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Upcoming Events

- July 21 - Update from the Corner Office Will start airing on WGET Channel 8
- July 30 - Governor Patrick to visit Athol 6pm, Fish Park on Union Street in Athol
- Ongoing - Woodcarvers Exhibit through September 28 1-4pm, Wed - Sun, Gardner Museum, Gardner
- July - August - Summer Concerts in the Park 7pm, Saturdays, Monument Park, Gardner
- August 1-2 - Experience Gardner Festival & Sidewalk Sale Downtown Gardner
- August 6 - Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce 63rd Annual Outing 978-632-1780 for more information
- August 18 - MWCC Foundation Golf Tournament 978-630-9594 for more information
- September 11 - Lecture "Chair City of the World" Constance Riley, Speaker 6-8pm, Gardner Museum, Gardner
- September 27 - Northern Worcester County Memory Walk 10am, Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner www.MemoryWalkMA.org or 508-799-2386 for more information
- October - "The Way We Were" exhibit 1-4pm, Wed - Sun, Gardner Museum, Gardner
- October 9 - Lecture "History in the Graveyard: Massachusetts' Native American Burying Grounds" Tom & Brenda Malloy, speakers 6-8pm, Gardner Museum,

From the desk of Mayor Hawke

Detective Lieutenant Gerald Poirier

As you have probably read in the Worcester Telegram and The Gardner News, Lt. Poirier has retired. Lt. Poirier served the City of Gardner for 35 years as a Police Officer. He most recently served as the Commander of the North Worcester County Drug Task Force and spearheaded numerous successful operations.

Among the Lieutenant's innovations are an e-mail system of communication with other area departments and state police in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. As a result of this system, he was instrumental in solving many investigations. He also effectively built friendships and partnerships with other police departments. He worked with state law enforcement agencies and had been sworn in as a Federal agent with the DEA.

Lt. Poirier, a lifelong resident of Gardner, is deserving of our gratitude and respect. I had the opportunity to thank him formally at a small gathering of friends and co-workers. He will be missed within the Police Department.

Lobbying for Gardner

In the past couple of months, Gardner has been visited by the Lt. Governor Timothy Murray, Secretary of Housing & Economic Development Daniel O'Connell, Department of Conservation & Recreation Commissioner Richard Sullivan and Massachusetts Cultural Economic Development Manager Meri Jenkins. I have traveled to Boston to meet with Undersecretary of Business Development Gregory Bialecki, Undersecretary of Housing & Community Development Tina Brooks and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Laurie Burt. Many of these meetings have been attended by Representative Rice and Senator Antonioni.



Lieutenant Governor Murray and Mayor Hawke

We have been getting some good feedback on projects such as the redevelopment of Derby Drive (Rear Main Street), Heywood Wakefield Phase III, the Visitors Center, a Municipal Combustion Facility and other projects key to Gardner moving forward. I will continue to lobby on behalf of Gardner. It is essential that these appointed officials know our needs and remember Gardner. Each of these people is now the proud owner of a

miniature Gardner Chair crafted by Gardner's own Ted Kulczyk. These token remembrances will help keep Gardner in their minds.

Nichols & Stone

The news that Nichols & Stone is closing due to a sluggish economy and increased foreign competition was not what anyone wanted to hear. Nichols & Stone was the oldest continually operated furniture manufacturer in the country and in many respects was the last man standing of the major furniture manufacturers in Gardner. Efforts on behalf of Nichols & Stone from myself and other elected officials were not enough to assist in keeping the concern thriving. However, we were able to work with the Department of Employment & Training and Mount Wachusett Community College to arrange a re-employment training seminar at MWCC rather than having the dislocated workers travel to Leominster for this type of course.

The silver lining on this dark cloud is that a developer has a purchase and sale agreement on the property and is actively recruiting tenants for a planned commercial development on the site. This development would have occurred regardless of Nichols & Stone closing or remaining open.

The City Council approved an overlay district for the Nichols & Stone property that will allow such a development to occur. While we do not yet know who the tenants will be, this is certainly exciting news for Gardner.

We should be encouraged that developers are looking at Gardner for appropriate commercial growth. There are many other sites that are being looked at for appropriate commercial and industrial growth. Some of these sites are the former S. Bent property, the former Travers Welding warehouse on Main Street and the Garbose property to name a few.

24 Bar & Grille

A new establishment has been welcomed to downtown Gardner. The 24 Bar & Grille is located at 24 Parker Street in the space that was formerly occupied by Bella Home Furnishings and the Extra Touch Shoppe.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 24 Bar & Grille

The interior of this restaurant is beautiful and the food is very good. I encourage everyone to visit our local restaurants and to support all local establishments.

Goodnow Pearson Building

More good news for the downtown is that the former Goodnow Pearson building has been purchased by Gary Lorden, owner of the Benjamin Builders and Mass Ave Rentals. Gary intends to redevelop the building in Phases. His current plan is to start at the end closest to John's Sport Shop and rehabilitate the commercial and residential space.



MWCC Art Students and a sample of their artwork

You may have also noticed the artwork covering the windows. This idea came from Colonial Cooperative Bank President Ellie Fox. Ellie contacted Mount Wachusett Community College and explained her idea. MWCC was able to recruit six artists (after the semester ended) to create murals to cover the window and door space. These artists did a fantastic job and really renewed the look of the building.

Little League Field

You may have seen in the papers recently that the City was finally able to sign the deed to the former L&Z Kamaan property over to the Gardner Little League. The City took this site by tax title several years ago. There is an almost \$1 million lien on the property by the Environmental Protection Agency for an environmental cleanup effort that took place after the former factory building burned. The EPA agreed to waive the lien if the property was deeded to a non-profit entity such as the Little League.

The Little League intends to build a tournament ready ball field on the site. It's hoped that we will see some dirt being moved by spring time 2009.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark P. Hawke".

- Mark P. Hawke
- Mayor
- email: mayor@gardner-ma.gov
- web: <http://www.gardner-ma.gov>