

DEADLINE for OCTOBER
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SEPTEMBER 25

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Windsor, Massachusetts

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www.friendsofwindSOR.com

SEPTEMBER 2020

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FOW, 1890 Route 9, Suite 8, Windsor, MA 01270,
or email: fowindsor@gmail.com

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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;
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Paper Talk

The changing slant of light and cool evenings hint at what's to come. Savor every moment of Windsor's lovely late summer! --Deborah

Windsor, you make us proud. Over the past several months, you've helped orchestrate ways to keep this place we call home warm and ticking. You have sewn masks, prepared and delivered meals, made home visits, done horn-honking birthday drive-bys, brought us our very own Fourth of July parade, lined our main thoroughfare with flags, offered help, guidance, and much-needed cheer. And, along with your hearts, you've opened your checkbooks and truly humbled us with an outpouring of generosity the likes of which we've never seen. This month's quote by Terry Tempest Williams is worth repeating: "Finding beauty in a broken world is creating beauty in the world we find." The beauty you're helping to create is a community. And what a community it is! Thank you, one and all.

FOW News

In the Works: While we eagerly await the production of a lovely new placard explaining the pollinator-friendly installations around our Welcome to Windsor sign, we've kept busy pulling together the first installment of our ambitious year-long *Sharing Our Stories* project, slated to kick off next month. Over the past few months, we've delivered brimming welcome baskets to three new families in town. And we're pumping ourselves up for the newest edition of Windsor's handy little phone book.

Windsor Phone & Community Directory: 2021 is Windsor's 250th and we're aiming to make our phone directory worthy of the occasion. We can't do it without you! More details, as well as opportunities to help, will come in future issues. Meanwhile, it's not too early to email any additions or changes to our listing at fowindsor@gmail.com.

Keep in touch, stay safe, and be well.

With gratitude,

Patty Crane, *President, Friends of Windsor*

Windsor's Jazz Jam, September 6 & 20

If you're looking for music that will lift your heart and take your mind off your troubles, head up to the Windsor Town Park (on Peru Road) for the every-other-Sunday Jazz Jam, 1:30-4PM. Outstanding musicians—including Windsor's own Benny Kohn, Scott Rogers, and Jack Swindlehurst, to name a few—and vocalists are heating up the park with hot rhythms, as long as the weather holds out. The September dates are Sundays, September 6 & 20. Bring your own chair; wear your mask; and socially distance under the tents. The tunes will knit us together! --D. Balmuth



Town Clerk Notes

For the November 3 State & Presidential election:

In-Person Early Voting for the 11/03/2020 State & Presidential be held at the Town Offices on: 10/24 noon-7PM; 10/26-30, noon-7PM.

Absentee and early vote by mail ballots will be mailed as soon as we receive them, which should be mid-September. If you would like to vote by mail, but have not submitted ballot application, visit windsormass.com under election info for a link to apply.

Polls will be open on 11/3/2020, 7AM-7P at the Town Hall.

Last day to register to vote in this election is October 24.

Transfer Station Stickers: All residents should have purchased a sticker by now. If you need to purchase one, grab a form from Larry, add your \$75 check and mail it to the Town Offices, asap.

A Special Town Meeting in September, but the date has not been set. Please check the Windsor FB page often for updates. (see warrant article on facing page.)

Board of Health Looking for Volunteers: We need two more people to serve on our Board of Health. The Board meets once a month as needed and works with our Health Agents from Berkshire Public Health Alliance. No experience or expertise is required, but it will take a little bit of training to get familiar with all the things the Board of Health does. Luckily we have super health agents for that! –*Madeline Scully*

Fuel Assistance Program

If you would like to renew your fuel assistance or see if you are eligible to apply for the program, please contact me before the end of September for help with the application. My phone is always on at: 413-329-4364

–*Jessica Bouymaster*, outreach worker

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)

Flag Fund Update

Additional flags have been purchased and installed, not as many as usual, but it looks better! Assuming my normal supplier is online this fall, I'll stock up and be ready for spring.

I have been amazed at the outpouring of support and want to thank the supporters listed below. The fund is in terrific shape, thanks in large part to the way the folks of this town have stepped up given the circumstances earlier this summer. What a wonderful community.

As always, should you wish to make a donation, send checks payable to "The Town of Windsor" to: Jeb Chard; 1060 High Street Hill; Windsor, MA 01270

Flag Fund Supporters

Maria and David Lavalley
Joseph Moncecchi
Rebecca and Michael Wandrei
Joe and Margaret Birchfield
Leslie and Peter Reed
David and Sandra Zink
Terry and Debra Goodrich
David and Melody Lincoln

The Harvest Festival October 4 Will be Filled with Music & Treats (minus the Pie!)

The Windsor Historical Commission will be holding its annual Harvest Festival, with masks and social distancing, on Sunday, October 4 from 11AM to 1PM.

While we won't have pies for sale this year, and the museum won't be open for browsing, we will have some special treats, including:

Toe-Tapping Music from Trio Candela, featuring local musicians
Aimee Gelinis & Dan Kohn



A special set of collectible postcards featuring Windsor historical photos—yours for a small donation



Free coffee & pastries (courtesy of Panera)



So Please Stop by the Museum on Route 9 in the middle of Windsor, take in some uplifting music, and support the Historical Commission's work. –*Deb Balmuth*

Select Board Corner

I have been reflecting a lot about community building during COVID. One thing I realized is that if you look carefully, community can be cultivated in unexpected, yet impactful ways. For me, it's hearing the same dog barking out the window of a passing car every evening. While we joke that the dog is barking at the mythical Wendigo, I want to know the story! It's seeing Windsor residents leaving extra vegetables and household goods at the edge of their driveways for others to enjoy. It's getting to know new employees and committee members in a virtual space. It's Jazz Workshops and Facebook photos. It's new residents. And perhaps the most meaningful for me was being a part of the grant-funded food delivery program this summer. This program, which would have been impossible without the efforts of Cindy Effinger and John Connors, brought many residents together in crisis.

We came together, regardless of political views, age, race, religion, or income, to take care of each other. We came together, with mutual trust and without judgment, to ensure the needs of the community were met. And during a period of social distancing and too many divides, we safely met new people, got to know neighbors, and fostered a sense of gratitude. Our community has grown and strengthened because of simple acts of kindness. I'm sure there are many other ways you too have seen our community grow during COVID. This is Windsor!

As a reminder, the Select Board has been meeting regularly via Zoom. If you are interested in listening in, the log in information is found at the top of every agenda found on the Town of website (www.windsormass.com). All are virtually welcome and if you wish to participate in person, we ask that you reach out to Madeline Scully for a scheduled time with the Board.

–*Kim Tobin*

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"Finding beauty in a broken world is creating beauty in the world we find."—*Terry Tempest Williams*

Reflections from Mame Whelihan

Heather Hill Farm, Shaw Road

Pandemic in Windsor. This Pandemic has been tough to take, but I have to acknowledge Windsorites have come to the fore quite well. We've drawn together as a community like never before. John's delivered meals were a welcome respite. The food was great and I'm going to miss Mark who so cheerfully broke up my day when delivering my meals every Monday and Thursday.

Marnie and Bob often arrived with their farm-fresh eggs and we had a welcome, socially distanced, visit. The eggs are great and those "two good eggs" couldn't have been better at shattering my socially distanced day. While making jam with their own blueberries, John and Barbara ran out of sugar. Lo and behold, Madeline had more than enough and Town stuff was keeping her too busy to bake. Next morning, there's Barb and John heading up our driveway with blueberry jam. Great on waffles! We're all in this together. What a great place to be alive.

This horrible Pandemic has given us more free time to catch up with things that have been on our bucket list forever. If Janet comes up with one more project I think poor Paul will try social distancing with the bears. Joe has mowed every blade of grass that dares pop up along Shaw Road. Jamison and Abby have the most beautiful play area than Chase and Turner could possibly want. Connie, the Betsy Ross of Windsor, made so many much-needed masks. I love my fashion-stated one with the bright red Cardinal. It makes wearing a mask so much more than a necessity. And there's Barb and Pat, the unsung, but much appreciated purveyors of surplus food. Dave took the time to dismember the no-longer active tree branch. Luckily someone witnessed the ladder mishap or he'd still be "up a tree" so to speak. We would miss him, pandemic or not.

My down time has been used to the hilt, though not as productively as most. I have watched so many Perry Mason reruns I'm about ready to take the Bar Exam. We'll all be glad when Covid-19 is conquered, but in the meantime, stay the way you are: masked, caring, and thankful to be a Windsorite living and breathing in a place as close to Heaven as I care to get right now.

3 Reasons to Sign Up NOW for Broadband

1. Replaces Satellite & Phone Service. The broadband fiber optic connection includes internet, streaming, and phone—no need for satellite or Verizon phone service.

2. Same cost for faster speed. The basic fiber-optic internet service plus phone line costs the same as your current land line plus DSL, but internet is 25x faster and phone reception is clearer.

3. Verizon DSL will not be maintained. Verizon will not be maintaining their copper wiring—the quality of the current internet will deteriorate.

To get in on the initial set-up and cost savings, residents with underground utilities must be signed up for service by **September 15**; for homes with aerial connections the deadline is **December 15**. But don't wait: go to Windsormass.com and sign up for Broadband at top of page. --Doug McNally

Special Town Meeting Warrant Article: Municipal Aggregation Proposed for Purchasing Electricity

An item on the next Special Town Meeting warrant will ask voters to approve a motion allowing the Town to apply for a Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) permit to participate in municipal aggregation. The Select Board supports this item that the Green Committee has proposed.

Approval of this item allows the town to take first steps toward offering all Eversource customers the option of participating in a different way to purchase electricity. The benefit is a lower rate and, ideally, more renewable energy sources than is currently provided by Eversource.

The DPU application usually takes about 12-15 months, after which the town can explore available options and rates. No commitment of town monies or staff time is required to pursue this application and there is not requirement to aggregate after DPU approval.

Colonial Power is the company that handles the application process on behalf of towns and, once the permit is granted, acts as a broker, obtaining bids from energy suppliers. Once bids are received, the town will need to commit to move forward with the plan, while any resident may choose to opt out and stay with Eversource or current electricity supplier. Colonial is paid \$.001/ kWh on each customer's electric bill. (For example: If a homeowner buys 600 kWh each month, 60 cents will go to Colonial Power).

Our goal is to join the Berkshire Aggregation Group, composed of 14 other Berkshire County towns and cities using Colonial Power. This will increase our buying power and ability to negotiate lower electricity rates along with increased options for renewable energy sources. Town and cities in this municipal aggregation group who've been members for several years highly recommend it, with their residents paying lower rates and receiving a greater percentage of electric from renewable resources.

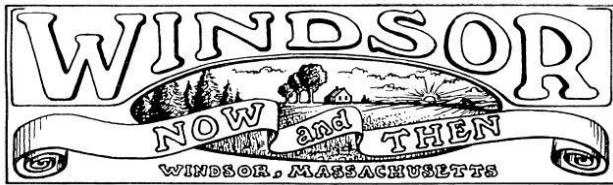
Aggregation customers continue to receive and pay one bill from Eversource, who will continue to read meters and maintain distribution and transmission lines. Customers continue to have all existing consumer rights and protections. Those with a photovoltaic array continue with net metering and on-bill credits. And if you occasionally buy electricity due to insufficient solar production, it will be at the reduced rate.

To learn more about municipal aggregation, please post your questions on the Windsor Facebook page or ask any member of the Windsor Green Committee.

—Janet Sadlo & Jan Bradley

Be sure to check out the **SEPTEMBER Community Calendar** online at friendsofwindsor.com (under *Windsor Now & Then*). Activities are gradually resuming! You'll also find inspiring local images taken by Windsor residents.

SEPTEMBER 2020



1890 Route 9, Suite 8

Windsor, MA 01270

Windsor Windfall

Sitting outside the other evening, I heard an irregular sound like tennis balls falling on a mattress... apples, encouraged by the breeze, falling off a gnarly old apple tree onto unmown grass below. Windfall, a no-strings gift from nature.



Every year, we find trees we didn't know about. Some are twisted, some have lost major limbs, some have just laid right down on the ground for a rest -- but keep putting out blossoms for the bees and fruit for the bears. There are a handful that we prune and pick



from: the ones closest to the house and barn, and the big old guy with a tattered knotted rope still swinging from one fat branch. In season, I often pick up a half-dozen windfall apples and toss them into the horse pasture for Maizie and Vinnie to find, a horse scavenger hunt.

The presence of so many old trees is in itself a kind of windfall, an unsought gift telling us where earlier homesteads stood and connecting us to Windsor's past.

"Have you ever picked wild strawberries? You know it's a thankless job, they are so tiny. But we did that...And we'd go wild apple picking. I thought of that this year because along the road and near Hugh Ferry's I saw an apple tree that had a lot of nice, decent-looking apples on it. So I picked up the drops and I made applesauce and it was delicious."

--**Marnie Meyers**

"(Grandfather) used to have an orchard in the back and I learned about some of the apples that he had up there, like Northern Spies... We took the apples to a person up in Adams and he would turn them into cider in a wooden barrel and make hard cider. (Grandfather) would put it in the cellar so all of his friends that came to visit, he'd bring them a glass of hard cider, and after a couple of those glasses you were pretty well snookered."

--**Dick Jacobs**

These apple memories come from interviews with Windsor residents, as part of the *Sharing Our Stories* project that we'll start sharing here in the October issue. I've spent a lot of hours recently reading through them all -- each with its deeply individual story to tell, but many tied together by threads made of fallen apples, maple syrup, and towering snowdrifts. Happy windfall season, everyone! --*Susan Phillips*

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*