



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

NOTE: No AUGUST ISSUE!  
DEADLINE for OCTOBER issue:  
Thursday, September 29  
Send news to:  
fowindsor@gmail.com

## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVIII, No. 8

www.friendsofwindsor.com

SEPTEMBER 2022

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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

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### FOW News

The transition from summer to fall is such a vibrant and poignant time of year in Windsor. With colorful, warm days still ahead, there are many opportunities to celebrate and join in community—at musical gatherings, the Historical Commission Open House and Photo exhibit on September 25 (see story inside), and at the Town Park, with the amazing new playground equipment and the recently added chess table (see story on back).

A heartfelt thank you to all of you who support community through this newsletter and the FOW activities. We're so grateful! -D. Balmuth



### Mary Jo Maichack Concert at Windsor Town Hall Friday, September 16

Mary Jo Maichack, singer and storyteller will present a program of songs from the Great American Songbook, for adults (free and open to the public) at the Windsor Town Hall on Friday, September 16, 2-3pm. She will be accompanied by keyboardist Bob Shepherd of Dalton.

Ms. Maichack will sing standards of the '20s - '40s and some contemporary tunes, interspersing personal stories of growing up in the Berkshire Hills. Maichack is the great-niece of Vaudeville singer & actor Annette Dare, who toured on the B.F. Keith Circuit theatres.

This program is supported in part by the Windsor Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

### Free Youth Arts in the Park Event, Cummington, September 10

Hilltown Vision and the Cummington Recreation Committee invite youth of all ages to participate in an afternoon of arts and fun on Saturday, September 10, 12 noon-5PM in Pettengill Park off Main Street in Cummington. The event is free and open to the public.

Bring a picnic at noon to the park pavilion, and stay for a puppet show with Tom Knight, a mask-making workshop with Beckie Kravetz, a music workshop with Josh Wachtel, face painting, bubbles, clay - see the full schedule on the Hilltown Vision Facebook page or email: [hilltownvision@gmail.com](mailto:hilltownvision@gmail.com).

This program is supported in part by the local cultural councils of Cummington, Chesterfield, Plainfield, and Worthington.

## Come Celebrate Windsor's History and Creative Spirit, September 25 at the Windsor Town Museum

Photo Exhibit \* Live Music \* Museum Display

It's been a roller-coaster ride these past couple of years for the Windsor Historical Commission, as we celebrated the town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the shadow of the pandemic and made major progress on much-needed upkeep of the Historical House, with support from the Town.

On Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 2, we hope you will join us at the house for an indoor-outdoor gathering that will include the return of the Windsor Photo Show, a display of new items and photographs graciously donated to our collection in recent months, and music from Gaia Roots. Plus, of course, snacks!

If you are one of our many talented local photographers and want to participate in the photo show, please do. This is a great way to share your images in real life, beyond Instagram and Facebook. Contact Susan Phillips, [scphillips@fastmail.fm](mailto:scphillips@fastmail.fm). In previous years, photographers have mostly shared images of Windsor's natural beauty and wildlife, but that's not a requirement...portraits, abstracts, alternative processes are all welcome. Share the images that bring you joy.

We hope this will be an opportunity for neighbors to gather and catch up, and also share your thoughts with the commission about the problems and possibilities we face in our efforts to preserve and promote knowledge of Windsor's history.



The initial construction of Route 9 (shown here in 1922), puts the inconvenience of the recent repaving project in perspective! More photos from the Historical Commission collection will be on display September 25 at the Museum Open House.

### Bird Tip for JULY

September is prime time for the Broad-winged Hawk migration. On many days, especially in mid-September, you can look up in the sky and see "kettles" or groups of these hawks circling around on thermals to gain height, and then they peel off in a line heading southward to their wintering grounds in Central and South America.--  
*Holly Higinbotham*

## Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshop to Continue Monthly

The Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshops, which has been bringing great tunes and attracting musicians from around the area to the Windsor Town Park every other Sunday afternoon (1:30-4PM) through the summer, will continue this fall at the Park as long as the weather holds out. For regular updates, check the facebook page (Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshop).

When the cold days inevitably hit, the Workshops will move indoors to the Windsor Congregational Church, gathering monthly.

If you're a jazz instrumentalist or singer looking for a chance to workshop a few tunes, this is a great chance to join in with professionals on keyboard (Windsor's own, Benny Kohn), bass, and drums. Listeners are most welcome and appreciative!

The workshop is made possible with support from local cultural councils of Charlemont-Hawley, Cummington, Dalton, Northern Berkshire, Windsor, and Worthington.

## What Windsorites are Reading

When Anthony Doerr's *Cloud Cuckoo Land* was published a year ago, I was eager to read it, since his earlier, Pulitzer-prize winning book, *All the Light We Cannot See*, was such a compelling and memorable read. Doerr is a master at telling a story from the perspective of several different narrators. *Cloud Cuckoo Land* features three distinct stories, spanning the centuries from the 1400s to the near-future. Over the course of 600 pages, these seemingly disparate stories meld and a theme emerges: How stories and books connect us across the centuries and lift us out of our present circumstances, offering the possibility of transcending human pain to find bits of joy, reprieve, and even redemption.

Doerr's epic parable and tribute to the power of books and libraries is available in the Windsor Free library. -D. Balmuth

**What are you reading? Send us a short summary of your latest favorite book. ([fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com)).**

### Reflections from Mame Whelihan

*Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road*

**Where There is a Will, There's a Way.** Somehow, in the middle of the night, I managed to get out on the wrong side of the bed and got confused. I called out, evidently not loudly enough for my rescuer to hear.

Thankfully, a solution came to me. I said to my electronic Echo on the nightstand, "Alexa play Reveille on all devices." I figured that would wake her up! I didn't know that all devices meant not just my daughter upstairs, but my grandson in California, one in North Carolina, and my granddaughter in South Deerfield. A rousing Reveille blared from their echo devices rousing my daughter immediately and, I am told, waking the entire world.

I will never criticize modern technology again. It's here to stay and so am I!

## Town Clerk Notes

Office Hours for the Public: Tuesday mornings 10-12 & Wednesday evenings 5-7, Town Office Building.

**State Primary Election:** Tuesday, September 6, 7am – 8pm, Windsor Town Hall, 1927 Rte. 9.

We are still looking for election workers. You do not need experience, just a smiling face and a willingness to learn. It's a great way to see how our elections work first-hand. If interested, please call 684-3811 Ext 1 or email:

windsortownclerk@gmail.com.

I'm settling in nicely and have enjoyed meeting so many of you over the past couple of months. If we haven't met, feel free to stop in anytime and say hi. If you come by on Wednesday evenings, you can visit the library at the same time.

Hope to see you soon! --Nancy Salvatore

## Food Pantry in Dalton Open Tuesdays

The Loaves & Fishes food pantry located at the Dalton Methodist Church (corner of Main St. and Rt 9) is open on Tuesdays from 4-6, and available for anyone in need of additional food.

Also, if any Windsorites have garden overflow, please consider donating to the pantry on Tuesdays, 12-3:30. There is great need; donations are very much appreciated.

### Energy-Saving Tip

As heating season approaches, make an effort to identify where your home could benefit from added insulation. Call MassSave for a free energy audit, or do a DIY assessment of obvious leaky spots and use spray foam or insulation to plug them up. It'll help reduce your heating costs!

## From the Green Committee

The ongoing project to make the Town Hall a more energy-efficient building is nearing completion. In the past two months, Green Committee members have

installed insulated curtains on all 22 windows in the building. Besides having an R-value of 7, these

Roman shades (which were made by Michele Kenney of Custom Thermal Shades in nearby Chester) are quite attractive and add a new look to the space.

Within the next month or so, Air-Source Heat Pumps will be installed in the building to provide fuel-efficient heating and cooling. The building is being rewired for "three-phase" electricity, which uses less electricity to produce the same amount of heat in the building compared to equipment which uses single-phase electricity. And, because the oil-fired furnace is being removed from the basement, we are moving the well pump from the basement up to the first-floor coatroom (it will be enclosed in a box to muffle the sound). The temperature-controlled first floor will protect the pump from freezing.

In addition to the installation of shades and ASHP's and moving the well pump, this most recent project included blowing insulation into the walls of the building, insulating the accessible crawl spaces, and replacing the old electric tank water heater with a tankless water heater. The recent insulation was completed in May. In 2020, the attic and ceiling were fully insulated.

The total cost of these projects was \$122,326, of which town funds have paid \$9902. The remainder has been paid for through a combination of state Department of Energy Resources grants (\$54,895), funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (\$17,279), and a rebate from MassSave for \$40,250. --H. Higinbotham



## Transfer Station—Important Updates

The Commonwealth has new regulations to encourage/mandate recycling and reduce the waste in landfills. Windsor has recently added a book bin to reduce the number of books in the waste stream.

We are now required to recycle all mattresses and textiles. Textiles can be placed in the clothing bin at the transfer station during open hours, or in the bins outside Sangar's store. Please do not place anything outside the bins; soiled or rained on fabric cannot be recycled. **No unsoiled fabric can be placed in the trash compactor.**

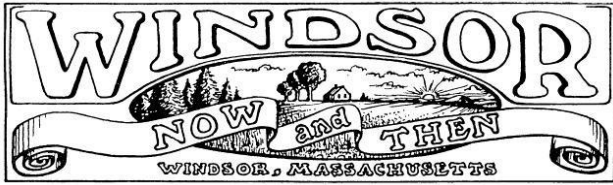
As a member of the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management district, Windsor residents are eligible to participate in the district's annual days for hazardous and bulky waste disposal. We have joined with Dalton to place a mattress bin at the Dalton transfer station where Windsor residents can dispose of unsoiled mattresses, beginning in September. There is a fee for disposal, so we encourage anyone purchasing a mattress to arrange for the vendor to take the old mattress, as they usually do so for free or a nominal fee and you don't have to lift it to Dalton.

We have also arranged for a service to remove freon from refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, and air conditioners for a \$15 fee. Doors should be removed from freezers and refrigerators for safety. After paying the fee to Larry, place the unit near the south end of the metal bin. When purchasing a new appliance, check to see if the vendor will take the old one, which they usually do for free, reclaiming the freon and selling the metal for scrap.

The highway department has raised the new Quonset hut for tires. Due to increased transportation costs, the fee for tire disposal is now \$6 per standard auto tire. Fees for larger tires (like those for tractors) are available from Larry.

Because residents are recycling and minimizing bulky waste, we have been able to avoid raising sticker and bag fees. We hope to continue to provide excellent service without future fee increases. --Doug McNally

SEPTEMBER 2022



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

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**COA NEWSLETTER Enclosed**

**The Game is On!**

The reasons to head to Windsor Town Park just keep multiplying. With funds from Friends of Windsor, and volunteer labor and know-how from Tim Crane, Lenny Price, and Bill Bowers, our handsome and sturdy new outdoor chess/checkers table with stools is solidly in place next to the playground. For now, it's bring-your-own for the chess and checkers pieces while we look for sturdy waterproof storage.



Tim Crane and Lenny Price preparing to install the new FOW chess/checkers table at Windsor Town Park.



Scott Rogers faces certain defeat, to the delight of Rosie.

**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](mailto:susanphillips@fastmail.fm).*