



# WINDSOR

NOW and THEN

**DEADLINE for NOVEMBER issue;**  
**Thursday, October 26**

Send news to:  
[fowindsor@gmail.com](mailto:fowindsor@gmail.com)  
com

## Windsor, Massachusetts

Volume XXXIX, No. 9

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

OCTOBER 2023

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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](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; Terra Missildine, director; Susan Phillips, co-editor; Leslie Reed, treasurer.

### Friends of Windsor Notes

We're wrapping up our activities for the year and making plans for 2024, which will include a new community/phone directory. We're also planning repairs and updates on the historical landmarks signs we installed throughout town several years ago.

We're still looking for contributions from young artists (grades K-12) who would like their work featured in the new community directory. This could be a drawing, painting, or collage inspired by something you love about living in Windsor. So, get out your pencils, paints, and scissors and see what you can create!

Many thanks to our donors. As you start to think about your year-end gifts, we hope you'll keep Friends of Windsor in mind. We're a nonprofit, so your gift is tax-deductible. *-Deb Balmuth*



### Cultural Council Applications Due October 17

The Windsor Cultural Council is currently accepting applications for the coming year. The deadline is October 17. We encourage local artists to apply and Windsor residents to let us know if you have ideas and preferences on how you would like the council to allocate our funds. The state has awarded Windsor \$5,500; our grants typically average \$500. Find out more about the Massachusetts Cultural Council at [massculturalcouncil.org](http://massculturalcouncil.org).

Send applications and questions to:  
[windsormassculturalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:windsormassculturalcouncil@gmail.com)

*-Val Kohn, Windsor Cultural Council chair*

### Trunk or Treat October 28 at Town Park

Ghosts, goblins, princes, princesses, and all other festive creatures are invited to this year's Trunk or Treat at the Windsor Town Park on Saturday, October 28, 3-5PM. Families are encouraged to decorate your vehicle and hand out candy. We'll also have cider and donuts in case there isn't enough sugar to go around!

Come one, come all! No rain date, but if it's snowing, it's a go! Brought to you by Windsor Parks & Rec. *-Barbara Connors*



### October Bird Tip

DON'T clean up your yard or garden this fall! REALLY!!! Those seedheads on all your plants and weeds provide food to birds, rodents, and other overwintering creatures, and the plant material that's still standing provides shelter for pollinators, and other overwintering beings. Help them survive and help our planet survive.

## From the Green Committee

In keeping with our mission to improve the energy efficiency of town buildings, and maximize the use of grant funding, the Green Committee drafted a grant application in April 2023 requesting Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) funding for two projects, with detailed specifications we obtained from a building insulation specialist.

One proposed project is to insulate part of the floor at the Town Hall. Previously, access through a crawl space was used to insulate the underside of the floor in the Town Hall kitchen and rest rooms. Now that the heating system replacement has been completed, basement access is available to insulate the floor for about one third of the large meeting room. The remainder of that room, including the stage, does not have basement access and the crawl space for this area is too shallow for a person work in. Additional effort will be needed to gain access to insulate the remaining portion of the basement, and to address a problem with the floor.

The other proposed project is to insulate the walls of the Highway Department garage. Fortunately, when the roof was replaced last year, the contract included insulating the underside of the roof. Insulating the walls will complete work to tighten the envelope of the building. A decision on our grant application is expected in October 2023.—*Stu Besnoff*

### Energy Tip

If it has been at least three years since your last MassSave home energy assessment, you can schedule a new free assessment. You may be eligible for reduced cost for insulation, rebates, and 0% interest loans. Reach MassSave at 866-527-7283 or <https://www.masssave.com>.

## Tamarack Hollow Drum Fest October 14 at Town Park

The 14th annual Tamarack Hollow Berkshire Drum Fest will be held on Saturday, October 14 at the Windsor Town Park on Peru Rd (or the Town Hall in case of rain). This annual community event features intergenerational drummers and classes. The proceeds support the artists and Tamarack Hollow Nature & Cultural Center in Windsor, a year-round environmental educational center for all ages that is dedicated to conserving 88 acres of highland boreal forest in Windsor for future generations.

Tamarack Hollow is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit organization whose mission is to “Inspire environmental and cultural awareness, appreciation and stewardship.” For more information on the schedule and to register for classes, visit: [tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org](http://tamarackhollownatureandculturalcenter.org).

The evening performance is free for Windsor residents, thanks to a Windsor Cultural Council grant.

## (Re-)Introducing the Pastor of Windsor Congregational Church

Hello. I am Pastor Sandy Racette, and some of you may remember me from when I previously served at the church from 2007 to 2010. I worked first as Pastor Levi Davenport’s assistant, and eventually took the helm when he retired. My husband and I moved to Florida to help take care of my parents in 2010. We moved back to the Berkshires this past March. Thank you all for the welcoming snowstorm that arrived a few days after we did.

I’d like to invite you to take a peek into our Sunday morning services and check out all the great events coming up. Worship continues to begin at 10 AM on Sunday mornings, and we are presently exploring the possibility of Sunday School, Bible Studies, and numerous community events. Watch for fliers, other local articles, handouts, and surveys. As always, I invite you to reach out to me if I can help in any way. Pastor Sandy Racette 413-672-2613; [PastorSJRacette@gmail.com](mailto:PastorSJRacette@gmail.com)

## Central Berkshire School District to Discuss SRO

What is a School Resource Officer? What can they provide for our school district? Is an armed law enforcement officer in our schools a concern for me?

These are the questions that will be discussed by the CBRSD School Committee over the next few weeks as we consider implementing a School Resource Officer through the Dalton Police Department for Craneville, Nessacus, and Wahconah. The School Committee would like to hear your questions, concerns, and comments.

The District held a Parent/Caregiver Advisory meeting on October 2 to learn more about what an SRO program entails and what it could look like in our community. This was the first major opportunity to ask questions and voice opinions on the topic.

On October 26th, the School Committee will discuss all gathered information and vote whether or not to approve an SRO. All community members can attend in person or via Zoom (link available on the CBRSD website) and are free to provide their opinions or concerns during the public comment period.

Questions or comments can also be sent to the school committee any time before the vote via email. Please contact the Windsor School Committee Representative, Liz Lounsbury at [elounsbury@cbrsdk12.org](mailto:elounsbury@cbrsdk12.org).

## From the Town Administrator

River Road culvert construction is underway near the power line between High Street Hill and Cummington line. The road will be closed to thru traffic for approximately 2 months while construction continues. Please use alternative detour routes.

Committee Members Needed: Windsor has received a Municipal Vulnerability 2.0 grant to address populations disproportionately affected by climate change. We need at least 5 residents to serve on a committee to meet this grant requirement. Duties include attending trainings on the effects of climate change and discussion groups (primarily evening meetings). At the conclusion of the first year, the committee will choose a project to implement. There will be 2 available seats for high school or college-age members. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me asap. [Madeline Scully](mailto:MadelineScully@windsormass.com) 413-684-3811, ext 4; [msscully@windsormass.com](mailto:msscully@windsormass.com).

## Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

These days everyone tells me what to do, my caregivers, my daughter, my doctor. . . . I just want to tell them, "I'm in charge of me!" It brings back memories of my childhood. I had a formidable Italian grandmother who ran an ice cream-fruit store. She was a very prominent figure in our small town. When any of my classmates gave me a hard time, I would tell them Matiuch was high up in the mafia and they better treat me with respect, or else! One day my mother was called to the school office. After that conference, I had to give up my claim to fame-or else! I wish Matiuch was around now.

## Hilltown Junior Olympics Report

"Go, Nora, Go! Run!" I screamed. Four-year-old Nora was the first person in the first heat to take off running during the team relay race at this year's Hilltown Junior Olympics. She took off with a flash but as she turned the first curve she tripped and fell. But that didn't stop her! She got right back up and finished the first leg of the race. "I'm so proud of her," her Dad, Matt, said. "It was a little scary for a second. I thought she was going to start crying and run right to me. But she didn't, she kept on going!"

This year Windsor was the host of the games and we dedicated it to the Windsor Highway Department in honor of all the work they've done at the town park this year. Alumni participant Thomas Connors carried the torch to kick off the games, and our fearless leaders Abby Smith and Barbara Connors did a great job getting the kids where they needed to be.

Although Windsor didn't take home the trophy this year, we did see a lot of great teamwork and team spirit. We look forward to next year and a bigger team. -Barbara Connors



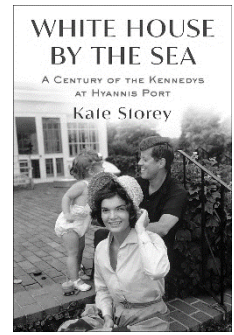
Windsor's small but mighty team!

## What Windsorites are Reading

*White House by the Sea* by Kate Storey,

reviewed by Julia Allan

Camelot it was not--except for perhaps the fictional roots it shares with King Arthur's Court. Author Kate Storey recounts the Kennedy's years at what came to be known as "The Kennedy Compound" in Hyannis Port, MA. I surmise Storey received the blessings of the Kennedy family, given the rose-colored glasses vantage point.



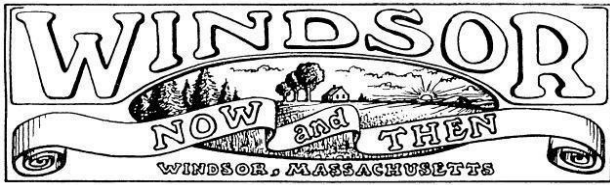
Our story begins with the life of the patriarch, Joseph Kennedy. We are left to speculate as to how exactly he amassed his enormous wealth. The book abounds with anecdotes, from Jackie Kennedy assuming everyone waterskies to Patricia Kennedy hijacking a local bus to win a scavenger hunt. It's all in good fun, although the author fails to mention the great privilege these Kennedys enjoyed in escaping criminal consequences for their actions. From hijacking a bus (Patricia) to leaving the scene of personal injury resulting in the death of Mary Jo Kopechne (Ted Kennedy), Storey glosses over the lack of culpability. Storey writes "Hyannis Port is what is left of Camelot." However, the Kennedy compound existed long before Jackie coined the phrase "Camelot" to mythologize her husband's legacy after he was assassinated.

And while I know the focus is on the Kennedys, nary a mention is made of the vast support staff required to keep them fed, cleaned up after, and cared for. Here we have the Kennedys' frolicking about on Thanksgiving Day right up until the sacred moment of ingestion with no credit given to those who made the abundant meal possible. We hear about Joe making millions from real estate with no further details provided. Perhaps less attention to the bone China and more to Joe's investments would have made this book stronger.

And lest we think the Kennedy brood was spoiled, Storey regales us with an anecdote of Ted and his buddy Joe Culver; after spending the night in the rain on the boat they asked the limo driver for a ride home. Upon being dispatched back to the compound, Joe ordered the driver to return the boys to the sailboat to properly dry the sails. Ted recounts this story years later as an example of the strictness with which they endured compared with "kids these days." The irony seems lost on Storey.

I finished the book feeling very sad about the death by accidental overdose of Saoire Kennedy a shining, young light (whom our youngest child briefly met and spoke of her warmth). And I was left to wonder how different events might have been had it not been for the steam consistently rising over Joe Kennedy's head to push his children into politics or, as in the case of his daughter Rosemarie, hide them from all. In which case, of course, we would not be reading about them now.

OCTOBER 2023



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### What is in Windsor's Historical House Museum?

The Windsor Historical Commission opened the house museum for a public viewing on Sunday, September 24 and we're grateful to those who ventured out on the damp, chilly day to enjoy the exhibits. If you weren't able to be there, here's a peek into what's inside. We've refreshed and decluttered the space to make many of the distinctive artifacts easier to view. The museum will be closed for the winter (we don't have heat) but watch for another chance next summer to come visit.

Each object in the museum tells a story of an aspect of life in Windsor. *—Deb Balmuth, photos by Glenn Roy*



ABOVE: The charming, detailed dioramas created by artist Olive Volsky, a long-time Windsor resident, bring scenes of local industry to life. This one depicts a spruce oil still, active in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The distilled oil was bottled and sold for use as a liniment for sore muscles. The distilling process is still used today to produce essential oils, with spruce oil recommended for its anti-inflammatory properties.

AT LEFT: The pipe organ on exhibit in the front parlor room was a long-time fixture in the East Windsor Chapel. The chapel was dedicated in 1911 and served the once-bustling community of East Windsor until the 1970s. East Windsor (located at the intersection of Worthington Road and Old Route 9), referred to in the late 1800s as Jordanville because of the number of families by that name who resided there, at one time boasted a store, machine shop, foundry, scythe stone factory, blacksmith shop, paint shop, the Jordan Hotel, and Charles Ball's factory.