

DEADLINE for JULY
issue: Friday, JUNE 26
 Send news to:
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 WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

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www.friendsofwindSOR.com

JUNE 2020

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To MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to Friends of Windsor, Inc., mail check to:
 FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor, MA 01270,
 or email: fowindsor@gmail.com

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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-length articles related to appreciation of Windsor's unique assets—our natural setting, people, and community—contact **fowindsor@gmail.com**.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

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

Paper Talk

So many wonderful ways our community members are helping each other out and enriching each others' lives in this time of need! May our caring, comfort, and peace ripple out around the world. *—Deb Balmuth*

FOW News

Keeping the Past, Present – And Putting it In Your Hands



This month's issue includes something special: a guide map to 24 historical markers in Windsor. We hope it will spur exploration and memories. The map is itself a reminder of the effort Friends of Windsor undertook five years ago to increase awareness of our history. In the summer of 2015 FOW installed of 24 roadside markers at the sites of bygone school houses, factories, mills, stores, and other landmarks, including our cemeteries. They are handsome AND sturdy, with only one falling temporarily victim to an unintended encounter with a vehicle so far!

Each month during 2016, we published newsletter inserts giving some history related to those sites. That summer, we held a celebration of Windsor history at the lovely East Windsor Chapel and released this guide map for the first time. (The newsletter inserts, "Flashbacks", are archived on friendsofwindSOR.com, along with an interactive online map.)

Now, as we approach a huge community milestone – the 250th anniversary of Windsor's establishment in July 2021 – it seems like a good moment to once again turn our attention, and yours, to Windsor's rich history. If you live here, consider a history drive! If not, see what Windsor recollections this map brings to mind...Enjoy.

Consider it a THANK YOU for the wonderful generosity of our supporters and all the forms of non-monetary support that Windsor gives to our efforts to build a community. Donations are always gratefully received and are tax-deductible. *--Susan Phillips*

While we're waiting for life to get back to normal, we've been filling our online calendar with local images taken by Windsor residents. Be sure to check out the JUNE Community Calendar at friendsofwindSOR.com (under *Windsor Now & Then*).

 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*

 If you have events happening in early JULY, please send to fowindsor@gmail.com for inclusion in **our online calendar at friendsofwindSOR.com**.

Scouts Car Wash June 13 at Town Hall

The Windsor Scout troop will be holding a fundraiser car wash at the Windsor town hall on Saturday June 13, 9AM – 1PM. We will be following COVID-19 protocol.

Drivers may remain in their cars and pass their donation through the car window.

Windsor scouting is forming a girls BSA troop. If you have a daughter, niece, or granddaughter between the ages of 12 and 18 who loves camping and outdoor activities have them contact Stu Besnoff at 684-3950.

Windsor Free Seed Bank

Are you looking to start a garden? Already finished planting? Donate your leftover seeds or come find what you don't have at the Windsor Free Seed Bank. Located at the Town Hall (next to the church) at the top of the ramp, you will find the cutest sign and bin full of seeds for the taking. Be sure to stop by and see what's there. Last check, there were squash, pumpkin, herbs and much more just waiting for you to scoop up and plant in the ground!



Flag Fund Update

Black fly season is here, so it must be time for flags! Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, my normal source of replacement flags is closed temporarily. So, I put up what I had by Memorial Day, and I'll put more up as the summer progresses and things reopen.

As always, the Windsor winds are cruel, and many need to be replaced. If you'd like to support the fund, please send a check made to *Town of Windsor* to: Jeb Chard, 1060 High Street Hill, Windsor, MA 01270

Thank you to John and Aline Ferris for their generous donation while I was hibernating! —*Jeb Chard*

Town Clerk Notes

Results from the June 1 Annual Town Meeting and the May 11 Annual Town Election will be available on windsormass.com under municipal resources.

Dog licenses and transfer station stickers are available by mail. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope and fee to: 1890 Route 9 Suite 2, Windsor, MA 01270, or drop your envelope in black mailbox #2 at the Town Office driveway.

Congratulations to the Facebook Scavenger Hunt transfer station sticker winners so far: Lisa Rice, Diane Sturtevant, Lourie Lockenwitz, and Bruce Townend.

I've found that the Windsor Facebook Page is the most effective communication tool I have to get quick updates out in this every-changing world. Please check out the page daily (Windsor, MA). You do not need to be a member of Facebook to read it.

The Town Offices remain closed to the public, but I am in the office daily. If you need anything, please email windsortownclerk@gmail.com or call the office 413-684-3811 ext 1. All calls are forwarded to my email.

With office traffic limited, building improvements are happening rapidly. We can't wait to reopen so you can see all that has been accomplished.

—*Madeline Scully*

Online Drumming Classes with Aimee Gelinis

Online West African and Caribbean drum classes with Aimee Gelinis from the Windsor's Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center are being held Mondays 6-7pm for beginner/intermediate; and Mondays 7:15-8:15pm for intermediate/advanced. \$10 donation per class requested.

Please email aimee@gaiaroots.com for registration/payment info and zoom link.



Berkshire Health Systems has a TOLL-FREE HOTLINE for questions regarding COVID-19. Hours: 7 am to 7 pm, seven days a week. CALL 855-262-5465 (855-BMC-LINK)

Firearm Permit Applications Accepted by Mail

The Windsor Police Department will resume taking applications for renewing firearm permits. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing considerations, we will only be taking renewals through the mail. New permits will not be issued at this time.

The application form can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/renew-a-firearms-license>. Please fill out completely and enclose a check for \$100 made out to the *Town of Windsor* for the permit fee. Please mail application and check to: Windsor Police Department, 1890 Route 9, Suite 3, Windsor, MA 01270. Incomplete or false information may lead to a rejected application and loss of the fee.

When I receive your application, I will call you to review it. The photo for the permit will be taken from the RMV photo on your license. —*Chief Buoymaster*

A Cute Windsor Memory ...



Kim Lloyd and Tracy Tirrell at the Windsor town Halloween Party, October 1977.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." —*Audrey Lorde*

Green Committee Report

Last September, Windsor was awarded a \$62,800 state grant to fund energy conservation projects. At this point, all five projects have either been completed or are underway with signed contracts or accepted quotes.

Air source heat pumps were installed in the basement of the town office building in April, meaning that the whole building is now fully heated and cooled by this highly efficient system. Also, as reported before, our excellent volunteer crew installed an airtight, insulated door in the basement, eliminating the Windsor breeze from that hallway.

Production of the insulated curtains has begun, and those will cover every window in the town offices. The jobs of fully insulating and sealing the town office building and the ceiling of the Town Hall have been held up by the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown. Work on these projects is expected to begin during the fall.

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Reflections from Mame Whelihan

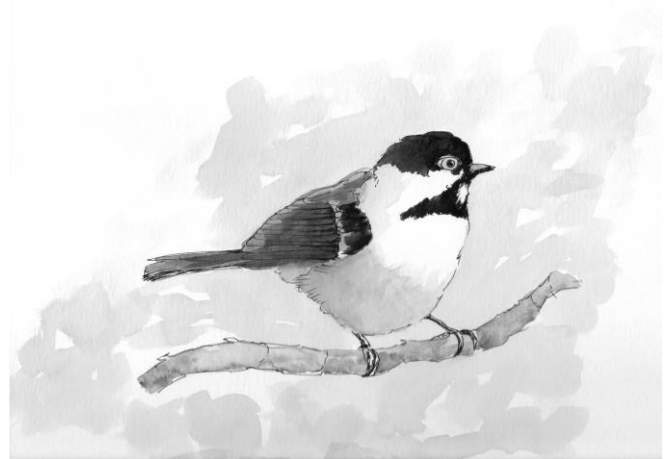
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

SAFE AND HAPPY. With all this Social Distancing there have to be some good side effects popping up, and there certainly are projects that fell by the wayside. Now there is time and energy to take care of that. Three rooms completely rearranged, cluttered drawers emptied out of outdated and no-longer used items and the list goes on. So much for the energy part. Time to take a break. A car ride around the neighborhood sounds wild and exciting, at least in my current social life. Off we go.

Suddenly, lo and behold, what do I see? Sitting smack dab in the middle of the road is a baby fox . . . wait, not one baby fox -- out pop his brothers and sisters. Now there are six. Unaware of Social Distancing, they are playing together in the middle of the road. Trusting and unaware of any danger they look right into the car window when we stop. We later learn that one of them had to be trapped and taken to a veterinarian to have porcupine quills removed. They are beautiful little creatures and a most welcome diversion for all of us stay-at-home people.

I watch my favorite newsmen, Lester Holt, every night and when he says, "Stay safe, stay home, take care of yourself and your neighbors," I think of those six little guys, happy and safe and making our neighborhood a wonderful and fun place to be. In the meantime, stay home, stay safe and drive carefully on High Street Hill -- watch out for our six newest neighbors. May we all be safe and happy!

Illustrations by Val Kohn



JUNE 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

ENCLOSURES

- **Transfer Station Sticker Application**
- **COA Newsletter**
- **Windsor Historic Landmarks MAP**

Comfort Food

In my suddenly sparse schedule, there is one welcome new addition: my stint as a delivery driver for Windsor's new free meal delivery service. It's one way our community is stepping up to respond to the pandemic and the disruption it has brought. Twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, the Town Hall kitchen is filled with the wonderful smells of cooking, while a few masked and gloved volunteers help top chef John Connors (his real job is heading up the kitchen at Dewey's Public House in Dalton) prepare more than 60 servings of a main course and sides.

Cindy Efinger, the town's Covid-19 response coordinator, oversees a few more helpers who package the meals and individually wrapped additions like bread rolls and cookies. Then we volunteer drivers arrive, duly masked, to pack up the correct number of meals for each household and head out on our rounds.

With a no-contact protocol – place bag with packaged meals on doorstep, ring or knock, step back, and wait to make sure someone answers – everyone stays safe, but we can still take a moment to exchanging some small talk, a treat in itself. Who knew I would miss small talk?

(If no one answers, we take the food back for later pick-up or delivery – so no one comes home to find bears picnicking on their steps. Windsor problems...)

Town Clerk Madeline Scully brought the idea for free meals to the Select Board just a few weeks before the first meals went out on May 18th. Select Board member Doug McNally knew about a United Way grant that could help, and the town successfully applied. A call for help organizing went out on the Windsor Facebook page, Cindy and John stepped up, and the program was up and running in short order.

The program is free and anyone in our community can sign up. If you'd like to receive meals, contact Cindy at cindyefinger@gmail.com. If you want to keep it confidential, that will be done. And if you'd prefer to pick your meals up at Town Hall, that can be arranged.

If you want to volunteer, there are a couple of ways to help. One is to donate baked goods, such as cookies, either as a

one-time effort or on an occasional ongoing basis. The other is to help serve, pack and deliver meals. To volunteer or learn more contact Cindy via the email above or by calling 413-344-6262.

--Susan Phillips



Covid-19 coordinator Cindy Efinger helping out in the kitchen, photo by Barbara LeMaire Connors