



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for  
JANUARY  
issue:  
Thursday,  
DECEMBER 29**

Send news to:  
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## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVIII, No. 11

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

DECEMBER 2022

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES  
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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](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**

A big thank you to all our generous donors this month—your support is what keeps us going! Wishing all our readers happy, relaxing holidays.

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. *-Deb Balmuth*



### **Bird Walk, Saturday December 4—meet at Town Hall, 9:45**

Windsor Cultural Council is sponsoring a winter bird walk at the Eugene Moran Wildlife Sanctuary on Sunday, December 4, 10-11 AM. We will meet at the Town Hall at 9:45 and go over to the Moran area from there. Laura Beltran from Mass Audubon will be our guide.

As we take a winter walk at Moran WMA, we'll discover some common birds that inhabit the Berkshires in the winter. We'll learn how to identify the birds, where to find the birds, and what behaviors birds may exhibit during the coldest time of year. Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them.

Laura Beltran has been an environmental educator for over 30 years and is currently a Teacher/Naturalist at Mass Audubon's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. She became interested in birds as a young child after building a home bird feeder and enjoys sharing the joy of birding.

**BIRD TIP \*\*** It's finally safe to put feeders out, and even to leave them out overnight! By now, bears are (hopefully) hibernating and no longer a threat to feeders as well as ours and our neighbors' homes. Use a combination of black oil seed, thistle (or nyjer) seed, and suet to bring in a variety of birds. Consider using a platform feeder and sprinkling seed on the ground too.



## Town Master Plan Ready for Review and Public Discussion December 12

The Town's Master Plan is finally ready for public review! For the past year, the Master Plan Steering Committee has been developing a plan to address the Town's needs and priorities for the next 20 years. We've surveyed residents' preferences and concerns, conducted data analysis on those survey results, collected other relevant data about the Town and surrounding communities, and compiled it all into a report that outlines this information and includes recommendations for implementing the plan.

This report is now ready for your review and will be discussed in a presentation following the Special Town Meeting to be held Monday, December 12 at 7:15 pm. Please go onto the town website ([windsormass.com](http://windsormass.com)) and click on the Master Plan to read it.

-Master Plan Committee: -Holly Higinbotham, Chair / Barbara Connors

Chris Cozzaglio / Jordan Koch/

Mike MacDonald / Kim Tobin

## From the Town Administrator

**Special Town Meeting:** Monday, December 12, 7:15pm, at the Town Hall. The warrant includes an article requesting \$70,000 from free cash to refurbish and bring our ambulance up to code. Refurbishing rather than replacing will save the Town over \$400,000.

The second article is a request to change the name of the road off route 9 near Dalton line end of Flintstone Road to Flintstone Road Extension. Explanations and additional details are found in my newsletter (email: [mscully@windsormass.com](mailto:mscully@windsormass.com) to get on mailing list).

Following the Special Town Meeting, the Master Plan Steering Committee of the Planning Board will present the newly released Town master Plan, an extensive document that will be used to guide the development and focus of Windsor for many years. It is available on [Windsormass.com](http://Windsormass.com) and all residents are encouraged to review it.

Madeline Scully, Windsor Town Administrator

## From the Green Committee

Efforts to decrease energy usage and costs for the town buildings continue. The Highway Department garage has a new insulated roof, installed in November by one of Windsor's own, Keith Rehbein of U.S. Metal Roofing Distributors, Inc. This new roof, with an R-value of 38, replaces the old leaky roof that had an R-value of near 0. This will save the town in heating costs, fewer BTUs will be required to heat the space, and the highway crew will now be able to work on equipment without getting cold and wet! The \$126,000 project was paid for out of federal ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act). The Green Committee consulted on the project with Town Administrator Madeline Scully and the Select Board acting as the project coordinators. The next step at the Highway Garage will be to insulate the walls, and research on that project is underway. --Holly Higinbotham

## Energy-Saving Tip

Your television and all the devices plugged into it can easily use 30W or more of "standby power." Unplugging the TV and other devices such as stereo systems, game consoles, computers, microwaves—anything that shows a little green light even when not in use—can save more than \$30 per year.

If the outlet is not in a convenient location, a power strip with an on/off switch will make it easy to stop the standby losses.



## Windsor Library News

If you're a person who listens to books in your car, the Windsor Library has some new selections for you (that is, if your car is old enough to have a CD player).

- [These Precious Days](#) by Ann Patchett
- [The Hotel Nantucket](#) by Elin Hilderbrand
- [Playing With Fire](#) by Tess Gerritsen
- [The Highway](#) by C.J. Box
- [Escape](#) by James Patterson and David Ellis
- [The Midnight Library](#) by Matt Haig

There are more - come check them out!  
--Val Kohn (who has a CD player in her 2009 Honda Civic - Yeah!)

## What Windsorites are Reading

I picked this book up at the Dalton Library: *Act of Oblivion* by Robert Harris. It's a work of historical fiction about Colonel Edward Whaley and Colonel William Goff. These two fought for Oliver Cromwell in the English revolt against Charles the 1st. Ten years later, after Charles the 2nd came into power, they are on the run in 1660s New England, being hunted by the Royalists who have passed the provisions of Act of Oblivion to kill all of Cromwell's followers who signed Charles the 1st's death warrant.

The descriptions of 1660s Boston, Cambridge, Hartford, and New Haven are wonderful, as well as those of the Puritan religion and customs of the times. --Glenn Roy

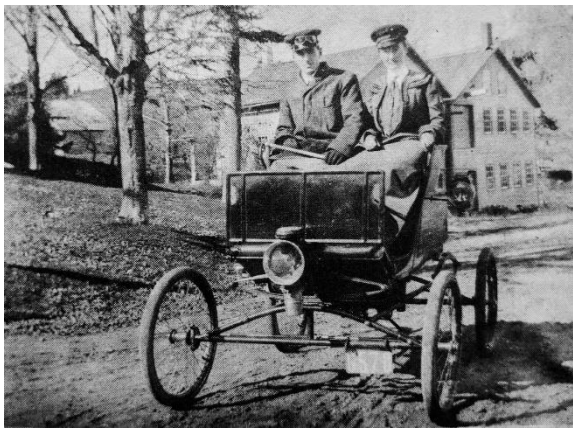
**What are you reading? Send us a short summary of your latest favorite book.**  
([fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com)).

Reflections from Mame Whelihan  
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

**My Guardian Angel.** My own private guardian angel must get overtime pay for all the help she gives me. My first self-purchased home was on a half-acre lot with another half-acre for sale right next to it. I really wanted the whole acre to be mine. Late one night the phone rang, and it was the contractor who owned the lot wanting to know if I was still interested. I was if I could afford it. He seemed to be breathing heavily and told me he was in jail, needing \$300 bail to get out. Yes, \$300 and the land could be mine! I headed to jail, posted his bail and the land was mine. He told me later that I stole that lot. I told him he gave it away, which he did when he lost his domestic abuse case. He lost his wife, too. My guardian angel refused to take his case. She's too busy with me and does great work. She's never left me.



East Windsor Grange Hall, shown beyond the East Windsor Store, run by Ballard Shaw.



In Oct. 1916, the Grange debated if automobiles were good or bad for the community. Here, early fans of the horseless carriage, Ballard and E. Shaw, motor in Windsor.

**Looking Back ....**

**East Windsor Grange Happenings, 1916**

*Before there was a Windsor Now & Then, there was Progress, the monthly publication of the East Windsor Progressive Society. Like our newsletter, Progress saw value in looking back to the past. From the December 1966 Issue of Progress comes this calendar of events planned by the East Windsor Grange for 1916.*

Jan. 4 – Installation of Officers by Past Master G. L. Miner assisted by Mrs. Miner.

Jan. 18 – “Our Native Land.” Each one present to give a short talk on their native town or state. First chapter of a story “John Smith – How he became a successful farmer on the hills of New England,” by B. H. Hollis.

Feb. 1 – Does it pay to raise our own grain? What kind gives the best results in Windsor? Leaders – H. A. Ford, Florian Tournier, Willis Tower. Paper, “Leaks on the farm and how to avoid them” by Onas Stearns.

Feb. 15 – Washington and Lincoln Night. Debate: Which was the greater man? Leaders, S. r. Coburn and O. D. Jacobs. Essays: “Washington,” by Drusilla Miner. “Lincoln,” by Evelyn Tirrell.

April 4 – Sugar eat.

April 18 – How I would farm if I were a man, by Mrs. S. R. Coburn. How I would keep house if I were a woman, by T. N. Day. Practical suggestions on spring farming, by F. V. Tournier.

May 16 – Young People’s night in charge of Miss Campbell, Miss Percy, Miss Harwood, Miss Lecelles, John Packard, Middleton Jacobs, Joseph Robins, Edgar Tirrell.

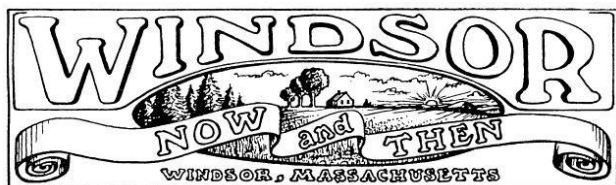
Oct. 17 – Discussion: Are automobiles an advantage or a disadvantage to our community? Leaders, C. H. Ball, E. E. Shaw, Harry Taylor and O. D. Jacobs. Papers: History of Windsor 50 years ago by Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Jacobs. History of Windsor 50 years hence, by Mr. and Mrs. B. Hollis.

Nov. 7 – Mock Trial.

Dec. 19 – Officer’s reports – Roll Call – In what way has the Grange been helpful to us during the past year?

**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).

DECEMBER 2022



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

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### Remembering Arthur Roland "Ron" Bilodeau

*My Dad was from the Dalton High School class of 1957, and a frequent visitor to Windsor. He loved to tell stories of his growing up in Windsor, Many of you you may have heard him tell his story "A Boy and a Horse in Windsor." He took me on trips to Windsor beginning when I was in grade school and continuing throughout my life. I have learned much of the history of Windsor and heard many tales about growing up free and wild in Windsor. I was able to camp out at Windsor Jambs; I hiked throughout the woods many cold fall days from the "Four Corners" of Bates and Savoy Hollow Road to the apple orchard, "foundations," Judges Hill, the Miller Estate; and Colonel Budd's place, and I and warmed my hands at Estes' (now Sangar's store). I have the most wonderful memories of my life of being with my father in Windsor and will miss those times.*

Arthur Roland "Ron" Bilodeau of Waltham Massachusetts passed away on November 11, 2022, after a brief illness. A long-time resident of Massachusetts,



Ron was raised on Windsor Mountain with his twin brother Richard, his sister Jaqueline "Dolly" and his older brothers, Theodore and Robert. Ron was a star football and baseball player at Dalton High School He was a pioneer in the cable television industry working as a lineman constructing the first cable television system in the Berkshires of Massachusetts in the early 1950's.

During the 1960's Ron designed printed circuit boards for the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs and in the 1970s worked with a small team of innovators to develop one of the first commercially viable computer terminals at Incoterm Corporation.

He served his community as a youth baseball coach, President of the Holliston Little Twi-League, a Park Commissioner and was a candidate for State Representative in the South Middlesex district, successfully winning the Democratic nomination.

After retiring from the electronics industry Ron became a skilled carpenter, refurbishing homes and restoring historic landmarks. He spent much of the last 15 years of his life as a care giver. He was an actor, poet, musician, and a free spirit who enjoyed the outdoors and had a love for animals, wildlife, and people. He is survived by his sister, Jaqueline, son, Ron, daughter, Marti, and grandchildren Sara, Amy, Matthew and Juliette. Lucky were those whose path crossed with his. His charm, humor, kindness, and generosity will be missed by all. *—Ron Bilodeau, Jr.*