

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk

Do you live on a Town road? Most residents would likely say, "Sure, I use it every day to get to and from my house. Others might say "Ya, it's a Town road all right and it is really in tough shape. I wish the Town would fix it."



The Town is not responsible for all roads in Wilmington. Main Street (Route 38) is owned and the responsibility of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Town is responsible for approximately 100 miles of streets. Wilmington, like most other communities, has unaccepted or private ways. Unaccepted "ways" may look like any other street but the physical property that the "way" is located on is not owned by the Town of Wilmington. The abutting property owners to that "way" cannot block travel even though they have ownership rights to the centerline of the "way." Thirty miles of streets in Wilmington are unaccepted ways.

Under Massachusetts General Law, municipalities cannot spend public funds on the construction or reconstruction of private ways. Essentially doing so would be the equivalent of the Town paving the driveway or paving a basketball court on a resident's property.

The Public Works Department will patch potholes and, on roads that are gravel packed, may grade the road if it has significant potholes and unevenness. Emergency services, trash and recycling collection and snowplowing are all provided to residents on unaccepted ways.

Over the next several months a procedure will be developed and presented to the Board of Selectmen to address the means by which unaccepted ways can be presented to Annual Town Meeting for approval as public ways. Ultimately, a majority vote at Town Meeting is required for the Town to assume ownership and responsibility for any unaccepted ways.

Issues to be included in the procedure are: criteria for determining the order for accepting "ways," who will be responsible for upfront survey, legal and engineering costs, engineering design standards that will be deemed acceptable, a funding source for costs associated with upgrades or full depth reconstruction of the "ways" so that they are safe and meet Town standards.

The cost for the construction or reconstruction of unacceptable ways and installation of proper drainage systems so that they can be recommended for approval as public ways is expected to be in the millions of dollars and will take many years to complete. In the words of Lao Tzu "The journey of a thousand miles (or in Wilmington's case 30 miles) begins with one step."





Several Town employees will be retiring prior to the issuance of *Town Topics* and deserve a heartfelt "Thank You" for their dedication and contributions to the Town of Wilmington. Police Chief Michael Begonis has retired after over 30 years of service. Police Officer John Bossi retired with over 27 years of work for the Wilmington Police Department. Lorraine Hermann, Assistant Town Accountant, has retired after over 30 years of service. Gordon Fitch, a carpenter in the Public Buildings Department, has retired with over 24 years on the job. May they each be blessed with good health and seize the day in their pursuits during the next stage of their lives.

BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS IN EFFECT MAY 5, 2019

The Plastic Bag Reduction By-law bans single-use plastic checkout bags, under 2.5 mils in thickness, from stores and restaurants. The by-law does not restrict other uses of plastic bags such as for newspapers, dry cleaning and produce/deli bags within a grocery store.

Plastic checkout bags are not designed for reuse, generally tearing or puncturing after a first use. Bag litter detracts from Wilmington's natural beauty, is harmful to wildlife and are difficult to dispose of. They are easily transported with the wind and are one of the most visible components of roadside and shoreline litter. They kill countless birds, fish and marine mammals through ingestion and entanglement. They are not accepted by our local recycling companies and even when disposed of properly, make up a significant component of solid waste in landfills and increase our waste disposal costs. In addition, plastic bags are produced from oil and natural gas and never fully biodegrade, remaining in the environment as small or even microscopic particles, essentially forever.

Stores can still provide paper bags and plastic bags that are over 2.5 mils or thicker. However, a major objective of this by-law is to get away from single-use bags altogether. Consumers are encouraged to bring reusable bags, a backpack or box when they shop. Tips for remembering your reusable bags:

-  Keep reusable bags in the car or at work.
-  After you put your groceries away, hang reusable bags by the door.
-  Keep them by your keys so you remember to take them back out to the car with you.
-  Finally, if you forget and leave your bags in the car while shopping, just put your groceries back in the cart and bag them at your car.

Stores may charge a fee for permitted bags if they choose or they may choose to provide a credit to customers who bring their own bags. The by-law does not require or prohibit a fee.

The ban targets bags, not stores. All stores will have to stop providing plastic checkout bags under 2.5 mils.

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 online at <https://www.wpsk12.com/townscholarship>.

The **application deadline is April 12**. Since 1996, this program has distributed \$155,000 in financial aid to 244 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.

LIBRARY SPRING PROGRAMS

Spring is here and the library is pleased to offer residents the opportunity to become familiar with the wonderful natural areas in our town. Please register at www.wilmlibrary.org for these two programs presented by Town Conservation Agent Ryan Hale.

Wetland Resource Areas and Conservation Land in Wilmington: What Does It All Mean?

Wednesday, April 10, 7 pm

Conservation Agent Ryan Hale will provide an overview of the Town's wetland resource areas and conservation land. Wetlands can be hard to identify and their regulations can be even harder to understand. It is important for property owners to know whether wetland resource areas are on, or near, their property, the ecological functions they provide and what activities may need approval from the Conservation Commission. The second half of the talk will focus on conservation land, Town-owned parcels that are set aside and managed by the Conservation Commission. Ryan will discuss the many opportunities for passive outdoor recreation on conservation land, including trails for hiking, biking and snowshoeing, and fishing in streams and lakes where MassDEP stocks rainbow trout. Ryan will also talk about the educational and volunteer opportunities available.

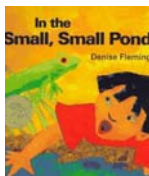
Family Walk in the Town Forest

Tuesday, April 16, 3 - 4 pm

Join Conservation Agent Ryan Hale for a walk along the trails of the 157-acre Town Forest, the largest piece of Conservation Land in Wilmington. Learn about the ecology, geology and human history that shaped and created Town Forest. There will be activities for all ages, including a nature scavenger hunt for the whole family. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Hiking boots are recommended. This event is weather dependent so check our website for updates. Parking is available at the Andover Street trailhead across from White Oak Drive. The walk will begin at 3 p.m., so please plan on arriving shortly before.

Story Walk Grand Opening Saturday, April 13, 3 pm

Join us at Rotary Park to see the new Story Walk around the pond. Book pages from the book *In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming will be displayed around the pond. Walk with your family to get exercise and read a book at the same time! Snacks will be served.



TECH CLASSES

Gmail

Tuesday, April 9, 10 am

Is the number of unread emails in your Gmail inbox always growing? Having trouble locating important messages or creating contacts? Get an overview of this popular email service and learn tips for easier inbox navigation and organization. Register at www.wilmlibrary.org.

Microsoft PowerPoint

Wednesday, May 1, 7 pm

In this class you will learn how to insert text, apply animations and transitions, insert charts from an Excel workbook and more. A handout for additional practice will be provided. Register at www.wilmlibrary.org

Google Drive

Tuesday, May 14, 10 am

Curious about the "cloud"? Get an introduction to Google Drive and learn how you can create, share, store and collaborate on files that you can access from practically anywhere. Register at www.wilmlibrary.org

Tech Help

The library offers drop in tech help and one-on-one tech help. Check the library's website (click on services) for more information or call 978-658-2967.



The Recreation Department is accepting applications from **Certified Lifeguards** (age 16 & older). The 2019 season for Town Beach at Silver Lake opens on June 8.

RECREATION OFFERINGS

Registration for the **Summer Playground Program** is **Monday, April 8 at 7:30 a.m. in the Recreation Office**. This six-week program for children entering grades 2 – 8 will be held from Monday, June 24 – Wednesday, July 31 (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.

Tiny Tots & Kids Club registration begins Wednesday, April 10 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium.

After this date, registration will continue weekdays in the Recreation Office and online. Dates for the two sessions are: Monday, June 24 – Friday, July 12 (No July 4) and Monday, July 15 – Thursday, August 1. 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.

The annual **Fishing Derby** will be held at the Town Beach on Saturday, June 1 from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. (rain date – Sunday, June 2). There will be shore fishing only. Cost is \$2 for children age 17 & under; adults \$5. Prizes awarded to contest winners. For this day only – no fishing licenses required.

We are offering a 10-day "Northeast Historical Tour", September 6 – 15, 2019, featuring stops in NYC, Philadelphia, Gettysburg Battlefield, Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello, the Smithsonian Museums and much more! This trip includes roundtrip transportation from Wilmington, 13 meals, highly rated hotels and much more.

2019 also ushers in a 9-day vacation to **Costa Rica!** This extensive adventure from November 5 – 13, 2019 includes visits to Poas Volcano National Park, a working coffee plantation, a cruise on Lake Arenal, the Monteverde Cloud Forest, a jungle crocodile safari cruise and more. This vacation includes roundtrip transportation from Wilmington, airfare, hotel accommodations, 16 meals and more.



For additional updates and highlights of Recreation Department activities, follow us on Facebook!

DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY SERVICES

GAME NIGHT

"Game Night" is back by popular demand, starting on Thursday, June 20, 2019 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The Buzzell Senior Center will host this once a month throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall. For \$3 per person, you will be able to have a light dinner, fun activity and dessert. Don't miss out on the fun. Feel free to call the Buzzell Senior Center for more information at 978-657-7595. Future Game Night's are scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2019; Thursday, August 15, 2019 and Thursday, September 19, 2019.

ART SHOW

We cordially invite you to join us at our



Annual Art Gallery Show
Buzzell Senior Center
Thursday, May 23, 2019
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Come view the beautiful acrylics that are created by our painting students - instructed by Steve Greco. Light Refreshments will be served

WORLD TAI CHI DAY

The Department of Elderly Services is hosting a World Tai Chi Day at the Wilmington Town Common on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (rain date Saturday, May 11, 2019). There will be demonstrations of Tai Chi and Qi Gong for all ages. The Buzzell Senior Center currently has Tai Chi classes, led by Greta Nilsen, from the Oriental Healing Arts Association. She felt this would be a great opportunity and perfect location to celebrate this year's Annual World Tai Chi Day. What a perfect way to start off a spring morning with your friends and family.



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

The role of a caregiver can be a very difficult one. The Department of Elderly Services is offering a Caregivers Support Group that meets on the third Monday of each month. If you are caring for a loved one, relative or friend, come and meet with others who understand all that you are going through and who can offer support and provide helpful coping strategies. The group meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Buzzell Senior Center. For more information, please call Case Manager Laura Pickett at 978-657-7595 or email lpickett@wilmingtonma.gov

WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

We're One Wilmington will be sponsoring the 9th Annual Run for Wilmington/Kim Forte Walk to be held on May 5th. For more information on this event and We're One Wilmington, please visit www.onewilmington.org.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF WILMINGTON/BILLERICA

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 14th 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 <http://relay.acsevents.org>.

ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC

The Board of Health's Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on **Saturday, April 6 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 2019 Dog Licenses. Cost: \$10.00 spayed/neutered or \$15.00 non-spayed/non-neutered. **A \$15.00 late fee will be assessed after April 1, 2019.**

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION AND MEETING

The **Town Election will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019.** The polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election is Monday, April 8, 2019. The Town Clerk's office will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on that day. The **Annual Town Meeting** will be held the following **Saturday, May 4**, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Wilmington High School Auditorium.



NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Spring cleaning time is upon us and the Board of Health would like to remind residents that unneeded or expired medications should not be flushed down the toilet. On **Saturday, April 27**, 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. - 2 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.



In addition, there is a sharps waste disposal kiosk in the lobby of the Public Safety Building. All sharps must be in an approved sharps disposal container.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

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 25 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 26 at 1:30 p.m. a rededication ceremony will take place at the Veterans' Monument on the Town Common.

2019 ceremonies will recognize the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion and the 75th Anniversary of Wilmington's youngest war casualty, 17 year old Seaman 2nd Class Elmer Malcolm Drew who was killed in action at Omaha Beach.

Wilmington's Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 27 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.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11 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 May. Residents can call the DPW at 978-658-4481 with any questions or refer to the town website www.wilmingtonma.gov



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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 6	RABIES CLINIC	
	Public Buildings Department	12 pm - 2 pm
APR 8	PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION	
	Town Hall Recreation Department	7:30 am
APR 8	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2018 TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING	
APR 10	TINY TOTS/KIDS CLUB REGISTRATION	
	Town Hall Auditorium	5 pm to 6:30 pm
APR 20	LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY PARADE	9:30 am
APR 20	EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE	Town Common 11:00 am
APR 27	ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION	
		Polls Open 8 am to 8 pm
MAY 4	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	High School 10:30 am
MAY 5	WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON 9TH ANNUAL RUN/WALK	
MAY 27	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE	10 am
	CEREMONY AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY	11 am
JUN 1	FISHING DERBY	Town Beach 8 am to 11 am
JUN 2	WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	
JUN 4	RECREATION SUMMER BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	
JUN 6	SHAWSHEEN TECH GRADUATION	
JUN 16	FARMERS MARKET OPENS	

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 8, April 22 and May 6.**

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

Wednesdays: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

on the following dates:

April 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24 and 27

May 1, 4, 8 and 11



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.**

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