

# 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

We have now passed the one year mark living and working in a COVID-19 environment and many have lamented about their COVID-fatigue for good reason. However, while COVID remains very much with us the number of residents testing positive and the number in quarantine is on the decline. Hopefully, the holiday surge at the end of 2020 will be the final surge for this pandemic. At present, there are three vaccines that have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and, while the supply and distribution of vaccines have been problematic, as of March 5, 2021, 1,355,389 residents of the Commonwealth had received at least one dose and 650,411 residents had either received both doses or received the single dose required by the Johnson & Johnson version. The improving vaccination rate and ability to be outside due to warmer weather should work in our favor.

There is clear reason for optimism at the same time recognizing that to reach the "other side" of this pandemic is like running a marathon. Just as one can feel great at mile marker 18 and fall apart at mile marker 22 the number of COVID cases could increase unless we collectively remain disciplined with wearing masks, social distancing, handwashing and maintaining the habits that have become second nature. We must stay that course with our actions and, to use the refrain that those of us long-time Red Sox faithful know all too well, "Reverse the Curse."

It bears repeating that we owe a debt of gratitude to the staff of the health department, police, fire and dispatch personnel, public works crews, custodians and building maintenance workers, staff in elderly services, veterans' services, library and recreation departments and our administrative staff for remaining focused and finding "work arounds" to continue serving you the public during these most challenging times.

As we continue to adapt to the pandemic, Annual Town Meeting will once again be in a non-traditional location. Recognizing the continuing requirement for social distancing and the fickle nature of early spring in New England, Annual Town Meeting will be held indoors at the Shriners Auditorium on 99 Fordham Road in Wilmington on May 1st. The Shriners organization has been incredibly generous to the Town. Just within the past year the Shriners have graciously hosted the Presidential Election, the limited local vaccine clinic sponsored by the Health Department and will host the Annual Town Meeting each at no charge. The Shriners embody, as an organization, what Wilmington has become known for as a community – doing good for others. **The new start time for the meeting is 9:00 a.m.** Residents



who are interested in how your tax dollars are being spent are encouraged to attend.

Within the next thirty (30) to sixty (60) days two architect/design firms will be hired to work with the Town to evaluate the best sites for a new senior center and town/school administration building and to develop schematic designs and cost estimates for each project. This stage of the effort is expected to take at least six (6) to eight (8) months depending upon the ability to arrive at consensus around the location and preliminary design. Once this work is completed, articles would be prepared for an upcoming town meeting to seek funding for the continued services of an owners project manager along with funds for final design and construction.

Recently, Vincent McCoy, a Custodial Supervisor, retired after serving the Town over 33 years. Over the next three months the Town will say "good bye" to Tree Foreman Scott Smith after over 40 years of service, Police Officer Brian Moon after over 33 years of services and Lieutenant David Sugrue after 31 years of service. Each of them is wished the very best in the next stage of life's journey.

These past twelve (12) months have tested each of us in multiple and varied ways: isolation from family, keeping our kids engaged in learning, job loss or business closure, sickness and loss of loved ones. And yet we must keep on keeping on. In the words of tennis professional turned motivational speaker Roger Crawford "Being challenged in life is inevitable. Being defeated is optional." There are lessons for all of us to take from this experience. Let us identify them and take advantage of them.

## 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/cms/One.aspx?portalId=26809273&pageId=26932766>

**The application deadline is April 16.** Since 1996, this program has distributed \$174,500 in financial aid to 270 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.

## MULCH FIRE SAFETY

As the snow melts, our attention turns to beautifying our property. The state Fire Marshall offers the following information regarding Mulch Fire Safety:

Mulch is combustible and can catch fire easily when smoking materials are discarded in it. Hundreds of fires start this way each year. Learn to prevent mulch fires.

### Mulch Regulation

#### REGULATIONS FOR SPREADING MULCH

- ◆ Regulations prohibit the new application of mulch within 18" of combustible exteriors of buildings, such as wood or vinyl, but not brick or concrete.
- ◆ Residential buildings with six units or less are exempt, but all homeowners may want to follow these safe practices. The regulation applies to all other buildings including commercial properties.

#### REGULATIONS FOR STORING AND MANUFACTURING MULCH

- ◆ Mulch pile size is limited because large piles can spontaneously combust from the heat they generate.
- ◆ There must be 30-feet between mulch piles. The distance prevents a fire in one from easily spreading to another or to a building.
- ◆ Permits are required from the fire department wherever more than 300 cubic yards of mulch is produced or stored.

### Tips for Landscapers, Property Managers and Building Owners

- ◆ Keep wood mulch 18" away from combustible exteriors of buildings such as wood or vinyl siding. Do not put mulch against a building.
- ◆ Use materials such as pea stone or crushed rock for the first 18" as a barrier around the foundation of a building.
- ◆ Provide proper receptacles for smoking materials at entrances to buildings (place at least 18" away from the building) and in designated smoking areas. Empty regularly and do not mulch these areas.
- ◆ Train maintenance staff to watch for mulch fires, especially when mulch is fresh or weather is very hot and dry or windy.

## COMMUNITY FUND SPONSORS TOWN SHREDDING DAY

The Community Fund is hosting a Shredding Day for Wilmington residents on Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the municipal parking lot at Town Common. The event is free of charge to Wilmington residents.

Complete information may be found at <http://www.commfund.org/events.html>.



## ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS

Responses to Wilmington's Annual Town Census can be returned by mail in the return envelope, by email to [townclerk@wilmington.gov](mailto:townclerk@wilmington.gov) or by dropping the census in the Town Hall drop slot, located next to the front door of Town Hall. Responding to the Annual Town Census keeps your name on the active voting list and enables the Office of the Town Clerk to confirm your residency in the future. If you are a voter and do not respond to the census, your name will be placed on the Inactive Voter List. Please contact the Town Clerk's office if you haven't received your census form.

### DOG LICENSES

Dog registration renewals are ongoing. You must have an updated rabies certificate to complete your initial registration or renewal. New Dog Registrations are always ongoing. New registrations or renewals can be accomplished online or by mail, and in person once Town Hall has opened to the public. The cost is \$10 if your dog is spayed or neutered, \$15 if intact. Renewals submitted after April 1, 2021 will have a \$15 late fee assessed in addition to the registration fee. Renewals submitted after June 1, 2021 will have a \$50 civil fine assessed.

### ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION AND MEETING

The **Town Election will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021.** 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 5, 2021. 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 1, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Shriners Auditorium, 99 Fordham Road.**

### DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Residents are invited to participate in Memorial Day observances commencing on Saturday, May 29 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 30 at 1:30 p.m. a rededication ceremony will take place at the Veterans' Monument on the Town Common.



The Veterans' Services Department is pleased to announce that 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.

Please contact our office with questions relating to benefits you and your family earned as a result of your honorable service to our country. The Department of Veterans' Services is, and will always be, available to serve the veterans and their families in Wilmington.

## PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

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

### WILMINGTON'S EARTH YEAR @ WML

Wilmington's Earth Year is a series of programs funded by the Friends of the Library's 2019 Annual Appeal, aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues. Programming was initially scheduled to begin April 2020 but had to be scaled back during the first several months of the pandemic. The series is kicking off in earnest again starting April 2021 and will run through September 2021. Through education and action, we can help to make Wilmington and the world a better place. Check [www.wilmlibrary.org](http://www.wilmlibrary.org) for registration information and for a listing of all upcoming programs.



#### Family Walk in the Town Forest Wednesday, April 21, 10 am

Join Wilmington Conservation Agent Cameron Lynch for a walk along the trails of the 157-acre Town Forest, the largest piece of Conservation Land in Wilmington. Learn about the ecology, geology and human history that shaped and created the Town Forest. There will be activities for all ages, including a nature scavenger hunt for the whole family. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Hiking boots are recommended. This event is weather dependent, so check our website for updates. Parking is available at the Andover Street trailhead across from White Oak Drive (Andover). The walk will begin at 10 am. Please plan on arriving shortly before.

#### Vernal Pool Exploration Thursday, April 22, 6:30 pm

Explore and learn about vernal pools from local environmentalists and Headwaters Stream Team members Martha Stevenson and Suzanne Sullivan, who will lead a walk to find vernal pools in the area behind the library. Vernal pools serve as essential breeding habitats for certain species of wildlife, including salamanders and frogs, which provide an important food source for small carnivores as well as large game species. Please wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather.

#### Trash to Treasure Saturday, April 24, 10 am - 12 pm

Help keep Wilmington beautiful. During Earth Day week (April 18 - April 24) spend an hour or so picking up trash around Wilmington - you pick the spot (walk your neighborhood streets, clean up one of the parks or other town properties, etc. just be sure to keep safety in mind). Bring your bag of trash to the library parking lot on Saturday, April 24 between the hours of 10 am and 12 pm and turn your trash into treasure. Spin the prize wheel and redeem your bag of trash for an Earth friendly gift. *Reflector vests, latex free gloves, and biodegradable bags will be available for pick up starting April 12. Only the biodegradable bags supplied by the library will be accepted.*

#### Tree Seedling Giveaway Friday, April 30, 9 am - 5 pm

In support of Arbor Day, the library is giving away 300 Pin Oak Tree seedlings, which are native to Massachusetts. Stop by the library Friday, April 30 from 9 am - 5 pm to pick up your seedlings or come during curbside service. Limit one per individual or two per family. The tree seedling giveaway helps Wilmington to be designated as a Tree City.



### EARTH YEAR PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES FOR KIDS

The Youth Services Department will be offering a number of programs that focus on the environment including making recycled paper, nature mandalas and crafts made from recycled materials. Check [www.wilmlibrary.org](http://www.wilmlibrary.org) for registration details. Other resources include Discovery Kits on bugs, birdwatching and the rainforest plus coming soon new Citizen Science kits that can be checked out.

### WILMINGTON'S EARTH YEAR COLLECTION

The library would like to document aspects of Wilmington's Earth Year. You are encouraged to take photos or videos of Wilmington wildlife, your favorite Wilmington nature spots, your efforts at picking up trash, or how you are trying to live a "zero waste" life and submit them on our Earth Year Collection board at [www.wilmlibrary.org](http://www.wilmlibrary.org).



The Recreation Department is accepting applications from **Certified Lifeguards** (age 16 & older). We hope to open Town Beach at Silver Lake for the 2021 season June 12.

### RECREATION OFFERINGS

The Recreation Department is working hand in hand with our Health Director to offer programs that are safe under current guidelines, or anticipated easing of restrictions. Of course, if we need to cancel any programs, or change any dates from those you registered for, you will receive a full refund.

Our latest newsletter is available on our website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov/Recreation](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/Recreation). We are excited to offer some new programs – a Spring season of SNL Flag Football, Intro to Cricket, Adult Kayaking and an Intermediate level of Mountain Biking for those who have completed the Beginner course. You will also find a variety of in person and virtual programming so that you can participate in the way you feel is most safe for you.

If you would prefer a paper version of the newsletter, or just want to make our day better, stop by our window at the back of Town Hall and say "hello"! We miss you! Please take care of yourselves and we hope to get back to having fun TOGETHER!

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



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the municipal parking lot** at the Fourth of July Building. 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](http://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 24**, 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.

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE – A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

As we reach the year anniversary of this pandemic, we recognize that it has been difficult for everyone, especially our older adults. On Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7 p.m., the Department of Elderly Services will sponsor a candlelight vigil, in collaboration with the local clergy and residents, to honor those we have lost over the past year. The vigil will be held at the Town Common. Information and details will be announced once confirmed.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>APR 5</b>	<b>LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2021 TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING</b>	
<b>APR 24</b>	<b>ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION</b>	Polls Open 8 am to 8 pm
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>ANNUAL TOWN MEETING</b>	9 am
	Shriners Auditorium, 99 Fordham Road	
<b>MAY 31</b>	<b>MEMORIAL DAY PARADE</b>	10 am
	<b>CEREMONY AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY</b>	11 am
<b>JUN 3</b>	<b>SHAWSHEEN TECH GRADUATION</b>	
<b>JUN 6</b>	<b>WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION</b>	
<b>JUN 13</b>	<b>FARMERS MARKET OPENS</b>	
	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 5, April 20 and May 3**.

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 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28**

**May 1, 5 and 8**

**June 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) 694-1417

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

(Billing) 658-3116



Follow @TownWilmMA

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