



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for APRIL issue:
Thursday, March 29
Send news to editor:
Deborah.balmuth@storey.com
(mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIV, No. 3

www.friendsofwindsor.com

MARCH 2018

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

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~

Carolyn Mongue Lee
in memory of Fred & Margaret Mongue and Fred & Gladys Mongue

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; Cindy Efinger, director; Val Kohn, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer; Robin Tesoro, director.

Paper Talk

See you at the Baked Potato Fest on March 11!

Come hear Jack Sobon's share his knowledge on historic English barns in the Hilltowns. --Deborah

FOW News

Big Thanks and a Warm Welcome: The Friends of Windsor board is grateful for the many contributions of Sue Edwards to our work! Sue is stepping away from the FOW day-to-day to pursue new artistic opportunities but has kindly offered to continue helping us out with artwork and to be a pair of helping hands at town events...we expect to take shameless advantage of that generous suggestion.

We welcome Robin Tesoro as our newest board member. Robin and her husband, Michael, are the weeknight-dinner saviors behind Ooma Tesoro's Marinara Sauce Co., so she's already a presence to be reckoned with in Windsor! Robin grew up in New York City and Westchester County and lived in France for two years before a career as a stylist for photography props and clothing for a variety of magazines. She and Michael moved to Windsor in 2004. Their children, Francesca and Nicholas, are Windsor natives, vintage 2005 and 2008. Aside from her work as creative director for Ooma Tesoro's, Robin serves on the Worthington Pool Board and the PTO at R. H. Conwell School in Worthington. She brings a lot of energy to our board.

Our Local Who's Who: That all-important little book, the Windsor community phone book and directory, is ready for an update. Online forms are now available to submit new/revised phone numbers & contact information for individual and business (yellow page) listings. We'll carry over all previous listings unless you notify us to remove or amend yours. Attention local business owners: yellow page listings are free as always, but you can help us AND promote your business by becoming a sponsor. It costs just \$45 for a quarter-page business-card style listing! For forms & sponsorships, go to friendsofwindsor.com, click About Us, then Windsor Phone & Community Directory. Or email fowindsor@gmail.com or call Patty at 684-3334.

Easy Ridin' Papas: If you missed the American roots music of this talented local duo at the East Windsor Chapel last year, you're in luck. If you were there, you're also in luck. The Papas (Will Conklin and Adam Brown) will be back! Mark your calendars now for Sunday, Sept. 9th. More details to come! And thanks to the local cultural council for helping to support this event!

A Whole Lot of Giving Going On: We were really heartened by last month's encouragingly long list of donors. We appreciate your support and we work to earn it with ongoing efforts like the pollinator project, critical keep-Windsor-connected efforts like this newsletter and the directory, and one-time events like the Chapel concerts. It's hard to keep asking, but that's what we're doing! If you'd like to donate to Friends of Windsor, you can do so online at friendsofwindsor.com or by mail to Friends of Windsor, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor MA 01270. Thank you!

--Susan Phillips

Don't forget to check out our Community Calendar, either online (friendsofwindsor.com, under Windsor Now & Then) or our print version available at both stores and the town offices.



Town Clerk Notes

TOWN OF WINDSOR, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING:
Notice of Planning Board/Select Board Hearing Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 40A, section 5 and 11,

a Public Hearing will be held by the Town of Windsor at the Windsor Town Hall 1927 Route 9, Windsor, Ma on Monday, March 12 at 6:00 pm

to review the proposal to enact Section 23 of the Town of Windsor Zoning Bylaws, for the purpose of regulating marijuana. Interested parties shall be given an opportunity to be heard. Copies of the proposal are on file with the Town Clerk's office, 1890 Route 9, Windsor, MA During regular business hours or on the website: windsormass.com

March 15: 4:30 PM, Select Board Office, The Select Board will be meeting with our Lt. Governor for a brief Broadband update. The meeting is open to the public as observers only; no questions will be taken from the floor.

March 26: 7:30PM, Special Town Meeting at the Town Hall to vote on a new Marijuana Regulating Bylaw.

March 27: 5 PM, Town Hall, WRHS Building Workshop

Please return your census form ASAP!

Dog Licenses are due by April 1, 2018 and may be obtained at the Town Clerk Office Monday 5-8, Tues/Thurs 10-2.

Annual Town Meeting: May 7, 7PM

Annual Town Election: May 14

There are open seats for Moderator, Select Board, Town Clerk, Constable, Finance Comm (3 seats), Cemetery Comm (2 seats), Planning Board, Library Trustee and Tree Warden. Please consider using your talents to improve/support your town.

Nomination papers are available in my office and will be due back by March 30.

I will be away and unavailable March 17-24. -Madeline Scully, Town Clerk

COMMUNITY/SENIOR LUNCHEON

March 14, 11:30AM at the Town Hall. All Windsor residents are invited. Donation of \$5 is asked. Menu: Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots or Vegetarian Cucumber Hoagies. Homemade bread, desserts both sugar free and gluten free selections.

REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELIHAN

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

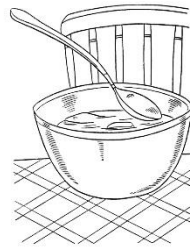
SOUP'S ON. I don't think I've ever shared my story of my love affair with soup. I was always what one would call an adventuresome child. If there was a mountain to climb, I climbed it.

When I was about eight or so and not tall enough to conquer really high mountains, I saw a huge package delivered to an apartment next to ours. It was a refrigerator, still in its crate. Well, of course, it was a challenge to see how far up on it I could climb. I slanted a board against its side and climbed. When the board slipped, I was at the top with my chin over the top for leverage. Unfortunately, I was breathing hard with my tongue extended.

Gadzooks, there was blood everywhere and I knew I was in trouble. I dropped to the floor, leaving a well-marked trail. I hid, but was soon found and cleaned up and got much sympathy.

Now for the soup part. Rose, a rather affluent neighbor who led a life not too acceptable to the other neighbors, but whom I liked very much and she considered me a kindred spirit, did something great. Over she came with a pot of soup because she knew I really couldn't manage food too well at the moment. She was dressed in a long flowing something or other and wore earrings that almost touched her shoulders. My Mother (whom I mentioned-- was a Saint?) thanked her profusely and Rose smiled and went on her merry way.

I often wonder whatever happened to her and hope she was as happy as she often made me. I still have a scar on my tongue to remind me that there are so many good and different people in this world and when times get a little tough sometimes just soup from a friend will make things better.



Sense of Community

"A candle never loses any of its light by lighting up another candle." —Rumi

Potato Fest March 11, with Talk by Jack Sobon

The Windsor Historical Commission is sponsoring our 3rd annual Potato Fest on Sunday, March 11, 5PM, 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

The Select Board Corner

Thanks to a recent grant for technical assistance from Berkshire Regional Planning, Windsor is implementing a Capital Project Planning process. The CPP is a multi-year capital plan that reflects Windsor's needs and fits with a financial plan that reflects the community's ability to pay. Aside from serving the town with guidelines for prudent financial decision making and long-term planning, adherence to a well-developed CPP protects the town's bond rating, reduces borrowing cost and, ultimately, assures that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly.

Fast Fact: Members of the Finance Committee and Select Board customarily make up the Capital Project Planning committee. Scott Rogers, our Finance Committee chair, is an economist by profession with a long career with the IMF (international Monetary Fund, that is). Scott has advised national governments and heads of state around the world on policy and strategy to improve their economies. Though Windsor is a little bit smaller than, let's say, the country of Kenya, Scott is graciously and humbly volunteering his experience and expertise to our little town. -- Tim Crane, Select Board Chairman

Celebrating Windsor's Pollinators

March is for Pollinators: You might think of it as mud season. But for pollinators, the shift from winter to spring is when life starts to get interesting again. We've got lots to offer on these critical critters in this issue, so read on!

Here's a look at what we've got planned for the next several months, and ways you can get involved. Stay tuned for details...and much more to come!

MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Borrow a book or video from the Library's Pollinator Resource Section
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Take part in a Community-Wide Read▪ Attend an Earth Day Clean Up Party at the Town Park
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Learn more about pollinators in a special full-color feature in WN&T▪ Participate in a nation-wide Bumblebee Watch
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Come to the Pollinator Plant Sale at Windsor's Community Market▪ Join us on Pollinator Planting Days at the Town Park & Town Hall▪ Attend Notchview's round table discussion on ecology, economics & the plight of bumblebees
JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Be a citizen scientist and help count moths at Tamarack Hollow's Our Nighttime Pollinators event

—Patty Crane & Susan Phillips

Spring Planning!

Even if your garden is still covered with snow, the garden catalog season has arrived. Like us, you're probably leafing through page after page of glossy wildflower photos thinking about what to plant this year for your bees and butterflies. Here are a few tips to maximize the impact of your plant choices:

- When buying wildflower seed, look for companies that identify the origin of the seed they sell, and purchase as close to home as possible. Many wildflower species have a huge native range, and selecting from locally adapted sources will ensure your plants are most likely to thrive.
- A pollinator meadow should, by definition, be a case study in companion planting. Diverse wildflowers, native legumes (like lupines and prairie clovers), and native grasses, when planted together provide the best habitat. They weave themselves into a tight, living mat that can help reduce places for weeds to grow.
- Successful pollinator gardens have a stable foundation of reliable workhorses (those low maintenance plants that bloom and bloom and bloom!). But also consider some less common species which tend to attract the less common bees and butterflies. Some of these less common species include native field thistles (*Cirsium spp.*) distinctive from invasive, non native thistles. Or another example would be Bottle gentian (*Gentiana clausa*), a unique blue, fall flower almost exclusively pollinated by bumble bees which pry the petals apart to climb inside.

This excerpt was reprinted with permission from an article entitled Spring Planning, found at the Xerces Society website. For more information on plant selection for your garden, check out Xerces' regional pollinator plant lists, <http://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists/>

FIRST SIGHTINGS: Skunk Cabbage

Skunk cabbage provides the year's first available food to emerging insects, including early honeybees. This aptly named plant (thankfully unrelated to the cabbage we eat) has an amazing ability to generate heat, which melts the ice and snow around it and protects the plant's cells from freezing. Its foul-smelling, skunk-like—or, some say, rotting flesh-like—odor attracts flying insects to pollinate a bulbous flower-head shielded inside a wine-red, monk-like hood. By adjusting its heat production according to how cold the air is, the hood maintains a steady temperature of 72°F. Bees generally only fly when temps reach 65°F or higher, but skunk cabbage attracts them on colder days with its promise of food (pollen) inside a warm protective shelter.

According to Mary Holland in her wonderful book, *Naturally Curious: A Photographic Field Guide and Month-by-Month Journey Through the Fields, Woods, and Marshes of New England*, not only are there eleven species of spiders that feed on skunk cabbage's insect visitors, but an array of other animals depend on this plant for early season food (like ring-necked pheasants and bears) or for shelter (such as the common yellowthroat warbler). Skunk cabbage grows in boggy areas, where its roots can live for more than 200 years. Its lush, green, cabbage-like leaves, which appear after the flower is pollinated, grow to 2 feet or more. If you're unsure whether it's skunk cabbage, just break off a leaf, crush it, and take a whiff! --Patty Crane

Celebrate Earth Day in Windsor April 22!

I don't know about you, but I love it when the wagon gets pulled out of the shed and placed strategically along Route 9 and decorated with hay bales. In the subsequent days, the installation seems to attract more objects like mums and milk cans. I love it because it indicates the change of seasons and that someone, really a group of people, care how the center of town looks. It gives me a sense of community and I appreciate the volunteers who make it happen.

The Parks and Rec Committee wants to add a little love to the center of town and at the Town Park this year, in conjunction with the pollinator project. We are planning to plant a small pollinator garden at the Town Park, as well as adding pollinators to the beautiful memorial at the Town Hall.

If you enjoy gardening or simply enjoy the change of scenery as you drive through town, please join us on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22 at the Town Park on Peru Rd. for a clean-up day. Volunteers are welcome in the morning with chainsaws to clear up near the garden and towards the afternoon to help prep the planting area. Lunch will be provided!

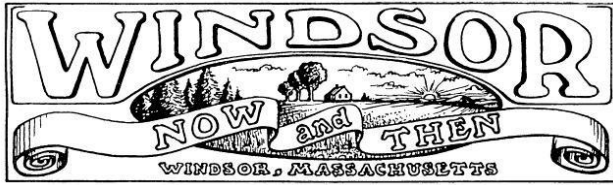
We need volunteers who can:

- run a chainsaw (2 people)
- help with moving brush
- rake, dig, edge, prepare garden beds
- work with loppers
- cook and serve food and make sure everyone is hydrated

Please RSVP to kadiskadis@yahoo.com, so we are sure to have enough food to.

It's fun to plan these things, but it's more satisfying and sustainable to know we have a community invested in the project. We hope you can join us on Earth Day! Thank you!

-- Barbara Connors



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

FROM TEACHING TO DOING:

Peter Reed & Carry Goods

For the past four years, Peter Reed has been on an intense creative journey – most of which has unrolled in the spacious basement of the Peru Road home he shares with his wife, Leslie.

Reed says losing his job late in his career as an educator gave him the push he needed to follow a long-simmering desire to create things with his hands. "I remember thinking, 'I have to make something.' I had no idea what, just a need to do something productive with my hands."

At the same time, empty plastic feed bags were piling up from the couple's two horses. "I just couldn't throw them away," said Peter. "I thought, why don't I make shopping totes? So I went on E-bay and bought an old Singer and made a bunch. That was kind of fun."

Step two came when Reed wanted to make something sturdier and thought of canvas. "I had an old paint tarp of my dad's. I cut that up and made some bags out of that." One of the resulting bags, spattered Jackson-Pollock style with a thick slash of paint, hangs over Reed's workbench.

New canvas, then waxed canvas, then waxed canvas and leather all passed through Reed's hands. Each material presented new challenges and suggested new design directions, and added to the impressive battery of sewing machines, leather stamp presses, and old hand tools that Reed deploys in his work.

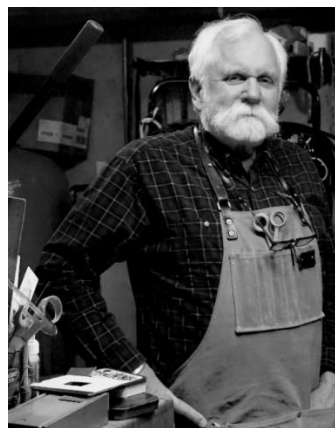
Today, Reed creates sturdy totes, handbags, aprons, portfolios and luggage out of leather, waxed canvas, and fabric. His style ranges from rustic ranch to sleek, and he

works with everything from bison hide to branded cowhide to the distinctive orange textured leather used to make NBA basketballs.

While the craft itself seems to come naturally (Reed even has developed an unexpected knack for refurbishing old sewing machines), he admits that the business side is challenging. With expensive basic materials like leather, and the labor-intensive nature of his production, the right price point can be elusive. "Online is hard," he notes. "These are such tactile products. I want people to be able to see them, and touch them, and smell the leather."

He sells through his facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/pmreedtotes>) and is carried



by two Great Barrington shops, Hey-Day and Rustic Works, as well as in downtown Albany at the Fort Orange General Store. But his favorite way to sell is at craft shows and makers' fairs, where he can interact not just with customers but also fellow artisans.

--Susan Phillips

Peter Reed in his basement workshop. His apron represents four hours of his handiwork.

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