



THE OXFORD POLICE

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

CHIEF MICHAEL HASSETT

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Spring has officially arrived and with that comes more daylight and outdoor activities. As mentioned many times in the past, please pay extra attention to crosswalks and road sides when operating your vehicle, as many more pedestrians and bicyclists will be out and about. The Winter Parking Ban will no longer be in effect after April 1st, but in the event of a spring snowstorm, please be reminded to remove your vehicles from the roadway to allow for snow plowing operations to go unhindered. On another note, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the Oxford High School Boys Basketball Team for their tremendous season, culminating in a trip to the State Championship Game. Ever though the team came up a little short, it's a terrific accomplishment nonetheless.

On January 15th, Officer Matthew Gray graduated from the Full-Time Boylston Police Academy and is currently working patrol on the evening shift. Reserve Officer's Craig Gagner and Bishoy Ibrahim have completed their field training program with our department and both are now working patrol shifts. Reserve Officer's David Peck and Tuan Nguyen-Le are currently in training at the Boylston Police Academy with an anticipated graduation date of late May. On April 5th, the Board of Selectmen will interview and appoint a full-time officer, which will provide much needed assistance and contribute toward properly staffing our department. The appointed officer would then be required to attend a full-time academy, possibly late summer.

An area of concern that the public must be aware of is a kidnapping scam, which has exploded across the country. As of this writing, such an incident just occurred involving our town in the past couple of days. The scam works something like this: The intended victims receive phone calls, usually from a male whose accent is described as being Creole, Puerto Rican or Dominican. He tells them a member of their **family has been involved in an accident and is now being held hostage**. He may state he belongs to a drug cartel or is a criminal. He claims to have injured and/or kidnapped their family member. The suspect knows the victim's family member by name or is able to trick the victim into unknowingly providing their name. He demands they send money via **Western Union or another payment option**, such as **Go & T-Mobile phone cards**. He asked them to stay on the phone while they travel to gather the money he is requesting.

The best course of action is to contact the relative involved and verify that they are not missing. They should then contact the police. If they cannot contact the relative, they should still not believe this is true. These suspects are relying on the victims to be **panicked and in fear**. They hope this will make them **send money**. In no case should the victim ever send money. Many victims lose money and fall for this scam.

If you have any questions regarding the above subjects or any other matter, please feel free to email me at mhassett@town.oxford.ma.us or call me at 508-987-0156.

Thank You,

Chief Michael Hassett

FYI

-LTC (License to Carry) and FID (Firearms Identification Card) applications are available at the Dispatch window. Any questions can be directed to Lieutenant Anthony Saad at 508-987-0156 or by email: asaad@town.oxford.ma.us.

-OPD can be accessed on line at www.oxfordpolice.info or through the Town of Oxford Webpage: www.town.oxford.ma.us.

-*Oxford Safe Return. This is a new program to assist our Elderly Citizens who may be at risk. For more information call 508-987-0156 or email: Officer Robert Picard at rpicard@town.oxford.ma.us.*