

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



By an unprecedented margin, voters overwhelmingly approved both the plans and the financing for the construction of a new Wilmington High School. More than 75% of the 5,016 residents who cast ballots in the December 6, 2011 Special Election voted in favor of a proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion. The vote, 3,778 - 1,238, provides the Town with temporary additional taxing capacity enabling the Town to raise funds in excess of its levy limit.

The Town spoke with a near singular voice the following Saturday, December 10th, when nearly 98% of Special Town Meeting attendees (1,426-31) voted to appropriate \$81.5M to construct a new high school on the same grounds of the current site. The project is being financed jointly with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the state agency that will provide the Town with \$38M in funding. The Town estimates that over the life of the 25 year bond that will be issued to finance the Town's share of the project, the average annual cost to the homeowner, based upon the average residential property value, will be approximately \$164.

The new high school will increase in size from 154,000 s.f. to just over 192,000 s.f. The high school is being designed to support 21st century learning with state-of-the-art mechanical and structural systems. The building will be fully air conditioned and heated by natural gas. It will meet the needs of present day educational programs and be designed to provide flexibility and functionality for future changes. The school will accommodate the growing use of technology, including wireless infrastructure, provide appropriate space for special education and student support services and offer flexible classrooms that are designed for large and small group instruction as well as quiet study and for interdisciplinary work. The building will include up-to-date science classrooms with modern laboratories to ensure high quality science education; expanded and improved visual arts, business and family consumer science classrooms; and a media production room for hosting multiple classes of students at one time for lectures, productions and distance learning opportunities.

Other features of the new school include:

- * A large interior courtyard that will connect to classrooms, the library/media center and the cafeteria and will allow natural light into all classrooms as well as provide outdoor seating for the cafeteria in the nicer weather.
- * A state-of-the-art auditorium with greater seating capacity and a larger stage to better accommodate student concerts and performing arts' productions.
- * A new gymnasium with an elevated track to support the wellness curriculum and winter sports teams.
- * Enhanced locker, weight and fitness rooms.
- * A new utility sports field, an improved track surface and a new artificial turf field for Alumni Stadium.
- * New outside tennis and basketball courts.
- * A sustainable designed building which will achieve energy efficiency and a LEED® Silver rating.
- * Improved parking and student drop-off areas.

It is anticipated that preliminary work on Alumni Field will begin in the spring. At the conclusion of the Town's 4th of July activities, work on the field and track surface will commence in order to accommodate a late August opening of Alumni Stadium. Sewer will be extended to the site in the summer of 2012 enabling the elimination of the septic system. In July of 2012, the gymnasium will be demolished. The current gym is the only part of the existing high school building that sits on the new building footprint. Construction on the new building is slated to begin in early Fall of 2012. The facility is expected to be substantially complete in early summer of 2014 and ready for occupancy by students and staff for the beginning of school in August of 2014. The current high school will be demolished to make room for the construction of a parking lot, new basketball and tennis courts and other site improvements. The new utility field off of Wildwood Street will be constructed near the end of the project.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT

Weather related problems, be it flooding, wind, ice or snow, seem to be occurring more frequently now than in past years. Any one of these climatic events can cause power outages and extended stays in one's home. The first step in preparing for such events is usually a trip to the local grocery store. Hoping to ride out the storm's fury, residents often stock up on the basic food staples, snacks and large purchases of bottled water. Seeing these large purchases of bottled water has prompted the Water Department to provide the following information to Wilmington residents:

The Wilmington water and sewer systems use significant amounts of electricity to pump potable and waste water to their proper locations. Each one of these facilities has backup generators that are tested weekly and are routinely maintained to keep them at peak operating condition. The generators are in place so that no matter what external conditions hamper the electrical systems, water and wastewater will continue to flow. In addition, the water system stores approximately two additional days of water supply for the Town in its three storage tanks. There would have to be a catastrophic incident to shut the water system down for any appreciable length of time.

So before making that next trip to your favorite market prior to a storm, rethink the need to purchase large quantities of expensive water and eliminate the unnecessary chore of carrying several extra pounds into your home. The Water Department systems will be there for you and will continue to provide high quality potable water throughout the storm event.

FLU SHOTS - IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

The Board of Health still has flu vaccine available for Wilmington residents ages five years and older. If you or a family member is interested in obtaining a flu shot, please call the Health Department at 978-658-4298 to make an appointment with the Town's Public Health Nurse.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT HAS MUCH TO OFFER

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Printed copies of the winter newsletter are available at Town Hall, the Buzzell Senior Center and the Wilmington Memorial Library. Information can also be accessed on the town's website at www.wilmingtonma.gov, click on Recreation to access the webpage. Save the link in your "Favorites" so you can access it easily. While there, click on "Subscribe to E-Alerts" to receive informational updates from various town departments. Select Recreation News to receive an e-mail when a new edition of "Recreation Matters" has been posted or for information regarding program updates.

GRAND TOUR OF IRELAND

Travel with us for a **Grand Tour of Ireland** on Wednesday, June 20 – Monday, July 2, 2012. This comprehensive tour of the Emerald Isle includes visits to the most popular destinations of Dublin, Killarney, Limerick, Galway, Donegal, Belfast and many more! Prices start at \$3,079 p.p.d.o. You will experience Irish culture by visiting a country farmhouse for tea and scones, rubbing elbows with the locals in a pub and riding in a horse-drawn jaunting car. You are sure to be thoroughly enchanted by the scenery of the Wicklow Mountains, Giants Causeway, Connemara, Ring of Kerry and the Cliffs of Moher. You will have the opportunity to dine at Bunratty Medieval Castle, sample spirits at the Guinness Storehouse, tour the Waterford Crystal Factory and, of course, kiss the Blarney Stone! Included are transfers to/from Logan Airport, round trip non-stop flights, professional tour escorts, sightseeing aboard a deluxe motorcoach, accommodations for 11 nights in 4 & 5 star hotels including an overnight stay in a castle. Enjoy a full Irish breakfast each morning and ten 3-course dinners. Price includes all admission fees, taxes, tips and gratuities (except driver and escort). Stop by the Recreation Department for a detailed flyer, or download a copy at www.wilmingtonma.gov

NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Are you ready to try something new? Check out the following programs: Booked for Fun (ages 3 – 5), Chefs in Training (grades 2 – 5), Spring Pottery classes (grades K – 3; grades 4 – 8 & adults), Learn to Paint & Create (K – grade 2; grades 3 – 6 & adults), Artisan Jewelry Making (grades 4 – 8), Dodgeball & More (ages 7 – 10), Lego Engineering 1 (grades 1 – 5), Cupcake Challenges (grades 2 – 5 & 6 – 8), Cardio Boot Camp (adults) and Basic Camcorder Techniques (adults). View our quarterly flyer for a complete list of current programs, sports tickets, day and overnight trips, theatre and event offerings.

LIFEGUARD TRAINING

Shawsheen Tech will begin accepting applications in January for a **Lifeguard Training Course** being held in February. For more information, call 978-671-3699 or e-mail jillbranley@hotmail.com. Certified lifeguards (age 16 and over) can apply in the Recreation Office for a summer position at the Town Beach at Silver Lake.



"THE ROOKIES" PLAY BALL!

Register your child currently in Kindergarten (age 5 by 8/31/11) and Grade 1 for our baseball program called "The Rookies". This program combines traditional T-Ball with a coach-pitch format to prepare children to advance to Little League. This six-week program will run from April 30 – June 7. Children will have one practice session and one game each week. Cost is \$25 per child. Registration forms will be available on our website and in the office beginning February 1. **Registration deadline is Thursday, March 22.**

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The Department of Elderly Services will once again provide free income tax assistance through the IRS sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Wilmington residents ages 60 and older may schedule an appointment by calling the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595. The program begins Wednesday, February 1, 2012 and continues every Wednesday through April 11, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wilmington Town Hall. All tax returns are prepared with computer accuracy and are electronically filed for rapid refunds. Clients should bring the following documents to their appointment:

- * Current year's tax information and last year's tax return
- * W-2 forms
- * Social Security & pension information
- * Tax forms sent by any and all financial institutions
- * Property tax & water bills
- * Health Insurance card - 2 cards for married taxpayers

Anyone in need of transportation should make arrangements when scheduling their appointment.

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION SELF-HELP COURSE

Arthritis is a pain - but YOU can make it feel better! Learn by participating in the Arthritis Foundation Self-Help program which will be conducted this winter at the Buzzell Senior Center on School Street. This in-depth, six-week workshop is designed to help participants learn and practice skills needed to better manage their arthritis. Classes cover alternative methods to assist in reducing pain and stress, to cope with fatigue, to proper use of medications and to maximize the benefit from exercising. Developed at Stanford University, the program is taught by certified instructors from the Arthritis Foundation. Scientific studies have shown that this program offers significant benefits to its participants. In one study, participants reduced their pain by 20% and reduced physician visits by 40%. The workshop is highly participatory. Individuals should anticipate having fun and making friends while learning how best to deal with arthritic pain.

The program begins on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 and continues every Wednesday thereafter through February 22, 2012 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There is no charge to participate in this program. A course manual, *The Arthritis Helpbook*, and a relaxation CD will be made available by loan to all participants. This material may be purchased at the discretion of the participant. Register at the Buzzell Senior Center or by phoning the Department of Elderly Services at 978-657-7595.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION - TOWN MEETING

Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's Office for the Annual Town Election to be held Saturday, April 28, 2012. Interested persons may file nomination papers for the following offices: Board of Selectmen; School Committee (2 positions); Moderator; Housing Authority; Redevelopment Authority and Regional Vocational School Committee.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the high school gymnasium. Petitioned articles are due in the Town Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 3, 2012. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Friday, April 6, 2012.**

The 2012 Annual Census will be mailed to all households in January. Residents are asked to complete and return the census form as soon as possible. Please call the Town Clerk's Office, 978-658-2030, if you do not receive a census form by the end of January.

LIBRARY WINTER EVENTS FROM COUPONING TO CRIME!

Looking for something to do during the cold winter months? Library events are educational, entertaining and FREE thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library. Winter offerings include couponing, crime, cooking and computer classes. **Registration begins 30 days prior to the event** at www.wilmlibrary.org or by calling 978-694-2099 (Adult) or 978-694-2098 (Children/Teen). Sign up for the e-mail newsletter or for RSS feeds to keep up with upcoming events at the library.

ADULT EVENTS

Cut Your Spending with the Lazy Couponer Wednesday, January 4, 7:00 p.m.

Master couponer Jamie Chase is back by popular demand. Learn how to make your dollars stretch using the couponing tips she's developed over the years.

Learn Your Consumer Rights Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 p.m.

Barbara Anthony, Undersecretary of the MA Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, will present a program on your rights as a consumer.

Winter Cleaning the Feng Shui Way Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.

Julie Pelletier-Rutkowski, founder of Feng Shui Services of New England, will teach how to clean the Feng Shui way.

What's for Dinner: Meal Planning Made Simple Monday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.

Adult Services Librarian, Katie Huffman, will share her tips on how to make meal planning simple and enjoyable.

Jazz: Listening to and Enjoying America's Original Music

Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m., Registration begins December 31

Dave Rasmussen, long-time band leader of the Sax Factory, will give part two of his presentation on "How to Listen to Jazz".

Boston Mobsters and Gangsters Thursday, February 2, 7:00 p.m.

Jay Atkinson, will discuss his book, *Legends of Winter Hill*, where he describes the world of Boston area mobsters via the career of the late detective Joe McCain, one of Boston's most decorated police officers.

Forensic Science Road Show Thursday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.

Retired Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab Forensic Scientist, Paul Zambella, tells of his real-life experiences working in the field as a CSI.

Mass Murder

Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.

Join historian and lecturer Christopher Daley for an entertaining look at Massachusetts' most infamous murders including: The Boston Strangler, The Bathsheba Spooner Case, Lizzie Borden and more.

TECHNOLOGY SERIES

Microsoft Word 2010 (limit 7 participants)

Mondays, January 23, January 30 and February 6, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

or Tuesdays, January 24, January 31 and February 7, 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sign up for one three-part course on Microsoft Word 2010 taught by Technology Librarian, Curtis Wyant.

Google Better (Teens/Adults)

Thursday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.

Learn the tips and tricks to improve your searches by making Google work for you.

Google Productivity (Teens/Adults)

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.

Find out how and why to use Google's office products and calendar from anywhere.

TEEN EVENTS

Goody Gravity

Tuesday, January 10, 3:00 p.m.

Play cooperatively or challenge your friends to use blocks, sticks and blobs to solve puzzles in two Nintendo Wii games: *World of Goo* and *Gravity*.

Chocolate-Covered Workshop

Monday, February 13, 3:00 p.m.

Everything tastes better dipped in chocolate. Make hands-on Valentine's treats for your friends (and yourself) in this tasty workshop.

Robotics Demo

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m.

See the world through a bomb-disposal robot's eyes, with the help of iRobot senior mechanical engineer Steve Barletta.

Games for Teens

Friday, February 24, 2:00 p.m.

Apples to Apples and Settlers of Catan, Wii Sports and Super Smash Brothers Brawl—board games or video, grab some friends and come play with us.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Mike the Bubble Man

Monday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.

Kids of all ages will be introduced to science, shapes, colors and chemistry through the magic of bubbles. This interactive show will be fun for the whole family.



Music and More

Saturday, January 21, 10:00 am

Bernadette Baird presents music and movement for toddlers and young children through age three. Sing, play musical instruments and dance.

Drum Away the Blues

Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.

A fun-filled participatory experience for all ages celebrating the music of the world with songs, stories, and percussion.



Marble Madness

Thursday, February 23, 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy lots of activities with marbles. Make a marble maze, do a marble painting, play some marble games and more.

Questions and Answers

How does one become aware of job openings in Town government?

When a position becomes available, a notification is posted internally in accordance with collective bargaining agreements to determine whether a qualified employee is interested in a promotion or transfer. Entry level, technical and professional positions are advertised in a local or regional newspaper or, when appropriate, a professional trade journal or a newspaper of wider circulation. Employment opportunities are also posted on the Town website and on the public bulletin board in the entry way foyer of the Town Hall.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Department of Public Works will be collecting Christmas trees at curbside beginning the week of January 3, 2012. Residents should remove all decorations and plastic wrapping from their tree and place it curbside on their regular trash pick-up day. It is anticipated that the collection will take approximately two weeks. Please note that the pick-up may be delayed by weather and other work demands on the DPW.



The Christmas trees collected by the Town will be recycled into mulch. The mulch will be made available to residents in the spring at the Recycling Center, and will also be used on Town projects. Residents are advised that if they miss this DPW curbside collection, they may put their Christmas trees out with their regular trash.

For details on public works services, please refer to the "Public Works" link on the Town's website at www.town.wilmington.ma.us or call the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481.

DOG REGISTRATION/RABIES CLINIC



The 2012 dog tags are now available. You may register your dog at the Town Clerk's office Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by mail. If by mail, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope, a check for \$10.00 if your dog is neutered/spayed, \$15.00 if not, and a copy of the dog's most recent rabies certificate to: Town Clerk, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887.

The Wilmington Board of Health Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2012 from Noon to 2 p.m. at the Public Buildings Department, 30 Church Street. Wilmington residents only. Dogs must be on a leash and cats in a carrier. Cost: \$10.00 per animal.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 3 - CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES**
JAN 13
- FEB 1 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION BEGINS**
Grades K-1
- FEB 3 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
- FEB 15 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
Until 8 p.m.
- MAR 6 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**
Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- MAR 14 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN ELECTION**
- MAR 20 - FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**
Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.
- MAR 22 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
- APR 6 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE - TOWN ELECTION/TOWN MEETING**
Until 8 p.m.
- APR 7 - RABIES CLINIC** Public Buildings Dept. Noon - 2 p.m.
- APR 7 - EASTER EGG HUNT** Town Common 2 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM

The Museum will be open this winter as follows:

- **Sunday Open House:** January 8, February 5, March 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Free tours of the Wilmington Town Museum.
- The Museum is also open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- By appointment – Please do not hesitate to contact the Museum to schedule an appointment at the convenience of you or your group.
- **SPECIAL SCHOOL VACATION HOURS: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The Museum will be closed on Thursday, February 23, 2012.

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@town.wilmington.ma.us. Or visit us on the web at

http://www.town.wilmington.ma.us/Pages/WilmingtonMA_BComm/Historical/index

DEPARTMENT

Accountant
Animal Control



(Missing/Adoption)

Appeals Board
Arts Center
Assessor
Building Inspector
Cemetery
Collector of Taxes
Elderly Services
Engineer
Fire

Fire Prevention
Harnden Tavern Museum
Health
Housing Authority
Library

Nurse
Planning/Conservation
Plumbing Inspector
Police

Public Buildings
Public Works
Recreation
School
Selectmen
Town Clerk
Town Manager

Treasurer
Veteran's Agent
Water & Sewer

TELEPHONE

694-2029
658-5071

658-7845
658-4531

657-3887
658-3675

658-4531
658-3901

658-3531
657-7595

658-4499
(Business) 658-3346

(Emergency) 9-1-1

694-2006
658-5475

658-4298
658-8531

658-2967
(TDD) 657-4625

658-4298
658-8238

658-4531
(Business) 658-5071

(Emergency) 9-1-1

(TDD) 657-8368
658-3017

658-4481
658-4270

694-6000
658-3311

658-2030
658-3311

(TDD) 694-1417

658-3531
694-2040

658-4711
(Billing) 658-3116

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