

DEADLINE for MAY
 issue: Friday, APRIL 23
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 WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVII, No. 4

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

APRIL 2021

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 Friends of Windsor, Inc.,
 mail check to: FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8,
 Windsor, MA 01270,
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in memory of Ted Bilodeau
(March 10, 1929 – February 19, 2021)

FOW News

A Phone Book Like No Other. We're so proud and pleased to be able to include a complimentary copy of the 2021 Windsor Community Directory in this issue. As part of the town's 250th anniversary celebration, we've put some extra love into this directory, including a colorful gallery of photos from our town's talented photographers. We received such a great response from our photographers that we have many more than we could put in the book—but all of them will be featured in an online gallery on the FOW website (we'll keep you posted on when that's ready). Many thanks to the Windsor Cultural Council and a big shout-out to our 28 local business sponsors, along with our loyal individual donors, for all the help in covering printing costs.



We worked hard to make this directory up-to-date and accurate, but if we've made any errors or missed anyone, please email us at fowindsor@gmail.com and, if you'd like, we'd be happy to publish additions/corrections in an upcoming WN&T.

And if you are really happy with your handy directory and want to let us know, you'll find a small donation envelope tucked inside. Donations of any size are most welcome to support our ongoing community-building efforts. —D. Balmuth

Sense of Community

"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community." — Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Paper Talk—

As our snowbanks disappear more each day, it's exciting to think forward to July and the kickoff for Windsor's 250th celebration! Music, fireworks, and fun for all ages. I'm smiling in anticipation of the kids' muster! Read all about it at right—mark your calendars, lend your support, and volunteer to help celebrate the resiliency and spirit of this little town! —Deb

Update from the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee

The 250th Committee has been actively planning for a celebration – slow paced, with activities that will appeal to all from July – December. *The main event will be Saturday, July 3rd, with planned activities including:*

- Kid's Day, including a kid's muster hosted by the Windsor Fire Department
- Celebration Ceremony
- Music by Trio Candelo
- Music by Misty Blues
- Fireworks!!

A full list of celebration events will be finalized and published in May. But a sample of other things to look forward to: a Jazz Workshop and other activities on July 4th, A Car Show, Historic Windsor Walks, Talks & Hikes, a Cultural Day, and an Art & Craft Show.

I would like to thank those who have already given. Your financial support has been helpful in our planning. While we have strategically been using our budget, we are precariously close to exceeding it. *We need your financial support to continuing building our calendar.* If you are able to, please consider financially donating to the "Town of Windsor 250th Celebration Fund". Checks and cash accepted. Please mail or deliver to 250th Anniversary Committee, Town of Windsor, 1890 Route 9, Windsor, MA 01270. And if you are interested in assisting with planning, clean-up, hosting an event, please email ktobin@windsormass.com.

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

Town Clerk Notes

The Windsor Town Election for Local Positions is May 10, 2021

April 26, 2021 - Last Day to Register to Vote in Town Elections

Voting Options

Vote in Person: Monday, May 10 11AM-7PM at the Windsor Town Hall

Vote Early by Mail: Available to all voters. You do not need an excuse to vote by mail this year. Here how to do it:

1. Download a Vote by Mail

Application from windsormass.com Municipal Resources/election info

(It will say 2020 but is fine for this election.) Be sure to sign your application by hand, or electronically by mouse, stylus, or finger. Typed names are not acceptable signatures.

2. Deliver Your Application to the Windsor Town Clerk by May 4, via Email, Mail, Fax, or Drop Box

Email: windsortownclerk@gmail.com

Mail: 1890 Route 9 Suite 2, Windsor, MA 01270

Fax: 413-684-3806

Drop Box: Drop in Black mailbox #2 at the right of the town office driveway

3. Vote When Your Ballot Arrives

Ballots will be mailed Mid-April

4. Return Your Ballot to the Windsor Town Clerk or the Polls by 7pm on Election Day, May 10

Mail: the envelopes will be addressed.

In Person: Windsor Town Office

Drop Box: Drop in Black mailbox #2 at the right of the town office driveway

Annual Town Meeting: June 14, 2021 at Windsor Town Park, Time TBD

Dog Licenses may go to 3-year license for \$15/yr for each neutered/spayed animals. Stay tuned for more news on that!

Annual Reports FY20 are being printed and will be available in hard copy and on windsormass.com shortly.

—Madeline Scully

Windsor FY22 Budget Update from Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has begun compiling the town budget for the next fiscal year (July 2021-June 2022). With the Annual Town Meeting tentatively scheduled for June 14 we will hold departmental and committee meetings in the first half of May.

We continue to develop the annual budget in the context of a rolling five-year plan. Our objectives are to raise funds sufficient to maintain town services, undertake modest capital improvements and ensure an adequate level of financial reserves, all while containing the growth of the total tax levy to 3 percent.

The tax levy increased 1.7 percent in FY20 and 2.5 percent this year (FY21). The average single-family tax bill increased somewhat less due to the increase in the number of households. Our average tax bill was \$2,821 in FY21, the 29th lowest among the 325 reporting cities and towns in the state and the lowest among all our neighboring towns except Savoy.

Our financial reserves stand at about \$700,000, roughly 30% of our annual expenditure. We continue to plan based on the unlikely assumption that no money will flow to the budget from broadband operations. However, should broadband generate sufficient funds, we can undertake long-delayed capital improvements, consider enhancing town services, and/or reduce the growth of the tax levy.

—Scott Rogers

Calling all Crafters!

Let's create a celebratory quilt for Windsor's 250th! Make just one 8" square to add your voice to our one-of-a-kind community quilt. You can use any technique: patchwork, fabric pens, printing, sewing a design with buttons, even attaching paper pieces to fabric—anything goes! If you're interested, please email me at codebwindsor@gmail.com. And if you need fabric, I have it! All ages welcome and encouraged—kids, too!

—Deb Balmuth

From the Green Committee

The Green Committee has been busy. For one, we discovered that Eversource screwed up and we may be able to save the Town a few dollars. Long story short, there's a streetlight pole near the town hall and the church that's been offline for months, that the town has continued to be billed for. That will be rectified by the Select Board, and the Town should be reimbursed retroactively.

Also, the Committee is in the process of putting together a new grant application to the state Department of Energy Resources. This is a continuation of our goal to reduce energy usage (and thereby cost of all forms of fuel) at all town-owned properties. We will be seeking grant funding to install a new more energy efficient heating system (Air Source Heat Pumps) at the Town Hall, insulate as much of the Town Hall as is feasible, install more efficient water heaters in the Town Hall, and insulate the Town garage as much as feasible. In the process we have learned a lot about the way that the Town Hall crawl space under some of the floors is only accessible to thin flexible people! We will keep you posted about the grant application. —Holly Higinbotham

Windsor Church In-Person Easter Service

The Windsor Congregational Church will hold an in-person Easter service on Sunday, April 4, 10 am, at the church, and featuring special musical guests. Please RSVP so we can respect social distancing. Call Heather Juby at 413-287-1749.

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

*Reflections from Mame Whelihan
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road*

Count Your Blessings Before It's Too Late. I was never much of a card player, but when Janet asked me to join her card playing group I jumped at the chance. It was such a fun-loving group...so...I joined and bowed to the constant instructions I needed. Barb was helpful as was Grace and they were all so patient. Wait! Did I say, "they?" One stood out with a constant barrage of comments about my shortcomings and lack of card playing expertise. It was so much fun to antagonize him. We all looked forward to our weekly cardfest. We would take a lunch break then jump right back into "dealing" with life. That's a pun in case you missed it.

Time passed and the game went on. Our chief antagonist was dubbed, "Sh--head" by Paul. He actually relished his new name. The Minister and his wife, Patty, joined our group and should have reminded us to, "count our blessings," which we never really did. Time continued to pass and we kept right on enjoying our life of cards. We thought it would go on forever. It didn't.

Time passed and so did our incorrigible "Sh--head." Life has such a way of moving on with or without our counting our blessings. Pandemic or not there's blessings to be counted. It's not too late. At the very top of my count your blessings list is my never-to-be forgotten "Sh--head." Was he a blessing in disguise? You'll get no argument from me. Count your blessings.....NOW!

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 will resume later this spring). Class times: 5:30pm beginner / 6:45pm advanced. Registration required.

Sunday April 18, 9am-12pm: Spring Boreal Forest Volunteer Trail Work Day at Tamarack Hollow. Help clear trails and continue to prep the site of the future nature center – come for some of time or the whole time! Snacks and cider provided. Please bring your own gloves and water.

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



Program Features Indigenous Voices in the Berkshires, May 22

A special hilltown event scheduled for May 22, 1-3PM , either on zoom or in person at a location to be determined (based on COVID safety guidelines) will feature two speakers:

Dr. Jus Crea Giammarino, N.D., will offer a presentation on Native Herbal Medicine

Raised with her Penobscot culture and Native American spiritual practices. Dr. Jus Crea Giammarino is certified in herbal therapy and received a doctorate in Naturopathy, acupuncture. She completed an advanced externship in pediatrics, women's health, and family medicine as well as receiving advanced training in Sankaran Homeopathy. Dr. Giammarino has lectured extensively on Native American Herbology and Native American cultures, histories and traditions.

Rhonda Anderson is Inupiaq - Athabaskan from Alaska. Her important life work is being a Mother, and also a classically trained Herbalist, Silversmith, activist and educator. Rhonda is focused on better education of Native students in Massachusetts. Her activism also includes the removal of mascots, Indigenous identity, and protecting her traditional homelands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from extractive industry. Rhonda is Commissioner to Indian Affairs in Western Massachusetts. a founding member of the Ohketeau Cultural Center.

This event is co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project www.nolumbekaproject. Funded by the Cummington, Plainfield, Charlemont-Hawley Local Cultural Councils and Mass. Cultural Council.

For more information, contact: Jennifer Lee 413-634-2254; or Kate Albrecht 413-634-8070; khalbrecht57@gmail.com

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.

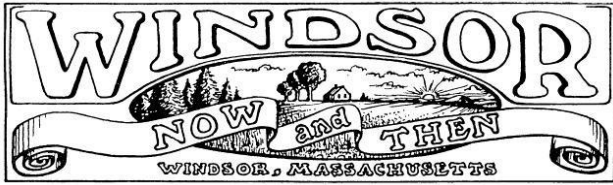
This is a non-sectarian publication and not a forum for promoting any particular religious or political position. The articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of FOW. We reserve the right to edit and deny publication on the basis of length or content.

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.

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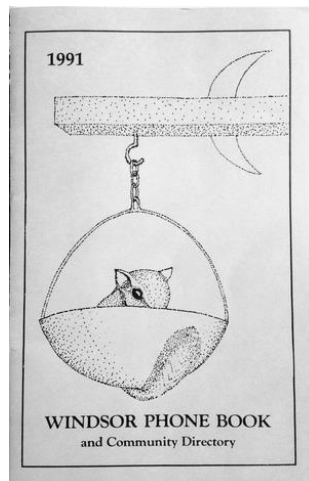
- **Sharing Our Stories, Volume 7**
- **2021-22 Windsor Phone & Community Directory**
- **COA NEWSLETTER**
- **Donation Envelope**

A Long Tradition....The Windsor Phone Book & Community Directory

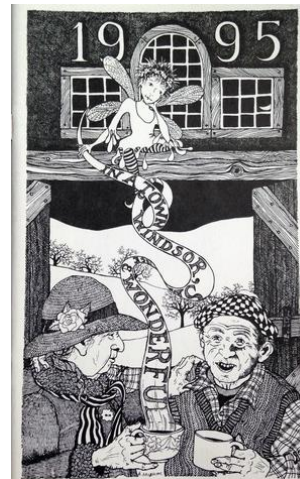
Did you know that Friends of Windsor has been publishing this newsletter for 37 continuous years! The phone book and community directory is another offering that this all-volunteer organization has been providing for a very long time. And many of the covers have featured the work of Windsor's talented artists. Here is a small selection of covers from past directories. To see more covers, visit the FOW website: <http://www.friendsofwindsor.com/windsor-phone-book-covers-19872014>.



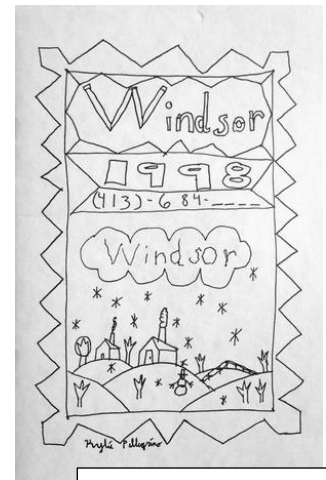
Art by Olive Volsky



Art by Dicken Crane



Art by Heather Bargeron



Art by Kylie Pelligrino
(Grade 5)

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*