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JANUARY  
issue:  
Thursday,  
December  
28**

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## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIX, No. 11

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

DECEMBER 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](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; Terra Missildine, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.



### Friends of Windsor Announcements

#### YOU ARE INVITED

#### Friends of Windsor Annual Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 6PM

At the Town Offices

*All Windsor residents are welcome! Please come and hear about our plans for the coming year and how you can get involved.*

### Update Your 2024 Phone Book Listing

Work has started on a new Windsor Phonebook and Community Directory. Be a part of it! We anticipate a lot of changes in this Spring 2024 edition. Many residents have dropped their landlines and added cell phones. In the last couple years, a number of new residents have moved to town.

If you are listed in the current 2021-2022 phonebook edition, please review your listing and let us know of any needed updates.

If you are not listed, and want to be, please send us your information. The simplest way to submit your information or updates can be found on our website [friendsofwindsor.com](http://friendsofwindsor.com).

Click on WINDSOR PHONE DIRECTORY, then on Windsor Residents Phone Directory Form. Complete the form, and press send.

Please include your:

- first and last name (and spouse/partner if it applies)
- home street address (and mailing address if different – i.e. PO Box)
- home phone number (if you have a landline)

Additional options:

- up to two cell phone numbers (please indicate who is associated with each)
- up to two email addresses (please indicate who is associated with each)

If you prefer to submit a paper form via mail, there is a blank form on the last page of the current phonebook.

Have questions? Please call or email Leslie Reed at 413-822-6982 or [lmreed430@gmail.com](mailto:lmreed430@gmail.com).

*Thank you!*

### From the Green Committee

As noted in last month's column, our latest grant application (\$38,580) has been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). We just received notice that DOER signed the competitive grant contract so the Town has an effective date (11-9-2023) and can begin work on the two requested projects.

The Invitation for Bids and the contract language for the Town Highway Department's wall insulation (\$32,220) are drafted and will be posted in the statewide system. Since the Town Hall basement room insulation is projected to cost less than \$10,000 (\$6,360), those requests for bids can be advertised more locally.

All the work will require preparations: A sump pump will be installed in the perpetually damp Town Hall basement prior to insulating. The disruption to operations of the tools, trucks, and machinery in the garage will need coordination by the Highway Department. But in the end, the cold cave they've had will be snug and energy efficient. —Marnie Meyers

### Energy Tip

Winter is the time to get furnaces and chimneys cleaned, plug drafts, add weather stripping as needed, and adjust snow tires to 30-35 PSI. If you haven't already, contact <https://www.masssave.com/> for a home energy assessment.

### Thank you to Windsor's Volunteers

It wasn't long after we moved to Windsor in 1999 that we realized how special a community we had joined. I'd grown up in a college town, where community services were commonly underwritten by the affluent institution. My husband lived in a city where politics regulated most everything. As everywhere, Windsorites have faced their share of issues. I'm constantly amazed at how, without hesitation, our community pulls together to face issues, be it weather-wise, public, or private support.

*Recent Case:* I was in a serious auto accident on route 9 that required emergency assistance. Most of it is still a blur to me, but I remain amazed at the turnout I witnessed of Windsor EMT, Fire, and Road staff volunteering their time and effort for everyone's safety—and how swiftly and safely all proceeded.

I'm sure they are called upon for these and other types of situations all too often. This is just one example of how Windsor's volunteers give so generously, and how fortunate we all are to live in such a unique community.

I realize several of my guardian angels live in Windsor! —Lynn Unwin

### From the Windsor Congregational Church

December blessings to one and all. As I continue to settle into my position here at the Windsor Congregational Church, I am delighted to announce the schedule for the upcoming Christmas services.

Since Christmas falls on a Monday this year, we will have two services on Christmas Eve, as well as a service on Christmas morning. On Sunday, we will gather at 10 AM for our regular Praise and Worship Service. We will gather again at 7 PM for a special Christmas Eve Service of Scripture and Song. On Christmas Day we will celebrate at 10 AM.

January has even more excitement on tap with the return of Sunday School, Youth Group, and Bible Study. Stay tuned for further details, and have a blessed December. —Pastor Sandy Racette



### December Bird Tip

The abundance of cones in White Pine trees suggests that we may see a lot of Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills this winter.

This prediction comes from the annual Winter Finch Forecast (<https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2023-2024>), which is published every year to indicate what species might be expected to "irrupt" into a more southerly area. It looks like a "moderate" year for some other winter finches, including Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Common and Hoary Redpolls. Keep an eye on your feeders for these winter birds.

—Holly Higinbotham



Twenty-two Windsor residents enjoyed friendship and delicious homemade dishes at this year's Thanksgiving Day community potluck at the Town Hall.

**REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELihan**  
*Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road*

AGING IN PLACE--YOUR PLACE OR MINE? Let's do mine. That's what a group of us decided was what we wanted. So we get together once a month and just talk, talk, talk about whatever springs to mind. It's what we want and we listen,--that's a bonus! We listen and talk. That's what we miss the most. What is said stays in the group and never leaves the room. We must be slow learners. It took us this long to realize we needed the companionship of our peers. Some of our, "Remember When," stories are hysterical compared to present day events and behavior. The "June Cleaver era" gets compared to a lot. This idea for get-togetherness had a stroke of genius. I'd like to think it was mine. I'm a natural-born groupie I guess.

**Historical Commission Updates**

We hope you've noticed our continued work to put a fresh face on the exterior of the Historical House Museum on Route 9. Thanks to the support from all of you (at town meeting), we were able to get most of the front of the building painted before the cold weather set in. We also made a good start at repairing the clapboards on the back of the house. We'll continue work in the spring and are making plans to have the museum open more regularly next summer.

We realize that the improved appearance of our building is not reflected in the sign out front. Our facelift needs to start at street level! So, with the amazing design work from recent member Kristina Almquist, a new sign is in the works, with plans for its installation in the next few weeks.

**Transfer Station New Sticker Procedure**

Due to the growing expense of providing the green Windsor plastic bags, those bags are being phased out and a new sticker system introduced. The transfer station management team is instituting this procedure to avoid sharp increases in the fees for trash disposal.

Here's how the sticker system works. Stickers are available for purchase at Friendly Fred's and Sangar's, at a cost of 5 stickers for \$5.

**One sticker covers the amount of trash contained in:**

- One 33-gallon trash bag
- OR Two 50 lb feed bags
- OR Three Pellet bags (I have about 3 years of pellet bags if anyone needs some.)

A small kitchen trash bag will need 1/2 a sticker.

Please monitor your own use. Larry will be spot-checking, but we're relying on the honor system and all of you to make it work (and avoid increased costs).

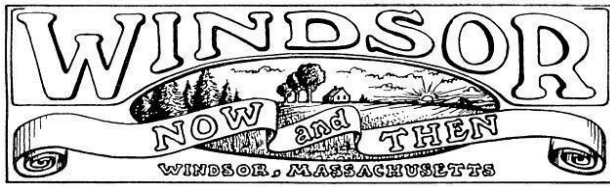
You can continue to use the green Windsor bags (no sticker needed) until the supply is gone. Some are still available in the stores. --*Madeline Scully*

*Editor's note:* It occurs to me that this offers an opportunity to minimize the amount of plastic we're putting in the landfill by filling a 32-gallon garbage can (without a bag), bringing it to the transfer station, and emptying along with 1 sticker, then taking the can home to spray out and refill. I'm going to try it!

Our old and very tired sign (below) will soon be replaced by this lovely design at right (in color, to match the other town building signs), designed by Commission member Kristina Almquist.



DECEMBER 2023



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270



**Button Bonanza!**

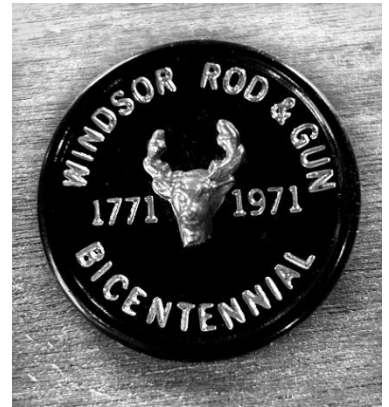
A recent post from Warren Meyer on the Windsor Facebook page featured a button from the Windsor Rod & Gun Club in 1983 that he had found during a house renovation. That jogged my memory – I had seen a number of those buttons in the Historical House and Museum, each one different and each marked with the year it was distributed.

I had to do a bit of hunting (the kind without guns...) but I turned up a whole display of buttons, with a metal plaque honoring one of the club founders, Ralph Kendall. It reads "Buttons donated by Bob Malone in memory of Ralph 'B'dink' Kendall, founder of the Windsor Road & Gun Club with Bob Roraback in the 1960's."



Kendall, who died in 1996, served on our selectboard for a time and was a veteran of World War II.

As late as the year 2000, reports of Windsor Rod & Gun Club doings such as turkey shoots, barbeques and venison dinners at the club pavilion in the woods just west of Friendly Fred's would appear in the "Scatter Shots" section of Ted Giddings' long running "Our Berkshires" column in the Berkshire Eagle.



The oldest button in our collection is from 1968, and the most recent is dated 2005.

The historical commission would love to know more about this club, which seems to have thrived for decades. (Any insight into the nickname B'dink would also be welcome!)

*–Susan Phillips*

Send us your stories, nature sightings, book notes, and other news you have to share with the Windsor community. Email: [fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com).