

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk

As residents receive this edition of *Town Topics* another holiday season has drawn to a close. During the lead-up to the holidays, feelings of giving, kindness and good cheer have, for many, been in the air. As I prepare to step into a new year, one of my goals is to exercise a greater measure of civility. Treating people with respect, as we would like to be treated, seems obvious. For a variety of reasons civility is more challenging than ever.

Society appears more accepting of harsh rhetoric that we direct at one another. Main stream media is drawn to distributing the latest barbs while the social media platforms have created "safe havens" for us to "vent" increasingly hostile verbal attacks directed at each other. Incivility occurs across the spectrum of our daily lives whether driving to work, shopping at the grocer, watching our children's sporting event or during public meetings.

Spirited debate is a cornerstone of our democracy. The ability to freely express ideas in various forums is the lubricant that enables government and society to function. The quality of our conversations and our interactions with each other matters.

In September 2018 the library led a month long effort entitled "Revive Civility." Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Executive Director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, was a featured speaker. She cited results from an annual poll conducted by an international public relations firm that noted 75% of respondents believe that incivility in America is in crisis and that 83% of respondents agreed that incivility leads to intolerance in free speech. You can find her presentation at <https://wilmlibrary.org/revive-civility/>.

Wilmington, like other communities, has confronted controversial issues over the years. The most recent "hot button" issues were proposals for a gas station/convenience store on West Street and a substance abuse detoxification facility on Middlesex Avenue. In each case passions ran high and the communications turned hostile. Focusing on the facts can be challenging. Attacking someone's character or motives can sometimes appear to be the most effective way to make one's point. But at what cost? Relationships should not dissolve because we cannot agree to disagree.

As we begin a new year, I hope you will join me in identifying ways to be a bit more patient, a bit more tolerant, a bit more understanding and a bit more forgiving in the moment. In the words of President John F. Kennedy "Civility is not a sign of weakness."

DEDICATION OF THE JOANNE M. BENTON AUDITORIUM



In line with the approval voted at Town Meeting in May 2018, the naming of the Wilmington High School auditorium in honor of Joanne Benton, former Superintendent of Wilmington Public Schools, is scheduled for **Sunday, February 10, 2019**, at 2:00 pm at the high school. The event will showcase the

talents of Wilmington's students and faculty to provide a fitting tribute to Mrs. Benton. More details will be forthcoming as the date approaches. Please mark your calendars for this very special occasion.



A PIECE TO OUR HEALTH PUZZLE...MENTAL HEALTH

Join Wilmington Police Department's Samantha Reif, Health & Recovery Coordinator, and Lt. Joe Desmond at the Buzzell Senior Center, as they teach participants the risk factors and warning signs of a variety of mental health challenges common among older adults. This program is a 4-part series and participants must attend all 4 days to receive a certificate.

Thursday, January 10, 2019	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 12, 2019	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 14, 2019	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 18, 2019	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sign up in person, or call the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595, if you are interested. Please direct questions to Terri Marciello, Director of Elderly Services.

OUR MEMORY CAFÉ

We are pleased to report that Wilmington's memory café, "Our Moment Café" is off to a wonderful start since its opening in October 2018. A memory café is a special gathering place for those dealing with memory loss and their caregivers. The Café gives the person with memory loss, and their caregivers, an opportunity to socialize, participate in an activity and to make new friends in a welcoming and understanding environment.

"Our Moment Café" will be meeting at the 4th of July Building, 142 Middlesex Avenue, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday January 16, 2019, February 20, 2019 and March 20, 2019. If you have any questions, contact Terri Marciello or Laura Pickett at the Department of Elderly Services, 978-657-7595.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Community Teamwork, Inc. Fuel Assistance Program is available to new applicants through April 2019. Wilmington residents, 60 years or older in need of fuel assistance, should contact Terri Marciello/Laura Pickett at 978-657-7595. Residents under the age of 60 should contact the Billerica Veteran's Agent (978-671-0968). The Elderly Services Department has been notified of a delay in the distribution of funds. Please feel free to call the Community Teamwork directly at 978-459-6161 with any questions or call the Terri Marciello or Laura Pickett for further information.

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.

MAKE TIME TO READ MORE IN 2019!

Making time to read more in the New Year can provide numerous benefits ranging from stress reduction, memory improvement, improved vocabulary and of course enjoyment! Joining a book club is one way to help you keep this New Year's resolution. The library has three book groups to consider joining.



Novel Ideas: Fiction Book Group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. On January 17, the group will be discussing *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell.

Well Read: Wednesday Book Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10 am. On January 23, the group will be reading *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline.

Pints + Pages: If you are a "millennial, this group is for you! Librarians from Wilmington and Reading host this book group that meets every other month at a restaurant or pub in either town. The next meeting is Thursday, January 3 at 7 p.m. at Panera in Wilmington. This meeting will focus on sharing everyone's latest and favorite books, movies and podcasts.

CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES

Let the Wilmington Memorial Library help you chase away the winter blues! Check out a bestseller, a board game or a jigsaw puzzle. You are also invited to join your friends and neighbors at one of the library's many programs. The following is a sampling of upcoming events. A complete list is available at www.wilmlibrary.org. Registration is encouraged.

BULLET JOURNAL WORKSHOP

Thursday, January 10, 7 pm

Discover how to use a bullet journal that helps you stay organized and expresses your creativity. This is a hands-on course where you will learn (and create) the five primary spreads that you need to dive into the world of bullet journaling. Register at the main desk. \$10 per person, 16+

A SIMPLIFIED LIFE: HOW TO BE MORE WITH LESS

Thursday, January 24, 7 pm

This presentation will inspire & inform attendees on ways they can turn those thoughts of positive change into action. Professional Organizer Eileen Reed will share her strategies on how to bring more balance, order and productivity into our lives.

LIVE WELL. WORK WELL. Thursday, January 31, 7 pm

Wilmington resident Jackie Davis founder of RoomScape Interiors will talk about how the design of the environment affects our wellness and well-being at home and at work. She will offer evidence based tips for quick and easy changes you can make in your environment so you can shift from surviving to thriving.

WINTER COFFEE HOUSE: THE LAST DUO

Friday, January 18, 7 pm

Nothing better than live music to chase away the winter blues! Hear the sounds of the 60s and 70s with Dan Sirois and Greg Decoteau, who together are The Last Duo. They bring a full and exciting sound to songs by the Eagles, America, Van Morrison, the Beatles and more. Coffee, tea and dessert served. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at main desk. Please note that attendees should be at least 18 years of age.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Printed copies of the winter newsletter are available at Town Hall, the Buzzell Senior Center and the Wilmington Memorial Library. For a complete listing of programs, tickets and trips, check our page on the Town's website at www.wilmingtonma.gov, under Departments, click on Recreation.

TRAVEL

Looking for something new? We've got day trips to explore New York City or try your luck at Foxwoods. We are off to Ocean City, MD for a 3-night adventure that features tours of Assateague Island with oceanfront accommodations and entertaining side trips. We're still taking reservations for the "Southern California Dreaming" in April and "Northeast Historic Tour" in September. Stop by the Recreation Office or take a look at our website (under Trips) for additional information.



NEW PROGRAMS

Check out our newest programs for children including "Watch Me Play", an active class that teaches children age 2-3 general athletic skills. Also new for 2019 are "Do You Believe in Magic?" (learn "How they do that!"), SNL Floor Hockey for grades 6 - 12 and Business Sharks for our future tycoons. For adults, we have new sign stenciling projects including "It's Sports Season" and "Welcome to Spring". Stop by the Recreation Office to see samples.

"THE ROOKIES"

Baseball season is fast approaching! Register your child (age 5 by 4/30/19 through Grade 1) for our baseball program "The Rookies". This program combines our traditional T-Ball program with a coach-pitch format to prepare children to advance to Little League. This six-week program will run from Monday – Thursday, April 22 – May 30. Choose from a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Children will have one practice session and one game each week. Cost is \$30 per child. Registration will begin on February 1 and the registration deadline is Thursday, March 14.



CLEARING FIRE HYDRANTS

Following a snow event, it is important for residents and businesses to clear snow around fire hydrants. The best practice is to clear two feet around the hydrant. If that is not possible, simply making sure the hydrant isn't completely buried is a good idea. Town personnel do their best to clear as many hydrants as possible, but with over 1,200 fire hydrants in Wilmington, this is a time consuming endeavor. By clearing a hydrant, you are helping the Fire Department's ability to respond quickly to an emergency, possibly at your residence.



FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The Department of Elderly Services will provide free income tax assistance through IRS VITA Program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Wilmington residents ages 60 and older may schedule an appointment by calling the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595. The program begins in February at the Buzzell Senior Center. 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.

REFLECTIVE HOUSE NUMBERS

Five years ago **Wilmington Community Fund**, in collaboration with the **Wilmington Fire and Police Departments**, made house numbers available to residents. Emergency responders continue to have difficulty locating homes during emergencies for lack of visible house numbers. Once again we will be providing numbers, which will have predrilled holes to properly secure and identify any property within the town. ***The Town By-Law requires every residence display a visible number.*** This community effort is possible due to the funding and generosity of the Wilmington Community Fund, there is no cost to residents.

When you're experiencing an emergency, it is not the time to realize your home or property does not have the appropriate address signage affixed to it. Residents are encouraged to check their homes for ensure their address is easily identified and to spread the word to neighbors and friends. While many residents in town have their mailboxes numbered, the boxes are often located on the opposite side of the street, knocked down, damaged or covered by snow banks.

Residents needing or wanting a house number, may go to the Community Fund's website **www.commfund.org** to complete and submit the request form by ***Friday, March 1, 2019***. Handwritten request forms will be made available at Town Hall, Senior Center or the Library. ***Note: phone requests cannot be honored.***

PICKUP DATE: Residents will be required to pick up their requested numbers on **Saturday, April 6, 2019 at July 4th Headquarters between 9:00 a.m. and 12 Noon**. Please note date and time on your calendars.

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.

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 27, 2019. Interested residents may file nomination papers for the following offices: Board of Selectmen (2 positions), Regional/Vocational School Committee (1 position) and School Committee (3 positions) Moderator.



The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 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 1, 2019. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 8, 2019.**

The 2019 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.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Department of Public Works will be collecting Christmas trees at curbside beginning January 7, 2019. 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 Christmas trees **cannot** be disposed of 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 or call the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481.

DO YOUR PART, RECYCLE SMART MASS DEP PROGRAM

The Recycle Smart Program is centered around the webpage www.recyclesmartma.org which includes a searchable "Recyclopedia" where you can search on hundreds of items to learn how to dispose of them.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JAN 7- - CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS
JAN 18 TREES**

JAN 6 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

FEB 1 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION BEGINS
Grades K-1

**FEB 1 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PETITIONED
WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING**

FEB 3 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**FEB 10- DEDICATION JOANNE BENTON
AUDITORIUM** High School 2 p.m.

MAR 3 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**MAR 8 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN
ELECTION**

**MAR 14- T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION
DEADLINE**

**MAR 19- FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN
MEETING ARTICLES**
Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.

APR 6 - RABIES CLINIC
Public Buildings Dept. Noon - 2 p.m.

**APR 8 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE - TOWN
ELECTION/TOWN MEETING** Until 8 p.m.

DOG REGISTRATION/RABIES CLINIC

The 2019 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, click on Online Payments then Clerk's Office Services. A \$15 late fee will be in effect after April 1.

The Wilmington Board of Health Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 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. A \$15 late fee will be in effect after this date.

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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