

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk

Preparations for the May 3, 2014 Annual Town Meeting are well underway. On February 3, 2014 members of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee were presented with my budget plan for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2014. The operating budget, which includes all general government departments, Wilmington Public Schools and the Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, proposes an overall increase of less than 3%. Total expenditures are projected to be \$94,249,393.



The budget plan continues to pursue goals first established in the development of the current fiscal year budget which are to:

- Invest in the success of our students by supporting and providing the resources needed for a 21st-century school;
- Reduce our energy consumption by improving the efficiency of buildings, vehicle fleet and systems throughout Town;
- Improve service delivery through utilization of technology as a tool in our operations;
- Establish and maintain a multi-year capital improvement plan to enable the Town to make informed decisions on spending, borrowing and saving for future capital needs; and
- Develop policies, plans and tools to enhance our financial planning capabilities, reduce risk and improve efficiencies of operations.

Investment in the upgrade of technology, both in the Wilmington Public Schools and the general government, is a significant feature in the proposed budget. Nearly \$300,000 is recommended for upgrades to desktop computers in the Middle School, digital projectors and technology in the North and West Intermediate Schools, the Woburn Street and Shawsheen Elementary Schools. Upgrades to hardware and software are planned for Public Safety and Town Hall offices.

The planned window replacement project for the North Intermediate School, expected to cost just over \$1.2 million, and replacement of a section of the North Intermediate School roof, estimated to cost \$250,000, continues the Town's commitment to maintaining its facilities and seeking to make them more energy efficient.

During the past few months, thanks to the efforts of employees from several departments, the Town unveiled GIS maps with a variety of information layers available on the Town's website to the general public. This upgrade to the Town's technology will provide the public with greater access to property information.

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which was introduced as part of the budget presentation, provides a clear picture of the Town's large scale obligations for infrastructure, facilities and equipment upgrades over the next five years.

Through the stewardship of Selectman Judy O'Connell, the Yentile Farm Development Committee has made measurable progress in the development of conceptual designs for the future reuse of the former Yentile property as a destination location for recreation in Wilmington.

With assistance from the architectural firm Waterfield Crowe, the Committee held a public forum at the high school cafeteria on February 27, 2014. Approximately 55 individuals attended the forum and participated in break out groups. Twelve different design scenarios were developed with features including walking paths, multi-purpose playing fields, dog parks and sprinkler parks. Feedback from this forum has been evaluated by the committee to narrow the options with the intention of developing a preferred design option. A second public forum is scheduled to occur in late March.

A request for appropriation of \$250,000 will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting for funds to hire a design firm to develop full scale design plans for the preferred option and to prepare detailed specifications for use in seeking competitive bids to construct the elements for the revitalized space.

With the sustained cold temperatures and multiple snow storms, this winter has been a particularly challenging one for each of us. Snow accumulation as of this writing is 76.5 inches. A sincere "thank you" goes out to all the public works personnel and contractors for their tireless service in keeping the streets clear and safe for travel.

Congratulations to Fire Lieutenant Gary Robichaud and Paul Fullerton, Water Division, on their retirement in February after nearly 30 and 28 years of dedicated service, respectively, to the Town of Wilmington. Congratulations also to Fire Fighter Ken Gray upon his retirement in March after 28 years of dedicated service. Best wishes for good health and continued support of good friends.

Although snow still appears well established in many areas throughout Town spring is here and with the changing of seasons that longstanding right to have your voice be heard. Town Elections will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 with polls open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Decisions about the Town's annual budget, funding of capital projects and zoning matters will take place one week later at the Middle School auditorium beginning at 10:30 a.m. Registered voters are encouraged to exercise your right to decide.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is a day for our nation to remember, reflect upon and honor those who have given their all in service to their country.

Wilmington's Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 26 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.



AT THE LIBRARY

E Books and Downloadable Media

All you need is a library card to download free e-books, magazines, audio books, music and movies to your computer or mobile device. Go to the library's website www.wilmlibrary.org and start enjoying these services!

Overdrive - a wide selection of e books and audio books including children and teen titles.

Hoopla - movies for instant streaming plus music and audio books for temporary downloading.

Zinio - full digital copies of over 90 popular magazines including *Newsweek*, *National Geographic*, *Good Housekeeping* and more.

Freegal - 500,000 popular and classic songs from Sony's music catalog. Files are DRM free and never expire!

Online Learning

The Wilmington Memorial Library subscribes to online learning services. You will need your library card to access the following:

Transparent Languages - vocabulary and grammar lessons on 80 languages. Great for students and travelers!

Universal Class - Choose from over 500 courses taught by real instructors. Topics include computers, business, art, real estate, cooking and self help.

Safari Books - access to over 4,000 full text computer and business books. Topics include graphic design, web development, home networking, e-readers and tablets and more.

Edible Books Contest

Saturday, April 19

The Wilmington Memorial Library is hosting an "Edible Book" contest in celebration of National Library Week April 14 to April 19. All ages may participate in the contest by creating something edible that is book related. Entry forms available at www.wilmlibrary.org. Check out Edible Books at Google Images for inspiration. The edible book art will be on display Saturday, April 19.

Art Display of Preschool Children Saturday April 19, 3 p.m.

Wilmington Memorial Library is celebrating the "Week of the Young Child" April 14 to April 19 with a display of art by children who attend preschool or daycare in Wilmington. Stop by and admire these young artists!



Library Strategic Plan

The Wilmington Memorial Library is in the process of developing a strategic plan to chart its course for the next five years. In order to create a plan that best serves Wilmington residents, community feedback is needed. All residents are encouraged to fill out a survey which will be on the library's website www.wilmlibrary.org during the month of April. Residents are also invited to attend one of the community forums on Wednesday, April 9, 7 p.m. and Tuesday, April 29, 1 p.m.

LOST & FOUND

The Town Manager's office is holding two items that may be of value to the person(s) who lost them. Presumably, one belongs to a male, the other a female. If you have visited the Town Hall since November 2013 and believe you may have lost one of these items please call Beverly at 978-658-3311.



2014 CENSUS

Please return your 2014 census to the Town Clerk's office. If you have moved or did not receive a census, please call the Town Clerk's office at 978-658-2030.

PASSPORTS



For submission of an application for a passport, you **MUST** have a long form birth certificate. You may obtain the document from either the town/city where the hospital you were born in was located and from the town/city where your parent's were living at the time of your birth. The document **MUST** have a raised seal. The passport office does not accept copies.

ANNUAL WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM

Starting in mid April, the Water Department 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.

The goal of the flushing program is to enhance the water quality throughout the Town of Wilmington. By strategically opening and closing water main valves, water is flushed through the pipes at a higher than normal velocity. Please be aware that since flushing scours and removes minerals that have accumulated in the mains, residents may experience discolored or rusty water during the program. The water is safe to drink. However, we suggest that our residents check the water before doing laundry to avoid staining clothing and other items. Running the cold water for a few minutes should clear up any discoloration.



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

NEWS FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM

Sunday Open House: April 6, May 4 and June 8 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free tours of the Wilmington Town Museum!

Summer Fun Preview: Sunday, June 8, 2014, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Play old fashioned games on the grounds of the Harnden Tavern, view the herb garden or walk the Harnden Tavern Trail. The Museum and Carriage House will also be open for tours. (*outdoor activities weather permitting*)

The Museum is also open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment. Please contact the Museum to schedule an appointment at the convenience of you or your group. The Town Museum will be closed the week of April 20.

Don't forget – you can buy postcards of historic Wilmington sites at the Town Museum for 25 cents! Also historical books and commemorative tote bags are available for purchase.

For more information or to schedule a tour please call 978-658-5475 or e-mail htavern@wilmingtonma.gov. Or visit us on the web at www.wilmingtonma.gov/Pages/WilmingtonMA_Museum/index

WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

The We're One Wilmington will be sponsoring the 4th Annual Run for Wilmington/Kim Forte Walk to be held on April 27th. For more information on this event and the Women of Wilmington, please visit www.womenofwilmington.org.



PLAYGROUND - TINY TOTS & KIDS CLUB

Registration begins in April for two of the Recreation Department's longest running and most successful summer offerings. **Registration for the Summer Playground Program for children entering grades 2-8 begins Monday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium.** The six week program will operate, rain or shine, Thursday, June 26 - Tuesday, August 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Shawsheen Elementary School. Children will enjoy a wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, games, sports, special events and optional field trips. For children ages 4 through 8, **Tiny Tots & Kids Club registration is Wednesday, April 16 from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium.** After this date, registration will continue weekdays at the Recreation Office. The two sessions will be held Thursday, June 26 - Tuesday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 16 - Friday, August 1 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Boutwell Early Childhood Center.

Join us on the Town Common on Saturday, April 19 at 2 p.m. sharp for the annual **Easter Egg Hunt**. The common will glitter with candy filled eggs as hundreds of children rush to fill their baskets. In case of poor weather or ground conditions, the festivities will be held in the High School Cafeteria. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket to hold your eggs.

The annual **Fishing Derby** will be held at the Town Beach on Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. – noon. There will be shore fishing only. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the Derby beginning at 9 a.m. sharp! (Rain date – June 8) Cost is \$2 for children age 17 & under; adults \$4. For this day only – no fishing licenses required.

The 2014 season for **Town Beach at Silver Lake** is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 14 - Sunday, August 17. Wilmington residents may use the beach at no charge. **Certified lifeguards** (age 16 & older) should contact the Recreation Department regarding possible employment opportunities.

For information on these programs and the many other activities, events, trips and services offered by the Recreation Department, call 978-658-4270 or consult the Town's website at www.wilmingtonma.gov.

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 and the Library. The **application deadline is April 11**. Since 1996, this program has distributed \$102,000 in financial aid to 179 scholarship recipients. Thanks to the generosity of Wilmington residents and businesses and the establishment of the "Loddy Weisberg and Lena Leiter Student Scholarship Fund", the Committee expects to award a greater amount of scholarships in June of this year. Ms. Weisberg and Ms. Leiter were sisters who both taught in the Wilmington Public School System for many years. The beloved teachers' affection for Wilmington students is reflected by their decision to include in their estate the distribution of scholarship funds to Wilmington students.

This new funding source will increase and help to perpetuate the Town's ability to distribute financial aid to Wilmington students. 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.

CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY IN WILMINGTON

In Massachusetts, Arbor Day is traditionally the last Friday in April and celebrates the important role trees have in our lives while promoting tree planting and care. Arbor Day was initiated in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City who stated "Other holidays focus upon the past; Arbor Day focuses on the future".

Trees promote cleaner air and produce the oxygen we breathe. They provide habitat for wildlife, help stabilize the soil and help keep a balanced climate. They give us paper, construction products, fuel for our fires and stoves and countless other wood products.



The Town of Wilmington supports the statewide observance of Arbor Day as the last Friday in April. The celebration of Arbor Day represents an opportunity to take positive actions in tree care, planting to recharge the urban forest and overall provide a general observance of the importance of trees in our community. Take time to explore the Town's DPW Tree Division website for information on the latest insects, diseases and threats to our community forest; informative videos on tree anatomy and biology and popular arboriculture links. The website is located at www.wilmingtonma.gov by clicking *Public Works then Tree Division*.

NEW ONLINE PAYMENT SERVICES COMING SOON

Although the Town currently offers the ability to pay certain bills online at MCC.net, we are expanding these services. Some of the new features will enable you to pay for Vital Records from the Town Clerk's office, pay Water Bills, Personal Property taxes as well as Motor Vehicle Excise & Real Estate taxes, either by ACH, Credit Card or Debit. Other advantages allow you to go green and opt-out of receiving certain paper bills; pay your tax & water bills via ACH at no cost. This is an electronic funds transfer instead of the online paper checks mailed out by your bank; and pay your bills anytime with real time balances (updated daily) for Real Estate, Motor Vehicle & Personal Property taxes, with the ability to see your payment history and other pertinent information. Please watch for additional information.

TRASH AND RECYCLING UPDATE

The Department of Public Works is proud to say that the curbside recycling tonnage for Fiscal Year 13 (FY13) was the highest it has been in the past 10 years! With your help, the Town diverted 1,612 tons of recyclable material out of the solid waste stream, resulting in a direct savings to the Town of approximately **\$116,070**. Similarly, the Town's curbside recycling rate has increased from 13.8% in FY12 to 16.8% in FY13.

As Wilmington rounds out FY14, monthly tonnage reports show a trend to match or beat our FY13 recycling numbers. In addition to the obvious environmental benefits of recycling, every ton of recycling that can be taken out of the solid waste stream in FY15 will save the Town approximately \$74. Despite great recycling efforts, many residents are still not maximizing the amount of recyclable material they can present curbside. Please remember that cardboard should be flattened, cut to proper size, bundled and recycled.



With your continued support, the Town will continue to see a rising trend in the recycling rate and thus an increased direct savings to the Town. For general information or to learn how to prepare specific items for recycling, please visit the Town's DPW website at www.wilmingtonma.gov by clicking the Public Works page, or call the DPW office at 978-658-4481.

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 7, April 21 and May 5**.

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 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 and 30
May 3, 7 and 10



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 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.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 4	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2014 TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING	
APR 5	RABIES CLINIC	
	Public Buildings Department	12 pm - 2 pm
APR 14	PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION	
	Town Hall Auditorium	7:30 pm
APR 16	TINY TOTS/KIDS CLUB REGISTRATION	
	Town Hall Auditorium	5 pm to 6:30 pm
APR 19	LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY PARADE	9:30 am
APR 19	ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT	Town Common 2 pm
APR 26	ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION	
		Polls Open 8 am to 8 pm
APR 27	WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON CHARITABLE RUN/WALK FOR WILMINGTON	
MAY 3	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	Middle School 10:30 am
MAY 10	HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY	
	West Intermediate School Parking Lot	9 am to 2 pm
MAY 26	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE	10 am
	CEREMONY AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY	11 am
JUN 5	RECREATION SUMMER BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	
JUN 7	FISHING DERBY	Town Beach 9 am to 12 pm
JUN 1	WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	
JUN 5	SHAWSHEEN TECH GRADUATION	
JUN 8	HARDEN TAVERN SUMMER FUN PREVIEW	
		2 pm to 4 pm
JUN 20-	RELAY FOR LIFE	
JUN 21	Wilmington Middle School, 25 Carter Lane	

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY



A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the West Intermediate School parking lot, 22 Carter Lane**. 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 RABIES CLINIC

The Board of Health's Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on **Saturday, April 5 from 12 noon to 2 p.m.** at the Public Buildings Department, 30 Church Street. Wilmington residents only. Dogs should be on a leash and cats in a carrier. Cost \$10.00 per animal.

The Town Clerk's Office will be on site to process 2014 Dog Licenses. Cost: \$10.00 spayed/neutered or \$15.00 non-spayed/non-neutered. **A \$15.00 late fee will be assessed after April 15, 2014.**

RELAY FOR LIFE OF WILMINGTON

Please join the community to celebrate, remember and fight back against cancer. **This year's event will be held at the Wilmington Middle School beginning Friday, June 20th at 5:30 p.m. and concluding the following morning.** The event is open to the public until 11 p.m. if you just want to come for the festivities. For more details, visit www.wilmingtonrfl.com.

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

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