

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



Happy New Year from Town Hall! May your New Year's resolutions take permanent root in 2016 and the years to follow. 2016 is already promising to be a busy year. Here is just a snap shot of some of the major efforts I have been focusing on.

Upon recommendation of the Facility Master Plan Committee, the Cecil Group has been hired to help develop the Town's long range plan for renovation, replacement and/or disposition of town property including schools and general government buildings. The Cecil Group was selected from a pool of four firms competing for this project. The Committee launched the project with the consultant at a meeting held December 10th.

The Cecil Group will begin by reviewing plans, previous studies and reports, and other relevant data related to the existing conditions of the facilities. An extensive use and needs survey will commence in January and include a public input component as well as a department input phase. Analysis of all the information gathered will lead to a set of options being developed with alternative scenarios for sequencing of future building construction, use and/or reuse. Receiving input from the public, staff and other boards, committees and commissions, the Facility Master Plan Committee will identify the preferred scenario from the various options. Once the preferred scenario is selected, the Facility Master Plan will be drafted, reviewed and adopted. Ultimately the Facility Master Plan will be incorporated into the Town's rolling five-year capital plan and guide future investment in property and buildings.

The Yentile Farm Recreational Facility project is gearing up to begin construction this spring. Bids are being solicited now for the contractor. Award of a contract is anticipated in February with work to begin once weather permits in the spring. Project completion is expected by June of 2017, however the majority of the work is expected to be complete before November 2016.



During their meeting on October 13, the Board of Selectmen accepted my recommendation and voted to oppose the proposed Kinder Morgan gas pipeline project. The project, as currently conceived, includes a lateral pipeline that extends along a utility corridor in north Wilmington passing through the Benevento quarry property before continuing into North Reading in an easterly direction. On November 20, 2015 Kinder Morgan filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the pipeline. FERC serves as the permitting authority for gas pipeline construction.

The Town has taken the legal step to file as an intervenor in the FERC review proceedings. In addition to the ability to review documents submitted by Kinder Morgan and offer comment, an intervenor has legal standing to appeal a decision of FERC to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

FERC is expected to issue a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by mid-2016 followed by a 45-day comment period. A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will formally close the comment period. Kinder Morgan has requested that FERC issue an Order or Certificate of Approval by the fourth quarter of 2016.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to Father Philip Earley for convening and hosting a presentation at St. Thomas's Church on October 28, 2015 about the challenges and effects of substance abuse. Health Director Shelly Newhouse, Police Chief Michael Begonis, School Superintendent Mary DeLai and Peter Saing, community outreach worker with the City of Lowell, supported Father Earley's efforts to develop the program entitled "Navigating the Troubled Waters of Substance Abuse."

Substance abuse does not discriminate based upon age, gender, educational achievement or economic status. Wilmington is a community with strong family values and a tremendous spirit of giving. But Wilmington has not been spared the scourge of substance abuse. Alcohol abuse, heroin, prescription pain killers and other drugs are having dramatic effects on Wilmington residents and their families and friends. During calendar year 2015 alone public safety personnel have responded to 44 incidences of drug overdoses. A total of 8 deaths are known to be connected with substance abuse. In comparison, there were 34 incidences of drug overdose and 3 deaths in calendar year 2014.

I have convened the Substance Abuse Coalition, which includes representatives of Police, Fire, Schools, Public Health, Veterans, Elderly Services and the public. We have been meeting for the past six months and have focused on identifying collaborative approaches to supporting Wilmington families as they struggle with substance abuse and its wide reaching impacts on their lives.

My expectation is to seek additional resources in the coming fiscal year's budget to help us as a community address addiction and substance abuse. There are no quick fixes or easy answers. With purposeful actions and a consistency of effort we can make strides towards educating the community about substance abuse, reducing the incidences of addiction and providing much needed assistance to those in the throws of dealing with substance abuse.

Ellen Davis, the Town's Animal Control Officer retired on October 21 after serving the Town for 26 years. I wish her all the best as she enters this next phase of her life.



As I prepare my contribution to *Town Topics* it is a relatively balmy 50 degrees. Not bad given the time of the year. The *Old Farmer's Almanac* editor Janice Stillman states: "Super cold is coming." While the almanac forecasts significant snow, if there is a consolation it is that Boston is not expected to receive as much snow as the winter of 2015. Reportedly, the *Old Farmer's Almanac* has been on target with their predictions in recent history. Hopefully their forecast is not quite as accurate this year and the balmy weather continues with just the occasional light snow to remind us we live in New England. The budget for snow removal could use a break.



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.

CLEARING FIRE HYDRANTS



Following a snow event, it is important for residents and businesses to clear snow around fire hydrants. The best practice is to clear two feet around the hydrant. If that is not possible, simply making sure the hydrant isn't completely buried is a good idea. Town personnel do their best to clear as many hydrants as possible, but with over 1,200 fire hydrants in Wilmington, this is a time consuming endeavor. By clearing a hydrant, you are helping the Fire Department's ability to respond quickly to an emergency, possibly at your residence.

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.

PASSPORTS

Residents are reminded that when applying for a passport, the long form birth certificate **must** be submitted. The document may be obtained from the town/city where the hospital at which you were born was located and from the town/city where your parent's were living at the time of your birth. The document must have a raised seal. The passport office does not accept copies.



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.

We now offer **online registration** for our programs (except Adult Open Gym) and trips (except Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun and Iceland)! You can securely register your entire family at one time from the comfort of your home, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Create your CommunityPass account by going to www.wilmingtonma.gov, click on Recreation Department and then the CommunityPass link.



TRAVEL

Looking for something new? We will be heading north of the border in August to tour the beautiful and historic city of Montreal and then explore Iceland in October. For something closer to home, we are celebrating all things maple with a luncheon at the Salem Cross Inn and a Sugar House tour in March. In May, we'll be heading to Wright's Chicken Farm Restaurant for a delicious lunch and a chance to win some bingo prizes. In June, we'll be exploring the Maine coast with a stop at When Pigs Fly in Kittery, a five course luncheon in Wells and a cruise departing from Perkins Cove. Finally, attend a theatre trip (includes bus transportation and orchestra seat) to see Love Letters (February 7) or the Wizard of Oz (April 21).

NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Are you ready to try something new? Check out our newest programs for youth including "STEM Fun" (ages 3 – 5 & 5 – 8), Martial Arts Programs (ages 4 – 7 & 8 – 11), Valentine's Day Cake Decorating (grades 2 – 5), Chem Fun (grades 1 – 3), Paint Night (grades 3 – 6), Everyday Etiquette (grades 2 – 5), Teens Seeking Employment (grades 9 – 12) and International Culture Cooking classes (grades 9 – 12). Be sure to check out all the Adult Programs – we have a variety of fitness options and dance classes to get you in shape in 2016. We have great seats available for the Harlem Globetrotters (March 19) and Red Sox (June 17 & July 22).



"THE ROOKIES" PLAY BALL!

Baseball season is fast approaching! Register your child (age 5 by April 30, 2016 through Grade 1) for our baseball program "The Rookies". This program combines our traditional T-Ball program with a coach-pitch format to prepare children to advance to Little League. This six-week program will run from Monday – Thursday, April 25 – June 2 (no practice May 30). Choose a Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday schedule. Children will have one practice session and one game each week. Cost is \$26 per child. Registration forms will be available on our website and in the office beginning February 2. **Registration deadline is Thursday, March 17.**



EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us on the Town Common on Saturday, March 26 at 2 p.m. sharp for the Annual **Easter Egg Hunt**. The common will glitter with candy filled eggs as hundreds of children rush to fill their baskets. In case of poor weather or ground conditions, the festivities will be held indoors. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket or container to hold your eggs.

WINTER 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.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Meditation: A New Year's Resolution Worth Keeping **Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 pm**

Dr. Allan Hughes, a long-time meditator who has been giving workshops and seminars on meditation in various parts of the country, will lead this workshop offering effective techniques that can make your dream of finding inner peace a reality.

Nutrition for the New Year: Three Easy Meals **Thursday, January 28, 7:00 pm**

Nutrition expert Anna Tourkakis, author of *Delicious Simplicity: Recipes for Today's Busy Life*, will demonstrate an easy to follow day's menu with a focus on foods which maximize healthy weight maintenance, energy level and well-being.

Getting Organized and Conquering Chaos **Thursday, February 4, 7:00 pm**

Join Jenna Elliot, founder of The Naked Flower, Professional Organizers, as she shares tips on the five steps of decluttering a room, room mapping, how to get motivated and more. Jenna has been an organizer and re-designer for 11 years and works with a variety of clients, both in the office and in the home.

FAMILY EVENTS

After Hours Wilmington Talent Showcase **Friday, February 19, 7:00 pm**

Do you like to sing, dance, play an instrument, or have a unique talent? Well, here is your time to shine! If you would like to participate, stop by the library to pick up an application. Applications are due Wednesday, February 10, 9 pm. Rehearsal is Wednesday, February 17 at 1 pm (alternate times can be scheduled if necessary). All ages.



Using Shopping to Teach Your Child About Money **Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Learn how to make shopping with your children a fun learning experience rather than a chore. We'll share tips on how to make a game out of shopping; getting your child involved in making a shopping list; savvy saving strategies; needs vs. wants; the pros & cons of allowances and much more. Parents of children ages 2-8 only.

Summer Camps/Activities Fair **Wednesday, March 2, 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

Get a jump start on planning activities for your children this summer. Representatives from local camps and summer programs will be on hand with information about their summer offerings.

NEW COLLECTIONS



Telescopes

Take home an Orion Starblast telescope to view the night time sky, learn about constellations and see details of deep sky objects and the moon. It is easy to use and no assembly is required. The telescope can be borrowed for 7 days by patrons 18 years or older.

Board Games

Having a party or a family game night? Our games include Apples to Apples, Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, Qwirkle and Forbidden Islands. 7 day loan period.



SAFETY TIPS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- * Outside burning of brush and garden debris will be allowed beginning **January 15th through May 1st**. Residents **must** call the Fire Department at 978-658-3346 to receive permission to burn and be made aware of the rules and regulations regarding open burning.
- * Candle Safety: Prevent Candle Fires:
 - Burn candles inside a one foot circle of safety.
 - Before you go out, blow it out.
 - Keep lit candles out of reach of children and pets.
 - Teach everyone in the family the rules of safe candle use.
 - Keep all matches and lighters out of reach of children.
 - Switch to flameless candles.
- * Winter Pet Protection: Taking precautions during winter months can ensure that your pets stay healthy and happy when the temperatures plummet.
 - 🔥 Keep pets warm and indoors. Windchill can threaten a pet's life.
 - 🔥 Protect paws from salt. This and other chemicals can irritate your pets feet. Be sure to wipe off their paws with a damp towel.
 - 🔥 Avoid antifreeze poisoning. Don't allow pets to wander unattended near driveways, garages or other places where they may come into contact with antifreeze.

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The Department of Elderly Services will provide free income tax assistance through American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). 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 3, 2016 and continues every Wednesday through April 13, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 12 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.

Returns will also be prepared at the Reading Municipal Light Department Building (rear), 230 Ash Street, Reading on a walk-in basis, with no appointment needed, Saturday mornings from February 6 through April 9, 2016.

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 23, 2016. Interested residents may file nomination papers for the following offices: Board of Selectmen (2 positions), Housing Authority, Regional School Committee and School Committee (3 positions).

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the High School Auditorium. Petitioned articles are due in the Town Clerk's office by 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 5, 2016. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 4, 2016.**

The 2016 Annual Census will be mailed 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.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Department of Public Works will be collecting Christmas trees at curbside beginning January 4, 2016. 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 2016 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.

Registration may also be done on-line at www.wilmingtonma.gov, click on Town Clerk then "Online Payment of Clerk's Office Bills Here".

The Wilmington Board of Health Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 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 4- - CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES
JAN 15

JAN 10 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

FEB 7 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

FEB 2 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION BEGINS
Grades K-1

FEB 5 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

FEB 10 LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

MAR 3 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN ELECTION

MAR 1 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

MAR 6 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

MAR 15 - FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES
Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.

MAR 17 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION DEADLINE

MAR 26 - EASTER EGG HUNT Town Common 2 p.m.

APR 2 - RABIES CLINIC Public Buildings Dept. Noon - 2 p.m.

APR 4 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE - TOWN ELECTION/TOWN MEETING Until 8 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN MUSEUM

The Museum will be open this winter as follows:

- **Sunday Open House:** January 10, February 7, March 6 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:** The museum will be open **by appointment only** the week of February 14, 2016.

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



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