



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for JUNE issue: Thursday, MAY 26
Send news to: fowindsor@gmail.com
(mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

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MAY 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.fm.

FOW News

Spring is the season for renewal, planting, and outdoor celebration. This issue features exciting opportunities to renew your connection to neighbors, plant new ideas for Windsor's future, and enjoy the outdoors, including our precious, dark night skies.

Many thanks to the people who agreed to be profiled in our expanding series of new articles. Let us know who among your friends and family we could feature in a future issue!

And thanks, as always, for your generous support to keep this paper arriving in your mailbox monthly. –Deborah Balmuth



Celebrating Windsor Kids & Their Pets

by Leslie Reed

Who: Dana Bederson Age: 23 Where: LaFlash Road

Dana and her family moved from Brooklyn, NY to Windsor full time in 2020, soon after the pandemic struck. Talk about culture shock! While the natural beauty around them was appreciated, a feeling of isolation hit home, especially for Dana and her younger brother, Atlas.



Enter Peach, an 8-year-old American Bulldog/Saint Bernard mix. A friend in New Hampshire connected the family to someone she knew who could no longer keep their dog. When the Bedersons drove up to check meet this potential new family member, Peach simply jumped in the car and was immediately adopted. She has proved to be a sweet goofball and is quite attached to the whole family.

Soon after, the family decided to adopt a second dog while Peach was still in good health (although slowing down) so she could teach the new pup to be just as great. The family visited a local breeder and brought home an energetic Golden Retriever puppy named Pilot. Homelife is now a bit more crowded, livelier, and full of fur. The dogs are happily inseparable and go by the joined nickname "Peach Pi".

Make Your Voice Heard: Complete the Windsor Master Plan Survey by May 15

If you haven't already filled out a survey, please do so because we want to hear from as many people in town as possible. The deadline is May 15. Information from this survey will be incorporated into the Windsor Master Plan, which will help to guide policy, investment, and growth decisions for the town over the next 10-20 years.

The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WindsorMPSurvey> or on the Town of Windsor website. If you prefer a paper copy, they are available at the Town Offices and at both Friendly Fred's and Sangar's store or by contacting Holly Higinbotham at higinbo@hotmail.com or by phone at 413-212-4352.

SAVE THE DATE!

Windsor Town Park Playground Ribbon Cutting

Saturday, July 9, 11 AM, at Town Park on Peru Road

Join the Windsor Parks & Rec Committee as we celebrate the construction of our new playground! Food and music will follow a short ceremony beginning promptly at 11 a.m. Neighbors, friends, and family are invited to share in the joy of this long-awaited project. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this project possible! We can't wait to unveil it and watch our community enjoy this new addition. Please call/text Barbara Connors with any questions at 860-965-6594.

From the Green Committee

The insulation project at the Town Hall was completed in early April. Energia was contracted to fully insulate the walls and accessible crawlspace. The project was funded through a state Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Grant. Weatherizing the Town Hall has been a multi-step process, beginning in 2020 when we insulated the ceiling over the kitchen, restrooms, stage, and main meeting room, plus (where accessible) the second-floor office wall adjacent to the attic, and the ceiling/roof. That work was also funded by a DOER grant. A final step will be to insulate the furnace room in the basement, for which we will seek future grant funding.

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

Energy-Saving Tip

As the weather turns warm and sunny, consider hanging clothes outdoors to dry instead of using the dryer. You'll conserve fossil fuels and your clothes and linens will smell wonderful!

Star Gazing at Notchview Returns May 21!

The astronomy buffs from Arunah Hill Natural Science Center will be setting up their high-powered telescopes outside the Notchview visitors center and offering a tour of the night skies on Saturday, May 21, starting at 8PM. Free for Windsor residents and Trustees members. **Note: In event of cloud cover or rain, the event is canceled.** Call Notchview for more info: 413-684-0148. Future summer viewings on July 30 and August 20.

Town Clerk Notes

Dog Licenses are overdue. Contact me if you haven't obtained one yet for your dor.

Sale of Annual Transfer Station Stickers have started. (See application form enclosed.). The Town Clerk Office is open Monday 5-7; Tuesday & Thursday 10-2. --Madeline Scully

Grand Re-Opening of the Windsor Free Public Library, May 14

On Saturday, May 14, 2-4PM, the library will celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Day and our grand re-opening after the many months of Covid. But we haven't been sitting idle—we've used the time to digitally catalog our entire collection. We are now fully a part of the CW MARS system which means complete access to over 8 million items in the system, including free databases from the state.

Stop in to meet our new volunteers as well as some familiar faces past. Get your new Windsor Library Card, which can be used at any public library, and learn how to navigate the public CW MARS site so you can reserve any book on your own and have it delivered to the Windsor Library.

The Library is Open: Mondays, 5-7:30pm, Wednesdays, 2-7pm, and Saturdays, 10am-1pm. Come see the wonderful updates in the furnishings and collection. And get ready for new programming come summertime! --Val Kohn

New Books in the Windsor Library

Matrix by Lauren Groff, best-selling author of *Fates and Furies*

The Judge's List by John Grisham

Harlem Shuffle by two-time Pulitzer-prize winning author Colson Whitehead, set in New York City in 1960s

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr, author of *All the Light We Cannot See*

The President's Daughter, a thriller by Bill Clinton and James Patterson

State of Terror by Hilary Rodham Clinton and award-winning author Louise Penny, creator of the Chief Inspector Armand Ganache novels

The Woodland Homestead by Brett McLeod--Learn how to make your wooded property more productive

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla F. Sad

Call 684-3811, ext 6, to reach a librarian. --Val Kohn

Hilltown Mobile Market has Windsor Pick-up

The Hilltown Mobile Market now has a Windsor pick-up site: Sangar's General Store every Friday, 1:30-2:30, from July 16 through November 1. You can preorder directly from Hilltown farms and pick up at Sangar's. A range of shares and payment are available, as well as a fully reimbursable option for those with SNAP benefits. Visit www.hilltownmobilemarket.info; call (413)296-4536 ext.10; or email market@hilltowncdc.org.

Reflections from Mame Whelihan
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

King Size Problem. If the sheet size says, “King,” believe it. I ignored it. The sheets I liked only came in king size and my bed is queen size, so I thought, what the heck!, bigger is better. I didn’t care if the top sheet extended down the sides of the bed. That is, I didn’t care until I found myself extended down the sides of the bed wrapped and tangled in, “bigger is better.” Do you know how hard it is to get up and out of a tangled king size sheet on a queen size bed? A beagle knows and so do I. For a slow learner I really moved fast. I, along with said beagle, was up and out of that tangled sheet with no thoughts of, “bigger is better.” It’s not. Back to queen size we go and back to bed we go. I just abdicated. I never wanted to be king of anything anyway. *Oh, what a tangled web we weave* has new meaning for me now.

Upcoming Events with Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center, Windsor

Caribbean Fest, Saturday May 21: Community Room at Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsfield, including drum classes and performance of music from Cuba, Puerto Rico and beyond. Visit [www. Tamarackhollow.com](http://www.Tamarackhollow.com) for more information.

LOOKING BACK: *Excerpts from Progress (Windsor's first community newsletter)*

Hemlock Hill By John I. May, from July 1953 “Progress”

The southwest corner of Windsor, bordered by Dalton and Hinsdale, has been known for many years as Hemlock Hill. Lyman May purchased the farm that comprised most of this corner of Windsor from William Tracy in 1847.

The property was previously owned by William Tracy’s father, a revolutionary war soldier. The acreage was quite extensive and in addition to the two houses there were numerous other farm buildings.

Soon after this quite a large portion of the farm, including a large orchard, was bought by manufacturing interests in Dalton. A heavy dam of masonry was constructed across the deep ravine above Wahconah Falls under the engineering skill of David Smith, thus making a reservoir which when filled was over a mile in length, making a reserve supply of water power for the mills in Dalton.

The house built by Tracy was torn down in 1882 (date hard to read in original, might be 1892 – scp) and a new house built by contractor Ansel Horton and his brother in law, named Thompson, from Savoy. The May family consisted of three boys and one girl, Mrs. Perlie May Hume, now living on Carson Avenue in Dalton. I was born on a small adjoining farm two years before Lyman May died in 1894, at the age of eighty years.

Mrs. Lyman May and Mrs. Joseph Warren, who lived on the next farm, were sisters. There were five Warren Children. The two families grew up together as almost one unit.

Celebrating Windsor’s Under-30 Residents

An occasional new series of articles by Eileen Markland

I first met an 8-year-old Liam Connors in February of 2020 at the Windsor Church. He is not someone you can ignore, as his intelligence, sincerity and clear focus is evident the moment you speak with him.

He is someone who thinks of others and thinks of the world and its people. He is someone who takes action when he sees that something is wrong and he is someone who tells the truth.

He is still deciding what he’d like to do during his adult life. These days he is 10 years old, a student at Craneville Elementary School in Dalton. Two of his passions are gaming (and thinking of improvements for his favorite games) and Cub Scout Pack 42 in Dalton.

Over the past four years, Liam has been quite active with the Cub Scouts. He’s helped with the yearly food drive in Dalton, working hard collecting food. He’s been part of the yearly distribution of Dalton Town Reports to Dalton residents and businesses. He’s involved with the yearly placing of the flags at various cemeteries in Dalton, in preparation for Memorial Day and he is getting ready to participate in the Windsor cemetery clean-up project at the Shaw Road Cemetery.



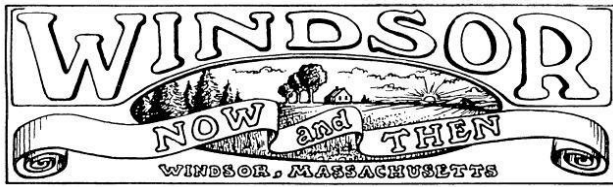
In 2021, Liam launched his own food drive in Windsor and collected over 700 pounds of food for people in need! We here in Windsor are so fortunate to have Liam’s generous heart and commitment to community service in our midst. Indeed, with Liam and those like him leading the young people of Windsor and beyond, the future of our world is BRIGHT.

To suggest an “under-30” for a future profile, please email eileenmarkland@me.com

Bird Tip for April

It’s time to put up your hummingbird feeders! It’s also advisable to take down your seed feeders if they are placed in an area that is accessible to bears, or if any of the birds coming to the feeder have red, swollen, watery or crusty eyes or seem to be having trouble seeing (this suggests they have avian conjunctivitis which is highly contagious and requires disinfecting all feeders in the area, see: <https://feederwatch.org/learn/house-finch-eye-disease/>)--Holly Higinbotham

MAY 2022



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

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Welcoming New Neighbors in Windsor

An occasional series of articles **by Leslie Reed**

Names: Emily and Shawn Bunnell

Address: 1095 North Street

Before moving to Windsor in August last year, Emily and Shawn lived most of their lives in northern Utah, and briefly in Pennsylvania.

It was a job offer at BMC, where Shawn is a GI Nurse Practitioner, that brought them to the Berkshires. They rented a small apartment in Pittsfield while looking everywhere in a 20-mile radius to find the right home for them and their two dogs.

They finally found a home that had many features they liked: plenty of land, lots of natural light, wildlife, workspace for Emily's art and Shawn's mechanics, and ample opportunities for them to hone their renovation skills. Windsor also offered the perks of country living while not being too far from work and groceries.

Emily, a freelance graphic designer, was finishing her master's program abroad when they first moved into the house. She was finally able to rejoin Shawn full time in February.



They are both enjoying the abundant wildlife and finding new trails. Two unexpected encounters have been last summer's frequent visits by black bears to their backyard berry bushes, and some very noisy porcupines in April.

They also enjoy mountain biking, motorcycles, yard work, good food, and spending time with their dogs (Izzy, a 13-year-old Italian Greyhound; and Penny, a 5-year-old Standard Poodle). Emily's favorite pastimes are painting, reading, cooking and weightlifting. Shawn enjoys sci fi, and tinkering with and riding motorcycles.

The house itself has presented a few surprises. Some have been expensive and mysterious (the wiring and septic system), while others have been fascinating and delightful (the library of books left behind by the previous owner, that Emily has been sorting and cleaning). Just recently they spotted a longhorn cattle bell mounted 20 feet up on the back of the house which they've since moved and repurposed as their doorbell.

Of course, they miss that Utah sunshine, their family, and favorite restaurants and gym back home. Shawn wishes the roads were in better shape and Emily wishes there were no ticks. But their new Windsor neighbors have been the best surprise. Everyone they've met has been generous, friendly, and kind. Says Emily "Moving so far away from all our friends and family, it's been lovely to have people stop by, wave hello, and reach out when we need help."