

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk

Annual Town Meeting, which establishes the Town's budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, is scheduled for April 29, 2023 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Joanne M. Benton Auditorium at the Wilmington High School. What follows is a brief explanation of the budget process. Nearly 80% of the Town's budget is supported by revenue from local property taxes paid by residents and businesses.



The Town's Inhabitant Bylaws and Town Manager's Act prescribe the procedure for developing the budget. Not less than 90 days before the Annual Town Meeting the town manager must present the Select Board and Finance Committee with a budget reflecting total expenditures and total revenues. This presentation takes place at a Select Board meeting at the end of January. During the month of February, the Finance Committee meets with the town manager and representatives from each department to discuss their proposed expenditures and operations. Meetings are open to the public and covered by WCTV. During this time the Select Board may also question the town manager or offer comment on the budget.

In March of each year, the Select Board votes to approve and issue a "warrant" which details the date and time of local elections, identifies the elected positions to be filled and outlines expenditures that are proposed for the upcoming fiscal year. Each "article" provides notice of a particular subject to be acted upon. Registered voters attending Annual Town Meeting will be asked to vote on the "motion" which is the action to be taken on the article. The subjects of the articles include the budgets for the Wilmington Public Schools, Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, police, fire, public works and other general government departments, purchase of vehicles, computer equipment, repair projects to municipal buildings or upgrades to parks, fields and roads, changes to the local zoning or the purchase or sale of property amongst other matters.

The Finance Committee and Planning Board typically conduct a joint public hearing to discuss and receive public comment on the budget articles and articles to change the Inhabitant Bylaws or Zoning Bylaws. This year that public hearing is scheduled for March 21, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium. The Planning Board has a separate public hearing scheduled for April 4, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium to consider one zoning article. The recommendations of the Finance Committee and Planning Board are published in a document entitled "*Recommendations of the Finance Committee and Planning Board.*" This document is mailed to each resident in mid April so that it is received in advance of the Annual Town Meeting and serves as a useful guide during Annual Town Meeting.

Some residents have expressed frustration as to why voting in local elections or at town meetings cannot be done remotely. These matters are governed by state law

and the Town must adhere to the procedures that are in place. The Town Moderator serves to facilitate the presentation of articles and the discussion and debate that follows. It is the Town Moderator's responsibility to ensure that motions are presented properly, that parliamentary procedures are followed and to determine the quantum of vote required for approval of any motion on an article. Residents with questions about the town meeting process may contact Jonathan Eaton, Town Moderator, at moderator@wilmingtonma.gov.

Each November the Select Board conducts a tax classification hearing to receive a recommendation from the Principal Assessor on the allocation of real estate taxes between residential property class, and commercial, industrial and personal property class. In November of 2022, as has been the practice for over thirty-five years, the Board voted to shift the maximum amount of the tax levy away from residential property class to the commercial, industrial and personal property class. This action saved the residential taxpayer with the average property value of \$622,128 an amount of \$2,289 in real estate taxes as compared with making no shift and maintaining a single tax rate for each property class.

In recognition of substantial new growth and the escalating property values through January 1, 2022, the Board also endorsed not increasing taxes to the maximum amount allowable by state law. Proposition 2 ½, approved by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1980, permits communities to increase the Town's tax levy limit by up to 2.5% of the previous year's levy plus any new growth and debt exclusions or overrides as approved by the voters. The Select Board endorsed leaving property taxes \$1.3 million below the levy limit. By limiting the increase to the tax levy, the Town was able to reduce the average single family residential tax bill by \$93.00.

Once again it is my privilege to honor those dedicated general government employees who will be retiring from their positions with the Town over the next three (3) months to engage in other pursuits. Neal Waring, an equipment operator in the highway division, has served the Town dutifully in all kinds of weather for over 35 years. Wendy Martiniello, Procurement and Human Resources Coordinator, has been a key part of the Town Manager's Office and has served the Town in various capacities for over 29 years. Frank Mearls, a custodian in the Public Buildings Department, has served the Town for the last twenty years. They are each well deserving of a healthy and adventuresome next stage.

The Town continues to advance a permanent solution for the Wildwood Early Childhood Center, the construction of a new senior center and the construction of a new town/school administration building. Each of the building committee meetings have posted agendas and are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend or view the meetings via WCTV or on the Town website by clicking the *Building Projects* link at the top of the page or School Department's website at <https://www.wpsk12.com/cms/one.aspx?pageId=48835006>.

SPRING AT WILMINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The following is a sampling of upcoming library programs. For more information visit the library's website at www.wilmlibrary.org or by calling 978-658-2967 (Adult) or 978-694-2098 (Children/Teen).


GREAT GREEN GIVEAWAY


FRIDAY, APRIL 21


Spring cleaning is underway at Wilmington Memorial Library. We want to reduce, reuse and recycle craft supplies and items we no longer need. Stop by the library anytime **between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.** to browse our free items.

KEEP WILMINGTON BEAUTIFUL

Spend an hour or so picking up trash around Wilmington, you pick the spot; walk your neighborhood, clean up one of the parks or other town properties, etc., just make sure you keep safety in mind. You can also check the library's website for places identified by the DPW that need extra care. Be sure to take before and after photos and submit them to marketing@wilmlibrary.org.

 Bags and gloves will be available at the library starting **Saturday, April 8.**

 Bring your bag of trash to the Wildwood Street parking lot on **Saturday, April 22** between the hours of **10 a.m. and 12 p.m.**

 Spin the prize wheel to redeem your bag of trash for an "Earth friendly" prize. If you can not come to the library on April 22, you can take a photo with your trash bag and email it to marketing@wilmlibrary.org, then pick up your prize at the library.

TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

In recognition of Arbor Day, the library is giving away 200 Canaan Fir tree seedlings, which are native to the Northeast. Stop by the library anytime from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up your seedling. Limit one per individual or two per family. The tree seedling giveaway helps Wilmington to be designated as a Tree City. **Funded by the Friends of the Library.**



POETRY CONTEST



This year's theme for the annual poetry contest is *Courage*. All ages are welcome to enter. The deadline for submission of all poems is

Saturday, April 29. Winners will be selected

by a panel of judges and prizes will be awarded by the Friends of the Library. Winners are invited to read their poems at our Poetry Reception on Wednesday, May 10. Applications will be available March 15 at the library and online at wilmlibrary.org.

ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS

Responses to Wilmington's Annual Town Census can be returned by mail in the return envelope, by email to townclerk@wilmington.gov or by dropping the census in the Town Hall drop slot, located next to the front door of Town Hall. Responding to the Annual Town Census keeps your name on the active voting list and enables the Office of the Town Clerk to confirm your residency in the future. If you are a voter and do not respond to the census, your name will be placed on the Inactive Voter List. Please contact the Town Clerk's office if you haven't received your census form.

DOG LICENSES

Dog registration renewals are ongoing. You must have an updated rabies certificate to complete your initial registration or renewal. New Dog Registrations are always ongoing. New registrations or renewals can be accomplished online or by mail, and in person. The cost is \$10 if your dog is spayed or neutered, \$15 if intact. Renewals submitted after April 1, 2023 will have a \$15 late fee assessed in addition to the registration fee. Renewals submitted after June 1, 2023 will have a \$50 civil fine assessed.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION AND MEETING

The **Town Election** will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2023.** 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 Tuesday, April 12, 2023. The Town Clerk's office will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on that day. The last day to request an Absentee or Vote by Mail Early Ballot is Friday, August 14, 2023.



The **Annual Town Meeting** will be held the following **Saturday, April 29**, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** at the Wilmington High School **Joanne M. Benton Auditorium.**

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Memorial Day is a day for our nation to remember, reflect upon and honor those men and women who have given their all in service to their country. Residents are invited to participate in Memorial Day observances commencing on Saturday, May 27 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 28 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 29 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.

Please contact our office with questions relating to benefits you and your family earned as a result of your honorable service to our country. The Department of Veterans' Services is, and will always be, available to serve the veterans and their families in Wilmington.



The Recreation Department is accepting applications from **Certified Lifeguards** (age 16 & older). We hope to open Town Beach at Silver Lake for the 2023 season June 10.

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/cms/one.aspx?portalid=26809273&pageid=26932766>

The **application deadline is April 21 at 3:00 p.m.** Since 1996, this program has distributed \$194,000 in financial aid to 296 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.

RAIN BARREL PROGRAM



Rain barrels are available for purchase by residents at a discounted price of \$79 from The Great American Rain Barrel Company. If you are interested in purchasing a rain barrel or learning about the benefits of a rain barrel, visit their website at

www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community and select "Wilmington." The **deadline to order is June 5, 2023**, and barrels will be available for pick up on Saturday, June 17, 2023 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at 115 Andover Street, Wilmington.

COLUMBARIUM UNITS AVAILABLE FOR PRESALE

Wildwood Cemetery columbarium units are now available for presale, meaning you may now purchase a niche before having a death in the family. This is different from regular burial plots, which you may only purchase as they are needed once a death in the family is experienced.

To purchase a columbarium, the purchaser must be a current or a former Wilmington resident, which is defined as someone who has lived in Wilmington for at least 20 years, or half their life.

Columbariums are designed for the internment of cremains in an above ground, upright and secure granite compartment called a "niche". The Cemetery Rules and Regulations allow the faceplate of the niche to be engraved, providing a more affordable and attractive alternative to traditional burials.

For more information, please call the Wilmington DPW Cemetery Division at 978-658-3901 or visit the Wildwood Cemetery Website: [https://](https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/public-works/cemetery-division)



www.wilmingtonma.gov/public-works/cemetery-division

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know about the Town's social media presence? Check out our main Town accounts on Facebook and



Facebook.com/WilmingtonMass

Twitter to get the latest information from Town Hall. facebook.com/wilmingtonmass and twitter.com/TownWilmMA.



Twitter.com/TownWilmMA

RECREATION OFFERINGS

For a complete listing of programs, tickets and trips, check our webpage on the Town's website at www.wilmingtonma.gov; then click on Recreation under Departments.

Tiny Tots & Kids Club registration is underway. Program dates for the two sessions are: Monday, June 26 – Friday, July 14 (no July 4) and Monday, July 17 – Thursday, August 3. Classes are held from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Boutwell School. This remarkable program, one of Wilmington's most popular traditions, is for children ages 4 through 8. Beginning on April 3, children can enroll in a second session if space is available.

We have open registration for many spring and summer programs. Youth programs include basketball, golf, tennis, reading and writing workshop and science classes. Adults can choose from basketball, golf, tennis, bocce, dance and craft projects. Sign up today to guarantee your spot.

The annual **Fishing Derby** will be held at the Town Beach on Saturday, June 3 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (RAIN DATE: Sunday, June 4). There will be shore fishing only. Cost is \$2 for children age 17 & under; adults \$5. For this day only, no fishing licenses required.

LOOKING TO PLAN A TRIP FOR 2023?

Join us on a unique excursion to Northern California from October 16 – 23. This 8-day comprehensive tour begins and ends in San Francisco and features first class accommodations, sightseeing in San Francisco, a scenic drive to Sonoma for a wine tour and tasting. You will also explore the fascinating National Parks of Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia. Monterey will delight all your senses with a stroll down Cannery Row and visit to the iconic aquarium. The 17-mile drive will take you along one of the most breathtaking coastlines to the famous Lone Cypress, Seal Rock and Pebble Beach Golf course.

We continue to offer our popular day trips to exciting local spots and theater trips. Our Riding Through the Times day trip will take us to Newport, RI in May for a ride on the up-and-coming Rail Explorers, a visit to the Newport Car Museum and free time in the city. Board a motor coach to the Big Apple in June for "A Day in New York City". Experience the sights and sounds at your leisure or attend a matinee on Broadway. Tickets are available for "Come From Away" at the Boston Opera House in August, which includes bus transportation. Stop by the Recreation Office or visit our website for additional information.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the West Intermediate School Parking Lot.** 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



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.



If you have any questions or problems with your water, please call the Water Division at 978-658-4711.

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 22**, 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.



RECYCLING TIPS

Plastic grocery bags and other soft plastics will get tangled in the processing equipment causing damage and potential injuries. These items should not be disposed of in your recycle barrel. Additionally, food and liquids, clothing, and "tanglers" such as rope, string lights, hoses, and wire should not be placed in your recycle barrel.

Please see <http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/trash-recycling> for further information regarding the Trash and Recycling Collection Program.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**APR 12 LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2023
TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING**

APR 22 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Polls Open 8 am to 8 pm

APR 29 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 9 am
Wilmington High School

MAY 29 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE 10 am
CEREMONY AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY 11 am

JUN 1 SUMMER BASKETBALL Town Hall
REGISTRATION DEADLINE

JUN 1 SHAWSHEEN TECH GRADUATION

JUN 4 WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

JUN 11 FARMERS MARKET OPENS

Town Common

10 am to 1 pm

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 10, April 24 and May 8.**

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 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29

May 3, 6, 10 and 13



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)

Public Buildings	657-8368
Public Works	658-3017
Recreation	658-4481
School	658-4270
Select Board	694-6000
Town Clerk	658-3311
Town Manager	658-2030

(TDD)

Treasurer	694-1417
Veterans' Agent	658-3531
Water & Sewer	694-2040

(Billing) 658-4711



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