

The Gardiner Gazette

SUMMER 2021 | ISSUE 50

A CALL TO COMMUNITY

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THE GOST TOUR IS BACK **CANCELED**

by Meadow



It has become a tradition in the hamlet of Gardiner... when the painted doors show up... the art comes out! "Go behind the doors" to meet the artists from the Gardiner Open Studio Tour, better known as "GOST." The Hudson Valley has long been famous

for its art scene. This fall, after a long hiatus, caused by the entire world being on hold, the Gardiner Open Studio Tour (GOST) is back in all its glory! The tour was moved to Saturday and Sunday, October 16th & 17th, from 10am to 6pm, so participants can

enjoy the glorious fall colors along with viewing some spectacular new artwork from the GOST members up close and personal in their studios.

GOST is a collective of professional

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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVISION UNDERWAY

by Marybeth Majestic



The BIG NEWS now is the Town of Gardiner's efforts to update our 2004 Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is a document that clearly delineates the vision of a community and the specific goals to achieve those objectives within a framework that protects public investments, methods to protect valued resources like woods, wetlands, and agricultural lands, strategies to promote economic growth while retaining community character. It also includes justifications for government decisions about land use as well as ways to balance competing interests and foster continuity of government.

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LEROY W. CARLSON REMEMBERED

by L.A. McMahon



Leroy W. Carlson, 81, former Town of Gardiner Supervisor and relative of Addison Gardiner, the man our town is named for, passed away peacefully

on Tuesday June 8, 2021. He was married to the love of his life for 54 years and truly lived a life of service. As a Life Member of the Gardiner Fire Department for over 44 years, he held several titles including Founding Member of the Ambulance and was the last President of the Rescue Squad before it was absorbed into the fire department. An active Boy Scout from age 5, he remained involved with Troop 79 (their logo was 79 with a "T" in the middle) helping hundreds of boys attain their Eagle Scout Award. As a volunteer he helped to build the Employee Assistance Program for SUNY New Paltz employees with substance abuse issues locally, and later was asked to expand the program statewide for all NYS employees. Leroy loved genealogy and was always willing to help others research their family history. He was the Registrar for Sons of the American Revolution, Columbia Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter and was nationally recognized for his exceptional efforts assisting families tracing and verifying lineage to the American Revolution.

In a 2020 Gardiner Gazette article written by Alan Rothman, Leroy's connection to Addison Gardiner was explored (gardinergazette.com/article/former-town-supervisor-related-to-addison-gardiner/). Among other interesting predecessors, Leroy had researched Thomas Gardner (b.1618 in England), who he found to be his common ancestor with Addison Gardiner, and discovered that he was Addison Gardiner's 4th cousin, six times removed. When asked why the town of Gardiner was created and named after Addison Gardiner, Leroy explained that, "In 1853, the area was growing, and it was a busy place, one of the fastest growing areas. They decided it was so large that they needed to split it off. Gardiner was created from the towns of Plattekill, New Paltz, and Rochester." According to Leroy, "It was political payback, probably for a favor." We honor his memory and his service to the Town of Gardiner. To read his formal obituary: copelandhammerl.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=21373677#. •

ROCK THE RIDGE 2021

by L.A. McMahon



Photo: John Aylward

The annual Rock The Ridge event is scheduled for September 25, 2021! It is a 50-mile endurance challenge set in the Mohonk Preserve and its environs, which is comprised of four legs and runs almost entirely on carriage roads. Various fitness levels are accommodated and welcomed.

Whether you hike, run, or do some of each, Rock The Ridge will be an accomplishment that you'll remember with pride. Participants can also register as two-or four-member teams cutting the course into manageable chunks amongst the team members.

Since 2013, participants have collectively raised over \$1,800,000 to support Mohonk Preserve's award-winning conservation science, environmental education, land protection, and stewardship programs. The event could not be a success without a strong corps of volunteers. Whether it is acting on a committee, supporting runners at an aid station, being a course marshal, helping with event setup and breakdown, or any of the many other important roles, spots are open for local and not-so-local residents. An event t-shirt, food and other amenities are provided free to

all who volunteer their services.

For questions about Rock The Ridge, please contact Tom Leader, Special Events Manager, Mohonk Preserve at tleader@mohonkpreserve.org or 845-255-0919 ext. 1241 or visit mohonkpreserve.org/rock-the-ridge/rock-the-ridge.html. •



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SAVING THE PALMAGHATT

by Janet Kern

In a time before time was measured, or scale calculated, or motion observed, shale, then rock, surged and folded, creating the Shawangunk Ridge. Glaciers advanced, cleaving channels in the stone. When the Ice Age ended 12,000 years ago, the Wisconsinian Glacier receded, exposing the crevasses left behind. Gravity-borne meltwaters within chiseled further downward, carving the protective corridor of the Palmaghatt Stream.

The upper Palmaghatt, whose name derives from a Dutch mashup of palm (meaning "hand") and gat (meaning "gap"), is intact on its course through the surviving primeval forest. (Every 5 years, the National Forest Service deploys scientists to assess its health and measure old-growth hemlocks therein, whose ages exceed 400 years.) It is a place so lush, so

enchanting, that it is easy to imagine the head of a Brontosaurus emerging from the flora.

Coursing southward the Palmaghatt carried indigenous life forms and nutrients in its cold currents, for vital deliverance of ecological bounty from the ridgetop to the valley waters and riparian banks of the Shawangunk Kill, to the Wallkill, and onward to the mighty Hudson: brown trout, creek chubs, tessellated darters, stoneflies, mayflies, and oxygen.

The furtive, the swift, the shy and darting in the stream are less visible but equally crucial to nature's balance as are the apex animals of land. Tiny Lives Matter! Their survival in the Palmaghatt depends on the flow and temperature of its waters, now provided by rainfall, small rivulets, and seepage from upslope wetlands. Truncating the stream is lethal to its unseen inhabitants who require cool water to live. Downstream watercourses and species are, furthermore, denied the upstream nutrients and gene pool upon which they depend for

optimal function and reproduction (contending simultaneously with unhealthy detritus from Tillson Lake and pollutants from the decaying dam). Last summer, the Palmaghatt averaged 60°. The lake, nature not taking its course, its halted water heating, was an astonishing 80°.

The dam was built to increase

[Continued on page 15](#)



Photo: Riverkeeper

SHEDDING LIGHT ON OUR STREETS

by Kim Mayer & James Brigagliano

Have you noticed that some of Gardiner's streetlamps are inoperative or flickering at night, or that streetlights are of different hues, some shining bluer, others more red or white? There is a lack of consistency in street light bulbs throughout Gardiner. Inoperative lights have sat for years without being fixed through Central Hudson Gas & Electric's (CHG&E) maintenance program. Streetlamps are unmetered, which means that even when they are broken, the town continues to pay a set fee for them regardless of functionality. On the occasions when CHG&E is aware of a broken light, they are replaced with LEDs without consulting with the town about the best wattage for locations or the ideal bulb to enhance public safety. The town has been losing money paying for these inoperative lights for years.

For this reason, Climate Smart Gardiner (CSG) began a Streetlamp Inventory last winter. CSG Streetlamp Taskforce volunteers including Tara Hoey, Stephen Weir, Mark Varian, Misha Fredericks, and myself walked around checking each light to make sure CHG&E's billing of streetlamps was correct (CHG&E provided us with their records.) Many inoperative lamps in town and misbillings were uncovered. As a result, the town

can expect significant financial renumerations.

In addition to assessing the functionality and billing of streetlamps, James Brigagliano LC, MIES, LEED Green Associate has been working on developing specifications for them. These specifications should help the town reduce its carbon footprint along with making sure that the town's outdoor lighting is dark-sky compliant. Dark-sky compliant lighting ensures that light produced from a streetlamp is distributed only where it is intended to go. Light that goes beyond a property border or up into the night sky wastes energy and creates light pollution which can impact human health, animal habitats, and viewing of our night sky.

After working on this audit and these specifications, the Taskforce has also chosen to explore working with New York State Power Authority's (NYPA's) LED-streetlamp conversion program. Unlike CHG&E, NYPA offers an automated, technologically-advanced maintenance program with features like dimming, digital monitoring of streetlamps, and quicker turnaround response times for routine lamp outages. NYPA developed a proposal that shows how Gardiner can purchase the Cobraheads from

CHG&E, convert them to LEDs, and pay for NYPA's maintenance program with a 10-year bond, which requires no financial outlay and a lower annual payment than what the town is currently paying to CHG&E. Also, the bond's annual cost is lower than what CHG&E projected as Gardiner's annual cost for Cobraheads if all lamps were to be converted to LEDs and maintained by CHG&E. Additional savings should really kick in once the bond is paid off - potentially saving the town thousands of dollars each year. Of note, the streetlamp taskforce is exploring how to convert the hamlet's decorative lamps to LEDs through NYPA and other independent contractors as well.

The town's leadership has until the end of September to notify CHG&E as to whether they want to purchase the Cobrahead lamps. If the town decides to move forward with NYPA's proposal, the lamps could be converted as early as 3 to 4 months from the project start date.

To learn more about how you can help Gardiner save money on the town's light fixtures, please visit the town website for information on how to attend the next Climate Smart Gardiner meeting at: townofgardiner.org/climate-smart-gardiner-taskforce. •

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NEW MEMBERS, NEW TOOLS FOR GARDINER'S ECC

by Neil Rindlaub

The Town's Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC) is (quoting the Town's website) "an all-volunteer commission dedicated to discussing and implementing ways to protect the natural resources of the town." Four new members were appointed to the ECC earlier this year by the Town Board (Mike Hartner, Misha Fredericks, Joan Parker, and Neil Rindlaub). They join three veteran members (Roberta Clements (former Chair), Janet Kern, and William Trifilo). At the first meeting of the newly formed ECC in February 2021, members all shared a deep appreciation for the beautiful landscape in which we live and a sense that our beautiful landscape, and the wildlife it sustains, is fragile and can easily be spoiled.


One of the concerns of the ECC is that with the arrival of COVID in everyone's lives, we face a fresh wave of downstate people who want to live in homes in the country and work remotely. House prices have risen and vacant land is a hot commodity for building new ones. ECC Members hope to play a role in guiding the growth of our town in ways that minimize the environmental impacts and preserve the open vistas and quality of life that we all cherish.

Among the things the ECC is now working on is defining its role in relation to Gardiner's Open Space Commission (OSC). The OSC has the responsibility of protecting undeveloped land and other natural resources, overseeing and managing

the conservation easements that have protected the Kiernan and Hess farms from development, and looking for ways to protect additional large parcels. Meanwhile the ECC functions more as an advisory body. Its purpose is to provide input -- especially to the Town Board and Planning Board -- as they make decisions that affect our landscape. ECC particularly focuses on how town decisions might affect the ecologically sensitive slopes of the Shawangunk ridge, zoned as "SP2" and "SP3".

Recommendations offered by the ECC are based on facts not just feelings. To help accomplish that, they have a new tool called the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). For those of you who

[*continued on page 16*](#)




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GARDINER JOINS BUY NOTHING NEW PALTZ

by Tim Hunter

In 2019, Ana Linneman aka Ana Lynn on social media, discovered the Buy Nothing movement. Realizing that there was not yet a local Facebook (fb) group, where locals can post items they want to give away or are in need of—for free, she started one. Since the movement encourages a small geographic area, initially it was just New Paltz. In 2020 it was determined that Gardiner should also be added. At first the fb group grew slowly, but then via word of mouth, it grew rapidly in popularity. Now there are over 2,100 members and four admins! Our residents can participate in the giving and receiving there. In this group, there can be posts of Gifts, Asks, AND Appreciation. Gifts need not be of a material nature. There can be gifts of time, skills, or advice. It is a place to find a world of fascinating items waiting just for you. Friends yet to be made and clutter to be cleared. The whole premise though, is not just about the exchange of items, but more the exchange between people. During COVID, no contact pickups limited the ability to physically connect, but still the group offered many valuable interactions, online and in person.

The Buy Nothing movement trains those opening new groups and encourages not giving items only to the first interested person. “Gifters” are encouraged to let posts sit for a few hours or a day to allow members to express an interest in items before choosing or randomly selecting the recipient. Many use the “Wheel of Names” random generator app to choose the “winner” or recipient of the Gifts.

The exchanges have been varied and voluminous: Tons of furniture, outdoor gear, antiques, plants, a loom, spinning wheel, spice racks, bunk beds, 1930’s drafting desk, a tiny ox for the year of the golden ox, a painting on an old bone, snail babies, sourdough starter and a bread machine, ivy, brussel sprouts, an Oh No Mr. Bill cat toy for the feline SNL aficionados, pet portrait services. A personal favorite of mine was the “24-hour Gift/Loan of a Wacky Waving Inflatable Arm Flailing Tube Man” that my kids humorously call a “wind-dude”.

So...if you are a fan of the hunt, or an adherent of Feng Shui, Buy Nothing New Paltz can add a treasured item, or the opportunity to clear out some of the clutter in your life. Stuff, fun, friends, community, reuse, recycling, and free cycling. Learn more at www.facebook.com/groups/BuyNothingNewPaltz or www.buynothingproject.org. •

Town boards, committees, and commissions as well as our zoning laws guide the town’s development and our Comprehensive Plan is our vision for the future. Under the guidance of David Church, AICP, a strategic consultant with Klara Research & Planning, a professional planner, we are undertaking this work. Mr. Church has been meeting with our municipal boards, commissions, and committees as well as local organizations to gain their insights.

We have sent letters to the entire community asking for input from all our residents and businesses. To kick start your thought or conversation process, consider these questions: What has changed in Gardiner since 2004? When thinking about Gardiner in the next 10 years or so, what are your hopes and concerns? How can we tap into innovations and protections that will allow our community to thrive? We welcome thoughts and ideas that are practical as well as visionary.

By the time of this publication, the Town will be moving into Phase Two of our Engagement Strategy. While continued input is welcome, this is the stage at which we begin to evaluate and consider the information and data received. Our consultant will begin to draft a preliminary plan and we expect very interesting and thoughtful discussions to follow. Public dialog sessions in the Pavilion at Majestic Park will be planned as well as Zoom opportunities. Of course, written comments on the draft plan are always welcome.

You will find a wealth of information, data, and opportunities on the Town of Gardiner Website townofgardiner.org. Use the links at the top of the page: Resources & Links and click on Comprehensive Plan. To submit your thoughts and comments, write to compplan.tog@gmail.com, mail to PO Box #1, Gardiner, NY 12525, or call me directly at 255-9675 x 101. •

YOUR LIBRARY'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

by Nicole Lane

Along with everyone else, the Gardiner Library has continually adapted over the past 16 months. As taxpayers, you provide the majority of our financial support. Consequently, it felt important to share how we evolved and served Gardiner during this time.

Library doors closed March 15, 2020 and within two weeks the entire staff was working from home. Our personal computers were remotely connected to the RCLS (Ramapo Catskill Library System) computers in order to complete library duties. We became (even more) available via email and started a weekly "by

appointment" virtual librarian service and homebound delivery. The staff created virtual programs, curbside crafts/kits, cooking videos, a local history project, free virtual tutoring opportunities, and more. We stayed connected to you through social media and our weekly e-newsletter, feeling like a lifeline of sorts at times. We even had volunteers helping outdoors and now indoors as protocols have relaxed.

Curbside pick-up morphed into our pick-up window and by mid-June we were accepting items in our drop box (quarantined for 7 days upon return). RCLS fully reopened

in September, making all items in the system available for check-out. Until the library doors were open, we provided curbside printing/faxing and photocopying as well as laptops for use outside with Wi-Fi networks and passwords posted on all doors.

With your help we even won a friendly competition amongst Ulster County libraries, collecting the most non-perishables for Helping Hands Food Pantry. We are excited for the next chapter as we welcome you back. Hope to see you in the library very soon. To learn more about the Gardiner Library, visit us online at gardinerlibrary.org. •

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DEADLY INTERSECTION

by Misha Fredericks



Photo: L.A. McMahon

A sense of dread overwhelms me whenever I hear sirens and see first responders racing out of town west on Route 44/55. Most likely they are on their way to face yet another gruesome scene at the corner of Bruynswick Rd and Route 44/55 in front of Lombardi's Restaurant. According to State statistics, this intersection is one of the deadliest in all of Ulster County. Gardiner residents and visitors alike risk their lives anytime they pass through that intersection. Residents have posted in the "Gardiner NY" Facebook group wondering how many more must be injured, maimed, or killed before something is done to make that intersection a safer place to drive.

Accidents have been occurring there for years. Some walk away from wrecks with their lives like in the collision that demolished two cars in

April 2008. Others, however, were not so lucky. Last year in August an off-duty police officer Dustin James died of injuries when his motorcycle was hit by a car, followed by the death there of Thomas Griffin in September. From all accounts, Gardiner residents have been voicing their concerns about this dangerous intersection for years, but these have largely fallen on deaf ears.

Then on this past Father's Day, George Airday was killed when his motorcycle was hit by a vehicle. A local resident, Carolyn Marosy, was shocked when she heard about his death, and she commented, "He was in law enforcement, as well as in the Gardiner Fire Dept. I feel his commitment to public service is noteworthy. His death was senseless and avoidable - a real tragedy." She feels it would be fitting for the intersection to be named after him and perhaps also after the other police officer who died there last year. Another resident, Liz Velic, expressed her concern, "The intersection will only get worse as the area becomes more attractive to tourism."

Because Bruynswick Road is a county road maintained by Ulster County and Route 44/55 is a state road maintained by the NYSDOT, it's tricky. Dennis Doyle, the Director of Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) is aware of the issue. UCTC is in the process of conducting a countywide

analysis of roads. The intersection of Bruynswick Rd and Route 44/55 has been recognized as a "high crash location." According to Mr. Doyle, changing speed limits doesn't stop people from speeding. Rather he suggested signage that warns drivers to be alert to a hazard ahead has a better impact. "The DOT is not likely to consider a 4-way stop on state roads," Doyle explained. The UCTC agrees with the County Executive office that a light at the intersection is the solution to reducing the number of accidents and fatalities there. He further stated that it was unfortunate that County Executive Pat Ryan's letter to Regional Director of NYSDOT Director, Lance MacMillan, was not received and acted upon in time to prevent yet another tragic death at that intersection. As of June 2021, the official response from NYSDOT was, "Safety is a top priority for the New York State Department of Transportation. As this incident is still under investigation, we are unable to comment at this time."

Only time will tell if any solution will be implemented there to protect the lives of residents and tourists. To access a petition online requesting that the NYSDOT put a stop light at this dangerous intersection go to: change.org/p/new-york-state-department-of-transportation-traffic-light-needed-at-bruynswick-and-route-44-55-intersection. ●

GOST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

artists from the greater Gardiner area. They are an independent all-volunteer organization that gets together for meetings, potluck parties and gallery shows. They also participate in other community events like Gardiner Day, GAB, Cup Cake Festival, and art shows at the Gardiner Library, Ulster Savings Bank, and local wineries. The members from Gardiner and the surrounding area are opening their homes and studios for business! It's a great opportunity for people to observe how our local contemporary

fine arts and crafts are created. The GOST Members: Alexa Ginsburg, Amy Schnitzer, Annie O'Neill, Dina White, DM Weil, Eric Weigeshoff, John Varriano, Keith Bussing, Leonie Lacouette, Lucy Michels Morris, Lynn Isaacson, Lysa Hoffman, Marcy Bernstein, Marilyn Perry, Marsha Massih, Meadow, Michelle Rhodes, Pam and Craig Booth, Pascal Vohradnik, Scott Roberts, Stacie Flint, Tyffany Dyckman, and Vicki Morgan are ready and waiting for art lovers to come visit their studios and view their fabulous new artwork. You may also get a chance to witness them

demonstrating their process!

Check out our beautiful brochure, available online and in many local establishments. It has all the information about this year's artists and the tour map to see where to go and what's available. Also listed are the generous sponsors that donated to our project. The brochure is downloadable at gardineropenstudiotour.com

Come have a grand new experience and support us. Buy local! Enjoy a great day in the Hudson Valley and contribute to your local art scene. ●

MEET THE NEIGHBORS: ANNA CLYNE & JODY ELFF

by Amber Munding-Glaeser



Photo: Jody Elff

Gardiner and the surrounding area are home to an amazing group of creative individuals. Two of them being GRAMMY nominated composer, Anna Clyne and GRAMMY winning sound engineer, Jody Elff. Both are music industry veterans who met while working for “Bang on a Can”—a one-day New York based marathon concert that evolved into a multi-faceted performing arts organization. They have called Gardiner home for many years. After living in New York City, the Hudson Valley afforded a welcome return to nature and the space to create in contrast to the lively, but relatively cramped life of the city. And it’s the community, natural beauty, and access to outdoor and culinary opportunities that keep them enjoying their life here.

A native of London, Anna, is a GRAMMY-nominated composer of acoustic and electro-acoustic music. This past Fall *Mythologies*, was released, a portrait album featuring her work recorded live by the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Anna has served as composer-in-residence for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra,

L’Orchestre national d’Île-de-France, and Berkeley Symphony. She is currently the Scottish Chamber Orchestra’s Associate Composer through the 2021-2022 season and a mentor composer for Orchestra of St Luke’s DeGaetano Composer Institute.

A graduate of Berklee College of Music, Jody is an audio engineer, sound artist and designer whose work includes broadcast, corporate installations, theatre, opera and fine art. Notably, Jody has worked on a variety of projects, including Michelle Obama’s book tour, Oprah Winfrey’s “2020 Vision Tour,” and YoYo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble—which garnered him a GRAMMY Award in 2017. He’s also the founder and owner of Little Dog Live, which is pioneering high fidelity live streaming services.

On a recent spring afternoon, I had the opportunity to chat with them about their move upstate, what they love about the area, and what life has been like working during the pandemic.

Jody found this particular area of the Hudson Valley in 2008 and a few years ago he coaxed Anna to move up. When discussing where they were prior and what made them

move upstate, Jody noted, “When I was making the move up here, I didn’t know anything about the Hudson Valley or New Paltz and the surrounding area. I knew it was time to leave the city and I really loved where I grew up and wanted something similar to that. I really enjoy skiing and one day just had this revelation that if I am trying to improve my quality of life, I should be closer to where I can ski and do these activities. I opened up a physical map and the area was right in the middle. I found the town really charming.” “I moved up here a couple of years ago, it was a big shift after spending many years in Brooklyn bouncing around. One of the big draws for me is having some space and the natural beauty. It’s wonderful when you are doing something solitary to have space around you. The nature that you are surrounded by is beautiful and you have a warm community of people and lots of great artists”. Anna added, “It’s also a stone’s throw from the city”.

Working in the pandemic produced both unique challenges and silver linings. Jody has been doing real-time broadcast mixing all over the country, and recording sessions from home, and Anna has been working on several projects while also doing mentoring programs, teaching online, and attending remote rehearsals.

Being upstate has not only helped their creative process, it has also inspired them to find new hobbies. They both learned archery during the pandemic and have also been able to spend a lot of time working on their home. When asked for their pick for “favorite Gardiner restaurant”, they agreed that Café Mio is their favorite brunch spot, so if you run into them there, why not greet them with a happy, “Welcome neighbors!”

To learn more about the great work that both Anna Clyne and Jody Elff are doing, visit them online at annaclyne.com and elff.net. ●



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AN EXPANSION AT ROBIBERO FAMILY VINEYARDS

by José Moreno-Lacalle



For reference, an earlier article on the Robibero Winery was published in Gazette issue #40 (Fall, 2018). It provides the background for this article.

Anyone who drives past Robibero Family Vineyards on Albany Post Road can see that a large structure is being erected on the premises, just to the South of the winery tasting room. Construction has been going on for several months, and the intention is to expand the storage and wine-making capacity of the property.

Harry Robibero, a businessman, purchased the 42-acre property in 2003 when it was occupied by the Rivendell Winery. When Rivendell left the premises in 2007 the question was asked at a family meal about what should be done with the property and its tasting room. Tiffany, Harry's daughter, and her then-husband Ryan, came up with the idea of creating a winery of their own. The winery opened in 2010.

Several years ago, Harry cut back on his regular excavation and home-building business so that he could concentrate on other projects. He owns rental properties, and that contributes to the funding he needs to build and expand the winery. Like many high-energy, self-motivated people, Harry needs a project to keep him busy and productive. He works very slowly and takes his time, in no hurry to complete it.

The basic issue behind the project is the need for more storage. They had outgrown the space they had in the original building. Storage tanks could be twice as tall now, as there is a great deal of height in the new building. Tank capacities could now rise from 2,000 to 4,000 gallons.

What this means is that while current wine production is about 3,000 to 4,000 cases, more storage capacity would allow production to go up to

7,000 to 8,000 cases, but not more, as Robibero wants to stay at a small, manageable size as a micro-winery.

The footprint of the new structure is 4,800 sq. ft., while the mezzanine is half of that. Furthermore, Harry has installed 3,000 sq. ft. of solar panels on the roof, with a capacity of up to 50KW output. Given how much electricity is needed to run the equipment, including the HVAC to cool the entire building, solar produces just about half of the total power needed to keep the place running.

In addition to new storage tanks and a barrel room, there is now space for vineyard equipment like tractors. Elements of construction that especially interest Harry as a builder are floors and ceilings. Among the things that Harry wanted to accomplish was to make a smooth, polished floor for the barrel room that would be easy to clean, given the amount of spillage that occurs when filling, moving, or sampling barrels.

By law, the tasting room is closed, but the veranda is open and actively serving customers. Their wines are made from purchased fruit from the Finger Lakes, Long Island, and from their own small vineyard. Most are made from vinifera varieties like Chardonnay, Riesling, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and so on. However, one of their most popular wines, Rabbit's Foot (non-vintage) has a base of 75% Baco Noir, a hybrid variety, plus Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, and the prize-winning New Yorkie Rosé is a Bordeaux blend that quickly sells out. It is recommended that if you wish to taste wine you call ahead to make a reservation 845-255-9463. For more information about Robibero Family Vineyards, visit robiberofamilyvineyards.com. •



CHRONOGRAMMMIES AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

by Jaclyn DeJesus

The red carpet was rolled out! We're happy to shine a light on the coolest award show in upstate NY. The Chronogrammmies, the reader's choice awards of Chronogram magazine, highlight the most outstanding establishments, organizations, and people in the Hudson Valley.

The original idea for the Chronogrammmies came about nearly ten years ago in 2012. Every year, people of the Hudson Valley come together to cast their vote for their favorite businesses. Maybe you've nominated someone? I know I have! With nominations coming from friends, clients, strangers, and customers — the ballot includes everyone and everything from BBQ and Banks, to Bike Shops and Bakeries! The top five nominees with the most nominations in each category advance to the voting round. Anyone can be nominated for any category. It's obvious with thousands of submissions, that the people in our communities love having an easy way to show local makers, small businesses, and everyone in

between some love, support, and free advertising!

Samm Liotta, Director of Creative Partnerships at Chronogram Magazine, said the mission was always to empower businesses to find exposure without paying for it. The Chronogrammmies give readers and residents the CHOICE to support businesses.

"Whoever gets the most votes, wins! It took years to bring the Chronogrammmies to life and we couldn't be happier with the turn out," Samm enthused. How are the Chronogrammmies different from other "best of" lists in the HV? Samm explained, "The quality of the categories is more diverse; appealing to locals and tourists, we know that both of these groups rely on Chronogram for solid recommendations on "the best of", in every town, in every industry."

Info about winners of the Chronogrammmies remains on the Chronogram website forever. After 6 weeks of nominations and about

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Craft Cocktails

6 more weeks of voting, the 2021 Winners were published in the July issue of the Chronogram, and winners also received a free social media kit—not to mention the bragging rights. ●

OVER THE WALLKILL

The Western Hamlets of New Paltz

This year's historic house tour will be virtual!

by Vals Osborne

The tenth tour in a decade of annual historic house tours in southern Ulster County is sponsored this year by Historic Huguenot Street. First conceived in 2010 under the auspices of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, the program evolved into a long-term research project focused on the region's compelling history and cultural heritage, and its stunning natural beauty and rich resources. Land stewardship has remained the prevailing theme throughout these endeavors - in the hope of stimulating broader and deeper appreciation for, and engagement with, historic preservation and land conservation.

This year's program explores the legacy of the town of New Paltz's agrarian communities west of the Wallkill: Springtown, Butternut,

and Libertyville hamlets, and the Guilford Neighborhood in Gardiner. Situated on the rich alluvial floodplains and sweeping plateaus above, interspersed with wetlands and wooded areas, western New Paltz lies between Rosendale and Gardiner, and the Wallkill River and the Shawangunk Mountains. Huguenot heritage predominated in this sparsely populated region in the 18th and 19th centuries, except for a small Quaker community around Butternut early in the 19th-century.

It features charming vernacular and stately homesteads nestled in picturesque locations, overlooking the Wallkill River or on high ridges above with commanding views. These homes include the oldest stone houses still standing, Greek Revival and Italianate frame dwellings, stunning Federal and Gothic Revival brick homesteads, and a contemporary vision built almost entirely of salvaged wood from Montana. Several of the houses are on the National Register of Historic

Places.

The innovative film presentation is designed by master videographer Robert Fagan, featuring local landscapes and houses, with music by Molly Mason and Jay Ungar, narrative passages, owner interviews, and interior vistas.

The film will begin airing on September 26th. Registration begins in mid-August at huguenotstreet.org and includes the film and a downloadable PDF booklet on the history of the area and the houses. ●



Photo: Misha Fredericks

PALMAGHATT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

real estate profit by providing a recreational lake, likely without malice (or laws that would now prevent it). The environment was on few peoples' radar back in the day. But global warming provoked a huge attitude adjustment from "Say what?" to "So what?" to "Uh oh!" to "What now?"

Guided by a new ecological conscience, we can revise our priorities. Unlike that Brontosaurus

and those fragile aquatic lives, humans have options. Tillson Lake offers undeniable delights but other lakes are nearby, and natural wetlands too, where the sweet critters of its environs can thrive. We must compassionately transition from "Our lake is fun, fix it," to "The stream is sacred, save it."


The Palmaghatt, gifted by glaciers: to wade in when it's hot, behold the hypnotic movement of liquid beneath ice in winter, watch salamanders

scurry in the spring, and, in quietude, listen for the trill of its gliding waters.

Gardiner residents can contact the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) at njpalisades.org/pipc.html or 845-786-2701 urging them to conduct an objective study comparing environmental benefit and loss and asking them to provide a transparent budget for restoring and maintaining the Palmaghatt Stream vs. repairing Tillson Dam. A healthy natural stream maintains itself. ●



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ECC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

are curious about the environment and enjoy maps, you can view the NRI at www.townofgardiner.org/natural-resources-inventory. The NRI is a set of 23 large scale PDF maps, with an amazing wealth of detail regarding such features as Gardiner's surface and bedrock geology, water resources and aquifer recharge areas, forested lands, and wildlife habitats. Going forward it should help the ECC make meaningful comments as to whether, for instance, there is sufficient water available to support a development proposed for a specific area, or whether that area supports endangered wildlife.

When asked how residents of Gardiner can support the ECC, new Chairman Michael Hartner replied, "People can review the Natural Resource Inventory online to see if it accords with their knowledge of the area, e.g., the location of ponds, habitats, historical sites, etc. It's very interesting and educational just to review the maps, though it's a little tricky to stay oriented as you zoom in and out. The maps contain a wealth of information and input from townspeople that can help to keep them up-to-date." He also suggested residents can "let an ECC member know if you observe any

activity that could be harmful to the environment, such as an oil slick in a stream, construction without a permit, or something of that nature." To learn more about the ECC or how to contact them, visit www.townofgardiner.org/environmental-conservation-commission. ●

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story ideas:**

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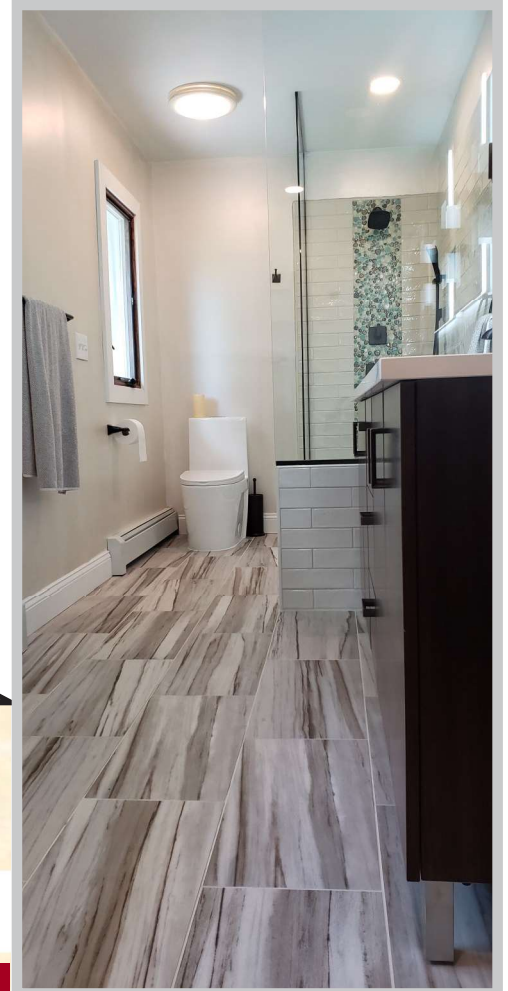


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