



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for APRIL
issue: Friday, March 27
Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
(mark subject line:
WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVI, No. 3

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

MARCH 2020

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO Friends of Windsor, Inc., mail check to:
FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor, MA 01270,
or email: fowindsor@gmail.com

Thanks to our Recent Donors

Ron Bilodeau / Tom Garvey
Mary Ann & Philip Gingras / Doreen & Dave Horton
Alecia & Michael Kintner / Marnie & Bob Meyers
Wendy & Jefferson Westwood

~

Phoebe & Stephen Bushway
in memory of Carolyn & Arnold Westwood

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.

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

Longer days, shifting angle of the sun, blue skies emerging, and the goldfinch's feathers showing spots of yellow—sure signs that change is in the air! --Deborah

If you have events happening in early APRIL, please send to 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

Sharing Our Stories Grant-Funded Project Update. We've finished gathering stories from some of Windsor's longest-time residents. The audio recordings are being transcribed and we're gathering photos and having portrait photos shot. Soon we'll be working with a professional editor and designer to produce the first of a year's worth of special monthly features for *Windsor Now & Then*. Stay tuned!



It might surprise some that there were 18 real estate transactions in Windsor in 2019, four of them in December. Welcome all! We'd like to greet our newest neighbors with a Friends of Windsor "Welcome to Windsor!" basket. It is filled with helpful resources including a town phonebook, a guide map to the town's historic landmarks, information about the Transfer Station, and helpful community resource websites. There are also small gifts from Windsor's food and craft artisans and businesses. We have sent letters to new residents and have connected with half of you. We know that moving and getting settled takes time. If you moved to Windsor in 2019 or 2020 and would like a basket, please let us know by emailing Leslie Reed at lmreed430@gmail.com or calling 684-0147.

As always, your support for all these community-building efforts are welcome and so much appreciated! -D.Balmuth

Baked Potato Supper 5PM on March 8 at Town Hall

Don't miss the Windsor Historical Commissions 5th 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. We'll learn some songs and take a look at the messages the suffragists carried in the stubborn fight to win the ballot.

Celebrate the return of daylight (March 8—spring your clocks forward on hour!) Bring your friends and neighbors.

Community Jazz-Blues Workshop March 8 at 1:30PM

The monthly session of the Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshop at the Windsor Town Hall is Sunday, March 8 at 1:30PM. Ben Kohn (keys), Dave Christopolis (bass) and Conor Meehan (drums) are the rhythm section in residence. All local musicians are invited to join in. All instruments (including other rhythm players) and vocals are welcome. Audience members are also welcome! For any questions, or to get on the email list, contact Scott Rogers at wscottrogers73@gmail.com.

Town Clerk Notes

Please return you Windsor Census. There are a few stragglers.

Presidential Primary is March 3. Polls will be open at Town Hall 7am-8pm.

Community Luncheon sponsored by the Social Committee will be held on March 11, 11:30-1. All ages welcome. Come meet your neighbors. Menu is traditional corned beef and cabbage with a vegetarian option and decadent dessert. \$5 exact change at the door. If \$5 is too much of a burden, come anyway. No one will be turned away.

Dog Licenses available now through April 1 to avoid a late fee.

Nomination papers for our local election are due March 23. Offices on the ballot; Moderator, Select Board, Constable, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Library Trustee and Tree Warden.

Contact the Town Clerk if you have an interest in any of these positions. windsortownclerk@gmail.com

Federal Census. The very important 2020 Federal Census will be mailed to homes the end of March. It is very important to go online and submit your responses asap. **Notices will not be mailed to PO boxes.** There will be a website published where, even if you do not get the mailing, you can respond by putting in your address. A computer at the town offices is available for use to respond to the census. Our COA outreach worker can also help you with this. If you have any questions or need help responding, please call the town clerk 413-684-3811 ext 1.

Board of Health Plea: There have been numerous cases of flu in Windsor. **Please stay home** if you are coughing, running a fever, or suspect you may be contagious. Do not attend public gatherings and if you must go out, wear a mask. Wash your hands frequently, cover your cough with your sleeve, and avoid contact with immune-compromised individuals or the elderly. Wipe down books before returning them to the unsuspecting library volunteers.

Sense of Community

"The questions which one asks oneself begin, at least, to illuminate the world, and become one's key to the experience of others." —James Baldwin

Police Announcements: Due to the damage caused by a broken heating element, Monday office hours will be suspended while the repairs are being made.

Pistol permits will be done by appointments only, call the office and leave a message. Your call will be returned and appointment will be scheduled.

Medication disposal site. There is now a disposal site for **unwanted/expired medications** located on the main floor of the town office building. Medications can be deposited in this secure receptacle any time the building is open. This is made possible by a grant obtained by Windsor police department.

—*Chief Thomas Barnaby*

R U OK Program

If you would like a well-being phone call daily, weekly, monthly or just for a temporary time, please call the town clerk at 413-684-3811 ext 1 to get your name on our R U OK program list 413-684-3811 ext 1. This service is for anyone who would appreciate someone checking up to make sure they are ok. It is open to anyone in Windsor and all info is confidential. If your spouse will be away and you just want someone to make sure all is well once a day, let us know. If there is no answer after two attempts at the agreed-upon time, an officer will be dispatched for a wellness check. Call to sign up, get more info, or offer suggestions. —*Madeline Scully*

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 and select "Windsor" and enter your address (Route 9 is listed as Berkshire Trail and 8A as Savoy Road). --*Doug McNally*

Indigenous Voices Presentation and Dance April 4

Deborah Spears Moorehead (Seekonk Pokanoket Wampanoag Tribal Nation member) will speak on "A Wampanoag Perspective: 400 years after the Mayflower" followed by a Native American Stomp Dance at the Village Congregational Church 32 Main St. Cummington, MA, 1-4PM. Moorehead is an artist, author, singer-songwriter, playwright and educator. Following the presentation, Annawon Weeden (Mashpee Wampanoag) Congressional Award Honoree as culture-bearer for the Northeast, will lead us all in Native American social dances, fun and easy learn.

This event is free and open to all people. Thanks to support in part by the Cummington, Plainfield and Charlemont-Hawley Local Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency, and Nolumbekaproject.org, Side Hill Farm, Donations are welcome. For more information, contact Jennifer Lee 413-634-2254.



Windsor's winter beauty as seen on a Sunday walk on Hume & Nobody's Road.

—*D. Balmuth*

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

*Who has seen the wind,
Neither you nor I.
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.*

As a child I loved this poem. Now, not so much. After finishing up an appointment in Haydenville, heading to the car, the wind suddenly bluffed its way into my unzipped coat and I found myself deposited in the front seat. Off we went, leaving that heavy breeze behind us as we headed back to Windsor. I think we saved on quite a bit of gas because we seemed to be flying in a rather self-propelled sort of way.

On we went. Goshen wasn't bad, neither was Cummington. We're now in Windsor and the sun is shining and the Wind in Windsor welcomes us home. Forget the ice; I'm ignoring that altogether. The cleats on my shoes and a cane to lean on gets me into the house. A warm dog to snuggle with, my very favorite Tuna Fish Wiggle for dinner, favorite daughter to straighten me out as I rant and rave about politics, a sky full of stars overhead . . . who could ask for anything more?

Green Committee Report

Good news! There are two pieces of legislation making progress in the state Legislature, both of which would allow Windsor to be reimbursed at a higher rate for the electricity generated by the solar panel array at the town offices.

S1974, which we wrote about here last month, was reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. Also, the Senate passed a large piece of legislation, S2477, which includes Amendment 64 that would do the same thing as S1974. Thanks to our senator, Adam Hinds, for proposing that amendment and getting it accepted!

The next step for both pieces of legislation is to get passed by the full Legislature and signed by the governor. If and when that happens, our town solar array will be designated as "public" instead of "private," which means the town will be credited for the full value of the electricity we generate. This is in addition to the annual income of approximately \$8,000 for solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs) which Windsor has been receiving. Thanks to all who wrote or called members of the TUE to advocate for this legislation. Your voice matters!

Stu Besnoff, Chair, stu@alpinesolarheat.com, 684-3950

Mark Barrette, markbarrette@icloud.com, 413-212-0345

Jan Bradley, janet.bradley2@gmail.com, 684-3732;

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

Bob Meyers & Marnie Meyers, windalewoods@verizon.net, 684-3463

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

Friday Night Café March Line-Up

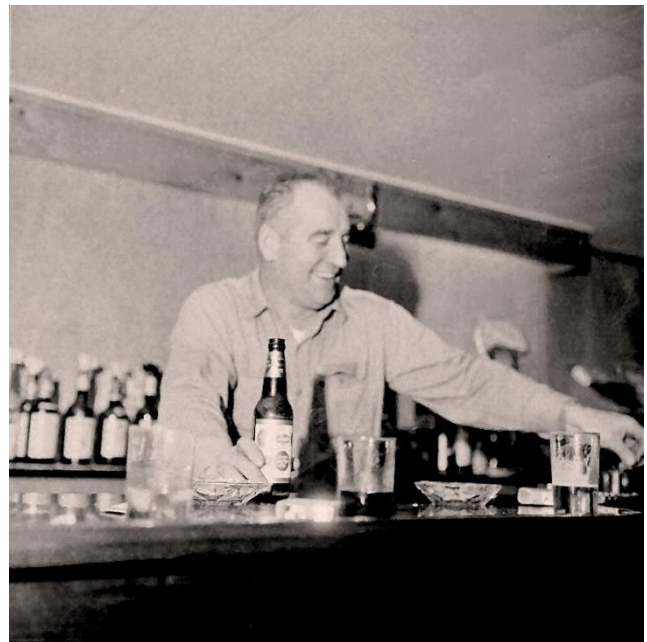
The Friday Night Café at the Village Church on Main Street in Cummington has two exciting concerts lined up for March, including Windsor's own troubadour Jack Swindlehurst. Snacks are provided, BYO drinks, and donations for the church and performers are appreciated. These events are supported by the Windsor Cultural Council, along with other area cultural councils. For more information: 413-634-5398.

March 13, 7-9PM: A fun double bill at the Friday Night Café. The first half of the evening belongs to **Jim Kaminski**. Jim K was a founding member of FAT – the revered valley band from the late 60's and 70's. Today, along with the occasional FAT reunion show, he pours his creative, musical energy into a solo, acoustic format. His passionate, soulful, singing and powerful guitar work cast a spell.

The second half of the evening belongs to singer-songwriters Bill Catalde and Rick Murnane. They record and perform together as **The Prestons**. The duo is well regarded for their close harmonies, and also for their thoughtful lyrics about the contrast of life and mortality. Or, as they put it: "We write cheerful songs about death and dead people, and then go out and sing them at the living."

March 27: Windsor resident and hilltown troubadour **Jack Swindlehurst** will take the stage, along with some of his musical friends, for an evening of old and new original music – "songs about love and life".

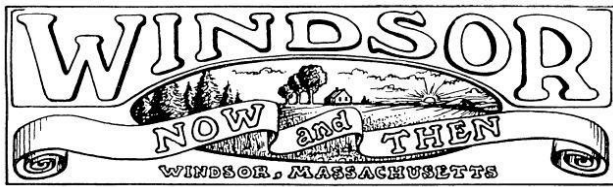
From the Photos of Berkshire Eagle photographer and Windsor resident Martin F. Glendon (See story on back page).



John Doyle smiling behind the bar at Windsor's now-vanished Berkshire Trail Café.

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

MARCH 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

News Hound, Photographer, Tree Farmer

A few weeks ago, Martin Glendon of Driscoll Road reached out to the Windsor Historical Commission with a gift: carefully preserved negatives of photographs taken by his father – also Martin F. Glendon – during his years as a reporter for the Berkshire Eagle from about 1952 until his death in 1966.

During those years, Glendon moved his family from Dalton to the old farmstead he bought, where Martin the younger still lives with his wife Cindy. He started a tree-farming business, while continuing to roam the hill towns with his camera and notepad. "He loved that job," his son remembers. "He worked with a really erudite group of people, smart and creative...He got to meet everybody. Politicians, local characters, farmers, mechanics."



When the Dalton Fire Department donated a 1940 Ford ambulance to the brand-new Windsor Volunteer Fire Department in 1958, Glendon was there with his trusty Graflex Speed Graphic camera. (*Napoleon Iwanowicz, Windsor's Fire Chief at the time, on left*).



When the state highway department rolled out an absolute Rube Goldberg beast of a snow blower on Route 9 that same year, he was there too. And he snapped John Doyle smiling behind the bar at the now-vanished Berkshire Trail Café (*see inside, page 3*).

As you can see from this photograph, taken in 1953, Glendon embodied the newsman persona right down to the hat. The Commission is grateful to benefit from



Glendon's love of this town and its characters and his foresight in carefully preserving his negatives. I hope to share more as I go through the process of digitizing and cataloguing them for the emerging Windsor Historical Commission archive. –Susan Phillips