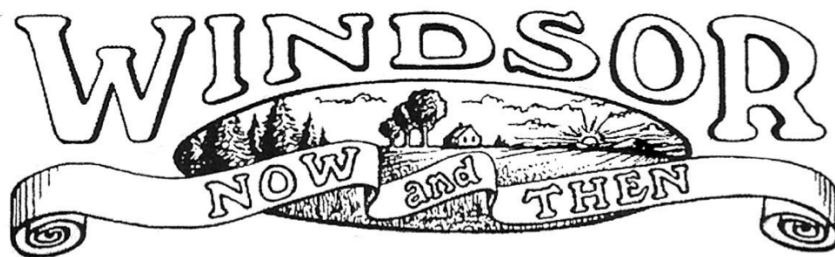


WINDSOR



WINDSOR, MASSACHUSETTS

DEADLINE FOR
APRIL ISSUE:
THURSDAY
MARCH 28

Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
(Subject line: WN&T)

VOLUME XXXX, No. 3

www.friendsofwindsor.com

MARCH 2024

FOW News



We're working away on the 2024 Community Phone Book and Directory. If you haven't updated your information (or submitted a contact if you're new to town), you can still do so by going to friendsofwindsor.com and click on "Windsor Phone Directory."

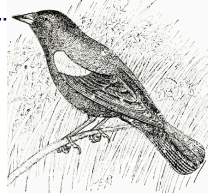
Thank you to our donors this month, and to all of you faithful readers who keep us going with your encouragement and engagement. We'd love to hear what you'd like to see more of in this newsletter.

With hints of spring appearing (like the red-winged blackbirds noted below), what are you seeing and hearing in your yard? What are the first signs of spring you look for in Windsor? Send us your thoughts, sightings, and stories! --*Deb Balmuth*

Historical Commission Coffee & Stories

The Windsor Historical Commissions invites you to an afternoon of coffee, tea, home-baked goods and stories on Sunday, April 7 at the Town Hall from 3 to 4:30 PM. Commission members will be sharing stories and tidbits about Windsor's history, including some of the curious and intriguing items in our collection.

Plans are also in the works for Open House days at the Windsor Historical Museum in June, July, and August. We're looking forward to opening the doors more often this summer and inviting visitors in with some special exhibits from the collection. Watch for more news on this to come! --*Deb Balmuth*



BIRD TIP * The Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles are back, the mornings are alive with song, owls are sitting on eggs. Soon the ice will break up on the ponds and streams, and the waterfowl will return. Above, skeins of geese will be winding their way northward. Go outside and take it all in!

Your support makes this newsletter possible.

To make a Tax-Deductible Donation to Friends of Windsor, Inc., mail a check to:

**FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8,
Windsor, MA 01270,
or email: fowindsor@gmail.com**

Thanks to our Recent Donors

Ellen Brickle and Tom Garvey
Joan Kendall
Lisa and Steve Kolis
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Steve Philbrick
Susan Phillips and Scott Rogers
Mundi and Syd Smithers
Connie Talbot
Wendi and Marc Volk
Barbara West
Heather and Mike Zanolli

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* Terra Missildine, *Director*
Julia Allan, *Director* Susan Phillips, *Co-editor*
Deborah Balmuth, *Co-editor* Leslie Reed, *Treasurer*
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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!



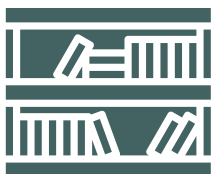
Library News

Exciting news! Starting March 4 the CWMARS Library Catalog will have a new look. Check out this link for info: <https://cwmarsnews.blogspot.com/2024/02/meet-your-new-library-catalog-coming.html>

We are about to start weeding our adult nonfiction collection. The discarded items will be in boxes in the Town Offices for you to browse and take.

On Saturday March 16 from 10-1 we will be having a "Make A Leprechaun" craft event at the library. All materials provided. So wear your green and come have some fun.

The Library is looking for a volunteer to staff the library on the 4th Monday every month, as well as someone to serve as a Library Trustee. Contact windsordirector@cwmars if you are interested in either position. Or stop in when we are open and talk to one of the volunteers about their experience. -*Katherine Richter*



Town Clerk Updates

Hello Windsor Neighbors,

As I'm writing this, vote by mail is underway, with many residents choosing this convenient method. It's a lot of work but greatly satisfying. In a couple of days Early Voting begins and I am excited to see how that goes. By the time you are reading this, the Presidential Primaries on March 5, will most likely have taken place. If you haven't already, you can see the results on Windsormass.com.

Local Elections: Speaking of elections, the Annual Town Meeting and Local Elections are coming up in May. There are still several seats on various committees we need to fill. I encourage you to consider running for one of these positions. This is your town too. You live here. Your skills and opinions are valuable assets to Windsor. By taking a role on a committee, you can help share responsibility and shape our community, while strengthening your own connection to Windsor. Think about what you enjoy and how you could best contribute. Please reach out to me for more information and/or to obtain nomination papers which are due March 25th. See the list of open positions at right.

Dog Licenses: In last month's edition, I said the dog licenses would be coming to you by the end of the month, but I wasn't able to make that happen. Working on the elections took more time than I expected. I certainly will do my best to get the licenses out by the end of March.

Annual Street Listing: Thank you again for sending them in. I'm guessing most people have sent theirs in because it's down to a trickle of 2 or 4 a week now. If you still haven't sent yours back, please do so. If you have any questions, call or email me, I'd love to help. -*Sandy Kalmus*

Green Committee Report

Windsor earned the Green Community designation on December 22, 2015, after meeting five sustainability criteria. Since then, the town has installed the Town Office photovoltaic array (PV), upgraded municipal building insulation and lighting, and replaced aging heating and hot water systems with more energy-efficient units. All of this has been funded primarily by grants and state incentives. The combination of grants, rebates, and solar renewable energy certificates received totals \$372,550.

Quotes are coming in for additional grant-funded insulation projects expected to be completed this year. Funding for additional PV projects is available for towns that earn the Climate Leader Community designation, which is the next level after being appointed as a Green Community.

Six criteria must be met to apply for the Climate Leader Community designation. One of the criteria is adoption of the Specialized Energy Code, which requires a vote at a Town Meeting. This Code has been adopted by 20 Massachusetts municipalities, including Northampton. We are hoping to get an article on the warrant for the May Annual Town Meeting for Windsor to adopt the Code. We are in the early stages of planning an informational meeting for a date in April to provide details about the effect of implementing this new building code. --*Stu Besnoff*

Open Positions on the Ballot for May Town Election

The following seats will appear on the ballot for our local election in May. ("Vacancy" means no one is currently running for the position. "Incumbent" means the person who just held the position is running again. You would be running against them in the election. It is okay if you want to run, too. That is what democracy is all about.)

Select Board: 3-year term, 1 Vacancy

Library Trustee: 3-year term, 1 Vacancy

Finance Committee: 3-year term, 3 seats, 1 Vacancy;
2 incumbents (Scott Rogers and Holly Higinbotham)

Tree Warden: 1-year term, 1 Vacancy

Moderator: 1-year term; 1 incumbent (Charles Sturtevant)

Cemetery Commission: 3-year term; 1 incumbent (Gary Boody)

Constable: 3-year term; 1 incumbent (Jordan Koch)

Planning Board: 5-year term, 2 seats; 2 incumbents (Peter Sternerup and Barb Connors)

There is also an open seat for an appointment (not elected) on the Board of Health. This is a 3-year position and training will be provided. Meetings are monthly and as needed. Please contact Town Administrator, Madeline, at windsormassta@gmail.com if you are interested in the position or for more information.

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road



Roller Derby Ballet. Many moons ago my ballet troupe was offered a much preferred gig in Montreal. We were ecstatic and accepted joyfully. We prepared for it and packed carefully, anticipating a grand performance. We were ready to wow a SRO audience after checking into an expensive pre-arranged hotel.

At the theater, we discovered our performance was to be done on roller skates! One of our ensemble had never worn roller skates, which we realized as she flew into the orchestra pit. We were part of a carousel. It was beautiful and we were a "hit" in more ways than one.

Upcoming Performances at the Friday Night Village Church Cafe Cummington

March 8. The first hour will be "Spoken Words" with Patty Crane, author of two award-winning poetry collections and translator of the complete works of Swedish Nobel laureate Tomas Tranströmer. Patty will read a blend of her poems and translations. You'll hear some spoken Swedish, learn a bit about the fascinating poet/psychologist/pianist and what led Patty to translate him, and hopefully join in a discussion as Patty tries to talk about the interplay between her own poetry and her translations.

The second hour will be music with Sarah Stockwell-Arthen, "With her vast and unusual repertoire, Sarah spins a story into a lyrical web of sound, that she wraps ever so gently around the listener, moving and changing them. Her presence is as compelling as her performances are unforgettable, awakening the heart and mind of those lucky enough to hear her remarkable song interpretations. She is my favorite local folksinger" --Penny Schultz

The show is from 7:00 - 9:00 at the Village Church in beautiful downtown Cummington in the heart of the Cummington Cultural District
cummingtonculture.art@gmail.com

The event is free, donations are appreciated, snacks are provided, BYO drinks. The show will take place in the intimate Vestry space. Masks are welcome, and encouraged. Once again brought to you by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for building community. --John Bye

Friday Night Cafe receives promotional support from the Cummington Cultural District, and is supported in part by grants from the Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hinsdale-Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

More Performances at the Cafe

- March 22: Josh Wachtel & Friends
- April 12: Jack Swindlehurst & The Old Fashionets
- April 26: Laura Wetzler
- May 10: Spoken Words & Dave Christopolis
- May 24: The Lonesome Brothers
- June 14: Martha Bourne
- June 28: 50 Years On, Tribute to 1974

Everybody's a Storyteller Workshops

Two Workshops with Storyteller Rochelle Wildfong
Saturday, March 9: 11:00 - 2:00
Sunday, March 24: 11:00 - 2:00

Learn how to shape a story into a tell-able tale, culminating with the possibility of telling the story at the Cummington Village Church's Friday Night Café in May.

FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED
Workshop limited to 10 participants
to sign up contact: Rochelle Wildfong
rwildfon@hotmail.com

Indigenous Voices in the Berkshires

SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2024 1:00-3:00 PM

Samara Tobey

Mashpee Wampanoag Citizen
Village Church
32 Main St Cummington MA

Samara will give a talk based on her master's thesis from the University of Washington on ecologies, placemaking, self determination and historic movements. She will share from her worldwide travels about learning, teaching, tradition and relationship.

Free to all, accessible

Supported in part by the Cummington, Windsor and Charlemont/Hawley cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass.Cultural Council



ENERGY SAVING TIP

Wash your clothes in cold water. Washing in cold water can reduce your energy use by 90%, on average, when switching from hot to cold water. Switching one load from hot to cold saves enough electricity to power the average American home for over an hour, based on average American household electricity consumption, as reported by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In addition to financial and environmental benefits:

- Cold water is better at removing some types of stains. Hot water can set stains; plus shrink, fade, and wrinkle certain fabrics.
- Delicate fabrics (lace and silk) and dark, colorful fabrics actually do best in coldwater.
- Cold water can reduce wrinkles, shrinking, and fading.



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Enclosed: COA Newsletter

The More Things Change...

*(an excerpt from the **November 1984** issue of Windsor Now & Then)*

For those of you who may have passed by the East Windsor Chapel, either at the fall service or some other time, you may have noticed that the south roof has been reroofed. This job was completed this summer by Bill Daignault and his crew. Many people have contributed to the cost of fixing the roof, but we are especially indebted to Bernice Mongue Filkins of Dalton, who contributed \$500.00. Bernice grew up in East Windsor, living in what is now the Sawtelle house, along with her parents Peter and Evelyn Mongue. This building was sometimes known as the Village Inn and was the last store in East Windsor.

The Historical House in the center of town recently got a coat of paint on the west side, thanks to commission members Ralph Peck and Melody Burdick, assisted by Dick Burdick and Bill Biggart. Our thanks go to the Leslie Bird and Hugh Ferry families for loaning ladders.

Above I mentioned donations which helped fix the Chapel roof. We depend on donations for most of our income. Our next scheduled (expensive) project is fixing the crumbling west foundation in the Chapel. This may take over \$1000.

It is only fitting to mention that we have received \$230 in contributions in the memory of Joe Mattis, a former commission member and General Chairman of the Windsor Bicentennial, which is credited for interesting many people in the history of Windsor and ultimately getting the Commission established. As Joe lived in East Windsor as a boy, I am sure he would have like to see the Chapel restored and maintained. – Jim Kierstead

As we mark the milestone of 40 years of Windsor Now & Then, it's good to consider what has changed, and what remains the same. This item by the late Jim Kierstead, long-time WHC member and Town Meeting Moderator, is from November of 1984. Windsor volunteers are still borrowing ladders and painting clapboards, but the Sawtelle house is gone and the future of the East Windsor Chapel is uncertain.
--Susan Phillips



Windsor Historical Commission volunteer Greg Pattison painting the Historical House last September.