



THE OXFORD POLICE

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

CHIEF MICHAEL HASSETT

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Winter is over, at least officially. The amount of snow that had accumulated since the end of January was incredible. I would like to commend several departments for the great job they performed under these difficult weather conditions: The DPW continues to do an outstanding job plowing, sanding and keeping our roads safe. This was without a doubt one of the most difficult winters they had faced; EMS/Fire Department and our Police Department also have done an outstanding job in spite of the severe weather. Now that spring is here, and with it the onset of more daylight, it is inevitable many more outdoor activities will be taking place in our town. As mentioned to motor vehicle operators in previous newsletters, as a result of a large increase of pedestrian traffic, please be mindful of slowing at crosswalks.

This past January, Officer Daniel Ausmus began his training at the Full-Time Boylston Police Academy. Officer Ausmus will be graduating from the academy in early July and will then be back with our department to work in a full-time capacity. In mid-March, Permanent-Intermittent Officer Matthew Gray was appointed to full-time status by the Board of Selectmen. Officer Gray must attend a full-time academy before he will be able to work full-time. The hope is for Officer Gray to also attend the Boylston Academy in early August of this year, with an anticipated graduation date of early next year. Once officers graduate from the academy, they, along with all officers, continue their training on a daily basis.

I would like to make our residents aware of a new Massachusetts law with regard to firearms license holders and gun owners. Massachusetts law now requires all firearms license holders and gun owners to report all personal sales, transfers, and surrender of firearms through the Massachusetts Gun Transaction Portal. Paper FA-10 forms will no longer be accepted for the above purposes. The portal is available via the internet at <https://mircs.chs.state.ma.us/fa10>. Should you have any questions about the changes identified in this communication, please contact the Dept. of Criminal Justice Information Services Firearms Records Bureau at 617-660-4782. This information is posted as well in the lobby of the police department.

As with the past few tax seasons, the IRS once again is warning consumers about a sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers throughout the country, including recent immigrants. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. The IRS is looking to educate taxpayers so they can help protect themselves. The IRS does not ask for credit card numbers over the phone, nor do they request a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information; this includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open any attachments or click any links contained in the message. Instead, forward the e-mail to phishing@irs.gov, more information on how to report scams is on the genuine IRS website, IRS.gov.

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

Thank You,

Chief Michael Hassett