

# Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

## From the Manager's Desk



Residents may recall that the Town completed a review of its buildings to assess their condition and prepare recommendations for expansion, renovation or replacement. Facilities that “house” primary Town operations range in age from the remodeled “little” West School constructed in 1790, to the 1955 Wildwood School up to the Public Safety Building which was opened in 2001. The middle school and high school were not included in the study. The Facilities Master Plan presented a recommended schedule for a sequenced building upgrade or replacement to insure that personnel who are responsible for the primary functions of town government and education can operate in spaces that are accessible to individuals of all abilities, that are energy efficient, capable of handling technology required in today’s work and education environment and offers the space required for programs, meetings and document retention.

On September 30, 2019 at the Wildwood School members of the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee, the Finance Committee and the Facilities Master Plan Committee held a joint meeting in open session to begin discussions on how to address the Town’s facilities needs within the limits of the Town’s financial resources. The expectation is that additional meetings will be required over the course of the next several months to reach consensus on a path forward. Members of the public are encouraged to attend these meetings to ask questions and offer perspectives on prioritizing projects.

Decisions must consider impacts to services and facility location. Before committing to additional school renovation or construction a decision must be made about whether to retain the existing grade configuration: pre-kindergarten/ kindergarten, grades 1 to 3, grades 4 and 5. Relocating one municipal building creates opportunities for use of that site for other municipal purposes. In short, there are many moving parts.

The Town is mindful of residents’ ability to pay. We must develop consensus around a multi-year approach to upgrade Town/School Buildings. Failure to act has its own consequences. A constructive dialogue is needed if we are to reach the point where we can have “shovels in the ground.”

Over the summer months four dedicated Town employees have decided to “exit stage left.” Robert Gearty, Custodial Supervisor in the high school served over 37 years; Joseph Sciarappa, Public Works Equipment Operator served nearly 34 years; Paul Chalifour served 33 years as a Patrol Officer and Mary Leard served over eight years as senior clerk in the Public Works Department. They are extended a sincere “thank you” for their commitment to the Town and hopes for a healthy and productive retirement.

As the days get shorter it reminds me that another year is quickly drawing to a close. In the words of George Will “The future has a way of arriving unannounced.” Take a moment to be in the moment and enjoy the here and now.

## 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 452 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, 2020. Applications are available in the Town Manager’s Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 25, 2019.** 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.

## CARTER COMMITTEE SPONSORS CONCERT

The Sarah Carter Lecture Fund Committee is sponsoring a free concert celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock and featuring “**Workingman’s Band**” on **Friday, October 18, 2019 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.

The **Recreation Department** is offering a **Referee Clinic** on Mondays, October 28 & November 4, for anyone age 16 (by 12/1/19) 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.

## 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 **Monday, November 11, 2019 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.



## HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

**The 52nd Annual Horribles Parade** is Sunday, October 27 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



The Department of Elderly Services is thrilled to announce that we will be celebrating our one year anniversary of our memory café, "Our Moment Café" in October 2019. A memory café is a special gathering place for those dealing with memory loss and for their care partners. The Café gives the person with the memory loss and their care partners the opportunity to socialize, participate in a new activity and to make new friends in a welcoming environment. We have had consistent attendance from day one from a wonderful group of enthusiastic participants. We could not have had such a great start without the support of so many. Thank you to our Selectmen and Town Manager for helping to ensure that our café got off the ground. A thank you to WOW and Assisting Hands Home Care for their financial support; to Community Liaison Officer Paul Chalifour for his ability to secure special parking spaces in the student parking lot and for his eagerness to jump right in to whatever activity was planned; and to Lori Hayes, RN, for assisting in the planning of each café and for her warm smile that welcomed each participant every month. We look forward to continuing to offer diverse activities and programs at "Our Moment Café" in the coming year.



## PROTECT YOUR EYES AS YOU "MATURE"

As you get older your risk for developing age-related eye diseases and conditions increases and may occur with little or no warning signs. The good news is that if diagnosed early, many eye conditions can be effectively treated and can reduce your chances of developing complications and/or vision loss. Join Reena Gupta, M.D., Ophthalmologist from the Boston Eye Group in Andover, at the Buzzell Senior Center on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 from noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch and an informative presentation. Together we will discuss how to effectively prevent, diagnose and treat common eye diseases and conditions such as dry eye, cataracts and macular degeneration. Reserve your seat by calling the Buzzell Senior Center at 978-657-7595.

## 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.

## PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

By Massachusetts General Law, applications for FY 2020 are due to the Board of Assessors on or before April 1, 2020. The Board has 3 months to act on the application and may request further information from you regarding your eligibility during that time.

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 change annually. Income and Asset Limits also 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 FY20 Senior Income requirements for Clause 41C, which is a \$500 exemption, are as follows:

	<u>INCOME LIMIT</u>	<u>ASSET LIMIT</u> (excluding domicile)
SINGLE	\$24,758	\$40,000
MARRIED	\$37,137	\$50,000

For Seniors (over 70) or Surviving Spouse, the Clause 17D FY20 ASSET Requirement may not exceed \$50,000, excluding the domicile. There are NO income requirements for this exemption and it is a \$180.78 exemption.

If you apply and qualify for an exemption, the Board will notify you by sending a green Exemption certificate after the January 1st tax 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 or visit the Exemption section of the Assessors' webpage or contact the Assessors' Office at 978-658-3675.

## 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.

## 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 December 2nd. 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 18 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

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).

### WELCOME TO WILMINGTON RECEPTION

**Monday, October 21, 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? Then please come to the Welcome to Wilmington Reception. 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 Wilmington-Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce.

### HEALTHY AGING

Over the next ten months, the WML will be presenting programs on healthy aging supported by federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

**HEALTHY AGING KICKOFF: Saturday, November 2, 2:30 pm**

#### THE MEMORY LANERS CONCERT AND SOCIAL

*The Memory Laners* sing songs from the 50s and 60s--Roy Orbison, The Righteous Brothers, Elvis Presley, Sonny and Cher and many others. Join us for a stroll down the magical eras of music. Attending cultural events and listening to music enhances biological functions and reduces social isolation, so plan to attend and start your healthy aging journey!

**IMPROV FOR HEALTHY AGING Monday, November 4, 2:30 pm**

In this workshop presented by Meredith Charles from Drama Out of the Box, participants will learn and practice improvisation activities and techniques that will help to improve expressive language skills as well promote faster thinking and decrease stress. Research has shown that learning improv can help "retrain" the brain to actively listen, communicate more effectively, be more open to ideas, as well as work collaboratively.

**DR. TOM PERLS: LIVING TO 100 Thursday, November 7, 7 pm**

How do you live to be 100? Find out from Dr. Tom Perls, who is among the international leaders in the field of human exceptional longevity. He is founder and director of the New England Centenarian Study, the largest study of centenarians and their families in the world. He is also co-author of *Living to 100: Lessons in Living to Your Maximum Potential at Any Age*.

**HEALTHY AGING TED TALKS Monday, November 18, 10 am**

Join with others to watch and discuss two short TED Talks: *How to Live Passionately No Matter Your Age* with author Isabel Allende and *Life's Third Act* with Jane Fonda. Coffee and refreshments served.

### MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

If you have a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO, PPO), you should have received information from your plan in September. This information explains changes in your plan for 2020. During Medicare Open Enrollment (October 15 - December 7), you will have a chance to CHANGE your plan for next year. SHINE Counselors can help you understand your plan changes, as well as other options you may have. An informational session will be held Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Buzzell Senior Center to further explain your options and ask questions directly to the Regional Shine Director. Trained SHINE volunteers offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of Medicare and Medicare-related health insurance programs. To schedule a SHINE appointment, call the center at 978-657-7595.

## RECREATION NEWS

Saturdays in the fall are filled with children's programs such as "Watch Me Play", Kinder Basketball, Viking Soccer, Pottery Plus and Yoga Play. Popular programs such as Babysitter Training, Forensic Fun, "Do You Believe in Magic?", Kids Test Kitchen and Pasta Making 101 are all returning. We have several adult craft classes to prepare for the holidays. For adults, we have two stencil projects and the ever popular Boxwood Tree Class.



Two theatre trips on the schedule: Tina Fey's "Mean Girls" at the Opera House on January 30 and "Jersey Boys" at the Colonial on March 19. There are two opportunities to take in the sights in New York City this fall - Saturdays, October 19 and December 7. In March when you are ready to cast winter aside, consider a trip to the Villa Roma Resort in upstate New York for fun, games, relaxation and entertainment.

Our complete newsletter is on the town's website at [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov).

### 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.

### FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

November 3rd 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.



### DON'T MISS SANTA!



Santa and his elves will be welcoming Wilmington boys and girls at **Santa's Workshop** on Thursday, December 5, 6 pm-7:30 pm at Town Hall. Please bring your cameras.

### FESTIVAL OF TREES

Wilmington's nonprofit organization, We're One Wilmington (WOW), will hold their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees Saturday December 7-Sunday December 8 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).

## FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on November 4 and extend for five weeks through December 7.** 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 9 through and including December 7.** 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, 2019. 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	\$37,360
2	\$48,885
3	\$60,351
4	\$71,846

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 3 RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 3-8
- OCT 6 HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 pm to 4 pm
- OCT 18 SARAH CARTER COMMITTEE CONCERT** Middle School Auditorium 7 pm
- OCT 25 APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM**
- OCT 27 HORRIBLES PARADE** Rotary Park 4:30 pm
- NOV 3 HARNDEN TAVERN OPEN HOUSE** 2 pm to 4 pm
- NOV 7 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 5 SANTA'S WORKSHOP** Town Hall 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- DEC 7 HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING** Town Common
- DEC 7- WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON**
- DEC 8 FESTIVAL OF TREES** St. Thomas Villanova Hall
- DEC 8 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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