



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for MARCH  
issue: Thursday,  
February 25

Send news to:  
[fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com)  
com  
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## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVII, No. 2

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

FEBRUARY 2021

### YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

**TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to Friends of Windsor, Inc.,**  
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~ ~ ~

Grace Walter, in loving memory of Ken Cyr

Anonymous, in memory of Joanne Purches Bilodeau

(Joanne was the wonderful (step)mother to the Bilodeau family in Windsor  
in the 1940s & 1950s. She died in 1961 at age 46)

Anonymous, in memory of Fred Purches

~ ~ ~

### And Windsor Phone & Community Directory Sponsors

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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).

#### 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—While we are still social distancing, we're coming together as a community in inspiring ways. Keep supporting each other! --Deb*

### FOW News

#### Number, Please!

The deadline approaches for updates, changes, and additions to the 2021/2022 edition of the Community Phone Book. If you're among the many residents getting rid of their landline and want us to list your mobile number/s instead, let us know at [fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com). And if you're a new resident within the last two years, please send us your desired contact number for this treasured community directory!

#### What's So Wonderful About Windsor?

**Show Us!** The new phone directory is coming in the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the town's incorporation, so it needs to be special. We want to include a gallery of photographs taken by community members that show what you love about this place. We'll also create an online gallery. We're looking for digital images at least 1500 pixels on the long side. **The deadline is February 15.** If you aren't familiar with how to size digital images, don't worry, we will help you figure it out. E-mail images and any questions to [scphillips@fastmail.fm](mailto:scphillips@fastmail.fm). Please include your name, location information, and date taken if you know.

**Ciao, Cows!** FOW owes a huge thank-you to MaryBeth and Jim Iwanowicz for giving us permission to move the historical marker commemorating the Brookvale School to a new location directly across the street from its original spot, where the resident cows had taken a dim view of the addition to their field. It has been repaired and will be installed when the ground thaws.

**FOW is Feeling Grateful** for your generous response to our most recent call for donations. Thank you so much for supporting this newsletter, the directory, and our other projects – all geared at celebrating and strengthening our community. –Susan Phillips



## Town Clerk Notes

### Weekly Town Clerk Report Email

**List:** There will be an informative Town Clerk email sent weekly to all who desire it. Please email [windsortownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:windsortownclerk@gmail.com) to be added to my email list, or write your email address on the bottom of your census form and return it.

**Census:** Waiting on 80 households to return their street listing census. Please don't dawdle! 284 efficient households have already returned them to me!

### Local Election: May 10, 2021

Offices on the ballot are Select Board, Constable, Fin Comm x3, Library Trustee x2, Moderator, Planning Board, Tree Warden, Cemetery and Town Clerk.

We have no one running for 2 Library Trustee seats, and possibly 1 Finance Comm seat. We also have no challengers for incumbents. Let me know if you would like to serve your community by running for an elected position. I can help you get required signatures on Nomination Papers.

**New BOH:** Please welcome our new Board of Health: Kolleen Schmitt, Bonnie Stapleberg, and Ingrid Florence-Lewis. Their contact info may be found on [windsormass.com](http://windsormass.com)

**Dog Licenses by mail:** Dog licenses are due by April 1. All info and a form are on the Town Clerk department page of [windsormass.com](http://windsormass.com). Mail in the form with payment and a stamped envelope and I will get them right back to you. If renewing, I probably have the rabies info. Even if you do not have a current rabies mail in anyway and update once you get the vaccination for your pet.

### FY20 Annual Reports will be out in March

**Special Town Meeting:** There are articles needing a STM vote, but they are not urgent, so the STM articles may be delayed possibly until the Annual Town Meeting in May.

**Grumpy Town Clerk:** I am very busy trying to get help our senior Windsor residents get signed up for vaccination appointments while also keeping the Town running. Please don't call me with petty problems; we have such important ones to address right now. I realize it is easy to lose perspective when we are in our own little world and sometimes we need to be reminded of the big picture. That being said, I can't wait to go out to dinner. My cooking is getting really old!

-Madeline Scully

## Health Care Options in the Berkshires

**Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires:** provides access to free, comprehensive health care for those in the Berkshire region who are income-qualified and uninsured or under-insured. We envision a society in which everyone has an equal opportunity to achieve good health.

VIM provides entirely free comprehensive care under one roof including internal medicine, dentistry, optometry, pain management, and behavioral health.

The clinic serves uninsured and underinsured who make less than 300% of the federal poverty level (\$78,600 for a family of 4 in 2020).

Call 413-528-4014 for more info or to make an appointment, or visit [VIMBerkshires.org](http://VIMBerkshires.org). Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5; Located at 777 Main St, Great Barrington, MA. Transportation may be provided.

**Big Orange Bus Schedule:** BOB will be at Friendly Fred's on February 3, 10-12. They provide routine medical visits, Lab work, Free COVID testing and more. Stay in your car. No appointment necessary. Hopefully they will be offering the COVID vaccine soon.

**COVID vaccination appointments:** COVID vaccination clinics are usually announced with a very short lead time. You have to be ready to act quickly to obtain an appointment. I will try to get

the word out on the town clerk email, Windsor Facebook page and phone calls. If you are not computer savvy and are 65 or over, call me with your info including insurance number. As soon as a clinic is announced, I will get on my PC and try to get you an appointment.

Windsor is also poised to offer our own vaccination clinic in conjunction with the Big Orange Bus, Highway and Fire Departments. We are waiting on information on the vaccine. More info to follow as soon as we have it.

-Madeline Scully

## Rabies Clinic Cancelled for 2021

Due to current conditions, the Windsor Volunteer Firemen's Association will not be hosting a rabies clinic this year. If your pet requires a rabies injection, please contact your regular veterinarian for an appointment. We thank all our regular customers and sincerely hope we can hold a clinic next year.

-Charles Riley

## From the Green Committee

The Green Committee, having completed all of the projects funded by the last state Department of Energy Resource grant, has turned its attention to projects that will be included in the next grant application. We are reviewing data from past engineering reports to determine projects that can be undertaken next. We will submit the next grant application when DOER opens the process, expected to be this spring.

-Holly Higinbotham

Be sure to check out the **FEBRUARY Community Calendar** online at [friendsofwindsor.com](http://friendsofwindsor.com) (under *Windsor Now & Then*) adorned with shots of local images taken by Windsor residents.

*Reflections from Mame Whelihan  
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road*

**All Creatures Great and Small** is my favorite TV program at the moment. Not so much all creatures great and small in our cellar though. First, we had a beautiful skunk who found his way through the stone foundation of the house and camped out for way too long. When he left he was replaced with two ermines. I had never even seen an ermine and I can live without them. They were beautiful, but kind of evil looking and avid mice hunters. The mice must have thought so, too. We don't have a mouse within miles of us now. Evidently it's slim pickings so the ermine left.

Next to arrive was a beautiful cat, not friendly, but not wild either. In this weather the cellar is cold, very cold, so a box and blanket were put down there and food and water were provided until we could find his owner. Time passed and still no owner came forth. We watched him on our Ring camera and saw him gobble up his meals. He is not the most aggressive creature. One day we watched as he sat next to his dish patiently watching a lone mouse eat his breakfast. Only when the little mouse left did the cat proceed to eat. Lately, he has been joined by a little bunny and a bright red squirrel. We are going to try to socialize the cat and find him a forever home, but for now he is happy.

I suppose we could reinforce the opening in the stone foundation, but where would all our Creatures great and small go next? Maybe Bob and Marnie might have a vacancy.

### **Upcoming Events at Windsor's Tamarack Hollow Nature Center**

EVERY MONDAY. West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinias M.Ed ONLINE (in-person classes at the Dalton CRA will resume later this winter). 5:30pm beginner / 6:45pm advanced. Registration and masks required.

Saturday, February 13, 10am-12:30pm Snowshoe Track and Tree ID at Tamarack Hollow. This round trip, 2-mile hike led by Naturalist and Tamarack Hollow Director Aimee Gelinias M.Ed. will teach how to identify wildlife tracks along with trees. Program will be a hike if there's no snow. Masks & registration required for all participants. Limited space, register soon! \$15pp, per program. Snowshoe rentals available for \$5.

Register for any of these events by emailing: [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com). Visit [www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org](http://www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org) for more information on Tamarack Hollow.

**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).**  
**For a regular update on Vaccine Access in the Berkshires, call the INFO line: 413-449-5575.**

### **Local Food Co-op Org Welcoming New Members**

The Hilltown Harvest Food Cooperative is a nonprofit, composed of roughly a dozen families in the hilltowns who place a monthly order with United Natural Foods. We have been a buying club for 30+ years. We are looking for additional community members interested in joining the co-op which offers online ordering and monthly delivery pickups at the Windsor Town Hall.

**Why do we shop in a food cooperative?** We can think of at least 4 good reasons:

- 1. It's a frame of mind that comes with life in the hilltowns.** It's the idea of having a stocked pantry to avoid unnecessary trips into town. At this moment, it is also the peace of mind that comes with not having to go into a grocery store as frequently, or at all. It's the feeling that you are prepared when the weather is inclement and knowing that you aren't going to run out of staples.
- 2. Purchasing in bulk lowers the unit price.** While some things are available as single items, most are sold in quantities of 3 or 6 or a case of 12. Bulk items like sugar and flour, nuts, beans and grains are available as a case of small packages or in 10, 20, or even 50lb bags. Compound that with it being part of a group purchase and the prices are significantly reduced. Additionally, we receive a volume discount of 10% off on all items that aren't on special for the month. Monthly specials can range from 10-25% off.
- 3. UNFI carries over 2,000 well-known brands of quality foods and specialty items.**
- 4. There is no minimum order, no cost to join and you don't need to place an order every month...but we are seeking some additional families to ensure that we maintain the minimum monthly order amount for a delivery and our volume discount.**

Payment is made by check, at the time of delivery. We have streamlined our co-op to make it as simple as it can be. If you would like to learn more, call our cooperative coordinator, Jan Bradley, at 684-3732.

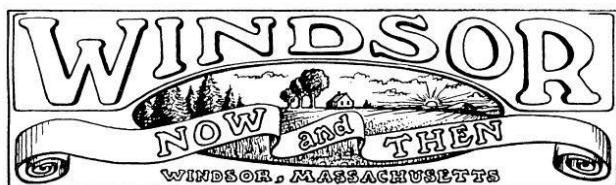
### **Historical Commission Seeking Volunteers**

As we welcome 2021, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Windsor's incorporation as a town, the Windsor Historical Commission needs your help to bring our history alive! We are seeking additional volunteers to **help coordinate repairs on our museum and set up a simple website** where we can share photos and stories from Windsor's past. If you've ever thought you'd like to get involved in learning more about Windsor's past—and celebrating who we are—now's your chance! We welcome any amount of time you can offer. We're all volunteers! Call Deb Balmuth at 684-4535 to learn more and get involved.

### **SENSE OF COMMUNITY**

"When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."  
— Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

FEBRUARY 2021



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

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### **Enclosed**

- **Sharing Our Stories, Volume 5**
- **COA Newsletter**

### **Look at Liam's Food Drive Flyer!—Enclosed**



#### **Food Bank Drive, February 20-28**

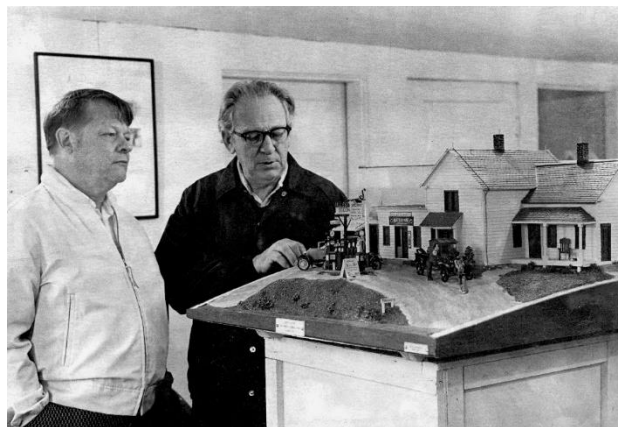
Hi! I'm Liam Connors and I'm 9 years old and working on my Duty to God badge as a Cub Scout Bear. For this badge, I am holding a food drive in Windsor to donate to the Loaves and Fishes pantry at the Dalton Methodist Church. This year they have seen more

people asking for food because of COVID so I think it's a great idea to help those who need a little bit of help. My goal is to collect 92.4 pounds of can goods - equivalent to exactly twice my body weight! Will you please help me and our neighbors in need? You can drop off your non-perishable food donations to Friendly Freds, the General Store, or the parsonage to the right of the church between February 20-28. I can't wait to see how much our town can donate. Thank you!

### **Handmade History**

I recently came across this photograph from the Windsor Museum's very first Open House in September 1977. It shows a recreation of the Ralph L. Estes post office and general store, circa 1930, made by Walter G. Dydowicz. In addition to the period cars, the late lamented post office, and the sign advertising tourist rooms, the scene includes a cat sleeping on the porch, and a young boy and his dog. The boy, a bit of a Huck Finn type, holds a fishing rod and a bunch of recently-caught fish. Nostalgic and humorous, it's one of my favorite items from the museum.

I discovered that Dydowicz, a veteran of the Korean conflict who at this time was a retired draftsman for General Electric Co., had a bit of a history as an



artist: "Walter Dydowicz, Central Junior High School student, is painting murals in the Pink Elephant Room, and curtains for the room are being made by Marlene Meyer and a group of classmates..." (From a Feb. 26, 1946 Berkshire Eagle article about Pittsfield's Junior Country Club preparing for a big party.)

Sadly, Dydowicz is not pictured here – he had retired from G.E. two years earlier due to ill

health, and died in August, 1978. The photo features Ralph G. Peck, co-chairman of the Windsor Historical Commission, showing the work off to George Adams of Dalton. Here's hoping we can open the museum doors this year! --Susan Phillips

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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)