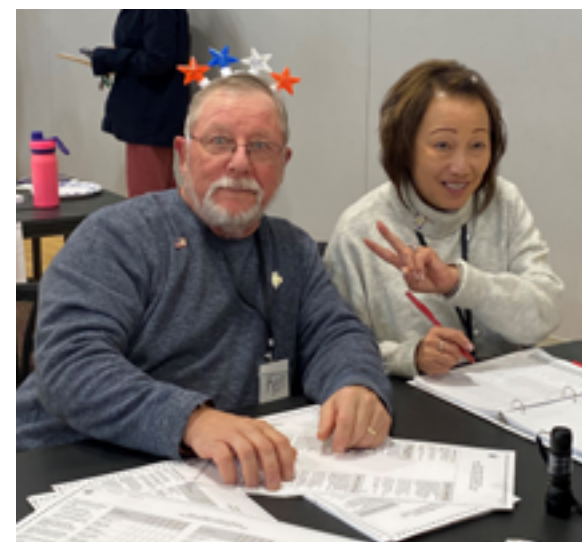




2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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This 2024 City of Gardiner Annual Report was created by Public Information Officer Melissa Lindley and respectfully submitted by City Clerk Kathleen Cutler.

Cover photograph by Lee Arnott

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DEDICATION

We hereby dedicate this annual report to Terry Berry

In 2024, we lost an esteemed member of the Gardiner City Council, Councilor Terry Berry. He was our good colleague and friend who served on the City Council for 11 years. Councilor Berry was a longtime resident, business owner, and community volunteer in the city, who always, always put the needs of the city and its residents front and center. When some issue confounded the council, Councilor Berry would be the first to offer a solution, a compromise, or a new path forward. “Bear with me and my thought process,” he would say, and he would take us on a journey through a larger view of the topic at hand. He opened our eyes and showed us a broader perspective. He was not the most talkative on Council, but from my standpoint, he was the most influential on many important decisions that have shaped the city. He was a devoted supporter of the Boys & Girls Club and Johnson Hall and advocated for city investments in the construction of their new facilities. Even greater than his work with the city, Councilor Berry was a devoted father, grandfather, husband, brother, Elk, and Mason. He was a great neighbor and friend to all. We miss our good colleague and are grateful for the legacy he has left behind.

-Mayor Patricia Hart



CITY OF GARDINER CALENDAR

March

- Presidential Primary Election 3/5/2024
- Second Tax Payment Due 3/15/2024

May

- City Wide Clean-Up
- ATV registrations go on sale 5/1/2024
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- 30-Day lien notices for nonpayment of taxes

June

- Liens filed for nonpayment of taxes
- Primary & Municipal Election 6/11/2024

August

- Applications for absentee ballots become available (November Election)
- Tax Bills are mailed

September

- First Tax Payment Due 9/15/2024
- Nomination Papers Due

October

- Absentee Ballots become available (November Election)
- Dog licenses go on sale 10/15/2024
- Fire Prevention Week
- Snowmobile registrations go on sale 10/1/2024

November

- State Election 11/5/2024

December

- Boat registrations go on sale 12/1/2024
- Hunting and Fishing licenses go on sale 12/1/2024

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED

City Hall, the library, and all non-essential departments will be closed on the following holidays each year:
*Or nearest date if holiday falls during the weekend.

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Martin Luther King Day (3rd Monday in January)
- Presidents' Day (3rd Monday in February)
- Patriot's Day (3rd Monday in April)
- Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
- Juneteenth (June 19)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (1st Monday in September)
- Columbus Day (Second Monday in October)
- Veterans Day (November 11)
- Thanksgiving Day and day following (4th Thursday and Friday in November)
- Christmas Day (December 25)

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS & UPDATES



- Get email or text message notifications from the City of Gardiner
- Choose the topics that matter to you

Stay connected with your community and get alerts on city news, events, and service updates directly to your email or mobile phone.

Sign up today at: www.gardinermaine.gov/subscribe

STAFF DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Animal Control	Rob Pekins	582-5150	rpekins@gardinermaine.com
Assessing	Curt Lebel	582-6892	clebel@gardinermaine.com
City Clerk & Register of Voters	Kathleen Cutler	582-4460	kcutler@gardinermaine.com
City Manager	Robert A. Peabody, Jr.	582-4200	rpeabody@gardinermaine.com
Code Enforcement Officer	Kris McNeill	582-6892	kmcneill@gardinermaine.com
Code Enforcement, Assessing & Economic Development Assistant	Anglia Christopher	582-6892	achristopher@gardinermaine.com
Deputy City Clerk	Alyssa Jones	582-4460	ajones@gardinermaine.com
Deputy Tax Collector	Kelly Hare	582-4200	khare@gardinermaine.com
Economic & Community Development	Melissa Lindley	582-6888	mlindley@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	Angelia Christopher	582-1000	ga@gardinermaine.com
Library Director	Dawn Thistle	582-3312	dthistle@gardinermaine.com
Police Chief	Todd Pilsbury	582-5150	tpilsbury@gardinermaine.com
Public Safety Assistant	Tara Miley	582-5150	tmiley@gardinermaine.com
Public Works Director	John Cameron	582-4408	jcameron@gardinermaine.com
Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer	Kathleen Cutler	582-2223	kcutler@gardinermaine.com
Utility Clerk	Trisha Pelletier	588-4070	tpelletier@gardinermaine.com
Wastewater Treatment Director	Stephen Aievoli	582-4200	saievoli@gardinermaine.com

Gardiner City Hall:

6 Church Street
Gardiner, ME 04345
Phone: (207) 582-4200
Fax: (207) 582-6895

Hours of Operation:

Monday: 8:00am – 4:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Wednesday: 12:00pm - 6:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Friday: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Information & Services Online: www.gardinermaine.gov



Pay & Renew Online:

- Car registration renewals
- Boat / ATV / Snowmobile Renewals
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
- Dog Licenses

- Sign up for email/text message notifications
- Live meeting streams & video archive
- Tax maps and property data
- View & search Code & Land Use Ordinances
- Download Permit Applications

CITY MAYOR

I am writing this letter to provide an update on the events in Gardiner in 2024. When I think about the highlights of last year, I think about it in four aspects – resilience, restoration, and celebration.

Resilience. The community began 2024 recovering from the devastating December 2023 flooding in the downtown. Building owners, residents and businesses slogged through deep water in their basements to haul cold wet debris to dumpsters, clean up oil and gas spills, restore heat and power, and bring the buildings back to life. As always, many local people pitched in to help where they could. There were countless examples of neighbors helping neighbors – with elbow grease, hot coffee, hot meals, hot showers, and more. City staff from all departments provided help and support to downtown businesses and residents. And while it seemed like forever, it was not too long before everyone was cleaned up, restored, and back to business.

The flooding devastated our only grocery store, Hannaford Supermarket, for 100 days, disrupting access to food and pharmacy for all. We were fortunate to have stores in neighboring communities take us in. In true Gardiner spirit, our local Hannaford employees worked seven days a week to bring the store back in three months - and it is now better than ever.

That was not the last of the flooding - While the buildings were spared in early 2024 winter and spring storms, the waterfront park flooded several more times, bringing more and more silt to cover the beautiful flower beds in a coating of cement. When spring arrived, our Gardiner’s Gardeners found their work was arduous trying to rescue flowers under the silt cap. With the help of the Public Works and landscapers, they restored the grass and many of the flower beds. Gardiner proved we are resilient.

Restoration. The year 2024 brought great restoration to the City. After 40 years of efforts by community members, the Johnson Hall Opera House reopened its doors this past spring with the support of investments from the community, the City, the County, Congress, and many

generous donations. Executive Artistic Director Mike Miclon and the Board of Directors were instrumental in leading the staff, the volunteers and construction crews to bring this beautiful facility back to its full glory. And yes, Lyle Lovett came to Gardiner to perform on the new stage.

Under the leadership of Robert Abbey and the team of Rotarians including Councilor Greenleaf and Ralf Alberto, the Palmer Fountain was restored, and the Lady and the Birds statue was returned to her perch on the Gardiner Common. Like the Gazebo reconstruction, the project was a partnership between the City Public Works Department, volunteers, and the Rotary Club of Gardiner. It is a joy to see the renewed Lady and the Birds in her fountain spraying again.

Celebration. This year we celebrated the opening of several new businesses in the downtown, including Awakened Intuition, Berrie’s Hearing Center, Mariposa, 266 Stillwater, Blessed Island Antiques, Vintage Cannabis & Collectibles, as well as Spinning Head Antiques. As our downtown business community continues to grow, we are the envy of neighboring towns with our vibrant galleries, shops, bakeries, and restaurants.

The City sold several more lots in the Libby Hill Business Park, leaving only a few of the 27 lots unsold, after decades of effort. On outer Brunswick Avenue, we welcomed a new businesses – North Country Car Wash. PEP, an Everett J. Prescott (EJP) company, expanded their classic car showroom on Griffin Street.

There has been a lot of interest and activity in the last year in developing new housing – both market rate and workforce housing. After years of losing population, we are pleased to see that not only have we stabilized the population, but it has increased in recent years.

In June, Team EJP, the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce, the City of Gardiner, and Gardiner Main Street hosted The Great Race as the final stop for the multi-day, multi-state race of classic cars. With the help of city staff and volunteers, the community hosted a classic

car parade, vendors, and even put on an old-fashioned lobster bake for the participants and support crews in the business park. The event brought thousands of people to our downtown.

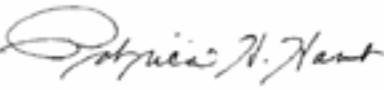
Gardiner Main Street had a busy year bringing people to Gardiner with a pop-up market in December 2023, the Ritual Market in June, Swine and Stein in October and all the December 2024 holiday events – the Tree Lighting, Parade of Lights, and more. Gardiner’s Artwalk also had a grand year celebrating the arts and artists in the downtown.

Gratitude. We are very grateful for the hard-working city staff who provide services to keep our city safe, healthy, and beautiful. Public Works and Buildings and Grounds Departments supported all the response and clean-up required throughout the weather events, along with their regular duties. The public safety crews – rescue and police – provided professional coverage 24/7 even when they were extremely short staffed. The front office seamlessly managed all services including a contentious presidential election. Economic Development and Code Enforcement assisted developers in bringing new buildings and businesses to Gardiner. The Wastewater Treatment team worked very short-handed for a good portion of the year,

putting in a lot of overtime to staff the plant. The library team expanded programming and their “library of things” collection. We bid farewell to our City Manager Andy Carlton in August and tapped Finance Director Denise Brown to serve as Interim City Manager. She was a terrific leader during the time of transition, all the while keeping an eye on the finances of the city. At the end of the year the City Council conducted a search for a new city manager, we were fortunate to hire Robert Peabody from Bridgton.

It is easy these days to become disillusioned with government in the face of rancor and discord among politicians at the state and national levels. But here in Gardiner, working together we continue to make a difference by stewarding a community that honors its past, that cares for its neighbors, and invests in its future. My dear neighbors, I look forward to working with all of you in 2025, to do our good work and strengthen our community.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Hart,
Mayor - Gardiner, Maine



GARDINER MAYORS

Robert Hallowell Gardiner	1850	S.E. Johnson	1884-1885	Edwin P. Ladd	1935-1940
Parker Sheldon	1851	Joseph E. Ladd	1886	Philip H. Hubbard	1940-1952
Robert Thompson	1852	John W. Berry	1887-1888	Percy K. Hanson	1953-1954
Edward Swan	1853	A.M. Spear	1889-1892	Dwight Emery	1955
Noah Woods	1854-1858	James B. Dingley	1893	Russell J. Leighton	1956-1958
Henry B. Hoskins	1859-1860	Oliver B. Clason	1894-1896	Dwight Emery	1959-1962
Noah Woods	1861-1862	James Walker	1897-1898	Wallace E. Shepard, Sr.	1962-1967
James Nash	1863-1864	Freeman Patten	1899-1900	Ralph M. Clark	1968-1969
Nathan O. Mitchell	1865-1866	Frederic Danforth	1901-1902	Harold J. Shapiro	1970-1975
George W. Wilcox	1867	Edwin L. Bussell	1903-1904	Robert D. Mooers	1976-1977
Joshua Gray	1867-1870	Charles A. Knight	1905-1906	Irving B Faunce	1978-1979
D.C. Palmer	1871-1873	Will G. Atkins	1907-1908	William F. MacDonald	1980-1985
H.M. Wentworth	1874-1875	Charles H. Gray	1909-1910	Charles J. McLaughlin, Jr	1986-1988
James B. Dingley	1876-1878	B.E. Lamb	1911-1917	Brian MacMaster	1989-1990
D.C. Palmer	1879-1880	G.L. Bragdon	1918-1920	Patrica C. Bourgoin	1991-1992
Joseph E. Ladd	1881-1886	B.E. Lamb	1921-1923	Brian Rines	1993-2006
William Perkins	1882-1883	Donald S. McNaughton	1924-1925	Andrew MacLean	2007-2012
		Wallace N. Price	1925-1926	Thomas Harnett	2013-2018
		William O. Cobb	1927-1934	Patricia Hart	2019-Present

CITY COUNCIL

City Council meetings are typically held on the first and third Wednesday off each month. They take place at City Hall, 6 Church Street 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.



SEAT	NAME	TERM END	EMAIL
Mayor	Patricia Hart	2027	pat.hart@gardinermaine.com
District 1	Debra Kimball	2026	dkimball@gardinermaine.com
District 2	Veronica Babcock	2026	vbabcock@gardinermaine.com
District 3	Shawn Dolley	2026	sdolley@gardinermaine.com
District 4	Gay Grant	2026	ggrant@gardinermaine.com
At-Large	Rusty Greenleaf	2027	rgreenleaf@gardinermaine.com
At-Large	Marc Cone	2027	mcone@gardinermaine.com
At-Large	Timothy Cusick	2027	tcusick@gardinermaine.com

Mission Statement:

The City of Gardiner will provide high quality services with a strong emphasis on efficiency, while fostering a vibrant community committed to strong social, economic and democratic ideals, in which people are proud to live and work. The values we apply to this important work are:

- A dedication to public service
- A commitment to an openness and transparency in local government
- A pledge to deliver cost-effective services
- A promise to value and preserve community assets of natural, cultural and social importance
- A resolution as stewards of public resources to apply only the highest of ethical and leadership ideals in decision making.

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

Greetings Residents of Gardiner:

By way of introduction, I assumed the position of City Manager on February 3, 2025. I have come to this position with over 20 years of municipal management experience. Additionally, I have served as both a mayor and a city council member. My professional experience also includes some 20 years as a small business owner.

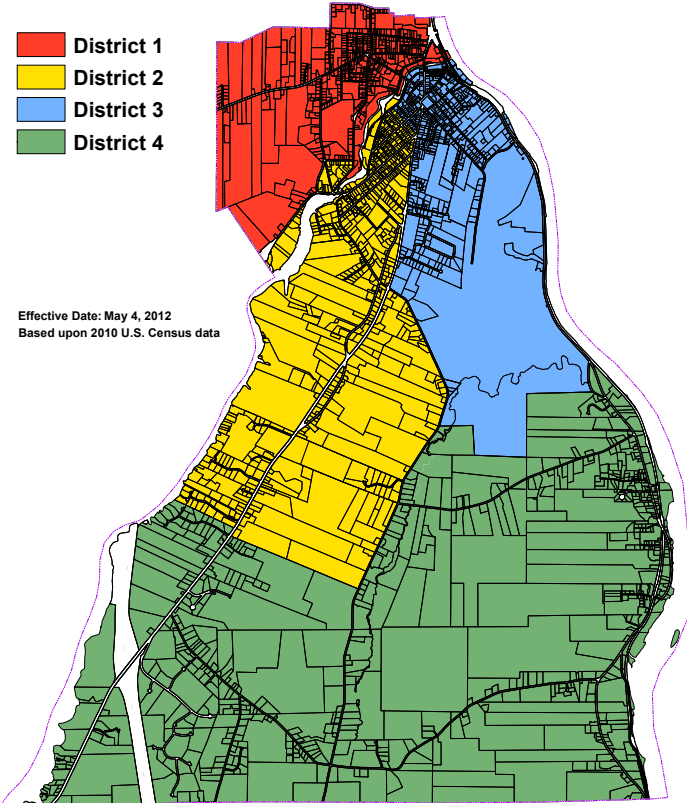
Aside from a brief stint in Berlin, New Hampshire as their City Assessor, I have lived and worked in Maine my entire life. Having recently purchased a home in Gardiner, I look forward to enjoying all the city has to offer its residents and visitors.



Gardiner is fortunate in employing capable and committed city staff. Their level of dedication and professionalism ensures that city policies are executed and enforced, that our roads are maintained and safe, that our citizens and their property are protected, that there are varied recreational opportunities, that the city is friendly to and supportive of business, that Gardiner is actively planning for its future and that the City Hall is a helpful, friendly place to conduct city business.

Gardiner Voting Districts

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



I encourage feedback, both positive and negative, from you all. Call, email, come by my office or stop me on the street if you have questions, concerns, or positive comments you wish to share.

In closing, I wish to thank the Mayor and City Council, department heads and staff, the various committees, and boards, and all those who volunteer to make Gardiner the special community that it is.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert A. Peabody, Jr.
City Manager

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

- Age Friendly Committee
 - Ambulance Advisory Committee
 - Audit Committee
 - Board of Appeals
 - Board of Assessment Review
 - Brownfields Advisory Committee
 - Charter Review Commission
 - City Council
 - City Park Committee
 - Cobbossee Trail Committee
 - Cobbossee Watershed
 - Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee
 - Conservation Committee
 - Downtown Sidewalk Committee
 - E911 Addressing Committee
 - Economic & Community Development Committee
 - Election Day Staff
 - Façade Committee
 - Library Board of Trustees
 - Historic Preservation Commission
 - Housing Committee
- Kennebec River Rail Trail Committee
 - Merrymeeting Trail Committee
 - MSAD#11 School Board of Directors
 - New Mills Dam Committee
 - Ordinance Review Committee
 - Parks and Recreation Committee
 - Planning Board
 - Quimby Trust
 - Sidewalk Committee
 - Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee
 - Tree Committee
 - Wastewater Advisory Committee
 - Water District Trustees
- If you are interested in joining any of these groups, contact City Hall*

Please tell us why you are interested and what your qualifications are that pertain to the chosen group.

Call City Hall: 207-582-4460

Email the City Clerk: kcutler@gardinermaine.com

Go online: gardinermaine.gov/committee-interest



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 values continued to rise during the period preceding the April 1, 2023 (FY24) assessment. An assessment ratio study conducted by Maine Revenue Services showed an 8% decrease (appreciation) in the residential average assessment ratio from the previous year and was reported to be 49% of market value. The growth in taxable valuation base was \$6.7 million from Fiscal year 2023.

Assessment Statistics for Fiscal Year 2024

Assessment Date: April 1, 2023	Homestead Exemptions: 1,197
Commitment Date: August 2, 2023	Veterans Exemptions: 168
Taxable Valuation: \$382,269,340	Blind Exemptions: 4
Net Assessment: \$8,981,757.55	Parsonages: 4
Tax Rate: .0237	Tree Growth Parcels: 9
Assessment Ratio: 77% Certified Ratio (SV23)	Farmland Parcels: 12
Transfers Processed: 233 (Apr 23-Mar 24)	Open Space Parcels: 6
Permits Issued Checks: approximately 600	
FY 2023 Municipal Levy Limit: \$4,634,679.85	
FY 2023 Municipal Levy: \$2,840,932.97	
FY 2023 Municipal Levy was: \$1,793,746.88 less than allowable limit.	
Abatements issued: (6) \$229,000 valuation (-5,427.30 Tax)	
Supplemental Assessments: (1) \$69,500 valuation (+1,647.15 Tax)	
Use Program withdrawal penalties: (0)	

CITY CLERK

Phone:
207-582-4200

Fax:
207-582-6895

City Clerk
Tax Collector
Deputy Treasurer
Registrar of Voters
Kathleen Cutler

Deputy City Clerk
Alyssa Jones

Deputy Tax Collector
Kelly Hare

Sewer Billing Clerk
Trisha Pelletier

City Hall Hours:
Monday: 8am-4pm
Tuesday: 8am-4pm
Wednesday: 12-6pm
Thursday: 8am-4pm
Friday: 8am -12pm



Vital Records

- 56 Births
- 64 Deaths
- 5 Weddings Performed
- 51 Marriage Licenses Issued

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

- 213 Hunting & Fishing Licenses Issued
- 240 Boat Registrations
- 106 ATVs Registered
- 102 Snowmobiles Registered

Dogs

- 655 Dogs Licensed



Per State law, dogs must be registered with the City by December 31 of each year. The state licensing fee is \$6 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$11 an unaltered dog. A \$25 late fee is assessed per dog after January 31.

Dogs should be kept on a leash when not on your property. Reminder to please clean up after your dog to keep out City clean and enjoyable for all.

The City's Dog Park is located on upper Water Street, west of D&H Motors and at the bottom of Washington Street.

The Animal Control Officer is also the Gardiner Police Department's part time Safety Officer and can be contacted by calling Gardiner PD at 582-3211 ext. 1344 or dispatch at 624-7076.

Elections

Registered Voters: 4,884

- Republican: 1,590 / 33%
- Green Independent: 276 / 5%
- Libertarian: 16 / 0.5%
- No Labels: 70 / 1.5%
- Unenrolled: 1,190 / 24%

Election Results:

March 5, 2024 Primary:

- 634 Votes Cast, 13% Turnout
- 269 Democrat / 365 Republican

June 13, 2024 State Referendum & MSAD 11 School Budget:

- 378 Votes Cast, 7% Turnout

November 5, 2024 Election:

- 3,442 Votes Cast, 70% turnout

Voting Location:

- Boys & Girls Club, 14 Pray Street
- Polls open at 8:00am, close at 8:00pm

I VOTED! STICKER CONTEST



Congratulations to 12-year-old Alexei for winning the I Voted Sticker Contest from the City of Gardiner & the Gardiner Public Library. The new stickers were shared at the 2024 November election.

Elections would not be possible without Election Clerks. Thank you to the Election Clerks for 2024: Heidi Goodwin, Aurelie Allen, Barbara Godfrey, Raye Anne DeSoto, Philip DeSoto, Philip Garwood, Jean Phelps, Mary Lee, Connie Greenleaf, Kenneth Martin, Tracie James, Jim Bourque, Cheryl



Ramsay, Kevin Babcock, Veronica Babcock, Carol Schumaker, Warden Deirdre Berglund, and City Staff Alyssa Gould and Trisha Pelletier.

Special thanks to Public Works staff Mike MacArthur and Mike MacArthur, Jr. for their diligence in setting up and tearing down election equipment.

The City received a \$5,000 grant for election infrastructure through the federal Center For Tech and Civic Life program. The funds were used to buy rolling carts to store election supplies, new stanchions, collapsible ballot bags, flashlights, and two-way radios and for \$2,500 towards the purchase of a new election trailer.



All election equipment is now stored in the trailer. This will save the City money in overtime as it will take less time for Public Works employees to set the equipment up and break it down after the election closes. We are required to keep ballots with us at all times. With ballots now stored on rolling carts, staff can simply pull the cart behind them as they vacate the building. Having everything on wheels also makes evacuating the building more efficient in the event of an emergency.



CODE ENFORCEMENT

Kris McNeill, Code Enforcement Officer

Total Permits Issued & Inspected in 2024: 356

- 185 Building Permits
- 44 Internal plumbing Permits
- 18 Subsurface Wastewater Permits
- 99 General Permits
- 273 Occupancy Permits
- 32 New Addresses were created
- 145 Complaints were investigated and resolved
- 10 Projects were brought before Planning Board
- 27 Projects were brought before Historic Preservation
- 8 Notice of Violations were issued
- 0 Cases went to court
- 2 Administrative appeals went before the Appeals Board
- 2 Variance Applications went before the Board Of Appeals
- 13 New ordinances were written and adopted

Permit Fees in 2024 generated a total of \$48,619.65

New Developments & Businesses to Gardiner

- Boxdrop Mattress & Furniture
- Hannaford renovation & re-opening after flood damage in Dec. 2023
- Second Chances Thrift Store
- Awakened Intuition
- Miss Sugarman’s School for Extraordinary Children
- Vintage Cannabis & Collectibles
- The Hair Lab moved to a larger location, and expanded its services
- Berrie’s Hearing Center
- River Reflection Studio
- Grilla Bowl

The Code Enforcement Office provides services that guide the physical development of Gardiner toward the achievement of community goals. These services include:

- **Issuing Permits:** After review of applications and construction plans for residential, commercial, and industrial buildings and structures
- **Pre-Construction Inspections:** Site conditions, setback verifications, building envelope assessment, vegetative cutting, excavation, high water determination, and drainage
- **Construction Inspections:** Foundation, structural framing, insulation, disability accessibility, egress, internal plumbing, septic systems, building alteration, swimming pools, signs, site maintenance, retaining walls, and erosion control
- **Post-Construction Inspections:** Occupancy permits, site stabilization, health and safety, and handicap accessibility
- **Enforcement of City of Gardiner Code and Land Use Ordinance:** Including Floodplain and Shoreland, Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC), Maine Uniform Plumbing Code, Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal (septic system) Rules, State Statutes, and Federal Law.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Director & Public Information Officer
Melissa Lindley
207-582-6888

Code Enforcement Officer & Assistant Planner
Kris McNeill
207-582-6892
Cell: 207-620-4853

Economic Development, Planning, Code Enforcement & Assessing Administrative Assistant
Angelia Christopher
207-582-6892

The Gardiner Economic Development Department works to create an environment that encourages economic growth by supporting Gardiner businesses, strengthening our community, and maintaining a high quality of life.

2024 Economic Development Highlights

- Johnson Hall Opera House held its first concert in the newly-renovated 400-seat theater in March, and will continue to offer a variety of performances all year round.
- A Project Canopy Grant of \$3,630 was awarded to the City of Gardiner to purchase and maintain four trees to be placed at the Gardiner Common and at the Waterfront.
- The restoration of the Lady and the Birds fountain at the Gardiner Common was completed. Largely supported by community fundraising, the fountain received mechanical upgrades and the area around it was improved.
- A Brownfields Cleanup Assessment Grant funds continued to be used to identify property in which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant and assess mitigation options. Five properties were involved in this process in 2024.
- An improvement project for Dearborn Park, the pocket park between downtown’s Mechanic Street and Water Street, was selected to receive \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from the Maine Department of Community & Economic Development. The improvements are planned to begin in late Spring 2025.
- Libby Hill Business Park Lot #25 sold to Connected Office Technologies for \$49,900 in August 2024. Of the 28 lots in the businesses park, the last remaining city-owned lot is pending sale.
- The City was awarded a \$50,000 Climate Action Grant from the Maine Community Resilience Partnership to perform a climate vulnerability assessment on City infrastructure. There is no local cash match requirement for these funds. The City has contracted with Haley Ward to perform the work and assigned a committee for the project which will kick off in 2025.
- The Iron Heights Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing district was created to support the planned 32-unit workforce housing development project on the former TW Dick Steel property at 1 Summer Street.



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Denise Brown, Finance Director

The Finance Department is dedicated to providing the City Manager & City Council, all city departments, business owners, and the residents of Gardiner with fiscal support. The department is responsible for ensuring that all funds are budgeted, expensed, and collected accurately; as well as for all cash reconciliations and investments of the City’s funds to ensure proper cash flow and maximum security and liquidity. Other functions of the department include, purchasing, payroll and benefit administration, human resource management, risk management, and debt administration.

Below is an overview of the financial activities of the City of Gardiner for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

- The City’s net position at the close of FY24 was \$21,415,962. Of that amount, \$2,703,904 (unrestricted net position) could be used to meet the City’s ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$4,919,059.
- The unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$3,234,570.
- The City had total long-term debt of \$11,053,699. Of this amount, \$4,388,523 was for governmental activities and \$6,665,176 was for business-type activities.

The FY24 budget resulted in a 1.90 increase to the tax rate, resulting in a 25.6/mil.

- General Fund budget
 - \$7,704,173 (City)
 - \$4,967,744 (Education)
 - \$616,809 (County)
- Ambulance Enterprise Fund budget of \$2,097,614
- Wastewater Enterprise Fund budget of \$2,013,428

The Finance Director works closely with the City Manager on the budget process and is responsible for the annual estimate of revenue and preparing a balanced budget, in addition to preparing financial statements. The full financial statements from FY24 are available on the City’s website. The audit was performed by RHR Smith & Company, Buxton, Maine.



5-YEAR GRANT HISTORY

Gardiner Saves Money For Both Its 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 & the success rate is low.

But Gardiner’s track record is outstanding!

In the last 10 fiscal years the City has received over \$10M in grant awards, with \$3.6M received in the last 5 years. Over one quarter of these awards were returned to Gardiner’s businesses.

City of 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!

City of Gardiner 5-Year Grant History				
	Grant	Fiscal Year	Amount	
Other	CDBG Community Enterprise Grant	McKay Park	FY21	100,000
	CDBG Community Enterprise Grant	Johnson Hall	FY21	100,000
	Keep ME Healthy Grant	PPE	FY21	37,735
	Coastal Communities Grant	Downtown Master Plan	FY21	42,000
	Project Canopy		FY22	3,750
	CDBG Public Service Grant	Boys & Girls Club	FY22	50,000
	Brownfield Assessment Grant		FY23	500,000
	Project Canopy		FY23	4,870
	Project Canopy		FY24	3,630
	Housing Opportunity Program		FY24	10,000
	CDBG Community Enterprise Grant	Dearborn Park	FY25	100,000
	Community Resiliency		FY25	50,000
	Economic Development Total			1,001,985
	Homeland Security	Extrication Equipment	FY23	70,929
	EMS Stabilization		FY24	121,375
Homeland Security	Generator	FY25	10,800	
Fire Total			203,104	
MMA Public Safety Grants	Various	FY21-FY25	3,599	
Wellness Works (MMA)	Employee Health & Wellness	FY21-FY25	10,300	
Private Grant	Holiday Lights	FY21	2,000	
Coombs Trust	Playground Chips	FY21	3,250	
Private Grants	Fountain Project	FY21-FY24	190,962	
Coombs Trust	Arcade Stairway/Fountain	FY22-FY24	20,800	
Robinson Trust	Place plaque on the Common	FY23	5,000	
Maine Forestry		FY24	3,150	
Election Grant	Election trailer & supplies	FY25	5,000	
Other Total			244,061	
Police	OUI	FY21-FY25	3,546	
	JAG/BYRNE	FY21-FY25	13,889	
	Bullet Proof Vests	FY21-FY25	5,488	
	Bureau of Highway Safety	FY21-FY25	2,400	
Police Total			25,323	
PW	MDOT/MPI	Brunswick Hill	FY21	300,000
Public Works Total			300,000	
	ME Public Library	FY21	2,500	
Library Total			2,500	
ARPA	Federal ARPA	City Projects	597,740	
	County ARPA	Tower Upgrades	130,000	
	County ARPA	New Ambulance	385,000	
	HRSA/Phase 4	Amb-Various	178,199	
	HRA/Rural	Amb-Various	52,340	
	DHHS/GA	General Assistance	11,492	
ARPA Total			1,354,770	
WW	Rural Development Grant	WW Plant & Electrical Upgrades	FY21	500,000
Wastewater Total			500,000	
GRAND TOTAL - ALL GRANTS			3,631,743	



January 19, 2025

City Council
City of Gardiner
Gardiner, Maine

We were engaged by the City of Gardiner, Maine and have audited the financial statements of the City of Gardiner, Maine as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024. The following schedules have been excerpted from the 2024 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the City. Included herein are:

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	Statement C
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	Statement E
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund	Schedule 1
Combining Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule A
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule B

RHR Smith & Company

Certified Public Accountants

3 Old Orchard Road, Buxton, Maine 04093
Tel: (800) 300-7708 (207) 929-4606 Fax: (207) 929-4609
www.rhrsmith.com

STATEMENT C

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	ARPA Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,210,147	\$ -	\$ 98,350	\$ 4,308,497
Investments	-	-	322,847	322,847
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):				
Taxes	88,136	-	-	88,136
Liens	495,658	-	-	495,658
Other	132,340	-	74,057	206,397
Prepaid items	5,599	-	-	5,599
Due from other funds	839,518	38,422	978,160	1,856,100
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 5,771,398</u>	<u>\$ 38,422</u>	<u>\$ 1,473,414</u>	<u>\$ 7,283,234</u>
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$ 294,945	\$ 1,573	\$ 215,089	\$ 511,607
Accrued payroll	62,135	-	-	62,135
Accrued expenses	4,981	-	-	4,981
Due to other funds	1,155,573	-	85,435	1,241,008
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,517,634</u>	<u>1,573</u>	<u>300,524</u>	<u>1,819,731</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Prepaid taxes	40,595	-	-	40,595
Deferred revenue	-	36,849	-	36,849
Deferred tax revenue	467,000	-	-	467,000
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>507,595</u>	<u>36,849</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>544,444</u>
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	5,599	-	307,399	312,998
Restricted	-	-	971,410	971,410
Committed	-	-	-	-
Assigned	506,000	-	-	506,000
Unassigned (deficit)	3,234,570	-	(105,919)	3,128,651
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>3,746,169</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,172,890</u>	<u>4,919,059</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 5,771,398</u>	<u>\$ 38,422</u>	<u>\$ 1,473,414</u>	<u>\$ 7,283,234</u>

STATEMENT E

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	ARPA Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	\$ 7,922,134	\$ -	\$ 1,020,888	\$ 8,943,022
Excise taxes	1,328,966	-	-	1,328,966
Intergovernmental revenues	2,263,650	130,997	82,553	2,477,200
Charges for services	116,519	-	6,000	122,519
Investment income	247,679	-	4,717	252,396
Miscellaneous revenues	151,785	-	314,432	466,217
TOTAL REVENUES	12,030,733	130,997	1,428,590	13,590,320
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	1,091,877	130,997	299,324	1,522,198
Technology	145,490	-	-	145,490
Public safety	2,717,631	-	554	2,718,185
Public works	1,793,796	-	501,325	2,295,121
Community services	946,690	-	597,781	1,544,471
Education	4,574,878	-	-	4,574,878
County tax	466,106	-	-	466,106
Unclassified	-	-	10,766	10,766
Debt service:				
Principal	450,030	-	246,090	696,120
Interest	-	-	72,229	72,229
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	12,186,498	130,997	1,728,069	14,045,564
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(155,765)	-	(299,479)	(455,244)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	344,806	-	323,000	667,806
Transfers (out)	(140,000)	-	(385,225)	(525,225)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	204,806	-	(62,225)	142,581
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	49,041	-	(361,704)	(312,663)
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED	3,697,128	167,846	1,534,594	5,399,568
ERROR CORRECTION	-	(167,846)	-	(167,846)
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, AS RESTATED	3,697,128	-	1,534,594	5,231,722
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	\$ 3,746,169	\$ -	\$ 1,172,890	\$ 4,919,059

SCHEDULE 1

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, July 1	\$ 3,697,128	\$ 3,697,128	\$ 3,697,128	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	8,173,662	8,173,662	7,922,134	(251,528)
Excise taxes	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,328,966	128,966
Intergovernmental Revenues:				
State revenue sharing	1,297,305	1,297,305	1,340,933	43,628
Homestead reimbursement	414,798	414,798	414,798	-
BETE reimbursement	185,477	185,477	185,575	98
Urban rural initiative	72,000	72,000	84,248	12,248
Tree growth	4,300	4,300	4,795	495
Veterans' reimbursement	5,500	5,500	5,283	(217)
Library	128,470	128,470	128,470	-
Other	86,515	86,515	99,548	13,033
Investment income	150,000	150,000	247,679	97,679
Interest on taxes/lien costs	55,000	55,000	41,710	(13,290)
Licenses and permits	73,000	73,000	58,755	(14,245)
Charges for services	47,500	47,500	57,764	10,264
Miscellaneous revenues	105,000	105,000	110,075	5,075
Transfers from other funds	149,581	149,581	344,806	195,225
Amounts Available for Appropriation	15,845,236	15,845,236	16,072,667	227,431
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	1,236,958	1,241,458	1,091,877	149,581
Technology	137,447	137,447	145,490	(8,043)
Public safety	2,945,084	2,945,084	2,717,631	227,453
Public works	1,817,262	1,817,262	1,793,796	23,466
Community services	983,453	983,453	946,690	36,763
Education	4,574,878	4,574,878	4,574,878	-
County tax	466,106	466,106	466,106	-
Unclassified	18,718	18,718	-	18,718
Debt service:				
Principal	468,202	953,432	450,030	503,402
Transfers to other funds	-	-	140,000	(140,000)
Total Charges to Appropriations	12,648,108	13,137,838	12,326,498	811,340
Budgetary Fund Balance, June 30	\$ 3,197,128	\$ 2,707,398	\$ 3,746,169	\$ 1,038,771
Carryforward of fund balance	\$ -	\$ 489,730	\$ -	\$ (489,730)
Utilization of Assigned Fund Balance	500,000	500,000	-	(500,000)
	\$ 500,000	\$ 989,730	\$ -	\$ (989,730)

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE A

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 23,961	\$ -	\$ 74,389	\$ 98,350
Investments	-	-	322,847	322,847
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles)	47,725	26,332	-	74,057
Due from other funds	978,160	-	-	978,160
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,049,846	\$ 26,332	\$ 397,236	\$ 1,473,414
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$ 171,069	\$ 44,020	\$ -	\$ 215,089
Due to other funds	14,968	69,467	1,000	85,435
TOTAL LIABILITIES	186,037	113,487	1,000	300,524
FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT)				
Nonspendable	-	-	307,399	307,399
Restricted	878,777	-	92,633	971,410
Committed	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	(14,968)	(87,155)	(3,796)	(105,919)
TOTAL FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT)	863,809	(87,155)	396,236	1,172,890
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT)	\$ 1,049,846	\$ 26,332	\$ 397,236	\$ 1,473,414

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE B

CITY OF GARDINER, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 25,756	\$ 56,797	\$ -	\$ 82,553
Taxes	1,020,888	-	-	1,020,888
Charges for services	6,000	-	-	6,000
Investment income	270	-	4,447	4,717
Other	314,432	-	-	314,432
TOTAL REVENUES	1,367,346	56,797	4,447	1,428,590
EXPENDITURES				
General government	299,324	-	-	299,324
Public safety	554	-	-	554
Public works	7,376	493,949	-	501,325
Community services	597,781	-	-	597,781
Debt Service:				
Principal	246,090	-	-	246,090
Interest	72,229	-	-	72,229
Unclassified	-	-	10,766	10,766
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,223,354	493,949	10,766	1,728,069
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	143,992	(437,152)	(6,319)	(299,479)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	173,000	150,000	-	323,000
Transfers (out)	(385,225)	-	-	(385,225)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(212,225)	150,000	-	(62,225)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT)	(68,233)	(287,152)	(6,319)	(361,704)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT) - JULY 1	932,042	199,997	402,555	1,534,594
FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT) - JUNE 30	\$ 863,809	\$ (87,155)	\$ 396,236	\$ 1,172,890

GARDINER FIRE & RESCUE

Phone: 207-582-4535

Fire Chief
Richard F. Sieberg

A Shift
Captain/Paramedic:
Nate Sutherburg
Lieutenant/Paramedic:
Eric Davis
Firefighter/Paramedics:
Clayton Snelling
Andrew Williams
Firefighter/Basic EMT:
Joshua Seekins

B Shift
Captain/Paramedic:
Jesse Thompson
Lieutenant/Paramedic:
Josh Webb
Firefighter/Advanced EMT: Gary Hickey
Firefighter/Paramedics:
Derek Hodgkins
Adam Updyke

C Shift
Captain/Paramedic:
Andrew Santheson
Lieutenant/Paramedic:
Justin Lodolce
Firefighter/Paramedics:
Cody Hickey
Damon Ross
Rohobot Carlson

D Shift
Captain/Paramedic:
Josh Johnson
Lieutenant/Paramedic:
Brandon Melanson
Firefighter/Paramedics:
Connor Osborne
Zachary Martin
Firefighter/EMT:
Mathew Gilbert

Responses
Gardiner Fire/Rescue serves a population of 25,742 encompassing 173 square miles. At present the ambulance service contracts include the towns of: Litchfield, West Gardiner, Farmingdale, Randolph, Chelsea, Pittston and Richmond.

In 2024, Gardiner Fire/Rescue responded to 3,341 EMS calls and 228 fire calls.



Personnel
The Gardiner Fire and Rescue Department has a full-time force of 20 firefighters and a small call company made up of 4 active members. The full-time crews work four shifts providing coverage 24 hours a day 365 days a year. We staff 5 firefighter/paramedics each day providing both fire and EMS services.

Equipment
The Gardiner Fire Department maintains a fleet consisting of two engines, one 100' ladder truck, four ambulances, one utility truck/Chief's vehicle, one UTV, one boat, and one Paramedic fly car/command vehicle.

2024 saw the addition of two new Ambulances to the fleet, with another new ambulance slated to arrive in the summer of 2025. We now have three front line ambulances and one reserve. Having four ambulances enables us to rotate trucks monthly for preventative maintenance, keeping our trucks in the best state of repair possible. The new Engine is still on track for December of 2025.

Fire Prevention and Education
Lieutenant Eric Davis is our Fire Prevention and Education specialist. Eric has done a fantastic job with this important community outreach. Eric has been able to successfully reach all the schools, uplift programs and even scout packs in Gardiner. The kids received some great information and had a lot of fun checking out the equipment. Please feel free to reach out to us with any fire prevention/education needs.

Training - Fire and EMS
The Gardiner Fire Department conducts regular training through company drills and external training opportunities to maintain 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 shift training, Gardiner Firefighters routinely attend various classes and seminars. Several of our members have attended officer training, earning fire officer I & II certifications. As classes become available more members plan to attend. Our call company holds monthly training in house with the duty shift assisting. We have also participated in training hosted by various mutual aid departments over the past year.

EMS Training
Each year Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers are required to attend continuing education. Gardiner Fire & Rescue's field clinician mix is comprised of 18 EMT-Paramedics, and 3 Advanced EMT's. In 2024 the department hosted classes in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Basic Life Support (BLS CPR), Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) and monthly continuing education classes. In addition, we hold quarterly QA reviews administered by our Medical Director Dr. Kelly Meehan-Coussee.

It should be noted that in 2024 FF Updyke completed a Paramedic course becoming a Nationally Registered Paramedic. The amount of classroom and clinical time required to become a Paramedic is very substantial, it is a big accomplishment. FF Gilbert is in the Paramedic program at United and FF Seekins plans on beginning Paramedic school spring of 2025.



Vision For The Future
The future of this department appears to look very bright. We are in a great position to be part of some amazing opportunities. Regionalization being first and foremost. It has been encouraging to be part of some serious discussions with area Chiefs regarding regionalization. As the need for services increases along with costs to deliver those services I can see regionalization as a great solution.

On behalf of the Gardiner Firefighters, it has been an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of this wonderful community.
Richard F. Sieberg,
Fire Chief

GARDINER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Always on duty:
Dispatch: 624-7076
Or 911

Police Chief
Todd Pilsbury

Sergeants
Stacey Blair
Alonzo Connor

Detective
Vacant

School Resource Officer
Scott MacMaster

Patrol
Kaleb Marston
Amanda Reed
Scott MacMaster
Michael Caputo
Dylan Burk
Christopher Lewis
Noah Lebel

Safety Officer
Rob Pekins

Public Safety Assistant
Tara Merrill



Like us on Facebook:
Gardiner Police
Department [Maine]

Year at a Glance

The Gardiner Police Department responded to an approximately 8,000 calls for service this year. 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:

- 143 offense reports
- 179 arrests*
- 108 traffic citations
- 151 motor vehicle accidents (includes reportable and non-reportable damage)
- 184 parking tickets

The department also issued 5 new Concealed Weapons Permits and 9 renewals/transfers.

**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.*

About the Department

The Gardiner Police Department maintains 24 hour police protection 365 days a year when at full staff. The nine staff members (2 Sergeants and 6 Patrolman) that are assigned to patrol work a 24-hour fixed shift. We also have a full-time detective, and a part-time safety officer. The detective is responsible for investigating all major crimes and incidents. His duties also include evidence collection, preservation, and accountability. The safety officer is a civilian position that is responsible for animal control, parking enforcement, harbor management and school crossing guard at LER and works 25 hours per week.

For your safety, there are ALWAYS at least 1-2 officers on duty during from 7am-3pm and there are always at least 2 officers on duty from 3pm-7am when at full staff.

For Parking or Animal Control inquiries, contact the Safety Officer at 582-3211 ext. 1344 or call dispatch at 624-7076.



Message From The Chief



The year 2024 presented some substantial changes for the Gardiner Police Department with the retirement of Sgt. Stacey Blair after 25 years with the City and losing two other patrol officers to other departments. The department was able to recover during the second half of 2024 with the hiring of Officer Dylan Burk, Officer Christopher Lewis, and Officer Noah Lebel. As of January of 2025 the department was only two officers down compared to 3 to 4 vacancies that the department dealt with for large parts of 2024. Despite these vacancies the remaining core of officers worked above and beyond what was expected of them to ensure that the department provided policing excellence, customer service, and ensuring the safety and quality of life for Gardiner citizens, businesses, and visitors. Once again, the department's crime reduction strategies and our partnership with the community has contributed to another year

of reduced incidents of serious criminal offenses. Due to the support and continued participation of our citizens it is our hope that these numbers will continue to drop, continuing to make Gardiner a safer community and a destination for new families and businesses. If you or someone you know would like to become an officer for the Gardiner police Department, please visit the City of Gardiner website to learn more about these exciting job opportunities.

I again want to thank all the officers of the Gardiner Police Department and their families for their dedication to the department and the City of Gardiner. There were some very draining months for these officers and their families due to the hours they worked to keep the expected level of service to the City, citizens, businesses, and visitors. I also want to again thank the City Manager, all of the other City of Gardiner Department Heads, and our elected officials for their continued support and assistance during my first full year as Chief of Police. The wealth of knowledge that these people possess never ceases to amaze me and continues to make my job easier.

I would also like to thank again this year, the citizens of Gardiner for their continuing support over the last 26 years. I stated in last years message, "I have made so many new friends since I started all those years ago and look forward to making many more." It has been a year since that statement and I have added to that list and hope to continue to make that list longer. As always, my door is always open, and all are welcome to come in for a chat about whatever issue is on your mind. If you happen to bring coffee, I take mine black.

In conclusion, I will say again that the Gardiner Police Department is made up of talented, dedicated, and hard working professionals that continue to make tremendous sacrifices to provide the level of services that the City of Gardiner citizens, businesses, and visitors deserve and require. I know this goes without saying because I see and hear it almost daily from citizens and visitors but please continue to extend your gratitude and support to these officers and their families every chance you get. Thank you again for your continuing support of the Gardiner Police Department.

Sincerely,
Chief Todd Pilsbury

GARDINER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Phone:
207-582-3312

Address:
152 Water Street

Website:
gardinerpubliclibrary.org

Library Director & Special Collections Librarian
Dawn Thistle

Children's Librarian
Heather Wade

Technology Librarian
Ann Russell

Young Adult Librarian
Jessica Betit

Public Services Librarian
Stacy Caron

Library Aides (P/T)
Stacia Bolitho
Robert Fagan
Barbara Gipson
Iris Ireland
Erin Overlook
Marlene Patten



Gardiner Public Library prides itself as a glowing asset for the City of Gardiner and the residents of our partner towns. The beauty of our historic building is a draw for all ages. And when people enter the building, they are welcomed by the most outstanding library staff I could hope for. Our full-time staff: Jess Betit, Stacy Caron, Ann Russell, and Heather Wade; part-time staff: Bob Fagan, Barbara Gipson, and Marlene Patten; and on-call/seasonal staff: Stacia Bolitho, Iris Ireland, and Erin Overlock are the kindest, most considerate, and dedicated to service crew I could be so lucky to work with and share with our community. Their dedication to customer

service, to whomever walks through the door, is exemplary, frequently commented on, and admired by countless many.

Gardiner Public Library serves the city of Gardiner and the five supporting municipalities of Farmingdale, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph and West Gardiner. As a truly regional organization, we serve a community of more than 20,000 citizens. Further, we are a significant economic driver for Gardiner’s historic downtown and an incentive for those moving to our area. We continue to adapt and improve our services to meet the changing needs and wants of our patrons. We do all we can to sustain our value to the community and remain a necessary and appreciated asset to all our supporting towns and subscribing patrons.

Our outstanding offerings to our entire service population range from an excellent in-house collection of books, DVDs, and audio materials to an extensive interlibrary collaboration throughout the state of Maine, as well as myriad digital offerings, from e-books and audio books to movies, music, comics, and more. And, on top of all that, we offer a wide variety of passes to Maine State Parks, various museums, and an array of local experiential venues – as well as multiple physical objects from pole pruners to trim Browntail moth nests from your trees to a metal detector to search for missing or soon-to-be-discovered treasures, to a fly fishing rod to practice your swing!



We host weekly Story Hours on Tuesday mornings, a children’s STEM club on Wednesdays, and Baby Bounce on Friday mornings – as well as a vibrant Summer Reading program and a variety of other events for young folks. We also host a variety of Book Groups on Tuesday evenings for adults and a weekly home-school reading group. In addition to rotating trainings on electronic devices, we feature author readings, speakers on historical topics, movies for all ages, Friday morning coffee chats for folks to talk books and ideas, learn a new game, meet a new friend, or just get out of the house - and we offer home delivery for those who cannot make it to the library in person. Please, stay tuned for much more programming to come – and, please, share with us what you are interested in us offering.



It is important to also mention the historic and impressive partnership between the city and the Gardiner Library Association. Since 1881, the Association has owned the land and the building and maintained responsibility and stewardship for its general upkeep, all while ensuring its ability to continue to serve the City of Gardiner as a public library space. The city provides staffing, training, day-to-day general upkeep – such as plowing, shoveling, salting/sanding, custodial services, staff development, elevator maintenance, electricity, heat, and water, etc. And the Gardiner Library Association maintains and provides for the library building’s longevity by planning for, enacting, and overseeing the overall health, upkeep, and improvements of this amazing and significantly historic Maine building.

With all that noted, Gardiner Public Library had an excellent year. We are buzzing and bustling, day after day, and happily welcoming new patrons from all our towns, as well as subscribers from outside our service area. Our programming activities for all ages continue to grow and draw new and returning visitors and we keep looking for ways to improve and diversify the services we provide. Positive word of mouth brings folks in week after week and day after day. This is our goal, and we pride ourselves on providing wonderful customer service, at every turn. We appreciate and rely on our library Board of Trustees, the Gardiner Library Association and all its board and committee members, and every advocate and forever library lover we can.



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

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Angelia Christopher, General Assistance Director

Gardiner’s General Assistance (GA) program provides assistance to eligible residents who are struggling to or are unable to provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves or their families. General Assistance is designed to provide specific amount of aid for basic needs during a limited period of time and is not intended to be an ongoing resource. Applications for General Assistance can be taken any time during normal City Hall Business hours. Applicants can also call 207-530-0178 after hours for emergencies. Applicants can apply for assistance with basic needs such as rent, heating 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.



Number of Applications: 41
Number of Residents Assisted: 36

Expenditures for 2024	
Housing	\$24,490
Heating	\$1,022
Electric	\$2,799
Houshold/Personal Supplies	\$240
Food	\$260
Burial/Cremation	\$35,235
Other (Utilities, Medication)	\$360
Total Amount issued	\$34,405

Funding Sources for the above expenditures include:
State of Maine, DHHS (Reimbursement 70%): \$24,084
Net Cost to Gardiner: \$10,322

PUBLIC WORKS

Phone:
207-582-4408

PW Garage Address
197 Old Brunswick Rd

Hours of Operation
Monday - Thursday:
6am - 4:30pm

Public Works Director
John Cameron

Foreman
Dave Grover

Operators
Phillip Alley
Kaleb Bouchard
Kyle Burns
John Perkins
John Zack

Mechanic
Tucker Fitzmaurice

Laborers
Mike McArther
Mike McArther, Jr.

Custodian
Vacant

PW Administrative Assistant
Alyssa Jones

The Public Works primary service is to maintain the city’s infrastructure which includes, but not limited to, the roads, parks, cemeteries, city buildings, culverts and stormwater basins and sewer lines and basins. We also help respond to sewer calls, oversee the streetlights, and help assist in community events.

A few other projects that the Department of Public Works took care of during 2024 were raising basins in front of the paving companies that came through the city this year. It was a big push to get things done early so that the paving was completed before the Great Race event came through the City. Capen Road was chip sealed, which is a great cost-effective alternative to paving a road. After we pave the roads there is always a lot of shoulder work that needs to be done to help keep our roads in good shape. With some of the heavier rain events there always seem to be more and more washouts. The crew works very hard to come up with alternatives to try to limit how often and how bad the washouts are.

We set aside a couple of weeks each year to put towards trimming brush along the roadsides and overhead along the roads so residents have good visibility, and the sun can shine on the roads to help keep things dry.

A new solar blinking light was installed at the crosswalk between the Common and the Big Apple store. On rainy days and in between certain jobs the crew built a new file storage area in the last two bays of the fire station. We were able to put together five new picnic tables to put out in various areas in the Common and the waterfront for the residents to enjoy.

We had a few sewer projects this year on Brunswick Avenue, Dresden Avenue, and Lincoln Avenue. We had to dig up and replace some pipe. One very large project reconnected a sewer line behind the Renys buildings to connect to Bintliff’s. We also took on the maintenance of Mount Hope Cemetery this year, which added a lot of extra work.

During the year we moved the two Building and Grounds maintenance employees to laborer positions in the Public Works Department. All of the job duties that they did for Buildings and Grounds are now part of the Public Works team. This gives the department a lot more flexibility for scheduling jobs and getting them done in the most efficient way possible. So far, the move has been great. This was definitely a win-win for both the City and the employees.

This year the department was able to take delivery of a new one-ton dump truck and a new John Deere backhoe loader. These two items are a great addition to the fleet. Many thanks to the residents and the City Council for supporting this acquisition.

John Cameron
Public Works Director

TAX COLLECTOR

Kathleen Cutler, City Clerk/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 ATVs. 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 as an Executive Board Member of the Northeast Regional Tax Collector’s and Treasurer’s Association and is a member of the Kennebec County Budget Committee. 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 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 FY24 we sent out 2932 tax bills, 134 liens were filed, and 28 foreclosure notices were sent. In 2024 the State of Maine revised the statute (36 M.R.S. § 943) regarding real estate foreclosures and the Notice of Impending Foreclosure. To remain in compliance the City of Gardiner will utilize a licensed Real Estate Broker to dispose of all tax acquired property.

In FY24 we processed 7398 motor vehicle transactions for a total of \$1,192,287 revenue.

We continue to work on outreach with elderly residents and are always looking for ways to provide tax relief. The city currently offers a Tax Discount Program. In 2024, 61 residents qualified for relief and received a combined \$73,324 in refunds. For information on this program please call city hall.

Tax Collectors Report for FY24	
Assessed value	\$ 382,269,340
Tax rate (per \$1,000)	23.70
Commitment	8,981,758
Collections	8,770,872
Current year taxes receivable at end of year	372,907
Taxes and liens receivable - prior years	210,886
Total taxes and liens receivable	\$ 583,793

Due dates: 1st half Sept 15, 2023
 2nd half March 15, 2024
Interest rate on delinquent taxes: 8%
Collection rate: 97.7%

OUTSTANDING REAL ESTATE TAXES

As Of June 30, 2024

149 Water St, LLC	\$3,505	Harris, David	\$12,705	Posillico Enterprise	\$22,745
333 Enterprises LLC	\$7,486	Haskell, Jane A	\$3,331	Presby, April	\$3,757
45 Church St LLC	\$5,946	Henry, Kathryn L Personal	\$406	Pushard, Dana	\$1,564
Amadon Floyd T	\$4,264	Higginson, Michael J	\$1,208	Quirion, Arlene	\$195
Arseneau, Diane	\$2,973	Hilltop Log Homes	\$927	Rare Find Property	\$4,653
Asselin, Amanda	\$549	Holt, Michael D Personal	\$1,786	Reynolds Invest LLC	\$2,878
Bailey, George Heirs Of	\$3,275	Howard, Debra Personal	\$5,845	Rines, David A	\$112
Bailey, Stephen	\$2,574	James, Gordon S	\$2,390	Roberts Properties LLC	\$82
Baker, Kristie	\$3,076	Johnson, Chandler	\$1,536	RTM Gardiner LLC	\$1,321
Batty, Judith	\$94	Joseph, Jason S	\$608	Shepard, Sally R	\$6,971
Bernard, Ashely	\$5,429	JRN Holdings LLC	\$10,506	Singh, Vij Baldev	\$1,108
Bird, Mary	\$444	Kelley, Mariah Pr	\$1,127	Snell, Peter	\$554
Bonenfant, Edward J	\$6,908	Lagassée, Anita & James	\$7,175	Solomon, Christine L	\$1,867
Brendahl, Cricket	\$795	Lang Hill Companies, LLC	\$132	Somerville, Jennifer	\$131
Brennan, Matthew	\$1,226	Latouf, Peter	\$4,067	Spear, Janice R Devises Of	\$1,881
Bright, Donald	\$1,528	Lavalée, Joanne K	\$2,349	Stebbins, Daniel	\$1,696
Brown, Michelle	\$3,088	Lawrence, John T	\$8,624	Stonier, Jonathan	\$6,613
CB Mareic	\$3,465	Leavitt, Monica	\$4,832	Story, Louanne	\$2,632
Canyon LLC	\$2,588	Leach, Jason R	\$110	STRR1 LLC	\$103,342
Clary, Earl	\$2,847	Lee, Matthew	\$2,673	Sung, Matthew	\$1,600
Crapp, Charles	\$2,188	Lepoff, Sarah	\$4,767	Sweeney, Karyn	\$1,496
Dghwater LLC	\$3,749	MacMaster, Jason	\$8,460	Swett-Cyr, Diane	\$1,830
Dick, TW	\$19,281	MacMaster, Michael	\$9,701	Terrell, Dennis	\$1,702
Dineen, David F Jr	\$6,040	Mann, J R	\$1,553	TPM Realty LLC	\$8,573
Donahoe, John	\$728	Martin, Dean E	\$3,320	TWC Properties LLC	\$10,528
Dubay, Maryanne	\$1,206	McKechnie, Sandra	\$152	Vintinner, Corey	\$1,345
Duquette, Catherine	\$1,868	MCMO, LLC	\$6,227	Whitney, Philip T	\$1,370
Eaton Marlene Handcock	\$1,100	McKechnie, Sandra	\$163	Wight, Melissa	\$2,893
Epic Bones LLC	\$6,839	McKenna, David	\$766	Willard, Heather	\$1,186
Emery, Linda J	\$230	McLaughlin, Mark D	\$4,884	Willard, Richard T	\$3,219
Fielder, Cody Mikel	\$1,754	Moody, Grace	\$1,754	Williams, Rebecca J	\$2,697
Fitzherbert, Philip J	\$618	Moody, Thomas	\$11,181	Williams, Williams Construction	\$1,564
Fles, Jacob & Rebecca	\$8,334	Morang, Jeffrey	\$2,124	Worthley, Todd	\$2,675
G & G Holdings LLC	\$2,754	Mungen, Marlon	\$1,242	Woytowicz, John M	\$5,732
Gilley, Howard	\$1,134	Nichols, Barbara	\$2,071	Wright, Darrell	\$1,503
Greenlaw, Eugene	\$2,355	Peirce, Morgan	\$1,074		
Hannaford Bros	\$112,963	Pelletier, Paul, Pellet	\$2,801	Balance	\$583,793

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Phone:
207-582-1351
For billing inquiries:
207-588-4070

Wastewater Treatment Plant Address:
540 River Ave

Hours of Operation:
Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

Wastewater Director
Vacant

Mechanic/Operator
Chris Miller

Operators
Bryden Haskell
Ben Moore

Lab Operator
Ben Dice

Wastewater Utility Clerk
Kelly Hare

The residential collection system (sewers) is maintained in part by the Gardiner Public Works Department.

In 2024 the City of Gardiner Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) treated 428,356,000 gallons of sewerage and combined stormwater. That calculates to be an average daily flow of 1,173,578 gallons per day. Of that the Town of Farmingdale contributed 55,524,000 gallons or 12.96% of flow contribution and the Town of Randolph contributed 53,980,000 gallons or 12.60%. The finished clean water or “effluent” discharged to the Kennebec River was cleaned to an average of 93% removal of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and 93% of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The final effluent was disinfected to DEP and DMR standards during the period of seasonal chlorination May 15 to September 30 using a combination of Sodium Hypochlorite/Meta BiSulfite. The collection system, or sewers, is comprised of miles of underground piping connected through 18 pump stations, 2 siphons, 4 interceptors, force mains, a stormwater CSO/RTB (Combined Sewer Overflow/Retention & Treatment Basin), a storage interceptor and residential service lines.

The final waste component of the treated sewerage is separated and condensed down to a moist, solid material called bio-solids or sludge. A total of 984 cubic yards (18.9 Yd3/week production avg.) and 773 wet tons (14.9 tons/week avg.) were produced in 2024. Current PFAS regulations do not allow for the re-use of bio-solids. This means that 100% of Gardiner’s Biosolids are now being disposed of at the State of Maine owned Juniper Ridge Landfill in Alton, Maine.

The CSO/RTB (Combined Sewer Overflow/Retention and Treatment Basin) at the Maine Avenue Pump Station captured, treated and returned 410,000 gallons of combined sewerage and stormwater (CSO flow) to the system that would have otherwise gone untreated out to the Kennebec River. An additional total of 2,200,000 of CSO flow was given basic screening and primary treatment through the CSO system at the treatment plant (primary bypassing secondary) before discharge to the river during heavy rain events. This flow would also have otherwise been discharged directly to the river without any treatment.

The process of updating the CSO Master Plan began during this year with completion scheduled for 2025. This update will pinpoint locations of inflow and Infiltration that will identify specific locations for future infrastructure improvements.

There were several process control improvements implemented throughout the year that greatly improved the quality of the facilities effluent discharge. These improvements also decreased sludge disposal costs and chemical costs.

The Gardiner WWTF is normally staffed by 5 employees, Director Douglas Clark retired in early 2024; Water Quality & Compliance Services was contracted to perform interim Director duties while the city advertised to fill the vacant Wastewater Director position. The facility also experienced turnover in operations staff as three operators left during the year. The city reinstated the Chief Operator position and hired Anthony Soucy into this position. Chris Miller is the Mechanic/Operator; Ben Moore and Bryden Haskell were hired as Operators.





Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley

Proudly Serving the Gardiner Community



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley (BGCKV) is proud to serve children, teens, and families in the City of Gardiner. We are thankful for the ongoing support from the City, which helps us continue to offer safe, welcoming, and enriching programs for local youth.

Gardiner Program Participation

This past year, 497 Gardiner youth participated in one or more of the following Club programs:

- Teen Center: 149 teens
- Child Care: 133 children
- Youth Sports: 215 players



Our Club welcomed over 1,300 registered participants across all programs.

Spotlight on the Teen Center

The Teen Center is a FREE afterschool program for students in grades 6–12. This year, 201 students from MSAD 11 registered to attend. On a typical day, between 65 and 100 teens walk through our doors.

Teens arrive after school around 2:00 PM, where they are offered:

- A healthy supper meal
- Tutoring with certified teachers
- Fun enrichment activities, like art, sports, and leadership programs

Scholarships & Support

Our Club Scholarship Program helps families in crisis who do not qualify for state assistance. Scholarships range from partial to full and may last up to a year or more, depending on the need. This year, the Club awarded 72 scholarships, totaling \$145,000 in assistance.



By the Numbers

- 80 caring staff members
- 100+ dedicated volunteers
- 25 seniors from the “Oldies But Goodies” group join us weekly for fun and connection



We are proud to be part of the Gardiner community and deeply thankful for the City’s continued partnership. Together, we are building a stronger, brighter future for our youth.



2024 IN REVIEW

Building Community
Strengthening Commerce
Supporting Businesses

883 Volunteer Hours



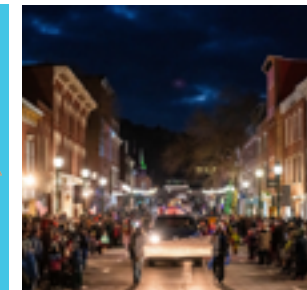
of Attendees at all Events

11,388



Annual Events

- Jane’s Walk - May
- Art Walks - May, August, December
- Ritual Market - July
- Swine & Stein - October
- Downtown Trick or Treat - October
- Tree Lighting - December
- Parade of Lights - December



Private Reinvestment Dollars
\$438,095



New Additions to GMS Program Events in 2024

Responsible Beverage Training - in conjunction with Healthy Communities of the Capital Area
Downtown Business Forum - to discuss the reopening of Johnson Hall Opera House

Once in a Lifetime Opportunity:

Gardiner was the 2024 Great Race Finish Line, the terminus of a 9-day, 2,300 mile rally journey through eleven states. Over 4,000 spectators lined the street to welcome the rally teams to our welcoming downtown.



www.gardinermainstreet.org

Gardiner Main Street is dedicated to being an integral part of the community, as a member of:

- City of Gardiner Economic & Community Development Committee
- Climate Change Vulnerability Working Group
- City of Gardiner Parks & Public Spaces Committee
- Duct Tape Council
- City of Gardiner Sidewalk Committee
- Gardiner Area Thrives



Gardiner Main Street is a nationally accredited program and a member of Main Street America.



207.377.2848 | PO Box 261 - 331 Main Street
www.tkl.org | Winthrop, Maine 04364

December 2024

Board of Directors

Matt Mullen (P)
Paul Kuehnert (1st VP)
Scott Moucka (2nd VP)
Amy Trunnell (T)
Bob Marvinney (S)
Jordan Beall
Sue Bell
Susan Caldwell
Mary Denison
Tom Ferrero
Howard Lake
Corinne Michaud-LeBlanc
Janet Sawyer
Jean Scudder
Deb Sewall
Mary Sheridan
Lindsay Theis
Kim Vandermeulen

Advisory Board

Jim Connors
Hon. Kenneth Curtis
Elizabeth Davidson
Eric Doucette
Caroline Farr
David Gibson
Glenn Hodgkins
Charlie Jacobs
Mark Johnston
Ron Joseph
Kevin Kane
Martha Kent
Robert Kimber
Ken Laustsen
Gloria Ladd
Barbara Libby
Andy Lilienthal
Scott Longfellow
Jon Lund
Jessie & Douglas
Macdonald
Bob Mohlar
Patricia Mooney, Ph.D.
Jeff Pidot
Dave Rocque
Norm Rodrigue
Reade & Joan Ryan
Jym St. Pierre
Bob Weston

Staff

Baylee Bachelder
Tyler Keniston
Theresa Kerchner
Jean-Luc Theriault
John Whittaker

Dear Gardiner Residents,

This past year has been successful for the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT). With generous support from community members, we have worked to conserve important lands; provide public access for hiking, paddling, skiing, blueberry picking, and hunting; and promote land stewardship, conservation education, and partnerships.

KLT has an impressive list of accomplishments: 7,800 acres under permanent conservation throughout our 413,000-acre service area; 58 miles of trails to explore; over 20 miles of conserved shoreline; and 1,100 household and business partner members.

As we look to the future, we will continue to conserve high value land and protect important wildlife habitat, and we're also offering programs to promote and expand conservation in ways that better serve our communities.

KLT also offers a great selection of outings and educational programs for the public, and we collaborate with schools and other organizations to engage youth and share our conservation message with the community. In 2024 KLT participated in community career days at the Gardiner High School and Nicole Danielson, KLT volunteer, offered nature education programs for Gardiner Elementary School students at the Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary in West Gardiner - and from all reports the students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the Leaves and Seed Dispersal and Chemistry of Seeds programs!

We welcome this opportunity to communicate with Gardiner residents and the Select Board about our conservation work. Everyone is welcome to visit our properties and trails and to attend our public programs.

If you have questions about our community conservation work, please don't hesitate to contact us at 207-377-2848 or info@tkl.org. You can also visit our website, www.tkl.org, for trail maps, directions, and more information about our organization. Thank you to all those in Gardiner who have chosen to support KLT as members or volunteers.

Sincerely,

Matt Mullen
President

Theresa Kerchner
Executive Director

Gardiner - Randolph - Pittston - West Gardiner

Maine School Administrative District No. 11

150 Highland Avenue
Gardiner, ME 04345

Patricia Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 207-582-5346
Fax: 207-582-8305
www.msad11.org

Angela Hardy
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Superintendent Report 2024-2025

It is with sincere appreciation and a deep sense of pride that I submit this year's annual report as I prepare to retire after 15 years serving as Superintendent of Schools in MSAD 11. Throughout this time, I have had the honor of working alongside a dedicated staff committed to meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students. Their unwavering focus on student success remains the foundation of our district's strength.

This year, the district has taken a major step forward in improving instructional quality and expanding opportunities for both students and staff by adopting the Opportunity Culture model. This nationally recognized initiative restructures staffing to allow highly effective teachers to extend their reach to more students, while providing increased planning time, professional development, and leadership roles for educators—all without increasing class sizes. We believe this model will enhance student achievement while strengthening teacher retention and leadership pathways.

As in recent years, our district continues to experience a decline in student enrollment, with a decrease of 81 students since April 2024. At the same time, the state-assessed property valuations for all four towns in our district have increased by a combined 16.10%. This change directly impacts how education costs are shared among our communities.

The proposed budget reflects a modest overall increase of 1.27%, significantly reduced from the initial request of 8.38%. This budget accounts for a total cost increase of 4.34%, which will affect the assessment to each municipality as follows: Gardiner – 3.71%, Pittston – 3.88%, Randolph – 2.51%, and West Gardiner – 5.92%.

Looking ahead, the School Board is awaiting the Maine Department of Education's construction application list, expected in June. This list will guide the Board in determining next steps related to our school facilities and long-term capital needs. We are optimistic that this process will support our goals of providing safe, modern learning environments for all students.

As I conclude my final year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the trust and support I have received from our towns over the past decade and a half. It has been a privilege to serve this district.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools

'First to Serve - 1799'



Office of the Sheriff Kennebec County, Maine

Lieutenant Frank Hinch
Law Enforcement
73 Windrup Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
Telephone (207) 623-3614
Fax (207) 623-6367

Ken Mason, Sheriff
J. Chris Read, Chief Deputy

Captain Brian S. Simey
Corrections Administrator
115 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
Telephone (207) 523-2270
Fax (207) 673-8787

January 31, 2025

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office is pleased to make the following report regarding the services we provided to the people of Kennebec County in 2024. Those services include the Law Enforcement Division, Corrections Services, Civil Process, Court and Transport Division. We provided many regional assets to our communities including a K-9 Teams, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy and Accident Reconstruction.

In 2024, Law Enforcement Deputies logged thousands of calls for service. Our call service area widened a bit covering calls for service in the City of Hallowell as there staffing levels at that agency are very low.

One type of call has fortunately decreased: overdoses of prescribed medications or illicit substances. I personally believe the increase in treatment options, both locally and nationally, has had an impact on overdose deaths. This Sheriff's Office will always support our citizens with substance dependency disorders by providing avenues that can assist with their recovery.

In 2021 a shift in the balance of call taking we had shared with the Maine State Police required my office to expand the Law Enforcement Division by two Deputies. In 2022, 2023 and 2024 a new deputy position was added to my roster to bolster staffing needs to provide increased calls for service.

On December 30, 2024, I appointed Chris Read as my Chief Deputy. He has over three decades of experience in law enforcement and is a highly respected member of our team. His appointment to this position assures the highest service available to Kennebec County Residents.

In 2024 our patrol division welcomed Alex Morin, Zack Reynolds, Hunter McCaslin and part-time deputy Garth Coleman to our team. Two of the four mentioned individuals are fully certified LEO's.

In 2024 the Sheriff's Office began School Resource Officer duties for MSAD #11 in Gardiner. The salary and the benefits for the deputy are paid in full by MSAD #11. This is the 3rd SRO position held by a Kennebec County Deputy Sheriff. The other two are MSAD #49 and RSU#38.

My agency continues to receive federal funds to conduct patrol details county wide. To date, the effort of Kennebec County Deputies in those federally funded programs excel statistically for

the number of interdictions for drug related criminal activities. These details are not limited to motor vehicle stops. We have been conducting watercraft details on several different bodies of water here in Kennebec. We have been using our UTV (provided through a federal grant) driving from Augusta to Hallowell and through Farmingdale and into Gardiner on the Rail Trail.

Our Civil Process Deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local, and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2024, the three civil deputies received over 4,500 requests for service in Kennebec County. This is a decrease from 2023. Some of the services include civil summons & complaints, foreclosures, evictions, small claims, child support notices from the State and enforcement of court orders and writs to name a few.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 2600 inmate intakes. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Trespass to Homicide. Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. One may think that this only benefits the County, or our local municipalities, but it does not. It also benefits the inmate population as well. They are very hard workers, and they make a difference.

We are committed to providing innovative programs to reduce crimes, assist victims, and to provide enhanced public safety. We acknowledge the ever-growing opiate addiction problem nationwide and have committed to partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels to combat this problem. Our approach is aggressive enforcement, education, treatment and recovery for those afflicted with this horrible addiction.

I would like to thank all my administrative staff who support the patrol division, detective division, correctional division and the civil deputies. The amount of paperwork that is handled by these individuals is staggering and their work is greatly appreciated. Job well done by all.

As your Sheriff, and moving forward into 2025, my focus will remain constant, serving the people of this county and our visitors honorably, professionally through good common sense and good judgement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Mason, Sheriff



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Karen Montell

57 Dresden Avenue
Gardiner, ME 04345

Phone: (207) 513-0102

Karen.Montell@legislature.maine.gov

February 2025

Dear Gardiner Neighbors:

It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve you in the Maine House of Representatives. Over the next two years, I will be working hard as your advocate in Augusta to make life better for everyone in our district and in our state.

As I write this, we are well into the first session of the 132nd Legislature. We have a lot of work ahead of us, which will include doing more to lower costs for Maine families, building an economy that works for everyone, increasing access to housing and health care, and more. I'm looking forward to working with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to tackle these challenges head-on.

Our most significant priority will be crafting a two-year state budget, which will shape the direction of our state in the near future. We are currently in the midst of crafting a budget that is reflective of a wide range of needs. I will be fighting to ensure that the budget includes policies that will provide relief and make it easier for more Maine families to build their lives here and make ends meet.

This session, I have been appointed to serve on the Transportation Committee, where we will work to develop and support sound transportation policy that includes, but is not limited to, highway and bridge construction and maintenance, safety and traffic regulation. Additionally, I am confident that the committee will be forward thinking and strategic about the current and future need for reliable public transportation.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever need my help. My phone number is (207) 513-0102, and my email is Karen.Montell@legislature.maine.gov. I also send out monthly e-newsletters that provide updates on our work at the State House and offer helpful information and resources. Please let me know if you would like to receive them.

I am so grateful to be entrusted with this great responsibility, and I look forward to connecting with you over the next two years.

Sincerely,

Karen Montell



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Neighbor,

I trust that you and your family are safe and healthy. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to continue serving as your State Senator for Gardiner. It remains the highest honor of my life to represent you in the Maine Legislature, and I remain committed to working hard for you every single day.

I am proud to report I am maintaining my position as the Senate Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. This committee oversees campaign finance, elections, voting rights, cannabis, liquor, gambling, and veterans' affairs. As a strong defender of voting rights, I take this part of my committee's role very seriously. Additionally, as the son of a Tuskegee Airman, I know how important it is to invest in the people who have put on the uniform in service to our great nation. I look forward to working with all of my committee members to provide our veterans with the services they need and deserve and to continue supporting the small business owners in the industries that bring in the most revenue for our state.

I am also continuing to serve as Senate Chair of the Government Oversight Committee. Evaluating agencies and programs and holding government accountable to the people remains most essential to legislative oversight. Most notably this year, the Committee continues to evaluate the Office of Child and Family Services and how to address the issues facing so many children and families across this state. I believe that children are our future, and we must do a better job protecting them from maltreatment.

As an organic farmer and the author of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act, the Right to Food Constitutional Amendment, and legislation to End Hunger in Maine by 2030, improving Maine agriculture and strengthening our local and regional food systems will always be priorities. I am excited to announce that I have been appointed to the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board, which will design and implement programs that invest in much-needed infrastructure, especially in the rural parts of our district and state.

Public service remains my purpose and my duty, not only during session, but also year-round. If you need to contact a state agency or department, have comments or concerns to share, or know a youngster who wants to serve as an Honorary Page in the Senate, please don't hesitate to send me an email at Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov or call my office at 287-1515.

Take care of your blessings,

Craig V. Hickman
State Senator



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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

Dear Maine Resident:

I have always been guided by the belief that to strengthen our state, we have to invest in our greatest asset: the people of Maine. With the support of the Legislature, my Administration has been investing in what people need to succeed, like job training, child care, health care, education, broadband, and housing.

We are seeing results — small businesses are expanding their operations; people are moving here to work and raise their families; and graduates are staying in Maine to pursue rewarding, life-long careers. These are all encouraging signs that are reflected in the strength of our economy. In fact, Maine has one of the best rates of economic growth in the nation.

That's good news, but I know that not everyone is feeling the benefits of our strong economy. The cost of living in Maine, as in much of America, is too high. The price of fuel, the cost of supplies, utilities and labor have driven up expenses for families across the country and impacted the budgets of towns, counties and nearly every state, including Maine.

I want everyone to benefit from the availability of good jobs, a good public education, and good health care in our state. That is why I have put forward a balanced budget proposal that proposes some savings and certain targeted revenue increases to maintain things we all support, like the state paying 55 percent of the cost of education and 5 percent municipal revenue sharing, to keep all these costs from being passed along to property taxpayers.

We have made good progress over the past six years to ensure that every person in Maine can find a good-paying job in a rewarding and stable career; go to the doctor when they feel sick because they have health insurance; and have the peace of mind that their children are safe at home and at school.

I look forward to working with communities and citizens across the state to solve problems, manage our finances, and keep our people healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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

Committee on Armed Services
Committee on Small Business

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. Thank you for the opportunity to share an update on the work I've been doing for the people of the Second Congressional District.

Fisheries: This spring, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) announced a gauge increase for lobsters caught in the Gulf of Maine beginning in January 2025. Maine fishermen warned that this decision is founded on incomplete and inaccurate data. Additionally, this gauge increase could put Mainers at a competitive disadvantage to Canadian fishermen with looser regulations. That's why I sent a [letter](#) to the ASMFC urging them to delay their decision until they can evaluate data with fishermen, whose proactive stewardship provides invaluable insight. I have also submitted an amendment to this year's funding bill that would block federal funding from being used to implement and enforce a gauge increase. Because of these efforts, the ASFMC made the decision to delay the implementation of this new requirement. I'll always stand with Maine lobstermen against unfair, unnecessary regulations that threaten their livelihoods and industry.

Veterans: The first meeting I attended as an elected official was with a large group of veterans and the former Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services. We discussed a lot, but one issue rose above the rest: how little was being done for Maine veterans who needed treatment for mental health issues or substance use. At the time, there were no in-patient treatment beds in Maine, so veterans had to wait for a bed to open up at an out-of-state facility. Fast forward 10 years, through unending red tape, and I'm delighted to report we just broke ground on a treatment facility at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta. This was the direct result of the tireless advocacy of veterans from across our state — this win is theirs.

Postal Service: This spring, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced plans to consolidate and move some processing operations from the Eastern Maine Processing & Distribution Center in Hampden to Scarborough. This would have caused significant mail delivery delays that disproportionately harm rural communities. That's why I introduced the *Timely Mail Delivery*

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Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share several key accomplishments for our state from the previous year.

As Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, I have secured nearly \$580 million for 230 projects across all of Maine's 16 counties to promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; support law enforcement; improve public education and infrastructure; and protect our environment. As the new Congress begins, I am honored to be taking the helm of the Committee, the first Mainer to do so in nearly a century, and I remain committed to ensuring that federal spending produces real results for our state and nation.

Maine has the oldest average age in the country, which is why I have long prioritized health-focused legislative efforts. There were more than 1,860 health care bills introduced during the 118th Congress. Only 15 health care bills were signed into law, and I was a lead sponsor of five of them. These bills will enhance care for individuals with Alzheimer's, autism, and substance abuse issues through improved research funding, strengthened public health programs, and increased support for rural first responders.

Another important bill that I coauthored was the *Social Security Fairness Act*. Since 2003, when I led the first-ever Senate hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, I have sought to end these provisions of the *Social Security Act* that unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits that public employees or their spouses have earned. I am pleased to say that with the passage of my bill, the *Social Security Fairness Act*, in December, public sector retirees will now receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned.

When the Maine way of life was under threat, I was certain to defend the interests of our state. I worked to protect Maine's potato farmers when the Department of Agriculture tried to reclassify the potato from a vegetable to a grain. I thwarted efforts to consolidate USPS mail operations at the Hampden postal facility, which would have disrupted mail delivery throughout our state. I sounded the alarm with leaders at the FBI and Departments of State and Treasury on the spate of illicit marijuana growing operations that are destroying properties and providing refuge to foreign criminals in our state. Following damage to our working waterfronts after last winter's storms, I secured \$15 million to help fishing communities recover. I championed funding to support the Maine Air National Guard base, Bath Iron Works, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

As of last December, I have cast more than 9,100 consecutive votes, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997. My ranking as the most bipartisan Senator reflects Maine's tradition of working with a spirit of cooperation and respect.

My highest priority as a Senator is to ensure that Maine's needs are met. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at collins.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Dear Friends,

Each year comes with renewed hope – to celebrate each other's successes and care for each other in times of need. I am thankful to each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. We always work together to get things done. This past year was no different.

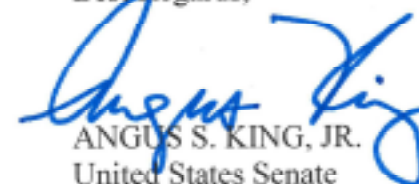
First, it was a true honor to be reelected to the United States Senate for another six-year term. Throughout my travels around the state, I heard many concerns about the cost of living and affordability of housing. Many of you also shared your concerns about access to medical and mental health services. The *Inflation Reduction Act* has been incredible for older people in Maine – Medicare is finally negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs, on top of the \$35 per month cap for insulin that took effect in 2023. We have an opportunity to build on what we have in common and do what Maine people do best; we will continue to help each other and lead through example.

I have also been consistently working to help our veterans. My team has repeatedly been successful in securing long-overdue recognition of military medals for many of Maine's combat veterans and working to resolve issues with claims, travel pay, and access to healthcare and benefits our veterans earned through their selfless service to our country. I have also worked with my Veterans Affairs and Defense partners in Washington to successfully pass a national defense bill that strengthens our national security, takes care of our service members, and supports Maine businesses from Aroostook to York County.

I am also thankful to have such an incredible team across Maine available to you for hurdles you may face with the federal government. Whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, IRS and more, please never hesitate to reach out to my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow us the chance to be part of your solutions.

Together, over the next six years, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you — it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2025.

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senate



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