

DEADLINE for AUGUST issue: Friday, JULY 24
 Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com
 (mark subject line: WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVI, No. 7

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

JULY 2020

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

Patricia & Thomas Doyle / Friendly Fred's
 Mary E. Hamilton / Sucie & Don Henderson
 Vera Hertzberg / Sue & Dick Jacobs
 Susan Phillips & Scott Rogers / Karen Simon
 Alix Steel & Craig Pospisil

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

Stay safe and well—and don't leave home without your mask. Happy Independence Day!

—*Deb Balmuth*

 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*

FOW News

We hope you'll take the time to read the enclosed important letter from Cindy Efinger – Windsor's Covid-19 coordinator and a Friends of Windsor board member – about Phase II reopening plans in our town. It has been wonderful to see how town officials and residents have pulled together over these past few months, from our successful and creative solution to the Annual Town Meeting conundrum, to the volunteer energy behind the town meal delivery program, to Connie Wood's one-woman free mask factory and so much more. Now comes the next part – safely re-opening as we continue to learn more about the virus.



With Phase II underway, perhaps this will be the summer that our lovely Town Park begins to play a bigger role in Windsor life – perfect spot for outdoor, physically distanced gatherings. Do you have ideas about how to best take advantage of our outdoor season to reconnect? Drop us an e-mail at fowindsor@gmail.com.

Challenges like this, however unwelcome, can strengthen communities, and Windsor is stepping up in so many ways. While some of our projects and activities are on hold, Friends of Windsor remains committed to supporting community in all its forms. Let us know if you have stories to tell or suggestions to make, and as always, donations in any amount are sincerely appreciated, and can be mailed to FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor 01270.

River Road Construction Closure this Month

The Town of Windsor has contracted Warner brothers to replace culverts on River Road. Construction will begin in mid-July beginning with the culvert closest to the power lines. While construction on the culverts is underway, the road will be closed in the affected area and all traffic will be rerouted through Savoy or Cummington. Following completion of the culvert work, road paving will be done from the Savoy line to Cummington line. Thank you for your patience. -- *John Denno, Highway Superintendent*

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 JULY Community Calendar at friendsofwindSOR.com (under *Windsor Now & Then*).

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

Flag Fund Update

Fellow Windsorites, summer is upon us, and a subset of the flags are flying. Some of you may have noticed they disappeared for a week this month. The reason for this, I am sad to report, is the flags and brackets were vandalized. We were able to recover the flags and poles, but the brackets were all destroyed. I have replaced the brackets, reinstalled the flags, and ordered additional material to make things whole again.

This would not have been possible without the continued support of the wonderful people who provide donations, often every year, in support of this venture. Thank you for the generous donations from:

Rolf Karl & Joanne Singleton

Jennifer Perilli

Rock Business Solutions and the Errichetto Family

Thomas Garvey

Melissa Foster (made in memory of her father, a WWII Marine Veteran)

The Dodge Family

Worthington Flag Committee

I still need to secure additional flags and am on the search for a reasonable price on enough to tide us over until next year when I expect supplies will be more readily available.

As always, if you'd like to make a donation, please send checks, payable to the Town of Windsor, to:

Jeb Chard, 1060 High Street Hill;
Windsor, MA 01270—*Jeb Chard*

A Reminder from Our Outreach Coordinator

Please make sure you stay well hydrated in the summer heat! If you need anything or have questions, don't hesitate to call me at 413-329-4364. --*Jessica Buoymaster*

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." —James Baldwin

Greetings from Some Newly Full-Time Neighbors

My family has been living at the end of LaFlash road part-time since 1968. We have a lifetime of crazy blizzard stories (including walking up High Street Hill with 4 boys in sneakers and getting pulled down on a sled with a broken leg when I was 12 with the cat in my jacket!). Now, finally, after 51 years, my wife, two daughters, dog, cat, and I have moved to Windsor full-time.

We look forward to meeting many of you, and inviting you over for barbecues and hikes (our land backs up on to Notchview and the State Forest) – and appreciating the local turkeys, mourning doves, and hopefully not too many bears. While we wait for COVID to subside, we'll happily chat with you on a morning walk or run.

See you on the Facebook Windsor group – or in person before long.

Your newest neighbors, Ben Bederson, Allison Druin, Dana (21), Aviva (15), Peach (the dog) and Mia (the cat)

Windsor Drive-Around Parade on the 4th

Since there no 4th of July parade in Pittsfield this year, the Windsor Fire Department and Police Department will be doing a drive-around parade in town. We'll start at 10am on Flintstone Road and our parade route will proceed along North Street, Peru Road, Rt9, 8A, Bates Road, Savoy Hollow Road, East Windsor Road, High St Hill, Windsor Bush Road, River Road, Shaw Road and High St Hill. Please visit the Windsor Facebook page for confirmation of our route.

Hope to see everyone out there!

--*John Denno, Highway Superintendent*



Town Clerk Notes

The virtual scavenger hunts were a great success and more residents have started following the Windsor Facebook page. Remember: you don't have to be a FB member to view the page.

I am always looking for community-building activities. If you have an idea and wish to run an activity, speak up. All new ideas are welcome! --*Madeline Scully*

Community Resources

Hilltown Families is hosting a virtual program called "Hilltown Families presents" aimed at connecting families with western Massachusetts artist, performers, and busines during the pandemic. Visit their website at hilltownfamilies.org for free viewing of their kid-friendly internet shows.

Sawyer Farm in Worthington, MA now has an online store (<https://sawyer.farm/>) offering a wide range of fresh produce, dairy, meat, and more from local farms. Order and pick up the same day, with curbside pickup at the farm store on Cummington Road in Worthington.

Prakasa Yoga in Goshen is offering yoga and meditation classes via Zoom during the pandemic. Visit www.prakasayoga.com for class schedules and rates.

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)



What's Going on at the Historical Museum?

Thanks to support from the Town—and all of you—renovation work on the museum building has begun, from the ground up! We've starting by shoring up the building's foundation. Once that is completed in the next few weeks, we'll begun replacing windows and repairing siding.

Later in the summer and early fall we'll be looking for volunteers to help us with painting the exterior. How much better our town center will look when this building has a fresh coat of paint on it?! Can you help us? Please contact Deb Balmuth at 684-4535, or email codebwindsor@gmail.com if you're interested and able to join the painting crew.

Remember! 2021 marks the 250th anniversary of our town. Our goal is to have this museum spiffed up and ready for visitors as we celebrate our town's rich history and curious artifacts. *-D. Balmuth*

Green Committee Report

Good news! All of the projects that were funded by the most recent state grant have either been completed or will be underway by the middle of July. The grant, for \$62,800, was awarded to the town in September 2019. As we reported earlier, the air-source heat pumps for the lower level of the town office building have been installed, as has an air-tight insulated door on that level. Thermal curtains for the Town Office Building are being produced, and some will be installed in July. The Holyoke company Energia has started the process of fully insulating the Town Office building, and in the coming month it will begin work on insulating the Town Hall attic. All these projects will further the town's efforts to conserve energy and reduce costs. *-Holly Higginbotham*

Thank you!

I would like to thank the Windsor Police Department for the good work they do to keep our community safe.

-Nancy Kerstetter

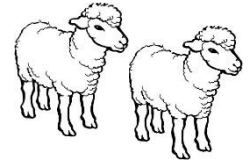
Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

Happy Birthday To Me! I have to admit it, I do love getting thoughtful gifts and my offspring have really cornered the market in that department. One year they handed me a package that seemed quite lively. It was vibrating as I cautiously opened it. Lo and behold, inside was the cutest little Guinea Pig I've ever seen. He wasn't fazed at all as I shouted, "There's a rat in my present!" A chorus of voices responded, "No, the rat IS your present." Eventually Baryshnikov became a welcome family member. *Someone* in my family really had wanted a Guinea Pig, but it wasn't me.

When you give a gift, give something you like. My kids have that down to a science and I'm a gullible slow learner. One year they combined a very good deed with my birthday. Bruno needed a home and his owners could no longer keep this humongous St. Bernard. So he came to our home, with birthday card attached. Myrla, my Blue Merle Great Dane, came much later and it wasn't even my birthday.

Now we come to this year's birthday. Guess what? When the trailer backed into the driveway and two beautiful sheep (beauty is in the eye of the beholder you know) hopped out, I was overwhelmed. Such a birthday present . . . even better than a Guinea Pig! Number One Son and daughter conspired to make this event happen. Countess and Rosamund were delighted to be the surprise and are now settled quite happily in their quarters. I am half-way through my "How to Handle Sheep" book.



I can't wait for next year's birthday. Cake anyone?

Tamarack Hollow Events

Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center is located at 1515 & 1516 Savoy Hollow Road, Windsor. For registration and fee info on the following events, email:

aimee@gaiaroots.com. Visit

www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org

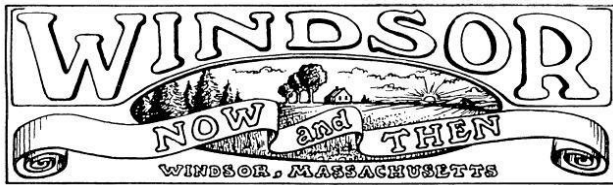
EVERY MONDAY: West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinis M.Ed. ONLINE until further notice: 6pm beginner / 7:15pm advanced.

Wednesday July 8: 6:30-8pm Nature's Mandala ONLINE workshop. Learn about the history of Mandala art and how to create a Mandala collage with found nature items.

Saturday July 11: 9am-12pm Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Flower, Plant, Tree & Wild Edibles Hike at Tamarack Hollow with Naturalist & Director Aimee Gelinis M.Ed. Learn about the unique fauna and flora of high elevation fields and forest.

Tuesday July 21 (rain date 7/22); 8pm-9:30pm OR 9pm-10:30pm (please register for one of the times only). Celebrate National Moth Week & Nighttime Pollinators. Nighttime viewing and identification of moths on illuminated screens followed by stories and marshmallows around a campfire. Limited space! Masks required.

JULY 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

ENCLOSED: Windsor COVID-19 UPDATE

Getting Connected –

A Marathon, Not a Sprint

While we await the long-promised arrival of broadband, former Windsor resident Ron Bilodeau reached out to remind us of an early fighter in the ongoing battle to bring modern communications technology to hilly areas like ours: Ron's dad Wilfred – known as Bill.

Bilodeau moved to Windsor with his wife and five children in the 1940's. He was a man of many interests and boundless energy – one of his free-time projects was collecting stones from around Windsor and building, by hand, the distinctive stone garage that still stands on the North side of Route 9 near the top of Windsor Hill.

As television became popular in the U.S., and remote hilly areas like ours struggled to access this exciting new technology, Bilodeau saw an opening. In 1946, he left his job as an engineer at G.E. and founded a company, Simplex Engineering, aimed at bringing broadcast TV into homes out of reach of TV station signals by use of a large, powerful antenna on high ground and physical cables to carry the shows to individual TV sets. Known at the time as "wired television", local systems like these were beginning to sprout in hilly areas around the country – the forerunners of what we call cable tv.

Though Bilodeau worked out the details of his system in his home laboratory in Windsor, where he had a 110-foot antenna, as a commercial venture he set his sights on the more densely populated North Adams. A September, 1951 *Berkshire Eagle* story teased North Adams readers with Bilodeau's plans like this:

"To be forced to choose between Howdy Doody, Milton Berle, the Boston Red Sox and women wrestlers is a happy dilemma every Berkshire County television set owner would like to face. If Wilfred J. Bilodeau of this town gets the go-ahead from proper authorities, TV owners will be coping with that situation sooner than thought possible."

By 1954, with a towering antenna on Witts Ledge in the Hoosac Range and a coaxial cable running from there down to the homes of North Adams, Bilodeau's company was providing TV service to about 200 families. Subscribers paid an installation fee of \$75 and a yearly fee of \$48 for the service. Son Ron Bilodeau says his father often spent nights in the concrete hut at the base of the antenna, making adjustments and checking the signal. At this point, Bilodeau was looking to expand, and getting ready for the advent of color TV. From these beginnings, according to a 1983 column in the *North Adams Transcript*, eventually arose Cox Cable.

Eight years from conception to a going concern – definitely a marathon, not a sprint, just like bringing Windsor into the broadband era. I suspect Bilodeau would advise us all to be patient, but keep pushing, just like he did. Bill Bilodeau died in 1961 in Florida, at the too-young age of 55. --Susan Phillips

