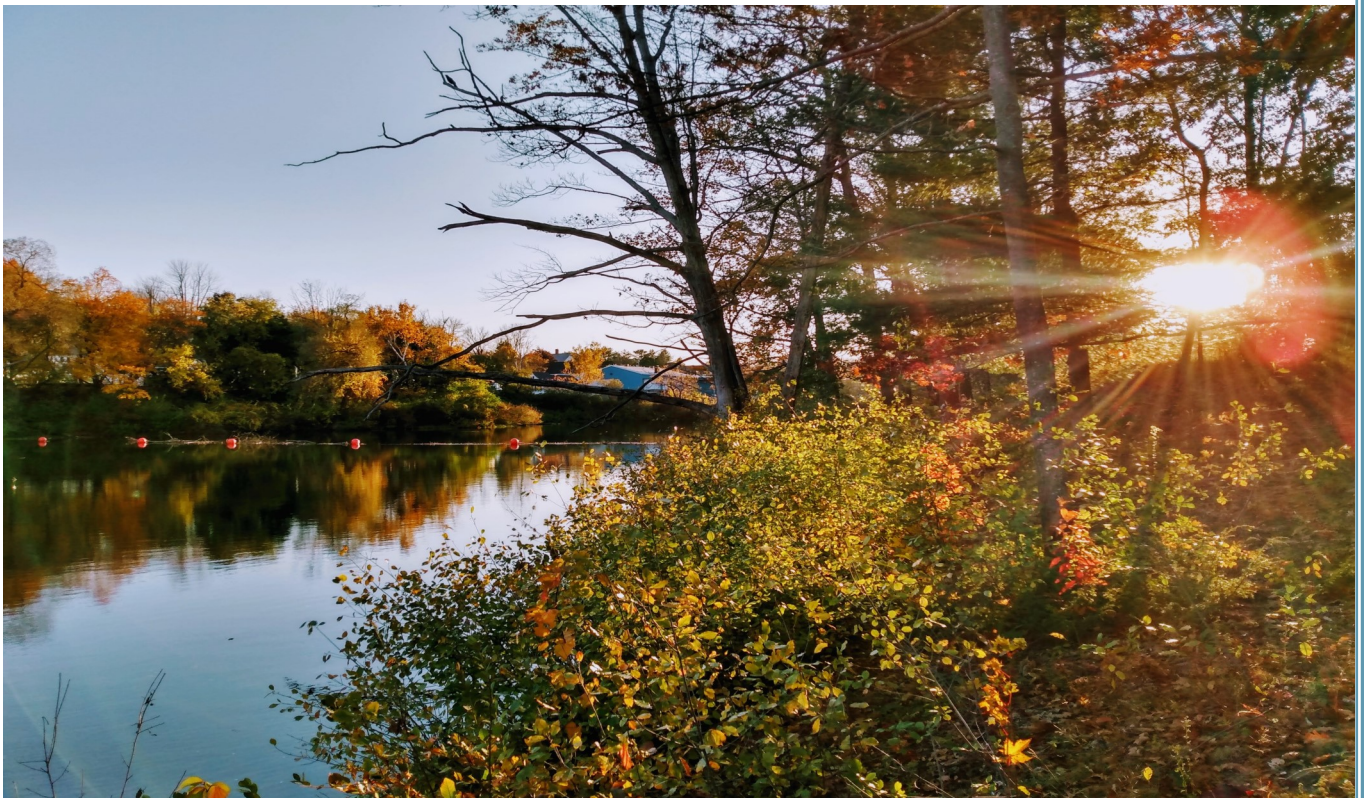




2020 Annual Report



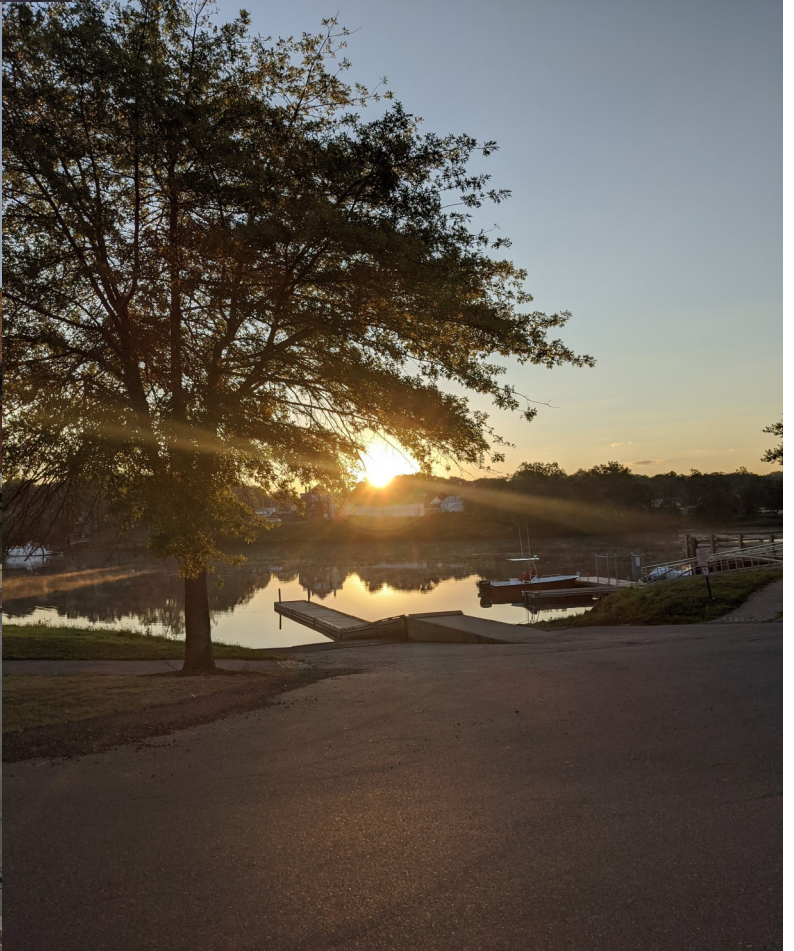


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*The City of Gardiner hereby dedicates the
2020 Annual Report to...*

City Staff



Contact

City Hall

6 Church Street
Gardiner, Maine 04345

DEPARTMENT	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Animal Control	Rob Pekins	582-5150	rpekins@gardinermaine.com
Assessing	Curt Lebel	582-6892	clebel@gardinermaine.com
City Clerk	Alisha Ballard	582-4460	aballard@gardinermaine.com
City Manager	Christine Landes	582-4200	clandes@gardinermaine.com
Front Office Clerk	Brianna Theriault	582-4200	btheriault@gardinermaine.com
Code Enforcement Officer	Kris McNeill	582-6892	kmcneill@gardinermaine.com
Economic & Community Development	Tracey Desjardins	582-6888	tdesjardins@gardinermaine.com
Executive Assistant	Sherry Emmons	588-4070	semmons@gardinermaine.com
Finance Director & Human Resources	Denise Brown	582-6891	dbrown@gardinermaine.com
Fire Chief	Richard Sieberg	582-4535	Rick.sieberg@gardinermaine.com
General Assistance	Sherry Emmons	582-1000	semmons@gardinermaine.com
Library Director	Anne Davis	582-3312	adavis@gardinermaine.com
P & D, CEO, Assessing Admin Assistant	Angie Christopher	582-6892	achristopher@gardinermaine.com
Police Chief	James Toman	582-5150	jtoman@gardinermaine.com
Public Safety Assistant	Tara Miley	582-5150	tmiley@gardinermaine.com
Public Works Director	Tony LaPlante	582-4408	tlaplante@gardinermaine.com
Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer	Kathleen Cutler	582-2223	kcutler@gardinermaine.com
Utility Clerk	Sherry Emmons	588-4070	semmons@gardinermaine.com
Wastewater Treatment Director	Doug Clark	582-1351	dclark@gardinermaine.com

City of Gardiner Mayors

<u>Robert Hallowell Gardiner, First Mayor</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>Charles H. Gray</u>	<u>1909-1910</u>
<u>Parker Sheldon</u>	<u>1851</u>	<u>B.E. Lamb</u>	<u>1911-1917 & 1921-1923</u>
<u>Robert Thompson</u>	<u>1852</u>	<u>G.L. Bragdon</u>	<u>1918-1920</u>
<u>Edward Swan</u>	<u>1853</u>	<u>Donald S. McNaughton</u>	<u>1924-1925</u>
<u>Noah Woods</u>	<u>1844-1858 & 1861-1868</u>	<u>Wallace N. Price</u>	<u>1925-1926</u>
<u>Henry B. Hoskins</u>	<u>1859-1860</u>	<u>William O. Cobb</u>	<u>1927-1934</u>
<u>James Nash</u>	<u>1863-1864</u>	<u>Edwin P. Ladd</u>	<u>1935-1940</u>
<u>Nathan O. Mitchell</u>	<u>1865-1866</u>	<u>Philip H. Hubbard</u>	<u>1940-1952</u>
<u>George W. Wilcox</u>	<u>1867</u>	<u>Percy K. Hanson</u>	<u>1953-1954</u>
<u>Joshua Gray</u>	<u>1867-1870</u>	<u>Russell J. Leighton</u>	<u>1956-1958</u>
<u>D.C. Palmer</u>	<u>1871-1873</u>	<u>Dwight Emery</u>	<u>1955 & 1959-1962</u>
<u>H.M. Wentworth</u>	<u>1874-1875</u>	<u>Wallace E. Shepard, Sr.</u>	<u>1962-1967</u>
<u>James B. Dingley</u>	<u>1876-1878 & 1893</u>	<u>Ralph M. Clark</u>	<u>1968-1969</u>
<u>Joseph E. Ladd</u>	<u>1881-1886</u>	<u>Harold J. Shapiro</u>	<u>1970-1975</u>
<u>William Perkins</u>	<u>1882-1883</u>	<u>Robert D. Mooers</u>	<u>1976-1977</u>
<u>S.E. Johnson</u>	<u>1884-1885</u>	<u>Irving B Faunce</u>	<u>1978-1979</u>
<u>John W. Berry</u>	<u>1887-1888</u>	<u>William F. MacDonald</u>	<u>1980-1985</u>
<u>A.M. Spear</u>	<u>1889-1892</u>	<u>Charles J. McLaughlin, Jr.</u>	<u>1986-1988</u>
<u>Oliver B. Clason</u>	<u>1894-1896</u>	<u>Brian MacMaster</u>	<u>1989-1990</u>
<u>James Walker</u>	<u>1897-1898</u>	<u>Patrica C. Bourgoin</u>	<u>1991-1992</u>
<u>Freeman Patten</u>	<u>1899-1900</u>	<u>Brian Rines</u>	<u>1993-2006</u>
<u>Frederic Danforth</u>	<u>1901-1902</u>	<u>Andrew MacLean</u>	<u>2007-2012</u>
<u>Edwin L. Bussell</u>	<u>1903-1904</u>	<u>Thomas Harnett</u>	<u>2013-2018</u>
<u>Charles A. Knight</u>	<u>1905-1906</u>	<u>Patricia Hart</u>	<u>2019-</u>
<u>Will G. Atkins</u>	<u>1907-1908</u>		

CITY MAYOR

Patricia Hart, City Mayor

Dear Neighbors,

It has been my great honor to serve the people of Gardiner for the past two years. As the mayor, it is my responsibility to highlight the achievements of the city in its annual report. This past year, 2020, was a year like no other as the city, the nation and the world entered states of emergency to battle an infectious disease pandemic and the resulting health and social crises. We mourn the many lives lost to the disease and embrace the loved ones they left behind. Historians and academics will memorialize and debate these events to help us understand the full details of the public health, economic, political, and racial justice challenges that unfolded. For this annual report, I will leave the history lessons to the scholars and will share with you the city's stories of resilience in weathering the unprecedented events.



In mid-March 2020, the city council declared a state of emergency to initiate the municipal response to stop the spread of the respiratory virus. At the same time, Governor Janet Mills enacted stay-safe-at-home orders to keep non-essential services closed and workers safe at home. Schools, offices, and shops closed and people worked, studied, and waited out the closures at home. Throughout the early response, the city team continued to provide essential city services – police, fire, ambulance, public works, buildings and grounds, waste water, and many front office services. Several employees worked from home, and a few that performed non-essential services stayed safely at home per the orders. Eventually, as they learned more about safety precautions, staff restored all services, offering them in ways to minimize contact with the public and with co-workers. City employees showed their trademark professionalism and flexibility as they did their part in the initial emergency response and continued their devotion to serving the residents and businesses in the city safely.

City council and all city committees convened meetings on Zoom, an online conferencing service, rather than meeting in-person. This tested our skills, our internet access, and our patience as we found ourselves saying “you’re muted” and “I can’t hear you.”

In the earliest days of the stay-at-home orders when supplies of personal protective equipment - masks, gloves, gowns, sanitizer - were scarce, residents and business owners shared their own supplies and equipment with the city's first responders to keep them safe. Teachers and students from MSAD #11 made protective face shields on their 3-D printers for the police officers, as well. Many in the community turned to their sewing machines to make cloth masks for friends and neighbors. As the months went on and scientists learned more about disease transmission, we all wore masks in public places and learned to “smile with our eyes” to keep the virus at bay.

Neighbors kept watch on neighbors finding new ways to lend a hand, meet needs, and celebrate milestones in new ways. They stepped up efforts to deliver food and supplies to the most vulnerable and isolated. Many donated to the local food banks and pantries to help families in need. The Tiger Food Pantry, a student led organization, expanded the number of families it served. Community members helped to keep the shelves stocked by participating in food drives, organized by a Rotarian. We celebrated birthdays with drive-by parties, we visited family in backyards, we ate outside, we walked and walked, and stayed close to home all year. A band of do-gooders used their talents to paint signs showing love and support that they hung in storefronts in the downtown.

Our school district and community organizations continued their missions adapting to the new precautions and public health measures. The MSAD #11 schools were among the first in the region to develop remote learning for students, both online and with homework. They provided meal pick up locations for families across the district and even fed the neighboring district children for a short time. MSAD#11 allowed the city to use its gymnasium for socially distanced voting for the very busy primary and general elections. Johnson Hall, our performing arts theater, moved all of its programming online, turning the theater into a production studio. The Boys and Girls Club maintained their childcare services keeping to the new precautions. Gardiner Main Street joined efforts with the Augusta Downtown Alliance to raise funds and administer a grant program to support local businesses.

The local business climate was on a roller-coaster for much of 2020, with an unfortunate loss in businesses at first, followed by new investment. We lost some of our favorite businesses in the early days of the shutdown – Pastaz, SewFit (formerly Curves), Frosty's Donuts, Deja Brew, Above and Beyond Salon, and Able Body Fitness to name a few. It didn't take long before several businesses took the leap to open new storefronts including – Ruby's Place, The Bud Bar, El Oso, The Hair Lab, Gardiner Hardware, Alan Claude Studio, and a new barber shop. Domino's Pizza re-opened in the old bank building after an 18-month closure to repair fire damage. The historic building is now beautifully restored and occupied by former tenants Paula's Nails and Aesthetics and Hart Consulting, Inc. It is the new home of Gardiner Main Street. The new workforce housing development on the old TW Dick property on Summer Street opened its doors to new tenants in the summer, providing safe and affordable housing in the historic downtown.

Gardiner made historic progress in 2020, successfully replacing our 100-year-old bridges. At the beginning of 2020, we were preparing for the second year of the multi-year bridge rebuild project. We were worried about traffic delays, detours, and blocked access to our downtown. What we found, however, was that the bridge workers kept our downtown going during the stay-at-home days, buying takeout meals and purchasing supplies from our merchants. Community members were mesmerized by the big equipment and cranes that took up residence for most of the year. The construction project that we fretted over was a blessing, and we now have two modern vehicle bridges and a pedestrian bridge to lead people to and through the city.

While it was a year of great challenge, the people and businesses of Gardiner showed ingenuity and resilience in adapting to the new public health safety rules and finding ways to persevere, support neighbors, and invest in the community. As I write this letter, the vaccines are rolling-out and the weekly case count is dropping. I look forward to 2021 as a year of great hope knowing that our community will continue to grow, thrive, and take care of each other.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hart, Mayor



<u>Seat</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>	<u>Email</u>
Mayor	Patricia Hart	2023	pat.hart@gardinermaine.com
District 1	Terry Berry	2021	tberry@gardinermaine.com
District 2	Amy Rees	2021	arees@gardinermaine.com
District 3	Colin Frey	2021	sdolley@gardinermaine.com
District 4	Marc Rines	2021	mrines@gardinermaine.com
At-Large	Maryann White	2023	mwhite@gardinermaine.com
At-Large	Jonathan Ault	2020	jault@gardinermaine.com
At-Large	Timothy Cusick	2023	tcusick@gardinermaine.com

City Council meetings are typically held on the first and third Wednesday off each month. They take place at City Hall, 6 Church Street but currently they are being held via zoom and begin at 6pm. Council meetings are available on our website to watch and listen live. They are also archived for your convenience. Please feel free to contact City Hall, 582-4460, or refer to our online calendar for upcoming meetings.

Council Definitions

Ordinance— A law enacted by a municipal legislative body, such as a city council or county commission. Ordinances govern matters not already covered by state or federal laws such as zoning, safety and building regulations. A municipal ordinance is equivalent to a state statute/law. On-going until voted by the body to amend or repeal.

Order— A formal vote by a municipal body, such as a city council or board of selectmen, instructing that something be done, issuing a formal directive that some action occur. Usually refers to a one time action by the body, such as an order to transfer funds from one account to another.

Resolve/Resolution— Expressing an opinion or endorsement of an action or sentiment, expressing that something should be done, non-binding.

CITY MANAGER

Christine M. Landes, City Manager

Who would have thought that in March of 2020 we would start a journey that would quickly adjust services here in the City of Gardiner? Certainly not me! However, I can confidently say that the city staff has adjusted to our 'new normal' and services have not been reduced or eliminated. Way to go, team!

As always, the city produces this annual report to highlight the great things happening in each department and around the city. The city team continues to work effectively and efficiently in their positions with a high level of pride. I want to personally thank each Department Head and their individual teams for a job well done this past year. No one could ask for a better group of individuals working in the city.

I would also like to thank Mayor Hart and the City Council for allowing me the opportunity to serve the taxpayers, residents, and businesses of Gardiner. It is a pleasure to represent this amazing little city at many events, trainings, and meetings. Everyone is always quick to mention 'You're from Gardiner? What a great place. I have been there many times.' That surely makes one proud to be part of the team.



Onto some of the events that occurred over the past year:

In the spring of 2020, Tony LaPlante left his position as Public Works Director. Kendall Cromwell immediately stepped up and assumed the duties of temporary Director (many thanks to him). That team did not miss a beat while I initiated a recruitment process to fill the position. In the fall, the city was fortunate enough to hire Jerry Douglass as the new Director. He comes to the position with many years of Me DOT experience, a parks and recreation degree and most recently worked for a prominent asphalt company. Welcome Jerry!

The city's Department Head team also took another blow with the resignation of Fire Chief Al Nelson. He decided it was time to do what he truly enjoyed; nursing, fishing, and cooking. Al gave the city over five years of amazing service and for that, I extend my thanks. So once again, another recruitment process was initiated and resumes were received from internal candidates, regional professionals, and even out of state parties. (Again, remember that statement: what a great place? They all wanted to work for and live in the city.) I am pleased to report that after all interviews were completed, an internal candidate was chosen to fill the role of Fire Chief; Rick Sieberg. As Chief Sieberg has committed the past twenty-three years to Gardiner Fire and Rescue Service, it was quite evident that he should be hired to serve as Chief. We could not be prouder!

For the start of 2020, the City of Gardiner elected Colin Frey to serve as a council member for District 3. Incumbents Councilors Terry Berry, Amy Rees and Marc Rines were also re-elected to their position on the City Council. Each of the Council members quickly adapted to meetings held via Zoom once the pandemic hit. Although this meeting format is not ideal, and we continue to learn as we go, the process has allowed all city business and decisions to continue in a usual fashion.

Several policies were initiated, reviewed and ultimately adopted by the City Council during 2020. These policies included:

Conduct of Meetings: a policy to discuss how conduct should be handled in meetings
COVID-19: a policy addressing multiple aspects of the virus and the effect on the employment and safety of staff
Binex-now Rapid Testing; a policy regarding using COVID-19 tests on select employees
Paid Time Off: a policy regarding the requirement of awarding paid time off to all employees
Internet: a policy regarding the safety of staff accessing the available internet the city offers
Shared Laptop: a policy in regards to care and use of an interdepartmental shared laptop
Pool Vehicle: a policy to address the use and care of a shared staff vehicle

The last significant item that happened in 2020 was the repair and replacement of a back wall in the fire department area. This wall had been experiencing significant water damage and was full of mold. McGee Construction was awarded the bid for the project and they completed it in late fall. All infrastructure in that area was upgraded and/or moved at the same time, creating a larger open space area and an increase in effectiveness of utilities.

As always, if there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, your Councilor, or the Mayor. We are here for you! As always, I enjoy serving this beautiful city!

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Landes
City Manager

Assessing Department

Curt Lebel, City Assessor

The Assessing Department operates under the Finance Department of the City of Gardiner.

The City Assessor is responsible for determining the equalized value of real estate and personal property that is subject to municipal taxation. In Maine, a large portion of Municipal, School and County budgets are funded by the property tax. The City Assessor, acting as an agent of the State, governed by State Law and local management policy is responsible for the equitable distribution of the property tax between all the taxable properties within the City. Ongoing administrative duties involve the maintenance of property information on parcels within the City, municipal budget cap development, maintenance and determination of captured value of the City's Tax Increment Financing districts and production of GIS maps for City projects. Specific records include legal information regarding ownership, parcel maps, property record cards, sales information, etc.

Property resale value continued to increase during the period preceding the April 1, 2019 (FY20) assessment. An assessment ratio study conducted by Maine Revenue Services showed a 3% decrease (appreciation) in the residential average assessment ratio from the previous year and was reported to be 86% of market value. The growth in taxable valuation base was increased by 2.3 million from Fiscal year 2019, due to increases in building construction.

Assessment Statistics for Fiscal Year 2020

Assessment Date: April 1, 2019	Homestead Exemptions: 1,179
Commitment Date: July 24, 2019	Veterans Exemptions: 178
Taxable Valuation: \$357,994,600	Blind Exemptions: 2
Net Assessment: \$7,768,482.82	Parsonages: 4
Tax Rate: .0217	Tree Growth Parcels: 11
Assessment Ratio: 100% Certified Ratio	Farmland Parcels: 11
Transfers Processed: 217 (Apr 18-Mar 19)	Open Space Parcels: 4
Permit Checks: approximately 327	

FY 2020 Municipal Levy Limit: \$4,107,405.62

FY 2020 Municipal Levy: \$2,925,767.67

FY 2020 Municipal Levy was: \$1,181,637.95 less than allowable limit.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Denise Brown, Finance Director

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020

This report is a narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the City of Gardiner for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the audited financial report, which contains a complete analysis of the city's financial position. This report is available on the city's website. Questions concerning any of the information provided or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Finance Director, 6 Church Street, Gardiner, Maine 04345.

Financial Highlights

The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the City of Gardiner, Maine exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$21,508,384 (net position). Of this amount, \$2,136,592 (unrestricted net position) may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

The City of Gardiner, Maine's total net position decreased \$760,008. This represents a decrease of \$453,641 in governmental activities and a decrease of \$306,367 in business-type.

As of the close of the current fiscal year, the City of Gardiner, Maine's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$3,678,413, a decrease of \$522,900.

At the end of the fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$2,288,220 or 22% of total General Fund expenditures of \$10,224,361.

The General Fund acquired the following capital items:

A new SUV was purchased for the Police Department using \$36,002 in one-time expenses.

A Radio equipment upgrade was performed in the amount of \$49,631 to enhance the public safety service and was funded with the City's fund balance.

A new loader for the Building and Grounds Department was purchased for \$74,689.

A new plow truck was purchased for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$156,369.

\$318,990 was spent on sidewalk upgrades during FY20.

Financial Overview

The General Fund is the city's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund, such as WasteWater and Ambulance.

The City of Gardiner adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Government-wide financial information distinguishes functions of the City of Gardiner that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). The governmental activities of the City include general government, public safety, public works, education, and community services.

The City has two business-type activities; the operations of the ambulance service and the wastewater treatment plant.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

For the current fiscal year, revenues exceeded budgetary projections by \$65,388 and expenditures were below appropriations by \$327,049. This created a positive variance of \$392,437 to fund balance. However, use of fund balance, carryforwards and transfers to other funds netted an increase of \$103,405 to fund balance.

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE
Required Supplementary Information
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Budget and Actual - General Fund
General Fund
For the year ended June 30, 2020

	Budget		Actual	Variance with final budget positive (negative)	2019
	Original	Final			
Revenues:					
Taxes	\$ 8,914,483	8,914,483	8,965,477	50,994	8,663,085
Licenses and permits	21,000	21,000	52,738	31,738	23,888
Intergovernmental	1,263,182	1,263,182	1,277,939	14,757	1,022,926
Charges for services	51,700	51,700	46,490	(5,210)	56,438
Interest earned	100,000	100,000	54,117	(45,883)	113,897
Unclassified	112,927	112,927	131,919	18,992	146,343
Total revenues	10,463,292	10,463,292	10,528,680	65,388	10,026,577
Expenditures:					
Current:					
General government	1,124,282	1,127,282	1,055,104	72,178	997,545
Technology	90,580	90,580	104,963	(14,383)	92,418
Public safety	2,408,567	2,408,567	2,321,265	87,302	2,240,955
Public works	1,944,746	1,951,246	1,804,077	147,169	1,891,033
Community services	608,189	608,189	592,176	16,013	564,903
Education	3,770,478	3,770,478	3,770,478	-	3,550,050
County tax	362,004	362,004	362,004	-	347,746
Unclassified	34,680	34,680	15,910	18,770	11,797
Capital expenditures	-	49,631	49,631	-	92,000
Total expenditures	10,343,526	10,402,657	10,075,608	327,049	9,788,447
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	119,766	60,635	453,072	392,437	238,130
Other financing sources (uses):					
Use of fund balance	225,000	274,631	-	(274,631)	-
Use of carryforwards	-	9,500	-	(9,500)	-
Transfer from other funds	345,787	345,787	340,886	(4,901)	457,983
Transfer to other funds	(690,553)	(690,553)	(690,553)	-	(684,821)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(119,766)	(60,635)	(349,667)	(289,032)	(226,838)
Net change in fund balance	-	-	103,405	103,405	11,292
Fund balance, beginning of year			2,714,815		2,703,523
Fund balance, end of year	\$		2,818,220		2,714,815

Government-wide Financial Analysis

The City of Gardiner, Maine, assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$21,508,384 at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

The City's restricted net position represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position of \$2,136,592 may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

The City of Gardiner, Maine's net position decreased \$760,008 during the current fiscal year. This change is broken out in the following categories:

Governmental activities: The City's governmental activities decreased the net position by \$453,641.

Business-type activities: The City's two business-type activities, the ambulance service and wastewater treatment plant, decreased the City of Gardiner, Maine's net position by \$306,367.

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Primary Government Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Revenues:						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 105,228	86,326	3,023,213	3,024,948	3,128,441	3,111,274
Operating grants & cont.	357,161	494,543	-	-	357,161	494,543
Capital grants	206,315	164,151	-	-	206,315	164,151
General revenues:						
Property taxes	7,767,222	7,608,637	-	-	7,767,222	7,608,637
Other taxes	1,135,285	1,182,418	-	-	1,135,285	1,182,418
Grants & cont.	1,073,070	841,060	-	-	1,073,070	841,060
Other	193,157	308,119	-	-	193,157	308,119
Total revenues	10,837,438	10,685,254	3,023,213	3,024,948	13,860,651	13,710,202
Expenses:						
General government	1,161,242	737,364	-	-	1,161,242	737,364
Technology	104,963	92,418	-	-	104,963	92,418
Public safety	2,474,278	1,871,286	-	-	2,474,278	1,871,286
Public works	2,108,124	2,231,448	-	-	2,108,124	2,231,448
Community services	701,791	789,745	-	-	701,791	789,745
Education	3,770,478	3,550,050	-	-	3,770,478	3,550,050
County tax	362,004	347,746	-	-	362,004	347,746
Unclassified	19,410	15,797	-	-	19,410	15,797
Misc. capital costs	659,934	222,089	-	-	659,934	222,089
Interest on debt	83,079	92,820	-	-	83,079	92,820
Ambulance	-	-	1,485,551	1,273,285	1,485,551	1,273,285
Wastewater	-	-	1,689,805	1,750,208	1,689,805	1,750,208
Total expenses	11,445,303	9,950,763	3,175,356	3,023,493	14,620,659	12,974,256
Increase (decrease) in net position	(607,865)	734,491	(152,143)	1,455	(760,008)	735,946
Transfers in (out)	154,224	155,972	(154,224)	(155,972)	-	-
Net position, beg. of year	11,770,287	10,879,824	10,498,105	10,652,622	22,268,392	21,532,446
Net position, end of year	\$ 11,316,646	11,770,287	10,191,738	10,498,105	21,508,384	22,268,392

Fund Balance Overview

The focus of the City of Gardiner, Maine's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the City's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the City's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$3,678,413.

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE Balance Sheet Governmental Funds June 30, 2020

	General	Capital Projects	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,061,265	-	476,229	3,537,494
Receivables:				
Taxes	154,804	-	-	154,804
Tax liens	394,436	-	-	394,436
Accounts	103,813	100,720	24,000	228,533
Notes	-	-	80,288	80,288
Interfund loans receivable	-	675,189	35,294	710,483
Total assets	\$ 3,714,318	775,909	615,811	5,106,038
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	149,756	284,113	3,241	437,110
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	44,985	-	-	44,985
Taxes paid in advance	36,968	-	-	36,968
Due to other governments	11,748	-	-	11,748
Interfund loans payable	170,641	-	244,173	414,814
Total liabilities	414,098	284,113	247,414	945,625
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	482,000	-	-	482,000
Total deferred inflows of resources	482,000	-	-	482,000
FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT)				
Nonspendable	-	-	307,399	307,399
Restricted	-	-	292,082	292,082
Committed	210,000	491,796	-	701,796
Assigned	320,000	-	-	320,000
Unassigned	2,288,220	-	(231,084)	2,057,136
Total fund balances (deficit)	2,818,220	491,796	368,397	3,678,413
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	\$ 3,714,318	775,909	615,811	

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the year ended June 30, 2020

	General	Capital Projects	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Taxes	\$ 8,965,477	-	-	8,965,477
Licenses and permits	52,738	-	-	52,738
Intergovernmental	1,277,939	206,315	56,212	1,540,466
Charges for services	46,490	-	6,000	52,490
Interest earned	54,117	-	7,121	61,238
Unclassified	131,919	-	96,080	227,999
Total revenues	10,528,680	206,315	165,413	10,900,408
Expenditures:				
Current:				
General government	1,027,209	-	30,384	1,057,593
Technology	104,963	-	-	104,963
Public safety	2,314,139	-	11,495	2,325,634
Public works	1,802,077	-	10,382	1,812,459
Community services	592,176	-	98,993	691,169
Education	3,770,478	-	-	3,770,478
County tax	362,004	-	-	362,004
Unclassified	15,910	-	3,500	19,410
Debt service	-	-	405,267	405,267
Capital expenditures	235,405	978,924	-	1,214,329
Total expenditures	10,224,361	978,924	560,021	11,763,306
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	304,319	(772,609)	(394,608)	(862,898)
Other financing sources (uses):				
Issuance of debt	185,774	-	-	185,774
Transfers in	340,886	27,895	702,679	1,071,460
Transfers out	(727,574)	-	(189,662)	(917,236)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(200,914)	27,895	513,017	339,998
Net change in fund balances	103,405	(744,714)	118,409	(522,900)
Fund balances, beginning of year	2,714,815	1,236,510	249,988	4,201,313
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 2,818,220	491,796	368,397	3,678,413

The general fund increased \$103,405 during the current fiscal year, the Capital Projects fund decreased \$744,714, and other governmental funds increased \$118,409. This resulted in a total decrease to all funds of \$522,900.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital assets. The City of Gardiner, Maine's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of June 30, 2020 amounts to \$14,748,049 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings and improvements, furniture and equipment, vehicles, and infrastructure.

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year included the following:

Asset	Dept	Asset	Dept
Police Cruiser	PD	Plow Truck	PW
PD Radio Upgrade	PD	Sidewalk Upgrades	PW
Loader	B&G	Rescue 1	Amb
WW Upgrade	WW	Rescue 2	Amb

Total capital asset additions and deletions for FY 2020 in the City's governmental activities was \$635,681. After accounting for current year depreciation of \$931,940, governmental activities' net capital assets decreased by \$296,259 from the prior fiscal year.

Total capital asset additions and deletions for FY 2020 in the City's business-type activities (Ambulance and Wastewater) was \$774,089. After accounting for current year depreciation of \$749,305, business-type activities' net capital assets increased by \$24,784 from the prior fiscal year.

Long-term debt. At the end of the current fiscal year, the City of Gardiner, Maine had total notes payable of \$9,767,170, which is a decrease of \$1,060,423 from the prior year. Of this amount, \$4,888,961 is for governmental activities and \$4,878,209 is for business-type activities.

Long-term Debt Payable at June 30, 2020								
		Date of Issue	Original Amount Issued	Date of Maturity	Paid thru FY20	Principal Balance 30-Jun-20	Interest Balance 30-Jun-20	Total Outstanding 30-Jun-20
General Fund								
2007 GO	Northwest Quadrant	09/26/07	319,700	11/01/27	191,820	127,880	19,260	147,140
2010 GO	Ladder Truck	10/28/10	767,000	11/01/25	460,200	306,800	25,064	331,864
2011 GO	Harrison Ave	05/26/11	260,000	11/01/39	74,286	185,714	83,742	269,456
2015 GO	Highland Ave	04/01/15	425,000	04/01/21	354,167	70,833	1,470	72,304
2015 GO	Fire Equipment	10/20/15	91,620	10/20/21	65,443	26,177	936	27,113
2017 GO	Fire Truck	03/30/17	163,080	03/31/22	96,941	66,139	1,848	67,987
2017 GO	Road Projects	05/22/17	1,194,339	05/22/26	383,517	810,823	71,414	882,236
2017 GO	Sidewalks	05/22/17	600,132	05/22/31	118,376	481,756	88,591	570,347
2018 GO	Loader	12/10/18	129,500	12/10/24	21,583	107,917	9,955	117,872
2019 GO	LED Street Lights	02/28/19	294,074	02/28/29	29,407	264,667	47,987	312,654
						2,448,705	350,267	2,798,972
TIF Fund								
2010 GO	Libby Hill	05/27/10	4,067,093	11/01/34	1,626,837	2,440,256	601,425	3,041,680
						2,440,256	601,425	3,041,680
WasteWater Fund								
2011 RD	Harrison Ave	05/26/11	236,000	05/26/40	49,699	186,301	82,311	268,613
2014 SRLF	Refinanced RD Bonds	09/19/14	2,482,414	09/01/31	730,122	1,752,292	26,284	1,778,576
2016 RD	Cobbossee	08/25/16	391,000	02/01/45	35,545	355,455	101,973	457,428
2016 RD	Cobbossee	08/25/16	188,000	02/01/45	17,090	170,910	49,033	219,943
2016 RD	CSO	12/16/16	2,758,000	12/16/44	344,750	2,413,250	565,606	2,978,856
						4,878,209	825,207	5,703,415
Ambulance Fund								
Total All Funds						9,767,170	1,776,898	11,544,068

Economic Factors, Next Year's Budget, and Tax Rates

The following economic factors are considered when deliberating the annual budget:

- Increases/decreases in revenues
- Expenses for which the City has limited control
- Taxable assessed value
- State budget

City officials consider many factors when making judgments and estimates, such as:

- Minimal taxpayer impact**
- Minimal impact to services**
- Minimal impact to our workforce**
- Responsibly managing the fund balance**

City staff continue to look for ways to find savings and efficiencies within their departmental budgets.

The FY 2021 budget resulted in a flat tax rate, remaining at 21.7/mil. Highlights of the FY21 budget include the following:

- General Fund budget of \$10,300,624**
 - \$6,126,712 (City)**
 - \$3,770,478 (Education)**
 - \$403,434 (County)**
- Ambulance Enterprise Fund budget of \$1,495,056**
- Wastewater Enterprise Fund budget of \$1,623,804**

Financial Management

The Finance Department is committed to ensuring sound financial management of the public's funds by following the City's financial action plan, maintaining a sufficient fund balance, and adhering to the highest management standards. Functions of the finance department include accounting, human resource management, risk management, purchasing, debt administration, cash management, treasury, tax assessing, and tax collection. The finance staff is dedicated to providing the City Manager & City Council, all city departments, business owners, and the residents of Gardiner with fiscal support.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

City Council
City of Gardiner, Maine

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Gardiner, Maine, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City of Gardiner, Maine's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 14, 2020.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City of Gardiner, Maine's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Gardiner, Maine's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Gardiner, Maine's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*, CONTINUED

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City of Gardiner, Maine's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

During our audit, we became aware of a matter that is an opportunity for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. Our recommendation is included in the attached schedule of comments and responses.

City of Gardiner, Maine's Response to Other Comment

The City of Gardiner, Maine's response to the other comment identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of comments and responses. The City of Gardiner, Maine's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



December 14, 2020
South Portland, Maine

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE
Schedule of Comments and Responses
June 30, 2020

Use of Service Organization

The City of Gardiner, Maine utilizes a service organization for the billing, collection, remittance, and tracking of ambulance charges for services. The service organization currently does not have a service and organization controls (SOC) report done on an annual basis. SOC for Service Organization reports are designed to help service organizations that provide services to other entities, build trust and confidence in the service performed and controls related to services through a report by an independent certified public accountant (CPA). These reports, prepared in accordance with AT-C section 320, *Reporting on an Examination of Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to User Entities' Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*, are specifically intended to meet the needs of entities that use service organizations (user entities) and the CPAs that audit the user entities' financial statements (user auditors), in evaluating the effect of the controls at the service organization on the user entities' financial statements.

Without a SOC report, the City does not have assurance that the service organization's internal controls over financial reporting are suitably designed and operating effectively. Total charges for services for the Ambulance Fund were over \$1.2 million for the year ended June 30, 2020. We recommend that the service organization the City utilizes for the services mentioned above receive a SOC report on an annual basis to provide reasonable assurance of their internal controls over financial reporting. If the City continues to utilize a service organization that does not receive a SOC report, we recommend extra procedures be performed by City personnel in regards to the billing, collection, remittance, and tracking of ambulance charges for services to ensure that the controls of the service organization are meeting the needs of the City.

Management Response: *The ambulance billing company will have a SOC report for the next FY21 audit year.*

TAX COLLECTOR

Kathleen Cutler, Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer

The Tax Collector operates under the Finance Department of the City of Gardiner.

The Tax Collector is a public officer, appointed by the municipal officer, who has the duty of collecting taxes lawfully assessed within the municipality. The Tax Collector's duties include the preparation of the tax bills, administering the tax club, sending out the 30 Day Demand notices, filing liens and processing the foreclosures, working with mortgage holders to provide tax information and assists residents with motor vehicle registrations, boats, snow mobiles and ATV's. It is our mission to provide every taxpayer with the highest level of customer service while exploring ways to control and minimize costs.

Tax Collector Cutler continues to serve as President of both the Maine Municipal Tax Collector and Treasurer's Association and the Northeast Regional Tax Collector's and Treasurer's Association. These affiliations ensure that this office provides the most current information pertaining to property taxes, motor vehicles and any programs that could potentially offer tax relief for our citizens.

The biggest challenge in 2020 was adapting to Covid 19. The office closed to the public on March 17 and remained closed for eight weeks. We continued to process payments via the drop box and mail and we encouraged residents to use the online payment option.

The City offers a Tax Club, which allows residents the option to pay their taxes in nine (9) equal payments. All previous accounts must be paid in full before a Tax Club is issued. Tax Clubs may include both Real Estate and Personal Property. On average 150 residents participate in the tax club each year.

In FY20 we sent out 2933 tax bills, 177 liens were filed and 53 foreclosure notices were sent. If you would like to receive information about tax-acquired properties, please go to www.gardinermaine.com. On the top right corner of the home page, there is a link to subscribe to email alerts. Once you provide your email address there will be a drop down box that allows you to select which office you would like to receive notices from. Select "tax collector" and you will receive notices when we dispose of tax acquired properties.

In FY20 we registered 6483 vehicles for a total of \$946,288

We continue to work on outreach with elder residents and are always looking for ways to provide tax relief. The city currently offers a Tax Discount Program. In 2020 38 residents qualified for relief and received a combined \$15,910 in refunds. For information on this program please call city hall.

Tax Collectors Report			
	2019	2020	
Assessed value\$		355,605,900	
357,994,600			
Tax rate (per \$1,000)	21.40	21.70	
Commitment 7,609,966	7,768,483		
Supplemental taxes	5,076	3,735	
	7,615,042	7,772,218	
Less:			
Abatements/write offs	3,891	2,938	
Collections	7,292,152	7,508,385	
Current year taxes receivable at end of year	318,999	260,895	
288,345,527			
Total taxes and liens receivable	\$ 588,277	549,240	
Due date	1st half	September 17, 2018	September
16, 2019			
	2nd half	March 15, 2019	March 16,
2020			
Interest rate on delinquent taxes	8.00%	9.00%	
Collection rate	95.81%	96.64%	

FY2020 OUTSTANDING REAL-ESTATE TAXES

ABBOTT ,JACOB T & MELISSA B	\$2,977.04
ADAMS LINDA & MICHAEL	\$1,126.23
ARCHER, ADAM	\$2,965.17
ARSENEAU, DIANE	\$1,777.58
ASPIRE CORPORATION	\$11,409.15
ATKINS, CATHERINE	\$6,650.81
AYER, RAYMOND	\$4,023.73
BAILEY, GEORGE E HEIRS	\$3,275.55
BALLEW, CASEY, COTE, GARY	\$6,743.22
BARRE, CYNTHIA	\$1,320.50
BECKWITH ,WALTER ISLES	\$3,303.62
BEDARD MICHAEL	\$961.31
BERNARD, ASHLEY	\$6,282.71
BERNARD, ASHLEY	\$12,534.67
BIRD, MARY	\$288.70
BRENDAHL ,CRICKETT	\$4,933.36
BUCKLEY, PETER S & DEBORAH B	\$1,638.98
BUECHLER ,CATHERINE PERSON	\$3,155.92
BUMFORD, MICHAELA	\$247.25
BUTLER, RICHARD	\$4,488.95
C B MAREIC INC	\$2,575.64
CANYON LLC	\$7,397.46
CASWELL, RONALD	\$306.46
CAVANAUGH, NEIL F	\$3,832.00
CLARK, DAVID G	\$258.92
CLOUTIER, LARRY B	\$2,518.98
COLE, CHARLES DOUGLAS	\$3,886.37
CLUKEY CHERYL D	\$1,887.90
COTTLE, ADAM	\$1,992.63

FY2020 OUTSTANDING REAL-ESTATE TAXES

COTTLE, ADAM& CHERYL	\$259.80
COTTRELL SUSAN	\$881.02
DAVIS, MARK P & DENISE M	\$1,937.04
DICENT ,VALERIO PERSON IN	\$36,845.95
DICK T W CO INC	\$24,230.20
DOLLEY, DAVID A	\$14,855.54
DONOVAN-KALOUST, GREGG M	\$12,026.80
EATON, MARLENE HANDCOCK	\$1,184.77
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE	\$1,320.75
FELDER MARK H	\$1,822.80
FITZHERBERT, PHILIP	\$3,285.82
FLES, JACOB	\$4,475.14
FOWLER, LEONA M	\$3,460.61
FREDERICKSON, DIANE L	\$1,801.02
GAITHER, MICHAEL & SUSAN	\$761.61
GILLEY, BRIDGETTE	\$436.26
GONZALEZ, CAROS	\$1,452.48
GORDON, JAMES	\$5,706.24
GOODALL, BENJAMIN	\$4,746.24
GOODALL, BENJAMIN	\$3,965.60
GOODALL PROPERTIES LLC	\$16,382.20
GOWEN, DALE ABBOTT	\$423.24
GREEN ON THE HILL LLC	\$1,709.96
GREEN ON THE HILL	\$1,816.29
GUILMETTE, BRENDA L	\$5,549.31
HIGGINSON, GARY	\$4,201.83
HINSON, DAVID	\$4,986.39
HOLT, PAULINE	\$3,790.70
JAMES, GORDON	\$6,713.41

FY2020 OUTSTANDING REAL-ESTATE TAXES

JOSEPH, JASON	\$2,720.04
KNOWLES, DAVID	\$2,585.21
LAAKSO, JULIE	\$3,104.65
LAGASSE, ANITA & JAMES	\$4,439.94
LAWRENCE, JOHN	\$4,392.67
LEAVITT, MONICA	\$4,165.96
LEPOFF, SARAH	\$4,317.67
LOVELY, WILLIAM	\$19,412.64
LOVECHENKO, EUGENE	\$6,961.98
LUDDER, JAMES & STACY	\$3,814.67
MACMASTER, JASON	\$7,250.14
MACMASTER, MICHAEL	\$8,972.07
MASCHINO ,ELMER E	\$9,314.36
MCBRINE, JEANNE	\$527.50
MCKECHNIE, SANDRA	\$68.43
MCLAUGHLIN, MARK D	\$2,336.53
MESERVIE, MAURICE	\$1,529.53
MORANG, JEFFREY	\$8,234.06
NICKLESS, RICHARD D JR	\$2,045.13
OLORE, DIANE	\$862.82
PAPERROUTE, LLC	\$567.31
PELLETIER, PAUL & ANDRE	\$2,906.83
PETERS, TIFFANY	\$3,713.99
PORTAL PROPERTIES	\$2,266.29
PRESBY, APRIL	\$3,480.55
PURINGTON, DANA	\$9,345.90
RONAN KATHY A	\$3,213.75
RSP CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$3,900.62
RTM GARDINER LLC	\$7,091.96

FY2020 OUTSTANDING REAL-ESTATE TAXES

RUSSELL, DALE G	\$282.31
SEIGARS, TAMARA	\$4,052.90
SRB HOMES	\$1,286.47
SERGEANT ,PENNY L	\$12,482.50
SMITH, MICHAEL E PERSONAL	\$7,663.79
SMITH, MICHAEL & LESA	\$7,675.74
SMITH, PAUL D	\$1,320.75
SMITH, RICHARD A & MARY JOAN	\$6,849.18
SOLOMON, CHRISTINE	\$4,773.50
SPEAR, RONALD & KIMBERLY	\$3,176.80
STEBBINS, DANIEL	\$2,747.32
SUMMER ST PROPERTIES	\$9,959.70
TERRELL, LYNDA	\$2,762.62
TWC PROPERTIES LLC	\$14,359.92
TW DICK	\$22,440.46
UHL EUGENE H III	\$468.72
URBIETA CECILE	\$2,236.53
WATERMAN ,MEGAN L	\$13,149.74
WHEELER, LAURIE	\$1,000.00
WHITNEY, PHILIP T	\$1,154.62
WIGHT, MELISSA & CHARLES	\$5,110.46
WILLARD, HEATHER	\$2,647.21
WILLARD, RICHARD T	\$3,424.78
WILLIAMS WILLIAMS S	\$5,760.50
WLODYLO DEBRA	\$3,120.40
Balance	\$549,239.95

CITY CLERK

Alisha Ballard, City Clerk

Office Staff

Alisha Ballard,
City Clerk &
Registrar of Voters

Kathleen Cutler,
Tax Collector &
Deputy Treasurer

Bri Theriault,
Front Office Clerk

Sherry Emmons,
Executive Secretary,
GA Administrator,
& Utility Clerk

Angelia Christopher,
Planning & Economic
Development
Administrative
Assistant

P: (207) 582-4200
F: (207) 582-6895

I would like to thank the Front Office Staff for all the dedicated support to the City of Gardiner. Thank you to Kathleen Cutler and Sherry Emmons for helping me succeed in my new role as City Clerk. Many thanks to Kimberly Ward, Deirdre O'Brien Berglund and the Election Clerks for a great year. Last but not least, thank you to everyone volunteering, working and residing in Gardiner who help make the City a great community.

Dog Licenses

In 2020, the front office staff registered 555 dogs. Dog licenses are renewed every year. We begin selling new tags on October 15th and all dog licenses are due by December 31st. After a thirty-day grace period (January 31st), a late fee of \$25.00 per dog is added to the licensing fee. The licensing fee is \$6.00 per dog that is neutered or spayed and \$11.00 for each dog that is not fixed. When licensing your dog, you must show a current State of Maine rabies certificate. If your dog has been neutered or spayed in the last year, please bring that certificate with you as well.

Vital Records

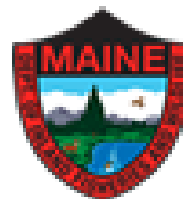
In 2020, 51 new Gardiner residents were born. The City of Gardiner issued 35 marriage licenses with 5 weddings performed here at City Hall. There were 61 recorded deaths.



Inland Fisheries

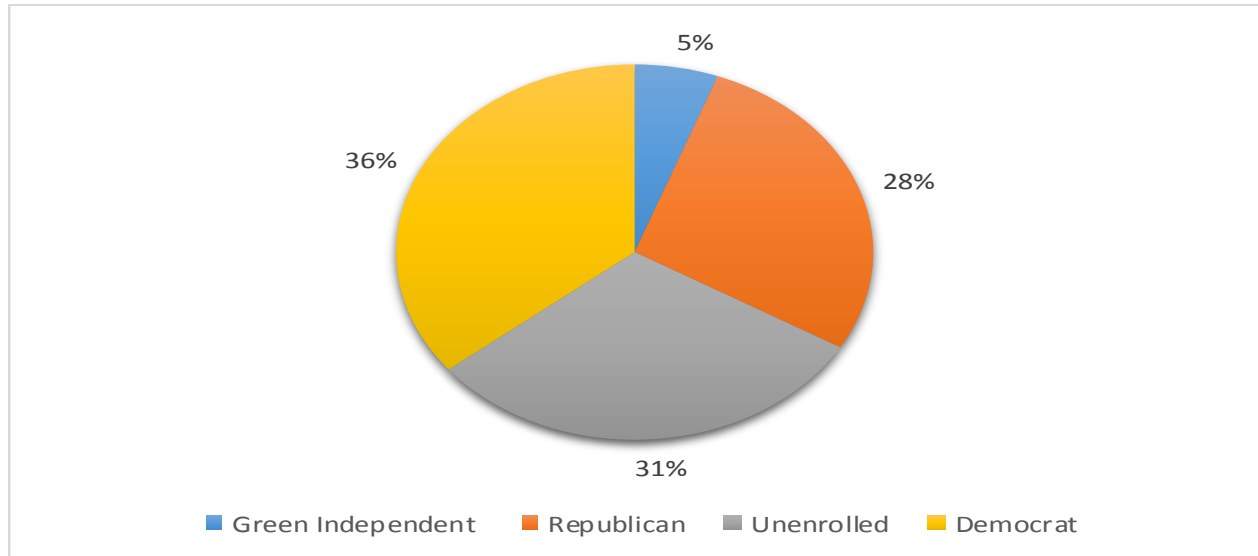
Licenses & Registrations Sold in Calendar Year 2020

Hunting/Fishing	255
Boats	197
ATVs	134
Snowmobiles	104



4,891 Registered Voters in Gardiner

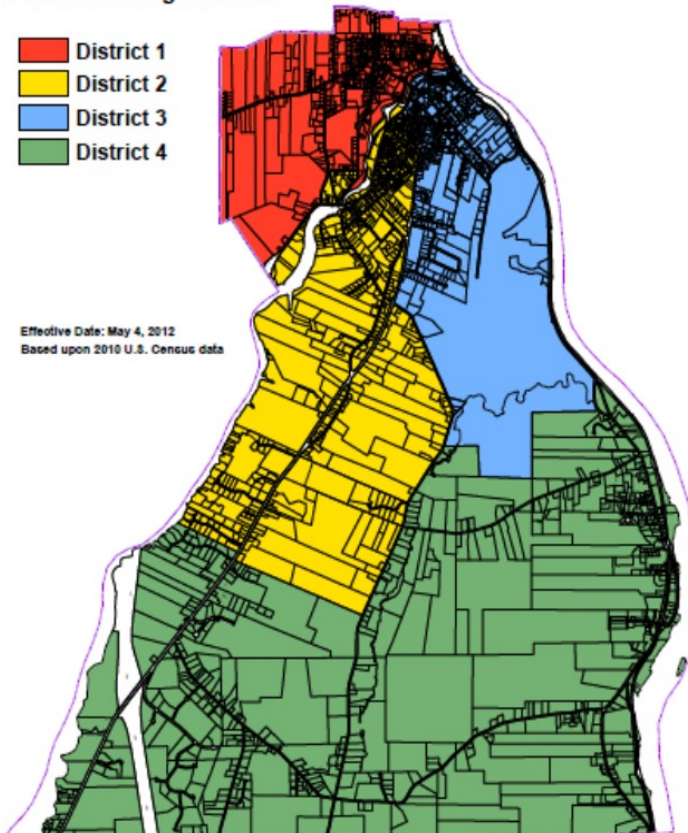
<p>Election Day March 3, 2020 1656 Ballots Cast 34% Voter Turn-Out</p>	<p>Election Day July 14, 2020 1269 Ballots Cast 26% Voter Turn-Out</p>	<p>Election Day November 3, 2020 3303 Ballots Cast 67% Voter Turn-Out</p>
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Gardiner Voting Districts

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4

Effective Date: May 4, 2012
Based upon 2010 U.S. Census data



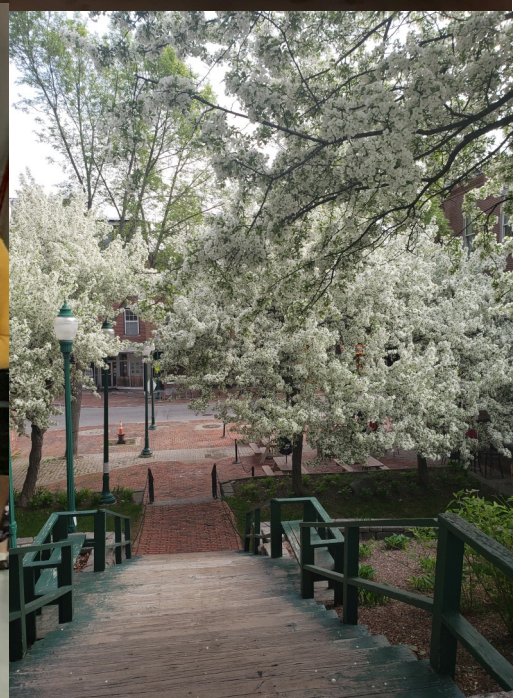
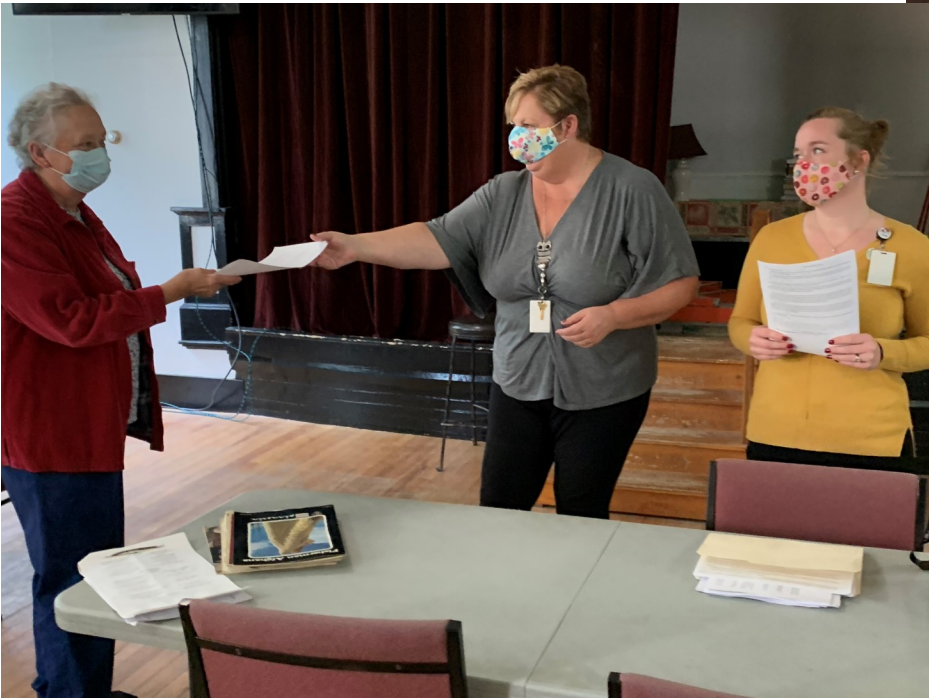
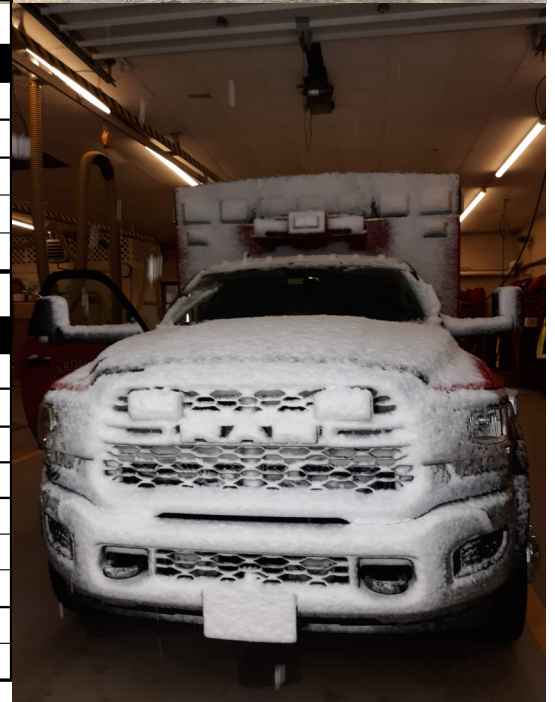


City of Gardiner Employees Recognized for Years of Service in 2020

Name	Position	Years of Service
Lodolce, Justin	Fire/Paramedic	5
Thistle, Dawn	Library Archivist	5
Robideau, Dan	B&G Foreman	10
Gove, Norm	Police Officer	15
Toman, Jim	Police Chief	30

New City of Gardiner Employees Hired in 2020

New Employees	Position	Month Hired
Colin Frey	City Council	January
Robert Pekins	Safety Officer	January
Ariel Kinchen	Custodian	March
Kaleb Marston	Police Officer	May
Jared Shaw	Part-Time B&G	June
Andrew Williams	Fire/EMT	June
Damon Ross	Fire/Paramedic	July
Jerry Dougass	Public Works Director	August
Brianna Theriault	Counter Clerk	September



GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Sherry Emmons, General Assistance Director

General Assistance

The General Assistance Program is available Tuesday and Thursday's by appointment or anytime for emergencies, to assist eligible residents who are in need of basic needs such as rent, fuel, electricity, food and medication. All recipients must meet the state-mandated requirements to be eligible and are responsible for meeting their own basic needs by any means available before applying for General Assistance. This program is not an ongoing assistance program, it is intended to solve the immediate needs or emergencies.

Number of Applications: 60

Number of Residents Assisted: 81

Expenditures for 2020

Housing	\$ 17,037.00
Heating	\$ 1102.23
Electric	\$ 241.61
Household / Personal Supplies	\$ 570.00
Food	\$ 695.00
Burial	\$ 2050.00
Other	\$ 396.97
Total	\$ 22,092.81

Funding Sources for the above expenditures include:

State of Maine, DHHS (Reimbursement 70%) **\$(15464.97)**

Net Cost to Gardiner \$6,627.84

2020 Annual report

Gardiner Public Library

The Gardiner Public Library serves the municipalities of Gardiner, Farmingdale, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph and West Gardiner. This true regional service organization is the public library to a population of more than 20,000 people and it is a big economic driver for Gardiner's historic downtown. We remain an extraordinarily busy library despite the impact of COVID-19 on our community.

With the onset of the pandemic, the library staff was asked to remain home in order to be safe. While at home, staff continued to discuss how we might bring back library services as soon as it was safe. A full year has almost passed and the pandemic increasingly got worse. Staff finally returned to work after remaining offsite for 4 weeks and began implementing ideas on how we can still deliver services. Using a hybrid model of limited access to the building along with creating an ADA accessible takeout window, library users gratefully accepted these guidelines to keep everyone safe. The necessity of the closure and the ultimate reopening of the building highlighted how much our greater Gardiner community relies on all the services we offer. With supplemental funding from the Gardiner Library Association, we were able to purchase many more titles that people can download from home. We now offer the opportunity to download ebooks, audiobooks, movies, music, graphic novels and even comic books. Reading has become an even bigger necessity for our community and the library staff works hard every day to get items out to our senior population, our families, our teens and our children during this pandemic.

The library received a grant from the Maine Public Library Fund to develop a program that loans out Chromebooks and mobile hotspots for people living in our area who cannot access a reliable Internet connection. Realizing that people may rely more on the free wireless network maintained by the library, the Gardiner Library Association received a grant to upgrade this network so people can have access to a free Internet signal from the safety of their cars.

This public library enjoys a wonderful public/private partnership. The library is a department of the City of Gardiner and the staff members are employees of the City. The building and grounds are owned by a 501©3 nonprofit organization called the Gardiner Library Association and it is this organization that owns and maintains this gorgeous 140-year-old building. Along with the wireless upgrade grant, in 2020, this association received enough donations to rehabilitate the unique steel windows in our Hazzard Reading Room, create a room divide in the back entrance for library takeout service and continue to do the maintenance on the beautiful gardens.

Though we currently have suspended any in-house programming, staff is looking at doing virtual story hours, along with a number of other programming that might work via a Zoom platform. We continue to look at ways that we may entertain and educate our communities through this COVID world.

Our Community Archives Room is a destination spot for anyone researching local history. Some of our collection is now available virtually. We have been able to digitalize our newspaper collection dating back to 1827. These newspapers are available online at <http://gardiner.advantage-preservation.com/>

A public library is only as good as its staff and the Gardiner Public Library has one of the best staffs in the state!

Meet the 2020 professional staff

- Anne Davis, Director of Library and Information Services
- Scott Handville, Assistant Director/Adult Services
- Ann Russell, Technology Librarian
- Virginia Nichols, Children's Librarian
- Dawn Thistle, Special Collections/Youth Services Librarian

2020 Part-time staff

- Robert Fagan, library aide
- Jessica Betit, library aide
- Marlene Patten, library aide

GARDINER FIRE AND RESCUE

Richard F Sieberg, Fire Chief

It is with great pleasure that I submit the Gardiner Fire & Rescue Department 2020 Annual Report. The report outlines fire department activities, statistics, and delivery of service enhancements. Each year the department has a profound impact in the communities we serve by saving life and property. Gardiner firefighters take great pride in being fully prepared for any emergency situation we are called to.

Vision Statement

Gardiner Fire Department is dedicated to being the best community focused fire and rescue department that meets the ever changing needs of our community while ensuring a safe and secure environment for all through professional development, unity and teamwork.

Mission Statement

Gardiner Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level public safety services for our community. We protect lives and property through fire suppression, emergency medical response, disaster management, fire prevention and public education.

Statement of Core Values

We, the members of the Gardiner Fire Department are committed to the following values in our interactions with coworkers and customers:

Professionalism– In application, appearance, attitude and standards

Integrity– Demonstrate honesty and fairness

Compassion– Demonstrate kindness and empathy

Responsibility and Accountability– Professionally, personally and fiscally responsible for our actions

Respect– For each other, our Department, the City Government and our customers, the citizens and visitors of the City of Gardiner

Diversity– Be open minded and responsive to the uniqueness of our community without regard to age, gender, religion or ethnic origin

Commitment– In all department endeavors

Teamwork– Encourage unity and a cooperative attitude

Health and Safety – Personal and professional health and safety is paramount in fulfilling the mission of the Gardiner Fire Department.

Responses

Gardiner Fire/Rescue serves a population of 25,040 encompassing 173 square miles. At present the ambulance service contracts include the towns of: Litchfield, West Gardiner, Farmingdale, Randolph, Chelsea, Pittston and Richmond. In 2020, Gardiner Fire/Rescue responded to 2,745 EMS calls and 253 fire calls.

Personnel

The Gardiner Fire and Rescue Department has maintained its force of 16 firefighter/paramedics. The crews work in four shifts and provide coverage 24 hours a day 365 days a year. We staff 4 firefighter/paramedics each day providing both fire and EMS services.

A Shift

Captain/Paramedic Nate Sutherburg

Lieutenant/Paramedic Eric Davis

Firefighter/Advanced EMT Clayton Snelling

Firefighter/Advanced EMT Andrew Williams

B Shift

Captain/Paramedic Pat Saucier

Lieutenant/Paramedic Josh Webb

Firefighter/Advanced EMT Gary Hickey

Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Cataldi

C Shift

Captain/Paramedic Andrew Santheson

Lieutenant/Paramedic Justin Lodolce

Firefighter/Advanced EMT Cody Hickey

Firefighter/Advanced EMT Damon Ross

D Shift

Captain/Paramedic Josh Johnson

Lieutenant/Paramedic Jesse Thompson

Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Melanson

Firefighter/Paramedic Vacant

Equipment

Communications and EMS all saw big improvements in 2020. Replacing the old legacy communications system with a new simulcast P25 Phase II compliant system. The new simulcast system has enhanced our portable radio coverage significantly throughout our coverage area. This greatly adds to the safety of our firefighters as they carry out their mission. Additionally we placed new portable radios into service. These radios are all P25 phase II compliant meeting the current industry standard. Portable radios have been mounted in all three rescues, Ladder 1 and Engine 1. Both of these projects have brought our communications to a level never seen in this department. Two new ambulances went into service. These trucks replaced two of the old van style ambulances. Both rigs are all wheel drive and have a liquid gel suspension. Our ambulances see heavy use day in and day out, these new trucks should be a great addition to our fleet.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention and Education

Firefighter/paramedic, Tony Cataldi is our Fire Prevention and Education specialist. COVID made our fire prevention outreach look a bit different this year. Tony built a very informative power point presentation that was used by several youth groups. Hopefully this year finds Tony back in the schools teaching our kiddos.

Training - Fire and EMS

The Gardiner Fire Department conducts regular training through company drills and external training opportunities to maintaining the skill sets to necessary to suppress fire, conduct technical rescues and perform advanced life support. These skills are critical to the safe and efficient management of the wide variety of calls the department responds to. We are also required by law to meet training and safety standards to ensure employees have the ability to enter situations that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) in the safest possible manner.

Fire Training

In addition to our shift trainings Gardiner Firefighters hosted a class B live fire training in the business park.

This provided firefighters from Gardiner and surrounding town's hands on training dealing with propane/natural gas fires. Gardiner also held a live burn training in Bath using their burn building. This training allowed members to practice hose advancing, search and rescue, ventilation, and incident command for our new officers. Live fire trainings are very valuable, allowing crews to perform under real fire and smoke conditions.

EMS Training

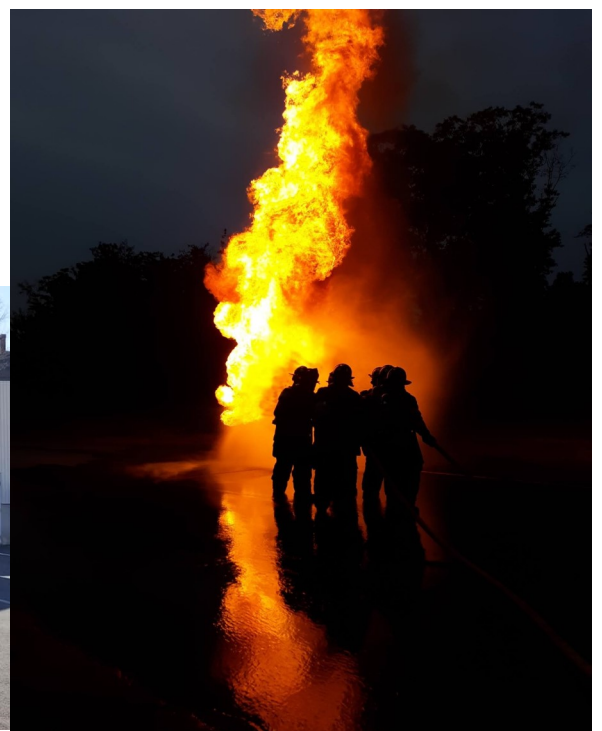
Each year Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers are required to attend continuing education. Gardiner Fire

& Rescue's provider mix is comprised of 11 EMT-Paramedics and 5 Advanced EMT's. In 2020 the department hosted classes in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), pre-hospital trauma life support (PHTLS) and monthly continuing education classes that are completed online. COVID changed how we normally train, however these classes in conjunction with on shift training keep our EMS professionals on the top of their game.

Although not official training, our department hosts Advanced EMT and Paramedic students as interns. This is a great experience for everyone. We stay current and they learn how to apply their book knowledge to the real world.

Gardiner Fire & Rescue is always eager to assist you anyway we can. Should you have any questions do not hesitate to call.

Chief Sieberg 207-582-4535 ext. 1120, E-mail fire@gardinermaine.com





Gardiner Police Department

MISSION STATEMENT

The Gardiner Police Department's mission is to enhance the quality of life and provide a sense of safety and security within the City of Gardiner. Through highly ded-

James M. Toman

Chief

Sergeants

Stacey Blair

Normand Gove

Detective

Sgt. Todd Pilsbury

School Resource Officers

Carolynn Taylor

Samuel Quintana

Patrolmen

Allen Alexander

Daniel Ross

Amanda Roggio

Joseph Bourdelais

Alonzo Connor

Sean Dixon

Safety Officer

Public Safety Assistant

Tara Miley

Message from the Chief

What a year 2020 has been! Despite the pandemic and the ripple effect that has been felt here and across our country due to the senseless death of Mr. George Floyd, the Gardiner Police Department maintained its mission of providing policing excellence, customer service, and ensuring the safety and quality of life for Gardiner citizens, businesses and visitors. The Police Department's crime reduction strategies and our partnership with the community have contributed to another year with a reduction in serious criminal offenses. Because of our commitment to working with you, it is our hope that Gardiner will continue to be a very safe community.

If you would like to receive up-to-date information about what is going on in our wonderful city, please do one or perhaps both of the following: #1 go to the Gardiner Police Department's page on Facebook and click "like". #2 go to www.NIXLE.com and immediately sign up to receive free email and text alerts from Gardiner Public Safety. Please go "like" and sign up today!

Have you recently moved to Gardiner or S. Gardiner or have you moved from one location in Gardiner to another location in Gardiner? Did you know that you are required to change your address on both your license and registration? Here is the link to assist you with that - <https://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/>. We ask that you complete this immediately in case we need to make contact with you, we can.

Please stay alert to your surroundings, lock up your cars and your houses, there are people amongst us that will take what is not theirs. We need you to assist us in preventing and solving crimes. Please remember that neither our Facebook nor Facebook Messenger is monitored 24/7, as such, they are not an effective way to notify the department that something is wrong or that you need an officer for something that is going on right now. If you see or hear something that is suspicious, call the dispatch center immediately at 624-7076 x9 or 911 so that on-duty staff can respond as quickly as time allows. #SeeSomethingSaySomething.

The Police Department operated at full staffing for the second half of 2020. Please join me in welcoming our newest employee, Officer Kaleb Marston (hired in May). Officer Marston is an alumnus of Gardiner Area High School, he is doing a wonderful job of protecting, and serving the community that means so much to him.

As your Chief of Police, I assure you that the men and women of Gardiner PD will always -

- *Strive to remain a highly regarded professional organization.

- *Strengthen our partnership with the community through trust, honesty, integrity and strong community relations.

- *Continue to respect the rights and dignity of all individuals.

- *Look for continuous improvement through self-evaluation and we will plan for a future enhanced by technology, education and training, and remaining open to new ideas and concepts in law enforcement.

As your Chief of Police, I am committed to making sure that all officers uphold the highest standard of conduct in all aspects of their job including, de-escalation techniques, situational use of force, mechanics of arrest, and community relations, etc.

If you believe a member of Gardiner PD has not met the mission or has acted in a manner that is concerning, please report your concerns to me so they can be appropriately investigated. Working collaboratively with our citizens, we strive to ensure that the members of Gardiner PD always demonstrate the ethical values that our community is accustomed to and expects from us.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the many citizens of Gardiner that take the time to offer comments and write letters and emails to me about the good, hard work that they witness being performed by Gardiner officers. Your kind words are greatly appreciated!

Lastly, I want to thank all of the dedicated members of the Gardiner Police Department, their families, all of our other City departments, our citizens, our City Manager, and our City Council for their partnership and support of the police department.

Sincerely,

Chief James M. Toman

The generosity that
has been extended
to us is deeply
appreciated.

About the Department

The Gardiner Police Department maintains twenty-four hour police protection 365 days a year. The nine staff members (2 Sergeants and 7 Patrolman) that are assigned to patrol work a 12-hour fixed shift. We also have a full-time detective, two officers assigned as school resource officers during the school year, and a part-time, civilian safety officer. For your safety, there is ALWAYS at least 1-3 officers on duty during

the daytime in the City Gardiner, and there is ALWAYS at least 2 officers on duty from 3pm—7am.

The detective is responsible for investigating all major crimes and incidents. His duties also include evidence collection, preservation, and accountability

The school resource officers are officers that are paid for by MSAD 11 to be in the schools while school is in session. These officers serve as a back up officers during the day and when school is not in session are assigned back to patrol.

The safety officer is a hybrid position that is responsible for animal control, parking enforcement, harbor management and school crossing guard at LER.

Year at a Glance

The Gardiner Police Department responded 9,741 calls for service in 2020. An analysis of those calls for service indicate over 90% of calls are responded to within five minutes. I am extremely proud of the department, and the quality of work the employees produce is outstanding.. A call for service is defined as anything that the Gardiner Police Department has done and includes all citizen complaints. Calls for services resulted in:

- ◆ 139 offense reports
- ◆ major crimes including:
 - ◆ 5 threats
 - ◆ 4 gross sexual assaults
 - ◆ 15 assaults
 - ◆ 40 thefts
 - ◆ 5 burglaries
 - ◆ 1 arson
 - ◆ 24 criminal mischief
- ◆ 402 arrests (an arrest is defined as any time someone is issued a summons with an arraignment court date, any time an individual is arrested on a warrant, probation holds, etc.).
- ◆ 125 traffic citations
- ◆ 139 motor vehicle accidents (includes reportable and non-reportable damage)
- ◆ 81 parking tickets

The department also issued 5 new Concealed Weapons Permits and 18 renewals/transfers.

- ***Always on duty***
- ***624-7076 or 911***
- ***Nixle.com for alerts***
- ***LIKE US on Facebook***
- ***See something, Say something!***

Community Relations

- ◆ Facebook Page - Gardiner Police Department [Maine]
 - ◆ Nightly business checks
 - ◆ Self service prescription drug box available in Police Department lobby during normal business hours. Please disposed of your unused and unwanted meds here
 - ◆ Free trigger lock program
 - ◆ Good Day Gardiner Program
 - ◆ Coffee with a Cop Program
 - ◆ Property checks—we will check your property while you are away
 - ◆ RAD– Rape Aggression Defense systems for women and seniors
 - ◆ ALICE– Business and School training to help survive a violent encounter
-

Animal Control

We would like to remind dog owners that per State law, your dog must be registered with the City by Dec. 31 of each year. Please keep your dog on a leash when you are off of your property and please clean up after your dog in order to keep the City's parks clean and enjoyable for all. Please be sure to check out the City's new dog park located on upper Water St., just west of D&H motors, as it is a park just for dogs! The department responded to [255](#) animal complaint calls in 2020.

Here are some friendly parking ordinance reminders : there is a 2 hour time limit for parking in the downtown on Water Street. Overnight parking is never allowed in the downtown section of Water Street. It is illegal to park on the sidewalk. It shall be unlawful to park on any street within the City of Gardiner between the hours of 12 o'clock midnight and 6:00 a.m. from November 1st to April 30th regardless of weather conditions. All parking violations found within the City are subject to ticketing and towing, so, please pay attention.

PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Jerry Douglass, Public Works Director

The Public Works and Building and Grounds departments operate on a \$1,985,303.00 dollar budget, which includes capital improvements. Our primary services are to maintain the roads, parks, and city buildings. We also respond to all sewer service calls, operate the streetlights and assist in a number of community events.

Our capitol road paving campaign continued by paving several streets including Alexandra Street, Karen Street, Peirce Street, Gary Street, Fairview Street, Church Street, Oak Street, Brunswick Terrace, Lions Road and chip sealed Marston Road. We also prepped and paved the right of way behind Reny's. We set about hundred feet of granite curbing and placed five hundred cubic yards of gravel for the Baily Lot. Several culvert replacements on Libby Hill Road, Lions, and Brunswick Terrace and a bunch of ditching on Capen Road.

Fall cleanup was once again a huge success with many households taking advantage of our annual October event. The crew was busy for 5 weeks picking up debris. In May, the city participated in the household hazardous waste collection in collaboration with the City of Augusta.

The winter of 2019/2020 brought approximately 55 inches of snow mostly in little amounts of 4 inches or less with a handful of storms exceeding 8 inches. The season got off to a quick start in early December with a couple larger storms. January and February saw a lot of smaller snow events while March produced a couple more larger storms.

The spring sweeping and painting got off to a late start due to Covid-19. Sweeping continued into late May, about a month behind schedule. With the spring rains the crews kept busy chasing washouts and grading and shouldering. We also began prepping streets for paving, doing needed sewer and storm water repairs.

The Bridge Street bridge demolition and replacement got underway this year. The process of replacing this bridge was a civil engineering project unlike the City of Gardiner has ever seen. The new bridge was built beside the old bridge so there would be no traffic disruptions. After the new bridge was built the old bridge was demolished and removed. Within days the new 700-ton bridge deck was slid into place which took a little over 8 hours to complete. Most of the work replacing this bridge has been done except for all the finish paving, signs and lights which will be completed in spring of 2021.

The Buildings and Grounds Department was busy maintaining all our parks and cemeteries. Over 30 areas throughout the city were mowed and maintained. This department also works closely with Gardiner Main Street to help operate decorate the city for Christmas. Because of COVID-19 many of the downtown events, including Riverfest, Octoberfest and the Holiday parade had to be cancelled.

Request for Service

Please call the Public Works garage at 582-4408 And Sewer Department at 582-1351. For afterhours emergencies please call 624-7076

Please locate the storm water basins near your property and keep them free of debris to assist the staff and if there is a problem please contact the Public Works Department.

It is our goal to do the best we can every day for the taxpayers of Gardiner.

Jerry Douglass

Public Works Director

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Douglas Clark, Director

In 2020 the City of Gardiner Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) treated 352,539,000 gallons of sewerage and combined stormwater. That calculates to be an average daily flow of 0.963 million gallons per day (mgd). Of that the Town of Farmingdale contributed 48,812,770 gallons or 13.9% of flow contribution and the Town of Randolph contributed 52,444,000 gallons or 14.9%.

The finished clean water or “effluent” discharged to the Kennebec River was cleaned to an average of 95% removal of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and 95% of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The collection system, or sewers, is comprised of miles of underground piping connected through 18 pump stations, 2 siphons, 3 interceptors, numerous force mains and residential service lines.

The waste component of the sewerage was separated and condensed down to a moist, solid material called bio-solids or sludge that was then trucked off to a contract commercial composting facility in Unity, Maine operated by Casella Waste Systems. Once there it was further broken down aerobically in an In-Vessel composting process resulting in a finished product resembling peat moss. The finished compost is rated “Class A” by the Maine DEP meaning it is safe to use for all household gardening and landscaping purposes. Some of the finished compost is delivered back to the Gardiner WWTF for consumer use and is available free of charge to all citizens of Gardiner, Randolph and Farmingdale. In 2020 the WWTF produced 749.19 wet tons (953 cubic yards) of the raw sludge material and received back 100 cubic yards of finished Class A rated compost which was given away free to local residents.

The \$4,200,000 CSO/RTB (Combined Sewer Overflow/Retention and Treatment Basin) project completed in September 2016 at the Maine Avenue Pump Station captured and returned to the system 1,123,000 gallons of combined sewerage and stormwater (CSO flow) that would have otherwise gone untreated out to the Kennebec River. An additional total of 9,738,000 gallons of CSO flow was given basic primary treatment through both the Maine Ave. Pump Station RTB Tank and Treatment Plant before discharge to the river during heavy rain events. This flow would also have been discharged directly to the river without any treatment. This underground storage and treatment basin is designed to collect, treat and store all 100 year storm events occurring within the Seasonal Disinfection period between May 15 and September 30 of each year. Prior to this, heavy precipitation during these events caused high flows to exceed the pumping capability of the Maine Ave. Pump Station and Treatment Plant resulting in bypasses and overflows of excess untreated flow to enter the Kennebec River.

The Gardiner WWTF is manned by 5 employees, Douglas Clark, Director; Larry Whitmore, Mechanic; Doug MacMaster, Operator; Chris Miller, Operator and Ben Dice, Lab Operator. The collection system (sewers) is maintained by Gardiner Public Works Dept. Director Jerry Douglass and Employees Kendall Cromwell, Dave Grover, Jay Jamison and Steve Willard.

Department of Economic and Community Development

Office of Planning and Development

Staff Listing

Tracey Desjardins, Director of Economic Development/Planning – tdesjardins@gardinermaine.com or 207-582-6888

Provides staff and budgetary oversight, serves as Brownfields project coordinator, chairs the Brownfields Advisory Committee, oversees the Community Development Block Grants and works with Economic Development Committee (EDC) and other various city committees. Responsible for business recruitment and retention efforts, city-wide marketing efforts, Libby Hill lot sales, assists businesses with grant funding opportunities

Kris McNeill - Code Enforcement Officer/Assistant Planner – kmcneill@gardinermaine.com or 207-582-6892

Staffs the Planning Board, Board of Appeals, Historic Preservation Commission, Ordinance Review Committee and Housing Committee. Also performs duties of building inspector, plumbing inspector, local health officer, floodplain administrator, tree warden, and E-911 addressing officer.

Angie Christopher, Administrative Assistant – achristopher@gardinermaine.com or 207-582-6892

Handles public inquiries, assists staff on all matters related to the department, and provides support to several boards and committees.

Community & Economic Development

The overall economic picture for 2020 has been very challenging for small businesses due to Covid-19, however Gardiner has seen an increase in activity in the Libby Hill Business Park on larger scale projects. In 2020 the city sold lots 8 & 9 to Posillico Enterprise Partners, LLC of Hampton Bays, NY. Lot 19 was purchased by Preferred Pump. Preferred Pump currently operates at 465 Water Street in Gardiner and are looking forward to their new home in Libby Hill. Other activities at Libby Hill was the construction of Black Diamond Consultants, the expansion of EJ Prescott and Commonwealth Poultry. The City was an active partner in these economic development opportunities, supporting private businesses and preparing city-owned property for redevelopment.

We saw new businesses come into the downtown area to help fill vacancies as well as welcoming new investors to downtown. Businesses became creative and reached out to their customers via social media by offering curb-side pick-up and delivery when the doors were closed to the public. Festivals, shows and concerts were a no-go during 2020, however Johnson Hall continued to provide quality performances via virtual media.

Gardiner's best investment in Economic Development should continue to be focused as much on quality of place as job creation and housing. Strategic investments in amenities such as the Cobbossee Trail, Waterfront Park, Johnson Hall, and the Historic Downtown, will continue to set Gardiner apart as individuals move north for tranquility and still be able to work from home in their large city companies.

Some specific highlights in 2020 include: Completion of the workforce housing project, Coastal Community Grant for a new Downtown Master Plan, Community Development Block Grant to renovate McKay Park and the completion of the new MDOT Bridge Project.

Goals for 2021 will be to continue to seek more grant opportunities, Libby Hill Business Park, Marketing Strategies, continue to work on Ordinances and Land Use, update Downtown Master Plan, Waterfront Park, Business Inventory and Space Inventory and continue .

Planning and Development

Purpose of the Department – as stated in the 2010 Land Use Ordinance:

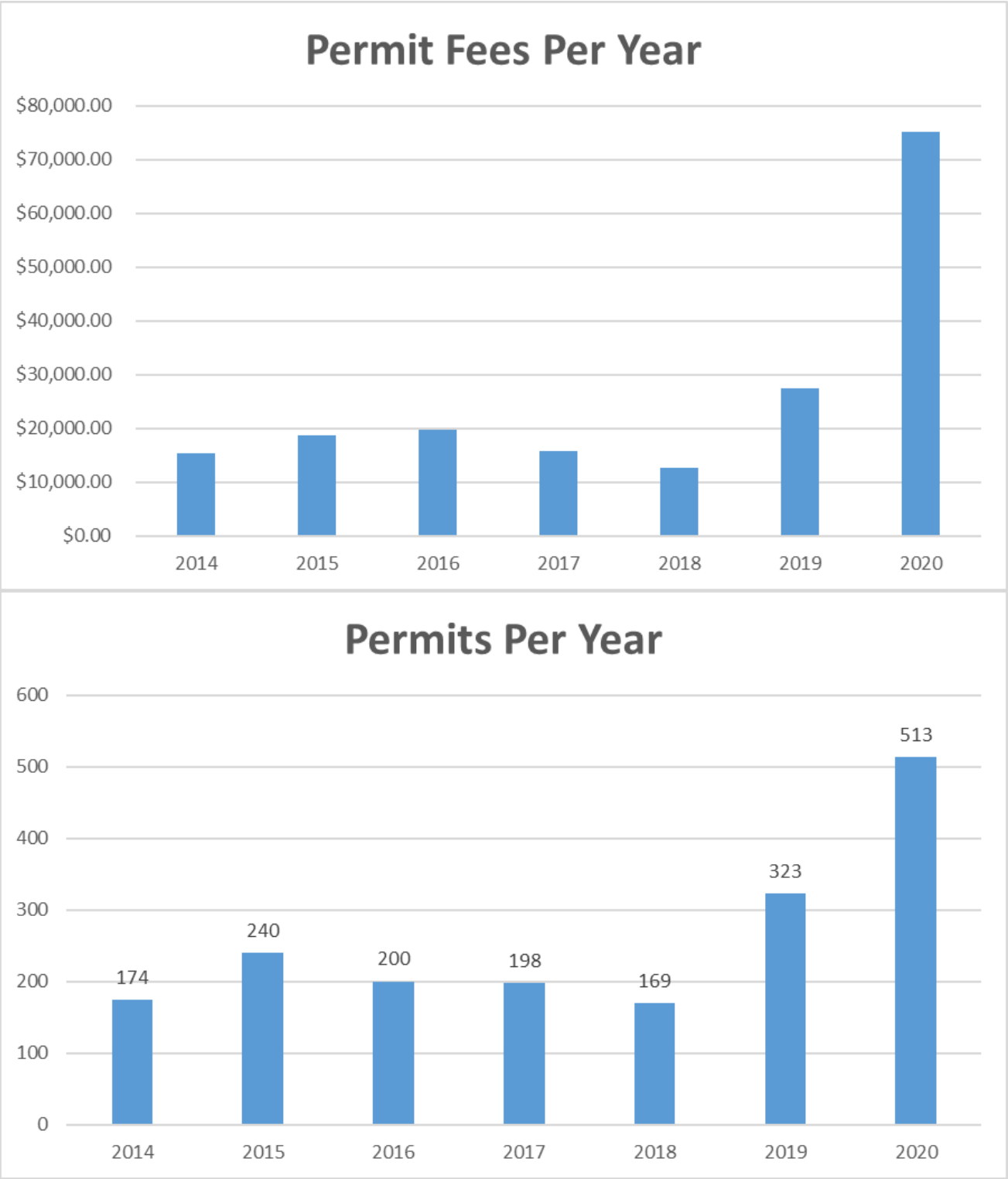
- To protect the public health and safety, environmental quality and economic well-being of the city while allowing a maximum diversity of uses by controlling building site, placement of structures and land uses, and by imposing minimum controls on those uses which, by virtue of their external effects, could otherwise create nuisances or unsafe or unhealthy conditions.
- To provide for residential development in locations compatible with existing development and in a manner appropriate to the economical provision of community services and utilities.
- To provide for a variety of commercial and industrial uses in locations suited to the economical provision of essential community services and utilities and to avoid blight, congestion and inconvenience.
- To prevent and control environmental pollution, to protect water quality, spawning grounds and wildlife habitat and to conserve shore cover and visual; as well as points of access to ponds, streams and rivers.

Code Enforcement Office

The Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) administers and enforces the City's Land Use Ordinance (LUO). The CEO reviews building and use permit applications and either issues an approval, denial, or referral to the Planning Board for further review. When violations of the LUO are found, the CEO issues violation letters requiring the property owner to correct the violation.

Code Enforcement Office 2020 Permits Issued			
BUILDING PERMITS	No. of Permits	Total Permit Fees Assessed	
BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL	18	\$	27,838.90
RESIDENTIAL	243	\$	31,303.01
<i>Building Permits Subtotal</i>	261	\$	59,142
GENERAL PERMITS	No. of Permits	Total Permit Fees Assessed	
CHANGE OF USE	4	\$	100.00
DEMOLITION	21	\$	-
EXCAVATION	17	\$	405.63
HOME OCCUPATION	11	\$	275.00
MOBILE HOME	14	\$	325.00
SIGN	20	\$	450.00
STREET OPENING	12	\$	2,337.50
SEWER AND WATER	9	\$	250.00
CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS	3	\$	150.00
OUTDOOR DINING	6	\$	-
DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE/E-911	39	\$	975.00
OTHER	3	\$	139.50
<i>General Permits Subtotal</i>	159	\$	5,408
PLUMBING PERMITS	No. of Permits	Total Permit Fees Assessed	
INTERNAL	70	\$	5,780.00
SUBSURFACE WASTEWATER	23	\$	4,715.00
<i>Plumbing Permits Subtotal</i>	93	\$	10,495
GRAND TOTAL ALL PERMITS	513	\$	75,045

*Please note the charts below show an increasing growth in permits and fees within the past two years. This increase is due in part to the Code Enforcement Officer requiring the permitting of projects that warrant a permit. The Code Officer is here to ensure that the quality of life is maintained throughout our community. The department exists not to punish individual property owners, but to insure safe building practices and compliance with Gardiner’s Land Use Ordinance and Adopted Codes. We ask when doing a project, please contact us to see if a permit is required.



Planning & Development Committees

There are seven(7) committees directly linked to the City's planning and development functions. They are:

- Ordinance Review Committee
- Planning Board
- Board of Appeals
- Comprehensive Plan Committee/Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Committee
- Economic Development Committee

The **Ordinance Review Committee** met ten(10) times. They reviewed and finalized Mobile Food Vending Units, Breweries/Brew Pubs/Distilleries, Multifamily in Shoreland District, Marijuana Licensing and Land Use, and Property Maintenance.

The **Planning Board** held Thirteen (13) meetings. They reviewed the following: Breweries/Brew Pubs/Distilleries, Sun-Raise Solar Project, Brookside Barn, Mobile Food Vending, PMP Realty, Philbrook Steel, Inc., multiple Marijuana establishments for adult use and medical, Iron Mind Mobile Home Park - not finalized, Gardiner Green - not finalized, MaineGeneral Health Alzheimer's Care Center and Solar Array project.

The **Board of Appeals** did meet five (5) times.

The **Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee** did not meet during the year.

Historic Preservation Commission

The Planning and Development office staff provided the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) with an application review of proposals to alter buildings within the historic district. Staff distributed applications, gave assistance in preparing them, and provided maps, deeds, and other information needed for the application.

The staff reviewed the submitted applications to ensure completeness,—before forwarding copies of the applications and supporting documentation to HPC members and posting notices of the meetings on the City's website and bulletin board. In addition, the staff arranged the meetings and prepared minutes. For approved projects; the staff prepared Certificates of Appropriateness (COA); and logged and filed original applications and supporting documentation, including a signed copy of the COA from the HPC chair.

The Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) attended HPC meetings to answer questions about proposed projects. The CEO issued COA's for authorized work allowed by ordinance.

2020 Certificates of Appropriateness

HPC Certificates of Appropriateness: Six (6) applications approved

As the staff member of the HPC, the CEO ensured that Commission decisions complied with Gardiner's Historic Preservation Code and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment for Historic Properties. The Commission met seven times in 2020.

The **Housing Committee** did not meet in 2020 and are slated to resume meeting in 2021.

The **Economic Development Committee** did not meet in 2020 and are slated to resume meeting in 2021.



BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Age Friendly Committee	First Park
Ambulance Advisory Committee	Library Board of Trustees
Audit Committee	Historic Preservation Commission
Board of Appeals	Housing Committee
Board of Assessment Review	Kennebec River Rail Trail Committee
Bridge Advisory Committee	Marijuana Task Force Committee
Brownfields Advisory Committee	Merrymeeting Trail Committee
Charter Review Commission	MSDA#11 School Board of Directors
City Council	New Mills Dam Committee
Cobbossee Trail Committee	Ordinance Review Committee
Cobbossee Watershed	Parks and Recreation Committee
Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee	Planning Board
Conservation Committee	Quimby Trust
Dog Ordinance Committee	Sidewalk Committee
E911 Addressing Committee	Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee
Economic Development Committee	Technology Advisory Committee
Election Day Staff	Tree Committee
Façade Committee	Wastewater Advisory Committee
Fire Prevention/Codes Working Groups	Water District Trustees

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please feel free to call City Hall at 582-4460 or email aballard@gardinermaine.com for more information or go to <http://www.gardinermaine.com/gardiner-city-council/webforms/committee-request-form> to fill out an online request form. Please tell us why you are interested and what your qualifications are that pertain to the chosen group.

City of Gardiner 10 Year Grant History

Economic Development

Grant	Fiscal Year	Amount
Libby Hill Bond Subsidy	FY11	864,894
Orton Foundation	FY12	100,000
Project Canopy	FY12	4,400
Preserve America/Historic Preservation	FY12	33,000
Waterfront/Heritage Signs	FY13	50,000
Brownfields Assessment & Cleanup	FY13 & FY16	800,000
CLG/Johnson Hall - Pass Thru	FY14	10,000
Gardiner Growth Initiative	FY15	125,000
Food Coop - Pass Thru	FY15	90,000
Brownfields Clean-up (KVCOC)	FY16	100,000
Brownfields Clean-up (DECD)	FY16	305,000
Central Maine Meats - Pass Thru	FY16 & FY17	1,330,000
Lost Orchard - Pass Thru	FY16 & FY17	313,124
Common Wealth Poultry - Pass Thru	FY17	150,000
Sebago Distiller - Pass Thru	FY17	90,000
Façade Grant	FY17	190,000
Cobbossee Trail-Sewall Grant	FY17	50,000
Elevation Certificate Grants	FY18	7,500
Maine 2000	FY20	10,950
Façade Micro-Enterprise Grant	FY20	54,777

Economic Development Total 4,678,645

Fire

Ladder Truck Bond Subsidy	FY11	70,087
UTV Grant	FY15	7,000
CPR Trainer (Robinson Trust)	FY15	5,500
IAFC Conference Grant	FY15	2,000
Fire Engine Grant	FY16	333,334
Generator & Portable Light (KCEMA)	FY16	3,000
Firefighter Support Foundation	FY16	4,000
Resuscitation Equipment	FY16	5,500
Fire Officer I & II Education (MMA Education)	FY17	1,000
Ballistic Vests (Coombs Trust)	FY18	10,405
Navigation Equipment for Boat (KCEMA)	FY18	1,650
Barricades (KCEMA)	FY19	3,000
LH Tower Improvements (FEMA/KCEMA)	FY19	8,500
Ballistic Vests (KCEMA)	FY19	900
Combat Trauma Kits (Public Safety)	FY19	600
2 Thermal Imaging Cameras (Firehouse Subs)	FY20	14,450
TECC Training (KCEMA)	FY20	2,000

Fire Total 472,926

Other

MMA Public Safety Grants	All Years	11,216
Maine Forestry	All Years	3,665
Wellness Works (MMA)	All Years	18,830

Other Total 33,711

Police

OUI	All Years	15,600
Seatbelt	All Years	8,389
Underage Drinking	All Years	12,130
Impaired Driving	All Years	8,132
JAG/BYRNE	All Years	26,799
Bullet Proof Vests	All Years	8,287
Bureau of Highway Safety	All Years	3,468
Kennebec County EMA	All Years	12,297
Drive Sober	All Years	3,174

Police Total 98,276

PW

Wood to Energy (Pellet Boiler)	FY11	61,000
DOT Municipal Partnership Initiative	FY14	500,000
DOT Municipal Partnership Initiative	FY16	320,000
Stormwater Engineer Study	FY17	30,000

Public Works Total 911,000

Library

Henry Gardiner Trust (Library)	FY13	1,536
Archives Room Furniture	FY14	10,225
AED's for Police and Library	FY16	2,000
Library Nutrition Grant	FY18	1,000
AARP Library Sidewalk	FY19	5,000
Elks (Teen Thursday)	FY19	1,500

Library Total 21,261

Tech

Waterfront Cameras	FY12	12,000
Robinson Trust/Wireless Upgrade	FY13	5,000

Technology Total 17,000

WW

Harrison Ave Sewer Project (RD)	FY11	364,000
Cobbossee Corridor Project (RD)	FY14	241,000
Combined Sewer Overflow Project (RD)	FY15	1,783,000

Wastewater Total 2,388,000

GRAND TOTAL - ALL GRANTS 8,620,819

Gardiner saves money

for both citizens

and business owners

through its grant success rate!

A grant is a tool for funding ideas and projects to provide public services, stimulate the economy, and benefit the general public.

Grants are a great way for the City of Gardiner to receive funding beyond the limits of its operational budget. They can help bridge the gap between our resources and our needs.

Grants are “free money”. Unlike loans, they don’t have to be repaid. However, grant writing is a lengthy and daunting process and requires a significant amount of time and effort.

**Competition is fierce, and the success rate is low.
But Gardiner’s track record is outstanding!**

Since FY11 the City of Gardiner has received almost **\$8.5M** in grant awards. Over half of these awards were related to economic development and, half of that number was returned directly to Gardiner’s businesses.

Gardiner employees have spent endless hours researching, preparing, and submitting grants.

Many thanks to all of the employees dedicated to seeking out these grant opportunities!



Gardiner Main Street partners with community members and the City of Gardiner to help to grow and sustain our historic downtown while celebrating our unique cultural heritage. As an organization that strives to bring large amounts of people to Gardiner, we had to rethink ways to support our downtown safely in a pandemic. Much of our work in 2020 was dedicated to supporting the Gardiner business community's needs and working with municipal and state representatives to advocate on their behalf. Some of the highlights of our work in 2020 include:

Kennebec Valley Downtown Relief Fund

In reaction to business closures in March and April 2020, Gardiner Main Street quickly partnered with the Augusta Downtown Alliance to create the Kennebec Valley Downtown Relief Fund, an emergency grant program for the small businesses in each city's downtown districts. This program awarded \$49,370 in grants to 21 businesses in our downtowns. Several businesses have told us that this program was essential to keeping their doors open. Along with major sponsor support, individual donations to this grant fund, particularly among Gardiner residents, was especially inspiring. We are thankful to be part of a community that truly cares about our downtown businesses.



Business & Community Information

Gardiner Main Street leverages our e-newsletter, social media channels and our website to update the community on business openings and services, as well as upcoming events and activities downtown. We have kept our community informed of reopened Gardiner businesses and their services during the pandemic by creating a web page detailing hours of operation, contact info and other details. Gardiner Main Street also provides regular updates to businesses and building owners of resources and information through periodic emails, site visits and phone calls to help them survive the aftermath of the pandemic and beyond.

Gardiner's Gardeners

Our hardworking team of Streetscape volunteers once again brought color and beauty to our downtown through our sidewalk planters along Water Street. This team also cleans up and maintains the public gardens downtown and at the Waterfront Park. Their work this year also included sanding and repainting all the rails bordering the Common and tending to its Palmer Fountain as well as partnering with the City's Building and Grounds crew on downtown maintenance and advising on the reconstruction of McKay Park.



City of Gardiner Collaboration

We often work with the City of Gardiner on matters regarding the downtown area. In 2020 GMS was able to collaborate with the Economic Development department to help secure State funding dedicated to COVID-19 prevention supplies and signage for downtown businesses. We are also partnering with the City for the planning and development of the 2021 Heart of Gardiner Downtown Master Plan.

Swine & Stein Brewfest Bag

Although we were not able to hold our traditional brewfest in the street, last year's take home Swine & Stein Brewfest Bag brought people together (virtually!) to celebrate local craft brewing in Maine safely from their own homes. Aside from raising funds for the operations of Gardiner Main Street, each purchase also supported 15 Maine craft beverage producers, and gave our local businesses and sponsors the opportunity to include marketing materials in each bag.





Modified and Virtual Events

In a time which large gatherings were restricted, we found ways to connect the community virtually. Partnering with the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce and the City of Gardiner, we hosted ribbon cuttings with streaming video. The Shop Small Saturday movement was extended all holiday season long with ongoing promotions and raffles. Santa was able to make a special appearance for a live streamed holiday tree lighting event to watch from home and was able to reply to children who dropped letters into our special North Pole mailbox downtown.

Main Street Fellow - AmeriCorps Program

Gardiner Main Street was selected by the Maine Downtown Center to be one of the first five communities in our state to host a Main Street Fellow. Perri Williams joined us in October for this new AmeriCorps program. She will be focusing on supporting our organization through activating community engagement and economic growth for Gardiner. She will be with us through August 2021 and brings great energy and new ideas to help strengthen our organization and our community. Our new #ThinkGardinerFirst business owner profile series is one of her initiatives.



Organizational Adjustments - New Office Location!

Quickly realizing the pandemic's impact on our fundraising events as well as business and private donations, modifications were made to reduce expenses including halting the planned hiring of our program coordinator position. Although currently operating at a reduced staffing capacity, we continue our efforts to strengthen the City of Gardiner as a hub for community, commerce and culture. In September GMS moved into its permanent office location on the second floor of 192 Water Street above Domino's Pizza. We are happy to have a more visible presence in Downtown Gardiner and welcome visitors to stop in, learn more about our organization, and also for business and building owners come in to share their needs and concerns.

New for 2021

With an influx of new residents in the past year, our new Gardiner Greetings committee is organizing a welcome wagon effort to help connect those new to the area with our community. A comprehensive resource guide will be available in late spring for new and existing residents to discover the services and amenities provided within Gardiner city limits. The gardinermainstreet.org website will also be refreshed in May to be a complete resource for visitors and residents to discover businesses, events, recreation opportunities and more.

Want to learn more or get involved?

Stay up to date on Gardiner events and other info by subscribing to our email newsletter on our website, or follow the Gardiner Main Street page on Facebook and Instagram: @gardinermainst

With a small staff, we rely on the help of our amazing volunteers for everything that we do. You can volunteer for one of our events, make a weekly commitment of hours, or get involved in one of our teams to help plan all that we do. We invite you to be a part of the Gardiner community in a meaningful way - you'll be glad you did! Learn about volunteer opportunities at gardinermainstreet.org, call us at 582-3100, or email us at info@gardinermainstreet.org.



Gardiner Main Street Board of Directors:

Dawn Thistle, President
Janet Slade, Secretary

Robert Abbey

Colin Frey

Pat Hart

Martha Mosher

Stacy Caron, Vice President
Mike Gent, Treasurer

Nicole Cooley

Jason Goucher

Clare Marron



Staff: Melissa Lindley, Executive Director



207.377.2848
www.tkl.org

PO Box 261 - 331 Main Street

Board of Directors

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Janet Sawyer (1st VP)
Matt Mullen (2nd VP)
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Reade & Joan Ryan
Rebecca Stanley
Jym St. Pierre
Bob Weston

Staff

Tyler Keniston
Theresa Kerchner (ED)
Marie Ring
Jean-Luc Theriault

Dear Gardiner Residents,

Since 1988, with the support of 1,100 member households and over forty Maine businesses, the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) has worked cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve our region's natural resources. KLT holds conservation easements on, accepts gifts of, and purchases significant lands to further the mission of the organization.

It is wonderful to know that many Gardiner residents and visitors enjoy the beautiful Cobbossee Stream Conservation Area (15 acres owned by the City of Gardiner, with a conservation easement held by KLT) and the adjacent City of Gardiner Harrison Avenue Nature Trail.

KLT's 2020 publication - *Take a Hike!* features our beautiful conservation properties and trails, including the Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary and eco-cabins on Cobbossee Stream in nearby West Gardiner. Our popular and handy guide is available in Gardiner at the Monkittree.

We are grateful to the City of Gardiner for your cooperation and support and look forward to future conservation partnerships. Thanks to those of you who have chosen to support KLT as members or volunteers! We look forward to welcoming all residents and visitors to our properties, 53 miles of trails, and public programs.

We welcome this opportunity to communicate with Gardiner residents about our conservation work. Do not hesitate to contact us for more information at 207-377-2848 or info@tkl.org. You may also visit our website at www.tkl.org for trail maps, directions, and more information about our organization.

Thank you very much for your past support of KLT and land conservation.

Sincerely,

Kim Vandermeulen, President

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director

Marie Ring, Director of Membership and Programs

Gardiner - Randolph - Pittston - West Gardiner

Maine School Administrative District No. 11

150 Highland Avenue Gardiner, ME 04345

Patricia Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools
www.msad11.org

Phone: 207-582-5346

Fax: 207-582-8305

Angela Hardy

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

**Superintendent's Report
2020-2021**

I wish to express my appreciation to the dedication of the MSAD 11 staff and administration who worked tirelessly over the past year to continue supporting and educating students. It has been difficult, scary and stressful for many, but despite all of it, students are learning. Teachers and staff quickly learned how to teach remotely; free meals were made and distributed to all that wanted them; and, the logistics to operate a school district within the CDC restrictions were developed. Thank you to all the families and students that have patiently worked with us as we have implemented and refined our instructional models. The challenges these models have created for families has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. It is my expectation that the start of the 2021-2022 school year will look more similar to last year than the current school year.

To help schools remain open throughout the pandemic, school districts around the state and the country received Federal COVID Relief money. As of this writing, MSAD 11 has received approximately \$3.7 million in COVID funds, of which \$3.3 million had to be spent in just four months. Due to the fast turnaround, the funds paid for items such as: upgrading our ventilation systems, purchasing technology hardware and software, installing wiring for remote and livestream instruction, hiring additional health care staff and substitutes, upgrading communication tools to allow for remote work when necessary, professional development for staff, and much more.

On Thursday, January 14, 2021 ground was broken at the Gardiner Area High School for the new Hoch Turf Field with an expected completion in advance of the 2021-2022 high school sports season. This \$1.1 million project is a reality thanks to the generosity of many donors including four local businesses, McGee Construction, MainEx, EJP, and Black Diamond Engineering that are donating approximately \$650,000 collectively in labor and materials to make this project possible. Individuals wishing to contribute toward the project can purchase a brick by going to the district website @ <https://www.msad11.org/o/gahs/page/hoch-turf-field>. Purchased bricks will be used to create a recognition wall at the entrance to the turf field.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001



Dear Friends:

When I took the oath of office as Maine's 75th governor, I never imagined that we would face a deadly pandemic. But that is our reality, and it is my responsibility to guide our state through this time, to keep Maine people safe and healthy, and to put our economy on a path to recovery.

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our national economy, dealing heavy losses to businesses of all sizes, and leaving millions of people unemployed. Here in Maine it has taken the lives of hundreds of people and sickened many more. Since the arrival of the first vaccines in December 2020, we have been working to get as many shots into the arms of Maine people as quickly and efficiently as possible.

While our spirits are lifted and we share in a collective sense of relief, particularly for frontline health care workers who are exhausted and have been working around the clock to save lives, it will take months to administer the vaccine to all Maine people and we must keep our guard up. In the coming months, I look forward to working with you in fully opening our schools and businesses across the state. We will hasten our state's recovery if we wear our masks, watch our distance, avoid gatherings, and wash our hands.

My Administration, in collaboration with public health experts and business leaders across the state, developed a plan to gradually and safely restart Maine's economy. We also formed an Economic Recovery Committee charged with assessing the economic impacts of the pandemic on Maine's economy and providing recommendations for policy changes to deal with these impacts. Together, drawing on the hard work and resilience of Maine people, we will rebuild and strengthen our economy and rise from this unprecedented challenge to be a stronger, better state than ever.

I continue to be amazed by the strength and courage of the Maine people and businesses who have found different ways to do business and the brave first responders in your town and in our health care facilities. Thank you to the people of Maine who have demonstrated patience, kindness, and compassion during this difficult time.

Please take care,

Janet T. Mills
Governor

P.S. For the latest information and guidance on Maine's response to COVID-19, as well as resources for assistance during this time, please visit www.maine.gov/covid19/.



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SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904



COMMITTEES:
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING,
CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to reflect on 2020, an incredibly challenging year for Maine families, small businesses, and communities.

When the pandemic struck, our country faced the specter of an overwhelmed health care system and devastation to our small businesses and the millions of people they employ. I immediately worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass multiple laws allocating approximately \$3 trillion to respond to this public health and economic crisis, including more than \$8 billion directed to Maine to support testing, schools, the economy, and other purposes — that is nearly double Maine's annual state budget.

I am especially proud of the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) I co-authored. This program has provided three out of four Maine small businesses with nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, which has helped sustain more than 250,000 Maine jobs. I have met thousands of Maine small employers and employees in all 16 counties who are surviving because of the PPP. As one small business owner told me, the PPP provided "exactly what we needed at exactly the right time." The PPP also allowed employers to maintain benefits, such as health care, during this challenging time. Another round of PPP is needed to sustain small businesses and their employees.

While the pandemic continues across Maine, our nation, and the world, I thank the first responders, health care professionals, teachers, grocery store employees, factory workers, farmers, truck drivers, postal employees, and so many others who continue to stay on the job during this difficult time. With the deployment of the first vaccines, better tests, and the incredible speed with which these life-saving responses were developed, I am hopeful we can emerge from this crisis in the next few months.

While providing relief to American families was my focus throughout 2020, other accomplishments include the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provides full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the maintenance backlog at our national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. As Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, in 2020 alone, I secured \$132 million to improve Maine's roads, bridges, airports, buses, rail, ferries, and seaports. Finally, as Chairman of the Aging Committee, I led the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which funds programs that improve the well-being, independence, and health of our nation's seniors and their caregivers, and I authored laws to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and protect individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

As the end of 2020 is approaching, I have cast more than 7,535 votes, never having missed one. In the New Year, my focus remains to work with colleagues to find common ground on policies to help support the health and safety of Mainers and the safe, responsible opening of our communities. If ever I or my staff can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact one of my state offices. May the coming year be a successful one for you, your family, your community, and our state.

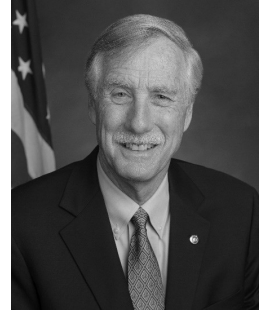
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan M. Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Collins" clearly legible.

Susan M. Collins

United States Senator

January 1, 2021



Dear Friends,

2020 was a year unlike any in our lifetimes. Our state and nation dealt with unprecedented challenges- the coronavirus pandemic, ensuing economic fallout, and prolonged, heavily divisive campaign season each took a significant toll on all of us. The worst part? In order to protect each other, we had to face these challenges in isolation. But a new year represents new possibilities; a chance to take stock of what we're grateful for and focus on the opportunities in front of us. As we reflect back on 2020, we will remember heartbreak and loss – but we cannot forget the shining rays of hope that broke through the darkness, reminding us all that better days are ahead.

Throughout the pandemic, my top focus has been on bridging the partisan divide in Washington in order to deliver desperately-needed relief for Maine people. Joined by colleagues this March, we pushed for bipartisan negotiations to produce a strong bill that helped fellow Mainers, businesses, and institutions weather this storm. In the weeks and months after the *CARES Act* passed, our team stayed in close contact with people throughout the state to determine how we should adjust our response to best support our citizens. Unfortunately, the aid provided by the *CARES Act* lapsed without Congressional action, leaving too many families and businesses in limbo. I never stopped pushing for a bipartisan relief bill and, after extensive negotiations, we ended the year on a good note by breaking the gridlock and passing new relief legislation. This new bill isn't perfect; in fact, it should just be the start our renewed response. As we enter 2021 with a new administration and new Congress, we must fight for additional legislation to help restore stability to our working families and rebuild our economy and public health infrastructure.

In the midst of this crisis, Congress did manage to accomplish a few successes that will outlast this awful pandemic. Among these was the *Great American Outdoors Act*, a bipartisan bill which was enacted into law in August 2020 and will help address a \$12 billion backlog at our national parks so future generations of Americans can enjoy these beautiful lands and create lifelong memories. Also, as we learn more about the recent hacks of our nation's networks, there is help on the way: 27 of the cybersecurity recommendations made by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission – which I co-chair with Republican Congressman Mike Gallagher– made it into this year's defense bill. While there is no guarantee that these provisions would have prevented the massive hack, they will certainly improve our cyber defenses.

As we end this challenging year, I'm hopeful for the future. Vaccines are being distributed across our state – starting with our healthcare heroes, who have sacrificed so much throughout this unprecedented catastrophe and deserve our eternal gratitude. If there can be a silver lining from this challenges of 2020, maybe it will be this: I hope that, in the not-so distant future, we will be able to come together physically and we will be reminded of our love for each other. We have differences, without a doubt. But as Maine people stepped up to support each other, we saw again and again that our differences pale in comparison to the values we share. We are one state, and one community – and there is nothing we cannot or will not do for each other. Mary and I wish you a happy and healthy 2021. We can't wait to see you soon.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angus S. King, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angus S. King, Jr.

United States Senator



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine



Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I know that this year has been challenging for many of our communities. In the midst of these challenges, it remains a privilege to represent you, and I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I have been working on in Congress for the people of the Second Congressional District.

The coronavirus pandemic has made this year an especially difficult one. We've seen the struggles of small businesses, workers and families, hospitals, and states and towns. COVID-19 has been a serious threat to public health that requires a comprehensive, ongoing response. In March, Congress passed the largest of three bipartisan pieces of relief legislation, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. The *CARES Act* was a \$2 trillion economic relief package to provide immediate assistance for some of those hit hardest by the pandemic. While an important start, many of the programs and benefits created by the *CARES Act* were set to expire by the end of 2020 at a time when COVID-19 cases were on the rise. That's why in late December, Congress passed another bipartisan bill to provide COVID-19 relief to small businesses and hospitals, the unemployed, and families struggling to put food on the table. However, the action Congress took at the end of 2020 cannot distract from its failure to act sooner. The unwillingness of many members of Congress to accept compromise throughout the fall left many Mainers struggling and led to a rushed process that produced a bill with serious flaws. In 2021, Congress needs to step up, come together, and lead the country through this pandemic and get our economy back on track.

There are a few bright spots that came out of the work done by Congress this year. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I helped advocate for a national defense bill that would include important priorities for American national security, Maine shipbuilders, and servicemembers and their families. The legislation authorizes a new DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to be constructed at Bath Iron Works and helps BIW compete for new work by encouraging a new multi-year procurement process for the DDG-51 Flight III. This funding bill also makes permanent new federal guidelines proposed by Senator King and me to allow Gold Star Families free admission to national parks and other federal lands.

I've been working to improve mental health services for veterans for years, and I led the Maine delegation's effort to address the need for long-term mental health substance abuse treatment for veterans in our state. This past fall the Veterans Administration announced we were successful. Construction starts next year on a new, 24-bed facility at Togus that will ensure Maine veterans won't be sent out of state to receive residential care for substance use disorder and associated mental health issues. This is one result that I am especially proud to deliver for my fellow Maine veterans.

As I reflect upon what I am most grateful for this year, I am especially glad to be able to share that my wife Izzy and I are expecting a baby in 2021. We are excited about this new addition to our family and look forward to the blessings ahead.

This period is challenging for Mainers as we all take steps to limit the spread of the coronavirus, protect our families and our communities, and lean on each other to withstand this pandemic and economic hardship. My staff and I stand ready to assist Mainers as we work through these challenges together. I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in 2021.

Respectfully,

Jared Golden
Member of Congress

::::NOTES::::

CITY OF GARDINER CALENDAR

March

Second Tax Payment Due 03/15/2021

Presidential Primary Election 03/09/2021

May

ATV registrations go on sale 05/01/2021

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

30 Day lien notices for nonpayment of taxes

June

Liens filed for nonpayment of taxes

July

Primary & School Budget Election 06/08/2021

City Council Nomination papers become available

August

Applications for absentee ballots become available (November Election)

Tax Bills are mailed

September

First Tax Payment Due 09/15/2021

Nomination Papers Due

October

Absentee Ballots become available (November Election)

Dog licenses go on sale 10/15/2021

Fall City Wide Clean-Up

Fire Prevention Week

Snowmobile registrations go on sale 10/01/2021

November

State & Municipal Election 11/03/2021

December

Boat registrations go on sale 12/01/2021

Hunting and Fishing licenses go on sale 12/01/2021



GOVERNMENT HOLIDAYS

All non-essential departments will be closed

January 1, 2021- New Year's Day

January 18, 2021- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 15, 2021- Presidents Day

April 19, 2021 Patriots Day

May 31, 2021- Memorial Day

July 5, 2021- Independence Day, observed

September 6, 2021- Labor Day

October 11, 2021- Indigenous Peoples' Day

November 11, 2021- Veteran's Day

November 25-26, 2021- Thanksgiving

December 24, 2021- Christmas

Thanks to everyone for making 2020 a great success.



Have you visited our web site? www.gardinermaine.com

Please subscribe to our web site for up-to-date information about the city. Type of announcements you will receive: weekly packet by City Manager, City Council meeting agendas, library announcements, parking bans and snow removal notices, etc. Our City Council and Planning Board meetings are also available live on our audio streaming. If you can't listen to the live meeting, it will be archived for you to go back and listen at a more convenient time.

Services available online:

Dog licensing, boat renewals, ATV renewals, snowmobile renewals, fishing and hunting licenses, car registration renewals, absentee ballot requests, resident comment form, committee interest form.

Front Cover Photos courtesy of Clare Marron, owner of Monkitree

2020 City of Gardiner Annual Report has been created and respectfully submitted by Alisha Ballard City Clerk