



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for  
MARCH  
issue:  
Thursday,  
FEBRUARY 23**

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## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIX, No. 2

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

**FEBRUARY 2023**

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Phoebe & Stephen Bushway, *in memory of Carolyn F.  
Westwood.* (See Carolyn's poem on page 3)

### *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; Dominique Frink, director; Val Kohn, director; Eileen Markland, director; Terra Missildine, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.

### Friends of Windsor—Who We Are



The new year feels like a good time to re-introduce ourselves to the Windsor community. Friends of Windsor, Inc. is a nonprofit, volunteer-run, public foundation formed in 1984. Our mission is to foster communication and support local organizations, activities and projects that cultivate community. We are supported solely by community contributions, grants and sponsorships.

Our current board members are listed below, at left. We're thrilled to welcome our newest member, Terra Missildine.

All community members are invited to attend our monthly meetings on the third or fourth Wednesday of the month at the Town Offices. We welcome your involvement! For more info, email: [fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com).

*Our Recent and Ongoing Projects include:*

- **Windsor Now & Then** – We have published this monthly newsletter for 39 years. It's to all Windsor households as well as to others who feel a connection to Windsor.
- **Community Directory and Phone Book** – We update, publish and mail this handy reference book every other year. It includes residential listings as well as business listing and ads.
- **New-Residents Outreach** – We deliver welcome boxes to new homeowners, including a phone book, information about town services, and gifts from local businesses (such as a jar of Ooma Tesoro's marinara sauce and a certificate to Friendly Fred's).
- **Windsor Playground Support** – We donated and installed a chess/checkers table to the new playground in 2022.
- **Sharing our Stories** – To celebrate Windsor's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2021, FOW interviewed some of Windsor's long-time residents. Excerpts from those conversations and photos were printed as color inserts to WN&T and will also be preserved as oral histories.
- **Town Welcome Sign** – Envisioned, crafted and installed by resident Scott Brockway in 2019, the rugged, arched sign in the town's center was underwritten by FOW.
- **Pollinator-Friendly Plantings** – We worked with landscape designer Heather Cupo to install plantings around the sign and added an informative placard about helping local pollinators.
- **Historical Site Markers and Map** – These landmark signs, found in every corner of town, were installed in 2015 by FOW. A map was also printed to help the curious locate them all.
- **Sponsored a host of community events**—Including lasagna dinners, star gazing, musical performances, photo shows, and contributing to the Windsor Historical Commission's restoration of East Windsor Chapel.

## Rabies Clinic February 22

The Windsor Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. is sponsoring a rabies clinic for dogs and cats on Wednesday, February 22 at the Windsor Fire Station from 6 to 7 PM. The vaccination, be administered by Dr. Sharon Lynch of the Hilltown Veterinary Clinic, is \$20 per pet. Please bring your previous certificate even if it has expired. All pets must be restrained. The Windsor Town Clerk will be available for purchasing dog licenses. **Note:** face masks are required. --*Charlie Riley*

## Nature & Music Events with Tamarack Hollow

Sponsored by Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor. For more information and registration: visit [www.tamarackhollow.com](http://www.tamarackhollow.com) or email [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com).

**Sunday, February 5; 10am-12noon**  
Explore the fauna and flora of the Breckenridge Sanctuary, Williamsburg. Free, donations accepted.

**Sunday, February 19; 10am-12noon**  
**Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Ecology, Trees and Tracking Snowshoe Program at Tamarack Hollow**  
This 2-mile trek led by Naturalist and Tamarack Hollow Director Aimee Gelinis M.Ed \$20pp. Snowshoe rentals available for \$5.

**Sunday February 19, 1-3pm: Winter wildlife tracking and tree identification snowshoe trek in the spruce-fir forest at Notchview, Windsor.** 2-mile trek on the Hume Brook Trail led by Aimee Gelinis M.Ed.

**Ongoing class, every Monday:**  
West African & Caribbean drum and song classes at The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts Renne Ave, Pittsfield. 5:30pm beginner / 6:30pm advanced.

**BIRD TIP \* \*** On a snowy winter day, there's nothing more enjoyable than watching colorful and hungry birds flocking to the feeders. But in a winter that just isn't as cold as in years past, bears are starting to rouse themselves and they're hungry too. It's best to bring your feeders in at night, and make sure your bird seed is well-secured!

## Windsor Library News

We're excited to announce that we will have a Mobile Museum Unit about Mammal Adaptation on loan from the Berkshire Museum in the entrance to the Town Offices from January 27 to March 3.

Starting soon: Wendy Provencher from Central Berkshire CFCE will be conducting a children's STEM group on Tuesdays, 10:15-11:15 AM in the Library. More news to come with the registration link.

Please stop by the library to see the new fiction and nonfiction books, as well as audiobooks we have for you to borrow. --*Katherine Richter*

## From the Green Committee

The Green Committee is preparing to submit another grant application to support energy conservation measures in town buildings. For this grant cycle, we are looking at seeking funds to insulate the walls of the Highway Department Garage as well as an area of the Town Hall basement that formerly housed the furnace.

You will remember that a new insulated roof was just installed on the garage—paid for with federal America Rescue Plan Act funds—and insulating the walls of the garage would provide a complete “envelope” of insulation for that building. The Green Committee is pursuing—piece by piece—a plan to ensure that all municipal buildings are as energy efficient as possible.

The town has received three Green Communities grants since 2015 totaling \$246,275. The designation grant, awarded during December 2015 was \$137,880. Competitive grants received were \$62,800 (2019), and \$45,595 (2021). Projects funded primarily by these grants have replaced lighting and aging heating systems, added solar electricity, and sealed and insulated town buildings. The town pays less for utilities, and has received nearly \$30,000 of income from the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates. --*Holly Higinbotham*

## Remembering Evelyn Bird

Reading the Town Clerk's recent letter that was included with the Town Census mailing—and the list of positions that will be on the ballot at this May's town election—I was reflecting on how satisfying and meaningful it can be to be a part of Windsor's government and volunteer boards. In a small town like ours, one person can make a difference.

Evelyn Bird, who died last July, was devoted to serving Windsor in so many ways over her 42 years living here. As a member of the board of Friends of Windsor, Evelyn was a partner to this newsletter, helping gather news and mailing every month. I also valued her enthusiastic support for the Historical Commission, and her friendly, welcoming presence at our annual pie sale table.

Evelyn served as Windsor's Town Clerk from 1993 to 2015 and was key in transitioning the town records to a computer database. She also served as a town assessor from 2013 to 2015.

An avid reader, Evelyn volunteered at the Windsor library, as well. And as a Justice of the Peace, she officiated at the weddings of many Windsorites and served so many of us when we needed a notary.

Evelyn's volunteer activities extended beyond Windsor, as well, with her dedication to St. Agnes Church in Dalton and as an enthusiastic member of the Red Hat Society.

Evelyn is survived by her husband, Leslie, and sons, Allen, and wife, Raynee, and Steven, and wife, Valerie, all of Windsor. --*Deb Balmuth*

## Energy-Saving Tip

You can save on your fuel bills by paying attention to your windows. On sunny days, open your curtains and shades to let the sun come into any windows that get sunlight. You'll be getting passive solar heat! But as soon as the sun goes down, be sure to close your curtains and shades to prevent as much heat loss as possible.

## Windsor Cultural Council Grants

The Windsor Cultural Council awarded 15 grants totaling \$5,500 at its annual meeting to support the following organizations and events:

- Windsor Free Public Library for museum passes
- KlezCummings—a day of music, dance, and theater
- Windsor Historical Commission for musical entertainment for Windsor History Day
- Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center for the 14th annual Berkshire Drum Fest
- Hilltown Land Trust for a Pollinator Gardening Workshop
- Hilltown Vision Fund for after school arts programs
- Berkshire Music School for Drum to the Beat, an in-school enrichment program at Craneville Elementary School
- Madeline Scully for the Town Hall Stage Curtain Restoration
- Cummington Village Church for the Friday Night Cafe
- Scott Rogers for the Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshop held at the Town Park
- Plainfield Congregational church for the Concerts at 7
- Mary Witt for Music for the Soul to be held at the Windsor Congregational church
- Gregory Maichack for Jellyfish: How to Pastel Paint
- Hilltown Families for Hilltown Families Suggests, a weekly virtual list of events
- Mary Jo Maichack for Fabulous Folktales, Myths & Urban Legends to be held at the Town Hall.

When dates are established, we'll publicize the details here in WN&T as well as on the Windsor Facebook page, Madeline Scully's newsletter, and on posters you'll see in town. You can always contact us through [windsormassculturalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:windsormassculturalcouncil@gmail.com).— *Val Kohn, chair, Windsor Cultural Council*

## BY THE WOOD-PILE

I will not leave the world  
when winter comes.  
The fungus on the dying log  
will burn and turn to ash  
before the fire is gone.  
The forest on my hearth,  
each scrap of wood and bark  
becomes my skin and bone.  
Tunnels of ants remain  
though they have fled.  
The hardwood bleeds, then burns  
with penetrating warmth,  
Relights the fire within my heart.  
The barriers fade.  
I know my part.

*Carolyn F. Westwood, October 8, 1980*

*Carolyn Westwood lived in Windsor for many years and loved her life here. She would have turned 100 years in February 2023. (Ed: Note: Carolyn was a partner to her husband, Arnold, in creating Friends of Windsor and starting this newsletter.)*

## Windsor's New (Bottomless) Culverts Are Good for our Roads—and our Wildlife

When Windsor's highway superintendent John Denno was considering the prospect of rebuilding River Road and replacing three of the round culverts there, he approached the Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee for a small grant to fund a culvert survey and preliminary engineering.

The study found that streams flowing through these three culverts were considered "ecologically significant," which means that there is a considerable amount of stream habitat above the culvert that could be available for fish to use. Based on this grant the town was able to secure a construction grant from the Mass Division of Ecological Restoration and the project of replacing the round culverts with bottomless culverts or arches is underway.

Prior to roads, the fish had free run of all the rivers and feeder streams, using them all at various points of the year for spawning, feeding, or cool refuge during the summer. Road construction cut off many of the streams and options for the fish diminished. With the additional challenge of climate change and warming, this diminished habitat is challenging the survival of many aquatic animals, notably the native brook trout. The new bottomless culverts allow for reconstruction of the stream bed beneath the road, which was destroyed when the original pipe culvert was set in place.

Bottomless culverts not only reconnect lost aquatic habitat, but also go a long way to reducing the possibility of washout during extreme flooding. These are not cheap to install but they are a win-win choice both for better habitat and a more reliable transportation network. Based on the success here in Windsor with the help of the Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee many of the other Westfield River communities are pursuing grants to replace pipe culverts with bottomless culverts. —*Jim Caffrey*

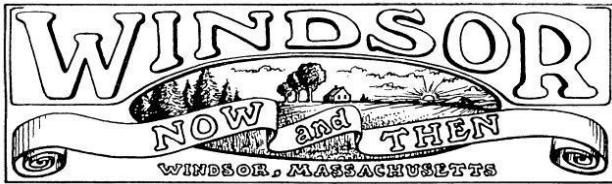
## Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

**Elementary School Memories.** Miss Hadley had rules, rules, rules for her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. When we first took our seats, left corner we placed the handkerchief, right corner, our hands palm down. When asked, palms up. A student was chosen to do the inspection walk. If you passed inspection, you got an X next to your name, otherwise an O.

When I realized I didn't have a handkerchief with me, I took off for home at a run. I arrived huffing and puffing, much to my mother's dismay. I've mentioned before that my mother was a saint, but not today! She calmed me down and marched me back to school where she explained quite loudly that to scare a child so drastically because she didn't have a handkerchief was asinine. She belabored the point quite forcibly for a bit, gave me her handkerchief and said good day to a shaken Miss Hadley. I never forgot my handkerchief again and the strict, straight-laced Miss Hadley suddenly replaced the handkerchief requirement with a box of Kleenex. I never got to be the inspection person and I was glad. I couldn't give anyone an O.

FEBRUARY 2023



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### Snowshoeing in Notchview

By Patty Crane

I'm an avid cross-country skier, but when it comes to experiencing our winter woods up-close, there's nothing like snowshoeing. It's so intimate: the narrow trails, the snow-lined branches arching overhead, the deeper quiet. And, unlike skiing, it's something most of us can do without formal instruction.

So, I thought I'd share what seems to be a well-kept secret: Notchview has a lovely network of snowshoe trails...and yes, the rumor is true: Windsor residents can snowshoe and ski for free.

A few miles in length, the backcountry trails for snowshoers meander out from the Visitor's Center, never far from one of the groomed ski trails (with quick access back to the lodge for a cup of hot chocolate), yet there's always the sense of being in the middle of nowhere. And if you're feeling more adventurous, you can work your way toward the more remote reaches of Notchview's 3,000 acres using the snowmobile trails.



View from the Trela Shelter on January 27 (Susan Phillips)

For views, your destination might be the Trela Shelter, or the more distant Pierce Shelter out in Bates Field. The view from Judge's Hill has long since grown in, but the cool cellar hole at the top is well worth the trudge. Then there are the more micro views with every step, like coming upon the fresh tracks of deer, a ruffed grouse, or (lucky day!) a fisher. And you're likely to happen upon old stone walls marking the boundaries of now-vanished fields.

There's nothing to it. The hardest part is figuring out the straps! If you're itching to give snowshoeing a try but don't have the gear, Notchview offers rentals. To learn more, call 413-684-0148. Better yet, pop in any day (between 8am and 4pm) and check it all out.

Below is just a portion of the online trail map. Find the whole map here: [https://thetrustees.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Notchview\\_trailmap\\_Ski\\_2022.pdf](https://thetrustees.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Notchview_trailmap_Ski_2022.pdf)

