

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



On September 12th the Wildcats kicked off their 2013 football season in front of a large crowd of energized fans. The game not only had the advantage of being played on home turf, it was played on the newly installed artificial turf at Alumni Field. A rededication ceremony and ribbon cutting were held prior to the game and provided an opportunity to mark an important milestone of the new high school project.



The artificial turf does not need to be rested, as did the natural field, creating greater opportunities for more of Wilmington's sports teams to practice and play on the field. Field maintenance costs will be significantly reduced with irrigation, fertilizing and grass cutting no

longer required. The field has been marked for football and soccer, with striping for lacrosse and field hockey coming in the next few months.

I wish to acknowledge Gilbane Building Company, Dore & Whittier Architects and Joslin, Lesser + Associates for their efforts to ensure the field was a showcase of Wildcat pride for the team's first home game this season.

In addition to the turf field, the new solar powered scoreboard was debuted at the game. The scoreboard was made possible through a generous donation from the Wilmington Sons of Italy. The Sons of Italy have been a major supporter of the community for many years and exemplifies the tremendous civic pride that is characteristic of so many local organizations. On behalf of the community, I thank them for their generous support.

On September 3, 2013 Superior Court Judge Peter Krupp denied the appeal of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) final order of conditions for the high school project. The appeal, filed by Gerald O'Reilly, sought to set aside the final order of conditions issued by the DEP on November 16, 2012, establishing the environmental parameters for construction of the high school, associated site work and athletic fields. Judge Krupp was very clear in his ruling that Mr. O'Reilly did not meet the burden of proof required to overturn DEP's ruling. While Mr. O'Reilly has the right to appeal this decision, the Town is confident in its ability to prevail.

Selectmen have called a Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium for the purpose of purchasing 7.86 acres of land next to St. Dorothy's Church at 120 Main Street. The property is currently part of St. Dorothy's and is owned by the Archdiocese of Boston.

This property presents a unique opportunity to have buildable space with access to two main roads, water and sewer. Over the next ten to fifteen years the Town will need to confront a number of issues with our public infrastructure. From our administration buildings such as Town Hall and the Superintendent's Office to programmatic space such as the Senior Center and fields and recreational space, there are challenges and needs that must be addressed. The property at 120 Main Street can meet any number of these needs and provide tremendous flexibility. This type of land is rarely available at the precise time that the Town has a specific project ready to go. Since the Archdiocese of Boston is a non-profit entity it is exempt from local property taxes. As such the Town may acquire it without losing any tax revenue.

Selectmen have entered into a purchase and sales agreement with the Archdiocese for the price of \$1,725,000. Approval of the purchase requires a majority vote of Town Meeting participants. The Finance Committee will hold a public hearing on October 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Selectmen have placed a second article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant to revise the Highway Industrial zone by allowing personal service shops by right. Under existing zoning, personal service shops are not permitted. This change will allow beneficial development to proceed.

A third article, submitted by petition, has been included on the Warrant. This article, submitted by Kevin Brennan, seeks to change the zoning on property located at 276 Lowell Street from Residential 20 (R-20) to General Business.

Wilmington residents who are registered to vote are eligible to participate in the Special Town Meeting. Residents who are not currently registered to vote must register no later than 8:00 p.m. on October 24, 2013 to be eligible to participate in the Special Town Meeting. Residents interested in registering to vote should contact the Town Clerk's Office.

I wish to extend my congratulations and thanks to two Town employees for their service to Wilmington. Public Works Superintendent Donald Onusseit will be retiring after nearly 16 years with the Town. Mark Peters, Foreman in the Highway Division, will be retiring after 40 years of service. Best wishes for a long and productive retirement.



REMEMBER OUR VETERANS

Ordinary people accomplishing extraordinary things. Simply put, that is who veterans are. Throughout our country's history brave men and women have willingly answered the call of duty to defend our nation and our way of life. The actions of our servicemen and women have changed the course of history, touched lives and spread freedom and democracy to nations around the world. As Americans, we owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to our veterans who, during peace and war, have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to safeguarding the principles upon which our nation was founded. Wilmington's veterans have a long and proud tradition of serving our community after returning to civilian life. On November 11 of each year, we reaffirm our commitment to those who have answered the call of duty on behalf of all Americans. Enduring great personal sacrifices these men and women, and their families, need the support of our entire community. We are deeply thankful for the veterans who served our country with great honor in the past and to those who uphold their duties today. The Department of Veterans' Services reminds everyone that November is Military Family Month. Take the opportunity to celebrate the contribution that military families make to the nation and to acknowledge the sacrifices they endure on a daily basis. A sincere thank you is extended to our veterans and their families for what they do to keep our nation safe. Please join them and your fellow residents at Wilmington's Veterans' Day ceremony on **Monday, November 11, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. on the Wilmington Town Common.**



FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This year there have been several changes in the Community Teamwork, Inc. fuel assistance program. In response to the reduced funding, Community Teamwork has limited staff and have changed the way they are mailing out 2014 Fuel Assistance applications. The date you will receive your application will depend on the type of fuel used to heat your home. Since applications will be mailed in batches please be aware that someone you know may receive their application before you. Your eligibility will not be affected.

Type of Fuel:	Application Delivered By:
Oil-Kerosene-Propane-Wood	September
Gas - Electric	November
Heat Included in the Rent	January

Once you have received the application in the mail, call the Department of Elderly Services at 978-657-7595 if you require assistance. Applications for new applicants will commence after November 2013. The Fiscal Year 2014 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Income Levels have not yet been announced. The Department of Elderly Services will provide notification in local newspapers and in their newsletter once the information is available.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Board of Selectmen have called for a Special Town Meeting to be held Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilmington Middle School. The Finance Committee/Planning Board Public Hearing will take place on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium. The last day to register to vote at the Special Town Meeting is Thursday, October 24, 2013. Town Clerk's Office will be open until 8:00 p.m. that day.

WILMINGTON MAPS COMING WEBSITE

A new web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) is in the testing phase and will be available online by mid-November. At the click of a button, maps with information including Assessor's parcel data, location of wetlands, locations of public buildings, zoning, flood zones, voting precincts, aerial photos, even trash pick-up days by street will be available. Easily search for parcels by address, parcel number or owner. The new system will replace the MassGIS service currently available on our website.



The GIS maps are part of a larger effort to improve access to information online for residents, businesses and visitors. To suggest online services you would like to see in the future please contact kamaral@wilmingtonma.gov or use our online comments form.

SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM

The Senior Citizen Work Program offers Wilmington residents the opportunity to work off a portion of their property tax by working part-time for the Town. This year's program will enable the Town to fill a minimum of 24 positions in various school and municipal departments. Participants earn \$8/hour for up to 80 hours of "volunteer" service. Since the program's beginning in 1995, approximately 321 positions have been filled.

The purpose of the program is to assist seniors in reducing their property tax burden. Participants **MUST** be Wilmington residents occupying a house for which property taxes are paid (or spouse of homeowner), have limited financial resources and be 60 years of age or older as of January 1, 2014. Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 23, 2013.** As in past years, priority will be given to qualified applicants not previously selected for the program. All seniors, regardless of past participation however, are encouraged to apply. Job listings and program information are on the application.



RECREATION BASKETBALL



The registration deadline for Recreation Basketball (Grades 3 - 10) is Thursday, October 3.

Celebrating its 51st year of existence, "WRBL" play runs from December 2 - February 8 (There are no games/practices December 23-January 1 or January 20). Separate league play for boys and girls will consist of 9 Saturday games with weeknight practices. The cost of the program remains at \$75.

The registration deadline for Junior Basketball (Grades 1 & 2) is Thursday, November 14.

This six-week co-ed program runs on Saturdays, January 4 - February 8 and costs \$35. *Registration forms for both programs are available on the Town website.*

A **Coaches' Clinic** is being offered on Monday, October 28 or Wednesday, November 6 for anyone in Grade 9 or above interested in coaching to satisfy community service requirements. On Tuesdays, November 5 & 12, the annual **Referee Clinic** will be conducted for anyone age 16 (by 12/1/13) and over interested in a possible paid position for Recreation Basketball. Contact the Recreation office for additional information or to register for these free clinics.

FALL PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Register for programs online using *Calendar of Events* at www.wilmlibrary.org or by calling (978) 694-2099 (for Adult) or (978)694-2098 (for Children/Teen).

Tales from Beyond - Thursday, October 3, 7 p.m.

Get in the "spirit" of Halloween! See a voodoo doll, handle ancient coins and look over old photographs and newspaper clippings about curious disappearances and hauntings. Try mindreading and experience ESP!

Trick or Treat at the Library

Thursday, October 31, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Wear a costume to the library and get a treat at the checkout desks! Adults, teens and kids can all participate!

Crafty Teens: Haunted Halloween Tote Bag

Tuesday, October 29, 6:30 p.m.

Teens are invited to make a painted Halloween-themed tote bag. Template options will include bats, pumpkins and skeletons.

Cards for Veterans - Friday, November 8, 3 p.m.

Teens can earn community service hours by making cards expressing appreciation to our veterans in honor of Veterans' Day.

Crafty Teens: Thanksgiving Centerpiece

Tuesday, November 26, 6 p.m.

Teens are invited to make their own unique Thanksgiving centerpiece - certain to impress family and friends at the holiday dinner.

After Hours Concert: Bad Mama Jamas

Friday December 6, 7 p.m.

Tickets (\$15) on sale Saturday, November 9, must be 21+ Enjoy the sounds of Motown and a few holiday classics with the Bad Mama Jamas.

Celebrate the December Holidays with

Debbie O'Carroll - Wednesday, December 11, 7 p.m.

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to participate in Debbie O'Carroll's merry celebrations of Christmas, Hanukkah, [Las Posadas](#), The First Day of Winter, [Dewali](#), New Year's Eve, [Bodhi Day](#), St. Stephen's Day, Three King's Day, Kwanzaa and more as they learn about the different holidays that light up this special month.

New Year's Snackin' Eve - Tuesday, December 31, 11 a.m.

Celebrate the New Year a little early. First we'll make some yummy snacks and then ring in the New Year at noon. For Ages 6+.

Discount Museum Passes

Visit the following local museums and parks at discounted rates using the library's museum passes. Reserve a pass on line at www.wilmlibrary.org or call 978-658-2967. The library has passes to the following:

Children's Museum, Discovery Museum, Einstein's Workshop, Imagine That indoor play space, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Mass. State Parks, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Peabody Essex Museum and Zoo New England.

CARTER COMMITTEE SPONSORS CONCERT

The Sarah Carter Lecture Fund Committee is sponsoring a free concert featuring Squeezebox Stompers on Friday, October 25, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Wilmington Middle School. The Squeezebox Stompers are five talented musicians that play Roadhouse Roots music, a unique mix of Cajun, Zydeco, Celtic, Country, Blues and Jazz.

These programs, suitable for all ages, have been offered to the Town since 1910. All are welcome.



A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



POWER OUTAGE SAFETY TIPS

- ☞ Check flashlights & portable radios to ensure they are working, and you have extra batteries. A radio is an important source of critical weather and emergency information during a storm.
- ☞ If a storm is coming that may bring power outages, fully charge your cell phone, laptop, and any other devices in advance of a power outage.
- ☞ If your water supply could be affected by a power outage (a well-water pump system), fill your bathtub and spare containers with water. Water in the bathtub should be used for sanitation purposes only, not as drinking water. Pouring a pail of water from the tub directly into the bowl can flush a toilet.
- ☞ Set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings (remember to reset them back to normal once power is restored). During an outage, do not open the refrigerator or freezer door unnecessarily. Food can stay cold in a full refrigerator for up to 24 hours and in a well-packed freezer, for 48 hours (24 hours if it is half-packed). Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures at or above 40°F for 2 hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. When in doubt, throw it out!
- ☞ If you have medication that requires refrigeration, check with your pharmacist for guidance on proper storage during an extended outage.
- ☞ If you have life-support devices that depend on electricity, contact **Reading Municipal Light Department at 781-944-1340**, about your power needs for life-support devices (home dialysis, suction, breathing machines, etc.) in advance of an emergency. Some utility companies will put you on a "priority reconnection service" list. Talk to your equipment suppliers about your power options and also let the fire department (978-658-3346) know that you are dependent on life-support devices.
- ☞ Follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines when using a generator. Always use outdoors, away from windows and doors. Carbon Monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly accumulate indoors. Never try to power the house by plugging the generator directly into household wiring. This is extremely dangerous and presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer.
- ☞ CALL 781-944-1340 to report power outages. Do not call 9-1-1, this is for emergencies only.
- ☞ You should unplug all sensitive electronic equipment, TV's, computers, etc. in order to protect against voltage irregularities.
- ☞ Leave a light on so that you will know when your power is restored.
- ☞ Be extra cautious when you go outside to inspect for damage after the storm. Downed or hanging electrical wires can be hidden by trees or debris and could be live. Never attempt to touch or move downed lines and keep children and pets away from them. Do not touch anything power lines are touching, such as tree branches or fences.
- ☞ If driving and traffic lights are out, treat every intersection as a four-way stop.
- ☞ Check in on friends, family and neighbors, particularly those most susceptible to extreme temperatures and power outages such as seniors and those with access and functional needs.



NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

The Board of Health and Police Department would like to remind residents that unneeded or expired medications should not be flushed down the toilet. On **Saturday, October 26**, the public may surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications for destruction. The anonymous drug take-back initiative will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. Examples of accepted items include prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, pet medications, vitamins or sample medications in the form of pills, capsules, ointments and/or patches.

ROTARY AUCTION

The annual Wilmington Rotary Club Auction will be held on **Friday, November 22, at the Knights of Columbus Hall** located on Middlesex Avenue behind St. Thomas Church. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the auction starting promptly at 7 p.m. As always, a wide variety of items will be put up for bid. Attendees will enjoy a free buffet, courtesy of Winchester Hospital, cash bar and the chance to participate in the \$10,000 raffle. *Admission is free.* For further information please contact Auction Chair, John Doherty, at 978-658-3805 or visit www.wilmingtonrotary.org. Proceeds fund scholarships for Wilmington students, support a blood donor drive and enable partnership programs for municipal and school projects.

DON'T MISS SANTA!

Santa and his elves will be welcoming Wilmington boys and girls at **Santa's Workshop** on Thursday, December 6, 6 pm-8 pm at Town Hall. Please bring your cameras. **Breakfast with Santa** is on Saturday, December 7 at the K of C Hall. Pre-purchased tickets from the Recreation Department are required for both seatings, 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Tickets available beginning October 29.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT 3	RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	Grades 3-10
OCT 6	HARDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE	2 pm to 4 pm
OCT 22	FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING	Town Hall Auditorium 7 pm
OCT 23	APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM	
OCT 25	SARAH CARTER COMMITTEE CONCERT	Middle School Auditorium 7 pm
OCT 27	HORRIBLES PARADE	Rotary Park 4:30 pm
NOV 3	HARDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE	2 pm to 4 pm
NOV 11	VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY	Town Common 11 am
NOV 13	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING	Middle School Auditorium 7 pm
NOV 14	JUNIOR BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	Grades 1 & 2
NOV 22	ROTARY AUCTION	Knights of Columbus 7 pm
NOV 23	SENIOR CITIZEN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR	Buzzell Senior Center 9 am to 2 pm
DEC 5	SANTA'S WORKSHOP	Town Hall 6 pm to 7:30 pm
DEC 7	BREAKFAST WITH SANTA	Seating at Knights of Columbus 8:15 am & 10:15 am
DEC 7	HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING	Town Common
DEC 8	HOLIDAY SOCIAL	Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 pm

FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on October 28 and extend for five weeks through November 29.** Residents should place their yardwaste in biodegradable paper bags or uncovered barrels at curbside on their regular trash collection day.

Residents may also use the recycling center off Old Main Street near the Woburn line for leaves and brush drop-off. **The center will open for 9 weeks on Wednesdays and Saturdays from October 9 through and including December 7.** Hours of operation are Wednesdays, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In order to use the yardwaste recycling facility, residents must purchase a \$15 punch card which is good for five visits to the center. The card may be purchased at the Treasurer/Collector's Office, Room 1, Town Hall. **Wilmington residents only** are allowed to use the facility for leaves and brush drop-off. **NO GRASS CLIPPINGS.** The punch card and an ID must be presented at the entrance. **No contractors or commercial vehicles** are allowed to use the facility.

WALK FOR THE SCHOOLS

A walk for the Wilmington Educational Foundation (WEF) will be occurring in all schools, except the high school, on Thursday, October 31st. This is a great way to support the schools. Please visit the schools' website (www.wilmington.k12.ma.us) for further information.



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
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