

DEADLINE for MARCH
 issue: Friday, February
 21
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Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVI, No. 2

www.friendsofwindsor.com

FEBRUARY 2020

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

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 Patricia and Lawrence Folino,  
 in memory of **f**Franklin & Mary Williams

**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-length articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets—our natural setting, people, and community—contact [fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com).  
**FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS**  
 Patty Crane, president; Julia Allen, 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**

*So many great opportunities to learn, share, make music, and get involved in the community this month. Windsor's hopping! --Deborah*

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 If you have events happening in early MARCH, please send to [fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com) for inclusion in **our online calendar (at friendsofwindsor.com)** and **our print version available at the stores and at the Town Offices.**

**FOW News**

Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah! What an amazing community we have. We're awed and grateful for the outpouring of support last month—as all can see from the tremendous donor list! You've set us well on our way toward our 2020 goal to have 25 percent of Windsor households support Friends of Windsor. So, to everyone who helped keep this paper and all our community-building activities going in 2019—THANK YOU! And to all who have gotten us off to a great start in 2020—You're inspiring us! We're excited to keep the momentum going, and our community growing, in the months ahead. –  
*D.Balmuth*



**Community Jazz-Blues Workshop Starting in Windsor Sunday, February 9**

Please come check out the inaugural session of the Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshop at town hall on Sunday February 9 at 1:30. Ben Kohn (keys), Dave Christopolis (bass) and Conor Meehan (drums) are the rhythm section in residence. The workshop will take place the second Sunday of each month. This is not a performance or a jam, but a place for local musicians to work on their craft and art with a crack rhythm section in a friendly environment. All instruments (including other rhythm players) and vocals are welcome. Emphasis is on jazz and blues standards, but the band is open to exploration. Audience members are just as welcome! For any questions, or to get on the email list, contact Scott Rogers at [wscottrogers73@gmail.com](mailto:wscottrogers73@gmail.com).

**Annual Rabies Clinic February 18 at Fire Station**

The Windsor Volunteer Firemen's Association is sponsoring a Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs on Tuesday, February 18 from 5 to 6 PM at the Windsor Fire Station. The cost will be \$10 per pet and will be administered by Dr. Beebe.

Please bring your previous rabies certificate, even if it has expired. The 3-year certificate rule has changed.

Dog Licenses will also be available for purchase from the Windsor Town Clerk, who will be at the clinic. –Charlie Riley

**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](mailto:susanphillips57@gmail.com).*

## Broadband Sign-up Underway

The Broadband sign-up process for Windsor is underway at last! More than 200 households have already signed up. If you haven't signed up yet for high-speed internet at your house, go to: [WiredWest.net](http://WiredWest.net) and select "Windsor" and enter your address (Route 9 is listed as Berkshire Trail and 8A as Savoy Road). --Doug McNally

## From the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is compiling the FY21 town budget and updating the five-year (FY21-FY25) budget framework. A key objective (unchanged from last year) is to limit the growth in the tax levy to 3 percent while taking on two large expenditure streams: \$112,000 a year for the Wahconah school project; and an average of \$175,500 a year for broadband debt service. Doing this will require a conservative approach to other spending and drawing on our financial reserves until the broadband Municipal Light Plant (MLP) begins repaying the budget.

The Finance Committee will soon be requesting department heads for their input into the FY21 budget process. Your help this year is particularly important to achieving the objectives described above. As a rule, departments that seem unlikely to spend their FY20 budget allocation will see their FY21 allocation level-funded. Otherwise, most departments will see their budgets increase by 2 percent unless department heads justify additional funding.

--Scott Rogers, Finance Committee Chair

## Selectboard Corner

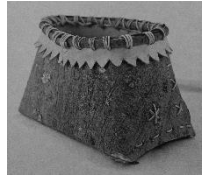
Windsor's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be upon us before we know it. It's time to start planning in earnest to make the celebration in July 2021 something the Town will talk about for the next 50 years. But... **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

If you love planning parties or love history or love community building or simply love Windsor, consider joining the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. The next organizational meeting is Tuesday, February 18 at 6pm at the Town Offices. This meeting is open to anyone interested. And if you are interested and unable to attend or if you simply have ideas, please send me an email at [ktobin@windsormass.com](mailto:ktobin@windsormass.com).

--Kim Tobin, Selectboard Chair

## Basket Making Workshop March 14

On March 14 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Windsor Town Hall, local basket maker Jennifer Lee will teach how to make a white pine bark. This class is limited to eight people so please register early. Snow date is March 14. Please call Jennifer at 413-634-2254 or text 413-768-7549 to reserve your spot. This is a free event thanks to support from the Windsor Cultural Council.



## Windsor Church Choir Forming

Eileen Markland has been hired to organize the music at The Windsor Church and is putting together a Windsor Community Choir that will practice and perform at the church. Anyone who loves to sing and would enjoy making music in our community is encouraged to contact Eileen at: [eileenmarkland@me.com](mailto:eileenmarkland@me.com) or call/text (413) 464 3837.

## Upcoming Events at Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor

**Spruce -Fir Boreal Forest Snowshoe Trek and Track:** Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm Snowshoe (or hike depending on trail conditions) in the Spruce-Fir boreal forests and learn about the unique ecology of the upper elevations of Massachusetts featuring balsam fir and red spruce trees, snowshoe hare and ruffed grouse tracks and other characteristics unique to higher elevations. This moderate trek is approximately 2 miles round-trip. Snowshoe rentals available at Tamarack Hollow for \$5 per pair. Co-sponsored by Mass Audubon. Email [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com) to reserve snowshoes & for registration info. [www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org](http://www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org)

## Town Clerk Notes

### Important Dates

Nomination Papers for Local Elected Officials available now. Completed papers are due to Registrars 3/23/2020. Offices on the Ballot: Moderator, Select Board, Constable, Finance Comm, Planning Board, Library Trustee, Tree Warden

**Community Luncheon:** February 12, 11:30 am Menu: Tomato Soup with Grilled Cheese Sandwiches; Cherry Blossom Tarts or Flourless Chocolate Cake.

**Presidential Primary** March 3, 2020 Polls Open 7am-8pm. Would love to have some newcomers and young people work the polls, all shifts, or count ballots at 8pm.

### Primary Early Voting Dates

Feb. 24: 5-8pm; Feb. 25: 10am-2pm

Feb. 27: 10am-2pm; (or by appointment 2/24-2/28)

Last day to register to vote in Primary is Feb 12. Register anytime online at [windsormass.com](http://windsormass.com).

**Annual Town Meeting:** May 4, 7PM Town Hall

**Annual Town Election:** May 11, 12-8PM

Last day to register to vote at ATM or election is April 13.

**Rabies Clinic** Feb 12 Dog licenses available at the clinic or after that date from Town Clerk.

Please return your census!!!!

--Madeline Scully



## Sense of Community

"When we drop fear, we can draw nearer to people, we can draw nearer to the earth, we can draw nearer to all the heavenly creatures that surround us."

— bell hooks

## Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

**SNOW PLOW!!!!** When we settled into our home next to Notchview, I decided it was high time to learn to cross-country ski. I ventured out with Audree, who was an avid skier. Off we went, sliding from trail to trail until we came to what to me was a humongous slope. At Audree's urging, I started down, slowly at first, then suddenly picking up speed. . . faster and faster! I felt like I was flying . . . and out of control.

Audree started shouting, "Snow Plow! Snow Plow!" I panicked, looked frantically around, and landed in a great white heap. How was I to know that "Snow Plow" meant a way to stop? I thought I was about to be run over! That sport really lost some of its appeal that day.

My very special friend and Windsor neighbor, Audree, passed away just recently. "Snow Plow! Snow Plow" will always mean "Stop" to me and I will never stop missing her.

## Green Committee Report

It's not too late to send your letter in support of S1974! Early February is the time when legislative committees decide what bills to send to the floor for votes. That means that the more the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy hears from Windsor residents (and your friends in other parts of the state) about the importance of S1974, the more likely that it will be "reported out" favorably by the committee and that it will get voted on by the whole legislature. As you remember, this is the piece of legislation that would change the designation of the town's solar array from "private" to "public," and that will allow us to be reimbursed at a higher rate for the electricity generated by the panels. In other words, a savings of about \$2,000 per year for the town! See the town website, [www.windsormass.com](http://www.windsormass.com), under BOARDS & DEPARTMENTS then GREEN COMMITTEE, for the sample letter and addresses.

In other news, we are in the midst of collecting and awarding bids for several projects funded by the \$62,800 grant from the state Department of Energy Resources. Those projects include adding insulation to both the town office building and town hall; installing air source heat pumps to provide heat and air conditioning for the basement area of the town offices; and further supporting energy conservation in the town offices with insulation curtains and an airtight door on the lower level.

Stu Besnoff, Chair, [stu@alpinesolarheat.com](mailto:stu@alpinesolarheat.com), 684-3950

Mark Barrette, [markbarrette@icloud.com](mailto:markbarrette@icloud.com), 413-212-0345

Jan Bradley, [janet.bradley2@gmail.com](mailto:janet.bradley2@gmail.com), 684-3732

Holly Higinbotham, [higinbo@hotmail.com](mailto:higinbo@hotmail.com), 413-212-4352

Bob Meyers, [windalewoods@verizon.net](mailto:windalewoods@verizon.net), 684-3463

Marnie Meyers, [windalewoods@verizon.net](mailto:windalewoods@verizon.net), 684-3463

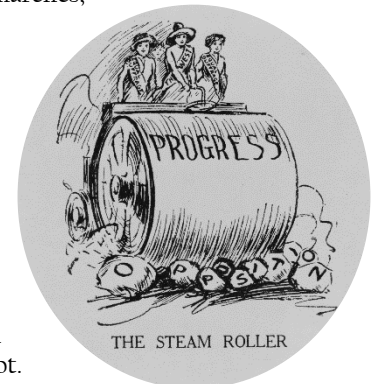
## Baked Potato Supper March 8 at Town Hall

featuring great food and woman suffrage musical celebration

The Windsor Historical Commission is excited to put on our fourth annual Baked Potato Supper on Sunday, March 8, 5-7PM in the Windsor Town Hall. The menu will feature baked potatoes (white & sweet) with special toppings ranging from meat chili to vegan lentil stew, along with tossed salad and homemade dessert. The cost is \$10/person (\$5/child under 12); maximum \$30 per family. All proceeds help support the restoration of the Windsor Historical Museum (which will begin in the spring).

The evening's entertainment will feature a special program of music of the woman suffrage movement, presented by musician Deb Burns from Williamstown. Singing was a big part of the woman suffrage movement, as with most political movements – used to arouse emotion, build unity, and simply make noise. Working to win the vote for women, our grandparents and great grandparents sang with gusto in marches, demonstrations, parades, and celebrations.

The songs were intentionally easy to learn, set to catchy popular tunes of the time but with new lyrics. Those lyrics offer fascinating insights into the political strategy of the suffrage movement. We'll learn some songs and take a look at the messages the suffragists carried in the stubborn fight to win the ballot.



So come celebrate the return of daylight (March 8—spring your clocks forward one hour!) and the right to vote! Bring your friends and neighbors.

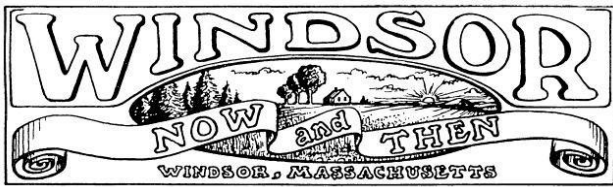
## Cummington Chi Gung Class Begins March 10

Michael Alterman will teach an introductory class in Taoist Water Method Chi Gung this spring at the Village Church in Cummington. Chi Gung helps maintain healthy posture and release old patterns that cause pain and illness.

The eight-week introductory class will meet on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:45pm, beginning March 10. The fee is a \$20-\$65-\$110 sliding scale, with no one turned away for lack of funds. No pre-registration is required, but it's helpful to know if you are planning to attend. For more information, please contact Michael at 413-358-6919 or [michael.alterman@protonmail.com](mailto:michael.alterman@protonmail.com), or visit his website: [getyourenergyflowing.com](http://getyourenergyflowing.com).

Be sure to visit our FEBRUARY Community Calendar, either online at [friendsofwindsor.com](http://friendsofwindsor.com) (under Windsor Now & Then) or pick up a print version at Sangar's, Friendly Fred's, and the Town Office.

FEBRUARY 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

## COA Newsletter Enclosed

### Memories of "Our Country Club"

Former kids: Swimming to "the rock" as a rite of passage. Waiting for the ice-cream truck. Running barefoot across the hot asphalt parking lot. Wading out with a fish net to see what lurked below the surface. Water temperature: just fine.

Their parents: Long summer afternoons sitting on the grass catching up with other parents. Letting the kids run free in a place small enough to be safe, but large enough to be fun. Water temperature: freezing.

With news of the planned re-opening of Windsor State Forest, aka Windsor Jambs, I wanted to hear from people who spent time at this famed mountain-brook swimming hole "back in the day", before it closed in 2009.

Thanks to everyone who helped me gather these memories, and here's to Windsor Jambs' next chapter.



"It was our country club," Sue Riley told me. "In the summers, it's where our playgroup would meet." She remembers the freezing water, the annual picnic of the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department, and the little sandy beach.

"In the summer, every morning, the kids and I would do all of our chores, and they knew that once they were finished, we would be going to Windsor Jambs for the afternoon," said Cynthia Glendon. "It was a lovely spot."



"I certainly remember being intimidated by the thought of swimming out to 'the rock' on the far side, and the sense of accomplishment after having done that the first few time," Ethan Kohn wrote via email.

"The rock" looms large in other memories: "Windsor Jambs was a wonderful place to bring our kids to enjoy the sun and play in the cold water and to accept the challenge to swim out the rock," wrote Dee and Bob Farrell. "The boys had a wonderful time playing with friends and it was a very safe space. I remember one of the highlights was when they finally swam to the other side and sat on the big rock. The cold never seemed to bother any of them," wrote Deb Drumm. "I'm so delighted that my son's children will now get to experience this beautiful place."

*Thanks to everyone who shared their memories, and special thanks to Susan Riley, for the photographs! These recollections are from the 1980's...please get in touch with your own! --- Susan Phillips*