

DEADLINE for APRIL
 issue: Friday, MARCH 26
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 WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVII, No. 3

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

MARCH 2021

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And Windsor Phone & Community Directory Sponsors

All Season's Realty Group (John Ciepela)

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.

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

Paper Talk—The chickadees are changing their song, the ice dams are finally receding from the roofline, and I spotted a bit of green poking up under my snowshoe yesterday! How fortunate to be surrounded by nature's signs. --Deb

FOW News

Feeling grateful to Robin Tesoro, who is moving on from her position on the Friends of Windsor Board. All of our board members find time in busy schedules to support our community-building efforts, but Robin – with a family business, young children and home, and a pandemic to top it all off – may have been our busiest juggler with the most spinning plates to keep in the air. Many thanks for this, Robin, and also for supplying wonderful Ooma Tesoro's sauce for the new resident welcome baskets.

Looking for ideas about how to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Windsor's incorporation in a special issue of Windsor Now & Then, planned for July. (Windsor was incorporated on July 4, 1771, which makes for an easy date to remember!) What do you think we should include? We want to make it one worth saving..

Anticipating sending the updated community directory/phonebook off to the printers soon. The community response to our call for photographs celebrating this special place was awesome, one of our biggest challenges is sorting through and picking the ones to print in the directory. If all goes well, you might see it in your mailboxes with April's WN&T.

Asking for your support! FOW sincerely appreciates the financial support we receive from the far-flung community of people who love Windsor. We couldn't do it without you. –Susan Phillips

SAVE THE DATE: Windsor 250th Celebration Kicks Off July 3 & 4 with Music & Fireworks

The Celebration of the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Windsor will kick off with a bang on the July 4th weekend at the Town Park. We have confirmed:

Saturday, July 3

Concert by Misty Blues!!! 7-9PM

Fireworks—9PM

AND much more to come!

Planning is in the works for more fun activities that weekend. There will also be a lineup of activities all fall celebrating Windsor, including walking tours of natural and historical sites; kids' activities; arts celebration; and more music by local musicians! If you or your group have an activity you'd like to add to the calendar, or if you'd like to participate in future planning meetings, contact Kim Tobin at ktobin@windsormass.com.



Town Clerk Notes

Nomination papers have been returned for our local election May 10, 2020.

Incumbents are running for Select Board, Finance, Tree Warden, Moderator, Constable and Planning Board. There are no competitive races so far. No one has come forward to run for Library Trustee or Cemetery Commission. Nomination papers are not due until late March so there is still time. The election will once again be a drive through election at the Town Hall. More info to come.

The Annual Town Meeting, usually scheduled for May 3, will be May 10 at the Town Park. This will be a drive-in with infield sound added. Some voting procedures from last year will change. More info to come.

Sadly, Windsor lost one of our own in February. Isolation may have played a part. In response to this tragedy, the COA is calling all residents 65 and over to just check in. Let them know if you are in need or maybe just need a phone call every once in a while. Also let them know if you have time to volunteer or would like to give time to the town.

I have been feverishly making COVID vaccination appointments for residents. If you have questions on how to navigate the site or need assistance making the appointment, reach out. The office phone is 413-684-3811 ext 1, email windsortownclerk@gmail.com or call my cell (most of the town has the number).

Finally my advice on navigating our spring dirt roads. Stay in the middle of the road, put your foot to the floor, steer and DON'T STOP. Highway may have other advice, but that's mine.

—Madeline Scully

Be sure to check out the **MARCH Community Calendar** online at friendsofwindsor.com (under *Windsor Now & Then*) adorned with local photos taken by Windsor residents.

Berkshire Health Systems has a TOLL-FREE HOTLINE for questions regarding Covid-19 CALL 855-262-5465 [Daily 7am-7 pm] For recorded updates on Vaccine Access in Berkshire Co., call this INFO line: 413-449-5575

Vaccination Assistance

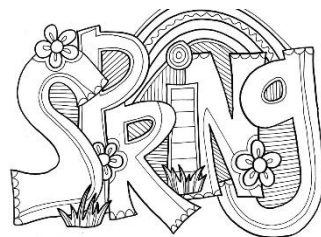
A Shout-out of appreciation to Madeline Scully and her team of assistants, including Cathy Hall, Sue Jacobs, and Sandie Zink, for reaching out and helping residents aged 65 and up to make vaccination appointments. The websites to visit are: getvaccinatedberkshires.org and vaxfinder.mass.gov. It is challenging to get an appointment, as they open up unpredictably and then go quickly. If you need assistance, contact Madeline (see info in her column at left).

—D. Balmuth

Upcoming Events at the Windsor Church

On March 11 at 6PM, we're kicking off a "Space for Grace" online yoga/meditation series starts. Call (413) 287-1749 for more information and to register.

On March 28 we are holding a Palm Sunday online service at 10 am. Contact Heather Juby for zoom information: Drjuby@gmail.com, 413-449-4871.



It's on the horizon—at least Daylight Savings Time is! Don't forget to Spring your Clock forward 1 Hour on Sunday, March 14.

From the Green Committee

A few months ago, we wrote about the fact that rebates are available for certain energy-saving improvements in your home. Here is information from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission about the MassSave program and other opportunities:

Sign up for a no cost, no obligation home energy assessment either online, by virtual video chat or in home visits. Online assessment is available at www.masssave.org/OHEA, or call Mass Save 866-527-SAVE to schedule a Virtual or in-person assessment. This program offers the opportunity to:

- Receive up to \$2,750 in equipment and appliance rebates for major improvements such as central air conditioning, heat pumps or high efficiency boilers, lighting and appliances.
- Receive up to 100% off approved insulation and weatherization
- Get 0% financing for insulation, heating and cooking systems, water heaters and more
- Receive free products such as LED lightbulbs, smart power strips, smart thermostats, showerhead and faucet aerators
- You can even receive a cash payment for recycling your old (but functional) refrigerator or freezer – \$75 and they'll pick up!

You can also contact these independent organizations for a Mass Save certified Home Energy Assessment:

- * Homeworks Energy
* homeworksenergy.com, 781-305-3319
- * Green Collar – greencollarma.com, 413-532-1817
- * Energia – energiaus.com, 413-322-3111

These programs are funded by us, the ratepayers, through the Energy Efficiency fees paid on our utility bills, and promoted by the utilities.

—Holly Higinbotham

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

I did everything right...if you fall, don't get up immediately without checking to see if you have broken anything. I did that when I did a downward swan dive. Nothing broken, but next part is harder. I couldn't get up. Next step . . . crawl to something where you'd pull yourself up. I slid on my butt to a chair, but that didn't work . . . still on floor. Next step, use phone you hang around your neck to call for help. That would work if my phone wasn't still hanging on my bedpost where I had put it last night.

Now what? Shout for daughter, who is a very light sleeper. Works! Here she is elevating me to new heights with Toby the beagle so happy to join me in my horizontal position. I'm up, battered and bruised, but nothing broken.

So: follow the, "what to do if you fall instructions" and you will be fine. *Better yet, stay in bed until spring!*

Important: Set Up Your Broadband Payment Account Online

If you have been hooked up for gigabit broadband service, you need to be watching for an e-mail invoice for your first month's service. The email was sent to the address you provided when you signed up and has instructions on how to get to the payment portal and set up your electronic payment.

There are no US mail paper invoices and only electronic payments are accepted. You can use a credit card, but we would prefer that you set up an electronic funds transfer from a bank account as that saves the town the cost of credit card processing fees.

If you missed the email you should call customer service at 413-485-1251 and get the information required for you to set up your payments. If you have had service for 30 days you will have received the email so if you missed it, please call and correct the situation. *-Doug McNally*

Upcoming Events at Windsor's Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center

EVERY MONDAY. West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinis 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.

Register by emailing: aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org for more information on Tamarack Hollow.

More Than A List

A number of years ago, at The Creamery in Cummington, there was a nearly human-sized piece of white paper tacked on the bulletin board with the handwritten heading, "Local Wildlife Sightings" and a pen on a string tacked nearby. It was so simple: people wrote the date, whatever was spotted and where.

I loved reading and watching that list grow. It painted a gradual picture of a place and said as much about the people doing the reporting as the things being reported. Some wrote lengthy descriptions. Others, just the facts. The handwriting offered clues: that the writer was a child or an elder, was in a rush, had grease on their hands, ran out of ink. It was messy. There were lots of exclamation points, or joy. Some anger and sadness, too. And definitely humor: one time the "wildlife" had two-legs and was driving too fast.

Lately I've been thinking a lot about this list. How spontaneous it was. Not like scrolling for the perfect meme or emoji or clicking Like or Share. In fact, the exact opposite. It was a slowed-down and original form of sharing and connecting. Joy, sadness, anger, humor all had more than one face.

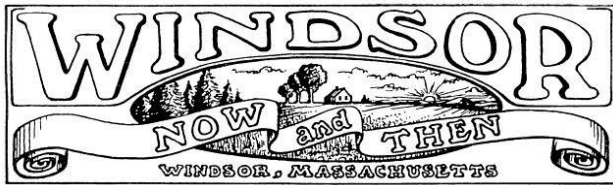
Please don't get me wrong: social media has its place. But, after a year of social isolation, I realize more than ever the value of true connection and just thought it would be nice to share this with you. Maybe, once we can all use the same pen without having to wipe it down, we could do something similar at Sangar's and Fred's. I'd love to know what you think. *---Patty Crane*



SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"I think community is a shared history, it's a shared experience. It's not always agreement. In fact, I think that often it isn't... It's like a marriage, only I think it's more difficult to divorce yourself from community than it is to a human being because the strands are interconnected and so various." — *Terry Tempest Williams*

MARCH 2021



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Enclosed

- **Sharing Our Stories, Volume 6**

Update on Liam's Food Drive

Wow! So many people have donated! We collected over 500 pounds of food for my Cub Scout project for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.



Liam picking up donated food at Friendly Fred's .

Thank you so much, town of Windsor, for helping me exceed my goal of 92.4 pounds. I am very happy about this project and I think your generosity will help many families put food in their bellies. The best thing I learned by doing this project was that when I asked for help, so many people helped me. Our town is very generous!

I also want to thank Sangar's General Store, Friendly Fred's, Windsor Congregational Church, and Friends of Windsor for helping make this project possible. I couldn't have done it without them. Maybe we can do it again next year! Thank you again for making this project so successful. *–Liam Connors*



Delivering to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Dalton, which services 100-140 families per week, primarily to people in the hilltowns.

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*