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Thursday, January 28
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WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVII, No. 1

www.friendsofwindsor.com

JANUARY 2021

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Windsor Now & Then Guidelines

This paper is a publication of Friends of Windsor, Inc., a nonprofit public organization dedicated to fostering communication and supporting town organizations, welcomes submissions from community groups and members supporting these goals.

This is a non-sectarian publication and not a forum for promoting any particular religious or political position. The articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of FOW. We reserve the right to edit and deny publication on the basis of length or content.

To enable us to accommodate as much information as possible, we request that basic news items be limited to about **150 words**. For submission of longer feature articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets (natural setting, people, and community), email fowindsor@gmail.com.

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Paper Talk

Happy 2021! Hoping we'll all have chances to gather in person before long. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy, and enjoy the beauty of Windsor's winter! --Deb

Greetings from FOW's President, Patty Crane



It's two days before Christmas as I write this. There's a solid foot of snow on the ground, which isn't just beautiful...it feels natural and right. And after a year like 2020, 'natural and right' seems, well, *supernatural*. It lifts my spirits and reminds me to have hope.

It's 2021 as you read this, and things really are looking up. Vaccines, stimulus checks, and re-openings are on the horizon. And we live in an amazing little community. Windsor, from making masks and delivering meals to checking in on neighbors and keeping our town safely operating, you're passing the Covid-19 stress test with flying colors! We'll come out of this stronger than ever and before too long can gather to celebrate our epic feat.

Speaking of epic feats, this year is Windsor's 250th anniversary and the town's abuzz with ideas we can't wait to share. There's plenty to do, so why not get involved? You could volunteer for a town committee or even run for one of the open positions mentioned in the Town Clerk's notes. FOW is busy putting together a special edition of our handy little phone book, featuring a colorful gallery of local photos by Windsor photographers. And we're thrilled to keep bringing you issues of *Sharing Our Stories*, such as this month's edition featuring Mame Whelihan and Marjorie Estes Limburg. Stay tuned for more of what we have in store!

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who help this community to be its best. And we are so grateful for our donors, whose generosity makes our work possible. In the enclosed 2020 Annual Report, you can see that 18% of Windsor households contribute to FOW. We'd like to raise that level to 20%. Will you help us? We've included a small envelope to make that task easier.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, hope-filled New Year!

Patty

Be sure to check out the **JANUARY Community Calendar** online at friendsofwindsor.com (under *Windsor Now & Then*). Activities are gradually resuming! You'll also find inspiring local images taken by Windsor residents.

Town Clerk Notes

Windsor Town Census/Street Listing Forms

will be mailed to every household in January. Please read, correct, sign and place in the postage paid addressed envelope and return immediately. (Last year, 8 households did not return their census forms.) These forms help determine our Chapter 90 funding for road maintenance. They also determine school enrollment and help complete the emergency books distributed to Fire, EMS, and Police Departments. Any child not recorded in the census will not be included in town-funded school enrollment. If your census form is not returned, you will have to show proof of residency to vote in Windsor, and, most importantly, if you have a road or town related complaint and have not returned your census, or paid taxes, I will ask you to do both before we can discuss your complaint.

Town Clerk's Weekly Town Information Email

is a new initiative I'm launching in January. The email will contain meeting dates and highlights from recent Select Board and committee meetings as well as important dates and communications.

If you would like to receive this email, write your email on the bottom of your census form when you return it in January. You may also sign up by emailing windsortownclerk@gmail.com.

Opportunities for Civic Involvement

Nomination papers for the May Town Election will be available at the Town Clerk's Office starting in January. Positions on the ballot include: Select Board Member, Town Clerk, Moderator, Planning Board, Cemetery Commission, Constable, Tree Warden, Library Trustee and Finance Committee. If you have an interest in learning more about these positions, or Running, please reach out to me. All Town Committees need volunteers. Call me and we can see where your talents can be used! – Madeline Scully

Does Windsor Need a Leash Law?

Over the past year, and more frequently over the last month, I have had numerous calls regarding loose or unruly dogs. Is it time to revisit a leash law in Windsor? Those wanting a leash law should contact the Select Board to discuss. In the meantime, dog owners should be courteous.

There was an incident off Windigo Rd where a large dog wearing a bell was bounding unaccompanied through the woods and jumped repeatedly at a frightened horse. We have had skiers knocked down on Bates Rd. A while back someone's loose dog went onto a porch and killed a pet cat. The dog owner's response was, "that is just what dogs do." All of us share our public roads. If someone is leash walking their dog, do not let your loose dog approach to say hi. Do not let your loose dog approach a pedestrian. That person may be afraid of dogs or very unsteady on their feet.

Do not let your dogs torment wildlife. Letting your dogs run loose through your neighborhood is not fair to the dog, nor your neighbors. Finally, if your dog poops at the base of someone's mailbox pick it up or throw into the woods. That is rude. Dog licenses will be available March 1 by mail and deadline will be March 30. There will be a form in WN&T and on the Town's website Town Clerk Page to apply for a license. – Madeline Scully

Big Orange Bus in Windsor January 13!

The Mobile Health Unit Team from Community Health Programs, Inc is bringing the Big Orange Bus monthly to Friendly Fred's parking lot, January 13, 10AM to 12noon.

This 38-foot medical unit travels throughout the county providing accessible healthcare to all. Services are billed to insurance or are free of charge. Offered services include: flu shots, blood pressure/glucose checks, problem/sick visits, Free COVID testing, cholesterol checks, health screening (height, weight, Nurse Practitioner consult), social service referrals and insurance enrollment.

No appointments. First come, first served.

BOB is a collaboration between CHP, BHS, Fallon Health and Partners Health Organization, making up the ACO (Accountable Care Organization). Help welcome them to Windsor. –Madeline Scully

From the Green Committee

We are pleased to report that we have completed each phase of the five projects funded by the \$62,800 state grant that was awarded in 2019! The final installation of insulated curtains on every window in the town office building was done on December 13. Hopefully, the building is now a "net zero" structure—that is, a building that uses no more energy than it generates through the solar photovoltaic array behind the town office building!

As you will recall, the grant through the Department of Energy Resources funded four projects in the town office building: air-source heat pumps for the basement offices, fully insulating the walls and ceiling of the building, installing a weather-tight basement door, and the insulated curtains on all windows. (The fifth project funded by the grant was the installation of insulation in the ceiling of the Town Hall, which was completed during the summer.) And we did all of this for \$57,650.90, returning \$5,149.10 to the state coffers.

While we hope the town office building is now a "net-zero" building, the usage of the building has increased somewhat since the analysis was done, which may mean that we are still using a bit more energy than the PV array (funded by a previous state grant) is able to generate. After a full heating season with these energy improvements, we will compare the energy used to the energy produced. –Holly Higinbotham

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone." — Shannon L. Alder

*Reflections from Mame Whelihan
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road*

Mistaken Identity. No wonder I'm not filthy rich. I guess I could be labeled "a soft touch". I even helped out the Tooth Fairy at one time. Once some years ago, the Light-of-My-Life Grandson was spending the night at my house. He was almost asleep when I heard him mumble, "I hope the Tooth Fairy knows where I am." Gadzooks! I had forgotten he had lost a tooth today and now it was under his pillow awaiting a reward. In the dark, I grabbed my wallet and slid a bill under his pillow without making a sound. Tooth Fairy had arrived.

First thing in the morning, over he went to his own house, waving the bill as he ran, and shouting, "Look what the Tooth Fairy left me!" His Brother and Sister were very visibly impressed and began checking their own teeth for looseness. It was very confusing until he displayed his prize – a twenty-dollar bill. I said it was dark, didn't I? I didn't even know I had a twenty in my wallet. Now I don't. That dumb Tooth Fairy!

**Berkshire Health Systems has a TOLL-FREE HOTLINE
for questions regarding COVID-19.
Hours: 7 am to 7 pm, seven days a week
CALL 855-262-5465 (855-BMC-LINK)**



Easton and Kesler get on the ice for fun and fresh air.

Upcoming Events at Windsor's Tamarack Hollow Nature Center

EVERY MONDAY. West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinis M.Ed ONLINE & IN PERSON at the Dalton CRA. 5:30pm beginner / 6:45pm advanced. Registration and masks required.

Saturday January 16th and February 13th 10am-12:30pm Snowshoe Track and Tree ID at Tamarack Hollow. This round trip, 2-mile hike will be led by Naturalist and Tamarack Hollow Director Aimee Gelinis M.Ed. Learn how to identify wildlife tracks with tree ID along the way. Program will be a hike if trail conditions have little to no snow. Masks & registration required for all participants. Limited space, register soon! \$15pp, per program. Snowshoe rentals available for \$5.

Register for any of these events by emailing: aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org

We were saddened to learn of the death of Robert Sears from Ruth Estes, who wrote "Robert Sears passed away Nov. 13 and will be missed by many past friends." We're grateful for Robert's memories of growing up in East Windsor that we shared in the November issue. We send our sympathy to his wife, Linda, and family.

Windsor's Resilient Kids (continued from back page)

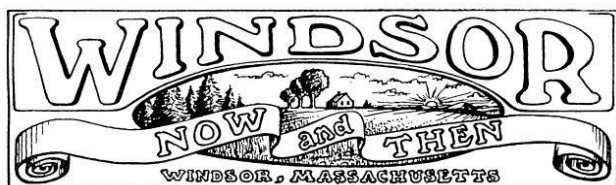
Holidays and birthdays have been different this year, with all three families mentioning a very small Thanksgiving at home. Thomas, who loves Halloween, just couldn't get in the spirit with all the COVID restrictions. "I wanted to dress up as Billy Idol, but it wouldn't be the same with a mask" he said. A bright spot was Ryker's 5th birthday in May, when the Windsor Police and Fire Department did a drive-by at the house with horns and sirens blaring.

As challenging as the year has been, the kids have managed to find ways to have fun. Lily is happy to have a new kitten named Nip to play with and look after. Thomas like to shoot his bow and take hikes with his Boy Scout troop once a month. And while organized team sports are on pause, the Anello boys enjoy skating and playing hockey on the Peru Road pond before and after school when the ice is good.

Asked for tips for other kids to help them get through, Thomas recommends setting up a double monitor for schoolwork, using your TV and computer. Easton suggests kids "get outside and get fresh air before you start the day, so you feel energized and better."

SEND US YOUR STORIES! – *Do you have a story to tell? Expertise to share? A new project or business to promote? Get in touch with your submission, or to ask for our help pulling your story together. Contact Susan Phillips at susanphillips57@gmail.com*

JANUARY 2021



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

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Enclosed

Sharing Our Stories, Volume 4

FOW 2020 Annual Report

Donation Envelope

The Resilient Kids of Windsor

We so often hear from grownups how COVID is upending their lives, we thought we'd check in with school-age kids in Windsor to ask how they are faring. WN&T talked with Thomas Connors (12, Grade 7); brothers Easton and Kesler Anello (11, Grade 6 and 10, Grade 5); and Lily Richter (6, Grade 1).

—Leslie Reed

For most of the students, the school year started hopefully with hybrid learning (a mix of in-school and at-home learning) but switched to all-remote learning after a few weeks. Only Thomas's school - BART in Adams - has been all-remote learning from the start.

Everyone wants to get back to the classroom. Easton and Kesler miss interacting with their friends, although they appreciate having one another and their younger brother, Ricer, for entertainment. Thomas mentioned

it's his teachers he misses most. "I get along really well with them," he said. "After school we always had the choice of staying after for club or homework help."



Thomas uses the TV screen to be more productive in Zoom classes.

While most Craneville students are home, Lily goes in 4 half days a week to work with her IEP (Individualized Educational Plan) instructor. But without other teachers and students around, it's not the same.

ZOOM classes from home present technical challenges. Most Windsor families are relying on hotspots to connect. The Anello family described many frantic mornings rushing around to get all three kids connected in time. A month ago, their mornings changed when their home was connected to the town's new fiber optic network. "It has made it so much easier," according to Megan, the boys' mom.

A frustrated Thomas bemoans that learning from home is tough with a bad computer connection. He was having to use his phone as a hotspot before recently getting a jet pack with a stronger signal. "I can't wait for broadband to get to Shaw Road!" he exclaimed.

Are there any advantages to remote learning? Kesler and Thomas enjoy the benefit of sleeping in and not having to rush out the door. Easton likes that he can wear his pajamas. "When on video, I wear my PJ bottoms and a regular top" he explained. (Story continues inside)



Lily and her new kitten, Nip, are bonding during COVID.