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Windsor, Massachusetts

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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.

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Sense of Community

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go out and do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

—Howard Thurman

FOW News/Paper Talk



Windsor sent August out in style with a stunning classic car show, roaring bonfire, and—at long last—a memorable fireworks display. There's much more in store for fall—see below!

Thanks to all of you for your support in keeping this paper going and fostering community! —Deborah Balmuth



The Celebration Continues!

Sunday, September 12, 10AM-4PM is Windsor History Day special exhibition at the carriage shed outside the museum and presentations on the Indigenous roots of our land, a guided

walk on Notchview history, and an "Old-Timers Story Sharing" with Peter Utz and Robin Volsky. See page 3 inside for all the details.

Sunday, October 3, 10AM-4PM is Fall Festival!

At Sangar's Store, on the corner of Rt 9 and 8A, Sangar's General Store in Windsor, there will be more than 30 Hilltown art and craft vendors, Pie Sale, Chili Cookoff, Pumpkin Carving, Pickle Competitions, Music All Day, and more. The Fire Station will have their open house and Sangar's General Store promises to make those famous "Samosas".

This is a family event, so plan on spending the day enjoying yourselves with the neighbors.

You'll find a complete listing of events at <https://www.windsormass.com/250>. Here are some ideas for how to participate:

- Bring your decorated or carved pumpkin to enter the pumpkin contest.
- *Bring your appetite and enter the pie eating contest!
- *Bake a pie and donate it to the Pie sale.
- Make your secret recipe Chili and enter the Chili * Cook-off or bring your discerning taste buds and judge the chili cook-off.
- Enter your prize pickles and win a ribbon.

There will also be a Town-Wide Yard Sale. To participate and get a free yard sale, email windsortownclerk@gmail.com and you will be placed on the advertised map. Put items at the end of your driveway free or with an honor box and join the festivities. —Cindy Efinger & Madeline Scully

Town Clerk Notes

Be Flexible and Adapt are the buzz words for this year. New Policy: masks are required for all visitors to Windsor municipal buildings until further notice.

The Special Select Board election to fill Kim Tobin's vacated seat will be held Wednesday, September 15, 7AM-7PM at the Town Hall. Open to all registered Windsor voters. Masks required in the building. Absentee ballots are available.

The Special Town Meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, September 27, 7PM (originally tentatively scheduled for September 15) Masks are required. Setting the tax rate will be delayed due to new assessing software. Robin is working at lightning speed, but tax bills will not go out on October 1.

The Town Hall discussion regarding Windsor's windfall from COVID money will be held following the September 27 Special Town Meeting. Windsor will be receiving \$258,000

(\$129,000 this summer and \$129,000 next summer). The select board will be looking for Town guidance as to how to spend this money. The Parks and Rec Committee is working up a proposal looking for help with funding a new playground, as well as installing a well and permanent bathroom at the park. Other ideas are being floated and will be discussed at the Town Hall Discussion meeting.

-Madeline Scully

From the Select Board Candidates

Ben Bederson

The best thing my parents ever gave me was a chance to live in Windsor. 53 years ago they fell in love with a farmhouse on LaFlash Road, and my family went to Windsor at every chance —enjoying summers, celebrating holidays, exploring snowy adventures. Today my wife, 2 kids (at school), 2 dogs and a cat live here full-time.

It would be my honor to be on the Windsor Select Board, supporting our community, its day-to-day needs, and its path for tomorrow. To do this, excellent communication and transparency are critical. We all need to know what's happening, how to get things done, and how to make it easy to communicate concerns and interests. An important piece will be to support the master planning process, as a way for all to contribute ideas for our town's vision.

As a University of Maryland computer science professor for 20 years and an administrative leader for 11 years, it has taught me about the importance of shared governance, strategic partnerships, and participatory leadership. I will put this experience to work for the town of Windsor if given the chance.

Chris Cozzaglio

"If it ain't broke, FIX IT."

I've had the honor of meeting many neighbors over the past few weeks and something I frequently hear is, "Windsor is great, there isn't anything I'd change except for . . ."

This conversation always inspires me! Just because things are good doesn't mean that we can't improve, that opportunities borne from change don't lie before us. Looking at our town critically and strategically will stimulate evolution, the good kind of growth we need.

One resident was telling me how much they love Windsor and wouldn't change anything, yet wishes there were more resources dedicated to the library. Another thinks Windsor is great but would like to see more community programming, perhaps a community center. My question is . . . why not? Revitalizing the playground, improving our library and inclusive and expanded community support services will ensure the continuation of the Windsor we cherish.

I am a Berkshire County native with fresh eyes and a beautiful vision for our beautiful community. I will be honored and grateful if you will vote for me for Select Board in Windsor's Special Election on September 15.

From the Green Committee

It has been seven years since we started recording town energy usage, and our recent calculations show that in Fiscal Year 21, the Town spent 44% less money on municipal fuel and utility costs than in the first year (FY15). These budgetary savings have been accomplished through a variety of energy-saving projects funded by \$208,840 in state grants and \$10,700 from the town over seven years.

The projects included insulating the town offices and town hall, upgrading to more energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment for the town offices, and generating some of our own electricity with the photovoltaic solar array at the town offices.

Our projects also brought \$22, 843 in revenue to Windsor, in the form of SREC (solar renewable energy certificate) payments and heat pump rebates over these seven years.

Energy usage (including electricity, oil, propane, gasoline, and diesel) has declined 26%. In FY15, the town's annual municipal use of energy measured 2979 MMBTU's (Million British Thermal Units); in FY21 we used 2196 MMBTU's.

Beyond the project stated, other factors that affect energy use in Windsor include purchase of more fuel-efficient vehicles and electrical appliances; increased building usage, and weather conditions. We have a ways to go before we can call ourselves a "net-zero" town, but it's good to see our progress in that direction! -Holly Higinbotham, higinbo@hotmail.com, 413-212-4352

REFLECTIONS FROM **Mame Whelihan**
HEATHER HILL FARM, SHAW ROAD

Lucky Me. Here I sit on the porch breathing in wondrous, glorious fresh air and letting my thoughts soar to the cloud-filled sky. There, that is poetic as I'm going to get. I am going to think about how happy I am to be me – free and able to enjoy my life. All the TV News programs bombard me with stories of so many who are less fortunate.

When I say, “I'm starving,” all I mean is my appetite alarm has gone into overdrive and all I have to do is decide what I want to eat. It doesn't mean I have to ford a river or climb a wall and hope someone will help me. As I sit here, I dwell on how lucky I am to have so many friends, and as I babble away Bob and Marnie arrive just for fun, carrying their homegrown friendly eggs. Do I deserve all this? I hope so.

Blue skies, fresh air, good friends, Who can ask for anything more?!

Upcoming Events from Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center, Windsor

EVERY MONDAY: West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinat at the Windsor town park (rain location: The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield – note, classes will move to Pittsfield in the fall). 5:30pm beginner / 6:30pm advanced. Registration **REQUIRED** for all new students.

Saturday September 11, 10AM-1PM. Explore the Flora and Fauna of the Boulders in Dalton. This round trip, 3-mile hike led by Aimee Gelinat will highlight the flora and fauna of this unique BNRC property. Hike is free (donations accepted).

Sunday September 12, 10AM-1PM. Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Plant, Tree and Wild Edible Hike at Tamarack Hollow. This round trip, 2-mile hike led by Aimee Gelinat M.Ed will feature the unique high elevation flora of the boreal forest in early fall including tips for tree, plant and wild edible identification.

Sunday September 12, 5:30-6:45PM. Boreal Forest Ecology Slideshow & Summit Walk, Bascom Lodge & Mt Greylock Summit. Learn about the ecology of high elevation Boreal Spruce-Fir forests with Aimee Gelinat. Program is free (donations accepted)

Saturday October 2: Tamarack Hollow & Gaia Roots World Music present 12th annual Berkshire Drum and Dance Fest at the Windsor Town Park (rain location Windsor Town Hall) featuring drum classes and West African dance classes. Thanks to support from a Windsor Cultural Council grant.

For registration and more information on all of these events, email: aimee@gaiaroots.com.

Visit www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org

Sunday, September 12 Windsor History Day

Schedule of Events

10 AM to 5 PM: Exhibits will be open in the carriage shed at the Historical House Museum and under the tent

Dioramas and other work by self-taught artist Olive Volsky (1924-2015), old tools from our collection, a display on Windsor patents, old photographs.

11AM at the Historical House: Jennifer Lee will present a program on the **Material History of Native American culture** of our area both before and after the arrival of colonists. Lee will set up her eastern conical wigwam equipped with the material of Native daily life in the 18th century, such as bark baskets, tanned hides, gourds, beadwork, and more. She is a long-time student of traditional Native songs and dances, Native place names, and more, as well as an accomplished craftswoman.

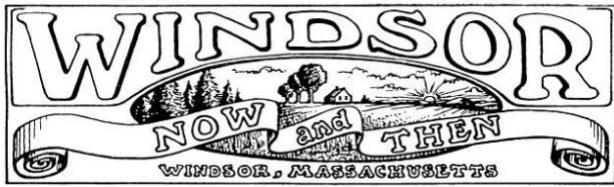
1PM at the Notchview Visitors' Center: Windsor native and local history author Bernard Drew will lead a walk titled **"Helenscourt & Notchview Farm in Their Heyday."** The 1 ½ hour stroll will take in the grounds of the estate created by Lt. Col. Arthur D. and Helen G. Budd. Participants will learn about existing and vanished buildings and gardens, including the main house, Helenscourt, and Windsor's first fire station. Drew, who grew up on the property, has recently written a history of the property titled "The Colonel on Skis."

4PM at the Historical House (under the tent): Coffee, cookies, and memories! Peter Utz and Robin Volsky, sons of local artist Olive Volsky (featured in one of the exhibits in the Shed) have volunteered to emcee an **Old-Timer's Story Hour**. Hear what it was like to grow up in Windsor during the DECADES, and if you were here for it, even better – share your own memories.

Blue Ribbon Winner at the Cummington Fair!



Congratulations to Susan Jacobs, who went home from the fair with a basket full of blue ribbons for her prize-winning vegetables, from the soup-pot display to carrots, beets, pole beans, and more. Great growing, Sue!
--D. Balmuth



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

and I am sure they have stories! *(Thanks to Robin Volsky for sharing this newspaper photo.)*

Windsor Goes to Washington

As Windsor celebrated its bicentennial in 1971, an energetic group of people worked on a full slate of events, activities, and commemorative art. It was an astonishing group effort – still, it's hard to imagine anyone doing more to interpret our town's history in creative, fun and inspiring ways than the late Olive Volsky. Along with dozens of artworks she made for the events was the design for our Bicentennial Commemorative plate.

Which is how Olive (at left), along with Rep. Silvio Conte, Joe Mattis, Mae Hitchcock and Hugh Ferry, found herself standing next to then-President Richard M. Nixon, who accepted the gifts: a Volsky-designed plate and a bottle of Windsor maple syrup from the group.

Come to the Windsor Historical Commission special day, September 12 from 10 am to 4 pm, to see more Volsky creations and share memories of this tirelessly creative Windsor woman. Sons Peter Utz and Robin Volsky will be visiting during the day



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*