

## Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

### From the Manager's Desk

As I write this edition of *From the Manager's Desk* we have just received our first snowfall of the winter season and winter technically does not start for another three weeks. For many, the first new snow fall in early December fosters a special mood for the approaching holiday season and adds to the anticipation and excitement for children. While there is also much to be said about skiing, skating, snowshoeing and sledding my preference is to go to the snow elsewhere as opposed to the snow coming to me here. Only time will tell how much snow comes here.

A major milestone in early 2020 will be the much awaited draft clean-up plan for the 53 acre Olin Chemical Superfund Site on 51 Eames Street. In 2006 this site was designated on the National Priorities List which represents sites from across the country containing contaminants of various forms that require remediation. In 2007 the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the current and prior owners of the property to initiate a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) with the long term goal of site clean-up.

Numerous technical studies have been performed to assess the soil, surface water, sediments and ground water at locations on the Olin site and on other property around the site. The studies have been performed by consultants hired by the Olin Corporation. The findings and conclusions have been reviewed by EPA, the Town and its environmental consultant and a consultant working with a local community group known as Wilmington Environmental Restoration Committee (WERC). These studies are intended to develop an understanding about the nature of the contaminants, where contaminants are located and the movements of contaminants. This information is required in order to develop approaches to remove or otherwise remediate the contaminants. Representatives from EPA have noted the complexity of the Olin Chemical Superfund Site.

The expectation is that, in the February time frame, EPA will issue a proposed plan which will take the alternative approaches for remediating the site that are under consideration and propose a specific set of approaches. The Town, residents and other interested parties will have at least thirty (30) days to provide feedback to EPA on their proposal. The Town will provide links to the EPA documents on its website and provide documents for review at Wilmington Memorial Library. EPA will hold a public hearing and formal hearing to receive comment.

EPA will be negotiating with the responsible parties to finance the actual clean-up, continue to fill in gaps in data that may exist and consider long term options for clean-up of the groundwater. After reviewing the public comments EPA will issue an Interim Action Record of Decision (ROD). This ROD will serve as a roadmap for efforts to



restore the site to the fullest extent possible. Typically EPA seeks to restore sites to the point where they can be re-used for productive purposes.

While we are closing in on a significant milestone, that of agreeing upon steps to remediate the site, efforts to execute that plan to conclusion will take many, many years. The Board of Selectmen and other town officials remain steadfast in our efforts to ensure that this hazardous waste Superfund Site is fully remediated.

Deepest condolences are extended to the family of Joseph Costello. Mr. Costello, who served the Town for the past 8 years as a custodian, passed away unexpectedly in September.



As the season of kindness and giving quickly fades into our memories, let us continue to embrace the words of the Dalai Lama "Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."

### ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS

Wilmington's Annual Town Census will be mailed by the first full week in January 2020. Please keep an eye open for it and respond immediately. Remember, responding to the annual town census keeps your name on the active voting list. Please contact the Town Clerk's office if you haven't received your census by the last week in January.

### 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.

## PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

The **Presidential Primary** will be held on **Tuesday, March 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The ballot will include party nominations for President, party Town Committee members, and party State Committee Man and State Committee Woman. The deadline to register to vote for this election is **Wednesday, February 12, 2020.** The Town Clerk's Office will remain open on that date until 8:00 p.m. If State legislation currently pending is passed, Early Voting will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium Monday, February 24, 2020 to Friday, February 28, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## FEDERAL CENSUS

The decennial Federal Census will be conducted in 2020. This census is completely separate and distinct from the Annual Town Census, and must be answered in addition to the town census. Federal Census forms will be delivered by mail in March 2020, for response by April 1. For the first time, residents may choose to respond electronically by going to a specific link provided in the letter. Responding by mail remains an option. Completing the Federal Census is especially important because, for the next 10 years, state and federal aid and Wilmington's representation in Congress is based upon its recorded population. There will be follow up by phone, and in person, if they do not receive an initial response.



## FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Community Teamwork, Inc. Fuel Assistance Program is available to new applicants through April 2020. Wilmington residents, 60 years or older in need of fuel assistance, should contact Terri Marciello/Laura Pickett at 978-657-7595. Residents under the age of 60 should contact the Billerica Veteran's Agent (978-671-0968). The Elderly Services Department has been notified of a delay in the distribution of funds. Please feel free to call the Community Teamwork directly at 978-459-6161 with any questions or call the Terri Marciello or Laura Pickett for further information.

## 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 25, 2020. Interested residents may file nomination papers for the following offices: Board of Selectmen (2 positions), Housing Authority (1 position) and School Committee (2 positions).

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020 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 7, 2020. **The last day to register to vote for the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 6, 2020.**



## 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.

## 20 IN 20 READING CHALLENGE

Join us as we embark on the challenge to read 20 books in 2020! Register during the month of January to receive a free tote bag. We'll have prizes each quarter to keep you motivated and a big prize for reading 20 books by the end of the year. Read five books by the end of March to receive the first prize!

### HEALTHY AGING

The following programs are supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

#### Lessons from the Blue Zones

**Monday, January 6, 2:30 pm**

Learn about the latest research on the physiology of aging and longevity enhancement by exploring four areas of the world where people live the longest (Blue Zones). Presented by Paula Koppel, registered nurse, geriatric nurse practitioner and founder of *Age Well Be Well*.

**Online Dating Over 50 Saturday, January 11, 10 am**

Lisa Allen will answer your questions about online dating sites, what to say in your personal profile, how to post your photos and how to keep safe online and off. *Please note that this program will be held at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Building.*

#### Winter Coffee House: The Last Duo

**Friday, January 31, 7 pm**

Chase away the winter blues with The Las Duo, who play the sounds of the 60s and 70s including the Eagles, America, Van Morrison, the Beatles and more. Coffee, tea and snacks served. **Tickets on sale at the main desk starting Thursday, January 2, \$5, Must be 18+**

#### Nutrition for Healthy Aging

**Monday, February 3, 2:30 pm**

The first step toward good health in your senior years is to eat right. Town Nurse Traci Mello will talk about the changes and what steps you can take to maintain good health.

**Cooking for One or Two Thursday, February 6, 6:30 pm**

Join Chef Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast for this fun and delicious cooking demonstration. Liz will help you fill your pantry with quick cooking, small batch ingredients that will be cost effective, healthy and easy to prepare.

#### Parkour for Balance & Agility

**Saturday, February 8, 2 pm**

In this transformative course, participants will learn how to use parkour principles to help become physically stronger and mentally confident. Learn how to avoid falls, or how best to fall if it happens, how to turn obstacles into opportunities and how to incorporate functional fitness into your everyday movements. **Recommended for ages 40/50+**

### TRAVEL PROGRAMS

**Inns and Adventures Thursday, January 9, 7 pm**

Alison O'Leary, co-author of *Inns & Adventures: a history and explorer's guide to Vermont, New Hampshire, and the Berkshires*, will offer highlights of the book through a multimedia program that features beautiful scenery, fascinating historical tidbits and plenty of "travel gone wrong" humor.

**Travel Sites Tuesday, January 14, 10 am**

Planning an escape from the winter weather? Get an overview of the top trip booking and review sites to help you plan your next getaway.



**How to Choose a Cruise Tuesday, January 14, 7 pm**

Brenda Pachucki, owner of Tours and More Travel, will discuss river cruises versus ocean cruises, specific cruise lines and their amenities, and how to determine which cruise is right for you.



#### Climbing Mount Everest

**Thursday, January 23, 6:30 pm**

Groton resident, Craig John, will present a multimedia program on his ascents of Mt. Everest. Craig first climbed Everest in 1998 by the North Ridge on the Tibetan side of the mountain. In 2018, he returned to Everest to make an ascent by the Southeast Ridge in Nepal. Craig has been a professional mountain guide for 33 years.

For a complete listing of events, please pick up an events brochure or check the library's website. Please register at [www.wilmlibrary.org](http://www.wilmlibrary.org) or by calling 978-658-2967 (Adult) or 978-694-2098 (Children/Teen) events.

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### WINTER NEWSLETTER

For a complete listing of programs, tickets and trips, check our page on the Town's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov), under Departments, click on Recreation.

### THEATRE

The Wilmington Recreation Department purchases great seats at great prices for Broadway shows in Boston. We provide your orchestra seat and bus transportation so you can avoid the traffic in Boston, parking fees and a long walk to the theatre! We're off to see the Jersey Boys (a must see if you haven't already seen it!) in March, Anastasia in July and Summer, the Donna Summer Musical in August. Stop by the Recreation Office or take a look at our website (under Trips) for additional information..

### NEW PROGRAMS

Check out our new STEM programs for children including Frozen Science for Grades 1 - 3, and Solar Space Fleet Robot for Grades 1 - 6. In Frozen Science, students will make "frozen slime", style six-pointed snowflakes and make indoor magical snow! In the Robot program, students will receive a kit that they can transform into seven different lunar modules.



#### "THE ROOKIES"

Baseball season is fast approaching! Register your child (age 5 by 4/30/20 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 27 – June 4. 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 4 and the **registration deadline is Thursday, March 12.**





## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Department of Public Works will be collecting Christmas trees at curbside beginning January 6, 2020. 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.

For details on public works services, please refer to the "Public Works" link on the Town's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov) or call the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481.

## DO YOUR PART, RECYCLE SMART MASS DEP PROGRAM

The Recycle Smart Program is centered around the webpage [www.recyclesmartma.org](http://www.recyclesmartma.org) which includes a searchable "Recyclopedia" where you can search on hundreds of items to learn how to dispose of them.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 6 - CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES**
- 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**
- FEB 12 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY** Until 8 p.m.
- MAR 1 - HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE**  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- MAR 3 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**  
Polls Open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- MAR 6 - NOMINATION PAPERS DUE FOR TOWN ELECTION**
- MAR 12 - T-BALL "ROOKIES" REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
- MAR 17 - FINANCE COMMITTEE/PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**  
Town Hall Auditorium 7 p.m.
- APR 4 - RABIES CLINIC**  
Public Buildings Dept. Noon - 2 p.m.
- APR 6 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE - TOWN ELECTION/TOWN MEETING** Until 8 p.m.

## DOG REGISTRATION/RABIES CLINIC

New Dog Registrations are always ongoing, and Renewals are happening now. You must have an updated rabies certificate to complete your initial registration or renewal. Reminders have been sent out to currently registered dog owners by email if there is one on record or regular mail if not. New registrations or renewals can be accomplished online, by mail or in person. The cost is \$10 if your dog is spayed or neutered, \$15 if intact. The deadline for renewal is April 1, 2020, after which a \$15 late fee will be assessed in addition to the registration fee; a \$50 civil fine will be added to these amounts if renewals have not been completed by June 1, 2020.



The Wilmington Board of Health Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020 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.

### 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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