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Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVII, No. 7

www.friendsofwindsor.com

JULY/AUGUST 2021

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

Sense of Community

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." -Ronald Reagan

FOW News

Congratulations to the 250th committee on the wonderful kick-off events at the park July 3 & 4! See page 3 inside for a few photo highlights and list of more events to come!



Thanks to all of our donors this past month. A special shout-out to Ben Bederson, who generously made the wooden disks with the 250th logo and passed the donations for this project to Friends of Windsor (with help from his wife, Allison Druin).

We're enjoying a bit of a summer break with this joint July/August issue. Our next issue will come out in early September. Thanks again for your encouragement and ongoing support! -Deborah Balmuth

A New Playground is in The Works

Last month we launched an initiative to build a new playground at the town park. A dozen families--and even more kids--showed up at our first meeting. At the 250th celebration on July 3, we kicked off fundraising for the playground project. If you'd like to support the effort:

- Log on to gofundme.com, search for "Windsor, MA." campaign: **Invest in Windsor's Future and Help Children Play!**

- Stop by Sangar's or Fred's and look for the donation tin. (And be sure to look at the photos on the tin!)

- Make a check out to: **Windsor Playground and Park Fund** and drop it at the town office.

Public playgrounds are very expensive so our goal is to apply for grants and raise matching funds. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the playground planning committee, we'd love to have you! Please contact Barbara Connors at kadiskadis@yahoo.com.

Thank You, Tim

I had the distinct pleasure of working with Tim Crane on the Finance Committee for 3 years and came to appreciate his quiet and thoughtful approach to each decision we would discuss and vote on. Tim always took a step back to examine new ideas and never jump to conclusions on any issue we would discuss. You'll be missed, Tim, but your dedication to the positions you've held within the town of Windsor will not be forgotten. -Don Hall

Town Clerk Notes

There will be a **Special Town Election September 15, 2021** to elect one **Select Board member** for 10 months; one **Cemetery Commission Member** for 2 years; and one **Planning Board Member** for 3 years.

Ben Bederson of 254 LaFlash Rd has taken out papers for Select Board and Cemetery Commission.

Nomination Papers are available from the Town Clerk. Completed papers are due to Registrars by July 28

I am also **recruiting poll workers** for this Fiscal Year. Contact me if interested.

Residents are encouraged to **register for the Code Red Service**. Cell phones, emails and home phones may be used. The service would notify residents in the event of an emergency or late breaking important news. Register on your smartphone text WINDSOR to 99411.

If you would like to receive the weekly Town Clerk email newsletter for Town government and committee news, email windsortownclerk@gmail.com with your request.

–Madeline Scully

Flag Fund Update

The flags are flying again for the summer. We had amazing support last year, and I've been able to mount more flags as a result. As always, the winds are hard on them, and brackets break. If you'd like to contribute to the fund, please send checks made out to the "Town of Windsor" to me at: Jeb Chard, 1060 High Street Hill, Windsor, Ma 01270.

Windsor Church's Annual Tag Sale August 7

Mark your calendars for the return of the church tag sale. Saturday, August 7, from 9 AM to 1PM.

Donations can be dropped off at the Town Hall on Thursday and Friday from 3-6pm. (Gently used items only and no appliances, please).

From the Green Committee

It's been a while since we've encouraged folks who have a grid-tied solar array to submit data that will compare the amount of electricity that is generated to the amount used. We maintains a spreadsheet for these calculations that is available to all town residents. Many of you have submitted readings to us in the past, and those are available on the town website. But it's probably time for an updated reading, don't you think?

For those of you with newer installations, or who have never submitted, now is a good time. It's a way to track how well your system is covering your needs. Also, it offers us information about how much renewable energy is being produced in town.

To submit you need to take three readings: the solar generation read from your production meter; and the "4" and "10" readings from your Eversource meter. Either Green Committee member listed below can accept your meter readings and respond with detail regarding the portion of your electricity usage provided by the solar equipment. If you need help reading the meters, assistance can be provided.

Stu Besnoff stu@AlpineSolarHeat.com, 413-684-3950

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

Drumming Classes with Aimee Gelinat at Town Park

EVERY MONDAY West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinat M.ED at the Windsor, MA town park (rain location: The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Pittsfield). 5:30pm beginner / 6:30pm advanced. Registration REQUIRED for all new students. For registration, drum rental and class fee info email: aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit www.tamarackhollow.com.

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*

Four Windsor Swimmers Win

After more than a year-long hiatus from competition due to Covid-19 restrictions, a total of 8 swimmers from the Pittsfield YMCA Polar Bears Masters Swim Team competed in the Penguins and Friends Mini Meet in Salem, NH on May 22, 2021.

Four Windsor residents--Steve Kolis, James Towne, Suzanne Towne, and Barbara West--were among the competitors. The four Windsor swimmers took home a combined 15 first place finishes, including 5 for Steve, 5 for Barbara, 3 for Suzanne, and 2 for James. –Lisa Kolis



Windsor's Master's Swim winners (l to r): Barb West, Jim Towne, Suzanne Towne, Steve Kolis.

REFLECTIONS FROM Mame Whelihan

OUT OF THE CLOSET! A rainy July 4th prompts a long overdue closet update. I can't remember when I bought or wore some of the items in said closet. My designated "closet keeper" is relentless. While labeling me a hoarder, she gleefully tosses many of my cherished possessions. Out goes the sweatshirt I wore Trick or Treating 15 years ago, and everything she claims should have expired.

Many hours pass. as so do my antiquated fashions. Much later my closet is organized and beautiful, but empty of my heirlooms. I did manage to rescue my cruisewear. even though a cruise no longer tempts me. I don't know who decided to annihilate anything that has "aged in place", doesn't curve where you now curve and is now ready for its own hall of fame retirement. Sound familiar? Is your closet ready for a make-over? I have a "closet keeper" I will be happy to lend you. Please return her to me after the next decade. I'm sure I'll need her again by then!



250th Celebration Kicks Off with Enthusiasm

The damp, cold days of July 4th weekend couldn't dampen the spirits of Windsorites! A couple hundred people showed up for the opening ceremony, with tributes to a few of

the many long-time residents who have served and helped shape this community, including Mame Whelihan (who celebrated her 90th birthday on July 4!), Peter Menard, Barbara Giusti, Charles Sturtevant, Bernard Drew, and Michael Tirrell (see Mike's remarks on back page).

Exhibits and activities by the Library, COA, Historical Commission, Boy Scouts, and local crafters were under the pavilion. Dancing to the music of Trio Candela & Misty Blues Band and eating the hot pasta dinners by Ooma Tesoro's warmed everyone up at night! Sunday's events included an open mike hosted by Jack Swindlehurst, the Jazz Workshop, and sandwiches and samosas from Friendly Fred's and Sangar's store. A true celebration of the flavors of Windsor!



At the opening ceremonies, State Rep. Paul Marks and State Sen. Adam Hinds presented Select Board Chair Kim Tobin with a replica of Windsor's original charter from 1771, when the town was incorporated under its early name of Gageborough. *Photo by Peter Reed*



Berkshire County's phenomenal Misty Blues Band

warmed up the chilly July evening, with Windsor native son **Ben Kohn** on keyboard,

and more recent town arrival **Scott Rogers** joining the professionals on harmonica. *Photo by Susan Phillips*



Painting and conversation were popular at the kids' activity tables under the pavilion. Val Kohn (in hat) provided her own line drawings of Windsor buildings as a starting place for creativity.

Photo by Barbara Connors



Liam took on challengers at the giant checkers board! *Photo by Barbara Connors*



Ben and Ethan Kohn performed "Windsor Now and Then," a song written by their late father, Ed Kohn, for a Windsor Homecoming event in the 1990s. *Photo by Peter Reed*

More 250th Celebration Events Coming!

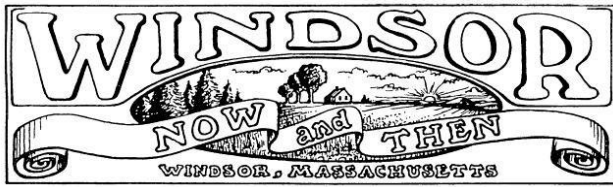
Guided Nature Walk with Aimee Gelinas: Saturday, August 7 at Windsor History Museum. 1 PM.

Car Show by Night CruZers: Saturday, August 28 at Town Park, 9 AM-4PM. Antique Cars & Vehicles Plus Fire Department Food Stand.

Drive-In Movie Night at Windsor Town Park, Saturday, August 21, 7:30 PM, sponsored by Windsor's Parks & Rec Committee. Movie to be determined.

Visit Windsor website and Facebook page for more info.

JULY/AUGUST 2021



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Enclosed:

- **Sharing Our Stories, Volume 9**
- **COA July/August Newsletter**
- **Donation Envelope**

Mike Tirrell's Windsor Memories

delivered at the 250th Anniversary Opening Ceremony



They say that people from Windsor never leave the Town because they love it here even with the cold winters. I guess that's true as I live at 1205 Old Route 9, which is 650 feet from the house I was raised in. And the house I was raised in at 1269 Old Route 9 is one mile from my Dad's home that still sits over the river bank across from the Ball skewer mill. My Uncle Don's house is across the street from that house, and my great Uncle Leon Tirrell had the only house on, yes, Tirrell Hill Road. So, you can see, we are not great travelers . . .

When I was growing up, Windsor was sparsely populated. Here are a few examples for all you newer people. There were no houses on High Street Hill from Old Route 9 to East Windsor Road, just a grass road. Only 5 houses on the Shaw Road loop, and 4 houses on North Street. Now there are houses on all those streets. Quite a change, but it took over 50 years for that to happen. Even though there were not many houses, we were populated with children . . . the baby boomers. We went to all 8 grades in the Crane Community School, had a town Christmas party every year, Sugar eats, dances, Halloween and New Year's Eve parties and school plays all at the Town Hall. Once a month, the fireman's association would put on a dinner to raise funds to the town. These events left standing room only at the town hall. That has dramatically changed as our children move out of town.

But Windsor has Treasures. Windsor State Forest, where I was the Supervisor in 1970 is being refurbished. During my childhood we spent many hours at the park picnicking and swimming on weekends. In the spring we would put the timbers for the dam in place, and by the end of the day the swimming area would be full.

Also, Wahconah Falls is in Windsor, even though Dalton claims the falls, the actual falls are in Windsor. We have Notchview Reservation and their busy cross-country ski area and hiking trails. Judges Hill, the highest point in Windsor. The Eugene Moran Wildlife area and more.

This is why Windsor such a great place to live. . . it is certainly not the winter weather, not the great roads during mud season, certainly not the sewer and water mains to each house. . . What is it? The beauty of the town and the freedoms we have and the People that live here.

Everyone that has ever lived here, loves it here no matter if they moved here or were born here. Once you become established here, you never want to leave. Most people only leave due to work relocations. The people here care about this Town, care about the people that are their neighbors, They help each other during tough times, pick up the neighbors' mail, watch out for strange vehicles in the area, and volunteer to serve the Town on various paid and un paid thankless jobs to keep the town running. When you grew up here, it was expected that you would be a volunteer fireman, work on fun raisers, serve in some manner to help in town government. I am glad to see that this tradition is continuing to this day. Thank you all for being residents of the Town of Windsor and happy 250th.