



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
FEBRUARY
issue:
Thursday,
JANUARY 26**

Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
(mark subject
line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIX, No. 1

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

JANUARY 2023

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES
THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.
TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to
Friends of Windsor, Inc.,
mail check to: FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8,
Windsor, MA 01270,
or email: fowindsor@gmail.com**

Thanks to our Recent Donors

Sharon and Richard DeGiorgis
Lisa and Ken Estes / Thomas Garvey
Sylvie and James Hastings / Joan Kendall
Sandra and Michael McDonald
Susan and David Mongue
Diane and Art Pennetti
Susan Phillips and Scott Rogers
Diane and Bill Saunders / Elizabeth Sibolski
Susan and Jack Sobon
Kim Tobin and John Jones
Sally and Darryll Wing

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.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Crane, president; Julia Allan, director; Deborah Balmuth, co-editor; Dominique Frink, director; Val Kohn, director; Eileen Markland, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.

A Message from FOW President, Patty Crane

Our upstairs north window has a clear view of Mt. Greylock, which this morning is lit top-to-bottom with snow and frost. It's not hard to conjure the white whale Melville saw in that sprawling profile, but all symbolism aside, I just like the feeling of that mountain anchoring us in place.

It's good to be home after spending a difficult year in the city, dealing—successfully, I'm thrilled to report—with a major health crisis. Tim and I are so grateful for your cards, calls, texts, and prayers, which helped get us through and kept us feeling connected.

Speaking of which, I've been thinking how the expression "many hands make light work" is as much about connection as participation — not just making a task easier, but the uplifting sense of satisfaction, and even joy, that comes from working with others to get a task done.

So I take heart in how many Windsor hands came together in 2022: erecting a fantastic playground in our town park; digitally cataloguing our library's entire collection; raising flags to honor our veterans; keeping our seniors cared for and informed; insulating our town hall; creating a master plan to help our town move forward; funding cultural events; sharing live music; celebrating our history; organizing movie nights, weekly walks, a food drive, and much more.

Imagine what's in store for 2023! For Friends of Windsor's part, we'll keep the excitement around our town park growing by planting shade trees near the new chess table, installing a few barbecue grills, and teaming up with Windsor Park & Rec to host a summer cookout and games day. We'll add QR code decals to FOW's 24 historical landmark signs that will link cellphone users directly to our website and information about the signs. We also hope to continue publishing stories in WN&T from a wider range of voices and add a couple of new members to our board. Stay tuned!

Thank you, all of you, who help this community to be its best. And thank you, every one of our donors, whose generosity makes our work possible. If you're considering offering a donation of your own, we've gratefully enclosed a small envelope to make that task easier.

Happy snowy New Year!

Patty

BIRD TIP ** This is a Winter Finch Irruption year, which means that boreal species are coming south in search of food they can't find in their usual winter habitats. You may have already noticed Evening Grosbeaks—big noisy yellow birds--flying around in rowdy flocks! Keep an eye out for Pine Grosbeaks (two spotted in late December up in the Bush), Pine Siskins, and Common Redpolls. Keep your feeders stocked!



Skating Rink at Town Park

Windsor Parks & Rec is teaming up with the Highway and Fire Depts to set up a small skating rink at the Town Park. The goal is to have it ready for mid-January depending on the weather. Check the town website and Facebook group for updates on when you can skate (and maybe some lessons). We hope this new offering will bring joy to new and experienced skaters alike. When we get a snowstorm, please be patient until the Highway Dept. can plow the parking lot. If we get positive feedback, we will bring it back again next year. Enjoy and have fun! --*Barbara Connors, Chair, Parks & rec Committee*

What is the Windsor Master Plan?

Windsor's Master Plan was developed to outline priorities for future development, spending, and community needs. Through analysis of publicly available information, interviews with Town stakeholders, and a resident survey (151 people, or 20% of adult residents, responded), the Master Plan Steering Committee gained an understanding of preferences and priorities for the next 5 to 20 years. This information was used to develop implementation goals.

There are some limitations to the data that was gathered, but because there was consistency across multiple sources, we have confidence in the general implementation goals that we outlined in the report. We are happy to discuss data limitations and how we used the data in our understanding.

One of the most notable findings: Windsor residents want to preserve our natural beauty and remain rural character (based on discussions and 70% of survey respondents).

We hope you will read the Master Plan on the Town website (<https://www.windsormass.com/requests-1/master-plan-for-windsor>) and consider volunteering to help with its implementation!

Holly Higinbotham, Chair, Master Plan Steering Committee

From the Town Administrator

The Town Clerk is on vacation, so the notices are coming from me this month.

Census forms will be coming in the mail the 2nd week of January. Inspect the form, make necessary changes, and return in the stamped envelope immediately. Chapter 90 funds, used to maintain the roads, depend on this Town census. CBRSD registration list is important to plan school budgets and town resources. If you receive a form with an incorrect current resident, just cross out the inaccurate info and insert the correct info. Please include students away at college.

It's time to start thinking about our May 8, 2023 local election.

Offices on the ballot: Select Board (1-year and SB 3-yr); Finance (3 yr); Moderator (1 yr); Town Clerk (3 yr); Cemetery (3-yr); Constable (3-yr); Library Trustee (3-yr), Planning Board (5-yr); Tree Warden (1-yr). Think about serving your Town. The 1-year Select Board spot is a good way to try it out. Select Board members obviously do not do the job for the money, but for a sense of serving to their community. Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's office. For more info, contact me at 413-684-3811 ext 4; muscully@windsormass.com

Madeline Scully, Windsor Town Administrator

Nature & Music Events with Tamarack Hollow

Sponsored by Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor. For more information and registration: visit www.tamarackhollow.com or email aimee@gaiaroots.com.

Fauna, flora, winter ecology and tracking snowshoe/hike at Kennedy Park, Lenox, Monday January 16 1-3pm with Aimee Gelinias. Registration required, Free; donations accepted.

Ongoing class, every Monday:

West African & Caribbean drum and song classes at The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts Renne Ave, Pittsfield. 5:30pm beginner / 6:30pm advanced. Registration required for all new students.

From the Green Committee

Since this is the month that the Eversource electricity rate increase takes effect, you may be wondering where things stand with Windsor's plan to offer a municipal aggregation plan to its residents. As a reminder, municipal aggregation allows the Town to join with other nearby towns and cities to buy electricity at a "bulk rate," which allows for lower rates for all customers.

Windsor is winding its way through a frustratingly lengthy process to be granted permission by the state Department of Public Utilities to seek municipal aggregation. At the Annual Town Meeting in June 2021, voters voted to move forward. In the fall of 2021, Colonial Power (contracted to shepherd us through this process) submitted our application to the DPU after a comment period that ended on 11/22/21. Exactly one year later, on 11/22/22, the DPU held a public hearing on our application. That hearing was uneventful, and we are now waiting for a discovery process to start, which involves the DPU sending questions to Colonial, who will respond on our behalf. When this stage is complete, the DPU will hopefully issue an Order allowing the town to move forward.

We have been informed this process could take 24 months—or more!—based on the experience of other towns. We are hopeful the new administration will speed up this process. It seems pretty crazy that it could take as much as three years to get permission just to pursue an aggregation contract. The Green Committee is considering a letter-writing campaign and we will keep you informed. --*Holly Higinbotham*

Energy-Saving Tip

One way to find out where heat is escaping from your house is to monitor for drafts where you feel cold air coming in. Then plug up those drafts using weather-stripping, caulk, insulated curtains, or anything else that will block that draft!

What Windsorites are Reading

Lucy by the Sea by Elizabeth Strout

There is a line in this novel, set during early Spring 2020, which, as a parent of adult "children" I could relate to: The narrator (Lucy) visits her adult daughter and, after seeing the fear on her daughter's face, Lucy muses if it would have been better not to have seen her daughter at all.

The moment reminded me of visiting our youngest daughter in Boston during that time. So sad she was and so fearful of her mother's embrace, lest she spread the virus. There was so much fear of the unknown, fear of giving Covid to your parents, sadness of being isolated, and empathy for adult children whose lives had been stripped bare.

This novel captures this time. When the novel opens Lucy's husband has died and her ex-husband, with whom she remains friends, recognizes early on the severity of the situation and insists on de-camping to a small Maine town. Any lover of coastal Maine towns will appreciate Strout's descriptions of the raw, rough beauty. Given its heartfelt description of family life during the pandemic, a reader may excuse the plethora of exclamations points (to the point at which they are rendered meaningless). The breezy style captures the anxiety during Covid at the time and how, at least one, seemingly fractured family, survived. -*Julia Allan*

What are you reading? Send us a short summary of your latest favorite book. (fowindsor@gmail.com).

New Books for Young Adults at the Windsor Library

The new year is the perfect time to curl up with a good book as the snow piles up outside. Try one of these - there are many more.

Mare's War by Tanita S. Davis: Two sisters on a road trip with their grandmother find out she escaped the deep south by joining the 6888th African American battalion of the Women's Army Corps during WWII.

Aluta by Adwoa Badoe: Charlotte is a freshman in college; it's 1981 in Ghana. The government is suddenly overthrown and Charlotte is drawn into student politics - very dangerous at the time.

The Milk of Birds by Sylvia Whitman: 14 year old Nawra, who lives in a refugee camp in Darfur, becomes a pen pal to K.C. an American teenager in Richmond, Virginia. Through their letters the two come to share a remarkable bond that bridges the two continents.

Our Year in Love and Parties by Karen Hattrup: Two teenagers figuring out how to let yesterday go and learn to live for today. They're followed through the course of a year and numerous parties with plenty of comedy and romance along the way. - *Val Kohn*



Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

LAST ROW LAST SEAT. I was always the smallest in my early school years. 1st grade through 3rd grade found me seated 1st row, 1st seat.

Poor Edgar, the biggest 3rd grader ever, was in the last row, last seat. Edgar was what we called a slow learner and didn't get much of the teacher's attention, or from most of the kids for that matter. He was a very kind person and I always tried to pay some attention to him. He needed it. His family was poor and he didn't have much. They got food from the town to help them out. I remember how almost every day Edgar would come by my desk, 1st row, 1st seat, and leave an orange. I knew Edgar's gift was from his town fruit contribution and it meant a lot.

Edgar, last row, last seat was the nicest person I will ever meet. Oh, what we could all learn from him. Appreciative, generous, and kind.

How about you? Last row, last seat?

Remembering Susan Menard

Windsor lost a gifted, long-time resident last month with the passing of Susan Menard passed on December 6, at the age of 87.

Born in Pittsfield, she was a graduate of St. Joseph High School and was a communicant of St. Agnes Church. In May 1955, Susan (née Callahan) married Peter Menard. They settled in Windsor, where Peter built their house and she raised their four children (Monique, Donald, Lawrence and Paul).

Once the children were grown, Susan obtained a degree in Computer Science from BCC, then worked 20 years at Berkshire Life in the computer room. At other times she was a dental assistant, mail carrier and Town Clerk; taught at her own yoga business; and had a talk show on channel 2 in Pittsfield.

Outgoing and fun-loving, Susan became a private pilot and owned her own plane. She loved creating many memories flying daytrips to Martha's Vineyard with her family. A local actress, she was a long-time member of the Town Players. She was also a master seamstress and upholsterer.

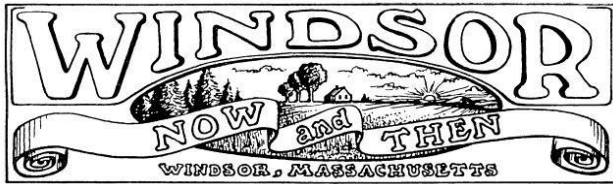
Susan will be greatly missed by her family and the community. Her survivors include her husband, Peter; daughter, Monique Menard, of Hinsdale; sons, Donald (and wife Gail Broderick) of Pittsfield; Lawrence (and wife Susan) of Greer, SC; and Paul, of Windsor; sister, Mary Bonnie Ditello and husband David of Pittsfield; and six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Cummington Village Church Café Series

The music series is back, now located in the Village Church Sanctuary, on Main Street in Cummington, 7-9PM, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Free, with support from area cultural councils.

January shows: 1/13: Dave Bartley & Blue Jazz Ensemble
1/27: Jack Swindlehurst & Sarah Stockwell-Arthen

JANUARY 2023



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Enclosed: COA Newsletter
Donation Envelope

Meet Textile Artist Deb Drumm

Deb Drumm of Windsor has expressed her creativity over the years using a wide range of media and processes including dyeing silk, nuno felting (manipulating silk and wool roving together to create felted scarves), and ecoprinting (transferring pigment from flora to paper and fabric). She is also a quilter and paints on textiles.

Deb learned many of the techniques from online Zoom classes and from fellow artists. She creates her artwork at home and largely for herself, not with the intention of selling it.

In 2019, Deb suffered a concussion working in her backyard. Naturally very active, she was told to be as still as possible for six weeks in order to heal. She was drawn to her garden, which she found to be meditative, and turned to painting watercolors. Later, she converted a small number of these original paintings of flowers and leaves into notecards and offered them for sale at Holiday Brook Farm.

This year Deb started playing with linework and watercolor accents to create whimsical chickens. When her sister, Ruth Crane, saw the pictures, she laughed out loud and encouraged Deb to print them and turn them into cards for sale.

She was sure that, with so much sadness in the world, people are ready to lighten up. The cards sold out in December at The Shindy, a one-day crafts market in Pittsfield. Says Deb "to watch people laugh and share the humor with friends gave me so much pleasure." –*Leslie Reed*

To see a range of Deb Drumm's artwork, visit 238textilecollective.com, click on the Artists tab, and then on the art by D.J. Drumm.



Deb Drumm sold her cards at the Shindy craft sale in Pittsfield last month.

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.