

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



The spring of 2020 has been like no other. And so it will be with the summer of 2020. Vacations to the beaches, the family trip to Yosemite National Park or trips to Tanglewood to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra and other adventures will have to wait all thanks to COVID-19. Locally, the fortieth year of Wilmington's July 4th celebration with rides, fireworks, music and food on the Town Common has been cancelled along with the School Department sponsored sports clinics and the youth programs hosted by the Recreation Department. High school and college graduations, a right of passage for young adults and an acknowledgement of academic achievement were conducted in anything but a traditional manner. Masks have become part of daily attire and "social distancing" has become part of our nomenclature used by young and old.

The effects of Novel Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) have been very inconvenient, disappointing and pervasive across all aspects of our daily lives. As difficult as these past four months have been for many of us, it is important to keep these impacts in perspective. The greatest burden by far has fallen on those who are suffering or have suffered through the virus, those who have lost family and friends to the virus or those who have lost their businesses or jobs as a consequence of COVID-19. Each day undoubtedly presents a new challenge. There are no words that can be offered to lessen the grief of those who have experienced loss. It is my sincere hope that the support of family, close friends and time will assist with the healing process.

While it appears that the number of residents who have contracted COVID-19 or are quarantined due to potential exposure is on the decline, the virus remains amongst us and we must remain vigilant in exercising the proper precautions including social distancing, use of face masks when it is not possible to remain at least 6 feet apart and regular hand washing for at least 20 seconds. As it is with football so it is with COVID-19. We must "do our job" for four quarters, sixty minutes of play and not let up.

The Town will continue to review its program and service offerings and determine when and under what circumstances to return to more normal practices. Effective June 29, 2020 all personnel returned to their regular hours of work. As of this writing the ability to open Town offices remains under review. Given the nature of the interactions and programs provided by the Wilmington Memorial Library and the Buzzell Senior Center, it is likely that these departments will be the last to open to the public. Continued direction from the Governor's Office, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and other state agencies will be utilized in making determinations to minimize the risks to the public and to staff.

Throughout this pandemic employees across all departments have pitched in to maintain operations and services. In many cases employees have taken on roles that do not typically fall under their purview. These

contributions may not be notable to the public but I wish to take this opportunity to say "thank you." There are three people in particular whose efforts I would like to publicly acknowledge. Shelly Newhouse, Health Director, has been updating Town officials on the latest developments with COVID-19 since March, conveying guidance to residents, distributing gloves and masks and responding to inquiries from residents about potential exposure. Fire Chief Bill Cavanaugh has taken responsibility for obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE), applied for reimbursement grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and worked with Advinia Care and CareOne to obtain needed resources. John O'Neil, IT Director, has taken on the role of enabling the Town to continue conducting public meetings through facilitating them via the "Zoom" platform. These responsibilities have been assumed in addition to their customary responsibilities and for this I am truly grateful.

Events such as dealing with this pandemic are a test of a community's character and it is gratifying, but not surprising, to see the response. The vast majority of residents have adhered to the directives issued by Governor Baker and have demonstrated kindness, compassion and patience whether in line at the grocery stores or when engaged in the "drive-up" service that has been established at Town Hall. To the community groups and local businesses who have offered donations of meals to seniors, funds to purchase masks and gloves for public distribution, and displayed other acts of generosity thank you for lending a hand. These actions define what it means to be a "community."

During this time I wish to acknowledge employees who have recently retired from the Town. Fire Lieutenant Walter Daly has retired after nearly 25 years of service and Robert Olson has retired after serving as a custodian for many years. May they enjoy the next phase of their lives.

Peering into the future presents more uncertainty than ever before. How quickly can we return to a new "normal" and what will that new "normal" look like? How long will this current economic downturn last and how quickly will the millions of unemployed return to work? Will Wilmington Public Schools and schools and colleges across the country be able to return to "in person" learning this fall and when will we be able to gather together in groups of more than 10? Only time will tell.

As I noted in my remarks to the 2020 graduates of Wilmington High School we must use the challenges before us to ask what can we learn from our experiences? What are the "take-a-ways." Every moment of adversity presents opportunities to ascend the next peak.

Stay safe.

BOARD OF HEALTH ADVICE REGARDING MOSQUITOES AND TICKS

Mosquito and tick season is upon us, the Board of Health would like to remind residents to take precautions to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes and ticks.

MOSQUITOES - Try to avoid outdoor activity during times of day with increased mosquito activity, which is dawn and dusk. Use mosquito repellents containing an EPA-approved active ingredient such as DEET.

Residents should wear long sleeved clothing to reduce mosquito access to skin and remove any standing water in your yard, including children's toys, birdbaths, pots and planters.

Wilmington is part of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project and routine spraying and larvicide treatment is conducted throughout the summer.

TICKS - Ticks are prevalent in Wilmington. Ticks like damp, shady, brushy, leafy areas. If you have been in an area where ticks might be present, it is important to check yourself, your family and your pets for ticks every day. Use repellents that contain DEET on your exposed skin and those that contain permethrin on your clothes. When spending time outside, if weather permits, wear long-sleeved, light colored shirts and long pants tucked into your socks.

Keep the grass cut short and remove piles of leaves and brush. Talk to your veterinarian about the best ways to protect your pets and livestock from ticks.

If you find a tick on yourself, remove it carefully as soon as possible. If you develop a rash or other signs of illness following a tick bite, be sure to contact your health care provider immediately. If you are looking into preventative tick control, check out tick tubes, which may be found online. They work great ridding areas of deer ticks only. Remember deer ticks are the ones that transmit Lyme Disease. If you have been bitten by a tick, log on to the Board of Health website for links to get the ticks tested.

TRASH AND RECYCLING TIPS

While trying to help the environment, many of us are putting items in our recycle carts that should not be, HOPING they can be recycled. The result? Contaminated loads are being rejected at the processing center, leading to additional charges to the Town.

REMEMBER

KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF YOUR RECYCLE CART

- ⊗ No plastic wrap or plastic bags of any kind;
- ⊗ No Styrofoam;
- ⊗ No clothing, shoes, blankets, etc.;
- (DROP OFF AT DONATION BOXES LOCATED AT EACH SCHOOL)
- ⊗ No electronics, batteries or bulbs;
- ⊗ No food or liquid;
- ⊗ No wood or construction debris;
- ⊗ No hoses, wires or cords.

When in doubt, check out www.RecycleSmartMa.org. Enter the name of an item to find out if it is recycling or trash.

Please see <http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/trash-recycling> for further information regarding the Trash and Recycling Collection Program.

Please remember, if you move from your home, the trash and recycle barrels must remain with the house.

LIBRARY SERVICES DURING COVID-19

Programs Continue Online through the Summer -

In the last few months the library has transitioned from in house programs to virtual programs including storytime, book discussions, tech classes, lectures and more. The Youth Services staff is presenting a virtual summer reading program to keeping kids reading all summer long with creative and innovative events and incentives.

E-Resources Expanded - The library has expanded its e-resources including more downloadable ebooks, audiobooks, movies, music, etc. In addition, check out Creative Bug, an online tutorial resource that offers more than 1000 video classes on knitting, sewing, cooking and other crafts.

COVID-19 Digital Scrapbook - Collecting and archiving local history is an important part of the library's mission. To that end, WML would like to document residents' experience with this pandemic by asking you to contribute to the COVID-19 Digital Scrapbook. The information you provide will be archived and may be used on social media or a future library display. More information is available at www.wilmlibrary.org.

Curbside Service - On May 26, the library began offering curbside service. Library patrons request books online and are notified when items are ready for pick up. Staff bring items to the car when the patrons arrives in the library's parking lot. Curbside service will continue until patrons are allowed back into the library.

Opening the Library to Visitors - The next phase of our service plan will allow patrons into the library but with a number of restrictions to keep staff and patrons as safe as possible. The details on the date and how patrons may use the library will be forthcoming and will include the required safety protocols. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these challenging times.

Stay Up to Date - With all that is happening and changing at the library, keep up to date by checking the library's website www.wilmlibrary.org and by signing up for the library's email newsletter.

WILMINGTON COMMUNITY FUND SPONSORS SHREDDING DAY

The Wilmington Community Fund is hosting a Shredding Day on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Wilmington Town Common parking lot. The event is free of charge to residents.

Two shredding trucks will be available, however the event is meant for residences. The Community Fund reserves the right to limit the amount of shredding due to wait time or truck space. Paper clips, rubber bands and staples do not need to be removed. Please remove binder clips or other metal fasteners.

The Wilmington Community Fund, which runs the Wilmington Food Pantry, is encouraging participants to bring nonperishable food items or donations to the event. All donations will be given to the Food Pantry. Our motto is "People Helping People" and, as always, we are grateful for the partnership of the community to help fight hunger.

ASIAN GIANT HORNETS AKA "MURDER HORNETS"

The Asian Giant Hornet has recently been a hot topic in the news. It is important to note that as of May 2020, this insect has **NOT** been found in Massachusetts. As with all new information, it is important to understand the facts behind this intriguing insect.



The Asian Giant Hornet is the world's largest hornet (1.5-2 inch long body, 1.5-3 inch wing span and was first found in the United States

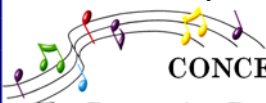
in the state of Washington in December 2019. These hornets tend to feed their young the larvae and pupae of the European honeybee and thus can be a threat to honeybee hives. Their nickname of "Murder Hornet" was derived not because of danger to humans, but because they are noted for decapitating honeybee populations while foraging for food for their young. It is likely that beekeepers will be the first to notice the Asian Giant Hornet if it is ever introduced into this area.

While the Asian Giant Hornet can sting repeatedly when threatened, it is important to note that it is not known to be aggressive toward people or pets unless threatened and thus acts similar to yellow jackets and bald-faced hornets.

The hornet is most likely to be confused with one of our native wasps known as the "cicada killer". Cicada killer wasps, while also impressive in size, are also non aggressive towards humans unless provoked.

For more information about this insect including a comparison of common look-a-likes, visit the link from Ohio State University Extension: <https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/1544>. More information regarding the Town of Wilmington's Urban Forestry program can be found at the DPW's Tree Division website <https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/public-works/tree-division>

Source: UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program



CONCERTS ON THE COMMON

The Recreation Department's popular summer concert series begins on Wednesday, July 8 at the Town Common. Talented musical groups will provide entertainment for all ages from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday through July 29. In the event of inclement weather, the scheduled concert will be postponed to the date in parentheses. This summer's performers are:

July 8 (7/9)– Ball in the House: A Cappella at its best.

July 15 (7/16) – Jimmy & the Jesters: The oldies and classic country tunes.

July 22 (7/23) – Back Track: Features the music of the 50's, 60's and 70's.

July 29 (7/30) – Joe Leary: Wilmington native and singer/songwriter, Joe has a wide array of Irish, country and acoustic music.

FROM THE RECREATION TEAM

We sincerely hope to find that members of our community are as safe and healthy as possible in these very difficult and different times. We also hope you have been able to be creative, and have found some forms of recreation in your lives to help ease any stress from working, worrying or simply being isolated from family and friends.

The Recreation staff has unfortunately had to cancel an enormous slate of programs, classes and trips that were planned for the spring and summer, but we are rolling up our sleeves and trying to come up with some possible programming for you as soon as restrictions ease. It is wonderful to see some changes already beginning with access to most parks and trails, and some courts and fields as well.

We are working hand in hand with our Health Director to try to offer programs that would be safe under current guidelines, or anticipated eases in restrictions. Of course, if we need to cancel any programs, or change any dates from what you are registered for, you will receive a full refund.

Our latest newsletter is available on our website at www.wilmingtonma.gov/Recreation. If you would prefer a paper version of the newsletter, or just want to make our day better, stop by our window at the back of Town Hall and say "hello"! We miss you! Please take care of yourselves, and we hope to get back to having fun TOGETHER!

DPW VEHICLES ARE FIRST RESPONDERS

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has frequently been referred to as "the silent arm of public safety". As a reminder, DPW maintenance vehicles that are set up in work



zones, servicing utilities, cutting trees, or tending to snow and ice operations are First Responder vehicles and special attention should be made to slowing down and yielding to the potential that an on-the-ground worker may be close by. The more we raise awareness and acknowledge the importance of work zone safety, the safer our crews will be. The task will also be completed in the most efficient way possible.

The American Public Works Association (APWA) Board of Directors released an official Public Works First Responder symbol in November of 2017 as a proactive means to raise awareness of the critical role DPW has as nation-wide emergency responders. The symbol represents the industry's importance and stance to be taken seriously as a crucial member of public safety personnel.

Jamie Magaldi PE, MCA, our Department of Public Works Operations Manager, authored an article highlighting this topic and was published in the March 2020 edition of Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Magazine. To read the full article online, please visit the following link: http://tcimag.tcia.org/publication/?i=651586&article_id=3613799&view=articleBrowser

WATER CONSERVATION

With the hot summer days arriving, residents are reminded that the Town of Wilmington has active water use restrictions. **There is no outdoor watering allowed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** In the case of sprinkler systems, both above-ground and installed underground systems may only be used once per week, subject to the hours above. Other outside water use is restricted to hand held hoses only. Per the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Town will be required to ban sprinklers entirely if this policy is not followed. Failure to follow the water use restriction may result in a minimum \$50.00 per day fine. Thank you for your continued cooperation.



SUMMER YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The Town's yardwaste recycling facility located on Old Main Street off of Main Street at the Woburn line, will open on six different dates this summer. Wilmington residents only may use the center to drop off leaves and brush. In order to use the facility, residents must purchase a \$15 punch card at the Treasurer/Collector's Office at Town Hall. The card has no expiration date and is good for 5 visits to the facility. Residents will be asked to show the punch card and an ID at the entrance to the facility. No grass clippings may be disposed at the recycling center due to the odors they create. Stumps will not be accepted. **NO CONTRACTORS or COMMERCIAL VEHICLES** are allowed.

Summer Program 2020:

Wednesday, July 8	-	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, July 11	-	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, August 5	-	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, August 8	-	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, September 9	-	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, September 12	-	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For a complete schedule of the Town's 2020 Yardwaste Program and other information on waste disposal and recycling, please call the Department of Public Works at 978-658-4481 or refer to the department's website at www.wilmingtonma.gov.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUN 14-	FARMERS MARKET OPEN SUNDAYS	
OCT 11	Town Common	10 am to 1 pm
JUL 8-	CONCERTS ON THE COMMON	
JUL 29	Wednesdays	6:30 pm to 8 pm
AUG 7	PURPLE HEART DAY	
SEP 1	SCHOOLS OPEN GRADES 1 - 12	
SEP 8	FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN	
SEP 19	SHREDDING DAY	9 am to 12 pm
SEP 25	WILMINGTON'S 290TH BIRTHDAY!	
SEP 21	SUBSTANCE ABUSE VIGIL	
	Town Common	5 pm
OCT 1	APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE SENIOR TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM	

DEPARTMENT

Accountant
Animal Control
Appeals Board
Arts Center
Assessor
Building Inspector
Cemetery
Collector of Taxes
Elderly Services
Engineer
Fire



TELEPHONE

Fire Prevention
Harnden Tavern Museum
Health
Housing Authority
Library
Nurse
Planning/Conservation
Plumbing Inspector
Police

(Business) 658-3346
(Emergency) **9-1-1**

694-2006
658-5475
658-4298
658-8531
658-2967
658-4298
658-8238
658-4531
(Business) 658-5071
(Emergency) **9-1-1**
(TDD) 657-8368

Public Buildings
Public Works
Recreation
School
Selectmen
Town Clerk
Town Manager

(TDD) 694-1417

Treasurer
Veterans' Agent
Water & Sewer

(Billing) 658-3116



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