

The Gardiner Gazette

SUMMER 2022 | ISSUE 54

A CALL TO COMMUNITY

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Photo: L.A. McMahon

BASECAMP: GATEWAY TO THE GUNKS™

by L.A. McMahon

Depending on your life experience, the word "basecamp" may evoke images of Mount Everest, a Tour Du France staging area in the Alps, or a fishing village off the coast of Maine. By definition, a "basecamp" provides things that are needed for persons engaged in such wide-ranging activities as exploring, bicycling, hiking, hunting, skiing, or mountain/rock climbing. It's exciting that Gardiner now has its own BaseCamp, located at Benton Corners (Route 44/55 and County Route 7-Bruynswick Rd). Founded by outdoor sports enthusiasts Deyano Manco and Kristin Hjeltnes, with support from local backers, this new, socially responsible, lifestyle business looks to fill a giant need in the area, both logistically and socially, and become a hub and meeting place for the community. How great it will be to stop at BaseCamp on the way to the day's activities to discuss and fine tune plans, ask questions about trails & such with BaseCamp staff, and stock up on snacks. Then, after the day's activity is done, go back to BaseCamp to kick back, have a beer (or two) and meet with other like-minded enthusiasts while winding down together from the day and discussing each one's respective adventures around outdoor firepits. Being an outdoor enthusiast myself, it sounds great to me!

One might ask, is BaseCamp just for outdoors people? In a word, no. At the recent ribbon-cutting event in June, I caught up with Deyano's mom, Carol, and she happily stated that BaseCamp is "for everyone" and she hopes everyone in Gardiner stops by to sample BaseCamp's super-fresh, artisan-blended,

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SPECIAL ELECTION AND PRIMARY AUGUST 23RD

By Misha Fredericks

Gardiner currently resides in New York's 19th congressional district which encompasses the Catskills and Mid-Hudson Valley regions. On Tuesday, August 23, 2022 there will be a Special Election to fill the 19th District Congressional seat recently vacated following the resignation of Democrat Antonio Delgado as he stepped into his new role as NY Lieutenant Governor. Two candidates are vying for the seat: Pat Ryan (resident of Gardiner) is running on the Democratic/Working Families ticket and Marcus Molinaro (resident of Tivoli in Dutchess County) is running on the Republican/Conservative Party

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Photo: Misha Fredericks

FIRE & RESCUE

The Gardiner Fire Department would like to thank all of our sponsors of the 5K Classic, as well as the businesses who gave gifts, and to the runners/walkers who participated. The return of the BBQ and the kids' run topped off this great community event. As always, the members of the Gardiner Fire Department were on hand to support our efforts. The Gardiner Fire Department would especially like to thank the members of our race committee: Barbara Clinton, Bernadette Koonz, Terri Colucci, Luke and Donna Lyons, and John and Landon Fracasse for their continued leadership and guidance in making this event possible. See everyone next year on July 20th!

GFD now has a Cadet Program where Gardiner residents ages 15 to 18 years old can learn about the fire service and other emergencies, become CPR & First Aid certified, and receive in-house training held every week. Info and applications at www.GardinerFireAndRescue.org.

GARDINER DAY 2022: BACK IN ACTION!

Join us for great family fun on October 1st:

food trucks and live music to enjoy, and games, a bouncy house, face painting and henna for the kids. Then, marvel at the interactive basketball show by Black Jack Ryan, legendary trick basketball star and motivational speaker, as well as a magic show with illusionist Ryan Dutcher. Don't miss the presentations and offerings of local businesses and vendors. Gardiner Day 2022 is sure to be a blast! See you there!

GARDINER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

This summer, crews have been working full steam on road construction projects. Since our last article, Clove Road Bridge project has been completed and Clove reopened. Be prepared for more delays on Clove Road, as it is scheduled to be resurfaced. The McKinstry Road Bridge is currently under construction and should be completed tentatively by the end of the year. The replacement of box culverts on 44/55 was recently completed. In the fall, we will update you about that four-letter word S.N.O.W.



Photo: Misha Fredericks

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GARDINER LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Annual Book Sale: Enjoy live music, treats and find some awesome deals! Used books, movies, audiobooks and music will be for sale on Saturday, September 3rd from 10am-4pm and Sunday, September 4th from 10am-2pm. Find presents for yourself or family and friends.

Craft Supplies Sale: On Saturday, September 24th from 10am-2pm. get inspired and stock up on awesome craft and art supplies to use over the long, dark winter: Fabrics, yarns, notions, needles, scrapbooking supplies, sewing machines, paints, etc. Location TBD. Donations accepted at the library through September 18th.

PARKS & RECREATION

This spring and summer the Gardiner's Volunteer Parks & Recreation Committee accomplished a lot: Tree-rific tree-planting events (see article *Tree-rific*, page 4), Majestic Park playground clean up and plantings with the generous donation of time and machinery from Hudson Valley Trailworks. Future plans include preparing Gardiner's new trails for the inaugural Dump Run 5k/10k (September 25th) at Riverbend Trails at Gardiner Park behind our town's transfer station at the end of Steve's Lane. The race course will take runners through the woods, along the river, into

fields, and across the retired landfill for a breathtaking view of our beautiful Shawangunk ridge line. Created by the Gardiner Parks and Recreation committee in collaboration with the Gardiner Trail Alliance this event will be the first 100% Trail Run in our area. The entry fee is casual and all proceeds will be donated to the Parks and Recreation committee. Register now at <https://runsSignup.com/Race/NY/Gardiner/GardinerDumpRun>. Also upcoming in October: 2nd Outdoor Family Movie Night at Majestic Park. Please reach out and let us know what other activities YOU would like to see in Gardiner's parks! Parksrec.tog@gmail.com.

TOWN SUPERVISOR MARYBETH MAJESTIC

Open space and preservation of rural character are top priorities for Gardiner residents who participated in the Community Preservation Plan survey. In November, residents will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum to enact a one-time tax of 1.25% on real estate purchases. This real estate transfer tax, paid by the buyer, would apply to sales that are above the Ulster County median home sale price of \$320,000. If passed, a home purchased for \$520,000 would pay a one-time tax of \$2,500 ($\$200,000 \times 1.25\%$). Monies raised by the tax

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TREE-RIFIC

By Joan Parker

On Saturday, May 21, Supervisor Marybeth Majestic proclaimed the day as Arbor Day in Gardiner at a ceremony held outside Town Hall. This was Gardiner's second annual Arbor Day event spearheaded by Kim Mayer of Climate Smart Gardiner (CSG). Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1872 and quickly achieved national recognition as concern for preservation and conservation of trees grew in response to the reduction of many woodlands to "tree-stump forests". Now, Arbor Day is celebrated annually around the world to promote the planting, care, and conservation of trees.

Two other planting events were held on the same day. A Trees For Tribes (TFT) planting took place in Gardiner Park, located next to the transfer station. The TFT event, coordinated by Tara Hoey and Rebecca Carrucci of CSG and supported by grant assistance from NY DEC, planted 370 trees and shrubs to prevent erosion and to improve water quality of the Wallkill River. This was made possible with the help of over 60 volunteers, including students from Lenape Elementary School and Wallkill High

School Science Club. At the Gardiner Library, Angela Sisson of The Wallkill Valley Pollinator Pathway Program, an initiative of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, organized the First Annual Native Plant Sale and the installation of the library's pollinator garden.

Mayer stated, "Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan listened to constituents" and awarded Gardiner a grant for the 2022 Arbor Day planting.

Bloom Landscape Design and Fine Gardening, Rosedale Nursery, and Lowe's provided services and supplies. The Gardiner Highway Department,

supervised by Brian Stiscia, prepped the site along Main Street and planted the trees. Volunteer Tree Stewards, Simon Garcia and Sofia Carucci, will maintain and care for the trees. The entire Arbor Day celebration was a free and family-friendly event. There was music by The Tree Huggers, a musical group that writes and sings original songs "to inspire people to take action to save this earth", a tree ID Scavenger Hunt, and artwork and poetry by Lenape Elementary School students inspired by trees. While all the student's efforts were wonderful, for lack of space only one poem and one art piece are featured here. •

"Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1872 and quickly achieved national recognition..."

TALL TREES

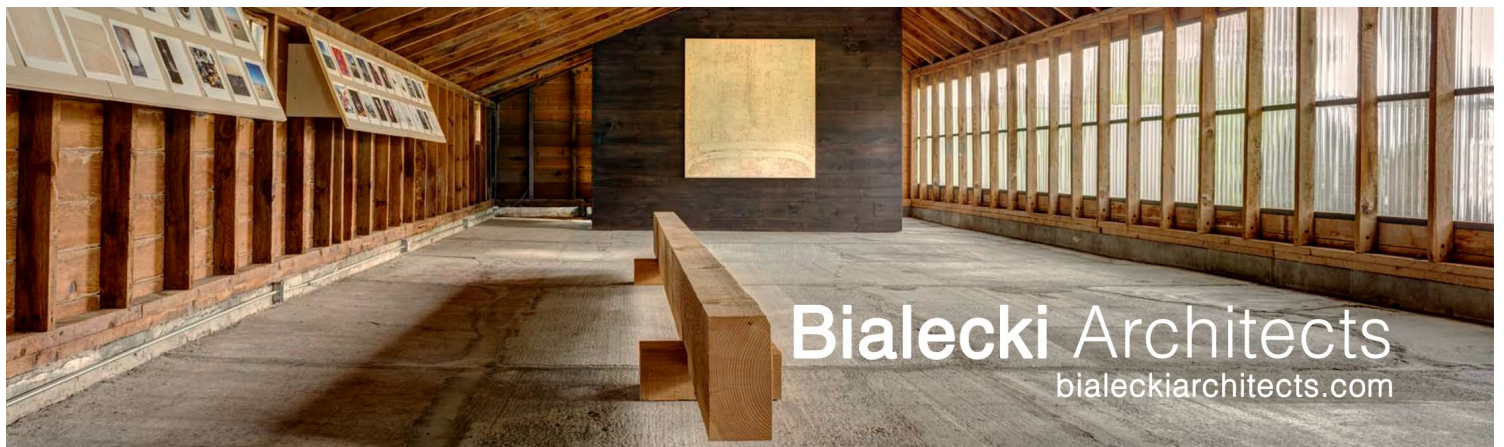
A Poem by Emma Sebold

Tall trees waving in the sky
Rustling in the wind
Earth's best friend
Eagles' home
Swinging on branches



Title: "Birch Trees"

Illustration by: Emma Bomba



ADD RIVERBEND TRAILS TO YOUR SUMMER FUN LIST

By Christopher Hoey

The lands hiding scenic views just beyond the Town Transfer Station at Gardiner Park have seen exciting new activity over the last few months. Most of this is a result of the September 7th, 2021, unanimous approval by the Town Board for the Riverbend Trails phased project plan. A small group of determined individuals from Gardiner Parks and Recreation Committee and Gardiner Trail Alliance got to work bringing the community's dreams closer to reality.

Fall is considered a late start in the season for trail building. Regardless, the team made the most of it, managing to complete the majority of the items for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project plan. While everyone was celebrating the New Year, we quietly celebrated the "soft opening" of Riverbend Trails at Gardiner Park on January 4th, 2022. This milestone marked the delivery of improved parking, a welcome kiosk with info and maps, three miles of roughed-in trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, as well as an incredibly fun "flow trail" that is sure to delight people of all ages. At the same time,

Gardiner Trail Alliance has made its nonprofit LLC filing with NYS and codified its operating paperwork and board of directors. These are key steps for the sustainability of our efforts while unlocking the ability to apply for grants and donations to fund future phases.

The next steps of the project involve training some of the hundred-plus people who showed interest in trail work days, grant writing, fundraising, and hosting events such as the inaugural "Dump Run" 5k/10k. Another

goal is reconfiguring the parking and Transfer Station access so that we can expand Gardiner Park hours. Currently, the park is only open during Transfer Station hours.

We are off to a great start and invite you to check our progress while enjoying the trails. On Saturdays in August, we will be leading group tours of the trails. Keep an eye out for more details on these tours by checking the Parks and Recreation page or Gardiner Trail Alliance website at <https://gardinertrailalliance.org>. •



Photo: Christopher Hoey

TWO CLIMBERS HAD A DREAM

By Kathy Adorney, Ph.D., Clinical Director, A Home Within Hudson Valley

Climbers and psychologists, Hal Chorny and Beverly Keith, were sitting on a cliff. They were at the end of a satisfying day of climbing, when their conversation flowed toward their work and the topic of how to help children in foster care. Those working in the field understand that children in foster care have more trauma to overcome than most children. They have often been neglected and/or abused by their biological parents to such an extent that they must be

removed from their parents' care. There are limited options for these children. They are either sent to live in a traditional foster home or sent to live with a "kinship foster parent" (a relative, close friend, or someone with a close relationship with the child). Neither transition is easy. The only therapy typically supplied for these children is through the Medicaid system, which has a revolving door of therapists where a child may have several therapists in succession with none ever getting to really know the child enough to effect change in their mental health. With no one to trust, their emotional problems, school problems, and social skills impairment increase, and a sad fact is that 50% of children who age-out of foster care

become homeless or end up in jail.

Hal and Beverly brainstormed how they might make a difference in this hard-to-treat group. When they researched to see what might be available to help these children, they found an organization named A Home Within (AHW)—a network of volunteer therapists who agree to take a child (or adult), who is (or was) in foster care, who offer "free therapy". AHW therapists provide ongoing, uninterrupted care for as long as the child or adult needs. What a great find this was! Once they connected with AHW, Hal and Beverly reached out to the Ulster County Department of Social Services (DSS) to see if

Continued on page 16

NO MO' MOW

By Roberta Clements, Gardiner ECC

No apologies are necessary! You may have noticed peoples' lawns looking a little wild lately. Well, there is a new trend in town and around the world, "No Mow May." Homeowners, or anyone with a lawn, can get a break from all that effort and also do great things for the environment and do their part to tackle climate change. Simply put, stop mowing large parts of your lawn, yard, or property, and save the world!

In practice, many mow much more property than we practically utilize on a regular basis. With "No Mow May," you can let it go and let it grow. Allowing your grasses to grow, as well as all of the associated plants that pollinators use enables ecology to do its natural best. Clover and Dandelions become our friends. Untold creatures utilize dirt and grass and nutrients when we stop mowing, and it creates a healthier environment for humans. A bonus effect is the reduced use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that can leach into our groundwater (i.e., drinking water) and our food via farm fields, as well as possibly harming our wholeheartedly loved pets. The birds and the bees

want us to do it naturally!

Another approach is to mow the areas you actually use and leave the rest alone. You can mow a couple of times a year or once a month. For those concerned about ticks - you would mow paths wide enough that a person would not brush against the tall grass and endanger themselves when walking. (And remember, you can also make "tick tubes" with Picaridin, NOT Permethrin). When my mower

broke one year, I had such a menagerie of life in my grass; every day was an adventure for my kids and me. So don't be shy, don't be embarrassed, and don't apologize!

Be proud to do your part for the environment and restore "Wild Gardiner" to its natural state. Maybe those hippies were onto something.

"The suburbs are designed to hide the workings of the natural world." - Bill McKibben, founder of 360.org

Here is how I do mine: I keep the front yard mowed once a month because it is my septic field, I lay about two feet of mulch around the foundation of my house and mow a wide path around that. In the back and a wide

path from the deck to the pool, shed, etc. and around the pool and shed and well. I was able to leave a large section unmowed which provided me a bit more privacy and increased the bird population. I'm going to try to not mow until fall when I mulch the leaves. Now that my kids are older and don't use the yard, I may decide to just let the trees grow there and stop mowing it completely as it's extra work and never used.

For more information, visit: plantlife.org. •

"The suburbs are designed to hide the workings of the natural world."



Photo: Stana Weisburd

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DISC GOLF AT MAJESTIC PARK

By: Andy Lewis

In 2015 I received a phone call from a friend of a friend. He had heard that I was a disc golf enthusiast, and wanted to know if I had any interest in helping design and install a disc golf course in the Town of Gardiner's Majestic Park. Being a busy family man and running my own business, I was hesitant. We talked and I told him I'd think about it. After I hung up the phone, I thought about it for about 30 seconds, and quickly realized I would be a fool to pass up this opportunity! I had been playing disc golf since 2002, and always dreamt of building a course. I called back right away and that started the many, many hours I would spend with Brian Houser in Majestic Park and the adjoining woods on Town property along the Wallkill.

If you've never heard of disc golf,

you wouldn't be the first to tell me so. It is a low impact and fun sport, which is relatively inexpensive to get into. 90% of the courses are free to play, and discs start at about \$8 each. Like ball golf, not many people are experts when they start. It takes some practice, and patience. It is a meditative experience, where you get to hike some great parks while challenging your skill. Discs can be found at many online retailers or at sporting goods stores. There are also plenty of online video tutorials to help with your game.

Fast forward to 2022, and the course is thriving. We have seen license plates from far and wide parked at Majestic Park with passengers pulling their disc gear out of the trunk. We have



continued on page 13

Photo: Andy Lewis



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A COMMUNITY UNITED THROUGH WAR

By Caroline Aurigemma

As you drive through the back roads of Gardiner, you may notice Ukrainian flags hanging from mailboxes and local businesses, a gesture very much appreciated by Gardiner's Ukrainian community members.

Halyna Shepko, a Gardiner resident born in New York, grew up speaking Ukrainian as her first language. While in school she would tell her classmates about her heritage as a Ukrainian-American and remembers that many couldn't point out Ukraine on a map. Shepko continues to study Ukrainian weaving, folk healing, and other traditional customs, while also caring for her vast gardens and various farm animals. "Ukrainian culture is deep within us," she said proudly. Shepko has family and friends who are still



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Photo: Alejandro Duran Sanchez



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COMMON COURTESY WITH OUR CANINES

By Misha Fredericks

The dog days of summer are upon us, and we are blessed with a variety of places to take man's best friend. Besides the great outdoors—Riverbend Trails, the Wallkill Rail Trail, Mohonk Preserve, and Minnewaska State Park—there are also two, local, dog parks, one behind the Gardiner Town Hall and one across from the Ulster County Fairgrounds.

For the most part, everyone has the best of intentions and wants to give their canine companions a place to frolic, play, and explore. However, conflicts can occur when owners fail to follow simple etiquette or refuse to follow municipal laws regarding responsible pet ownership. The two most frequent complaints are related to pet owners refusing to clean up after their dogs and/or when dogs are

allowed to roam leash-free in public. Stepping in dog feces is horrible enough, but there are other reasons one should pick up after one's dog. Dog feces takes up to a year to break down because the diet of dogs is high in nitrogen, and so rainwater washes it into the groundwater and eventually on to contaminate streams, rivers, and other bodies of water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) categorizes pet waste as a "non-point source of pollution," which puts it in the same category as oil and toxic chemicals. Dog waste is one of the most preventable and significant water pollutants. In addition, parasites and bacteria in dog waste can infect other dogs, humans (public trails are frequented by adults and children walking and riding their bikes), and wildlife.

Two Feces Facts to Remember:

- Never leave dog waste 200 feet from bodies of water and never toss it into storm drains.

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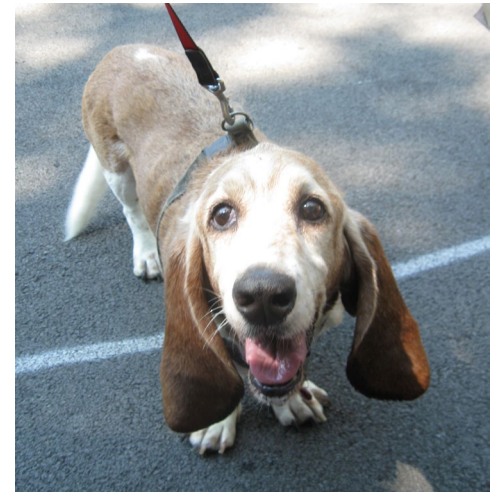


Photo: Misha Fredericks

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BASECAMP FROM PAGE 1

coffee, "Gunks Daybreak", and try the excellent smoothies, baked goods, wraps, and soup (in season), or pick-up a pair (or two) of the USA-made, organic, Farm-to-Feet socks. When Deyano was asked about how they decided what products to carry, he said, "We only carry products we've tested personally and believe in," and he means it.

Deyano certainly has his finger on the pulse of the area's tourism; he sits on the board for Ulster County Tourism and is the Chairman/Co-Founder of the Shawangunk Biking Association, and Kristin is a competitive trail runner. No doubt, the time has come for this type of lifestyle business in Gardiner, and BaseCamp is definitely on an evolutionary track of community involvement: They have established

and are nurturing relationships with the Gunks Climbers Coalition (GCC), Minnewaska State Park, and Mohonk Preserve, as well as with local eateries and farms, such as Julian's and Café Mio, Willow Pond Sheep Farm, Full Moon Farm, and The Patchwork Quilt who provide various foods and catering for events. Through such local, community collaborations and continued hard work, Deyano and Kristin hope to evolve BaseCamp's offerings to encompass services as well as goods. Some future plans include guiding services of various sorts, a coffee club starting this Fall, a shuttle service to transport visitors up and down the mountain, the hosting of cycling events, and the building of some discrete cabins in the surrounding woods.

For more info and days/hours of operation: basecampgunks.com. ●



Photo: Deyano Manco



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF JENKINSTOWN ANTIQUES

By José Moreno-Lacalle

Sandy Levy has been an art and antiques dealer since he was a teenager with long hair, which means that he has been in the trade for over 50 years. His business, Jenkinstown Antiques, is located at 520 Route 32S, near Locust Lawn mansion. His home which is closeby, was built around 1726, and was originally the Freer property, part of a 1,500-acre patent. It is filled from floor to ceiling on both floors with period furniture and art. Over the years Sandy not only restored the house (when he had the money) but also acquired more land and eventually purchased a frame structure, Halleck House, of 1792, in Orange County that he had moved, piecemeal, to his property. That structure is now his shop. It, too, had to be rebuilt, and given that his father was the building inspector, he was given no breaks and had to adhere to code very strictly. Another building he moved to his property, close by the stone house, was an early, outdoor,

summer kitchen, of which there are very few left in Ulster County. Sandy is an avid collector of everything antique of regional America, including glassware, ceramics, furniture—including kasten—quilts, basketry, signs, but especially paintings, and he continues to collect both for himself and for sale. Many of the artists whose work he displays and sells are Ulster County locals, including Julia McEntee Dillon, an excellent still-life artist, the landscape painters James Scott, Raphael Weed, and Dubois Fenelon Hasbrouck, among others, as well as more contemporary artists like Paul Meltsner, of Woodstock. More to the point, Sandy researches and writes extensively and also organizes art exhibitions. His catalogs include one devoted to the art of Julia Dillon and another is Paintings at Mohonk: Visions of Our Surroundings, a catalog of the 30 or so best works in the



Photo & Sign Art: Debby Scott

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ELECTION FROM PAGE 1

ticket. Molinaro has been the Dutchess County Executive since 2012. He also served as the mayor of Tivoli from 1995 to 2006, was county legislator from 2001 to 2006, and a village trustee in Tivoli. Mr. Molinaro earned an A.A. in Humanities and Social Sciences from Dutchess Community College and attended Pace University Land Use Law Center Community Leadership Alliance in 1996. In 2015, he established "ThinkDIFFERENTLY", an initiative that seeks to change the way individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities relate to our neighbors with special needs (thinkdifferently.net), and he has worked to protect open space and farmlands. As a congressman he states that he would like to address the opioid crisis and advocate for mental health services, encourage the investment in and use of cryptocurrency, and strengthen ties with Israel. (www.marcforus.com)

Pat Ryan has served as Ulster County Executive since June 2019. He was instrumental in enacting policies that helped the county through the worst of the COVID pandemic, providing financial relief to small businesses, advocating for mental health services, and supporting the building of affordable housing. After graduating from West Point with honors, he served two combat tours in Iraq, earned a Masters degree from Georgetown University, and worked in the technology sector prior to becoming Ulster County Executive. His platform includes promoting an economy that benefits working families, keeping families safe, and protecting women's autonomy over their own bodies. (www.patryanforcongress.com)

In addition to the Special Election, there will also be a Democratic primary on August 23rd for the newly formed 18th Congressional district seat. There will not be a

Republican primary because there is no challenger to run against Colin Schmitt. Democratic voters will have three candidates to choose from: Pat Ryan, Aisha Mills, and Moses Mugulusi. Newburgh resident Aisha Mills describes herself as a "seasoned political strategist and social impact advisor with twenty-years of experience working to ensure that our democracy is responsive to, reflective of, and led by the diverse communities that are the fabric of our nation." Currently she is the host of AMplified on BNC (<https://bnc.tv/amplified>) which spotlights politics and policies that impact and effect Black and Brown communities. She has an MBA in Strategy & Entrepreneurship and a BA in Psychology from University of Maryland. She was a well-respected political commentator on CNN and MSNBC. (www.linkedin.com/in/aishamoodmills). Mr. Mugulusi says he wants to be an advocate for "struggling everyday people & small businesses across NY state" citing the growing




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economic divide between affluent and poor Americans which needs to be addressed. As a congressman he says that he would oppose wealthy corporations and special interest groups getting their way at the expense of the American public. Mr. Mugulusi earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in finance and worked as a regulator of financial institutions. If elected his goals are to work toward Medicare for All, affordable/low income housing, and a living wage. To learn more about Mr. Mugulusi, go to ballotpedia.org/Moses_Mugulusi#Campaign_themes.

Early voting will be from August 13-21. For more information on locations and polling times, visit elections.ulstercountyny.gov. •

CIVIC NEWS. FROM PAGE 3

would be available for preservation measures such as purchase of development rights or conservation easements. Open space is not free; supporting this real estate transfer tax

on the ballot in November will allow Gardiner to maintain and preserve what our residents value most. For more info, please visit the town website or contact me directly (845)-255-9675 x101 or supervisor.tog@gmail.com. •

DISC GOLF. FROM PAGE 7

a local club which puts on events to help maintain and improve the course. This includes the installation of proper concrete tee pads and trimming the trails and fairways. We host four tournaments a year. Our February tournament is a fundraiser for the Gardiner Fire Department, where in two years we have raised roughly \$2,000.

Our goal has always been to improve upon the park without disturbing any of the existing facilities or wildlife. We have seen the interest grow within the community (www.facebook.com/groups/1664491600458107), and it puts a smile on my face to meet new

people on the course, or hear a local say "Hey, I played Majestic yesterday!"

Disc golf has gained an enormous amount of exposure in the past decade, with the number of courses, players, sponsorships, and companies getting a huge bump. The pro tour can be watched online and some of the pros are getting multi-million-dollar contracts with disc manufacturers. We are talking about men and women who can throw over 500 feet! We aim to foster a local environment which continues to grow the sport in our region. Perhaps we will see a local pro emerge from the Gunks!

Grab some discs, and some friends, and we'll see you at Majestic! •



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residing in Western Ukraine, helping refugees streaming into their area from the East; they make tourniquets and do whatever they can to aid others who are struggling during this time.

Social media has allowed Shepko to communicate with loved ones and witness what is happening within Ukraine. "One young cousin Facetimes us from a bomb shelter in Lviv and shows us the bombing. Sometimes she cries and is very afraid. I keep seeing posts about the Ukrainian soldiers being killed, some are very young, and I know their parents. This is unfathomable. Shepko's 85-year-old mother was a refugee in Ukraine as a child." The images of mothers carrying their babies out of the danger of war remind her of her own childhood." Shepko shares that she is especially heartbroken for the family members who are forced to leave their homes and flee to safety. "It horrifies me to say that in the last 120 days of war


more than 300 Ukrainian children have been killed. Innocent children."

Gratefully, there has been truly heartening community support for Ukraine, which is evident locally in the display of Ukrainian flags, demonstrations in front of the Elting Library, and donations for Ukrainian American Youth Association of the Hudson Valley, which have been incredible. Shepko's 17-year-old son, Zorian, is part of the New Paltz High School youth group whose members, friends, and families donate and pack supplies to ship to Ukraine.


Olana O'Connor is another local resident from Ukraine. O'Connor grew up in the city of Ternopil, Ukraine, and moved to the Hudson Valley in 1999. She is currently an educator at SUNY New Paltz and has recently been invited to schools in the area to talk about the war and her family's story. O'Connor's life is steeped in Ukrainian culture which among other things includes both food and education. "Food has this special

transcending unifying element...it creates togetherness and reminds me of growing up in Ukraine," she said. O'Connor shares that Ukraine has one of the highest literacy rates in the world. This tradition of education is deeply ingrained in O'Connor and she volunteers her time to help support ongoing education locally as a board member of Ulster County Community College and as chair of the Presidential Challenge Scholarship Committee, which finds local sponsors for students to attend two years of Ulster Community College. She has also been interviewed by local publications, invited to speak at New Paltz High School, and has also hosted a fundraiser for supplies, coordinating with local sheriff Juan Figueroa and local police departments who have been collecting bulletproof vests and sending them over to Ukraine. If you are interested in supporting or donating medical supplies, contact: The Ukrainian American Youth Association of the Hudson Valley, Elting Memorial Library in New

Pete Patel



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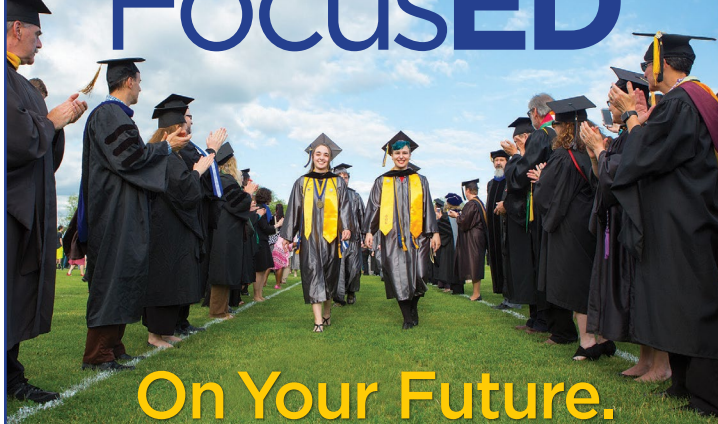
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Paltz, Gardiner Library, the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson, or visit razomforukraine.org to donate. There is also a need for teachers who are willing to help and support refugees. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Olana O'Connor at olanaoconnor@gmail.com. •

CANINE FROM PAGE 9

- Dog feces is NOT "fertilizer." It is high in protein, so it actually does just the opposite by killing plants and lawns.

Best Practices for Disposing of Dog Feces Safely:

Home-compostable pet waste bags are the best option because they are made partly from corn starch and usually biodegrade within 6 to 12 months of use. (doggydogood.com/collections/premium-pet-waste-bags). Note that using regular plastic bags can cause harm to a planet already overburdened with plastic waste from humans.

It's the LAW: Leash laws are for the protection of dogs as well as people. There are at least two Town of Gardiner laws that require leashing of dogs to prevent harassment of people, other animals, vehicles, etc., in public. The town code can be read at <https://ecode360.com/9149612>. In an excerpt from the code, a dog owner will be in violation even if their dog "reasonably cause(s) intimidation or fear, or to put such person in reasonable

apprehension of bodily harm or injury, or chase people, animals or persons on bicycles or automobiles or other vehicles upon any public highway or upon any bicycle path or private road where said person, automobile or bicycle was lawfully traveling." In other words, if your unleashed dog is frightening someone, you are in violation of the law, even if you think there is no cause for alarm.

Andrew McKee, Dog Control Officer for the Town of Gardiner, explained that a normally "friendly" dog on a leash might feel threatened by a "friendly" unleashed dog exactly because it is restrained and the other dog is not, which, he said, is a common cause of dog fights. One Gardiner resident wrote a letter to the Gardiner Gazette about just this scenario. In August 2021, her leashed dog was



Photo: Misha Frdericks

bitten by a "friendly" unleashed dog. She wrote, "The owner actually blamed my dog for the encounter and cursed at me when I suggested the problem was that his dog was not under his control." Clearly, residents who abide by the town code need not be hapless victims of those who do not. All violations, dog fights, or bites should be reported to the town: at 845-249-8316 or gardinerdogcontrol@gmail.com, and if necessary, cases of dog violence or intimidation can also be brought before the Town Court. •

JENKINSTOWN FROM PAGE 11

Mohonk Mountain House collection, with a guide to where every picture is located throughout the vast structure. Sandy has been an art dealer to the Smiley family for years, so it was natural for him to compile the catalog with Lou Petruzzelli, the finance director, and Pril Smiley, the art director and a direct descendant of Albert Smiley, the founder of Mohonk. For more information, go to jenkintownantiques.com, or drop by his booth at the annual Rhinebeck Art & Antique Fair to engage with this now bald but affable and fabulous raconteur. He always has quality items of interest and knows the history of every piece.

Jenkinstown Antiques is located at 520 Route 32 South. You can't miss the sign, on the left, as you drive in from New Paltz, or on the right, if you're coming from Gardiner. •

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THERAPY FROM PAGE 5

they would refer children in foster care to AHW therapists. The then Deputy Commissioner, Barbara Sorkin, agreed to give it a try. Over a decade later, Barbara now wishes that every child could have an AHW therapist. DSS supervisors Carly Larkin, Deborah Barra, and Laura Walzer, all have described A Home Within therapists as "experienced", "creative", and "reliable". When an AHW therapist becomes available, they are eager to assign a case to them. One might ask, "Who qualifies to receive AHW-provided therapy?" The answer is that any adult or child who has spent even one day in foster care qualifies for therapy with A Home Within.

The Hudson Valley chapter of A Home Within has nine therapists: Susan Astor, Rose Oceana, Gabriella Portas, Meg Riebesell, Neil Rindlaub, Liz Rogers, Julie Rose, Ingrid Schirrholtz, and Nina Tantillo. Unfortunately, there are approximately 118 children in foster homes or in kinship care in Ulster County, which is beyond the local chapter's capacity to provide services for all of them. More volunteer therapists are needed. Are you a young therapist living in Gardiner? If so, joining A Home Within network can be a great way to develop as a therapist and mature into a private practice. Perhaps you are a retired therapist; AHW is also a wonderful way to use your skills, within a rich collegial environment,

without the hassle of running a business. As an added bonus for AHW volunteer therapists, there is a regular, peer-consultation group in which volunteers share the joys and struggles that they experience in their work with clients for mutual support and benefit. Tim Rodier, a consultation group leader and former AHW therapist, has this to say about the experience: "I joined as someone who was interested to learn. It turned out to be more than that... It helped me, hands down, to be a better therapist."

To learn more or volunteer with AHW, please contact the Hudson Valley Clinical Director, Kathy Adorney at kathy@ahomewithin.org or go to ahomewithin.org. ●

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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Articles are written by community members, not reporters. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please contact us to discuss it **before** you write your article.

To suggest a business to feature, please contact us. To advertise in the Gardiner Gazette, contact Christine "Desi" Desmoni at 845-750-5085 or GardinerGazetteAds@gmail.com.

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