

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



Once again, the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is behind us. Hopefully, residents had the opportunity to share time with friends and family and to take stock of all those true gifts that oftentimes are overlooked. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2018.

As we are in the heart of winter, weather can exert a more prominent presence in our daily lives. Snowy, icy conditions and bone chilling cold can alter work and social schedules literally overnight. The Town seeks to provide timely information to residents about Town facility closures, program cancellations, delays in curbside trash and recycling collection and other weather related impacts and uses a variety of means to “get the message out.” The Town’s website at www.wilmingtonma.gov offers updates on the [News](#) page, in addition to information on individual department pages. Brief announcements are released via Twitter at TownWilMA.

The Town uses a notification system called “Everbridge” to issue information to designated neighborhoods impacted by a particular issue or the Town at large. The notification system issues a pre-recorded message for a variety of reasons including crime watch/bulletin alerts, event cancellations or changes, general alerts and public works or utility alerts. Residents can select any or all of the notification groups previously cited after clicking on “Sign-Up.”

To sign up, residents can find the portal on the Town of Wilmington website or the Wilmington Police Department website. Find the links below:

<http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/home/pages/online-services>
Click on E-Alerts and begin by checking the “Sign-up” tab in the upper right side of the screen.

<http://www.wpd.org/resources/town-of-wilmington-emergency-notification-system/> click on “Click here to go to the Opt-In page. Once there, begin by checking the “Sign up” tab in the upper right side of the screen.

The Town offers E-alerts, which provide non-emergency news updates or notices via e-mail about board and committee meeting agendas, minutes or news issued by individual departments. To subscribe to E-alerts go to the Town’s homepage and click on @Subscribe to E-Alerts.

Residents with questions are directed to contact the Town Manager’s office at 978-658-3311.

Town and School departments are developing budget spending plans for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2018. These efforts require establishing both short-term and long-term plans and projections. The Annual Town Meeting, which takes place on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 10:30 in the Wilmington High School auditorium, will seek approval of expenditures for municipal services provided during the ensuing 12-month fiscal year in addition to setting money aside in various “savings accounts” referred to as stabilization funds and trust funds.

Businesses, and families for that matter, must not only be attentive to providing financial resources to cover the ongoing immediate expenses, but also to cover larger scale investments. Businesses need to continually reinvest in plant and equipment and possibly a vehicle fleet and maintain an operating reserve to “weather” economic downturns. Homeowners oftentimes will set money aside for continuing education for children, for retirement or for replacement of a roof or furnace for their home and for unanticipated events like job loss or uninsured medical care. Businesses and families who fail to set aside funds for these purposes do so at significant risk. Municipalities, too, must be attentive to immediate expenses and invest in future needs.

Stability and sustainability of services continue to be a priority. Education, emergency services, Veterans, library, recreation and elder services and maintenance of roads, parks and Town buildings are essential to meet the expectations of residents. Property taxes have steadily increased, as property values have increased and the costs of government have increased. Some question the need to build available funds, also known as “free cash.” The concerns over taxes do not go unheeded. Considerations of ways to save money and maximize the use of tax dollars are on the minds of all managers throughout the year and are an essential part of every annual budget discussion.

The Town will be issuing long term debt in the spring and will undergo a financial review by the rating agency Standard & Poors (S&P). Their assessment of the Town’s financial health, both short and long-term, will have a major impact on the interest rates that the Town will pay when bonds are issued. While the Town retains a AA+ bond rating, during S&P’s most recent review in 2016 the rating agency expressed some measure of concern about whether the Town could sustain the earmarking of funds into stabilization accounts to address long-term liabilities including funding of employee pensions and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). The combined value of these liabilities alone total nearly \$200 million. These are challenges faced by municipalities across the state and across the country. A major focus is to continue to take steps that demonstrate to the rating agencies and investment community that purchase our bonds that Wilmington continues to have the financial discipline to address long term obligations as well as fiscal responsibility to ensure sufficient funds are directed toward maintaining day-to-day operations.

The budget presentation will be offered to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee on January 29, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. During the month of February, meetings beginning at 7:00 p.m. will be held with the Finance Committee. These meetings are open to the public. Residents will have the opportunity to learn about the programs and services offered by various Town departments and their associated costs. Following the budget process will enable residents to be more fully informed when the budget is presented for adoption at the Annual Town Meeting.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

The Community Teamwork, Inc. Fuel Assistance Program is available to new applicants starting November 1, 2017 and runs thru April 2018. Fuel Assistance can help pay part of your home's winter heating bill. Any Wilmington resident 60 years or older in need of fuel assistance, please call 978-657-7595 to set up an appointment with Terri Marciello, Director, or Laura Pickett, Case Manager, for assistance with the application process. Wilmington residents that applied last year and are receiving renewal applications in the mail may also call for an appointment. Residents under the age of 60 should contact the Billerica Veteran's Agent (978-671-0968).

Household Size	Maximum Gross Income
1	\$ 34,380
2	\$ 44,958
3	\$ 55,537
4	\$ 66,115
5	\$ 76,693
6	\$ 87,272

ICE AND COLD WATER SAFETY

Each year, New England residents are injured from exposure to cold water. Skaters and ice fishermen fall through the ice and boaters capsize. Hikers sometimes have to camp overnight in harsh weather conditions. Unleashed pets run onto ice and people chase them. Learn how to protect yourself and others.

- Always wear a personal floatation device (PFD) when boating.
- Dress properly for cold weather in wool, which insulates better from the effects of hypothermia when dry or wet than man-made materials. Keep your head covered because 50% of body heat is lost through the head.
- **The only safe ice is at a skating rink.** Ice on moving water in rivers, streams and brooks is never safe. The thickness of ice on ponds and lakes depends upon water currents or springs, depth and natural objects. Changes in temperature cause ice to expand and contract, which affects its strength. Because of these factors, ice cannot be called *safe*.



THE SECRET LIVES OF TEENS

Learn what your teens are really thinking and how you can support them. This presentation, sponsored by the Wilmington Public Schools and the Office of Student Support Services, covers areas such as depression suicide, 'acting out' behaviors, drug and alcohol use and more. Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Admission is free; adults only please. (snow date January 25.)

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.

TRAVEL

Looking for something new? We have day trips to New York City and Foxwoods, as well as a day of tasting and sampling treats as we tour Providence, a Frankie Valli Tribute Show with free time at Mohegan Sun (Let's Hang On!) and another trip combining a luncheon with our favorite version of Elvis, Mark Shelton. We are also off to the Indian Head Resort for a St. Patrick's Day party, and we're heading to the Jersey Cape in June. AND, we're still taking bookings for the Alaska Cruise Tour in July, and registration has begun for our trip to the Badlands of South Dakota in September. Stop by the Recreation Office or take a look at our website (under Trips) for additional information.

NEW PROGRAMS

Check out our newest programs for children including Beginner Video Game Development, Knockerball, Edison's Workshop on Energy and an Introduction to Acting class. For adults, we have craft programs, sports and fitness programs including new offerings "Power-Up Fitness" and "Couch to CrossFit".

"THE ROOKIES"

Baseball season is fast approaching! Register your child (age 5 by 4/30/18 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 23 – May 31. Choose from a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Children will have one practice session and one game each week. Cost is \$30 per child. Registration will begin on February 1 and the registration deadline is Thursday, March 15.

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.

31 DAY FRESH START AT WILMINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Looking for a fresh start in 2018? The library's programs during the month of January are geared towards de-stressing, relaxing, and resetting for the New Year. Register at www.wilmlibrary.org or call 978-658-2967.

New Year Computer Cleanup Wednesday, January 3, 7 pm

New Year, new computer...sort of. Instead of buying a new one, get tips on how to clean up your computer, smartphone and online presence. Topics will include defragmenting, backups and passwords. Presented by Technology Librarian Brad McKenna.

Meditation for Total Wellness Saturday, January 6, 10:30 am

Meditation is a means of creating a more positive, healthy lifestyle. Join Dr. Allan Hughes, long time meditator, for this powerful workshop that can positively affect your life.

Tranquil Tuesdays with Brad

Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30, 9:15 am

Technology Librarian Brad McKenna, a meditator for over 15 years, will lead you through silent and guided meditations, share his personal experiences and offer tips for success. Sessions will be 30 minutes. Join us for one, some or all! Drop in.

Mandalas for Well-being

Tuesday, January 9, 7 pm

This Mandala workshop will provide the opportunity to explore the notions of mindfulness and art making as daily practices that can foster a sense of well-being. Guided by the universal symbol of the Mandala, we will experiment with diverse art materials and techniques with the aim to identify which creative modality resonates best with you! Led by trained art therapist Liza Fernanda Lopez.



Declutter for Good Health

Thursday, January 11, 7 pm

In this one-hour workshop, professional organizer Nancy Patsios will share tips on decluttering your home or office to enhance good health. Nancy Patsios is the owner of Everyday ORGANiZiNG.

Living a Happier Life with Lizzie Casanave

Thursday, January 25, 7 pm

Many of us feel we will be happier because of something - such as finding a new job, finishing a project, losing 10 pounds, etc. Psychologists and neurologists are now realizing that happiness can be more readily achieved through changing the way we think. Attendees will explore this revolutionary topic and receive practical tools for changing your mindset and achieving happiness. Led by Lizzie Linn Casanave, a professor of philosophy and member of the Northern Essex Community College Speakers' Bureau.

FAMILY EVENTS

The Cure for the Common Show *RR

Monday, January 8, 6:30 pm

Join Bryson Lang for a family-friendly show that mixes comedy, audience participation, ball spinning, flying sombreros, ball bouncing, fire juggling, huge spinning and bouncing rings, giant beach balls, improv, glow-in-the-dark objects and always a few surprises! Ages 3+

Family Fort Night *RR

Friday, February 2, 6:30-8 pm

Families are invited to join us for a fort night! Bring sheets and blankets to help you build your fort. We'll provide the rest! Once built, families can crawl inside and spend the evening reading together. Light refreshments will be provided. **All ages**



Dinoman *RR

Wednesday, February 21, 6:30 pm

Have no fear Dinoman is here! He will take the audience on a fun-filled trip through the Mesozoic era! When were dinosaurs here? How do we know? What is a fossil? All is explained using magic, merry mayhem and amazing props! **Ages 4+**

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 **VOTE** Saturday, April 28, 2018. Interested residents may file nomination papers for the following offices:

Board of Selectmen (1 position), Housing Authority (2 positions) Regional/Vocational School Committee (1 position), School Committee (2 positions) and Town Moderator.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 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 2, 2018. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 9, 2018.**

The 2018 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 2, 2018. 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 2018 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 7, 2018 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 2 - CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES
JAN 12

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

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

FEB 2 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

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

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

MAR 9 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN ELECTION

MAR 15 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION DEADLINE

MAR 20 - FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES
Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.

APR 7 - RABIES CLINIC Public Buildings Dept. Noon - 2 p.m.

APR 9 - 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 7, February 4, 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.

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 <https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/town-museum>

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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