



The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Fall 2019 - Issue #44
Free! Please take one

Election coverage ... see page 4!

2019 Brings Unusual Election

by The Gazette Editorial Committee

This year, the Gardiner Republican Party chose neither to supply a party platform, nor to nominate candidates at the local level. As a result, local incumbents Marybeth Majestic, Laura Walls, Franco Carucci, and Bruce Blatchly are running unopposed (*Meet the Candidates*, page 5). Since other small towns around the country are experiencing a similar lack of choice, *The Gazette* is researching possible causes, and hopes to report back.

The ballot does, however, include several highly-contested races. For the Ulster County Legislature, voters will decide which party controls leadership of that branch, as well as who will represent Gardiner in it. Incumbent Tracey Bartels, a Gardiner resident, is running against Shawangunk resident Jordan Manley.

Also at county level, there is an important race for County

Executive (incumbent Pat Ryan against Jack Hayes, both Gardiner residents) and the District Attorney seat is also in contention (Dave Clegg against Mike Kavanagh). Both these races present voters with very stark contrasts in vision for our future, and our votes are important.

The ballot this year also includes a measure to renew funding for the Gardiner Library, which has not seen an increase in 11 years. (*Proposition 414*, page 7). We'll see you at the polls! □

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Wahoo! Leaves, and Music

World-Class Chamber Music Comes to Gardiner

by Martha Linde

It finally happened! This reporter (Martha Linde, of Gardiner), and Inessa Zaretsky, of New Paltz, had been kicking around the idea of a chamber music festival in New Paltz for a couple years until, LO AND BEHOLD! A venue was found: the exquisite DM Weil Gallery in Gardiner, at 208 Bruynswick Road.

We were there buying a painting that we had admired online and bravely asked artist Donna Weil about hosting the series in her gorgeous space. She immediately said YES. Lucky us! Lucky everybody!

Two very different concerts mark this fall's inaugural season of the Chamber Music Society of New Paltz at the DM Weil Gallery. The first concert was on October 6th; a second will take place on November 3rd.

On the 6th, the Tesla String Quartet joined Ms. Zaretsky for a program of Beethoven, Gesualdo, and—Inessa Zaretsky. Ms. Zaretsky played her own composition, "Mutated Gestures," which was also the name of the concert. The Tesla Quartet has been praised for its "superb

capacity to find the inner heart of everything it plays," has won top prizes in numerous international competitions and, in 2018, released

its debut album of Haydn, Ravel, and Stravinsky quartets to critical acclaim. Ms. Zaretsky is an award-winning



The Tesla String Quartet. Photo from their website.

Music, continued page 16

Majestic's Hardware Carries On, With a New Owner

by Sandra Cranswick

Since September 6th, there's been a new face at Majestic's Hardware in the Hamlet of Gardiner. After 72 years in the Majestic family, the hardware torch has been passed to new owner, Michael Ciavolino. Michael is enthusiastic about his new career, which fulfills his childhood dream of owning a hardware store. He grew up on Long Island, where the local hardware store supplied household needs way beyond hardware.

Michael is determined to build further upon this aspect of Majestic's, making it *the* store in Gardiner; one that customers think of first, and where they can get what they need, when they need it, at prices competitive with the big-box stores. There will be more household inventory—like cleaning and kitchen supplies—and a large new section offering seasonal, decorative and home improvement items.

Milwaukee Power Tools and Benjamin Moore paints are coming, as well as new rewards and discount programs. The second floor is being refurbished with extensive electrical and plumbing supplies to meet contractors' needs.

Majestic's will still be called Majestic's, and Michael has managed to keep most of the former staff on board. Former owners Rick and Laura Majestic continue as consultants, Kat Majestic continues in her pivotal role as General Merchandise Manager, and two of the clerks, Dirk and Mike, have stayed on. One new clerk, Steve, has joined the team.

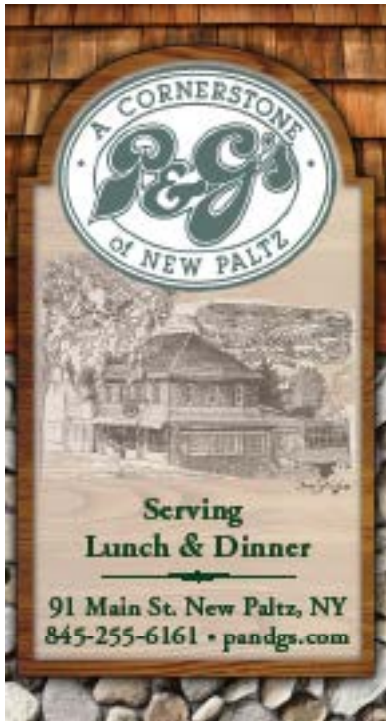


Majestic's owner Michael Ciavolino with Kat Majestic and "helper" Harrison Majestic (Kat's son). Photo: Sandra Cranswick.

The emphasis will be on outstanding customer service. To that end, their website, majesticshardware.com, currently offers 67,000 items, all available from their nearby warehouse. Order by noon for same-day FREE home delivery on any order over \$25. As if that's not enough, Michael welcomes everyone to their Customer Appreciation Day BBQ on Oct. 26, 2-6

pm, featuring a 5-Gallon-Bucket-Fillerup-for-20%-Off Event to the first 300 customers.

And don't miss the Black Friday and Small Business Saturday Sales in November! Store hours: 7AM-7PM M-F; 8AM-6PM Sat; and starting Oct. 1, Sundays, 9AM-4PM. Stop by 4 Dusenberre Road to welcome Michael, our newest merchant! 845-255-5494. □

An advertisement for Whitecliff Vineyard. It features a landscape photo of the vineyard. The text says "WHITECLIFF VINEYARD -20TH VINTAGE YEAR-". Below that, it says "THANK YOU GARDINER FOR OUR 20 YEARS HERE!". It then lists several events and offers, including a 50% discount on wine for residents and a 50% discount on wine for non-residents. It also mentions winning more gold medals in international competitions than any other winery in the Hudson Valley. The bottom of the ad lists the hours: "Thurs. Mass. 11:30-5:30 Saturdays 11-6" and "221 McKinstry Road, Catskills www.whitecliffvine.com".

Gardiner Government 101

by Patty Gandin (reprinted from Fall 2017)

Election season is a good time for a brief overview of our town government. 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, or ZBA, and the Planning Board).

The Town Board's five elected members each serve a two-year term. The Town Supervisor is a member of the Town Board, and also Chief Fiscal Officer and Chief Executive Officer. The Supervisor runs Town Board meetings, compiles the annual operating budget and oversees accounting and payroll functions. When the Board votes on issues though, the Supervisor is on equal footing with other members and has one vote. Many of our elected and appointed officials, including

the Town Supervisor, also have "day jobs," an amazing fact, considering the amount of work they do for the town.

The Town Board also supervises the operations of the Highway Department, the Building Department, the Assessor, Justice Court, Parks and Recreation, and the Transfer Station.

Town Clerk (Michele Mosher) and Highway Superintendent (Brian Stiscia), our only other elected officials, except for two Town Justices, have been running uncontested for long enough that we might well forget that they are elected.

As most of us know, the

Government, continued page 4

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The 2019 Republican Party Platform

This year the Republican Party chose not to nominate candidates at the local level or to provide *The Gazette* with a party platform. See article, page 1. □

The 2019 Democratic Party Platform

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE TOWN

- Invest wisely in the town's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, sidewalks, public spaces and buildings such as the Clove Road Bridge and the pole barn in Majestic Park.
- Improve Gardiner's recreational facilities and programs including Majestic Park and Rail Trail maintenance, upgrades and improvements.
- Collaborate with local organizations to improve the availability of housing and community resources for seniors.
- Preserve and protect drinking water and wetlands including the aquifer.
- Ensure the long-term viability of the town's sewer system.
- Support the library as the town's social and cultural center.
- Improve the appearance of the town and public spaces to attract public events that bring revenue to Gardiner.
- Address speeding on Gardiner's roads, noise control, abandoned buildings and littering.

CONTINUE TO EXERCISE FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

- Develop responsible budgets based on community needs.
- 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 by establishing an Economic Development Committee.

PRESERVE GARDINER'S RURAL CHARACTER AND OPEN SPACE

- Preserve the small-town nature of Gardiner.
- Update zoning code to be consistent with 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 and seek Bronze Certification from the NYS DEC in collaboration with Climate Smart Gardiner. Improve Gardiner's resiliency in the face of climate change.
- Support efforts to reduce the government and community's carbon footprint, while reducing town expenditures. Attract users of electric vehicles to come to Gardiner.
- Support Community Choice Aggregation, seek green sources of electricity, and seek other ways to reduce Gardiner's carbon footprint.

CONTINUE AND ENHANCE EFFICIENT, GOOD GOVERNMENT

- Continue to ensure open, inclusive government by encouraging participation by all members of the Gardiner commu-

Election day is Tuesday, November 5th.

nity 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 greater balance on the Planning Board between development and conservation interests and diversity of viewpoints.
- Encourage the development of Task Forces to address community needs, such as Earth Day cleanup, littering, maintenance of community property, etc.
- Work more closely with the Library to build and strengthen community.

SUPPORT THE VALUES OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, INCLUDING

- Actively oppose discrimination due to race, religion, national origin, disability, language, gender or gender identity, age, and sexual orientation.
- Show unwavering allegiance to women's equality and reproductive rights.
- Demand fair and humane treatment for immigrants and those seeking asylum.
- Ensure access to Universal Health Care.
- Guarantee protection and financial support for Planned Parenthood.
- Demonstrate active opposition to racism and white supremacy.
- Address income inequality through a higher minimum wage and improved collective bargaining rights.
- Build a clean energy economy that ensures environmental justice and protects public lands and water.
- Prevent gun violence. □

Government, from p. 3

Building Inspector is the one who gives us a building permit for that new garage, or that new house we've just had plans drawn up for, but also serves as the Code Enforcement Officer, making sure that whatever gets built conforms to the town Zoning Code.

The Zoning Board of Appeals steps in when someone's building plans do *not* conform. 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," responsible for overseeing larger development projects, and issuing site plan approval and special use permits if appropriate. It is a complex and sometimes touchy process: developers present detailed plans of proposed projects; input is sought from Gardiner residents; and the Planning Board reviews potential impacts on the environment, traffic and other aspects of community character.

Finally, we have a Library Board, appointed by the Town Board, a Board of Ethics, and an Environmental Conservation Commission. □

We urge every resident to register and vote.

Candidates were asked to respond to the following question in a maximum of 150 words. Responses were not edited.

“What do you hope to achieve in the coming term?”

Party affiliations (as supplied by candidates): Rep (R); Dem (D); Working Families (WF); Conservative (C); Independent (I)

Candidate for Town Supervisor



Marybeth Majestic

(D) incumbent, unopposed

Goals for my upcoming term which I will prioritize are as follows. Top priorities are: to complete the I & I Study for the Sewer Treatment Plant and implement the suggested remedies necessary, replace the yellow-flagged Clove Road Bridge, up-

date our financial software, work jointly with the Open Space Commission to implement procedures for accepting conservation and other easements, and continue to improve inter-board communications.

Secondary, continue auditing our zoning code on an annual basis, continue working on the pole barn at Majestic Park, implement maintenance policies for town owned properties, help support our senior citizens, continue improving our Summer Recreation program and support our Climate Smart Task Force.

Finally, I will continue working on multi-year budgeting, search for more affordable health care coverage, continue searching for grants to help us make improvements that will not result in increased taxes and continue exploring shared services with other towns and the county. □

Candidate for Town Justice



Bruce Blatchly

(D) incumbent, unopposed

Implementation of the new statutory amendments accelerating the pretrial disclosure process in criminal cases and virtually eliminating the cash bail system will present challenges to local courts throughout the state. We hope to adapt to this new legislation as efficiently as possible, working with

the district attorney's office, defense attorneys and local police agencies to minimize the difficulties posed by compliance with the new statutes.

I hope to continue to work with my co-judge Bob Rich to provide a fair and accessible court for resolution of civil and criminal matters for all town residents. Finally, I hope to continue my record of never having a Decision reversed by any appellate court. □

Editor's Note: The opinions on these political pages do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Gardiner Gazette.

Candidate for Town Board



Laura Faye Walls

(D) incumbent, unopposed

What do I hope to achieve in the coming term?

I seek to develop the softer side of governance – the little things that make a municipality a community such as brilliantly dark night skies, bicycle and pedestrian friendly, diversity in all its forms, quiet enjoyment, and a culture of arts, education and genuine communication. As an elected official bound by obligations and constraints, for me, competing interests and needs too often obscure opportunities for the many and varied ways Gardiner's graciousness can shine and serve as a platform for our local economy, recreation, housing, environment and community life. I hope that between budgets, financial management, policy development and implementation, local laws, and perpetual problem solving, that I will keep my intention on softer side, keep my eye on the goal, a Gracious Gardiner.

Thank you for the opportunity. □

Candidate for Town Board



Franco Carucci

(D) incumbent, unopposed

The goal of the upcoming term is to continue the momentum gained since accepting the vacated seat on the Town Board earlier this year.

Specifically, over the next several months I plan to have a new law on the books which will allow Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). CCA will allow the residents and businesses of Gardiner to receive their electricity from green, renewable energy sources while also saving money.

I will continue my support of committees such as the Environmental Conservation Committee and Climate Smart Gardiner, both of which do incredible work for Gardiner and our surrounding communities. My focus will continue to be on the environment, and I will ensure that Gardiner receives its fair share of State funding while also ensuring we take advantage of the many opportunities available for projects and grant money. □

Candidates For Ulster County Legislature



Tracey Bartels
(D; WF - incumbent)

As your representative I will, first and foremost, continue to deliver a balanced budget. I am proud that, over the course of my term, we cut county property taxes and reduced the town tax burden.

As Chairperson of the Legislature, I am able to help shape the focus of county government. Economic development remains a top priority. If we want our children to be able to stay here, we need to attract and maintain a resilient business community with well paying jobs. We must continue the successful investment in our infrastructure.

Additionally, I am so proud of Ulster County's record as an environmental leader. I will continue to work toward a green future that cuts costs, creates jobs, and protects the environment. For almost 25 years, Gardiner has been my home. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to represent you and to work on your behalf. □



Jordan Manley
(R; I; C)

Across our county, many people are struggling with unemployment, drug addiction and high taxes. Towns and cities like Kerhonkson and Kingston have seen industry drain away and now it's extremely difficult to get good jobs. Many county residents depend on a range of social services to make ends meet.

As I've knocked the doors of people across District 16, I've talked to many business owners hungry for more employees. We must improve our ability to match those looking for work with those offering it, including necessary job training.

Under the current leadership, the legislature is more worried about taxing plastic bags than about helping the most vulnerable among us. I will be laser focused on making Ulster County the best place to open or relocate companies that will offer jobs at all skill levels and matching county residents with job opportunities. □

Candidates For County Executive



Jack Hayes
(R; C)

As Ulster County Executive I will prioritize the needs of the people. First, we must address our distinction of being highest in heroin overdose deaths in NYS. I will ensure Ulster County is not a welcoming place for Central American drug cartels. I will rescind

any executive order that hinders free and open cooperation of Ulster County employees with federal authorities who are working to enforce American law.

I will examine geographic areas of persistent poverty and create a task force to mitigate and eradicate poverty while continuing to assist those in need. I will create a commission to investigate the numerous allegations of a "pay to play" network existing between the Ulster County government and vendors and developers wishing to do business with or in Ulster County.

I will work to find financial efficiencies that will reduce taxes. I will encourage development and job growth in Ulster County. □



Pat Ryan
(D; I; WF - incumbent)

As County Executive, my top priorities have been tackling the opioid epidemic, protecting our environment, and being mindful of keeping our area affordable and taxes down. I have made a commitment to cut opioid fatalities by 50% in two years and I have worked to acquire over three million dollars in funding to help achieve this goal.

Protecting our environment is another key area of mine. I have set a goal of making Ulster County use 100% renewable energy by 2030. Additionally, my administration is in the process of converting an old brownfield in Saugerties to a solar array which when completed will account for 20% of our renewable energy. It is essential that we keep our area affordable. Recently I stood up an innovation team to evaluate how we operate and make sure that our tax dollars are being spent well and efficiently. In my second term, I am looking to expand on these early successes. □



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The Gardiner Library Proposition 414

by Doris Chorny

☐ ☐

YES **NO**

PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE, TOWN PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE
Shall the annual contribution of the Town of Gardiner for the operating budget of the Gardiner Library be increased by forty-five thousand eight hundred and forty-six (\$45,846.00) dollars, to the sum of two hundred seventy-five thousand and seventy six (\$275,076.00) dollars annually?

On the back of the November ballot, you will see a question, as shown above, placed there by the Gardiner Library Board to allow voters to decide our library's budget.

In a recent review, almost 3,800 residents had a Gardiner Library card, with annual total library visits totaling 29,000, and with over 40,000 items circulated. The library offered 630 adult and 300 children's program sessions, with a total attendance of about 10,250.

In comparison to other libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System which serve populations similar in size to Gardiner's, the Gardiner Library spent 5.37% of its budget on new materials while other comparable libraries spent between

7% and 15% of their budgets. The Gardiner Library received a total of \$243,230 from city, county and town taxes while the other comparable libraries received between \$338,000 and \$751,000.

The Gardiner Library is in the top 50% of libraries when ranked on total transactions per capita.

The library has not asked for a budget increase in 11 years. In that time, the Consumer Price Index has gone up 17.82%. As a result, the library's current tax revenue of \$229,000 buys only \$194,364 today.

At the same time, operating costs have been on the rise.

If passed, Proposition 414 would increase the Library's budget by \$45,846. The resulting budget of \$275,076 remains a fraction of comparable libraries' budgets.

What It Will Cost: The annual increased cost to a Gardinerite, per \$100,000 of assessed home value, would be less than the price of a hard cover book for some

and a little more than that for others. For example, it would cost an additional \$6.00 per year for a property assessed at \$100,000; \$12 for one assessed at \$200,000 and \$18 per year for one assessed at \$300,000.

Please vote on November 5th. The town needs your opinion. ☐



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Founding Member of *The Gazette* Dies

by Carol O'Biso

It's possible that without Barbara Sides, *The Gardiner Gazette* would not exist today. Barbara was an early member of *The Gazette* Committee and devoted herself to it for over eight years, retiring in 2018, only when her health began to fail. She died on August 11th.



Barbara Sides in a recent photo provided by her family.

Barbara mentioned often that writing did not come naturally to her. It was difficult work, yet she always tackled the big, tough topics. In 2016, there was "Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Indian Point is Only 31 Miles from Gardiner," and "Heart Attack: Helping Our First Responders Help Us." Many other hefty topics preceded and followed. "Don't you want to tackle a bit of fluff this time," we often asked. She rarely did.

Barbara combined a supreme calm with extreme passionate for whatever she did, and the Gazette benefited from both those qualities. We miss her, and are so flattered that she chose *The Gazette* to add to her already full plate of community activities. □

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Guinea Fowl: Tick-Eating Machines, in Four (Easy?) Lessons

by Carol O'Biso

Who wouldn't love a robotic vacuum cleaner that would remove ticks from the lawn? An organic Roomba! Apparently, that is just what Guinea fowl are touted to be. In order to gain further insight into this, we talked to Gardiner resident, Tom McMahon.

Tom says, "The tick population was so thick that walking from the office to my shop was like navigating a minefield—I could literally see them teeming on the ground." Tom's home and business, McMahon's Contracting, share a 10-acre parcel on Bruynswick Road, so he had to make this fearsome commute daily.

Fearing the dreaded Lyme disease, but looking for a non-toxic solution, he read about Guinea fowl being tick eating ma-

chines. "That's the ticket," he thought, "After all, I've raised chickens, right? How hard could it be?" Seven years later, Tom reports that, "The only similarity between raising chickens and raising guinea fowl is that they are both birds that live in a coop and require feed and water."

He started with 15 adult guineas from a local farm/rescue operation and was told to keep them in the coop for two to three weeks, feeding them daily and talking to them to get them acclimated. Then it would be safe to "let them out to free range and do their job: tick eating."

This sounds simple enough, but Tom laughed. "You'd

think so, but on the 21st day they wouldn't go back into the coop at the end of the day. There are foxes, coyotes, hawks, eagles, fisher cats, and raccoons around my place that would love a guinea meal, so I tried to encourage them to go into the coop. At some point, I found myself chasing them around the yard, and it was at that point they flew into the trees, never to be seen again."

Lesson #1: "Never chase a guinea fowl."

Tom did not give up. So what happened next? "Well, I got more birds," Tom said, "this time teenagers, so after learning Lesson #1, I found that making a loud show of putting feed in their feeders at the end of the day and walking very slowly behind them, clapping my hands gently, would encourage them to move in the direction of the coop door.

Sometimes they'd go right in, but there is often a rogue bird who will walk past the door, and repeatedly back and forth eternally, never tiring and never entering. But I found that having another person stand about 10 feet away on the far side of the coop door, arms wide, while I gently moved them towards it, works. Usually."

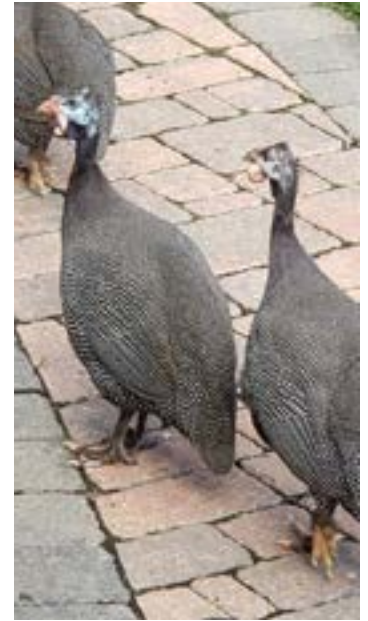


Photo courtesy Tom McMahon

At that point, Tom thought he was home free, and heading for tick free, but there were more lessons to learn. The next came after he had successfully raised a dozen guinea keets (baby guineas) to adulthood. "There is always a pecking order with birds, and through the ranks rose a dominant male that I called Knobby, because he had an additional knob atop the traditional bony head ridge. I liked Knobby. He was a benevolent despot, kind to his hens and gentle in how he managed the entire flock."

A year later though, another male rose through the ranks and challenged Knobby repeat-

Guineas, continued page 15

An advertisement for Main Course Catering + Marketplace. It features a close-up photograph of a woven basket filled with fresh vegetables, including leafy greens, purple and red beets, and red bell peppers. The text "MAIN COURSE CATERING + MARKETPLACE" is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, contact information is provided: "176 MAIN ST. NEW PALTZ, NY 12561", "(845) 285-2608", and "WWW.MAINCOURSECATERING.COM". A small "MC" logo is also present. On the right side, there is a vertical credit line: "Maggie Margulies Photography".

An advertisement for Hoover Architecture, PLLC. It features a logo on the left consisting of a stylized blue swirl. To the right of the logo, the text "HOOVER ARCHITECTURE, PLLC" is written in a serif font. Below this is a photograph of a modern, two-story house with a large chimney and a covered porch. Underneath the photo, the website "HooverArchitecture.com" is listed, followed by "Member American Institute of Architects" and "Excellence by Design".

The Cheese Plate, Renewed

by Carrie Wasser

Many locals shop at The Cheese Plate in New Paltz for fine cheeses and delicacies from around the world. The shop, located in the Water Street Market, now has new owners, and they live in Gardiner.

The Gazette reached out to Greg and Melissa Gagne to learn more about them and the business they run, which will soon have a new name: Graziery. Greg answered some questions for us.

How long have you both lived in Gardiner? Melissa grew up in Gardiner and we have lived here together for 20 years.

Before The Cheese Plate, did you own or manage any other businesses? Together, we own and operate a cut flower farm

called "Flowered," that specializes in wholesale and event flowers 100% grown by us, following organic practices.

We also operated Red Rooster Cafe for seven years before selling it to Mike Bernardo, who now runs it as Cafe Mio.

What made you decide to run a cheese shop? We were looking for a place to be able to pull all our passions together: food, drink, flowers, plants.

How is The Cheese Plate different (or the same) under your management? We have added a huge houseplant selection, cut flowers, and a strong focus on regional and local products. Our food changes seasonally and takes its direction from the offerings of farms.



Greg and Melissa Gagne. Photo courtesy the Gagnes.

What do you like best about running a business in this area? Our home, our community, and our friends. There is no better place to be than working in our neighborhood.

What are your favorite things about Gardiner? The peace and quiet, the

community of wonderful people, and the small-town feeling where kids can ride bikes and I can take long evening strolls with my wife. There is nowhere else we would rather be than home in Gardiner.

The shop is open 11 AM to 8 PM Mon-Sat., and Sun. 11 AM to 6 PM. Call 845 255-2444. □

A vertical advertisement for Bialecki Architects. The top half features a large, stylized wheel-like architectural design with a red rim and white spokes, set against a background of wooden planks. The text "Bialecki Architects" is at the top, followed by "Matthew Bialecki, AIA". Below the design, it says "Winner of 10 American Institute of Architects Awards for Architectural and Sustainable Design". At the bottom, it provides contact information: "info@bialeckiarchitects.com • bialeckiarchitects.com" and "View of oculus, Angry Orchard Cidery, Walden, NY".

A horizontal advertisement for Yoga Wellness Bodywork. It features a woman in a pink tank top performing a yoga pose. The background is a bright yellow wall with a colorful mandala. The text includes "Yoga Wellness Bodywork", "120 Main Street, Gardiner, NY", "yogawellnessbodywork.com", and the phone number "(845) 275-0330". A banner at the bottom says "\$25 off 1st hour of Thai Bodywork".

A horizontal advertisement for State Farm. It features the State Farm logo at the top. Below it, the text reads "Jim DeMaio, Agent", "246 Main Street", "New Paltz, NY 12561", "Bus: 845 255-5180", and "www.jim-demaio.com". At the bottom left, it says "State Farm, Bloomington, IL 1211999". On the right is a portrait of Jim DeMaio, a man in a white shirt and tie.

Watergrasshill Bed & Breakfast: Honoring Family

by Liz Glover Wilson

Watergrasshill is in southeast County Cork, Ireland, with its last census boasting a population of 1,086. It was on a family trip to that beautiful village that Alana Colucci and her family found the inspiration for their new Bed & Breakfast in Gardiner.

While the business is new, the home, on Phillies Bridge Road, is rich in history. Originally built in 1810, set on 16 acres with calming and expansive views of the Ridge, Watergrasshill B&B is a real oasis and a beautiful homage to Alana's ancestors. Watergrasshill, Ireland, is where her maternal great grandmother was born.

"One of my favorite memories of the trip was staying at all of the B&B's and being treated like family," Alana remembers, "The innkeepers shared stories with us, gave us advice on local restaurants and treated us to delicious homemade Irish breakfasts. I decided that I wanted to bring this type of accommodation to Gardiner."

Her paternal grandparents, the late Bart and Doris Colucci—beloved Gardiner natives—bought the house in 1978, and Alana and her family spent much time there during her childhood, building warm memories with family, friends and community. In open-

ing this B&B, she says "I love being able to honor both sides of my family in my business."

Alana spent some time working for Penguin Random House in NY as a book cover designer, and her eye for style and balance are found in every detail of this beautiful home. "When designing the rooms, I wanted to highlight the old farmhouse charm while accenting with modern design elements," Alana says.

Each of the four guest rooms is stylishly decorated, with comfort in mind to ensure that each guest feels welcomed and relaxed. This 19th Century farmhouse offers a unique 300 square foot kitchen studio, and a dining room with original wide plank wood floors, Dutch door, built-in cabinetry and original bread oven. "On the weekends," Alana says, "guests enjoy a full, farm fresh breakfast, such as blueberry scones with homemade triple berry jam, veggie frittata with a side of hash-browns and bacon." She goes on, "On weekdays we serve a continental breakfast of homemade baked goods, fresh fruit, yogurt, granola, oatmeal, homemade jam, and hard boiled eggs." The land, previously a dairy farm, was most recently farmed as an organic fruit and vegetable farm by her grandfather, Bart, so Alana serves her



Watergrasshill B&B. Photo: Liz Glover Wilson

guests blueberries from bushes; bringing farm to table quality to her breakfast offerings.

Alana offers monthly workshops, such as hands-on cooking classes for adults and children, crafts and floral design classes, and their newest addition, calligraphy classes. The kitchen studio

and adjacent patio are available for small private events, such as birthday parties or corporate functions, with all classes also available for those events.

Watergrasshill B&B truly exudes warmth. Consider joining a workshop at this beautiful addition to Gardiner. watergrasshill-ny.com 845) 419-2661. □

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Before Plastic: A Trip Down Memory Lane

by Alan Rothman

The new Ulster County plastic bag ban has not only increased our awareness of how ubiquitous plastic is but also, for some folks, has inspired memories of what life was like before plastic packaging. Thank you to Elaine and Bill Case, Ginny and Bill Esser, Cheryl and Richard Leopold and Mary Ann and Paul Osgood for their memories and observations. All were either born and raised in Gardiner, or have lived here for many years. What follows is a roundtable discussion of sorts, in their own words, of what was...

Mary Ann: "In this town there was nothing. We had no grocery store. We would go to New Paltz to shop. We had our own animals and a big garden. I had milk from goats until I was 8 years old. We then got rid of them and had milk delivered in glass bottles. We had a bread man who came and de-

livered bread. It was that white bread, Wonder Bread (chuckle). It came in a wax paper bag."

Cheryl: "My father had a sign on his desk 'Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.'"

Ginny: "My mother was a stay-at-home mom. She planned her meals every day. We would go over and pick up what we needed for that day. It wasn't like it is now where we shop for the whole week."

Alan: "I used to scrape the wax off of the milk container while eating my breakfast cereal and reading the box."

Bill Case: "My father had a commercial laundry. Everything got wrapped in paper."

Elaine: "I remember in California, in the late 1940s, we had



Some pre-plastic packaging; Photo: Alan Rothman

recycling but we didn't have plastic. We had a container for metal cans and a pile for newspapers. Your garbage went to the incinerator. I worked in a bakery. You put the bread through the slicer, held it up and made it stay and you put the waxed paper bag right over it."

Bill Esser: "I worked part-time for an Italian butcher and I would deliver. The meats were wrapped in paper and tied together. There were no bags used. We re-used paper bags for garbage and to cover our books."

Richard: "When I was in high school, I was a grocery clerk and stacked shelves so

I was quite intimate with packaging. Dairy, like sour cream, was still packaged in waxed paper containers in the early 60s. At the checkout, we were still bagging in paper bags. Bread was a mix of plastic bags and waxed paper."

Cheryl: "Where I grew up, we always had our dairy products delivered in a truck. Glass milk bottles were left in a metal container outside the front door. In winter, the milk would freeze and tops would pop up. When you finished the milk, you put the bottle back in the box. The paper bags were heavier than they are now. Bakeries never used plastic. They used tissue paper and boxes for cakes."

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Plastic, from page 12

Mary Ann: "After the war, plastic became popular. I remember that Oleo [margarine] came in a plastic pouch and you had to squeeze the pouch."

Paul: "There were no supermarkets. You went to a grocery for canned goods and bread and things, and there was a meat store. The cheese was cut from a cheese wheel and wrapped in butcher's paper. My mother would buy in bulk, things like beans would come in a cloth bag and she would scoop it out into a paper bag. We always carried groceries home in paper bags. We reused them. You'd fold them up. You might even bring them back [to the store.] Toothpaste came in metal tubes and a metal cap. You recycled them."

After reminiscing, the group had varied responses to the way things are today:

Mary Ann: "I liked the way it was before. Now, the plastic that is in the store, we have to throw so much of it away. I would be happier if we went back to the way it was."

Paul: "I think of all the things made of plastic that would not be available or made of something else. Cars are made of much plastic and are much lighter."

Bill Case: "One of the things that is going to happen is that we will have biodegradable plastic wrap. It's available now. One concern is what will the side effects be of this new plastic?"

Elaine: "I like storing things in glass. It is cleaner. I don't like using plastic in the microwave at all. Glass is great but I love plastic wrap."

Richard: "It's a double-edged sword. A lot of these things weren't necessarily done for our convenience but for the convenience of the manufacturers. It's lighter packaging for them to transport, it takes up less shelf space, and it's all about the profit."

Cheryl: "To be honest, plastic keeps things fresher longer. That's a convenience."

Ginny: "Thinking about the

ocean that has the grand plastic mess out there, I'm not as happy seeing it as I used to be when I used plastic containers."

Paul: "Since the plastic bag ban, I don't see plastic bags on my walks anymore. I'm amazed at how fast it happened... When I see one, I take it!" (chuckle)

Will plastics always be used for food packaging? "Not until something better comes along," Paul reflected. □



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Little Library on the Rail Trail

by Alan Rothman

Why have one library in Gardiner when you can have two, or perhaps even three?

Marie Zapf and John Tenuto have created, and maintain, a small, free exchange library that is located where the rail trail crosses Main Street in Gardiner. Appropriately, it is designed to look like a train box car. "It's something I've been wanting to do for several years. I just needed to find the person to make it," Marie told me.

John Tenuto, who has been a woodworking hobbyist for many years, worked with Marie to create it. They found another free library on the internet in the shape of a box car, and based their design on it. They bought a full sheet of

wainscoting and other supplies and built and painted it from scratch. Consent was received from both the town and the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail to have it installed in an area that Marie described as very busy with many people passing by. She calls the creation the "Little Library Line."

The response has been very positive. People seem to love donating and borrowing books from there. A bench nearby allows people to sit and read. Marie has collaborated often with Nicole Lane, Director of the *big* Gardiner Library up the road. "Nicole is more than willing to supply us with books when there is a lull," Marie explained.

The Little Library Line is af-



Marie Zapf and John Tenuto with the "Little Library Line" they created.
Photo: Alan Rothman

filiated with an international organization called the Little Free Library. Its mission is, "to inspire a love of reading, build community, and spark creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world." (littlefreelibrary.org)

John told me, "Marie already

has plans for the leftover wood. We're going to make a caboose. "For down by the Yard Owl where kids play," Marie added. It will primarily hold children's books. For now, check out the beautiful workmanship of the one on the rail trail. And, of course, bring some books and take out some books. □



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Greg Dawes

Guineas, from page 9

edly, until one day Knobby just disappeared. The new leader earned himself the name "Attila" because he was so ruthless and mean to the hens and the other males.

Tom realized he should have immediately "put him into the pot" when he found one of the hens so bloodied that he cornered Attila, yelled at him, and then left him alone in the coop all day. The next day, when the flock was let out, Attila jumped out the door, looked over his shoulder as if to say, "Follow me!" and half the flock followed him into the woods, never to be seen again. **Lesson #2: "Never yell at a guinea."**

With some trepidation we asked if there were any other lessons we should know about.

Tom replied, "Let me think; OK there's the noise. That, I've gotten used to, but when we have company... **Lesson #3: If it's too noisy, move the party not the birds.**

Apparently there is one final lesson. Tom says it's important to acknowledge that these birds have a dangerous job to do out in the open, and he stopped having memorials for them the third time he found a pile of feathers on the ground.

Lesson #4: Be resolved that every year, a free ranging flock loses about 40% through predation.


If you can manage these four piece-of-cake lessons, consider this: Tom McMahon's dogs used to come in covered in ticks. So far, in 2019, he's found maybe two. □




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Music, from page 1

composer and pianist, a faculty member at Mannes College in New York City, a performer with the Vermont Craftsbury Chamber Players, and directs for the Chamber Music Society of the Carolinas and the Phoenix Chamber Music Series.

The second concert of the season, on Sunday, November 3rd, at 3:00 PM, also at the DM Weil Gallery, is entitled "Autumn Songs," and will feature American countertenor Nicholas Tamagna in a program of songs for countertenor, clarinet and piano, composed by Brahms, Fauré, and Reynaldo Hahn.



Mr. Tamagna this year joined both the Metropolitan Opera in New York and the Vienna State Orchestra in Vienna, Austria. He studied at Manhattan School of Music and Hunter College, City University of New York, and made his Royal Opera (London) debut in 2015.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the door of the gallery. The programs run an hour and fifteen minutes, with no intermission. After the performance, there is a reception with wine and snacks and a chance to chat with the artists, ogle the paintings, and oh yes, snacks.

We are excited about this glittering start to the New Paltz Chamber Music Festival. Please come out and join us. Next fall, we project concerts on three weekends in October and perhaps a few in November. Everything else you want to know may be found on the website: CMSNewPaltz.org or by calling (347) 782.1378. □



Above: Countertenor Nicholas Tamagna. At left, lanessa Zaretsky. Photos from their websites.

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