



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for MAY
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Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
(mark subject line:
WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

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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, welcomes submissions from community groups and members supporting these goals.

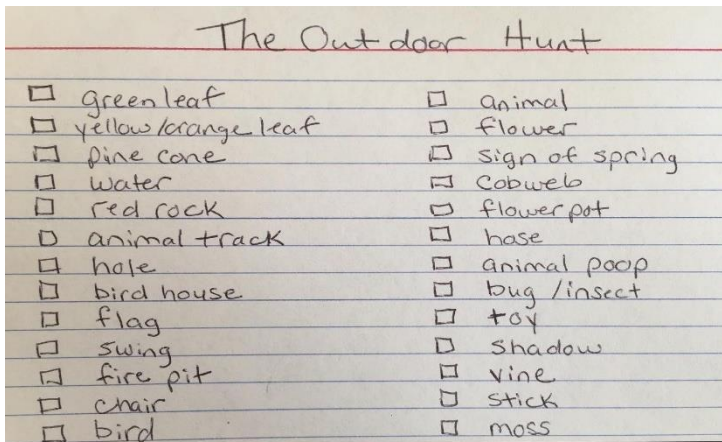
This is a non-sectarian publication and not a forum for promoting any particular religious or political position. The articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of FOW. We reserve the right to edit and deny publication on the basis of length or content.

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.

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Paper Talk: It's time for a Springtime Scavenger Hunt! How Many Can You Find???



FOW News

What a strange and challenging time this is. In the midst of so much uncertainty, I find it comforting, here in Windsor, to witness spring's slow but certain arrival. Our recent six-inch snowfall didn't faze the newly emerging daffodils or the beaver already busy in the not quite iced-out pond.

We'll be feeling the effects of this pandemic for quite some time. Which is why it's as important to stay connected as it is to stay informed. We each play a role in the ultimate outcome, but as we're all learning, physical distance doesn't have to mean social isolation. In this month's issue of *Windsor Now & Then*, you'll see an abundance of spirit and resolve to keep our community safe, up to date, energized and engaged.

I have a request. We'd love any stories you'd care to share with our readers, such as how you and your families are coping, what you're doing to pass the time, how you're staying in touch. This applies to kids, too! How about a drawing, story, or poem? Honestly...any bits of cheer, solace, encouragement and/or practical tips to help us all feel connected during this time of physical separation and angst. Thank you. And thanks to all of you who work, in more ways than are possible to name, to strengthen this place and this community.

Whether you're working on the front lines, holding the fort down at home, or somewhere in between, please take good care and, whenever you can, head outside for a dose of fresh Windsor air and spring wonder. The purple finches are growing redder by the day, and before long the spring peepers will be joining the chorus.

Happy Spring!
Patty

Windsor's Newest Residents

On the farm the first weekend of March we had a beautiful reminder that spring was coming soon: eight adorable little babies born, four goats and four lambs. Fast forward a couple weeks and everyone is doing great. They spend their days running and jumping up in the air doing little goat and lamb parkour. They'll run, jump and then spin off the walls, or one of the mamas, or even each other. They are so full of life and are having so much fun it really is a sight to see. If you go into the barn to say hello you're greeted with yells of excitement. When you squat down to say hello suddenly you're sitting on the ground with little babies jumping all over you trying to greet you. There really isn't a better way to start your day. --Dominique Frink



Town Clerk Notes

Important Information: Please Read.
Complete Your 2020 CENSUS TODAY at 2020Census.gov! Western Mass could lose Government Representation and funding if all households are not counted. Only 30% of Windsor households have responded.

COVID-19 Town Updates...

- All Town Buildings are closed to the public.
- There are no office hours. All Committee Agendas are on the website.
- Town Office Departments are working and can be reached at 413-684-3811 or emails listed on windsormass.com.
- Drop-offs can be made at the black drop box #2 on the side of the driveway to the Town Offices parking lot.
- Property tax payments are due May 1. They can be paid online, mailed, or dropped in black box #2.
- Dog License deadline has been extended to June 1. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope, with Rabies info, to the Town Clerk and license will be mailed. Or drop the info in box #2!
- **Transfer Station:** The State has paused the operation of bottle and can deposit centers, so the transfer station cannot process them. Residents have two options:
 1. Retain deposit cans and bottles at home until they can be accepted again.
 2. Recycle deposit cans with other cans at the transfer station and place the bottles in the glass recycling binThe volunteer fire department would appreciate option 1 as they benefit from the deposit proceeds, but we all realize that this might last months.
- **Transfer Station protocol:** The transfer station is OPEN regular hours. No visiting. Handle your own trash. Keep Larry safe!
- If you need assistance with your pets while self-isolating, or if you cannot be at home, call Dave Melle to arrange for foster care: 413-448-3075. Pet food is also available for those in need.
- Jessica Buoymaster is calling residents over 60 years old to inquire if they need assistance, need help responding to the census, or just to make sure you are well! Please be nice to her. She is a wealth of knowledge and for some people, it's their only daily conversation.

Annual Town Meeting is still scheduled for May 4, 2020 (See Select Board Corner for more detail)

The Town Election will be held May 11, 12-6PM. This will be a Drive-through Election: Enter parking lot by the church. Pull up to station 1, check in, receive ballot (bring your own pencil if possible). Vote. Drive to station #2, check out, place ballot in Ballot box. Drive away.

Offices/Names on the Ballot

Select Board (3yr): Douglas McNally
Constable (3 yr): Dave Melle
Library Trustee (3 yr): Katherine Richter
Moderator (1 yr): Mark Efinger
Planning Board (5 yr): John Jones
Planning Board (1yr): Holly Higinbotham
Tree Warden (1 yr): Mark Hauge

What's Going on in Town?: Where You Can Find Out

I'm hearing from some residents that they are having a difficult time getting Town Information in a timely way. Here are the places you can go to for updates. **If you have additional suggestions for getting news out, I'd welcome them.**

- **Urgent News** is posted immediately on the Windsor MA Facebook Page (Google: Windsor, MA Facebook). You do not need to have a Facebook account to read this page. If you have difficulty finding it, call the town clerk.
- **Regular updates** are published in *Windsor Now & Then* and also sent to *Berkshire Eagle*.
- **Selectboard and Committee Notes** are all available to view online at: windsormass.com. I know internet is slow/non-existent but can be accessed at work or on your phone.
- **Event info** is posted at both stores.

Green Committee Report

Thanks to volunteer crew John Jones (technical advisor), Bob Meyers (workhorse), and Stu Besnoff (detailing), there's a new weathertight door installed in the Town Offices basement. This project was fully funded by the state DOER grant we have through 9/30/20. If additional projects are delayed past September, due to the virus, an extension to the funding period will be requested.

Don't forget to check the air pressure in your car tires as the weather warms. The cold weather deflates the air pressure, and, with it, the fuel efficiency of your vehicle.

COVID-19 Related Info...

Berkshire Health Systems has a TOLL-FREE HOTLINE for questions regarding COVID-19.

Hours: 7 am to 7 pm, seven days a week
CALL 855-262-5465 (855-BMC-LINK)

There is a Text-Based Notification System you can sign up for on your phone: Text the keyword COVIDMA to 888-777 to receive real-time updates and information from our state and public health officials. This messaging tool, AlertsMA, shares the latest news and prevention information, and connects residents to other public channels, such as the state's Information line, 2-1-1, and website searches on Mass.Gov. The most recent update I received (yesterday), provided a link to a new, free online tool that helps you assess your symptoms and find the right care.

Emergency Response Fund: A coalition of philanthropy and business partners, co-led by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and Berkshire United Way, has created a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County. They are rapidly deploying resources to nonprofits that are addressing gaps in services and assisting vulnerable individuals and families to meet their basic needs. As of this writing, over 20 local organizations have received funds that are helping them feed children, meet the needs of older adults, provide medical-related services to the most vulnerable populations, and support those experiencing economic hardships. Whether you want to help, need help, or know someone who does, you can learn more by visiting www.berkshireunitedway.org/covid-19-emergency-response-fund.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor: One-time emergency assistance is available for residents who need help getting over a financial hump. It's not a source of steady support, but a boost to help when you're in a pinch. Generally, around \$500 is granted to help with things like overdue utilities, medical bills, short-term housing costs and transportation problems. A copy of the owed invoice is required. Checks are written to the vendor (landlord, utility company, pharmacy or mechanic) on behalf of the resident in need. If you're a Windsor or Cummington resident and would like to apply and/or learn more, contact **Stephen Philbrick, Minister**, at 684-3852. —Patty Crane

Broadband Update

Governor Baker has declared utility workers essential so the work on Windsor's broadband network can move forward. The inspection of the make-ready work (moving wires on poles to make room for our fiber) is two-thirds complete and should be done in two weeks. Then we'll be ready to begin the actual construction of our distribution network, getting the fiber on the poles.

The town has four fiber service areas (FSA'S). FSA 1 is our most densely populated area in the west end: North Street, Peru Road, Flintstone road, Main Dalton and Route 9 from the Dalton line to 8A. When the team completes construction, the drop team will come in and begin connecting homes, while the distribution team moves to FSA 4, Windsor Bush and Windsor Pond, which needs to be done during the summer when Pond homeowners are in residence. We are working on a strategy to address underground drops in FSA's 2 and 3 before the ground freezes in the fall, and we still hope to have everyone who wants service connected by the end of 2020, or shortly thereafter. For towns in our WiredWest consortium, Rowe is just about done, Washington and New Salem are constructing their distribution networks, and Becket and Heath are completing make-ready.

John Jones is joining James Tribble and Don Hall on the Windsor Broadband advisory committee to support me in my role as the MLP manager overseeing the construction and eventual operation of our network. Don has been working on our data and will continue to post information on the Windsor Facebook page and website. Thanks to the 280 residents who have signed up, 56 percent of our homes. If you have not yet signed up for service and to become eligible for the town's subsidy of up to \$2000 your home connection, go to WiredWest.net and click on the sign up now, Windsor button. --Doug McNally



Correction! That's John Boyle serving up at The Alibi (a place that lives on in memory only!).

Select Board Corner

What difficult times we live in. On behalf of the Select Board, I hope you and your families are physically and emotionally coping in challenging times. There are so many people in our community who are stepping up to the plate in big and small ways in the midst of our crisis. A big shout out to Madeline, Chief Barnaby, Jessica, Margie, and Dave.

Two important pieces of information:

- **The town offices remain closed at least through April.**
- **The Annual Town Meeting is currently still scheduled for May 4.** We expect to make the warrant available in advance so residents can send in questions beforehand. We will offer the ability to call or video in to observe the meeting and ask questions. Only those in physical attendance will be able to vote on the FY21 budget but we assure you we will address each question. Information on accessing the meeting will be posted on Facebook and on the Town website.

Our Collective Responsibility: In my professional life, I teach ethics to college students who hope to work in the criminal justice field. I view much of the world through this professional lens. And some of what "we" are going through, as a community, state, and country, due to COVID-19, is an ethical exercise. The Social Contract, while recognizing we are self-motivated creatures, believes that morality consists of rules that govern our behavior. Our morality and actions assume that others adhere to the same governing rules. *Think - Driving on the right-hand side of the road.* We drive on the right-hand side of the road, not just because we are told to, but we assume others do and this collective action lends itself to a safer environment for everyone. The Social Contract is the agreement we make to co-exist in society. Without the Social Contract, we are unable to minimize harm to others and society becomes chaotic because we are not abiding by the same rules or following the same moral compass.

Social distancing and altering our day-to-day lives during COVID-19 is our "driving on the right-hand side of the road" moment. It helps us, as individuals, be safe and it keeps our loved ones safe. It helps our community. And most importantly it helps our emergency personnel and essential workers who are desperately navigating their new reality. We do this for them. --Kim Tobin

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

Right eye syndrome! I learned something interesting today and it got me thinking. To begin with, my dominant eye opted to quit. Right! No sight in my Right eye. The Left eye has to step up and take over, which it is reluctant to do. So, we patch the Right eye and force the Left eye to get up and get moving. It works. Now, I ask you, why wouldn't that work with people who lag behind?

Now here's the thing. Person #1 does all the work. Persons #2, #3, and #4 spend most of their time making lists of what should be done by Person #1. My proposal: Sit Person #1 down, insert earplugs and blindfold said person and lock in available broom closet. Person #2 becomes aware that work in progress has stopped. Person #2 turns to Person #3 who turns to Person #4 and all three say, "What the heck?" Work piles up and stays that way until Persons #2, 3, and 4 figure out they, and only they are "IT". They take a deep breath, roll up their sleeves, exhale and step up. Progress!

By the time Person #1 reappears, things are running smoothly. Persons #2, 3, and 4 are alive and well and functioning. Person #1 is now in the Cayman Island for a week or two, maybe even more.

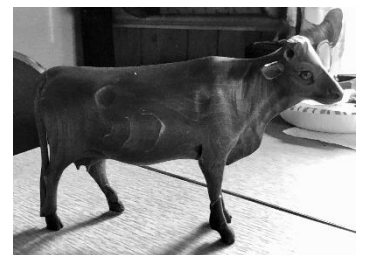
Get what I mean about the eye thing? Cover up the weak one trying to do all the work and the lazy one will do its job. Try it, it works--with people too!

A Treasured Memento

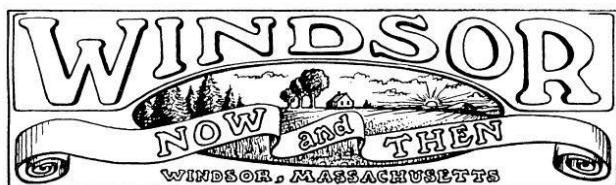
We were thrilled to receive this first-hand memory from **Hugh Ferry** about Windsor's Rev. Euphemia Drysdale (lived 1870-1945; see January 2020 issue, back page story):

A note of interest of REV. Euphemia Drysdale. She was a great lady. How many young woman would take on this venture today. My mother and she were great friends. I once remember riding in her model T Ford. She brought me this hand-carved cow from Scotland. What an honor it was it was to have it. It is well over 100 years old. I am 88.

--Hugh Ferry



APRIL 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Special Enclosures

COA Newsletter

Broadband Flyer

Donation Envelope

Windsor's Dog Star

Meet Brosna, an Irish Red and White Setter. He and his owner/handler/dog mom Tammy Ciesla love roaming our trails and open fields. A happy fit dog is the best dog, and in February, Brosna proved it, winning an Award of Merit at the historic Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Thanks, Tammy for sharing your dog tale....



Brosna enjoying the high-thread-count sheets at Hotel Pennsylvania in NYC.

Windsor is a great place to live with a dog. And for a Windsor dog, taking a trip to the heart of New York City is quite an adventure!

Preparing for this event requires a lot of work: hours of practice for the show ring, careful grooming, and miles-long runs at least five times a week to stay fit and build muscle.

In February, we drove into Manhattan. A sea of concrete and asphalt and streaks of yellow – taxis zipping past as I crawl carefully through the traffic, trying to nudge our way over to our hotel. We finally made it! The famous Hotel Pennsylvania, right across from Madison Square Garden. People everywhere – and dogs, too.

We walked through the main lobby and immediately felt like stars! Tourists from all over asked to take

photos. Brosna graciously agreed. But after the drive and the attention, he was happy to get to our room and make himself comfortable in the king-size bed!

One drawback to the hotel high life, if you're a dog: where to go? For Westminster, the Hotel Penn covers the floor of a large room in the basement with sawdust and wood chips. For an added fee (!!!) dogs in town for the show had this as their canine restroom.

Next morning, we were up early to take a shuttle bus to Pier 94, where much of the Westminster show takes place. Brosna sprawled out taking up two seats. We arrived and headed to our staging area for final grooming. Then, showtime!

Showing on the Westminster green carpet is like no other show. Crowds several rows deep, cameras and tv crews everywhere, loud cheering from the fans at every ringside. But Brosna was not fazed, we felt like a perfect team, in tune with each other. And then the thrill of the judge pointing at us, awarding Brosna the Award of Merit. A lovely ending to a very long few days.

This was our third trip to Westminster. As they say, 3rd time is a charm. And Brosna is very happy back where he truly belongs...the hills and trails of Windsor, MA. –Tammy Ciesla



Tammy Ciesla and Brosna with their Award of Merit