



The Elm Tree

GLA - Who Are We?

The GLA is comprised of Loudonville, Menands and Newtonville residents who are dedicated to preserving and enhancing our community. We are committed to supporting community ties while maintaining the historic nature of our area.

How GLA Got Started

It was 1980 when the GLA formed in response to the development of Corporate Woods off of Albany-Shaker Road. Following that came the threat to widen Route 9, which would have meant the loss of many trees and would have created a highway atmosphere.

This grass-roots group started a door-to-door attempt to gain more voices and start a membership of concerned neighbors. The GLA made their positions known at planning board meetings and over the years has continued this effort to keep our area residential, and maintain its historic nature.

Accomplishments

Loudonville -

Traveling the Loudon Plank Road

Members researched, wrote and published a book in 1997, which detailed a number of historic homes along Loudonville Road.



Sprucing up the Triangle

Until the early 1980s, this parcel of land was used as a bus turnaround and was an eyesore. At that point, different groups from our community rallied to create a more park-like setting. Fort Orange GC, Albany Men's GC, Faddegons, and the

Town of Colonie worked to beautify the triangle. GLA members have since planted trees and created some seasonal gardens for color from spring to fall. A brick wall announcing Loudonville was erected. Sadly this wall is crumbling, and has been the subject of a campaign to replace it. A costly endeavor, and as with many projects these days, it remains on hold.



GLA member volunteers prepping the beds for the 2021 spring display of tulips!

Loudon Green

In the early 2000s, the Loudon Green park was a privately-owned parcel of land onto which the owner hoped to build a medical building. This plan was rejected by the Planning Board, and the land was donated to the town. In turn, Mary Brizzell, then Town Supervisor, approached the GLA to see if this corner parcel would be something we would want to take on and turn into a park. The funding came from different sources. Engraved pavers that surround the gazebo were sold to the public. The GLA was able to add lighting and benches. There was landscaping done and a cannon built to create an historic feel. A neighbor who was also a contractor kindly built the gazebo, and Coldwell Banker funded the clock that sits at the front of the park.



Save the Date

GLA Annual Meeting

May 13, 2021

It's not quite safe to meet in person yet, so join us via Zoom
(I know, another Zoom Meeting!)

For your patience, you will be rewarded!

Join us as we:

Mix a cocktail

Whip up a nosh

Elect new Board Members

Award the Leslie Couch Prize

...and close with a sweet treat!

Attendees will receive mixin's & fixin's to follow along and celebrate
the camaraderie of our Loudonville neighbors.

visit our website (www.greaterloudonville.org) for more information
and to register.



Welcome New Members!

Ms. Raji Bouchard
Steven Girvin
Mr. Andrew Williamson
Gavin Mylrea and
Viktoryia Baum
Ken and Ann Duffy
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Kramer

GLA Board

Darcy Harding, *President*
Mark Jarocki, *Vice President*
Suzanne Perry, *Treasurer*
Sandy Kieपुरa, *Secretary*
Louis W. Pierro, Esq., *Past President*

Mary Brizzell, *Nominating Chair*
Kevin M. Bronner, Jr.
Lonnie D. Clar, *By-Laws*
Keith Cunningham
Kevin A. Franklin
Bruce Gembala
Camille Hoheb, *Membership Chair*
Lynne Jonquieres
Mary Elizabeth Mahar
Carolyn Martel, *Newsletter*
Greta McNamara
Sarah Mukerji
Karen Parrotta
Teresa Rossi, *Membership*
Susan O. Smith
Thomas Suraci

Treasurer Position Opening!

The GLA Treasurer performs
general bookkeeping duties, financial
reports and employee filings. If you
are interested, please contact
Marcia Codling at mcodli@aol.com

Leslie F. Couch Prize Each year at our Annual meeting in the spring, the GLA presents a local high school senior with a scholarship award. The student selected demonstrates a history and commitment to community volunteerism. This scholarship was established in memory of one of our founding members and former President, Leslie Couch, who was a testament to this virtue.

How We Have Fun

Until 2020, the GLA has hosted and sponsored a number of community events, open to all. For years in the 1990s the GLA organized the “**GLA Picnic**” each June on the grounds of the Loudonville Elementary School. This event was so popular it would attract as many as 500 people! Children enjoyed popcorn, ice cream, a magic show, face painting and games with a Fire Engine parked on the lawn for close inspection.



The Fall Family Festival This was begun in the 2000’s at the Pruyne House, and has been going strong since - when the weather cooperates! There have been tractor rides, pony rides and petting zoo, pumpkin decorating, games and face painting in the barn with complimentary cider and donuts.

The Tree Lighting This GLA tradition started years ago in the Triangle, with mulled cider and donuts. We’d borrow a keyboard from Hilton Piano and our best singer would lead the carols. Today this is held on the Loudon Green. Holiday greetings, carols are sung, Santa and Mrs. Claus have arrived in Joe Romano’s red convertible, and the early evening is topped off with pizza donated by Inferno Pizza in the adjacent and warm Coldwell Banker building.



Fourth of July When the weather is its hottest, we break out our flags and gather on the Loudon Green.

Independence Day is celebrated with a reading of the Declaration of Independence by Hon. Peter Crummey. Attendees are kept refreshed with lemonade and hot dogs!

Spring Fling and Holiday Parties:

The GLA eventually started organizing some popular parties almost every year. Our Holiday Party and Spring Fling are our biggest events, and always highly-anticipated and loads of fun. When we can, we like to hold them at members’ homes that can accommodate a larger crowd. This is always a great opportunity to meet new neighbors and old friends.



2020

While all our annual events have been canceled due to the pandemic, our Membership and Engagement Committee has been brainstorming new ways to keep us relevant and active. This past December we partnered with the Shaker and Loudonville Fire Departments and sent fire trucks with Santa and Mrs. Claus through our neighborhoods! We held a Holiday Lights display contest on Facebook with gift cards from **Risotto Restaurant** for the winning participants. On January 28 we hosted “Neighbors That Wine”, a free virtual wine tasting event with **Stephen Casscles, an award-winning Hudson Valley vintner**. All our activities can be found on our newly-re-designed website: GreaterLoudonville.org. Join us! We do look forward to a re-opening



Greater Loudonville Association
PO Box 11144
Loudonville NY 12211-0144

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or current resident

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Dr. Richie Parrotta

Risotto Restaurant

BUSINESS IN OUR BACKYARD

With 2020 behind us, small businesses continue to face an uphill battle. Many business owners have had to innovate, changing their business models and increase their tech savvy in order to stay afloat. What has been happening in our area, and what do our local business owners foresee as their new normal as we push past the pandemic? We spoke with several neighboring businesses for their experiences this year.

Certified Framing

How long have you had your business, and what is its service?

I have been in business since June 1992. almost 30 years. I am a custom framing and art gallery. I specialize in fine custom framing and sell local handmade goods.

How have you adapted to Covid?

In order to keep the number of people to a minimum in the store, we started to take appointments for custom framing orders. Clients and staff feel safer with fewer people in the store at once. I also have a strict policy of masks at all times for both clients and employees and each employee has his/her own workstation. We offer hand sanitizer and clean all counters, pens and doors daily.



260 Osborne Rd

What are your plans to re-emerge now that the vaccine is on the horizon, and will there be a “new normal”?

I do not have any real plans to do anything differently than I'm doing now except to get out and shop local businesses as much as I can as we all re-emerge. Appointments for framing seem to be a nice addition to the policy for both my staff and my clients; and I'm happy to continue to wear masks until everyone feels safe again. It feels as though this is the new normal, although looking forward to being able to have my holiday party this year. Fingers Crossed. :)

Piece D'Occasion

492 Albany Shaker Rd, next to Colonie EMS building

How long have you had your business?

We have been in business in this location for a little over 3 years (we "celebrated" our 3rd anniversary in November 2020) and I own a paint-your-own pottery studio. Individuals can choose ready-made pieces to paint and after they are painted we glaze and fire the pottery in our kiln on premises. We also work with school groups, camps, scouts, corporate and not-for-profit events.

How have you adapted to Covid?

Covid has changed our business in a number of ways. Prior to Covid we specialized in larger group events and parties. Since we are not able to create together, we are now offering Virtual Events and Pottery Take-Home Painting Kits. We are still catering to groups and still offer special packages for not-for-profits, only now we get together via Zoom! We have also increased the retail aspect of our business with handmade and hand-painted pottery pieces.

What are your plans to re-emerge?

We are monitoring the situation carefully and are looking forward to being able to safely create together

again! It seems like we will have safety measures in place for the foreseeable future but we hope to be able to continue to provide fun options. During this time our priority is the safety of our customers, staff and community.

Peek-A-Boo Preschool

Why Loudonville?

We settled in Loudonville for many reasons. One of the biggest is the small diverse community. We have a school community filled with so many cultures and family structures. We get students from Wynantskill to Menands to Albany. We *love* Loudonville!

How have you adapted to Covid?

We have been in business for seven years, and have adapted surprisingly well. We have worked really hard as a school community (parents and staff alike) to keep our school community healthy. We have been very fortunate not to have any positive cases in our school and we credit this to the amazing efforts of our families who are monitoring our kiddos daily and keeping them home when sick. Our staff has also put in extraordinary efforts to intensive daily cleaning. We have also been fortunate enough to have a parent volunteer who checks temperatures and screens each child upon entry.

Poke Bar

475 Albany-Shaker Rd

The Loudonville Poke Bar opened in November of 2019. They were looking at Newton Plaza, but an ideal space became available between Planet Fitness and Price Chopper. The Poke Bar is a fast, casual restaurant which serves healthy, Hawaiian-style sushi bowls. You can dine-in, use curbside pick-up or get full delivery.

How have you adapted to Covid?

The biggest challenge this past year has been staffing consistency. With any reported exposures, staff has to quarantine for fourteen days. The ongoing state regulations have made it hard as rules constantly change, along with the extra cost of PPE, temp gauges, masks, sanitizers and third-party food delivery platforms. Our goal is to pay our bills and stay open until things start to turn around. Loudonville has been a great location, and many loyal customers who frequent the other Poke Bar on Lark Street opt to drive to Loudonville because the parking is much easier.



Greater Loudonville Association

Neighbors Dedicated to Protecting and Improving the Character of our Historic and Ever Changing Residential Community

www.GreaterLoudonville.org

Annual Dues:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ Individual \$25 | _____ President's List \$350 |
| _____ Family \$50 | _____ Patron \$750 |
| _____ Friend \$100 | _____ Benefactor \$1,000 and up |
| _____ Supporter \$250 | |

Please specify _____ New Member _____ Renewal

Yes, I'd like to help! Please contact me about these activities:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| _____ The Elm Tree (newsletter) | _____ Media Relations |
| _____ Loudon Green/Triangle maintenance | _____ Event Planning/Coordination |
| _____ Town Government (monitoring Planning Board) | _____ Other _____ |

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please write Email Address Again: _____

Please make your check payable to "Greater Loudonville Association" and mail to:

Greater Loudonville Association
PO Box 11144
Loudonville, NY 12211

Membership contributions (dues) are tax-deductible within the full extent of the law.