



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

DEADLINE for AUGUST issue:
Thursday, JULY 26
Send news to editor:
Deborah.balmuth@storey.com
(mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

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JULY 2018

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

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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, activities, and projects that cultivate community. We welcome 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 deborah.balmuth@storey.com.

FRIENDS OF WINDSOR INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Crane, president; Deborah Balmuth, co-editor; Cindy Efinger, director; Val Kohn, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer; Robin Tesoro, director.

Paper Talk

Enjoy the green, breezy richness of summer in Windsor! It's this time of year when I say, "We don't need a 2nd home—we live in our vacation home!" --Deborah

If you have events happening in early August, please send to fowindsor@gmail.com. And for an up-to-date listing of happenings in town: Don't forget to check our Community Calendar online at friendsofwindSOR.com, under Windsor Now & Then, or our print version available at both stores and the town offices.

FOW News

Number, please: We're already at work updating the Windsor phone book and guide. Please let us know if you want to add, change, or delete your contact information. If you have a business, we will list it for free in the yellow pages – but please consider a sponsorship, a very reasonably-priced opportunity to reach everyone in town through this tried-and-true community resource. Just \$45 for a quarter-page business-card style listing! Forms to submit new and revised information, as well as for sponsorships, are available on our website, friendsofwindSOR.com. Click on About Us, then on Windsor Phone and Community Directory. Or you can email fowindsor@gmail.com or call Patty at 684-3334.

It's All Happening in the Chapel: On September 9, the beautiful East Windsor Chapel will open its doors for jazz, country blues, ragtime, swing and more from the Easy Ridin' Papas and an exhibit of works by Windsor photographers. Doors will open at 2 pm, giving everyone plenty of time to view the photos and talk to the photographers before the music gets going at 3.

Photographers, See Above! If you want to participate in the photo exhibit, you will be welcome. Get in touch with Susan Phillips via the Windsor Photo Show facebook page or by e-mail for more information (susanphillips57@gmail.com)

The Big Picture: Arts, history, community – Friends of Windsor is busy on multiple fronts helping build stronger ties in our town, showcase local talent and local business, keep everyone informed and connected. Can you help? Donations of any size are very welcome and help us make the case to other organizations when we seek their support. –Susan Phillips

Welcome Correction to the Historical Record

We recently received this note from Dave Jenks about Windsor School House No. 9, one of the 24 historical sites marked with signs as part of our Windsor Landmarks project: “

This school house was located on my father Cliff Jenks' farm, formerly known as the Joe McCormick Farm, and as a child I played in the building for a few years before my father tore it down. The picture that you have on your map is reversed. The door into the school was actually on the left end of the building looking at the building from the street. The picture that you have was published in the 1971 bicentennial booklet on page 71.”

We'll make an effort to flip that picture, meanwhile it's great to learn more about the vanished school house! Maps showing all 24 sites are available at [friendly Fred's and Sangars](http://friendsofwindSOR.com), and information can be found on friendsofwindSOR.com – click on Windsor Landmarks Project and scroll down to 2016 Flashbacks and 2015 Windsor Historical Sites.

Be Like Dave: Do you have a story to share about Windsor? Do you have expertise to share or a new project or business to promote? Get in touch with your submission or contact Susan Phillips at susanphillips57@gmail.com for help in pulling your story together for Windsor Now & Then.



Community Market and Museum Open House July 8

Shop local and enjoy good made and grown right here in Windsor! Sunday, July 8 is the date of the next community market from 11AM to 2PM on the grounds of the Windsor Historical Museum on Route 9. The museum will be open for touring as well.

Plans are underway for the August market on Sunday, August 12. For more information or to set up a booth, contact Jordan Koch at 413-464-1569.

Save the Date: Pie Sale, Sunday, September 30! The Windsor Historical Commission's annual fundraiser, with pies, music, community fun, and more.

Town Discussion Group Begins July 18

Our world needs greater understanding! On the premise that all change starts at home, I'm assembling a free lecture/open discussion series, "Enlightening the Hilltowns", meeting on Wednesday evenings, beginning July 18, 7PM, at the Town Hall.

Week 1: Led by Jeffrey Marlett, PhD, Professor of Religious Studies at The College of Saint Rose
Comparative Religions...Understanding religions of the world. Similarities? Differences? Origins?

Week 2: Led by Steve Philbrick, Minister of West Cummington Church
What does Religious Freedom mean? What is Religious Tolerance? How do we achieve it?

Week 3: Led by Attorney David K. Chivers. Understanding Separation of Church and State. How is it, or should it, be achieved?

This series is not about any specific religion or beliefs, but a chance to consider and learn about the role of religion in our lives, education, government, and foreign policies. The only cost to attend is a dessert or appetizer to share. Bring your own beverage.

I hope you will join us and add your voice to the conversation. Future topics for this series my include the Justice System, racism, and any other suggestion you'd like to make.

—Madeline Skully

Town Clerk Notes

At the June 25 Special Town Meeting the following items were voted in the affirmative: increase in the salaries of the treasurer and accountant to \$15,000; transfer leftover money from the chimney repair account to the accessible ramp account; acceptance of MGL c32B, sect 20. Full certified minutes may be found at our windsormass.com website under Municipal Resources.

Annual Reports are due now from each department head. Please include as much detail as possible. Annual Reports must be in the Town Clerk Office by August 15.

Construction of the accessible ramp at the Town Office Building is underway and should be completed shortly.

The Social Committee will not be hosting a community luncheon this month, as the COA is holding their own on the third Wednesday of July at the Rod and Gun Club.

There are vacancies on the COA, Registrars of voters, Board of Health, Social Committee, Historical Commission, G Committee, Cultural Council and Parks and Rec. Please consider using your talents to help Windsor by volunteering. Contact the Town Clerk or Select Board for more information.

—Madeline Skully

Visit the New Police Station on July 14

Come to see the new Police Station offices in the Town Office Building on Saturday, July 14 from 9AM to 11:30 AM. Meet the Police Officers and enjoy a coffee and donut! --Chief Thomas Barnaby

Pollinator Garden Update

It's been wonderful connecting with everyone who has stepped forward to work on installing the pollinator gardens at the town park behind the bench and by the memorial near the town hall! I estimate about 25 people have had their hands in the process with approximately 80 hours of service donated. I hope you will take some time to check them out!

Thank you so much to everyone involved, It's wonderful to know that so many have volunteered to make our community a little prettier for us and for the bees! The next phase will include mulching and plant identification! Please let me know if you are interested in working on this part of the project. - Barbara Connors

REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELTHAN

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

STAND AND SALUTE. Flag Day (June 14th) was always very special to me, and so I was happy to see Evelyn come into the informational special town meeting wearing a beautiful silk scarf covered with images of flags.

As a child, I always stood for *the Star Spangled Banner* whenever and wherever it was played. My Grandmother was a naturalized citizen and knew more about the ramifications of American history and all the pomp and circumstance that went with it. She lived with us and passed much of this knowledge and patriotism on to me. At that time, the radio station signed off at Midnight with the playing of our National Anthem. So many nights, no matter what time I went to bed, I would waken at the sound of it and pop up in my bed and stand at attention in full salute. My Grandmother would hear me and laugh and say, "will you go to sleep; our country is safe."

I always loved the flag and it always flew in front of our house. I even carried a large flag while riding my horse in our town's bi-centennial parade. Of course, that was a bit of a disaster, but that's another story. Rodeo Queen I'm not. Now, thanks to Jeb, our town has flags flying along Route 9 in all their glory. Jeb is my absolute favorite person for making this happen. I, personally, would like to see many more flags waving in the Windsor "breeze." Since I was lucky enough to be born on the Fourth of July, I send a birthday flag donation every year and wish I could convince more people to do the same I'm proud of my country, my town, and most of all the people of Windsor. The flags speak for me!

A Tag Sale THANK YOU!

Thanks so much for your support both in donations and in purchases at this year's Windsor Church Tag Sale. The support of the people of Windsor helps to keep our doors open and helps to achieve some of our mission goals.

--Windsor Congregational Church

Sense of Community

"Building community is to the collective as spiritual practice is to the individual." —Grace Lee Boggs

FOCUS on Windsor's Pollinators

JULY: Making Room for Native Pollinator Plants

Gardens can get weedy. Sometimes that's a good thing—even weeds can provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinators. But if you spent last year preparing your planting beds and the fall or spring seeding your pollinator friendly plants, the last thing you'll want to see are weeds crowding out your flowers!

Weeds can quickly overgrow a pollinator garden, especially if they go to seed. What were once small weeds seem to triple in size overnight following a summer rain, and what seemed like a manageable situation can quickly become overwhelming. Ideally, try to remove weeds when they are young. If an area is overgrown with weeds, prioritize removing those most at risk of going to seed. Depending on your pollinator garden's size, that may mean hand weeding, hoeing or mowing. These can be fairly easy when working around shrubs but more difficult when managing weeds within a perennial wildflower planting. If you are in the latter situation, consider running a high mower through the area, with the blade at least six inches off the ground before weeds have gone to seed.

Some gardeners use mulches to retain soil moisture and create a weed barrier around plants. However, this technique can be problematic for the roughly 3,000 species of ground-nesting bees in North America. Try to avoid plastic mulches unless using them to solarize an area for future pollinator plantings. Wood chip mulches can have mixed effects: very thick layers of mulch can be hard for ground-nesting bees to get through, though some will nest under thin layers of mulch.

Preparing a site to minimize future weed pressure is a key part of establishing a successful pollinator garden. Depending on weed pressure, this may mean an entire season of weed control before planting pollinator friendly seeds or shrubs. One effective, organic way to prepare a site for planting is solarization, where bare, moist ground is sealed with plastic. The moisture activates the seed below the plastic, while the heat kills any growing weeds.

Solarization is a safe and effective weed control method you could even start implementing it now! If you'd like to learn more about soil solarization, please check out these resources: [Establishing Pollinator Meadows](#) at the Xerces Society website.

This excerpt was reprinted with permission from an article entitled [Making Room for Native Pollinator Plants](#), found at the Xerces Society website.

To see photos and learn about pollinators & host plants you might come across in Windsor this month, visit our June Community Calendar at friendsofwindsor.com (hover your cursor over each image to learn more)

Sneezing Beauty, or the Joy of Plant Names

Looking over the native plants for sale at the Windsor Community Market a few weeks ago, I came across one I had never heard of: Sneezeweed. And I had to have it. I am a sucker for evocative plant names. (I also will sometimes buy a bottle of wine because I love the label, which makes exactly the same amount of sense.)

Fortunately, Sneezeweed also met my other criteria: easy to grow, autumn flowering, and pollinator-friendly.

But why Sneezeweed? It is not a particularly allergenic plant. I learned that in the past, Native Americans dried and ground the leaves to make a snuff. The powder was deliberately inhaled through the nose to provoke sneezes, which were thought to keep evil spirits away.

The Latin name, *Helenium autumnale*, means Helen of autumn...so-called because of a myth that this plant sprang up wherever the tears of the too-beautiful Helen of Troy landed on the ground. Since the plant is native to our continent, this seems to be a reverse-engineered origin story.

Sneezeweed was first introduced to English gardens in the mid-1700s, when it was shipped to the old country as a New World curiosity. Rebranded as Helen's Flower, it was a big hit, and more than a century later the Gardeners' Chronicle of 1878 (Great Britain) declared that "Among the more showy herbaceous plants this is one of the best...it is at once effective and refined."

While I'm told that Sneezeweed is a hard sell because of its name, Tickseed – another food source for our pollinators -- is one of the most common garden plants. For this, Tickseed has Latin to thank: it is referred to most often as *Coreopsis*...Latin for "looks like a bug", in reference to the shape of the seeds.

So far, my Sneezeweed seems to be happy enough in a sunny spot next to the Bee Balm -- named for a salve made from the plant to soothe and heal bee stings-- I bought on the same day.
--Susan Phillips

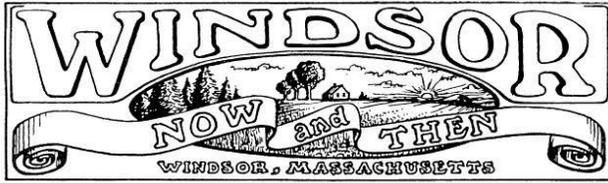


Observe Nighttime Pollinators at Tamarack Hollow July 24

*Celebrate Moth Week & Nighttime Pollinators at Tamarack Hollow Nature Center, Windsor on Tuesday July 24 8-10pm. with moth specialist Betsy Higgins, insect enthusiast Jason Crockwell, and Tamarack Hollow We will also have a campfire with



marshmallows and stories to share. Thanks to support from the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee and the Berkshire Taconic Fund's Central Berkshire grant. \$10 fee (youth 12 and under + Windsor residents FREE!). Email aimee@gaiaroots.com to register, space is limited!



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Many thanks to Vivian Packard Dorsel for sharing memories of childhood summers on Shaw Road. Some things, like fireflies and blueberries, have not changed a bit.

Summertime in Windsor

Bellstone Farm was named for the flat-topped boulder in the front lawn, whose sound rang across the fields when I dropped a smaller stone on it. My grandfather and my uncle's family lived at the farm year-round, but for me it was always a summer place. When I woke to the clean, cool tang of grass-scented air and the creak of the old iron pump outside the kitchen door, I felt far away from my own home, only four blocks from Pittsfield's "upstreet."

After breakfast, I swung my shiny pail across the fields in search of blueberries. The farther I ventured—past the ancient maples along the dirt road, through the gap in the old stone wall, and beyond the burgeoning vegetable garden—the hotter the sun became. Today, when I think of those fields, populated with Indian paintbrushes and buttercups, bumblebees and grasshoppers, I can feel the July heat even in December. My aunt made jelly from those berries, from the strawberries that grew wild behind the house, and from the chokecherries that studded the gnarled tree by the front door, capturing their essence for us to enjoy on our breakfast toast.

In the afternoon I bounced down Tirrell Hill on dusty cloth seats, amid the low-gear whine of my grandfather's pre-World War II black Ford sedan. Our destination was the eastern boundary of the

hundred-acre farm, where a broad, flat ledge outcropping formed an inviting swimming hole in the Westfield Brook.

Supper was hot dogs grilled over the fire in the lilac-enveloped picnic grove next to the house, where I perched on a low wooden bench with a paper plate balanced on my lap. As the stars began appearing one by one, I toasted marshmallows on a long fork over glowing coals, savoring every last moment until I fell asleep once again in the tiny room under the roof, wrapped in the fragrance of dried-on-the-line cotton sheets, the sound of crickets and the flashing of fireflies.



Early illustration of Bellstone Farm on Shaw Road (now the home of Wendy & Mark Volk).

Vivian Packard Dorsel is the editor and publisher of **upstreet**, an award-winning literary magazine. Bellstone Farm was in her family for several generations and her uncle Rene Packard drove the Windsor school bus for many years. This piece originally appeared in *The Women's Times* in July 2006.