



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
JULY issue:
Friday,
JUNE 23**

Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
com
(mark subject
line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIX, No. 6

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

JUNE 2023

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Cathy and Don Hall, *in memory of Bodie & Wrigley*

Carolyn Mongue Lee, *in memory of Fred & Gladys*

Mongue and Fred & Margaret Mongue

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; Terra Missildine, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.

Friends of Windsor Notes

We bid a fond farewell and offer our gratitude to FOW Board member Eileen Markland, who is leaving the board this month. We've been fortunate to have Eileen lending her support and talent to FOW and wish her all the best as she continues to expand her amazing musical career.

Springtime in Windsor brings alive the naturalist in all of us. In this issue, we focus on the delights and challenges observed around in the Windsor habitat. Thanks to all our nature reporters, and to our donors this month. Keep the nature news~and the support~coming!

--Deb Balmuth



Pastel Workshop Postponed

The June 14 Pastel Workshop has been postponed. It will take place on Wednesday, November 15; we'll let you know about registering for the class in a future issue of WN&T. --Val Kohn, Windsor Cultural Council

Are You Game for Fun at the Park?

Save the date of Saturday, July 29! Friends of Windsor and Windsor Parks and Recreation are planning a Game and Craft Day from 2 to 5 pm at the Town Park with fun activities for kids. Think relay races, tug o' rope, kickball, cornhole, rock painting, leaf prints, and potato stamp tee-shirts. We hope you'll put it on your calendar and join us!

This will also be a chance for kids to practice ahead of the Hilltown Junior Olympics, scheduled for Sunday September 17th – see below for more. Windsor Parks & Recreation committee members will be at the game day to answer questions about this fun event.

Get Ready for the Hilltown Junior Olympics

This year Windsor is hosting the 2023 Hilltown Junior Olympics, on Sunday, September 17 at Tilton Field in Goshen. It's a fun day filled with a variety of games for children ages 4-14. Kids compete on town teams and as individuals. Participation includes lunch and medals. Adult volunteers are also needed for this one-day event and we'd love to have you! Please reach out to Abby at aduffy89@me.com with questions and look for more details in the July issue of *Windsor Now & Then*.

Town Clerk Notes

Our newly elected town clerk, Sandra Kalmus, holds public hours Monday and Thursday 5-7PM at the Town Offices. Sandra can be reached by email at SKalmus@windsormass.com or phone 413-684-3811 ext 1.

Transfer Station Stickers are available for sale during Town Clerk hours Monday & Thursday 5-7, Mon-Fri 9-3 at the Town Offices, or June 7 and 10 at the Transfer Station. You may purchase up to 3 stickers for \$75. Bring check made out to Town of Windsor or exact change. No credit card payments accepted.

--Sandra G. Kalmus, Windsor Town Clerk

Upcoming Events with Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center, Windsor

For more information on any of these events: tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org.

Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Flower, Plant, Tree & Wild Edibles Hike at Tamarack Hollow: Sunday June 11, 9:30am-12noon. With Naturalist & Director Aimee Gelinis M.Ed. Learn about the unique fauna and flora of high elevation forests and fields. \$20pp. Registration required. email: aimee@gaiaroots.com.

Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Flower, Plant, Tree & Wild Edibles Hike at Notchview: Sunday June 11, 1PM-3:30pm with Aimee Gelinis M.Ed. Learn about the unique fauna and flora of high elevation forests and fields. Register & fee info at: www.thetrustees.org

Flag Fund Update

It's been a long winter, but one sure sign of summer coming is the flags flying in town! I hope you enjoy them. We've had a couple generous donations already this spring, from James Hastings and Dave Melle. As always, the flags fly because of the generosity of the people in town. To keep them flying you can send a check made out to the Town of Windsor to: Jeb Chard, 1060 High Street Hill, Windsor, MA 01270

What Windsorites Are Reading

By Julia Allan

Pineapple Street, a first novel by Jenny Jackson, portrays a very wealthy family in Brooklyn Heights, (the Stocktons) and the ensuing dramas that engulf the family members and as the far-less- wealthy daughter-in-law, Sacha, who with her husband, have been handed the family brownstone. Resentment from the displaced Stockton siblings is inevitable. While reading about the sometimes-unhappy lives of the uber rich is always fun, this novel falls short in a literary regard. It was so lauded by the *New York Times*, that I questioned the objectivity of the reviewer. A dive into the author's background reveals she is from Ipswich, MA, but the abundant accolades only mention her association with Williams College and her job as an editor at Vintage/Knopf.

I mention this only because some of the novel rings hollow to me, a prior New Yorker. The line spoken by one of the wealthy daughters, "I left my Cartier watch bracelet in Lena's BMW," is not onethat anyone ever says. Jackson's character development, or lack thereof, leans toward the one-dimensional with the mother, Tilda Stockton (portrayed as all bad) and Sasha (near-perfect and always respectful). When Sasha hurls profanity at her mother-in-law (in a scene in which the latter has done nothing short of simply being her regular, snooty self) the scene rings hollow; the profanity is a cheap way to raise the dramatic bar even if it makes no sense given what we know of the characters and the story line.

Jackson sacrifices character development for dramatic license. *And it's a bestseller!* Despite the inane verbiage, I finished this breezy book with its multitude of shiny objects if for no other reason than to complete my pursuit of dog-eared the pages so as not to forget my quibbles. A fun,, fast summer read, but not worth purchasing.

From the Green Committee

June 18 is the anniversary of the Town's solar panel array, which was activated at the town Offices in 2018!! That means that on June 18, we will take a meter reading to determine how much electrical energy was sent to the grid, how much was purchased, and the total amount of electricity produced by the photovoltaic array. Then we can determine the portion of electricity used in the building which came from the array—will let you know!

Would you like to do this for your home array too? Send us the following data and we will calculate how much of your usage is being covered: the total production since your array went online (found on the solar production meter, or via the online information in your "app", or from the inverter), and two numbers from your Eversource meter: #4 and #10. Send your data to our Chair, Stu Besnoff, at stu@alpinesolarheat.com, and we'll email you the results. All data will appear on the town website page showing residents' PV results. If you do not want your address included, please let us know. --Holly Higinbotham



B-I-N-G-O is Back!

The town's vintage, electronic BINGO game has been taken out of storage, cleaned, the pieces inventoried, and declared to be in working order. It had a celebrated comeback at the May 17 Community Coffee, hosted by the Council on Aging. Madeline Scully called the numbers and there were three happy winners! The next Community Coffee get-together will be June 21, 10:00-Noon at the Town Hall.

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

Spring Splash. On the way to school, there was a creek that in winter was frozen solid, with a thick layer of ice which helped us skip safely across from one side to the other. As spring progressed, the ice slowly melted and we ignored that for as long as we could, or maybe longer than we should. There was a tree that had fallen across it that I used to scamper across when the ice started to make crossing a bit iffy. Each day we tempted fate way too much, until the day my best friend and I scooted across. My sister, Kate, was not so lucky, making it only close to the other side. Down went the clump of ice and so did sister Kate. A sign of spring was born and sister Kate was a mess.

Back home we went, across the fallen tree. Thanks to the fallen tree, I was warm and dry, but sister Kate was wet, shivering and blaming me somehow for the whole episode. We got Kate warm, dry, and cleaned up, all the while facing our unhappy mother. This had come to be an annual tradition. I was sure I spotted a smile on her face as she accepted this yearly sign of spring- the usual prank we performed. The fact that I thought it hilarious didn't make me very popular, but spring had definitely sprung.

Naturalist's Note: Hard Night for a Favorite Tree

From Aimee Gelinis, Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center

So sad for so many of our Northern Beech saplings – so many frost-bitten young leaves that had just emerged. I am seeing hundreds of saplings with dead leaves at our preserve. I have never observed anything like this in our forest. Our neighbor registered a freezing low of 23 degrees on his porch Wednesday evening May 17th into Thursday the 18th here in the mountains - as if Beech aren't having enough challenges. I'm praying they can recover next year.



It is possible they can regrow buds this season as the killing frost happened so early. But that requires a lot of energy from the tree. So many Beeches are already dealing with Beech scale disease, which compounds the struggle.

Bird Tip Revised

Your Bird "Tipster" stands corrected!

In a recent issue, the Bird Tip suggested putting hair from your hairbrush and fur from your pet's brush out for birds to collect as nesting material. WN&T reader Emily Bunnell wrote in to point out that Audubon.org advises against this. Long strands of human hair could wrap around a nestling and then cut off circulation as the bird grows, thereby ensuring its death. The same thing could happen with yarn or string. Pet fur can be a risk to the birds if your pet is treated with flea medicine.

So what's safe?

Untreated pet fur is probably ok, as are grass clippings (assuming you don't spray your yard with chemicals), twigs, straw, leaves and other yard debris, and native plants such as cattails and milkweed that have "fluff." Also, if you

have sheep and shear them, the raw wool can be left out to be collected by the birds. You could also put a handful of that or "roving" (the wool one purchases in order to spin yarn) into some sort of netting (like a bag that onions come in) and hang it outdoors. The birds can then come collect the wool for their nests (as shown in photo above).



Many thanks to Emily for making sure we don't create any more harm for our non-human neighbors than we already inflict! –Holly Higinbotham

Writing Summer Haiku at the Windsor

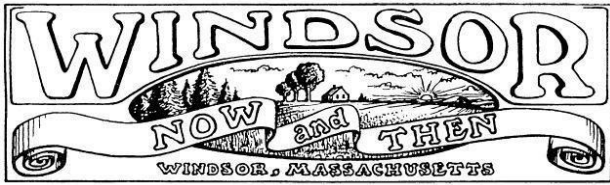
Library with local poet Colin Harrington: **Saturday, July 1, 10-11AM.** For Ages 8-18. Call the library at 413-684-3811, ext. 6 to register.

Energy Tip

Some things to think about as summer approaches:

- If you use air-conditioning, clean the filters and check the unit's evaporator coil to perform at optimal levels.
- Reverse your ceiling fan to counterclockwise so it draws the air up and out instead of in and down.
- Switch on the bathroom vent fan when hot water is in use.
- Open windows on temperate days to draw in cool fresh air.

JUNE 2023



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Enclosed: Conservation Commission Flyer

Feisty Little Falcon

By Tim Crane

Kestrels are the smallest falcon in North America and are best seen in Windsor on utility lines between road and fields. About the same size as a robin, these little predators dine on mice and other small mammals with a surprisingly large part of their diet being insects. Kestrel populations have been in gradual decline, notably so in the Northeast.

In response to this decline, bird enthusiasts and wildlife managers have been placing kestrel boxes throughout the region. Placement of boxes (about twice the size of a bluebird box and with a pole of three times the height) is always in fields and open spaces consisting of field and forest, making Windsor a pretty darn good place for assisted housing of the avian variety.



For the last seven or eight years we have had a box placed ideally among field and forest, visible from our house

and for all those years we have had kestrels toying with the idea of habitation but never taking the plunge.

This spring I noticed a pair of kestrels taking more than a passing interest in our box. One challenge with being a kestrel landlord is determining, for sure, that they have a nest in the box. At 15 ft in the air with a rather small entrance hole, the box thwarts the most determined efforts to get a good look inside. Enter the selfie stick. With a mini fish-eye-lens camera atop the stick, I could position the camera such that it was fully inside the box. The photo below needs no introduction.



If I were to caption this, it would be: "Get that thing out of my house."