

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



The morning of February 24, 2015 was very cold as most mornings have been this winter. But the Wildcat spirit prevailed as there was no snow storm on that day. Honored guests assembled in the media production room of the newly completed Wilmington High School. Terraced seating areas ascended to a bank of windows exposing the room to an abundance of natural lighting. School Superintendent Mary DeLai read from a news account reporting on the opening of the former high school on this site in 1950. The relevance of the comments offered then to the circumstances today was stunning. Perhaps the most poignant moments were the procession of students entering the high school, some for the first time, to the music of the Wilmington High School Band. After a 7 month delay in construction due to a project appeal and just over 24 months of construction, the vision of a new high school for students of Wilmington is now reality.

While work on the so called "punch list" items to put the finishing touches on the school will continue through the month of March, the focus now turns to the demolition of the "old" high school which is expected to be completed in late May. With the removal of the "old" high school, the site will be ready to construct the tennis and basketball courts, parking and lighting later this year.

Since mid-January Wilmington, and the region, has been literally snowed under. In fact, as of this writing Wilmington's total snow accumulation is over 100 inches. The extreme weather has placed a strain on town resources and everyone's patience. Public Works, Public Buildings and Public Safety personnel were truly tested. Your patience and understanding throughout this period is greatly appreciated.

Town elections are Saturday, April 25th. Polls will be open from 8 am to 8 pm. Make sure your voice is heard and vote. Annual Town Meeting will be held in the new Wilmington High School auditorium on Saturday, May 2nd at 10:30 am. In addition to consideration of the town and school operating budgets, voters will be asked to appropriate funds for construction of the recreational facility at 9 Cross Street, amend town by-laws, purchase vehicles, complete public works projects and increase income and asset eligibility limits for seniors seeking specific tax deferral or tax exemption benefits.

I would like to acknowledge the recent retirement of three town employees who served the town for a combined 94 years. Raymond Noel, Foreman in the Public Works Water Division, Dennis Surprenant, General Foreman in the Public Buildings Department and Joanna Clayton, Senior Clerk in the Assessor's Office. I wish them each satisfying and productive retirements.

While we did Anchorage, Alaska a favor this winter by taking most of their cold weather and snow, I think it is fair to state that we are collectively hoping for warmer temperatures and sun to gradually banish the piles of snow. In just over a month, the annual Little League parade will make its way along Church Street from the Town Common to Rotary Park Field. Hope springs eternal in the hearts and minds of players for a winning season, for the clutch hit to bring in the winning run, that perfect strike three pitch to preserve the win but most of all to get back on the field with friends and just have fun. Put them in coach they're ready to play.

TRASH AND RECYCLING UPDATE

Starting in the summer of 2015, the Town of Wilmington will be implementing an automated refuse and recycling collection program.

Already successfully adopted in multiple surrounding communities, and many more throughout the region, the new collection program will provide benefits on many levels. This collection method has been proven to increase recycling while decreasing the amount of trash that is collected, resulting in lower trash disposal costs for the Town. In addition to the financial benefit, the new program will also improve operations, the environment and provide for a cleaner community.

Key components of the program include:

Each household will receive one free 64 gallon refuse container and one free 95 gallon container to be used for recyclable material.

Trash collection will occur weekly while collection of recyclables will continue to occur bi-weekly.

The containers are on wheels and can be easily moved. They are also animal, wind and odor resistant.

Instructions as to placement at curbside will be provided with each container, on the Town's website, in the local newspapers and through other media.

Additional 64 gallon refuse barrels can be rented for an annual fee. 95 gallon recycling barrels can be obtained if needed. We encourage all residents to try the program before renting or obtaining any additional containers.

Each container will have a serial number allowing them to be tracked if lost or stolen.

Residents will have the opportunity to buy special event bags at a cost of \$10 for 5 bags if they anticipate a large amount of trash after a barbeque, holiday or party. Most communities sell more bags than are used.

Bulky item (furniture, mattresses etc.) collection will still be picked up free of charge. As is the case with the current refuse collection system, residents will be allowed to dispose of one bulky item per week at no extra cost. Residents will notify the Town's vendor of their address and the vendor will complete the collection on a Friday.

There will be no change in white goods and CRTs (TV's and computer monitors etc.) collection. Stickers are required and can be obtained at Town Hall. The cost will remain the same at \$10 per item. Similar to bulk items, white goods and CRTs will also be picked up on Fridays.

As the date of implementation gets closer, more information will be distributed to residents. The DPW plans to participate in various community events to provide residents with information on the transition. Further, residents will receive instructions and informational materials with their container, through the mail, in the local newspapers, WCTV and on the Town website. In the meantime, should you have any questions please contact the DPW at 978-658-4481.

AT THE LIBRARY

The library's tagline "Community Starts Here" is demonstrated through special events offered this spring. Register on line at www.wilmlibrary.org.

Scan & Share Day (RR) Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Bring up to ten photographs taken prior to 1980 of Wilmington buildings, sporting and social events, houses, businesses and neighborhoods. Selected photographs will be added to library's local history digital collection. Information about the photographs is very important in terms of date, names of people and places, etc.

Celebrate National Library Week - Edible Books Contest Saturday, April 11

All ages may participate in this contest. Just create something edible that is book related! Be literal; be figurative, savory or sweet! Entry forms will be available on the website and in the library. In the meantime, do an online search for "edible books" to find inspiration.

Teens - How to Prepare for a Job Interview (RR) Monday, April 13, 3 p.m.

Join professional career coaches Bonnie Petrovich and Jan Stewart for an interactive workshop to help you with the job search. Learn how to write a resume, dress to impress for an interview, interact with a potential employer, and more. Then use the advice and tips of these experts at our Teen Job Fair on Wednesday, April 22.



Teen Job Fair (RR) Wednesday, April 22, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Are you interested in volunteering or looking for a summer job? Come to our Teen Job Fair! Teens age 15-17 are invited to meet with employers in the community to talk about current and future positions.

Week of the Young Child Art Show Monday, April 13 - Saturday, April 18

Artwork done by children who attend preschool or day care in Wilmington will be on display.

After Hours Wilmington Talent Showcase! (RR) Applications Due: Wednesday, April 15, 9 p.m.

Rehearsal: Wednesday, April 22, 1 p.m.
Talent Show: Friday, April 24, 7 p.m.

Do you like to sing, dance, do standup comedy or have a unique talent? Well here is your time to shine! If you would like to participate, stop by the library to pick up an application! Grades Kindergarten-12.

Welcome to Wilmington Reception (RR) Thursday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.

Are you new to Wilmington or have you lived here for a while and wish to know more about the community? Then please come to the Welcome to Wilmington Reception. This is your chance to learn about local organizations and services and to meet others from the community. There will be community group representatives on hand to welcome you and answer questions. Refreshments will be served.



SCAM ALERT

The Police Department advises they continue to receive calls from residents being called by aggressive and sophisticated con artists claiming to be employees of the IRS.

Keep in mind, the IRS will never: 1) call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed a bill; 2) demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe; 3) require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card; 4) ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; or 5) threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The winter of 2015 saw near record snowfall. Residents should be prepared for spring water issues by taking the following precautions:

-  Check the condition of your sump pump to make sure it is in good working order. Consider purchasing a second pump as a back-up.
-  Move any valuable items from the basement floor areas prone to flooding.
-  Be sure that there are no live extension cords or powered equipment which may be exposed to water.
-  Know where the main shut-off for the water service is located. This is usually in the same area as the water meter. All family members should be aware of its location in case of a burst pipe or other water problem. Mark the shut-off with a bright tag to aid in identification in the event of an emergency. Ensure the shut off valve is operating properly. If not, you may need to contact a plumber. Often they may just need a spray of lubricant. These valves should be opened and closed slowly to prevent "water hammer". In an emergency and you don't know what to do, "Call 9 1 1" for a Fire Department response.

The arrival of Spring means the arrival of grilling season. The Fire Department offers the following safety tips:

- ◆ Keep all Propane cylinders outside and 10' away from building openings.
- ◆ Gas grills are not permitted inside or on balconies above the first floor.
- ◆ Make sure all connections are secure and tight before lighting the grill.
- ◆ Caution: If the flame goes out wait 10 minutes for gas to dissipate before relighting.
- ◆ Always open the lid when lighting.



It is also recommended that mulch be kept 18" away from combustibles when being applied to flower/garden beds around the home. This is a Massachusetts law in regards to commercial properties but is also a good rule for homeowners to follow. Have a happy and safe spring. We deserve it!

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is a day for our nation to remember, reflect upon and honor those who have given their all in service to their country. 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. During this battle 6,035 American soldiers were killed.



Residents are invited to participate in Memorial Day observances commencing on Saturday, May 23 beginning at 8 a.m. with the decoration of veterans' graves at Wildwood Cemetery followed by the decoration of all squares and memorials. On Sunday, May 24 a Mass will be held at Noon at St. Thomas Church. At 1 p.m. there will be a rededication of the Police Station Monument and the Memorial Shrine at St. Thomas of Villanova followed by the rededication of all parks, squares and monuments at the Veterans' Monument on the Town Common.

Wilmington's Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 25 at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m., a ceremony will be held at the Wildwood Cemetery to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Groups wishing to march in the parade should contact the Wilmington Veterans' Services Office at 978-694-2040.

PLAYGROUND - TINY TOTS & KIDS CLUB

Registration begins in April for two of the Recreation Department's longest running and most successful summer offerings. **Registration for the Summer Playground Program for children entering grades 2-8 begins Monday, April 13 at 7:30 a.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium.** The six week program will operate, rain or shine, Monday, June 29 - Wednesday, August 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Shawsheen Elementary School. Children will enjoy a wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, games, sports, special events and optional field trips. For children ages 4 through 8, **Tiny Tots & Kids Club registration is Wednesday, April 15 from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium.** After this date, registration will continue weekdays at the Recreation Office. The two sessions will be held Monday, June 29 - Friday, July 17 and Monday, July 20 - Friday, August 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Boutwell Early Childhood Center.

Join us on the Town Common on Saturday, April 4 at 2 p.m. sharp for the annual **Easter Egg Hunt.** The common will glitter with candy filled eggs as hundreds of children rush to fill their baskets. In case of poor weather or ground conditions, the festivities will be held in the High School Cafeteria. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket to hold your eggs.

The annual **Fishing Derby** will be held at the Town Beach on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. - noon. There will be shore fishing only. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the Derby beginning at 9 a.m. sharp! (Rain date - June 7) Cost is \$2 for children age 17 & under; adults \$4. For this day only - no fishing licenses required.

The 2015 season for **Town Beach at Silver Lake** is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 13 - Sunday, August 16. Wilmington residents may use the beach at no charge. **Certified lifeguards** (age 16 & older) should contact the Recreation Department regarding possible employment opportunities.

For information on these programs and the many other activities, events, trips and services offered by the Recreation Department, call 978-658-4270 or consult the Town's website at www.wilmingtonma.gov.

TOWN OF WILMINGTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Wilmington residents seeking to further their post secondary school or college education may apply for assistance from the Town of Wilmington Scholarship Fund. Applications are available at the Roman House, Town Hall, Wilmington High School, Shawsheen Tech and the Library. The **application deadline is April 17.** Since 1996, this program has distributed \$119,000 in financial aid to 196 scholarship recipients. Thanks to the generosity of Wilmington residents and businesses and the establishment of the "Loddy Weisberg and Lena Leiter Student Scholarship Fund", the Committee expects to award a greater amount of scholarships in June of this year. Ms. Weisberg and Ms. Leiter were sisters who both taught in the Wilmington Public School System for many years. The beloved teachers' affection for Wilmington students is reflected by their decision to include in their estate the distribution of scholarship funds to Wilmington students.

This new funding source will increase and help to perpetuate the Town's ability to distribute financial aid to Wilmington students. Individuals, community groups and businesses wishing to contribute to the Town of Wilmington Scholarship Fund may contact the Town Treasurer's office or the Town Manager's office. Additionally, scholarship donation forms are included with each property tax bill mailing.

ANNUAL WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM

Starting in mid April, the Water Department will begin its annual water main flushing and valve exercising program. The flushing program will be conducted Monday through Friday from 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. The program will take approximately 8 weeks to complete.



The goal of the flushing program is to enhance the water quality throughout the Town of Wilmington. By strategically opening and closing water main valves, water is flushed through the pipes at a higher than normal velocity. Please be aware that since flushing scours and removes minerals that have accumulated in the mains, residents may experience discolored or rusty water during the program. The water is safe to drink. However, we suggest that our residents check the water before doing laundry to avoid staining clothing and other items. Running the cold water for a few minutes should clear up any discoloration.

If you have any questions or problems with your water, please call the Water Division at (978) 658-4711.

ROADSIDE & PARK TREE INVENTORY

The Town of Wilmington will be working with an arborist consulting firm this spring to begin a town-wide roadside and park tree inventory and risk assessment. The work is part of a proactive approach to prioritizing pruning and removal schedules for the Town's street and park trees, thus helping to reduce risk and losses associated with hazardous trees. The work will also serve to inventory the town's urban forest canopy and will help identify problematic insects and diseases which may be treatable if found early. This work is 100% funded by the FY15 Loss Control Grant which was awarded to Wilmington by the town's insurance carrier, MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association). Additional funding to help expand the inventory's potential may be available in subsequent months, as the Town has also applied for the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Urban Forestry Challenge Grant. Questions about this project may be directed to Jamie Magaldi, Operations Manager and Tree Warden for the Wilmington Department of Public Works.



NEWS FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM

Sunday Open House: April 12, May 3 and June 14 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free tours of the Wilmington Town Museum!

The Museum is also open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment. Please contact the Museum to schedule an appointment at the convenience of you or your group. The Town Museum will be closed the week of April 19.

Don't forget - you can buy postcards of historic Wilmington sites at the Town Museum for 25 cents! Also historical books and commemorative tote bags are available for purchase.

For more information or to schedule a tour please call 978-658-5475 or e-mail htavern@wilmingtonma.gov. Or visit us on the web at www.wilmingtonma.gov/Pages/WilmingtonMA_Museum/index

WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

The We're One Wilmington will be sponsoring the 5th Annual Run for Wilmington/Kim Forte Walk to be held on April 26th. For more information on this event and the Women of Wilmington, please visit www.womenofwilmington.org.



SPRING YARDWASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Town will collect leaves and grass clippings placed in biodegradable paper bags or uncovered barrels at curbside on regular trash collection days during the weeks of **April 6, April 20 and May 4.**

The Recycling Center, located off Old Main Street at the Wilmington/Woburn line, will be **open for leaf and brush drop-off** in accordance with the following schedule:

Wednesdays: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

on the following dates:

April 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25 and 29
May 2, 6 and 9



Only Wilmington residents will be allowed to use the facility for leaves and brush drop-off. Residents must show an ID at the entrance to the facility. **No grass clippings will be accepted. No contractors or commercial vehicles will be allowed.** Residents using the Recycling Center must purchase a punch card for \$15 which will be good for 5 visits to the center. Punch cards may be purchased Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office at Town Hall. **Cards purchased previously that have unpunched visits are still valid.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 4	RABIES CLINIC	Public Buildings Department	12 pm - 2 pm
APR 4	ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT	Town Common	2 pm
APR 6	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2015 TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING		
APR 13	PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION	Town Hall Auditorium	7:30 am
APR 15	TINY TOTS/KIDS CLUB REGISTRATION	Town Hall Auditorium	5 pm to 6:30 pm
APR 18	LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY PARADE		9:30 am
APR 25	ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION		Polls Open 8 am to 8 pm
APR 26	WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON CHARITABLE RUN/WALK FOR WILMINGTON		
MAY 2	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	High School	10:30 am
MAY 9	HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY	West Intermediate School Parking Lot	9 am to 2 pm
MAY 25	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE		10 am
	CEREMONY AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY		11 am
JUN 4	RECREATION SUMMER BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE		
JUN 4	SHAWSHEEN TECH GRADUATION		
JUN 6	FISHING DERBY	Town Beach	9 am to 12 pm
JUN 7	WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION		
JUN 14	FARMERS MARKET OPENS	Town Common	10 am to 1 pm
JUN 19-	RELAY FOR LIFE		
JUN 20	Wilmington Middle School, 25 Carter Lane		

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY



A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the West Intermediate School parking lot, 22 Carter Lane. Details of

this event will appear in the local papers in late April. Residents can call the DPW at 978-658-4481 with any questions or refer to the town website www.wilmingtonma.gov

ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC

The Board of Health's Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on **Saturday, April 4 from 12 noon to 2 p.m.** at the Public Buildings Department, 30 Church Street. Wilmington residents only. Dogs should be on a leash and cats in a carrier. Cost \$10.00 per animal.

The Town Clerk's Office will be on site to process 2015 Dog Licenses. Cost: \$10.00 spayed/neutered or \$15.00 non-spayed/non-neutered. **A \$15.00 late fee will be assessed after April 5, 2015.**

RELAY FOR LIFE OF WILMINGTON

Please join the community to celebrate, remember and fight back against cancer. **This year's event will be held at the Wilmington Middle School beginning Friday, June 19th at 5:30 p.m. and concluding the following morning.** The event is open to the public until 11 p.m. if you just want to come for the festivities. For more details, visit www.wilmingtonrfl.com.

DEPARTMENT



TELEPHONE

Accountant	694-2029
Animal Control	658-5071
Appeals Board	658-4531
Arts Center	657-3887
Assessor	658-3675
Building Inspector	658-4531
Cemetery	658-3901
Collector of Taxes	658-3531
Elderly Services	657-7595
Engineer	658-4499
Fire	(Business) 658-3346
	(Emergency) 9-1-1
Fire Prevention	694-2006
Harnden Tavern Museum	658-5475
Health	658-4298
Housing Authority	658-8531
Library	658-2967
Nurse	658-4298
Planning/Conservation	658-8238
Plumbing Inspector	658-4531
Police	(Business) 658-5071
	(Emergency) 9-1-1
	(TDD) 657-8368
Public Buildings	658-3017
Public Works	658-4481
Recreation	658-4270
School	694-6000
Selectmen	658-3311
Town Clerk	658-2030
Town Manager	658-3311
	(TDD) 694-1417
Treasurer	658-3531
Veterans' Agent	694-2040
Water & Sewer	658-4711
	(Billing) 658-3116

This newsletter can be made available in an alternative format. Contact {978} 658-3311 or TTY {978} 694-1417