



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for NOVEMBER issue: Thursday, Oct. 25
Send news to editor:
Deborah.balmuth@storey.com
(mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIV, No. 10

www.friendsofwindsor.com

OCTOBER 2018

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

Anonymous / Heather Cupo
Jo & Victor Yohay

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; Cindy Efinger, director; Val Kohn, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer; Robin Tesoro, director.

Paper Talk

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

--Deborah

If you have events happening in early November, please send to fowindsor@gmail.com for inclusion in our online calendr (at friendsofwindsor.com) and our print version available at the stores at the Town Offices.

FOW News

What ARE We Planning? You may have noticed that Friends of Windsor is a group that sometimes seems to have a bee in its bonnet.

This year, the term is especially apt, as we have been helping to focus on and promote the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecological health of our little piece of the Berkshires. The previous year, we were all about Windsor history – a theme that continues to buzz in this newsletter and may buzz louder in the near future. Do you want to know more about our plans and projects? Please come to the FOW Annual Meeting, Wednesday November 7th at 7 pm in the Town Offices.

Our Bottom Line – Whatever we get up to, the underlying mission of Friends of Windsor is always the same: “to foster communication and understanding among the people of Windsor and neighboring communities.” Those words come from the late Arnold F. Westwood, who spearheaded the creation of FOW more than 30 years ago. This newsletter was FOW’s first project, and for 18 years Arnold and his wife Carolyn put it together at their kitchen table every month. Times have changed but this is still true: there is no community without individual support...so please consider making a tax-deductible donation! Checks made out to Friends of Windsor can be mailed to FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor MA 01270. –Susan Phillips

Pumpkin Carving and Decorating Event October 27

Kids of all ages and those young at heart are welcome to carve and paint pumpkins on Saturday, October 27 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Town Hall. Pumpkins and decorations will be provided, just bring your imagination! Come in your Halloween costume for added fun!

–Barbara Connors



Thank You from the Historical Commission!

Our annual Pie Sale & Harvest Festival was a great success. Thanks to everyone who baked and came out to support the event. Special thanks to the Windsor Cultural Council, and to our hardworking Historical Commission members: Heather Zanolli, Aimee Gelinias, Dan Kohn, Pete Menard, Susan Phillips, Val Trela, Jack Sobon, and Cathy Garcia.

We raised \$900 to support our ongoing work of maintaining the Windsor History Museum and East Windsor Chapel and providing educational and cultural activities for the town. We're beginning to look forward to Windsor's 250th anniversary celebration—coming in 2021! This is an exciting opportunity to reflect on Windsor's past and celebrate our present. We're looking forward to opening up a town conversation about how we want to commemorate Windsor's story. Stay tuned for more on how you can be part of this conversation—it's going to take a village to make a truly memorable Windsor Bash! –Deborah Balmuth

Town Clerk Notes

Important Dates

11/6/2018 State Election polls open 7am-8pm

10/17/2018 Last Day to Register to Vote

10/22-11/2 Early Voting during regular business hours (Monday 5-

7PM, Tues/Wed 10-2 or by appt)

To request an absentee ballot, stop in or email windsortownclerk@gmail.com

We need poll workers for all shifts.



10/10 Community Luncheon at the Town Hall. All welcome \$5 at the door Quiche, vegetable harvest soup, rolls and dessert. Bring your beverage of choice in your container or water is available.

10/31 Halloween Trick or Treat 5:30-7:30. Leave your light on!

Tax Bills

Because it is a revaluation year, tax bills will be sent out later than usual. We're anticipating they will be issued mid- to late-October, with payment due 30 days after issue.

Aging in Windsor

The results of the survey distributed with our annual census are available on windsormass.com under COA. Please feel free to add to the response by emailing windsortownclerk@gmail.com or contacting the select board with your comments and suggestions regarding services and programming you would like to see in place in Windsor. Let us know if you would be willing to volunteer some time to help seniors either with visiting or providing a service.

Writing Workshop

Meets Thursdays, 10AM, in the downstairs, town office, small conference room. Just a small group of people sharing their writings. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.



REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELIHAN

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! One of the downsizing of "aging in place" is the downsizing of one's ability to hear clearly. How many times can you say "what?" without a loss of patience from the speaker? So, off you go to a hearing specialist and are told hearing aids are the answer. A miracle? No, a step in the right direction. A solution? Maybe. You soon realize if a speaker has her head in the refrigerator while asking if you want anything you are back to saying, "What?"

Now hear this, you are in a crowded restaurant, music playing rather loudly, everyone in the room is talking, the waiter is asking your choice of entree, a two-year old is voicing his opinions loudly and to each question you say, "What?" Embarrassing, to say the least.

Now try this one. Phone rings and you answer. The caller says, "What's new?" You do hear that. He's in the car. Before you can answer he prepares to turn left, so his turn signal comes into play. That you can hear, but nothing else. Frustrating? You bet.

Another scenario – the class you opted to take has its not-so-easy situation. The professor writes great things on the board. He faces the board with his back to you as he explains what he's writing. Unfortunately, no sound comes from the back of his head and you hear yourself mutter the deadly "what?"

Hearing aids are a great help to the hearing-impaired, but they should come with instructions – for the people speaking. Please face the wearer when you shout, "Oh look, a bear" with your head turned toward the bear. The bear can hear you, but I can't. If your head is in the refrigerator and you say, "Do you want anything?" I could starve to death because I can't hear you. If the waiter in the noisy restaurant mumbles, "Do you want green beans with that?" please answer for me. I can't hear him and I hate green beans.

I appreciate and acknowledge the help of these little things that go in my ears, but I and they need help too. Oh yes, one other bit of advice – they should be removed before you hop in the shower. Trust me!

Display Your House Number—a tip from the Windsor Police Department

House numbers are not only convenient for finding addresses but necessary for emergency responders to locate those in need. Do your part to protect yourself by making sure your house number is clearly displayed in a size and color that is easily visible, on a sign that is near your driveway. Don't let the sign get covered with snow this winter.

Those extra minutes an emergency responder may have to spend trying to locate a property without a clear number sign spent are precious time lost, so take the time now to be sure your house numbers is clearly visible from the street.

--Chief Thomas J Barnaby

Select Board Corner

Nothing like the Select Board Corner to remind me how quickly a month goes by! It feels like a good time to express gratitude for the small and big ways so many people contribute to this community: employees, committee members, volunteers, those who completed the Aging in Place survey, and residents who raise our awareness. Every little bit makes this community a special place. This month alone our town had a photo show and concert, a blood drive, enlightenment speakers, a community luncheon, a flu clinic, a pie sale, and our youth volunteered in the Hilltown Olympics.

At the local government level, we received two grants and submitted a grant application, installed a new bridge on Flintstone Road, started work on the accessible ramp for the Town Office, continued work on "Greening" the Town Offices, compiled survey results, and made process on Broadband (Thank you Doug!). We had a Special Town Meeting where we discussed finances, laws related to open meeting requirements and conflict of interest, Broadband, and the Aging in Place survey.

This is all in addition to the "regular stuff" that keeps this town running. So even as the days get shorter and the nights colder, there is much to be thankful for in our little town! With appreciation, Your Select Board. --Kim Tobin, Select Board Chair

FOCUS on Windsor's Pollinators

OCTOBER: Fall Flowers support insect trick-or-treaters from near and far

Fall is often thought of as a time when the buzz of the natural world around us starts to go quiet. When it comes to insects, however, there is plenty of action on and around fall-blooming native plants. Goldenrods, asters, sunflowers, bush clovers, and other fall-blooming flowers are vital for many insects. Watch a goldenrod for a few minutes, and you'll see butterflies, bees, beetles, moths, and flies seeking the flowers' nectar or pollen. Many of these insects are important crop pollinators, while others help control crop pests. Some are passing through on their way to far-off destinations, many more are stocking up for a long winter rest or are enjoying their final meal before the frost. Each visitor has a role in natural communities.

As the fall season progresses, you may notice more male bees on flowers, sometimes even sleeping in the blooms. These are recognizable by their longer antennae—sometimes much longer!—and smaller bodies than their female counterparts. Many sweat bees complete their metamorphosis in late summer and emerge as adults to mate. After mating, females in those groups dig hibernaculae in which to overwinter, but the males remain out and about until they die as fall chills into winter. Bumble bee colonies that have been active for months only produce males late in summer, along with new queens. After mating, the queens will overwinter to start new colonies the following spring. The males have a shorter life, dying along with the rest of the colony before winter. Fall blooms are vital for the success of all of these bees and contribute to the strength of next year's populations.

Adding wildlife habitat signs to your garden is a valuable way to communicate with your neighbors and start conversations about the value of natural diversity. If your neighbors carry the old misconception that goldenrods cause hay fever, share a short video from [Discover Life's goldenrod page](#) about the diverse arthropods goldenrod supports and the real hay fever culprit (ragweed, which is wonderful for quail).

This excerpt was reprinted with permission from an article entitled [Fall Flowers to Support Trick or Treaters from Near and Far](#), found at the [Xerces Society website](#).

REMINDER: Windsor Cultural Council is inviting grant applications for the 2019 funding year. The grants, distributed through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, provide funding for local cultural and educational programs. To complete the form online, visit <http://www.mass-culture.org>. Applications must be completed by **October 15, 2018**.

For questions, call Barbara Connors at 860-965-6594.

Be sure to visit our OCTOBER Community Calendar, either online at friendsofwindsor.com (under *Windsor Now & Then*) or the print version available at Sangar's, Friendly Fred's, and the Town Offices.

Upcoming Events in Cummington

Art Exhibit: Kathryn Jensen's original 12 paintings for The Hilltown Calendar, opening and reception Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018 5 - 8 pm Community House Gallery 33 Main St., Cummington, Mass. Thanks to the Windsor Cultural Council for helping make this calendar possible.

West Cummington Church Auction: This year's annual auction will be silent, dinner choices will be expanded and there will be music and dancing! It all happens on Saturday October 20 at the Cummington Community House, 33 Main Street, in Cummington, beginning at 5PM. Proceeds from the sale of the dinner tickets and the silent auction support all the programs and activities of this country church renowned for music, warmth, and its generous and welcoming spirit.

The whole community is invited, so make your reservations soon! Only 90 tickets are for sale. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 from Sylvia Snape (413-345-0566) or sylvia.snape@gmail.com. All ticket purchasers will be entered in a raffle to win door prizes that range from items like theater and dinner gift certificates to Cummington Fair tickets.

Tamarack Hollow Drum Fest October 20 & 21

Windsor's Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center Center will hold its 9th Annual Berkshire Drum Fest at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Pittsfield, MA on October 20 (eve) and 21 (day) featuring classes and a performance by master drummer/djembe Fola Namory Keita from Guinea West Africa w/ performances by the Berkshire Rhythm Keepers led by Aimee Gelinias and Chris Hairston and members of Gaia Roots.

All proceeds to benefit the Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor, MA. Sponsored in part by the Pittsfield Cultural Council (Mass Cultural Council) and Cultural Pittsfield. Accepting event sponsorships, email Director aimee@gaiaroots.com.



Sense of Community

**"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."
—Sally Koch**

October 2018



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

An Eye for Now

A misty morning at Notchview, a handsome Monarch butterfly settled so-briefly on a milkweed flower – Windsor resident Barbara Connors always seems to have camera in hand for what photographers call “the decisive moment.”

*Connors is now working to make her long-time passion into a business. Windsor Now & Then asked her to write about her start-up, **Barbara Connors Photography**, for this issue.*

–Susan Phillips

My favorite photos are of my family, of course. My dad sitting in front of the house he was born and died in, my grandmother holding up two large cantaloupes to her chest with a big smirk on her face, and a photo of my boys picking blueberries when they were little. These are memories that are etched into the fabric of my home and memory because I was able to freeze them in time. I've always felt comfortable behind the camera lens, documenting life as it happens. Capturing moments that don't seem significant at the time that wind up being the ones I cherish most.

With a degree in photojournalism from Rochester Institute of Technology, and having used my skills throughout my career, I recently decided to take my love of photography to the next level by opening up a small business. It's exciting, nerve-racking, scary,

and joyful all in one fell swoop. I'm sure all you small business owners can relate. It's my goal to provide my clients with images that will last a lifetime and beyond. Pictures they will one day talk about with their kids and grandkids, that will bring a smile and maybe a tear. It's these moments, right now, that matter most. You can find examples of my work on Facebook (facebook.com/barbaraconnorsphotography) and on Instagram (@barb.connors).

If you are interested in my services, please contact me! barbaraconnorsphotography@gmail.com, (860) 965-6594, or on social media.

