



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

JUNE SPECIAL ISSUE—
No Submissions Please.
DEADLINE for
JULY issue:
Friday, JUNE 25
Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.
com

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVII, No. 5

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

MAY 2021

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THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.**
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Phoebe & Stephen Bushway
*In memory of Arnold & Carolyn Westwood,
founders of FOW and long-time editors of this paper,
on Arnold's 100th birthday anniversary (1921-2009)*

Sense of Community

"I have learned you are never too small to make a difference." —Greta Thunberg

Paper Talk—

It's so exciting to see the 250th anniversary celebration plans come together, coinciding nicely with the easing of restrictions on outdoor gatherings. So polish off your dance shoes—work on those moves—and get ready to boogie and watch fireworks on July 3! --Deb

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

FOW News

An All-of-Windsor Effort: The beautiful new community directory, 250th Anniversary Edition, is out! It's always a group effort putting this together, but this time around there was also the contribution of Windsor's many talented photographers. Thanks also to our sponsors, who make the book possible. Lots of hands and eyes involved in the process, but we'll single out Peter Reed for a gold star, for his help with ad layout.



Windsor Beauty In-Depth: The directory includes a great selection of photographs of our beautiful town, thanks support from the Windsor Cultural Council. But because you can never have too much beauty, we've posted even more images in an online gallery at friendsofwindSOR.com. Check it out!

Remembering When: I love driving past the Town Offices and imagining the building's first incarnation as the Crane Community School. This month, we discover the super-simple test for school readiness used by beloved teacher and principal Viva Bates, and a lot more about growing up in Windsor in decades past. Sharing, and saving, these kinds of stories is at the heart of Friends of Windsor's mission.

Coming in June--A Special Issue for a Special Year: Look for a special commemorative issue of *Windsor Now & Then* next month, geared to the 250th anniversary of the town's founding in 1771. We hope to celebrate the special spirit of the people who make Windsor a strong community that supports everyone in it. We'll get back to our newsletter-as-usual with the July issue (and just note that we will not be accepting regular submission for June).

Thank You! This past month we've received so much support from so many Windsor residents past and future, we are so grateful and promise to keep putting your donations to work building our community. —Susan Phillips

Oops! Phone Book Corrections:

Margaret Birchfield's new email address:
mjbirch4104@gmail.com

Mame Whelihan's cellphone: 910-617-3328

Our apologies--we're not perfect! If you have a correction to your entry, please email us and let us know if you'd like us to publish your correction here. Don't forget there's a handy note section in the phone book where you can add these.



Town Clerk Notes

In appreciation. It has been a grueling year for all, especially your town officials. I see exhausted Select Board members and our Highway Super. They have met most challenges with creativity and tenacious grit to keep Windsor moving forward. They are managing a mind-boggling number of grants meant to improve our Town and keep our finances in-check. The management of grants is a lot of work, especially in a pandemic. The River Road paving and culvert project, with every government agency throwing obstacles in the way, has been challenging. Every time it looked like it was impossible, John and the Select Board found a way. It may be delayed but is still going to happen. Let them know you appreciate them.

When some Town initiative is suggested and publicized there are always a few people who call to let us know why it can't be done. My answer this week was, "Don't tell me it's impossible, because you are going to feel foolish when we do it." We are a plucky town that usually figures out how to do the impossible. Thanks to all of you who make living in this town so much fun.

The Town Clerk Email Newsletter goes out weekly (usually) the day after the Select Board Meeting. It contains important Town info that wasn't available by the WNT deadline. To receive it, email windsortownclerk@gmail.com. I will try to include the committee meeting notices for the coming week.

Transfer Station Stickers FY22 may be obtained by mailing the frin enclosed in this issue with check and self-addressed stamped envelope to: 1890 Route 9 Suite 2, Windsor, MA 01270 or drop in black drop box number 2 or come into town office Tuesday/Thursday 10-2. New stickers must be displayed by July 1, 2021 to use the transfer station. Cost is \$75 for up to 3 stickers.

Dog Licenses forms are still being accepted. You may mail in form or come into the office Tuesday/Thursday 10-2. If you are renewing or use a local veterinarian, I probably have the rabies info on file.

Local Election May 10 at the Windsor Town Hall. You may come into the building to vote as usual, or if necessary, honk and you may vote from the car. Early voting is available. Email windsortownclerk@gmail.com to request a ballot or print off the form on election info at Windsormass.com or come into the office Tuesday/Thursday 10-2 and vote in person.

Annual Town Meeting June 14 (rain date 16) at the Town Park. Drive in or sit in the infield. It will be broadcast over your car radio and into the infield. A mic will be available for public comment.

COVID vaccine appointments are getting easier to find. If you are struggling to make a local appointment, please call Madeline at 413-684-3811 ext 1 or email windsortownclerk@gmail.com for assistance. –Madeline Scully

Family Support Services from It Takes a Village

It Takes a Village is a non-profit organization that offers free programs and support to families throughout Western Massachusetts, including the Hilltowns. We provide emotional support, as well as essential resources, to families with babies and young children. Our mission is to ensure that new families thrive and connect to their communities.

We are grateful to have a new home for our Village Closet program at 2 East Main Street in Huntington. The Village Closet is a donation and distribution program offering clothing, diapers, strollers, cribs, and other gear free to everyone regardless of income or town of residency.

Besides the Village Closet, we offer Home Visits for families with a baby under one year, and Parent Support and Education Groups. Every program is 100% free to all young families. To find out more about our programs, sign up for home visits, or learn about volunteering, go to <https://www.hilltownvillage.org/> or call us at 413-650-3640. –Brenda Arbib

From the Green Committee

We've completed a self-audit of the changes made over the past six years in town buildings to decrease the use of fossil fuels. The analysis includes utilities for four buildings, vehicle fuel, and other electric accounts (street lights, town park, transfer station).

Over a six-year period, there has been an approximately 29% decrease in all fuel/utility costs (\$20,457), with a corresponding decrease in energy usage of approximately 18% (535 million BTU). Although unit fuel and utility costs as well as weather conditions fluctuated, there has clearly been a reduction of energy used, even as some facilities were occupied more frequently. In some cases, the savings were caused by reduced use, plus the energy conservation measures.

During the six-year period ending with FY20, energy improvement projects were funded by Massachusetts grants of \$208,670.90, and \$5,281.57 from the Windsor budget. The energy projects resulted in revenue to the town totaling \$17,836.46 during the six-year period. The heat pump rebate from Mass CEC was \$7,852.00. SREC (solar renewable energy certificate) money received during the period was \$9,984.46. SREC revenue will continue until 2028.

During this six-year period, the Committee has overseen conservation measures in town buildings such as increased insulation and changes in the heating system in the town offices (a transition from an oil-fired boiler to Air Source Heat Pumps). Our next grant application, which is under review by the state, would allow for more improvements at both the Town Hall and the Town Garage.

–Holly Higinbotham

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*

Happy Hot Tub. After all is said and done, this “aging in place” can be fun at times. Like when your caring power-that-be surprises you with a hot tub to soothe your aching muscles and relax your deep dark thoughts. It really does the trick once you manage to climb in. One leg refuses to follow the other and slide in gracefully. The air turns blue and with one giant leap for mankind you’re in.

Twenty minutes later it stops agitating and now what? Time to get out! Talk about not so graceful – up and out, panting heavily. A warm towel, a flannel nightgown, collapse in a recliner, and relax. Think those deep dark thoughts if you want, but you’ll have to get back in the hot tub.

Upcoming Events at Windsor’s Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center

EVERY MONDAY West African & Caribbean drum and song classes ONLINE (In person classes will resume Monday May 3rd at the Windsor Town Park weather dependent). Class times: 5:30pm beginner / 6:45pm advanced (6:30 starting May 3rd). Registration required.

May 29: Drum & Dance Fest w/ M’Bemba Bangoura at the Windsor Town Park to support the Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center: Memorial Day Weekend: Saturday May 29 (rain date Sunday May 30)-10:30-12 & 1-2:30 Intergenerational drum classes in person & on ZOOM w/ M’Bemba Bangoura (drum class fees \$30 per class, drum rental \$5). Community dance class 3pm \$15pp. Registration required.

Monday, May 31: 7am-10am 7th Annual Spring Boreal Forest Bird Census/Walk with master birder John Green Jr. . Program fee: \$20pp. Registration required.

Saturday May 1 & June 12 10am-12pm Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Flower, Plant, Tree & Wild Edibles Hikes with Naturalist & Director Aimee Gelinas M.Ed. Fee per program: \$20. Registration required.

Register for these events by emailing: aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org.



Add your words to Windsor’s 250th anniversary celebration!

Channel your inner poet! Write a verse, song lyrics, or funny poem about Windsor. Here’s a couple lines to get you started (or make up your own):

Windsor, Mass is my hometown,
Come for a visit and I’ll show you around....
what comes next?

Start writing now and we’ll all get together at the Fall Cultural Day (date TK) in August and share what we’ve written. This is for ALL AGES! Get creative! –*Deb Balmuth*

Walking Windsor

A month ago, I began meeting Windsor neighbors by walking. 9am, on Saturday mornings, we meet up at the mailboxes on Shaw Road and High Street Hill, and we take an hour’s walk that takes us from the mailboxes to Notchview Reservation and back. We talk about our gardens, dogs, walking trails, kids, food, past lives prior to Windsor and so much more. We don’t all walk at the same speed. Maybe half of us walk with dogs. And some of us walk every Saturday, and some of us walk once in a while. But no matter who we are, we do all love walking and talking Windsor.

If you feel like a Saturday morning (9am) walk—join us! No need to tell us you’re coming, just arrive and we will be so happy to meet a new Windsor neighbor, enjoy seeing a long-time friend, or petting a new dog. –*Allison Druin, LaFlash Road*



Saturday morning walkers taking a break at Notchview, halfway through our walk.

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.

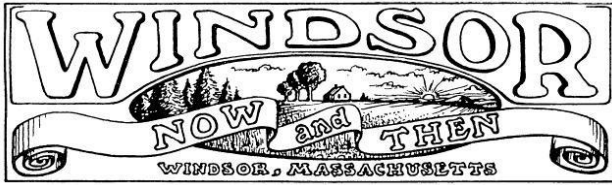
This is a non-sectarian publication and not a forum for promoting any particular religious or political position. The articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of FOW. We reserve the right to edit and deny publication on the basis of length or content.

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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MAY 2021



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Enclosed:

- **Sharing Our Stories, Volume 8**
- **Transfer Station Permit Application**
- **250th Anniversary Kickoff Party July 3**

“Windsor Winters, Wow!” Remembered

Fifty years ago, the town of Windsor pulled out all the stops to celebrate 200 years since the town’s incorporation. This year, wings somewhat clipped by the pandemic, we look forward to nevertheless making much of our 250th birthday.

Since logistical and viral complications have ruled out a reprise of the Bicentennial Parade, it seems good to look back at highlights from 1971. A few weeks ago, Phoebe Bushway of Cummington – daughter of Arnold and Carolyn Westwood – kindly sent along photos documenting an inspiring Westwood-Roberts joint family project: “Windsor Winters, Wow!”

That was the name the families chose for the float they created for the big event. It amounted to a winter-on-wheels in the middle of summer, complete with skis, a snowmobile, snowshoes, and a big fir tree covered in “snow”. Here’s a look at the work in progress, and the finished float in the parade.



Above: Barbara Roberts & Hal Westwood adding greenery to float base.

At left: The float rolls! Carolyn Westwood on skis, Roberts children & Hal Westwood on float. July 31, 1971.



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*