

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



The summer of 2016 will go on record as one of the driest summers in recent memory. During the months of June, July and August the Town received only 5.70 inches of rain as compared with 13.23 inches during the same period in 2015. While the weather has been great for family vacations, cook-outs and other outdoor activities, it has challenged our watersheds as is clearly visible to anyone passing Silver Lake, Maple Meadow Brook, Lubbers Brook and the Shawsheen River. As we continue to receive below average rain fall, residents are strongly encouraged to honor the Town's outdoor water restrictions and use water wisely.

By all accounts, the return of the July 4th celebration to the Town Common was well received. The success of the event was due, in no small part, to the work of many hands. The Board of Selectmen made the call for the Town to seek competitive proposals for a carnival. The volunteers of the Fourth of July Committee worked tirelessly to arrange programs, music and activities for all ages. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated personnel from the Police, Fire, Public Works and Public Buildings Departments for maintaining a safe, clean and enjoyable environment for this celebration. Discussions are now taking place about the 2017 "Fun on the Fourth".

The Town is soliciting bids from parties interested in purchasing the Butters Farm. This first period home was purchased by the Town in 2006 to save it from demolition. Since that time the Town has replaced clapboard siding, windows, sills and the foundation. In spite of these repairs the building still has significant deficiencies including the need for a new roof, replacement of the main chimney stack and interior floors and walls. The Town's objective is to save this historic home while encouraging its active use.

The Butters Farm is being offered for sale "as is" to the bidder offering the highest price and who meets the requirements set out in the invitation for bids. The property currently has a preservation restriction filed at the Registry of Deeds and will also have a rehabilitation agreement specifying the work required to be completed. The deadline for submission of bids is October 7th @ 10:00 a.m. in my office.

The Facilities Master Plan is entering a new phase. The Cecil Group will complete an in-depth evaluation of the scenarios identified through the public process. The results of Cecil's more detailed evaluation of different building scenarios, including maintaining the existing buildings but making repairs to keep them habitable, will be discussed with the Facilities Committee. Additional public input will be sought before the Committee decides upon a preferred scenario that describes the investments the town should make over the next 20 years to provide facilities that accommodate the need to provide educational, elderly, library, public works and other services.

Deborah Cipriani retired as Recreation Director at the end of September after an impressive 21 year career with the Town, the last 13 years as the director. Her energy, positive attitude and commitment to Wilmington have truly shone through. She has touched the lives of thousands of residents of all ages through the programs and trips that her department has offered. A heartfelt thanks to Julie Clark, Senior Clerk in the Police Department, for her 13 years of dedicated service. Julie is retiring in October. Her attention to detail will be missed. I wish Debbie and Julie the very best for an active and healthy retirement.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Presidential Election will take place on Tuesday, November 8. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The last day to register to vote in the Presidential Election is Wednesday, October 19. The Town Clerk's office will be open until 8 p.m.

This year voters will be allowed to cast their ballot in the November election for 10 days prior to the election. Early Voting will take place at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, beginning Monday, October 24 through Friday, November 4, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Monday, October 24 and Monday, October 31 Early Voting will remain open until 7 p.m. Additionally, Town Hall will be open for Early Voting on Saturday, October 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information or to check voter status, please call 978-658-2030.



REMEMBER OUR VETERANS



In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled

with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

A sincere thank you is extended to our veterans and their families for sacrifices made on behalf of freedom. "Our Vietnam Veterans have taught us that no matter what our positions may be on policy, as Americans and patriots, we must support all of our soldiers with our thoughts and our prayers." ~Zack Wamp~ The Wilmington Department of Veterans' Services invites all the residents of Wilmington to attend, remember and honor all our past and present veterans on **Friday, November 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. on the Wilmington Town Common**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Veterans' Services at 978-694-2040 or veterans@wilmingtonma.gov.

"But this Veterans' Day, I believe we should do more than sing the praises of the bravery and patriotism that our veterans have embodied in the past. We should take this opportunity to re-evaluate how we are treating our veterans in the present." ~Nick Lampson~

ANNUAL "GIVING TREE"



The Annual "Giving Tree" will begin the last week of November. This is a special tree in the Senior Center lobby holding written ornaments sharing needed gifts for the elders of Wilmington. Feel free to come down and choose an ornament from the tree and bring your wrapped gift back to the center for delivery. If you should know anyone who could benefit from this program, please feel free to contact Terri Marciello or Laura Pickett at the Senior Center. There are no names given out to the public, everything is kept confidential.

SAFETY TIPS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



November 6th is the date to set clocks back one hour. The Fire Department recommends replacing the batteries in all Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors including plug-in and hard-wired types, which usually have battery back up in case of power loss. Massachusetts Law requires replacement of smoke detectors after 10 years.

TIPS FOR SAFE USE OF WOOD, COAL AND PELLET STOVES

Before you purchase a heating stove, make sure that it has the approval from an independent testing lab, such as Underwriter's Laboratories.

INSTALLATION

- A building permit **MUST** be obtained prior to the installation of fireplaces, wood, pellet or coal burning stoves and they must be inspected by the local building inspector prior to their initial use as required by the Massachusetts State Building Code.
- Allow at least 36 inches of clearance around the appliance to prevent combustibles from coming into contact with a heat source. This is the 3-foot circle of safety.
- Solid fuel heating appliances cannot share a common flue with chimney flues utilized by another solid fuel, fossil fuel or gas fired appliances.
- A qualified mason should inspect the chimney and flue before the stove is used. Cracks in the flue or mortar joints can allow flames and heated gases to extend into the structure.

PROPER USE

- Most chimney fires occur due to a build-up of creosote, a tarry by-product of burning wood. Have your chimney flue cleaned before each heating season. Burn only dry, well seasoned, hardwood to reduce creosote accumulation.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Never leave children unattended near the stove.
- Check that the damper is open before lighting the fire. A closed damper will result in an accumulation of smoke and carbon monoxide in the home. Do not close the damper until the fire is out and the embers are cold.
- Use a fireplace screen to prevent flying sparks and embers from falling out on to the floor.
- Install and maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms to provide protection for your family.

FIRE FROM ASHES

To prevent fires, ashes that are cleaned out from the stove or fireplace should be shoveled into a metal bucket with a metal lid and placed outside on the ground away from the building. There have been many recent fires from ashes stored underneath a deck or porch or inside the garage or from ashes stored in cardboard boxes. A live ember can continue to smolder unnoticed for quite some time.

The season for open burning runs from January 15 through May 1. The Fire Department must be called to obtain permission to burn.

For more fire safety information, log on to the Department of Fire Services website at www.mass.gov/dfs.



WELCOME TO WILMINGTON RECEPTION

Are you new to Wilmington or have you lived here for a while and wish to know more about the community? Then please stop by Wilmington Memorial Library on Tuesday, November 29 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Representatives from Town Departments, community groups and local businesses will be on hand to welcome you and answer questions. This program is in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce.

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 20 positions in various school and municipal departments. Participants earn \$10/hour for up to 80 hours of "volunteer" service. Since the program's beginning in 1995, approximately **389** 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, 2017. Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 21, 2016.** 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.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

To all Wilmington real estate taxpayers who may be eligible for a property tax exemption (Veterans, Elderly, Widows/Widowers, Blind, Paraplegics etc) in FY 2017, please be reminded that the Board of Assessors will accept applications starting in October. If you received an exemption for FY 2016 property taxes, an exemption application will be mailed to you by the Assessors' Office in October. By Massachusetts General Law, applications for FY 2017 are due to the Board of Assessors by April 1, 2017 (which is 3 months after the mailing of the actual tax bill on January 1st). The Board then has 3 months to act on the application and may request further information from you regarding your eligibility during that time.

Please remember that filing for an exemption is by ANNUAL application. Your qualifications and status may change year to year as well as the eligibility requirements for certain exemptions.

Income and Asset Limits change annually, if you have not qualified in the past, you may now qualify.

Senior Exemptions have Age, Ownership, Residency, Income and/or Asset requirements. The FY17 Senior Income requirements for Clause 41C are as follows:

	<u>INCOME LIMIT</u>	<u>ASSET LIMIT</u> (excluding domicile)
SINGLE	\$24,523	\$40,000
MARRIED	\$36,785	\$50,000

For Seniors (over 70) or Surviving Spouse, the Clause 17D FY17 ASSET Requirements may not exceed **\$50,000**, excluding the domicile. There are **NO** income requirements for this exemption.

If you apply and qualify for an exemption, the Board will notify you by sending a green Exemption Certificate after the January 1st bill.

The Assessors' Office will have brochures available explaining the types and qualifications for the various exemptions. For more information you may also review the back of your tax bill which outlines the application filing deadline; visit the Assessors' website to view a brochure that summarizes the exemption qualifications at http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/Pages/WilmingtonMA_Assessor/ex or contact the Assessors' Office at 978-658-3675.

HAUNTED HAPPENINGS



The 49th Annual Horribles Parade is Sunday, October 30 at 4:30 p.m. Participants march from the Public Safety Building to the High School Cafeteria where goodies galore await costumed children.

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).

Presidential Penny Vote and Selfie Opportunity

Want a selfie with Hillary or Donald? Stop by the library between October 3 and November 8; snap a photo, and vote for your favorite candidate with a penny (or more). Join in the fun-vote early and often. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

Historic Boston Light and the Boston Harbor Islands National & State Park *Monday, October 3, 2:30 pm*

Marguerite Krupp, Friends of Boston Harbor Islands, discusses the historical significance of anniversaries occurring in Boston Harbor this year: Boston Light on Little Brewster Island, The Boston Harbor Islands National & State Park and the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service of Boston Harbor Islands for an engaging account of the Boston Harbor Islands past, present and future.



All the Presidents' Women *Thursday, October 13, 7 pm*

The award winning Delvena Theatre Company presents a one hour presentation that takes a behind-closed doors look at three of America's most accomplished and complex First Ladies. Using period costumes, props and music, two actresses portray Mary Todd Lincoln, Edith Wilson and Florence Harding with insight, drama and humor. The presentation is followed by a half hour discussion.

Mysterious Massachusetts *Thursday, October 6, 7 pm*

From seaside ghosts to UFOs over the Berkshires, Massachusetts has a rich history of paranormal legends, odd events and strange denizens. Join us for this talk as we have a look at some of the most famous of Massachusetts paranormal history. Presented by enthusiast Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe.

Toe Jam Halloween Spooktacular

Wednesday, October 19, 6:30 pm

Trick or treat with Toe Jam's all original Halloween songs & puppets. Toe Jam will dress up the kids in their kooky Halloween gear and dance some spooky dances. The show is full of Toe Jammy Monsters and silly string too. Ages 3+

Wilmington Veterans' Panel *Thursday, November 10, 7 pm*

Veterans' Agent Lou Cimaglia will moderate a panel of Wilmington residents who served their country in the various branches of the armed forces. The panelists will share their military experiences and personal stories.



Mad Science of Greater Boston Present Egg-bert 'N' Ice *Wednesday, November 2, 6:30 pm*



Children will be dazzled and entertained as they interact with our Mad Scientist. The show includes foggy dry ice and demonstrations of how science is used to float beach balls in the air. And, with suggestions from the audience, the Mad Scientist will unlock the mystery of how to get "Egg-bert" back into his house. Ever see scissors sizzle and shiver? Ever taken a bubble shower? Here is your chance! Ages 4+

Parent Workshop: Special Needs Planning Coordinating Your Special Needs Financial & Estate Plan

Monday, November 14, 7 pm

Workshop is for parents of children with special needs.

Topics to be covered include maximizing government benefits, preserving government benefits via estate planning techniques, financial planning (creating a long term budget for child, how to efficiently fund special needs trust), ABLE Act and more.

BASKETBALL UPDATES



The registration deadline for Junior Basketball (Grades 1 & 2) is Thursday, November 10.

This co-ed program runs on Saturdays from January 7 – February 11 and costs \$37.

The **Recreation Department** is currently offering a **Coach Clinic** on Thursday, October 6 or Tuesday, October 11 for anyone in Grade 9 or above interested in coaching to satisfy community service requirements. On November 1 & 7, we are offering our annual **Referee Clinic** for anyone age 16 (by 12/1/16) and up interested in a possible paid position for Recreation Basketball. Register online or contact the Recreation Office for additional information or to register for these free clinics.

AVOIDING THE FLU

Anyone can get the flu and, most importantly, anyone can give the flu to somebody else. Children can give it to their grandparents; babysitters can give it to newborns; workers can give it to co-workers who may have unknown health problems; and family members can give it to people in their households who may be at risk for serious complications of flu. A mild case of flu for one person may be deadly to another person.



To Prevent The Flu This Year

- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before eating and after going to the bathroom.
- Stay away from people who have a fever and sore throat.
- Stay home if sick.
- Get a flu shot.

Now that the annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone aged six months and older, a diverse network of sources has sprung up to provide the vaccine. It is paid for by health insurance, which in Massachusetts covers 98 percent of the population. Currently, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) supplies free flu vaccines to local health departments to vaccinate those who do not have insurance. Primary care providers and pharmacies are making extra efforts to run flu clinics at convenient times. Please check with the local pharmacies in Town, CVS, Rite-Aid and Target for current flu clinics. The Board of Health will be offering a flu clinic in the early fall.

CARTER COMMITTEE SPONSORS CONCERT

The Sarah Carter Lecture Fund Committee is sponsoring a free concert featuring "4EverFab", a Beatles Tribute Band, on Friday, October 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Wilmington Middle School.



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

THE BASICS: MEMORY LOSS, DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE — WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's disease is growing fast. An estimated 5.4 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's in 2016. On Monday, October 24, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. the Elderly Services Department will host a presentation by Robin Bromberg of the MA/NH Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. This program provides information about the disease and related dementias, the benefit of early detection, causes and risk factors, treatment and services offered by the Alzheimer's Association. A light lunch will be served. Please call the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595 to register for this program.

FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on October 24 and extend for five weeks through November 26.** Residents should place their yardwaste in biodegradable paper bags or uncovered barrels at curbside on their regular trash collection day. Yardwaste in plastic bags will not be accepted.

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 5 through and including December 3.** 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.

TRASH AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

Residents are reminded to have their Trash and Recycling placed curbside by **6:30 am** on their collection day. Once trash and recycling have been collected, residents should pull their barrels off of the street.

Russell Disposal Phone Numbers:

- * Missed Trash or Recycling Collection: 617-776-5854
- * Order Additional Trash & Recycling Barrels: 617-776-5127
- * Schedule a Bulk Item Pickup: 617-776-5854

Every residence is allowed to dispose of one bulky item each week. Bulky items include, but are not limited to, sofas, chairs, bureaus, bicycles, mattress and box spring, gas grill (no propane) and tables. To arrange for pick up of a bulky item, call Russell Disposal by 11 am on Thursday. Bulky items are picked up on Fridays.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Community Teamwork, Inc. Fuel Assistance Program is available to new applicants starting November 1, 2016. Any Wilmington resident 60 years or older who is in need of fuel assistance should contact the Elderly Services Department at 978-657-7595. Wilmington residents who applied last year and are receiving renewal applications in the mail may also call for an appointment. Residents under the age of 60 in need of assistance should contact the Veterans' Agent office in Billerica at 978-671-0968. The income guidelines are as follows:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Maximum Annual Gross Income</u>
1	\$34,001
2	\$44,463
3	\$54,925
4	\$65,387
5	\$75,849
6	\$86,311

DON'T MISS SANTA!

Santa and his elves will be welcoming Wilmington boys and girls at **Santa's Workshop** on Thursday, December 1, 6 pm-7:30 pm at Town Hall. Please bring your cameras. **Breakfast with Santa** is on Saturday, December 3 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 26.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT 2	HARDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE	2 pm to 4 pm
OCT 5	CANDLELIGHT VIGIL	Town Common 6 pm
OCT 6	RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	Grades 3-8
OCT 19	DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION	Town Hall Until 8 pm
OCT 21	APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM	
OCT 21	SARAH CARTER COMMITTEE CONCERT	Middle School Auditorium 7 pm
OCT 30	HORRIBLES PARADE	Rotary Park 4:30 pm
OCT 30	HARVEST FESTIVAL	Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 pm
NOV 5	WILMINGTON HAS TALENT	Middle School Aud. 2 pm
NOV 6	HARDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE	2 pm to 4 pm
NOV 11	VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY	Town Common 11 am
NOV 10	JUNIOR BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	Grades 1 & 2
NOV 18	ROTARY AUCTION	Knights of Columbus 7 pm
DEC 1	SANTA'S WORKSHOP	Town Hall 6 pm to 7:30 pm
DEC 3	BREAKFAST WITH SANTA	Seating at Knights of Columbus 8:15 am & 10:15 am
DEC 3	HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING	Town Common
DEC 3-	WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON	
DEC 4	FESTIVAL OF TREES	St. Thomas Villanova Hall
DEC 4	HOLIDAY SOCIAL	Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 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
Veteran's Agent	694-2040
Water & Sewer	658-4711
	(Billing) 658-3116



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