



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
DECEMBER
issue:
Friday,
November
24**

Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIX, No. 10

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

NOVEMBER 2023

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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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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.

Friends of Windsor Notes

In this season of Thanksgiving, our gratitude goes out to all the residents of Windsor—past and present—who lend your support and encouragement as readers, contributors, and donors. It truly takes all of us to make a community, and to keep this community paper going. Looking up at those Roman numerals in our masthead, I'm reminded that this newsletter has been in continuous publication for 39 years! That's a tribute to the strong volunteer spirit that has been at the heart of Windsor's endurance over the years.

We've enclosed a little white envelope in this issue, should you feel inspired to make a year-end gift to Friends of Windsor. We're a nonprofit, so your gift is tax-deductible.

Wishing you and your family and friends warm gatherings filled with love and gratitude. *-Deb Balmuth*

Community Bingo December 12

The senior outreach coordinator, Jessica Buoymaster, is hosting community bingo on Tuesday, December 12, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm at the Town Hall. Bring your own drinks and snacks. For questions, call Jessica at 413 -329 - 4364 (Note: this is sponsored by her, not the COA).

October Bird Tip

It's still too early to put feeders out, as the bears are not yet hibernating (which is never full hibernation, because they do awake on warmish winter days). If you're missing the birds, try scattering a little bit of seed on the ground and nearby surfaces each day. That will generate some bird activity but they'll likely eat it up during the day and it won't be concentrated in a single location for the foraging bear!

If you do see bear activity in your yard, it is best to refrain from any form of bird-feeding for a few weeks to discourage the bear from returning to your yard and your neighbors'. *-Holly Higginbotham*



From the Green Committee

The Town has received a grant for \$38,850 from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division to install insulation in two buildings. The Green Committee submitted this grant application in April 2023 and was notified in early October that we were granted the funds.

\$32,220 of the grant will fund insulating the walls of the Highway Department garage. This will complete the “envelope” of insulation for this building, ensuring more comfort for our workforce as well as significantly lower heating bills. The first part of insulating the building—a new roof with ceiling insulation—was completed in November 2022. The complete project, new roof and insulation was paid for with \$126,000 of ARPA funds (the federal American Recovery Plan Act).

\$6,360 of the grant will underwrite the insulation in the basement room of the Town Hall. Previous grants, during a period of several years have paid for multiple projects insulating the ceiling, walls, and kitchen and rest room crawl spaces of that building, as well as the installation of custom-made insulated curtains.

It is possible, given that the grant application used a cost analysis that was obtained a year ago, that there will be some need for Town funding to round out the full cost. We will know more once the bidding process starts, and town residents will be informed as the process goes forward.

All together, these various projects are evidence of the Town’s commitment to being a Green Community and to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels as well as decreasing the cost of heating our municipal buildings.

—Stu Besnoff

Energy Tip

Open the shades on sun-facing windows during the day to get free solar heat but close them after dark to add a little extra insulation. Heavy drapes or thermal insulated shades work best.

Tamarack Hollow Trail Work Day November 12

The Fall Boreal Forest Volunteer Trail Work Day will be held at Tamarack Hollow Nature Center in Windsor on Sunday, November 12, 9AM-1PM. Join in clearing trails and prepping the site of the future nature center – come for any amount of time you can and bring a friend! Snacks, water and cider provided. Please bring your own gloves. To register: full_circle_o@yahoo.com. Visit www.tamarackhollow.org

From the Windsor Congregational Church

Hello all, and happy November. The Thanksgiving Praise and Worship Service is returning to the mountain, right here at the Windsor Congregational Church. On Thanksgiving morning, you can let the turkey tend to itself for an hour or so while you join with family, friends and neighbors as we give thanks together. We will gather at the Church at 10AM to celebrate the many gifts that have been given to us.

Whether you are a current or former member, or have never been a church person, we welcome you and hope to see you all on Thanksgiving morning. And I promise to have you out in time for the football games! --Pastor Sandy Racette



Food Drive in Windsor

Can you spare a few cans or boxes of food for the local food pantry? The Windsor Congregational Church is sponsoring another food drive this year and the need is greater than ever. All donations will be given to the “Loaves & Fishes” food pantry in Dalton. All non-perishable donations are appreciated. You can drop them off at Friendly Fred’s, Sangar’s, or the Library from November 15 to Sunday the 19. Windsor was amazingly generous last year so thanks in advance for your support.

--Sharon DeGiorgis, for Windsor Church

WHAT WINDSORITES ARE READING

Leaning Toward Light: Poems for Gardens & The Hands that Tend Them, edited by Tess Taylor

This lovely poetry anthology includes poems from many contemporary poets—including Windsor’s own Patty Crane—that celebrate the growing season, from spring planting and sprouting to the time of harvest and wintering. Anyone who loves the plant world will enjoy taking a pause from the garden chores and opening these pages for a bit of inspiration and reflection.

Here’s a poem from the collection for this moment, as the last root vegetables are being pulled from the cold soil.

Carrot

by Leah Naomi Green

Take all summer,
your ember
from the sun,
its walking meditation.

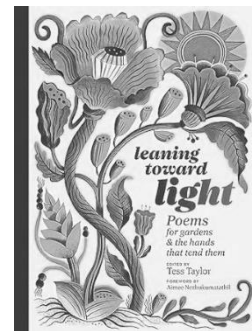
Store it in small
vaults of light

to keep
the rest of us

when winter seals
around each day.

We’ll flicker
To the table.

We’ll gather
To your orange flame.



This beautifully illustrated book is available in the Windsor Library. (Full disclosure: It’s published by Storey Publishing, in North Adams,

MA, where I work.) --Deb Balmuth

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

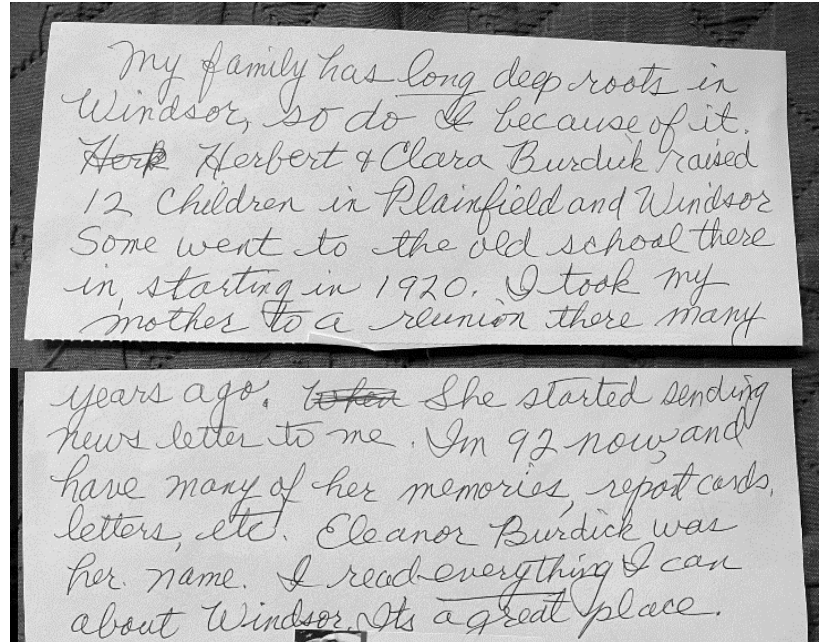
The traditional top of the Christmas tree is a star, or an angel, or a favorite ornament. Not so in our household. We had a pet five-foot iguana, Mr. Scattergoods, who loved climbing to the top of the tree to bask in the holiday lights. He stayed at the top, smiling through the branches at freaked out guests. It was so much fun. I miss him very much.



I think of him whenever we have spaghetti, his favorite food. He must have been Italian. I think iguana definitely sounds Italian. We no longer have an angel iguana tree topper. Maybe next year?! Perhaps we can convince Opie, our resident Opossum, to spread some holiday cheer. He could grow angel wings and join in for some holiday eggnog. That would be a very merry Christmas. . . . Opie! Get out of the punch bowl and get back up to the top of the tree and smile, smile, smile!

A Note from an Appreciative Reader with Windsor roots

We were so touched by this note from Norman Burdick, now living in Williamstown, whose mother had fond memories of growing up in Windsor.



Another Item from the Windsor Historical Collection

(article continued from back page, by Susan Phillips)

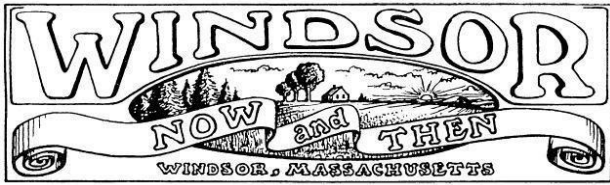
Another item finding safe winter harbor at Town Hall for the winter is this photographic print of a rather battered-looking *U.S.S. President Grant*. According to our records, Windsor's Marty Williams traveled to and from Europe aboard the *Grant* during his World War I military service.



The ship had an interesting war story of her own, starting out as a passenger liner for the Hamburg-America line. Having been stuck in the port of New York City at the outbreak of war in 1914, the ship was seized by the U.S. Government in 1917, when the United States entered the war, and carried some 40,000 passengers, mostly troops, from New York to the European theater until the armistice of November 1918. She then turned to the job of bringing back more than 37,000 veterans during eight more round trips across the Atlantic.

This photograph was taken by E. Muller Jr. in New York Harbor in 1919, which may explain the *Grant's* less-than-pristine appearance.

NOVEMBER 2023



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

**ENCLOSURES: COA NEWSLETTER
DONATION ENVELOPE**

Cozy Winter Lodgings for Some of Our Historical Collection

The approach of winter is a chance for me to get to know the collection of the Windsor Historical Museum a little better, as we move some fragile items from the unheated building to our office in Town Hall.

This year we're adding some of the photographs and paintings usually hung on the walls of the museum to the list of winter migrants.

Among them is this watercolor painting of Highwood, the Thorndike-Atherton estate in Windsor. According to our accession records, it was painted by Lester W. Souther, caretaker at Highwood from 1920 to about 1952. It's likely he knew Highwood better than anyone, including its owners.

Highwood was the most secluded of the handful of large estates built in Windsor during the late 19th and early 20th century. Grace Atherton had work started on the house after her marriage to Alden Augustus Thorndike in 1890; the two of them were adventurous travelers and in 1959 her book about



their travels, along with an account of the early settlers of Windsor, was published with the title "From Candlelight to Satellite" (our copy of the book also winters in Town Hall). –*Susan Phillips*

Read about another item from the collection on inside...page 3