



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for DECEMBER**  
issue: Friday, **NOVEMBER 25**  
Send news to:  
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com  
(mark subject line: WN&T)

## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVIII, No. 10

[www.friendsofwindSOR.com](http://www.friendsofwindSOR.com)

NOVEMBER 2022

### YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

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Prem Sangar, in memory of Ashok Sangar

### 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](mailto: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.

### FOW News

It's been such a beautiful fall in Windsor, with cold mornings and sun-filled, balmy afternoons. I love the sweeping dance of the leaves as they let go, one by one, and float down to earth.



As we approach the end of the year and the season of Thanksgiving, we're thankful for the Windsor community and all of you who contribute your energy, ideas, time, and caring to make life tick here. We're grateful, as well, for your support for Friends of Windsor and the printing and circulation of this little newsletter. We've enclosed a donation envelope in this issue as a bit of encouragement to keep the support coming. (And don't forget your donations are tax-deductible!).

Join us on December 7. The Friends of Windsor Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7 at 6pm at the Town Offices. Everyone is invited to come learn about our plans for 2023 and ways you can get involved in helping promote community in Windsor.

Wishing you and your family and friends a warm and delicious Thanksgiving!  
-Deb Balmuth



### November Food Drive Underway

If you are able to contribute food for those less fortunate, there will be food collection boxes at Friendly Fred's, Sanger's, and the Library from November 6 to 19. In addition, you can drop off food on November 13 at 11AM or Nov 14 at 2PM at the Windsor church.

All donations will be taken to "Loaves and Fishes" food pantry in Dalton. (Open Tuesdays 4-6PM) Thanks so much for helping if you are able to. ---Windsor Congregational Church

**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](mailto:susanphillips@fastmail.fm).

## Windsor Library News

Did you know that the Windsor Library has Museum Passes that can be checked out to patrons for one week and grant you free admission to some of the area's most popular museum, including:

The Clark \* Chesterwood \* DCR (state parks & forests)  
Hancock Shaker Village \* Ventfort Hall \* MASS MoCA  
Herman Melville House \* The Mount  
Springfield Museums \* The USS Constitution  
Magic Wings Butterfly Sanctuary  
Norman Rockwell Museum

--Katherine Richter, Librarian

## What Windsorites are Reading

*Crossroads*, by Jonathan Franzen, takes the reader deep into the emotional lives of the six members of a Midwestern family in the early 1970s. *Crossroads* is the name of a youth group at a liberal Lutheran church in suburban Chicago, where the father, Russ Hildebrant, is the associate pastor. The group's focus on open, honest communication contrasts sharply with the secrets and unresolved emotions and desires each member of the family holds. The story resonated especially strongly for me because of my own adolescence in the early 1970s, recalling memories of encounter groups and my high school chemistry teacher who had a sign on the board saying, "Get real!". With intense, realistic dialogue, Franzen infuses his characters with depth and complexity that makes for an immersive reading experience.

The book is available in the Windsor Library.

--Deb Balmuth

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

## Tamarack Hollow Nature Center in Windsor

Sunday November 13, 9AM-1PM: Boreal Forest Volunteer Trail Work Day at Tamarack Hollow. Help clear trails and continue to prep the site of the future nature center – come for some of time or the whole time! Snacks and cider provided. Please bring your own gloves (and lunch if staying for the day). To register (required) please email: [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com). Visit: [www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org](http://www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org)

**BIRD TIP** \* \* November is the month of migrating raptors and waterfowl. Keep your eyes to the sky, especially for Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. While we don't have a lot of water in Windsor, if you go down the mountain look at lakes, ponds and rivers for ducks stopping over on their way south. And watch all fields for Snow Geese!

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

**A Home for Teacups.** Shortly after buying my first home, I decided I wanted an opening between the dining area and the newly constructed living room. I did the right thing by consulting a carpenter with far more expertise than I had. I wanted the opening to have very creative shelving for my vast collection of bone china teacups.

The carpenter stood on the newly constructed side of the wall and I stood on the other while I explained in intricate detail what I wanted, and he patiently explained how and why it could or couldn't be done. Eventually, with a sigh of relief, he agreed it could be done. "Is this what you wanted?" he said pointing to the newly constructed and painted wall. As I had spoken, he had drawn my design in intricate detail and there it was in all its glory decorating his side of the wall!

The shelving was done perfectly. The wall was re-painted, and he warned all his contractor friends to stay away that crazy woman with big ideas. I would definitely recommend this patient man to any and all. My teacups had the most beautiful, convenient place to be. I have displayed those teacups in every one of my homes since, but I will always remember the design drawn on the wall.

## Cross Country Ski Swap at Notchview, November 20

The annual Ski sale to benefit the Berkshire Trails Bill Koch League & Nordic Sky Club will be held on Sunday, November 20, 11AM-1:30PM outside the Notchview lodge on Route 9.

This is a great place to find previously used cross-country skis, boots, poles – all styles and sizes and used sports clothing at great prices – jackets, jerseys, racing suits, hats, gloves & more!

If you would like to add (through consignment) your outgrown or unused skis, poles, boots, bindings, clothing and other sports equipment (e.g. camping gear, water sports, rollerskis, rollerblades, bicycles, bike supplies or parts), bring to Notchview on Saturday November 19, 3 - 5:30 PM and fill out a Consignment Sheet. Questions, email: [carlvc1974@gmail.com](mailto:carlvc1974@gmail.com). For more information on the Bill Koch Ski League and Notchview ski programs for kids, visit: <http://berkshiretrailsbk.com>.



## From the Green Committee

The installation of the new heating system in the Town Hall is nearly complete. The system should be fully functional by mid-November. The process has not been as smooth as we had hoped, yet it also has had some unanticipated benefits. Shortly after the bid had been accepted, MassSave changed its rebate system and the proposal had to be reworked to accommodate the new schedule of rebates. That was a delay.

However, the new rebate was higher than the previous one, saving us on the overall cost of the system. The rebate will now cover more than half the cost of the contract for the new heat pump system. Also, with the new rebate, it became clear that a system that operates on 3-phase electricity would be the most cost-efficient, and will save on utility costs and energy usage!

Supply chain delays also caused delays in receiving the electrical equipment necessary for rewiring the building for 3-phase, and the ASHP equipment that was on order, challenging us to scramble to reschedule all the necessary players.

Finally, our contractor, Gates HVAC of Turners Falls, was set to install the equipment on the scheduled day when several members of the crew became ill, pushing our schedule back a couple of weeks.

Along the way it became clear that the old oil-fired furnace and accompanying ductwork would have to be removed in order to accommodate the new electrical wiring and air-source heat pump equipment. (A shout-out to inmates from the Berkshire County House of Correction who came to haul out concrete debris from the basement.)

Finally, the well-pump that had been in the basement had to be moved up to the first floor, where it would be safely installed in a heated space.

All in all, there were a lot of steps and a lot of players that allowed this to happen!

--Holly Higinbotham

### Energy-Saving Tip

It's time to reverse the ceiling fan that has kept your house cool in the summer. When you set the direction of the fan to turn clockwise, it pushes warm air that has risen to the ceiling back down into the room. It also helps to redistribute air so the air coming out of the vents reaches all parts of the room rather than having warmer and cooler pockets of air in different areas.

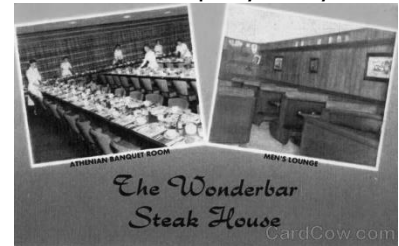
## Looking Back.....

From the September 1954 issue of *Progress*:

"Things I Noticed on Vacation," by Mary Bowman

1. Someone gave an appropriate name to a very necessary, commonplace commodity along the highway – "Travel Trash" cans.
2. After noting the scores and scores of lettuce grown in the fields along the coast road to Cape Elizabeth, one would think it supplied all New England.
3. In "The Wonder Bar", a restaurant in Biddeford, Maine, miniature menus are provided for children in the party. They are about 1/3 the

regular size and contain menus especially for



children from the age of 2 to 12, and priced accordingly.

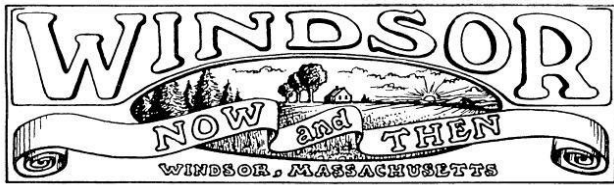
4. It is not new to find slot radios in the cabins at motels, by which for depositing 25 cents we get programs for a certain period. This year several motels and cabin are provided with Free TV. The sets are equipped with two antennae on top of set inside the building and can be adjusted to receive several stations.



5. Noting all farm work being practically done by machinery, one wonders what has become of the friendly old farm horses.



NOVEMBER 2022



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Windsor, MA 01270

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### **Does Windsor Have Room for the East Windsor Chapel?**

Windsor is a town rich in history, but poor in historical buildings. A dramatic decline in population – from over 1,100 in 1811 to the all-time recorded low of 314 in 1940 – left mills, houses, stores and workshops vacant, and eventually most of those structures disappeared. Our structural past lives on mostly in cellar holes.

From a historical perspective, this is perhaps most visible (or, more accurately, invisible) in East Windsor, once a thriving population center closely linked with neighboring West Cummington. The Grange Hall (later AOUW Hall), East Windsor store and post office, blacksmith shop, Ball Mill, Jordan's Hotel and other fixtures are all long gone.

An exception – so far – is the East Windsor Chapel, built on land donated by community leaders including Charles Ball. The Chapel opened in 1911. The first service was the funeral of Cora Ball, Charles' beloved wife, and the final service was a wedding in 1940, that of Hope Lyons Mattis and Arthur Bernard Garceau.



But the chapel has had a second life as a community gathering place. Ball's daughter, Mary Ball Bowman, led the efforts of the East Windsor Progressive Society to build a community meeting room in the basement, funded entirely by subscriptions to the group's monthly newsletter, Progress.

Still later, in 1973, the Windsor Historical Commission, under the aegis of the Town, took responsibility for the Chapel. In recent years it has hosted community arts events, music, and poetry readings. But a lack of

plumbing, heating and consistent use has taken a toll, exacerbated by the pandemic.

All of which places the future of this testament to the history and community spirit of East Windsor at risk. It's time for an urgent conversation about whether, how, and to what purpose we can bring the Chapel into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Please reach out to the Windsor Historical Commission (Deb Balmuth, Susan Phillips, Cathy Garcia, Jack Sobon, Aimee Gelinias, Dan Cohen & Val