



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for  
SEPTEMBER issue:  
Friday, AUGUST 28**  
Send news to:  
**fowindsor@gmail.com**  
(mark subject line:  
WNI&T)

## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVI, No. 8

[www.friendsofwindsor.com](http://www.friendsofwindsor.com)

**AUGUST 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](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com)

#### *Thanks to our Recent Donors*

Ron Bilodeau / Diane & Charles Sturtevant

~

Carolyn Mongue Lee

*in memory of Fred & Margaret Mongue and  
Fred & Gladys Mongue*

### **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](mailto: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**

Blue skies, puffy white clouds, and the bounty and color of the gardens—August in Windsor is such a joy! —*Deb Balmuth*

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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](mailto:susanphillips57@gmail.com)*

### **FOW News**

What's Giving You Joy? With the uncertainty and stress of this pandemic, it is wonderful to be reminded of the ways we still connect, and how much that helps to keep us balanced and looking forward. We hope you'll enjoy one such story, from Eileen Markland, on our back page this month. Eileen is a violinist, a teacher, and someone with a gift for reaching out. She's also an FOW board member. What's giving you joy these days? An unexpected encounter with some Windsor wildlife, a moment of beauty that caught you unawares, a conversation that helped shift your mood? An absolutely killer recipe for wild blueberry muffins? Let us know, and we'll share it either here or on our Facebook page.



**Looking in the Rearview Mirror:** In July, we shared a small piece of the Bill Bilodeau story, after receiving a fascinating clutch of documents and photos from Ron Bilodeau in the mail. It was a reminder that Windsor has always been home to AT LEAST its fair share of characters. Over the coming months, as 2021 and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of town's incorporation approach, the Windsor Historical Commission will be especially interested in hearing about overlooked Windsor people and events. WHC member Susan Phillips wants to hear your stories . . . you can email her at [susanphillips57@gmail.com](mailto:susanphillips57@gmail.com).

**Can We Have the Envelope, Please?** Yes, it's that time again, when we include a small envelope and ask for your support, in whatever amount you can manage. FOW is so grateful for every donation... We enjoy putting this newsletter out, welcoming newcomers to town with boxes of Windsor goodies, gathering oral histories and otherwise working to keep our far-flung community connected. Thank you for helping us keep it all going.  
—*Susan Phillips*

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 AUGUST Community Calendar at [friendsofwindsor.com](http://friendsofwindsor.com) (under *Windsor Now & Then*).

**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)**

## Town Clerk Notes

State Primary: September 1, 7-7PM  
Presidential Election: November 3,  
7AM-7PM

PLEASE READ: IMPORTANT ELECTION  
INFORMATION—ESSENTIAL FOR ALL  
WINDSOR RESIDENTS TO KNOW

To Vote at the Poll at the Windsor  
Town Hall: enter main entrance exit  
through kitchen.

### EARLY VOTING OPTIONS

In-person Early Voting for the  
September 1 State Primary is available  
Saturday, August 22 through Friday,  
August 28. Windsor hours at the  
Town Offices 8/22: 8am-6pm and  
8/24 through 28: 12 noon -8pm. Enter  
through ramp door, allowing 1 voter  
with mask, 1 poll worker with shield  
and sneeze guard. Pencils disinfected  
between voters.

In-person Early Voting for the  
November 3 State/Presidential  
Election is Saturday, October 17  
through Friday, October 30,

Vote Early by Mail: Download a  
Vote by Mail Application (link  
below) or use the postcard mailed to  
all registered voters. Voting by mail is  
available to all voters for all elections  
in 2020. You do not need an excuse to  
vote by mail this year.

[http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/  
/2020-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf)

To vote by mail, all you need to do is:

1. Complete a vote by mail  
application, using one application to  
request ballots for the primary, the  
general election, or both!

If you are independent and you are  
voting in the primary, check which  
party ballot you would like. Choosing  
a party ballot does not register you in  
the party. Make sure the application  
is signed. You may sign by hand, or  
electronically by mouse, stylus, or  
finger. Typed names are not  
acceptable signatures.

2. Deliver your Application to  
Windsor Town Clerk by email, mail,  
fax or drop box

Email: windsortownclerk@gmail.com

Mail: 1890 Route 9 Suite 2, Windsor,  
MA 01270

Fax: 413-684-3806

OR Drop in Black mailbox #2 at the  
right of the town office driveway

Application must arrive:

For State Primary: by August 26 to  
vote by mail in the September 1.

For State/Presidential Election: by  
October 28.

### 3. Vote when your ballot arrives

Ballots for the September 1 State  
Primary will be mailed beginning in  
early August. Ballots for November 3  
State/Presidential election will be  
mailed in early October.

4. Return your ballot to the  
Windsor Town Clerk or the polls by  
8 pm on Election Day, or mail in  
addressed envelope provided, or drop  
in Black dropbox #2 to right of town  
office driveway.

For the primary, all ballots must  
arrive at the Windsor Town Clerk's  
office by Tuesday, September 1 at 8  
pm. For the general election, ballots  
sent by mail must be postmarked by  
Tuesday, November 3 and must arrive  
at the Windsor Town Clerk's office  
by Friday, November 6 at 5 pm.  
Ballots delivered by hand or by  
dropbox must be delivered by 8 pm  
on Tuesday, November 3rd.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 22: Last Day to Register to  
Vote in State Primary Election

August 22-August 28: In Person Early  
Voting State Primary

October 24: Last Day to Register to  
Vote in Presidential Election

October 17-30: In Person Early Voting  
Presidential Election

Windsor Board of Health Permits  
now available online, just like our  
building, electrical and plumbing).

Apply and pay at the following link:

[http://berkshireplanning.org/images/  
uploads/initiatives/Alliance Online P  
ermitting Instructions 1.pdf](http://berkshireplanning.org/images/uploads/initiatives/Alliance Online Permitting Instructions 1.pdf) Follow  
the instructions on the BOH page on  
windsormass.com.

Transfer Station  
Stickers. Pick up  
an application  
form at transfer  
station. Mail in  
with \$75 check  
and stamped self-  
addressed  
envelope.

Despite my best efforts to use this  
paper, the town website, and our  
local stores as communication tools,  
I'm still hearing from residents who  
are not getting the information. Any  
suggestions for additional  
communication channels are most  
welcome. Please check the Windsor  
Facebook page daily for updates.

Animal Control Notice. With more  
people walking their dogs while self-  
isolating, there have been several dog-  
fight incidents. Please leash your dog  
while on town roadways and do not  
let them run on private property.  
Your dog may be friendly and well-  
socialized, but the leashed dog may  
not. Remember to always ask  
permission before letting your dog  
approach a person. The animal  
control officers will be identifying  
loose dogs and contacting owners to  
keep your dog on your property and  
under control. Hot spots for loose dog  
calls have been Shaw Road, East  
Windsor Road, and Flintstone Road.

-Madeline Scully

### SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"We have lived our lives by the  
assumption that what was good for  
us would be good for the world. We  
have been wrong. We must change  
our lives so that it will be possible to  
live by the contrary assumption, that  
what is good for the world will be  
good for us. And that requires that  
we make the effort to know the  
world and learn what is good for it."  
— Wendell Berry (from *The Long-  
Legged House*)

### Green Committee Work in

**Action:** The crew from Energia was  
at work insulating the town offices  
building last month. Their work will

keep the  
cold Windsor  
wind outside  
and the heat  
inside! This  
work was  
paid for with  
a state  
grant. -Holly  
Higginbotham



## Tamarack Hollow Events

Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center is located at 1515 & 1516 Savoy Hollow Road, Windsor. For registration and fee info on these events, email: [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com). Visit [www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org](http://www.tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org)

EVERY MONDAY West African & Caribbean drum and song classes with Aimee Gelinis M.Ed ONLINE & IN PERSON at Windsor Town Park (weather dependent). 6pm beginner / 7pm advanced.

Saturday August 15 10am-12pm Fern & Woodland Plant walk at the Tamarack Hollow. Learn woodland ferns and flora with naturalist Aimee Gelinis. Supported by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation Central Berkshire Fund.

Saturday August 29 9:30-12. Explore the Flora and Fauna of Graves Farm, Williamsburg, MA. This round trip, 1.5mile hike led by Aimee Gelinis M.Ed will highlight the flora and fauna of this unique Mass Audubon property. Hike is free (donations accepted), supported in part by a grant from the Williamsburg Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

### Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

A FOND FAREWELL. When our dumpster finally bit the dust and became easily accessible for our trash-strewing resident bear and hungry skunk we said, "Enough's enough, out it goes.". There was a skunk-size hole in it and Mr. Skunk took full advantage of it, hopping in wreaking havoc to his heart's content. So, to dumpster heaven it went.

Next morning, here comes Mr. Skunk ready for breakfast brunch. If a skunk could raise his eyebrows in surprise, I'm sure he did. No dumpster! He scoots around looking for it., clearly irked. Through the fence he stomps, much to the dismay of the two enclosed sheep, They did not welcome the intruder, and proceeded to show it. They did the Dance of Denial.

Have you ever seen the Dance of Denial done by sheep? I hadn't and I didn't know sheep could leap like that. They start at one end of their run, leap into the air, do a fantastic U-turn mid-air, perform a flawless arabesque, do a quick tour jette and fly to the other end, trying their best to evict said skunk. Holy Cow, or skunk, we think. What will we do if skunk retaliates? Bathtime with Amway LOC could be tricky with uncooperative sheep. Luckily the skunk beat a hasty retreat as did we.

I miss our dumpster as do Mr. Skunk and Mr. Bear, but wish them all . . . Happy Trails to the Great Beyond!!!!!!!



## HURRY and SIGN UP for Broadband Internet

By the time you read this, the fiber distribution network in the West side of town is already complete and work is begging to move East. In six months, everyone except pond residents (who will be connected next summer when they open their camps) will be connected to gigabit speed fiber internet. That is, if you signed up. Since our goal is to get all the homes with underground utilities ready to connect before the ground freezes, we need to begin assessing existing conduit and, where necessary, burying new conduit. Beginning in August homeowners who have signed up will be receiving a call from TriWire to arrange for a visit to discuss how your home will be connected.

Anyone who has underground utilities and wants to be connected must be signed up for service by SEPTEMBER 15. Any home with such service that is not signed up by that date will not be eligible for the town subsidy of up to \$2000 to cover the cost of connecting to the network. For all homes with aerial connections the deadline is December 15, but if you wait until then, most of your neighbors will already be enjoying gig service, and you will have to wait until drop teams are free to return to your neighborhood.

To SIGN UP: Go to our web page, [windsormass.com](http://windsormass.com), and click on the subscribe to Broadband box near the top of the page. Two thirds of the homes in Windsor are already signed up, so don't wait and miss out on the town's generous subsidy to get you connected to the network.—  
Doug McNally

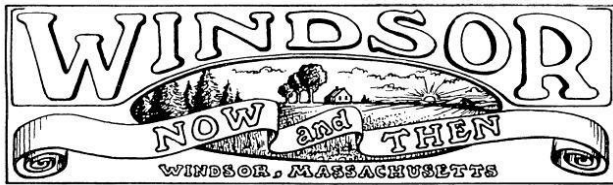
~~~~~  
(story continued from back page)

The path that led Patty to living in the nursing home was "windy and bumpy", she says, describing her life there today as complicated, mostly because she is "very independent". Many friends and the wonderful care she receives brighten her days. She worries about COVID-19, and struggles with the restrictions residents face as a result.

In April, I selfishly realized that Patty might enjoy helping me sing for the Windsor Congregational Zoom Church services. She quickly agreed and we began to "Zoom in" from the nursing home each Sunday morning. We harmonize (always at a distance!) while I play guitar or piano for two or three hymns or songs each week. Patty looks forward all week to our rehearsals and the service. She loves the uplifting messages from our pastor, Heather Juby, and the warm community of the congregation. Her participation has helped me enormously, as the idea of singing by myself in front of people who aren't children is terrifying! (Remember, I'm really a violinist.)

Amid the loss, fear and anxiety of the pandemic, I have taken great solace in singing with Patty these past months. She is a gift. I am enormously grateful for her and her presence in my life. --Eileen Markland

AUGUST 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

**ENCLOSED:**

**COA NEWSLETTER**

**DONATION ENVELOPE**

**A Pandemic, the Little Church that Could, and My Friend Patty** *by Eileen Markland*

This story is not about me but I should say that I am a musician. I started singing as a toddler and in 1975 I first picked up a violin. My path in life was revealed. Teaching, chamber and orchestral performances, fiddle and folk gigs, a Celtic Band, a little jazz here and there. These days the music is a mix of it all plus the Windsor Congregational Church Music directorship and a position organizing activities in a nursing home.

That is where I met Patty. Our journey together began in March, when the school where I teach shut its doors for a "two week" break. With time to spare, I offered to spend more time at the nursing home.

With outside activities and entertainment banned for residents, my suggestion was warmly welcomed and I began spending a few days a week helping residents pass these long, lonely and difficult pandemic days -- mostly singing and playing guitar (while wearing a mask and staying at least 12 feet away from residents). I can now sing for hours while masked! I have also learned two absolute truths: music has the power to ease sorrow, cure loneliness and inspire happiness; and Patty is a BRILLIANT harmonizer! She is so versatile and has such a good ear for harmony that I began depending on her help.

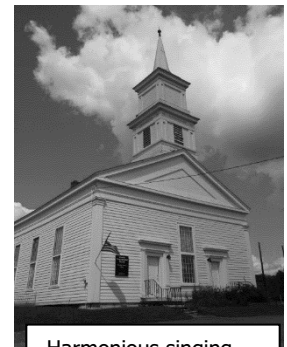
I was curious about this dynamic, vibrant woman with such vocal mastery. I asked if she would tell me something about her life and she was happy to oblige.

Patty was born in Springfield, MA in 1942. She was "born to sing the melody", her younger sister the high harmony and her older sister the low notes. The sisters formed an *a cappella* trio and sang at parties, weddings and talent shows throughout childhood.

The music of her mother, aunt and grandmother -- "The Rhythm Girls" -- is the sound track for her memories. As teenagers, the Rhythm Girls had their own radio show on WBZ in Boston.

Patty married, launched a business, had children, divorced and married again. She met her second husband, Bill, when she was a guest at a wedding and heard his band playing. They fell head over heels "at first sight". Soon they too were married and started their own group, "High Society". Patty sang lead, Bill played guitar, Patty's friend Wanda played bass and Bill's friend played drums. They appeared at the Whale Inn in Goshen every Friday and Saturday night for many years. After the inn closed in 1997 the band stayed busy in the Amherst area until Bill's death in 2013.

*(continued on inside, page 3)*



Harmonious singing continues to flow from the Windsor Church on Sundays via Zoom