

# Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

## From the Manager's Desk

In the coming months a determination will be made as to the most appropriate response to the so called "Housing Choice Law." In January of 2021 then Governor Charlie Baker signed House Bill 5250 – "An Act Enabling Partnerships of Growth." A major goal of this legislation is to foster growth in the supply of affordable housing in the Commonwealth. A primary key to economic prosperity is the ability of business in all sectors to attract people with the necessary skills and qualifications. Maintaining a strong talent pool requires access to quality housing that is affordable.



The legislation amends the state Zoning Act, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, to require that communities within the MBTA service area provide a zoning district that permits multi-family housing by right. Such zoning would enable a developer to construct multi-family housing without seeking a special permit. These zoning districts cannot be subject to age restrictions and must be suitable for families with children. The districts must have a minimum density of 15 units per acre. A portion of the district must be within a half mile of a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station. Communities that fail to establish such zoning will be ineligible for state funds from multiple state grant programs. Separately, Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell has indicated that she may take enforcement action against communities that fail to adhere to the law.

In January the Select Board supported an Action Plan which was filed with the state Department of Housing of Community Development. This "action plan" established a broad framework for the Town's intentions. The submission of the "action plan" places the Town in interim compliance. Remaining compliance will require Town Meeting approval of a by right multi-family zoning district no later than December 31, 2024.

The Town has allocated \$300,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for storefront improvement grants for Wilmington businesses that were impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. One element of attracting customers and promoting business activity is clean, appealing storefronts and signage.

Businesses with storefronts can apply for up to \$25,000 in grant funding. Applicants will be required to provide a matching dollar amount of 10% of the total project cost. Funding will be provided in the form of reimbursement after project work is complete. Guidelines, application and more information on this program are available on the Town's website at <https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/economic-development-committee>. Applications are due to the Department of Planning & Conservation by 4:30 p.m. on August 1, 2023. Grant awards are expected to be announced in September 2023. Direct questions to the Planning and Conservation Department at 978-658-8238.

Work to evaluate options for a school that accommodates students and staff formerly occupying the Wildwood School will get underway over the next few months.

Visioning sessions will take place starting in late September/early October. Goals for these visioning sessions include obtaining feedback from residents, students, staff, town officials and other stakeholders. Topics to be discussed include the desired grade configuration for a new school e.g., prekindergarten to kindergarten only, prekindergarten to grade 3 or prekindergarten to grade 5 and the physical size, student enrollment count and building design. Other topics will address how education is expected to evolve in the next ten to twenty years, trends in education and the practices and facility characteristics that may be appropriate for this new school. Go to the Wilmington Public Schools link to remain informed about the dates and times of the visioning sessions: <https://www.wpsk12.com/our-district/facilities/school-building-projects>.

Construction on the new senior center to be located on Main Street next to the Church of the Transfiguration is expected to begin in September 2023 and be completed by December of 2024. Construction on the Town Hall/School Administration building at the rear of the Swain parking area is scheduled to begin in March of 2024 with completion by summer of 2025.

Christina Stewart, Library Director for the past 27 years, will be "closing the book" in September after 49 years of service to the Town. Ms. Stewart has been a true change agent for library services. Some directors may have taken the path of least resistance after voters rejected a new library in 2005. Instead Tina doubled down and encouraged her staff to think outside the box for ways to promote learning and social discourse. Tina has led the effort to fulfill their mission that "Community Starts Here." We extend Tina all the best for an enriching and fulfilling next "chapter" in her story.

Enjoy the warm weather, days at the ocean or on the lake, moments on the mountaintops or in the canyons and afternoons on back deck or in the backyard pool. Carpe diem.

## WATER CONSERVATION



With the hot summer days arriving, residents are reminded that the Town of Wilmington has active water use restrictions. **There is no outdoor watering allowed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** In the case of sprinkler systems, both above-ground and installed underground systems may only be used once per week, subject to the hours above. Other outside water use is restricted to hand held hoses only. Per the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Town will be required to ban sprinklers entirely if this policy is not followed. Failure to follow the water use restriction may result in a minimum \$50.00 per day fine. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

## PROGRAMS AT SENIOR CENTER

### SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SENIOR CENTER MONTH

The Department of Elderly Services will hold several programs to recognize September as National Senior Center month. On Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 1 p.m. Dovetail Companies will present "Coffee and Conversation: Right Size Your Life by Downsizing Your Stuff." Dovetail Companies is located in Wilmington and was founded to help manage the complex steps needed to ensure a smooth transition to a new living situation. Several strategies will be discussed to help with downsizing our "stuff". Light refreshments will be served. Please call 978-657-7595 for reservations.

### PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

As we get older, some of us may experience health issues that affect our ability to safely maintain our homes. Where do you turn to look for assistance. The Department of Elderly Services will be sponsoring a panel discussion on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 6 p.m. to help answer some of these concerns. Kelly Magee-Wright from Minuteman Senior Services, Maryann Barry from Visiting Nurse and Community Care and Sylvia Clark from Benchmark Assisted Living will discuss ways their prospective agencies may be of help. Light refreshments will be served. Please call 978-657-7595 for reservations.

### FIVE WISHES

One of the most difficult conversations to have is about end of life decisions. 5 Wishes is a document combining a Living Will, Health Care Proxy and Power of Attorney in addition to addressing matters of comfort and spirituality. On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at the Buzzell Senior Center, Dr. Susan Carrachino, a Wilmington resident for over 30 years and a registered nurse for the past 28 years, as well as a current full time Associate Professor for Mass College of Pharmacy Health Science, has led numerous discussions on the benefits of 5 Wishes and brings her experience and insight to explain the importance of this document. Light refreshments will be served. Please call 978-657-7595 for reservations.

### WANTED: HOME DELIVERED MEALS DRIVER

The Department is looking for Home Delivered Meal Drivers one morning per week for two to three hours. Perfect for a retiree looking to fill a few hours. Job sharing with a friend, would be fine too.

### POWERFUL TOOLS FOR THE CAREGIVER

The Department of Elderly Services is sponsoring "Powerful Tools for the Caregiver" presented by Minuteman Senior Services. By taking care of your own health and well-being you become a better caregiver. This six-week course is designed to build the skills caregivers need to take better care of themselves while caring for a loved one. **Powerful Tools for the Caregiver** will help you to reduce stress, improve self-confidence, balance your life, effectively communicate in challenging situations, increase your ability to make tough decisions and to locate helpful resources. Program will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 10, 17, 24 and November 7 and 14, 2023. This class is held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (No class on October 31) Space is limited. Please call the Buzzell Senior Center to register.

## TOWN CLERK NOTICE TO INACTIVE VOTERS

The Office of Town Clerk will be sending Confirmation Notices to all voters from whom an Annual Town Census response was not received in 2023. These voters have been placed on the Inactive Voting List but will be restored to the Active Voting List immediately upon receipt of the signed postcard sent with the notice. If you received a Confirmation Notice, please return the signed card as soon as possible to avoid having to provide identification and proof of continuous residency at the next election or Town Meeting.

Please call the Office of Town Clerk, 978-658-2030, with any questions.

## EXPANSION OF WILDWOOD CEMETERY COLUMBARIUM PRESALE

The expansion of Wildwood Cemetery is underway with the creation of new Section Q along Wildwood Street, in the former location of 64 Wildwood Street. This project will add approximately 370 2-grave lots with upright monument privilege, along with some 3-lot graves, for a total of approximately 750 new graves. This new section, combined with the existing upright monument lot and flat marker lot availability throughout the rest of the cemetery, provides for approximately 30 years of burial space at the Wildwood Cemetery.

Residents are reminded that columbariums in Section N are now available "pre-need" 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 Wilmington resident, 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://www.wilmingtonma.gov/public-works/cemetery-division>

## WILMINGTON COMMUNITY FUND SPONSORS SHREDDING DAY

The Wilmington Community Fund is hosting a Shredding Day on **Saturday, September 16, from 9 a.m. to noon**, (or until trucks reach capacity) in the Wilmington Town Common parking lot. The event is free of charge to residents.

Participants will be required to present a valid photo ID for proof of residency. Maximum of 5 banker boxes/bags of paper per person and will ONLY be accepted from trunks, back of SUVs or trucks. Paper clips, rubber bands and staples do not need to be removed. Please remove binder clips or other metal fasteners.

Our motto is "People Helping People" and we are grateful for the partnership of the community.

## TOWN BEACH AT SILVER LAKE

Town Beach at Silver Lake is open each day and staffed with lifeguards starting Saturday, June 10 through Sunday, August 13. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wilmington residents, with proof of residency, may use the beach at no charge. Accepted forms of identification include a valid driver's license showing a Wilmington address *or* an RMV issued Massachusetts ID showing your Wilmington address, or a WPS photo id.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

**Buddy & Elvis – Wednesday, August 9: \$145.** Enjoy the beautiful views overlooking Mt. Tom while listening to some of your favorite songs at the Log Cabin Banquet Facility in Holyoke, MA. This fantastic tribute show to Buddy Holly and the great Elvis Presley will surely have you singing along. Enjoy a luncheon with your choice of twin lobsters or prime rib.

**Encore Casino – Tuesday, August 29: \$40.** Travel with your friends to New England's newest and most extravagant showcase, The Encore Boston Casino. Trip includes motor coach transportation.

**Martha's Vineyard – Saturday, September 9: Adults \$90 Children (Ages 5 – 12) \$80.** Let us deal with the traffic while you enjoy this day at leisure. Trip includes motor coach transportation and your round-trip ferry ticket to the Vineyard. While there, take a tour or explore on your own.

**Bally's Twin River – Tuesday, September 14: \$50.** Take a day trip to Bally's Twin River Casino in Lincoln, RI. Trip includes motor coach transportation.

Our complete newsletter is on the Town's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov). Click on the Recreation prompt to explore the many programs this department has to offer. Our newsletter, Recreation Matters, is updated quarterly in February, May, August and November.



## CONCERTS ON THE COMMON

The Recreation Department's popular summer concert series begins on Wednesday, July 5 at the Town Common. Talented musical groups will provide entertainment for all ages from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday through July 26. In the event of inclement weather, the scheduled concert will be postponed to the date in parentheses. This summer's performers are:

**July 5 (7/6) – Joe Leary:** Wilmington native and singer/songwriter, Joe has a wide array of Irish, country and acoustic music.

**July 12 (7/13) – Jimmy & the Jesters:** The oldies and classic country tunes.

**July 19 (7/20) – Ball in the House:** A Cappella at its best.

**July 26 (7/27) – Back Track:** Features the music of the 50's, 60's and 70's.

## SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

### ANNUAL SUMMER READING PROGRAM “FIND YOUR VOICE”

“Find Your Voice” this summer by signing up for the library's annual summer reading program. Readers of all ages can register on the library's website at [wilmlibrary.org](http://wilmlibrary.org) or in person. Earn prizes by reading just a few minutes each day. Read 15 days this summer and receive a free book. Read 30 days and earn a free ice cream from Dandi-Lyons in Reading. You can also enter our raffle for a Bose Bluetooth speaker or a Museum of Science Premier Pass. Check out the variety of fun programs for all ages including crafts, music, movie nights and theater. Mark your calendar for the Summer Bash on the Swain Green on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with music by Rockabye Beats plus food trucks, games and more!

### VISIT PARKS AND MUSEUMS WITH LIBRARY PASSES

Take advantage of discounts to parks and museums this summer with library passes to Drumlin Farm (Mass Audubon Pass), Mass State Parks, Trustees of Reservations, Zoo New England, Museum of Science and more. Passes can be reserved at [wilmlibrary.org](http://wilmlibrary.org).

### LIBRARY OF THINGS

The Library of Things includes a number of items you can borrow that are geared towards summer fun. Check out the library's lawn games for your summer barbecue or one of our travel kits for your next vacation. You can also borrow Wi-Fi hotspots, a pickle ball kit, a telescope, a star gazing kit and a tent. In addition, the library has kindle e-readers loaded with bestselling titles you can borrow rather than having to travel with heavy books.

### FIRST FLOOR REDESIGN

The Memorial Library's first floor redesign project is underway. Library Director Tina Stewart and staff have been working with Oudens Ello Architecture (OEA) since October 2022 to develop the plan that will address the following goals:

- ◆ Maximize the limited footprint.
- ◆ Create a flexible space that can accommodate present and future needs.
- ◆ Create a visually inviting space that allows patrons to easily find what they need and discover more.
- ◆ Improve staff service points to make operations more efficient and visually appealing.

The project was spearheaded with a \$100,000 grant award from the Cummings Foundation plus additional funding from the Barbara Johnson Trust Fund, Friends of the Library, the Town of Wilmington and state aid grants. The project is expected to be completed by the end of July. While this exciting makeover is being implemented, your patience with the temporary service disruptions is appreciated. We look forward to a ribbon cutting ceremony in mid-August.

### FAREWELL RETIREMENT RECEPTION

The Friends of the Library invite the community to a farewell reception for Library Director Tina Stewart on Friday, September 15 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tina will be retiring after 49 years of service at the Wilmington Memorial Library including 27 years as Library Director.



## TRASH AND RECYCLING TIPS

While trying to help the environment, many of us are putting items in our recycle carts that should not be, HOPING they can be recycled. The result? Contaminated loads are being rejected at the processing center, leading to additional charges to the Town.

### REMEMBER

#### KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF YOUR RECYCLE CART

- ⊗ No plastic wrap or plastic bags of any kind;
- ⊗ No Styrofoam;
- ⊗ No clothing, shoes, blankets, etc.;  
(DROP OFF AT DONATION BOXES LOCATED AT EACH SCHOOL)
- ⊗ No electronics, batteries or bulbs;
- ⊗ No food or liquid;
- ⊗ No wood or construction debris;
- ⊗ No hoses, wires or cords.

When in doubt, check out [www.RecycleSmartMa.org](http://www.RecycleSmartMa.org). Enter the name of an item to find out if it is recycling or trash.

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

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**Please remember, if you move from your home, the trash and recycle barrels must remain with the house.**

## KEEP WILMINGTON CLEAN

Residents are asked to remove trash and recycling receptacles from curbside following collection.

## SUMMER YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The Town's yardwaste recycling facility located on Old Main Street off of Main Street at the Woburn line, will open on six different dates this summer. Wilmington residents only may use the center to drop off leaves and brush. In order to use the facility, residents must purchase a \$15 punch card at the Treasurer/Collector's Office at Town Hall. The card has no expiration date and is good for 5 visits to the facility. Residents will be asked to show the punch card and an ID at the entrance to the facility. No grass clippings may be disposed at the recycling center due to the odors they create. Stumps will not be accepted. NO CONTRACTORS or COMMERCIAL VEHICLES are allowed.

### Summer Program 2023:

Wednesday, July 12	-	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, July 15	-	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, August 9	-	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, August 12	-	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, September 6	-	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, September 9	-	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For a complete schedule of the Town's 2023 Yardwaste Program and other information on waste disposal and recycling, please call the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481 or refer to the department's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUN 11- OCT 1	FARMERS MARKET OPEN SUNDAYS Swain Green 10 am to 1 pm
JUN 29- JUL 2	FUN ON THE FOURTH FESTIVITIES
JUL 5- JUL 26	CONCERTS ON THE COMMON Wednesdays 6:30 pm to 8 pm
AUG 1	NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
AUG 7	PURPLE HEART DAY 
AUG 30	SCHOOLS OPEN GRADES 1 - 12
SEP 5	FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN
SEP 16	SHREDDING DAY 9 am to 12 pm
SEP 25	WILMINGTON'S 293 <sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY!
OCT 1	APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE SENIOR TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM

## DEPARTMENT



## TELEPHONE #

Accountant	694-2029
Animal Control	658-5071
Appeals Board	658-4531
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
Select Board	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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