

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



On January 29, 2018 members of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee were presented with the proposed budget for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2018 (fiscal year 2019). The total budget, inclusive of general government, the Wilmington Public Schools and Wilmington's share of the costs for Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, is \$114,400,729. By comparison the current budget for the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2018 is \$109,274,471.

There is no question that this represents a significant expenditure. The logical question is "What does this pay for?" Some of the assets and services that this proposed budget covers are the education of 3,343 students, maintenance and upgrades to 755,662 square feet of building space, maintenance of 102 miles of accepted roads, 85.75 miles of sidewalks, 60 acres of parks and public spaces, 29 acres of burial plots, 73 miles of drainage pipe and 1,242 fire hydrants. In calendar year 2017 the Police Department responded to over 26,000 calls for service and the Fire Department responded to 4,082 calls for service. The Wilmington Memorial Library conducted 911 programs that were attended by 19,805 people. The Health Department issued 467 permits and conducted 871 wellness consultations at the Buzzell Senior Center. The Tax Collector's Office processed over 100,000 payments. Veterans' Services had 438 veterans under their care in calendar 2017 and the Department of Elderly Services delivered 14,757 meals to homebound elders.

The major cost drivers in fiscal year 2019 are related to personnel, capital improvements and debt. Last fall the school administration and teachers reached agreement on a new three year contract. Collective bargaining agreements with three unions in general government are currently being negotiated. Capital improvements which are defined as projects costing over \$20,000 with a useful life of at least three years are proposed to increase \$941,500 over the current year investment in capital. Yearly investments in facilities, vehicles, equipment and infrastructure avoids the circumstance in which multiple "big ticket" items must be replaced or addressed at the same time due to deferred investment. This year the Town will issue permanent debt to pay for the Yentile Farm Recreational Facility and a fire pumper approved at prior Annual Town Meetings.

The Town's enterprise software is recommended for replacement at an estimated cost of \$1,050,000. This software is vital to the Town's ability to collect revenues, issue payroll and account for all the Town's financial transactions. The software is relied upon by both the School Department and general government departments. The owner of the current enterprise software is providing limited

support and no upgrades. Many municipalities who were using the same enterprise software have replaced it.

After level funding the Town's obligation for the cost of health insurance benefit in the current fiscal year, the recommendation is to reduce the health insurance budget by nearly \$613,000 in the coming fiscal year.

This budget remains focused on directing funds to address long term obligations specifically the Town's \$105 million Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability, its \$78 million retirement pension liability and obligations for future capital improvements. A sum of \$6.5 million is recommended to be directed into specific reserve accounts to address these responsibilities. These funds are not proposed for immediate expenditure but instead will be set aside for future use.

The Finance Committee met throughout the month of February with each department and concluded their meetings the second full week in March. A joint Finance Committee/Planning Board public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium. The entire budget will be reviewed including requests for financial expenditures and proposed changes to zoning. The public is encouraged to attend to learn about the budget and offer comment.

The Town has experienced a change in leadership with the retirement of Fire Chief Richard McClellan. He has served the Town for over thirty-five 35 years. Fire Fighter Andrew Leverone has retired with nearly thirty (30) years of service to the residents of Wilmington. Margaret Reese, Outreach Worker in Elderly Services, has retired after 12 years serving Wilmington's seniors. May they each enjoy healthy and productive retirements.

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/townscholarship>.

The **application deadline is April 13**. Since 1996, this program has distributed \$146,000 in financial aid to 232 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.

PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

The following is a sampling of upcoming library programs. Please register at www.wilmlibrary.org or by calling 978-658-2967 (Adult) or 978-694-2098 (Children/Teen) events.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EVENTS

Codebreaking and Information Theory

Wednesday, April 11, 7 pm

Since the time of antiquity, humans have been sending coded messages to each other in order to protect sensitive information. Join Harvard professor Chris Rycroft for an overview of the development of cryptography and information theory. The talk will cover historical methods for encoding messages, the seminal work of Claude Shannon in the 1940's that laid the foundations for digital communication, and modern approaches that are used to protect everyday internet transactions.

iOS (iPad and iPhone) Tips Wednesday, May 2, 7 pm

Bring your iPad and get guided hands-on experience. Such topics as connecting to a new wireless network, what different gestures do, downloading apps and borrowing e-books will be covered. Taught by Technology Librarian Brad McKenna.

Mount Washington Weather Wednesday, May 9, 7pm

Why is Mount Washington called the "Home of the World's Worst Weather"? Join Mount Washington Observatory's Will Broussard for an investigation into the unique life and work of weather observers. We will explore how the mountain's weather works and what it can tell us about New England's own weather patterns. This program will include interactive demonstrations, weather instruments, stunning photography and video footage from the summit.

YOUTH EVENTS CELEBRATE PET MONTH IN MAY

Movie Night: Secret Life of Pets

Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 pm

Kindergarten Book Club: Pet Stories

Wednesday, May 2, 3:45 pm

We will read books about pets and then do a fun project.

Library Pet Show Wednesday, May 2, 6:30 pm

Families and their pets of all types and sizes are welcome to join us for a pet show! Pet owners and their four-legged friends can walk down our runway, show off a trick or just enjoy the company of other pet owners. A photographer will be here to take a beautiful photo of you and your pet. Anyone is welcome to attend this fun event, but pet show participants should sign up at the library. Ages 3+

Art Adventures: Mixed Media Animal Portraits

Tuesday, May 8, 3:45 pm

Do you love animals? Bring in a photo of your pet or choose a photo of your favorite animal from a book. We'll explore different forms of media and techniques as we make one of a kind animal portraits for you to take home. Grades 1-5

Mother and Daughter Book Club

Wednesday, May 16, 2017, 6:30 pm

Girls and the special women in their lives are invited to join us for a discussion of *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. Pick up a copy of the book at the Children's Desk. We'll discuss the book and make a fun craft. Grades 1-5

Cat Toys & Treats for PAWS Wakefield

Thursday, May 17, 3:45 pm

Celebrate National Pet Month by baking cheesy treats and making fun toys for our feline friends at a local shelter. Grades 1-8

Paint Your Pet Paint Afternoon

Saturday, May 19, 2-4 pm

Paint a one-of-a-kind portrait of your pet! Led by local artist Sherry Hoffman, participants supply their favorite face-on pet pic and fill in a line drawing rendition with acrylics. Cost is \$15 per person, to be paid at the time of registration. Grades 6-12

Town Wide Yard Sale Saturday, June 9, 8 am - 2 pm

Applications available online and at the library starting Monday, April 30. Each of the last three years over 60 Wilmington households held yard sales and many hundreds of shoppers found bargains at the Town Wide Yard Sale – don't be left out! For those wishing to hold a yard sale at their home, the application fee is \$15 (deadline is Saturday, June 2). The fee includes yard sale signs and lots of publicity. Maps of yard sale locations will be available the Wednesday before the event.



RECREATION OFFERINGS

Registration for the **Summer Playground Program** is **Monday, April 9 at 7:30 a.m. in the Recreation Office**. This six-week program for children entering grades 2 – 8 will be held from Monday, June 25 – Wednesday, August 1 (No July 4) at the Shawsheen Elementary School. Playground will run rain or shine from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. allowing children time to enjoy a wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, games, sports, special events and optional field trips.

Tiny Tots & Kids Club registration begins Wednesday, April 11 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall

Auditorium. After this date, registration will continue weekdays in the Recreation Office and online. Dates for the two sessions are: Monday, June 25 – Friday, July 13 (No July 4) and Monday, July 16 – Thursday, August 2. Classes are held from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Boutwell School. This remarkable program, one of Wilmington's most popular traditions, includes children ages 4 through 8.

The annual **Fishing Derby** will be held at the Town Beach on Saturday, June 2 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon (rain date – Sunday, June 3). There will be shore fishing only. Cost is \$2 for children age 17 & under; adults \$5. Prizes awarded to contest winners. For this day only – no fishing licenses required.

The 2018 season for **Town Beach at Silver Lake** is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 9 - Sunday, August 12. Wilmington residents may use the beach at no charge, with proof of residence. **Certified lifeguards** (age 16 & older) should contact the Recreation Department regarding possible employment opportunities.

For additional updates and highlights of Recreation Department activities, follow us on Facebook!

RELAY FOR LIFE OF WILMINGTON/BILLERICA

Please join the community to celebrate, remember and fight back against cancer. **This year's event will be held at the Wilmington High School beginning Friday, June 15th 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 <http://relay.acsevents.org>.



PLEASE! NO PLASTIC BAGS IN YOUR RECYCLE CONTAINER!

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 like 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.



After your recycling is collected from the curb, it is delivered to a sorting facility, placed on a conveyor belt and fed through machinery separating plastic, glass, paper and cans. Plastic bags get caught in the separators and jam the mechanism which will bring the entire sorting station to a halt. The plastic bags that are tangled in the machinery must be untangled and removed by hand. Time is money at these facilities, so towns will pay the additional costs going forward.

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 container. We want all to be aware of these facts to help with keeping Wilmington green and minimize the escalating costs for solid waste disposal.

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

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

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.

Residents are invited to participate in Memorial Day observances commencing on Saturday, May 26 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 27 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 28 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.

ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC

The Board of Health's Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on **Saturday, April 7 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 2018 Dog Licenses. Cost: \$10.00 spayed/neutered or \$15.00 non-spayed/non-neutered. **A \$15.00 late fee will be assessed after April 1, 2018.**

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION AND MEETING

The **Town Election will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2018.** 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 Monday, April 9, 2018. The Town Clerk's office will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on that day. The **Annual Town Meeting** will be held the following **Saturday, May 5**, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Wilmington High School Auditorium.



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 28**, 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.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

HOTEL AND MOTEL SAFETY

When selecting accommodations, consider fire safety and choose a location that has sprinklers and smoke alarms in guest rooms. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, ask the front desk for a *Hearing Impaired Kit* which has a strobe smoke alarm.

Count the number of doors from your room down the hall to the nearest fire exit.

Never use elevators in a fire.

Keep your room key, eyeglasses and a flashlight on the night table. **If a fire occurs, take them with you to the door.**

If the door feels cool, open it a crack. Be ready to close the door if hot air, flames or smoke rush into the room.

If this does not occur, but the hall is smoke-filled, crawl down the hall counting doors to the nearest exit.

If you cannot reach the exit, turn around and count doors back to your room. Unlock the door and re-enter.

If it is unsafe to leave your room:

Fill the tub with cold water.

Stuff wet towels around the door to keep smoke out.

If possible, open a window and hang a sheet outside to signal for help.

Cover your face with a wet cloth and stay low if smoke gets in the room

Do not jump. Call 9 1 1 to tell them where you are.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for **Saturday, June 2 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 May. 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.



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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 7	RABIES CLINIC	
	Public Buildings Department	12 pm - 2 pm
APR 9	PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION	
	Town Hall Recreation Department	7:30 am
APR 9	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2018 TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING	
APR 11	TINY TOTS/KIDS CLUB REGISTRATION	
	Town Hall Auditorium	5 pm to 6:30 pm
APR 21	LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY PARADE	9:30 am
APR 22	WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON 8TH ANNUAL RUN/WALK	
APR 28	ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION	
		Polls Open 8 am to 8 pm
MAY 5	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	High School 10:30 am
MAY 28	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE	10 am
	CEREMONY AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY	11 am
JUN 2	FISHING DERBY	Town Beach 9 am to 12 pm
JUN 5	RECREATION SUMMER BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	
JUN 3	WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	
JUN 7	SHAWSHEEN TECH GRADUATION	
JUN 10	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 2, April 16 and April 30.**

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:

March 28 and 31

April 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28

May 2 and 5



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) 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)

Treasurer	658-3531
Veterans' Agent	694-2040
Water & Sewer	658-4711

(Billing) 658-3116



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