



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for NOVEMBER issue:
Thursday, October 26

Send news to editor:
Deborah.balmuth@storey.com
(mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

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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, activities, and projects that cultivate community. We welcome 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-length articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets—our natural setting, people, and community—contact deborah.balmuth@storey.com.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Crane, president; Deborah Balmuth, co-editor; Susan Edwards, graphics; Val Kohn, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Diane Sturtevant, treasurer.

Paper Talk

With the falling leaves, I find myself reflecting on the special beauty of Windsor and the interdependence of all of us who form and keep this community going, growing, and thriving. Let's keep the conversation and gatherings going! --Deborah

FOW News

Warning: Wholesome Outdoor

Fun Ahead – Friends of

Windsor is just days away from

releasing the first set of hidden

outdoor surprises for our new geocaching project. If you don't

know what geocaching is, well, neither did I. So I downloaded

the app onto my iphone, looked at the map to see what caches

are close to my house, rounded up the dog, and went hunting.

I won't say more, except that it was fun, I discovered a new

(to me) kind of mushroom along the way, and the dog, though

entertaining, was not necessary. The FOW project will

incorporate our focus on Windsor history, and we're engaged

with Craneville Elementary and Nessacus on ways to get their

students involved – included some field trips to find our

caches. – Susan Phillips

Thank You, Windsor! You should be proud of the long list of donor's names in this issue -- 30! We are so grateful for your generous support of our efforts. The little envelopes from last month's issue are still coming in with your gifts. (If that little envelope worked its way to the bottom of that pile on your desk, it's never too late) We'll be putting the funds to work building community and connecting Windsor residents to each other and to our history. The geocache project will continue throughout the months ahead, and we're excited by the interest from local educators. And we're always cooking up new projects. Here's how to reach us – email fowindsor@gmail.com, and by regular mail Friends of Windsor, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8/Windsor, MA 01270.



A VISIT WITH JENNIFER LEE, TRADITIONAL BARK BASKETMAKER

See back page for story;
photo by Barbara Connors.



A big thank you from the Windsor Historical Commission. The Pie Sale & Harvest Festival was a great success, raising \$1000 for the ongoing support of our museum and historical sites and activities. Thank you for baking, buying, eating, and enjoying yourselves!

Town Clerk Notes

Highlights from the September 25 Special Town Meeting include:

New fire truck. The town added its 5% and accepted the grant to purchase a new fire truck. At a later special town meeting, the town will be asked to vote to transfer the money set aside in the vehicle stabilization account, to complete this purchase.

It was an impressive meeting with the 48 voters asking thoughtful questions and paying close attention to what the town was/is doing. The most impressive part was the discussion on the two proposed resolutions. Action on both resolutions was postponed until the next town meeting, but the discussion was terrific. Residents listened to each other, acknowledged differing points of view and, in some cases, changed their minds. It was suggested by some that we not write a resolution, but get together in a forum to learn more about the issue of pollinators and what clean energy really is (the subject of the two resolutions).

The certified STM minutes are available on windsormass.com under municipal resources/town meeting minutes.

Ongoing community conversation?

Building on the suggestion of a forum, I'd like to suggest we get together monthly, as a town, to discuss pertinent issues. Our farmers seemed to have a handle on pollinator and invasive issues and are willing to share their expertise. Clean energy ideas are always welcome. Maybe the fire department would show pictures of the proposed truck and share what goes into a truck to make it ideal for fighting fires. We could also talk about marijuana, the town emergency plan, and aging in place in Windsor.

We could share dessert and conversation. It is a long winter and we can't ski or snowmobile every night! Contact me if you are interested in making this happen. --*Madeline Scully, Town Clerk*

Senior News

October 11 is the date for the Meatloaf Special luncheon. Come one, come all for comfort food extravaganza. Halloween costumes suggested, but not mandatory, however witches, ghosts, vampires, and scarecrows eat first. --*Mame Whelihan*

Fall Fest & Trick or Treat Sunday, October 29

The Windsor Parks and Rec committee is sponsoring Fall Fest, Sunday, October 29 from 12 noon-3:00 pm at Town Park on Peru Road.

Come decorate or carve pumpkins, enjoy hot cider and donuts, make a craft, and get ready for Halloween trick or treating! Get your photo taken in the photo booth before you leave! All ages welcome! Please RSVP so we have enough pumpkins to Abby at (413) 588-7026 or aduffy89@me.com.

Windsor's Halloween Trick or Treating will follow that evening, Sunday, October 29 from 4 to 7 pm. Get your goodies ready—and don't get scared!



Softball Round-up. What a wonderful afternoon we had at the Town Park on September 16 for the Parks and Rec softball game! We had amazing score keepers (it was a 7-7 tie!), great cheerleaders, seasoned players and a few first timers, and best of all, a lot of smiles. But it didn't stop there! Everyone brought a dish to share and chef Dominique served up hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers to add to a beautiful spread donned with wild flowers. We retired by the bonfire for roasted marshmallows where neighbors met for the first time, friends caught up, and kids ran around being kids. It was a relaxing day building community. Thank you to everyone who joined us to make the event a success. We hope more will join us at our next event! --*Barbara Connors*

Windsor Church Pancake Breakfast November 5

The church is having a breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, November 5, 8-10 am, at the Windsor Town Hall. The proceeds will help pay for our new parsonage roof and the vandalism repairs to our windows. Tickets are \$8 each. Call 684-5012 for tickets.

Cultural Council Grants

The Windsor Cultural Council is soliciting grant applications for the 2018 funding year. The grants, distributed through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, provide funding for local cultural and education programs. You can complete the form online at www.mass-culture.org. Applications must be completed by **October 16, 2017**.

The Windsor Cultural Council does not seek or schedule community events, it just provides monetary support. **If you have a favorite program you would like to see offered in Windsor, please encourage them to apply for a cultural council grant.** For questions, please contact the Cultural Council Committee at (860) 965-6594.

The Selectboard Corner

The special town meeting on Sept 25th lasted much longer than I had expected. There was a bit of confusion on some articles, others prompted insightful questions requiring the SB to be on the ball with answers, while others breezed through without a hand raised.

The two resolution articles generated controversy and it's the way the advocates, opponents, and a room full of engaged citizens, conducted themselves that was heartening. It was a "how to" lesson in civics. Opposing perspectives were orderly and respectfully shared and raised hands brought constructive suggestions.

In the end, the proponents were invited, by unanimous vote of all present, to defer the articles to the next town meeting. That way, giving the resolution advocates a second chance so that the articles could be tightened up, made more clear, and tailoring to our community.

When I ran for elected office in 2015, I distilled my transfer-station talking points to one simple ambition, to help restore civility in town governance. You folks are making me proud. --*Tim Crane, Selectboard Chairman*

REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELIHAN

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

THE GALLOPING GOURMET. The Riding Ring is done and except for some landscaping and finding the perfect horse we're done--for the moment at least. Wendi promised to work on the landscaping, although she doesn't consider something she's so good at "work"; the perfect horse is another story and I'm beginning to put that in the "work" category.

I did find a perfect specimen -- well maybe not quite so perfect. You know the old saying about beauty being in the eye of the beholder. Well, I'm the beholder I guess. He was a beautiful chestnut with very long, smooth strides. Good disposition, ten years old and, oh yes, did I mention he was 17.1 hands tall? In horse talk a hand is four inches, approximately the width of your hand. If you dismounted from this big guy you would need a running leap and a large boost to get back on. He was definitely a "no".

Then there was the one who didn't like indoor ring work. In fact he hated it so much he would only go in reverse. If you insisted on his behaving he would go straight up. There's nothing quite as scary as seeing your daughter headed for the sky on the back of a horse. He was a "no" also. On to the next.

This one I can't forget. He was promoted as 14.2, completely broke, sweet disposition, ten years old, sound and priced right. When we arrived, out comes this pathetic, ill-groomed creature with the saddest eyes I've ever seen, saying, "take me home" which, of course, we couldn't do. I cried all the way home.

I can tell you about horses for sale in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and, yes, Vermont. The upside to all of this-- we had a meal on each trip. The Apple Barn in Schoharie, NY was the best, with a wonderful guitar player and great food. The horse there was a "no" too, but it's too painful to talk about. Now for the good upside: we found the perfect horse. He's 14.2, very dark Bay (almost black) which I like, completely broke, great disposition, loves trail riding as well as ring work, priced close to right, and will be coming home in two weeks. Carrots and champagne welcomed. If you're reading this in *WN&T*, he's probably here. No more Galloping Gourmet trips for a while. . . . Unless, of course, we go see my sad-eyed one again.

Fire Department Raffle

The Windsor Volunteer Firemen's Association is holding a raffle for a coffee table, handmade by Windsor's Scott Brockway of Berkshire Wood Products. The Sugar Maple table features a live edge design, 53" long, 32" wide (widest end) and 19" tall. Tickets are \$10, available at Friendly Fred's and Sangar's or from Jordan Koch, 413-464-1569. Only 100 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be December 1, or when all tickets have been sold. Please consider supporting your local emergency responders and get a chance to win a one-of-a-kind piece of furniture made in Windsor! --Blake Edwards

Sense of Community

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." —Maya Angelou

Birds Here & There

Excerpts from the past columns of Bob Wood, who entertained and educated us in this space for more than 10 years. His tips on what to look for at this time of year endure.

From the October 2010 issue:

More than once I've come home on a late September or October evening and heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling. I'll describe the sound as tooting, about one toot per second, all on the same note, which can be easily imitated by whistling a brief note over and over. It is a simple and monotonous call which has given this owl its name, as people have thought the tooting similar to the sound of a mill saw being sharpened with a file. They are handsome little owls and the smallest owl occurring in the northern tier of the United States, with an average wingspan of 17 inches and average weight of 2.8 ounces.

From the October 2008 issue:

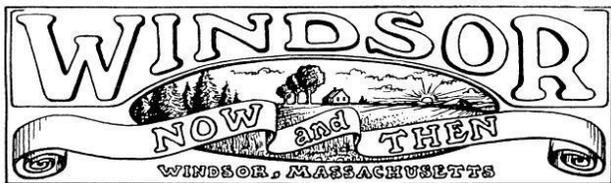
What is the most numerous, breeding hawk in Berkshire County? My vote would be cast for the **Broad-winged Hawk**. Especially in our Hilltowns, the relatively small Broad-winged Hawk is a common sight along our roads where it often perches on power lines waiting to pounce on small rodents. In September, "Broadwings" undertake a massive evacuation of their breeding territory, which is comprised of most of the eastern half of the United States and the southern half of Canada. Most of these birds fly south starting right about mid-September and fly all the way down to the rainforests of northern South America.

From the October 2016 issue:

On a damp, chilly day in early October, I went birding in the Northampton area with some friends. Many of the fields had been harvested and disked. **American Pipits** were the most obvious bird. October is the best time to see these birds as they migrate through Berkshire County and Western Massachusetts. We saw flocks of fifty or more. They were not eating the left-behind vegetables, but rather, the insects that were attracted to the vegetables left rotting in the fields. For the same reason, pipits are also found in fields where manure has been spread. To my eye, American Pipits resembles thrushes, grey-brown above and buffy with brown streaking below. This species has white outer tail feathers. . . . If you go looking for American Pipits, the cultivated fields are the best places to go. Scan carefully with binoculars and you are likely to succeed.

Star Gazing at Notchview, Saturdays October 14 & November 11

If the skies are clear, the members of the Arunah Hill Astronomy Club will once again be offering tours of the skies with their high-powered telescopes. The event is free to Trustees members and Windsor residents. It starts at 7PM outside the Notchview visitors' center and runs until 9:30pm. --Colin Harrington



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What's in a Basket?

If it was made by Jennifer Lee, you will find history, beauty and strength... But you can also use it to gather berries.

I visited Lee at her Plainfield home to learn more about her craft of making traditional folded bark baskets. (Lee, who once lived in Windsor and still owns property here, took part in the Windsor Grown celebration on July 15.)



Photo by Barbara Connors

Lee is of Narraganset and Pequot heritage, and she explained that she learned the basics about 30 years ago at a powwow in Vermont. "There was a Wabanaki basket maker there... I asked if I could sit and watch and learn how," said Lee. "He said yes, but that I had to understand something. 'These aren't baskets, they're buckets,' he told me. He meant that they are made to be sturdy and to work hard."

Three decades later, almost every shelf and flat surface in Lee's home holds folded bark forms waiting to be finished at one of her many workshops, classes and demonstrations. Lee uses the bark of white pine and ash trees, harvested from trees on her land.

She folds the bark just so, taking aesthetic advantage of the lichen and knot-holes in each piece. "After harvest, it's soft, like leather," said Lee. "That's when it has to be shaped." Once formed into the various shapes – quiver, mokuk, cat's eye – the forms are held together with clothespins to dry and harden.

That is the point at which Lee sews the seams, using an awl to pierce the hardened bark, then pushing lengths of spruce root through the holes. Often she adds a top rim of red willow, and a strap. This is also the part of the process that Lee teaches when she gives one of the many demonstrations and classes that fill her calendar.

Over time, Lee said, it's the teaching that has become central. "I want to share something of what really happened here," she said, with "here" meaning the Northeast region during the Colonial era, when settlers and the local tribes first encountered each other. Researching, understanding, and then sharing that history "is really my life's work," says Lee. The bark baskets are a material expression of the land, and the culture of the tribes that first lived on it and with it.

"I am not a writer. That is painful for me, like using a muscle I don't use very much," said Lee. But sharing her skill, and explaining its history, is her own way to bring us closer to our past. Lee admits to being computer-averse, but can be contacted through her website if you're interested in her baskets or demonstrations: <http://www.barkbasketsbyjlee.com/> --Susan Phillips