

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



Gilbane Construction has taken advantage of the largely favorable summer weather to advance the construction of the new high school. Renovation of the baseball field has been ongoing. Installation of player benches and bleachers are nearing completion and a new irrigation system will be installed this fall. A new stadium press box overlooking the football field has been installed in time for fall football season.

Students from Shawsheen Tech will continue construction of the new concession stand located between the new high school and the football field and track. Roof construction will be completed in the fall with interior work continuing during late fall and winter.

The exterior walls of the high school are nearing completion. The majority of the roof has been installed with roofing over the gymnasium and auditorium scheduled for completion this fall. All major mechanical and electrical equipment is in place. All interior concrete work for slabs and stairs has been completed. Masonry and window installation is 95% complete. Framing and support for the elevated track in the gymnasium has been completed. Installation of the 9/11 Memorial in the courtyard, including lighting of the monument, is complete. Completion of all elements of the auditorium, installation of flooring and carpeting, painting and completion of lighting installation, will occur over the next few months. Training of staff on the proper operations of the various systems including HVAC, security, technology and cafeteria equipment will occur in January and early February 2015.

New sidewalks along Church Street were completed this summer. Installation of curbing and sidewalks around the building will continue into the fall.

Demolition of the existing school will occur in the spring of 2015. The location of the existing high school will become the parking area for staff and students. Site work including drainage, curbing, lighting and construction of the new tennis courts will continue through the summer of 2015 with completion in the fall of 2015. Grading, backfilling and all associated site work will be conducted on the property located off Wildwood Street during late spring and throughout the summer of 2015. A multi-purpose athletic field and small parking area will be completed by late summer 2015. This new natural turf field will be available for use in the spring of 2016.

The project remains on target to be ready for students when they return from February vacation. There is much anticipation over the opening of this new state-of-the-art educational facility and the wait is almost over. Wilmington High School students will soon have a modern flexible learning environment to support learning in the 21st century.

The Yentile Farm Development Committee has scheduled the third and final workshop in the Concept Design Phase for Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilmington Middle School cafeteria. The workshop will help further refine the design through evaluation of the activity areas in the design and their associated costs. The current Concept Design reflects the emerging vision articulated by the residents through surveys and workshops. Once completed, the Concept Design will set the activities and layout for the new facility. The Committee expects to complete concept design by mid-November.

In our ongoing effort to make bill paying more convenient, you can now pay your water bill online. Credit cards are also accepted through online payment. Visit www.wilmingtonma.gov. Online Services.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and extend my thanks for the meaningful contributions of three individuals to the Town of Wilmington. Fire Lieutenant John Brown, who retired at the end of August, served with distinction for over 42 years. His tremendous knowledge of the fire service will be missed. Fire Lieutenant Daniel Hurley, who retired in early September, served with distinction for 32 years, many of those years in fire prevention and fire safety. Assistant Children's Services Librarian Barbara Michaud retired in July after 16 years of cultivating an interest in reading with Wilmington children. Best wishes are extended to each individual.

State elections will be held November 4, 2014. Exercise your right and vote. Too many people around the world are paying a steep price because they cannot choose who governs. Men and women in the United States armed forces are in harms way to defend our right to select who governs. We cannot take that right for granted.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

To all Wilmington real estate taxpayers who may be eligible for a property tax exemption (Veterans, Elderly, Widows/Widowers, Blind, Paraplegics etc) in FY 2015, please be reminded that the Board of Assessors will accept applications starting in October. If you received an exemption for FY 2014 property taxes, an exemption application will be mailed to you by the Assessors' Office in October. By Massachusetts General Law, applications for FY 2015 are due to the Board of Assessors by April 1, 2015 (which is 3 months after the mailing of the actual tax bill on January 1st). The Board then has 3 months to act on the application and may request further information from you regarding your eligibility during that time.

Please remember that filing for an exemption is by ANNUAL application. Your qualifications and status may change year to year as well as the eligibility requirements for certain exemptions.

Senior Exemptions have Age, Ownership, Residency, Income and/or Asset requirements. The FY15 Senior Income requirements for Clause 41C are as follows:

	<u>INCOME LIMIT</u>	<u>ASSET LIMIT</u> (excluding domicile)
SINGLE	\$17,447	\$28,000
MARRIED	\$21,671	\$30,000

For Seniors (over 70) or Surviving Spouse, the Clause 17D FY15 ASSET Requirements may not exceed \$40,000, excluding the domicile. There are NO income requirements for this exemption.

If you apply and qualify for an exemption, the Board will notify you by sending a green Exemption Certificate after the January 1st bill.

The Assessors, in conjunction with the Senior Center, will be offering two workshops, one in October and one in December. These workshops will cover types of exemptions, the application process and the required documentation. For more information you may also review the back of your tax bill which outlines the application filing deadline; visit the Assessor's website to view a brochure that summarizes the exemption qualifications at http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/Pages/WilmingtonMA_Assessor/ex or contact the Assessor's Office at 978-658-3675.

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."



The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

A sincere thank you is extended to our veterans and their families. The Wilmington Department of Veterans' Services invites all the residents of Wilmington to attend, remember and honor all our past and present veterans on **Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. on the Wilmington Town Common.** If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Veterans' Services at 978-694-2040 or veterans@wilmingtonma.gov.

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. Participants earn \$8/hour for up to 80 hours of "volunteer" service. Since the program's beginning in 1995, approximately 344 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, 2015. Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 22, 2014.** 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.

BASKETBALL UPDATES

The registration deadline for Recreation Basketball (Grades 3 – 10) is Thursday, October 2. We are celebrating our 52nd year! This popular program runs from December 1 – February 7 (there are no games/practices December 24 – January 2 or January 19). There are separate leagues for boys and girls. There are 9 Saturday games with weeknight practices. Cost of program is \$75.

The registration deadline for Junior Basketball (Grades 1 & 2) is Thursday, November 13.

This six-week co-ed program runs on Saturdays from January 3 – February 7 and costs \$35.

Registration form for both programs is available on the website and in the Recreation Office.



The **Recreation Department** is currently offering a **Coach Clinic** on Thursday, October 16 or Tuesday, October 21 for anyone in Grade 9 or above interested in coaching to satisfy community service requirements. On Mondays, November 3 & 10, we are offering our annual **Referee Clinic** for anyone age 16 (by 12/1/14) and up interested in a possible paid position for Recreation Basketball. Contact the Recreation Office for additional information or to register for these free clinics.

SAFETY TIPS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



November 2nd is the date to set clocks back one hour. The Fire Department recommends replacing the batteries in all Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors including plug-in and hard-wired types which usually have battery back up in case of power loss.

Carbon Monoxide detectors are required on each habitable level of a home. Detectors must be within ten feet of a bedroom. If an alarm activates on detectors, exit the home and call 9-1-1 for Fire Department response.

Propane Cylinders are not allowed to be stored inside structures.

The Fire Department recommends heating systems be serviced at least once per year by qualified technicians.

Citizens operating wood stoves or pellet stoves should be sure that chimneys are clean and safe prior to use.

Installation of wood and pellet stoves require a permit and inspection by the Building Inspector.

The season for open burning runs from January 15 through May 1. The Fire Department must be called to obtain permission to burn.

For more fire safety information, log on to the Department of Fire Services website at www.mass.gov/dfs.

TRASH AND RECYCLING UPDATE

As has been stated in previous versions of *Town Topics*, the Town's recycling tonnages are continuing to trend in a positive direction. In Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 14), the Town of Wilmington diverted 1,696 tons of recyclable material out of the solid waste stream, resulting in a direct savings to the Town of approximately **\$122,112**.

The *Town Topics* issued in the Spring stated that the Town was trending to meet or exceed our FY 13 Recycling Rate of 16.8%, which was the highest recycling rate for Wilmington on record. The Town of Wilmington is proud to say that we have indeed exceeded our FY 13 Recycling Rate for FY 14 at **17.1%**, creating a new record for the Town! The recycling rate is calculated by dividing the total tonnage of recycling by the total tonnage of recycling and trash together.

In addition to the obvious environmental benefits of recycling, every ton of recycling taken out of the solid waste stream in FY 15 will save the Town approximately \$74. Despite great recycling efforts, many residents of Town are still not maximizing the amount of recyclable material they can present curbside. Please remember that cardboard should be flattened, cut to proper size, bundled and recycled.

With your continued support, the Town of Wilmington will continue to see a rising trend in the recycling rate and thus an increased direct savings to the Town. For general information or to learn how to prepare specific items for recycling, please visit the Town's website at www.wilmingtonma.gov and click on Public Works, or call the DPW at 978-658-4481.



HAUNTED HAPPENINGS



Haunted Woods at Harnden Tavern! Stroll through our Haunted Woods - if you dare! For two weekends, beginning Friday, October 17, the grounds of the Town Museum will host the return of this spooktacular Halloween event. Check the Museum's website for details!



The 47th Annual Horribles Parade is Sunday, October 26 at 4:30 p.m. Participants march from the Public Safety Building to the High School Cafeteria where goodies galore await costumed children.

FALL PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

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

A Supernatural Evening with Jeff Belanger

Thursday, October 2, 7:00 p.m.

Jeff Belanger seeks out ghosts, monsters and legends all over the world and in your backyard. His talk presents highlights from his own adventures, a look at the investigation process and compelling audio and visual paranormal evidence.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Monday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.



Laurie Blair, Developmental Specialist at the Anne Sullivan Center, will discuss steps to take when you have concerns about your child, how to articulate those concerns to pediatricians or others and what resources are available to families.

College Financial Aid Workshop for Teens and Parents

Thursday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.

James Femia, a Certified College Planning Specialist with the National Institute of Certified College Planners, will address the financial aid process and various strategies for paying for college.

The Andrew Sisters Thursday, October 23, 2:30 p.m.

William Sano, a retired educator from the Marblehead Public School System and devoted fan of the 1940's and 50's era, will share stories, history and music of the famed singing sisters.



Wilmington Veterans Tell Their Stories

Thursday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.

Wilmington Veterans' Agent Lou Cimaglia will moderate a panel of Wilmington veterans, who will share their stories of serving in the Armed Forces.

After Hours: All Ages Show and Tell

Friday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.

Bring in a family memento and share a brief story about why you or your family treasures the item, then listen to others tell fascinating tales of their family history.

iRobot STEM Program Monday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.

iRobot, based in Bedford, MA will be bringing some robots to the library. Find out about what they do and the amazing technology that makes them work. Ages 7+

David Boeri: *Bulger on Trial*

Thursday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.



David Boeri, author, radio reporter, writer and former long-time television reporter at WCVB's News Center Five, will be on hand to discuss his e-book *Bulger on Trial: Boston's Most Notorious Gangster and The Pursuit of Justice*.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Community Teamwork, Inc. Fuel Assistance Program is available to new applicants starting November 1, 2014. 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:

Household Size	Maximum Annual Gross Income
1	\$32,618
2	\$42,654
3	\$52,691
4	\$62,727
5	\$72,763
6	\$82,800

POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY

Over the past six months, the Wilmington Police Department has experienced an increase in the number of reports regarding different scams which are affecting residents of Wilmington. Of these current scams, residents have been victims of the IRS Scam, Relative in an Accident Scam, Utility Company Scam and the Arrest Warrant Scam.

The IRS Scam is a sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers. Victims receive a phone call and are told that they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly, through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim does not cooperate they are threatened with immediate arrest and in many cases the caller is hostile or insulting. The IRS will never call threatening arrest, requesting credit card information or payment by pre-paid debit cards. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, you are advised to contact the IRS to verify or report the incident.

The Accident Scam involves a phone call from an unknown person. That person usually tells the victim that a family member (often a grandchild) was involved in a motor vehicle accident. The person often has some information about the relative. The person then demands an immediate payment and the caller threatens physical violence unless an immediate payment is made.

The Utility Company Scam involves a person claiming to be with one of the local utility companies. This scam is generally focused on business customers. The person demands an immediate payment otherwise their utilities will be turned off immediately. The people who try this scam usually have no clue that the local electric company is Reading Municipal Light Department.

The Arrest Warrant Scam involves the victim receiving a phone call from an individual claiming to be a federal agent or with the local Sheriff's Office. The victim is advised that there is an arrest warrant out for them and the caller demands immediate payment otherwise the individual will be arrested.

In all of these scams the perpetrator requests immediate payment to satisfy their demands. They usually request that the victim send them a payment through a wire service or use a pre-paid debit card. The wiring services include Western Union and MoneyGram, while the pre-paid debit cards include Greendot, as well as others.

As the Wilmington Police Department has experienced a significant increase in the amount of ongoing phone scams, you are advised to verify all information before you make payments or give any private information about yourself over the phone.

The Wilmington Police Department is available to do Scam Awareness Presentations throughout the community for any groups that might be interested. If you would like to arrange for a presentation, please contact Lt. Detective Brian Pupa at (978) 657-8082.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Wilmington Police Department at (978) 658-5071. For more information please go to www.wpd.org.

CARTER COMMITTEE SPONSORS CONCERT

The Sarah Carter Lecture Fund Committee is sponsoring a free concert featuring *SoundScape* and *Treblesome* on Friday, October 17, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Wilmington Middle School. Both groups are members of the *Merrimack Valley Chorus*.

These programs, suitable for all ages, have been offered to the Town since 1910. All are welcome.

ROTARY AUCTION

The annual Wilmington Rotary Club Auction will be held on **Friday, November 21, 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. Proceeds fund scholarships for Wilmington students, support a blood donor drive and enable partnership programs for municipal and school projects.



FESTIVAL OF TREES



We're One Wilmington (WOW) will hold their 4th Annual Festival of Trees Saturday, December 6 - Sunday, December 7 at Villanova Hall. You won't want to miss this family-friendly holiday event which includes a one-of-a-kind raffle of holiday trees, wreaths and baskets. Enter to win one or just come enjoy their beauty and listen to musical performances of holiday favorites. Admission is free. Bake goods and refreshments are available for purchase. Money raised is used to support local families during the holidays and to fund the WOW High School Scholarship Program. For more information visit www.onewilmington.org/festival-of-trees.

DON'T MISS SANTA!

Santa and his elves will be welcoming Wilmington boys and girls at **Santa's Workshop** on Thursday, December 4, 6 pm-7:30 pm at Town Hall. Please bring your cameras. **Breakfast with Santa** is on Saturday, December 6 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 October 29.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT 2	RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	Grades 3-10
OCT 5	HARDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE	2 pm to 4 pm
OCT 11	FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE	11 am to 2 pm
OCT 15	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR STATE ELECTION	
OCT 17	SARAH CARTER COMMITTEE CONCERT	Middle School Auditorium 7 pm
OCT 22	APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM	
OCT 23	PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WORKSHOP	Town Hall Auditorium 1 pm
OCT 26	HORRIBLES PARADE	Rotary Park 4:30 pm
NOV 2	HARDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE	2 pm to 4 pm
NOV 4	STATE ELECTION	Polls Open 7 am to 8 pm
NOV 11	VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY	Town Common 11 am
NOV 13	JUNIOR BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	Grades 1 & 2
NOV 21	ROTARY AUCTION	Knights of Columbus 7 pm
NOV 22	SENIOR CITIZEN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR	Buzzell Senior Center 9 am to 2 pm
DEC 4	PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WORKSHOP	Town Hall Auditorium 1 pm
DEC 4	SANTA'S WORKSHOP	Town Hall 6 pm to 7:30 pm
DEC 6	BREAKFAST WITH SANTA	Seating at Knights of Columbus 8:15 am & 10:15 am
DEC 6	HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING	Town Common
DEC 7	HOLIDAY SOCIAL	Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 pm

FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on October 27 and extend for five weeks through November 29.** 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 8 through and including December 6.** 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.

WALK FOR THE SCHOOLS

A walk for the Wilmington Educational Foundation (WEF) will be occurring in all schools, except the high school, on Friday, October 31st. This is a great way to support the schools. Please visit the schools' website (www.wilmington.k12.ma.us) for further information.



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

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