



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for MAY issue: Thursday, April 27

Send news to editor: Deborah.balmuth@storey.com (mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIII, No. 4

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

APRIL 2017

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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, 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; Susan Edwards, graphics; Val Kohn, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Diane Sturtevant, treasurer.

Paper Talk

It was wonderful to see many (about 45!) of you at the Baked Potato Fest last month. And I was happy to catch up with several neighbors who were also out walking in the sunshine along Shaw Road last weekend. We're coming out of hibernation--with tales of tapping trees, making marinara sauce, bargain hunting—and creating drama and music on stage. Keep the stories coming! --Deborah

Friends of Windsor News

SPRINGING FORWARD: Like most of you, FOW is anxious for springtime. We're ready to dig into our to-do list for this year's project, OUR TOWN, which involves a lot of outdoor activity. Some of us have been learning more about the fascinating and popular activity of geocaching, which will play a big role in our efforts to connect with and engage younger Windsor residents. Soon we'll be wanting your input and help as we put together an amazing geocaching event based on Windsor's history. Experience is welcome but enthusiasm is what really counts.



Another major part of the OUR TOWN plan is a mid-July celebration at Notchview. For that, we'll need help with light clearing of a looped trail that will include various stations and activities for the day. And if you were one of those kids that loved to build a lean-to out of dead branches in the woods, those long-forgotten skills will come in handy. There is a volunteer opportunity for anyone who wants to contribute, it's going to be a big day! To learn more, contact us by email at fowindsor@gmail.com or call Patty at 413770-4688.

KEEPING DATES STRAIGHT: The April 7th performance by the Way Way Way Off Broadway Dinner Theater at the Town Hall and the April 22nd Earth Day hike at Rivulet Trail in Cummington are just two of the local happenings you'll find on the community calendar. Take a look at www.friendsofwindSOR.com/communitycalendar/ and if you have an event to add, contact Sandie1273@yahoo.com.

THANKS, DONORS! We're so pleased when we receive a donation from one of our friends, neighbors, or former Windsor residents. It makes the trip to the mailbox more than worthwhile. We are an entirely volunteer organization, small in number but large in ambition, and every gift helps. Give what you can, when you can, and we will try to put it to the best use strengthening our community. --Susan Phillips

Benny "Fingers" Kohn to Appear in Cummington Jazz Café, Village Church, April 14

Jazz vocalist Laura Pierce and saxophonist Michael Kolodny bring a jazz quartet to Cummington's Village Church Friday Night Cafe on Saturday, April 14, 7-9PM. The concert is free and open to the public. Recent newcomers to Cummington, Laura and Mike have found a close, easy, and deep connection with bandmates, Hilltown jazz virtuosos Benny 'Fingers' Kohn (of Windsor) on piano, and Dave Christopolous on bass. Laura and Mike have performed together for over 30 years in well-known venues, including Carnegie Hall, The Blue Note, The Discover Jazz Festival and the Montreal Jazz Festival.

The Cafe Concert will include classic jazz standards, blues, ballads, and bebop, and a couple of originals. The show will be presented to engage all listeners, even those unfamiliar with jazz, and will include some "Jazz Insight", a mini-demonstration on jazz song form and structure, how the musicians relate to each other, and the process of jazz improvising.

Town Clerk Notes

Important Dates

APRIL 8, 10-4 TOWN HALL: Wahconah Building Project Special Election. A vote to support a feasibility study for Wahconah High School, to determine options for the school.

APRIL 10 : LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND ELECTION. Register to vote on the town clerk page of windsormass.com, in person during regular town clerk hours, or call 413-684-3811 (leave message) to set an appointment.

MAY 1, 7PM TOWN HALL: ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. There will not be time to publish this warrant. Please look for the posted warrant by Friday, April 14, at the stores, Town Hall, Office, and online www.windsormass.com/municipal Resources. Call the office with any questions, or if you need clarification of any warrant item.

MAY 8, 12 NOON TO 7PM, TOWN HALL: ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION.
Candidates on the Ballot include:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN For 3 Years, Vote for not more than ONE: DOUGLAS MCNALLY, Candidate for Re-Election, 841 Route 9

CONSTABLE For 3 years, Vote for not more than ONE: DAVID MELLE, Candidate for Re-Election, 949 Route 9

FINANCE COMMITTEE For 3 years, Vote for not more than ONE: MADELINE W SCULLY 950 Shaw Rd

FINANCE COMMITTEE For 1 year, Vote for not more than ONE: SCOTT ROGERS 254 Flintstone Rd

LIBRARY TRUSTEE For 3 Years, Vote for not more than ONE: KATHERINE RICHTER, Candidate for Re-Election, 125 High Street Hill Rd

MODERATOR For 1 Year, Vote for not more than ONE: MARK EFINGER 2065 River Rd

PLANNING BOARD For 5 Years, Vote for not more than ONE: CYNTHIA EFINGER 2065 River Rd

PLANNING BOARD For 1 Year, Vote for not more than ONE: DAVID ZINK 1273 Old Route 9

TREE WARDEN For 1 Year, Vote for not more than ONE: MARK J HAUGE, Candidate for Re-Election, 1470 North St.

DOG LICENSES DUE JUNE 1 Available from Town Clerk Tues/Thurs 10-2, Mon 5-8pm, at the Polls April 8, and May 8.

CENSUS FORMS DUE NOW! I will be publishing names of households who have not returned their forms in the June WN&T.

The Town is seeking volunteers for the center of Windsor Beautification Committee Please contact the Town Clerk if interested or have any ideas --Madeline Scully, Town Clerk

Senior News

The March corned beef and cabbage senior luncheon was a great time, with good food and a very good guest speaker who enlightened us on how to avoid the so-prevalent fraud that targets vulnerable seniors. Hopefully, we will heed her words of wisdom.

Coming up at the April 12 luncheon is a fun-filled encore performance of, Way Way Off Broadway, by the new Windsor Theater Group. I hope spring will be in full swing by then and we can all enjoy a snow-free, out to lunch and entertainment day, at the Town Hall. I, for one, will be more than happy to ditch the fleece-lined tights and neck strangling turtlenecks, even though it is not quite time for my toe-freeing flip flops. *—Mame Whelihan*

REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELIHAN

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

BARGAINS GALORE! I love a bargain and there are many out there. The “buy one, get one free” ones are hard to resist. So what if you already have four in the pantry . . . it's a bargain. How about the latest one, “Spend \$400.00 and get a free turkey”? Who could resist that? The “10 for \$10” is quite unique. Ten cans of soup? It's going to be a long winter so we really should stock up. My latest “couldn't resist this one” bargain was absolutely unbeatable. One of my favorite shops is a gem of a place called, The Saddleblanket. It's a hop-skip-and-a-jump to Great Barrington with a sale room that's to die for.

On one of my less upbeat days when I really needed a pick-me-up, off we went for a mood booster day and I found myself smack dab in the middle of the sale room of The Saddleblanket. On display was a one-of-a-kind coat sending out take-me-home vibes and lo and behold – a sale tag attached. Full length, suede, faux fur collar, cuffs and hem, originally unaffordable and marked down to certainly affordable. “Ridiculous!” I thought. Where would I wear it? Makes no sense at all and I would need boots to go with it. Take a break, go have lunch, and think about it.

Took all of 35 minutes and I was back with the salesperson wrapping my purchase. Counting miles per gallon trip expense and lunch, a bargain's a bargain, right? It's now in my closet, ready to go – as soon as I find a suitable place to wear it. You are welcome to come view it – any ten people who want to share my soup.

The Selectboard Corner

The best thing I've done for the Town of Windsor is to have encouraged Doug McNally and Kim Tobin to run for selectboard (credit for electing them goes to the voters). I am not sure that townspeople understand how fortunate we are to have their level of expertise and work ethic directed at making Windsor a better place.

Your selectboard is the town's chief executive and as the Chairman I want to thank my colleagues, Kim and Doug, for doing so much of the heavy lifting. Community building takes many hands, but has to be inspired from the top down. The competence, energy, commitment and, let me say it again, work ethic, of my colleagues is an inspiration.

Stop in sometime at a selectboard meeting. We take all the empty seats as a vote of confidence, but feedback is a more effective way of gauging how we are doing than counting empty seats. We meet on Mondays at 7:00 PM. Stop in sometime. *—Tim Crane, Selectboard Chairman*

Sense of Community

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment to improve the world. —Anne Frank

Solar Energy, Taxes, & Incentives: A Great Combination

April, tax time, dreaded paperwork and hopefully a refund check. A Windsor resident who attended a Lunch & Learn session in late March said, "Tell me the information, but keep it simple." So here are the facts – and why NOW is a really good time to sign up for Solar Energy.



TAX INCENTIVES! State amount is capped at \$1,000 (Mass tax form: Schedule EC) – and - Federal is not capped, 30% (IRS form 5695), with no upper limit (Credit decreases to 26% for tax year 2020; drops to 22% for tax year 2021). Must be installed in a home you own and use as a residence (no rentals, but second homes qualify) between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2021. Federal Tax Form: 5695. * Every individual's tax situation is different. Please consult a tax professional to make sure your situation is applicable.

PAPERWORK is stress-less! The Solarize Mass WCGW selected installer, SunBug, Solar Inc. does the paperwork, based on the information you provide. The skilled and friendly team, Aaron & Ned will be happy to assist you. Toll Free 866-945-1727.

INCENTIVES TIME LIMITED. The clock is ticking. Incentives have always played a role in supporting the installation of solar energy. Thanks to these incentives, the cost of solar is a fraction of what it was 10 years ago.

Solarize Mass WCGW Program SCHEDULED END DATE: 4/30/17 Signed contracts – so far - 31 neighbors (237 kW) in the 4 Hilltown Partnership (Windsor, Cummington, Goshen & Worthington). A 30-day extension has been requested due to the wicked weather we have experienced and the tornado in Goshen.

SREC II (Solar Renewable Energy Credit Program) SCHEDULED TO END: Dec. 2017 If you want to get into the current state incentive program, act fast. SRECs stand for Solar Renewable Energy Credits. Each MWh (megawatt hour) your grid-tie solar system generates is worth one SREC. The SRECs are auctioned off each quarter to earn a cash payment for you.

SOLAR LOANS: Fixed Rates and Income Based Support SunBug partners with UMass FIVE College Federal Credit Union (800-852-5886) who offer two options: 1) Lowinterest, fixed rate and 2) Loan support for income qualified (see line 22 on your income tax form).

Contact SunBug Solar, Inc. to schedule a free onsite assessment: Eli Kuh, 617-777-4511, Toll Free 866-945-1727 Installation & Other Questions: Contact Aaron Simms, Aaron.simms@sunbug solar.com, Call 617-500-3938.

Questions about solar or to schedule a visit to a neighbor's house who has solar, call Jan Bradley at 413-684-3732 .

So you want to be a Pioneer - tales of a flatlander.

So you wanna be a Pioneer? I think so. I have the heart and determination, but is that enough. What about the know how - well two outa three should get me close to a job well done.

It's late winter, and I embrace the great time honored tradition of maple sugaring.

I start by tapping the grand old dads that line Windsor Bush Rd, and move on to their offspring saplings, now mature enough to yield their own sweet gold.

I gaze across the property at a job well done for a first timer. Only to be humbled by my buddy who picks up a leaf from the oak tree I tapped, and then he piles on and points across the way to a cherry tree I mistakenly tapped as well.

I accumulate and prepare 30 food-grade 5-gallon buckets. I cut the classic blue tubing to varying lengths to accommodate the undulations of the farm's landscape.

I head into the sugarhouse to breath in the air and spirit of the great pioneers that came before me. I can sense that Carolyn and Arnold Westwood are watching over me.

I clean everything twice because if I have learned anything, it's that the maple syrup is only as good as your equipment is clean.

The time has come to test the arch, flue and finishing pan. Trouble - the flue pan is leaking. Not a problem, that's why we start early and give ourselves the opportunity to remedy any challenges.

I call Leader Evaporator - to replace the custom flue pan is going to cost thousands of dollars. Okay, plan B. I call my friend Andy who is a true modern-day Pioneer, like a lot of the men and woman I have come to meet in the Hidden Hills.

He provides me with the idea of replacing the flue pan with a piece of steel to place over the fire. I forge ahead.

As freezing nights give way to warmer days, the sap begins to flow.

I check each bucket like a child opening a present during the holidays, I can sense the buckets are so filled that they are bursting their lids off. Oh man – oh wait - the buckets are frozen solid.

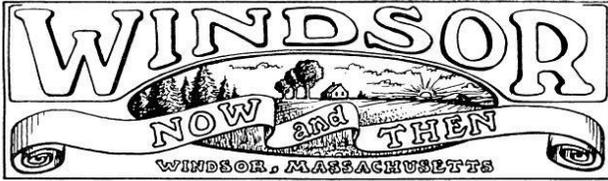
I expected my first year of maple sugaring to have a learning curve filled with highs and lows.

I'm always profoundly appreciative that any lows I experience are still a great day spent in Windsor at Windfields Farm.

So you want to be a Pioneer? You betcha..



Ben Harellick / Windfields Farm / 154 Windsor Bush Road



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

A Simply Delicious Windsor Success is Growing

You've probably seen it on the shelves at Friendly Fred's or Sangar's, in a classic mason jar with a green label: Ooma Tesoro's marinara sauce. Started in 2009 by Windsor residents Michael and Robin Tesoro, this mindfully simple business is growing fast.

"We've been very busy . . . a good busy," said Michael Tesoro in a recent conversation. "We grew 75 percent in the first quarter of this year compared to last." Since the beginning, Ooma Tesoro has made only one product, marinara sauce based on a family recipe. That product is simple, straightforward, and delicious – as noted by the New York Times' writer Florence Fabricant and others. The label lists just five ingredients plus seasonings.

"We're riding this consumer trend to eat foods that are simple and taste good with no added chemicals, no added sugar," said Michael. "We use high-quality ingredients that you would use at home." He notes that while there are dozens of brands of marinara sauce, only a few are really homemade and small batch.

The result is a product that costs more, but has a higher value to customers, Michael argues. "We're always trying to demonstrate the versatility of our sauce. You can use it as a base for soup or a sauce for meat, for fish—even eggs."

The Tesoros started their business with an office in their home, and production at a commercial kitchen in Greenfield. About 18 months ago, they moved their kitchen to space inside the former Berkshire Trail Elementary School in Cummington, bringing the two sides of the business closer together.

"We feel very proud that we started this business from scratch," said Robin Tesoro. "For us, it is great that it's close to home."

As for the future, the Tesoros are testing new recipes and working to get Ooma Tesoro's into more stores, and planning on some hiring. "We're in a growth mode," said Michael, looking for help with sales, marketing and production. You can find recipes, photos and more at Ooma Tesoro's web site (www.oomatesoros.com) and Facebook page. –Susan Phillips

