

The Gardiner Gazette

SPRING 2022 | ISSUE 53

A CALL TO COMMUNITY

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Photo: Misha Fredericks

FIREFIGHTING IS SEXY

by L.A. McMahon

That got your attention. The title may have brought to mind firefighter calendars you may have seen where firefighters in various levels of undress are displayed in a charitable effort to sell calendars in support of a good cause. Everyone loves firefighters, don't they? Yet, for some time, the message board in front of the Gardiner Fire & Rescue has a request posted on it for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. This situation begs the question, "Why are there not more people volunteering for these opportunities?" Gardiner is not alone in this. Around the country, the number of volunteers keeps decreasing while call volumes are on the rise. This implies that there is an urgent need for a new group of volunteer firefighters and the

opportunity awaits those who are willing to serve. Of course, the best place to begin is where you live, in Gardiner. Where I grew up, in a small town in Northern New Jersey, volunteer firefighting was considered a noble and exciting community activity. When the sirens sounded the alarm, the volunteers stopped whatever they were doing, jumped into their vehicles, and raced to the scene, sirens blazing and lights flashing. As a child, my impression was that, although lives were at stake and fires were a deadly serious matter, the volunteers seemed to really enjoy the camaraderie and being of service, and without a doubt, they also enjoyed the action, which for them, seemed to

continued on page 12

VOLUNTEER WRITERS NEEDED

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Cell Tower Update

There is a proposal to put a 5G cell tower at the Town Highway Department municipal site at 630 S. Mountain Rd (near Shaft Rd). Because the site is on "The Ridge", town zoning requires a special use permit, if the proposal warrants it and meets the permit criteria. A "CELL NO!" movement has sprung up to try and block the installation of the tower at this location. On April 12, the town board took no action after hearing radio frequency engineer William Johnson's report about cell coverage from the proposed tower and kept the public hearing open until its next meeting on May 10th, 7pm. For more info: townofgardiner.org.

Climate Smart Gardiner (CSG)

We are planning several Spring events and hope local residents can participate in picking up garbage at the Riverkeeper Sweep, planting native trees/shrubs at Trees for Tribes, and planting more trees at an Arbor

Day event. Gardiner has completed the pre-requisite actions for the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program, making a \$5000 grant available to us for green projects. In coordination with other municipal stakeholders, we are considering a solar array at the Gardiner landfill. Gardiner's LED streetlight conversion with NYPA will result in lower costs and decreased Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. We are also working on a Community GHG Emissions Inventory, so we can better understand where to locally target our community GHG emissions mitigation efforts. Through the Community Choice Aggregation program, we are working to offer the best green deal on renewable electricity to residents and will offer public information sessions in the coming months. www.facebook.com/climatesmartgardiner

Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC)

An attempt to explain away protections of the Shawangunk Ridge Protection District (SP) reached the Planning Board. A request for special permit approval for a building site


in SP2 has been submitted. The applicant identified an alternate building site on the same lot in the less restrictive SP1 zone. The ECC feels that this application does not warrant an exception to grant approval for a building site in SP2 and will continue to push for the town board to apply the SP code as intended: to contain development to the least restrictive SP1 zone and at the lowest elevation in that zone.

Fire & Rescue

The Gardiner Fire Department will be hosting the Gardiner 5K Classic on Thursday, July 21st at 6:30 p.m. at Majestic Park. We are bringing back the barbeque and the kids run. Register for the run online or get directions on how to print, complete, and mail in an application at gardinerfireandrescue.org. We are also looking for sponsors for the run. Contact Donna Lyons at 845-255-5887 for sponsorship levels. We look forward to seeing you there.

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all ages, including: afternoon art programs, storytimes with Miss Amy, drop-off gaming and manga movie nights with pizza, basket weaving, felting and paper cutting classes for adults, Slow Jam, Ukuleleans, and Song Club meet-ups, Art and Nature Series with Elissa, bird identification walks, Book Club and Slow Stitch gatherings, wildlife programs, our annual book sale, Teen Literary magazine meet-ups, Music with Miss Amy, and more! gardinerlibrary.org

Gardiner Library Needs You!

Take our survey to help the Gardiner Library identify where to invest our resources for new initiatives, services, and programs to make the maximum impact and meet the specific needs of our community. Your feedback will be used to develop a new Plan of Service, also known as a 3 Year Strategic Plan, which will specify goals, activities, and measurable objectives that will guide the implementation and support of future services and

programs. Share your opinions and be part of the process! To participate, use the QR Code or visit our website at gardinerlibrary.org. For focus group participation, please contact Nicole at nlane@rcls.org. Thank you.



Highway Department

Springtime always feels like a new beginning and there really isn't a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and wish to see the winter season behind us. Yard work is nearly upon us, so please take the opportunity of good weather to repair your mailbox posts and keep your basketball hoops and garbage cans out of the traveling road way and placed in your driveway. Do not blow your grass clippings or leaves or any other debris into the roadway. Pay

attention and get where you're going safely. Spring brings sun glares that can obstruct your views as well as more people, bicycles, motorcycles and wildlife on roads. April starts construction season for the MANY Town Highway, County DPW and State DOT Departments Road Crews. All Town roads are scheduled for sweeping the winter materials off. This process prepares our roads for any needed repairs, drainage improvements or reconstruction projects. Please budget extra time to travel and be cooperative and courteous with road crews who are working hard to make your travels safer by improving our roads. Stay tuned for news about the Clove Road Bridge Project.

Parks & Recreation

Gardiner Parks & Recreation Committee will soon be rolling out a new schedule of events and programming for this year. Check our

[continued on page 16](#)

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THE YARN SHACK

by Caroline Aurigemma



Photo: Misha Fredericks

If you are driving down Albany Post Rd at any hour of the day, you will pass a brightly lit and charming, small white hut. If you are curious enough to pull over, you will find yourself in an inviting shack bursting with colorful and soft yarn. Welcome to The Yarn Shack.

Paula Kucera, farmer, artist, and owner of The White Barn Farm and newly opened Yarn Shack, is excited by the feedback that she's received since opening.

"Since I've opened, I haven't gone a day without selling something!"

Kucera has owned and operated The White Barn Farm for 11 years, tending to the land and the Cormo sheep

that live on her property. Although, she happily claims to be a steward of the property for around 18 years, "I take care of the land like it takes care of me." Each year, she sheers them and invites the community to watch her begin the process of crafting their incredible soft fleece, into all types of material and fiber work. Her passion and inclusion for all in these projects resonate greatly with many in the community. "Paula has been dedicated to providing for our local yarn community, actually she may have created it almost singlehandedly," said Lynne Nathan a former employee of Kucera's and knitting enthusiast.

During the past few challenging years, Kucera began to feel the weight of owning, operating, and tending to the farm and keeping up with her business. Although the White Barn was a central location for knitters in the community and hosted many workshop-based seminars and classes, Kucera determined that the work of maintaining and organizing no longer excited her. "This was always a labor of love but it was time to pivot and focus more on what I want to do." She wanted to get back to her roots as an artist and continue to create the beautiful yarn that so many in the community love.

"After closing the shop, Paula allowed the knit groups to continue meeting under the mulberry tree just outside the shop," said Lynne. "The Yarn Shack is just another iteration of her unique way of providing knitters with time,

space, and material for their creative endeavors."

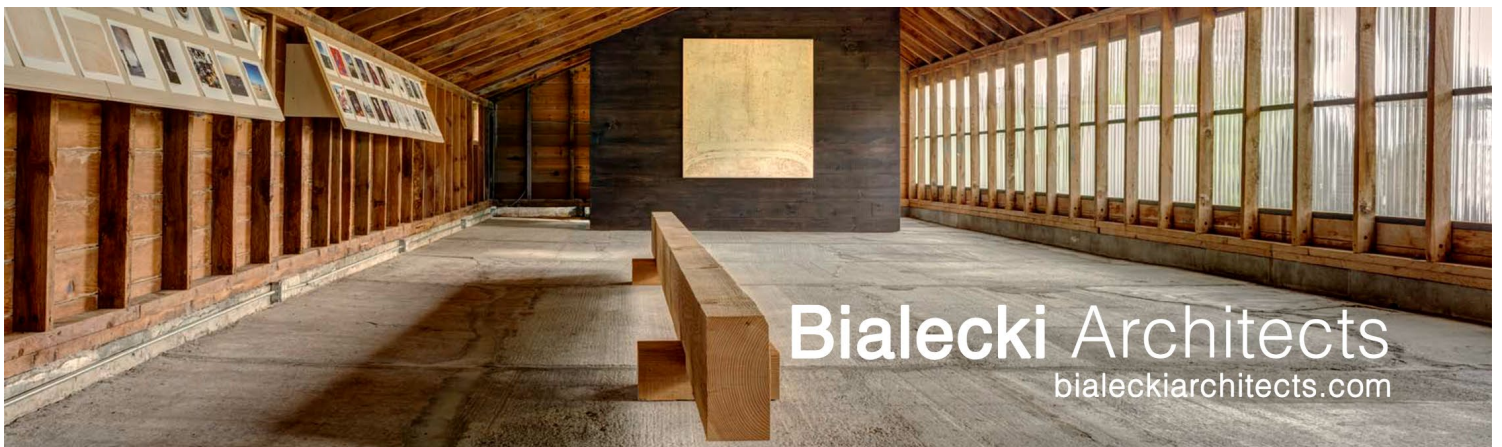
The Yarn Shack unofficially opened early in December, as a small wooden hut where Kucera would place her brightly colored yarn, gently-used needles, and even prints of her original artwork. "I wanted it to function more like a real farm stand with an honor system with a hint of roadside attraction."

Kucera is also thinking of expanding the materials for the warmer seasons and recently added some Yarn Shack t-shirts. The accessibility of this quaint shack is perfect for those who are beginners in the knitting world and for those who have been knitting for years.

This tiny business inspires many to continue crafting and establishes a trustworthy customer base with many members of our community. While many customers stumble upon the brightly lit and colorful shack by driving by, there are definitely regulars who look forward to the new colors that Kucera adds every week. Some often request specific colors through Facebook or her guest book located inside the shack, based on their projects.

"Yarn Shack is the newest option for we "Paula yarn" lovers and knitters," said Sally a Yarn Shack regular. "Paula has continued to transform her yarn business with so much heart and imagination." Sally has been visiting

continued on page 9



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A (BACKYARD) GARDENER IN GARDINER

by Jeff Zadroga



Photo: Jeff Zadroga

The year is 1994. I'm singing on a cruise ship in Hawaii. My friends have discovered that camping in Gardiner is pretty cool and they love the views of the Gunks. They poke around town looking at property and the next thing you know, they call me and we buy a house off Marabac – 2 acres, views of the Gunks, overgrown, mouse droppings throughout, a real fixer upper! Let the gardening (and fixer uppering) in Gardiner begin...

That first year on a break from the ship in July we started our first garden – about 10'x10' – tomatoes, squash and whatever else we could squeeze into that space. And, wait for it – we planted mint which is still going strong all these 28 years later! Later in this article I'll share a few "do's and don'ts".

There may be folks reading this article who are much smarter gardeners than I will ever be. My advice comes from my experience of just having fun with a small garden over the past 28 years.

We now have 3 sections of raised

beds and an area for blueberries – about 25'x25'. We are completely organic – no chemicals! Our favorite things to plant are the traditional garden vegetables – tomatoes, fresh in the summer and then lots of great sauce in the winter; zucchini for grilling, sautéing, relish; green and yellow beans for steaming, yummy summer salads, spicy canned 'dilly' beans; peppers – hot and sweet for grilling, salsa, salads, stuffing; basil – fresh for that incredible tomato salad, pesto and dried for all-year-round flavor; lots of kale for salads, roasting, sauteing; asparagus which is perennial and oh so good roasted or grilled; garlic which is planted in the fall similar to other fall bulbs; and sometimes brussels sprouts, cabbage or whatever seedlings that look interesting at the garden center. I suggest starting things like squash, beans, peas, melons from seed and tomatoes, peppers, basil, kale from seedlings.

If you're new to backyard gardening,

continued on page 14

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"ONCE AGAIN, THE RIDGE THREATENED?"

by L.A. McMahon

Once upon a time, the Gardiner community rose against what was seen as an ecological tragedy in the making in the form of the unsanctioned and inadvisable real estate development of the Shawangunk Ridge. In response to the perceived threat, the Save The Ridge organization was born. "SAVE THE RIDGE" signs were literally everywhere. Fundraisers raised money to support their legal team's efforts to stop the proposed development plan that a local landowner and self-described environmentalist, John Bradley, and his business partners had devised. After some court battles, a judge ruled that the land should be sold to the State of NY. In March 2006, the 2,500-acre tract of wilderness along the Shawangunk Ridge in Ulster County was acquired by the state for \$17-million and incorporated it into the adjoining Minnewaska State Park Preserve. The Bradley family retained a large section of adjoining property, which has been re-branded from the Awosting Reserve to what is now called the Awosting Club.

This above-described event was extremely traumatizing to many Gardiner residents which has set up a certain sensitivity—some say an oversensitivity—and vigilance,

to make sure that the Ridge and its surrounding land and waterways are never threatened again. Over the past year, however, other storms have been brewing around the ridge, and one of which concerns the Bradley family's Awosting Club, which has Camilla Bradley, John's daughter, at the helm. Is it a big development plan like her father envisioned? No. Are there environmental, code, and building permit concerns? Yes.

Camilla Bradley is also a self-described environmentalist like her father who, for some time, has been in the process of revamping the old Girl Scouts Camp on their property into a family-friendly, glamping club with an environmental and educational mission. Over the past year or so, the Awosting Club has built decks and erected geodesic domes and outhouses without ever submitting a site plan or building permit application, although the town's building department requested these on at least two occasions. Apparent on photos taken of the property from the Minnewaska side of the Palmaghatt Kill, which feeds Tillson Lake and other waterways, a few of these structures appear much closer to the kill than code allows. Note that years ago, there was a time when landowners could do whatever they wanted with their own land as long as no one knew about it, but according to the Town of Gardiner code relevant to these designated SP2 & SP3 areas, there are activities which are only allowed "with consent."

Ms. Bradley was contacted by email

and phone for this article. She requested interview questions be emailed. In question 6, I asked, "In other words, although you stated that "no sewage is leeching" from the outhouses, do you have a report to that fact that you can provide? If you do not have such a report, have you sought any special permit (consent) from the town for the work that is being done in updating/expanding the recreational outdoor facilities on your property, or requested any environmental assessment from the DOH or other entity to determine if sewage is leaching into the Palmaghatt Kill?" Ms. Bradley answered, "Any assessments required I am attending to. The DEC made a visit to the property and confirmed there was no issue. In reaching out to them, I don't believe a report was filed." So, there is no report, and the ECC contends that when the DEC visited, there was so much snow they said that they were unable to make a full assessment and would need to return. In answer to another question, Ms. Bradley also stated, "Everything that is required is being done. Things take time. Those concerned should take into account that it takes professionals to help with various requirements, which means I am subject to their timelines." And in answer to the following question, "Do you care at all to negotiate a resolution with neighbors and local environmental advocates or are you perhaps thinking this issue will somehow go away?", she answered, "I absolutely welcome an

continued on page 15

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GARDINER GAZETTE INSPIRES A POLLINATOR MEADOW

by José Moreno-Lacalle



Photo: José Moreno-Lacalle

Last year the Gardiner Gazette (Winter 2021 issue) printed an article about the Wallkill Valley Land Trust's new project called the Wallkill Valley

Pollinator Pathway. For one Gardiner resident, this article couldn't have come at a better time. Inspired by conversations with his then future mother-in-law, Chris Vultaggio had been wanting to convert much of his lawn into meadow for several years but didn't know where to start. "Had it not been for the Gazette I would honestly not be at this stage," Chris explained.

After reading the Gazette's article, Chris decided to reach out to Angela Sisson, an ecological landscape designer and chair of the Pollinator Pathway, who turned out to be the catalyst for his meadow project. The conversation quickly progressed from email to phone call to a site visit, and before long the intimidation began to fade. "Angela's generous advice made the project seem approachable, despite the overall size of what I was looking to convert to a meadow."

Like many, Chris would often stare out onto the massive expanse of his lawn and feel how useless it was. His land was a former farm that had been reduced to a monoculture green ornament. It did nothing for the local ecology except contribute to its destruction by way of carbon emissions from mowing. His curiosity led him to early conversations with a botanist friend who sparked Chris' interest in land cultivation.

"How amazing would it be to look out and see a field of wildflowers, teeming with life and putting some good back into the world," he exclaimed. The good he's referring to isn't just natural beautification. Sure the neighborhood would be getting a meadow exploding with color from black-eyed-Susans, milkweed, asters, boneset, goldenrod, lobelia, coneflowers, foxglove, and countless others – but all these are being intentionally seeded to support

continued on page 10

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COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN

by David Dukler



Photo: Jon Benner, Sr.

As many of you might have noticed, two years of pandemic have brought a lot of new people to Gardiner, attracted by the natural beauty

and open spaces of our area. While a growing population brings new energy and dollars to the area, careful planning is needed to avoid challenges associated with this growth and to preserve our town's rural character. To that end, Gardiner has undertaken a project that will help to protect our water resources, farms, wildlife habitats, historic properties, and scenic views for the future. A group of volunteers, with representation from the Environmental Conservation Commission, Open Space Commission, Parks and Recreation, Planning Board, farmers, and residents, came together in early February to form the Community Preservation Plan Committee. Working with a professional planner, the Committee is developing a Community Preservation Plan (CPP) which will provide a method for setting priorities for places that need protection.

In preparing the CPP, the Committee

is drawing from existing plans and inventories of natural and historic resources, as well as other sources of GIS data for our region. In April, they also conducted a community survey to gather information and views from residents. The final draft of the Community Preservation Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Town Board in early June.

If the Plan is adopted by the Town Board, the next step in the process would be to set up a Community Preservation Fund (CPF) that would pay for conservation easements on properties identified in the Plan. The money accumulated in the CPF would provide a steady funding source for preserving and improving our community's character and quality of life without burdening the residents with another tax.

Other Hudson Valley towns that have implemented a Community

continued on page 15

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SKYROCKETING ELECTRIC BILLS

by Misha Fredericks



On various social media platforms and in the news, people have been reporting receiving outrageously high electric bills from Central Hudson. They say that they are furious with Central Hudson and the use of the word "extortion" has been used frequently. Do you feel the same way? You aren't alone. Thousands of residents in our county have reported exorbitant electric bills they've

received this winter. In response to this outcry, on March 3rd, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan sent a letter to the New York State Public Service Commission insisting they officially investigate Central Hudson's billing practices and related price surges. Impacted residents are urged to report complaints to the NYS Department of Public Service (DPS) investigation and can do so online at <https://on.ny.gov/3iOP2wk> or by calling the Ulster County Recovery Service Center at (845) 443-8888. Reporting is important to help with the investigation, which may affect positive change, but what else can you do right now?

Well, if you keep Central Hudson as your energy supplier, you are voluntarily agreeing to accept their variable rates and unfair billing practices. Changing to an electric supplier with a fixed rate can help protect consumers from the extreme high prices that can occur with a

variable rate like Central Hudson offers. To view fixed rate options, go to www.cenhud.com/en/my-energy/my-energy-options/energy-choice/energy-suppliers or wait until the Town of Gardiner accepts the rate offered by the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program offered by Hudson Valley Community Power. Either way, getting a fixed rate for your electric can spare you the pinch and pain from large swings in electric supply rates and may significantly lower the cost you pay for electric. ●

YARN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the shack frequently and is always excited to see what is in store. "Paula has several weights of yarn in her latest colors, some notions, and her own art, with a simple payment system. I visit as often as I can allow myself to be tempted. Sometimes I stop just for some inspiration!"

If you're seeking creative inspiration stop by the Yarn Shack! ●



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pollinator health.

In Chris' case, this translates to 4000 square feet (his phase 1 planting) of buffet for hummingbirds, bees, and other vital parts of the pollinator pathway. And they're all native – no exotic annuals here that will die come the first frost. Before long Angela supplied Chris with a wealth of resources, from articles on native plantings to the wonderful read *Weedless Gardening* by Lee Reich.

When summer came along, acting on Angela's advice, Chris began his project with paper & wood chips to smother about 1000 square feet of lawn. He later expanded the area to about 4000 square feet. The preparation involved killing the lawn over the summer months, then in early winter, sowing meadow seed

into the dead turf. On December 28th, after months of preparation, Chris seeded his new meadow. The seeds were the most expensive part of his project, which totaled about \$300 for the 4000 square feet of conversion. That \$300 will be saved in mowing expenses the first season. "I had to replace a few tools," for which he opted for battery-powered rather than gas, "and buy the tarp and seeds, but the wood chips I sourced for free. The expense was far less than I had anticipated."

Things have come full circle for this meadow project. We'll check back with Chris next year to see how much he's expanding the meadow and how his first growing season went.

"Working on my land has been immeasurably rewarding, and in doing so I learned many things – most of all patience," Chris declared. "I'm eternally grateful to Angela for her guidance

and expertise and look forward to the sweat equity paying off for the greater good of the natural world. Most of all I hope others are inspired and we can do more to further enrich Gardiner's commitment to nature and the environment."

If you'd like more information about the Wallkill Valley Pollinator Pathway or pollinator meadows, visit: walkillvalleylt.org/pp or contact Angela Sisson at: pollinators@walkillvalleylt.org. Joining the pathway is easy—just start doing these three things: start planting native species, remove invasive species, and avoid pesticides, especially insecticides. •

Events at the Gardiner Library:

Fri., May 13, 11 a.m.
Planting A Pollinator Garden

Sat., May 21, 12-4 p.m.
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Dear Gardiner folks,

Larry Ashton's family will be celebrating his life on Sunday, May 22, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Majestic Park Pavilion. We would be so happy if you could join us in the celebration and maybe share a story or two.

Please text Linda at 845-401-1284 if we will see you there.

—*The Ashton family*

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FIREFIGHTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

me to be intoxicating. The firefighters were all from the town they served in, and the Annual Volunteer Firefighters' Picnic was the event of the Summer. The entire community looked forward to it every year. The cooking & baking competitions were always well attended, and the food & games were awesome: three-legged races, egg toss competition, corn & pie-eating contests, and my personal favorite, the fat man's race, which would never be called that today, but was hilarious, innocent fun at the time.


So today, is firefighting not as rewarding, heroic, and downright glamorous as it used to be? No, firefighting itself isn't the issue. Some people feel they are too busy, and some may not feel they are physically fit enough to participate, but they could be wrong. Remember the fat man's race mentioned earlier? Every

one of the 15-20 people in that race was big with a capital B, but they volunteered their time and energy knowing that it is the team, not any one firefighter who "saves the day." So, in 2022, what are some reasons that make volunteering at the Gardiner Fire & Rescue a great idea? First, despite being an unpaid service, volunteer firefighting comes with a lot of potential benefits. So, if you are currently wondering about the possibility of becoming a volunteer firefighter but haven't made up your mind, below are some great reasons why you should become a volunteer firefighter.

Build your resume—If being a paid firefighter is a goal, volunteering provides a priceless experience that looks terrific on your resume. If you didn't know, when trying to get hired at a career fire department, fire chiefs and officers almost always favor the candidate who already has some level of experience. While working as

a volunteer firefighter, you will likely undergo additional training to hone your skills even further. You will receive wildfire training, operational training, advanced medical training as well as leadership training which can lead to better future opportunities. Even if becoming a professional firefighter is not your goal, employers, colleges, etc. will view you as a serious, community-minded, responsible, and teachable individual.

Pride, respect & friendship-- Become someone who is a recognized asset to our community--This is primarily because the work Gardiner Fire & Rescue performs has a direct impact on the people you know and interact with daily. Saving lives and property and serving people is arguably the primary reason why you would want to enter into a public safety career, which leads us to the next point. As a volunteer firefighter, you will benefit from a sense of accomplishment and achievement that comes with the type



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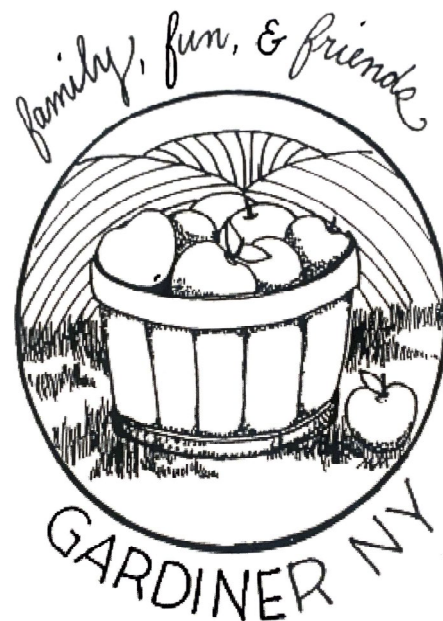
of work you'll do. You will learn new skills from the best firefighting experts available, make new friends, and be part of a band of individuals making a real difference in Gardiner. You will earn more respect from people within your community because you work for their safety and overall welfare. What's more, your primary mission will be to make a major difference in the lives of the people, and such a rare accomplishment will likely give you an immeasurable sense of pride and satisfaction.

Rewarding work, perks & free training—

It's NOT a full-time job—Typically, volunteers are offered hours for monthly commitments. You choose the schedule that suits you, leaving room for your paying job and daily family responsibilities. However, when you are there volunteering, it is hard and super rewarding work. There are other perks too: Money spent on gas and vehicle expenses during service can be written off your tax return and Gardiner Fire & Rescue's LOSAP (Length of Service Award

Program) is a pension-like program designed to help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. It offers some small financial rewards based upon the number of years of service as well as other factors. You won't move to Maui on it, but it is a small thank you for years of service. It is also worthy of mention again that the State pays for training, such as advanced to basic rescue, fire, leadership, and EMS courses that can be used in other areas of life, and it's all free!

If the above info motivates you to want to get some further, detailed information, call Matthew Goodnow, Chief at 845-750-7472 or Donna Lyons at 845-255-5887 or visit www.gardinerfireandrescue.org. •



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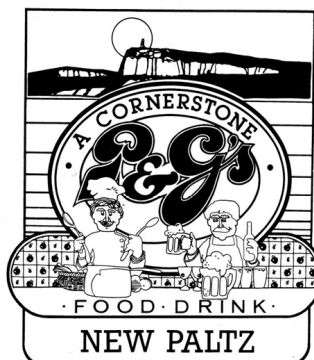
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GARDENER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

start small and try not to do too much the first year. Clear a space, remove as much of the grass and as many weeds as you can and construct raised beds. This is so much easier and more efficient than digging into our Gardiner soil where you may find some clay and lots of rocks. Fill the raised beds with good loam, manure, and compost. Depending on your interest and available time to manage the weeds, I suggest mounding the soil in rows as appropriate for whatever you're going to plant and then using black paper to cover them. Cut holes in the paper where the plants will go, add a little fish emulsion and compost and plant the seed or seedlings according to the planting instructions. If you want to make the garden look a little more attractive, find some clean straw (not hay) and layer that around the garden.

The application of straw will also help with that pesky early tomato blight (leaves turn brown at the bottom of

the plant and the blight works its way up the plant) we seem to have in our area. I've read about remedies which involve removing the soil, burning the soil and other labor-intensive solutions. If you do encounter the blight here are a few options:

Look for "early blight" resistant tomato varieties or ask the garden center what they have in stock which might be resistant

Rotate "nightshade" (Solanaceae family) vegetables to a separate area of the garden from where you've planted tomatoes, peppers, potatoes or eggplant for the past two years

Use stakes or cages to keep foliage off the ground and growing vertically

Mulch with clean straw

Use a soaker hose to avoid the blight spores splashing up on the plants

Apply a fungicide when the fruit sets and then every 7-14 days- Bonide makes an organic copper fungicide which we have used

In the fall, remove all the old vegetation from these plants and dispose of it (I avoid putting this into my compost)

Do's

Plant the things you want to eat

Experiment with something new – you may be surprised

Use good soil – compost, manure – and layer it in mounds to create rows

Plant a good "cover" crop (green manure) in the fall or spring – this will help aerate the soil and add nutrients. We have used the Garden Cover Crop Seed Mix from online retailer True Leaf Market


Rotate varieties each year

Have fun!

Don'ts

Till the soil – for the most part you are uncovering buried weed seeds desperate to be exposed to the light and grow and grow and grow

Pete Patel



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Plant the aforementioned mint in an open garden

Waste your time on corn – by August there's a plethora of inexpensive local corn which is wonderful – in my experience you just can't grow enough in a backyard garden to pollinate and mature properly

Plant a lot of zucchini and squash – when I worked in summer stock, by the time August rolled around we had squash for breakfast, lunch and dinner donated by good intentioned theatre patrons!

Please provide your feedback, ask questions, share your good and bad gardening experiences and advice. Let's keep the conversation going. gardinergardener@gmail.com. ●

THREATENED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

opportunity to talk to my neighbors and environmental advocates as it seems that lack of knowledge has led to a lot of concern. I have also been in touch with the ECC in particular, as they have publicly voiced concerns, to invite them to the property, but they declined."

Michael Hartner, Chairman of the ECC, acknowledged that the ECC was invited by Ms. Bradley, and that her invitation was discussed at their July 21, 2021 meeting and that they had replied to her, "The ECC's role in the permit-granting

process, however, exists only upon referral from the Planning Board (See Town Code Section 220-16 (2) (b) at ecode360.com/9151593). It would be unproductive for such a visit to be conducted prior to the filing of the required applications of which you were reportedly notified in June 2020, and again in April of this year. We would be happy to accept your invitation for a site visit upon referral from the Planning Board, after the required Site Plan and Campground License applications have been filed."

I asked Mr. Hartner, "Are all property owners treated equally in Gardiner when it comes to "playing by the rules?" He declined to answer, but did say that, "...the ECC is at a loss to understand why, after approximately 22 months of a property owner failing to comply with permitting regulations, failing to comply with two, 30-day, deadlines and one 15-day deadline, that the Town has decided the best course of action is to simply stop asking for the major component of what the resident is refusing to provide, despite Code requirements to the contrary."

Undoubtedly, more will be revealed that will answer key questions as time goes on. Post-interview, we learned that Ms. Bradley submitted a site plan application to the town. Observing this and other recent matters related to the preservation of "the Ridge" leaves one feeling that without equal investigation and active enforcement

of the town codes, residents are left, once again, feeling extremely nervous about the future of it, which is also evident in the recent bruhaha developing around the installation of a cell tower on S. Mountain Rd. (See Cell Tower Update, page 2). ●

PRESERVATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Preservation Plan and Fund have reported incredible results. Warwick has had a CPP/CPF in place since 2007, and to date the Fund has purchased the development rights on 43 farms totaling 4,400 acres. Supervisor Michael Sweeton says the program has been "wildly successful", and that it "has only increased home values and made Warwick more [of] a place people want to come to..." The Town of Red Hook has had a CPP/CPF in place for over a decade and according to Supervisor Robert McKeon, for every dollar the Town has expended from their CPF, they have obtained three additional dollars from outside conservation organizations.

To keep up to date on the CPP process here in Gardiner or learn more information on how the Community Preservation Funding works, please visit the Community Preservation Plan page on the Town of Gardiner website (www.townofgardiner.org). If you have questions or would like to get involved, contact cpp.tog@gmail.com. ●

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CIVIC NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Facebook page and the Parks and Recreation page of the Town's website for upcoming events you might enjoy. This season's offerings include 'Instructional Saturdays' at Majestic Park, sports (i.e., basketball, disc golf & volleyball). Upcoming are the first annual Dump Run 5k & 10k at our new Riverbend Trails at Gardiner Park and our second Movie Night "under the stars" at Majestic Park. Please email parksrec.tog@gmail.com to get involved!

Planning Board

The Planning Board reviews Site Plans, Subdivision applications and Lot Line revisions for compliance with environmental regulations and conformance with the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, the Planning Board is focused on safeguarding the orderly growth of the Town of Gardiner through encouraging a balance between residential, commercial and industrial uses.

Current projects that are under review can be found at townofgardiner.org/planning-board-zoning-board-of-appeals. The Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Town Supervisor Marybeth Majestic

As Gardiner enters the rebirth of Spring, the Town Board is focused on longer term projects to improve resident's quality of life via a focus on improving Gardiner's infrastructure and protecting its environment. Key Projects include: completing the Comprehensive Plan (last revised in 2004), improving the Sewer System, completion of the Clove Road bridge rebuild, evaluating the South Mountain Road cell tower application, assessing the quality and quantity of drinking water, and developing a long-term plan for preserving Gardiner's environment and open space. If you would like to know more about any of these topics, please contact Supervisor Marybeth Majestic 845-255-9675 x 101 or supervisor.tog@gmail.com. •

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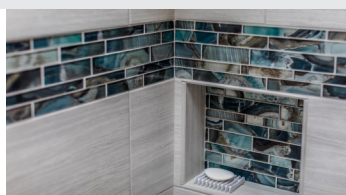
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