



The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Fall 2017 - Issue #36
Free! Please take one

Election coverage ... see page 4!

What's On At The Bank: Ulster Savings Focuses on Art

by Marilyn Perry

Ask any artist. Making art is invigorating and fun. But unless you're lucky enough to have a gallery or a dealer, figuring out how to get it on public display is a headache. So the artists in our area (myself included) are especially grateful that Ulster Savings Bank in Gardiner dedicates its walls to showing paintings, photographs and quilts by local artists.

It all started about ten years ago, when the handsome, old, family house from the 1840s at Ireland Corners was converted into a new, local branch. Great care was taken to preserve the period feeling of the building, which meant that although there were the usual elements, such as a long banking counter for the tellers, the offices were discretely positioned, and a large room was left open as a



Local artist Meadow with one of her collages, on display at the Ulster Savings Bank in Gardiner, May 2017. All photos: Fred Gerty

meeting space. As a result, to a remarkable degree the building still feels like a comfortable private home. There's an airiness, a gracious ceiling

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Local Residents, Devoted To The Health Of Our Rivers

by Barbara Sides

90 miles long, the Wallkill River flows north—from Lake Mohawk in Sparta, NJ, to the Rondout in Kingston and then into the Hudson. It runs through dozens of municipalities and three counties—Sussex in NJ and Orange and Ulster in NY. 12 water treatment plants discharge into the Wallkill River water shed, so it's not surprising that the Wallkill has a high concentration of fecal contamination and pathogens, and may contain viruses that will make you sick.

Fortunately, local residents care deeply: a small army of ordinary citizens who want to help clean up their river has stepped up to assist, and in 2015 the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance was formed by local residents to "restore the ecological health of the Wallkill River and its watershed." The most recent addition to the community effort is the recently formed Shawangunk Kill Watershed Alliance.

According to Dan Shapley, Water Quality Program Director at Riverkeeper, our water treatment plants do



During the Riverkeeper Sweep on the Wallkill in May, Gardiner residents filled 12 trash bags weighing 360 pounds, three recycling bags weighing 45 pounds and recovered 10 tires weighing 200 pounds. Photo courtesy Barbara Sides.

Wallkill, [continued page 13](#)

Shopping Local For Kids

by Lucia Civile

Being a parent in the Hudson Valley is a very special thing. This place we call home is chock-full of local businesses that create products with love—and your children—in mind. Still, it's easy to forget offerings that are just around the corner. Here, I've outlined a few ways to shop local for your little ones as the holidays come near.

Lucky Bug Clothing: Owned by a family trio native to Gardiner, Lucky Bug Clothing is an organic clothing line made with 100% certified bamboo viscose jersey fabric. The bamboo textile is luxuriously soft, and safe and breathable for babies and toddlers. The Hayes family puts special emphasis on having a small environmental footprint and ethically-produced products, boasting all clothing to be “soft, stylish, sustainable and sweatshop-free.” And, all of their employees are people they know. Found locally in *New Baby, New Paltz*, their products can also be purchased at luckybugclothing.com.

Uptown Attic: Jodi Whitehead opened her high-end consignment shop offering stylish looks for every season eight years ago. A section of the store has children's clothing, and an area for kids to play while you shop. Genius!

Jodi offers discount incentives throughout the year, and hosts “Ladies Night Out” events during which there are discounts on store items, and people contribute school supplies and canned goods for Family of New Paltz. In another recent promotion she teamed with Gardiner Liquid Mercantile (show your Uptown Attic receipt; get a discount on your drink). Uptown Attic also donates to local non-profits, so, when you shop local at Uptown Attic, you

support local businesses who support local businesses that support local people in our local community.

Kiss My Face: It's hard to remember when what we put on our skin didn't matter. Especially since Kiss My Face has made it a point to create safe, natural, and cruelty-free products for over 30 years. With world headquarters in Gardiner, we're proud to say that our town is home to such a conscientious business. The company has grown significantly from its humble beginnings and its products are now distributed in every state and in 19 countries. Kiss My Face has stood behind their original promises; to keep all kisses natural and show consumers why kisses truly are the best way to make it better. Kiss My Face products can be found at your local grocers in Modena or New Paltz.

Ollie & Otto: This Gardiner company (www.ollieandotto.co) creates environmentally and socially conscious cosmetic products that are safe for the entire family. For every product sold, the company provides clean water to one person for an entire year. As explained in their mission, many children in the most poverty-stricken areas are “fetching water that is often not safe for consumption” instead of receiving an education. Ollie & Otto make a point to “leave this world better than we found it,” and the company is dedicated to giving their customers items made with organic, sustainably sourced ingredients.

Artist Alexa Ginsburg is a



A lucky boy wearing Lucky Bug clothing. Photo courtesy Lucky Bug

local artist who creates soft sculptures and accessories using felt. Ginsburg creates a wide range of artful pieces from scarves and clothing, hats and bags, to colorful creatures and finger puppets. She is continually inspired by the material and its ability to mold into so many different forms. Some of her whimsical designs include soft mammals, birds and reptiles, and little people. The eccentric designs are fun for

children of all ages. Her work can be found in local pop-up shops, the Gardiner Open Studio Tour, and local art shows. Find more at www.alexaginsburg.com.

So the next time that you're out and about looking for a little something for your little one, be sure to pay your local 'mom and pop' shops a visit first; I think you'll be pleasantly surprised with your experience. Thanks to all our small, local businesses for doing BIG things in our humble town. □

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Gardiner Government 101

by Patty Gandin

As we enter this election season it might be a good time for a brief overview of our town government and its boards, departments, and committees.

There are three governing Boards in Gardiner—one elected (the Town Board), and two whose volunteer members the Town Board appoints (the Zoning Board of Appeals, commonly known as the ZBA, and the Planning Board). The only other elected officials in Gardiner are the Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent and our two Town Justices (more on these later).

The Town Board's five elected members each serve a two-year term. We're about to go to the polls to fill the expiring terms of the Town Supervisor position, as well as that of two Town Board members. In addition to being a member of the Board, the Town Supervisor is also

Chief Fiscal Officer, Chief Executive Officer and, as you can well imagine in a town as small as Gardiner, Chief Cook and Bottle Washer. The Supervisor runs all Town Board meetings and is responsible for compiling the town's annual operating budget and overseeing the Town's accounting and payroll functions. When the Board votes on various issues though, the Supervisor is on equal footing with other Town Board members and has one vote.

We should all be aware that many of our elected and appointed officials, including the Town Supervisor, also have "day jobs." That's an amazing fact, considering the amount of work they do for the town.

The Town Board also supervises and is responsible for the operations of the Highway Department, the Building Department, the Assessor, Justice Court, Parks and Recreation, and the Transfer Station. Gardiner's Town Clerk (Michele Mosher) and Highway Superintendent (Brian Stiscia) are also elected officials, but have been running uncontested for long enough that we might well forget that fact. Michele Mosher has been our



Gardiner Town Hall. Photo: Olace Media

Town Clerk since 1996 and had an opponent once in those 21 years, while Brian Stiscia has been uncontested since 2013.

As most of us know, the Building Inspector is the one who gives us a building permit for that garage we want to build, or that new house we've just had plans drawn up for. He also serves as the Code Enforcement Officer, making sure that whatever gets built in Gardiner conforms to the provisions of the town Zoning Code.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is attuned to the fine detail, and steps in when someone's

Government, [continued page 9](#)

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Election day is Tuesday, November 7th. We urge every resident to register and vote.

The 2017 Republican Party Platform

This slate of candidates is diversified and includes representatives from the Republican, Democratic, Conservative and the People for Gardiner (P4G) parties. These individuals are not hung up on party affiliation and they welcome the opportunity to work together for what is good for Gardiner. They all agree that Gardiner needs a local government to focus on the priorities of the entire town and to manage the town within its means.

After witnessing the dysfunctionality of a national government struggling to do right for people while being restrained by political party affiliation, we have decided to put party affiliation aside and support individuals based on their strength and commitment to the Town of Gardiner. We need a local government to focus on the priorities of the entire town and to manage the town within its means. We plan to work with the townspeople to develop a list of priorities that best benefit the town and then responsibly manage the activities and funds available to accomplish these goals. We feel this is the best team of individuals who will bring UNITY back to the Town of Gardiner. We proudly support Marybeth Majestic for Town Supervisor, Michelle Mosher for Town Clerk, Bob Rich for Town Justice, Brian Stiscia for Superintendent of Highways, Jack Hayes for Town Council and Kathy Miller for Ulster County Legislator.

Thank you and please remember to vote on November 7th, 2017. □

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The 2017 Democratic Party Platform

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE TOWN

- Invest wisely in the town's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and buildings such as the Clove Road Bridge and the pole barn in Majestic Park.
- Improve Gardiner's recreational opportunities for families, including facilities and programs such as Majestic Park maintenance and upgrades and improvements to the Rail Trail.
- Preserve and protect drinking water and wetlands including the aquifer that towns residents rely on.
- Support of the library as the town's social and cultural center.
- Address the problems of Dusenberre Road.

EXERCISE FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

- Develop responsible budgets based on the needs of the community.
- Limit the tax burden on Gardiner property owners.
- Employ expert resources to secure grants and donations to help fund important programs.
- Encourage business development in the hamlet and in the industrial park to increase the revenue base.

PRESERVE GARDINER'S CHARACTER AND OPEN SPACE

- Preserve the small town nature of Gardiner and support the goals of the 2004 Master Plan.
- Advance Gardiner's Open Space Plan.
- Support established policies that protect the Shawangunk Ridge as a natural and community resource.
- Respect sensitive ecological systems.

CONTINUE AND ENHANCE EFFICIENT, GOOD GOVERNMENT

- Continue to ensure open, inclusive government by encouraging participation by all members of the Gardiner community in town meetings and activities.
- Encourage the community to serve on town organizations, including the town board, the Planning Board, the ZBA, the ECC, and the Open Space Commission.
- Promote a greater balance on the Planning Board between development and conservation interests.
- Encourage the development of Task Forces to address community needs, such as Earth Day cleanup.

SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC VALUES

- Support the values of the national Democratic Party including sanctuary cities, women's equality, LGBTQ issues, support for Planned Parenthood and single-payer health care. □

⇐ [Back Comment](#) ⇒

Candidates were asked to respond to the following question in a maximum of 150 words. Responses were not edited.
“What do you see as the most important issue facing Gardiner, and what are your constructive ideas concerning this issue?”

Party affiliations (as supplied by candidates): Rep (R); Dem (D); Working Families (WF); Women's Equality (WE); Conservative (C); People for Gardiner (P4G); Independent (I)

Candidates for Town Supervisor



Lisa Lindsley

(D, WF, WE)

Our town is at a critical point, and elected officials must foster responsible economic development while preserving our rural character. I want to ensure that our water, wildlife, land and the natural resources that make Gardiner unique

are not exploited by predatory financial interests that are not part of our community.

The institutions, policies, processes and professionals that govern land use no longer serve the long-term interests of Gardiner residents. I will work for more effective implementation of Gardiner's master and open space plans, and an update of town laws to be consistent with these plans. I will initiate a process to review, get community input, and update these plans – each over a decade old – in light of the trends of development in Gardiner.

The boards and committees that influence development in Gardiner – planning, zoning, open space, environmental – require dedicated impartial volunteers. Recruiting and training those volunteers will be a priority. ☐



Marybeth Majestic

(R, C, P4G) incumbent

One of the biggest challenges facing Gardiner today is the issue of balance.

How do you balance the aesthetic and recreational concerns of residents, while respecting property owner rights? Processes to obtain this balance are critical. These are zoning laws, master plans and open space plans. It is no coincidence that last year tourism in Ulster County increased twenty-one million dollars. The beauty of our town and county cannot be ignored. Now that this is a widespread fact, everyone wants to experience the beauty we are fortunate to live with every day.

As your Supervisor, I seek to find balance by gathering information, and allowing full disclosure by offering residents on both sides of an issue the opportunity to speak at public meetings. I also fully implement decisions made by the board even if they don't go the way I hoped. Balance; the biggest challenge facing the wonderful town of Gardiner. ☐

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Candidates For Town Board



Jack Hayes

(R, C, P4G)

The Gardiner Town Board is experiencing a good deal of community concern about a number of development projects. Coupled with the concerns are calls for a moratorium and a complete review of the town's Master Plan. The last time extensive zoning

law changes occurred in Gardiner many property owners lost control and use of their property. The "five acre zoning" in particular excluded many young people from home ownership in our town. A number of seniors who had relied on their real estate to help fund their retirement found the new law restricted their property use and actually reduced its value.

As a member of the Town Board I will fight to preserve property rights. I will strive to make Gardiner an affordable place to live for all Gardiner residents especially the young and the old. I will work to bring "Farmers" back to our Town Boards and Committees. □

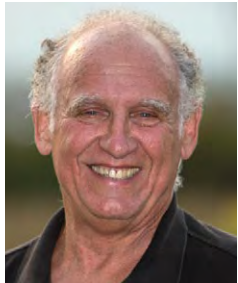


Warren Wiegand

(D, WF, WE)

The most important issue facing Gardiner is making sure that we work together to make our town a better place to live and raise our families. We're all too aware of the dysfunction and chaos in Washington and Albany, where political partisanship and extreme self-interest get in the way of progress. Protests take the place of serious discussions. It's about winning, not about what's best for the community.

We can do better in Gardiner. How? By talking and listening. By respecting each other. By considering each other's ideas. By being willing to compromise. By doing what's best for the community. It's not about individual wins and losses. It's what's best for all of Gardiner's residents. I promise to always listen to what's on your mind. Contact me at wiegandwarren@gmail.com. □



David Dukler

(D, WF, WE – incumbent)

The recent increase in building projects highlights the need to review the Master Plan and zoning code for revisions and additions as needed. This should be done by the Town Board in conjunction with the Planning Board, the ZBA and other parties.

ties.

We need to insure that our plan is giving us what we want. By including all stakeholders, we should explore issues like housing affordability, tax implications, increasing demands on town government, infrastructure implications, and the development of an economic base to create additional revenues while crafting our community vision. We also need to address present infrastructure needs. We must redouble our efforts to address our assets—pole barn, rail trail, and Clove Road Bridge. I commit myself to focusing our efforts on these issues as a priority. □



Pam O'Dell (c)

I believe the most important issue facing the people of Gardiner are found in two fatal flaws in the current zoning law. First, it was previously possible to subdivide a large property multiple times over years, chipping off small lots for children or sale. Under current law for small developments

a property owner may only subdivide one time. This encourages development of the property to the fullest extent possible which has the maximum negative impact on schools and services.

The second flaw is that property owners of land in the two top tiers of the ridge must seek permission in getting a special permit in order to build one single family home, where in all other zones, owners have a "use by right" for a single home, without special permission. I believe this is against the 5th Amendment. Both of these flaws should be repealed in the zoning law. □

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The Ulster County Legislature

The candidates were asked the following question and given 150 words in which to reply. Their responses were not edited:

What are the most pressing issues currently facing Ulster County?



Tracey Bartels
(D, WF, WE - incumbent)

The most pressing issue facing residents of Ulster County continues to be property taxes. As your representative, I am working hard to provide relief. Since my return to the Legislature, we contained costs and provided cuts to your County property taxes. We also assumed several costly programs, thereby reducing the town tax burden. Ulster County is a leader in fiscal accountability, responsible budgeting and reform. We have also repeatedly been recognized for our environmental leadership and initiatives, resulting in budget savings and environmental protection. I am proud to be a part of the solution, but the work continues. More than 100% of all County property tax dollars pay for state mandated programs. I am committed to continuing to look for efficiencies and to demand savings. Gardiner is a special place to call home. I am grateful to have the opportunity to represent you and to work on your behalf. □



Unknown

(The Gazette was unable to obtain information about any other candidates for this seat.) □

There's Still Time To Register To Vote

For residents of Gardiner, the Ulster County Board of Elections website (ulstercountyny.gov/elections) tells you all you need to know to register to vote.

You must be a U.S. citizen; be 18 years old by the date of the election in which you wish to vote or by December 31st of that year; live at your present address for at least 30 days before the election; not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction; and not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

If you haven't registered when you obtained or renewed your license, call the Board of Elections at 845-334-5470 and request an application or download one from the website. You can also get an application from your local post office, library or city or town clerk's office. Finally, you can apply in person at 285 Wall St., Kingston.

As soon as your application arrives at the Board of Elections Office, it will be reviewed by two people who must sign off on it. Once the application is approved, the applicant's name is immediately added to the voting roles and a registration card is mailed out.

If you have any concerns about filling out the form, it's worth driving up to Kingston where an election clerk will assist you. □



**Highway Superintendant
Candidate Brian Stiscia**
(D, R, C, Incumbent)

Brian Stiscia, Democrat, a lifelong resident of Gardiner, employed with the Town for 24 years. Running unopposed and endorsed by all political parties.

I would like to thank the Tax Payers of Gardiner for their continue support and trust in me with running your Highway Department.

My Team and I will continue with the high level dedication of service the Tax Payers have come to enjoy. □

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Gardiner Businesses Win Best Of The Hudson Valley

by Carol O'Biso

Almost everyone has seen the Best of Hudson Valley® (BOHV) logo proudly displayed in local businesses, for everything from “Best Apple Cider Donut,” which Tantillo’s Farm had won for years (until BOHV did away with that category), to the much missed Hi-Ho Gift Shop, which displayed the “Best Gift Shop” award banner for years.

Did it not give Gardiner residents a sense of pride to see our local businesses recognized for excellence? Yes indeed, and every Spring, Hudson Valley Magazine’s annual “Best of Hudson Valley®” poll starts up again with a new season of excitement for businesses.

This year, two long-time Gardiner businesses were feted, along with the hundreds of other winners from around the Hudson Valley, at a huge party on October 12th at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel in Poughkeepsie. McMahon’s Contracting won “Best Contractor” and Whitecliff Winery won “Best Winery.”

The Best of Hudson Valley® describes itself as a “celebration of the region’s finest emporiums and their spectacular culinary and creative talents as voted by the readers and editors of Hudson Valley Magazine.”

The process begins with nominations taken on their website (www.hvmag.com/Hudson-Valley/Best-Of-Hudson-Valley/) and each of the categories (e.g., sushi, bagel, etc.) generally has two winners. Readers’ Choice winners are picked democratically—whichever takes the most votes on their online ballot wins—while the editors’ pick

winners based on months of research. During this process, they pay for all meals and services, and do their research anonymously, and Hudson Valley magazine strongly asserts that “There is no connection between their advertisers and their winners. Period.”

Both Tom McMahon (McMahon’s Contracting) and Yancey Stanforth-Migliore (Whitecliff Winery) modestly attributed their success to the expertise of their teams, reporting that that’s what sets their businesses apart from others in their respective fields. Both also spoke very eloquently and passionately about what their businesses mean to them and about their “overnight success”—which occurred over a long period of time.

Tom McMahon asserts that “making customers happy is our business,” and pointed to a high level of customer service, expert design services, quality craftsmanship, and interactive project communication to a level usually only seen on TV as key factors. The company also hosts a home improvement forum page on facebook, McMahon’s Home Improvement Forum, which provides local, home-related, news, tips and access to interesting home remodeling projects.

Yancey Stanforth-Migliore of Whitecliff tells us that establishing the vineyard has been an ongoing process since 1979. It involved years of trial and error to determine which



varieties would produce quality wines, as well as stand up to the weather here. Their diligence and determination paid off when they won Best White in Show at the 2010 San Francisco International Wine Competition, winning over the 1,300 other wines by wineries from 27 countries and 28 U.S. states.

As a member of the Hudson Valley Cabernet Franc Coalition and the Shawangunk Wine Trail, wine lovers can easily locate Whitecliff’s lovely tasting room nestled in their vineyard. Yancey commented that one of their big focusses this year is to “create the most fun and friendly tasting room possible, with the most knowledgeable staff.”

We look forward to the 2018 season of The Best of Hudson Valley® and expect to see more Gardiner businesses joining the ranks. □

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Government, from page 3

building plans do *not* conform to our zoning code. It's the ZBA, for example, that decides whether to give you a variance to build that garage a few feet closer to your property line than the code says it should be.

The Planning Board is more, "big picture." It is responsible for overseeing subdivision applications and larger development projects, reviewing these projects and issuing site plan approval and special use permits if appropriate. It is a complex and, sometimes, touchy process. It involves developers presenting detailed plans of proposed projects, input from Gardiner residents at public meetings, and the Planning Board's review of potential impacts on the environment, traffic and other aspects of community character.

Finally, we have a Library Board of Trustees appointed by the Town Board to oversee our town library, a Board of Ethics, and an Environmental Conservation Commission that reviews and reports to the Boards about the environmental impacts of projects or issues before those Boards.

And that is only a very brief synopsis of what it takes to run a small town in the Hudson Valley. One of the reasons Gardiner is such a great place is because of the people who commit themselves to public service.

As we head to the polls let's all remember that we owe them a great deal of gratitude; none of this would work without them. ☐

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The Power Of Plants: Dreamkeeper Botanicals

by Jen Bruntl

Ashley Sapir Lathrop, who has lived in Gardiner for 12 years, started her business, Dreamkeeper Botanicals, about four years ago. Ashley had always been drawn to the power of plants, and after graduating college with a degree in Anthropology, she followed her passion and enrolled in the Northeast School of Botanical Medicine. She taught in the Beacon City Schools for a few years while continuing to study herbalism, using this knowledge to help keep herself and her family healthy. In fact, Ashley says that for her family "plant medicine is our primary care."

Dreamkeeper Botanicals specializes in complementary care for women and their families, with a special focus on helping to allevi-

ate stress and anxiety and guiding people to find the herbs and diet that works for them. "With so much stress, people aren't able to recharge. This is especially true for women who may be trying to raise kids, run a business and pretty much do it all. We sometimes push ourselves at the expense of self care." When she meets with someone, the goal is to really listen to them and work as a partner to bring them to their optimal health. "My passion is really customized care," Ashley says.

At her home in Gardiner, herbalism is a family affair. Ashley is primarily the one who harvests the plants to develop teas, tinctures, and salves, but her husband Rob helps to maintain many of the gardens where the



Ashley Sapir Lathrop of Dreamkeeper. Photo: Jen Bruntl

herbs are grown.

The knowledge of plants goes right down to her nine-year-old daughter and six-year-old son, who can identify a variety of herbs and create their own simple plant medicines. Everyone is involved in nourishing and valuing the plants that surround them.

In other words, "root cause medicine," which aims to look at the whole person to determine what is actually making them feel sick. In a world of very specialized medicine, she offers a more holistic approach. Ashley hopes that eventually she and other health-care workers can partner to develop a network so patients can feel as if they have a "web of support."

Over the past two years, Ashley has worked to increase the visibility of Dreamkeeper Botanicals with a website that includes blogs and recipes. She also holds classes independently and with other local practitioners to increase awareness about various topics on herbs, natural medicine and getting to know the local plants (bio-regional herbalism). She is now being trained in functional medi-

"The old traditional medicines are so well-suited to modern illnesses. My goal is to find the foods and herbs that keep people vibrant and healthy. Plant medicine has evolved with us and is such a powerful form of holistic healthcare. It's simpler than it seems."

You can find out more about Ashley and Dreamkeeper Botanicals at www.dreamkeeper-botanicals.com. □

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Just A Bite ...

Elsie's Place: A Surprise Find ...

by Carol O'Biso

When you approach Elsie's Place for the first time, the non-descript, one-story beige building will convince you that the food is going to range from mediocre to acceptable. As you go up the couple of concrete steps into the dark-paneled bar, you will decide that this is going to be beer and burgers, with the emphasis on beer.

About all of this you will be wrong, because the food at Elsie's Place, at the intersection of Route 208 and Route 300 in Wallkill, is excellent.

Yes, there are burgers and yes, there is beer, along with other expected favorites like wings and French fries and pizza, but all of those offerings are several cuts above the expected. And then there is the unexpected—like the mixed green salad with Granny Smith apples, walnuts and gorgonzola cheese tossed with an apple cider vinaigrette—crisp,

fresh, plentiful and beautifully balanced.

On a recent Saturday night, four of us ordered an array of things to find the perfect "bite." I'm not a fan of ribs in bar restaurants, and a word of warning—if you visit Elsie's website, don't be put off by the picture of the baby backs there. It's everything that's wrong with most ribs (steamed meat drowning in jelly-like barbecue sauce). I don't know what that's a picture of, but Elsie's actual ribs are exceptional. Charred and crisp around the edges, still moist, tender and falling off the bone, with a gentle application of barbecue sauce that added some zing but wasn't overpowering. Add the big wedge of terrific corn bread and we were very happy campers (½ Rack, 6-7 Ribs, \$17; Full Rack, 12-13 Ribs, \$29).

Owner/Chef Mirna Abada has owned and run Elsie's Place for the past 10 years and named it in honor of its proximity to the Borden Farm. Elsie's smokes their own meats (in-house



Crisp, moist, tender baby back ribs. Photo: Carol O'Biso

over apple wood), makes their pizza from scratch, and makes all their sauces in-house. Their burgers are also hand-made. "It's a lot of work," Mirna says, "but a labor of love." It shows. (Be sure to check out the specials board too. Had I noticed it earlier, you might have been reading about pork schnitzel today.)

Elsie's Place offers a fun and delicious night out. More so to those of us who know Jack Burke, the bar manager from the former Gold Fox in Gardiner; he's the bartender at Elsie's on Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1475 NY-208, Wallkill, NY 12589. 845 895-8975. Tuesday - Friday 11AM-11PM; Saturday 12PM-12AM; Sunday 12-10PM; Closed Monday. □

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Opportunities For Local Seniors

by Alan Rothman

A few weeks ago while driving north on the Thruway, I was amazed by how heavy the south-bound traffic was. "Where are they all coming from?" I wondered. Of course, many were coming from the Hudson Valley; from here. They have discovered what we lucky residents already know. No matter what your age, there is so much to do and see in the greater Gardiner area.

Two marvelous programs just for seniors are the New Paltz-Gardiner Senior Citizens Club and the Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) at SUNY New Paltz. Both, organized and led by senior volunteers, offer a wide variety of cultural, social and learning experiences for folks 55 and over and meet conveniently nearby. What's not to love?

A recent board meeting of The

New Paltz-Gardiner Seniors, led by President Joseph Trapani, was a well organized and enjoyable gathering of seniors with a "git 'er done" attitude, while a general meeting was a picnic like no other. Food was catered (so no fussing on your own) and held indoors out of the hot summer sun and away from picnic ants. A wonderful accordionist added to the festive and very social gathering.

The New Paltz-Gardiner Seniors get together most 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 1:30 PM at the easy to park at V.F.W. Post at 101 State Route 208 in New Paltz. The Club offers a rich variety of programs including musicians, guest speakers, holiday parties, picnics and four exciting (and subsidized) bus trips to museums, concerts, day cruises and theater performances. The Club's



The Lifetime Learning Institute's class, "Easy Bike Rides."
Photo: Alan Rothman

Program Chairperson, Kathy Rivera says, "Come and meet new people and socialize. It's a great reason just to get out!" For more information call membership chairperson Fran Matthews at 845 419-5224.

The Lifetime Learning Institute is the somewhat lofty sounding name for a very lively adult continuing education program with classes on the SUNY New Paltz campus and at various venues around the community. I have both taken and taught a variety of classes at LLI and can personally attest to the quality of the program and the joy and fulfillment it provides.

Here's a sample of recent class titles: "Seeing Art with New Eyes," "The Governors of the Empire State," "Book Repair," "The Found Tribes of Israel," "The Beatles," "Lost Industries of Ulster County," "Writing for the Stage," and "Easy Bike Rides," just to name a few. What an incredible variety of learning based on inquiry, discussion and hands (and feet) on ac-

tivities and creativity. Classes are led by people like you and me who have a passion for a particular topic. What's your passion? Why not take a class or better yet, join the all-volunteer teaching staff and share what you love to do!

LLI offers fall and spring semesters in which all classes are included for one modest fee. Classes meet Wednesdays and Fridays. There are trips to cultural and historical sites, catered brunches with delicious food and a wonderful variety of speakers and performers which recently included tap dancing seniors, history of the native American and Europeans settlers in the Hudson Valley. For more information about Life Learning Institute, call the Registrar, Jane Winters at 845-257-2892 or visit www.newpaltz.edu/lifetime.

For more information on many Gardiner senior activities, sign up with Stephen Weir of the Gardiner Senior Resources Committee at: gsrcny@googlegroups.com. □

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A logo for Gardiner Animal Hospital. At the top, there is a yellow sun with a smiling face and rays. Below the sun, a row of farm animals is depicted: a black horse, a black and white cow, a white sheep, a black pig, a black and white dog, and a black cat. The entire scene is set against a green grassy field. Below the animals, the text "GARDINER ANIMAL HOSPITAL" is written in white, bold, serif capital letters on a dark red rectangular background. At the bottom, the phone number "845-255-1549" and the address "175 Main St., Gardiner, NY 12525" are written in white, bold, serif font on a green background.

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Wallkill, from page 1

a good job of removing pathogens, but nutrients from urban run-off, sewage, farmland, fertilizers and manure percolate into the river.

Last August, 30 miles of the Wallkill River were covered with a bright green algal bloom. The DEC, in collaboration with the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, found that the toxins in the bloom at one site were 25 times the DEC's high toxin limit; another site registered 85 times the limit. According to Shapley, "Slow water, nutrient levels and the right temperature are the triggers underlying the algal blooms."

Riverkeeper (www.riverkeeper.org) works with the Wallkill Watershed Alliance to understand the bloom, using data gathered by "community scientists." As of March of this year, they had tested 24 sites on 83 miles of the Wallkill. 85% failed to meet federal guidelines for safe swimming, and aquatic life is also imperiled. Riverkeeper and the Watershed Alliance shared this information with the public through press releases and via municipal leaders. Local newspapers also picked up the story.

Testing, however, is not the only way to help restore the river. For the last three years, the Wallkill

Watershed Alliance has organized "Boat Brigades," kayak outings where participants enjoy the river while also investigating and reporting on anything of concern. Other Alliance events include the "Tire Pull," in August, in which volunteers removed tires discarded in the Wallkill. (For more volunteer opportunities visit www.facebook.com/wallkillriver.)

For the past six years, Riverkeeper has organized the Riverkeeper Sweep. In May, 1,790 volunteers removed over 38,000 pounds of trash from the Hudson River and its tributaries, while Gardiner residents working on the Wallkill filled 12 trash bags weighing 360 pounds, three recycling bags weighing 45 pounds and recovered 10 tires weighing 200 pounds.

In March, Riverkeeper and the Wallkill Watershed Alliance sent a letter to the state requesting funding for a water quality study that would have prioritized the most efficient way to reduce pollution on the Wallkill. For a river the size of the Wallkill with multiple pollution sources, prioritization is essential. Unfortunately, that money was not allocated in the state budget, but, according to Riverkeeper's Shapley, "the DEC proceeded with two studies this

summer that increased our understanding of excess nutrients and certain other contaminants of concern, and of Harmful Algal Blooms. So while we didn't get what we sought, we did see the DEC respond to public concern by investing more time, energy and money in understanding what ails the Wallkill."

The message is one of optimism that the concern and involvement of ordinary citizens partnering with organizations like Riverkeeper and the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance will restore the Wallkill River as "an ecological and recreational resource." □

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Bank, from page 1

height, and—most miraculous of all—a good deal of empty wall space. Without crowding, one can hang ten to fifteen medium-sized pictures.

While guiding the renovations, Branch Manager Kathy DeLano saw the opportunity for a program benefitting local artists, the community, and the bank's employees. It was launched at the end of 2009.

Like many good ideas, it's the height of simplicity. Artists—both individuals and in groups, amateurs as well as professionals—apply to the bank, through Jared Cole, the Assistant Manager, for permission to hang a show for a six-week period. Dates are proposed and agreed on. A show ends on a Thursday morning, a new one is hung that afternoon, and on Friday at noon, the bank hosts a

reception for the artist or artists, invited guests, and bank customers. Everyone has a good time and—as always with art—the atmosphere in the bank responds to the new look. Instant redecoration! Bank employees tell me the changing vista brightens their activities. It's very much a win-win program.

Most of the shows display the work of a single artist, with recent shows including starkly haunting black and white photographs of local sites by Bruce Pileggi; a very jolly collection of kids' works from Sunflower Art Studios in Gardiner; and a striking series of caricatures of well-known personalities by the illustrator Richard P. Clark.

In the Spring, in anticipation of the Gardiner Open Studio Tour (GOST), the bank helped promote our art and our tour by displaying the work of local painters



Bank employees and artists from GOST (Gardiner Open Studio Tour) at the opening of a group show at the Ulster Savings Bank in Gardiner in May, 2017. Branch Manager Kathy DeLano is kneeling at right.

and photographers. And at Christmas, the bank warms its walls with an astonishing display of quilts.

Many Gardiner-based artists have been seen at the bank. Established local

painters such as John A. Varriano (familiar landscapes and portraits), Stacie Flint (cheerful scenes of daily life) and Marsha Massih (rich floral still lifes) are examples, and

Bank, [continued page 15](#)

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Bank, from page 14

we have also admired the abstract photography of Jonathan Pazer and award-winning quilts of great complexity and beauty by Shelley Greener. You never know what you'll come upon when you go to make a deposit or pay your mortgage.

From the bank's perspective, the shows are a public service that reflect and enhance the life

of the community, similar in scope to their monthly promotions of local businesses. Not all of their customers (the drive-up ones) even see the art. But that doesn't diminish the value of the venture.

Everyone who does enter the bank is offered a changing reminder that creativity—in all its mysterious and fulfilling ways—is alive and well in Gardiner. □

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Carlton Mabee's New Book

by Steve Hoare, Publisher, Black Dome Press

Saving the Shawangunks (Black Dome Press, with Photographs by Nora Scarlett, \$21.95) written by Gardiner's former Town Historian, Carleton Mabee, was released posthumously in October of this year. Carleton died in December 2014, shortly before his 100th birthday.

The successful grassroots fight to stop the construction of a 400-room hotel and 500 condominiums at Lake Minnewaska in the 1980s was a landmark victory for Hudson Valley environmentalists. It became a blueprint for subsequent struggles to preserve open space against encroaching development in landscape that The Nature Conservancy, in 1991, selected as one of the "Last Great Places on Earth." On the book jacket, Cara Lee, Senior Con-

servation Manager at The Nature Conservancy, comments, "Carleton Mabee saw the conservation of a unique landscape unfold and believed that it was a story well worth telling. He captured the stories, debates, controversies, struggles and triumphs of regular people doing extraordinary work in their own communities to protect the environment. It is an inspiring history for our region and our communities, and one we will continue to draw from as we face the challenges ahead."

Carleton won a Pulitzer Prize for *The American Leonardo: A Life of Samuel F. B. Morse*, and wrote many other books. He was also a SUNY-New Paltz Professor Emeritus. The book is now for sale at the Gardiner Library, and Inquiring Mind Bookstore, Barner's Books, the Mohonk

Saving the Shawangunks

The Struggle to Protect One of Earth's Last Great Places



By Carleton Mabee | Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
Photographs by Nora Scarlett

Preserve Gift Shop, Handmade and More, and Dedrick's Pharmacy in New Paltz, as well as on amazon.com. □

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Articles are written by community members, not reporters. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please contact us to discuss it before you write your article. To suggest a business to feature, please contact us. To advertise in *The Gazette*, contact Jason Stern (845) 527-6205 or gardinergazetteads@gmail.com.

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For more information, go to GardinerDemocrats.com

Gardiner's Democratic Candidates 2017



David Dukler
Town Board

Lisa Lindsley
Town Supervisor

Tracey Bartels
County Legislator

Warren Wiegand
Town Board

Lisa Lindsley

- Member of the Gardiner community for over 25 years
- Small business owner and finance professional in the private sector for over 30 years
- Advocate of open space and activist against irresponsible development
- Expert in sound financial management of local government
- Advocate for better infrastructure and programming at Gardiner's parks

Warren Wiegand

- Served on Town Board for 8 years as Deputy Supervisor, focusing on financial discipline
- Organized fundraising for the Library, raising \$500,000
- Led open space efforts, saving two farms from development
- Spearheaded sale of old library for \$100,000
- Recovered \$129,000 in attorney fees from lawsuit

Brian Stiscia



- Lifelong Gardiner resident and Assistant Chief of the Gardiner Fire Department
- Highway Superintendent with 25 years experience on the Highway Department
- Upgraded Gardiner's infrastructure always staying within budget limits
- Worked with the Town Board to acquire the right equipment to increase productivity and safety

David Dukler

- Long-term resident seeking second term on Town Board
- Led New Paltz Board of Ed. and Library Board
- Found better retiree health care plan, saving town \$40,000 yearly
- Works with Walkill Valley Rail Trail, Transfer Station, and Environmental Conservation Commission
- Wrote grant obtaining \$100,000 for rail trail improvements
- Focused on improved functioning of town boards and commissions

Tracey Bartels

- 21-year resident and five-term County Legislator
- Environmental advocate and Deputy Chair of the county's Energy & Environment Committee
- Co-sponsored/authored the resolution to end the use of polystyrene foam in takeout containers
- Chaired the committee that investigated cost overruns at the County Law Enforcement facility and recommended policy to prevent a recurrence
- Reduced county taxes five years in a row

Michelle Mosher



- 31-year resident serving the Town of Gardiner since 1989
- Town Clerk and Tax Collector for the past 21 years
- Past president of the Ulster County Town Clerk and Tax Collector's Association
- Designated Registered Municipal Clerk for the State of New York

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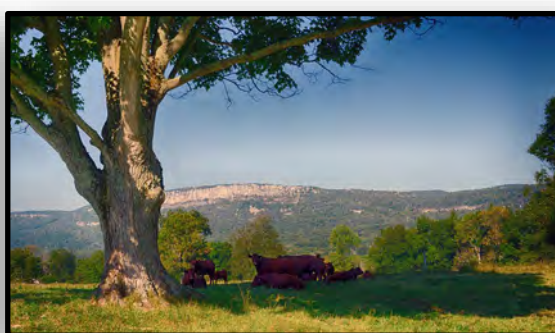
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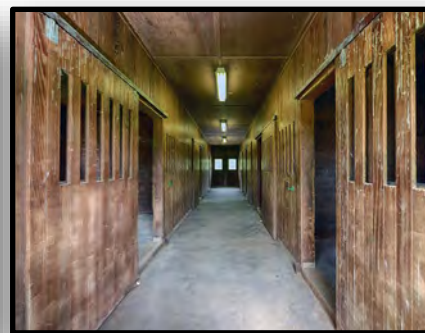
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Celia Colucci - NYS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

After living in St. Petersburg, Florida for a couple of years, Celia moved back to the Hudson Valley realizing she missed the beautiful surroundings of the area she called home. Having been surrounded by the building industry and real estate her entire life, she turned to a career that has always been within her. Celia is the third generation of the Colucci family to be a REALTOR® in Ulster County. This inherited background gives her the opportunity to guide and support her clients through the buying and selling process.

Celia graduated with a degree in Art Therapy and put her artistic abilities to use in many ways including her family flower shop, teaching painting classes and managing in a children's museum. Her creative eye will enhance your experience while envisioning design possibilities and creating the perfect space.

Celia has extensive knowledge of the surrounding communities and what they have to offer. From her love of outdoor activities to enjoying a great night out, she is excited about sharing this region with her clients. Mostly, she is looking forward to meeting and working with new people to help them buy or sell their home in the Hudson Valley and fulfill their dreams.



Alexandra Taylor - NYS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Born and raised in the Hudson Valley, I have been able to experience a lot of what it has to offer, making me very knowledgeable in helping all of my clients. I graduated from Wallkill Senior High school one year early in the hopes of getting a jump start on my college education and career. I studied one year at Dutchess Community College where I was able to figure out exactly what I wanted to do. In just a couple of short months I became a licensed real estate sales agent.

Being an outdoors person I have enjoyed camping, riding snowmobiles along with playing softball and volleyball. Aside from being an informed Realtor®, I stay involved at one of the local Hudson Valleys Farms, Dressel's Farm, where I grew up working. If you want to know about apples, just ask me.

During my years of education I had the opportunity to create great relationships with some of my teachers and other adult figures in my life, that led to me being a trusted babysitter for their children. The compassion I have for children and being dependable has allowed me to work my way up in life while creating and maintaining a great connection with these people. My attributes will allow me to create the process of buying or selling a home a more personable and comfortable process.

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