



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
DECEMBER issue:
Tuesday, Nov. 20**

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

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIV, No. 11

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

NOVEMBER 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

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

Paper Talk

NOTE THE EARLY
DEADLINE for December
issue.

Wishing you a warm and
delicious Thanksgiving! -
-Deborah



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

FOW News

All Things Windsor, Updated – You should have received your brand-new shiny updated community directory and phone book for 2018-2019 in the mail by now! This is a major FOW project that requires time, patience and perseverance. Thanks for helping us out with your information and special thanks to our sponsors for helping defray production costs. If, despite our best efforts, we made a mistake in your listing, please make use of the Correction Form on the final page.



That Giving Season – As Thanksgiving gallops towards us like a turkey being chased by a barking dog, it's time to think about our sense of community and, if you can, to support our efforts to make Windsor a welcoming and supportive place to live. You might have found a small envelope in your new directory...you know what to do! If not, our address is FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor MA 01270. –Susan Phillips

Trustees Happenings

Notchview Pre-season Kick-off, Friday, November 16, 5:30-7:00 PM

It's that time of year again when we're all excited for winter to arrive and the ski season to begin! Come to our 2nd annual pre-season kick-off! We'll bring the chili and you bring the beer! A great time to hang out with winter friends and get ready for another fun season at Notchview. Remember you can renew your membership and get your early bird season pass discount at Notchview, too! FREE. Contact info: 413.200.7262; acaluori@thetrustees.org

Thanksgiving Tasting at the Homestead, Saturday, November 17, 1-2:30 PM at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead, Cummington:

Thanksgiving was a big deal in the 19th century and New Englanders prepared a variety of delicious and interesting dishes to celebrate the holiday. Ever wonder, "What did they eat back then?" Find out as we eat and prepare for Thanksgiving with a historical food specialist. We'll talk about common dishes from the Civil-War era Thanksgiving table and even taste a few of the dishes in the dining room of the Homestead. Participants will be given recipes to take home and try out on their Thanksgiving dinner guests this holiday season. Member: \$20; Nonmember: \$25. Contact: 413.200.7262 acaluori@thetrustees.org



Read the story of "Jimmy," Windsor's resident sandhill crane (see back)

Town Clerk Notes

Tax Bills are late. Because this is a revaluation year, the tax rate will not be set until early November. Tax bills will go out after that and be due 30 days from the date on the bill.

Community Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 11:30-1:30, at the Town Hall. Turkey provided by the Social Committee. The rest is potluck. Call Leslie Reed (684-0147) to let her know that you are attending and what you plan to bring. If you cannot bring something, just bring yourself! The luncheon is open to all and there will be no charge this month. Come enjoy socializing with your neighbors.

Annual Coat Drive sponsored by the Williamstown COA is accepting new or gently used winter coats through January 31. If you leave your coat donations in our Town Hall lobby, Doug McNally has volunteered to deliver them to Williamstown.

Town Office improvements are underway. There is progress on building the ramp. The heating system should be in shortly (Before winter, or Robin is going to be very grumpy). The new lighting design is underway and the electric bill is a credit! Thanks to the Green Committee for all their hard work.

Everywhere you look in Windsor, good things are happening: new, humongous poles are up along Route 9; Verizon is marking the poles for broadband; flowers and pumpkins decorate the main drag; money is pouring into the town through grants and state programs. Doesn't it make you want to get involved? Call the town clerk to volunteer for a committee, help a neighbor, or make a suggestion for programs or discussions you might like to have in Windsor.

Important Dates in Windsor

January: Local Census due
February: Take out nomination papers for Town Offices
March: Dog Licenses due
April: Real Estate Tax bills go out
May: Local Election and Annual Town Meeting
June: DUMP STICKERS for sale
July: New Officers and Committees sworn in at Inauguration picnic July 1

--Madeline Scully

Green Committee Town Energy Survey

The Green Committee is beginning an assessment of the town's current energy consumption. Our first step is a voluntary survey of the electricity used in town residences and buildings that have a grid-tied photovoltaic array. If you have a grid-tied PV array, here's how you can participate: You will find two numbers on the Eversource meter (#10, electricity sent to the grid; and #4 electricity purchased from the grid). A third reading can be found on the production meter (total production). These three cumulative readings are in kilowatt-hours and they will enable a quick determination of how much of the total energy used in the residence is provided by the array.

Please send your 3 meter readings to one of the Green Committee members via email or by phone. We will enter all data we receive on a spreadsheet that can be found on the town website, Windsormass.com, under: Boards & Departments/Green Committee/Performance of grid tied solar electricity.

This performance chart is already filled in with contact information for green committee members, as well as their array solar performance. If you cannot get to the chart, you can call Stu at 684-3950.

This survey of electrical consumption is part of our plan for enacting the resolution passed last May establishing a goal for Windsor to be 100% renewable energy by 2050. Like any ambitious goal, there will be many steps. Thank you to all the eligible homeowners for participating in this first step. Please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.

--Jan Bradley, Stu Besnoff, Marnie Meyers

Flag Fund Update

The leaves are gone and there's a chill in the air, which means it's time to put the flags away for the season. They'll fly until Veteran's Day so please enjoy while you can.

Many thanks to Mame Whelihan, Rolf Karl, and Joanne Singleton for their generous donations since the last update.

We haven't quite raised enough to cover all our costs this year, so if you enjoy the flags, please consider a donation. The flags are solely funded through your generosity. You can send your donation, payable to the town of Windsor to: Jeb Chard, 1060 High Street Hill, Windsor, MA 01270.

Select Board Corner

What a month! I know that money isn't everything, but when we are able to leverage funds for needed town work, there is a feeling of accomplishment. Here are a few recent highlights:

* Due to the work of John Denno, the Highway Superintendent, Windsor received a \$1 million STRAP (Small Town Road Assistance Program) grant from MassDOT. This grant will enable the town to repave River Road, the entryway to Windsor State Park and Windsor Jams, and a critical road connecting Route 9 and Route 116. In addition to paving, the work also includes replacing culverts and guardrails. The Town was able to leverage prior grant funding from Westfield Wild and Scenic and the Division of Ecological Restoration in securing the STRAP grant. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that these grants are in addition to the Small Bridge grant we received to replace the Flintstone Bridge.

* The Town also continues to use our Green Communities grant to upgrade the Town Offices for energy efficiency. We are starting to see revenues from the sale of our solar. And the most recent work being completed is the installation of air source heat pumps has resulted in a \$5600 grant (rebate) from the MassCEC.

* We are also making slow but steady headway in making the Town Offices handicap-accessible. The building components will be complete in the next few weeks and the ramp will be installed in the spring as the weather allows.

* And finally, at the Annual Town Meeting, investment in IT infrastructure was approved as part of the budget. I am happy to report that we have signed a contract with a vendor and we will have upgraded and secure technology for town business by the end of November.

--Kim Tobin, Select Board Chair

Sense of Community

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." —Mother Teresa

FOCUS on Windsor's Pollinators

NOVEMBER: Think about nesting as you prepare for winter

This is the time of year when many of us winterize our gardens. Often this process involves mulching over bare soil between plants in order to conserve soil moisture, reduce runoff, and minimize the number of weedy plants that may spring up. But there is a consequence of mulching that many of us fail to think of: we are likely inhibiting the ability of ground-nesting bees to initiate their nests because mulch covers the patches of soil that are potential nest sites.

Most of the native bee species in the U.S. are solitary ground-nesters. They excavate nests in the ground and provision them with pollen and nectar for their young. The nest entrances are usually nondescript, appearing much like an ant nest without a dirt mound. Sometimes bees create turrets, or rings of mud around their entrances, which can get quite tall and fall over.

Heavy wood or bark chips are the most common types of mulch materials. These persist over time and can make it difficult for ground nesting bees to access the soil. Try to use lighter weight mulches such as almond or walnut hulls, whenever possible. If you don't have access to light-weight mulches, consider hand-weeding between your plants. Weeding when the ground is still moist and the plants are small makes the work easier. Another option is to seed between your permanent plants with locally-sourced native wildflower seeds. The seeds germinate and compete with weeds, but leave room at their bases for bee nests. If mulching is a must, then try creating a dirt walkway through your garden and maintain it as bare, compacted soil. Such paths can be attractive nest sites for bees. A fourth option is to mulch in shady areas where bees are less likely to nest, and leave areas of bare soil in sunnier locations. This strategy could help minimize the amount of yard work necessary to maintain bare ground.

If you have already added mulches to help your plants establish, don't worry — even heavy mulches will break down over time. Once your garden is filled in, then the existing plants can outcompete weeds and leave areas mulch-free for bees to nest in.

This excerpt was reprinted with permission from an article entitled: Think about nesting as you prepare for winter is found at the Xerces Society website.

Annual Hilltown Holiday Hob Nob Gift Exchange in Cummington December 1

The 12th annual Hilltown Holiday Hob Nob gift exchange will be held on Saturday, December 1, 10AM-1PM, in the Cummington Village Church. Bring gift-quality items that you do not need, are not using, or just don't want. Books, toys, games, music, art, gadgets, clothing, etc. are all welcome. They don't have to be perfect or in a box, just in good condition to make a nice gift. They will be displayed for others to select for their holiday gift-giving list. And of course, while you are there, pick out anything that might fit your list. All items are given and taken freely; no money involved.

Bring a small plate of goodies to share if you like. To drop off items in advance, email HilltownCROW@protonmail.com or call 634-5031 to make arrangements. *Sponsored by: HilltownCROW ReUse Project*

Windsor's Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center Upcoming Programs

Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest late fall ecology, plant and tree ID hike at Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center. Sunday November 11-10am-1pm. Learn about the unique high elevation spruce-fir boreal forest and how to identify plants, trees and wild edibles along the way. 2-mile round trip moderate hike. Co-sponsored with Mass Audubon.

Email aimee@gaiaroots.com for registration info.

<http://www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org>

Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest volunteer trail work day at Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center - Help us clear trails and create new ones! Saturday November 10th 8am-12noon, Registration required, please email aimee@gaiaroots.com.



REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELIHAN

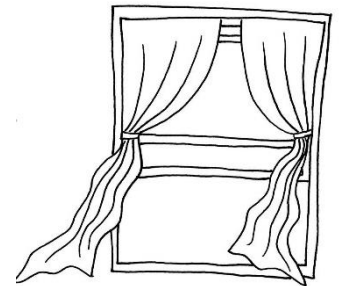
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

Let There Be Light! Labor Day has come and gone and fall has officially arrived. Cooler weather gets the adrenalin running full speed. Change is everywhere. We look around the living room and think (out loud, of course), maybe Head Honcho is right, the living room could use some lightening up. She thinks maybe a lighter coat of paint would do the trick. On the other hand, I envision drop cloths, furniture heaped out of the way, a very disruptive, chaotic time. So I say, hopefully, "I think changing the window treatment to crisp, white curtains might hit the mark." We do it and—voila--that really worked. Looks great! Uh, oh, a little glitch! Makes the couch look not so great, definitely needs replacing. We do it! Now the coffee table is vetoed. To the attic it goes and is replaced.

Wow! We're on a roll. Some furniture rearranging is required and, Oh no! Here comes the cedar chest from my closet. A few rather expensive pillows complete that brainstorm. All this repositioning and brainstorming reminds us it's chimney cleaning time. Call our favorite chimney cleaning person. Done and done.

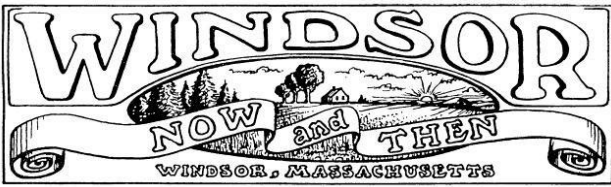
Now for a break. The kitchen annex is completely rearranged, the bedrooms are ready for holiday visitors. The living room is sighing happily. Even the attic is spiffed up.

As she sinks into her favorite recliner and I think she's finally ready to relax, I hear her say, "You know what?" and I know . . . here we go again. I call it the White Curtain Syndrome. That's how it all started. Let there be light!



Be sure to visit our NOVEMBER 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.

November 2018



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Tall, Handsome Stranger Moves In, Crashes Wedding

Since May, a young sandhill crane has been enjoying Windsor life, mostly at the home of Lila and Donald Allard. Here is Lila's account of their elegant visitor.

I first spotted him in May near the Moran Wildlife area north of our house. I got home and grabbed our bird book. A sandhill crane, scarce in our area. A few days later, he showed up in our yard. I brought out some birdseed mix in a cup, scattered the seeds and stepped back, then went inside. When I came out I could see he had eaten all of the cracked corn and left the rest.

Then I heard (birding columnist) Richard Guthrie on NPR. I called in to make sure I was not interfering with nature by feeding him. Mr. Guthrie told me to enjoy my rare visitor as long as I could. The next day I was out buying cracked corn. We started calling him "Jimmy" at my husband Don's suggestion (for the song "Jimmy Crack Corn and I Don't Care").

Day by day the distance was closing between us. By the end of June I could have reached out to touch him if I'd wanted to. We watched his feathers change from rusty brown to silver grey.

By mid-summer he would flap his wings and walk over to the car when I came up the drive. By late August I could sit on the step and he'd eat cracked

corn on the grass beside me. A few times I held out my hand and he'd gently try to pull off my rings. In the evenings just at dusk we'd watch him stretch his neck forward and take flight...so beautiful...to wherever he spent his nights.

In late September something changed and he began to spend the night at our place. My son got married in our backyard on October 20th and Jimmy was there despite the crowd and the cars.

Things can ruffle us every day -- work, family, general stress -- but how can you stay mad, or angry, or even sad when a creature

like that walks over or flies in and gives you that look? I have called this my "summer of the crane." The bird book describes the red on his head as a crown. I saw it as a perfect heart. - *Lila Allard*

