

# Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

## From the Manager's Desk



The new Wilmington High School project, which has been a marathon of sorts, is nearing completion. We are approaching the Coolidge Corner T stop, heading for Kenmore Square, a right on Hereford Street a left on Boylston Street and on to the finish line. Those who have participated throughout this journey are a bit weary from the time and effort but excited to achieve what started as a need, became a goal which led to execution of plans to build a new high school.

Under the direction of Gilbane Construction Company, crews are working diligently to have the new high school operational by February 13, 2015. Walkways around the school are largely complete except for the areas that will access the new parking area off Adams Street. Installation of auditorium seating is nearing completion with aisle carpet and the orchestra pit on target for completion by mid to late January. Classroom shelves, countertops and windowsills have been installed throughout the school. Building furniture will be moved into the classrooms and offices in mid to late

January. Paving of walkways, planting of trees and shrubs, installation of benches and planters and the installation of the 9/11 Memorial in the courtyard have been completed. The flooring for the gymnasium track will be wrapped up by the end of the first week in January. The gymnasium itself, which has served as a staging area for supplies, will have wood flooring installed during the month of January with application of floor finish and striping to be completed by the first week in February.



A grand opening is scheduled for students returning from vacation on Tuesday, February 24, 2015. Current plans call for students, staff and honored guests to gather in the current high school and proceed to the front of the new high school. Honored guests will have the opportunity for some brief remarks before students and staff enter their new school to resume their day and open a new chapter in their educational experience.

Demolition of the existing school, and work on the baseball field, multiple purpose field, parking lot and tennis/basketball courts will be completed by the end of calendar year 2015.

On December 4, 2014 registered voters attended the Special Town Meeting and voted overwhelmingly 391 to 7 to authorize the Town to borrow \$2,250,000 to seek the purchase of the Elinor M. Ristuccia Memorial Arena. Bernard Ristuccia, the rink owner, has a lease with Rotondo Enterprises which expires August 31, 2018. A right of first refusal provision within the lease permits Rotondo Enterprises to purchase the rink at the Town's offer price if the Town submits a formal offer before May 31, 2015. After that date the provision expires. For that reason the Town will not begin formal negotiations with Mr. Ristuccia until June of 2015. The goal of this endeavor is to restore the original mission of the rink as envisioned by the original owner of the property Ben Ristuccia in 1984 and as reflected in the Wilmington Arena Authority's March 26, 1985 Application for Recognition of Exemption as a 501(c)(3) which was "to manage a skating and recreation facility for the citizens of Wilmington. This facility will provide the Wilmington High School hockey team, the Wilmington Figure Skating Club, the Wilmington

Youth Hockey Association, and the Wilmington Recreation Department an opportunity to participate and compete."

One of my goals that has been referenced in my two annual budget presentations is: "Improve service delivery through the utilization of technology as a tool in our operations." This goal involves technology as a tool for employees of the Town, residents, businesses and visitors to provide access to information and services. The Town has committed time and resources to move in that direction. If you have not visited the Town's website, [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov), recently please check us out.

The Town recently launched online bill payments which allows customers to pay property and excise taxes, as well as water and sewer bills online. You can also order birth, marriage and death certificates, as well as register or renew your dog license through our website. Convenience fees may apply. For more information visit the Online Services section of the website.

Wondering what zoning district you are in, whether wetlands cross your property or what your recycling week is? We now have online interactive maps, or graphic information system (GIS) technology, that provides information about everything from zoning to voting precincts, locations of flood zones to wetlands. Look up parcel information and see it displayed graphically on the map. New information is being added regularly. The new GIS was selected for its user-friendly features. For more information visit the Online Services section of the website, or Engineering within the Department of Public Works webpages.

Did you know you can subscribe to E-Alerts which provide e-mail notification when new information or documents are posted to the website? E-Alerts are issued for News and Notices, Recreation Newsletter, Elderly Services Newsletter and various board, committee and commission meeting agendas and minutes. It takes less than five minutes to sign-up by clicking on the E-Alerts button on our homepage.

Finally, I ask for your feedback on our electronic and online services. Please take a few minutes to participate in our online survey about what you want to see for services, information and options through our website and other electronic media. To participate, visit our homepage and in the "Where Do I Go For...?" section, click on the link for Online Services.

In closing I wish to acknowledge the significant contributions to the Town made by Carole Hamilton, former Planning and Conservation Director. Ms. Hamilton retired on October 31, 2014 after serving in that capacity for over ten years. Prior to her formal service she volunteered as a member of the Planning Board from 1982 to 1998. Her dedication and leadership to shaping the physical environment of Wilmington will be evident for many years to come.

## PASSPORTS

Residents are reminded that when applying for a passport, the long form birth certificate **must** be submitted. The document may be obtained from the town/city where the hospital at which you were born was located and from the town/city where your parent's were living at the time of your birth. The document must have a raised seal. The passport office does not accept copies.

## AVOID FROZEN PIPES THIS WINTER



As the winter weather arrives, it is important for residents to take proper precautions to avoid the costly damage that can result from freezing pipes. Residents can prevent this by following a few simple precautions:

**Locate your master shut off valve.** The master shut-off valve controls all of the water into your home. Residents should know the valve location and how to turn it off as this can save valuable time and prevent water damage in an emergency. Once you locate the main shut off valve, mark it so everyone in your family can find it should an emergency occur.

**Keep cold air out.** Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

**Insulate pipes.** Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing.

**Disconnect garden hoses.** Disconnect garden hoses and, if possible, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

**Keep the water running.** A trickle of water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. In extremely cold weather, let water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall. The cost of water is small compared to dealing with the cost and inconvenience of frozen or burst pipes.



The Department of Public Works requests that residents help keep fire hydrants accessible by not plowing or snow blowing onto the hydrant. If able, please clear the area around the hydrant to enable fire crews to quickly connect to a hydrant when it is needed in your neighborhood.

## FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The Department of Elderly Services will provide free income tax assistance through American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Wilmington residents ages 60 and older may schedule an appointment by calling the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595. The program begins Wednesday, February 4, 2015 and continues every Wednesday through April 15, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wilmington Town Hall. All tax returns are prepared with computer accuracy and are electronically filed for rapid refunds. Clients should bring the following documents to their appointment:

- \* Current year's tax information and last year's tax return
- \* W-2 forms
- \* Social Security & pension information
- \* Tax forms sent by any and all financial institutions
- \* Property tax & water bills

Anyone in need of transportation should make arrangements when scheduling their appointment.



## SPRING INTO HAPPINESS CHALLENGE

The Department of Elderly Services will be starting an exciting 10 week project. The "48 Days to *Spring* into Happiness" is a challenge that will encourage all to try new activities and commit to happiness. Each week will be a different happiness theme such as humor week, Mardi Gras week, music week and much more. Additional information will be available on the website and in future editions of the Buzzell Buzz.

## SAFETY TIPS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- \* Outside burning of brush and garden debris will be allowed beginning **January 15th through May 1st**. Residents **must** call the Fire Department at 978-658-3346 to receive permission to burn and be made aware of the rules and regulations regarding open burning.
- \* Candle Safety: Prevent Candle Fires:
  - Burn candles inside a one foot circle of safety.
  - Before you go out, blow it out.
  - Keep lit candles out of reach of children and pets.
  - Teach everyone in the family the rules of safe candle use.
  - Keep all matches and lighters out of reach of children.
  - Switch to flameless candles.
- \* Winter Pet Protection: Taking precautions during winter months can ensure that your pets stay healthy and happy when the temperatures plummet.
  - Keep pets warm and indoors. Windchill can threaten a pet's life.
  - Protect paws from salt. This and other chemicals can irritate your pets feet. Be sure to wipe off their paws with a damp towel.
  - Avoid antifreeze poisoning. Don't allow pets to wander unattended near driveways, garages or other places where they may come into contact with antifreeze.

## ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION - TOWN MEETING

Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's Office for the Annual Town Election to be held Saturday, April 25, 2015. Interested residents may file nomination papers for the following offices: Board of Selectmen, Town Moderator, Housing Authority, Regional School Committee and School Committee (2 positions).

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the High School Auditorium. Petitioned articles are due in the Town Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 6, 2015. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 6, 2015.**

The 2015 Annual Census will be mailed in January. Residents are asked to complete and return the census form as soon as possible. Please call the Town Clerk's Office, 978-658-2030, if you do not receive a census form by the end of January.

## SCAM ADVISORY

The Wilmington Police Department would like to inform residents of two recent, significant scams: ATM Skimming and the Craigslist and eBay Green Dot MoneyPak .

"Skimming" is when a device is attached to an ATM to capture the card number. A false plate is then installed which contains a pin-hole camera to capture the PIN. A device was attached to a local ATM during a short period in November. The suspects are believed to be responsible of this crime throughout the east coast and have ties to an international criminal ring. Please be vigilant when using your bank card at an ATM machine.

The other scam involves purchases made on the Internet using sites such as Craigslist or eBay. Transactions are usually between private parties and involve large items, such as motor vehicles. Sellers advertise on these sites at prices usually well below the retail value for the item. The buyer is asked to pay using a prepaid stored value card, such as Green Dot Money Pak. The seller will ask you to provide them with the serial number on the card to complete the transaction. However, there is no merchandise and you have given them your money. These scams are very sophisticated and the sellers are very compelling and appear to be legitimate.

For more information please go to [www.wpd.org](http://www.wpd.org).

## LIBRARY WINTER EVENTS

Looking for something to do during the cold winter months? Library events are educational, entertaining and FREE thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library. **Registration begins 30 days prior to the event** at [www.wilmlibrary.org](http://www.wilmlibrary.org) or by calling 978-694-2967 (Adult) or 978-694-2098 (Children/Teen). Sign up for the e-mail newsletter or for RSS feeds to keep up with upcoming events at the library.

### **The Healing Power of Reiki with Joanna Scaparotti Thursday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.**

Reiki teacher Joanna Scaparotti will explore the history and context of Reiki, discuss its principles and practice, and finish with an experiential exercise and Reiki demonstration with the help of Reiki students.

### **Senior Tones Thursday, January 15, 2:30 p.m.**

The Senior Tones, a band of retirees who perform songs from the 50's and 60's, return to the library for a fun afternoon of oldies music.

### **Tweens: Make Your Own 3D Comic Book Tuesday, January 20, 3:00 p.m.**

Watch your favorite comic book come to life. Use crafting materials to build a background in a shoebox and then create props to give the scene dimension. Open to grades 4-8.

### **Meditation for Healthy Living Thursday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.**

Discover a simple meditation technique that can melt away stress and enhance a healthy living regimen. Join Dr. Allan Hughes, who has been meditating for over 30 years, for this engaging and powerful workshop.

### **Little Pig Joins the Band Monday, January 26, 6:30 p.m.**

David Hyde Costello shares his original songs and homemade musical instruments. There is a bit of engineering, a bit of invention and a lot of entertainment designed to nurture the idea that when it comes to making music, everyone can join the band. Ages 5+

**Growing Readers Wednesday, January 28, 3:45 p.m.**  
Help grow your child's early learning skills at this storytime filled with literacy-based activities.

**Fancy Nancy Tea Party Saturday, January 31, 2:00 p.m.**  
Join us for a fantastically posh storytime featuring the most extravagant (that's fancy for fancy) young lady of them all – Fancy Nancy.

### **Budget Travel for All Ages and Styles! Thursday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.**

Always wanted to travel more but wondering how to do it affordably? Come to this interactive workshop with travel blogger Lillie Marshall to learn how to see the world within YOUR budget.



### **Introduction to Chinese Brush Painting Wednesday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.**

Learn this ancient art from Sharon Wu, artist and teacher. Sharon will teach how to handle a brush and create a painting using traditional materials. Grades 2-5

### **An Inside Look at Flea Markets, Antiques and Collecting Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.**

Join author Maureen Stanton to get the inside scoop on the world of collecting! Come ready to learn about flea markets, antiquing, and junk finding of all sorts from the author whose book, *Killer Stuff and Tons of Money*, won the 2012 Massachusetts Book Award in nonfiction.

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### WINTER NEWSLETTER

Printed copies of the winter newsletter are available at Town Hall, the Buzzell Senior Center and the Wilmington Memorial Library. Information can also be accessed on the town's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov), click on Recreation to access the webpage. Save the link in your "Favorites" so you can access it easily. While there, click on "Subscribe to E-Alerts" to receive informational updates from various town departments. Select Recreation News to receive an e-mail when a new edition of "Recreation Matters" has been posted or for information regarding program updates.



### TRAVEL

Looking for something new? Consider traveling to The Azores in April or Quebec City in August. For something closer to home, board a motorcoach for an early St. Patrick's Day trip to the Aqua Turf in Connecticut for lunch and a performance of the Women of Ireland. We are also offering a day trip including some time at Mohegan Sun and a performance of "Live from Nashville" on April 16. Finally, attend a theatre trip (includes bus transportation and orchestra seat) to see Dirty Dancing (April 30) or Kinky Boots (August 19).

### NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Are you ready to try something new? Check out the newest programs for children including "Just like Gram" cookie making class (Grades K-4), "Superhero Science" (Grades 1-5), Viking Soccer Clinic (Age 3 w/caregiver), Beginner Ballet (Ages 2 & 3) and Sports 101 (For Age 4 – Kindergarten). Be sure to check out all the Adult Programs – we have a variety of fitness options and dance classes to get you in shape in 2015!

### "THE ROOKIES" PLAY BALL!



Register your child (age 5 by April 30, 2015 through Grade 1) for our baseball program called "The Rookies". This program combines traditional T-Ball with a coach-pitch format to prepare children to advance to Little League. This six-week program will run from Monday – Thursday, April 27 – June 4. Children will have one practice session and one game each week. Cost is \$25 per child. Registration forms will be available on our website and in the office beginning February 4. **Registration deadline is Thursday, March 19.**

### EASTER EGG HUNT



Join us on the Town Common on Saturday, April 4 at 2:00 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 or container to hold your eggs.

### WINTER PARKING BAN IN EFFECT

Residents are reminded that the Town of Wilmington enforces an overnight parking ban that is in effect between 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from December 1 to April 1 each year, and anytime during snow removal operations. Failure to comply with the regulation will result in the owner receiving a \$50 fine from the Wilmington Police Department and/or the removal of the vehicle at the owner's expense from the roadway during a snow emergency. If a vehicle is impaired and cannot be removed until morning, the owner is required to alert the Wilmington Police Department for assistance.



## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Department of Public Works will be collecting Christmas trees at curbside beginning January 5, 2015. Residents should remove all decorations and plastic wrapping from their tree and place it curbside on their regular trash pick-up day. It is anticipated that the collection will take approximately two weeks. Please note that the pick-up may be delayed by weather and other work demands on the DPW.



The Christmas trees collected by the Town will be recycled into mulch. The mulch will be made available to residents in the spring at the Recycling Center and will also be used on Town projects. Residents are advised that if they miss this DPW curbside collection they may put their Christmas trees out with their regular trash.

For details on public works services, please refer to the "Public Works" link on the Town's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov) or call the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481.

## DOG REGISTRATION/RABIES CLINIC



The 2015 dog tags are now available. You may register your dog at the Town Clerk's office Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by mail. If by mail, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope, a check for \$10.00 if your dog is neutered/spayed, \$15.00 if not, and a copy of the dog's most recent rabies certificate to: Town Clerk, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887.

Registration may also be done on-line at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov), click on Town Clerk then "Online Payment of Clerk's Office Bills Here".

The Wilmington Board of Health Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2015 from Noon to 2 p.m. at the Public Buildings Department, 30 Church Street. Wilmington residents only. Dogs must be on a leash and cats in a carrier. Cost: \$10.00 per animal.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 5- - CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES**  
**JAN 16**
- JAN 4 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- FEB 1 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- FEB 4 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION BEGINS**  
 Grades K-1
- FEB 6 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PETITIONED WARRANT**  
**ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
- MAR 1 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- MAR 6 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN ELECTION**
- MAR 18 - FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC**  
**HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**  
 Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.
- MAR 19 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
- APR 6 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE - TOWN**  
**ELECTION/TOWN MEETING** Until 8 p.m.
- APR 4 - RABIES CLINIC** Public Buildings Dept. Noon - 2 p.m.
- APR 4 - EASTER EGG HUNT** Town Common 2 p.m.

## NEWS FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM

The Museum will be open this winter as follows:

- **Sunday Open House:** January 4, February 1, March 1 from 2:00 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.
- By appointment – Please do not hesitate to contact the Museum to schedule an appointment at the convenience of you or your group.
- **SPECIAL SCHOOL VACATION HOURS:** The museum will be open **by appointment only** the week of February 15, 2015.

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](mailto:htavern@wilmingtonma.gov). Or visit us on the web at

[http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/Pages/WilmingtonMA\\_BComm/Historical/index](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/Pages/WilmingtonMA_BComm/Historical/index)



## 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
	<b>(Emergency) 9-1-1</b>
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
	<b>(Emergency) 9-1-1</b>
	(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
Veteran's 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*