



Fall 2024 Edition

# ONWARD OXFORD

THE PRIMARY SOURCE FOR EVERYTHING OXFORD



## MESSAGE FROM MANAGER

**Jennifer M. Callahan, Town Manager**



Welcome to the Fall 2024 edition of the Onward Oxford Newsletter. This edition is filled with the latest projects, events, highlights and everything Oxford! We hope you get to attend our Fall events, enjoy the foliage, and find this edition informative. Please check out our **Grants Year-in-Review** section to see our impressive \$1.8M success in securing grant funding this past year!

The **Presidential Election** is right around the corner! We have included a full page of information and resources in this edition so we can ensure a smooth election for residents. Polls will be open on November 5th from 7AM - 8PM. In addition to traditional voting, we also provide in-person early voting, voting by mail, and more! Just make sure you are registered!

Also in this edition, we unveil Oxford's first **Housing Production Plan**! The goal of developing a Housing Production Plan is to provide a guiding document when implementing affordable housing in accordance with Chapter 40B regulations. This document represents the culmination of hundreds of hours of demographic and housing research, community outreach, zoning, regulatory review and finally, an implementation plan. The draft copy is now available on our website for the public to read and comment!

I am extremely pleased to announce the Town of Oxford received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for the fourth year in a row for its' Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Document. This prestigious award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada is a testament to Oxford's governmental transparency with respect to budget, communications, planning, and policies! I would like to extend a special THANK YOU to the Town's entire financial team for their hard work and making sure we continue to raise the bar year after year!

I encourage all residents to attend the upcoming **Special Town Meeting** on October 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Oxford High School auditorium. As always, Onward Oxford!



# ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5TH!

**Michelle Jenkins, Town Clerk**

The Presidential/State Election is Tuesday, November 5th and polls will be open from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM! Did you know there are multiple ways to cast your vote in this election?

**Register to Vote:** The deadline to register to vote for the Presidential/State Election is Saturday, October 26th. The Town Clerk's Office will be open from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM for any residents that need to register in-person.

**Vote In-Person:** The Town of Oxford will have two weeks of In-Person Early Voting before election day! In-Person Early Voting starts on Saturday, October 19th from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Oxford Senior Center. No special appointment or applications are necessary. As a registered voter, you may just show up and vote! Please see the complete schedule for early voting dates and hours.

**Vote by Mail:** Every registered voter will automatically be sent a Vote by Mail application through the mail. You can use this application to request a ballot for the next statewide election, or for all elections this year. Simply mark your selections, sign the application, and drop it in the mail. The Vote by Mail application deadline for the Presidential/State Election is Tuesday, October 29th. The ballot return deadlines are as follows:

- If returned in person or by drop box: 8:00 PM on November 5, 2024
- If returned by domestic mail: by 5:00 PM on November 8, 2024 (must be postmarked by Election Day)
- If returned by mail from outside the United States: 5:00 PM on November 15, 2024 (must be postmarked by Election Day)

**Please note that Mail in Ballots CANNOT be dropped off at polling places on Election Day.**



## EARLY VOTING

**Presidential/State Election**

### Location:

Oxford Senior Center, 323 Main Street, Oxford, MA



### Dates & Times:

**Week 1**

Saturday, October 19, 2024	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Sunday, October 20, 2024	Closed
Monday, October 21, 2024	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday, October 22, 2024	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday, October 23, 2024	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Thursday, October 24, 2024	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday, October 25, 2024	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

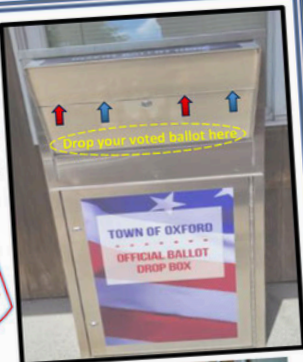
**Week 2**

Saturday, October 26, 2024	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Sunday, October 27, 2024	Closed
Monday, October 28, 2024	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday, October 29, 2024	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday, October 30, 2024	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Thursday, October 31, 2024	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday, November 1, 2024	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**Voting By Mail**

Drop your completed Election Ballot in the

**24/7 Secure Ballot Drop Box**



**VOTE**  
By Mail

The Ballot Drop Box is located at the rear of the Oxford Memorial Hall, at the top of the handicap ramp, located at 325 Main Street Oxford, MA 01540

## Online Voter Resources

### Register to vote:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

### Check your voter registration status:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

### Download a Vote by Mail application:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/download/vote-by-mail-applications/vote-by-mail-paper-application-2023.pdf>

### Submit a Vote by Mail application:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx>



# FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT

## Laurent McDonald, Chief Fire/EMS

The Town of Oxford was recently awarded a \$284,620.00 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This grant will enable the department to upgrade its aging cardiac monitor/defibrillators. A device used by fire and EMS professionals to detect and display dangerous heart rhythms in patients and if necessary, can deliver a shock to restore a normal rhythm.

Cardiac monitor-defibrillators are essential tools for emergency medical services (EMS) and fire departments because they can perform a variety of functions, such as monitoring a patient's heart rate, blood pressure, and blood oxygen levels. They can also perform advanced 12-lead electrocardiograms (ECGs) and transmit them to hospital. The units can also send an electric shock to a patient's heart if they detect a cardiac arrest or dangerous arrhythmia. Cardiac monitor-defibrillators are used to treat nearly every patient encountered by EMS and fire department paramedics.

Receiving this grant comes at a pivotal time for our department. Our existing cardiac monitors are the oldest in the state, outdated, and no longer supported for maintenance. The grant allows us to replace our outdated equipment at no cost to Oxford residents and also allows us to use existing funds toward other critical needs within the Town.

The grant funds will cover the acquisition of 4 cardiac monitor defibrillators and two additional Lukas tools (automatic CPR devices), bringing the department total to four - one for each ambulance! The department will contribute a required 5% match of \$14,231.00, bringing the total project investment to \$298,851.00. This fiscal year is proving to be an exciting time for the department. In addition to upgrading the cardiac monitors, the Oxford Fire & Emergency Services is preparing to acquire a new forestry truck and a new Ambulance in the Fall of 2025.

The Oxford Fire & Emergency Services provides fire, EMS, and emergency operations to nearly 14,000 people while covering 26 square miles in Worcester County. It is a combination career and paid-on-call department relying on the dedication of its members who serve for the good of the organization and community.



## FY24 GRANTS YEAR-IN-REVIEW

### Culture and Recreation Grants:

Healthy Youth Summer Jobs Grant Funding for OCC Summer Programming **\$14,770**  
Janet Malser Grant Funding for Joslin Park Events & OCC Theatre and Arts **\$20,000**  
Mass Cultural Council Grant Funding for Joslin Park Events & Performing Arts **\$23,350**  
United Way Grant Funding for Carbuncle Summer Programming **\$15,000**  
Taft Charitable Trust Grant Funding for OCC Community Events & Operations **\$20,000**

### Operational and Technical Grants:

CCC Best Practices Grant Funding for a Wage & Classification Plan Study **\$50,000**  
CCC Best Practices Grant Funding for Assessment of Operations **\$50,000**  
MIIA Risk Management Grant Funding for OHS Univent Inspections **\$9,969**  
Community Compact IT Grant Funding for Town Hall Document Digitization **\$142,500**

### Services and Infrastructure Grants:

Taft Charitable Trust Grant Funding for Senior Meals **\$20,000**  
Health and Inclusion Grant Funding for Equity in Physical & Social Activities **\$24,000**  
National Environmental Health Grant Funding for Food Borne Illness Training **\$26,500**  
MassTrails Grant Funding for the French River Regional Shared Use Path **\$500,000**  
CCC Municipal Fiber Grant Funding for Ruel Field Fiber Connection **\$20,000**  
Legislative Budget Earmark for Town Hall ADA Ramp Improvements **\$50,000**  
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Funding for Property Improvements **\$206,100**  
Green Communities Grant Funding for OMS and OHS Weatherization & Library HVAC **\$200,000**

### Public Safety Grants:

MassDEP Grant Funding for (2) Thermal Imaging Cameras **\$6,500**  
Department of Fire Services Grant Funding for Hoses, Nozzles, & Valves **\$12,192**  
Home Depot Foundation Grant Funding for Police Station Landscaping **\$1,487**  
Exec. Office of Public Safety & Security Grant Funding for (10) Portable Radios **\$30,102**  
Exec. Office of Public Safety & Security Grant Funding for a Defibrillator (AED) **\$2,500**  
Exec. Office of Public Safety & Security Grant Funding for Body Worn Cameras **\$61,854**  
Exec. Office of Public Safety & Security Grant Funding for 911 Training **\$29,719**  
Exec. Office of Public Safety & Security Grant Funding for Road & Traffic Safety **\$22,556**  
FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Funding for Cardiac Monitors/Defibrillators **\$284,620**

**OVER \$1.8 MILLION  
GRANT FUNDING  
RECEIVED SINCE  
JULY 2023!!!**





# LIFE SAVING MERIT AWARD

**Kaitlin Morin, Executive Assistant, Board of Selectmen**

On Thursday, July 11, 2024, Oxford Little League played against the Algonquin All-Stars. This game was unique as early-on, a wild pitch struck the umpire in the neck. It was recommended that the umpire seek medical care, but he continued officiating the ball game. Dr. Jennifer LaFemina was in the stands, cheering on her son, who plays for the Algonquin All-Stars. Dr. LaFemina continued to monitor the umpire throughout the game and noticed something was wrong. Around the fifth inning, while the staff were planning for medical treatment, the umpire collapsed!

Dr. LaFemina, with the help of Medical Assistant Emily Lufty, began CPR on the umpire. Within moments, Dr. LaFemina revived the umpire, and he was transported to UMass Memorial Hospital.



Dr. Jennifer LaFemina, and her assistant, Emily Lufty, were presented with Life Saving Merit Awards at the July 16, 2024 Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Thanks to their quick thinking and response, a tragic situation was avoided. The Little League umpire of over 10 years would likely not have survived that day had Dr. LaFemina and Ms. Lufty not rendered assistance. Oxford is grateful for their efforts and congratulates them on a much deserved "Life Saving Merit Award"!



## OXFORD FARMERS' MARKET



Oxford Farmers' Market has had a successful season! Some of the items available include: Produce, Fresh Cut Flowers, Meats, Maple Syrup, Honey, Baked Goods, Farm Raised Mushrooms, Jams & Jellies as well as Natural Soaps and Lotions. At each event, there is a local woodworking artist, dancers from Aspire Dance Studio, musicians and food and beverage trucks. On October 18th 2:30 - 5:00 will be Harvest/Halloween Celebration. Bring your children dressed in their costumes to Trick or Treat at each Vendor Table. Always more surprises in store! Please Join Us!!!



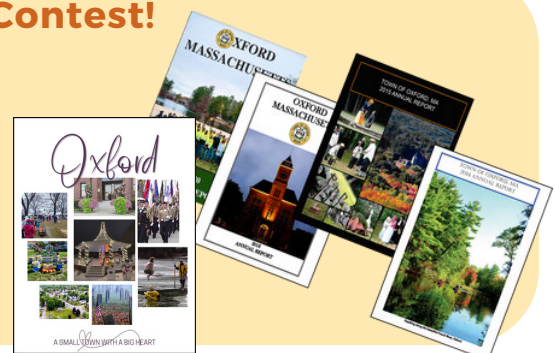
## 2024 Annual Town Report Cover Photo Contest!

The Selectmen's Office invites residents to submit photo entries for the 2024 Annual Town Report Cover Page!

Email entries to: [bos@oxfordma.us](mailto:bos@oxfordma.us)

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

**Deadline: December 13, 2024**





# 2024 PAVING PROJECTS UPDATE

**Peter Gerhard, Assistant Director of Public Works**

The 2024 paving season has almost wrapped up, and a total of ten roadways have had improvements completed this year. Public Works staff has overseen five different roadway treatments, two which have not been completed in Town previously, into paving operations this year. These treatments included crack sealing (2.7 miles), full depth reclamation (0.62 mile), and overlaying (3 mile), as well as the two treatments new to the Town, a bonded wearing course (1.3 mile) and cold-in-place recycling (1 mile). The two new treatments provided a cost effective and efficient way to rehabilitate existing roadways.

A Bonded Wearing Course (BWC), installed on Charlton Street from 400' west of Dudley Road to the Charlton Town line, is a thin layer of asphalt which provides a smooth driving surface without the cost of a traditional overlay. The bonded wearing course has a longer life than a rubber chipseal as it is comprised of typical hot mix asphalt, but the asphalt mix is designed so that it can be applied much thinner than typical hot mix asphalt. Given that the profile of Charlton Street was in good shape, this was a cost-effective way to extend the life of the roadway at roughly half the cost of a traditional overlay. The new roadway surface on Charlton Street will also provide vehicle operators with increased traction over the existing roadway surface, for improved safety and reliability.

On Millbury Road from Depot Road to the Auburn Town line, Cold-In-Place Recycling (CIR) was used to reconstruct the roadway as the condition of the road was so poor. Cold-in-place recycling pulverizes the existing roadway, mixes the recycled driving surface with fresh asphalt and rejuvenators, and is fed into a paver to leave behind a fresh and uniform driving surface. As Millbury Road has dense tree cover, cold-in-place recycling was also advantageous so that the tree canopy would not be scorched, typical of asphalt recycling projects due to the heat created by conventional recycling methods. Also, by pulverizing, recycling, and paving all in one step, the Town saved roughly 30% as compared to a typical reconstruction project. On roadways that have conditions conducive to this treatment, cold-in-place recycling provides both an environmentally sustainable and cost-effective solution for roadway reconstruction.

## THE WORD ON THE STREETS...

This year the DPW was able to perform rehabilitation work on over 6.6 miles of roadways in Town, including approximately 4 miles of new roadway surfacing. By utilizing BWC & CIR for future projects, we will be spending roadway monies more efficiently and continue to rehabilitate more of the Town's roadways. The DPW thanks the residents of Oxford for their continued support and patience during the construction season.





# PUBLIC WORKS HELPS KEEP IT CLEAN!

**Kevin Duffy, Director of Public Works**

The Oxford Department of Public Works is excited to again sponsor the Fall 2024 Bulk Item Drop-Off! This event offers an excellent opportunity for Oxford Residents to properly dispose of items that may otherwise be taking up valuable storage at home.

The biannual **Bulk Item Drop Off** will be held from 8am to 3pm on Saturday October 26 for Oxford North residents and November 2nd for Oxford South residents. The bulk day is located at Casella Transfer Station at 200 Leicester Street. If North or South residents need to switch event dates, they may call the Department of Public Works at (508) 987-6006 before October 24th. On the day of the event, please bring your proof of residency. Mattresses and textiles are NOT accepted for disposal and there is a limit of two televisions per household - see additional allowable and non-acceptable items here. This event is always a well-attended event and typically the queue to participate can be significant.



## THE NEW OSPREY HOME

The Oxford Osprey needed a new home this past Summer. Their landing pad and home succumbed to the elements after more than a decade of being suspended 80 feet in the air above the Greenbriar Recreation area. DPW Operations Manager, Steven Esposito, came to the rescue and constructed a new platform utilizing recycled playground materials. The sticks and twigs that were gathered by the birds for their original home were placed back on the platform, so the birds will not have to completely rebuild their home over again next spring. The Oxford Firefighters assisted with the installation and the new Osprey home was completed on September 9th. Thank you to all who helped to ensure that our feathered friends have a new home for next Spring!



**October 6, 2024 - October 12, 2024**





# LAW ENFORCEMENT LANDMARKS

## Michael Daniels, Chief of Police

Dear Community Members: September 5th marked my first year as your Police Chief, and I couldn't be prouder of the hardworking men and women at the Oxford Police Department. So much has happened over the past few months and throughout this past year, and I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for your unwavering support. Your support is integral to our success, and we couldn't do what we do without you.

During our Spring Town Meeting, the Town Manager's Office, Finance Team, and the community supported several warrant articles allowing us to upgrade our outdated weapons systems and vehicles. In addition, we were able to add a second Lieutenant position, which allowed us to create an Administrative Lieutenant role. This position is responsible for handling Accreditation, Policy & Procedure Development, Public Information Requests, Firearms Licensing, and the management of our Body Worn Camera Program. As part of these changes, we promoted Sergeant Michael Gifford to Lieutenant and Officer Ryan Kasik to Sergeant.



**State Representatives Frost and McKenna with Lt. Gifford and Sgt. Kasik**

Over the summer, we applied for several grants to enhance the services we provide to our community. We were awarded \$61,000 for the purchase of Body Worn Cameras, along with an additional \$29,000 to support the training of our Communications Center staff. Moving forward, I will be evaluating staffing levels with the goal of adding a full-time School Resource Officer and a Traffic Enforcement Officer to help address the traffic issues we all experience daily.

On an even brighter note, Lieutenant Michael Gifford, Officer Heather Picking, and I collaborated with the Oxford Free Public Library to read to children in our community. On August 24th, we had an incredible turnout at our "POPS WITH A COP" event, where we handed out freeze pops, grilled hot dogs, and provided backpacks filled with school supplies to kids in need.

Last but not least, I wanted to take a moment to honor the brave men and women who perished in the events of 9/11. This marks the 23rd year since those horrific acts brought our country together to stand united.

Thank you again for your continued support. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming year.



## OXFORD CABLE ACCESS



**DOWNLOAD THE APP!**

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

cablecast

**OXFORD FARMERS MARKET**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 2024**  
**2:30 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**TOWN COMMON**





# 4TH DISTINGUISHED BUDGET AWARD!

**Katie McKenna, Finance Director**

The Government Finance Officers Association recently announced that Town of Oxford, Massachusetts received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2025 budget. This will be the fourth year in a row Oxford has received this prestigious commendation! This award represents a significant achievement by the Oxford Financial Team and it reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, Oxford had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as the following items:

- **Policy Document**
- **Financial Plan**
- **Operations Guide**
- **Communications Device**

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the Award. There are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program.



The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America. The Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 22,500 members and the communities they serve.

## WALKING CLUB: WHERE SOLE MEETS SOUL

**Laura Wilson, Senior Center Director**

Did you know that walking is the most cost effective and simple way to exercise? Walking for up to 30 minutes a day can reduce the risk of multiple age-related diseases and conditions including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, joint pain and dementia. Additionally, walking improves mental health, sleep, and increases longevity. Including walking as part of daily routines promotes independence and healthy aging. Given all these health benefits (and perhaps the social aspects) we formed the Senior Center Walking Club and meet every Friday at 9:00 AM.



The Senior Center Walking Club's average route takes about 30 minutes to complete and starts at the Oxford Senior Center, includes a stroll down Main Street, loops around the Church Street/West Street/Front Street block, back down Main Street and ends at the Oxford Senior Center. Be prepared to socialize, check out the local landscaping and enjoy the Fall foliage. The entire walk is about one mile, and we have a great group of residents to keep us company! Wear a good pair of walking shoes and join us at the Oxford Senior Center, every Friday at 9:00 AM, weather permitting, and let's stride like no one is watching!





# OXFORD GIS MAP MAKEOVER

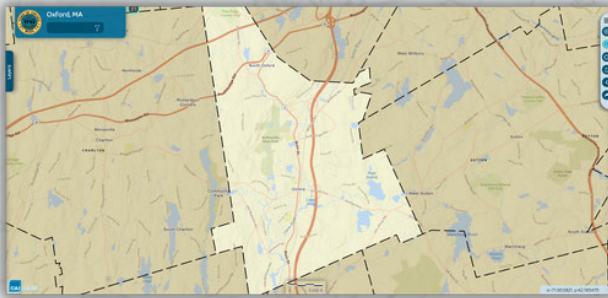
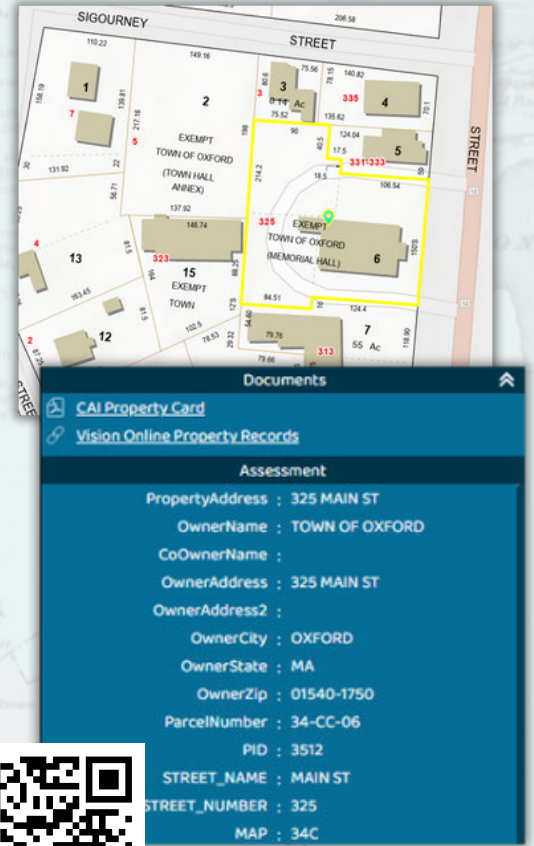
**Alex Sendzik, Principal Assessor**

Would you like to know where all of the historic locations are in town? How about how to navigate the trails from Hodges Village to Greenbriar Recreation area? The updated GIS map on the town website has all of these capabilities and more! Simply select which items from the available layers you would like to see, and the information will be displayed on the map.

GIS stands for Geographic Information System and it has multiple applications such as viewing flood plains, chapter land, aquifers and more. It also improves our understanding trends of housing development, natural resources, and recreation areas in Oxford!

This is a very important tool for the Assessor's Office as the new mapping system provides data such as property ownership information, property value, rough parcel shape and a link to every parcel's property record card. There are numerous layers to explore and it is a great way to familiarize yourself with properties in town.

You can access this via a link on the Assessor's page of the Oxford Town Website. Please contact the Assessor's office at (508) 987-6038 ext. 1051 and we can assist with any questions regarding the new GIS system.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to access the new Oxford GIS maps!

# SENIOR CENTER GETS A BURST OF COLOR

**Judy Lochner, Conservation Agent**

The parking lot at the Oxford Senior Center is looking a bit more colorful due to the addition of a pollinator-friendly garden added this past spring. Employees from Wilson Language volunteered to plant the garden in celebration of Earth Day 2024. Native plants for the garden were selected based on their bloom time, color and height. Springtime was shining red, white and blue from blooming Eastern Red Columbine,



Blue Star and Chokeberry. Yellow and pink were the summer highlights of Coneflower, Bee Balm and Tickseed blooms, while Black-eyed Susan's gold flowers continue into September. Fall is now being welcomed in by the brilliant bluish-purple of Asters. These late bloomers are especially important for our native overwintering bees and migratory butterflies that rely on the flowers nectar and pollen for food and energy. Besides the wonderful volunteers who planted the garden, the Town thanks The Last Green Valley for funding the flower purchase through their Clean Up! Green Up! Program. The Pollinator Team anticipates additional plantings to the garden and the parking lot through future volunteer and grant opportunities.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to learn more about the Pollinators Campaign!



# FALL EVENTS AT THE OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

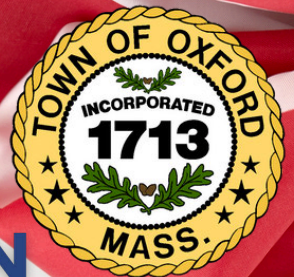
- OCTOBER 1 - Book Club 12:45 PM
- OCTOBER 8 - Blood Pressure Clinic 11 AM - 12 PM
- OCTOBER 8 - Let's Talk Oxford History 1 PM
- OCTOBER 9 - Men's Group 10:30 AM
- OCTOBER 11 - SHINE - Open Enrollment Presentation 10 AM
- OCTOBER 11 - Monthly Movie 12:45 PM
- OCTOBER 15 - Worcester Registry of Deeds Presentation 12:30 PM
- OCTOBER 18 - Fire/EMS Public Education 12:30 PM
- OCTOBER 22 - AARP "Downsizing & Decluttering" 12:30 PM
- OCTOBER 25 - BEANO 12:45 PM
- OCTOBER 29 - Halloween Costume Day



- Every Monday - Cribbage - 10AM
- Every Tuesday - Strength & Balance - 9:15AM \$3.00
- Every Wednesday - Chair Volleyball - 1PM
- Every Thursday - Dominoes (Mexican Train) - 10AM
- Every Friday - Cribbage - 10AM



## 2024 OXFORD VETERAN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



**When:** Thursday, November 7, 2024

**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. 24, 2024**, to Dave Adams, Oxford  
Veterans Service Officer @ [dadams@oxfordma.us](mailto:dadams@oxfordma.us) or  
(508) 987-6034 ext. 1105



# HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN

Eric Rumsey, Town Planner

In January 2023, the Town of Oxford contracted the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to develop a Housing Production Plan (HPP) to be accepted by the state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC). The Town utilized a grant totaling \$25,000 awarded by the Community Planning Grant Program. To guide the development of the Town's first Housing Production Plan (HPP), the Oxford Housing Production Plan Working Group was formed. Consisting of four (4) municipal staff, the working group met remotely with CMRPC one-to-two times per month between September 2023 and August 2024. CMRPC staff worked collaboratively with the Housing Production Plan Working Group to understand local housing conditions, seek input from the community using multiple platforms, and develop strategies to support the town in meeting the housing needs of current and future residents. CMRPC provided any guidance and technical assistance needed to achieve the deliverables of the Plan.

The goal of developing the HPP is to provide the town with a guiding document for implementing affordable and alternative housing options to meet Chapter 40B regulations.

One can check out the Draft Plan by scanning the QR Code to the right. The Board of Selectmen approved the Draft Plan at its September 17th Meeting. The Plan has now been submitted to the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities for final approval.



Draft Report



## INCLUSIVE HEALTH COALITION (IHC) SURVEYS

Sponsored by the Oxford Board of Health

### What is the IHC?

The Inclusive Health Coalition is a diverse group of community leaders focused on promoting disability inclusion in programs and services related to physical activity, nutrition and obesity. Coalition efforts focus on the removal of barriers that prevent people with disabilities from achieving the same health transformation opportunities available to community members without disabilities through the creation and modification of community health policies, systems, and environments.

### Surveys

If you or a family member experiences audio/visual handicaps, physical, or mental/cognitive disabilities, and use any services within the Town of Oxford, please take a moment to complete these surveys.

***"Research shows that the estimated 56 million Americans with disabilities are not only at greater risk of developing serious health conditions associated with sedentary lifestyles, such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, but also face greater environmental barriers that impede their access."***

[nchpad.org/news-updates/research/566](https://nchpad.org/news-updates/research/566)

### Give us Your Feedback Today!

Please scan the QR codes to our online surveys, they only take a few minutes to complete. Thank you!



Inclusive Health Survey



Park & Field Disability Survey



# FALL HAPPENINGS AT THE LIBRARY

**Brittany McDougal Bialy, Director**

Fall is here and that means our annual **Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale** is coming! The Book Sale will run Thursday, October 17th 12:00pm – 7:00pm, Friday, October 18th 10:00am-4:00pm, and Saturday, October 19th 10:00AM – 2:00pm. Teachers pay half price on classroom books Thursday and Friday! Cash and check only.

## Upcoming Children's Programs:

**October Storytime Schedule** – *First come, first serve through our ticket system.*

- Hooray for Pre-K: Tuesdays @ 10:00am (ages 3.5-5 years)
- Terrific Tots: Wednesdays @ 10:00am (ages 2-3.5 years)
- Baby Besties: Wednesdays @ 11:00am (ages 0-12 months)
- Wonderful Ones: Fridays @ 10:00am (ages 12-24 months)

**Owl Paint Program with Julie Harrold** – Registration Required.

Tuesday, February 21st at 3:30pm in the Meeting Room

**Halloween Party** – Registration Required

Wednesday, October 23rd at 4:00pm in the Meeting Room

**Spooky Paint Night with Ms. Deb: Ghosts** – Registration Required

Tuesday, October 29th at 5:15pm in the Meeting Room

**Playful Engineers with Jay Makita** – Registration Required

Tuesday, November 12th at 4:00pm in the Meeting Room

**Magnetic Tiles** (Drop-in program)

Tuesday, November 19th and Tuesday, November 26th at

**Family Music Bingo: Country Night** – Registration Required

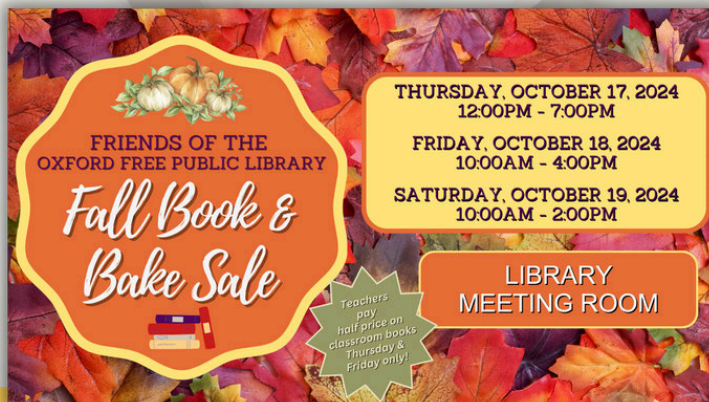
Wednesday, November 20th at 6:00pm in the Meeting Room

## Upcoming Adult Programs:

**Decoupage with Jean Walker** – *Registration Required*  
Thursday, October 24th at 5:30pm in the Meeting Room

**Movie Matinees** – *Registration not required*

Every Thursday @ 2:00pm in the Meeting Room, beginning October 24th – free popcorn!



## The OCC Just Got Some New Friends!

Friends of the OCC (FOCC) is a newly established, all volunteer nonprofit organization, whose mission is to support and enhance the activities and programs offered by the OCC that are NOT funded by the Town of Oxford or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The nonprofit will seek funding through grants, donations and fundraising projects. The FOCC is pursuing tax-exempt 501(c)3 status to maximize the scope of its fundraising capabilities. While still in its infancy, the FOCC is anxious to build its organization with caring and energetic volunteers from the Town of Oxford and neighboring communities to assist them in their mission. For more information or to volunteer, email [friendsoftheocc@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheocc@gmail.com)

November 1st  
**Turn Back Clock**  
@ 2am



**Daylight Savings**



# OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS

**OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER**

<b>OCT 16</b>		
		<b>\$15</b>

**Tricks & Treats BASKETBALL CLINIC**

**KINDERGARTEN-SECOND GRADE 5:30-6:30PM**  
**THIRD - FIFTH GRADE 6:30-7:30PM**  
**SIXTH - EIGHTH GRADE 7:30-8:30PM**

ALL CLINICS ARE CO-ED  
 LIMITED TO 14 PARTICIPANTS PER SESSION

**SOFTBALL PITCHING CLINICS**

**WITH COACH KEITH**  
 6 WEEKS OF SMALL GROUP LESSONS

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**  
 GROUP 1: 5:30-7 PM  
 GROUP 2: 7-8:30 PM  
 LIMITED TO 5 PITCHERS PER GROUP

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 10/23-11/27	DECEMBER-JANUARY 12/4-12/18 & 1/8-1/22	FEBRUARY-MARCH 2/5-3/12

**NON-RESIDENTS \$90**  
**RESIDENTS \$75**  
 BRING YOUR OWN CATCHER & EQUIPMENT

**OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER**

**WINTER BASKETBALL PROGRAM**

FOR BOYS & GIRLS GRADES 1ST - 8TH  
 Kindergarten permitted only if completed Start Smart Basketball or OCC Summer Clinic

**DECEMBER-MARCH**

**REGISTRATION ENDS 11/12/2024**

**PROGRAM DEPENDENT ON ADEQUATE COACHING VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANT ENROLLMENT**

TEAMS LIMITED TO 8 PLAYERS EACH WITH A MAX OF 6 K-SECOND TEAMS AND 4 TEAMS PER AGE GROUP THIRD AND UP

**EVALUATIONS**  
 3RD-8TH 11/2  
 K-2ND 11/5

**FREE!**  
 Help us determine team rosters!  
 Multiple time slots offered.  
 Sign up for one time slot ONLY!

**COACHES CLINIC**  
**TUESDAY**  
**11/19 6-7PM**

**FREE!**  
 Coaches who attend this clinic receive \$30 off their child's Basketball registration!  
 \*Coaches must pass CORI

**OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTS**

**An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas**

On the heels of our successful Enchanted Bookshop production, your favorite holiday characters take over Margie's bookstore again. This time for a Christmas show for the whole family filled with magic and mayhem!

**Showtimes 12/6 & 12/7 at 6:00pm**

**Oxford High School Auditorium**  
**100 Carbuncle Drive**

Produced in special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. Denver, Colorado  
 Directed by Tamara Beland. Donations @ the door.  
 Made possible by: Janet Malser Humanities Trust, Taft Charitable Trust & Oxford Cultural Council.



# OXFORD

## HOME OF PIONEERS

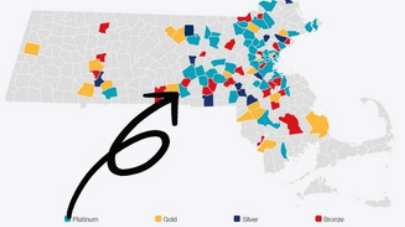
Oxford has a remarkable history of being the birthplace of pioneers in the medical and health professions!

It is a great community to site a new business development that builds on this great hometown history!



Oxford is a Platinum **BioReady®** Community!

WITH THIS NEW DESIGNATION WE ARE NOW READY FOR COMPANIES IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECH AND ADVANCED SCIENCES!



TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

TEL: (508) 987 - 6030 EXT 8

EMAIL: [MANAGER@OXFORDMA.US](mailto:MANAGER@OXFORDMA.US)



### *Oxford's Pioneering History*

In 1932, Dr. Joslin helped to create the Clara Barton Birthplace Camp with the Oxford Universalist Church. The Camp became known as an "island of safety" for children learning to live with diabetes. Dr. Joslin became the first Medical Director of the Camp. The Clara Barton Birthplace Camp was revered around the world as the first "hospital in the woods" and many smaller programs were modeled after it.

In 1948, the enormous success of the "camp experiment" at the Barton homestead inspired Dr. Joslin to ask the Universalist Congregation to open another camp for boys on property purchased by Dr. Joslin in neighboring Charlton, MA. The Universalist Church agreed to administer both programs while Dr. Joslin and his staff provided the medical coverage. The "Barton" camp for girls and "Joslin" camp for boys became among the largest and most recognized programs of their kind in the world.

To this day, the now Barton Center for Diabetes Education continues to provide this unique opportunity annually for hundreds of children from around the world that are growing up with the diagnosis of diabetes.

### CHECK LIST **For Choosing Oxford!**

- ✓ 4 MIN DRIVE TO INTERSTATE 90 & 7 MIN DRIVE TO CONNECTICUT
- ✓ 3 EXITS ON INTERSTATE 395
- ✓ LOW BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL TAX RATE OF \$13.48
- ✓ AVAILABLE UTILITIES

OXFORD IS BUSINESS FRIENDLY



CALL US : (508) 987 - 6030 EXT 8

CONTACT: OXFORD TOWN HALL,  
325 MAIN ST, OXFORD, MA 01540

### DR. ELLIOT P. JOSLIN



Dr. Elliott P. Joslin became one of the first physicians to use insulin to save the lives of children with diabetes. Children from across the country came to Boston to be treated by him. Care for children with diabetes became his passion.

### CLARA BARTON

An American nurse who founded the American Red Cross. She was a hospital nurse in the American Civil War, a teacher & patent clerk.



OXFORD HAS SITES READY FOR MEDICAL MANUFACTURING, PHARMA, BIOTECH & DISTRIBUTION

[WWW.OXFORDMA.US](http://WWW.OXFORDMA.US)





**AQUARION**  
Water Company

*Stewards of the Environment™*

## EMERGENCY ALERT PROGRAM

### What is the Emergency Alert Program?

This service allows you to opt-in to receive notifications via phone calls, text messaging, e-mail and more based on locations you care about. You can receive notifications about events that may affect your water service.

### When will it be used?

This system will be used to notify you about your water service as well as informational notifications that affect your location. Administrators will send notifications regarding main breaks, conservation efforts, and more.

### Will I still get emergency notifications if I don't sign up?

If you do not create a username and password, you will receive notifications only by the methods that are on file for with Aquarion.

### What if my phone number or email address changes?

The system is only as good as the information you provide. If your contact information changes, you can always visit your profile and update your information.

### Will my contact information be shared with others?

No. The information that you provide will be used only by Aquarion for notification purposes. We will not give or sell your contact or location information to any vendor or other organization.



**SIGN UP**

# ***Mark Your Calendar!***

## **DECEMBER 1, 2024 HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE & BANDSTAND TREE LIGHTING**

### ***Presented by OFD & OCC***



# TOWN OF OXFORD 5TH ANNUAL SCARECROWS ON THE COMMON

**Saturday, October 26, 2024**

**11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Joslin Park- Town Common 352 Main St.**

Celebrate the Fall season and help fill our Town Common with handcrafted scarecrows for the entire Town of Oxford to enjoy!

Open to individuals, businesses, and families.

To participate, please fill out a registration form, visit [www.oxfordma.myrec.com](http://www.oxfordma.myrec.com) or scan the QR code!

**Scarecrow Drop-off** from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**DW and the Shakemakers** 12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Sutton Dancing Witches** - 1pm performance

**Judging** begins at 3 p.m.

**Children's Costume Parade** 3pm



Children's games, Crafts, Snacks, Vendors, and more.



**MOST CREATIVE**

**FUNNIEST**

**BEST TOWN SPIRIT**