



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
OCTOBER
issue:
Wednesday,
Sept. 27**

Send news to:
fowindsor@gmail.com

Windsor, Massachusetts

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www.friendsofwindsor.com

SEPTEMBER 2023

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE.

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Friends of Windsor, Inc.,

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Windsor, MA 01270,

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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; Dominique Frink, director; Val Kohn, director; Terra Missildine, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.

Friends of Windsor Notes

Thanks to everyone who helped make the July Games & Crafts Day at the Park a success!

We're thrilled that so many families were able to come enjoy our revitalized park and the great community spirit. There are plenty more opportunities for gathering in town this month and we hope to see you there. Much gratitude to our donors—your support keeps this newsletter churning! –Deb Balmuth



History Day Open House at the Windsor Museum, Sunday, September 24, 11AM TO 2PM

The Windsor Historical House Museum on Route 9 will be open for visitors on Sunday, September 24 from 11AM to 2PM. Please stop by, view our collection of



delightful dioramas depicting scenes from Windsor's past, along with some special features from the museum's collection. The volunteers of the Town Historical Commission are continuing to work on restoration of the outside of the museum building and planning for improvements to the interior. Your support means a lot to us—so please come see what we're up to.

We'll have music from Aimee Gelinis and group from 11:15 to 12:15, as well as refreshments. We look forward to seeing you! –Deb Balmuth

Hilltown Junior Olympics, Sunday, September 17

Happening at Tilton Field, Goshen

Children ages 4-14 are invited to take part in a Hilltown tradition! Compete in age-appropriate games as Individuals and after lunch be a part of the team games. This year Windsor is the host town. Sign up forms are available at Friendly Fred's. Please contact Abby Duffy with questions at 413-588-7026.

Please Take the Survey to Ensure Digital Equity

Windsor is participating in a program to ensure that all residents not only have access to the internet but are supported so that they can take full advantage of that access. It is called the digital equity program. The first step is gathering information. You can go online at: <https://made.civilspace.io/en/projects/ma-digital-equity/engagements/ma-sdep-public-survey/sections/1>.

If you prefer to fill out a paper copy, copies are available at the Town Offices and the local stores and can be dropped off at the town offices or leave it with Larry at the transfer station. –Doug McNally

From the Green Committee

Many of you responded to our request to call the Governor's office asking that Department of Public Utilities approve our application for municipal aggregation, which would lower electricity rates. Your actions may have had some effect! Shortly after we put out that appeal, our consultant, Colonial Power, received a request from the DPU to clarify information from the initial application. It is possible that this was a result your calls.

But approval has still not happened. We believe continued pressure—on both the Governor and the DPU—may be helpful. So, here are two things you can do to help:

1. Keep calling the Governor's office at 617-725-4005 to request that the DPU approve our or email at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office>. Please let janet.bradley2@gmail.com and the Town Administrator (windsormassta@gmail.com) know if you call or email. (Regrettably, that link doesn't allow "cc's".)

2. Email DPU Commissioners directly at:

Jamie.VanNostrand@mass.gov;
Staci.Rubin@mass.gov;
Cecile.Fraser@mass.gov; and copy our state legislators Sen. Paul Mark (Paul.Mark@masenate.gov) and Rep. John Barrett (John.Barrett@mahouse.gov),

Along with Jan and the Town Administrator at emails listed above.

You know the old saying: "The squeaky wheel gets the grease!"—*Stu Besnoff*

Energy Tip

If the ducts for your heating system are out of sight, tucked away in the attic or basement, they are probably out of mind too. A home with central heating can lose about 20% of the air moving through the ducts, so make sure your ducts are working efficiently by sealing and insulating them. According to the website energy.gov, tightly sealed and insulated ducts can reduce your annual energy bills by \$120 or more!

Upcoming Events at Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center, Windsor

Visit www.tamarackhollow.org for more information on these programs; to register, email aimee@gaiaroots.com.

***Boreal Spruce-Fir Forest Flower, Plant, Tree & Wild Edibles Hike.** Sunday, September 10, 10am-12:30pm. Free (donations accepted). Registration required.

***Boreal Forest Ecology Slideshow and Summit Walk** at Bascom Lodge & Mt Greylock Summit Sunday, September 10, 5:30-6:45pm visit www.bascomlodge.net for dinner reservation information and dinner cost Registration required.

***Explore the Fauna, Flora and Cultural History of Wahconah Falls** in Dalton. Sunday, September 17, 10am-12noon. Hike is free (donations accepted).. Registration required.

***Explore the Fauna, Flora and Cultural History of The Old Mill Trail** in Hinsdale, Sunday, September 17, 1-3pm. Hike is free (donations accepted). Registration required.

***Notchview, The Trustees in Collaboration w/ Tamarack Hollow Full "Harvest" Moon Hike** Friday, September 29, 5:30-8pm! Register & fee info www.thetrustees.org.

***West African & Caribbean drum and song classes** with Aimee Gelinias M.ED EVERY MONDAY at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, Pittsfield.

*** 14th annual Berkshire Drum and Dance Fest** at the Windsor Town Park (rain location Windsor Town Hall) Saturday, October 14.

Send us your stories, nature sightings, book notes, and other news you have to share with the Windsor community. Email: fowindsor@gmail.com.

Flag Fund Update

Summer keeps rolling on, and we're finally getting some sun. A big thanks for the generous donations from: Thomas Garvey; Mary and Glenn Roy; Joe and Margaret Birchfield; Charles and Susan Riley; Leslie and Peter Reed; and David and Melody Lincoln. It's the people of this community that keep them flying!

As always, if you'd like to contribute, send checks *payable to the Town of Windsor* to: Jeb Chard, 1060 high Street Hill, Windsor, MA 01270.

Windsor Grown Program Launching

Windsor Grown is community-based food-sharing initiative with the goal of connecting those of us that have a surplus harvest with local residents who can benefit from the food. If you are interested in participating or learning more about the program, please contact: Jessica Buoymaster, 413-329-4364; Buoymasjessica@gmail.com OR Ben Harellick, 978-771-8118 Windfieldsfarmben@gmail.com

Help Needed: It seems early to mention snow, but the town is seeking a snow shoveler to clear the Town Hall entrance and the walks at the offices. Call 413-684-3811 ext 4, if you're interested.

September Bird Tip

September is pretty magical when it comes to birds. Many species are migrating and there will be days when everywhere you look, there are birds that weren't there yesterday! Days with winds out of the Northwest are particularly good for such migration movements. In mid-September, keep your eyes to the skies because Broad-Winged Hawks will be migrating and you may get to see a "kettle"—or group--of these raptors circling on the thermals in a tight circle, then, one-by-one, peeling off to the South.

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

And Away We Go . . .

Faster than a speeding bullet! My new Dunkin Donut-sized wheels are great. Caregiver #1's feet barely touch the ground as we fly down the driveway toward the mailbox. I love my new chariot and it's waterproof in case we venture to the in the future. Just in case, I think I'll wear a life jacket.



My chariot glides beautifully over our rough terrain. Although it doesn't have seat belts, I'm pretty secure and it's perfectly capable of any increase in girth, so to heck with counting calories!

We Seniors try to age in place--well not this kid. You would have to catch me first in my upgraded wheelchair. Care to join me? Hang on, away we go!

What Windsorites are Reading

FROM JULIA ALLAN—HANG THE MOON: BY JEANNETTE

WALLS: You know how you feel after eating junk food (yes, Chick-fil-A I'm talking to you) and then so appreciate a homemade meal? That's how I felt reading Jeannette Walls' novel, *Hang the Moon* after imbibing *Pineapple Street* (last review.) Best known for her memoir, *The Glass Castle*, Ms. Walls writes beautifully. This meticulously researched book describes the life of Sallie Kincaid, a young woman from a wealthy family growing up in rural Virginia in the 1920s. As a child, Sallie is banished by her stepmother and sent to live with her struggling aunt. So strong is her love and admiration for her father (who can literally "hang the moon" in her eyes) that she not only forgives but continues to idolize him despite his complicity in her banishment. Her father, "The Duke," literally lords over the land, making money hand over fist during Prohibition. Slowly Sallie's illusions about her father are shattered and the reader watches as Sallie matures into a strong, determined woman willing and able to take on threats to those she loves and also the family business; this at a time when women were expected to tend to hearth and children. Walls successfully transports the reader to another time and place with these words, "Winter hasn't yet let go of its grip up in the mountains, but down here, spring has softened the ground, coaxed out the first tender shoots of green along the roadside, and the buds in the tress are fat as ticks". And yes, we know our ticks here in Windsor and we are lucky for all our green. Hope you enjoy this book as much as I did.

Star Gazing at Town Park, September 16

The Friends of Windsor is hosting a family-friendly star gazing night on Saturday, September 16 at the Windsor Town Park beginning at 7:30PM. Ed Fails from Arunah Hill Astronomy Club will bring his high-powered telescope and point out all sorts of wonders in the sky. At dusk, there will be a skinny moon visible on the horizon. Saturn will also be visible as long as the sky is clear. If it's a cloudy evening, we'll postpone to the following Saturday. If in doubt about the weather, check the Windsor Facebook page for an update that day. --Val Kohn

Town Park Pavilion Has New Extension

If you've visited the town park recently you may have noticed the new addition to the Jean Till pavilion. It provides additional cover from rain and sun--no more need to put up and take down the big 17' x 30' tent which is quite a chore, something that Scott Rogers and others have been doing for several years for every jazz/blues workshop held there. Thanks to volunteers led by Terry Goodrich, we have a structure to be proud of. Terry worked with John Ferris to order and get all the materials needed from L.P. Adams, who donated all the roofing. Many thanks to them for their generosity.

The folks who made it happen are Bob Myers, Doug McNally, Terry Goodrich, and John Denno and crew who installed the supporting posts. Our highway crew also removed the turf and the old stone and replaced with road millings (much easier to walk on).

Brock Anello led the crew who extended the roof - John Jones and Dave Melle. And Madeline Scully, as usual, facilitated communication between all these people

happen to make the whole project go smoothly. At the same time, Barbara Connors, with Mike Kitner and Ken and Caliegh Bilodeau, cleaned out the shed to make it a more useable space.

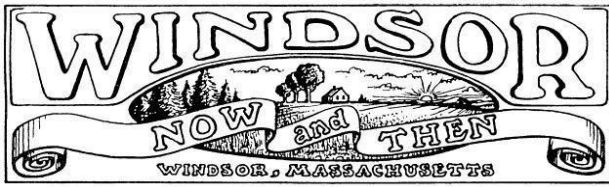


Windsor Jazz & Blues Workshop players under the new pavilion roof extension.

The updated pavilion is perfect for picnic tables or performances. Aren't you glad you live in a town where the volunteer spirit is alive and well?

This project was initiated and funded by the Windsor Cultural Council. If you'd like to join the council or have recommendations for other projects, you can contact us at windsormassculturalcouncil@gmail.com. --Val Kohn, chair

SEPTEMBER 2023



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

COA Newsletter Enclosed

Remembering Jennie Drew

Thanks to Bernard Drew for submitting this memory of his mother Jennie.

My mother, Jennie R. Drew, a longtime resident of Windsor and Dalton, died Aug. 12, 2023. She was 95. She was the youngest and last surviving of four daughters of Jessie A. (Ham) and Charles E. Rose of Barnston, Quebec, and grew up on the family farm.

She married my Dad, Warren A. Drew, and they made their way to Massachusetts when Dad took a position at the Helen and Arthur D. Budd estate in Windsor (now Notchview Reservation, a property of The Trustees of Reservations).

Mom was a busy woman. She was a member of Windsor Congregational Church and served as a treasurer and a Sunday School superintendent/leader. She was active with the Ladies Aid Society, known for its annual turkey dinners. She was an election poll worker. She played piano and could still be coaxed into singing "O Canada." An active knitter, seamstress and quilter, she taught a 4-H sewing group. She canned or froze produce from a large vegetable garden. She made delicious raspberry pies. She had a small evaporator in the sugar bush at Notchview and boiled her own maple syrup.

All three of her children remain in the area – myself in Great Barrington, Marlene Drew in Dalton, and Rose Wilson in Pittsfield. She's also survived by four granddaughters and a cousin, Dean Robinson of Quebec, the last of her generation.



Straw vs Hay by Dicken Crane

They both come in bales, so what is the difference between hay and straw? One is that hay comes from perennial grasses and legumes. Straw comes from annual grains like oats, rye, barley, and wheat. Perennials like grasses and legumes come back every year, they don't need to be reseeded. The farmer has to plant the annual grain crop every year.

Another difference is that hay is the primary crop. Mow, ted, rake and bale it to feed your animals or sell it. (*Ted means to lift and scatter hay after cutting to speed the drying process – ed.*) Straw is usually a secondary crop. The seeds, the grain – that's the primary crop. Oats for oatmeal, rye for rye flour or rye whiskey, barley for beer and wheat for wheat flour. Straw is what's left over.

What's so special about straw? It is not nutritious, because the seeds have been separated out by the combine and most of the plant's nutrients went into the seeds. So why is that good? Straw is great for mulching the garden because

it has no seeds to sprout where you don't want them. It is also great for animal bedding. Because the straw is not appealing as food, the animals aren't tempted to eat where they poop.



Maizie steals a taste of the 2023 Windsor hay crop before bales are moved from wagon to loft.