

## Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

### From the Manager's Desk

I hope you all had a great holiday season, spending time with your family and getting ready for the year ahead.



I am honored to begin this year continuing to serve as the temporary Town Manager for our great community. I can confidently say my enthusiasm for our town has never been higher. I would like to thank all of the department heads for their focus and collaboration, and I have full faith they will continue their good work throughout this transitional period and beyond. It takes a lot of smart, talented folks to run a town like ours, and I am glad to say we have plenty of them.

As I mentioned, I am serving as the temporary Town Manager and I know the town is committed to finding the best person for the permanent job. I want to thank Community Paradigm Associates for their partnership, and for steering our town toward its next Town Manager. I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to contribute their thoughts to the search committee's survey that was shared at the end of the year.

Over the coming weeks and months, more information will be shared on the search process and how residents can get involved.

I have been proud to call Wilmington my home for four decades. I have raised my family here, devoted my career to helping the veteran community within our town, and now am honored to continue my service for all of Wilmington's residents.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024.



At their November 27, 2023 meeting, the Select Board approved a request to display a Heroes Tree in the lobby of Town Hall. Pictured are Blue Star Mothers Anne Murray and Barbara Downs with Temporary Town Manager Louis Cimaglia.

### PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

The Presidential Primary will be on March 5, 2024. The last day to register to vote for the State Election is Saturday, February 24, 2024. The Town Clerk's office will be open until 5:00 p.m. Precincts 1 and 2 vote at the Boutwell School, **Precincts 3 and 4 vote at Wilmington High School** and Precincts 5 and 6 vote at the Town Hall. The Secretary of the Commonwealth's Election Division will be mailing out the vote-by-mail applications to all registered voters. In-Person Early Voting will be scheduled for one week in February.

### 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 22, 2023 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Interested residents may file nomination papers for the following offices: Select Board (1 position), School Committee (2 positions), Shawsheen Regional School Committee (1 position) and Town Moderator. Nomination papers are due in the Town Clerk's office not later than 4:30 p.m. on March 8, 2024.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the High School Auditorium. Petitioned articles are due in the Town Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 2, 2024. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 17, 2024.** Town Clerk's Office will remain open until 5:00 p.m.

### PROPOSED MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING ZONING TO BE VOTED ON AT MAY 4, 2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town of Wilmington is required, by a new state law (Section 3A of MGL Chapter 40A), to create an as-of-right multi-family zoning district of at least 50 acres, half of which is required to be located within a half mile of a commuter rail station. The district must allow for at least 1,248 units of multi-family housing units and is required to have a density of at least 15 units per acre. The new zoning must be in place by December 31, 2024.

Following a two-week online community survey and public outreach, the Wilmington Planning Board has drafted a multi-family zoning district proposal for consideration at the May 4, 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Text and maps for the "MBTA Multi-family Overlay District (MOD)" can be viewed on the Town's Planning & Conservation webpage: <https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/planning-conservation>.

Please visit the website for more information about the Section 3A requirement and how the Town is proposing to address it. Do not hesitate to contact Valerie Gingrich, Director of Planning & Conservation at 978-658-8238 or [vingrich@wilmingtonma.gov](mailto:vingrich@wilmingtonma.gov) with any questions.

## 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.

## COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The Commission on Disabilities carries out programs of the Massachusetts Office on Disability to bring about full and equal participation in all activities for people with disabilities. Not only does the Commission assist Town officials in making sure that buildings, parking lots, sidewalks and other areas comply with federal and state disability laws, but they also provide information, referral, advocacy and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and organizations in Town in all matters relating to disabilities.

The Commission can serve as a resource to residents and their families with questions on issues of accessibility, to builders as they navigate the obligations of complying with disability laws, and to review projects that come before different boards within town.

If you have any questions or concerns about compliance with disability laws and regulations, please send us an email at [wcod@wilmingtonma.gov](mailto:wcod@wilmingtonma.gov), or call us at 978 658-3311.



## ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS

Wilmington's Annual Town Census will be mailed in the middle of January 2024. Please keep an eye open for it and respond immediately. Remember, responding to the annual town census keeps your name on the active voting list. Please contact the Town Clerk's office if you have not received your census by the last week in January.

## ENROLLING IN REVERSE 911 NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Receive alerts about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Wilmington's Reverse 911 notification system. This system provides critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. Participants receive time-sensitive messages through a chosen option, such as home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. Information will never be shared nor sold and will be used solely for Reverse 911 notifications. To sign up, please scan the QR code or visit <https://member.everbridge.net/892807736723463/new>



## 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 ticket 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.

## 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.



## RECREATION OFFERINGS

For a complete listing of programs, tickets and trips, check our page on the Town's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov); then click on Recreation under Departments.

### TRIPS

The Recreation Department has many trips planned for 2024. We offer theatre trips to Boston, day trips around New England and extended trips to various places sure to be on your bucket list. We currently have reserved tickets for "Come From Away" in May and "MJ: The Musical" in June at the Boston Opera House. Your orchestra seat includes bus transportation so you can avoid the traffic in the city, parking fees and a long walk to the theatre. Our upcoming day trips include a trip to the Newport Playhouse in Rhode Island to see "The Foursome" and lunch at their extensive buffet. The Andy Cooney Irish Celebration at the Danversport Yacht Club featuring Andy Cooney, George Casey and Clara Fox. The Total Eclipse of Vermont Day Trip will bring you to Burlington, VT to watch the solar eclipse and enjoy a nice lunch. We will also be jetting off to Mackinac Island & Chicago in June. Stop by the Recreation Office or visit our website for additional information on these as well as other trips. Register today to guarantee your spot.

### FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION PROGRAMS

School Vacation Sensations! – If your family will be in Wilmington for February school vacation, we have got some great programs for the kids to have fun and make new friends. Keep them active with Super Sports for Grades K – 3 or the Basketball Clinic for Grades 4 – 8. Both programs are run by SNL, the Flag Football folk who are masters at combining skills and drills with fun. If the kitchen is of more interest than the gym, check out Kids' Test Kitchen Academy for Grades 1 – 5.

### NEW PROGRAMS

We also have new classes beginning in January. "Ready, Set, LE-GO" is the perfect class for any child (Grades 2 – 5) that enjoys playing with LEGO. Or if your child (Grades K – 5) likes science and art then you will want to sign them up for "Splat!". In this class children will create and design colorful projects while learning science concepts. They will construct a kinetic motion-based marble painting, colorful kaleidoscopes and use chromatography to find hidden colors.

### "THE ROOKIES"

Baseball season is fast approaching. Register your child (age 5 by 9/1/24 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 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 \$50 per child. Registration will **begin on February 1** and the **registration deadline is Thursday, March 14.**

## WINTER AT WILMINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The following is a sampling of upcoming library programs, as well as a few featured resources, to help you kick off the New Year. For more information, visit the library's website at [www.wilmlibrary.org](http://www.wilmlibrary.org) or by calling 978-658-2967 (Adult) or 978-694-2098 (Children/Teen).

### COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT SERIES

Join us in January and February for a Coffeehouse Concert Series at the library. We will be transforming the Stewart Room into a relaxing, café-like atmosphere, with coffee and music from local musicians. Musical duo Kat & Brad will perform on Thursday, January 11. Musician Rodney Mashia will be returning to WML on February 8.

### NIGHTTIME NEEDLEWORKERS

Our Needleworkers at Night group will now be meeting every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc. and enjoy a little conversation and camaraderie. This is a drop-in program for adults.

### LEARN TO PLAY CHESS &

#### ALL AGES CHESS TOURNAMENT

Join the Wilmington High School Chess Club on January 31 for a workshop on the gameplay of chess. On February 7 put your skills to the test at our All Ages Chess Tournament, for both pros and novices alike.

### REMOTE CONTROL CAR REPAIR WORKSHOP

Join Rob Loisel on January 24 for a hands-on workshop on how to repair RC cars. Whether you already know how and want a refresher, or want to pick up a new hobby, this workshop is a perfect way to kick off the New Year.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY JEWELRY SALE

Pick up some new-to-you jewelry at the next Friends of the Library Gently Used Jewelry Sale on April 5 and 6. This is the perfect time to give your jewelry a little overhaul or pick up some pieces to give as gifts. Jewelry donations for the sale can be dropped off year-round at the library's main desk.

### LIBRARY OF THINGS

Did you know the library has a Library of Things collection for adults, teens, and children? We have everything from HappyLights to help boost your mood, to a Sewing Machine Kit where you can make your own clothes and everything in between. Find our Library of Things on our website or stop into the library and ask a staff member for help.

### DO YOUR PART, RECYCLE SMART MASS DEP PROGRAM

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



## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Department of Public Works will be collecting Christmas trees at curbside beginning January 2, 2022. 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.

For details on public works services, please refer to the "Public Works" link on the Town's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov) or call the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481.

## ICE AND COLD WATER SAFETY

Each year, New England residents are injured from exposure to cold water. Skaters and ice fishermen fall through the ice and boaters capsize. Hikers sometimes have to camp overnight in harsh weather conditions. Unleashed pets run onto ice and people chase them. Learn how to protect yourself and others.

- Always wear a personal floatation device (PFD) when boating.
- Dress properly for cold weather in wool, which insulates better from the effects of hypothermia when dry or wet than man-made materials. Keep your head covered because 50% of body heat is lost through the head.
- **The only safe ice is at a skating rink.** Ice on moving water in rivers, streams and brooks is never safe. The thickness of ice on ponds and lakes depends upon water currents or springs, depth and natural objects. Changes in temperature cause ice to expand and contract, which affects its strength. Because of these factors, ice cannot be called *safe*.

## DOG REGISTRATION

New Dog Registrations are always ongoing, and Renewals are happening now. You must have an updated rabies certificate to complete your initial registration or renewal. Reminders have been sent out to currently registered dog owners by email if there is one on record or regular mail if not. New registrations or renewals can be accomplished online or by mail. The cost is \$10 if your dog is spayed or neutered, \$15 if intact. If you are 70 years of age or older, the fee is waived. The deadline for renewal is April 1, 2024, after which a \$15 late fee will be assessed in addition to the registration fee; a \$50 civil fine will be added to these amounts if renewals have not been completed by June 1, 2024.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- FEB 2 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
- MAR 8 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN ELECTION**
- MAR 19 - FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**  
Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.
- APR 17 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE - TOWN ELECTION/TOWN MEETING**  
Until 5 p.m.
- APR 27 - ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION**  
Polls Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- MAY 4 - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** 9 a.m.  
Joanne Benton Auditorium

## 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) <b>9-1-1</b>
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) <b>9-1-1</b> (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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