

FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE

NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2012

Jingle Bell Day

by John Stasik

Discover Saxonville 2012: Jingle Bell Day offers a rare opportunity to experience the rich cultural and commercial diversity of Saxonville – all in one place and in one afternoon.

On Saturday December 1st, between 12 and 2, you can catch a horse-drawn hayride through the village. Then spend the rest of the afternoon exploring many facets of the Saxonville Experience. The Friends are partnering with Robinsons Hardware to create an expanded Jingle Bell Day. Many of the businesses in the Saxonville Village Center from

the Pinefield Shopping Center on Nicholas Road to the Walgreens Shopping Center on School Street will participate. Plus, organizations who call Saxonville their home – schools, churches, VFW Post 929, Studio Artists in the Mill, and the Scouts – will make a distinct contribution to this unique community experience.

Inside this Issue

- Jingle Bell Day 2012
- Robinsons Hardware
- FOS Window Decals
- Adieu 765 OCP
- Saxonville Scout Project
- Business Members
- Membership Application
- Trivia Question

DISCOVER SAXONVILLE



FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE | www.saxonville.org

Begin your experience by signing up at the Pinefield Shopping Center where you will receive a detailed program of the day's events and your own jingle bell. The entire family is welcome to take a free horse-drawn hayride through the village to discover many of the options that are open to you for the afternoon. **Please consider bringing a toy contribution or non-perishable food item for one of our local charities.**

After the hayride, when the wagon returns to the Pinefield Shopping Center, take a stroll through the entire village and find a wealth of activities, great bargains and fantastic promotions.

For the younger strollers there will be arts and crafts, storytelling, pictures with Santa, fun food and refreshments, and a chance to meet Mrs. Claus. For the more demanding strollers there will be wine tasting, concerts, performances, fine art for viewing and purchasing, great shopping at special prices and outstanding food to taste and savor along the way.

There will be performances by the Cameron School Jazz Band as well as the Framingham High School Jazz Band and Cloud Nine a cappella group, a preview of Mass Ballet's 'Nutcracker' and a roving Barber Shop Quartet.

(continued on p. 3)

Robinsons Hardware: "If We Don't Have It, You Don't Need It"

by Kevin A. Swope

Norm Underwood wasn't yet in the hardware business when he moved to Hudson in the early 1960s. A chemical engineer, he had been a traveling sales representative when he bought one of the oldest houses in town. The house was what one might call a "fixer-upper," and Norm spent so much time in the local hardware store that many Hudson residents might have thought he owned the place. As of Labor Day weekend, 1963, he did.

As it happened, Harold Danner had been looking to retire and saw in Norm Underwood his perfect successor. He was so convinced, in fact, that he didn't even let the minor detail that Underwood didn't have the money to buy him out stand in the way. "We'll make it work," Danner promised.

In the era before big boxes, Robinsons Hardware was the kind of family-owned hardware store that seemingly every town had. The company had begun as a general store under the name of original partners Holden & Robinson in 1874. The Robinsons eventually bought out the Holdens, and the store was renamed Robinsons Hardware in 1931.

Norm's son Jeff Underwood sums up the philosophy of those days, "If we don't have it, you don't need it." Robinsons stocked everything you might need for a project, not just what brought the best return. The goal was a satisfied customer. Norm expanded on this philosophy when he opened a rental center at the same location on Main Street. In 1974, the Hudson store moved to its present location on the old site of Grants Department Store. Norm passed away in 2000, but sons Dirk, Kim and Jeff kept up the store.

In 2003, the Underwoods found their family was outgrowing the family business. All three sons worked in the Hudson store, as did eight from the next generation. It was time to expand into new territory. Youngest son Jeff chose the Pinefield Plaza in Saxonville. The area boasted a sizable potential market, and a large available retail space. (There may not have been actual tumbleweeds blowing through the vast empty parking lot in those days, but Saxonville residents would not have been surprised to see them.)

Just as important, Jeff saw the same kind of community in Saxonville that had supported his family's store in Hudson. The Underwood philosophy remained true to the original goal of a satisfied customer, even as Robinsons modernized to keep abreast of changes in

technology and retailing. Opening a new store required a huge investment before the doors even opened. Underwood completely rebuilt the interior space, literally from a new floor up. (The landlord helped out with exterior renovations.)

At big box stores, a new employee might be responsible for memorizing a thick

handbook of company policies. "At Robinsons, retail training always begins with the customer," says long-time employee Stacey Cavallaro. "A family-owned business is a great place to work," she adds. "They can be flexible because they know you. You don't have to choose between family and work, or a younger employee doesn't have to choose between having a job and playing sports." Little things matter, like the coffee and donuts available to customers on Saturday mornings, or the ability of a customer to call and get a real person on the line to tell them whether what they need is in stock and in what quantity. Successful retailing is a two-way street between a store and its community.

(continued on back cover)



Jeff Underwood at Robinsons in Saxonville © Damianos Photography

Jingle Bell Day

(continued from cover)



In addition, at the southern end of the village, don't miss the Holiday Marketplace at Framingham High School. Saxonville Studios, located in the very center of the village, is having an open house, with an extensive and varied collection of works of art. At the northern end of the village, Edwards Church hosts an "Alternative Fair Day" as part of its year-long celebration of 185 years in Saxonville, where you can purchase gifts that make the world a better place.

There is a lot of choose from for every age and interest – a great shopping experience, various activities and entertainment to lift your spirits. We will close our day with a tree lighting ceremony outside the Athenaeum Hall at 4:30pm. Please join us for this unique Discover Saxonville event connecting community, culture



Susan Silva's grandfather, John Moloney, at the Simpson Estate. This photo served as the inspiration for the official Discover Saxonville Jingle Bell Day 2012 logo.



A view from the free horse drawn hayride route through the village of Saxonville. © Damianos Photography

and commerce in Saxonville ~ a traditional historic mill village, on Saturday, Dec. 1, noon – 5pm. ❖

Saxonville Supporters Window Decals

F Friends of Saxonville Members – stop at the Friends of Saxonville table on December 1st to obtain your free **Friends of Saxonville Supporter** window decal.

Others may obtain one by joining The Friends to help support our efforts to preserve and strengthen the unique character of the village – or purchase a decal for two dollars. ❖

Contributors:

Editor: Lynne Damianos

Authors: John Stasik, John F. Langley, Kevin A. Swope, David Longden

Design/Layout: Lisa Thompson Graphic Design

Friends of Saxonville Board

David Longden, President
(508) 877-7034
david.longden@verizon.net

John Stasik, Vice President
(508) 877-6771
jhstasik@verizon.net

Paula Longden, Treasurer
(508) 877-7034
paula.longden@verizon.net

Jan Harrington, Clerk
(508) 877-0520
giftbk@aol.com

Bill Bowman, Member
(508) 877-7877
whbowman@verizon.net

Stuart "Chip" Chambers, Member
(508) 872-3163
chipsravensnest@yahoo.com

Lynne Damianos, Member
(508) 872-4880
lynne@damianosphotography.com

Brian LeFort, Member
(508) 479-3513
brianlefort35@gmail.com

Laura Melegos, Member
laura@saxonville.org

Susan Silva, Member
(508) 877-8465
susansilva@verizon.net

Adieu 765 OCP, 1817-2012

by John F. Langley



John F. Langley with the house one week before it was torn town in early June 2012, © Damianos Photography.

My father paid \$6,000 for the house from the Anna Gorman estate. We moved into 765 Old Connecticut Path in December 1952. My father had just bought the house he had grown up in. In 1925, Hubert F. Langley Sr. passed away from a blood disease. He was only 25 years old. He left behind a young wife (Mary O'Connor Langley) and a 3-year-old son (Hubert F. Langley Jr.). Mary O. Langley and her son Hubert were forced to move into 765 OCP with James and Joanna Gorman and their daughter Anna Gorman. Joanna Gorman was Mary O. Langley's mother and James Gorman was her stepfather. James Gorman was a Framingham firefighter and Joanna Gorman was a homemaker. The house at that time was a working farm. There were many outbuildings including a large chicken coop in the rear of the property and a small screened side building, which was used in the summer for sleeping. The grounds had many fruit trees and a large area for a garden. To the rear of the property was a large cornfield in which "cow" corn was planted. There was an area of wetlands that included a small stream of water running at the base of the hill from North to South. In the winter the cornfields were used by youths as a sledding area. There were many small animals living in the wilder areas.

In 1942, Hubert F. Langley Jr. joined the Coast Guard and was deployed on a troop carrier ship transporting troops and supplies overseas. At this time, Mary O. Langley moved into a small apartment on Grant Street across from Dennison Manufacturing where she worked. In 1945, Hubert F. Langley was discharged from the service at the end of the war. He soon married and I was born in September 1946.



In 1951, both James and Joanna Gorman passed away due to old age. This left their daughter Anna T. Gorman as the owner of the

property. In 1952, Anna Gorman passed away suddenly at age 36. The property was passed down to her the estate and sold to Hubert F. Langley Jr. and family in December 1952. Hubert worked at Dennison along with many of his relatives including his mother.

In 1954, The Brown sisters, who lived in a farmhouse on OCP just south of Hamilton Street, sold most of the area farmlands for \$50,000 to developers. Very quickly, small ranch style houses were built on the land. Many of the buyers were WWII veterans. The developers tried to buy the property at 765 OCP from my father. He refused to sell, but in concession, the developers did quite a bit of landscaping in exchange for a small piece of land in order to build Pincrest Road adjoining the property. At this time the remaining outbuildings were torn down. In 1969, a shed and outhouse were removed from the rear of the house and aluminum siding was installed. Over the years a rock wall was placed in front of the house when Old Conn. Path was widened. In December 2005, Hubert F. Langley Jr. passed away, leaving his widow to live in the house. In 2011, the house was vacated. In June 2012, the house was torn down in order to divide the property into two house lots for new construction. ❖

Clockwise from top left, 1-2: John F. Langley in 2012 and as a child where he used to sit and play with his cat. 3: Jim Gorman and his dog Buster. Note the chicken coop in rear and the fruit trees. 4: The shed that was attached to the house contained a kerosene stove for cooking and baking (there was no kitchen). A soapstone sink with a hand pump was in a room attached to the shed. This room was converted into a kitchen. A 2-seat outhouse was to the right of the shed. In 1969, the house was sided and the shed and outhouse were removed. The deck, which is in recent pictures, was the foundation for the shed.

Saxonville Boy Scout's Project Improves Trail Bridge

by David Longden



(Left) Area view including repaired plank footbridge (Right) Assembling the decking
Photos courtesy Nathan Galloway

Nathan made plans, prepared his materials with support from the Friends of Saxonville, and arranged a crew of friends and family to help solve the problem.

The Carol Getchell Nature Trail along the Sudbury River is one of the Friends of Saxonville's ongoing projects. We have worked for years to help build, expand and maintain it for all to enjoy. Over the years, the trail has been the beneficiary of several Boy Scouts' efforts to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. The rank requires that the scout arrange a service project that will benefit the community. This past spring, the trail was upgraded again, thanks to a local Boy Scout, Nathan Galloway.

Nathan has been a member of the Boy Scout organization since a very young age. He joined Cub Scout Pack 2 in Saxonville with a few of his close friends. He rose through the ranks of scouting, first as a Cub, then by becoming a Boy Scout with Saxonville Troop 21 at age 10. Some of his friends eventually dropped out of scouting, but Nathan stuck with it. After years of camping, earning merit badges and helping others, he has now accomplished enough to qualify for the Eagle Scout rank.

Nathan's chosen service project was designed to solve a problem that had developed over the last few years. On the Carol Getchell Nature Trail, there is a bridge that crosses a small wet area near the Stapleton Elementary School. One end of this bridge has been quite high off the ground, probably due to natural erosion from flooding in the river area. This height made it difficult for some people to use the bridge.

Nathan made plans, prepared his materials with support from the Friends of Saxonville, and arranged a crew of friends and family to help solve the problem. His crew extended the bridge with a new ramp, which allows a person to get onto the bridge much more easily. He then re-arranged some nearby wooden planks so

that walkers could avoid some of the mud that always forms in the area. The result is a much better trail intersection and approach to the bridge.

On October 6, Nathan and two of his fellow scouts were awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a ceremony held at St. George's parish hall in Saxonville. Nathan graduated from Framingham High School and started college in September.

The Friends of Saxonville are grateful to Nathan and other Boy Scouts for their many efforts of improvement on the Carol Getchell Trail. ❖



The whole crew gets involved to relocate a large rock
Photo courtesy Nathan Galloway

FOS Business Members

Please support our local Business Members!

NEW!

Business Bulletin Board

Look for our website feature for news from local business members.

All businesses are located in Framingham unless otherwise noted.

Best Cuts for Men and Women

Paul and Kathleen Giammarinaro
Lisa Russell
1508 Concord Street
(508) 877-6148

Charlene Frary, Realtor® Realty Executives Boston West

1253 Worcester Road
www.charlenefrary.com
(508) 330-3252

Cosmo Land, Inc.

303 Worcester Road
cosmolandinc@yahoo.com
(508) 620-2299

Damianos Photography

Lynne Damianos
59 Fountain Street, 4E #10
www.DamianosPhotography.com
(508) 872-4880

Danforth Green LLC

c/o Baystone Development LLC
Roy S. MacDowell III
21 Center Street
Weston MA 02493
(781) 894-9898
kwatson@baystonedevelopment.com

Edwards Church

United Church of Christ
Debbie Clark, Pastor
39 Edwards Street
www.edwardschurch.org
(508) 877-2050

Eugene McCarthy & Sons Funeral Home

11 Lincoln Street
www.mccarthyfh.com
(508) 875-4747

Expressions Kitchen Design & Cabinetry

Althea Clark
One Central Street
www.expressionsdesign.com
(508) 788-8004

Framed in Time

John Fournier
2 Central Street
www.framedintime.com
(508) 405-1792

HiLight Studio & Spa

Kenia dePaula and Eunice Milliken
32 School Street
HiLightStudioSpa@gmail.com
(508) 733-3999

LandoZ Hometowne Grille

Sean and Brenda Lando
1 Nicholas Road, #49
www.LandoZHometowneGrille.com
(508) 788-0721

Law Offices of Charles F. Rousseau

899 Edgell Road
(508) 877-2966

Lisa Thompson Graphic Design

59 Fountain Street, 4E #10
www.LisaThompsonGraphicDesign.com
(508) 930-8444

Mediterranean Turkish Food (Subs and More)

Ender Gokay
1609 Concord Street
www.mediterraneanturkishfood.com
(508) 202-4688

Paul Nyer, Esq.

40 School Street
(508) 877-5557
PNEsq@aol.com

Pizza Wagon

Kshish Kumar
15 School Street
khamano1432@yahoo.com
(508) 877-2626

Robinsons Hardware

Do it Best - #3993
Robinsons Hardware & Rental
1 Nicholas Road
jeff@robinsons1874.com
(508) 877-1888

Roger B. Sturgis & Associates, Inc.

1455 Concord Street, Bldg. 7
www.RBSturgis.com
(508) 877-6779

Saxonville Realty Trust

2 Central Street
(508) 877-8001

Saxonville Studios

1602-B Concord Street
(508) 877-8001
www.saxonvillestudios.com

Saxony Barber Shop

John P. Pasacane
3 Central Street
(505) 877-6220

Studio JLB

Jennifer Bowman
www.studiojlb.com

V.F.W. Post 929 Framingham

Harry Serulneck, Quarter Master
1575 Concord Street
(508) 877-2663

Walgreens

Thuy Nguyen, General Manager
Purvi Patel, Pharmacy Manager
15 School Street
www.walgreens.com
(508) 788-0604

Windjammer Promotions Inc.

Anthony Nasch
6 Elm Street
tonyn@wp4promos.com
(800) 721-5050

Zeta Pizzeria & Kitchen

Dimitrios Gripeos
1645 Concord Street
http://e-georgios.com
(508) 788-1611



The mission of the Friends of Saxonville is to educate the public about the special identity of Saxonville, an historic neighborhood of Framingham, Massachusetts, and to preserve, enhance, and protect its cultural, economic, environmental and historical qualities.

Membership fees help support our initiatives, newsletter, and our annual Discover Saxonville events.

Please renew your membership or consider joining us for the first time. If you renewed already – Thank you!

If your membership is not up to date, this may be the last newsletter you will receive.

Memberships or Donations:
Pay online at www.saxonville.org

Or detach form below and mail your check to:

Friends of Saxonville, P.O. Box 3236
Framingham, MA 01705-3236



Become a Member!

Membership year runs May 1 to April 30

- 1 year Individual Membership: \$20
- 1 year Business Membership: \$50
- Connection to this wonderful village: Priceless!

Name: _____

Day Phone: _____

Business Name: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Street: _____

Email: _____

Town, State & Zip: _____

Website: _____

I am interested in: ___ Athenaeum ___ Nature Trail ___ Fundraising ___ Rail Trail ___ Danforth Bridge



Trivia Question



Who remembers where the nativity scene used to be displayed on School Street during the 40s and 50s?



Look for the answer on the Friends of Saxonville website, www.saxonville.org.



John Stasik addresses the Business Roundtable Meeting held at Zeta's.
© Damianos Photography



FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE

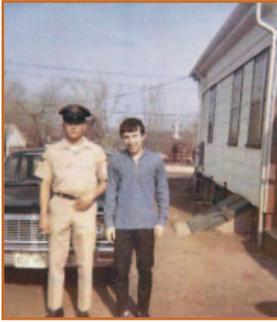
PO Box 3236
Framingham, MA 01705-3236

Visit us on the web!
www.saxonville.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 159
Framingham, MA

CURRENT OCCUPANT OR

NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2012



John F. Langley in Air Force uniform with brother George in 1967 before the house was sided. Note St. George's spire in the background. George passed away in 1994. (See the Adieu OCP article on p. 4.)

Robinsons *(continued from p. 2)*

The Underwoods' understanding of the importance of community is perhaps best illustrated by Jingle Bell Day, their annual Christmas tradition of offering hayrides and other family-focused activities. The event has grown every year, and this December promises to be the biggest yet. ❖



Robinsons' nut and bolt selection is second to none. Special orders are never a problem. © Damianos Photography



Jeff Underwood © Damianos Photography