



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for JUNE issue: Thursday, May 25
Send news to: fowindsor@gmail.com
com
(mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIX, No. 5

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

MAY 2023

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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.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Crane, president; Julia Allan, director; Deborah Balmuth, co-editor; Dominique Frink, director; Val Kohn, director; Eileen Markland, director; Terra Missildine, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.

Friends of Windsor News

The hilltowns are alive with the sound of music—and dancing! Be sure to check out all the lively events our Windsor Cultural Council is supporting—listed on the enclosed flyer.

At FOW, we're cooking up more exciting events for the Town Park this summer. Watch for details in the June issue!

Thanks again for all the support you provide to make this newsletter and FOW events possible. --Deb Balmuth



Jazz & Blues Back in Town Park

The Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshop is moving back outdoors on Sunday May 21 from 1:30 to 4 p.m for its fourth season.

After that we hope to get back on our bi-weekly schedule – weather permitting, of course. Venue? Windsor Town Park. Schedule changes will be noted on the workshop facebook change

For those of you who have not yet been, this is a free event. It's for musicians who want the opportunity to play with an excellent rhythm section, to work on their craft, or just have a good time playing with other musicians. And we love an audience.

It's a great opportunity for a picnic (think Prem's samosas from Sangar's, or a sandwich from Friendly Fred's). A perfect place to showcase your summer hat and sunglasses. Emphasis is on jazz standards, but we're not terribly exclusive. On any given day you'll hear the works of Monk, Miles, Rollins, Gershwin, Henderson, Coltrane, Hancock, Shorter, and occasionally Little Walter. Our rhythm section is anchored by Windsor's own Ben Kohn on keys and a roster of excellent bass players including Michael Dunning, Dan Broad and Dave Christopolis, and drummers Tom Major and Connor Meehan. If we don't sound good with these guys, we just don't sound good.

.This year's workshops are brought to you with financial support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council through the local chapters of Windsor, Becket, Cummington, Dalton, Goshen, Northern Berkshire County, Plainfield and Worthington. We thank you. --Scott Rogers



Michael Dunning on bass at a workshop, May 2022

From the Town Assessor

The Assistant Assessor will be conducting inspections and updating house photos throughout town, on Wednesdays and Fridays during the months of May and June.

Robin drives a dark gray Buick Encore and will have identifying magnetic signs on both driver and passenger sides of the car. Letters have gone out to properties requiring inspection. Your prompt attention, response, and cooperation is very much appreciated.
-Robin Wadsworth

Town Administrator News

Town Election: May 8, 2023 12 noon-7PM. Polls open 12 noon until 7PM at the Town Hall. There are no contests on the ballot, with candidates running for every open seat. Come vote to show your support for these residents willing to serve our Town.

On the Ballot

Moderator	Charles H. Sturtevant
Tree Warden	Mark Hauge
Select Board	Holly Higinbotham
Constable	Dave Melle
Finance Comm	Kim Tobin
Library Trustee	Stacy Litke
Planning Board	Ben Bederson
MLP Board	John Jones
Cemetery Com	John Jones
Town Clerk	Sandy Kalmus

Follies: The Town Hall stage is sporting a brand new, functional stage curtain. Looking to organize a Windsor Follies/Variety Show for some time August or fall. Gather your talent or stage experience and volunteer to perform, or work tech for this fun performance. Call 413-684-3811 ext 4 --Madeline Scully

BIRD TIP * If you haven't already done so, it's time to put those hummingbird feeders out. Mix a solution of 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Remember that the red dye is harmful to the birds. Also do not use honey or turbinado sugar or molasses or syrup. All of those sweeteners are also harmful. Change the solution every few days and clean the feeder at the same time. Finally, you may want to hang more than one feeder – perhaps in different locations around your house – to cut down on the competition.

From the Green Committee

In our ongoing effort to decrease energy usage in Town buildings, the Green Committee has submitted a new grant application to the state Department of Energy Resources. This grant application seeks funding for two specific projects: to insulate the walls of the Highway Garage and to insulate the ceiling of the accessible part of the basement in the Town Hall. Last fall, using federal ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act), the Town replaced the Highway Garage roof. This not only eliminated the leaking that had plagued the highway crew for many years, but it replaced degraded insulation and increased the “R-value” to 38—from what was probably 0! Insulating the walls will complete the envelope and make the building a much tighter, fuel efficient, warmer space.

Recent improvements to the Town Hall—funded through a combination of sources, including state grant funds—included the insulating of the ceiling and walls, and installation of Air-Source Heat Pumps. The proposed project to insulate the accessible part of the basement is another step towards completing the envelope of that building.

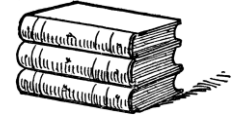
We anticipate that we will hear by late summer whether we have received this grant for additional Town Hall and Highway Garage insulation.. --Holly Higinbotham

Energy-Saving Tip

As the warm weather returns, you could lower the temperature setting for your water heater. Turning down the temperature by 20 degrees could bring down the cost of heating the water and will not have a big impact on how hot your water feels.

What Windsorites are Reading

The Maid, a novel by Nita Prose and released in 2022, caught my eye at our Windsor Library. (My parttime job while a freshman in college was as a chambermaid, and I have a few stories of my own from that experience.)



The storyteller in this book is Molly, a trusting young woman who is proud of her cleaning to perfection and following proper etiquette. She struggles with social skills and reading the intention of others in her very literal world.

Molly's preferred orderly world crumbles twice: with the death of her grandmother and, soon after, when she finds a hotel guest dead in one of her rooms and she becomes the prime suspect. We experience Molly's thoughts, fears, budding understanding, and growth in real time as she tells the story. The book is a page-turner and will make you smile.
--Leslie Reed

Happenings at Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center, Windsor

To register email: full_circle_o@yahoo.com; visit www.tamarackhollow.com for more information.

Thursday June 1, 7am-9:30am
10th Annual Boreal Forest Bird Walk. With master birder John Green Jr. for our annual spring bird survey/census at Tamarack Hollow. Supported by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation Berkshire Environmental Endowment Fund. \$20pp.

Every Monday: West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinat MEd at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield. 5:30pm beginner/6:30pm advanced. Registration required for all new students.

Music for the Soul: Learn to swing dance!

Set aside Saturday, May 13 for a grand time. Socialize at 1:30 with cookies and apple cider. Learn how to swing dance at 2pm with a lesson by Lindy League, and then enjoy the live music of the O-Tones power trio - Mary Witt, John Caban and our own Ben Kohn from 2:30-4:30.

Put your dancing shoes on or just sit, relax, and enjoy the music. The program is geared to people of all ages, so bring the family. The event is supported by the Windsor Cultural Council. Admission is free but your donation of \$10-20 would be much appreciated by the musicians and dance instructors.

Thanks go to Friendly Fred's for contributing yummy cookies to power our dance moves. Come meet some neighbors and celebrate spring at the Windsor Town Hall.

--Val Kohn, Chair, Windsor Cultural Council.

(More information on the Windsor Facebook page)



Congratulations, Aspen Burke!

North Street resident Aspen Burke, currently a student at Montana State University, was selected to attend the 2023 National Conference on Undergraduate Research, or NCUR, held April 12-16 at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The annual event provides undergraduate students from across the country with an opportunity to present their scholarly research in a professional setting.

Burke, who is majoring in chemical engineering, made a presentation on "Determining the Physicochemical Changes of Hydrocarbons Triggered by Biosurfactants."

"Being able to work in one of the Center for Biofilm Engineering research laboratories has greatly impacted both my academic and professional career. It creates many great links between tough theoretical concepts learned in class and real-world scenarios and has helped me see more clearly how applicable my chemical engineering studies truly are. Research has also given me great hands-on experience that many employers look for – but do not always find – in undergraduate applicants," Burke said.

The annual gathering of young scholars welcomes presenters from all institutions of higher learning and from all corners of the academic curriculum. Since its inception in 1987, the event has grown substantially, highlighting the expanding prevalence of undergraduate research, scholarship and creative inquiry. MSU sends anywhere from about a half-dozen to nearly 50 undergraduate researchers to NCUR each year.

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

Simple Solutions. Sometimes simple solutions are so simple they get overlooked. I had a wannabe actor in my elementary school group who was, at times, so obnoxious he was becoming impossible to work with and I could not fathom the reason. I tried everything I could think of to help him, but to no avail. One day, when arguing with a co-player, he shouted out, "Just because you're taller than me you think you're so hot." Comes the dawn, he was very short and had to act big.

My daughter saw the problem way before I did. The next day she arrived with what we call elevator shoes-plain oxfords with wedge soles and heels. Bobby became a new man. happy, confident, taller and lots of fun. He grew into his role and became a "bigger person." I've never worn elevator shoes, but Bobby did. I hope he's still wearing them to this day. They sure elevated him, and he reached new heights.

Sky Gazing Nights at Notchview

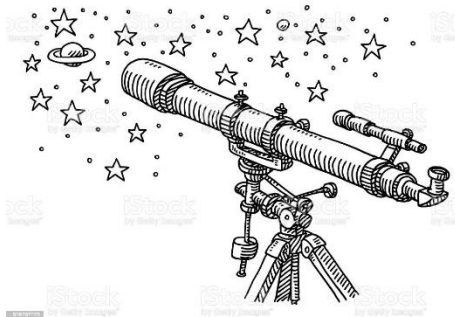
The astronomy enthusiasts of Arunah Hill will be setting up their high-powered telescopes and offering guided tours of the night sky throughout outside the visitor center at Notchview on the following Saturdays, beginning at sundown and going until 10PM.

May 13 * July 22 * August 12

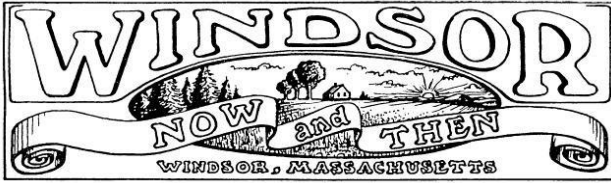
September 9 * October 7 * November 4

The event is free for Trustees members, and suitable for kids ages 8 and up, and adults.

Note: If the skies are cloudy or there is rain, the event is cancelled. For more information, visit thetrustees.org or email: nvprograms@thetrustees.org



MAY 2023



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Enclosed: * COA Newsletter
*** Cultural Council Events Listing**

Reading the Land for Signs of Water

By Jim Caffrey

This is the third of Jim Caffrey's items on how early residents of the land that is now the Notchview Reservation brought water into their homes and outbuildings.

Dug Wells

Probably the simplest system was the type in use at Francis Farm. People simply dug wells near their houses and carried water into the house in a bucket, or sometimes put a pipe in the ground to carry water from the well down slope into the house.

There is a dug well at the Francis Farm...look for this in a clump of shrubs between the Trela Shelter on Circuit Trail and the barn shortly below.



You can also see what's left of an interesting water system construction near the former Miner place. The house foundation is on Miner Trail just to the north of Shaw Road. From there, follow the road east until you see a stone wall heading north into the woods. Shortly, you will find a dug well lined with stones contained within a stone wall.

I assume that this provided water to the Miner House but I do not know how they got it up the hill into their house. Bucket or hand pump likely. The stone wall could have been to keep grazing animals from contaminating the water.

Hydraulic Ram

Often these dug wells ran low in the summer, unfortunately. When the Bates, Ms. Miller and the Budds came along they had the resources to install more elaborate systems with water holding tanks.

An early map of the Bates/Miller place shows that water was pulled from a stream on Shaw Road using a hydraulic ram. (*General Alfred E. Bates, Paymaster for the U. S. Army, had family roots in the area and bought property here in the early 1900s. His widow sold it to Elisabeth C. T. Miller in the 1920s. ed.*)

If you don't know what a Hydraulic ram is look it up on Youtube. They can pump water continuously using only the force of the stream water and two check valves. I have looked for evidence of this but can't find any trace it was ever there.

Currently, there is an electric pump in a small brick pump house in Bates field. The water was pumped up hill to the existing cement tank, which once had a wooden roof. From there the water flowed down to the house, cottage and barns. This tank is much smaller than the system that Col. Budd installed.

Thanks again to Jim Caffrey, long-time resident expert on all things Notchview, for sharing his knowledge of this beautiful place!