



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for MAY issue: Thursday, APRIL 29

Send news to:
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(mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

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APRIL 2022

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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 articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets (natural setting, people, and community), email fowindsor@gmail.com.

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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 susanphillips@fastmail

FOW News

The bears are awakening and roaming, bulbs are pushing up from the damp ground, the last lingering bits of snow have melted in the woods, and newborn lambs are arriving at Lion's Tooth Farm!

Human activity is picking up, as well. Thanks to everyone who's contributed stories and news to this issue, as well as to our donors. As always, your support is what keeps this little paper alive and well. We've enclosed a donation envelope this month to make it easy to add your support. –Deborah Balmuth



Celebrating Windsor Kids & Pets

by Leslie Reed

Who: Francesca Tesoro \ Age: 16 \ Where: Windsor Bush Road

Francesca has a special bond with her family's dog, Otto, a German Wirehaired Pointer. The breed is known to be happiest with a person by their side 24/7, and the two have seldom been apart.

Otto joined the family 14-and-a-half years ago, just before Christmas, when Francesca was two. Even as a puppy he became protective of Francesca, following her to her room each night and leaving only when she fell asleep. He still keeps guard in the upstairs hall each night.



This gentle giant is afraid of small animals. He loves long walks, swimming in rivers and ponds, and going to the beach. He also prefers to sit in a chair instead of on the floor.

Now that Francesca is a boarding student at Miss Hall's School, she stays in touch with Otto via FaceTime calls. When Otto hears her voice, he comes running to the phone. The times she can be home are increasingly special to these lifelong friends.

We are sad to share that sweet Otto passed away a week after our interview.

Master Plan Steering Committee Survey Underway

The Town of Windsor is developing its Master Plan and we need your help! The Master Plan is a document that will help to guide policy, investment, and growth decisions for the town over the next 10-20 years. Your input and opinions will help to set future priorities for the town.

We have developed a survey to gain information and opinions from Windsor residents about the town, its priorities, initiatives, services, and resources, and how they can be improved in the future.

We ask that each adult in the household complete the survey and that all respondents are over the age of 18. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WindsorMPSurvey> or on the Town of Windsor website. The link is also on Facebook. Paper copies are available at the Town Offices, Friendly Fred's, Sangar's store, or by contacting Holly Higinbotham at higinbo@hotmail.com or 413-212-4352.

Responses are due by May 15 to allow for timely analysis. The Committee will be hosting additional focus groups—including an under-18 group—later this spring, so please look for forthcoming details.

From the Green Committee

We anticipate all three improvement projects for the Town Hall will be completed by early summer, including: installation of thermal curtains, fully insulating the walls and accessible crawlspace, and installing Air Source Heat Pumps to heat and cool the building. All the costs are covered by grants and rebates from the Department of Energy Resources, the American Rescue Plan Act, and MassSave.

These projects will dramatically improve energy efficiency in the building and lower heating costs. It will also add air-conditioning that can be used on an as-needed basis (ie meetings, community events, and during weather emergencies when a cooling station is needed). Cooling the building will provide comfort, while consuming energy for a function which we did not previously have. At the end of a full year of operation, we will compare the energy usage before and after the improvements.

--Holly Higinbotham, higinbo@hotmail.com, 413-212-4352

Bring Your Historical Photos and Papers to Digitize Windsor Day April 24

The Windsor Historical Commission will be at the Town Hall on Sunday, April 24, 2-4PM, with scanners ready to capture images to add to the town's history collection—and to your collections, too. For more info or to volunteer to help scan, contact Susan at susanphillips@fastmail.fm.

Energy-Saving Tip

Consider turning off outdoor lights at night or converting them to motion-detector lights so that they only go on when someone (human or otherwise) activates them. Also convert to LED bulbs. Help conserve energy as well as reduce nighttime light pollution!

Town Clerk Notes

It's Spring! Town Offices are open to the public.

Local Election May 9 11AM-7PM (I'm looking for pollworkers) The Ballot looks like this:

Selectboard (3-year-term): Christopher Cozzaglio

Constable: Kip Buoymaster

Finance Committee: Vacant

Library Trustee: Beth A. Webb

Moderator: Mark Efinger

Planning Board: Douglas McNally

Tree Warden: Mark J. Hauge

MLBoard*: 1, 2 and 3 year terms (vote for not more than THREE: John Jones, Don Hall, W. Scott Rogers)

Fair Share Amendment Town Support: Yes or No

** What does the Municipal Light Board (MLB) do?* is responsible for providing oversight and establishing direction for the Windsor Municipal Light Plant — i.e., the Town's fiber broadband utility. The Board meets quarterly to review reports from the MLP Manager, and more frequently as circumstances require. The MLB is comprised of three (three-term) elected officials, with one up for re-election each year. Their responsibilities include:

- * Approving policy statements, reviewing major programs and initiatives, and overseeing budget and finances.

- * Hiring (appointing) the MLP Manager and evaluating performance.

- * Reviewing the financials from Wired West quarterly, sharing with the Selectboard and Town Finance Committee, reporting the Town's share of excess revenue and making recommendations on appropriating the funds.

The Board meets quarterly to review reports from the MLP Manager, and more frequently as circumstances require.

The Municipal Light Board is comprised of three elected officials, each serving a three-year term with one being reelected each year.

Annual Town meeting will be held May 2, 7PM, indoors at the Town Hall. Masks are optional, but encouraged. Warrant will be posted April 15 on windsormass.com, at the Stores, Town Hall and Offices, Transfer Station, Facebook and the Town Clerk Newsletter. Please read carefully. Ask questions ahead of time. If questions are asked on FB, more people will see the answers. There will be some new Town positions proposed, notably a Town Administrator. I will post the proposed TA job description shortly. The TA will combine the Select Board Assistant and website admin along with many other duties.

Transfer Station Stickers will go on sale May 1. Watch for the application insert in May WN&T.

Check out the exciting new website: Windsormass.com. Thank you, Ben Bederson, for your expertise and energy. It is informative and will be a great place to stay up to date on Town happenings. —Madeline Scully

Reflections from Mame Whelihan
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

WHODUNIT! It was a dark and stormy night as he plodded along the muddy road. No good intentions circling in his head with nothing but his own survival mattering to him. He soon saw his intended quarry and his plan was enacted, definitely premeditated. The unlocked door was certainly no deterrent and in he went, much to the dismay of all concerned. By the time the deed was done and Kip returned to protecting all of us, the crime scene was a shambles and the damage was immense. A felony? Maybe. Premeditated? Yes. Who was this perpetrator? You tell me.

Windsor Church News

Heather Juby resigned as church pastor as of the end of January. She will be missed! Eileen Markland is now Worship Leader, as the church transitions to the next chapter. She has been our music director since February 2020. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our church in the role of pastor, please contact Eileen Markland at (413) 464-3837.

We are thrilled to announce that Michelle Huddy is our new choir director! Anyone interested in singing with the choir would be most welcome. We practice on Sunday morning at 10:15.

We are happy to once again worship together in person on Sundays at 11! Masking indoors is optional. We are also on zoom and stream live on Facebook. --Eileen Markland; (413) 464-3837.

Bird Tip for April

Step outside at dusk and listen for American Woodcocks conducting their annual breeding display flights. While on the ground, they call "peent, peent..." and then you'll hear them whirring up into the sky, and soon, fluttering back down to approximately the same spot they flew from. They start displaying in early March and often continue into June. --Holly Higinbotham

Upcoming Events at Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center, Windsor To register for events email: aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit www.tamarackhollow.com

Sunday April 24, 9am-2pm: Boreal Forest Volunteer Trail Work Day. Help clear trails and continue to prep the site of the future nature center – come for some of time or the whole time and bring a friend or two! Snacks and cider provided. Bring your own gloves (and lunch if staying for the day). Extra tools welcomed. Thanks to support from Mass Alliance and Americorps. Registration required.

EVERY MONDAY West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinat at Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield (class will resume at the Windsor Town Park when the weather warms!). Registration required.

Hilltown Mobile Market

How can you have garden fresh vegetables from over a dozen local farmers? Buy a farm share from the Hilltown Mobile Market. Enroll and you'll have a weekly pickup of veggies of your choice, from July 16 to November 18. Currently, the closest pick-up spots are in Worthington and Cummington. It would be great to have a place in Windsor or West Cummington, and the folks in charge are willing to arrange that if enough Windsor people (10?) are interested.

For more information go to: www.hilltownmobilemarket.info, and you can also suggest new stops on their route. What a terrific way to treat yourself to the healthiest food around and at the same time support our local farmers! --Val Kohn

Newborn lambs at Lion's Tooth Farm



Story continued from back page

I'll never forget one Thanksgiving, seeing my one-year-old grandson's small hand curled in Albert's big farmer's hand, while Albert patted it with his other crippled hand.

Albert told me he'd moved up here from Springfield after his mother inherited the house for taking care of Wells Coleman in his old age. Albert was quite a horseman, shoeing horses for money. He told me that winter roads were kept open by having a horse drag a log along them, packing down the snow. When I asked what he did for mud season, he looked surprised. "Why, stay to home."

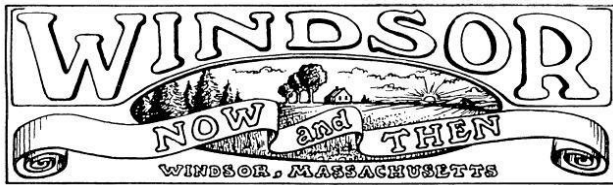
It is difficult to capture the whole impact of a man in so few words. So much is left out - how he used his oxen to help neighbors dig a cellar hole, how he held on to bathroom towels until they were worn fragments, how he farmed small flat patches surrounded by woods. I'm grateful I was given the chance to know him, hear the stories he unhesitatingly shared, and briefly touch the life that preceded mine in my home. --Karen Simon

New Life at Lion's Tooth Farm

It's that time of year again! Here at Lion's Tooth Farm on Old Route 9, we are having babies like crazy, which means spring is finally coming! We have had 19 lamb and goat kids born this year along with some adorable piglets. Though there have been a few bumps along the way and we have a few lambs to bottle feed, everyone is growing fast!

With the beautiful warm weather and the snow finally melting, it will soon be time to start planting, which means produce will be available soon. We already have baby spinach coming up! This spring, we are working on building a self-serve farm stand with produce, bread, bagels, granola, eggs and more!
-- Dominique Frink

APRIL 2022



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Donation Envelope Enclosed

Memories of Albert Allen Johnson

By Karen Simon

When I bought my house in Windsor Bush in 1987, it was a shell of masonite around a gutted frame from 1812. I hired friends to rebuild (incorporating any old pieces, like moldings, I could find). When it was done, I had an eccentric home and a little time to explore its past.

I had already found skulls of oxen, a rusted wagon just off a path in the woods, and other evidence of a long-gone farming world. Neighbors John and Barbara Bird, now deceased, told me that Albert Johnson had lived in the house with his mother, and now lived in the Maples elder housing in Worthington.

After his mother died, the Birds would invite him to dinner. They told me he would enter, sit, and eat until he was finished, all without a word. Then he would stand, say "Thank you," get up, and leave.

So, I was nervous when I went to the Maples to meet him, this unspeaking hilltop farmer. There was a birthday party going on with lots of folks sitting at round tables, and someone pointed out a balding white-haired man: Albert. I took a deep breath, and over I went, babbling an introduction. He smiled warmly and loudly shouted "Eh?" (Later, I learned his position on his deafness-- "Those hearing aids, those damn things are just no good, just no damn good. You've got a voice, don't ya? Well, use it.")

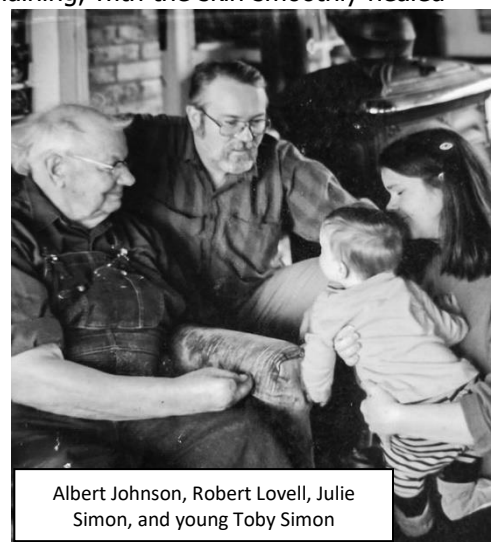
He came for dinner to my new house -- his old home. I worried that the abundance of picture windows would make him as uncomfortable as it had John Bird ("You spend all day outside - why do you want to go looking at it when you're in?"). I worried that he'd feel uprooted, erased by change. I gave him a house tour.

When we reached the upstairs and he saw the bathroom I'd put in, with an old sink like my grandmother's, a clawfoot bathtub and a wooden-tanked toilet, he finally spoke: "Now you got you a modern bathroom! It's just what I'd always wanted to build for mother." I never found out what facilities they had, but there was no plumbing and I did find a sturdy short white box with a carved hole that, with a bucket under, wonderfully sufficed when my water froze.

Albert and I got on just fine. He had no trouble speaking his mind, or listening – as long as I shouted.

One of his hands was missing all four fingers, only the thumb remaining, with the skin smoothly healed over small nubs. He told me that he'd been working the mill saw down by the brook (now just some iron poles, rusted metal and a stone foundation hiding in the vegetation) when he cut them off. He

picked up the four fingers, walked up the hill to the house, and had his mother drive him to the hospital Pittsfield. But it was too late. *(story continued inside, page 3)*



Albert Johnson, Robert Lovell, Julie Simon, and young Toby Simon