



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
FEBRUARY issue:
Thursday, January
27**
Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
(mark subject line:
WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

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JANUARY 2022

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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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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 susanphillips@fastmail.fm.*

Friends of Windsor News

As we welcome a new year, we're freshening up the content of this newsletter—hoping to include more features and voices that you will enjoy reading. Let us know what you think, and what you'd like to see more of! Your support in every form—as donors, readers, and contributors—is welcome and so much appreciated. Wishing you and your families a healthy, happy 2022!

–Deb Balmuth

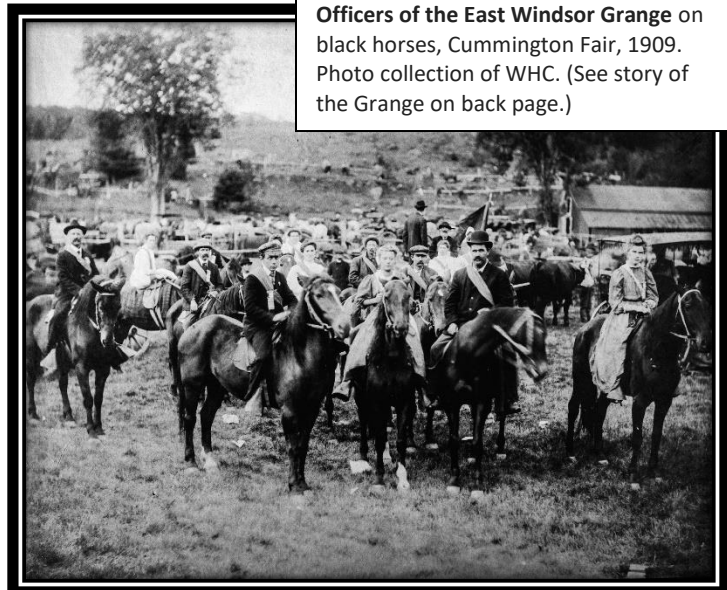


Windsor Library News

Volunteers are busy cataloging the entire collection so that our library can take advantage of being a member of the C/W MARS system enabling us to place requests for material from 150 libraries, return items checked out at Windsor to other libraries and have access to over 147,000 e-books, e-audios, videos and magazines. Our staff will have a much easier job with statistics, reports, and circulating materials using the barcodes on each book (a lot less paper entailed). As soon as we've cataloged 80% of the collection (we're getting close) we'll issue you a new C/W MARS Windsor Library card which you can use at any C/W MARS library.

In the meantime, you can call the library (684-3811 x6) and leave a message if you'd like a specific book. We can leave it for you on the table outside the library door. Pick it up whenever the building is open. Or you can make an appointment to come in and browse. (See page 3 inside for a list of the latest books added to our shelves.) –Val Kohn

Officers of the East Windsor Grange on black horses, Cummington Fair, 1909.
Photo collection of WHC. (See story of the Grange on back page.)



Town Clerk Notes

My big news is, as of January 1, I will no longer serve as the Select Board Assistant. I will however continue to be your Town Clerk. My office will be in the Main room shared with the Treasurer/Tax Collector and Assessor.

The Town Clerk is elected and answers to Town Residents and Sec of State and serves as: Custodian of Public Records including Bylaws * Vital Records Registration (Marriage/Birth/Death/Burial Agent) * Ensures Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Compliance * Issues Licenses/Business Certificates * Fulfills Public Records Requests* Posts required Notices & Agendas * Genealogical Research * Conducts Yearly Census for Street Listing and Jury List * Serves as Official Election Officer & Voter registration and elections Registrar * Issues Dog Licenses

Windsor Annual Census Forms will be mailed January 3. Completing and returning this form qualifies Windsor for Chapter 90 Funds to maintain your roads. Please check the form for accuracy, make any corrections and return it in the stamped addressed envelope immediately. If you have recently moved into this residence, replacing the previous residents, add your info to the form and cross out the previous residents. Do not cross out a child who is away at college or serving in the military unless they have permanently changed their place of residence.

Dog Licenses will be due at the end of April. The application form will be included with your census. This year will be a 3-year license term. The cost will be \$15 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$30 for an intact male or female dog. If you are renewing, your rabies certificate will be on file, so not required. If you are registering your dog for the first time, please provide proof of rabies. Fill out the form, enclose payment and your license will be mailed to you in March. Kennel license dogs will have to request the forms from my office any time before April 1.

Transfer Station Stickers will go on sale the first week in May starting at the Annual Town Election. The form will be

an insert in the April *Windsor Now and Then*. Residents without a sticker will not be allowed to use the Transfer Station starting July 10th.

Town Election. The following offices will be on the ballot in May: Select Board (2 vacancies), Moderator, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Constable, Tree Warden, Library Trustee, and the new MLP Board overseeing Broadband (3 vacancies, 1yr term, 2yr term and, 3yr term).

If you have an interest in running for any of these positions, contact the Town Clerk for more info and to obtain Nomination Papers.

Windsor needs a person to shovel the Town Hall and Town Offices sidewalks. If interested, email the Town Clerk. -Madeline Scully

From the Green Committee

Our efforts to increase insulation and weatherization in the Town Hall took a step forward last month, after receiving bids. We have recommended to the Select Board to award two bids, one for insulating most of the Town Hall (some insulation was installed in 2020 in the attic, and unfortunately there is a section under the floor that is inaccessible); and one purchasing thermal curtains for all windows in the building.

We had also invited bids to install Air-Source Heat Pumps in the Town Hall to replace an inefficient oil-fired forced hot-air furnace. Because no bids were received, we have extended that deadline until February 28.

These projects are being paid for primarily by a \$45,595 grant awarded in September 2021 by the State Department of Energy Resources, which has provided grant money in previous years that allowed us to fully insulate and weatherize the town office building as well as install the ASHPs that are currently heating and cooling the building. -Holly Higinbotham, higinbo@hotmail.com, 413-212-4352

Sense of Community

Pull up a chair. Take a taste. Come join us. Life is so endlessly delicious.
-Ruth Reichl

REFLECTIONS FROM Mame Whelihan

HEATHER HILL FARM, SHAW ROAD

Tradition Lives On. We're past the Traditional Christmas activities and ready and willing for new ones. Are we up for it? Plan and one-shop wisely and early.

Janet H's Christmas pie requires searching for ingredients: Lime Jell-O is easy to find, key lime yogurt not so much. Aldi's to the rescue. Now our day-after holiday baked potato brunch was a bit of a challenge. Where to find Eastern States Expo-sized giant potatoes? After much searching, guess what, Aldi's again! Humongous and perfect. Another tradition set in place.

Get ready for the traditional toast, eggnog needed. Should I say Aldi's again? Yes, but not in Massachusetts. Over the border we go into Bennington for a stash of toasting-ready items. Tradition saved. Janet B's famous pecans remain a traditional treat as does Sandie's gingerbread ladies.

Tradition is alive and well starting with the tree which is up right after Thanksgiving. As anything that goes up must come down, sadly it's down.

Get out that eggnog and toast 2022-off with the old and on with the new.

Here's to you, me, and all our traditions!

Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center Events

To register for events and for more info email: aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org to learn more about programs from this Windsor-based nonprofit organization.

Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Ecology, Trees and Tracking Snowshoe Programs (or hike) at Tamarack Hollow: -Sunday, January 30 1-3pm & Sunday February 20, 10am-12pm. Supported by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Barrett Fund and Central Berkshire Fund.

Notchview Boreal Forest snowshoe (or hike) programs with Tamarack Hollow Director Aimee Gelinas:

Monday January 17, 10am-12pm & 1-3pm for Winter Trails Day; Sunday January 30, 10-12.

Visit www.thetrustees.org for more information and to register.

What are Windsorites Reading?

A Book Recommendation from Julia Allan

Beheld by TaraShea Nesbit, a NYT Notable Book of the Year, tells the story of the Plymouth Plantation ten years after the Mayflower's first arrival. In writing this gem of historical fiction, Nesbit drew inspiration from meticulous research. She became curious as to why the Plymouth governor, Bradford, neglected to mention the death of his first wife aboard the Mayflower despite careful chronicling of all other deaths. In addition to this mystery, the reader learns that a murder has occurred which, given the tensions in the community, seems inevitable.

This novel draws largely from voices which history has silenced – voices of the women. There is Eleanor Billington who, along with her husband, remains an ardent critic of the Plymouth colony which both view as replete with its false promises, hypocrisy, and brutality against non-believers and Native Americans. And Alice Bradford, wife of the governor, who strives to keep marital peace despite her own misgivings and the governor's first and now-diseased wife.

While the book is fiction, Nesbit captures not just the historical details of the period but also the lyrical beauty of the women's voices. Like storm clouds on the horizon, the men's stories loom as threatening background. All three women are trapped and silenced by their differing circumstances. They have finally found a voice in this novel.

What are YOU reading? Submit your book recommendations and reviews to fowindsor@gmail.com.

Parks & Recreation Update

Since June 2021, the Parks & Rec Playground Committee has raising funds and conducting a community survey for a new playground for the Town Park. We have raised just over \$10,000 and have researched three playground companies. From our survey, the top priorities we heard:

- Weather tolerant to our rugged conditions
- Longevity and maintenance of the equipment
- Splinter-resistant
- Make sure it's fun!

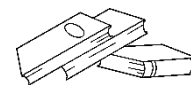
We have decided a mix of cedar and synthetic material would work best. We have not confirmed a vendor, but are leaning towards Bears Playgrounds, whose structures are made of northern white cedar, which doesn't splinter, is naturally rot- and termite-resistant, and is considered the best wood for outdoor play structures. With regular maintenance and staining, the playset will last 20 years and beyond. Bears offers a 10-year warranty and they have been building playgrounds for over 21 years. If you want to see a Bears Playground, visit Mt. Greylock Campground in Lanesboro. Their playground is four-years old and they are very happy with it. (Yes, we spoke with Bears clients!)

Our goal is to confirm the vendor and begin designing by mid-January. Pending funding, we'll break ground in June 2022. We're looking for folks with grant-writing experience and, as we proceed, local folks with large equipment to help with site preparation and installation. –*Barbara Connors*

New books in the Windsor Library

Project Hail Mary - Andy Weir's latest sci-fi book.

The Four Winds - the latest Kristin Hannah book, set in the Depression, a story of surviving the Dust Bowl.



How Stella Learned to Talk - Christina Hunger, a speech therapist's ability to communicate with dogs.

The Plague Year: America in the Time of Covid by Pulitzer Prize winning author Lawrence Wright.

Lifelong Gardener by Toni Gattone with helpful hints about adjustments to make as we age to continue gardening.

And of course, many, many delightful children's books!

The View from 1953—Excerpts from *Progress*

The urge to look back at the start of the New Year is universal. As is the urge to make resolutions. So starting with this first issue of 2022, *Windsor Now & Then* resolves to adopt a new habit of occasionally reprinting items from our predecessor, *Progress*. From 1951 until well into the 1970s, *Progress*, a publication of the East Windsor Progressive Society, shared news, birthdays, reminiscences, poetry, jokes (mostly pretty bad!), recipes and more.

As this recurring feature noting local comings and goings shows, the pre-internet *Progress* was a vital source of information on the daily doings of our community.

Windsor News & Notes from January 1953

Clyde Bowman spent a weekend with his brother, Fred Bowman, and family recently.

Mrs. Amelia Langen has left to spend the winter with her daughter in New Jersey.

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Souther have moved to Hinsdale.

Sandra Hill had a narrow escape, recently, when the door of the car in which she was riding swung open as the car went round a curve. She was thrown out but clung to the door long enough so that when she dropped she escaped the back wheel by about two inches.

PFC Stanley M. Tedford (Morris) is home after spending about 15 months in Korea.

George Sears and Caroline Smith were married December 24th, at the residence of Rev. Herbert L. Packard while George is home on a nine-day leave from Camp Atterbury, Ind., where he is a squad leader. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Sears of East Windsor. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Smith, of Cummington. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Tirrell attended the couple.

Robert Scott-Smith and family are wintering with Allen Wood on High Street, Windsor.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burnett, of Schenectady, NY, have been visiting at the Van Ordens.

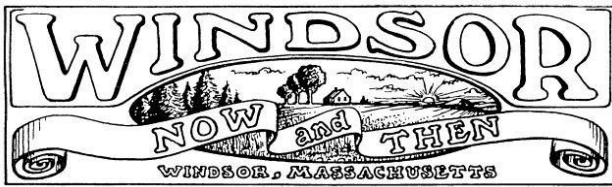
Mrs. Sprague is at home at the "Bush" after at operation at the Pittsfield General Hospital.

12 Cummington men got deer this year.

Barbara Thayer, Clifford Thayer and Stephen Howes are lucky winners of Ribbon awards from the 4-H egg-laying contest.

John Cowell, U.S. Naval Academy, was home for the holidays.

JANUARY 2022



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

COA Newsletter Enclosed!

Pulling Threads

One of my winter projects has been to gather up objects in the historical house that are vulnerable to damage from moisture, light, and critters and move them to safer storage. A few weeks ago that led me to open a long-overlooked big wooden chest up in the second-floor attic to see what was lurking.

Inside were more than a dozen blue velvet sashes with gold trim and stitched gold lettering, and a black velvet ceremonial apron heavily embroidered with leaves and fruit in gold beaded thread, plus an unnervingly bright blue "all-seeing eye" symbol, also surrounded in gold beadwork.



Hilltop Grange Sash

Reminders, cloaked in an overpowering odor of mothballs, of Windsor's once-thriving community of Grangers, or Patrons of Husbandry. Started after the Civil War in 1867, with the goal of improving farming practices in the devastated economies of the South, the Grange grew into a national network of farmers and their families. At least two of the eight founders were Freemasons, so it's not surprising that the Grange borrowed ceremonial elements from this older organization – hence the sashes and the apron with the eyeball -- but with the distinction of welcoming women as members and officers from the start.

The first Grange here, #77, was centered in East Windsor. First organized in the 1870's, at the very start of the Granger movement, it lasted about seven years before going dormant, but was revived in 1903. According to Gabriel Drew's history of the town, it was a lively Grange known for dances and whist parties. She does not note when it disbanded.

Hilltop Grange, #267, was established in 1907 and disbanded in 1973, with nine members remaining. Oyster suppers, square dances, flower shows, sugar eats, spelling bees, debates, and an annual Fair were all projects of Hilltop Grange at different points in its history. In 1957, membership peaked at 110. By 1971, it was 43.

Nationally, the Grange pushed for free rural mail delivery, supported Prohibition, and advocated for better treatment of farmers by the railroads shipping their produce. Some chapters formed cooperatives to improve farmer's incomes. But it was as an organization dedicated to knitting rural residents into community that the Grange stands out for me.

Though the black backing fabric has become thin and frayed in places, and the blue velvet is faded, the sashes are still quite sturdy, and could be pressed back into service should the Patrons of Husbandry make a comeback.

As for Windsor's regalia collection, after careful washing in a vinegar solution, the mothball odor is somewhat reduced, and this pungent and poignant reminder of another era is safely wintering in Town Hall, enjoying the central heating. –Susan Phillips