

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



Residents voted overwhelmingly 197 to 9 in favor of purchasing a 7.86 acre portion of St. Dorothy's Church property located on Main Street. The property has frontage on both Main Street and Glen Road and is suitable for building. There are no specific plans for the property at this time but given its prominent location this property presents many options for the Town in the future. Over the longer term the Town will need to provide more suitable space for several municipal functions and services including school administration and municipal government administration, elderly services and library services in addition to addressing the need for a fire substation. The St. Dorothy's Church property, which was purchased for \$1,725,000, will be added to the existing inventory of Town property for consideration in the development of an updated facilities plan. The purchase of the church property will not add to the property tax burden because funds were transferred from available funds "free cash." Available funds are funds certified by the state Department of Revenue and serve as a reserve fund to address revenue shortfalls from potential downturns in the economy or to take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

Special Town Meeting participants also agreed to a zoning change to the Highway Industrial Zoning District by permitting personal service shops by right. Personal service shops would include hair salons for example. These zoning districts are located off Ballardvale Street and Fordham Road. A third article submitted by petition to rezone a parcel at 276 Lowell Street from Residential 20 to General Business narrowly failed to obtain the two-thirds majority required for passage.

The firm of Waterfield/Crowe from Winchester, Massachusetts has been selected to perform design services related to the former Yentile Farm property. Following the issuance of a request for proposals (RFP), two design firms were interviewed by the Yentile Farm Development Committee. The committee, chaired by Selectman Judy O'Connell, recommended Waterfield/Crowe for the job. The firm will meet with committee members and participate in public forums to develop multiple conceptual design options for development of the site for recreational use. Based upon information and feedback from committee members and the public, a preferred option will be identified and refined to develop a schematic design to include dimensions of spaces, proposed material types, equipment and structures and estimated costs. Residents are encouraged to check the Town's website, the local newspapers and contact my office for upcoming meeting dates and times.

The Department of Planning & Conservation, under the direction of Carole Hamilton, is finalizing the update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The purpose of the document is to establish goals for maintenance and expansion of open space and recreational areas and to support conservation where appropriate to preserve the character of Wilmington and foster a place where residents can enjoy the outdoors. Working with the consulting firm Brown/Walker Planners and the Open Space Committee, a draft update was

prepared and presented to a public forum held on December 11, 2013. Input from that forum was incorporated into the submission to the Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In addition to updating the Town's goals, the OSRP will provide the Town with opportunities to compete for state grant funds to assist with projects like the development of the former Yentile Farm property.

Karen Whitfield, Circulation Assistant at the Wilmington Memorial Library, retired on November 22, 2013 after more than 23 years of dedicated services to the Town. Working in the Children's Department at the library she is one of the bright faces that patrons see when visiting the library. Always eager to assist a child and their parent to find that special book she will be dearly missed. Best wishes for an enjoyable and healthy retirement are extended to Karen.

Wilmington High School continues to be a hotbed for cultivating top performing students scholastically, artistically and athletically. This time the Wilmington High School girls soccer team captured their first sectional Division 2 North crown by edging out the Concord-Carlisle Patriots 2-1. While the girls lost a close match for the Division 2 State Championship against Notre Dame Academy of Hingham, their performance demonstrated discipline and commitment in pursuit of a goal and selfless teamwork. Congratulations to head coach Sue Hendee and all the young women on the Wilmington Wildcats soccer team.

By the time you receive *Town Topics*, the festivities of the holidays will have passed and we will be in the midst of the long winter. For those winter enthusiasts seize the moment! Test those new skis or snowboard, take the kids sledding or find a good snowmobile trail. For those less inclined to experience the winter elements, the library has books in several formats to send you on a journey from the comfort of your armchair. Take solace Opening Day for the Red Sox is only three months away.

WILMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT INCREASES SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Chief Michael Begonis is pleased to announce that the Police Department has increased its presence on the Internet by taking a more active role in the use of social media. Police Departments across the nation are seeing the benefits of using social media to alert residents of crime activity in the community, for notification of traffic issues, and crime prevention, as well as identification of suspects. On November 1, the Department launched its new social media presence in conjunction with the Worldwide Police Tweet-a-Thon, which helped raise global awareness of the communication that can exist between law enforcement and the community. The Wilmington PD brought followers on a virtual ride-along during the day shift by tweeting descriptions of police activity as they occurred as well as posted photos throughout the day.

The Wilmington Police can be followed on Twitter and Instagram under the account name @WilmingtonMAPD. The Department is now on Facebook as well. You can find us under "Wilmington, MA Police Department."

AVOID FROZEN PIPES THIS WINTER



As the winter weather arrives, it is important for residents to take proper precautions to avoid the costly damage that can result from freezing pipes. Residents can prevent this by following a few simple precautions:

Locate your master shut off valve. The master shut-off valve controls all of the water into your home. Residents should know the valve location and how to turn it off as this can save valuable time and prevent water damage in an emergency. Once you locate the main shut off valve, mark it so everyone in your family can find it should an emergency occur.

Keep cold air out. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

Insulate pipes. Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing.

Disconnect garden hoses. Disconnect garden hoses and, if possible, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

Keep the water running. A trickle of water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. In extremely cold weather, let water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall. The cost of water is small compared to dealing with the cost and inconvenience of frozen or burst pipes.



The Department of Public Works requests that residents help keep fire hydrants accessible by not plowing or snow blowing onto the hydrant. If able, please clear the area around the hydrant to enable fire crews to quickly connect to a hydrant when it is needed in your neighborhood.

MEDICARE ANNUAL ELECTION PERIOD

On January 23, 2014, a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative will present a brief overview of how Medigap plans, Medicare Advantage plans and Part D plans work with Medicare at the Buzzell Senior Center. Questions on the 2014 Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan benefits can also be answered. Plan information will be available for individual plans (non group), Medex, Blue MedicareRx, Medicare HMO Blue, Medicare PPO Blue. All are welcome regardless of your insurance coverage.

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 26, 2014. Interested residents may file nomination papers for the following offices: Board of Selectmen (2 positions) and School Committee (2 positions).

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Middle School Auditorium. Petitioned articles are due in the Town Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 7, 2014. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Friday, April 4, 2014.**

The 2014 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.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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.

NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Are you ready to try something new? Check out the newest programs for children including Yoga Party and new Chefs in Training cooking classes. Be sure to check out all the adult programs. We have a variety of fitness options to get you in shape in 2014.

"THE ROOKIES" PLAY BALL!

Register your child (age 5 by April 30, 2014 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 28 – June 5. 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 4. **Registration deadline is Thursday, March 20.**



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 5, 2014 and continues every Wednesday through April 9, 2014 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

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

WINTER PARKING BAN IN EFFECT



Residents are reminded that the Town of Wilmington enforces an overnight parking ban that is in effect between 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from December 1 to April 1 each year, and anytime during snow removal operations.

Failure to comply with the regulation will result in the owner receiving a \$50 fine from the Wilmington Police Department and/or the removal of the vehicle at the owner's expense from the roadway during a snow emergency. If a vehicle is impaired and cannot be removed until morning, the owner is required to alert the Wilmington Police Department for assistance.

LIBRARY WINTER EVENTS

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. **Registration begins 30 days prior to the event** at www.wilmlibrary.org or by calling 978-694-2967 (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.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

A Woodland Cinderella **Wednesday, February 5, 7 p.m.**

In this delightful version, Cinderella is a fairy who lives with her stepmother and stepsister in an enormous old tree in the forest. Ages 4+ *Presented by Deborah Costine Nature Puppets*

FEBRUARY VACATION

Zoo Animals Stories and Craft **Tuesday, February 18, 10 a.m.**

Listen to fun stories and do an animal-themed craft. Children who attend will receive a free book! Ages 3-7

LEGO Mindstorms Fun - Tuesday, February 18, 2 - 4 p.m.
Anyone who has taken the introductory LEGO Mindstorms workshop at the library or elsewhere is invited to build and program LEGO robots.

Family Board Games Night **Wednesday, February 19, 7 p.m.**

Drop in with the whole family to play board games together!

Karate - Thursday, February 20, 10 a.m.
Instructors from the Academy of Traditional Karate will be teaching an introductory class for kids ages 7-12.

All You Can Read Buffet
Friday, February 21, 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Kids in grades 3, 4 and 5 are invited to this marathon read and eat-in. Bring something comfortable to lounge upon and read away.

TEEN EVENTS

Teen Nail Art - Tuesday, January 14, 3 p.m.
Explore the latest trends in nail art!

Teen Winter Cupcake Workshop (limit 20)
Tuesday, January 21, 4 p.m.
Christi will show you how to decorate winter-themed cupcakes that are delicious and beautiful.

Cookies, Cocoa and Comedy
Tuesday, January 28, 6:30 p.m.



Go to wilmlibrary.org/teens/events to vote on which comedy you would like to watch. Then come to the library to watch it with your friends and enjoy cookies, cocoa and comedy.

Homemade Lip Balm (limit 10)
Tuesday, February 4, 7 p.m.
Learn how to make a nourishing lip balm to banish chapped winter lips.

ADULT EVENTS

Got Stress? Transform Your Home into a Peaceful Retreat - Thursday, January 9, 7 p.m.
Jackie Davis, owner of Wilmington based RoomScape Interiors, shares tips, tricks and insider secrets you can use to quickly and affordably create a stylish space in our home where you can relax and unwind.

How to Create an Attention Getting Résumé **Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.**

Bonnie Petrovich, a certified career and executive coach, will go over what is now working in the marketplace. "Must-have" sections for a résumé and optional ones that you may want to incorporate will be discussed. Participants are encouraged to bring a copy of their current résumé.

After Hours Tarot Card Reading **Friday, January 17, 7 p.m.**

Tap into your intuition. Learn tarot traditions, spreads, major arcana and perform your own reading with Tarot Card Reader Sally Cragin.

Style Clinic - Thursday, January 23, 7 p.m.

Join Susan Kanoff for a "style clinic" and learn a little of everything from how to weed a closet to choosing your best styles and colors...and of course shopping tips.

Music through the Decades - Thursday, January 30, 2 pm.

Using a keyboard, trumpet and vocals, David Polansky brings alive the music of the decades including the gay 90s, the roaring 20s, the Great Depression, WWI and WWII plus the Big Band and more. Not to be missed!

Knights of Templar - Tuesday, February 11, 7 p.m.

Learn about the rise and fall of the Knights Templar with Dan Hall, local legend and Knights Templar buff.



American Burlesque - Thursday, February 13, 7 p.m.

This lecture will be an overview on the history of burlesque in the United States from the 1860s through the modern day.

After Hours - Jazz Vocalist Claire Dickson **Friday, February 14, 7 p.m.**

Tickets (\$15) on sale Monday, January 13; must be 21+
Claire Dickson, winner of five downbeat Magazine Student Music Awards for Jazz and Blues vocals, carries on in the tradition of Ella Fitzgerald and Sara Vaughn and will delight you with her own interpretations and improvisations on the American Songbook, bebop, Latin and modern jazz classics.

Multiple Intelligences - Thursday, February 20, 7 p.m.

Deirdre Budzyna, instructor at Northern Essex Community College, will address the theory of multiple intelligences which was developed in 1983 by Dr. Howard Gardner, professor of education at Harvard University.

UPGRADED TREE DIVISION WEBSITE



The Department of Public Works has upgraded the Tree Division website to include helpful information on common insects and diseases that may affect the community forest and how to identify them. The website also includes an educational video series that will be updated on a regular basis. The purpose of the website is to help educate residents on the importance of the community forest and the threats it faces. The website can be found by going to the Town of Wilmington main page at www.wilmingtonma.gov and clicking "Public Works" then "Tree Division".

WILMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES SIX NEW FIRE FIGHTERS

The Wilmington Fire Department is glad to welcome Gregory Murphy, Michael Jennette, Matthew Berger, Edward Sousa, Christopher Elliott and Paul Hedderson to its force.



CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Department of Public Works will be collecting Christmas trees at curbside beginning January 6, 2014. 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.wilmingtonma.gov or call the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481.

DOG REGISTRATION/RABIES CLINIC



The 2014 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 5, 2014 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 6- - CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES**
JAN 17
- JAN 5 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- FEB 2 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- FEB 4 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION BEGINS**
Grades K-1
- FEB 7 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
- MAR 2 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- MAR 7 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN ELECTION**
- MAR 18 - FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**
Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.
- MAR 20 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
- APR 4 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE - TOWN ELECTION/TOWN MEETING** Until 8 p.m.
- APR 5 - RABIES CLINIC** Public Buildings Dept. Noon - 2 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM

The Museum will be open this winter as follows:

- **Sunday Open House:** January 5, February 2, March 2 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 18, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The Museum will be closed on Thursday, February 20, 2014.

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

http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/Pages/WilmingtonMA_BComm/Historical/index

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
Veteran's 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