

# Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

## From the Manager's Desk



Congratulations to Jeffrey M. Hull who, by a unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen, was named Wilmington's 10th Town Manager. Jeff begins his tenure as Town Manager on October 1 following nearly 25 years as Wilmington's Assistant Town Manager. Prior to his arrival in Wilmington, Jeff served as the Executive Secretary for the Town of Ayer. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Government from Bryant University and a Master's in Public Administration from Northeastern University.

Widely respected by his colleagues around the state, Jeff is a member of the International City Manager's Association and the MA Municipal Association where he has actively served as a member and chair of numerous professional committees. He is the former Chairman of the MA Municipal Personnel Association and a 2008 recipient of the Emil Skop Award which recognizes outstanding contributions made in the field of municipal human resources management. In 1995, he received the Eugene H. Rooney, Jr. Public Service Award for outstanding achievement in the area of human resources development and training. Jeff is a certified public purchasing official and serves as a management representative to the state's Joint Labor Management Committee.

I am confident that the Town of Wilmington will be well served under Jeff's leadership. He is a skilled, professional municipal manager of unquestionable integrity who will bring energy, innovation and know-how to the position.



There is an old French proverb that says, "Gratitude is the heart's memory." As I conclude my tenure as Town Manager I do so with a profound and heartfelt sense of gratitude for having been afforded such an extraordinary opportunity to serve this wonderful community. It has been my good fortune to have worked with hundreds of talented staff for more than 22 years. I extend my thanks to each of them for their work ethic, their willingness to do more with less and their dedication to duty. I owe a debt of gratitude to the many town officials who willingly give of their time and offer their expertise helping to meet the many challenges inherent in the operation of town government. I thank the businesses who comprise the economic engine for our community and the organizations who ensure its vitality and continually provide for the greater good. Finally, I especially thank the residents who understand as I do just how special Wilmington is and whose citizenry and community spirit ensure that it remains so.

Early in my career as Town Manager, I was asked to write a paragraph that would attempt to summarize the nature or attributes of our Town that make it such a special place. I wrote, "The essence of Wilmington is captured in the spirit of its people. Wilmington is a community that values its children and reveres its seniors. It is a community with a generous heart and an open mind. It is a community that welcomes change but respects tradition. The Town of Wilmington

encourages every resident and every visitor to enjoy the splendor of its resources. We are a community proud of its past and energized by the prospect of a bright and happy future."

My family and I look forward to being a part of that future. Thank you for your kindness and your expressions of good will. It has been a privilege.

## TIME TO GET THE SHOT!

The Flu season is fast approaching and the best way to protect yourself and prevent the spread of this contagious respiratory disease is to get vaccinated.

### Who Should Get the Flu Shot?

Everyone is at risk of catching the flu. Even healthy children and adults can get extremely ill from the flu and spread it to family and friends. It is now recommended that everyone over the age of 6 months receive the flu vaccine. It is especially important for the following groups of people to get vaccinated, either because they have a high-risk of suffering from serious flu-related complications, or they work or live with high-risk individuals. These groups include:

Pregnant women

Children younger than 5, but especially younger than 2

Adults 50 years of age or older

People with chronic medical conditions including, asthma, diabetes, lung disease or a weakened immune system

People living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities

Health care workers, household caregivers and others who live with or care for high-risk persons

### Who Should Avoid the Flu Shot?

You should not receive the flu vaccine if you are sick and have a fever, have an allergy to chicken eggs or have had a severe reaction to past flu vaccinations. If you have questions about whether or not you should receive the vaccine, consult with your physician.

### When Should you Get the Flu Shot?

Get vaccinated as soon as the vaccine becomes available. Getting vaccinated before December is best since this ensures that protective antibodies are in place before the highest period of flu activity. Flu vaccines are offered in many doctors' offices, however if you do not have a regular physician, you can still receive a flu vaccine through your local pharmacy or clinic.

The Board of Health will be holding a **free flu clinic on Saturday October 20 from 9 a.m. – noon at the Town Hall**. Please bring your insurance cards. Visit [www.http://wilmingtonma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/WilmingtonMA\\_Health/index](http://wilmingtonma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/WilmingtonMA_Health/index) for more information.

The School Department will conduct a **flu clinic for children in grades K-12 on Wednesday October 17, 2:30-4:30 at the Wilmington Middle School**. Pre-registration is required. Please visit [www.wilmington.k12.ma.us](http://www.wilmington.k12.ma.us) to download a Flu Clinic Permission Form and to schedule an appointment.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE CORNER OF BURLINGTON AND MAIN?

The short answer is a 108 unit apartment complex. The complex, Metro at Wilmington Station, will have two buildings containing one and two bedroom apartment units as well as two garage buildings located at the rear of the complex. The project was permitted under Chapter 40B of the MA General Laws therefore, 30 of the units will qualify as affordable. This provision of the law allows for a higher density of development when housing is provided for households earning at or below 70% of median income for the Metropolitan Boston Statistical Area as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In addition to enhancing housing diversity for the community at large, there are several other community benefits arising from the project. Water service for the area will be upgraded by looping the water main on Webber Street into the water main on Cedar Street. An easement along Burlington Avenue is to be deeded to the Town for future roadway widening for a turning lane. A perpetual Conservation Restriction is to be placed on over 5 acres of the site to ensure the protection of wetlands including vernal pools. Funds are to be donated to assess and improve the traffic signalization at Main Street, Church Street and Burlington Avenue. An underground crossing from the complex to the train station will be provided to assist pedestrian access to the station.

Building foundations are in and paving is occurring so that the site will be clean and passable during the winter. The buildings will be weather tight by December 1, 2012. Interior work is expected to progress during the winter to meet project completion in May, 2013. Marketing of the project will begin in January 2013. The project owner, EA Fish Development of Braintree, MA, is creating a website specifically marketing this project. The name has yet to be decided but will contain the word "Metro" and is expected to be on-line by the end of October. It is anticipated that there will be direct access through the Town's website as well. A temporary sign announcing the marketing of the project will be located on the site. Applications for affordable units generally take three to four months to process. Consult the website for information or contact the Town's Planning and Conservation Department.

Progress toward providing access to the MBTA station is underway. An easement agreement with the MBTA is being reviewed by attorneys representing both parties. A construction license to do the work was applied for in August and work on the walkway could begin as early as this fall.

## FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Community Teamwork, Inc. Fuel Assistance Program is available to new applicants starting November 1, 2012. Any Wilmington resident 60 years or older who is in need of fuel assistance should contact the Elderly Services Department at 978-657-7595. Wilmington residents who applied last year and are receiving renewal applications in the mail may also call for an appointment. Residents under the age of 60 in need of assistance should contact the Veterans' Agent office in Billerica at 978-671-0968. The income guidelines are as follows:

| <u>Household Size</u> | <u>Maximum Annual Gross Income</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1                     | \$31,271                           |
| 2                     | \$40,893                           |
| 3                     | \$50,515                           |
| 4                     | \$60,137                           |
| 5                     | \$69,759                           |
| 6                     | \$79,381                           |

## NEW ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER NAMED

New Town Manager Jeffrey Hull announced his first appointment naming Kendra Amaral of Stoneham as Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director for the Town of Wilmington. Ms. Amaral was selected from among 63 applicants. She will begin work in Wilmington on October 9th.

Ms. Amaral comes to Wilmington from her position as Deputy Director for Planning and Development for the City of Lowell where she managed project review, permitting and code enforcement for the city. Prior to her position in Lowell she served for more than four years as Chief of Staff in the City of Amesbury overseeing a variety of city wide operations. Ms. Amaral worked in the private sector before entering municipal government service including six years with the Boston Children's Museum where she served as Director of Planning & Research. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Purdue University.

## ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 6 POLLS OPEN 7 AM - 8 PM

The last day to register to vote for the Presidential/State election is Wednesday, October 17, 2012. The Town Clerk's office will remain open on that date until 8:00 p.m. For the convenience of voters and the safety of students, Wilmington Schools will be closed on election day, November 6.

**VOTING ABSENTEE** - Absentee ballots are expected to be available by mid-October. Information on who may vote absentee is available on the Town's website: [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov). Absentee applications may be downloaded and once completed sent to the Town Clerk's office. In accordance with Massachusetts law, college students attending school outside of MA do not need to be a registered voter to obtain an absentee ballot. PLEASE NOTE: This stipulation is only for unregistered students attending school out of state. Students attending school in MA must be a registered voter to obtain an absentee ballot. Contact the Town Clerk's office at 978-658-2030 should you have any questions.

## SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM

The Senior Citizen Work Program offers Wilmington residents the opportunity to work off a portion of their property tax by working part-time for the Town. This year's program will enable the Town to fill a minimum of 24 positions in various school and municipal departments that pay \$8/hour for up to 80 hours of "volunteer" service. Since the program's beginning in 1995, approximately 300 positions have been filled.

The purpose of the program is to assist seniors in reducing their property tax burden. Participants **MUST** be Wilmington residents occupying a house for which property taxes are paid (or spouse of homeowner), have limited financial resources and be 60 years of age or older as of January 1, 2013. Applications are available at the Town Manager's Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 24, 2012.** As in past years, priority will be given to qualified applicants not previously selected for the program. All seniors, regardless of past participation however, are encouraged to apply. Job listings and program information are on the application.

## DON'T MISS SANTA!

Santa and his elves will be welcoming Wilmington boys and girls at **Santa's Workshop** on Thursday, December 6, 6 pm-8 pm at Town Hall. Please bring your cameras. **Breakfast with Santa** is on Saturday, December 1 at the K of C Hall. Pre-purchased tickets from the Recreation Department are required for both seatings, 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Tickets available beginning November 1.

## FALL PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Register for programs online using *Calendar of Events* at [www.wilmlibrary.org](http://www.wilmlibrary.org) or by calling (978) 694-2099 (for Adult) or (978) 694-2098 (for Children/Teen).

### Cast your Penny Vote

The presidential campaign is heating up. Stop by the library during the month of October to cast your penny vote for your favorite candidate. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

### JFK Experience with Mike Lowe

**Thursday, October 4, 7 pm**

The show features Kennedy historian Mike Lowe, who delivers JFK speeches verbatim, answers questions from the audience and hosts an event that includes an historic slideshow, audio narrations and more.

### Protecting the U. S. President

**Thursday, October 11, 7 pm**

Jim McNally, former Wilmington resident, was a Secret Service agent under President George H.W. Bush. Find out how Jim became an agent and hear the inside scoop from someone who has been on the front lines protecting the President of the United States.

### Meet John Adams: A Lively and Revolutionary Conversation with America's Second President

**1797-1801, Monday, October 15, 7 pm**

Portrayed by George Baker, the historical figure of John Adams will talk about his life and times in a humorous and inspiring performance. *Funded by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation.*

### The Electoral College—where's the love?

**Tuesday, October 23, 7 pm**

Michelle Tassinari, Director of the Massachusetts Elections Division, will speak about the history, the importance and the possible changes to the Electoral College.

### E-Readers—Kindles, Nooks and beyond.

**Thursday, November 1, 7 pm - Registration begins October 1**

Curtis Wyant, Technology Librarian, will review the types of e-readers on the market and explain the features unique to each. Curtis will also review the basics of borrowing library e-books.

### iPad—All You Want to Know

**Thursday, November 8, 7 pm - Registration begins October 8**

Do you have an iPad? Are you thinking of buying one? Fred Varano owner of Parts2PCs in Wakefield will demonstrate the power of the iPad from the basics to hidden tips and tricks.

### Basic Video Editing (limit 8)

**Tuesday, November 13, 7 pm - Registration begins October 13**

Brandy Danner, Teen Services Librarian, will show participants how to import files, delete and rearrange sections, and output a finished movie using Microsoft's Movie Maker software. Bring your own files, or use ours to practice.

### Digital Cameras—an Introduction

**Thursday, November 29, 7 pm - Registration begins October 29**

Otha Sonnie, from Hunt's Camera, will talk about the features common to most cameras and explain how they work. Q & A session following presentation.

### After Hours Concert: The New England Tenors

**Friday, December 7, 7 pm**

***Tickets (\$15) on sale Monday, November 5, must be 21+***

Critics have sung the praises of The New England Tenors who delight all with their repertoire of Broadway tunes and timeless classics. This talented trio features John Middleton-Cox, music director of the Burlington Public Schools and music

director of the North Parish Church, Damien Corcoran, member of the Rutgers Opera Workshop and the Amato Opera Company in NYC, and Jeffrey Hartman, who has extensive opera experience and was named the 2011 Wagner Society of New York Award Winner. This show is guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit.

## RECYCLING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM SAVING TAXPAYERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As has been previously published in *Town Topics*, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has been issuing warning stickers to residents who appear to not be participating in the Town's mandatory recycling program. Since beginning the sticker program, the DPW is pleased to announce that Town-wide recycling tonnages have increased by more than 20% and rubbish tonnages have been the lowest in over fifteen years. The recycling rate improvement and related drop in trash tonnages will provide **savings to the taxpayers** of over **\$30,000** this year alone. The Town is appreciative of those residents who have recently started to recycle and especially grateful to those who have always recognized the importance of a strong community recycling program.

Please note that the DPW will continue with its recycling monitoring program by further filtering its list of frequent non-recyclers. As the recycling enforcement program progresses, and in accordance with the Recycling By-law, the Town intends to halt trash collection to those who are observed to be ignoring their obligation to participate in the curbside recycling program.

To receive further information on the Town's mandatory recycling program, including how to recycle, where to obtain recycling containers, and other general information, please contact the DPW office at 978-658-4481 or visit the Town's website at [www.town.wilmington.ma.us](http://www.town.wilmington.ma.us) and click "Public Works" or "Trash and Recycling".

## RECREATION BASKETBALL TURNS 50!

**The registration deadline for Recreation Basketball (Grades 3 – 10) is Thursday, October 11.**

Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year of existence, "WRBL" play begins December 1 – February 9 (There are no games on December 29). Separate league play for boys and girls will consist of 10 Saturday games with weeknight practices. The cost of the program remains at \$75.

**The registration deadline for Junior Basketball (Grades 1 & 2) is Thursday, November 15.**

This six-week co-ed program runs on Saturdays, January 5 – February 9 and costs \$30. *Registration forms for both programs are available on the Town website.*

A **Coaches' Clinic** is being offered on Monday, November 5 or Wednesday, November 14 for anyone in Grade 9 or above interested in coaching to satisfy community service requirements. On Tuesdays, November 6 & 13, the annual **Referee Clinic** will be conducted for anyone age 16 (by 12/31/12) and over interested in a possible paid position for Recreation Basketball. Contact the Recreation office for additional information or to register for these free clinics.

**Employment Opportunity!** The Department is currently taking applications for Basketball Supervisors. Basketball knowledge, communication skills and the ability to work well with children, parents and coaches are requirements. Applicants must be available during the day on Saturdays and on weeknights from 6 – 9 p.m. from December 1 – March 2. Please e-mail Karen Campbell at [kcampbell@town.wilmington.ma.us](mailto:kcampbell@town.wilmington.ma.us) if you are interested.

## FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on October 29 and extend for five weeks through November 30.** Residents should place their yardwaste in biodegradable paper bags or uncovered barrels at curbside on their regular trash collection day.

Residents may also use the recycling center off Old Main Street near the Woburn line for leaves and brush drop-off. **The center will open for 9 weeks on Wednesdays and Saturdays from October 10 through and including December 8.** Hours of operation are Wednesdays, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In order to use the yardwaste recycling facility, residents must purchase a \$15 punch card which is good for five visits to the center. The card may be purchased at the Treasurer/Collector's Office, Room 1, Town Hall. **Wilmington residents only** are allowed to use the facility for leaves and brush drop-off. **NO GRASS CLIPPINGS.** The punch card and an ID must be presented at the entrance. **No contractors or commercial vehicles** are allowed to use the facility.

## ROTARY AUCTION

The annual Wilmington Rotary Club Auction will be held on **Friday, November 16, at the Knights of Columbus Hall** located on Middlesex Avenue behind St. Thomas Church. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the auction starting promptly at 7 p.m. As always, a wide variety of items will be put up for bid. Attendees will enjoy a free buffet, courtesy of Winchester Hospital, cash bar and the chance to participate in the \$10,000 raffle. *Admission is free.* For further information please contact Auction Chair, John Doherty, at 978-658-3805 or visit [www.wilmingtonrotary.org](http://www.wilmingtonrotary.org). Proceeds fund scholarships for Wilmington students, support a blood donor drive and enable partnership programs for municipal and school projects.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| <b>OCT 11</b> | <b>RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE</b>           | Grades 3-10  |
| <b>OCT 14</b> | <b>HARDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE</b>                              | 2 pm to 4 pm                                       |
| <b>OCT 17</b> | <b>SCHOOL BASED FLU CLINIC</b>                               | 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm<br>Middle School<br>Grades K-12 |
| <b>OCT 17</b> | <b>LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION</b> | Town Hall until 8 pm                               |
| <b>OCT 20</b> | <b>TOWN WIDE FLU CLINIC</b>                                  | Town Hall 9 am to noon                             |
| <b>OCT 24</b> | <b>APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM</b>      |  |
| <b>OCT 26</b> | <b>SARAH CARTER COMMITTEE CONCERT</b>                        | Middle School Auditorium 7 pm                      |
| <b>OCT 28</b> | <b>HORRIBLES PARADE</b>                                      | Rotary Park 4:30 pm                                |
| <b>NOV 4</b>  | <b>HARDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE</b>                              | 2 pm to 4 pm                                       |
| <b>NOV 6</b>  | <b>PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION</b>                                 | Polls Open 7 am to 8 pm                            |
| <b>NOV 11</b> | <b>VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY</b>                                | Town Common 11 am                                  |
| <b>NOV 15</b> | <b>JUNIOR BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE</b>               | Grades 1 & 2                                       |
| <b>NOV 16</b> | <b>ROTARY AUCTION</b>  | Knights of Columbus 7 pm                           |
| <b>NOV 17</b> | <b>SENIOR CITIZEN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR</b>                     | Buzzell Senior Center 9 am to 2 pm                 |
| <b>DEC 6</b>  | <b>SANTA'S WORKSHOP</b>                                      | Town Hall 6 pm to 8 pm                             |
| <b>DEC 1</b>  | <b>BREAKFAST WITH SANTA</b>                                  | Seating at Knights of Columbus 8:15 am & 10:15 am  |
| <b>DEC 1</b>  | <b>HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING</b>                                 | Town Common  |
| <b>DEC 2</b>  | <b>HOLIDAY SOCIAL</b>  | Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 pm                        |

## OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS AT HARDEN TAVERN

As part of an Eagle Scout project, Adam Maienza of Boy Scout Troop 56, designed and managed the creation of a hiking trail on the grounds of the Harnden Tavern. Walkers can now enjoy an autumnal hike in the woods behind the Carriage House. The trail winds through a wooded area lined with wood chips to help mark its path. This is a fabulous addition to the Town Museum's recreational offerings. Adam's troop also repaired the wooden fence that separates the yard behind the Tavern from the parking lot and driveway.

An effort is also underway to begin growing hop vines on the property. Wilmington was known in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as a major producer of hops and plans are to exhibit this plant to visitors at the Museum. Through generous donations of plant roots from Joe Gibbons and Monique Jacobs, the Historical Commission is confident that in the near future a thriving hops patch will emerge on the property.

## CARTER COMMITTEE SPONSORS CONCERT

The Sarah Carter Lecture Fund Committee is sponsoring a free concert featuring "The Jolly Rogues". These local musicians will present a concert of Irish music on **Friday, October 26, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Wilmington Middle School.** These free programs, suitable for all ages, have been offered to the Town since 1910. All are welcome.

## DEPARTMENT



## TELEPHONE #

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Accountant            | 694-2029                 |
| Animal Control        | 658-5071                 |
| (Missing/Adoption)    | 658-7845                 |
| 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      |
|                       | <b>(Emergency) 9-1-1</b> |
| 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      |
|                       | <b>(Emergency) 9-1-1</b> |
|                       | (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       |

*This newsletter can be made available in an alternative format. Contact {978} 658-3311 or TTY {978} 694-1417*