

The Gardiner Gazette

FALL 2021 | ISSUE 51

A CALL TO COMMUNITY

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CAFÉ MIO CELEBRATES 12 YEARS IN BUSINESS

by Misha Fredericks



Photo: Misha Fredericks

Gator Andouille Hash, Clams Casino-Stuffed Mushrooms, Grilled Elk Chops, Wagyu Burger with Balsamic Onions & Swiss, Venison Sausage Omelet – every week Gardiner residents and visitors are wowed and delighted by

the specials offered by Café Mio which celebrates 12 years in business this November.

For those who do not know Mike Bernardo, the owner of Café Mio, he grew up in a family where serving food was a way of life. His mother was a teacher who moonlighted as a caterer on the side. He often helped her in that endeavor as well as his aunt who had an Italian restaurant where he washed dishes. In 2001, Mike graduated from the Culinary Institute of America and worked for others in the food service industry until 2009 when he decided to start his own business. Gardiner was a convenient location because his wife was born and raised in Wallkill—a 5-minute drive away—so when Mike saw the place was for sale, he purchased it. Café Mio officially opened in November 2009 and has been serving

the food we have all come to love and enjoy ever since.

That's not to say it was easy from the start. Mike said, "During the first few years, business was slow but, with an increase in tourism and word of mouth, now many come from near and far." When asked about his customer base, Mike replied, "While most of our customers are locals and second homeowners, some of our patrons come all the way from places like Poughkeepsie or Montgomery to eat here each week."

In their tenth year in business, Mike decided to expand the space. Originally, the expansion was going to be toward the parking area but the lease of the hair salon next door to Meadowscent, the florist & gift shop,

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FALL ELECTIONS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

Gardiner residents will have the following candidates to choose from in our local elections.

There are two candidates running for County Legislator, District 16 (Gardiner and Shawangunk). Tracey Bartels is the incumbent on the Democratic and Working Families Party ticket while Kimberly Calderone is the Republican and Conservative Party nominee.

The following are running unopposed:

Town Supervisor
Marybeth Majestic (D)

Town Board
Warren Wiegand & Carol Richman (D)

Town Clerk
Michelle Mosher (both D & R lines)

Town Highway Superintendent
Brian Stiscia (D)

Town Justice
Robert Rich (D)

Kevin R. Bryant for New York Supreme Court Justice, 3rd Judicial District (D)

David Gandin for New York Supreme Court Justice, 3rd Judicial District

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CIVIC NEWS

CLIMATE SMART

The Gardiner Repair Café held its first event since COVID in August and it was a great success! We also partnered with Ulster County officials to showcase "green" vendors/educators at the Ulster County Fair. We continue to work on LED Streetlight conversion options, Community Choice Aggregation, Community GHG (Greenhouse Gas) Inventory, and a solar array at the Gardiner Landfill. Climate Smart Gardiner is part of the Climate Smart Communities Program, a New York State initiative to help local communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Gardiner is now a Bronze-level Climate Smart Community. To learn more, join our virtual monthly meeting through links on the Town of Gardiner website or our Facebook page, facebook.com/climatesmartgardiner.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION (ECC)

The ECC provided recommendations on a recent development proposal in SP2 of the Shawangunk Ridge Protection District (SP). It has also pushed for more oversight on unlicensed commercial activity and unpermitted building in SP zones. Current projects include developing a Water Protection Law for our drinking water and aquifers. An Education & Outreach presentation about Invasive Species will be held on Thursday, November 4 at 7:00 PM in The Community Room at the Gardiner Library. Remote attendance

will be available via Zoom. Michael Nelson, UMass Amherst, will share research about invasive plant species introduced through retail purchases and will provide native species alternatives that enhance our regional ecology in yards and gardens.

GARDINER LIBRARY

The Gardiner Library is excited to announce the addition of two new streaming resources - HOOPLA and Craftsy. HOOPLA provides hundreds of thousands of movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, phone, and even your TV! Titles can be streamed immediately, or downloaded for offline enjoyment later. Craftsy offers over 1300 hours of crafting videos, tutorials, and additional resources for creative makers and can be used on your portable device. Get more information at our new website gardinerlibrary.org under the tab "Download & Stream", and while there, browse through all the other great services and resources your library offers!

NEW READING GROUP AT THE GARDINER LIBRARY: BLUE MARBLE READS

Starting on October 14 and meeting bi-monthly on the second Thursday, this group explores the relationship that humans have with the Blue Marble, aka our planet Earth. October's selection is *Reading the Rocks: An Autobiography of the Earth* by Fulbright scholar Marcia Bjornerud, describes the system of checks and balances that our planet has deployed

to sustain itself and scales the impact of human activity. A Geologic Tour of Sam's Point on October 29 will demonstrate concepts in her book. Copies and information available at Gardiner Library.

OPEN SPACE COMMISSION (OSC)

The Town of Gardiner and its OSC have launched a land preservation program, in which the Town will acquire conservation easements for open space purposes. In some cases, the Town will consider offers of land donations for open space or preservation purposes.

All landowners in Gardiner with undeveloped land, which the landowner believes is worthy of preservation, are welcome to apply. An application is available on the Town's website: townofgardiner.org/open-space-commission. Applications will be reviewed by the OSC and properties will be evaluated based on certain attributes, including: biological diversity, water resources, scenic views, opportunities for recreational or public access, community support, and funding availability or landowner's willingness to make a donation. A separate category will be available for working farms.

Although the Town encourages donations, in some cases funding might be available through grants or interested land preservation organizations who choose to partner with the Town on a particular project.

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HOME "GROAN" - SEASONAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO CONSIDER

by Alan Rothman and L.A. McMahon



Photo: Alan Rothman

Winters in Gardiner can be hard. As the temperatures fall, all kinds of issues not apparent during the warm weather may emerge. I sometimes suffer from "home groan," that is, frustration caused by something that has broken in my home and I'm not sure how to repair it or who can fix it. Homeowners often face this, and although YouTube may be a good way to educate yourself as to what might

be wrong or how to repair it, I've found that seasonally-scheduled, preventive maintenance helps prevent or solve problems before they become costly repairs. It's wise to check around your home prior to each season. Here is a list, specific to the exterior of the home, by no means complete, that will apply to many homes:

Basement Foundation: Check the foundation for cracks, especially new or growing ones, and consider caulking, and/or waterproofing paint.

Check doors and windows for drafts and add foam or other insulation as necessary.

Sweep or blow leaves from your deck or any wood surface you walk on outside – snow, ice, and rain collecting on top of wood can cause decay.

Inspect your roofing, siding, and windows. If damaged or worn out consider replacing them with energy

efficient ones.

Disconnect your hoses and store them so the water in the line will not burst pipes during cold weather. Drain the hoses of excess water before storing. Drain and winterize landscaping sprinkler systems.

Keep your garage door closed in extremely cold temperatures. Exposed water lines can freeze in just minutes.

Clean insides of gutters and downspouts of debris to make sure melted snow can move freely through them.

Remove window air conditioners and cover, inside and out, through-the-wall AC units.

How and where can you learn more about a specific home issue? Use

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GRATITUDE FROM THE GARDINER FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Kelli Nielson- Rescue Lieutenant

The Gardiner Fire Department would like to extend our gratitude to the community for the donations of masks and other personal protective equipment during the Covid 19 pandemic as well as the gracious monetary donations.

We are also humbled by the outpouring of support we have seen for our volunteers. It has become a regular occurrence for our crews to be stopped by past patients and family members thanking them for all they do. As an all-volunteer department it can be a challenge to respond to calls for service – but our extremely dedicated members have stepped up to the plate over and over, coming in at all hours to make sure the vehicles are rolling and our community is receiving the emergency care they need.

Being a small-town department, many of our patients are also our friends and neighbors. While to a large degree this can be comforting for those who are sick, for those providing care during a pandemic it is scary to know the potential outcomes and then in several instances witness those worst-case-scenario outcomes occur. We

all know stepping into this field that we will inevitably see things that we don't wish anyone to see, but if there is one commonality that we all have, it is hope. Not only for the best possible outcome but for full recoveries and to hear that our friends and neighbors were able to return home to their loved ones.

Covid has strengthened our bonds and strained our ranks. Our personnel have taken on the back-to-back calls and extended equipment sanitation time without complaint and they continue to show up with a smile.

We are extremely proud of all those who represent Gardiner Fire & Rescue. They are truly dedicated to this department and more importantly to this community. For information about how to join our team, visit gardinerfireandrescue.com/join, and to make a donation, please send a check to Gardiner Fire Department, PO Box 271, Gardiner, NY 12525 or go online at gardinerfireandrescue.org/donate. ●

LIQUOR MEGASTORE COMING TO IRELAND CORNERS?

by Misha Fredericks



Photo: Misha Fredericks

On Wednesday, September 29th, at a meeting of the New York State Liquor Authority, a liquor license application submitted by Mohonk Wine and Liquor LLC was approved. This corporation is affiliated with the Mobil gas station, and according to their application they are planning a 2500 square foot liquor megastore at the Ireland Corners location, on the site of the old Grandpa's Antiques on the corner of 44/55 and Route 208 (592-596 Route NY-208, Gardiner, NY) which has been derelict for some time. Two businesses and one private citizen formerly protested this application for the liquor license in hopes of blocking or delaying approval. The private citizen, Lillian Thiemann, who is a Gardiner resident, filed her protest arguing that the Town of Gardiner, which only has approximately 6,000 residents, already has access to 17

stores in which to buy liquor within 10 miles of Ireland Corners. A new, 2500sq', liquor store will adversely affect the locally owned distilleries, the village wine and spirits shop, as well as the many farm stands in Gardiner, which as a result of the hard work of many advocates, now also sell the New York made local wines and spirits from local agricultural producers. Lillian Thiemann offered the following comment, "The approval was disappointing, but is not necessarily the end of the story. There are many things Gardiner needs, and in my opinion, another liquor store isn't one of them. I posted the info on the Gardiner, NY Facebook page with the hopes that residents will weigh in with their ideas and opinions, once informed about the issue." To join the discussion, go to facebook.com/groups/185251975716. ●

GARDINER TRAILS

by Amber Munding-Glaeser

As a newer Gardiner resident, I am in constant appreciation of the access we have to nature as well as the ability I have to walk out my door and be fully with nature. In one day, I can cycle up the mountains through the Mohonk Preserve, swim in Minnewaska Lake, run on the Rail Trail passing by Majestic Park, and if the timing is right, I can watch the colorful parachutes of those skydiving at The Ranch floating down from overhead.

A local advocacy organization, The Gardiner Trail Alliance, aims to further expand on the scope of residents' access to nature with an idea that was first raised in 2018; a proposed set of sustainable, multi-use trail systems that would be located at Gardiner Park on the Town of Gardiner property behind the Gardiner Transfer Station. These proposed trails would provide community members access to town property for hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing and more. It also would

fulfill two prominent comprehensive plan goals for the town: 1 - reserving open mountain areas and much of the river valleys for public enjoyment, and 2 - improving public access to recreation on publicly owned lands. In 2020, Parks and Recreation fielded a survey which included a question about this site usage specifically, and 90% of survey respondents indicated that they wanted these trails and access to this site.

The 87 acres proposed for this project has significant river frontage, forested hills, open meadows and views of the Shawangunk Ridge. To move forward with this project, multiple partners, a coordinated effort between the Town of Gardiner, Gardiner Parks and Recreation, Gardiner Climate Smart, Gardiner Trail Alliance, Fats in the Cats and volunteers from the community and other area organizations, will need to come together, but the initial construction would have no cost to

the town and low environmental impact. To date, more than 40 individuals in the community have also expressed interest and willingness to help through the Gardiner Trail Alliance website and written letters, according to Ilka Casey, Committee Chair for the Town of Gardiner's Parks and Recreation Committee. She also noted that everyone who has been involved, including the town board, have been very generous with their time and efforts.

Although the project has many positives, there are also concerns. For example, traffic on Steve's Lane could be increased to the point that there would need to be an alternate way to access the area. Or perhaps a "new" recreational area would bring visitors that would require additional management of some sort.

Personally, I welcome the prospect

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HUNTING DEER

by Jose Moreno-Lacalle & Misha Fredericks



Photo: Misha Fredericks

Hunting season is upon us, and multiple gunshots are being heard, a big issue for many in Gardiner. As evidenced by some posts from the Gardiner, NY Facebook page, some people think that hunting deer is inhumane. The reality is that often there are too many deer and not enough food for them. Consequently, many die from starvation. It is widely accepted that it is mankind's mismanagement that is largely responsible for the explosion in the deer population. Natural predators like wolves, mountain lions, bears, and coyotes were mostly eradicated causing deer numbers to surge. In addition, the clearcutting of forests is also a factor. When land with a wide variety of tree species is clearcut, more sunlight can reach the forest floor stimulating the growth of oak trees, the acorns of which are an excellent source of food for deer and one of their favorite foods.

Controlled hunting benefits humans by reducing vehicular collisions

and the destruction of crops and landscaping. According to the NYS Dept of Transportation website, there is a statewide deer population of approximately 900,000 and there are an estimated 60,000 to 70,000 deer-vehicle collisions that occur in NY each year. Deer, as a group, also benefit from hunting when their population is brought back to a size that actually is sustainable. The surviving deer are healthier because there is enough food to support them.

Many hunters revere the outdoors, enjoy the adrenaline rush of "the hunt" as well as the nutritional and culinary benefits of deer meat. Those who learn to hunt responsibly provide a great service to man as well as beast. Even those who were not brought up in a "hunting family" can learn to do it responsibly. For example, Al Diamond, a Gardiner resident and a local hunter, grew up in New York City where he learned nothing about hunting at all. He moved here to attend SUNY New Paltz and moved into the Hardenburgh/Jenkins Farm, affectionately called "Bog Hollow", and it was there that he became interested in shooting. He and a friend bought rifles and, with permission from the landlord, started target shooting. Next, he took a hunting safety course, researched hunting in magazines, and started hunting on a private game preserve in Gardiner where there is a small herd of deer that occasionally needs culling in order to control the deer population and help preserve the crops. Hunting courses and licenses

are managed by The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and their website is a must-see for anyone interested in hunting responsibly and legally.

When asked "What is hunting like?" Al replied that hunting deer is a very solitary occupation that requires one to be very quiet when stalking prey. Deer are very sensitive to threats, and their sense of smell and hearing are acute. They have poor eyesight but are keenly aware of motion. Bucks are the hardest to hunt but the antlers are seen as a prize by many hunters. However, it is the doe that needs to be culled, as they reproduce annually, usually bearing about two offspring each season in May. Hunting with a rifle means that you can shoot a deer from a fair distance, such as a hundred yards away or even further, provided that you have a clear shot, which can be hard in the woods. Hunters should use rifles of at least .25 caliber, though .30 caliber is the most favored. Some use .22 caliber rifles, but they really don't have the power to kill a deer cleanly.

Another hunter, Ken Fredericks who has been a deer hunter for more than 30 years, cautioned, "Hunters must bear in mind that rifle bullets can go very long distances—more than a mile—and still be lethal, so one has to be alert to where a shot could end up. Shotguns with slugs can also be used, and they have the advantage of not being lethal at long ranges. Hunters must make sure they know what is

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CHAMBER MUSIC ON THE HUDSON RETURNING TO GARDINER IN 2022

by L.A. McMahon



Photo: Martha Linde

A transcendent afternoon of music occurred this past September with the only 2021 concert presented by Chamber Music on the Hudson (CMH). It took place at The Shed on Old Post Road in New Paltz, but the original venue of previous (and future) CMH seasons is DM Weil Gallery on Bruynswick Road in Gardiner. At this 2021 concert, the Metropolitan Opera artists Caterina Szepes (violin) and Mariko Anraku (harp) were introduced by Inessa Zaretsky, Music Director of Chamber Music on the Hudson. They played pieces by Fauré, Saint-Saens, Piazzolla and others to a full crowd. Those in attendance wore their masks at the indoor-outdoor venue, often closing their eyes to get the full effect of the glorious music. A lovely reception followed the music, and a great time was had by all. CMH looks

forward to continuing their concerts next year at DM Weil Gallery. Find out more and add yourself to the mailing list at ChamberMusicOnTheHudson.org. •

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MAJESTIC PLAYGROUND MULCHING

By Ilka Casey



Photo: Parks & Recreation

On a sunny Saturday morning in August, volunteers armed with sun-screen, rakes, and wheelbarrows gathered at Majestic Park Playground. The group included Gardinerites of all

ages, who have all enjoyed the Playground over the years.

The mission: to renew the playground surface, spreading a tractor-trailer load of mulch beneath and between the playground equipment. The mulch, purchased from Tantillo's with funds from the Parks & Recreation budget, was delivered the day before the event. Tantillo's placed the mountain of mulch with care and precision, just within the edge of the playground, nestled between the play structures.

Playground mulch, made from ground-up hardwood logs, provides a soft, natural landing surface for tumbling children and breaks down more slowly than garden mulch. An annual

refresher keeps it bouncy, level, and weed-free.

Progress was slow; even after many wheelbarrows were filled and emptied. The mulch pile was still enormous. To everyone's relief, Mike Benevento soon arrived with a Bobcat skid-steer from Hudson Valley Trailworks to help speed things along. After three plus hours of coordinated effort, the group was covered in sawdust and sweat, and the playground was covered in a fresh layer of mulch.

This mulching party was organized by the Gardiner Parks & Recreation Committee, which wholeheartedly

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RAIL TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

by Johanna Hecht



Photo: Johanna Hecht

Good news is hovering over Gardiner. Potential funding for improvements to sections of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail in Gardiner has been proposed

by County Executive Pat Ryan and is being debated in the Legislature. If the proposal succeeds, the resurfacing (NOT REPAVING) now to be seen on the Trail's northern sections may soon extend to the portion stretching from Sojourner Truth Park in New Paltz to Main Street in Gardiner. The hope is to use some of the Federal funding allocated to Ulster County from the American Rescue Plan Act to restore the badly deteriorated stretches of the trail in southern New Paltz and Gardiner and elsewhere in Ulster County.

For Gardinerites living east of the Wallkill (and even some who cross over from the west), the Rail Trail has long proved a major recreational amenity. From its days as a gleam in the eyes of Kitty Brown and the late Dan Gunther, the struggle to bring the trail to reality was long and hard and opposed by some. But folks

who perceived it as an intrusion and feared its impact on their property values have come around to seeing its proximity as a plus. Now the rebukes have largely centered on its poor condition, especially in comparison to the sections running through New Paltz and north. The unkempt and uneven grass/dirt/shale/rock surface of the Gardiner section has evoked complaints from the many walkers and cyclists who use it every week, most notably during the pandemic when it has provided opportunities for outdoor recreation at a time when few other safe options were available, especially for kids.

The fragmented ownership of the trail has contributed to the diverse conditions over its length, which runs along the right-of-way of the old Wallkill Valley Railroad (WVRR). Begun in 1866, the WVRR eventually connected the Erie Railroad terminal

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REPAIR TO THE REPAIR CAFÉ

by Tim Hunter



Repair Cafe founder John Wackman
Photo: Misha Fredericks

A lovely Sunday in August, at the vibrant Gardiner Library, but something was different. Something fun was in the air. What was it? Our old friend, The Repair Café, started here in the Hudson Valley by the activist John Wackman, who sadly left us too soon, was rising like a phoenix from the ashes of quarantine. Repairable

objects and their owners rejoiced as did the locals who were there to offer free repairs. Really, all who appreciate the value of reuse and the importance of community love The Repair Café.

I think that many agree that we are in a climate crisis and at the intersection of conspicuous consumption and the moment at which extraction of petroleum has reached a rate greater than that at any time in the past or future. Yet, while the gross domestic product (GDP), basically what we as a nation produce and sell, matters, so does the Earth. People often say, "They don't make 'em like that anymore," and it's a true statement. The reason? Built-in obsolescence, which while good for jobs, corporations, and profits, is not good for the Earth nor for the consumer who must settle for buying less well-made items while replacing

them more often.

What the Repair Café does is break the cycle of throwing things out and buying new, and like Santa's workshop, its success depends on a team of eager repair elves. For example, Eric Hoover repaired a vintage Tensor desk lamp with a light that wouldn't stay upright. Through trial and error, the issue was solved and the lamp lives on. Then, there was Patrick Murphy, who worked on a Viro battery-powered scooter until it was working again. The list of things repaired was long and varied: Tools, electrical items, all manner of things screwed, glued, nailed, sewed, and wired. And if all that were not enough, Don Grice was there working hard at restoring vintage photos!

Kim Mayer of Climate Smart Gardiner

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REVISITING THE DOG KENNEL LAW

by Carol Richman



Photo: Internet

Gardinerites love dogs. We love to rescue, adopt, and care for them. When a dog goes missing or is found, a plethora of comments flood Gardiner's Facebook page.

Thus, the laws that govern Gardiner's kennels are a hot topic. Currently, Gardiner has a moratorium for submitting and processing permit applications for kennels. During this time, a task force will convene to draft a kennel law. The Town

Board requested the formation of this task force after the June 8, 2021 hearing when the Board heard public comments on its initial proposed law. The Board realized that the law needed extensive revision and also sought to consider the ramifications of imposing a full or partial ban on commercial breeding -- a ban that several Board members wholeheartedly embraced.

The decision to revise/redraft the pre-existing kennel law was due to a commercial kennel application that came before Gardiner's planning board in the fall of 2020. After initial planning board comments were heard, the applicant withdrew its application. Soon after, the Board successfully sought to impose a six-month moratorium for kennel applications with the intent to pass a new kennel law during this time. After the June 8th hearing, the Board voted to extend the moratorium for another six months.

I am happy to be on the task force serving the Board. On behalf of the

taskforce, I will review town kennel laws across the country that best promote animal welfare. It may be that a "one-size-fits-all" approach to the definition of "kennel" does not fit the many purposes kennels actually serve, from housing dogs at veterinary facilities, to providing temporary housing, to when a homeowner has more than a certain number of dogs, to large-scale commercial dog breeding.

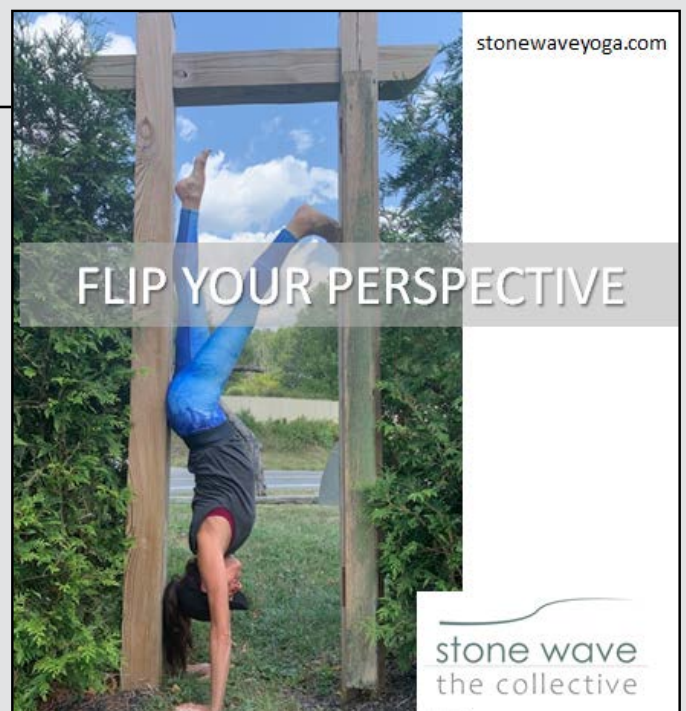
There is also a need to study the ramifications of imposing a full or partial ban on breeding dogs. At the hearing, one commenter expressed an animal-advocacy position held by the American Kennel Club: permit rather than ban commercial breeding so that facilities can be regulated and "backyard" breeding deterred. Many animal advocacy groups, including the ASPCA, hold a different opinion; they are proponents of "don't buy, adopt."

The pandemic has shined a brilliant light on the plight of dogs caged in shelters awaiting adoption. Shelters

Continued on Page 15

CHRONOGRAMMIES AGAIN!

Congratulations to Stone Wave Yoga for their 2nd Place win in the "Best Yoga Studio" category.



Cafe Mio—continued from page 1

was up, so an opportunity presented itself. Meadowscent agreed to move to the location of the former hair salon which made it possible for Café Mio to expand into the space right next door. Coincidentally, this all happened only 4 days before New York State mandated all restaurants close because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mike looked at the closedown as an opportunity to renovate the space nearly doubling the seating capacity, while continuing to employ Café Mio staffers in the renovation work, most of whom have been with Café Mio for years through thick and thin. When the state allowed restaurants to reopen, they had ample room for the mandatory 6 feet distance between seating areas to keep their patrons safe.

When speaking further about the pandemic's effect on his business, Mike said, "Covid was the worst thing I had ever experienced in my life." and "Café Mio barely survived financially, but thanks to locals who purchased

gift cards during the closure and loyal customers who returned, we weren't forced to close our doors." If they had closed, more than customers would have lost out. Mike believes in sourcing as many ingredients as possible locally, and procures seasonal produce from other local businesses, such as Wright's Farm, Tantillo's Farm, Dressel Farm, Insook's Kimchee & Organic Produce, and RSK Farm; local beef is purchased from Full Moon Farm. The lesson? We rely on one another in Gardiner, and it is in our best interest to support local businesses.

So, what's on the menu? Mike commented, "Because the area is a melting pot of people, we offer a regular menu for people who want familiar foods but also offer inspirational, creative items to please the palate." There are so many things to love about Café Mio. Let's start with the fact that breakfast and lunch items can be ordered any time, there are gluten-free choices, unique specials, and catering. Why not take advantage of their catering services for your next event? Your patronage

supports not only those who work at Café Mio but also the network of local businesses that supply most of their food stuffs.

Café Mio is open Wednesdays – Sundays from 9am to 4pm. Daily specials are often posted at www.facebook.com/miogardiner and the menu can be viewed at www.miogardiner.com. ●

Civic News—continued from page 2

Please contact GardinerOpenSpace@gmail.com for more information.

PARKS & RECREATION

We are pleased to report that Gardiner Parks & Recreation Committee recently received Town Board approval to proceed with initial construction of Riverbend Trails at Gardiner Park. The singletrack biking and hiking trails will be located on 87 acres of Town-owned land at the end of Steve's Lane. To learn more about this exciting addition to Gardiner's

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Parks system, please visit the Parks & Recreation page on the Town website, and sign up to volunteer at GardinerTrailAlliance.org.

Gardiner Parks & Recreation will also be hosting a Family Movie Night at Majestic Park, on Saturday, October 23 at 5:45pm. Bring a blanket to sit on and cozy up under the stars!

PLANNING BOARD

Applications that the board is currently reviewing include such projects as; the Lazy River Resort (site plan), Kimlin Propane (site plan amendment), the expansion/renovation of the Gardiner Animal Hospital and a number of minor land subdivisions. For more info: townofgardiner.org/planning-board-agenda.

UPDATE FROM MARYBETH MAJESTIC, TOWN SUPERVISOR

Current Committee, Commission and Board Vacancies: Assessment Review Board, Parks & Recreation, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Employment Vacancy as of January

1st: Part-Time Building Inspector.

Upcoming Town Board Public

Hearings: 2022 Budget, STR Law, Kennel Law, and Update to the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, agendas with Public Hearings listed, are posted on the Town website Fridays prior to the meeting.

Town Board Meetings are the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm, with the exception of Election Day when the meeting will be held the 1st Thursday of the month.

If you are looking for an update on a town topic, or you would like to bring something to my attention; please feel free to call me at 845-255-9675 x101, I welcome and value your input. ●

Home Groan—continued from page 3

more than one source. (Your Uncle Joe or Aunt Barbara might think they know everything but...)

A few good resources (in the order I typically access them):

View a few YouTube videos on the same topic to find one that best matches your specific situation.

Ask Professionals “in the business” such as our friends at Majestic Hardware store or other building supply stores who can offer you some guidance. For small jobs that you’d like someone else to do, simply posting a request for recommendations for a local handyman/woman on the Gardiner NY Facebook page often gets results (facebook.com/groups/gardinerny).

Ask Family and Friends. Someone who you already know might have had the same or similar problem and might be able to offer good advice.

Know Your Limitations! As I grew up in the building trades, over the years, I acquired knowledge and skills and have been able to do some plumbing, carpentry, and electrical repairs in my own home and occasionally for friends and family. I have also learned my limits, and more importantly, when to call in the professionals before I make the issue worse. ●



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Gardiner Trails—continued from page 5

of having the use of this particularly scenic plot of land as well as further, future expansion of new trails and opportunities to be with nature. If you would like to learn more about the project, please visit gardinertrailalliance.org. Residents can also express their opinions on this proposed plan by writing letters to the town, attending board meetings, and contacting members of the various organizations involved. ●

Hunting Deer—continued from page 6

behind their intended target whether using a gun or a bow and arrow.” For more info on hunting safety. Visit eregulations.com/newyork/hunting/the-10-commandments-of-firearm-safety.

Bow hunting, hunting with a bow and arrow, is less popular because the hunter has to be much nearer—not more than 40 yards away, as the energy of arrows in flight dissipates quickly. Furthermore, the target area for a kill is more limited too, as there are too many bones that can deflect the arrow. Once the deer has been shot, it is recommended to wait 30 minutes before tracking it. If approached before then, an injured

deer could be spooked and run making it difficult to track. When the deer is found, hunters will “field dress” the deer. This involves slicing the deer open, removing the organs which could otherwise rot and destroy the meat. It also makes the deer easier to move.

Whether one chooses to hunt or not, there is a great deal of information available online. For information about licenses go to dec.ny.gov/permits/6094.html and for hunting dates go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28605.html. ●

Mulching—continued from page 8

thanks all who took part: Mike, Toni & Trish Benevento, Ilka, Oliver, & Piper Casey, Misha Fredericks, Brian, Silas, & Sebastian Houser, Gavin Treglia, & Ralph Varano. Every set of hands was essential in completing this project.

To get involved with Gardiner Parks & Recreation, stop by (or Zoom) one of their monthly meetings, or email ParksRec.tog@gmail.com. ●

Rail Trail—continued from page 9

in Orange County to the West Shore Railroad in Kingston and served both

passengers and freight. It carried agricultural produce as well as milk and cream from the many dairy farms along the route to markets in NYC; local accounts also relate how Gardinerites would hop a train at one of the numerous stations to get to New Paltz.

When Conrail discontinued the lingering freight line in 1977, the corporation offered discrete chunks of its right-of-way for sale. Eventually, in 1991, the Wallkill Valley Land Trust (with a bridge loan from the Trust for Public Land) stepped in to purchase the chunk lying in Gardiner and New Paltz and immediately resold sections to the Town and Village of New Paltz. It was not until 2007 that Gardiner finally purchased its segment from the Land Trust. Much later, with aid from the Open Space Institute (OSI), a non-profit devoted to land preservation, the Land Trust acquired the section of the trail running through Rosendale (including the iconic Rosendale Trestle) and the Town of Ulster. The restoration of these northernmost sections, still owned by the Trust, has benefited from various sources of public and private funding, orchestrated in large part through OSI.

Now, as much of the New Paltz section also undergoes major

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improvements through the Empire State Trail system, it has left the lower New Paltz and Gardiner sections feeling a bit like stepchildren.

Fortunately, our local County Legislator Tracey Bartels is on the case. A strong supporter of trails, who spoke to me at length about the legislative process and her long-term goals for these vital links, she notes that they contribute heavily to public health and are a boon to the local economy. Bartels is working to see the funding for Gardiner's section realized but also looks to the future, seeing the long-envisioned extension of the trail to Shawangunk, through the Wallkill and Shawangunk Correctional Facilities and connecting to the Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail and Orange County, as a "top priority." Stay tuned for further news on this critical step in enhanced interconnectivity.

To learn more about the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, visit: wallkillvalleylt.org. •

Repair—continued from page 10

and the Gardiner Democratic Committee stated, "We need to embrace the 5 R's":

Refuse: Say no to what you don't need.

Reduce: Let go of things that are no longer of use by donating or selling. It also means buying less.

Reuse: Switch disposable items for reusable and permanent alternatives.

Repurpose: Find new uses and homes for items

Recycle: We've been made to believe that recycling is the go-to solution for waste reduction. In fact, it's number four in the list behind refuse, reduce, and reuse.

Ana Lynn, who is also the creator of the Buy Nothing New Paltz group on Facebook, cheerfully manned the check-in. But the most heart-warming moment was seeing Holly Shader, John Wackman's surviving partner, performing jewelry & sewing fixes while running the event, a continuation of John's legacy. She said, "This was the first Repair Cafe since John's passing and an expression of his love for his community" And vice versa, we say! Visit repaircafehv.org for future dates. •

Dog Kennel—continued from page 11

emptied out as people realized that the dogs that they rescued really "rescued" them. The outcome of Gardiner's kennel law hearing was that the majority of attendees shared the "adopt, don't buy" goal.

The "devil lies in the details" when assessing the ramifications of a total or partial breeding ban in Gardiner. Do we have the will or means to regulate commercial breeders? Is it easier to shut down an illegal operation than monitor violations? (Many of us remember the difficulty in shutting down breeding operations at Trapps Rd. because the owner made improvements just prior to inspections.) Even with no ban in place would breeders set up "back yard" operations to evade obtaining a permit? Could any significant "backyard" breeding operations survive unnoticed in Gardiner – especially under the scrutiny of Gardiner's vigilant, caring Facebook page? Stay tuned for evolving developments over the coming year. •




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Elections—continued from page 1

(Mr. Gandin is a Gardiner resident and former treasurer of the Gardiner Dems.) (D)

Laura M. Jordan for New York Supreme Court Justice, 3rd Judicial District (D)

March Gallagher for Ulster County Comptroller (D)

Nina Postupack for Ulster County Clerk (Republican but endorsed by the Dems)

Sarah Rakov for Ulster County Family Court Judge (D)

There are several propositions in this year's election. All will be

on the reverse side of the ballot. They include: Amending the Apportionment and Redistricting Process; Right to Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Healthful Environment; Eliminating Ten-Day Advance Voter Registration Requirement; Authorizing No-Excuse Absentee Ballot Voting; and Utilization of Funds Designated for Payroll Expenses within the County Budget. They can be viewed at: elections.ulstercountyny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/list-of-propos.pdf. To see a sample ballot, visit: elections.ulstercountyny.gov/sample-ballots-2/.

Absentee ballot applications must be received by Ulster County Board of Elections (BOE) no later than 15 days before the election (Oct. 18th). You may continue to apply for an absentee ballot in person and receive it over the counter through Nov. 1st by visiting the Ulster BOE at 284 Wall Street, Kingston, NY 12401. The last day to postmark a general election ballot is Nov. 2nd. BOE will accept ballots in person until Nov. 9th. For further info, please visit elections.ulstercountyny.gov/absentee-ballots-info. ●

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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Summer, Aug. 6 release (Submission deadline June 25)
Fall, Oct. 25 release (Submission deadline September 16)

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.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2021
Polls open 6am to 9pm
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Vote Democratic Row "A" All the Way!

OUR GARDINER CANDIDATES



L to R: Marybeth Majestic (Town Supervisor), Carol Richman (Town Bd.), Robert Rich (Town Justice), Brian Stiscia (Hwy. Superintendent), David Gandin (Supreme Court Justice), Warren Wiegand (Town Bd.), Michelle Mosher (Town Clerk), Tracey Bartels (County Legislator).

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- ☑ Led the State with the Bring Your Own Bag Act (which was adopted state-wide)
- ☑ Created the Neighbor Notification Law and fought the policy of suspicion-less warrant checks
- ☑ Led a bipartisan investigation into cost overruns at the County Jail
- ☑ Expanded the County's trail network and advocated for improved trail maintenance
- ☑ Expanded Ulster County's public transportation system
- ☑ Improved our County Veterans' Cemetery, ensuring dignity to those who served

"As your Ulster County Legislator, I have built a solid record of bipartisan success. In my last term we were faced with extreme challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Ulster County remained strong. Through Project Resilience we provided over 400,000 meals while supporting over 100 small businesses. Together, we are investing in our communities to build back smarter. At the same time, we delivered a balanced budget with no tax increase. It is my honor to serve and represent you. I ask for your continued support."

For more information on our candidates, please visit our website:
gardinerdemocrats.com/candidates/

Why Your Vote Is So **IMPORTANT** This Year!

Gardiner Town offices this year are not contested. However, there are the **important reasons** Gardiner voters still need to **get to the polls on or before November 2nd**.

The most important reason for Gardiner citizens to vote is to **keep Tracey Bartels as our Representative in the Ulster County Legislature** (see more information about Tracey on the other side).

The **next most important reason** to get to the polls is to **VOTE YES on all 6 propositions** on the reverse side of the ballot.

- ☒ **YES Proposition 1: Redistricting reform.** Amends the NYS Constitution to remove partisan bias in redistricting and have voters choose their representatives instead of the other way around.
- ☒ **YES Proposition 2: Right to clean water, clean air, and a healthful environment.** A YES vote will add these rights to the NYS Constitution's Bill of Rights and make it harder to pollute.
- ☒ **YES Proposition 3: Same-day voter registration.** This will amend the NYS Constitution to allow same-day voter registration. The current deadline is 25 days before the election. That's too long.
- ☒ **YES Proposition 4: No-excuse absentee voting.** A YES vote will amend the NYS Constitution to allow all NY voters to request an absentee ballot without needing an excuse.
- ☒ **YES Proposition 5: Increase NYC Civil Court jurisdiction.** A YES vote will amend the NYS Constitution to update the jurisdictional limit of this court from \$25,000 (set 40 years ago) to \$50,000.
- ☒ **YES Proposition 6: Restriction of the use of personnel funds for other purposes.** A YES vote will amend the Ulster County Charter to prohibit use of funds budgeted for personnel to other expenses.

After voting for candidates, **TURN YOUR BALLOT OVER AND VOTE YES ON ALL 6 PROPOSITIONS!**

Early Voting Days & Hours

Day	Date	Hours
Saturday	10/23/2021	10-3
Sunday	10/24/2021	10-3
Monday	10/25/2021	9-5
Tuesday	10/26/2021	12-8
Wednesday	10/27/2021	9-5
Thursday	10/28/2021	12-8
Friday	10/29/2021	9-5
Saturday	10/30/2021	10-3
Sunday	10/31/2021	10-3

Early Voting Locations

SUNY New Paltz, Student Union* 1 Hawk Dr. off S. Manheim Blvd/32N. New Paltz	American Legion 26-28 Mountain Rd., Shokan, NY
Marlborough Town Hall 21 Milton Tpk., Milton, NY	Midtown Neighborhood Center 467 Broadway, Kingston, NY
Saugerties Senior Center 207 Market St., Saugerties, NY	Ellenville Public Library 40 Center St., Ellenville, NY

*NOTE: there is special dedicated parking reserved for voters in front of the Student Union building.

For more information on voting this year, go to UlsterVotes.com

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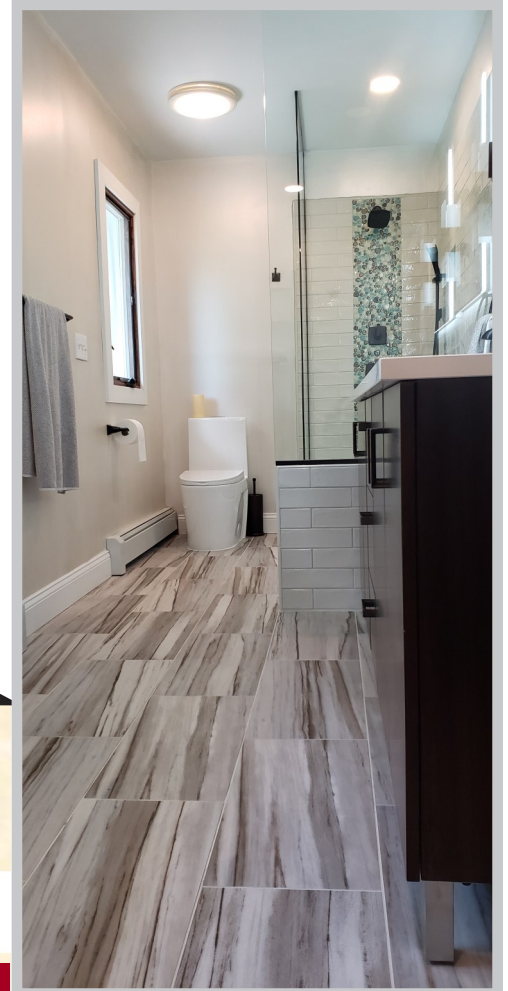


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