



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
DECEMBER issue:
Friday, November 27**
Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
(mark subject line:
WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVI, No. 11

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

NOVEMBER 2020

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

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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.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Crane, president; Julia Allan, director; Deborah Balmuth, co-editor; Cindy Efinger, director; Dominique Frink, director; Val Kohn, director; Eileen Markland, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer; Robin Tesoro, director.

Paper Talk

We're grateful for this community of caring people! Stay safe, healthy, and cozy this holiday. -Deb

FOW News

Snip Snap: From Will Blake's memories of what it was like to be a young Marine in Vietnam-era Japan trying to talk to girls, to Nancy Kerstetter recalling the time she accidentally sewed her own fingers as a member of Ceil Zink's Snip Snap Sewing Club, this month Sharing Our Stories really covers some territory. Meanwhile, a lively remembrance of what it was like inside the Ball Mill comes to us from Robert Sears, and appears on the back page. We hope you all enjoy the journey as much as we do.



Zoom Zoom: You're invited! FOW's Annual Meeting will be held on Wed, December 2, 7 pm, via Zoom. If you'd like to join us, please email fowindsor@gmail.com and we'll send you the meeting information and link.

Ring Ring: Where would we be without the trusty community phone book? FOW is working hard to update our database for the upcoming edition. If you want to add or change your listing, or become a sponsor, go to friendsofwindSOR.com and click on "Windsor Phone Directory" to find the forms you need. The deadline for sponsors (only \$45!) is December 1. Thanks to all who have already become sponsors, listed on this page. Of course, a sponsorship isn't the only way to support the community-building work of Friends of Windsor. You'll find a little envelope inside this newsletter...you know what to do! --Susan Phillips

Windsor Jambs Farm Art Festival November 22

Windsor Jambs Farms will be hosting the First Annual Windsor Jambs Art Festival for the holidays on November 22 from 10 am to 4 pm, at 2065 River Road in Windsor. We will have 6-8 artist/vendors displaying their work. If weather permits, we will be outdoors with appropriate spacing between tents. Mask will be required during this event. Wine and Hot apple cider will be available, with a roaring fire in our firepit. Get ready for the holidays by buying one of a kind, unique gifts.



-Cindy Effinger

Be sure to check out the **NOVEMBER Community Calendar** online at friendsofwindSOR.com (under *Windsor Now & Then*). Activities are gradually resuming! You'll also find inspiring local images taken by Windsor residents.

Town Clerk Notes

I know that communication is challenging under current conditions and I am attempting to communicate Town news/needs in a timely and efficient manner. My tools for communicating are the monthly *Now and Then*, the Windsormass.com site and the Windsor Facebook page. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to see the Windsor, MA page, so please check it often. The group page moderator does a splendid job of making it a positive and helpful page for residents.

Windsor statistics for 2020: We've had 6 births, 5 marriages, and 5 deaths. – Madeline Scully

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of Windsor's incorporation as a town, Friends of Windsor and the Historical Commission are working together to gather and share stories of our town's history. We invite you to share your stories, and think of what your family, organization, or group of friends would like to contribute to the town's celebration. Let's pool our creative resources! –D. Balmuth

Crane Community School Centennial!

December will mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of Crane Community School. Memories of this beloved Windsor institution are a key theme running through the “Sharing Our Stories” interviews, and I'm sure that there are many more memories and photos to share. FOW and the Windsor Historical Commission would like to take some time over the next several months to celebrate and remember Windsor's little school and the children, parents, teachers, cooks, and intrepid bus drivers that made it special. Please send me your memories via e-mail to susanphillips57@gmail.com. And please reach out if you have photos you are willing to let me scan and then return to you. --Susan Phillips

Berkshire Health Systems has a TOLL-FREE HOTLINE for questions regarding COVID-19.
Hours: 7 am to 7 pm, seven days a week
CALL 855-262-5465 (855-BMC-LINK)

From the Green Committee

Everyone likes to save money. And many of you are familiar with the free home energy assessments provided by MassSave. But did you know that MassSave provides rebates and other financial assistance on many purchases for your home?

MassSave is a program coordinated by and mandated to be funded by utility companies operating in the Commonwealth. To view the variety of rebate programs available, go to the MassSave.com website, click on rebates for residences, and then consider what's available.

Briefly, there are rebates for heating and cooling your home (ranging from thermostats to whole-home heating systems), for weatherizing and insulating, for appliances, for lighting, even for new building projects. There are rebates for money you've spent, low-cost and no-interest loan programs, discounts, and downright freebies from light bulbs to insulation.

To get started, either visit the website or contact MassSave to do a free energy assessment of your house. You don't have to be a homeowner; this service is provided to renters as well. These days, with COVID, the assessments are done remotely—you use your smart phone to give a “tour” of your house to the technician who assesses your needs and makes recommendations for improvements that will reduce your energy usage and your electric bill.

If you are considering a whole-home heating system such as Air Source Heat Pumps or mini-splits, there are rebates available through both MassSave and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, depending on the equipment and which company installs your equipment. We will offer more details about this in a future article. –Holly Higginbotham

Select Board Corner

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”

—MAHATMA GANDHI

I have been thinking about volunteerism lately – its challenges, rewards, and frustrations; the commitment it entails and the community it builds. I am not going to lie. There are many times I feel deeply in my bones “I cannot do this anymore” and I wonder if it is time to be done. It is in these moments that the Gandhi quote helps center me (well this, and Madeline Scully's ear and wisdom).

I never envisioned myself as a select board member. My entry into this world coincided with a moment in my life when I needed to find myself or at least find out more about myself. I had recently transitioned from a highly stressful job to a romanticized laid-back life. I had anticipated the “hole inside” when I scaled back and I reflected on skills that I had to offer. Fast forward four years and this is where I am. For all of the stress and headaches of being chair of the select board, I am grateful for the ways this experience has helped me grow and strengthen my skills. At the same time, it has also allowed me to recognize the work I still have to do.

This is my way of encouraging you to consider volunteering for town committees. We have several committees with open seats – Board of Health, Council on Aging, Cemetery Commission.

We also are about to restart the 250th Anniversary Committee. If there is a specific type of skill you have or if you are in need of finding yourself, we can find a place for you in Windsor. If you are interested, you can email me at ktobin@windsormass.com.

–Kim Tobin

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

“Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.”

— Emily Dickinson

Reflections from Mame Whelihan
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. Looking back before Social Distancing was the norm gets me thinking of the Depression years. We got through that with nary a visible scratch. I was very young and had a remarkable Mother who believed in the old saying. "When life hands you lemons.... etc." Her best friend, Anna, owned a group of cottages in Saratoga right on the lake. She rented them out and many a jockey and their families spent the entire racing season there. The upkeep was a bit more than Anna could manage alone, so off we went.

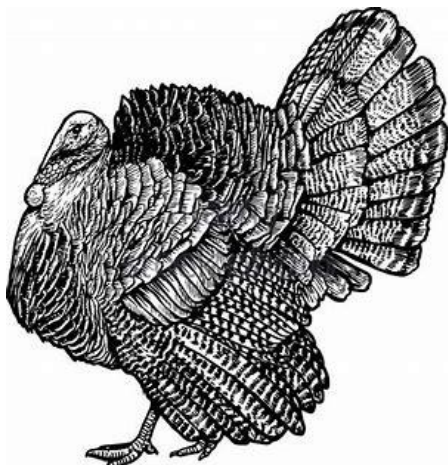
I spent the entire summer swimming in the lake and partaking of everything that Saratoga had to offer. At that time, children were not allowed at the track, but somehow, every once in a while, I managed to tag along with a jockey or two. Once I even got to sit on one of the racehorses. I'll never forget the look on my Mother's face when she spotted me. I thought it was so great. She didn't.

Can you believe I have such a happy Depression memory? My greatest hope right now is that somehow we can all pull together and come through this Pandemic alive and well and with a memory or two worth keeping. Let's do it.

High Speed Internet Available in Town Hall for Remote Learning and Working

The Town of Windsor is installing high speed internet in Windsor Town Hall. This internet can be used for those needing a space for remote learning, or other interest. The space will be supervised by volunteers to ensure COVID precautions are followed. You will need to call to reserve your spot.

The center will have spaces for 10 socially distanced stations, which will be divided up by plexiglass. Masks are required to be worn at all times, and cleaning supplies will be available when you are done. If you or your child has a need for this service, please call Cindy Efinger, COVID coordinator, at 413-344-6262, or email her at cindyefinger@gmail.com or call the Town Offices.



Upcoming at Tamarack Hollow Nature Center

Tamarack Hollow & Gaia Roots World Music present: EVERY MONDAY West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinas M.Ed ONLINE & IN PERSON at the Dalton CRA. 5:30pm beginner / 6:45pm advanced. For registration and fee info email: aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit www.tamarackhollow.com.

Historical Commission Update

Thanks to all of you who came out and made our Harvest Festival a festive celebration of community and our shared appreciation for the history of our little town! Special thanks to Trio Candela for the heart-filled music, and to the Windsor Cultural Council for making it possible.

Our collectible postcard collection featuring five images from our photo collection (including the Sugar Eat image at right with

youngsters Reed Fuller, John Boyle, and Joe Roraback) are still available for a donation of any size. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation (and receive a set of postcards), you can send a check, made payable to the Windsor Historical Commission, c/o Deb Balmuth, 85 Shaw Road, Windsor, MA 01270. Thanks so much for your support! --D. Balmuth



Windsor Cultural Council Grant Applications Invitation

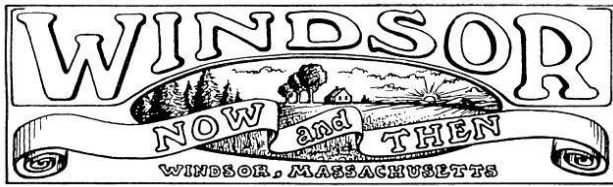
The Windsor Cultural Council invites grant applications for the 2021 funding year. The grants, distributed through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, provide funding for local cultural and educational programs. To complete the form online, visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>. It's a great opportunity for artists and educators to share their gifts with our community. Next year is our 250th celebration and it would be great to fund Windsor talent!

Applications must be completed online by November 16, 2020.

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 the presenter to apply for a grant. For questions, call Barbara Connors at 860.965.6594 or Ben Harellick at 978.771.8118.

Happy Thanksgiving!

NOVEMBER 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Enclosed

SHARING OUR STORIES, VOLUME 2
DONATION ENVELOPE



Memories of the Ball Mill

We received this brief but vivid recollection of the Ball Mill in action during its final years of production from Robert Sears. Robert grew up in East Windsor, and recently turned 93 years old. The Ball Mill, which produced pencils, meat skewers, lollipop sticks, wooden hangers and handles for brushes, was a hive of activity and innovation for decades before closing in 1932. Thank you, Robert, for this glimpse inside a bygone Windsor industry!

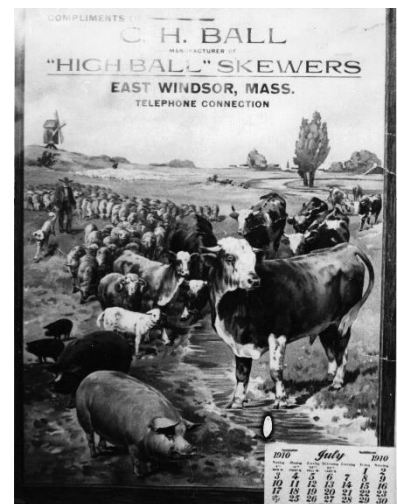
I had not started school when the mill closed in 1932, but my memories are distinct as ever. Joel Shaw, Jane Emerson's great-grandfather, was my guide. Logs drawn in by teamster Abe Hathaway (shown in photo, on left, with Charles Ball) went to the main saw inside the front doors.



Clint Tirrell kept the work moving down a line of formed cutter machines that produced finished whitewash brush handles.

He dumped wheelbarrow loads of shavings and nubbin ends down a flume to where my father, Nelson Sears, fired the boilers and ran the steam engine. Harry Barker carried a long stepladder to oil the bearings of the overhead shafts that ran the length of the mill.

Charlie Ball's timbered acreage gave East Windsor a viable economy. The September 1938 flood took away most of the mill. I gave Abe Hathaway's shotgun to the Windsor Museum about 2014. --Robert Sears, October 2020



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 susanphillips57@gmail.com