via a State grant (\$37,471.27), which was approved by MassDOT in April this year.

According to MassDOT a "Complete Street is one that provides safe and accessible options for all travel modes - walking, biking, transit, and vehicles - for people of all ages and abilities." The Complete Streets funding program provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible communities for projects identified within their Prioritization Plan. Projects must aim to improve safety on Oxford's streets and encourage multi-modal transportation. Among the top of our departmental priorities is making Oxford's downtown area more walkable as evidenced by the highest ranked projects on our Prioritization Plan.

The \$224,000 grant award includes \$180,000 to add sidewalks on Fremont Street and Sigourney Street, and \$44,000 to furnish and install solar powered speed feedback signs on Main Street and Sutton Avenue at locations to be determined in collaboration with the Police Department.



Fremont Street rendering with sidewalk

The sidewalk project will provide critical connectivity to government buildings and services, the Main Street corridor, and provide safe pedestrian facilities to encourage and support mobility in the heart of Town. The project scope on Fremont Street will also include revamping the stormwater drainage system and the much-needed reconstruction of the roadway. Design on the project has commenced as of the date of publication of this newsletter and will continue throughout the winter so the DPW may be poised to start construction in the Spring of 2023. The DPW looks forward to the delivery of this project and many more in support of a more connected and vibrant downtown center.



OXFORD WELCOMES A NEW ASSESSOR TO TOWNHALL

Alexander Sendzik, Principal Assessor

Greetings! My name is Alex Sendzik and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Town Assessor. I have spent the last five years as the Assistant Assessor in Westborough, MA. Before working in Westborough, I had worked three years in the Grafton Assessor's Office. Over this past fall, you may have seen me out in the field conducting inspections and familiarizing myself with properties across the Town. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourself to me and ask me any questions about what the roles and responsibilities of the Assessor's Office. One of the things I enjoy most about working for Oxford, is the opportunity to meet and talk with residents and businesses.

What kind of inspections am I doing and why?

There are mainly three reasons why the Assessor's Office goes out in the field:

- **Building Permits.** Building permits are a big factor in gaining new growth for any Town. Some examples of common permits that add value are additions, finishing basements and adding decks/porches.
- **Sales Inspections.** Sales are very important in calculating Real Property Values. Before analyzing the sale prices, the Assessor's Office should inspect the sold property and make sure the data is correct. Without accurate data, it would be hard to know why a property sold for what it did.
- **Cyclical Inspections.** The Department of Revenue and Massachusetts General Laws require the Board of Assessors to maintain an inspection program of the properties within the community. The programs consists of an inspection of all properties in Town every 10 years.

All inspections help keep our data accurate which helps us reach our values, while being fair and equitable. And remember, if you think your data is incorrect, please give us a call at the Assessor's Office and we will gladly review it!



EDUCATION IS VITAL TO FIRE SAFETY !

Laurent McDonald, Chief of Fire & EMS



Superintendent of Schools Michael Lucas and Fire Chief Laurent McDonald are pleased to announce the launch of the Oxford High School Fire Science program that began this August. Now the path to a career in public safety can be started in high school! Students in the fire science and first responder program will be exposed to a wide variety of rescue modalities while preparing for entry level job placement. Today, firefighters respond to a vast assortment of emergency situations involving technical expertise in many fields; the old job of a firefighter only battling fires is long gone. In fact, whenever an emergency occurs in a community, the fire department will be the agency called upon to mitigate the situation. Upon completion of the course, students will be trained in all facets of basic firefighting to the firefighter I level, and will receive CPR and first responder certificates.

Instruction is in both classroom and hands-on situations including fire department training facilities and emergency medical venues. Students learn a variety of topics such as fire science, chemistry of combustion, fire prevention equipment and systems, strategy and tactics, incident management, public education, hose and fire streams, self-contained breathing apparatus, emergency and non-emergency communications, personal protective equipment, and firefighter safety. Thirteen students are currently enrolled and doing a great job.

If you're an OHS student and like community service, team work, and self-discipline, we'd be happy to have you in the program!



Oxford's Inaugural Fire Science Class



Chaffee School Fire Prevention Week

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IS EVERYONE'S PRIORITY

Rike Sterrett, Director of Public Health Services

One of the many roles of the Board of Health involves planning and preparing for public health emergencies. This also includes raising awareness about the importance of preparing you and your family for disasters and emergencies. Here are a few things you can do this season to prepare.

1. Make a Plan

Put together a plan with your family by considering how you will receive emergency alerts and warnings, how you will shelter, what your evacuation route is, what the communication plan will be between family/household members, and if your emergency preparedness kit needs to be updated. When building this plan, consider any specific needs of your household such as dietary needs, medical needs, disabilities, or pets. Then fill out a family emergency plan (a template can be found here: <https://www.ready.gov/plan>) and lastly practice the plan.

2. Build a Kit

After an emergency you may need to survive on your own for a few days. Therefore, it is important to have a supply of food, water, and other supplies that can last for several days. Here you can find a list of basic disaster supplies and emergency supplies you may need for any unique needs your family may have: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>. Make sure you maintain your kit and store kits at home, work, and in your car.

3. Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness

Learn about what disasters or hazards could affect you and your area, learn how to get emergency alerts, and where you would go if you had to evacuate. Find free preparedness materials here: <https://www.ready.gov/be-informed>.

4. Teach Youth About Preparedness

All family members can prepare for emergencies, including kids and teens. Ready.gov, a website of the US Department of Homeland Security, has tools and information to help before, during and after disasters for kids and youth: <https://www.ready.gov/kids>. Preparedness is important for everyone!

As Benjamin Franklin said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." Therefore, let's follow Stephen King's advice and "[hope] for the best as long as you're prepared for the worst." Take some time in September to make a plan, build a kit, and review [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to be prepared for any emergency that may come your way.

Preparing for a
DISASTER
is as easy as
PREPARING
for game day



Ready®

If you're interested in being a volunteer to assist in public health emergencies visit our website to learn more: www.oxfordma.us/board-health/bulletins/become-volunteer.

You can also follow the Board of Health on Facebook for any updates and for good public health practices: www.facebook.com/OxfordBOH.

MOVIES ON MAIN



THE OCC IS BUSY BUILDING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY !

Shelley Lambert, Director of Oxford Community Center

The Oxford Community Center hosted seven very successful movie nights on the Town Common this summer. OCC Staff would like to express our appreciation for all who supported us by coming out to watch the free films, make crafts with us, enjoy popcorn and candy, get temporary tattoos and have their faces painted! On behalf of everyone who attended, we thank the Smolenski Millette Charitable Trust for their generous sponsorship of six movie nights. We also thank Bank Hometown for sponsoring one movie night, B.A.S.S. DJ Entertainment for providing movie projection and sound, the Oxford Cultural Council for sponsoring ADA compliant assistive hearing devices and Henry the Juggler performance, and Christine Z for her incredible face painting and temporary tattoo skills. We also appreciate the food trucks who visited to help feed hungry moviegoers! We look forward to doing this again next summer! Please feel free to send family-friendly movie suggestions to us at slambert@oxfordma.us

It was music to our ears, literally! This summer we enjoyed 13 concerts on the Bandstand. Eleven were hosted by the Community Center with funding from the Oxford Cultural Council. The Oxford Women's Club and the Council On Aging hosted one each. Although we had some hot days, the Common's shade trees with gentle breezes made for a delightful series of concerts. Oldies, acoustics, rock, bluegrass – we heard it all!

FIRST TOWN-WIDE ANNUAL YARD SALE A BIG SUCCESS!



On Saturday, Sept 10th, the Community Center and Manager's Office sponsored its first Annual Town-wide Yard Sale which was a terrific success. Over 84 residents signed up to participate! The Community Center created a street directory of all the yard sales occurring on that beautiful sunny day. Hundreds of directories were handed out to would-be buyers who stopped by Joslin Park to pick them up for their treasure hunt travels! We are already planning next year to be bigger and better!

OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

A Community Forum was held on September 28th in the Oxford Community Center gymnasium to review progress regarding the Community Center Feasibility Study. The information session was well attended and educational for residents. For those unfamiliar with the project, funding was authorized at the May 2019 Town Meeting to investigate the feasibility of renovating the Oxford Community Center. Since then, the Town has contracted with BerryDunn Consulting to analyze the building conditions, current and future needs, and collect community input.

Oxford employees and representatives from BerryDunn Consulting presented on the Oxford Community Center Feasibility Study progress to date and provided the public an opportunity to see some conceptual illustrations of building renovations and enhancements.

The facility concepts were based upon the current building conditions, programming, and spatial needs, coupled with future desired intergenerational programming. After the presentation, community input was gathered at informational stations regarding the facility concepts:

What do residents like about the Oxford Community Center renovation plans?

What was missed in the concept building layouts?

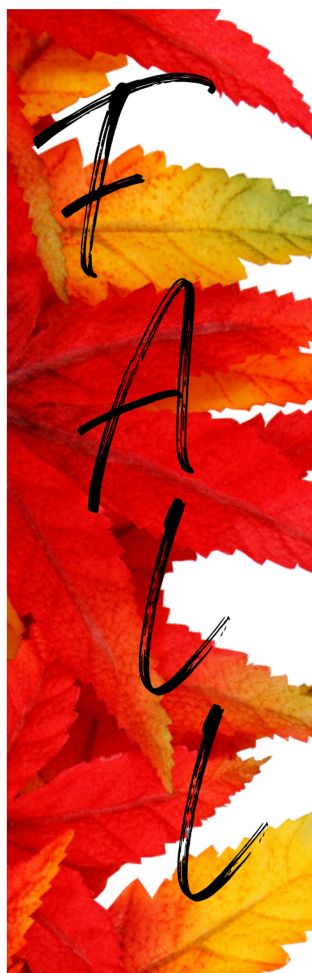
What new programs would residents like to see offered at an intergenerational center?

If you missed the Oxford Community Center feasibility forum, the video is available on the Oxford Cable Access website. The Town of Oxford is still looking for feedback on the Community Center feasibility study. Please email any input, suggestions, or feedback to OCCFeasibilityStudy@oxfordma.us

All input from residents will be included in the feasibility study final report.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



START SMART BASKETBALL



THIS SIX-WEEK SESSION IS DESIGNED FOR 3-6 YEAR OLDS AND THEIR PARENT/CAREGIVER. CHILDREN WILL LEARN DRIBBLING, PASSING, AND SHOOTING SKILLS BEFORE PLAYING ORGANIZED BASKETBALL.

OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER
6-week Session Begins November 6th
10:15 am - 11:15 am
\$85 per Oxford Resident
\$95 per Non-Resident
Register at:
oxfordma.myrec.com

FRIENDSGIVING

Inspired by Peanuts® "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving"; kids will dine on popcorn, pretzels, and candy. Kids can will flag football in the gym and make a Thanksgiving craft prior to snacking.
Ages 6-12.

TWO DATES AVAILABLE

November 18th 6 pm - 8 pm

November 23rd 1 pm - 3 pm

\$15.00 per participant



REGISTER AT: OXFORDMA.MYREC.COM

Recreational Winter Basketball

The 2022/2023 season of our Recreational Winter Basketball Program will begin December 3rd, 2022. This program is open to boys and girls in grades 1 through 12. 1st and 2nd graders will play on Sundays and have a practice immediately prior to their game. Grades 3-8 will have a practice on either Monday or Tuesday each week. Grades 9-12 will have a "games only" program. All games for grades 3 and up will be played on Saturdays and will be officiated by professional referees.*

\$120 resident/\$140 non-resident grades 3 - 12
\$100 resident/\$120 non-resident grades 1 & 2

Sibling discounts available
Volunteer discounts available

Register at: oxfordma.myrec.com
REGISTRATION CLOSING 11/5/22



Referees have been scheduled, however inclement weather or other unforeseen events may affect that schedule



This six-week session is designed for children ages 3-6 and their parent/caregiver. Children will learn dribbling, passing, shooting and positioning to be ready to play organized soccer.

START SMART SOCCER

Begins Sunday November 6th
9 am - 10 am

\$85 per Oxford Resident
\$95 for Non-Resident

WWW.OXFORDMA.MYREC.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

NOVEMBER 15 - CHRISTOPHER HEIGHTS ASSISTED LIVING @ 12:30 PM

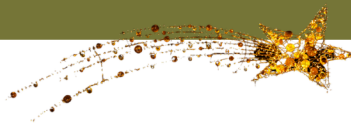
NOVEMBER 16 - MEN'S COFFEE GROUP @ 10:00 AM

NOVEMBER 23 - FREE PIZZA & MOVIE "WILD OATS" @ 12:45 PM

NOVEMBER 30 - CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH HEATHER RAE @ 12:30 PM

DECEMBER 2 - SENIOR BOOK CLUB @ 12:45 PM

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!



Mary F. Herriage
Planning Assistant
Department of Land Management

Congratulations Mary Herriage on being named the 2022 Employee of the Year!

Mary was nominated by her colleagues in the Department of Land Management for her exemplary performance and for being a solid team player. Building Commissioner Dahlgren said it best, "Mary is the foundation of our department. I am extremely lucky to nominate Ms. Herriage for her professionalism, integrity, and steadfast commitment to public service."

Mary has worked in the Department of Land Management for nearly fifteen years, managing all of the administrative functions of the office and boards including the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

Town employees are selected for the award by Manager Callahan based on nominations from department heads and staff.

Keep up the great work Mary! You are a definite star among us!



OXFORD REPRESENTED IN PAN-MASS CHALLENGE

The Pan-Mass Challenge is a Massachusetts-based bike-a-thon that raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. Always held the first weekend in August, the PMC raises funds for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a world leader in adult and pediatric cancer treatment and research.

Each summer, thousands of riders and volunteers from 43 states and 12 countries participate in the PMC, all with a common goal: to find a cure for cancer.



Deputy Chief Sellers at the PMC finish line

This year, Oxford Fire Department's, Deputy Chief Ken Sellers joined with Team Grodsky and was able to raise \$9,500.00 towards cancer research! Way to go Kenny!



100 percent of all rider-raised funds go directly to cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. The PMC is Dana-Farber's single largest supporter and is 55 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. Since 1980, the PMC has raised \$831 million for Dana-Farber.



**Change your clocks.
Check your batteries.**

November 6th



PROPERTY AUCTIONS - GOING ONCE, TWICE, SOLD!

Jillian Patch, Treasurer/Collector

Our October Auction was the 3rd auction we have held for tax foreclosure properties in the last year and a half. The auction included two properties, both of which had been abandoned for years. The auction resulted in \$250,000.00 of funds being returned to the town for lost tax revenue as well as returning these properties back to the tax rolls for FY2023 and future years.

The first property at 445 Main Street was obtained through land court judgment on June 22, 2022. This property is listed as a 2-family home, and we started the bidding at \$50,000.00. With over 5 people bidding for the property, the final bid was awarded in the amount of \$175,000.00. The second property at 117 Main Street, was also obtained through land court judgement on August 22, 2022. This property is zoned commercial and was previously a gas station. We started the bidding at \$75,000.00 for this property and it was awarded to the only bidder for the starting amount.

In total for the last three auctions held by the town since May 2021, we have received **\$1,125,000.00** for property that had previously been delinquent on taxes which led to a tax title foreclosure. We are looking forward to seeing what the new owners can achieve with these properties as well as seeing the properties back on the active tax rolls.



2022 OXFORD VETERAN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

When: Wednesday, November 9, 2022

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 to Dave Adams, Oxford
Veterans Service Officer @ dadams@oxfordma.us or
508-987-6034 ext. 1105



SENIOR CENTER IS HERE TO HELP!!

Laura Wilson, Director



Need help paying for your heating bills this winter??? Have you applied for WCAC Fuel Assistance??? Whether you're a previous Fuel Assistance recipient or want to sign up, we can help you. Recertification applications were mailed out the end of August. If you would like assistance applying as a FIRST TIME/NEW APPLICANT, please feel free to call the Senior Center at 508-987-6000 to make an appointment. First time/new applications are being accepted as of November 1st. Below are the eligibility guidelines:

FY23 LIHEAP Income Eligibility

Number in Household	Annual Income	Income Past 4 Weeks
1	\$ 42,411	\$ 3,262
2	\$ 55,461	\$ 4,266
3	\$ 68,511	\$ 5,270
4	\$ 81,561	\$ 6,273
5	\$ 94,610	\$ 7,277



FALL ELECTION SEASON IS IN FULL SWING

Michelle Jenkins, Town Clerk

On June 22, 2022, an election reform law titled "The VOTES Act" was signed into law. This new law changes some existing laws and makes permanent many of the voting procedures used in 2020. The new law also makes the absentee voting process and early voting by mail processes consistent and permanent.

Early voting for state and presidential primaries will begin on the 10th day before a primary and end on the 4th day before a primary. In-Person early voting for biennial state elections must be held from the 17th day through the 4th day before an election. The remaining dates for In-Person Early Voting for the November 8th State Election is as follows:

Tuesday, November 1, 2022	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday, November 2, 2022	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Thursday, November 3, 2022	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday, November 4, 2022	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

We would be greatly remiss if we did not give a huge shout out to Senior Center Director, Laura Wilson, who has graciously offered the use of the Senior Center for all In-Person Early Voting. The facility is much more convenient for

not only the voters in the Town, but also for the Election Workers. Without the dedication and positivity of our Elections Workers, we could not run smooth and accurate elections. The commitment they display for the Voters of Oxford is remarkable. Each do not only show up just on election day, but they attend training sessions throughout the year, assist with early voting and other vital tasks, which are necessary in order to carry out a smooth and successful election.

Another major change with new law is early voting by mail must be available for all state elections, state primaries, and presidential primaries. With the volume of ballots being returned, we felt it was extremely important to reassure the Voters of Oxford their ballots would be 100% safe, so we installed a ballot drop box, which is not only completely secure, but is monitored 24/7.



Save the Dates
Winter Festival
Tree Lighting

Saturday, January 21st
All Day Events
Across Town Parks

Sunday, December 4th
4:00 to 6:00PM
Joslin Park



OXFORD COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION

The Town has renewed its Oxford Community Electricity Aggregation (Oxford CEA) contract for two years, offering significant winter energy price relief for enrolled participants.

If you participate in Oxford Standard, no action is necessary to receive the new rates (most residents and businesses participate in Oxford Standard).

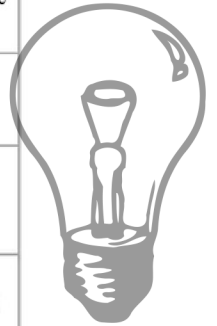
If you participate in Oxford 100% Local Green, you must affirmatively re-enroll or you will be returned to National Grid Basic Service in December 2022. You will receive instructions on how to re-enroll in the mail in early November.

Oxford Community Electricity Aggregation program's new prices will be fixed for two years, from December 2022 through December 2024. Oxford CEA's new electricity supplier will be **Direct Energy**.

New Oxford CEA Prices



	Oxford Standard (Town default)	Oxford 100% Green	National Grid Basic Service Residential
Price	15.540 ¢/kWh	18.358 ¢/kWh	33.891 ¢/kWh
Voluntary Renewable Energy Content	None	Adds voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs) to total 100% MA Class I	None
Duration	December 2022 to December 2024	December 2022 to December 2024	November 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023



The Oxford CEA Program cannot guarantee savings compared to utility Basic Service for the duration of the Program pricing because future Basic Service rates are unknown. The products labeled "Green" contain additional Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) above that required by MA law. "Local" means that the additional RECs qualify for MA Class I designation from generation located within, or delivered to, New England.

How to Tell if You are Already Participating

Oxford electricity customers can confirm that they are enrolled in Oxford Community Electricity Aggregation by looking at the Supply Services Section of a recent electric bill. If it says "Supplier: NextEra Energy Svcs MA-Oxford Agg", then that account is enrolled. If it says something else such as Basic Service Fixed or other names, then that account is not enrolled. Starting with the electricity bill participants receive for December 2022, the Supplier name will change to Oxford CEA's new supplier "Direct Energy - OxfordCEA".

How to Join if You are Not Yet Participating

Residents and businesses can enroll in Oxford CEA or switch rate options at any time. To make a switch use the online form at:

<https://oxford-cea.com/> or by calling the **Oxford CEA Program** at **(888) 683-3518**

Rates from December 2022 onward are shown above. It can take one or two billing cycles for the supplier change to appear on the utility bill.

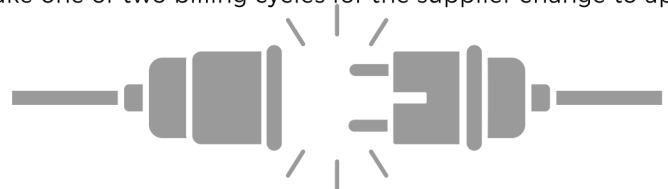
Questions?

Please contact the Program at (888) 683-3518.

Please be Aware

No one affiliated with the Oxford CEA program will call you or visit your home. Anyone doing so and claiming to be affiliated with the Oxford CEA program is inaccurate. The Town wants to reiterate that we partner with the following entities only, in regards to our Oxford CEA program. Any other company claiming to have a partnership or agreement with the Town is false and should be reported to Oxford Town Hall.

- Good Energy, for consultant and outreach efforts
- NextEra Energy Services, our current electrical supplier through November 30, 2022
- Direct Energy, our upcoming electrical supplier starting December 1, 2022



TAKE THE SURVEY!



The region's transportation plan acts as a blueprint that helps guide the prioritization and funding for transportation improvements in the region. The plan includes the following:

- ✓ Socio-economic Projections
- ✓ Transportation Improvements
- ✓ Major Infrastructure Projects
- ✓ Transit & Mobility
- ✓ Livability & Healthy Aging
- ✓ Climate Change & Resiliency

Public involvement, data and performance measures are at the core of the region's plan.

Sign up and stay updated! Join our email list about local opportunities to participate!



Follow us:



<http://www.cmrpc.org/2050connections>

