

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk

Samantha Reif began work on August 21st as the Town's new Substance Abuse Program Coordinator. She comes to Wilmington after serving in a similar capacity with the Somerville Police Department focusing on mental health and substance abuse issues. Ms. Reif earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with dual minors in Psychology and Sociology from Syracuse University and recently completed her Master's Degree in Advanced Social Work from Boston University. Ms. Reif will report to the Police Chief and will work with the department as they continue to assist residents struggling with mental health and substance abuse.

In addition to accompanying police officers responding to calls for assistance, Ms. Reif will work with the departments of Elderly Services, Veterans Services and Health while also interacting with the School Department. Her efforts will focus both on assisting the victims of substance abuse and offering referrals to their family members.

The Wilmington Substance Abuse Committee will be hosting a vigil on the Town Common on Thursday, October 5th starting at 6:00 p.m. In addition to providing a remembrance for individuals who struggle or have lost the struggle with substance abuse, the event will all also include speakers. Details on the content are being finalized as this goes to print. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend in support of substance abuse prevention and to take advantage of the opportunities to access resources.

We also welcome Ryan Hale to the Town's Planning and Conservation Office. He replaces Winifred McGowan as the Conservation Agent. Mr. Hale comes to Wilmington with over 13 years of experience in the conservation, wetlands protection, natural resource management and the environmental permitting industries. He attended the State University of New York and earned a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. Mr. Hale holds a Professional Wetlands Scientist certification and is a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists and Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists. Mr. Hale will serve as staff support to the Conservation Commission and assist residents as they seek to navigate the process for obtaining the necessary reviews and determinations for landscaping or construction work that is regulated under the state's Wetland Protection Act.

The Cable T.V. Advisory Committee is expecting to meet before the end of the year to review the terms of a draft cable license with Comcast and submit their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen who serve as the license issuing authority. Cable licensing is governed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the state Department of Telecommunications and Cable.

Water Treatment Plant Operator Cliff Preble will retire in November after serving in the Water Department for 36 years. Mr. Preble is acknowledged for his dedication to overseeing the production of safe, potable water. We wish him a healthy and productive retirement.

When *Town Topics* goes to print we will have just passed the 16th anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11. For those of us who lived through the devastation of that date, the images will forever be seared into our minds. As we struggle with current events that threaten to pull us apart as a nation, perhaps we should be mindful of lives lost and the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives on that day and the days that followed to pull us together.



MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

If you have a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO, PPO), you should have received information from your plan regarding open enrollment. This information explains changes in your plan for 2018. During Medicare Open Enrollment (October 15 to December 7), you will have a chance to **CHANGE** your plan for next year. SHINE Counselors can help you understand your plan, changes and options you may have. To schedule a SHINE appointment, call the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595. Trained SHINE counselors offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of Medicare and related health insurance programs. It is important to bring your Medicare and insurance cards along with a complete list of your medications. Call early to get a SHINE appointment during Open Enrollment. There will be a group presentation on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at the Buzzell Senior Center at 1:00 p.m.



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 for sacrifices made on behalf of freedom.

The Wilmington Department of Veterans' Services invites all the residents of Wilmington to attend, remember and honor all our past and present veterans on **Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. on the Wilmington Town Common**. Participants will assemble at the Fourth of July parking lot at 10:45 a.m. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Veterans' Services at 978-694-2040 or veterans@wilmingtonma.gov.

ANNUAL "GIVING TREE"

The Annual "Giving Tree" will begin November 20th. This is a special tree in the Senior Center lobby holding written ornaments sharing needed gifts for the elders of Wilmington. Feel free to come down and choose an ornament from the tree and bring your wrapped gift back to the center for delivery. If you should know anyone who could benefit from this program, please feel free to contact Terri Marciello or Laura Pickett at the Senior Center. There are no names given out to the public, everything is kept confidential.



SPECIAL HOMEBOUND MEAL

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017 the Department of Elderly Services will provide a Special Homebound Meal for approximately 90 Wilmington residents. This is the Department's way of sharing some holiday cheer with homebound elders. If you are interested in volunteering to deliver the meals, please contact the Buzzell Senior Center.



FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

November 5th 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. Massachusetts Law requires replacement of smoke detectors after 10 years.

The Department of Fire Services reports that heating caused more than **9,995** fires over the past five years and is the number two cause of home fires in Massachusetts. Use your home heating system and space heating appliances wisely and responsibly. That's the way to *Keep Warm and Keep Safe*.

Cover the ABCs of Fire Safety

- * Make sure there are working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level including one outside the bedrooms.
- * Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly and change batteries twice a year.
- * Hold home fire drills to practice the home escape plan.
- * Practice home fire safety and set a good example for the children.

For more information visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/osfm/pubed/fs-topics/keep-warm-keep-safe.html>

SNOWPLOW CONTRACTORS FOR DPW

The DPW is hiring snowplow contractors. Work includes plowing roadways and municipal parking lots. Contractors must meet minimum insurance and equipment requirements. Applications and information are available at the DPW Administration Office, 115 Andover Street, Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call the DPW at 978-658-4481 for more information.



NEW RECREATION PROGRAMS

New programs include **Jurassic Jr.** for budding paleontologists in grades 1-5, a **Gingerbread People** class where children learn to create these classic holiday treats and a **Paint Night** class for adults to paint a beautiful winter river scene. New trips include “**A Tribute to Michael Buble**” to celebrate the holiday season with music and we also have tickets to see “**Waitress**” in February. If an **Alaska Cruise Tour** is on your bucket list, check out our July trip! Call or visit the Recreation Office.

WELCOME TO WILMINGTON RECEPTION

Are you new to Wilmington or have you lived here for a while and wish to know more about the community? Then please stop by Wilmington Memorial Library on Monday, October 16 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Representatives from Town Departments, community groups and local businesses will be on hand to welcome you and answer questions. This program is in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce.

ROTARY AUCTION



The annual Wilmington Rotary Club Auction will be held on **Friday, November 17, 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 and enable partnership programs for municipal and school projects.

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 20 positions in various school and municipal departments. Participants earn \$11/hour for up to 80 hours of “volunteer” service. Since the program's beginning in 1995, approximately **408** 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, 2018. Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 20, 2017.** 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.

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 2018, please be reminded that the Board of Assessors will accept applications starting in October. If you received an exemption for FY 2017 property taxes, an exemption application will be mailed to you by the Assessors' Office in October. By Massachusetts General Law, applications for FY 2018 are due to the Board of Assessors by **April 1, 2018** (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.

Income and Asset Limits change annually, if you have not qualified in the past, you may now qualify.

Senior Exemptions have Age, Ownership, Residency, Income and/or Asset requirements. The FY18 Senior Income requirements for Clause 41C are as follows:

	<u>INCOME LIMIT</u>	<u>ASSET LIMIT</u> (excluding domicile)
SINGLE	\$24,537	\$40,000
MARRIED	\$36,806	\$50,000

For Seniors (over 70) or Surviving Spouse, the Clause 17D FY18 ASSET Requirements may not exceed **\$50,000**, 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' Office will have brochures available explaining the types and qualifications for the various exemptions. For more information you may also review the back of your tax bill which outlines the application filing deadline; visit the Assessors' website to view a brochure that summarizes the exemption qualifications at <https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/assessors-office/pages/exemptions> or contact the Assessors' Office at 978-658-3675.

HAUNTED HAPPENINGS



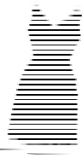
The **50th Annual Horribles Parade** is Sunday, October 29 at 4:30 p.m. Participants march from the Public Safety Building to the High School Cafeteria where goodies galore await costumed children.

PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS Friday, December 8, 7 pm (\$15)

Register at the main desk beginning Monday, November 6

Renowned floral designer Bill Graham brings us a holiday version of his acclaimed presentation, *The Little Black Dress*. Graham creates a variety of fashionable ensembles and floral arrangements, starting with the blank slate of a little black dress. His humorous and fun presentation will leave the audience with dozens of ideas for festive decorating and dressing not to mention many laughs – just in time for the holiday season! Floral arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening.



AFTERNOON PROGRAMS AT WML

Are you newly retired and looking for things to do? The library offers afternoon educational and cultural events of interest to newly retired and older adults. Please register at www.wilmlibrary.org or call 978-658-2967.

Tin Pan Alley Cats with Ken Lelen

Thursday, October 19, 2:30 pm

Vintage guitarist Ken Lelen will take you back in time with the stories and songs of Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Johnny Mercer and more. Ken brings many vintage guitars and plays the music that matches the era of the guitar for an authentic sound.

The Upside of Downsizing Monday, November 6, 2:30 pm

Greg Pavao of Mini Moves and Helene Vecchione, founder of More Than a Move, present the Upside of Downsizing including tips on how to de-clutter and de-stress, moving tips from the pros and how to plan and organize a move to a senior living community.

Savoir Faire Thursday, November 16, 2:30 pm

Vocalist Les Sampou and jazz guitarist Jim Gordon, known collectively as Savoir Faire, bring the American Songbook to life with a unique and sultry take on the classics – the music of Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughn, Diana Krall, Peggy Lee, George Gershwin and Harold Arlen.

Mill Girls Monday, December 4, 2:30 pm

Entrepreneurs sought out independent hard-working farm girls to help fill the labor void during the American Industrial Revolution, creating the largest gathering of young, unmarried, unaccompanied women who earned their own pay. Boston Brahmins, who bankrolled New England's mills inadvertently triggered new social forces that rippled across the country. Presented by author and lecturer Doug Stewart.

Financial Elder Abuse Tuesday, December 19, 2:30 pm

Financial elder abuse is a growing crime in this country. A representative from the Reading Cooperative Bank will provide information on common scams and what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Holiday Music Past and Present

Thursday, December 21, 2:30 pm

Highly acclaimed pianist/composer Deborrah Wyndham shares her own arrangements of various holiday pieces both traditional and popular. With styles ranging from contemporary, classical and jazz to ragtime, sharing interesting facts about the songs and composers.

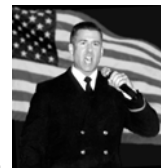
DON'T MISS SANTA!



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

CARTER COMMITTEE SPONSORS CONCERT

The Sarah Carter Lecture Fund Committee is sponsoring a free concert featuring Sgt. Dan Clark, "The Singing Trooper", on Friday, October 13, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Wilmington Middle School.



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

AVOIDING THE FLU

Anyone can get the flu and, most importantly, anyone can give the flu to somebody else. Children can give it to their grandparents; babysitters can give it to newborns; workers can give it to co-workers who may have unknown health problems; and family members can give it to people in their households who may be at risk for serious complications of flu. A mild case of flu for one person may be deadly to another person.

To Prevent The Flu This Year

- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before eating and after going to the bathroom.
- Stay away from people who have a fever and sore throat.
- Stay home if sick.
- Get a flu shot.



RESIDENTIAL ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Wilmington residents may drop off electronics for recycling at the DPW Administration Building, 115 Andover Street, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Proof of residency is required. Please log on to www.wilmingtonma.gov, click on Trash & Recycling or call 978-658-4481 for list of accepted electronics.

CRT MONITORS/TV'S ARE NOT ACCEPTED AT THE DROP OFF LOCATION. To schedule pick up of a TV or computer monitor, residents must purchase a sticker (\$10 each) at the Treasurer/Collector's Office at the Town Hall.

HAUNTED WOODS

IT'S BACK! After a year hiatus, the Haunted Woods returns this October – scary clowns, the evil butcher, a cursed classroom and other horrors await those who dare to stroll through our haunted forest. For two weekends, beginning Friday, October 20, the grounds of the Town Museum will host the return of this spooktacular Halloween event. Check the Museum's website for more details in October.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you love the winter holidays? Would you have fun festooning an old house with vintage holiday décor? The Town Museum is looking for volunteers, starting in November, to help prepare the Harnden Tavern for this year's Holiday Social. Contact the Museum at 978-658-5475 or e-mail us at htavern@wilmingtonma.gov

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Wilmington's nonprofit organization, We're One Wilmington (WOW), will hold their 7th Annual Festival of Trees Saturday December 2-Sunday December 3 at Villanova Hall, 126 Middlesex Ave. You won't want to miss this spectacular family-friendly holiday event, which includes a one-of-a-kind raffle of holiday trees, wreaths and baskets. Enter to win one of these amazing trees or just come enjoy their beauty and listen to holiday musical performances. Admission is free. Bake goods and refreshments are available for purchase. Proceeds benefit WOW. For more information visit www.onewilmington.org/festival-of-trees.

FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on October 23 and extend for five weeks through November 25.** Residents should place their yardwaste in biodegradable paper bags or uncovered barrels at curbside on their regular trash collection day. Yardwaste in plastic bags will not be accepted.

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 4 through and including December 2.** 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.



TRASH AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

Residents are reminded to have their Trash and Recycling placed curbside by **6:30 am** on their collection day. Once trash and recycling have been collected, residents should pull their barrels off of the street.

Russell Disposal Phone Numbers:

- * Missed Trash or Recycling Collection: 617-776-5854
- * Order Additional Trash & Recycling Barrels: 617-776-5127
- * Schedule a Bulk Item Pickup: 617-776-5854

Every residence is allowed to dispose of one bulky item each week. Bulky items include, but are not limited to, sofas, chairs, bureaus, bicycles, mattress and box spring, gas grill (no propane) and tables. To arrange for pick up of a bulky item, call Russell Disposal by 11 am on Thursday. Bulky items are picked up on Fridays.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Community Teamwork, Inc. Fuel Assistance Program is available to new applicants starting November 1, 2017. 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	\$34,380
2	\$44,958
3	\$55,537
4	\$66,115
5	\$76,693
6	\$87,272

The **Recreation Department** is currently offering a **Coach Clinic** on Tuesday, October 3 or Wednesday, October 11 for anyone in Grade 9 or above interested in coaching to satisfy community service requirements. On November 7 & 14, we are offering our annual **Referee Clinic** for anyone age 16 (by 12/1/17) and up interested in a possible paid position for Recreation Basketball. Register online or contact the Recreation Office for additional information or to register for these free clinics.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 1 HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 pm to 4 pm
- OCT 5 CANDLELIGHT VIGIL** Town Common 6 pm
- OCT 5 RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 3-8
- OCT 20 APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM**
- OCT 13 SARAH CARTER COMMITTEE CONCERT** Middle School Auditorium 7 pm
- OCT 29 HORRIBLES PARADE** Rotary Park 4:30 pm
- NOV 5 HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 pm to 4 pm
- NOV 9 JUNIOR BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 1 & 2
- NOV 11 VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY** Town Common 11 am
- NOV 17 ROTARY AUCTION** Knights of Columbus 7 pm
- DEC 7 SANTA'S WORKSHOP** Town Hall 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- DEC 2 HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING** Town Common
- DEC 2- WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON**
- DEC 3 FESTIVAL OF TREES** St. Thomas Villanova Hall
- DEC 3 HOLIDAY SOCIAL** Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 pm

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