

Town Topics

All programs/events are subject to cancelation/postponement in response to changing conditions with COVID-19

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk

While my initial message was devoted to addressing the upcoming Annual Town Meeting, in light of the rapidly developing events of COVID-19 I feel compelled to refocus the message.

Based upon the most current information from the Centers for Disease Control the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness. It is believed the virus is spread between individuals in close contact (approximately six feet). For additional information go to www.cdc.gov/COVID19.

Health Director Shelly Newhouse advises that if residents believe they or a family member have the symptoms, they should contact their primary care physician. Residents are strongly encouraged to do their part to minimize the spread of the virus. Avoid large gatherings. Maintain appropriate "social distancing" of approximately six feet from other people. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

The Town is doing its part to minimize the spread of the virus. The week of March 16, 2020 all public meetings were postponed including the joint Finance Committee/Planning Board public hearing. Both committees must meet prior to Annual Town Meeting to provide the public with an opportunity to offer comments or questions on the Town's proposed budget or any proposed changes to the Town's zoning by-law. Due to the meeting postponement, the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 2, 2020 has been postponed to May 30, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Annual Town Meeting provides the ability for residents who are registered voters to cast votes on the proposed operating and capital expenditures for all departments. Proposals to change how property owners can use their property through a change in zoning will also be considered. Residents have significant influence over the operations of government in Wilmington.

The "Town of Wilmington Inhabitant By-Laws Revised" requires that at least 150 registered voters be in attendance, as confirmed by the Town Clerk, before town meeting can begin. Once that number has been attained, business can continue regardless of the number of registered voters in attendance. In 2019, there were 17,127 registered voters in Wilmington. Based upon counts taken for some votes at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, there were fewer than 100 residents casting votes on matters effecting all residents. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend at least some portion of the upcoming Annual Town Meeting.

Each resident is mailed a copy of "Recommendations of Finance Committee and Planning Board Relative to Warrant Articles to be presented to the Annual Town Meeting." This booklet contains the entire Annual Town Meeting warrant and the associated "articles" to be voted upon along with recommendations from the two committees.

The implementation of decisions made at the Annual Town Meeting relies upon a cadre of dedicated employees who work tirelessly each day to carry out their particular responsibilities which collectively result in the services that residents have come to expect. Having served the Town with honor and distinction our thanks and best wishes are extended to the following recent retirees Paul O'Donnell, Linda Harris, Louis Martignetti, Joseph McMahon and Robert Patrie.

In the words of founding father Thomas Jefferson "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."



ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC

The Board of Health's Annual Rabies Clinic initially scheduled for **Saturday, April 4** at the Public Buildings Department has been **postponed**. A new date and time will be posted on their webpage: www.wilmingtonma.gov/health-department

2020 Dog Licenses are available through the Town Clerk's Office. Cost: \$10.00 spayed/neutered or \$15.00 non-spayed/non-neutered. For additional information visit the Town Clerk's webpage at: www.wilmingtonma.gov/town-clerk/pages/dog-licenses

MOSQUITO CONTROL

It's almost mosquito season! Please see below for some general information on spraying. Please remember that the Town of Wilmington does not conduct mosquito control. Wilmington is part of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project.

www.cmmcp.org



Generally, there is no need to relocate during mosquito control spraying. The pesticides have been evaluated for this use and found to pose minimal risks to human health and the environment when used according to label directions. Although mosquito control pesticides pose low risks, some people may prefer to avoid or further minimize exposure. Steps to help reduce possible exposure to pesticides include:



Listen and watch for announcements about spraying in the local media and remain indoors during the application to the immediate area. Everyday at 3:30 you can call CMMCP at 1-508-393-3055 for a list of streets, it is also posted on their website www.cmmcp.org



Remain inside for 15-20 minutes to allow the pesticide to drift through the area.



People who suffer from chemical sensitivities, or feel spraying may aggravate a pre-existing health condition, should consult their physician and take special measures to avoid exposure if they feel this is necessary.



Close street-facing windows and turn off the "outside air" setting (if any) on window air conditioners when spraying is taking place in the immediate area. Central air units do not take in outside air, it's OK to leave them on. You may open windows 15-20 minutes after the application, or longer at your discretion.



Do not let children play near or behind truck-mounted applicators when they are in use. Pets should be brought inside if possible or their cages covered to allow a more thorough application to be performed. Accidental exposure to pets should not cause a problem, the pesticide being used is similar to ones used for flea and tick control.



Practice proactive mosquito control around your home by removing standing water; fix broken screens; wear long sleeved light colored clothing during dawn and dusk. Use insect repellent.



To exclude your property from spraying: <https://www.cmmcp.org/pesticide-information/pages/pesticide-exclusion>

FRAUD PREVENTION TIPS AND STRATEGIES FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Our community has seen an increase in fraudulent activities surrounding financial scams. Residents have reported an increase in telephone, mail and email scams. These scams involve financial exploitation based on threats and fear. Scammers attempt to scare people into sending them money. There are various tactics being used by the scammers and their methods are always changing. We hope to help you understand how to prevent yourself from becoming a victim to these scams. The following are just a few examples of how scammers can target you.

IRS Scam

It is tax season time and scammers pretend to be from the IRS in order to scare residents into sending money. The scammer tries to trick people into believing they owe money to the IRS. The phone calls could be a live person or computer generated. These scammers will try to have you purchase gift cards from Walmart, Apple or Visa cards. They will then ask for the account and pin numbers for the gift cards. The funds are not immediately available to the scammer. No legitimate government entity, including the IRS or Treasury Department will accept any form of gift card as payment. Remember, the IRS will **never** request personal or financial information by email, texting or social media.

Grandparent Scam

The scammer will contact you by telephone and indicate that a loved one has been arrested, kidnapped or detained by authorities and needs bail money. The scammer could also pretend to be an attorney notifying you that your loved one has been in a car crash and needs money for various reasons including; attorney fees, damage fees from the crash and medical bills. You should identify the caller by asking them for their name and a telephone number. You should also ask them to provide your loved ones' name, **do not** provide the identity of your loved one to the scammer. Our advice is to refrain from giving out any information to the scammers. These scammers will ask you to withdraw money from your bank account for a money pick up at your residence. They may also direct you to your bank with wiring instructions. **DO NOT FALL FOR THIS SCAM, CONTACT THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY.**

Lottery Winnings Scam

The scammer will send you a check in the mail via FedEx, UPS or USPS. Instructions will indicate that you won the lottery for a large amount of money. The check the scammer sends is for a smaller amount of money and typically tells the victim that the money is to cover taxes on the winnings. The scammers are requiring you to deposit that money into your bank account, withdraw the funds and then mail the cash to an address provided. The check is usually drawn on another person's account that was also scammed. Your scammer may also want you to send the money via a gift card (Walmart, Apple and Visa Card). Once you get these cards they will call you at a predetermined time and will want the activation codes and the account numbers on the cards. **DO NOT FALL FOR THIS SCAM CONTACT THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY.**

Be alert for phone and email scams from individuals who could be impersonating a loved one. Contact your Police Department if you receive a similar call. These scammers will play on your emotions, they will swear you to secrecy and they will attempt to scare you into believing you are in some type of trouble. You can protect yourself by not giving out personal information and **CONTACTING YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

If a person calls you on the telephone asking for money, more than likely it is a scam. If you feel it may be a scam you can call the Wilmington Police Department with your concern and we can assist you with verifying the legitimacy of the call, email or letter you received.

DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY SERVICES

FUN NIGHT

"Fun Night" is back starting on Thursday, April 16, 2020, 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Fun Night will be held on the third Thursday of the month throughout Spring, Summer and Fall at the Buzzell Senior Center. For \$3 per person participants can have a light dinner, fun activity and dessert.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

The role of a caregiver can be a very difficult one. The Department of Elderly Services is offering a Caregivers Support Group that meets on the third Monday of each month from 10:30 am to noon. If you are caring for a loved one, relative or friend come and meet with others who understand.

SCOUTS AND SENIORS

The Department is proud to continue with more new and exciting intergeneration programming at the Buzzell Senior Center. Two Girl Scouts who are working on their Silver Award Project will be leading a book club. They hope to be able to choose books that allow older adults to travel back and revisit memories. Please join us on Friday, April 24, 2020 from 3:00 - 4:00 pm at the Buzzell Senior Center for an informational meeting.

"BASIC SURVIVAL SKILLS" – WITH MAL ALLARD

On Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 7 pm the Department will be sponsoring "Basic Survival Skills" a program with helpful information when caring for a love one with Dementia at home. This workshop will be presented by Mal Allard, a licensed nurse and Alzheimer's and Dementia Consultant and board-certified Alzheimer's Educator will be held at the Buzzell Senior Center. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595 to sign up for this program

MEMORY CAFÉ "OUR MOMENT CAFÉ"

A memory café is a special gathering place for those dealing with memory loss and their caregivers. We meet the third Wednesday of the month at the 4th of July Building from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. If you are interested in finding out more or plan to join us please contact Laura Pickett, case manager, at 978-657-7595 or email lpickett@wilmingtonma.gov

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION AND MEETING



The **Town Election will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020.** 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 6, 2020. 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 30**, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Wilmington High School Benton Auditorium.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Residents are invited to participate in Memorial Day observances commencing on Saturday, May 23 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 24 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 25 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.

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.

Wilmington's Earth Year—"It's Cool to Be Green"

Wilmington's Earth Year is a yearlong series of programs aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues. These spring programs focus on fostering an appreciation of nature and provide opportunities to make a difference on a personal and local level. Thanks to the Friends of the Library 2019 Annual Appeal for funding this initiative.

The Healing Power of Nature
Saturday, April 11, 2:30 pm

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day
Wednesday, April 22

Plant a Fraser Fir Tree Seedlings
Learn to be a Citizen Scientist
Make a Pledge

Well Read Wednesday Book Group
Wednesday, April 22, 10 am

Beautiful Birds of Coastal New England
Thursday, April 23, 7 pm

Walk in Town Forest
Saturday, April 25, 10:30 am

Pitch in, Pickup, and Pizza!
Saturday, April 25, 12:00 pm

Vernal Pool Exploration
Thursday, April 30, 6:30 pm

Creating a Garden for Honey Bees
Saturday, May 2, 10 am

Foraging Walk – Hathaway Acres
Thursday, May 14, 6:30 pm

Hands on Nature: Butterflies and Moths
Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 pm
For ages 5+

Town Wide Yard Sale
Saturday, June 13, 8 am-2 pm
Applications available online and at the library starting Monday, May 4.

Complete information on these programs and others may be found in the Library's Spring Brochures.

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 17**. Since 1996, this program has distributed \$164,750 in financial aid to 257 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.



The Recreation Department is accepting applications from **Certified Lifeguards** (age 16 & older). The 2020 season for Town Beach at Silver Lake opens on June 13.

RECREATION OFFERINGS

Registration for the **Summer Playground Program** is **ongoing in the Recreation Office**. This six-week program for children entering grades 2 – 8 will tentatively be held from Wednesday, June 24 – Tuesday, August 4 (No July 3) rain or shine from 8:30 am – 1 pm at the Shawsheen Elementary School.

Tiny Tots & Kids Club registration begins Wednesday, April 8 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium. After this date, registration will continue weekdays in the Recreation Office and online. Tentative dates for the two sessions are: Monday, June 22 – Friday, July 10 (No July 3) and Monday, July 13 – Thursday, July 30. Classes are held from 9 am – 12 pm at the Boutwell School. For children ages 4 - 8.

The annual **Fishing Derby** will be held at the Town Beach on Saturday, June 6 from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. (rain date – Sunday, June 7). 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.

New classes include an **Introduction to Photography** class for both adults and students ages 8 to 12. Participants will learn photographic techniques that will result in quality photographs. Additional topics covered will be exposure, composition, lighting, posing and more. Participants must provide their own camera. An SLR camera is preferred, but any standard digital camera will be sufficient. The program will run on Wednesdays from April 29 – June 3. Cost is only \$35.

A "Fall in the Finger Lakes Trip" is being offered October 14 to 16, 2020. Trip includes roundtrip transportation from Wilmington, 4 meals, 2 nights hotel accommodations and more. As our travelers say, "It's great to travel with Rec! Just sign up, and show up!"

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

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED GAMES

The 4th Annual Wilmington and Burlington Special Olympics Unified Games is set for Monday, May 4th at Wilmington High School. The Games are a district-wide event which brings students with and without intellectual disabilities together for a day of friendly competition. The community is encouraged to pack the stands and celebrate the abilities of these remarkable athletes. Opening ceremonies begin at 9 am featuring the popular torch run and the parade of athletes. Mark your calendars, you do not want to miss this joyful community event! For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/wilmingtonandburlingtonunifiedgameday/>.

COMMUNITY FUND SPONSORS TOWN SHREDDING DAY

The Community Fund is hosting a Shredding Day for Wilmington residents on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the municipal parking lot at Town Common. The event is free of charge.

Two shredding trucks will be available, however the event is meant for residences. The Community Fund reserves the right to limit the amount of shredding due to wait time or truck space. Paper clips, rubber bands and staples do not need to be removed. Please remove binder clips or other metal fasteners.

The Wilmington Community Fund, which runs the Wilmington Food Pantry, is encouraging participants to bring nonperishable food items or donations to the event. All donations will be given to the Food Pantry. Our motto is "People Helping People" and, as always, we are grateful for the partnership of the community to help fight hunger.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 9 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 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.



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

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 25**, 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- APR 6 LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2020 TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING**
- APR 8 TINY TOTS/KIDS CLUB REGISTRATION**
Town Hall Auditorium 5 pm to 6:30 pm
- APR 25 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION**
Polls Open 8 am to 8 pm
- APR 26 WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON 10TH ANNUAL RUN/WALK**
- MAY 25 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE 10 am**
CEREMONY AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY 11 am
- MAY 30 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING High School 10:30 am**
- JUN 2 RECREATION SUMMER BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
- JUN 4 SHAWSHEEN TECH GRADUATION**
- JUN 6 FISHING DERBY Town Beach 8 am to 11 am**
- JUN 7 WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**
- JUN 14 FARMERS MARKET OPENS**
Town Common 10 am to 1 pm
- JUN 19 RELAY FOR LIFE**
- JUN 20 Wilmington High School**

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 6, April 20 and May 4.**

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 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25 and 29

May 2, 6 and 9



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) 694-1417

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

(Billing) 658-3116



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