

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk

As I prepare my remarks in early March it appears that we may have dodged the snowflakes for the most part this winter. However, always mindful of what March can bring and the surprise storms in April, I will refrain from gloating.

Progress on the Yentile Farm Recreational Facility continues with the award of a construction contract for \$3,903,950 to Green Acres Landscaping and Construction. Depending upon weather conditions, work could begin before the end of March. Most work on the 9 acre site is expected to be completed during calendar year 2016 with the final close out to be complete by spring of 2017.

Work to complete the signalization at the intersections of Middlesex Avenue, Glen Road and Wildwood Street will resume this spring. Once traffic signals have been activated they will remain on a flashing mode for approximately 30 days before final adjustments are made and the signals become fully operational.

Currently representatives from The Cecil Group have been visiting the Town facilities to document their condition, assess the space and gather other information to familiarize themselves with the school and general government buildings. During the next few months the Facilities Master Plan Committee will continue to work with The Cecil Group to develop alternative approaches for addressing the need for functional space that meets the program requirements of departments. A community survey will be issued during the month of April to seek input from residents. This information, together with information gathered from public meetings, will help to shape the final "work product."

Residents are understandably passionate about preserving the tradition of a July 4th celebration. This event is part of the fabric that is Wilmington. The event draws past and present residents and people from many other communities. While the Fourth of July Committee's application for a special permit to conduct a carnival at the former Swain School site was not approved, the Town plans to file its own application. I am hopeful that changes made to the Town's proposal for a carnival will be considered favorably.

One lesson to be taken from the fall-out resulting from the denial of the special permit is the need to recognize the right of individuals, including members of boards and committees, to express their own opinion. The very reason for which this celebration is being held is to honor the freedoms gained from our independence. Social media can sometimes be used as a safe haven to shoot stinging barbs at each other. We need to be mindful of the examples that we are setting for our children and grandchildren in how we conduct ourselves when confronting differences of opinion.

The Town is revamping its website with a focus on making the site more user friendly and information easier to find. Feedback received from residents via an online survey is being used to help shape the new look of the website. Look for the website update to be available by early July.



Best wishes are extended to Nunzio DiBenedetto who recently retired after 15 years of faithful service supporting information technology for general government. May you have ample opportunity to focus on family and your "bucket list."

Local elections for members of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Housing Authority and the Shawsheen Regional Technical School Committee will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Questions about voting should be directed to the Town Clerk's Office at 978-658-2030. Annual Town Meeting will take place in the high school auditorium on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. Registered voters will be asked to approve the Town budget and consider amendments to the Town's Inhabitant By-laws and Zoning By-laws.

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, Library and on-line at <http://wpsk12.com/whs/2016/03/09/town-of-wilmington-scholarship-application-2016/>. The **application deadline is April 15**. Since 1996, this program has distributed \$128,000 in financial aid to 208 scholarship recipients.

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.

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.

Residents are invited to participate in Memorial Day observances commencing on Saturday, May 28 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 29 at 1:30 p.m. a rededication ceremony will take place at the Veterans' Monument on the Town Common.

Wilmington's Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 30 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. Residents are encouraged to participate in Memorial Day events and remember all those who have served, and those who have given their life, to defend our freedom.



RECREATION OFFERINGS

Registration for the **Summer Playground Program** is **Monday, April 11 at 7:30 a.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium**. This six-week program for children entering grades 2 – 8 will be held from Monday, June 27 – Wednesday, August 3 (No July 4) at the Shawsheen Elementary School. Playground will run rain or shine from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. allowing children time to enjoy a wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, games, sports, special events and optional field trips. Please check the website for additional details.

Tiny Tots & Kids Club registration begins **Wednesday, April 13 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium**. After this date, registration will continue weekdays in the Recreation Office. Dates for the two sessions are: Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 15 (No July 4) and Monday, July 18 – Thursday, August 4. Classes are held from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Boutwell School. This remarkable program, one of Wilmington's most popular traditions, includes children ages 4 through 8. Please check the website for additional information.

The annual **Fishing Derby** will be held at the Town Beach on Saturday, June 4 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon (rain date – Sunday, June 5). There will be shore fishing only. Cost is \$2 for children age 17 & under; adults \$4. Prizes awarded to contest winners. For this day only – no fishing licenses required.

The 2016 season for **Town Beach at Silver Lake** is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 11 - Sunday, August 14. Wilmington residents may use the beach at no charge. **Certified lifeguards** (age 16 & older) should contact the Recreation Department regarding possible employment opportunities.

The Recreation Department now offers online registration for its programs and trips! You can securely register your entire family at one time from the comfort of your home, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Create your CommunityPass account by clicking on the CommunityPass link on the Wilmington Recreation page on the town website.

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.

ROADSIDE & PARK TREE INVENTORY PHASE II

The Town of Wilmington will be working with an arborist consulting firm again this spring to continue with the town-wide roadside and park tree inventory and risk assessment that was started during the spring of 2015. 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 hazard trees. The work will also serve to inventory the Town's urban forest canopy using GIS technology and will help identify problematic insects and diseases which may be treatable if found early. This year's work is funded by the Urban Forestry Challenge Grant, which was awarded to the Town of Wilmington by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Questions about this project may be directed to Jamie Magaldi, Operations Manager and Tree Warden for the Wilmington Department of Public Works, 978-658-4481.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Beat the Beep: Replace Aging CO Alarms – They Don't Last Forever - Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms have been required in nearly every residence since March of 2006. The life expectancy of carbon monoxide alarms is 5-7 years, depending on the alarm manufacturer. Many CO alarms installed after the state's CO law was passed are now reaching the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. Many CO detectors will begin to beep to alert the need for replacement. The life of a CO alarm begins once it is first powered up. Most CO alarms have a date of manufacture stamped on them, which can be used as a guide if the activation date was not recorded.

COOKING SAFETY TIPS



- ♦ **Put a lid on a grease** fire to smother it, then turn off the heat. Baking soda will also work.
- ♦ **Never** move a burning pan. You can be badly burned and/or spread the fire.
- ♦ **Never** throw water or use a fire extinguisher on a grease fire. Water will only spread the fire and the force of the extinguisher can splash flaming grease out of the pan.
- ♦ **Stand by your pan.** Don't leave food, grease or oils cooking on the stovetop unattended.
- ♦ **Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves** when cooking. Loose fitting clothing can easily catch fire.
- ♦ **If your clothing catches fire, STOP, DROP & ROLL** to put out the flames. Put burns in cool running water. Call 9-1-1 for help.
- ♦ **Keep pot handles turned inward** to prevent accidental spills of hot contents.
- ♦ **Create a three-foot "child-free zone" around the stove.** Keep children and pets away from the stove while cooking to prevent burns and scalds.
- ♦ **Cool a Burn** under cool running water for 10-15 minutes and call 9-1-1 or seek medical attention for serious burns.

DRYER FIRE SAFETY TIPS



- ♦ The leading cause of home clothes dryer and washer fires is failure to clean them.
- ♦ Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- ♦ Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- ♦ Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- ♦ Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- ♦ Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- ♦ Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- ♦ Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- ♦ Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- ♦ Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

The following is a sampling of upcoming library programs. Please register at www.wilmlibrary.org or by calling 978-658-2967 (Adult) or 978-694-2098 (Children/Teen) events.

TOWN WIDE YARD SALE Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Town Wide Yard Sale will be held June 11th.

Applications will be available online and at the library starting April 4th. The \$15 fee includes yard sale signs, maps of yard sale locations, and lots of publicity. Start sorting now!

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

The library and Farmer Dave's of Dracut, MA have teamed up to bring locally-grown, fresh fruits and vegetables to Wilmington with a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Shares are ready for pick-up Thursday afternoons from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the library. For more information, please visit Farmer Dave's website (farmerdaves.net) or stop by the library.

CONCERT: QUINTESSENTIAL BRASS

Thursday, April 28, 7 p.m.

Founded in 1990, Quintessential Brass performs a majestic brass repertoire of jazz and pop. This concert is supported in part by a grant from Wilmington Cultural Council.

WELCOME TO WILMINGTON Monday, May 2, 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? Come to the Welcome to Wilmington Reception. There will be community group representatives to welcome you and answer questions. This program is in collaboration with the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

AFTER HOURS CONCERT FEATURING DRUNKEN LOGIC

Friday, May 13, 7 p.m., \$10/person ages 21+.

Tickets on sale April 11

Drunken Logic, a "surprisingly cohesive blend of pop punk and emotionally-charged folk rock" (Sound of Boston) was formed at Berklee College of Music in 2012. Their acoustic trio will play tracks off their two albums, *Something New to Burn* (2013) and *Long Day's Journey to the Middle* (2014) along with popular crowd pleasing covers.

LIVING HISTORY: STORIES OF SURVIVAL: SENG TY AND MARY RECKO

Thursday, May 26, 7 p.m.

Seng Ty, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge and author of *Years of Zero*, and Mary Recko, a survivor of the Holocaust, who was born in Warsaw, Poland will share their stories and take questions from the audience.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD ART SHOW

Monday, April 11 - Saturday, April 16

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

TEEN JOB FAIR Wednesday, April 20, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Learn about job and volunteer job opportunities for teens at the WML's 2nd Annual Teen Job Fair! Meet representatives from community businesses and organizations and pick up applications. **Ages 14+**

MOTHER/DAUGHTER PAINT NIGHT *RR

Friday, May 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Cost \$15 per mother-daughter group.

Celebrate Mother's Day by creating adorable mother-daughter owl paintings using acrylic on black canvas. This special after-hours workshop is led by local artist Sherry Hoffman.

ANNUAL WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM

Starting in mid April, the Water Division 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.

ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC

The Board of Health's Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on **Saturday, April 2 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 2016 Dog Licenses. Cost: \$10.00 spayed/neutered or \$15.00 non-spayed/non-neutered. **A \$15.00 late fee will be assessed after April 3, 2016.**

NEWS FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM

Sunday Open House: April 3, May 1 and June 12 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 17.

Special Exhibit – *Back in the Day – 101 Years of High School in Wilmington:* Opening Sunday, May 1, 2016, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. An exhibit featuring photographs and memorabilia from two eras of Wilmington High School:

1914-1950 in the building that became the Swain School; and

1950-2015 in the building that was recently demolished to make way for the new WHS.

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

We're One Wilmington will be sponsoring the 6th Annual Run for Wilmington/Kim Forte Walk to be held on April 24th. 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 4, April 18 and May 2.**

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:

March 30

April 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30

May 4 and 7

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 or stumps 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.**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 14 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



TRASH AND RECYCLING TIPS

BULKY ITEMS I.E. FURNITURE

Cannot be placed in the trash container. At no extra cost, each residence is allowed to dispose of one bulky item each week. Residents must call Russell Disposal at 617-776-5854 by 11 a.m. on Thursday to schedule an appointment for pickup on Friday. Residents should first consider recycling/donating bulky and other large items before putting them out for trash collection.

WHITE GOODS AND CRTS (TVS AND COMPUTER MONITORS ETC.)

Stickers are required and can be obtained at the Tax Collector's Office at the Town Hall. The cost is \$10 per item. Stickers must be purchased by 11 a.m. on Thursday for Friday pickup.

Please see http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/pages/WilmingtonMA_Trash/Booklet1.pdf for further information regarding the Trash and Recycling Collection Program.

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 High School beginning Friday, June 17th 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| APR 2 | RABIES CLINIC | Public Buildings Department | 12 pm - 2 pm |
| APR 4 | LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2016 TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING | | |
| APR 11 | PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION | Town Hall Auditorium | 7:30 am |
| APR 13 | TINY TOTS/KIDS CLUB REGISTRATION | Town Hall Auditorium | 5 pm to 6:30 pm |
| APR 16 | LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY PARADE | | 9:30 am |
| APR 23 | ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION | | Polls Open 8 am to 8 pm |
| APR 30 | ANNUAL TOWN MEETING | High School | 10:30 am |
| MAY 30 | MEMORIAL DAY PARADE CEREMONY AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY | | 10 am 11 am |
| JUN 2 | RECREATION SUMMER BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE | | |
| JUN 4 | FISHING DERBY | Town Beach | 9 am to 12 pm |
| JUN 5 | WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION | | |
| JUN 9 | SHAWSHEEN TECH GRADUATION | | |
| JUN 12 | FARMERS MARKET OPENS | Town Common | 10 am to 1 pm |

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 |



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