



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for  
NOVEMBER  
issue:  
Thursday,  
October 27**

Send news to:  
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## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXVIII, No. 9

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

OCTOBER 2022

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES  
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### *Thanks to our Recent Donors*

Susan Phillips and Scott Rogers  
Leslie and Peter Reed

### *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](mailto: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; Eileen Markland, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.

### FOW News

A fond farewell to Friends of Windsor board member Cindy Efinger. Cindy, and her husband, Mark, have left Windsor for the allure of eastern Massachusetts, but they've also left their mark on Windsor. With her indomitable energy and good spirit, Cindy brought great ideas—and the ability to make them happen—to town. She was instrumental in helping organize many of the 250th anniversary events in 2021, hosted a popular booth at the farmers market in Windsor and nearby towns selling her amazing Windsor-grown sprouts, and helped lead Windsor's response to COVID. Cindy and Mark both shared their theater know-how in the town production several years ago (plus, we'll all remember how Mark put his booming voice to work as Town Moderator). We'll miss Cindy's joyful presence tremendously and wish her and Mark the very best in their new home and community.



With the splashes of red, yellow, and rust appearing on the hillsides and the frost warnings at night, we know fall has arrived in Windsor. Enjoy the colorful show and the coziness of home.

As always, we're grateful to our donors and our readers. Your support keeps us going! *-Deb. Balmuth*

### Parks & Recreation Happenings

**Movie Night at the Town Hall, Friday October 14, 6PM.** Get in the Halloween spirit and join the Parks & Rec Committee for a screening of the original Hocus Pocus. Cider and donuts will be provided, so come relax, eat some sweets and enjoy this classic seasonal movie! Free.

**Trunk or Treat at the Town Park, Saturday, October 29, 2-4PM.** Calling all Halloween fans! Come have some fun at our 4th annual Trunk or Treat. Decorate your car, truck, or RV and hand out candy to excited ghosts, goblins, princesses, and more. We'll have a bonfire, weather permitting, and light snacks. Rain date is Sun., Oct. 30. All ages are welcome, with or without kids!

**Hilltown Jr. Olympics.** What a great day was had in Goshen on Sept. 25 for the Hilltown Olympics. Windsor had eight kids participate (out of 180) and even brought home some gold medals! Thank you to Tracy Krobath, Dave Melle, Pizza House in Adams, Windsor Land Clearing & Excavation, The Neilsen Team, and Scouts BSA for sponsoring our t-shirts. Also many thanks to our team leader, Abby Smith, and all the volunteers that helped make it happen. Congrats Team Windsor! *--Barbara Connors*

## Hilltown Scouts Welcoming New Members

On August 14, a couple of families came to the Scouting sign-up event at the Town Hall. The opportunity for adventure is still available for girls and boys aged 5 through 18. With involvement of a few more kids, Windsor can have a dynamic Cub Pack and BSA Troop. Your friends from Cummington, Savoy, Peru, Worthington, and Cheshire are also invited. Potential activities include weekend camping during the fall, model car racing, and summer camp 2023. For more information: contact Stu Besnoff, 413-684-3950, [stu.besnoff@gmail.com](mailto:stu.besnoff@gmail.com).



## Cultural Council Seeking Grant Applicants

The Windsor Cultural Council is currently accepting online grant applications for 2023. Projects that benefit our community and individual Windsor residents in the arts and humanities are given special consideration. For more information, go to [mass-culture.org](http://mass-culture.org) and scroll down to “Apply now for LCC Grants.” If you need help, send your message to [windsormassculturalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:windsormassculturalcouncil@gmail.com). Deadline for applications is October 17.

## What Windsorites are Reading

Australian-American journalist and novelist Geraldine Brooks had me at the title: *Horse*. This historical fiction book weaves together three compelling stories: the lifelong bond between an enslaved boy and a remarkable thoroughbred colt he encourages and protects from birth; an oil painting of a racehorse that is rescued from sidewalk trash in Georgetown by a PhD student in art history; and a dusty skeleton, labeled simply as “horse,” stored in the attic of the Smithsonian.

The book opens in 1850 and follows Jarret and Lexington through two decades of rewards and challenges at a time when both were considered mere chattel to be exploited by one racehorse owner to the next. The stories of the painting and skeleton that are “discovered” a century and a half later shine light on racial injustice that still lives with us.

Brooks is a gripping storyteller, and the reader can't help but care deeply and hope for a good outcome. In fact, Lexington (1850-75) is one of the greatest racehorses of his day and sire to more winning horses than any other American thoroughbred to date. His bones are at the Smithsonian. The book, published in June 2022, is 401 pages. -*Leslie Reed*

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

## Tamarack Hollow & Gaia Roots World Music Events

The 13th annual Tamarack Hollow Berkshire Drum Fest will be held on Saturday, October 15 at the Windsor Town Park (rain location Windsor Town Hall), featuring multi-level drum classes with Namory Keita from Sangbarala, Guinea, West Africa and a community performance featuring Namory Keita & Aimee Gelinias with members of Gaia Roots, the Berkshire Rhythm Keepers and the Offbeat Women Drummers. The day's schedule includes:

**10:30-12 & 1-2:30** Intergenerational, multi-level drum classes with Namory Keita (registration required, \$30 per class, per person; drum rental \$5. Limited scholarships available)

**3pm** Intergenerational West African Concert featuring Namory Keita, Aimee Gelinias, members of Gaia Roots, the Berkshire Rhythm Keepers and the Offbeat Women Drummers. Fee: \$10-20 sliding scale, walk ins welcome!

Fest proceeds will support the artists and the Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center's year-round environmental education for all ages. Tamarack Hollow is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit organization whose mission is to “Inspire environmental and cultural awareness, appreciation and stewardship”. Visit the website or Facebook event page for more info. The fest will also include a world marketplace and refreshments.

Email Aimee Gelinias at [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com) to register for drum classes. The performance is free for Windsor residents thanks to a Windsor Cultural Council grant.

**“Haunted Hollow” Friday October 28 7-9pm** at the Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center 1515 & 1516 Savoy Hollow Rd. Windsor. We will start the night with a short, guided night hike on our woodland trails to learn about the boreal trees and conclude with a campfire, marshmallows and hot cider plus Halloween / seasonal stories and some spooky decorations on the trails! \$20 per person. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Please bring a flashlight/headlamp, chair for the campfire, and wear warm layers. Costumes encouraged! Email [aimee@gaiaroots.com](mailto:aimee@gaiaroots.com) to register (required).

## Reflections from Mame Whelihan

*Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road*

**Queen of the Bring to Share.** We all have a claim to fame, but nothing at all like Janet's. At get-togethers, Janet's “bring to share item” is her famous peanut butter balls. I sometimes think there really isn't a “bring to share event;” we just want her to bring more peanut butter balls. Greed has no shame. She really enjoys being the Queen of the Peanut Butter Balls, although the crown can get a bit sticky at times.

Thanksgiving is coming up so let's hope she stocks her freezer with enough to make it to Christmas. Janet, here's to advance requests: it's Peanut Butter Ball Season!

## Town Clerk Notes

Special Town Meeting at the Windsor Town Hall on Monday, October 17, 7pm  
Visit: [www.windsormass.com](http://www.windsormass.com) for full warrant.

State Election, Tuesday, November 8 at Windsor Town Hall, 7a.m. – 8p.m.

Early Voting at the Town Offices on Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Wednesdays, October 26 November 2. 5 – 8 p.m.

You must be registered to vote by 5pm, October 29, 2022 to be eligible to vote in the state election --Nancy Salvatore

**BIRD TIP** \*\* The good news is that if you haven't cleaned up your gardens yet, it's better not to! Leaving standing stalks and seed heads provides food to the birds all winter, as well as shelter for birds, overwintering pollinators, and other critters. So leave some of your garden standing along with unraked leaves, and brush piles for your feathered neighbors.

## History and Community, Celebrated

Thanks to everyone who came to Windsor Historical Commission's Open House on Sunday, September 25. After the pandemic pause, it was lovely to welcome community members back to our historical house, to admire the paint-job-in-progress and the revamped displays in the central room, as well as some new acquisitions on display in the carriage shed.

Gaia Roots, featuring Windsor's own Aimee Gelinas, made beautiful music until the rains came, and everyone enjoyed locally sourced snacks, coffee and cider from Sangar's, Friendly Fred's, and the Old Creamery.

Windsor talent was also on display in the photo show – several local photographers shared their images, many of them highlighting Windsor's natural beauty. Thanks to Dawn Klein, Emily Bunnell, Kelly Harper, Karen Schiltz, Susan Phillips, and Debbie Drumm for taking part.

Special thanks to the Windsor Cultural Council and Sangar's Store for support of this event.

The historical Commission is seeking new members. If you're interested in joining us to help document and preserve Windsor's history, please contact Deb Balmuth at 684-4535 or [codebwindsor@gmail.com](mailto:codebwindsor@gmail.com).

Gaia Roots musicians Shanti Starr and Aimee Gelinas (pictured), along with Dan Cohen, brought energetic rhythm to the Historical Commission's Open House Day.



## From the Green Committee

The Green Committee recently completed its "eight-year summary," which is a review of all of the energy conservation projects undertaken since the committee was formed in 2015. These projects include the installation of the photovoltaic array at the town offices, which technically is not energy conservation, but because it reduces our energy costs and captures energy from renewable resources, we are including it in our review.

A total of \$352,770 has been spent on these projects, of which only \$27,343 was drawn from town funds. All of the other funding has come from grants, federal funds, and rebates.

In addition, there has been some revenue generated by these projects, which funnels directly into the town's general fund for operating expenses. The PV array generates Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (known as SREC's), and since FY2019, \$20,585 has been added to the town coffers. Two other one-time payments, a rebate for \$7,852 and a stipend for \$1,000, have also been paid into the general fund.

When FY22 is compared to our baseline year of FY15, there was a 32% reduction in both usage and cost. The combined annual savings for the past three years (FY20, FY21, and FY22), compared to FY15, was \$73,817. That is an annual average savings of \$24,606.

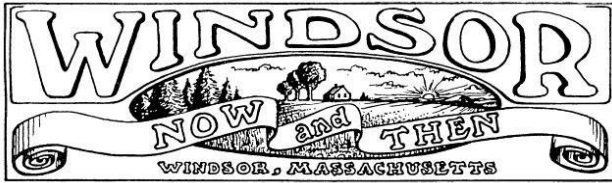
This report does not include the upcoming project this fall to replace the roof of the highway garage with new metal roof panels. The interior of the roof will have R-38 spray foam insulation. That \$126,000 project overseen by the Select Board will be paid entirely out of federal funds (American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA), and should result in lower heating costs for that building.

--Holly Higinbotham

## Energy-Saving Tip

Now is the time to clean or replace the filter on your furnace or air-source heat pumps, in order to maintain maximum energy efficiency.

OCTOBER 2022



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

### Welcoming New Neighbors in Windsor

Names: Nick Staffin and Ashley Scrivens

Address: 163 Savoy Hollow Road

When Nick bought his Windsor home from the Duda family in August, friends wondered why he chose to move to the woods atop a mountain, so far from everything. Nick and his girlfriend, Ashley, are actually finding the location to be perfect for their commutes. He works in the commercial lending department at Greylock Credit Union's main office in Pittsfield, and she is also in lending at the Adams Community Bank in Adams. The town broadband is keeping Nick connected on the days he can work remotely.

They are busy settling in and making updates to the house, such as installing new wood flooring. Their dogs, Koda and Goose, are enjoying the big yard and the surrounding woods. While they're just starting to meet their neighbors, they did have an early visit from a bear that scattered the contents of their temporary dumpster. Welcome to Windsor, Nick and Ashley!  
—Leslie Reed



**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).