

Town Topics

A municipal newsletter for the Wilmington community

From the Manager's Desk



Residents are strongly encouraged to attend the **Special Town Meeting** to be held on Saturday, **November 19, 2022** at the Wilmington High School Joanne Benton Auditorium at 9:00 am. As of this writing, the estimated cost for a new 43,895 square foot town/school administration building is \$37,305,766 and the cost for a new 18,208 square foot senior center is \$17,264,561. These are the only matters on the Special Town Meeting warrant.

The **Finance Committee** will conduct its public hearing on **Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm** in the Town Hall auditorium to receive a presentation about these two requests for funding. Residents will be able to hear details about these building projects and have their questions answered.

Both projects will be paid for within the Town's tax levy limit meaning there will be **no** override of Proposition 2 ½ and no request for a debt exclusion from the levy limit. The projects will be financed through a combination of borrowing and use of financial reserves.

The Town Hall and the School Superintendent's Office are repurposed buildings not designed for their current use. The buildings lack energy efficient heating systems, lack full accessibility to our population with mobility challenges, lack adequate storage capacity for vital records and lack meeting space. In the absence of voting to construct a new building, funds will be needed to repair and add on to the Town Hall. Costs will be incurred to relocate personnel from the School Superintendent's Office.

The senior population (age 60 and over) was 4,045 in 2010 and increased to 6,014 in 2020 and is projected to be 7,979 in 2030. Holding events like exercise classes, craft classes and caregiver classes simultaneously is constrained by the lack of function space. Seniors, or their family members, need the ability to have confidential conversations with the Director or Case Manager about personal matters. The 8,300 square foot Buzzell Senior Center cannot meet the growing demand for programs and services.

The 2018 Facilities Master Plan 2018 identified numerous public buildings that require attention. It is time to take concrete steps to implement that plan. A "no" vote will only delay the inevitable and require residents at a future time to expend a much greater sum to address these buildings.

Recognition is offered to two employees of the Public Buildings Department who will be retiring before the end of the year. Custodial Supervisors John Gerhartz and David Flibotte have served the Town for a combined total of 68 years. Best wishes to both gentlemen as they engage in their next pursuits.

School is in full swing and students are once again early to the bus stops anxiously awaiting their "magic school bus." With daylight hours growing shorter we need to all watch our speeds and be attentive to parents and children waiting at the side of the roads. Be safe.

WATER CONSERVATION

Due to warmer than normal temperatures this past summer and the lack of adequate rainfall, most of Massachusetts continues to be in Critical Drought Status. To help conserve water, residents are reminded that the following water restrictions continue to be in place:

No outdoor watering allowed between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. In the case of sprinkler systems, both above ground and installed underground systems **may only be used once per week**, subject to the hours above. Other outside water use is restricted to hand held hoses only. Failure to follow the water use restriction may result in a minimum \$50.00 per day fine.

In addition to the above restriction, the Wilmington Water Division maintains a water conservation program to help remind residents how to conserve our valuable resource. Remember, not only is water conservation important from an environmental perspective, but as the Town continues to rely more heavily on supplemental supply from MWRA, those costs are ultimately passed on to the consumer in subsequent budget years. Saving water saves you money.

To view our program, learn about our conservation efforts, obtain water-saving and money-saving tips, learn how to perform your own water leak audit on toilets and faucets and other useful information, visit the Town's water conservation page.



NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR MATTRESS AND TEXTILE DISPOSAL

MassDEP regulations PROHIBIT mattresses / box springs and textiles (clean clothing, shoes, curtains, other fabric items) from being thrown away in the municipal trash stream and are now REQUIRED to be recycled.

Starting November 1, 2022, there will be a \$10 fee for each mattress or box spring and stickers can be purchased at the Treasurer/Collector's office at Town Hall, similar to the procedure for obtaining a White Goods / CRT sticker.

Textiles can be disposed of at Textile Recycle Bins located in the parking lots of any of the 8 Wilmington Public Schools. Wilmington Public Schools receives \$100 for every ton of textiles being recycled. As always, consider donating clean and gently worn clothing to area donation facilities.

Please see <http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/trash-recycling> for further information regarding the Trash and Recycling Collection Program.

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 **Friday, November 11, 2022 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.



COVID BOOSTER Q & A

HOW ARE THE NEW BOOSTERS DIFFERENT?

They are combination or "bivalent" shots that contain half the original vaccine that has been used since December 2020 and half protection against today's dominant omicron versions, BA.4 and BA.5. It is the first update to COVID-19 vaccines cleared by the Food and Drug Administration.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Updated new booster shots made by Pfizer and its partner, BioNTech, are authorized for anyone 12 and older, and Moderna's version is only for adults. They are to be used as a booster for anyone who has already had their primary vaccination series from any one of the original vaccinations (J & J, Moderna, Pfizer) and regardless of how many boosters they've already gotten.

WHAT IF I JUST GOT A BOOSTER? HOW LONG SHOULD I WAIT TO GET THIS UPDATED ONE?

I would advise waiting at least three months for this new Booster. If you wait a little longer, say 6 months, you get a better immunologic response.

WHAT IF I RECENTLY RECOVERED FROM COVID-19?

It is still important to get vaccinated, even if you have already been infected, but timing matters here, too. The CDC has long told people to defer vaccination until they've recovered but also that people may consider waiting for three months after recovering to get a vaccination. Several CDC advisers say waiting the three months is important, both for potentially more benefit from the shot and to reduce chances of a rare side effect, heart inflammation, that sometimes affects teen boys and young men.

CAN I GET A NEW COVID-19 BOOSTER AND A FLU SHOT AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes, one in each arm.

WHAT IF I WANT TO WAIT?

People at high risk from COVID-19 are encouraged to get the new booster when they are due. BA.5 is still spreading widely and hospitalization rates in older adults have increased since spring. According to the CDC, most Americans eligible for an updated booster have gone at least six months since their last shot, plenty of time that another shot should trigger a good immune response.

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.



Contamination levels in recycling have become a serious issue with recycled materials. Residents continue to include items that are not recyclable such as diapers, wood, gas jugs, paint cans, garden hoses, lights, party supplies (disposable dinnerware) and, **worst of all, plastic bags of any kind**. These items and others cannot be placed in recycling receptacles. Due to the current depressed recycling market conditions, there is zero tolerance for any unacceptable items without financial consequences for the Town. 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. We want all to be aware of these facts to help with keeping Wilmington green and minimize the escalating costs for solid waste disposal.

Casella Phone Number: 1-800-Casella (1-800-227-3552)

Call this number for missed trash/recycling collection or to schedule a bulk item pickup. Every residence is allowed to dispose of **one** bulk item at a time. Bulk items include but are not limited to sofas, chairs, bureaus, tables and until October 31, mattresses and box springs.

Please see <http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/trash-recycling> for further information regarding the Trash and Recycling Collection Program.

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

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

November 6th 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.



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.

FALL PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

WELCOME TO WILMINGTON RECEPTION

Whether you are a new resident or have lived in town for years, you are invited to drop in on Monday, October 17, 2022 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Wilmington Memorial Library for our annual reception for new residents. Registration encouraged. Meet representatives from town government, schools, churches and community organizations. Learn about services, programs, volunteer opportunities, etc. Pick up your Chamber Welcome Bag. Meet other new residents. Take a chance on our prize wheel. Bring ID to get your WML library card! *Hosted by Wilmington Memorial Library and the Wilmington-Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce.*

READING RIVALS OCTOBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 23

The reading competition of the year is BACK! Join us as we defend our trophy against Tewksbury Public Library for the second annual Reading Rivals competition. The rules are simple - whichever library logs the most minutes wins. Books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers and graphic novels all count. Register and log on the Beanstack app. Paper logs available at the library and online.

CHILDREN'S COSTUME EXCHANGE

Looking to get rid of last year's Halloween costume? Donate your old costume anytime between September 24 and October 7. Come back on Saturday, October 8 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for a costume exchange and pick out a new-to-you costume. Ages 0-12.

BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE RESOURCES

LERNER MAKER LAB

An accessible, interactive database of hands-on projects for grades 2-5. With a kid-friendly, easy-to-use design, Lerner Maker Lab opens a world of creativity with project ideas from crafting to cooking.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

Information from the world renowned resource specifically for kids!

PEBBLEGO

PebbleGo is a curricular content hub specifically designed for K-2 students. Packed with informational articles, ready-made activities, and literacy supports for students of all abilities, it boosts engagement and fosters independent learning in core subject areas.

NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The State election will be held on **November 8, 2022**. The last day to register to vote for the State Election is **October 29, 2022**. Precincts 1, 2 and 3 vote at the Boutwell School and Precincts 4, 5 and 6 vote at the Town Hall. The Secretary of the Commonwealth's Election Division will be mailing out the vote-by-mail applications to any registered voter that has not already requested a ballot. In-Person Early Voting will be scheduled prior to November 8, 2022.

A **Special Town Meeting** will take place on **Saturday, November 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.** at Wilmington High School. Voter check in will begin at 7:30 a.m. The last day to register to vote for this meeting is **November 9, 2022**.

Dog registration renewal begins on December 1st.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The **54th Annual Halloween Horribles Parade** is Sunday, October 30 at 4:30 p.m. Participants march from the Public Safety Building to the High School Cafeteria where goodies galore await costumed children. In case of inclement weather, report directly to the Cafeteria. Don't forget to bring a bag for your treats.

BASKETBALL

Registration Deadline for Recreation Basketball is Thursday, October 6 - This popular program runs from December 3 – February 11 (no games/practices 12/24 or 12/31). There are separate leagues for boys (grades 3 – 8) and girls (grades 3 – 6). The season will begin with two weeks of "drills and skills" led by Recreation Basketball Supervisors. The season will continue with half hour practices followed by forty-five minute games on Saturdays. Cost of the program is \$110.

Registration Deadline for Junior Basketball (Grades 1 & 2) is Thursday, November 3 - This six-week program runs from January 7 – February 11 and costs \$50. The girls division will play on Saturday mornings and the boys division will be scheduled for afternoon games.

On Tuesday, November 1 and Monday, November 7 we are offering our annual **Referee Clinic** for anyone age 16 (by 12/17/22) and up interested in a possible paid position as a Basketball referee, or to earn community service hours. Contact the Recreation Office for additional information or to register for these free clinics.

OTHER NEWS

Saturdays in the fall are filled with children's programs such as SNL Super Sports Jr., Kinder Basketball and Yoga Play. Popular programs such as Babysitter Training, Home Alone and Kids Test Kitchen are returning. We have several adult craft classes including painting projects ("We Are Family" and "Home For The Holidays") as well as customizable "Burn Baby Burn" charcuterie boards or Lazy Susans – all of which make outstanding gifts.

UPCOMING TRIPS!

We are thrilled to include a new theatre trip on our schedule: "Six", showcasing the six wives of Henry VIII at the Emerson Colonial Theater on November 9. We are also excited to be heading to Tucson next April to enjoy such sights as the Pima Air & Space Museum, Bisbee, Tombstone, the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum and much more. Consider "hitting the road" with us!

Our complete newsletter is on the town's website at www.wilmingtonma.gov. Click on the Recreation prompt to explore the many programs this department has to offer. Our newsletter, Recreation Matters, is updated quarterly – February, May, August and November.

SARAH CARTER LECTURE FUND

The Sarah Carter Committee is happy to announce that their annual program is returning for 2022! Wilmington's own Good Guy, Steve Bjork, will be presenting his comedy show on **Friday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m.** This event is **free of charge** and will take place at Wilmington Middle School on Carter Lane.



FALL YARDWASTE PROGRAM

The end of the year **curbside pick-up of leaves and grass clippings will begin on October 24 and continue the weeks of October 31, November 14, November 28 and December 5.**



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 5 through and including December 3.** 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.

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.

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. 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, 2023. Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office and at the Buzzell Senior Center. **Application Deadline: October 28, 2022.** All seniors, regardless of past participation however, are encouraged to apply. Job listings and program information are on the application.

DON'T MISS SANTA!



Santa and his elves will be welcoming Wilmington boys and girls at **Santa's Workshop** on Thursday, December 1, 6 pm-7:30 pm at Town Hall. Please bring your cameras.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 6 RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 3-8
- OCT 18 FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING** Town Hall Auditorium 6 pm
- OCT 21 CARTER LECTURE FUND** Wilmington Middle School 7 pm
- OCT 24 APPLICATION DEADLINE SENIOR CITIZEN WORK PROGRAM**
- OCT 30 HORRIBLES PARADE** Rotary Park 4:30 pm
- NOV 3 JUNIOR BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Grades 1 & 2
- NOV 8 STATE ELECTION** Polls Open 7 am to 8 pm
- NOV 11 VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY** Town Common 11 am
- NOV 19 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING** Wilmington High School 9 am
- DEC 1 SANTA'S WORKSHOP** Town Hall 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- DEC 3 HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING** Town Common
- DEC 3- WE'RE ONE WILMINGTON**
- DEC 4 FESTIVAL OF TREES**
- DEC 4 HOLIDAY SOCIAL** Harnden Tavern 1 pm to 4 pm

DEPARTMENT



TELEPHONE

Accountant	694-2029
Animal Control	658-5071
Appeals Board	658-4531
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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