

# Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

## From the Manager's Desk

As has been widely publicized, communities across the state and across the country are seeing upward pressures on recycling costs due to a significant reduction in the market for recyclable material. Effective January 1, 2018, China invoked the "National Sword" policy which dramatically reduced the amount of recyclables including plastics and paper that China would import from other countries. Part of their rationale for this restriction are claims that the recyclable material being received had a higher than acceptable level of contamination or non-recyclable content.

Since China has been such a significant importer of recyclable material, this policy change has posed major challenges and costs for moving recyclable material. Some material recovery facilities (MRFs) have been forced to stockpile material in the hopes that the demand for recyclables will rebound. Some markets still exist for recyclables in places like Vietnam, Indonesia and India, however, these countries cannot offset the capacity shortfall created when China left the market.

The challenges that the Town has faced with increased costs for processing recyclables at the MRF in Charlestown has raised the question amongst some: *Why continue to place paper, plastics and metals into recycling barrels?*

The short answer is that it's the law. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection requires that municipalities establish mandatory recycling programs. Additionally, Chapter 5, Section 2A of the *Town of Wilmington Inhabitant By-laws, Revised* states that "residents of every household are required to separate recyclable material from the solid waste stream and to deposit the material for collection as prescribed by rules and regulations as may be established by the Board of Selectmen."

There are clearly multiple benefits to keeping material out of the trash waste stream. Recycling creates the opportunity to reconstitute the materials in a new form that can be used for another purpose and avoids incinerating or burying the material. Recycling reduces the demand for landfill space. Generally speaking, recycling is more environmentally friendly than the alternative.

The Town has a contract for disposal of trash/refuse at the Wheelabrator North Andover waste-to-energy facility located off Interstate 495. Inclusion of items deemed to be recyclable in the refuse stream are not permissible. Each refuse vehicle entering the facility is subject to inspection. Depending upon the amount of recyclable material found mixed in with the trash, the community from which the truck originated may receive a letter placing the community on notice about the infraction. A greater amount of recyclable material mixed in with trash, or a high frequency of such episodes, could result in the load of material being rejected. Such a circumstance would increase the Town's refuse disposal costs as it would become necessary to identify another disposal facility to accept the material for disposal.

Finding markets for recyclables is a national, and international, challenge. However, these market conditions should not lead us to abandon longstanding efforts to reduce what we consume, reuse what cannot be consumed and recycle what cannot be



reused. The Town of Wilmington has come a long way over the past thirty years when the first voluntary recycling drop-off program was established at the current yard waste center in south Wilmington.

Residents with questions about the Town's recycling program are encouraged to contact the Public Works Department at 978-658-4481.

Linda Cerullo was hired by the Town in 1986 to serve as the administrative secretary in the Fire Department. During her nearly 32 years of service Ms. Cerullo has faithfully and professionally supported the efforts of five (5) Fire Chiefs. Linda retired in August. I thank her for her service to the Fire Department and to the community and wish her many years of healthy and prosperous retirement.

## 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 **Sunday, November 11, 2018 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.

The **Recreation Department** is currently offering a **Coach Clinic** on Tuesday, October 2 or Thursday, October 4 for anyone in Grade 9 or above interested in coaching to satisfy community service requirements. On Tuesdays, November 1 & 8, we are offering our annual **Referee Clinic** for anyone age 16 (by 12/1/18) 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.

## CARTER COMMITTEE SPONSORS CONCERT

The Sarah Carter Lecture Fund Committee is sponsoring a free concert featuring "Counterfeit Cash" on **Friday, October 12, 2018 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.





## HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

**The 51st Annual Horribles Parade** is Sunday, October 28 at 4:30 p.m. Participants march from the Public Safety Building to the High School Cafeteria where goodies galore await costumed children.

## WILMINGTON MEMORY CAFÉ

We are excited to announce the opening of the **Wilmington "Our Moment" Café** on **Wednesday, October 17, 2018**. What is a Memory Café? A Memory Café is a special gathering place for those dealing with memory loss and their caregivers. The "Café" gives the person with memory loss and their caregiver the opportunity to socialize, participate in an activity and make new friends in a welcoming environment. "Our Moment" Café will meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Building. If you have any questions, contact Terri Marciello, Director of Elderly Services, or Laura Pickett, Case Manager, at 978-657-7595.



## HOMESTEAD SEMINAR

Register of Deeds Richard P. Howe, Jr. will present a free Homestead Seminar on **Thursday, October 11, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.** at the Buzzell Senior Center. Recording a Declaration of Homestead at the Registry of Deeds protects your home from creditors. Register Howe will explain how this valuable law works and will have blank Homestead forms for anyone who wishes to file one (the recording fee is \$35, cash or check). He will also discuss and answer questions about common real estate issues such as trusts, joint ownership of property and mortgages. Please sign up by calling 978-657-7595 or drop by the center.

## WILMINGTON HAS TALENT – HOLIDAY ADDITION

Wilmington High School Auditorium

Produced by Audrey Reed

**Sunday, November 25, 2018**

**2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Tickets (\$7.00) will be sold at the door or in advance at the Buzzell Senior Center. All proceeds will benefit our Wilmington High School Scholarship.

## 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](mailto:htavern@wilmingtonma.gov)

## 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 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 **430** 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, 2019. Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 26, 2018.** 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.

## 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.

## FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

November 4th 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.



## PROTECT YOUR PIPES



As the colder weather approaches, residents are encouraged to review items around their home that need to be protected from freezing, especially water pipes and meters. Failure to properly prepare for the winter months can lead to freeze-ups, which leave residents without water. Since freeze-ups typically occur in the basement, it is important to eliminate cold drafts by securely closing windows and doors along with filling gaps with expandable foam insulation. Wrapping vulnerable pipes with pipe insulation is another step that helps to prevent freeze-ups. These maintenance items are inexpensive and may be purchased at any home improvement store. A few minutes of prevention this fall can save you from real troubles when the snow flies. Please take a moment to check these items in addition to winterizing your sill cocks, garden hoses and sprinkler systems before the holiday season.

## ANNUAL "GIVING TREE"

The Annual "Giving Tree" will begin November 21st. 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 by December 19 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.



## PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

### Annual Reception for Newcomers and Neighbors

**Monday, October 15, 6 pm - 8 pm**

Are you new to Wilmington or have you lived here for a while and wish to know more about the community? Please come to the Wilmington Open House Reception. Representatives from Town Departments, community groups, youth groups and local businesses will be on hand to welcome you and answer questions. This drop-in program is in collaboration with the Wilmington-Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce.

### ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE EVENTS

In collaboration with the Wilmington Sons of Italy, the library is celebrating Italian American Heritage Month in October. You can register for the following programs at [www.wilmlibrary.org](http://www.wilmlibrary.org).

#### The Boston Italians: Author Steve Puleo

**Thursday, October 4, 7 pm**

Stephen Puleo will be speaking about his book *The Boston Italians: A Story of Pride, Perseverance, and Paesani, from the Years of the Great Immigration to the Present Day*.

#### Italian Trattoria: Classic Flavors from an Italian Café

**Tuesday, October 9, 7 pm**

Chef Liz Barbour will prepare two classic Trattoria dishes and offer tips about how to keep your meal preparation simple and flavorful. Samples will be served.

#### Boston's North End: an Italian American Story

**Thursday, October 11, 7 pm**

Enjoy the 62-minute film, *Boston's North End: an Italian American Story*, a production of the North End Historical Society. Dr. James Pasto, co-founder of the North End Historical Society, will host a Q & A after the show.

#### Cemetery Walk

**Saturday, October 13, 10 am**

In honor of Italian Heritage Month, Terry McDermott, Town Curator, will lead the stroll through the Wildwood Cemetery while also pointing out the graves of a few of the Town's more well-known Italian residents.

#### Italian Genealogy

**Saturday, October 20, 2:30 pm**

Learn practical and proven strategies for researching your Italian family history. Led by Jenny Tonks, who held an Accredited Genealogist® credential for Italian research for two decades. She is fluent in Italian and holds a BA in Family History-Genealogy from Brigham Young.

#### After Hours Concert: An Evening of Italian Music

**Friday, October 26, 7 pm (21+, tickets \$15)**

Marshall Ames Richards, better known as the Boston Opera Guy, will perform an array of Italian songs and opera arias, as well as sacred music and well-loved standards.

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

Wilmington's nonprofit organization, We're One Wilmington (WOW), will hold their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees Saturday December 1-Sunday December 2 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](http://www.onewilmington.org).

### 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-7:30 pm at Town Hall. Please bring your cameras.



## RECREATION NEWS

Our new programs include **Superhero Science** where children in grades 1 – 3 will learn how some superpowers are possible from a scientific point of view. We will also feature a **Pumpkin Waffles** class where children in grades 3 – 6 will learn to create these popular seasonal breakfast items and an **“Off and Running”** class for adults where they will work with an experienced running instructor. New trips include tickets to see **“School of Rock”** in February at the Boston Opera House. To cap off our featured list of trips, we are offering a **“Northeast Historical Tour”** which includes visits to NYC, Gettysburg, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and more.

## WALK FOR THE SCHOOLS

In honor of the late Joanne Benton, former Superintendent of Schools, the Wilmington Educational Foundation (WEF) has officially renamed the WEF Walk after Mrs. Benton. She created this fundraising event which has become a tradition in our schools. The walk reinforces the Wilmington Public School's belief in physical activity, healthy eating, nutrition and physical education for all students' academic success.

What is WEF? The Wilmington Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to supporting innovation and excellence in the Wilmington Public Schools. Our goal is to enhance and increase educational opportunities for all Wilmington students by providing funds for innovative programs that are not otherwise funded through the school budget.

This K - 5 fitness walk has become the largest fundraiser supporting WEF and the many grant programs WEF offers every year. Students were given a sponsor sheet are encouraged to ask family and friends to sponsor them in this walk. They are invited to wear Halloween costumes, favorite sports team shirts or orange and black colors for the walk. Each school will conduct the walk on Wednesday, October 31. In the event of rain, the walk will be held Friday, November 2.

For more information, please visit the Wilmington Educational Foundation's site: <http://www.wilmingtonedfoundation.org>

## HAUNTED WOODS

IT'S BACK! 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 19, 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.

## 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.





## FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on November 5 and extend for five weeks through December 8.** 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 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.



## TRASH AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

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

Please **DO NOT** include plastic bags in the recycling barrel. All soft plastics such as grocery bags, dry cleaning wraps, bread and produce bags, food storage bags and case wraps (plastic surrounding a case of water, a package of diapers or paper towels) must be kept out of your recycle container. Plastic grocery bags can be returned to the supermarket for recycling and other soft plastics may be disposed of in your trash.

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 a.m. on Thursday. Bulky items are picked up on Fridays.

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

### 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

## FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Community Teamwork, Inc. Fuel Assistance Program is available to new applicants starting November 1, 2018. 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	\$35,510
2	\$46,437
3	\$57,363
4	\$68,289

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 4 RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 3-8
- OCT 12 SARAH CARTER COMMITTEE CONCERT** Middle School Auditorium 7 pm
- OCT 14 HARVEST FESTIVAL** Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 pm
- OCT 26 APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM**
- OCT 28 HORRIBLES PARADE** Rotary Park 4:30 pm
- NOV 4 HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 pm to 4 pm
- NOV 8 JUNIOR BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 1 & 2
- NOV 11 VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY** Town Common 11 am
- NOV 16 ROTARY AUCTION** Knights of Columbus 7 pm
- DEC 6 SANTA'S WORKSHOP** Town Hall 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- DEC 1 HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING** Town Common
- DEC 1- WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON**
- DEC 2 FESTIVAL OF TREES** St. Thomas Villanova Hall
- DEC 2 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
	<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



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