

The Gardiner Gazette

WINTER 2023 | ISSUE 56

A CALL TO COMMUNITY

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GARDINER GAZETTE READERSHIP SURVEY

The team at the Gardiner Gazette recently fielded a readership survey at Gardiner Day as well as on social media in July 2022, and we were overwhelmed at the love and support expressed by the respondents in support of our mission "to create a dialogue about strengthening our community, developing community programs, and caring for and helping those who live around us," and the loyalty of our readers touches our hearts.

As you may or may not know, the Gardiner Gazette is a non-profit, mostly volunteer organization which has been a free resource for Gardiner residents since 2009, and we want to keep it that way, so every household who wants one can receive a free printed copy in their mailbox. However the cost of paper, printing and postage has increased so much that the business community's paid advertising is not enough to ensure that Gardiner's only newspaper will survive, no less thrive in 2023. We need your financial support and the volunteer spirit of the entire Gardiner community. Below are volunteer as well as donation options. We have every confidence you will help. Note that all donations are fully tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt to use at tax time.

With Gratitude,

Misha Fredericks, General Manager

2022 READERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

- Forty-four (44) Gardiner residents filled out our reader's survey, and of them,
- 95.5% said that The Gardiner Gazette is either extremely important (68.2%) or very important (27.3%) to them;
- 61.4% said that they were willing to donate to support the Gardiner Gazette's mission and to help it stay a free resource to all residents of Gardiner, and 25% said they were "undecided" about donating;
- Of those who said they were willing to donate, the majority (65.9%) said they preferred giving a yearly donation rather than monthly (7.3%).
- 68% said that having a Children's Page is extremely important or very important to them;
- And the question about the importance of printing the Gazette in full-color did not receive approval: 50% were opposed the move to color, 24% said they supported printing the Gazette in full-color, and 27.3% neither supported nor opposed it.

3 EASY WAYS TO DONATE

1) **Send a check to:** Gardiner Gazette
P.O. Box 333,
Gardiner, NY 12525

2) **Venmo:**
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3) **PayPal**
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GAZETTE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Article Writing and/or Editing

Mail List Management

Event & Fundraising Coordinator

Social Media Volunteer

Graphic Design/ Layout (InDesign)

Children's Page Editor

EMAIL US: GardinerGazetteNY@gmail.com

CLIMATE SMART GARDINER

We received a \$5000 grant from NYSERDA to support Gardiner's EV Charger costs and maintenance. Gardiner's Repair Cafe — where folks can bring beloved possessions to be fixed — was held at the library, and many items avoided the landfill. Gardiner's LED streetlight conversion agreement with NYPA will result in lower costs and decreased Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. A Community GHG Emissions Inventory was completed so we could better target our local mitigation efforts and then present our findings to the Town Board and public. CSG is also planning green audits for local farms/municipal buildings, recruiting interns, and working on Gardiner's Emergency Plan. Learn more at: www.facebook.com/climatesmartgardiner

FIRE & RESCUE

With 2023 fast approaching, the Gardiner Fire Department looks back at another year of serving the Town of Gardiner. As of Nov. 6, the volunteer members of the Department had

responded to 176 Fire and 342 EMS calls. With our new ambulance, 635, we transported 157 patients to local hospitals. Department volunteers responded around the clock to emergencies ranging from garage fires to auto accidents to a cat stuck in a dumpster at the Transfer Station (the cat is doing just fine). In addition to responding to 911 calls, members of the Fire Department planned and hosted the Gardiner 5K Classic, provided mutual-aid assistance to fight the large fires in Minnewaska State Park, and continued their education and training. GFD welcomed four new EMTs and two new interior firefighters in 2022. While our members are always ready to respond to an emergency, you don't want that emergency to be at your home! Now that the cold weather has come in force remember to have your chimney cleaned and inspected yearly, and keep space heaters away from anything flammable. Everyone at the Fire Department wishes you and your family happy holidays and a joyous New Year.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The beauty of our scenic Fall surroundings has left us behind, and we have moved into the Winter Maintenance Season. It is important to remind you of snow removal and winter driving: during and after snow removal events, highway agencies —while plowing — receive emails or phone calls regarding damage to mailboxes, either from snow plows directly or from the force of snow being thrown by them. If such damage is indeed caused by snow removal, it is not done intentionally. It is, however, an unfortunate consequence of snow removal. Placement of

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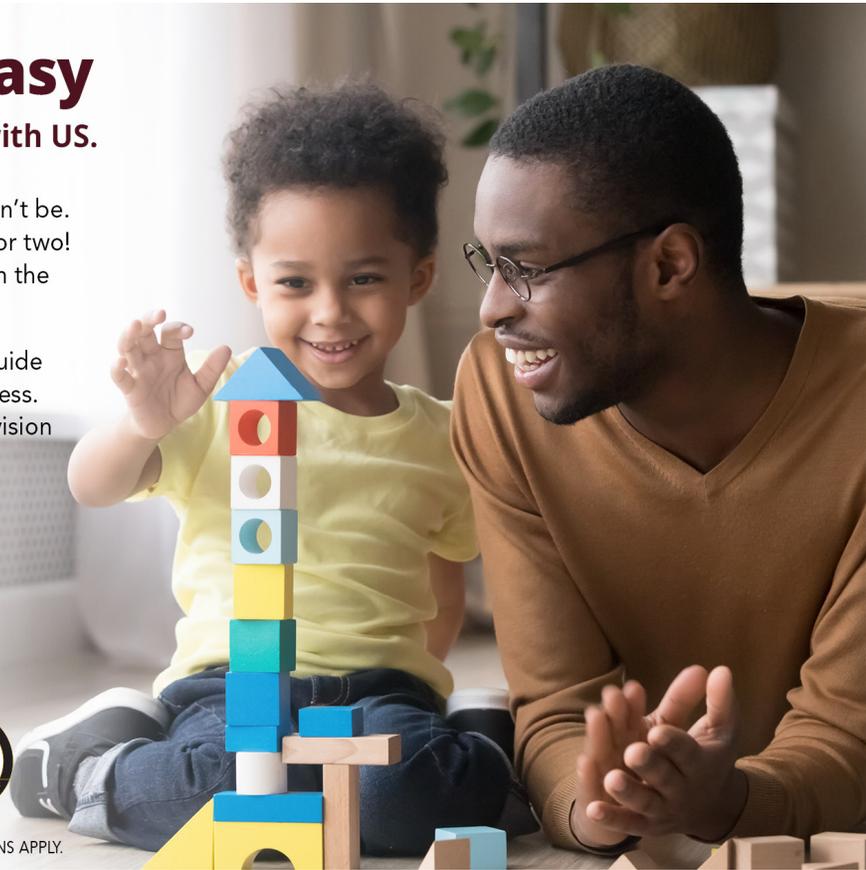
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all garbage cans for pickup is to be in the driveway — NOT in the road traveling way. All rural mailboxes need to be in good secure condition and meet Town Code. Remember, it is against the Vehicle & Traffic Law to push snow on the road. Hoping you are all warm and cozy in your homes when the weather outside is frightful and you have no place to go ~ Let it Snow ~ Let it Snow ~ Let it Snow!! Think of the Highway Departments as Santa's Little Helpers clearing the roads; so Santa can spread his Christmas Cheer and To All A GOOD NIGHT! ~ Wishing You All a Safe & Healthy Holiday Season.

LIBRARY

In September the Craft Fabric Yarn Sale was held for the first time at the Pole Barn in Majestic Park raising almost \$11,000, making it the library's largest one day fundraiser. A dedicated group of volunteers worked for months to prepare for this highly anticipated annual sale. In October, over 225 kids plus adults attended the Gardiner Library's second annual Haunted Library. Starting in the summer, over 50 teen, college student and adult volunteers made props, decorated and helped on the day of the festivities. Staff, volunteers and the support from over 20 local businesses made this a lively community event. And, on November 8th the town of Gardiner voted to increase the library's budget by \$19,255 for a total annual budget of \$294,331. The library staff and Board of trustees are grateful for the town's support and look forward to another productive year in 2023.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Town of Gardiner Parks & Recreation Committee is accepting contributions toward a Park Bench in memory of Barbara Jo Kobelt. Barb was the long-time caretaker of Majestic Park and very sadly passed away in October. The bench is to be placed at George Majestic Memorial Park. Contributions may be made online at newpaltzfoundation.org, with "Barbara Jo Kobelt Memorial Bench" in the Comments section, selecting 'Majestic Park Renovation' under Campaigns.

Please email Ilka at parcsrec.tog@gmail.com with any questions. The Parks and Recreation Committee has space for one more member — please consider joining us in our

efforts to improve and expand Gardiner's recreational offerings.

SUPERVISOR MARYBETH MAJESTIC

Recognizing the significant financial pressure, high inflation, and high housing costs currently facing Gardiner residents, the Town Board passed the 2023 budget, which will result in a 4.5% DECREASE in town taxes for most taxpayers. This is the largest decrease in taxes over the last 20 years. (Note that New Paltz school taxes INCREASED by approximately 5%.) The key components of the 2023 budget included a small increase in revenues due to the new cell tower. There were also small increases in expenses due to higher salaries to offset inflation and selective increases in staff hours. In 2023 the town will continue to invest in highway infrastructure and will select a new computer system to improve financial control. The reason that taxes could decrease significantly, despite small changes in revenues and expenses, is because \$375,000 was redeployed from the town's "unexpended funds." These are "rainy day" funds that have built up over the years and were seen as too high, especially in the current very difficult economic environment faced by many taxpayers. 🙌

STRESSED? Us Too.

The Ulster County Suicide Prevention, Education, Awareness and Knowledge Coalition wishes to remind you; mental health is physical health.

Stay well by eating right, getting outdoors, exercising and connecting. If you feel overwhelmed, remember there is hope and there is help.

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A GIRL SCOUT'S JOURNEY TO THE GOLD

by Allison Dempsey



Photo: Karen Hain

Many young women across the United States see becoming a Girl Scout as a fun and productive pastime that gives them valuable skills and unforgettable experiences. For Gardiner resident Andie Pfilopoulos, she turned it into a life-changing opportunity through her Gold Award project that will help her change the world long after she has left her troop.

Andie has been involved in Girl Scouts since kindergarten, starting as a Daisy, the first level of the program. Her mother, Karen, founded her troop, number 60287, and has followed her daughter as she got older and moved up the ranks.

Each Girl Scout level coincides with age; the girls move up as they get older. Starting with the Daisy class, it progresses into Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. At 16 years old, Andie falls into the Ambassador class.

The Gold Award, eligible to Seniors or Ambassadors, is the highest award a Scout can earn. According to the Girl Scout website, the steps include first identifying an issue, investigating it, building a team, creating a plan, and putting it into action.

Andie thought of her project a few years ago during a spring break trip to Arizona as she was visiting their state parks. She was inspired by the parks' junior ranger program, which invites children to learn and protect nature. After reaching out to several national parks and even the National Park Service's headquarters in Washington, D.C., she immediately got to work to reach the 80 hours of service required to get the Gold.

To mirror the ideals of the ranger program, Andie put together a book called the "Junior Historian Program" for children to use. The copies are filled with word searches, bingo games, drawing prompts, and other activities that go along with exhibits at the national parks. Once the children are done filling out the book, they get a pin.

Because of Andie's busy extracurricular schedule during the school year — she is on Wallkill Senior High School's cross country, swim, and Nordic ski teams — she completed most of her Gold Award work during the past summer.

"It's exciting because it's a lot of work," she said regarding completing the project. "I spent so much time just making the book and trying to organize it right and doing all the designs. It was a lot of back and forth with the parks and trying to make everything perfect, like the grammar and the pictures." 📖

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HONEY'S CANNABIS - SO SWEET

by L.A. McMahon



Photo: L.A. McMahon

The word "Cannabis" has never been on a business sign in Gardiner, ever, but it's time has come. Cannabis has been legal in New York for medical purposes under New York law since 2016 and recreational cannabis since 2021. However, as of this writing, no recreational cannabis is, in fact, for sale legally anywhere in the state (outside of American Indian reservations). Locally, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, December 14th, 2021, and the Gardiner Town Board, with input from residents, decided to allow cannabis dispensaries but to opt out of having cannabis consumption lounges in Gardiner, meaning that dispensaries like Honey's Cannabis may sell cannabis products but may not allow buyers to hang-out and use cannabis onsite.

Since then, the state's roll-out of licensing cannabis dispensaries statewide has been very slow, and Honey's Cannabis is still waiting for its license to sell it. In the meantime, you may buy non-cannabis CBD products at Honey's Cannabis, and of these, they have quite an assortment. I asked Courtney Beaupre, the owner of Honey's Cannabis, "Why is it taking so long to get a license?"

She explained, "New York State is determined to roll out the licenses in a way that makes sense and is fair to those who suffered under the draconian marijuana laws that were in place for decades. So now careful vetting is occurring in this first round of granting a CAURD (Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary) license, and they are first granting licenses to applicants or their family members who had a prior marijuana-related conviction(s) to help atone for the state's past law enforcement crackdown on pot use; these applicants must also have two years proof of a successful business operation." "It's only fair," she added.

So, when Lightsey Cycles vacated the storefront in Pasquale's Plaza, Courtney felt it was a wonderful opportunity to take a leap of faith and open her new business in that location. By doing so, she'd be getting in line for a license since all applicants must have a site to sell out of before applying for a license. She has self-funded her business as well as enlisted friends and family investors to help her sustain it while she awaits a license. I asked,

"What are customers most looking for when they first come to the store?" She answered, "Cannabis!" with a laugh. Courtney went on to say that most of her customers are not looking to "get high," but rather, they are looking for relief from common ailments like arthritis, insomnia, anxiety, and pain. I asked, "What products are your biggest sellers?" Courtney replied, "There are 25 milligram CBD gummies that just taste really good, and we have a lotion that is used externally on painful joints that is also popular, mostly because they work and because it's easy for customers to fit these into their supplemental routine."

Courtney is committed to partnering with other local businesses, and the products that Honey's Cannabis sells are locally sourced from hemp farmers like High Falls Hemp NY, a hemp farm that has been growing on land in High Falls, NY, since 2017. Community support and buying its current CBD products will ensure that there will be a cannabis store sometime soon in Gardiner. Honey's Cannabis is currently open on the weekends: Friday 5-8 p.m., Saturday 11-5 p.m., Sunday 11-3 p.m., and appointments are also available. For more information: honeyscannabis.com, or text 845-337-8875. 🍯



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CASH IN YOUR METAL

By Joan Parker

Do you have something metal laying around — an old bicycle, a spare rim for a car long gone or a dryer that no longer works? Do you know that there is a need for those metal items and money for you at A. Messina & Sons, a scrap metal recycling yard located in Gardiner? Simply bring in your metal scrap — it can be a single item or a full trailer — to have it weighed, and then get paid. Rescued from the landfill, your unused metal goes back into our economy conserving energy and our natural resources. Everyone wins at metal recycling!

Located off Highway 32 at 19 Orchard Road, Messina has been recycling metals for over 45 years including nearly 20 years at the current location. I found a phone number on the website, www.messinascrapmetal.com, and called (more than twice) with a list of potential items to scrap and questions about what to expect at the facility. Having been to a scrap yard before, I was unprepared for the friendly voice who answered my questions and gave helpful information. I found out that they take residential items like old appliances, metal home furnishings and insulated wire. Although they take car parts and lead-acid car batteries, they do not accept cars or tires. They do not recycle paper, plastics or glass. Before recycling, remove those materials. When I visited the facility, the cleanliness and order of the yard surprised me, too. They do live up to the motto of “The Cleanest Scrap Yard in the Hudson Valley” and make it more accessible for the general consumer to recycle metal waste.

Messina’s yard felt friendly and local but the greater business of metal recycling is economically significant. All metals, including scrap metal and many items consumers consider to be “junk,” have value. They can be recycled and reused in multiple industries including building and construction, packaging, automotive manufacturing and consumer appliances. In 2019, the metal scrap industry in the U.S. had an economic impact of \$55.48 billion a year, according to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI). ISRI also reports that 70% of the metal scrap

processed in the U.S. goes directly back into our domestic manufacturing and economy.

Metal recycling is different because, unlike other materials, the recycling process does not degrade metals and they retain more value. Most metals can be recycled multiple times. Compared to the energy and resources required for virgin metal manufacturing, recycling scrap metal saves a huge amount of energy and greatly reduces the impact to our environment. Recycled aluminum uses 95% less energy; recycled copper uses 90% less, and steel uses 56% percent less than mining ore for these metals. With more investment in both recycling infrastructure and good policy, the U.S. would further develop an important sector of our sustainable economy.

Which brings this back to Gardiner, NY, and to A. Messina & Sons Metal Recycling — your local link in a process that turns “junk” into valuable raw materials. Take an inventory of metal items that you are storing and go scrap them. Adding to the jingle in your pocket will be the value you add to our economy and to conserving our natural resources. ♻️

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A photograph of a person sitting at a table outdoors, holding a wine glass and a bottle of wine, with a vineyard in the background under a blue sky with clouds.

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A photograph of a modern, two-story house with a large front porch and a gabled roof.

YOGI BEAR CAMPGROUND

By Amber Mundinger-Glaeser



Photo: L.A. McMahon

More than anyone, Gardiner residents know how special our town is and its unique location in the Hudson Valley. Having the world-renowned Shawangunk Ridge at our

doorstep, along with cycling and hiking trails, climbing, vineyards, and orchards, makes the location a special spot to live year-round or experience across seasons as a visitor. One of the locations that visitors have frequented since the 1960s is "the campgrounds," which became Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp in 1994. Then, in 2014, Lazy River Resort, LLC purchased the campgrounds and continues to operate it as Jellystone. Currently, the town board is reviewing Lazy River's application to expand its Jellystone facility.

The Campground has evolved over the years from a rustic campsite with bluegrass festivals and hayrides in the 60's to what it is today, with options for camping with tents, cabins, or RVs. Visitors can use the pools and splash zones, basketball, and volleyball courts across the 100 acres of the site while still enjoying the live music and hayrides that have been a part of the grounds experience for decades. Jellystone's CEO, Zachary Bossenbroek, commented, "As a Jellystone, the Campground has consistently offered DJ dance parties, hayrides, and other activities and events typical of a Jellystone Camp,"

In February 2020, the Town of Gardiner enacted a new campground law. Town Supervisor, Marybeth Majestic,

Continued on page 15

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MEDICARE Q AND A

by Karen Harding

There are many Gardiner residents who have tons of questions related to Medicare, the government-supported health insurance for those over 65 years of age; some of these questions are addressed here:

Q. Why are there so many Medicare commercials lately? They are so confusing!

A. October 15th through December 7th is the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for Medicare. During this time, people who are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans and Prescription Drug plans can change their current plans and enroll in new plans that will begin on January 1st. Companies do a lot of advertising during this time to try to get people to switch to their plans.

Q. Is this the only time I can enroll in a plan?

A. No, AEP is the time during the year when you can review your needs and make a switch if needed. There are other times during the year when you can qualify for making a change, including things like retiring, moving, going on Medicaid, and more.

Q. I'm already in a plan I'm happy with. Can't I just stay with the same one?

A. Yes. Generally, if you don't do anything, you will automatically be reenrolled into the same plan. You would want to verify that your medications are covered as the coverage and costs can change. If there are changes to your plan, or if the plan is ending, the company is required to notify you. You should receive an Annual Notice of Change letter to let you know what the changes will be.

Q. I got a phone call from Medicare, and they switched me to a plan that none of my local doctors participate in. What can I do?

A. First of all, Medicare will never call you to switch your plan. Unscrupulous companies may call, claiming to be from Medicare. They can be very convincing, and there are a lot of scams out there. Never give your Medicare number to someone you don't know over the phone. If you do end up in a plan that you are not happy with, call a local agent or 1-800-MEDICARE for help switching to another plan that works for you.

Q. I get so many annoying phone calls about Medicare from people I did NOT request to contact me. How can I make them stop?



KAREN HARDING
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Q. I heard that a bill was passed that will help me save money on prescriptions. What exactly are the changes?

A. The Inflation Reduction Act was recently passed. Among many other things, it will lower drug costs in several ways. Medicare will be able to negotiate prices for high-cost drugs for the first time ever. In 2023, Insulin will be more affordable, with a \$35 per month limit for a 30-day supply of covered insulin and no deductible. Certain vaccines, such as Shingles, will be available at \$0 cost. Beginning in 2025, it also creates a \$2000 cap on annual out-of-pocket drug costs.

Q. That's great, but how can I save money on my prescriptions NOW?

A. That's where a local agent, who is licensed and trained in providing Medicare counseling, can help you. You can compile a list of your medications, and they can assess the various plans available to you and provide suggestions. You can also run your own quotes on Medicare.gov. If you are having trouble paying for prescriptions, there are Federal

and State programs available that can help with the costs for eligible beneficiaries. The local Office of the Aging in Kingston can also help. Their Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program – HIIICAP-- provides free, accurate, and objective information, counseling, assistance, and advocacy on Medicare. 

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BIRDWATCHING IN WINTER

by Misha Fredericks

It's pretty quiet outside this time of year compared to spring and summer. The cacophony of insects, peepers, foxes, and birds is gone as most have gone into hibernation, migrated south, or outright died (in the case of many species of insects). So, you may find it odd to hear that there are several birdwatching opportunities in the cold winter months. Not only that, but ornithologists — scientists who study birds — want to know what types of birds you see to help them understand where birds thrive and where declining populations need to be protected.

"The United States and Canada have lost three billion breeding birds since 1970—a loss of one in four birds, according to research published in *Science* in 2019. This steep decline in abundance can be reversed with new scales of conservation actions that benefit not only birds but also wildlife and people. When birds thrive, we all win." (Source: www.stateofthebirds.org/2022).

From November to April every year, Project FeederWatch takes place. Since the 1980s, people across the US and in most Canadian provinces record and report the birds seen in their yard's bird feeders. It is amazing how quickly a yard can go from being silent to a return of frantic activity once you put some seed out for the birds. Of course, you may also get some squirrels and chipmunks too, so you might want to put feeders up out of their reach. Because they are very intelligent, baffles and squirrel-proof feeders help. Participants choose two consecutive days each week to record the types of birds and the highest number seen of each bird. Those tallies can either be mailed in or entered online. It is pretty simple, and the time commitment is up to each participant. I find it very relaxing watching and counting birds while eating breakfast or having my coffee, and I often count more while gazing out the window as I wash the dishes. There is a small fee to participate. For more info, visit <https://feederwatch.org>.

The Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a census taken of birds in a certain location. Prior to the 20th century, hunters had a tradition where they would go out, hunt as many birds as possible, and compare the number of birds shot with one another. It was called the Christmas "Side Hunt". Ornithologist Frank M. Chapman proposed a national holiday to protect birds called the "Christmas Bird Census" to counter the hunters' tradition. On Christmas Day in 1900, members of the Audubon Society went out to count as many living birds as they could, leaving them undisturbed. This was the beginning of an annual tradition that has now lasted 122 years. Nowadays, participants sign up in November on the Audubon website, and the count is held from



Bird photos: Misha Fredericks

December 14th to January 5th. The data collected helps ornithologists, conservation biologists, and wildlife agencies understand how species are doing and where to advocate for habitat protection. Learn more at www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count.

Every February, most school districts give kids a four-day weekend for President's Day. This is when the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place. The GBBC is free and open to the public. You select a location, watch for birds for a minimum of 15 minutes on at least one of the four days, count all the birds you see and hear, then record them in the eBird mobile app or at the eBird website (www.birdcount.org/ebird-on-computer). This app has a GPS in it, so the location of the sighting is precise. Children love participating in this. What makes this count really exciting is that spring migration begins in February. I have been participating in this event for many years and find it so exciting to see the Red-Winged Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds, and Starlings return in huge flocks to our area. They often show up before the robins (many of whom have overwintered in our wooded areas and forests).



Whether you are new to birding or a seasoned birder, the Merlin Bird app helps you identify birds by sound and photos. It is available for both Apple and Android (<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download>). It includes information about where birds are found, what they look like, and what time of year they are around. Once you have identified the bird, you can record it in the eBird app. All data entered is sent to Cornell Lab of Ornithology to help expand their database of bird sightings. Individuals who report bird sightings are referred to as Citizen Scientists. The data they send in helps ornithologists in their efforts to bring birds back from the brink. A few minutes of your time is invaluable in preserving and protecting bird species. 🦋

HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR HOME WARM IN THE WINTER?

by Rick Irizarry

If you heat with Oil, Propane or Natural Gas you have seen your heating bills increase substantially over the last few years with no relief in sight. America's reliance on these 3 energy sources leaves us vulnerable to global events and the supply and demand effects that those events cause. Energy independence should be a national goal as well as a personal goal for the citizens of the USA. Let's be realistic, as a country, we can't just flip a switch and go from a fossil fuel-based economy to a renewable green-based economy overnight, but it makes sense to start thinking about how we can begin to move towards a more self-reliant, renewable source of energy that's better for the planet (and the country) long term.

Back in August, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act also known as the IRA. Part of that bill recognized the need to continue the move to renewable sources for our country's energy. Many people refer to the bill as the "Electrification of America" bill; incentives in the form of tax credits now exist in many ways for you, the taxpayer, and homeowners to make the move away from fossil fuels and towards renewable forms of energy. The list of incentives is so long that it takes a great website to keep track of it all (<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>). All you need to do is type in your zip code, your income, whether you rent or own, tax filing status and household size and the website will tell you what incentives you are eligible for. An additional surprise in the IRA was that some of the incentives (such as solar and geothermal) were made retroactive for 2022 at the new higher 30% tax credit rate!

For households ineligible for solar panels or geothermal, there is an option to save up to 10% on your annual electric bill by signing up with Community Solar. There are no monthly fees or upfront costs. If you visit the Solarize Ulster website at <https://gnd.ulstercountyny.gov/solarize-ulster>, there is more information along with several providers to choose from. \$100 will be donated to Ulster County's Green New Deal fund for every new subscriber. You'll save money and help build an equitable green economy in our county.

Whether you opt for solar panels, geothermal, or community solar, you'll save money in the long run and be a force for good in your community. 🦋



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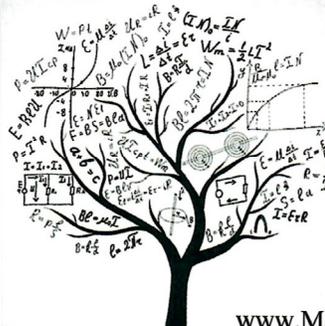
Residents of Gardiner may be eligible for tax savings if you file the appropriate forms with Gardiner's Assessor's Office on or before March 1, 2023.

- **BASIC STAR:** Available on your primary residence with a \$500,000 income limit.
- **Enhanced STAR:** Available if you are over or turning 65 in 2022 and your adjusted gross income is less than \$93,200 on the 2021 Federal Tax..
- **Senior Exemption:** Available for owners who have resided in their home at least 1 year, are over 65 with incomes less than \$32,399.
- **Veterans:** Available if you or your spouse served during a war time period.
- **Cold War Veterans:** Available if you served from 1945-1991 and you receive no other veteran's exemption.

Forms and further details are available at the Assessor's Office or online at www.tax.ny.gov. If you have questions, call the Assessor's Office, 255-9675, Extensions 104 or 105.

Again, remember that completed exemption forms must be filed on or before March 1, 2023. 📄





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GARDINER: THEN AND NOW

By Caroline Aurigemma



Postcards provided by Jack Murphy

Have you ever wondered what Gardiner used to look like in the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s? Jack Murphy, a circulation desk member at the Gardiner Library, has been creating a photographic survey of the Village and Town of Gardiner that is available to the public.

In March 2019, the Gardiner Library closed to the general public because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although regular duties continued, librarians and staff members were encouraged to source a project that would benefit the community during this time. While at the library, Murphy discovered a binder of postcards from Gardiner and the surrounding area. He decided to visit these locations and take updated photos of each.

"Then vs. now photo collections interest me," said Murphy. "I have done this sort of project before, and I thought it would be interesting for the community to see these vintage postcards paired with the state of the current locations."

Murphy has documented over 30 locations, separating the collections into two parts, "The Village" and "Beyond the Village." Some within the village include the Gardiner Library, Post Office, and Town Hall, while others step outside of the village, Main Street Modena and Tuthilltown Schoolhouse. Each side-by-side photograph comes with a bit of history about the location. This project gave Murphy, a New Paltz resident, some Gardiner history and a sense of what it was like living in Gardiner in past decades. There were a few locations that he couldn't determine right away by just looking at the postcard, which surprised him. For example, one of the postcards showcasing a tree-lined street with many homes was labeled "First Street." This stumped Murphy as he was searching for a street that no longer existed. He soon determined that this shot was just north of Main Street, now Dusinger Road.

"Step one is to lay out a map of the area," he said. "I then take each postcard and search online and on the map for things I recognize."

Murphy often ran into community members when shooting and was greeted with positive feedback and sometimes photographs of the resident's house or old photographs of Gardiner that they may have had.

As Murphy continues photographing the village of Gardiner and beyond, he looks forward to seeing how much the town and surrounding areas have changed and sharing that with the community. "I would like to continue this project and feature more 'then vs. now' photographs of Gardiner and the surrounding area. It could be a really interesting way to engage with the community."

If you have old postcards or photos of Gardiner that you would like to share for this project, feel free to digitally scan them and email them to Jack, jmurphy@rcls.org

To view Jack Murphy's Gardiner "Then and Now" re-photogenic series, visit gardinerlibrary.org click the About tab then the [Local and Regional History](#) tab. 📷





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GARDINER DAY 2022

by Jen Bruntl



After a 2-year hiatus due to Covid, Gardiner Day 2022 came back with a bang! Although the weather looked a bit iffy early on in the day, it held out and did not deter the crowd of people that showed up. Pretty quickly, the parking at Majestic Park was full, and overflow parking at the church was utilized.

All of the events and performances went off without a hitch, and the pole barn and area outside it featured many different vendors and activities. Some favorites for the kids were a slime-making activity that the Gardiner Library hosted and a bouncy slide and obstacle course sponsored by Wallkill Savings Bank. Other activities, including a balloon artist, henna and face painting were big draws too. Vendors sold a variety of wares, including everything from handcrafted cutting boards, art, and jewelry to focaccia bread and other delectable items.

Performances from local favorites like Take the Leap Dance Studio, and Fighting Spirit Karate kept the crowd entertained as well as other acts like illusionist Ryan Dutcher and trick basketball star, Black Jack Ryan. Throughout the day, music was provided by the local teen band Tone Def. By all accounts, it was a celebration of local people and products from the Gardiner community.

A large amount of talent, showmanship, craftsmanship, and kindness was displayed on this small community day. Special thanks to the Town of Gardiner, the Gardiner Day Committee, and all the volunteers that came out for their time and effort in putting on this event for the community. 🙌



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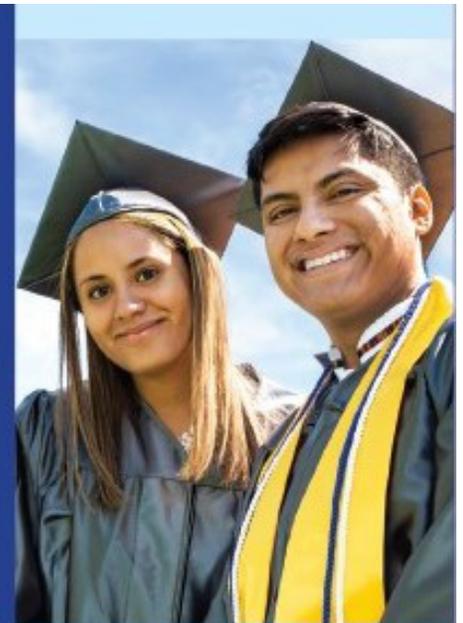
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YOGI CONTINUED

commented about the current application for expanding Jellystone's facilities, saying, "the application is a result of the Town Board's adoption of a new law governing campgrounds....it addresses possible expansion, as well as some elements of the campground that are not currently on an approved site plan."

There are differing opinions about the application: CEO Bossenbroek commented, "The current application process should result in regulatory consistency for both the town and the Campground as opposed to navigating the complicated Campground history and application of the new campground law that was adopted in 2020. The current application process should also respect the 'Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp' business model, which has existed through various entities at the site since the 1960s," and General Manager, Scott Masopust, added, "Every employee here is local—maybe not local to Gardiner but Pine Bush and Wallkill. We have more than 150 staffers.... we are really here for people to have a good time and to be a good neighbor." However, town residents living adjacent to Jellystone have expressed frustration surrounding the noise and lack of consistent local management over the years. Mark Stutzman, a resident for 25 years whose property is directly next door to the campground, states, "It's a fairly divided community right now. Folks who are severely annoyed about the noise, but others who don't care. But many don't know the extent of it. They have been using the property next door illegally. They use that property through October for laser tag and a haunted trail. I welcome folks to come to sit in my backyard. The town board should deny the application and figure out a way to enforce compliance to the code."

Over several upcoming meetings, the Town Board will continue to review the application. When asked what the likelihood was of the town denying this new application, Town Supervisor Marybeth Majestic, stated, "The Town Board, after concluding their deliberations, may decide to deny the application. On the other hand, the town board

may approve the application with special use conditions to remediate the adverse effects that were heard during the public hearings." 📍

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WINTERIZE YARD TOOLS

by Misha Fredericks

As the bitterness of winter settles in, few of us want to think about yard work but it isn't wise to just toss your hoses, lawn tools, and machinery in the shed or garage for the winter without some forethought:

- **Metal:** Consider lubricating hinges and moving parts before storing metal lawn tools away. This will keep them in good working order and can prevent rust.
- **Hoses:** Water can freeze and damage hoses so its best to blow the water out of them before coiling them up for a few months' hibernation (Don't leave them hooked to the house. They can cause your water lines to freeze. No one needs burst pipes in the winter!)
- **Lawnmowers:** All lawn mowers and other gas-fired machinery need maintenance. Adding some enzyme fuel treatment in the tank will stabilize the gas for up to

2 years, help them start easily and run more smoothly again in the spring. Draining the oil is important otherwise it gets sludgy and reduces the efficiency of engines. Discard and replace with new oil. This is also a good time to replace fuel and air filters and clean spark plugs or install new ones. If unsure, check your mower's schedule for when to perform maintenance. Lawn mowers can rust in places where moisture can get trapped – where soil or grass sticks to the mower. For safety's sake, remove the blade and spark plugs first before giving your mower a thorough cleaning. If you see any rust after cleaning, scrape it off and spray with a rust inhibiting enamel. It is also advisable to have blades sharpened or replaced as needed. Contact a local repair shop like Tony's Power Equipment Repair at 2034 NY-32 in Modena 255-5138 or Bizzy Bears Small Engine Repair & More at 1968 NY-32 in Modena 845-883-0482. They are pros at tuning up and repairing the lawn equipment to get you through next year's seasons. 🛠️

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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