



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

NOTE: No AUGUST ISSUE!
DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER issue:
Thursday, August 25

Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVIII, No. 7

www.friendsofwindsor.com

JULY 2022

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.
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

Thanks to our Recent Donors

Ron Bilodeau / Patty and Tim Crane
Donna and Bernard Drew
Maureen Estes / Melissa Foster
Mary Hamilton / Hinsdale Lions Club
Mary Beth and Jim Iwanowicz / Joan Kendall
Susan Phillips and Scott Rogers
Diane and Charles Sturtevant / Franklin Sykes
Suzanne Towne and John Cramer
Memorial Gift
Martha and Steven Emerson, *In memory of Jane Emerson*

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; Cindy Efinger, director;
Dominique Frink, director; Val Kohn, director;
Eileen Markland, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer

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



This summer in Windsor is as vibrant as ever with the new playground installed, Windsor walkers moving, dogs and kids romping outdoors, and flags flying in the balmy breeze. Enjoy every magical moment of these green, wildlife-laden days!

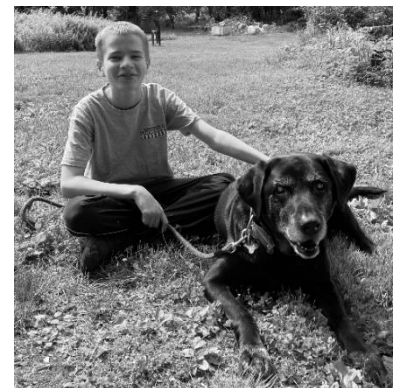
We're going to take a bit of a summer break ourselves, with no August issue. The next issue will reach you in early September, so please send along your stories for that issue. Thanks to all our donors, and to all of you, our readers. Happy Summer! --Deborah Balmuth

Celebrating Windsor Kids & Their Pets

by Leslie Reed

Who: Thomas Connors **Age:** 13 **Where:** Shaw Road

Harley, a black Labrador mix, was five years old when he was adopted by the Connors family from the Sonsini Animal Shelter in Pittsfield. That was six years ago – Harley had been a serial runner-away from his previous home and his



former owners had gotten tired of tracking him down. Thomas says that, with the move to Windsor, the traveling continued, but Harley was just following scents. He typically found his way back home.

Over the past couple of years Harley has developed cataracts and his eyes are now a milky white. He is blind and his adventures are confined to the yard. He still relies on his strong sense of smell to navigate.



Thomas says Harley is a very happy dog and is turning into a couch potato, often climbing into his lap to cuddle.

Windsor Church HUGE Tag Sale July 16

Come find a treasure and support our small town church on **Saturday, JULY 16, 9AM-12:30PM** in front of the Church on Route 9.

We deeply appreciate all the help townspeople give for this annual fundraiser.

Gently used donations can be dropped off on Thursday and Friday (July 14 & 15) from 3 to 6pm at the church. (no appliances or TVs please).

Thanks again and we will see you there!

--Windsor Congregational Church (*Sharon DeGiorgis*)--

Minister Needed!

The Windsor Congregational Church is looking for a minister who embodies Christ's teachings, delivers an inspirational service on Sundays, and has the energy to lead us through a difficult transition since COVID. The position is for 20 hours a week and the pay is negotiable.

Contact: Marcus Webb (413) 684 5012 or (413) 270 1717 for more information and to set up an interview.

Flag Fund Update

Another year down, and the flags are once again up and waving. We replaced 80 percent of the flags this year and as always, it's due to the generosity of the folks of Windsor that we can do so. If you're interested in supporting this cause, send a check (made out to the Town of Windsor) to: Jeb Chard 1060 High Street Hill, Windsor, MA 01270.

I think I missed words of gratitude for some donations late last year, and for that I apologize. Starting us off this year, I'd like to thank James Hastings for his generosity.

--Jeb Chard

Town Administrator Notes

We have a new Interim Town Clerk! Nancy Salvatore She can be reached at: NSalvatore@windsormass.com 413-684-3811 ext 1.

We have a new Library Director, Katherine Richter.

We have a new Town Administrator, which is me, Madeline Scully:

WindsorTA@gmail.com or Mscully@windsormass.com 413-684-3811 ext 4

So many changes, with so much positive energy! The town is still looking for a Highway Operator. Check Windsormass.com for details.

--Madeline W. Scully, Windsor Town Administrator

Energy-Saving Tip

As summer heat is upon us, it's that rare time in Windsor when we need to think about how to stay cool. If you use air conditioning, don't forget to have your unit serviced so it runs as efficiently as possible, and if you use a ceiling fan, you'll be able to raise the AC thermostat by as much as four degrees. If you don't use AC, consider cooking outside on your grill on the hottest days!

From the Green Committee

We are continuing to work on the "envelope" that will fully insulate and weatherize the Town Hall. Committee members, working with contractor Michelle Kenney of Custom Thermal Shades, gathered on June 21 to install insulated curtains on the windows in the kitchen, bathrooms, and upstairs—a total of 11 windows. Sometime in the next few weeks, Michelle will deliver curtains for the main hall and we will install those as well. If you're interested in joining us, we'll gladly accept the help!

The insulated curtains, combined with previous projects to blow insulation into the walls and accessible parts of the crawlspace (in April 2022) and add insulation to the roof and attic (in 2021), nearly completes the envelope. The last remaining job is to insulate the area of the basement where the oil-fired furnace is being removed. --

Holly Higinbotham

At right: Green Committee members Stu Besnoff and Jan Bradley at work installing insulated curtains at Town Hall.



Volunteer Opportunity: Join the Windsor Cultural Council

Would you like to help bring more arts and cultural events to Windsor? Did you know we have a funding source for these events? You can help decide what events get funded by joining the Windsor Cultural Council.



Three current Cultural Council members are retiring in July after serving the allowed maximum number of years - six. In order to qualify for state funds, roughly \$5,000 a year, we must have a minimum of five members.

It's not a taxing job - three or four meetings a year, the chance to choose how the money is spent for our town, and following up that the projects take place. Easy peasy and your chance to help decide what cultural events happen in Windsor. Projects can also be initiated by the board. Ben Harelick, retiring chair, will be holding a meeting to review all the duties and how they best be divided up.

If you're interested or just want to find out more, contact Val Kohn at 684-1731; valckohn@verizon.net.

Reflections from Mame Whelihan
Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

YANKEE GO HOME! During snow time in the Berkshires, one is tempted to consider relocating south. Not me! Been there, done that. Once sitting in my southern living room and watching a creepy crawly three-foot snake slither through the vent of the air conditioner and continue down the wall was enough to send me packing and racing northward. No other reason was necessary--not even the alligator that found its way into the swimming pool. Oh yes, the south has nice welcoming winters, but they are missing our cozy nights by the fire with the wind wailing outside, the long nights reading a good book, and the pure, exhilarating joy when spring finally comes. I will stay in Windsor where we can delude ourselves into thinking we are high up on the food chain, where a hurricane is rare, and where autumn is spectacular. Windsor is my home.

LOOKING BACK:

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

East Windsor Grange Memories, by Belle Day

From the July, 1953 issue of "Progress"

This is an undated recollection, but Oscar Jacobs passed away in 1922, so certainly the early part of the century. Note also that this was published in the same month that the Korean War came to an end.

We had wonderful times in our own grange and visiting neighboring Granges. The weekly dances sponsored by East Windsor Grange were very much looked forward to by members and their families and friends. Old and young would round up at the hall, and I do mean the very young, for many times they were brought in asleep. There was a place underneath the stairway where they could be left to sleep all evening, while their parents were dancing, giving them a glance now and again to see that they were all right.

Everyone danced. Square dances were the favorites at the time. Mr. Oscar Jacobs was the caller (I'm sure many of the readers remember him.) I know those who went received much pleasure listening to and watching him.

"Ladies Choice," another favorite, caused quite a few bets between the young men present.

After the dance we all trailed down stairs to the dining room where good substantial sandwiches and hot coffee were served by the smiling committee. Then we said our farewells; stepped into our buggy, farm wagon or other horse-drawn vehicle and went home, tired but happy.

Those were the GOOD days, the HAPPY days, with no breath of war hanging over our heads.

New Books at the Windsor Library

The collection grows every month. Here are three new titles from the many:

- *How Beautiful We Were*, a novel by Imbolo Mbue, award-winning and bestselling author, about the collision of a small African village and an American oil company.
- Bestselling author or *This Tender Land*, William Kent Krueger's *Lightning Strike*, is the prequel to the Cork O'Connor series - Liam and Cork O'Connor in 1963 set in Iron Lake, Minnesota, involves two mysterious deaths.
- *Tommy's Honor* by Kevin Cook tells the story of the earliest great golfers--old Tom Morris and young Tom Morris of Scotland--golf's founding father and son. "A stirring tale of tragedy, triumph, faith, and perseverance. Every golfer should read Tommy's Honor," says reviewer Ben Crenshaw. -Val Kohn

What Windsorites are Reading

From Julia Allan: *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith, a New York Times 10 Best Books 2021, chronicles how effectively different institutions communicate the story of slavery in the United States.

The first chapter documents Smith's visit to Monticello. There the reader is introduced to a tour guide who opens the visitors' eyes to the lives of the African American men, women, and children without whom Monticello could not have existed. Rather than the traditional focus on the "Big House" the tour guide asks visitors to imagine the daily lives of the enslaved people upon whose free labor Monticello depended.

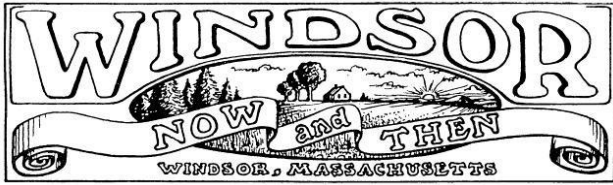
In another chapter Smith takes the tour of the Louisiana State Penitentiary. These tour guides have fallen woefully short in effectively communicating the connection between slavery and the U.S. prison system. In a cruel twist, the prison itself was built upon the Angola Plantation - a fact which the tour guides try to evade. In the final chapter Smith interviews his grandparents and learns of their stories of growing up in the South. His grandmother speaks of learning about Emmett Till's murder in a neighboring town and his grandfather speaks of being forced to dance in order to buy a part in a hardware store. Were it not for the intervention of another customer, Smith's grandfather could have met a fate common to so many African Americans. In the words of William Faulkner, "The past is never dead. It's not even past".

What are you reading? Send us a short summary of your latest favorite book. (fowinsor@gmail.com)

Bird Tip for JULY

Watching hummingbirds at the feeder is a mesmerizing summer activity, indeed! Make your own nectar by combining one part white sugar with four parts water. Stay away from red dye and turbinado sugar. Both are bad for hummingbirds. And keep your feeders up into October, to attract unusual hummers that are off-course in their migration path.--Holly Higinbotham

JULY 2022



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

COA NEWSLETTER Enclosed

WHY WE WALK

By Allison, Ben, Cassandra, Cory, Irene, Leslie, Peter R., Peter S., Sue

Two months ago, we submitted a short entry about our walking group to a national contest. It asked, why do you or your group walk? We didn't win the walking shoes or get published in the magazine. But we win every week with a good walk in Windsor. Here's what we wrote...

Over a year ago, nine people with five dogs became the "Walking Windsor" group. We only ask that you show up on Saturdays to walk about 3 miles in the company of humans and dogs. We are open to anyone in the community joining, and a range of people come and go, but the regulars include a nurse, a doctor, teachers, artists, entrepreneurs, town volunteers, and retirees, all ages 53 to 73. We walk, talk, listen and laugh. We share our walking stories about raising kids, sheep, horses, goats, and dogs. We talk about our long work commutes, remote jobs, best tractors for mud season, sheep that won't go into the barn, horses that are getting older.

Walking in beautiful surroundings, we might share dog treats, hot apple cider, or homemade cookies. When many of us couldn't be with family over the holidays because of COVID, we were grateful to just walk and talk safely outside. Some of us have lived in Windsor for over 20 years and others just moved here during the pandemic. We've all found new friends in "Walking Windsor." We share what matters, thankful for our neighbors, and look forward each week to walking our Windsor hometown together.



To learn more about joining us, see the Windsor Facebook page for our weekly updates on where to meet or if we moved the walk another day because of rain or snow. If you're not on social media, then feel free to email: Allison Druin at allisond@druin.org and she'll answer any questions.