

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



As we enter a new year we once again have the opportunity to take advantage of new beginnings or to hit the proverbial reset button on circumstances that we would like to change in a positive way. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous year in 2017.

The effort by New England Transrail, LLC (NET) to construct a transloading hub at the Olin Chemical site on Eames Street in Wilmington continues in earnest. The company has filed a petition with the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) that would enable them to develop the majority of the site to accommodate shipments of a wide range of commodities for offloading on to tanker or box trucks for shipment to destinations throughout the region. All this is proposed to occur on a site that has nearly 300 identified chemical contaminants in the soil and groundwater and on a site that has been declared a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Members of the Board of Selectmen stand united with other town officials and residents in adamant opposition to NET's proposal. In addition to remaining vigilant in submitting comments in strong opposition to this project as it undergoes environmental review, the Town will continue to work with its state and federal legislative delegations to pursue every avenue in opposition to this irresponsible plan. Your support in expressing your strong opposition to our legislative delegations is strongly encouraged.

Work on the Yentile Farm Recreational Facility was substantially completed in December of 2016. During the spring of 2017 minor work will be performed which will primarily involve site landscaping. The recreation area remains off limits for use until the spring of 2017. Over the next few months work will continue on finalizing plans for a grand opening to celebrate the achievement of this impressive multi-purpose space. Stay tuned for information about the specific activities and events that will be scheduled to commemorate this new gathering place in Wilmington.

As we enter into the heart of another New England winter our patience will once again be tested by slick and snowy roads and bone chilling temperatures. Town personnel will step up as they do each year to keep roads clear and safe and to assist those in need. Public Works personnel will make every effort to keep the more than 1,200 fire hydrants clear, but your assistance is greatly appreciated. Keeping the fire hydrant near your home clear will mean immediate access to a water supply when minutes count. Clearing snow from walkways and driveways around your home will enable police and fire personnel to more quickly and safely respond to a call for assistance.

Staff from the Department of Elderly Services maintains a list of individuals with whom they make regular house calls. You can also assist by keeping an eye out for your neighbors and checking in with them periodically.

Please look out for your neighbors who may find it difficult to clear their driveways, steps and walkways. If you can recruit some young strong talent that needs to burn off some energy, helping the neighbors is a great way for them to earn community service and for parents to instill the importance of helping others. And for the reluctant volunteer, who knows there may be a cup of hot chocolate and a cookie or two in it for them.

This is what it means to live in Wilmington. To borrow the name of a phenomenal group of dedicated, caring and giving residents, We're One Wilmington.

RECENT RESURGENCE OF GYPSY MOTH

Wilmington residents may have noticed a recent revival of the once dreaded gypsy moth, a pest that, while in caterpillar or larvae stage, has been responsible for recent defoliation of several of Wilmington's trees, specifically oak. Starting in 1981 and extending throughout the 1980s, Massachusetts experienced a severe outbreak of the pests which made national headlines due to the extent of the defoliation.



Gypsy moth caterpillars can be identified by their unique series of red and blue dots which line their furry bodies. Research Entomologist Dr. Joe Elkinton of UMass

Amherst and his team have been studying this pest to determine the cause of the recent resurgence.

Despite failures in the late 1980s to establish naturally occurring environmental controls to mitigate gypsy moth populations, a fungal pathogen from Japan arrived accidentally around 1989 which drastically lowered gypsy moth numbers to the point of non-concern. Dr. Elkinton attributes the return of the gypsy moth to the recent drought conditions which have inhibited the ability for the naturally occurring fungus to establish in the spring. Optimism is high that the fungus will again reestablish to effective volumes during the spring of 2017, given an anticipated return of normal rainfall levels.

As is the case with most trees that experience defoliation from insects, oaks affected by the gypsy moth will flush out a second set of leaves to attempt to counteract the effects of the pest. Research has shown that most healthy trees are resilient enough to withstand occasional defoliations, but trees that are already stressed due to other environmental or man-made factors may have a harder time recovering.

The Wilmington Department of Public Works Tree Division team is monitoring Wilmington's public trees closely for the effects of this pest and other pests that threaten our community forest. The DPW's commitment to professional networking and ongoing education and training help bring the latest information and sustainable solutions to our community. If you have further questions about how gypsy moth or other pests and diseases are affecting town trees, please contact the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481 or visit the Tree Division link on the DPW website.

FAMILY CAREGIVERS SERIES

The Department of Elderly Services will be sponsoring Essential Skills for family caregivers on March 23, March 30 and April 2, 2017, from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. This 3 part series will be presented by Robin Bromberg, of the MA/NH Alzheimer's Association. The series provides educational and practical guidance and tools for those caring for someone with dementia. Please join us to learn strategies for improved daily life, managing challenges associated with dementia and increasing coping skills.

This program will be held at the Buzzell Senior Center, 15 School Street. Registration is required. For further information, please contact Laura Pickett, Case Manager, Dept. of Elderly Services, 978-657-7595.

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.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February. Follow these USFA heating tips to maintain a fire safe home this winter:



Keep anything that can burn at least three (3) feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.

Never use an oven to heat your home.

Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

For more information on how to keep specific heating devices safe, such as a furnace, space heater, kerosene heater, fireplace or wood stove, visit the USFA's Heating Fire Safety page.

To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide accumulation in your home:

- ◆ Never run a vehicle in an enclosed garage – even with the door open.
- ◆ Use generators outdoors only, far from windows, doors and vents.
- ◆ Check vents, flue pipes and chimneys periodically for damage, gaps or blockages.
- ◆ After insulating or remodeling a home, make sure appliances and heating equipment still have adequate ventilation.
- ◆ Keep the chimney damper or flue open when the fireplace is used.
- ◆ Make sure the clothes dryer is properly vented to the outside. Keep the dryer vent free of lint and debris.
- ◆ Use space heaters and other fuel-burning appliances properly. Do not use barbecue grills indoors; never use the range or oven as a heater.
- ◆ Hire only licensed contractors to inspect and repair faulty appliances, piping and wiring.
- ◆ Have a qualified professional thoroughly inspect and clean your fuel-fired heating equipment and water heater at least once a year.
- ◆ Install carbon monoxide detectors. Position one detector in the hallway near every separate sleeping area of your home, and operate it according to manufacturer's instructions.

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.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

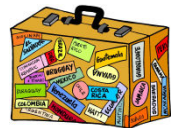
WINTER NEWSLETTER

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)! 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 have day trips to New York City and Foxwoods, as well as to the Danversport Yacht Club to celebrate "New Years at Noon" and to the always popular Newport Playhouse for a "Romantic Comedy" and lunch. We have also begun registering for trips to St. Andrews by the Sea and Campobello Island, as well as a 9 day/8 night tour of the Colorado Rockies. Stop by the Recreation Office or take a look at the website for additional information.



NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Check out our newest programs for youth including the SNL Basketball Clinic for Grades 4 – 8 over February school vacation, a Pasta Making Class for Grades 2 – 5 in January and our "Knitting Pretty" class for Ages 8 – 11, beginning in February. For adults, we have a program on "Five Keys to Successful Weight Loss" - right at the beginning of the new year.

"THE ROOKIES" PLAY BALL!

Baseball season is fast approaching! Register your child (age 5 by April 30, 2017 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 24 – June 1 (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 \$25 per child. Registration forms will be available on our website and in the office beginning February 1. Registration deadline is Thursday, March 16.



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 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.

AFTERNOONS AT WILMINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Musical Stylings of Cassan and Muratore

Thursday, January 19, 2:30 p.m.

Roberto Cassan on accordion and John Muratore on guitar will perform unique arrangements of Italian music, Argentine tangos, and original compositions. Don't miss this afternoon of beautiful music! **Presented in partnership with the Buzzell Senior Center.**

Concert: Harpist Rebecca Swett

Thursday, February 16, 2:30 p.m.

Harpist Rebecca Swett will play classical to pop including well known pieces from Debussy to Gershwin plus a few love songs in honor of Valentine's Day.

History of the Lowell Boat Shop

Monday, February 6, 2:30 p.m.

Located on the bank of the Merrimac River in Amesbury, MA, Lowell's Boat Shop is a working museum and National Historic Landmark as the oldest continuously working boat shop in the United States. Established in 1793 by Simeon Lowell, the Shop continues to produce dories and skiffs in the Lowell tradition.

SAVE MONEY IN 2017

Tax Tips

Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 p.m.

Wilmington resident and tax consultant Joe DiJulia will highlight certain tax breaks and deductions available for qualifying expenses in the 2016 tax year. Items to be reviewed include: Roth IRAs, traditional IRAs, 401Ks, tuition and fees deductions, American Opportunity Credit, Lifetime Learning Credit and more.

Alternatives to Cable

Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.

Are you tired of having hundreds of channels but not finding anything good to watch? Come join Technology Librarian Brad McKenna as he presents alternatives to cable such as Netflix and the library. While not all are free, the alternatives will save you quite a bit of money every month.

FAMILY EVENTS

Sciencetellers: Dragons

Monday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.

Join us as we learn about dry ice and the changing states of matter through the tale of "Dragons & Dreams." Wouldn't dragon's breath be an amazing sight to see?! Well, get ready to see it, feel it, smell it and maybe even taste it. This story features interactive and explosive experiments with dry ice, fog, bubbles, flying rockets and more. Grades Kindergarten-5



Jeannie Mack Winter Songfest

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 p.m.

Have fun celebrating winter with Jeannie Mack. Come sing and act out songs about making snowmen, twirling around like snowflakes, sledding down hills and drinking hot chocolate. Clap along, dance and enjoy hand play and finger play games with Jeannie – all to do with the magic of winter! All ages

Family Movie Night

Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a family-friendly movie and refreshments. Movie will be announced 30 days prior. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

After Hours Wilmington Talent Showcase

Friday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

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 fill out an application. Rehearsal: Wednesday, February 22, 2:00 p.m.

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.

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The Department of Elderly Services will provide free income tax assistance through IRS VITA Program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Wilmington residents ages 60 and older may schedule an appointment by calling the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595. The program begins in February at the Buzzell Senior Center. 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.

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 22, 2017. Interested residents may file nomination papers for the following offices:

Board of Selectmen (2 positions), Housing Authority and School Committee (2 positions).

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017 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 3, 2017. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 3, 2017.**

The 2017 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 3, 2017. 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 Christmas trees **cannot** be disposed of 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 2017 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 Online Payments then Clerk's Office Services. A \$15 late fee will be in effect after April 1.

The Wilmington Board of Health Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 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. A \$15 late fee will be in effect after this date.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 3 - CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES**
JAN 13
- JAN 8 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- FEB 1 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION BEGINS**
Grades K-1
- FEB 3 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
- FEB 5 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- MAR 3 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN ELECTION**
- MAR 5 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- MAR 16 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
- MAR 21 - FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**
Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.
- APR 1 - RABIES CLINIC** Public Buildings Dept. Noon - 2 p.m.
- APR 3 - 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 8, February 5, March 5 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 20, 2017.

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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