



WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for
SEPTEMBER issue:
Thursday, AUGUST 31**
Send news to editor:
Deborah.balmuth@
storey.com
(mark subject line:
WN&T)

Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIV, No. 8

www.friendsofwindSOR.com

AUGUST 2018

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
Jane Lyon / Elizabeth Sibolski

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

Savor these amazing summer days! --Deborah

If you have events happening in early September, 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

September Sounds (& Sights). Live music from the multi-talented and engaging Easy Ridin' Papas, and a photo show of images by some of your Windsor friends and neighbors – what better way to spend a September Sunday afternoon? It's all happening at the East Windsor Chapel on September 9th. Doors open at 2 for the photo show, music starts at 3. (If you want to participate in the show but haven't been in touch, contact Susan Phillips by August 26: susanphillips57@gmail.com, 202-256-1267.)



Who's Who, Where? We're in the final stages of updating the Windsor community directory and phone book. There's still time to let us know about changes, additions, etc. Email fowindsor@gmail.com or call Patty at 684-3334.

Small Envelope, Big Impact. What does a gift to Friends of Windsor support? If you turn to the free community directory for that phone number you need or to find out when the library is open, if you've loved learning about our local pollinators, the role they play in making Windsor the beautiful natural place that it is, and how you can help them thrive, and if you are reading this newsletter – remember that your donations help make it all happen! Thanks for every gift! –Susan Phillips

Community Market and Museum Open House Sunday, August 12

Shop local and enjoy good made and grown right here in Windsor! Sunday, August 12 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. For more information or to set up a booth, contact Jordan Koch at 413-464-1569.

Get Ready! Pie & Harvest Festival September 30

The Windsor Historical Commission's annual Pie Sale & Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday, September 30 from 11AM to 3PM. With music, food, pies (of course!) and special kids' activities, you won't want to miss this event Stay tuned for more details in the September issue—and start thinking about what kind of pie you'd like to bake to support the ongoing operations of the Windsor Museum.

The Historical Commission is eagerly seeking new members. If you're interested in learning about and helping preserve our town's history, we'd love to have you join us. Thank you! –Deborah Balmuth (684-4535)

Town Clerk Notes

If you want to vote in the Massachusetts Primary on September 4, the deadline to register to vote is August 15. Stop at the town office or go online to windsormass.com and register if you are a new voter, or new to Windsor.

There won't be a Community Luncheon in August. The luncheons will resume September 12.

The COA is in desperate need of new energy. The COA provides outreach for seniors, making sure they get the benefits they need and helping provide socialization. It also provides senior programming in the arts, medical support, and just interesting stuff, such as lecture series, writing workshops or breakfast socials. The current members have served Windsor their whole lives, as selectmen, board of health agents, and many more committees. They are tired, but hanging on until some new, enthusiastic people come along to give them a break. My pet peeve this month is hearing so many people say, "Someone should." My response is, "Why not you?" So if you have some time to give, Why not you?

On that note, let me introduce myself as your new Tax Collector. Becky is staying on as Treasurer and Assistant Tax Collector. Paul Lisi has withdrawn his resignation and will remain our Accountant. Jazzmyn Tulloch (yes, the owner of the wayward goats) has taken the job of Select Board Assistant, and Robin is still our Administrative Assessor (plus everything else she does to keep this town running). Tax collector hours are Monday night 5-7, Tues/Thurs 10-2 and anytime my car is there. New Tax Bill Address: 1890 Route 9 Suite 5, Windsor, MA 01270.

—Madeline Scully

Join the Library Book Group

Does a deadline help you complete a goal? Looking to expand on the kind of books you read? Have you read an awesome book and wish you had some people to talk about it with? Please stop by the Windsor Public Library and inquire about our book group. We meet about every 5 weeks for an interactive book discussion. All books are obtained through inter-library loan, so there are no costs involved. Fiction, non-fiction, best-seller list, obscure books... we read them all! Come check us out. —Beth Webb

Introducing Kim Wetherall Windsor's New Conservation Commission Agent

It is the work of the Windsor Conservation Commission to locally administer the Wetland Protection Act (WPA). Our responsibility under the WPA is for the review of project plans, including construction, renovations, alterations, additions, tree cutting, land clearing, river clean-up, any of which include activity in or within 100 feet of a Resource (any lake, pond, stream, swamp, or vegetated wetland) and within 200 feet of any river.

We can assure all property owners that there is a solution and/or a plan for any application requesting work to be permitted under the WPA so please don't shy away from the application and permitting process for fear of being denied. Our goal is help property owners meet their goals while protecting our sensitive wetlands and rare species.

If you wish to discuss your project informally, before filing with the Conservation Comm, we encourage you to have that conversation with us and are happy to answer your questions. Please feel free to contact me at the town hall, my cell: 413.441.3697, or by email : kjwetherell@verizon.net.

Remembering my Best Friend, Peg Ferry

Peg and I have been dear friends for over 65 years. Here are a few recent memories.

Peg had to go to the emergency room and asked if I could go with her and Hugh and I said "yes", and as things go in the ER they asked if I was a relative. I got a funny look from the ER staff but I just spoke up and said "different fathers." We were always there for one another.

When it rained out we would rush to the window to see if there was a rainbow and call the other to say get outside and look. We both loved rainbows.

We called each other almost every night and talked about our daily chores. The last thing we said each night was "I love you."

The night Peg died she said, "I love you, Barb" and I said, "I'll talk to you tomorrow, Peg". She replied, "God willing." Those were my best friend's last words to me.

I love you, Peg. . . . You are missed.

--Barb Sturtevant

REFLECTIONS FROM MAME WHELIHAN

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

CHICKEN LITTLE/FOXIE LOXIE. You may have heard the story of Shane's back-to-nature good Samaritan run after the wounded fisher-cat. Well, here's the sequel.

Kathy is busy tending her garden and out of nowhere out comes a young fox who grabs one of Kathy's beloved chickens and takes off on a run, but never fear, Kathy's here.

Off she goes, hoe in hand at a spirited gallop after the fox, shouting, "Let my chicken go!" She scared that fox half to death, both with swinging the hoe and some very irate and demanding shouting. Said fox opens his mouth, probably to call for help, drops Little Red Hen and streaks for home.

Kathy gathers up her hen who is miraculously alive and well, soothes her rattled nerves (the chicken's, not Kathy's) and deposits her in a safety-secured home and heads inside to start dinner, which you can bet your bottom dollar will definitely not be chicken tonight.

Select Board Corner

Janet, Doug, and I talked about what the community should know about our work this month I will summarize with one word: Planning. In the short-term, we have a series of cemetery cleanups planned for late summer and early fall, organized by the Cemetery Commission and the Select Board. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the SB at 413-684-3811 ext. 4 or email Janet Sadlo at janet.sadlo@gmail.com.

The Town is also beginning a long-term planning process, with assistance from the state. It is the Board's intention to assist Windsor in determining community needs and financially preparing to meet these needs. While there are several important community needs that will be part of the planning process, one important focus is developing infrastructure for Aging in Place.

Our Council on Aging needs volunteers. COA is the pulse point for this planning and the work of the COA, along with attention from the Select Board, will help the town plan and implement needed senior services. Please consider volunteering if you are interested in the ability to age in place in Windsor.

As always, you are welcome at Select Board meetings. We meet every Monday at 7pm. --Kim Tobin, Select Board Chair

FOCUS on Windsor's Pollinators

August: Paper Wasps are just like us

If you check under the eaves of your house or other man-made structures around your home, you may very well find a recently founded paper wasp colony. While it might seem awfully late in the season for a queen to start with a new brood, she may found multiple late-season colonies (sometimes called "satellite nests") as insurance against total reproductive failure in the case of predation. Birds will knock down paper wasp colonies, and having extras ensures that the queen won't lose her entire reproductive effort.

Unlike honey bees, paper wasp queens continue to forage and defend their nests even after founding their colonies. They don't specialize solely in child-rearing. Because queens take an active role in provisioning their brood, there is high queen mortality. Perhaps as an adaptation to this, all female paper wasps are capable of reproduction. Workers eschew reproduction not because they are unable to do so, but because it is not their "job" within the colony. Should the queen die, the next in line—generally the eldest—assumes her role. In addition to having a line of succession, some paper wasps (*Polistes fuscatus*) have evolved facial recognition. Each sister has a slightly different pattern of facial markings that allow her home colony to identify her.

Paper wasps are also dissimilar to honey bees in that only fertile queens overwinter. Workers' lifespans are brief, lasting only a few weeks, and males are only present for part of the season. In *Polistes exclamens*, males can be identified by the black marks on their heads and thorax. They also lack stingers. A stinger is a modified ovipositor (egg-laying organ), and no male Hymenoptera sting.

Paper wasps are beneficial garden insects; they are specialized predators of caterpillars and other soft-bodied insects. While some wasps (e.g. yellow jackets) are aggressive, many wasp species are slow to anger. If these animals are in a place where they are not a risk to people walking by, consider saving a place in your garden for these useful working moms! *This excerpt was reprinted with permission from an article entitled Paper Wasps are just like Us, found at the Xerces Society website.*

Coming Up at Windsor's Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center

Fern & Woodland Plant walk.

Saturday August 11: 9am-11am

Learn woodland flora and ferns with Naturalist Aimee Gelinas. Supported by the Berkshire Environmental Endowment & Central Berkshire Funds. \$10pp / Register: aimee@gaiaroots.com Info: www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org



The Wanna Bees

The Wanna Bees dance to the Ajuga. Beautiful, lavender bluish flowers dominate the large front yard of the country home. The Wanna Bees buzz about the flowers and exercise their expertise and become pollinators. For the bees, the day is done with the setting sun. The bees swarm to the warmth and comfort of their hives and nests for a well-deserved rest.

For 25 years, I have visited a residential property west of Boston, performing home maintenance and security for the the property owners, who live in Europe most of the year.

Every spring, the large front yard is covered with beautiful flowers called Ajuga. Every spring, I mow the lawn and mow the flowers down so passer-bys see a well-groomed property.

However, this year is different. I received a special thank you note from Patty Crane for a donation to the Windsor Now & Then and in it she mentioned the special insert on Pollinators which would appear in the May issue.

As I started to mow the lawn, several bees buzzed away and a few toads hopped away. I thought of Patty's note. I stopped mowing, thinking, Why mow these beautiful flowers down?.

A few days later the newsletter arrived and the colorful inset provided specific information on Pollination and Pollinators plus wonderful articles by Patty Crane and Susan Phillips. After reviewing this, I realized the significance of my decision not to mow the flowers. I credit *Windsor Now & Then* and the efforts of Patty and Susan with my direct and Immediate contribution to supporting pollination.

As I entered my vehicle to leave the property, I stopped and looked across the field of Ajuga flowers, saying, "Have a good day, Busy Bees." --Ronald Bilodeau

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

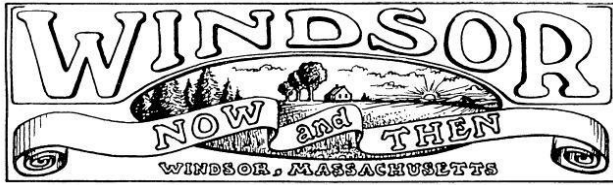
Chi Gung Class in Cummington

Hilltown resident Michael Alterman is beginning his eighth year teaching a weekly class in Taoist Water Method Chi Gung at the Village Church in Cummington. Class meets on Tuesday nights, and the fall session begins on September 4. The fee for a seven-week session is charged on an affordable \$20-\$65-\$110 sliding scale. For more information, contact Michael at 413-358-6919 or alterman@speakeasy.net, or visit: getyourenergyflowing.com.

Sense of Community

"Our true destiny...is a world built from the bottom up by competent citizens living in solid communities, engaged in and by their places."

—David W. Orr



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

DONATION ENVELOPE ENCLOSED

A Steady Rise

Step by careful step, Dominique Frink is turning her love of baking bread into her home business – and if you go to one of the remaining Windsor Community Market events this year, you can taste the result. (The community market will be held at the Windsor Historical Museum from 10 am to 2 pm on Aug. 12, Sept. 1, and at the Sept. 30 Pie Sale.)

Frink and fiancé Jordan Koch moved to town about two years ago from Virginia, and Frink got seriously into her bread-baking groove shortly after they settled at the property they've named Lion's Tooth Farm.

It was not Frink's first plan – she entered the baking and pastry arts program at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., with the intention of becoming a cake decorator. But she emerged instead with a love of baking bread and an understanding of how to turn that into a home-based business with minimal investment. "My teacher gave me some really good tips on how to make bread at home almost as good as what you can make with professional equipment," says Frink. (The one professional tool that home cooks cannot fully compensate for is the oven, according to Frink.)

Frink's breads are made using what is called a "poolish", a starter that is made from commercial yeast – unlike sourdough starter, from wild yeast – and then allowed to ferment for 16 hours or more. After the loaves are shaped, they ferment for four more hours before baking. She describes the result as "not quite sourdough...but close."

With the money she made in her first year of selling locally, Frink was able to buy a commercial-grade mixer. That has made it possible for her to increase production. Next year, she plans to expand to some larger local seasonal markets, such as Pittsfield and Lee.

Among other lessons learned, Frink has narrowed her focus. "I started out with five types of bread, but two really didn't sell so now I make three: olive, seeded, and plain white."

Interestingly, Frink has discovered that Windsor's favorite loaf is olive, but Dalton favors plain white.

–Susan Phillips

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.

