

The Gardiner Gazette

FALL 2022 ELECTION ISSUE | ISSUE 55

A CALL TO COMMUNITY

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Photo: L.A. McMahon

GARDINER'S TACO TRUCK PHENOMENA

By L.A. McMahon

By now, anyone who "likes" the Gardiner NY Facebook page has heard about the Taco Truck phenomena that exploded on the Gardiner scene about four months ago. Wildly popular, the Taco Truck's tasty, fresh, and economically priced food has been well-received by Gardiner's residents and visitors alike. This past Spring, Jose Villanueva and his brother Elmer brought their small taco truck and parked it in the parking lot of Lightning Express on Main St., Gardiner, and started doing business there with the owner's permission. Of course, not everyone was happy about this or any other food truck coming to town. Across the USA, more traditional brick-and-mortar restaurants and some community groups still oppose food truck businesses. Numerous laws and regulations have been put in place across the country to curb mobile food vendors' numbers and locations. And so it was in Gardiner, and in no time, the Taco Truck needed to find a new location or go away. Then, Jose's stepdaughter, Francheska

Pereyra, became outraged that her hardworking stepdad was losing his livelihood after all his hard work. She took to the Gardiner NY Facebook page to say so. Literally, hundreds of residents liked, followed, and commented with their support. The Villanueva's started receiving invitations to park their truck in a number of places throughout town. All the while, Francheska kept their Facebook followers up to date on their progress, and with help from a friend, she created the Taco Truck's Facebook page. Seemingly in no time, The Taco Truck found a new home in Gardiner at the Tuthilltown Distillery's parking lot at 14 Grist Mill Lane. You'd think that this somewhat off-the-beaten-path location would ruin their foot traffic and they'd only have distillery visitors buying their food, but again social media posts alerted residents about the move, and on opening day, there were so many cars there

NOVEMBER 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

by Misha Fredericks

If you are a registered voter, you probably received a card in the mail in early August listing the Updated Jurisdictional Information (www.elections.ny.gov/district-map.html). We are now in the 18th Congressional district and State Senate District 51. The Assembly district (103) and County Legislative District (016) have not changed. Early voting will occur from October 29 to November 6, with the General Election on Tuesday, November 8. Visit voteulster.com for locations and dates. There will be many candidates and referendums/initiatives to vote on in this election. Some are listed below (as of September 1).

There is one State Referendum on the ballot: CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS Environmental Bond Act of 2022. "To address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the "Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022" authorizes the sale of state bonds up to four billion two hundred million dollars to fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency, and clean energy projects. Shall the Environmental Bond Act of 2022 be approved?" (More info at www.elections.ny.gov/2022BallotProposal.html)

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CLIMATE SMART GARDINER


Recent accomplishments: We helped coordinate a Green Living Expo at the Ulster County Fair and the Town completed the prerequisite actions and became a NYSEERDA Clean Energy Community, accessing a \$5000 grant for green projects which will support the maintenance of Gardiner's EV Charger. The town's LED streetlight conversion agreement with NYPA will result in lower costs and decreased Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Our upcoming Community GHG Emissions Inventory will inform our recommendations for the town's GHG mitigation efforts. We are also planning green audits for local farms/municipal buildings, recruiting interns, and working on Gardiner's Emergency Plan. For more info: www.facebook.com/climatesmartgardiner

FIRE & RESCUE 20TH ANNUAL GARDINER 5K CLASSIC

As usual, it was a scorching day for the Gardiner 5K Classic held at Majestic Park on July 21st. Despite the weather,

everyone had a wonderful time. There were several water stops for participants along the route, and some of our thoughtful neighbors along the route even took out their hoses and sprayed down any runners willing to get wet. All were happy to see the return of the BBQ and the Kid's Fun Run since both had been suspended during the worst of Covid. The summer heat didn't deter the participants from giving it their all: Jack Wilson was the top finisher, winning the overall male category with a time of 16:07, and 2nd place went to Riley Brutvan (16:40). 1st place in the female category went to Heather Weigand (21:22), with 2nd place to Lydia Brutvan (22:12).

Many thanks to the sponsors, runners/walkers, and volunteers who gave their time and resources to help make this beloved community event a real success. Some volunteers parked cars or worked the registration desk, others gave out water to participants and/or set up/cleaned up, and all cheered on the participants with gusto. The proceeds from this race will be used to make improvements to the interior of the Gardiner Fire & Rescue's firehouse. A very special thanks go to the members of the Gardiner 5K Classic Committee: Barbara Clinton, John and Landon Fracasse, Bernadette Koonz, Terri Colucci, and Luke and Donna Lyons, who worked tirelessly with the Gardiner Fire & Rescue team to make this event such a huge success. The Gardiner Fire & Rescue is a volunteer organization made up of volunteer firefighters and EMTs, so this outpouring of love from the community was greatly appreciated. If you would like to join the Gardiner Fire & Rescue, please visit our website



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at www.GardinerFireAndRescue.org and complete an application. We are always looking for volunteers. Next year's 21st Annual Gardiner 5K Classic is scheduled for July 20th, 2023. See you there!

GARDINER OPEN SPACE COMMISSION (GOSC)

GOSC is happy to report that after a lot of hard work, the Gardiner Community Preservation Plan (CPP) is now complete. To view the plan: <https://bit.ly/GardinerCPP22>, and the interactive map: <https://tognri.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=316635524fec43afa6367bb21c2c10c4>

It's one thing to conserve land and another to keep that land in good condition over the long haul, free of trash or intrusion. To accomplish this, GOSC has assisted the Town of Gardiner in establishing a monitoring program for the preserved parcels it owns and conservation easements it is responsible for. To this end, GOSC brokered a monitoring agreement for the town with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT), and this Fall, WVLT will begin to monitor all of these important parcels. This practice will put our town's preservation efforts on par with the standards for conservation followed by the Land Trust Alliance, the Open Space Institute, and other large conservation organizations. We couldn't be prouder of this accomplishment or more grateful to the WVLT for agreeing to work with our town.

For now, GOSC will be responsible for reviewing and maintaining the information that is produced from these monitoring visits.

GOSC's ongoing public information program includes a Fall series focusing on preserving agricultural lands in Gardiner. Speakers from organizations, such as Scenic Hudson and the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets, will share information on their respective roles in preserving farmland in and around the Hudson Valley. All farmland owners should tune in to see how they can preserve their land. The first in the series can be attended in person at Town Hall or via Zoom on Monday, October 24th, 2022 at 7 p.m. For more info: gardineropenspace@gmail.com.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department continues to upgrade and maintain the drainage throughout the town. Clove Road paving is completed, and we are working on Trapps Road. McKinstry Road Bridge is under construction and is projected to be completed by the end of this year. Stay ALERT – for Construction Workers, Pedestrians, Motorcyclists, and DEER!! Please remember – Don't tailgate Large Trucks – If truck drivers don't see you in their

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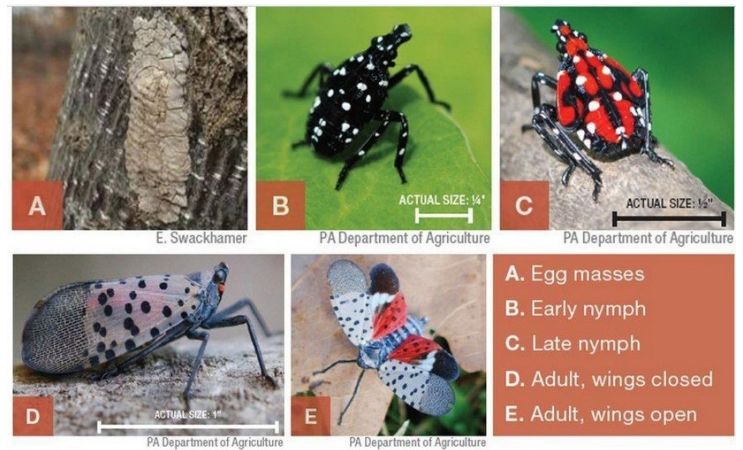
THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY: A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

By Misha Fredericks

The Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) may be one of the most beautiful and colorful insects you'll ever see, but don't let looks deceive you. Its presence wreaks havoc wherever it is found in North America because it is an invasive species with few natural controls to stop its spread. It was first introduced in Pennsylvania in 2014 when stones covered with their eggs were imported from overseas. They are great hitchhikers stowing themselves in the wheel wells, trunks, and undercarriages of vehicles. They appear to be spreading north along the 87 corridor, which means they are on their way here.

There are over 100 species of plants it feeds on, including cucumbers, apple trees, grapes vines, willow, and maples, but its preference is Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), which looks a lot like Poison Sumac, but its bark has a cantaloupe-appearance. The insects use their piercing-sucking mouthparts to tap into bark and plants. As they feed, they excrete a sugary, "honeydew" substance which causes the growth of black sooty mold. The mold is not harmful to humans but attracts biting and stinging insects like wasps that threaten people and pets. Additionally, the sooty black mold can destroy vegetation like crops, orchards, and vineyards and make outdoor recreational areas unusable. In Pennsylvania, it has decimated orchards and vineyards, so its presence could significantly impact the economy of the Hudson Valley if it gets a foothold here. It could cause the closing of pick-your-own orchards and threaten our tourism and agricultural economies. The good news is that unlike Pennsylvania, Staten Island, and Upstate NY, which have been overrun with the insect, the Mid-Hudson region still has a chance to stop the spread and devastation of the Spotted Lanternfly.

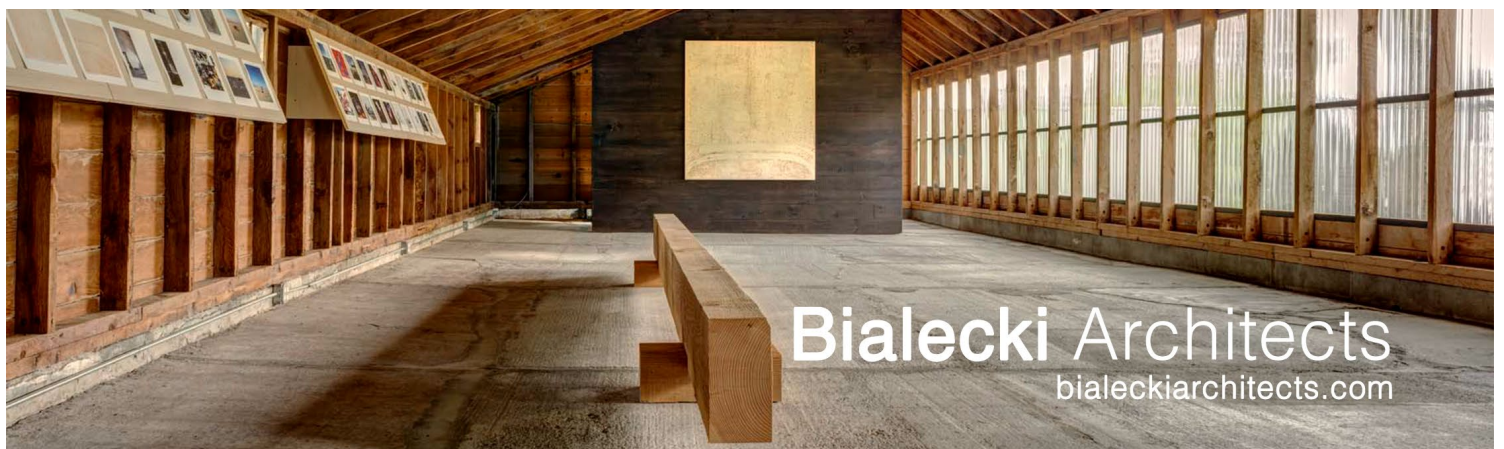
Basic knowledge of the developmental stages of the Spotted Lanternfly will help those who want to help to eradicate its spread: They begin their lives in eggs that were



laid by adults before they were killed off by winter's cold. Around May or June, the eggs hatch into First Instars – little black beetles with white "stars" on their backs; then, from June to September, they morph through three more instar phases before evolving into pretty red, white, and black-winged adults from September to December. As the cool weather of Fall approaches, these adults begin to lay their eggs before they die. They lay their eggs on any smooth surface, most often on the underside of branches and on tree bark but will also lay them on houses, vehicles, and the underside of guardrails. The eggs are covered in a gummy, white putty-like secretion to protect eggs from weather and predators. Over time, that secretion darkens and may crack with exposure to weather. **YOU CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD:** If you see egg masses, scrape them off using a credit card or some flat hard object making sure to collect as many of the eggs as possible so none are left to hatch (try not to let any fall on the ground where the eggs could survive and hatch). Placing the eggs in an empty plastic bottle and mixing them with hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol will kill the eggs. You can report your sighting online at <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a08d60f6522043f5bd04229e00acdd63>

There are also various non-toxic ways to catch and kill

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BUBBE'S DELI AND GROCERY

by Alan Rothman



Photo: L.A. McMahon

If you grew up anywhere in NYC, you were surrounded by many delis and candy stores, which were much more than their names imply. Bubbe's Deli and Grocery, at the intersection of routes 44/55 and 299, formerly the Mountain Harbor Deli, is a step back in time to when these mom-and-pop stores were practically on every corner. It's a mix of a grocery, deli-type breakfast, lunch, dinner, and sandwich maker, a "pick up a six-pack" stop and a great place to run into people you may know. That's Bubbe's Deli and Grocery.

Owners Dana (the tall guy with reddish hair) and Beryl (the young lady with bright eyes and a glowing smile) worked in various restaurants while attending SUNY New Paltz. "That's how we started dating. She was the cute girl who used to call the bingo at Snugs, and I would go there every Sunday and harass the poor lady. She started working at Huckleberry, and that's when I won her heart," Dana shared. "Right before I graduated, I started dishwashing at the Gilded Otter. The environment there was chaotic and fun. I just fell in love with it." Beryl added, "I came up here for school, and I worked in restaurants. I did a little bit of everything. I used to wash dishes for him (Dana)." After working together at Mountain Harbor, they decided to buy the business and create Bubbe's. So, although both have degrees in public relations, they had fallen in love with food service.

"When we worked under Mountain Harbor, I was doing about 70 hours. Beryl was working about 40 hours. When we started Bubbe's, we were doing about 60 hours a week here. We would be here every single day from sun-up to almost sundown. We now have eight people on staff."

The deli offers an assortment of sandwiches and salads with names like The Overlook, Flaming Cluck, Veggie Tales, and Turkey Cristo. The other half of the sandwich menu includes a delicious assortment of breakfast sandwiches

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Gardiner Community Preservation Fund Ballot Referendum

by Neil Rindlaub

On the back of the ballot, in the November 8th election this year, you will have a chance to vote on the referendum that enables Gardiner to establish a Community Preservation Fund (CPF) which will provide fiscal support for the Community Preservation Plan (CPP) the town of Gardiner adopted in June. The CPF can help preserve our farmlands, open space, clean water, wildlife habitat, and scenic views for generations to come.

Funding for the CPF will come from a Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT), which our Town Board has set at 1.25%. This tax is a one-time fee paid by the BUYER of a house or property in Gardiner – it is NOT an ongoing tax on current residents. The tax will apply only to the amount of a real estate transaction that exceeds the last, prior year's median Ulster County sale price -- which was \$320,000 in 2021 -- thereby maintaining affordability of lower priced properties. For example, the buyer of a \$420,000 property in Gardiner would pay a tax of \$1,250 ($\$420,000 - \$320,000 = \$100,000 \times .0125 = \$1,250$) which will go into the CPF. The money in the CPF can serve to leverage other sources of funding such as state and federal grants or partnerships with land trusts.

You might hear the view that "We already have enough open space". In fact, we have about 7,000 acres of undeveloped land. However, land that is now agricultural or forested could be subdivided and developed, losing its value for producing food, protecting water resources, and providing habitat for wildlife. Sprawl would reduce local food production, diminish water quality, increase traffic, flooding, and taxes. Subdividing and developing extensive acres of open lands would jeopardize the rural, small-town feeling of Gardiner that we all cherish. If you doubt it, check out formerly rural northern New Jersey or Nassau County on Long Island. To view the plan: <https://bit.ly/GardinerCPP22> and the interactive map: <https://tognri.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=316635524fec43afa6367bb21c2c10c4> Please **VOTE YES!**

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RECYCLE RIGHT

By Joan Parker



TANGLERS DO NOT BELONG IN YOUR HOME RECYCLING BIN.



Photo: Recycle Right NY

Garbage – we sure do make a lot of it! As our consumption continues to grow exponentially, we are finding fewer places to put all our garbage, so it ends up, eventually, where we least want it, in our drinking water and in the ocean. What can we do? Solutions people employ to try and cut down on garbage are: use less, select products that have environmentally friendly packaging, are durable, and can be recycled easily. When done right, recycling reduces the constant stream of waste we generate. The process of recycling metals, plastics, glass, etc., for another use often begins with collection and sorting. Caution: putting items that cannot be recycled in the same bins as recyclable items causes problems and extra work by the workers at the dump, damage to sorting machinery, and reduces

the value of the return the town receives on the sale of recyclable materials after sorting losses.

Angelina Brandt, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) Sustainability Director, recently gave a "Plastic Free July" talk hosted by the Gardiner ECC at the Gardiner Library, where she warned against "wish-cycling," which occurs when people put an item into the recycling stream not knowing if it can be recycled but hoping it will be. Wishing does not make it so: Certain shapes and materials cannot be recycled and, in fact, make for more work and can be dangerous to workers and machinery. Items such as plastic bags, electrical cords, chains, rope, twine, ribbon, and hoses clog and damage machinery. At the same time, broken glass, mirrors, sharps (needles, healthcare waste), ceramics, and light bulbs can injure workers and contaminate other materials ruining them for recycling. Some other items not suitable for recycling are food-stained pizza boxes, straws, pouches, balloons, black and clear food service containers, rigid plastics (like toys or laundry hampers), auto parts, and baskets.

Brandt also cautioned that plastic films are difficult to sort and clog machinery, saying, "If it's a bag and you can stretch it without breaking it," it's plastic film." Many food product bags, shopping bags, sandwich bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, and plastic shrink wrap are considered "plastic film." NY State Plastic Bag Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Law (the "Bag Law") requires grocery and retail stores that have five or more locations to have a collection container for the plastic film (like the one in front of TOPS in New Paltz). When clean and dry, plastic film is now "returned to retailer" and is not put into single and dual stream recycling.

Size matters in recycling too. Items smaller than a tennis ball do not sort; if they can't be sorted, they probably won't be recycled. Here's a tip: Keep caps on bottles and lids on containers. In fact, if you use a container with a lid to collect recyclable items too small to sort and put the lid back on, the smaller items will not be loose, and thus can be sorted and recycled without clogging the sorting machine.

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STREAMWATCH

By Larry Feldman



Photo: Larry Feldman

In 2022, thousands of dead fish were found floating on the banks of the Oder River, which runs through Germany and Poland, and experts warn it will take years for the

river to recover. To avoid this type of disaster in Gardiner, environmental watchdogs, such as the volunteers working at StreamWatch, a program of the Mohonk Preserve, are monitoring our local waterways. The StreamWatch program is an outgrowth of the successful Climate Tracker and Phenology programs built on the work of Daniel Smiley (1907-1989), who was an environmentalist before there was a name for that. The Daniel Smiley Research Center (located on Mohonk Mountain House property) contains meticulous research files related to his observations of weather, nature, animals, and plants.

Did you know that regular people who care about the environment can help protect the water in and around Gardiner as well? They certainly can. My wife, Jill, and I are from Yonkers but moved to Gardiner some years ago and have been active volunteers at Mohonk Preserve since 2015. We, among others, donate our time to help monitor the status of selected marshes, streams, and estuaries throughout the Preserve's 8,000 acres.

Volunteers are trained to measure several things on a monthly basis with the goal of catching environmental threats before it's too late. Each two-person team is assigned to its own specific site. Jill and I monitor Humpo

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SAFEGUARDING GARDINER'S WATER SUPPLY

by Jon Benner

It has been a hot and dry summer. Larger towns throughout our area have put in place emergency water restrictions to conserve their dwindling water supply. Gardiner has no reservoirs or municipal water supply – like other nearby rural towns, we rely instead on private wells drilled deep into the ground for all our water needs. How does drought affect this underground water supply, and are there measures we can take to conserve this resource?

An underground water supply is called an aquifer, and in Gardiner's case, it consists of water flowing through cracks and crevices in the shale bedrock deep beneath the surface (a "bedrock aquifer"). When a well is drilled, the drilling stops when the hole hits one of the seams in the rock, and water gushes forth.

"For the most part, we're pretty water-blessed here in Gardiner compared to some towns on the other side of the ridge," said Jim Wild, the owner of Jim Wild Well Drilling, which he credited to the underlying geology. "It's

common to get water at a reasonable depth," with many wells in Gardiner in the 100-to-300-foot range.

When water is pumped out of the aquifer by wells, it is replaced by rainwater slowly filtering into the ground over time. If more water is being pumped out than is being replaced by rainfall – whether because of too many wells sucking water out, an extended drought, or both – the water table will drop, and shallower wells can slow or run dry.

With climate change making weather less predictable and increasing the likelihood of both extended droughts and torrential downpours (which do little to recharge the aquifer, instead running off the surface directly into streams and rivers), there is an urgent need to understand how sustainably we are using our aquifer here in Gardiner.

To that end, a town-sponsored working group has set out to study this issue. Led by Michael Hartner of the Gardiner Environmental Conservation Committee and assisted by Steven Winkley of the New York Rural Water Association, the group has been measuring the water level in five wells on town-owned properties in the Gardiner hamlet, where many wells are concentrated in a small area and a few residents, particularly at the top of the hill on Farmer's Turnpike, have had to dig deeper wells in recent years



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when their original wells ran dry.

The preliminary data show a drop in the water level in the measured hamlet wells over the seven years from 2014 to 2020.

"The drop in water levels does not appear to be attributable to less precipitation" over this period, Hartner said in an email. "Net precipitation increased over this time, and there was a noticeable wet period" in 2018 and 2019. Hartner added that the group is hoping to expand the network of studied wells to the outskirts of the hamlet, such as Church Farm Road, to better understand what is happening underground.

Unlike towns with a municipal water supply, Gardiner has no legal authority to restrict water use because wells are on private property. However, according to Town Board member Warren Wiegand, one option on the table is a moratorium on a new building in the hamlet. Such an aquifer protection law would also seek to restrict development in areas in town that are especially good at soaking up rainfall and recharging the aquifer.

"We can also run an education campaign urging people to voluntarily conserve water if problems develop," said Wiegand.

What comes next? Look for a report by the working group on the town's website coming out in early 2023, and stay tuned for a discussion about a possible aquifer protection law.

In the meantime, even if our own well is flowing strong and reliably in these dry months, we can all do our part by conserving water so that this shared and hidden resource beneath our feet keeps our town viable as we face an uncertain climatic future. •

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A POEM

THE MIST

By Laura Phillips

Looking out my window
The air is thick and grey
It wraps around the trees
In an eerie sort of way

The edges gently blurred
By the heavy endless haze
Creating awe and mystery
I cannot help but gaze

I wonder what today will bring
For now I cannot see
This fog impedes my foresight
But reminds me, thankfully

To be present in this moment
Having faith in what will be
Breathing in contentment
I embrace uncertainty

So now I may feel comfort
Even though my view's obscured
The mist is temporary
And will lift, I am assured

TACO, CONTINUED

for the opening that parking became an issue. Word of mouth, signage on the main road, and consistent social media continue to drive a steady stream of new customers there, and once they taste the food, they return again and again. Within four months, the Villanueva's needed to buy a larger food truck to accommodate their ever-growing pool of loyal customers. Touring the new truck, its clean, streamlined design and copious freezers, fryers, etc., gives one confidence that they can handle the growing crowds flocking to this new taco hotspot with food for carnivores and vegetarians alike.

I visited Jose Villanueva at the Taco Truck in the early morning to catch him before the breakfast rush for an interview—yes, they do breakfast too. We sat outside at one of the nice, umbrellaed, picnic tables to talk, and I asked him, "Why Gardiner?" Jose replied, "I live in New Paltz, and my brother and I wanted to try Gardiner because so many people go there for the outdoors. It's also a small town that might like to have another food option." "Were you right?" I asked. "Oh yes! People in Gardiner have accepted and supported us 100%! Do you know that people contacted us saying we could park on their land for free? We love it here and want to give back to the community, so we always recommend people to other

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businesses in town, like the wine store, the Ranch, and to BaseCamp." When asked about their future plans, dreams, and the upcoming Winter, Jose replied, "We have a big indoor dining room space here now and so have started catering indoor parties, and we intend to stay open all winter, except when the snow is so deep, we can't get here. Maybe in a few years, we can open our own restaurant--that's the dream." Yes, that's their dream and a wonderful example of the "American Dream" that some still strive for. For more info: www.facebook.com/groups/3049563315357569, or to order ahead: (845) 779-6219. ●

ELECTION, CONTINUED

TWO LOCAL BALLOT INITIATIVES:

Gardiner Library 414 Budget Proposal (<https://gardinerlibrary.org/Pages/Index/225386/proposition-414-information>)

Gardiner Community Preservation Fund (LOCAL LAW: Water Quality, Working Farms, Wildlife Habitat and Natural Areas Preservation Fund <https://bit.ly/GardinerCPP22>)

US SENATOR

Chuck Schumer (D) (US senate majority leader www.chuckschumer.com) vs. Joe Pinion (R) (Newsmax TV host joepinion.com) vs. Thomas Quiter (Libertarian Party www.thomasquiter.us)

US REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, 18TH DISTRICT

Pat Ryan (D) (19th Congressional representative and former Ulster County Executive www.patryanforcongress.com) vs. Colin Schmitt (R) (two term NYS Assemblyman from District 99 www.nyasembly.gov/mem/Colin-Schmitt/bio/)

GOVERNOR/LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kathy Hochul/Antonio Delgado (D) (incumbents www.governor.ny.gov) vs. Lee Zeldin/ Alison Esposito (R) (Zeldin served in NY Senate 2010-2015, US House 2015-present and Esposito is veteran NYPD Deputy Inspector

zeldinformnewyork.com)

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, 3RD DISTRICT

TBA See vote411.org

STATE COMPTROLLER

Thomas P. DiNapoli (D) (incumbent) vs. Paul Rodriguez (R) (ballotpedia.org/New_York_Comptroller_election,_2022)

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Letitia James (D) vs. Michael Henry (R)

STATE SENATE 51ST DISTRICT

Eric Ball (D) (www.ericballforsenate.com) vs. Peter Oberacker (R) (incumbent www.nysenate.gov/senators/peter-oberacker)

STATE ASSEMBLY 103RD DISTRICT

Sarahana Shrestha (D) (sarahanaforassembly.com) vs. Patrick Sheehan (R) (sheehanforus.com)

ULSTER COUNTY SHERIFF

Juan Figueroa (D) (incumbent juanforulster.com)

ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

TBA see voteulster.com ●





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CIVIC NEWS, CONTINUED

mirrors – they won't know you're behind them!

Now, about that four-letter word SNOW: Place all garbage cans for pickup in the driveway – NOT in the road. Do Not Shovel or Plow Snow onto the Roads. All rural mailboxes must be secure and meet Town Code.

LIBRARY

Second Annual Haunted Library

Mark your calendars for the second annual Haunted Library event on Saturday, October 29th from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the Gardiner Library. Experience the library as you never have before! Last year's visitors witnessed a flying saucer and a Martian, a mummy inside an Egyptian tomb, slippery snakes, flying bats, dolls riding bikes, a haunted typewriter, howling wolves, an overflowing glowing cauldron that the wicked witch flew into, a fortune teller, a corn maze, and live spooky, violin music. Who knows what you'll see.... hear.... feel.....or touch! This event is for children and adults alike; choose your path based on how spooky you like it! Costumes are encouraged, and there will be treats for everyone. We welcome volunteers of any age to assist with prop making, decorating, and set-up, or why

not volunteer to be an actor or guide? Prior to the event, join in the Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Walk through downtown Gardiner starting at 3:30 p.m. For more info or to volunteer, contact Nicole at nlane@rcls.org.






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"When it comes to customer service, the sky is the limit."

414 BUDGET PROPOSAL ON BALLOT

NYS law allows voters the right to determine their library's budget. On November 8, the Gardiner Library Board is asking residents to vote on a new library budget (Proposition 414) on the back of the ballot. The proposed 2023 budget from the town is \$294,331. This is a budget increase of \$19,255 with the last budget increase in 2019. The annual increased cost to each household is less than the price of one paperback book. The new library budget will benefit the community by increasing the number of programs, events and resources offered. It will also help to provide a reserve for emergency repairs as the building ages into its 15th year. Use the QR code to learn more about this proposition and how libraries are more popular than ever, even as they have never been more expensive to operate.



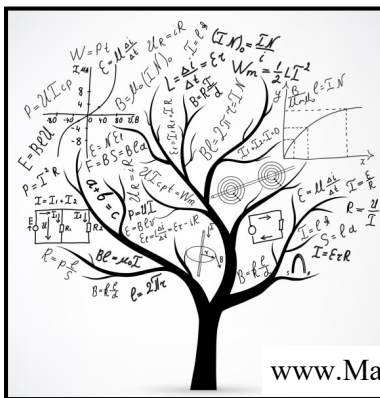
PARKS AND RECREATION

The Gardiner Parks and Recreation committee is proud to have collaborated with Gardiner Trail Alliance to host our First Annual Gardiner Dump Run (& Walk) this past September 25th. Many thanks to our local sponsors, volunteers, and race participants!

ZONING BOARD

The board met several times over late spring and summer to consider area variances for people to build garages or get a permit to remodel. When Zoning §220 went into effect, many properties immediately fell into pre-existing/non-conforming status. The zoning board of appeals reviews applications for area variances as well as use variances. •

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LANTERN FLY CONTINUED

nymphs and adults without touching them. Here are two:
1) Remove the cap from an empty plastic bottle and place the mouth right up to the spotted lanternfly. Their defense mechanism is to jump away when they feel trapped, so they jump backwards right into the bottle. B) Build a simple trap by wrapping netting around a tree. **Never use sticky traps on trees. They can kill and maim birds, bats, and wildlife.** Many videos on YouTube offer advice that can actually do grave harm to other wildlife, so please visit these videos that offer sound advice: <https://youtu.be/3JrP2jzps7w> and <https://youtu.be/qtZP8XH2Cn8>.

Because they come in swarms, making a dent in their numbers is critical. Cornell Cooperative Extension, in partnership with NY DEC, is educating residents and pest control professionals on the use of pesticides to eradicate them. There are three recommended methods.

"Basal bark" is spraying pesticide from the ground up to 12 to 18 inches directly onto trees up to 6 inches in diameter.

Injecting neonicotinoids has an excellent kill rate if the conditions are right: moist soil and high humidity are optimal, but this method should only be employed after the plant or tree has bloomed; otherwise, pollinator insects like bees and butterflies would be killed, and we never want that.

"Hack-and-squirt" works for Tree of Heaven plants that are at least one inch in diameter. Cuts are made evenly around the tree, and herbicide is squirted into those cuts. This is done to eliminate the preferred food of Spotted Lanternflies.

If you see a Spotted Lanternfly in any of its stages, take a photo with it next to something like a coin or ruler to indicate size. If possible, collect the specimen (put in a bag and freeze or in a jar in gel hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol), note the location (street address or GPS location), and email the pictures and location to spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov. Learn more by visiting <https://www.nynjtc.org/news/spotted-lanternfly-response>.


BUBBE'S CONTINUED

and a "Build Your Own Sandwich" with choices including bread, wraps, meats, cheeses, veggies, and sauces. The grocery offers all types of snacks, a long wall of cold beverages and basics, including bread, milk and bacon.

They plan to expand and add a steam table and offer hot food. Dana explained, "Particularly for the winter, we want to have meatloaf, mashed potatoes, meatballs, fish, and hot sandwiches. I want to turn the side yard into a BBQ place; throw a big grill smoker out there. I want to make it more of a hangout spot." Beryl

Pete Patel

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added, "I want to get rid of the office and open up more space for tables to sit inside. Eventually, we also want to do our own roast beef!"

Their customers include climbers, hikers, residents, tourists, college students, people working in the area, and many regulars. They are busy all day. "On the weekends, we get busy right when the door opens," Dana said. "We get climbers who start their day really early. They sleep in their cars in the parking lot," Beryl added.

It fits that the place is named Bubbe's Deli, named for Beryl's mom and meaning "grandma" in Yiddish. The word "Bubbe" implies warmth, caring, safety, and a smothering grandmotherly hug, so it's a perfect name for a place with such caring and wonderfully upbeat owners and staff who love what they do in serving tasty food to whoever stops by. What's not to like? Delicious! Try it! Open every day 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. (845-633-8482) •

RECYCLE CONTINUED

There are many myths about recycling, some of which are debunked by RecycleRight NY at recyclerightny.org. For example, an item with a recycle symbol is universally recyclable. This is not true. What can be recycled from your waste depends on the equipment and processes at your local recycling facility- not all facilities are the same. If you use a bin service, check with your service provider to know which plastic items and other recyclables you may place in your bins. There is an abundance of useful recycling and waste management information on the UCRRRA website (ucrra.org), including a "Recyclopeda." Feel free to send them any questions. One universal recycling rule is that all recyclables should be clean and dry before putting them into single stream bins or separated for dual stream recycling.

Recycling is necessary and required by NY state law and by Ulster County Materials Management Legislation.

Though it is not difficult to do, it does require discipline and commitment. Know that in Ulster County and in NY, there are good resources and great people to help us reshape how we waste and how we Recycle Right.

For more info:
recyclerightny.org, ucrra.org/about-us/laws •

STREAMWATCHED CONTINUED

Marsh, a pullover spot on Route 299 between Butternutville Road and Jenkins-Lueken Orchard. Working in teams for safety's sake, we often wade into thigh-deep water on slippery marsh bottom to sniff for odors like petroleum, sewage, detergent, chemicals, or sulfur, and observe and evaluate the appearance of the water: We ask ourselves, "Is it clear, foamy, brown, green, milky, scummy, or clean? How much canopy cover is there?" There are currently fourteen sampling sites throughout the Preserve, five of which are in Gardiner. The water at the sites is also measured for temperature, width, depth, and velocity of the stream. If invasive species are observed, it then gets reported for follow-up. All of the recorded data is entered into a database that provides scientists with the information they need to prepare conservation plans.

Julia Solomon, Director of Conservation Programs at the Mohonk Preserve, and Penny Adler-Colvin, Community Science Coordinator, were interviewed about the value of StreamWatch's volunteer program and were asked:

What have the data collected shown thus far?

Julia: "The data we gather through the StreamWatch program tell us a lot about the health of our streams and inform the Preserve's land management plans. Overall, the streams on the Preserve are very healthy, as you would expect for streams in protected, forested watersheds."

Continued on page 16

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STREAMWATCHED, CONTINUED

How are the findings useful beyond the Preserve's borders?

Penny: "While our data is useful in informing Mohonk Preserve's land management decisions, we recently made our StreamWatch dataset accessible on GBIF – the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. GBIF helps us to make our scientific data on biodiversity available on the internet. There have been seven citations of our data in scientific journal articles and some of the publications have used the Preserve's invasive species data collected through the StreamWatch program (e.g., Scanning the horizon for invasive plant threats using a data-driven approach--NeoBiota 74: 129-154)

Where do you hope the program will be by 2025?

Penny: "We have a dedicated group of volunteers for

this program, covering all fourteen of our sampling locations. We hope to continue operating at full capacity in the future, possibly adding more locations if deemed necessary. At Mohonk Preserve, we've been working to make our valuable datasets more accessible to researchers. We would love to see this information continue to be used in making crucial land management decisions."

The old adage "Think globally, act locally" never seemed more pertinent than it does right now. The StreamWatch program is an excellent way for Gardiner residents who love the Shawangunk Mountains region to help protect it actively. For more information, contact Andy Reynolds, Volunteer Programs Manager, at areynolds@mohonkpreserve.org. •

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Gardiner Gazette is a quarterly publication funded entirely by advertising and contributions. Dates are as follows:

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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 email us at GardinerGazetteAds@gmail.com.



2022 Voter Guide

Election Day is November 8. Polls will be open 6 am to 9 pm

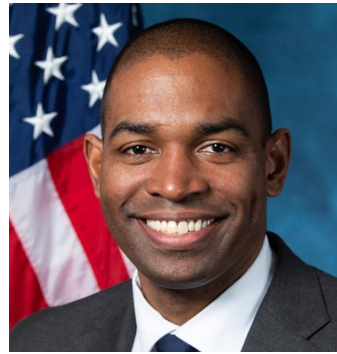
Early Voting will be October 29 to November 6 at the New Paltz Community Center or 5 other locations in Ulster County. Go to www.elections.ulstercountyny.gov/early-voting/ for more info.

REMEMBER: VOTE ROW A—ALL THE WAY



☒ **Kathy Hochul for Governor**

Since taking office, Kathy has brought a fresh and collaborative approach to governing and is working hard to get results for New Yorkers. As Governor, Kathy has taken decisive action to deliver immediate relief to working and middle class families and small businesses, beat back the pandemic, and accelerate New York's economic recovery.



☒ **Antonio Delgado for Lt. Governor**

Antonio was appointed Lieutenant Governor by Governor Kathy Hochul this past May after serving for three and a half years in Congress, where he was the first person of color to represent upstate NY in CD 19 (which includes Gardiner). Eighteen of his bills were signed into law under two presidents and he was recognized as one of Congress' most bipartisan members.



☒ **Chuck Schumer for U.S. Senate**

Chuck is our senior U.S. Senator who holds the powerful position of Senate Majority Leader, the first New Yorker and first Jewish person to hold that office. Over the last two years he has led the Senate to pass the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, the CHIPS Act, and many more legislative victories, making President Joe Biden's agenda in a challenging 50-50 Senate a reality.



☒ **Pat Ryan for U.S. Congress**

Pat served since 2019 as Ulster County Executive, expertly leading our county through a once-in-a-century deadly pandemic. A graduate of West Point and a veteran of two tours of duty in Iraq, Pat exemplifies the motto "duty, honor, country." He won in August to serve the remainder of Antonio Delgado's term in Congressional District 19 and is running in November for a full two-year term in the new CD 18. Both of these districts include Gardiner.



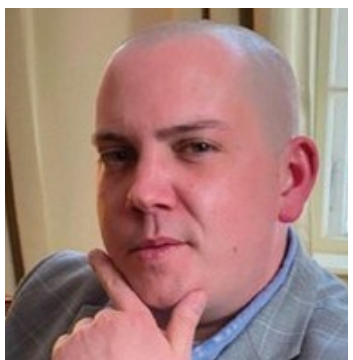
☒ **Letitia James for Atty. General**

Tish' James has spent her career working for the public good. She is the first woman of color to hold statewide office in New York, and the first woman to be elected New York Attorney General. Her office has taken down hundreds of drug and gun traffickers, and removed thousands of deadly weapons from our streets. She has gone after bad landlords, predatory lenders, and others who prey on the vulnerable.



☒ **Tom DiNapoli for NY Comptroller**

Tom is New York's 54th Comptroller, having served since 2007. He is known for his integrity, independence, and steadfast leadership. In his years on the job, he has exposed corruption, fraud, and theft of taxpayer dollars resulting in nearly 200 arrests and more than \$50 million in recovery. His Task Force on Public Integrity resulted in the recovery of millions of dollars and the arrests of dozens of crooked public officials.



☒ **Eric Ball for State Senate**

Eric is running for State Senate to represent the newly created Senate District 51, of which Gardiner is now a part. Born and raised in Walton, NY, Eric is a former CSEA Union member who worked as a Direct Care Aide, for people with developmental disabilities. He has also managed small and agricultural businesses. Eric prioritizes healthcare and reproductive rights, infrastructure and the environment.



☒ **Sarahana Shrestha for State Assembly**

Sarahana is running for State Assembly District 103, of which Gardiner is a part. She is a climate organizer and Nepali immigrant who seeks to change the culture of Albany and fight for the future the Hudson Valley deserves. In the Assembly, Sarahana will prioritize housing, healthcare, climate, immigrant rights, labor, education, immigrant rights and the economy.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES NOVEMBER 2022 BALLOT (continued)



☒ Juan Figueroa for Ulster County Sheriff

Juan is a combat veteran who spent 22 years in the Marine Corps and 25 years as a NYS Trooper. He changed the direction of the department in 2018 when he became the first Latino Sheriff in state history. He's had great success fighting the opioid crisis, improving community/police relationships, preventing youth violence and caring for our officers during the pandemic.



☒ Jen Metzger for Ulster County Executive

Jen is running for the last year of Pat Ryan's term to build upon his achievements. She has served on the Rosendale Town Board, as executive director of Citizens for Local Power, and in the State Senate. She now serves on the NY Cannabis Control Board. Among her priorities are housing, clean energy, mental health services, and economic development.

For the first time in history, our Democratic Party has nominated three women to fill seats on the State Supreme Court, 3rd Judicial District



☒ Sharon Graff for NY Supreme Court

Sharon has practiced law since 1998 in New York's Supreme Courts as well as in federal courts. Since 2018 Sharon has been court attorney to the Honorable Judge Julian Schreiberman



☒ Meagan Galligan for NY Supreme Court

Meagan, among the most seasoned and successful trial attorneys in Sullivan County. She has been a prosecutor since 2009. In 2020 she became Sullivan County's first female District Attorney.



☒ Heidi Cochran for NY Supreme Court

Heidi has been a trial attorney for 16 years, in civil litigation, family law and criminal defense. She has advocated for women who have been the victims of physical and sexual violence and works on behalf of the underrepresented.

Ballot Proposition: Community Preservation Fund—Local Law D—> **VOTE YES** ☒

The Gardiner Town Board passed a Community Preservation Plan in July and is in the process of adopting a Community Preservation Fund, following towns like New Paltz, Red Hook, Warwick and many others that have sought to balance open space, water quality, and development. Community Preservation Funds are used to buy land or development rights from willing sellers from a science-based list of priority parcels that identifies areas that are appropriate for development and areas that are environmentally sensitive. This fund would facilitate matching state and even federal open space funds, further stretching local dollars to save open space. This benefits us all. If passed, the fund will, after 2/1/2023, be paid for by a 1.25% tax on the sale of parcels valued at over \$320,000 (to protect buyers at the lower end of the market). The fund will cost existing property owners nothing! Scenic open space is priceless and key to our quality of life at a time when development pressure is high! Fresh air, exercise, clean water! **Vote YES for Local Law D on November 8th!**



Ballot Proposition: Gardiner Library Budget Increase—> **VOTE YES** ☒



On November 8th the Gardiner Library is proposing a 414 ballot proposition which allows voters the right to determine their library budget. The 2023 proposed budget from the town of Gardiner is \$294,331. This is a budget increase of only \$19,255 which would cost less than the price of a paperback book for each household in Gardiner! We support the Gardiner Library's new budget which will help expand programming and resources, increase staffing, and help the library build a reserve for future emergencies. **Our Gardiner Library offers so much to our Community! Vote YES on Proposition 414 on the back of your ballot**

For more information on the November Election, go to www.ulstervotes.com.

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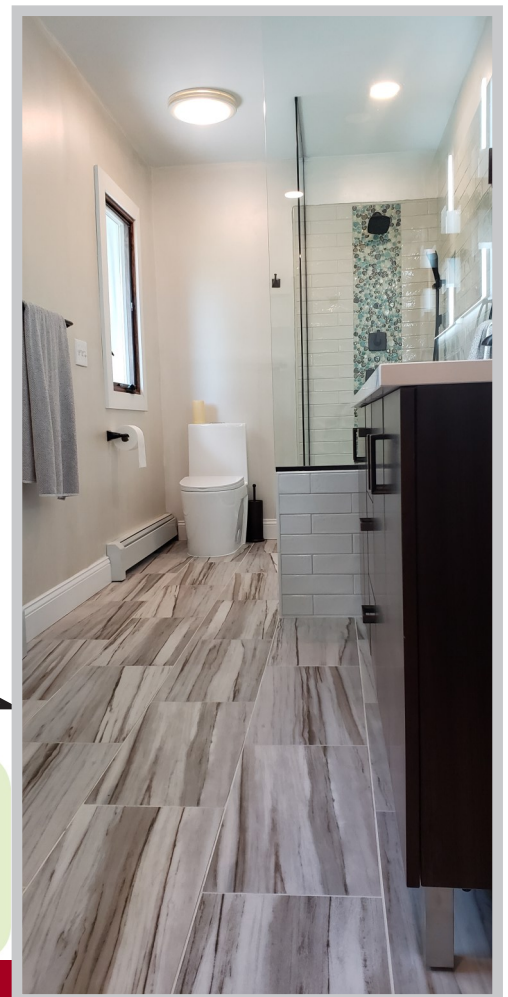
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