



THE OXFORD POLICE

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

CHIEF MICHAEL HASSETT

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The school year is just ending, a little later than many had hoped as a result of the winter snow, hopefully everyone has a safe and happy summer. Congratulations to the Oxford High School Class of 2015 and the best of luck in your future pursuits. I would like to take a moment to recognize one of our officer's who recently retired at the end of March, Officer Carol Knapp. Carol was a twenty-eight year veteran of the police department. Besides her duties as a patrolman, Carol worked with our town's senior citizens as our elder affairs officer, was a member of the MAPS Team (Medical and Police Services) and recently was our department's photographer at crime scenes and fire investigations. Carol was a dedicated member of our department and will be greatly missed, we wish her all the best in moving forward.

As mentioned in the spring newsletter, Officer Daniel Ausmus will be graduating from the Boylston Police Academy, on July 2nd. Officer Ausmus will then be assigned to patrol duties in our department, and is currently scheduled to start on the third shift, 11:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. We look forward to Officer Ausmus being a member of our department for many years to come. Also, Officer Matthew Gray has been accepted into the Full-Time Boylston Police Academy, starting August 3rd. Before attending, Officer Gray will be assigned to patrol duties in the department. His anticipated graduation date is in early 2016. The Board of Selectmen voted to appoint five Permanent-Intermittent Officer's from the State Civil Service list. Our department is currently conducting background checks on the prospective list of candidates and hope to have the information forwarded to the Board in the next few weeks to begin the process of appointing these officer's. Once appointed, several months of training will take place with our department's Field Training Officer's in all aspects required to become a police officer.

A scam that I would like to provide information on involves credit cards, debit cards, passports, employer/government ID cards, highway toll pass cards and subway passes. The RFID chips (Radio Frequency Identification) embedded in these cards store your personal information. RFID technology creates quicker, more efficient transactions, eliminating the traditional machines required to swipe and read magnetic strips. An RFID chip requires only a reader at the check-out point. The antenna located in the chip receives electromagnetic energy from an RFID reader and uses a radio frequency to transmit the information back to the reader.

Someone passing within ten feet from you can steal your personal information by using readers, which can be purchased on eBay for as little as \$8. The reader sends a radio signal to ping your RFID chips and harvest your personal information. Credit card companies are aware of the problem and are using security fixes, such as encrypting data and removing the cardholder's names from older cards, but there are a few steps you can take to protect your financial information. Be aware of the technology and make choices accordingly. Cancel credit cards that you do not need or request one without RFID. Purchase an RFID blocking wallet or passport holder, which contain a metal shield to block radio frequencies. Also, monitor your credit card and bank statements regularly for errors or odd charges. Identity theft and fraud often occur without you even knowing that it happened.

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

Thank You,

Chief Michael Hassett