



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for JANUARY issue: Thursday, December 30**  
Send news to: [fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com)  
(mark subject line: WN&T)

## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVII, No. 11

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

DECEMBER 2021

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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).

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### Friends of Windsor News



Our Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5 via zoom. All Windsor residents are part of Friends of Windsor and are most cordially invited to join this meeting to learn more about our activities for the coming year. Let us know if you'll attend by emailing [fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com) and we'll send the zoom link. We'd welcome as many residents and voices as can join us!

We're awed and honored by all the support we've received this year from Windsorites present and past. Thank you for your monetary donations which make it possible for us to print and mail. And much gratitude to all you correspondents who have submitted news items and regular columns. We're looking forward to expanding our coverage in the coming year to include more voices and stories about all that makes Windsor a special community and place to live. Do you have a story to tell about your life in Windsor? Your pets? Favorite places? Exciting nature sightings? Creative activities going on in your household? A favorite Windsorite you'd like to pay tribute to?

We want to hear your ideas and stories! Please don't be shy. Help us keep this newsletter full and fun to read.

Wishing you warm and loving holiday celebrations and a healthy, happy new year! *-Deb Balmuth*



### Sense of Community

*"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."*

*-Desmond Tutu*

## Town Clerk Notes

Tax bills were mailed the first week of December. Watch for them in the mail. If you haven't received one or have questions, contact the tax collector, Kirsan Henshaw, at 413-68403811, ext. 3.

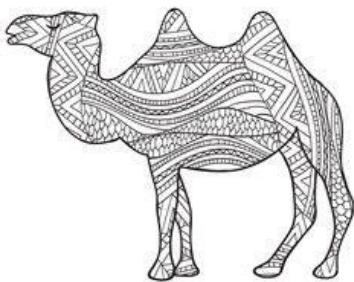
Town Census forms are being mailed to all full-time Windsor resident households in January. There will be a stamped return envelope. Read your form for accuracy, make changes, sign it and immediately return it, please.

Select Board member Chris Cozzaglio is asking for resident input on how our ARPA money windfall should be spent. Check the website for his contact info and let Chris know your thoughts and suggestions.

Windsormass.com website is under review with the goal of simplifying the site and making it more useful. Reach out to Ben Bederson or the Town clerk ([windsortownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:windsortownclerk@gmail.com)) with ideas.

Over the past few wet weeks, off road vehicles have damaged our environmentally sensitive non-maintained roads. In coordination with the Conservation Commission and abutters, the Select Board has voted to close these roads to all vehicular traffic except for snowmobiles.

Unfortunately, winter rolled in making it impossible to install gates, but there will be signage and temporary barricades on these roads: Savoy Hollow from the intersection of Bates (past the Briggs property to the Savoy Line); Bates Road from the intersection of Savoy Hollow to Shaw Road; Nobody's Road from Peru Road to Crane Road. *—Madeline Scully*



## From the Green Committee

The comment period for the town's municipal aggregation proposal has passed without any comment, which means that it will now move onto the next stage at the state Department of Public Utilities. It is anticipated that it will take at least a year for the DPU to review our proposal and, hopefully, grant permission for the town to enter into a contract, combined with other communities, to buy electricity as a group. Once the DPU grants permission for the town to proceed, you'll be hearing a lot more from us about the options available and how it will benefit households.

*~Holly Higinbotham, higinbo@hotmail.com, 413-212-4352*

### REFLECTIONS FROM Mame Whelihan HEATHER HILL FARM, SHAW ROAD

VALUABLE LESSONS. As Christmas was approaching, my number one granddaughter and I headed for the local live nativity presentation. She wore her brand-new cranberry velvet outfit and her much-loved Mary Jane shoes; I wore my faux mink coat. We joined a long line of holiday seekers to witness such a marvelous event, even though it was quite dark.

Suddenly my granddaughter tripped over something and fell to the ground. I said it was quite dark. I reached for her to help her up. She was a mess. Her beautiful cranberry outfit felt very yucky, to say the least. She was beyond saving, so we had to drive home with the windows down. When we got home, straight into the tub she went, and her outfit went straight into the wash. Her Mary Janes were tossed in the trash. We never did get to that nativity scene.

We learned a valuable lesson; in the dark: **Never get in line behind a camel.**

## Windsor Church Christmas Eve Service

The Windsor Church Christmas Eve Service will be held December 24 at 6:30 PM., featuring candle lighting, sing-along and special musical guests. All are welcome!

## Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center Events

To register for events and for more info email: [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com). Visit [www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org](http://www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org)

**Snowshoe Trek or Hike at Tamarack Hollow in Windsor: Sunday January 2, 10am-1pm.** Explore the fauna and flora of the boreal forest and drowned lands. This round trip, 2+ mile trek led by Naturalist and Tamarack Hollow Director Aimee Gelinias M.Ed with assistance from Trails Coordinator Dan Cohen and board members. Maps of the watershed area and local topography will also be shared. This program is free thanks to support from the Wild and Scenic Westfield River Community Grant Fund. Registration required.



**Shop local for Windsor-crafted holiday gifts!** Boreal Forest Wild Crafted Evergreen Products made at Tamarack Hollow including: Balsam Fir Balm, Evergreen Blend sachets, Spruce Soaking Salts, Balsam Fir Soap, Evergreen gift boxes, Nature photo cards and more! Email Aimee (address above) to order.

**Every Monday:** West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinias M.ED at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield. 5:30pm beginner / 6:30pm advanced. Registration required for all new students.

***Winding up 250 Years—story continued from back page***

As a relative newcomer to Windsor – I’m sure there are still a lot of people in town who call our house the “the Kelly place” – participating in all of that has deepened my sense of being at home here.

At the kick-off, I met the man who, 50 years earlier, had won the Bicentennial Beard Growing Contest. And I heard Ethan and Ben Kohn, sons of the late Ed Kohn, perform his song, *Windsor Now & Then*, written for a Windsor homecoming event in the 1990s.



*Benny and Ethan Kohn performing their dad's Windsor song. (photo by Peter Reed)*

In September, history day at the Historical House found Olive Volsky’s detailed dioramas of places and activities from Windsor’s past center stage inside –



*Detail from Olive Volsky diorama, Ice Cutting at White's Mill. (Windsor Historical Commission).*

while outside in Jennifer Lee’s teepee honor and attention was given to the original Mahican inhabitants of this beautiful place.

Later, Olive’s sons Robin Volsky and Peter Utz, visiting all the way from Florida (the state, not the town), led a group of longtime residents in an old-timer’s remembrance hour that brought the redoubtable

Principal Viva Bates of Crane Community School to vivid life...and reminded everyone that pranks are the most memorable part of childhood.

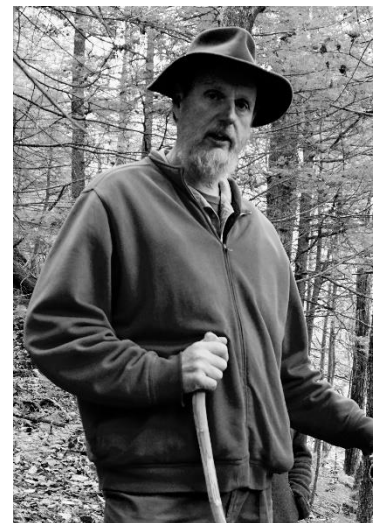


*Janet Boody and Robin Volsky enjoying their reunion at Windsor history day.*

And in October, all kinds of Windsor creativity were on display, from the chili cook-off to the pumpkin carving to the handiwork of local artists and craftspeople.

These are the moments that stick out for me – I know I missed the car show and other events. What did I leave out? And what memories do you have of this special milestone year in the life of Windsor? Please share with me so I can share with the community... send emails and photos to [scphillips@fastmail.fm](mailto:scphillips@fastmail.fm)

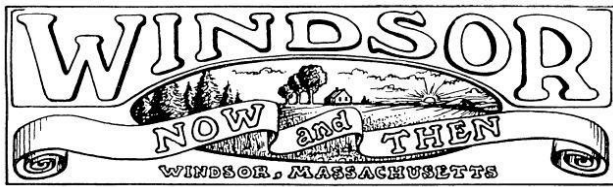
*--Susan Phillips*



*Jack Sobon talking about Windsor's old-growth forest remnants.*

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 2021



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## Winding up 250 Years of Being a Town

Is it a reunion if you've never met in real life? The question popped into my head a few weeks ago, when an unfamiliar car drove up our driveway and two gentlemen emerged.

"Susan? It's Ron. Ron Bilodeau," said the older of the two, smiling. "And this is my son, the other Ron Bilodeau."

Ron the elder spent much of his childhood here in Windsor. The quirky stone garage at the top of the hill – aside from the Congregational Church, probably the town's most recognizable architectural landmark – was built by Ron, his siblings, and their father Wilfred (Bill) Bilodeau.



Stone garage built by Bill Bilodeau in the 1940s.  
(photo courtesy of Ron Bilodeau)

He'd dropped by to bring me an old movie projector that I'd expressed an interest in along with some reels of Bilodeau home movies to go with it, donations to the Windsor Historical Commissions eclectic collection of art, artifacts, and reminders of the town's past.

Ron doesn't live here anymore – but Windsor lives in him. During this past year, while the pandemic often kept our community apart, the various events planned by community volunteers to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Windsor's incorporation managed to strengthen connections and create new ones. Ron, for example, wasn't able to come to any of the events – but his letters and emails about his childhood and his energetic and entrepreneurial dad (a pioneer in cable television) helped bring a particular Windsor era into focus as the historical commission worked on articles and events for the year.

A lot of people worked hard on a calendar included the July 3 250<sup>th</sup> kick-off event at Windsor Town Park, the fireworks and car show on August 28th, Windsor Historical Commission's special open day at the museum on September 12, the Giant Fall Festival at Sangar's on October 3, Jack Sobon's remarkable tour of the remnants of Windsor's old-growth forests on October 17<sup>th</sup>...What am I forgetting? We all struggled with the difficulties of planning amid changing rules for keeping people healthy amid COVID, but benefited from Windsor's wealth of beautiful outdoor spaces to gather safely.

*(story continues on inside, page 3)*