

**DEADLINE for
FEBRUARY
issue:
Thursday,
JANUARY 25**

Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXX, No. 1

www.friendsofwindsor.com

JANUARY 2024

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

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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.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

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

RESCHEDULED—

And YOU ARE *STILL* INVITED

Friends of Windsor Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 6PM

At the Town Offices

All Windsor residents are welcome. Please come and hear about our plans for the coming year and how you can get involved.



Happy 2024!

A Message from Patty Crane, FOW President

Sometimes we have to take a long look back to see how our seemingly small actions add up to something large. I just thumbed through all the 2023 issues of *Windsor Now & Then*, and in my mind's eye saw a collage of images depicting the way volunteers quietly work to bring this community together. In our town park: a skating rink; a spacious extension on the old pavilion; local musicians playing jazz and blues; a sapling sugar maple named Groot; star gazing; drumming; excited children trunk-or-treating. Elsewhere in town: flags flying to honor our veterans; our historical museum coming to life in a handsome shade of red; a food drive; ongoing efforts to keep our elders informed and connected; and so much more. It all overlaps and fits to create a portrait of who this community is.

Looking ahead, for Friends of Windsor's part, we're busy putting together plans for 2024--our little nonprofit's 40th anniversary! First up is the next installment of the handy *Windsor Phone & Community Directory*—and I'm thrilled to report that we've been awarded a generous grant from the local cultural council to include a colorful gallery of our children's artwork (see the Back Page story for details). We'll also begin upgrading the Windsor Landmark signs we installed nearly ten years ago that are showing the effects of our rugged hilltown weather. And we'll be reprinting a big batch of our popular and gorgeous landmarks maps. We have more up our sleeve, so please stay tuned. Better yet, join us at our upcoming annual meeting to learn more (see invitation above for details).

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who help this community to be its best. We're especially grateful for our donors, whose generosity makes our work possible and keeps us energized and motivated. If you've been thinking about giving, we've made it easier with the enclosed little envelope. Thank you, one and all.

Happy New Year!

Patty

Send us your stories, nature sightings, book notes, and other news you have to share with the Windsor community. Email: fowindsor@gmail.com.

Windsor creatives ages 3 to 20—We Need Your Help!

We want to feature your artwork in the 2024 Windsor Phone & Community Directory! So grab your paints or markers and get creative. Looking for some idea of what to show? Try this prompt: What do you like about Windsor? What do you like to do in Windsor?



Here's another idea: Try creating a collage using the technique of beloved children's book author Eric Carle. Come to a workshop on Saturday, January 10 at 11AM at the Windsor Library.

Or see the back page of this issue for instructions. Send your artwork to fowindsor@gmail.com or drop it off at the Library by February 15. --Val Kohn

Calling all Windsor Residents

Be sure that your friends in town can call you! We are updating the Windsor phone book for release in the spring. Please take a few minutes now to review your current listing and let us know if yours needs changes (perhaps you retired your landline and now have cell phones) or additions (such as email addresses to share). If you missed the last printing, this is the time to submit your listing.

The simplest way to submit your information or updates can be found on our website friendsofwindsor.com. Click on WINDSOR PHONE DIRECTORY, then on Windsor Residents Phone Directory Form.

If you also have a business or service, we are happy to get the word out with a free listing in our Business & Professional pages. If you are already listed, please review your listing for any needed changes. Submit your listing or update by going to friendsofwindsor.com, click on WINDSOR PHONE DIRECTORY, then on Windsor Business & Professional Listing Form. For questions, contact Leslie Reed at 413-822-6982 or lmreed430@gmail.com.

Want to give your Community Business extra visibility?

You can become a sponsor by purchasing a ¼ page, business-card size listing for just \$45. This helps support the publication of this handy and often-used little book that is sent to all Windsor households at no cost.

If you'd like to be a sponsor, please mail your business card and check for \$45 (with 'Windsor phone book' in the memo line) to Friends of Windsor, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor MA 01270. The deadline is February 1. Have a question? Don't hesitate to email us at fowindsor@gmail.com. Thank you!

Create Your 2024 Vision Board, January 13

Join us at the Windsor Free Public Library between 10AM and 1 PM on Saturday, January 13 and learn how to create a 2024 Vision Board! Vision boards are a fantastic tool to aid in setting your intentions and finding inspiration. Whatever you want to focus on, personal growth, career development, or simply manifesting positive changes in your life—this project will help you visualize your goals and create daily motivation.

Supplies will be provided, such as scissors, magazines, glue and heavy paper—feel free to bring your own, if you prefer. Vision Board events are happening at libraries nationwide. Come be part of this Windsor event for manifesting your dreams this year! --Sandy Kalmus

BIRD TIP

Windsor is known as a good place to find a Northern Shrike in winter. These robin-sized birds are always seen alone and usually perch at the very top of the tallest tree overlooking an



expanse. They are striking birds: white bodies with dark wings and a black line through their eye. Shrikes prey on insects, rodents, and small birds, capturing them with their thick hooked bills (unlike raptors, they have no talons with which to capture their meals). They kill by holding prey in their bills and then shaking their heads vigorously to kill it. They "store" the prey by impaling it onto a nearby twig barbed wire. Thus, they are known as the "Butcher Bird". --Holly Higinbotham

REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELIHAN

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

Look up in the sky: If you see something soaring amidst the stars, it's me and I have pushed the wrong button on my new Christmas power recliner and lift chair. If the button reads lift, it really means it and I am surely uplifted. I love it!

Santa brought me beautiful fleece blankets and I stretch out in my new recliner and count my blessings. Now, instead of saying, "Feliz Navidad," I'm saying, "Fleece Navidad." So, *Fleece Navidad* to everyone, from a grateful and warm Christmas elf.

Tamarack Hollow Events

For more information and to register for events below:
email: aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit www.tamarackhollow.com.

***West African & Caribbean drum and song classes** every Monday at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Pittsfield 5:30pm beginner / 6:30pm advanced. Registration required.

***Monday January 15: 12-3pm at Yokun Ridge**
South/Burbank Trail, Lenox. Winter Ecology Tracking and Tree ID program with naturalist. Aimee Gelinias; Free, donations encouraged. Registration required.

From the Green Committee

The town is receiving the first disbursement of the Green Committee's latest state competitive grant funds, allowing us to invite bids from insulation contractors for the Town Hall basement ceiling and the Town Garage walls. Meanwhile, we got town approval for and acquired a sump pump for the Town Hall basement, which our volunteers installed. This, along with the insulation, will alleviate most of the basement moisture and warped floor issues in the main hall.

We continue to pursue aggregation for Windsor electric costs. The DPU process is incredibly slow but we understand the new board is redoing Municipal Aggregation Guidelines and seems more positive. Acceptance will allow us to enter a cooperative contract for lower electric bills.

We are pleased that the Town of Windsor is a recipient of a 2023 Leading by Example Award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It honors towns that show outstanding public sector energy and environmental efforts in the Municipal category. —*Marnie Meyers*

Energy Saving Tip

Now's the time to start planning your 2024 vegetable garden--Online seed catalogs are brimming with choices. Homegrown food is not only healthier but it reduces your environmental impact, as commercially grown food requires fuel and transport, as well as the use of plastic containers and wrap. Whether you have room for a tub on the deck, a few raised beds, or a big tract of earth, home food gardening offers lots of great options.

Winter is here! If we ever get snow, please remember that on April 7, 1975, the Town voted to prohibit and remove vehicles parked on town roads from November 1 to March 30. Removal shall be at owner's expense. It was also voted to prohibit plowing snow into town roads. There is a \$25 fine for this. Please do the right thing! —*Madeline Scully, Town Administrator*

Town Clerk Notes

Happy New Year, Windsor! I'm your Town Clerk, Sandy, and 2024 is going to be a busy year! We start off with our annual census and keep chugging along with four elections smattered throughout the year, as well as our Annual Town Meeting.

I believe strongly that if we want to live in a democracy we need to participate in that democracy. One way every person 18 and older can do that is by voting. If you haven't done so already, please register to vote. The deadline to register to vote in the Presidential Primaries is February 24, 2024.

With four elections, we need some volunteers. There is work to do both prior to each election and election day. If this sounds like something you would like to be part of, please contact me for more information or to sign up. Office hours are Monday and Thursday evenings, 5-7pm, by phone 413-684-3811 ext 1, or by email at windsortownclerk@gmail.com.

Another way to be involved in democracy is to take a turn sitting on a town committee. What are you good at doing? What interests you most? I bet we have a committee suited just for you! Please consider running in the May elections for one of the following open seats. (Contact the town clerk for more information and to obtain the nomination papers.)

Select Board: 3-year term, 1 vacancy

Moderator: 1 year term (Charles Sturtevant, incumbent)

Cemetery Commission: 3-year term (Gary Boody, incumbent)

Constable: 3-year term (Jordan Koch incumbent)

Finance Committee: 3-year term, 3 seats, 1 vacancy (Scott Rogers and Holly Higinbotham, incumbents)

Library Trustee: 3-year term, 1 vacancy

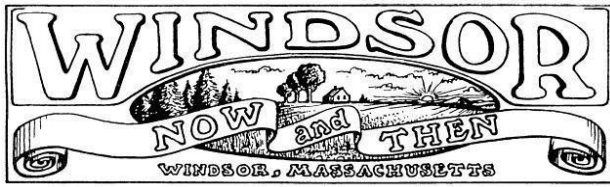
Planning Board: 5-year term, 2 seats (Barb Connors and Peter Sternerup, incumbents)

Tree Warden: 1-year term (Mark Hauge, incumbent)

Census Forms: The Windsor Annual Census forms will be mailed in early January to each full-time residential household. This is a very important form, so please check it for accuracy, make any necessary changes, and send it back right away in the enclosed pre-addressed, stamped envelope. Your children must be on the form to go to school in district. This is also how the town gets funding to maintain our roads. The census does a lot for all of us. Please take 5 minutes, read the instructions, make corrections, and send it in. We do our best to make this as easy for you as possible.

Dog Licenses: Dog Licenses will be due at the end of April. The application form will be included with the census. We have moved to a 3-year license, so if you got one last year, you won't need another one until 2025. The cost is \$15 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$30 for an intact dog. If you're renewing your license, we have a copy of the rabies certificate on file. However, if you are registering your dog for the first time, please provide proof of rabies vaccination. Fill out the form completely, enclose payment, return in the envelope with your census form. We will mail your dog tags to you. If you require Kennel Dog Licenses, please contact me before April 1 to request the forms and I'll send it out. —*Sandy Kalmus*

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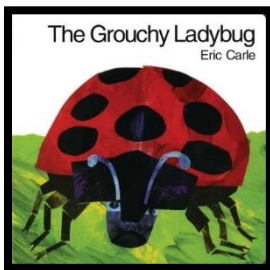


1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

ENCLOSURES: COA Newsletter
Donation Envelope

Help Wanted: Kids' artwork to brighten the pages of our 2024-25 Windsor Phone Book & Community Director!



I've been inspired by the collage style of picture book artist Eric Carle. I made the picture at right using this technique. Want to try it yourself? Come to a workshop on Saturday, January 10 at

11AM at the Windsor library. Or, you can try it at home with the instructions below.

1. Using acrylic paints, cover a whole piece of paper (8 1/2" x 11") with just one color. Paint additional sheets with other colors, so you have a sheet for every color you want to use.
2. While the paint is wet, make some jazzy patterns with a plastic fork or your fingers.
3. On a scrap sheet of paper, make a sketch of your picture. Use simple shapes because you have to cut out each shape.
4. Draw the picture shapes on the back of your painted papers.
5. Cut out all the shapes and then place them on a plain sheet of white paper to make your picture.



When you have all the pieces in the places you like, glue them down.

Try making a picture of something you like to do in Windsor. Can you tell what I like to do from my picture above?

Send your artwork to fowindsor@gmail.com or drop it off at the Library by February 15.

--Val Kohn