



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for MARCH issue:
Thursday, February 22
Send news to editor:
Deborah.balmuth@storey.com
(mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

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YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

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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, activities, and projects that cultivate community. We welcome 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 deborah.balmuth@storey.com.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Crane, president; Deborah Balmuth, co-editor; Susan Edwards, director; Cindy Efinger, director; Val Kohn, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.

Paper Talk

I spotted a homeowner hanging sugaring buckets on trees in Ashfield on January 28! Optimism? Or is spring really around the corner? Or just the new reality of our up-and-down weather? --Deborah

FOW News

Bee the Change! This month, Friends of Windsor continues our year-long focus on how best to protect and encourage the pollinators that keep our eco-system healthy and productive. Don't miss the fun **Build a Bee Hotel** workshop later this month – see the full article inside. And learn more about the deep connections between the insects and plants around us in Amy Pulley's article.



Back by Popular Demand – We heard that some folks missed having a print version of the FOW monthly community calendar. As we are not often able to get WN&T into your mailboxes by the 1st of the month, we decided not to return to printing the calendar in the newsletter. Instead, starting this month, FOW is making printed listings of town happenings available at Friendly Fred's, Sangar's, and the Town Offices. Check it out, let us know if it is helpful, or how it could be improved. For the most complete information, go to the online calendar at <http://www.friendsofwindsor.com/community-calendar>.

Tell Your Windsor Stories – A couple of months ago, we got an email from Peter Utz with a GREAT memory about the irascible Colonel Budd of Notchview which we published in the next newsletter. We'd love more gifts like that in our inbox! 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.

Community Directory & Phone Book – Yes, it's time for an update of the book of all things Windsor. We're just getting started on the process. If you are a new resident or have changed any of your contact information since the last version, please let us know at fowindsor@gmail.com. We'll also be looking for sponsors – it's a great way to advertise in a book that gets consulted again and again.

Help Us Keep You Connected: The community calendar and the directory are two of the most fundamental ways that Friends of Windsor works to keep us all connected and informed – which is at the heart of our mission. As volunteers, we give our time to these projects, and we appreciate every dollar that you can donate to help! Donate online at friendsofwindsor.com, or by mail to Friends of Windsor, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor MA 01270. Thank you! —Susan Phillips

"Oldies" Town Dance February 17 at Town Hall

Windsor's Social Committee is sponsoring a town dance for residents on Saturday, February 17, 6-9PM at the Windsor Town Hall. Music of the 70s, 80s & 90s will be provided by DJ Mr. B. Tickets are \$5 per person; kids free. Contact Heather Juby, drjuby@gmail.com, 413-770-0974, for tickets, also available at the door.



Town Clerk Notes

Census forms have been mailed to every household, along with a two-page survey to help Windsor determine our goals for services to seniors, including senior housing. Please do not put them down! Open, check/correct for accuracy, complete the survey, and mail in the enclosed stamped envelope, or drop in black dropbox #2 at the Town Offices. These forms are important for Windsor's ability to secure state funding. No dog license, building permit, or transfer station sticker will be given to a resident who hasn't returned a census form.

Just a reminder, there is a Public Mailbox for outgoing mail at the town office silver mailbox tower.

Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk office for the following offices on the ballot in May: Select Board, Town Clerk, Cemetery, Planning Board, Finance, Moderator, Library Trustee, Tree Warden, and Constable.

Dog Licenses will be available at the Fire Association Rabies clinic and at the town offices thereafter. After April 1 there will be a late fee charged. All dogs in Windsor are required to be licensed. The fee is \$10 (\$5 for spayed or neutered). —*Madeline Scully, Town Clerk*

Rabies Clinic February 27

The Windsor Vol. Firemen's Association is holding a rabies clinic for cats and dogs on Tuesday, February 27 from 5 to 6 P.M. at the fire station. The cost is \$10 per shot. Please bring your animal's previous rabies certificate. Dr. Keith Beebe will administer the vaccinations and the Town Clerk, Madeline Scully, will be available for purchasing dog licenses. —*Charlie Riley*

Bus Trip to Foxwoods. Leaving Windsor 7:45 AM on Saturday, February 24; with a return departure at 8PM. Cost is \$35 without driver gratuity. Call Valerie Bird at 413-684-3103 to reserve.

Lenten Bible Study Group.

Meeting Sundays, 2/18-3/25, 9 am, at the Windsor Congregational Church. For more information contact Heather Juby, drjuby@gmail.com, 413-770-0974.

Sense of Community

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." —

ELIZABETH ANDREW

Build a Bee Hotel!

Kids' Workshop February 21

Help our Windsor pollinators by building your very own Bee Hotel at a free workshop on Wednesday, February 21 at 2PM in the Windsor Town Hall. Kids of all ages are invited to participate.

Bring your own waterproof container, (preferably a half-gallon milk container), and we'll provide the rest. You'll go home with a Bee Hotel and we'll suggest the best places to locate it in your garden. We're seeking donations of small wooden blocks that we can drill holes in and fit inside the milk cartons. If you can help, or have any questions, please call or email Val Kohn: 684-1731 valckohn@verizon.net.

Potato Fest March 11, with Talk by Jack Sobon

The Windsor Historical Commission is sponsoring our 3rd annual Potato Fest on Sunday, March 11, 5-7PM, at the Windsor Town Hall. The cost is \$10/adult; \$/child under 12 years, with a maximum of \$30/family.

The menu will feature a variety of toppings, including meat chili and vegan lentil stew, to pile on a baked potato or sweet potato, accompanied by tossed salad and a dessert bar.

Following the meal, we're pleased to feature architect, author, and builder (and Windsor resident) Jack A. Sobon who will present an illustrated talk on:

ENGLISH BARNS IN THE HILLTOWNS OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
focusing on the design, construction, and use of these 18th and 19th century icons

This is the first day of daylight savings, so come welcome the light, greet neighbors, and learn about a fascinating part of hilltown history! —*Deb Balmuth*

Chi Gung Classes in Cummington

Hilltown resident Michael Alterman will be teaching Taoist Water Method Chi Gung beginning Tuesday, March 20, 6:30-7:45 PM, at the Village Church in Cummington. For more information, contact Michael at 413-358-6919 or alterman@speakeasy.net, or visit his website: gyef2017.tumblr.com.

Senior & Community News

The first of the Community/Senior luncheons, held in January, was well received. Chili, gourmet vegetarian soup, split pea and ham soup, homemade bread along with many desserts completed the menu. The dinner was worth every penny of the \$5 fee.

February 14 is the date for the next luncheon, at 11:30 at the Town Hall. The menu is: vegetable fritatta, tomato soup, homemade bread and sugar-free dessert, as requested. The luncheon date is held the second Wednesday of each month. There is a \$5 fee. Everyone is welcome. Come one, come all! —*Mame Whelihan*

ARE YOU OKAY PROGRAM. Presented in conjunction with the Pittsfield Police Department, The Windsor Police Department and the Senior Center. It provides a daily check-in morning telephone call to people who may live alone, be at risk of falling, have no local family, or for anyone who just wants to feel safer. If there is no response after several call attempts, an alert is sent to the family or emergency contact of the individual. If all else fails, the Police Department will go to the house. If you are interested, please call (413) 499-9346 for more information and to register.

TRANSPORTATION. Windsor offers transportation on Wednesday mornings, 9AM-1PM, for errands, hair appointments, and outings. The service uses our vocational school bus that holds 3 passengers. To reserve a spot, call the town clerk 413-684-3811 or 910-620-0162 by Friday of the week before you need the ride. There is a \$5 charge for this service.

Windsor Police Department Report

December: 65 calls for service, including 1 arrest, 1 B&E, 12 accidents, 7 Disabled Motor vehicles, 1 well-being check

January: 33 calls for service, including 1 arrest, 5 accidents, 2 well-being checks, 6 disabled motor vehicles

If you have an emergency, or require police assistance, please dial 911 immediately. Do not go to an officer's home. Dialing 911 gives you immediate access to the officer on duty and to the necessary personnel.

Thanks to the town highway crew for doing a good job on the roads! —*Chief Thomas Barnaby*

REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELIHAN

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

VALENTINE'S DAY. A fun day and a day that taught me a very valuable life lesson that I will never forget. happened when I was in fourth grade. Valentine's Day - that was practically a national holiday for us fourth graders.

I was packing up my own stack to be distributed in class the next day and my Mother was helping me write the names on the envelopes. she was going down my list she noticed I had crossed out a name. I told her I wasn't giving him a valentine. He wore old and dirty clothes to school and even his hair looked dirty. None of the kids bothered with him and he didn't talk much. None of them would be giving him a valentine.

My Mother pushed the list aside and just looked at me as she said, "Tell me how you think he's going to feel tomorrow when the valentines are passed out. Will he be sad, embarrassed maybe, think no one likes him or wants to be his friend? Would a valentine maybe help him feel better even a little bit?" The next day, Valentine's Day, the valentines were passed out. On his desk, one valentine - mine - but he never saw it. He didn't come to school that day, and I knew why.

My valentine didn't help him, but it sure helped me. From that day on I made up my mind - I would never, ever, deliberately hurt anyone. I had almost been part of treading on someone's feelings and that didn't feel very good even to my fourth-grade mind. It marked me for life.

My card-playing buddies like to play "cutthroat" in our games and I come under fire because I won't. They laugh and thoroughly enjoy themselves when their intended victim loses, thanks to them. There's no harm in it at all, but it's just not for me. I just cannot, and will not, be the reason someone loses. This reaction may sound silly, but I had my chance to be mean years ago on Valentine's Day, and I didn't take it then and I'm not going to start now. *Happy Valentine's Day to ALL of you.*



FOCUS ON POLLINATORS: The Relationship Between Plants & Insects

A few years ago, I decided to plant a pollinator garden because I had begun to understand that our pollinators were in trouble. I use the word *our* not as a claim to ownership, but as an affirmation of relationship, as in *our* friends, *our* neighbors. Our bees, butterflies and other insects transfer flower pollen from anther to stigma, making it possible for plants to produce fertile seeds and assuring the continuance of that particular form of life, whether a lupine, an aster, a willow, or a maple tree. A world without pollinators would be missing over 80% of our flowering plants, including most of our trees. The flowers and trees in turn ensure ongoing life to pollinators by supplying food, shelter, and protection from harsh weather and predators.

In Massachusetts, we have around 400 species of native bees, over 100 species of butterflies, plus hundreds of other pollinating species of beetles, flies, moths, wasps, and other insects. All these beneficial insects need to eat, and not just any plant will do. Each pollinator has, over thousands of years, established relationships in the food web with specific native plants. The shape and size of flowers, the length of a bee's tongue and the size of its body, the seasonal bloom time of

flowers, and the interactions of an insect's digestive system with plant toxins all determine which insects can pollinate which plants and which plants feed specific pollinators.

A monarch caterpillar must eat milkweed or there will be no butterfly; a black sweat bee needs bee balm pollen; a brown hooded owlet moth caterpillar needs goldenrod foliage. The plants we choose to grow or to let persist in our yards can support the diversity of life or create a food desert for other species. Plant a native birch tree and feed over 400 kinds of butterfly and moth caterpillars. Plant a native St. John's wort and supply prolific pollen to our bumblebees. I now grow well over 100 species of native flowers, shrubs, and trees on the land surrounding my home and I take great pleasure in watching my pollinator neighbors feasting and flying through my gardens, bringing beauty and life to this land that I love. —Amy Pulley

Amy Pulley is a gardener and grower of pesticide-free native plants for Wing and a Prayer Pollinator Plant Nursery in Cummington, as well as a founding member of Western Mass Pollinator Networks.

Windsor's Silver Cane Presented to John Chwalek

On Monday December 11, 2017 the Windsor Council on Aging members visited with John Chwalek in his home and presented him with the Silver Cane in



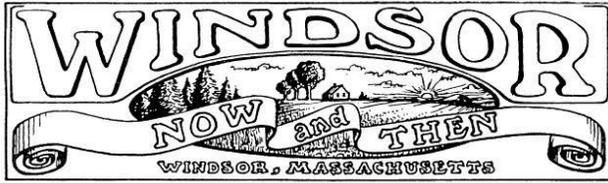
recognition of his standing as the eldest Windsor resident. Present were Paul Hoag, Chair who presented the cane, Pete Menard and his wife, Sue, and Barb Giusti. Doris Blake was the past recipient of this award and her plaque will be placed on the memorial board in the Town Hall.

The Select Board Corner

Who would have thought that marijuana legalization would be sweeping the country, state by state, at such a rate as today? Massachusetts jumped on the bandwagon quite early, but figuring out how to regulate it has lagged. Finally, on 12/21/2017, the state Cannabis Control Commission approved a draft regulation pertaining to the marijuana industry. It is expected that the final regulations will issue in time for licenses applications to be available in April of this year.

What do these new regulations mean for the Town of Windsor? To start with, there are eight different license categories within this fledgling industry that will be regulated at the local level. Should Windsor choose any path other than to ban the marijuana industry from our town, we will need a bylaw that explicitly describes what is allowed and where. Any new bylaw must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote at a town meeting, so this is not going to sneak up on us.

Your Planning Board and Select Board are on top of this, now that the draft regulations are published. It is the Planning Board that will do the heavy lifting under any scenario than an outright ban. There will be numerous opportunities for public input before a draft bylaw would be presented to voters and the town has the option of a - moratorium to observe what other towns are doing and figure out Windsor's path down this weedy brick road. —Tim Crane, Select Board Chairman



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Windsor Horse Sense: Buy Used and Save

A sad reality of owning and riding horses is that it takes a lot of gear, and none of that gear is cheap. Which is why horse enthusiasts from as far away as Albany are

finding their way to 950 Shaw Road where Town Clerk Madeline Scully and her daughter Irena have opened their new business, All Equine Consignment.



All kinds of horse gear, from saddles and bridles to boots, britches, and books, are displayed in the large sunroom of the house that Scully shares with her mother, Mame Whelihan. They come from 24 different consigners (so far) from all over the area, including Bennington VT and Albany NY. Scully sets prices in consultation with consigners, usually at about 50 percent of retail, and keeps 20 percent of the purchase price when things sell.

"It took off quickly," Scully said recently. "We even had shoppers on Christmas Eve." It took about a week to gather enough stock to fill the space and open for business.

Scully, who ran a similar business some years back when she and her family lived in North Carolina, credits her daughter Irena's social-media savvy for getting the business off to a fast start. Irena makes sure that new consignments are posted on area Facebook networks for used tack. "One picture she posted of a saddle was shared 1,600 times in one day," noted Scully.

The shop is filling a gap for horse-keepers in the area -- since Country Tack and Supply in Lanesboro closed last year, the nearest tack shops are Dover Saddlery in Latham, NY and The Cheshire Horse in Keene, NH. All Equine keeps a wish-list for people in search of particular items: if there is something you are looking for, let them know and they will call you if it comes in.



You can learn more at on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/allequinetack/>

Hours depend on interest: if you want to shop or consign, call ahead to 910-620-0162 and set a time.

--Susan Phillips