

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



Town staff, the Owners Project Manager and the designers for both the Senior Center and the Town/School Administration Building projects, are finalizing the procurement of construction services for both projects. Construction activities for the new senior center will get under way this fall with construction of the new Town/School Administration Building starting in March of 2024.

Consigli Construction Company, the general contractor for the Town/School Administration Building, will fence off a significant portion of the Swain parking area to serve as a work zone for building construction, materials storage and parking for construction workers. The Swain parking lot and green are a focal point for a variety of community events which provide activities for residents while providing local non-profit organizations with the opportunity to raise much needed funds for their programs. A final plan for the use limitations of the Swain parking area will be established within the next few weeks and discussed with the Select Board. The Town will work to identify alternative locations for the many local organizations that have historically utilized the Swain parking area and green to remain connected to the community.

Modifications to the Middle School to repurpose the former media center and classrooms in that section of the building were completed by early September. This area will now serve to accommodate students and staff displaced from the Wildwood Early Childhood Center. This area is expected to serve the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten populations formerly served by the Wildwood School until a new school can be constructed.

The Town is currently in the feasibility study phase of the Wildwood School building project which requires approximately 16 months to complete. Dore & Whittier, the Town's project architect, has completed an existing building conditions assessment of the Wildwood School, the Woburn Street School and the North Intermediate School. This work included evaluating the condition of the building envelope, floors, mechanical systems, structural integrity along with a hazardous materials survey, geotechnical survey and preliminary wetlands survey. In accordance with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) requirements, existing buildings must be evaluated for possible rehabilitation or

expansion in addition to demolition and replacement with a new school. Meetings with school staff, along with public visioning sessions and forums, are intended to develop a preliminary design plan (PDP) and preferred schematic design (PSD) for submission to the MSBA. The PDP defines the programmatic, functional, spatial and environmental requirements for a new or rehabilitated school. The educational goals, space needs along with existing conditions in the three named schools and site development requirements will be critical information relied upon to prepare a recommendation for the most educationally appropriate and cost-effective approach for a school.

National Development, the owners of property located on Lowell Street formerly owned by Textron Defense Systems, and the Town have reached an agreement to lease the tennis courts, ballfields and parking area on Lowell Street. The lease takes effect on January 1, 2024 and will extend for a term of 99 years. This lease presents another opportunity to expand the recreational opportunities for residents. The existing conditions of the area will be assessed to determine the types of improvements required. The fact that this area borders the Yentile Farm Recreational Facility creates the future prospect of connecting the two recreational areas.

A warm welcome is extended to the new library director Kate-Lynn Coraccio. She comes to Wilmington with considerable experience in library services, having worked most recently as the Collection, Circulation, Community Branch and Bookmobile Manager for the City of Worcester Public Library system. She is very enthusiastic about her new role and will be a great addition to the management team. Residents are encouraged to visit the Wilmington Memorial Library to see the upgrades to the first floor area and to meet Ms. Coraccio.

As this will be my final edition of *From the Manager's Desk*, I extend my appreciation to the many capable and committed employees and board and committee members that I have had the good fortune to work with over my years in Wilmington. There are always areas for improvement and the employees and volunteers who serve the town will continue to pursue ways to enhance the services offered. Wilmington is a tight-knit community that never ceases to amaze me with respect to the selfless efforts of so many to assist other members of the community. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve you for the past 36 years.

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

A sincere thank you is extended to our veterans and their families for sacrifices made on behalf of freedom.

The Wilmington Department of Veterans' Services invites all the residents of Wilmington to attend, remember and honor all our past and present veterans on **Saturday, November 11, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. on the Wilmington Town Common**. Participants will assemble at the Fourth of July parking lot at 10:45 a.m.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Veterans' Services at 978-694-2040 or veterans@wilmingtonma.gov.



YOUTH FOCUSED STUDY

Wilmington's Health & Recovery Unit (HRU) is looking to gain insights from individuals who have active roles in a youth's life; this could be parents, guardians, teachers, coaches, religious leaders, adult siblings, grandparents, aunts/uncles, adult friends, etc.

Together in partnership with the Public Health Excellence Tri-Ton Coalition of Burlington, Lexington and Wilmington and MassCALL3, HRU is seeking out members of the community to participate in an anonymous survey to gain further understanding of what Wilmington's youth experience regarding mental health & substance use and how we can best support them and their networks. A brief 3–4-minute survey will greatly help us better serve the community.

Key findings will be reviewed and a summary will be given along with next steps that the above noted groups will be taking to improve our community resources.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit the link below to take the survey and help us better help our youth <https://bit.ly/caretaker-youth-survey>



Hard copies of the survey are also available at the Public Safety Building, Buzzell Senior Center, Veterans Affairs Office and Town Hall Room 5.

For more information about the survey please contact Katy Doughty (Public Health Excellence Tri-Ton Coalition's epidemiologist) kdoughty@burlington.org or Samantha Cavanaugh (Health & Recovery Coordinator) scavanaugh@wpd.org.

TRASH AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

Residents are reminded to have their Trash and Recycling placed curbside by **6:30 a.m.** on their collection day. Once trash and recycling have been collected, residents should pull their barrels off of the street.



Contamination levels in recycling have become a serious issue with recycled materials. Residents continue to include items that are not recyclable such as diapers, wood, gas jugs, paint cans, garden hoses, lights, party supplies (disposable dinnerware) and, **worst of all, plastic bags of any kind**. These items and others cannot be placed in recycling receptacles. Due to the current depressed recycling market conditions, there is zero tolerance for any unacceptable items without financial consequences for the Town. Please **DO NOT** include plastic bags in the recycling barrel. All soft plastics such as grocery bags, dry cleaning wraps, bread and produce bags, food storage bags and case wraps (plastic surrounding a case of water, a package of diapers or paper towels) must be kept out of your recycle container. Plastic grocery bags can be returned to the supermarket for recycling and other soft plastics may be disposed of in your trash. We want all to be aware of these facts to help with keeping Wilmington green and minimize the escalating costs for solid waste disposal.

Casella Phone Number: 1-800-Casella (1-800-227-3552)

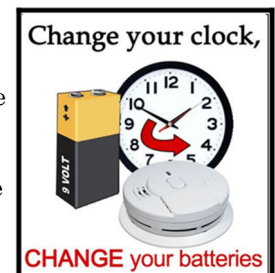
Call this number for missed trash/recycling collection or to schedule a bulk item pickup. Every residence is allowed to dispose of **one** bulk item at a time. Bulk items include but are not limited to sofas, chairs, bureaus, tables and until October 31, mattresses and box springs.

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

If you move from your home, the trash and recycle barrels must remain with the house.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

November 5th is the date to set clocks back one hour. The Fire Department recommends replacing the batteries in all Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors including plug-in and hard-wired types, which usually have battery back up in case of power loss. Massachusetts Law requires replacement of smoke detectors after 10 years.



SNOWPLOW CONTRACTORS FOR DPW

The DPW is hiring snowplow contractors. Work includes plowing roadways and municipal parking lots. Contractors must meet minimum insurance and equipment requirements. Applications and information are available at the DPW Administration Office, 115 Andover Street, Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call the DPW at 978-658-4481 for more information.

FALL 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).

FIRST FLOOR REDESIGN IS COMPLETE


Wilmington Memorial Library is excited to announce that the first floor of the library is back open to the public with new carpeting, fresh paint, new shelving, new furniture and more. The first floor is now more accessible, brighter, more visually appealing and welcoming. In addition, the workflow is more efficient for staff and patrons. A special thank you to those who financially supported this project: Cummings Foundation Grant, Barbara Johnson Trust Fund, Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library, Massachusetts State Aid to Public Libraries and the Town of Wilmington. Thank you also to Oudens Ello Architecture (OEA) for its expertise in reconfiguring the layout and design of the first floor.


READING RIVALS IS BACK


Help the library out-read Tewksbury Public Library and bring the Reading Trophy back to Wilmington in the third-annual "Reading Rivals" competition. Win weekly prize raffles along the way and get entered in a grand prize raffle. This year's competition runs from October 1 through November 22. Log your minutes each week digitally on Beanstack at www.wilmlibrary.beanstack.org or by picking up a paper log at the library and bringing it back as often as possible so a librarian can log your minutes for you. Don't miss out on a chance to win fantastic prizes while helping us beat Tewksbury!


CELEBRATING ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrate Italian Heritage Month in October with these upcoming programs at the library, sponsored by the **Wilmington Sons of Italy**.

 **Cinema History: Italian Filmmakers:** Join presenter Frank Mandosa on Thursday, October 12 at 7 p.m., for a sampling of 20th and 21st Century Italian Filmmakers.

 **Local Leaders: Stories of Growing Up Italian American:** Join State Representative Paul Donato and General Manager of the North Shore Music Theatre Karen Nascembeni on Wednesday, October 18 at 7 p.m., as they share their stories of growing up Italian American in Massachusetts.

 **Armchair Travel to Sicily:** Join Jeff Klapes, the Traveling Librarian, on Saturday, October 21 at 11 a.m., for an armchair journey to northern Sicily.

 **Masks in Motion with Pazzi Lazzi Troupe:** Join actress Chiara Durazzini and musician Dan Meyers on Thursday, October 26 at 7 p.m., as they perform a short skit, as well as present a lecture, about Commedia dell'Arte.

COSTUME CRAZE

Bring your lightly worn kids and teen Halloween costumes to the library between September 23 and October 6. Then, come back on October 7 to find a new-to-you costume for your kids.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The **55th Annual Halloween Horribles Parade** is Sunday, October 29 at 4:30 p.m. Participants march from the Public Safety Building to the High School Cafeteria where goodies galore await costumed children. In case of inclement weather, report directly to the Cafeteria. Don't forget to bring a bag for your treats.

BASKETBALL

Registration Deadline for Recreation Basketball is Thursday, October 5 - This popular program runs from December 2 – February 10 (no games/practices 12/23 or 12/30). There are separate leagues for boys (grades 3 – 8) and girls (grades 3 – 6). The season will begin with two weeks of "drills and skills" led by Recreation Basketball Supervisors. The season will continue with half hour practices followed by forty-five minute games on Saturdays. Cost of the program is \$115.

Registration Deadline for Junior Basketball (Grades 1 & 2) is Thursday, November 2 - This six-week program runs from January 6 – February 10 and costs \$60. The girls division will play on Saturday mornings and the boys division will be scheduled for afternoon games.

On Tuesday, October 24 and Monday, October 30 we are offering our annual **Referee Clinic** for anyone age 16 (by 12/1/23) and up interested in a possible paid position as a Basketball referee, or to earn community service hours. Contact the Recreation Office for additional information or to register for these free clinics.

OTHER NEWS

Saturdays in the fall are filled with children's programs such as SNL Super Sports Jr., Kinder Basketball, Kids Pottery Plus and Yoga Play. Popular programs such as Babysitter Training, Home Alone and Kids Test Kitchen are returning. We have a new four-week adult craft class "Ornate Ornaments". In each class you will create a unique Christmas ornament for your tree or to give as gifts for the holidays.

UPCOMING TRIPS!

We have several new day trips this fall. Those who like disco won't want to miss "Dancing Dream", an ABBA Tribute Show, at the Danversport Yacht Club on November 16. This trip includes motor coach transportation and a plated luncheon. Take a bite out of the Big Apple during the holidays and join us for a day trip to New York City on December 2. We take care of the transportation and the rest of the day is up to you. Consider "hitting the road" with us!

Our complete newsletter is on the town's website at 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 – February, May, August and November.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Wilmington's nonprofit organization, We're One Wilmington (WOW), will hold their 13th Annual Festival of Trees Friday, December 1 (9 am - 9 pm), Saturday, December 2 (9 am - 9 pm) and Sunday, December 3 (11 am - 2 pm) at St. Dorothy Church. You won't want to miss this spectacular family-friendly holiday event, which includes a one-of-a-kind raffle of holiday trees, wreaths and baskets. Enter to win one of these amazing trees or just come enjoy their beauty and listen to holiday musical performances. Admission is free. Proceeds benefit WOW. For more information visit www.onewilmington.org.

FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on October 23 and continue the weeks of October 30, November 13, November 27 and December 4.**



Residents should place their yardwaste in biodegradable paper bags or uncovered barrels at curbside on their regular trash collection day. Yardwaste in plastic bags will not be accepted.

Residents may also use the recycling center off Old Main Street near the Woburn line for leaves and brush drop-off. **The center will open for 9 weeks on Wednesdays and Saturdays from October 4 through and including December 2.** Hours of operation are Wednesdays, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In order to use the yardwaste recycling facility, residents must purchase a \$15 punch card which is good for five visits to the center. The card may be purchased at the Treasurer/Collector's Office, Room 1, Town Hall. **Wilmington residents only** are allowed to use the facility for leaves and brush drop-off. **NO GRASS CLIPPINGS.** The punch card and an ID must be presented at the entrance. **No contractors or commercial vehicles** are allowed to use the facility.

PROTECT YOUR PIPES



As the colder weather approaches, residents are encouraged to review items around their home that need to be protected from freezing, especially water pipes and meters. Failure to properly prepare for the winter months can lead to freeze-ups, which leave residents without water. Since freeze-ups typically occur in the basement, it is important to eliminate cold drafts by securely closing windows and doors along with filling gaps with expandable foam insulation. Wrapping vulnerable pipes with pipe insulation is another step that helps to prevent freeze-ups. These maintenance items are inexpensive and may be purchased at any home improvement store. A few minutes of prevention this fall can save you from real troubles when the snow flies. Please take a moment to check these items in addition to winterizing your sill cocks, garden hoses and sprinkler systems before the holiday season.

SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM

The Senior Citizen Work Program offers Wilmington residents the opportunity to work off a portion of their property tax by working part-time for the Town. The purpose of the program is to assist seniors in reducing their property tax burden. Participants **MUST** be Wilmington residents occupying a house for which property taxes are paid (or spouse of homeowner), have limited financial resources and be 60 years of age or older as of January 1, 2024. Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 27, 2023.** All seniors, regardless of past participation however, are encouraged to apply. Job listings and program information are on the application.

DON'T MISS SANTA!



Santa and his elves will be welcoming Wilmington boys and girls at **Santa's Workshop** on Thursday, December 7, 6 pm-7:30 pm at Town Hall. Please bring your cameras.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 5 RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 3-8
- OCT 20 CARTER LECTURE FUND** 7 pm
Wilmington Middle School
- OCT 27 APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM**
- OCT 29 HORRIBLES PARADE** Rotary Park 4:30 pm
- NOV 2 JUNIOR BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 1 & 2
- NOV 11 VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY** Town Common 11 am
- DEC 7 SANTA'S WORKSHOP** Town Hall 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- DEC 2 HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING** Town Common
- DEC 3 HOLIDAY SOCIAL** Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 pm

CARTER COMMITTEE SPONSORS CONCERT

The Sarah Carter Lecture Fund Committee is sponsoring a free concert "A Night with Elvis", featuring Mike Slater as Elvis, on **Friday, October 20, 2023 at 7 p.m.** at the Wilmington Middle School.

These programs, suitable for all ages, have been offered to the Town since 1910. All are welcome.



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
Veteran's Agent	694-2040
Water & Sewer	658-4711
	(Billing) 658-3116



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