



The Weathervane

Fall

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner

2023

Margaret Peacock Memorial Garden Dedication by Charlene McFarland

A Memorial Garden, in memory of Margaret Peacock, was dedicated on a beautiful sunny day, September 28, 2023. The Garden is located across from the Helen Thompson School and in front of the future West Gardiner Historical Society building. It was built and the plants were donated and planted by the West Gardiner Garden Club.

A brief Garden Club history: Originally a few garden-like people met over coffee to talk about gardening. They included Nancy O’Laughlin, Julie Hickey, Gloria Thompson, Margaret and a few others. I had just retired in 2010 and Nancy invited me to join this group. This is when I met Margaret. I soon realized how persuasive and enthusiastic she could be. She wanted to expand and have activities to connect the garden club with the community; including fairy house making, plant sales, and garden tours for members to show off their gardens.

With the tours of members’ gardens, people could purchase a ticket to tour the gardens and purchase lunch.

Being a new member, she convinced or persuaded me to be part of the tour. I’m not a professional gardener by any means. I was hesitant to say the least. Did I mention she could be very persuasive? Well, I did it along with other members who opened their gardens for others to see. The idea was a success. Then we had very successful sales. Members dig up and donate their plants to raise funds for scholarships. Customers are lined up way before we open just to get a peek at what is on sale. Scholarships are given to West Gardiner High School Seniors majoring in environmental studies. As fundraising has increased, we are now able to give more scholarships in larger amounts.



L-R Logan, Julie & Scott Peacock, Amy Peacock-Mendall, Greg Peacock, Casey Peacock

This garden is a memorial to the many who have worked to expand the Garden Club and to continue its mission.

Margaret had a huge impact on our community in many ways. This garden will honor all that she has done for West Gardiner and the community. This garden keeps her mission alive.

Thank you to those who donated their time, services, and materials to help make this garden a reality. They include: Jon Canty- loam; Steve McGee- granite; Gary Ladner- mulch; Diane’s Signs for the beautiful sign that includes a weathervane, representing her work on the town’s newsletter “The Weathervane”. Tom Abbott and his tractor– for putting the granite in place; David Cogley and his tractor for helping to make the garden by putting the granite in place and moving the loam and mulch (He was always there to help, no matter what); and Chuck McFarland, who was always there, pitching in wherever he was needed. Finally, thank you to the many who donated funds and plants; and all those who volunteered to make this memorial garden come to life.



Margaret Peacock

Announcements



Election Day– November 7th at the West Gardiner Fire Station voting 8:00am-8:00pm

There are 8 referendum questions, more information can be found at www.maine.gov/sos. The ballots are double-sided. Absentee ballots can be placed in the new ballot box outside the town office.

Information regarding new town ordinances passed in October can be found on the town’s website:

www.westgardiner.org. Online tax payments are now being accepted. Dog licenses are due by January 31, 2024. Late fee of \$25 will begin February 1, 2024.

Deers and Duct Tape

by Gary Crocker

A number of years ago I appeared on a local radio show once a week here in Central Maine, offering up my brand of MAINE HUMOR. At the conclusion of each show I delivered a “Duct Tape Tip of the Week”. As we all know, duct tape can solve a myriad of problems and our radio listeners were encouraged to send me their most creative uses of this incredible multi-tool, and did they ever! I shared one each week at the end of my show and each month I sent a comedy CD to the winning tip as determined by my staff (Muthuh).

While there were a number of very creative uses there were several that showed real brilliance and I thought I would share one of my favorites as deer season is upon us.

A former State Trooper and Legislator called my cell phone to report a duct tape incident in Lincoln Maine. He told me he had just seen what he thought was two men fighting on top of a car as he drove through rural Lincoln. And by the way, in my opinion, if you aren’t standing in the middle of Congress Street in downtown Portland you are in rural Maine! At any rate, on closer inspection he realized it wasn’t two men fighting but rather a fellow dragging a deer he had just hit with his car up onto the roof of his vehicle. He was determined to get the deer home so he could feed his family for the winter.



Once he had the deer in place he needed to secure it for the trip to his home. Luckily, he was driving a four door sedan and he had a fresh roll of duct tape in the glove box. So he rolled all four windows down and ran duct tape through the car and up over the deer about a dozen times. Now that the deer was secured on top of his car he realized he had a new problem. While the duct tape was holding the deer in place (good news) it had also taped all four doors of his Ford shut (bad news). But this fella was no quitter, no sirree bub. He stepped back from the car so he could get a running start and jump feet first through the drivers side window, You know,

NASCAR style like Richard Petty used to do it! Once he was behind the wheel and his seat belt was secure he gave my friend the former Trooper a toothy grin, threw the car in gear and drove off with his prize! His family was going to dine on fresh venison for the next several months!

So there you have it, duct tape to the rescue in so many ways. It’s one of two essential tools every Mainer keeps on hand. You need duct tape for things that move and shouldn’t, and WD 40 for things that don’t move, but should! Ayuh.

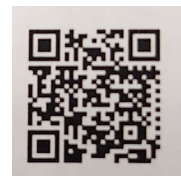
Wreaths Across America

by Debra Couture



Please join us in our Mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach our children about the sacrifices that our veterans have made for our freedom. We hope you will all join the celebration on December 16, 2023 9:00am, at the West Gardiner Fire Station, as we honor our deceased Veterans by conducting a brief ceremony and placing wreaths on their graves. We have 200 veterans buried in our 7 cemeteries in West Gardiner. At this point in time, we do not have enough wreaths for all the graves. If you would like to sponsor a wreath, they are \$17.00 each. Checks can be made out to the Town of West

Gardiner and note “WAA wreaths” in the memo block on the check. You can also donate online, there is a link to the Wreaths across America page on the town of West Gardiner website (www.westgardiner.org). Scan the QR code to make a donation online. Thank you



Hello West Gardiner!

By Emily Grover



My name is Emily Grover. I’m a senior at GAHS, a high honors student and multi-sport athlete. I play soccer and lacrosse and have run track and been on the ski team. I’m also a competitive gymnast, involved in gymnastics since I was two. Growing up in West Gardiner, I harbor many core memories. Attending HTS with all my neighbors, I have formed lifelong friendships. Biking to each other’s homes, meeting at the bus stop, and playing on the playground at school are memories that last a lifetime.

One of my fondest HTS memories was having fifth grade “buddies.” Kindergarten students were paired with fifth graders to read. Those older kids were so cool! Over the years, the program disappeared. When I reached fifth grade, I wrote a persuasive essay about resurrecting the program and gave it to the principal. She agreed. I still think about my “buddies” and the memories they carry with them, too.

You can’t be a student at HTS without having memories of the Peter Pan Fair. Spending the day eating fried dough and hotdogs, coming home with an armload of cakes from the Cake Walk. Delicious and memorable! I always looked forward to the year’s end because I knew the fair was coming.

But there are other memories of our wonderful community. I remember going to vote with my parents at the Fire Department and seeing all the shiny trucks. Geocaching on the trails across from the school was another favorite past time. I LOVED going on a “treasure hunt.” By the way, if you don’t know what geocaching is, just Google it. It’s a great way to get outside and see new places. My memories of West Gardiner wouldn’t be complete without mention of swimming and sharing food and games at my family’s camp at Cram’s Point.

My family’s roots run deep and wide here. I am grateful to have grown up and been surrounded by such a beautiful and loving community. I look forward to sharing my experiences this year as part of the *Weathervane* staff.



Autumn Events & Happenings

For more information visit www.stonebrokebreadandbooks.com

Nov 2nd: Bread & Baking Classes

Nov 3rd: Art Opening with watercolor artist Judy Haas

Nov 10th: Sponsored with Hallowell Pride Alliance: Open-no-mic-poetry & Gardiner Wishlist Open House, 5 - 8:30pm

Nov 18th: Poetry with local poet Robert Carr.

Nov 25th: Shop Local Saturday and Our 1-Year Anniversary Party!

Nov 26th: (every 4th Sunday): St*tch 'n B*tch 1 - 3pm, with refreshments.

Nov 27th: Happy Full Beaver's Moon!

Dec 1st: Late Nite Art, 5 - 8:30pm, with refreshments.



A few Small Press books to tuck in with this Autumn and Winter.

* *Honey Sapiens* by Mike McInnes: Curious about 'human energy metabolism'? Pharmacist McInnes supports honey as a revolutionary way to prevent common health problems exacerbated by refined sugars, a must-read for all of us to age well.

* Marine and army veteran, Native American, and participant in the Writing the Land Project, Maine poet Suzanne S. Rancourt's *murmurs at the gate* resonates in a world of uncertainty and survival with intricate candor.

* A different kind of murder mystery, opening a view of the New South, John W. Bateman's *Who Killed Buster Sparkle?* integrates current cultural conversations about identity and connection, the comic and the gothic.

* Classic Scott Nearing books are always on the shelf here; if you haven't checked out *The Conscience of a Radical*, now is the time to reassess security and stability, both economically and environmentally in this common sense tome.

* *Becoming Vegetalista* is an amazing visionary journey of medicinal herbalist Stephen H. Buhner. Connected to his lifetime of teaching and learning from world-renowned healers, his search for a healing story is for all of us.

* *The New Farmer's Almanac, Vol. VI: Adjustments & Accommodations*, from the Greenhorns of Pembroke, Maine, comes a collection of reflections on land-based projects: intercropping, dry-farming, climate impacts in articles from around the world, poetry, art, and professional studies. This group helms the future of farming.



Sweet Success:

Local Meadery Celebrates 1st Anniversary and Bags
10+ Awards for Exceptional Meads in 2023!

Run Amok Meadery,
1043 High Street.

For more information visit
www.runamokmead.com

Candle Safety

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

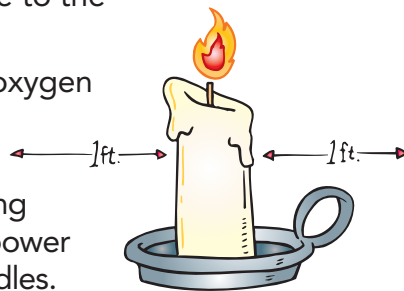
"CANDLE WITH CARE"

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot (30 centimetres) away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Candles and Kids

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

- ! **December** is the peak month for home candle fires.
- ! More than **one-third** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! **Three of every five** candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



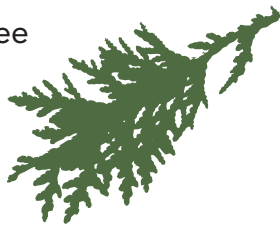
PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.

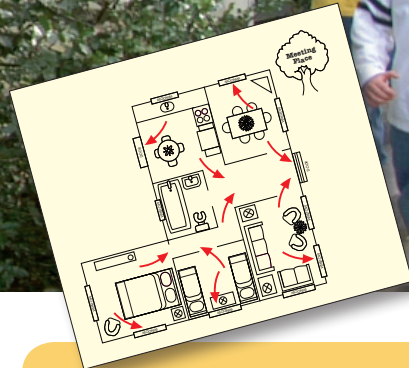


Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- » MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » PRACTICE using different ways out.
- » TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- » CALL the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

A GAHS Drama Club Production
 THE
 WOMAN WHO
 CAME TO
 DINNER



A Classic Comedy in 3 Acts

November 2nd, 3rd, & 4th

7 pm

GAHS Little Theater

ADULTS: \$8

STUDENTS & SENIORS: \$5

(To reserve tickets, email requests to: galdratmatt@gmail.com)

On Stage at the Little Theater by Judy Jamison

When I dropped into the Little Theater in mid-October, it was full of activity and energy, with rehearsals for the Drama Club's production of *The Woman Who Came to Dinner*, an adaptation of Kaufman and Hart's Broadway comedy *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, well underway. Director Christina Benedict and her co-director and Drama Club president Brian Henderson were overseeing the action on the stage, while other students were engaged in various other tasks, including helping to put finishing touches on the impressive set created by community volunteer Ed Allen. The Club's productions are highlights of the school year, and this looks to be another hit! The show is scheduled for November 2-4.

While the choice for the club's spring production hasn't been finalized, the directors are leaning towards *The Princess Bride*!

Ms. Benedict wanted to give a special shout out to Elissa Tracey, Lisa Leavitt, and the other Drama Club Boosters, who handle much of the behind the scenes logistics, including tickets, concessions,

promotion, as well as sponsoring scholarships!

Music Director David Walker says the announcement of the title for another MSAD#11 favorite, the yearly musical, won't be made until the second week in November. There is a date for the production- it's scheduled for the 1st weekend in February.

Samantha and Nick St. Amand: Maine Army National Guard by Debra Couture

Nick joined the "Guard" in his junior year of high school – in the Spring of 1999. He attended basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Advanced Individual Training in demolitions and explosives at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; carpentry and masonry training at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, MS; and the Warrior Leadership Course at Ft. Dix, NJ. Nick's Military Occupational Specialty was Combat Engineer. Nick worked for the Guard primarily in Lewiston and Norway, Maine. In 2003, he deployed for 18 months to Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. That was the most memorable event of his career. Nick was discharged in 2011.

If Nick had the opportunity to join the Army again, he said he would. He said there were many hardships along the way. However, it helped to shape him into the person he is today.

His recommendation to a young person thinking about a military career is to do your research on the different branches of the military and the military occupational specialties. He believes that if you are not sure of what you want to do in life, the military is a great place to build character, learn some life lessons, learn accountability, and what it means to serve something greater than yourself.

Samantha joined the "Guard" in the spring of her junior year of high school – 2002. She attended basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Advanced Individual Training in demolitions and explosives at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and carpentry and masonry training at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, MS. Sam's Military Occupational Specialty was Combat Engineer.

Sam worked for the Guard in Lewiston and Norway, Maine. In 2003, she deployed for 18 months to Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. In 2005, Sam deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina victims. The Iraq deployment was her most memorable experience. Sam was discharged in 2010.

Both Nick and Sam are glad that they joined the military because they met each other while serving. They agree that anyone interested in the military should talk to many veterans of different eras and different services. The military is not for everyone. Just like any job there are positives and negatives. It is a true sacrifice for soldiers and their families and should not be taken lightly. They agree that the military is wonderful for character building and instituting the values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Personal Courage, Honor, Integrity and Selfless service. Nick is also a member of the West Gardiner Volunteer Fire Department, and both are members of the West Gardiner Volunteer Fire Department Association. Samantha and Nick: Thank you for your service.



West Gardiner Historical Society by Debra Couture

The Historical Society has been busy at work designing the "Gift Agreement." This agreement will be completed by all individuals who would like to donate or loan items to the Historical Society. It is important to have these documents in place to track the donated/loaned items and to be able to return the items to the donor if requested. We will have that document available in the Town Office by November 16, 2023.

Construction has not begun on the new building. There is now a porta potty on sight. Delays in material deliveries have caused the delay in construction. The contractor, Bob Bower, states that the building will go up quickly once materials have arrived. We are hopeful that everyone will see a building under construction by the time this newsletter is delivered. The next meeting is November 15, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Auxiliary Hall.

The seniors of West Gardiner enjoyed lunches every third Friday from May to Oct. The total lunches served were 424. We want to send our thanks to Mike Flynn for making this possible. Next year Tammy Hickey will be in charge of the luncheons as Jane is semi-retiring from her current roll and only will fill in if Tammy isn't available. Everyone will be calling Tammy to RSVP for the 2024 year. The senior lunches are for West Gardiner residents 60 years and older.



Helen Thompson School by Kady Gould

The first few weeks of school have passed by quickly and things at HTS have been as busy as ever! This year we introduced Tiger Pride cards that students earn for demonstrating our school rules: Safety, Respect, Responsibility and Kindness. Our students have learned the daily routines and expectations at school and have completed fall literacy and math assessments. Each grade level team has been meeting together on a weekly rotation to review student skills and needs in math, literacy and social-emotional learning. We have such a hardworking and dedicated staff at HTS. While our work is challenging on a daily basis, our team remains focused on giving our students what they need to equip them with the skills and confidence to dream BIG and achieve their goals.

We incorporate appreciation days all year long and have celebrated and honored several school staff members already including our: custodians, physical therapist, technology team, bus drivers, and principals. Next week we hope to host a great turnout for 1st trimester conferences at school. Our goal is always to have 100% of student families represented at each conference. We know that strong home-school partnerships improve learning outcomes for students! We are also very excited about our PTA-sponsored Scholastic Book Fair which will coincide with our conferences.

Earlier this month, students participated in Fire Prevention lessons brought to us by the West Gardiner Fire Department. This special opportunity not only teaches students the importance of fire safety and planning to be safe during a fire emergency, but it also reminds students that heroes are here in our community to help in different ways. Welcoming our local heroes into the school brings this experience to all our PreK-5 students. Thank you, WGFD! In the spirit of growing and learning, Mrs. Kady Gould

West Gardiner Volunteer Fire Department by Debra Couture

The WGVFD and the West Gardiner Volunteer Fire Department Association are hoping to acquire a water rescue boat for the Fire Department. The WGVFD does not want to ask the taxpayers of West Gardiner to fund this acquisition through tax dollars. They are hoping to raise funds through donations to the Fire Department and through fund raisers. Clark Marine in Manchester has given the Fire Department a cost estimate for the boat, motor, trailer, and all US Coast Guard equipment to outfit the boat. They have offered a very generous discount on the package, too. The total cost is \$15,000. This is a very necessary item for our Fire Department. West Gardiner water frontage/acreage includes Cold Stream, Cobbossee Stream, Pleasant Pond, Horseshoe Pond, and Cobbossee Lake. The Fire Department's ability for water rescue is limited by not having this basic equipment. If you would like more information about this equipment or are interested in helping to support this project, please contact Chief Mike Gross at 207-346-4039. Thank you for your support to our Fire Department.

Local artist, El Costell, proudly presents "Edge of Land," an art exhibition opening in November. This exhibition is a celebration of our state's waters, with a special focus on the enchanting Cobbossee Stream. Join the artists on Nov.10 from 5-8pm for an Opening Reception. For more information visit www.costellandcostell.com



Cobbossee Current, by El Costell



WEST GARDINER NEWSLETTER

The Weathervane

A Quarterly For and From Our Town

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