



The *Weathervane*

Spring

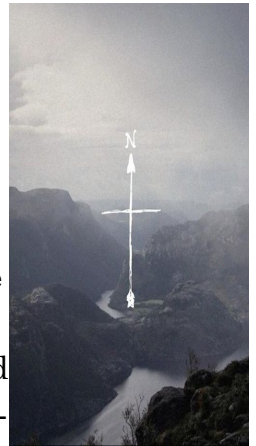
A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner

2019

True North ~ A Dedication to Margaret Peacock by Susan Emmet



True North is your orienting point in a spinning world. It helps you stay on track in life. Derived from deeply held beliefs and values, it's your internal compass. Focused on fairness, kindness, dignity, charity, integrity, clarity, quality and service. True North is the core "you". For all she was and did, began and finished, for family, friends, students and the larger world, we honor Margaret and dedicate this issue of *The Weathervane* to her. She was and will remain True North for so many.



Wreaths Across America– December 14, 2019

As we plan to honor our West Gardiner veterans who are buried in the 7 cemeteries in our town, we sincerely need your help. We have 225 veterans in our cemeteries. These men and women served our country and helped to keep all of us free and safe. I am sure we all know at least one person who has served in our armed forces– a parent, grandparent, spouse, brother, sister, child or grandchild. Many returned home safely, some gave the ultimate sacrifice, some are still experiencing the effects of war. In order to decorate our veteran's graves with wreaths from Wreaths Across America on December 14, 2019, we need to raise money for 205 more wreaths. They are \$15 each. For any wreaths that you sponsor, you may place those wreaths on veteran's graves Dec.14th in a cemetery in West Gardiner. If you have a specific grave that you want to decorate, please let us know the name when you make your donation. What does it mean to sponsor a wreath? It means you have the opportunity to join a grateful nation in saying "Thank you" to our veterans. Donations can be mailed to the Town of West Gardiner 318 Spears Corner Road West Gardiner, ME 04345. Thank you so much, Debbie Couture & Judy Marsh.



Remember the Fallen, Honor all those who serve and have served, and TEACH our children about the cost of Freedom.

Bottles to Boston

By Kyle Smith

“Clink, clank, clunk! Those are the sounds of bottles being tossed into the Helen Thompson 5th grade bottle collection bin at the Transfer Station, but to our students it sounds like opportunities and adventures. Every two weeks the bottles and cans donated are bagged and taken to a redemption center and exchanged for monies that are used to fund group activities for our 5th grade students. This year the students are planning a trip to the Boston Museum of Science aboard a coach bus. They will also attend an educational program sponsored by the Portland Seadogs baseball team this Spring. With the recycle money we are also able to purchase matching tee shirts for the students which they will wear on our outings. The students and staff thank everyone for their continued support to this fund raising activity.



Helen Thompson Kindergarten Teacher to Retire in June

By Debra Couture

Mrs. Mary Joanne Stevens, or MJ to many of her friends, has been teaching for over 27 years. She truly loves what she does and is a wonderful teacher. She believes that she was very fortunate to be able to stay at home with her two daughters when they were young. She started her teaching career at Lisbon Elementary School where she taught kindergarten and grade 3. From there, Mrs. Stevens went on to teach Title 1 at Chelsea Elementary, kindergarten and grade 2 at Manchester Elementary and kindergarten in Wayne. West Gardiner was fortunate to have her begin teaching at Helen Thompson 11 years ago. Although she will miss the children and her co-workers and staff, Mrs. Stevens says she is looking forward to having a flexible schedule. She plans to spend more time with her family- parents, children and grandchildren; and to volunteer in her grandchild's kindergarten class. Mary Joanne (MJ), thank you for all you have done for the children of West Gardiner. Enjoy your retirement. It is greatly deserved.

Riding on the Lake

by Mert Hickey



A friend of mine-I don't want to say who-but I'll call him "Jim" is a devoted bike rider. However, he gets tired of riding on the road with cars coming too close. Now Jim lives near the lake. The lake froze over and Jim decided to head down the lake on his bike. He went about a half-mile

then went swimming. He returned the next day with a canoe and got his bike back. The moral of the story? When biking on a lake, wear a life jacket.



REMINDER

Please Vote! Tuesday, June 11, 2019, MSAD#11 District Budget Vote
Polls are open 8:00am-8:00pm

Thank you to all who participated in the March 2019 Town Meeting and elections! Your vote counts!



West Gardiner Business Directory

ANIMAL SERVICES

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

AUTO SALES, SERVICE, TOWING & AUTO CARE

A/C TOWNG	582-0003	Full service towing 24/7, AAA accepted
ADVANTAGE AUTOMOTIVE	724-4087	Professional auto repair, boats & ATVs
ALL THINGS SERVICED	215-4541	Small engine repair services Tim McKenna
ATKINS TOWING SERVICES	215-7329	24 hour towing service
CROSS ROADS AUTO	458-9066	Burleigh Lewis Subaru Guru
DK AUTO SALES	582-0005	Used auto sales and service
DYNO MIKE'S AUTO DETAILING	724-7224	Used auto sales and service
JEFF'S AUTOMOTIVE	582-5333	Auto body repair
MCKAY'S BODY SHOP	582-2882	Big & small mechanics, diagnostics, State Inspection
MIKE'S AUTO REPAIR	724-3806	Used auto sales
PHILLIS' AUTO SALES	724-3959	Auto sales and repairs
R & J JOHNSON AUTO	582-2211	Repair and Sales- 283 Pond Road
WHITMORE'S BODY SHOP	582-7569	Painting and repair of anything
WOODLAND AUTO	458-9066	Service- Shawn Nash

CHILDCARE

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

CONSTRUCTION AND HOME REMODELING HANDYMAN SERVICES

BOWER CONSTRUCTION	724-3746	New home construction and remodeling
GORAJ BUILDING AND REMODELING	462-2135	State to finish home construction
JIM BRANN GENERAL CONTRACTING	592-2971 724-4100	Master electrician, plumber, master oil burning and all building needs
LAKELAND BUILDERS	441-6864	Frame to finish carpentry
MALLOY CONSTRUCTION	582-3213	Shane & Jennie-New home, remodel, residential commercial construction
MANNING CONTRACTING	242-2244	All aspects of home construction
MCFARLAND CONSTRUCTION, INC.	224-5583	Building of new homes and real estate sales
SJ HYDE DRYWALL, LLC	441-7877	Drywall installation and priming, light carpentry
THE HANDYMAN	242-7620	Carpentry, drywall, painting, decks, new construction or remodeling
TJ CUSTOM CARPENTRY & INSTALLATION	242-7620	Specializing in big box store installations, cabinets, etc.
WAYNE BRETON PAINT, ETC.	582-4564	Inside and outside painting, staining, and wall covering
WILD FEATHER WOODWORKS	530-2509 376-7653	Custom Furniture & Cabinetry - Ben & Melissa Bailey

EXCAVATING AND SITE WORK

CANTY CONSTRUCTION	582-1687	Excavation, septic and site work, gravel
CAPITAL AREA TREE SERVICES	740-6335 446-7346	Residential & commercial tree work, licensed & insured
COUNTRYSIDE CONCRETE	333-9009 215-5312	Foundations, slabs, frost walls, and barn jacking
KEVIN PECKHAM EXCAVATING	582-8995	Residential earth work and firewood
KYLE PECKHAM & SONS	582-4026	Logging, firewood, earth work, trucking, hay
HICKEY CONSTRUCTION	441-5852 724-3652	Excavation, site work, sand, loam, gravel
HICKEY LOGGING & TREE WORK	3724-3648	Private homes and woodlots
MB LOGGING & STUMP GRINDING	724-3064	Licensed arborist and stump removal
SPRAY FOAM OF MAINE	724-3746	Closed cell foam installation
VAUGHN SMITH ASSOCIATES	724-5635	Soil testing, wetland, and soil mapping

FARMS & FOOD

ALLY KAT'S	588-7528	Baked goods, fresh produce, flowers, local beef- Katie Ray
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BEN'S LOBSTERS	713-6835	Fresh lobsters off the boat, pre orders only - Ben or Erica
FARMER KEV'S ORGANIC	613-8713	Organic vegetables, farm shares May to January
FOGGY MOON FARM	582-7524	Turkeys, pigs, grain, feed and pet food for sale
MOOER'S SUGAR SHACK	582-1309	Licensed maple sugar business, maple syrup
WESTON'S MEAT & POULTRY	724-2027	Custom cutting, vacuum packaging, retail & wholesale -state inspected

LAWNCARE & LANSCAPING & MAINTENANCE

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

SELF STORAGE

GARDINER SELF STORAGE	582-8090	86 units 5 'X 5', to 10' X 30'
WEST GARDINER SELF STORAGE	724-3729	Year round access, sizes: 5' X 10', 10' X 10' & 10' X 20'

SPECIALIZED BUSINESSES

AQUASCAPES	582-7180	Sales and service of commerical aquariums
C&C KNEAD THYME CATERING	441-9752 441-8202	Custom catering for any occasion- homemade & fresh Colene & Cindy
CREATIONS BY LISA	458-8131	Homemade bags, quilts, crafts, alter prom dresses Lisa Plaisted
DIANE'S SIGNS AND SERVICE	582-0520	Vehicle lettering, banners, magnetics and more
GARY CROCKER	462-3774	Maine Humorist / Character
KATIE'S PEMF PERFORMANCE THERAPY	592-3821	Holistic Health Service- Horse, Pets and People
LARRABEE MARING	582-3452	Sales, service of boats, trailers, outboard motors, snowmobiles, ATVs
LIBERTY GUN WORKS	446-GUNS	New & used firearms, bought, sold, traded
MARKHAM TENT RENTAL	724-3163	Delivery and setup of tents, tables, and chairs
MUSCLE KNEADS	242-3785	Theapeutic massage and wellness services
PELLEGRINI'S PICNIC TABLES	724-4082	All sized of unfinished picnic tables
SWEET CREATIONS BAKING	724-3329	Birthday cakes and specialty desserts
MUSIC WORKS LLC- CHRIS BIGELOW	212-2232	Disc Jockey Services - cutting edge technology

From the Porch

What's It All About

by Mike Wing

If you've been watching the fields in West Gardiner this spring, you've seen the deer coming out of their yards and grazing like gazelles in the snowless fields. Maybe you've helped them along this winter with your shrubs and bird feeders, but by late March they are content with grass and alder tips. Considering how many were harvested last fall and how deep the snow filled woods, a herd of 30 in the back field is impressive.

We fed them out back for three months, every night, one five-gallon pail of mixed grains. The lambs would crowd the manger first, then the older does would press them out, sometimes with force. We'd watch out the back door and window. They'd look in and smile, except for last night when we stopped the buffet. For a few minutes, one doe and her twins stared us down, ears twitching, smiles turned to frowns. We waved so long as she led them away to graze on the neighbor's back lawn with the herd.

Here's the catch I can't explain. I hunt most days in the fall, with a bonus this year, and passed on twelve deer. Too small, too late, too fast (them, not me). Then came December when we admired them, named them, waved to them for three months. Why? Are we hunters who feed deer all winter simply hypocrites? Are we doing penance for harvesting their venison? Do deer hunters feel a guilt? Or, do we just like to watch their movements and antics without a loaded rifle? I don't know.

Venison is delicious and healthy, and from the looks of the fields this spring, there's no shortage. But, once in a while they wander in on the feeder, I have to wonder what it's all about.

Town Meeting Survey Results

by Susan Emmet

The Winter issue of the *Weather*vane was delivered to 1430 households and included a survey about town meeting. Fifty people returned the survey, 38 of whom have lived here for more than eleven years. This is a summary of their comments.

What people liked best about living here: low/fair taxes, the people and beautiful scenery, proximity to all compass points, the slow pace and quiet, the honesty and competence of town office staff, selectmen, and public works and transfer station crews, recreational opportunities (water, hiking, snowmobiling), fewer regulations/ common sense approach to rules, and attempts to plan ahead for solutions to situations as they arise.

What people suggested for improvement: a mailbox near Four Corners, removal of junkyards, expanded recycling, an additional public beach and launch site, increased attendance at town meeting to witness and participate, higher pay for teachers and town employees, expanded transfer station hours, more walking trails and beach access, a weekly summary of select board meetings in KJ or online, a community gathering place, new signs, more community events, a Historical Society building,

What people suggested for improving Town Meeting: Eighteen people said there should be a brief orientation, introduction of the moderator/selectmen/other officials, varied food offerings, youth participation/childcare, bundling of warrants, evening voting for officials/referenda/other issues and morning town meeting to follow.

What people suggested to make Town Meeting more inviting: increased use of ballots rather than a show of hands, livestreaming the meeting/ posting information on the town website or Facebook, providing working microphones and "mic runners," introduction of all town officials and employees, secret ballots for controversial articles, providing accurate information about costs for library and Boys and Girls Club and others groups asking for support, improved explanation and posting of rules for the meeting, increased input from residents on warrant articles or proposed ordinances/changes

You can still turn in a survey. The point is to gather information that will help improve West Gardiner and all its activities. Please turn surveys in to the Town Office or download/submit online.

The 69th Annual Peter Pan Fair !

You're invited to a day of family fun at the 69th annual Peter Pan Fair on May 18th from 10:00-2:00. There will be a huge bounce house, tons of games, a raffle with incredible prizes, food, and much more! www.facebook.com/groups/HTPTA/



