



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for JANUARY
issue: Tuesday,
December 29
Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
(mark subject line:
WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVI, No. 12

www.friendsofwindsor.com

DECEMBER 2020

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

Ron Bilodeau / Jean and John Boyle / Jennie Drew
Dee & Rick DeGiorgis / Ruth Estes / Patricia and Lawrence Folino
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Suzanne Towne and John Cramer
Sally & Darryll Wing / Jo & Victor Yohay

~ ~ ~

Dee & Bob Farrell, *in memory of Ken Cyr*

~ ~ ~

And Windsor Phone & Community Directory Sponsors

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BEK Associates – Land Surveyors (*Brian Koczela*)
Friendly Fred's

FOW News

Tales of Winters Past: This month's edition of Sharing Our Stories is all about the starring role that winter plays in our collective experience...whether it's a long trek on snowshoes or the weeks-long effort that went in to the community Christmas celebrations at Town Hall. Thanks to Charles Sturtevant and Joyce Tirrell for taking us along on the ride.



Community Directory & Phone Book: We're working on the 2021-2022 version of this indispensable resource...so if you have changes to make to your listing or would like to added to the directory, now is the time to let us know! There's still room for sponsors who'd like to promote their business, \$45 for a single business-card-sized announcement, \$85 for a double.

The Bees are Resting...but not Friends of Windsor! Our beautiful new pollinator awareness sign is finished and installed at the pollinator-friendly plantings near the Welcome to Windsor sign at the top of the hill, stop by and take a look!

The Best Things Come in Small Envelopes: Thank you, FOW supporters, for your generous response to our November fundraising envelopes! Any donation, in any amount, is a vote of support for our community building efforts. -Susan Phillips

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.

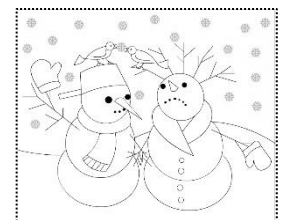
To enable us to accommodate as much information as possible, we request that basic news items be limited to about **150 words**. For submission of longer feature articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets (natural setting, people, and community), email fowindsor@gmail.com.

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.

SANTA'S MAILBOX has magically appeared at the Town Hall. Drop your letters in the mailbox. Make sure letters have a return address. The deadline is December 18.

Wishing You Warm and Love-Filled Holidays!



Be sure to check out the **DECEMBER 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

Town News/Communication: Please check the Windsor Facebook page daily for town updates. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view. Please read the *Windsor Now & Then* every month. Please check the FB page, WN&T and the windsormass.com website for answers to your questions. I welcome calls to my cell phone for issues not addressed on these pages.

To contact me:

email: windsortownclerk@gmail.com

Office phone: 413-684-3811, ext 1
(forwarded to my email)

Cellphone: 910-620-0162

Civic Involvement: Nomination papers for the May Town Election will be available at the Town Clerk's Office starting in January.

Positions on the Ballot: The Offices of Select Board Member, Town Clerk, Moderator, Planning Board, Cemetery Commission, Constable, Tree Warden, Library Trustee and Finance Committee will be on the ballot. To learn more about these positions, or express interest in running, please reach out to me. All Town Committees need volunteers. Call me and we can see where your talents can be used!

Select Board Job Description: SB members are available to the public 24/7 (although setting limits is advised). If you choose to keep your cell phone private, the SB phone messages are forwarded to your email. An organized business mind is helpful, but other strengths can be substituted.

A strong, ethical sense of conviction is important, but putting aside your own personal views for the good of the community is expected. A sense of vision with creative financing ideas and strong fiscal management is needed to lead. The stipend is minimal. There is very little praise for making the popular decisions and a great deal of criticism for making the hard decisions. Self-motivation is important.

Due to the Open Meeting law, SB members cannot confer between meetings and must carry out their weekly assignments dependably, bringing the results of their labor, communications, ideas and projects back to the weekly open meeting to discuss or report. Anyone up for the challenge?

Town Census/Street Listing Forms:

The Windsor Census forms will be mailed to each household in January. Please read, correct, sign and place in the postage paid addressed envelope and return immediately. Last year eight households did not return forms.

The census forms are so important because they help determine our Chapter 90 funding for maintaining roads, determining school enrollment, and helping complete the emergency books distributed to Fire, EMS and PD. Town-funded school enrollment for a child not on the census list will not be approved. If you don't return your census form, you will have to show proof of residency to vote in Windsor, and if you have a road or town-related request and have not returned your census, or paid taxes, you will be asked to do both before your request is considered. *—Madeline Scully*

Big Orange Bus Coming to Windsor Monthly!

The Mobile Health Unit Team from Community Health Programs, Inc is bringing the Big Orange Bus monthly to Friendly Fred's parking lot, starting December 9, 10am-12pm. No appointments needed; first-come, first-served.

This 38-foot medical unit travels throughout the county providing accessible healthcare to all. Services are billed to insurance or are free of charge, including: flu shots, blood pressure/glucose checks, problem/sick visits, COVID testing, cholesterol checks, health screening (height, weight, Nurse Practitioner consult), social service referrals and insurance enrollment.

BOB is a collaboration between CHP, BHS, Fallon Health and Partners Health Organization. Which makes up the ACO (Accountable Care Organization).

**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)**

Shop Local at Tamarack Hollow

Tamarack Hollow has unique Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Holiday Gifts crafted including Trading Balsam Fir Balm, Evergreen Blend sachets, Spruce Soaking Salts, Balsam Soap, Evergreen gift boxes, nature photo cards plus Percussion instruments, Natural jewelry and more!
Visit <http://www.tamarackhollow.com> and email aimee@gaiaroots.com to place an order or to set up an appointment to visit (masks required). Local delivery available!

Windsor Church News

Windsor Church invites everyone to participate in this year's annual Luminary Memorial campaign. We will light a candle in memory of your loved one(s) during our Christmas Eve service. Donations of any amount are welcome and proceeds go to support our Kenya mission. Please submit names to Heather Juby, 449-4871 or drjuby@gmail.com. If you have a photo of your loved one(s) please also share and we will display during the service.

Windsor Church Virtual Candlelighting Service! 6:30 PM on December 24. To receive a candle to light at home with your family, please contact Heather at 449-4871.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Windsor Church Food Drive! We are grateful to have such generous neighbors! *—Heather Juby*

Dear Friends of Windsor,

It is hard to believe that we have been here for over a year already. We took "a leap of faith" after falling in love with the house and property on North Street and decided to move to Windsor. We had never been here before and knew no one. It was a big, scary decision and we couldn't be happier! We had no idea how wonderful our neighbors would be and how caring and welcoming everyone we have met has been.

Although the pandemic has put a damper on many of the experiences we hoped to have had by now, we are anxiously and optimistically looking forward to our future here in Windsor.

*Thanks to one and all we have crossed paths with! We have finally found our forever home.
--Sally & Darryll Wing, Nov. 2020*

From the Green Committee

With this issue, we'll begin reporting the SREC income generated by the photovoltaic solar array located at the Town Offices, alongside the parking area near the Police office, that was energized on June 18, 2018. Since that time, the town has been receiving electricity from the array that significantly offsets the amount used in the building. The materials and installation for this array was funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), at no cost to the town.

In addition to reducing payments to Eversource for electricity, the town receives revenue in the form of SREC (Solar Renewable Energy Certificate) payments. SREC payments continue for 10 years from the time it went online, so for the Town Office array, until 2028. Since this system went online, the town has received \$12,588.46 in SREC payments, deposited into the town's General Fund.

We'll continue to report the town's SREC payment receipts (approximately quarterly), and the cumulative amount of SREC revenue received by the town. We will also add a link to our town website page showing the performance of the Town Office PV array. *-Holly Higginbotham*

Flag Fund Update

Another season of flag-flying is done. Hope you enjoyed them while it lasted. I'd like to thank the following people for their generous donations since the last update:

Joanne Haracz and George Pereira / Diane and Arthur Penetti

We received significant donations to the fund this summer, and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the citizens of this town. Enjoy your winter, stay healthy, and the flags will be back in the spring! *-Jeb Chard*

Windsor Tree Bring Holiday Cheer to Downtown North Adams

One of North Adams' Town Christmas trees has its roots in Windsor! The Webb family contacted the North Adams Fire Department after they heard they were looking for possible Christmas tree donations that fit certain criteria. The NAFD came to look and agreed it was a great selection.



The Webb family wants everyone to know that the tree had to come down anyway because it was shading their solar panels and garden. A perfect fit! November 5 was the "big day" when a bit of the woods of Windsor traveled to Main Street, North Adams for decorating. *---Beth and Marcus Webb*

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one." — John Lennon

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

From the Heart. Many a Christmas has come and gone leaving behind fond memories. One of my very favorite was long ago, when we were quite young. My siblings and I asked to be taken Christmas shopping and of course my Mother agreed. It was cold and snowing a bit, but off we went. The four of us walked up Dwight Street Hill headed for High Street, Holyoke's main shopping street. Grant's was near the top, but we headed for Neisner's which was sort of a 5&10.

The three of us went inside while Mother waited outside. She could see us through the store's plate glass window most of the time. Off we went, aisle by aisle, laughing and talking. After quite awhile, we came out, secretly carrying our purchases. We told her we had remembered what she had told us: "Always buy gifts that you would like for yourself. That way you will be sure to choose the right things and everyone will be happy. Always give from the heart."

Christmas morning Mother unwrapped her specially selected gifts – two sets of cut-out paper dolls, and from my very young brother – a small silver gun with "Sheriff" printed on the side. There we stood, smiling and very pleased with ourselves, saying, "Did we do good? We picked out what we would like and gave from the heart." She tearfully said those were the best presents she ever received. How often do we give from the heart? Guess New Year's resolution!

250th Celebration Needs YOU!

As most of you are aware, July 2021 marks Windsor's 250th Anniversary! The Planning Committee has met several times, with a recent discussion of what celebration looks in the time of COVID. We had originally planned fundraising activities and events early in 2021, but this plan has shifted.

The Kick-Off will be July 4th weekend! We have secured fireworks for Saturday, July 3rd and are planning outside activities for the weekend. Because this is such a milestone for the Town of Windsor, we will also be planning a calendar of activities from July – December (with select virtual events earlier in the year), honoring our town and its history. Also, Friends of Windsor has several initiatives in the works to commemorate this special anniversary.

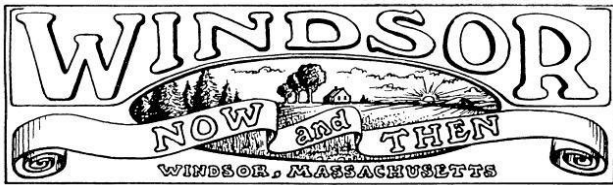
Here is how you can help:

○ **Monetary Donations** – Windsor secured a state grant, covering fireworks and some repairs to the Historic Building. We also set aside some funds in this year's budget, but these will only get us so far. If you are able to, consider donating to the "Town of Windsor 250th Celebration Fund," Checks and cash gratefully accepted. Please mail or deliver to Kim Tobin, 1890 Route 9, Windsor, MA 01270.

○ **250th Logo** - If you have graphic artist skills, we are accepting submissions for a logo design that could be used on limited merchandise and external communication! All submissions should be sent to Windsor250th@gmail.com by January 15th for full consideration. There is a small stipend for the selected artist and/or percent of sales proceeds.

○ **Events** - If you are interested in planning or organizing an event between July - December, please let us know! This can be anything from dancing, to guided walks, to ghost stories by a fire. There will be funding to offset costs. Send your ideas and preferred dates to Windsor250th@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Enclosed

**Sharing Our Stories, Volume 3
COA Newsletter**

"A Model Rural School," 100 Years Ago

On December 10, 1920, Windsor celebrated the opening of its new consolidated school with a gala evening attended by an estimated 200 people. Crane Community School, still serving as home to town



offices and the Windsor Public Library (continuously located in the building since it opened), replaced five one-room schoolhouses and remained open until the 1990s. Teachers Viva Bates (shown at left) and Eleanor Pingree had charge of 60 students from a town population of 403.

Press reports called it "a model rural school...on a par with a modern city

school," noting in particular the "never failing spring," "modern sanitary equipment," and "attractive New England colonial style." (Fond memories of Crane School shine through in many of the "Sharing Our Stories" interviews with long-time Windsor residents.)

Recently Windsor resident Shirley Drew sent along a carefully hand-copied version of the original invitation to this gala event. According to the Berkshire Evening Eagle, about 200 people attended. So, how did Windsor party back in 1920? With a menu running from pickles to pie, and a program of songs and speeches from students, educators, and local bigwigs, including Z. Marshall Crane, who paid for the land and the construction.

MENU

Pickles, Piccalilli
Escalloped Potatoes
Cold Beef, Cold Pork, Cold Ham
Salads; Rolls, Jelly
Pie, Coffee; Cider, Apples

PROGRAM

Chorus....The Little Tin Soldier, Upper Class
Opening Address....Mr. Z. Marshall Crane (shown at right)
Solo....Golden Slumbers, Eleanor Burdick
Response...Mr. Chas. Ball, Chairman of Selectmen
Solo....The Circus, Merle Terrell
Non-Academic Possibilities of the Rural School, Mr. Frank Murdock, Principal, State Normal School, North Adams
Solo...Cuckoo, Frances Pisiewski
What is a Good School? Prof. George Farley, Mass. Agricultural College Extension Leader
Chorus...Soldier Boys, Lower Class
The Consolidated School, Mr. Burr F. Jones, Agent for the Massachusetts Board of Education



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*