

The Weathervane

Spring

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner 2017

Il Viaggio In Italia E Straordinaria

- Abi Weston



Becky Malinowski, Cindy Smith, Julie Peacock, Emily Peacock, Carol Rizzo, Karen Doyle, Avery Backus, Melissa Weston, Derek Malinowski

Back row:

Timmy Doyle, Summer Dudley, Casey Van Den Bossche, Cody Rizzo,
Abi Weston, Jake Weston, Parker Smith, Alex Hart

From the little town of West Gardiner, to all the way across the ocean, 17 West Gardiner residents as well as 30 others from the Gardiner area, ventured into the streets of Italy this past April. I got the chance to be one of these travelers, and can say that the culture was all that and more! The trip started off in Rome, as we visited the Vatican, walked the beautiful cobblestone streets, and viewed other famous landmarks. Tours through the great Coliseum, walks up the Spanish Steps,

and lunch by the Trevi Fountain were all part of the amazing days in the Eternal City. The shops were all welcoming, and the environment was engulfed with happiness. One thing I noticed right off the bat, was the intense amount of detail put into everything, whether it was in the designs of a church ceiling, or how every available space was filled with flowers. Everything in Italy is done with effort and poise, like adding just a little extra smile when serving dinner.

Next, our journey extended slightly past Rome. Spending time in Pompeii, Ostia, and other places was sorprendente. We also went to Sorrento and Capri. Most of our time in Sorrento was spent shopping and eating. The food was incredible! On a side note, learning that in Italy they have carbs for the 1st course, meat and veggies for the 2nd and a dessert for the last course, was something little that has become valuable knowledge.

From Sorrento, we all boarded a ferry to spend the day in Capri. The water is the brightest of blue, and the landscape was as healthy and green as it could be. Breathtaking doesn't do it justice.

The trip brought so many lessons on ancient history, but I don't think that was the most important thing learned. When we had time to breathe and take it all in is what really mattered. Walking the streets at night to get gelato after dinner, looking at the way the roads are or admiring the beauty of their buildings, is what grabbed my heart. Exposing ourselves to other people's "normal" expanded our own horizons. The culture was warm and happy, almost as if no one had a problem in the world. It made me bring home a mindset rather than a souvenir- that life is short, and living to the fullest is what brings happiness.

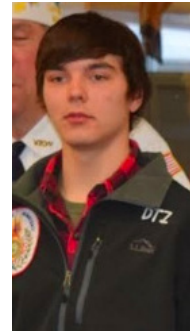
Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Winners

- Deb Couture

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Post #9, Gardiner, presented awards to the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners for 2017. The Voice of Democracy is conducted at the high school level and the Patriot's Pen contest is conducted at the middle school level. This year's topic for the Voice of Democracy was "My Responsibility to America". Derek Zack from West Gardiner placed first in this audio/essay program and also competed for and was selected as the District 8 (Kennebec County) Voice of Democracy winner.

This year's topic for Patriot's Pen was "The America I Believe In". Brett Palmer from West Gardiner placed first with his essay and also

competed for and was selected as the District 8 Patriot's Pen winner. Congratulations to both students on a job well done.



Derek Zack



Brett Palmer

Ed, Henry and Me

- Mert Hickey

When my brother Ed and I were young, there were no cell phones or computers and the telephone was a treat to use. It was about 1953 when we got our television, with lots of snow and 3 channels. We were outside about all the time and we kept ourselves busy. We had great fun with our steer, named Henry. Ed and I loved to cut pulp with axes and bucksaws, then we'd hook Henry to a wagon or sled and yard the wood. We even made some money selling (it) to Everett Mace in Readfield. Sometimes we'd drive Henry across Monkey Lane to North Street. We could even ride him like a horse with a horse harness. Seemed like those days couldn't have been any better.

Events in West Gardiner - Kim Greenleaf

Senior Citizens Luncheons Fridays,

July 21, August 18,

September 15, & October 20, 2017

Please call Mary Blen 724-7494 the weekend before each dinner for reservations.

West Gardiner Gardeners will be having their Garden Tour on **Saturday June 24, 2017** from 10 - 3.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8.00 for senior citizens.

Profits go to scholarships for graduating GAHS from West Gardiner.

West Gardiner Historical Society Ice Cream Social and Book Sale planned later this summer.

BackRoad Quilters are getting ready for their Quilt Show at the Fire Station Oct. 14 & 15 2017.

Wayside Chapel, **Sundays:** 10am - Sunday School,

11:00am - Worship/Bible Teaching

6:00 - 8:00pm - Wayside Youth Group

Wednesdays: 6 - 7:30pm Bible Study/Prayer



This weather vane is called Gabriela. It will soon be perched on a West Gardiner cupola designed after the original vane on the Alna School House.

If you have a weather vane you'd like to share with the Weathervane readers, please send a picture to margaret.peacock@yahoo.com or call 724-3869.

ANIMAL SERVICES

AT HOME VETERINARY CARE -	Hospital and at-home care	582-8800
BO-VET SERVICES -	Farm animal veterinary care	582-8927

AUTO SALES AND SERVICE, TOWING and AUTO CARE

A/C TOWING INC. -	Full service towing 24/7, AAA accepted	582-0003
ADVANTAGE AUTOMOTIVE -	Professional auto repair at a fair price, all makes and models, also boats and ATV's...	724-4087
ATKINS TOWING SERVICE -	24 hour towing service	215-7329
CROSS ROADS AUTO -	Burleigh Lewis, Subaru Guru, new address, 899 Hallowell-Litchfield Rd.	458-9066
DK AUTO SALES -	Used auto sales and service	582-0005
DYNO MIKE'S AUTO DETAILING -	Auto detailing and reconditioning	724-7224
JEFF'S AUTOMOTIVE -	Used car sales and service	582-5333
LAST CHANCE GARAGE AND CUSTOM FAB -	Mike Ouellete, owner. Vehicle repair, welding, diagnostic, State Inspect. & fabrication	215-5477
McKAY'S BODY SHOP -	Auto body repair	582-2882
MIKE'S AUTO REPAIRS -	Big and small mechanics, diagnostic, and State Inspection	724-3806
PHILLIS'S AUTO SALES -	Used vehicle sales	724-3959
R & J JOHNSON AUTO -	Repair and sales	582-2211
TIM McKENNA -	Small engines repair services.....	215-4541
WHITMORE'S BODY SHOP -	Painting and repair of anything	582-7569

CHILDCARE

CARRIE LYNN'S DAYCARE -	Licensed home day care, infant to 12 years	582-8862
LOVING AND LEARNING CHILDCARE -	Home daycare for infants to school age children	724-3205
THE CHILDREN'S PLACE -	Nursery School & Daycare, Ages 3-5 years old.....	582-5437
THE CHILDREN'S PLACE -	Before & After School Care Program, Ages 5-10 years old	582-5437

CONSTRUCTION AND HOME REMODELING

BOWER CONSTRUCTION -	Building new homes and remodeling existing ones	724-3746
GORAJ BUILDING AND REMODELING -	Start to finish home construction	462-2135
JIM BRANN GENERAL CONTRACTING -	Master elect., master plumber, master oil burning, all your building needs...592-2971 or	724-4100
LAKELAND BUILDERS - Casey Peacock -	Frame to finish carpentry	441-6864
MALLOY CONSTRUCTION INC. - Shane & Jennie -	New homes, remodel, residential, commercial	582-3213
MANNING CONTRACTING -	All aspects of home construction	242-2244
McFARLAND CONSTRUCTION INC. -	Building of new homes and real estate sales	242-5583
SJ HYDE DRYWALL, LLC -	Drywall installation and priming, light carpentry	441-7877
THE HANDYMAN -	Carpentry, drywall, painting, decks, new construction or remodeling	242-7620
WAYNE BRETON PAINT, ETC. -	Inside and outside painting, staining and wall covering	582-4564

EXCAVATING AND SITE WORK

CANTY CONSTRUCTION -	Excavation, septic and site work and gravel	582-1687
CAPITAL AREA TREE SERVICE -	Residential & commercial tree work, licensed & insured.....	446-7346 or 740-6335
COUNTRYSIDE CONCRETE -	Foundations, slabs, frost walls and barn jacking	333-9009 or 215-5312
KEVIN PECKHAM EXCAVATING -	Residential earth work and firewood	582-8995
KYLE L. PECKHAM & SONS -	Logging, firewood, earth work, trucking, hay	582-4026
HICKEY CONSTRUCTION -	Excavation, site work, sand, loam and grave	441-4852 or 724-3652
HICKEY'S LOGGING & TREE WORK -	Private homes and woodlots	724-3648
MB LOGGING & STUMP GRINDING -	Licensed arborist and stump removal	724-3064
SPRAY FOAM OF MAINE -	Closed cell foam insulation	724-3746
VAUGHN SMITH ASSOCIATES -	Soil testing, wetland and soil mapping	724-5635

FARMS AND FOODS

FOGGY MOON FARM -	Turkeys, pigs, grain, feed and pet food for sale	582-7524
MOOER'S SUGAR SHACK -	Maple syrup, licensed maple sugar business, Windy Acres, 31 Stoneham Drive	582-1309
WESTON'S MEAT & POULTRY -	Custom cutting, vacuum packaging, retail & wholesale sales, state inspected.....	724-2027
BEN'S LOBSTERS -	Fresh lobsters off the boat. Pre-orders only. (Ben or Erica)	713-6835

LAWN CARE AND MAINTENANCE

FURLONG'S HOME AND YARD CARE -	Rototilling, bush-hogging, residential and commercial lawn care	724-3376
GARY LADNER LANDSCAPING -	Full service landscaping, commercial and residential	582-1817
L&L LAWN CARE AND HANDYMAN SERVICE -	Yardwork, buy, sell & trade antiques & furn., cleaning, light trucking. Call Victor	441-3290

SELF STORAGE

GARDINER SELF-STORAGE -	86 units, sizes 5'x5' to 10'x30'	582-8090
WEST GARDINER SELF-STORAGE -	Year round access, sizes: 5'x10', 10'x10' & 10'x20'	724-3729

SPECIALIZED BUSINESSES

AQUASCAPES -	Sales and service of commercial aquariums	724-7180
CREATIONS BY LISA -	Handmade bags, quilts, crafts, alter. prom dresses, visit Lisa Plaisted on Facebook...	458-8131
DIANE'S SIGNS AND SERVICE -	Vehicle lettering, banners, magnetics and more	582-0520
GARY CROCKER -	Character/Maine humorist	462-3774
LARRABEE MARINE -	Sales and service of boats, trailers, outboard motors, snowmobiles and ATV's	582-3452
LIBERTY GUN WORKS -	New & used firearms bought, sold and traded	446-GUNS
MARKHAM TENT RENTAL -	Delivery and set up of tents, tables and chairs	724-3163
MUSCLE KNEADS -	Therapeutic massage and wellness services	242-3785
PELLEGRINI'S PICNIC TABLES -	All sizes of unfinished picnic tables	724-4082
ROBIN COX -	Independent Avon representative	449-7416
SWEET CREATIONS BAKING -	Birthday cakes and specialty desserts.....	724-3329

From The Front Porch

By: Mike Wing

The town meeting this past March was an interesting one for sure. If you came early enough, you got to socialize with friends you hadn't seen since fall and catch up on who was born, who had died, or who became married, or unmarried. Order was called and the business began on a long list of warrants, moderated at a snappy pace with plenty of room for

discussion. Toward the end, the hot dogs and coffee moved well, the final issue was settled, and townspeople pitched in to take down and rack the chairs. Neighbors gathered as they left and bid goodbye to another day of democracy. Gotta like it.

One particular warrant item interests me, sales of alcohol. In 1851, Maine became the first State to begin prohibition, modified it a few years later, and then was governed by the Eighteenth Amendment in 1920. When Prohibition was repealed in 1934, towns were given the right to stay dry or get wet a little and allow sales of beer and wine. For the spirits, state liquor stores opened and controlled sales until 1991. These were the state proprietor-ships that my grandfather called Doctor Green's. That was the color of the State sign, and he needed a code word to mollify the family. West Gardiner never went beyond beer and wine, at least not until town meeting this March. One local business had asked to change the law in order to become an Agency Liquor Store in a damp town, and the vote was in favor with little discussion. That change took 166 years, sort of. Rural Maine communities never want to jump into anything. But, now what?

I don't anticipate boozers staggering down Monkey Lane or lines forming with people desperate for a bottle of Old Hooch. What I do see is a local business taking a chance on a marketing opportunity once held solely by competitors outside West Gardiner. Let's face it. People drink more than beer and wine, and they spend money elsewhere to do so. The summer people visit the stores for groceries, gas, sandwiches, and a bottle of rum or coffee brandy. As for us locals, we would rather shop nearby than cross town lines unnecessarily. The legal process requires obtaining a license from the Lottery and Liquor Commission and notifying the Secretary of State, filing letters and applications, paying fees and contacting a distributor. Months will pass, maybe a year, before sales can begin. As always, bureaucracy moves slower than democracy, the spirit that moves us all.

Did you know?

Residents voted in March to launch the first official, Town of West Gardiner Website. How exciting for our town! This will allow residents to keep up with town news, events and policies. But, its gets better, you will be able to view current and past Weathervane issues online! But, don't worry we will continue to mail quarterly issues to you!

TOWN OF WEST GARDINER TRANSFER STATION



Hours:

Monday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm,
Wednesday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm

Please see an attendant with any questions on disposal of items or costs to dispose of an item.

West Gardiner Scouts Earn High Rank



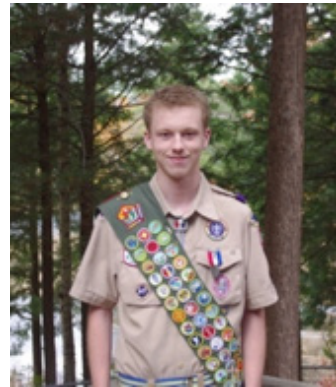
Andrew Walker, 13, son of David and Kim Walker, and brother of Elizabeth Walker, of West Gardiner, has achieved Boy Scouts of America's highest rank of Eagle Scout. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout on October 24, 2016 and recently received his

award at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor that was held on January 22, 2017 at the Gardiner High School Theater.

Walker, who is a member of Boy Scout Troop 613 in West Gardiner, began in Scouting as a Cub Scout in fourth grade. In the winter of 2014, he earned Cub Scout's highest award, the Arrow of Light, and crossed over into Boy Scout Troop 613. He quickly worked his way through Boy Scouting's ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Scout. Walker has completed 37 nights of camping with his Troop including winter camping at Camp Hinds in Raymond, Camp Bomazeen in Belgrade, and the West Gardiner Rod & Gun Club. He has attended summer camp at Camp Hinds in Raymond during the past three summers. Walker has also earned the National Outdoor Award for Camping. He has held numerous leadership positions in his troop such as Quartermaster and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He is currently the Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 613. He has earned 30 merit badges so far and is a member of Boy Scout's Order of the Arrow, Madockawanda Lodge.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Walker organized a crew of scouts, family, friends, and fellow students to build a large costume rack for the Gardiner High School costume storage room and repainted the walls of the High School's Theater.

An eighth-grade student at Gardiner Regional Middle School, Walker is an active member of the Middle School Music Department as a trombone player and vocalist. He is also active in the Drama Program at GRMS.



Boy Scout Troop 613 of West Gardiner is proud to announce the rank promotion of Alex Hart to the rank of Eagle Scout. Hart joined the scouting program in first grade as a Tiger Cub. He finished Cub Scouts by earning the highest award a Cub Scout can earn, the Arrow

of Light. Hart bridged to Boy Scouts in the fifth grade and has enjoyed working his way through the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and then to Eagle Scout. Hart is also a member of scouting's Order of the Arrow, Madockawanda Lodge.

To achieve Eagle Scout, Hart had to demonstrate leadership skills while leading others in a project that would benefit the community. For his project he chose to build 8 Barred Owl nesting boxes that were then hung throughout the West Gardiner Nature Trails. Hart worked with both the Maine Audubon Society and the town of West Gardiner to ensure the design of the boxes and their placement would benefit the owls.

Hart's Eagle Scout ceremony was held at the West Gardiner Nature Trails. The troops Scoutmaster, Jeff DeHart, and Assistant Scoutmaster, David Walker, presided at the ceremony with DeHart presenting Hart with his Eagle pin. Hart chose to present his mentor pin to his older brother, Brad Hart, saying that Brad has always been there for him, whether it was helping with school work or scouts, teaching him how to ski, mountain bike, or their many other adventures.

Hart is the son of Kevin and Sally Hart of West Gardiner. He is currently a freshman at Gardiner Area High School.



Like to Bike?

Did you know the East Coast Greenway runs through our town?

Read more about the 367 Mile trail in the Summer Edition of The Weathervane Newsletter!

- Kathy Prosser

THE WEST GARDINER GARDENERS

GARDEN TOUR

PLANT SALE ~ REFRESHMENTS



SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH

10:00 TO 3:00

RAIN OR SHINE

TICKETS ~ Adults \$10.00 ~ Seniors \$8.00

Available at the Snowmobile Club/Auxiliary Hall on the day of the tour,
located next to the West Gardiner Town Office at 314 Spears Corner Road.

Call 724-3869 for any questions.

Profits go to scholarships for graduating students of GAHS from West Gardiner.

You are invited to join the West Gardiner Gardeners in their 5th annual garden tour and plant sale on Saturday, June 24th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (rain or shine). Tickets are available on the day of the event at the West Gardiner Snowmobile Club/ Auxiliary Hall located next to the West Gardiner Town Office at 314 Spears Corner Road. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors and free for children. Proceeds from the tour fund scholarships for Gardiner Area High School graduating students from West Gardiner.

This year's tour features 5 gardens. Maps with directions will be provided when you buy your ticket, and directional signs will be posted on the tour. So, come stroll through Jean's hosta-theme gardens including a musical "song garden" venue. Find specialty trees such as the Sunburst Lodgepole Pine, White Fringetree and Japanese Umbrella Pine on Don & Candy's 3+ acres of botanical gardens with water features where frogs and turtles may be sighted. Ask Norm about his methods for creating a lush, eye-appealing vegetable garden. His flower gardens are a lovely mix of perennial and annual favorites within 6 or more garden spots. Walk along Linda's astilbe & hosta-lined path through the woods to a pond where guests are welcome to help the new property owner identify some of the many plants among the lilies and peonies. Try to find the 16 garden gnomes that oversee Nancy's perennial and wildflower gardens. This is just a taste of what can be expected on the garden tour.

Also, a variety of bargain-priced plants and greeting cards will be on sale at the West Gardiner Snowmobile Club/ Auxiliary Hall on the day of the garden tour.

For more information, call (207) 724-3869.



WEST GARDINER NEWSLETTER

The Weathervane

A Quarterly For and From Our Town

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

The Weathervane is a non-profit quarterly informational newsletter intended to be unbiased, non-denominational, non-partisan, accurate, and enjoyable.

Schedules of town events, organizations and activities as well as local businesses will be listed in the spring issues.

The Weathervane welcomes story ideas from our readers.

Call 724-3869 or write margaret.peacock@yahoo.com