



The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Winter 2017 - Issue #33

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New Members Essential If Gazette Is To Continue

by The Gardiner Gazette Editorial Committee

After a long, good run (eight years; 33 issues!) *The Gardiner Gazette* finds itself at a crossroad. Three Editorial Committee members retired in 2016. Another departs early this year, and efforts to find new members have, so far, been unsuccessful. Our finances are strong, our advertisers are loyal and our donors are generous, but there are not enough of us left to continue. And so, we reach this moment ...

Would you be a good fit? We're very proud of the Gazette and

we take it seriously. While it is a commitment, it's a manageable one. Here are the basic requirements:

- attend four meetings a year (about one and a half hours; all scheduled a year in advance);
- write one or two articles per quarter (i.e., interview someone or research something). No need to be a great writer. We have good editors;
- review and comment on a rough draft of each issue;
- occasionally take on proof-reading an issue, or sending thank you notes to donors;

- Respond to committee emails should an issue arise in between quarterly meetings.

Beyond that, members have an interest in Gardiner and ideas for articles. Above all, they play nice with others! (The *Gazette* Committee operates on a "rule by consensus" basis and we have yet to exchange a harsh word.)

If you think you're a candidate, call 845 235-2327 or email gardinergazette@earthlink.net.

If this effort to find new members fails, this will be our last issue! We want to thank our advertisers, our donors and every resident of Gardiner. Your support has been wonderful. It's been a great run. □

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Hugo The Huguenot: A Local Author Tells The Tale

by Carol O'Biso

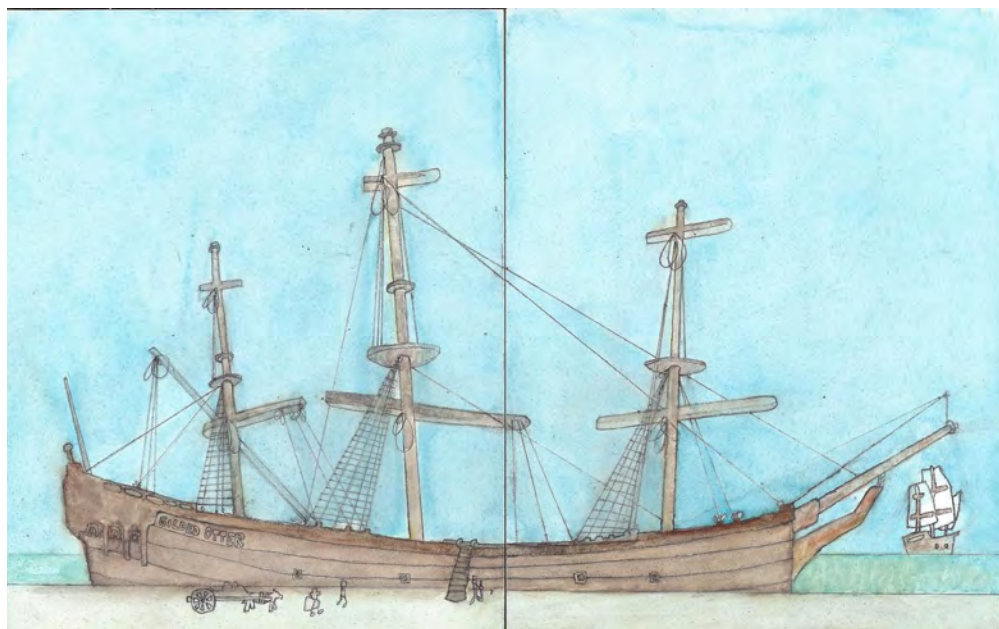


Illustration of the ship *The Gilded Otter*, by Matt Kelly, from *Hugo The Huguenot* by Jen Bunttil.

*Again he said "I have to go!"
"Once more I need to flee!"
He climbed aboard his ship
and sailed out to the open sea."*

It was a coincidence that Jen Brunttil ended up working at the Huguenot Historical Society. It seems like the perfect place for a 12th generation descendant of Louis DuBois, the first Huguenot to settle in New Paltz, but Jen says she didn't go looking for that job.

After her second daughter was born she decided to stay home for awhile with her children. When she started thinking about going back to work

Huguenot, [continued page 10](#)

Gardiner Architect Matt Bialecki

by Hanna Weare



As I drive up to meet Matt Bialecki at his office, aptly named the Field Station, I am struck by the beauty of the field that surrounds the building; it shimmers in the gentle winter light. By contrast, as I enter, I am met by a fiery force of nature in the form of Matt himself. I'm immediately taken in by the story of architecture, as told through Matt's obvious knowledge of and passionate commitment to the discipline. I also quickly begin to appreciate the role architecture and planning—below conscious thought for many of us—play in our lives and the life of our community,

I learned that the choice of location for his office was in part inspired by the southern light outside the main window, in combination with the large red maple tree sitting right in front. The eye of this architect, whose work is utterly infused with the ideas and practices of sustainability, understood that the studio would be protected from the hot summer sun as the leaves

on the tree emerged in the spring, and allowed more light and warmth as the leaves dropped in the fall.

Matt shared that he can barely remember a time from early childhood that he didn't want to be an architect. The impression I got was that this work has been his life's calling. From the beginning, in his formal education, he was influenced by the fashion of the time which saw building science emerge as a discipline. This was in the 1970s during the energy crisis.

Sustainability was part and parcel of this new idea of designing and building structures within which humans can best live, work, learn and play. Sustainability is broader than just the buildings themselves. It also looks at placement of structures in relation to nature, as well as within communities. What gets built and how it gets built can play an important role in community expression and identity. In a sense, architecture—how we build buildings, in combination with how we plan development—speaks volumes about a community's values.

Matt's driving interest over the years has been to create architecture that integrates with the nature around it, that is sustainable and doing as little



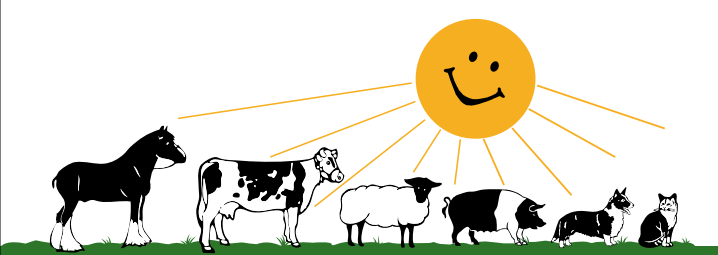
Left: Matt Bialecki. Above: The Angrey Orchard Cidery.
All photos courtesy Matt Bialecki

harm as possible to the environment in which it exists. The other driving force has been for his work to celebrate the traditions of the community in which it lives, while interpreting those very traditions in a contemporary style.

The way Matt has brought this vision to life, over his many years of practice in the Gardiner area, has been

through active civic engagement. A question he has asked himself is, how does one manifest community identity through architecture? The answer to this guiding question has taken the form of a focus on regionalism, the preservation of nature and the building of community infrastructure.

Bialecki, [continued next page](#)



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Architect, from page 2

Matt has sought to highlight and preserve, for generations to come, what he believes is unique and precious about this area. Some examples are his designs for Sam's Point, where Matt used the inspiration of the mountain and the stone to design and build the visitor's center, and the Allbright Smith House, which is gently nestled in the fields and woods of Gardiner with an unob-

structed view of the iconic Sky Top tower.

His community efforts include involvement in the preservation of the Ridge, through the Save The Ridge efforts, in which as many as 900 local residents participated, and his work on the Master Plan for the Gardiner Hamlet, which sought to implement a vision that has helped connect Main Street by build-

ing sidewalks for pedestrian traffic, a thriving new library building, a new town hall, as well as affordable housing and increased services in the village hub.

Matt credits these achievements in promoting and establishing a Gardiner community identity to the concerted efforts of a broad coalition of local institutions, like the contributions of our many multi-

generational farm families, the Gardiner Business community, local churches, organizations such as Mohonk Preserve and the Open Space Institute, as well as our town government.

By the end of my conversation with Matt I understood that, by the force of the synergistic relationships of these many parties and their many efforts, we can all truly feel grateful and proud to call Gardiner home. □

Helping A Neighbor In Need

by Dr. Evelyn Schneider

On February 4th, three days after losing his father, long-time Gardiner resident Larry Ashton's house was completely destroyed by fire. He noticed a crack in the clay pipe connecting his wood stove to his chimney, went to Majestic's Hardware to get a replacement pipe, and by the time he returned, the house was in flames. Thankfully, Larry and his cat survived. Sadly, Larry's homeowner's insurance was recently cancelled. Until he has a new home, Larry will be living with his sister, Linda, in New Paltz.

Many people will know Larry from his decades as a farrier, shoeing horses, and his passion for creating household items from horseshoes and wood. His long years shoeing horses have taken a toll. As he

nears 68, Larry's strength and capabilities are limited, and he has no pension. Everyone knows Larry for his good spirit. Although his possessions were meager, he was always generous with the little he had. Now he has nothing. Larry needs a helping hand.

Thank you for whatever you can donate to this cause. If anyone is deserving, it is Larry Ashton. Visit www.go-fundme/homeforlarry.com.

The photo at right was taken just before Larry's father died. Left to right: Larry's sister Linda; Larry Ashton; their father, John Ashton, age 90, and Larry's brother, Robert Ashton. □



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The Emerald Ash Borer

by Jon Benner

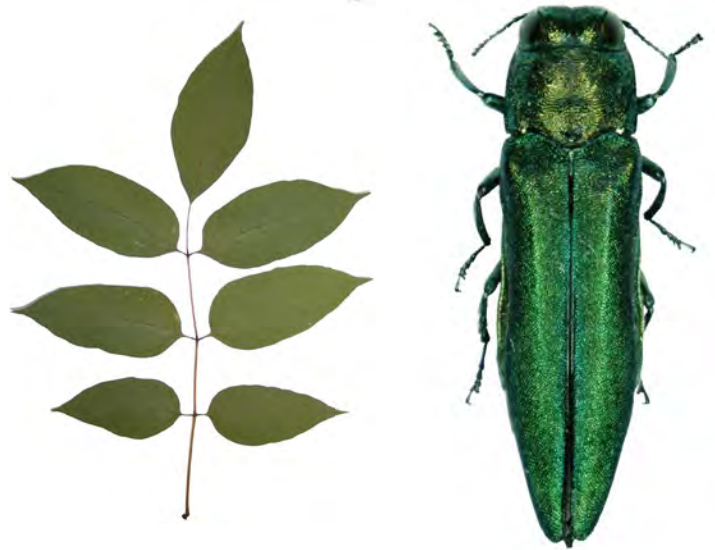
Driving the roads around Gardiner and New Paltz, you may have noticed a larger than usual number of dead or dying trees along the roadside. You may be seeing victims of the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), an iridescent green beetle that has been spreading through the forests of eastern North America, killing all of the ash trees in its path.

The larvae of the beetle eat their way through the living tissues of the tree just below the bark before emerging as adults and flying off to mate and lay eggs in another ash tree. After a few years of being infested, an ash tree weakens and dies.

The beetles likely first arrived in the Detroit area in the mid-1990s as an accidental stow-

away in a shipment of goods from Asia and, by 2015, had spread to 27 states. The green beetles reached the Gardiner and New Paltz area in 2014. New Paltz highway superintendent Chris Marx remembers, "It was patchy at first, but we were quickly overrun—by now almost all of the ash trees you see along the roads are dead or dying."

All of these dead ash trees are a headache for landowners and municipal governments. Gardiner highway superintendent Brian Stiscia says that the town is in the beginning phases of removing dead ashes that pose a hazard to roads, but that in the years to come the removal project will likely cost the



Ash leaves and an adult Emerald Ash Borer (not to scale!).

town "quite a bit of money". "We did an expensive campaign in the fall [of removing ashes] and we barely put a dent in it," Stiscia said. Municipal governments in the United States are estimated to spend a total of \$850 million per year dealing with the ash borer, and the total cost in this country is anticipated to be \$12.7 billion.

The ash borer and other invasive forest pests are a byproduct of global trade—they often inadvertently hitch rides between countries and continents in wood packing material (such as the crates

used to ship goods on container ships) or in live nursery plants. It is only years later when they are already well established that their presence is noticed, and by then controlling their spread is difficult.

The reason these foreign pests are so devastating is that our native trees do not have any defenses against them. In contrast, the ash species living in Asia are not killed by the ash borer because they have evolved resistance to the beetle over a long period of time. "Our native ash

Borer, [continued next page](#)

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Borer, from page 4

trees are 100% susceptible,” said Dr. Gary Lovett, a senior scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York, and a leading expert on the ash borer and other invasive forest pests. He does, however, point out that the problem goes both ways, and trees in Asia and elsewhere are suffering from invasive pests from our country. Ash trees are not the only species at risk: in the last century, the American Chestnut and American Elm were decimated by invasive pests, and many other pests have arrived and are spreading.

One of several growing concerns for upstate New York forests is the Asian long-horned beetle, whose preferred food is maples. New York state has more invasive forest pests than any other state (62), and the lower Hudson Valley has the highest density of forest pests in the country. “The people reading this article are living at ground zero for this problem,” said Lovett.

The ash trees are already in serious trouble, but Lovett emphasizes there are things we can do as private citizens to prevent the arrival and spread of the next forest pest. First, don’t transport firewood out of your local area; one of the main ways that pests spread is by hitching rides in firewood. Second, do not buy im-

ported nursery plants – try to ensure that the houseplants and landscaping plants you buy are native-grown (and ideally native to this area). And third, Lovett urges, “Call your congressman and tell them your ash trees are dying and you want them to do something about it!” The way to stop the problem, says Lovett, is inspections at ports and other points of entry to catch foreign pests before they come in, but the federal government “needs to think it’s a problem first.”

And if you have ash trees on your property and you’re wondering what to do? If they aren’t already showing signs of infestation, they likely will be soon. Telltale signs of an infested ash tree include dying branches in the upper parts of the tree, shoots sprouting from lower on the trunk, a trunk that has a characteristic “flecked” appearance from woodpeckers prying off the bark to eat the larvae, and small D-shaped holes in the trunk from which the adult beetles emerge.

Dwight Bayne of Mountain Tree Care in New Paltz notes that if you have a valuable ash tree on your property that is still healthy, it may be possible to keep it healthy by hiring a certified arborist to



The telltale signs of Emerald Ash Borer. Photo: the internet

treat it at recurring intervals with a chemical toxic to the larvae. Otherwise, as the tree becomes weaker and dies you should take it down if it threatens to fall on your house, preferably before it dies so that if an arborist needs to climb the tree they

can do so safely. But if your infested ashes are away from structures and not at risk of falling on anyone, you can just let them die and stay standing, as they are a boon to woodpeckers and bird species that nest in dead trees. □

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Lake Minnewaska, Its Water, Fish and other Swimmers

By Doris Chorny

Many of us who swim in Lake Minnewaska have noticed changes in the water. Sometimes it's clear, sometimes not so. Sometimes there are fish; once there were none and it was considered a dead lake. What's the story here?

Minnewaska is one of the five glacial sky lakes on the Shawangunk Ridge. From 1922 to 2008 the lake was indeed fishless. The initial cause was the drowning of a hotel guest and the use of dynamite to recover his body. Three hundred perch died as a result and the Smiley Brothers, who owned the lake at the time, began to stock it.

Two problems ensued: it was

difficult transporting fish in wagons over bumpy dirt carriage roads and 50% died on the way. In addition, the fish didn't reproduce in such acidic water, so restocking would always be necessary and was discontinued.

Years after the Smileys abandoned their restocking efforts, in 2008, a Golden Shiner, which is a small plantivorous minnow, was introduced, possibly by a fisherman's discarded bait or possibly by a bird touching eggs in one location and dropping them in Lake Minnewaska.

The Shiners caused an in-



Lake Minnewaska in spring. Photo: Doris Chorny

crease in algae and phosphorous as well as a decrease in water clarity and zooplankton density. The Golden Shiner population peaked at about 15,000 in 2013, but was wiped out by 2015 following the appearance, in 2012, of Large-mouth Bass.

One result of the minnow's absence is greater water clarity. Currently, what appear to be minnows are baby Largemouth Bass. Unfortunately big Bass have a tendency to eat little Bass. On another down note, the introduction of fish seems to have eradicated the amphibians; the Green Salamander no longer took care of its eggs.

The lake receives very little inflow of water; it is fed mainly by rain. Rain is currently more neutral thanks to the 1990 Clean Water Act amendment curbing air pollution. In the 1970s the lake's pH was 4.0; in 2014 it was 6.5. Since the trails around the lake are now repaired with shale; this, too, might have lowered acidity. No one knows for sure, and studies are ongoing at SUNY New Paltz, Mohonk Preserve and

Minnewaska State Park.

Fish do well in Mohonk Lake because it is lined with Martinsburg shale; all shale neutralizes the effects of acid rain. Lake Awosting, on the other hand, has been fishless for 100 years. In 1957, 1,500 trout were stocked in that lake and in four to five days most were dead.

The other swimmers in the lake, humans, have also had an on again off again history. Up to the 1980s people swam freely. When Minnewaska was purchased by the state in 1983, the master plan had nothing in it about swimming. Public pressure led to the creation of a small, cribbed in area in 1988.

It was enlarged somewhat in 2000. A more concerted effort between 2000 and 2002 led to relatively free deep water swimming and an organization called the Minnewaska Distance Swimmers Association. More details on this history can be found at minnewaskaswimmers.org.

Lake Minnewaska was carved out during the last glacial retreat. Most of its past is unknown to us, but as a living, evolving body the lake creates its own ongoing story. □

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Just A Bite ...

The sandwich as comfort food ...

by Carol O'Biso

Sandwiches have gotten fancy these days: caramelized this; sun-dried that; roasted what not. They've gotten expensive, too. And all that's great sometimes.

But a lot of the time what I want is the good, old fashioned, comforting deli sandwich of yesteryear: ham and swiss on rye with lettuce and tomato and, if I'm feeling really fancy, mustard *and* mayo; tuna salad on wheat with lettuce, tomato and maybe a little extra mayo, and like that. And I don't want to take out a bank loan for my sandwich either.

At those moments there is a perfect place to go. "We're no frills, good old deli sandwiches," says Ireland Corners General Store cook, Lee Ackhart.

My overstuffed chicken salad on whole wheat with lettuce and tomato cost \$4.31 including tax. That, to me, is a real bargain.

The sandwich menu is extensive, and there are specials as well. The day I stopped in the Amigo Special was selling briskly. That was a chicken cutlet and pepper jack cheese on a roll for \$2.99 and a sub for \$4.99. (\$2.99? Doesn't a pack of chewing gum cost more than that now?)

Added to this is the fact that even when a full parking lot at Ireland Corners produces an "Oh no!" from a new arrival, service is like lightning.



Good old fashioned chicken salad on wheat.

Photo: Carol O'Biso

I have actually seen owner Pete Patel *run* between the grill area and the register to keep everyone flowing happily in and out the door.

So, need we say more? When it's comfort food you

want, Ireland Corners is the place. You won't be offered a choice of five different flavors of wraps, and there won't be a caramelized this, sun-dried that, or roasted what not in sight, but you'll eat well and you won't pay a fortune for it. □

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Huge Celebrities in Gardiner

by Laurie Willow



Above: Champion Mako in an ad for 100 Barclay Condominiums in New York City. All photos courtesy Christine Compeau.

Owning a Great Dane was a dream of Gardiner resident Christine Compeau's for years. Mako was a Blue Great Dane (named for subtle blue tones in its fur), who was born on November 6, 2012. Little did Christine know that this beautiful boy was going to change her life forever.

Mako was born right here in Gardiner, originally purchased from breeder Leigh DeWitt of Court Great Danes—a reputable American Kennel Club (AKC) breeder—just to be a new family member. His mom, Sadie, was co-owned by Leigh DeWitt and Joy Vanvack, another Gardiner resident.

When Mako turned one and a half,

Leigh asked Christine if she would be interested in showing him. Barely past puppyhood, Mako entered the conformation show ring for the first time. Within a short period of time he earned his champion title, becoming Champion (CH) Mako, and earning five points towards his Grand Champion title. CH Mako was a beautiful stud and produced three beautiful litters. Sadly, on December 17, 2016, not very long after receiving an invitation to the exclusive Westminster Dog Show, CH Mako passed away from a tumor in his spine. Within the short four years he was with the Compeau's he had given so much and touched so many lives.

After showing CH Mako, Ms. Compeau was addicted, so her husband and breeder surprised her with Toddie, formally named DeWitt's Court Hot Toddie, a patchy black and white Great Dane, known as a Harlequin, born in Pennsylvania in December of 2014. On January 28, as the *Gazette* was going to press, Toddie won her Championship title. She hopes to make it to Westminster in 2018.

Both CH Mako and Toddie have also had their own animal agents for television commercials and advertisements. Shortly before his death, CH Mako was in the new Puma advertisement with Cara Delevingne, as well as in a print advertisement for "100 Barclay," condominiums in the financial district of New York City. Toddie is in the Pedi-



Above: Toddie (on right, with natural ears) in a Maybelline commercial with Christie Turlington.

gree Dog Food commercial and the 2017 Maybelline Magazine advertisements with Christy Turlington, as well as in the print advertisement with CH Mako for 100 Barclay.

The happy ending to this story is that on New Year's Eve, Christine was surprised again—this time by the same breeder who bred Mako—with one of Mako's babies. Before he passed away, Mako had been bred to a bitch in North Carolina. She had four beautiful puppies, three black and one blue. Because of Mako's tragedy, the breeder wanted the Compeau family have a part of Mako... so Echo came to live with the Compeau's at end of January. Hopefully, he will follow in his daddy's footsteps and become a champion. □

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The Whirl of Apple Jack

by A.J. Schenkman

Recently there has been renewed interest in not only apple cider, but also hard cider. These beverages enjoy a long history in the American Colonies. This holds especially true in the apple growing region of the Hudson Valley. However, most people do not know about a drink variously nick-named New Jersey Lightning, Hedge Hog Quills and other things; better known as just Apple Jack.

Apple Jack is a more potent version of hard cider, made by fermenting cider, initially, as if you were making hard cider. However, if the person making the hard cider wanted to "jack" the hard cider, or increase the alcohol content, they would freeze the hard cider. The "juice" would freeze leaving the alcohol. You could repeat this process, and increase the alcohol to between 30 to 40 proof.

This drink was popular in Gardiner, and it just might have been the famous "Liquid Dynamite" served at the Commercial House once located in the Hamlet of Wallkill. Many drank it because it was readily available as well as being cheap, and the high alcohol content sometimes created problems for those who imbibed. Gardiner Apple Jack was sought because of its potency. This drink created a public nuisance for the Town of Gardiner, especially when individuals clearly could not handle its potency.

One Gardiner Justice, Charles B. Wright, was kept busy with the ill effects of the drink. In 1909, Wright sentenced William Tracy of Gardiner to "10 days in jail for drinking too much joy water." One local newspaper,

in 1911, referred to the growing numbers incarcerated, as "the little colony of Gardiner citizens who are visiting at the county jail...." Usually the sentence ranged from 15 to 20 days. However some individuals were handed 30 to 60 day sentences.

Aqueduct laborers also discovered the destructiveness of Apple Jack; a large number spent their wages on it. One early example was George Cenenysk. He was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail. The newspaper reported that Cenenysk "was unused to the effects of Gardiner Applejack." Still another worker, Patrick Nagle, was so inebriated that he had to be carried into the court by two aqueduct policemen. He was sentenced, and then carried back to his cell. Reporters wrote that sometimes workers were passed out in the gutter in town.

In an effort to rein in this scourge descending on Gardiner, stills were routinely raided. They were seized by local officials as well as by Internal Revenue Agents. A distiller named Terry had his still raided for failing to affix the proper tax stamp. His Apple Jack was seized, to be sold at auction in Newburgh. Some of the stills were not only destroyed, but their contents as well.

Probably to the relief of local law enforcement and citizens, Apple Jack lost its popularity as locals started to lose their taste for the strong drink. In addition, beer increased in popularity. In nearby Orange County, one paper reported



Two men standing outdoors with small still, one of them holding up bottle of liquor. Created / Published [between 1921 and 1932]. National Photo Co. Collection. Library of Congress.

in 1889, "1/3 as much apple whiskey is made in Orange County as there was twenty years ago and many distillers which once did a large business have been permanently closed."

By the mid-1900s Apple Jack started to fade from the newspapers. Today, there is a re-

newed interest in hard cider with micro ciders being brought back into production. Perhaps this will also create a resurgence of interest in Apple Jack. While we hope that Apple Jack will make a comeback, we also hope some of the problems once associated with it don't. □

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Huguenot, from page1

part time, she told a friend what her perfect job would entail. A few weeks later that friend told her about a part time job at Historic Huguenot Street. "It was just one of those things the universe provided," she says. A few other fortuitous connections have led us to this lovely place; Jen's new book, *Hugo The Huguenot*, is now available to all.



While it is technically a children's book, *Hugo The Huguenot* is really something we should all read. For example, was anyone else unaware that "The Gilded Otter" was the ship that brought the Huguenots from Europe? Today, the descendants of those

first Huguenots blanket the landscape of New Paltz and Gardiner, so knowing about them is essential to understanding where we live.

"I've always loved Huguenot Street. I got married on the Street," Jen says, but being a descendant of those first settlers did not become a preoccupation until she became school programming coordinator for Historic Huguenot Street, and started researching the Huguenot story and, in essence, her own family history. She has

*Hugo traveled down
the Wallkill
To this land and he
said "Hey!"*

*This place reminds me
of the Paltz.*

*It's here that I shall
stay!"*

now traced her ancestors all the way back to the 1500s.

One of Jen's roles is to give

presentations to the children who visit Huguenot Street and she was taken by their interest in the story of the settlers.

To make the story easier for younger children to grasp, she invented Hugo the Huguenot. Then, one night, she sat down with paper and pen and a prose poem began to evolve. Suspecting that the poem had possibilities, she spoke to Gardiner Town Historian A.J. Schenkman, who is also a consulting historian to the Huguenot Historical Society. He suggested she contact artist Matt Kelly of Rosendale. Matt's willingness to create illustrations made it clear that they had a book on their hands. A kickstarter campaign provided the money to publish.

300 copies have been printed and will be available on line from the Huguenot Historical Society (<http://historic-hu->



Author Jen Bruntal and, at left, illustrator Matt Kelly. Photos courtesy Jen Bruntal and Matt Kelly respectively.

huguenot-street-museum-shop.myshopify.com) and hopefully from various local bookstores.

*And so our story
comes to an end
Fore in New Paltz
he came to stay.
Hugo settled in
and liked it here.
We're glad he found
his way. □*

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A photograph showing the interior of a restaurant with large windows overlooking a lake. There are tables set with white cloths and chairs.

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A photograph of a modern office interior with large windows, wooden beams, and contemporary furniture.

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Equalizing Taxes To Pay Our Shared Expenses

by Laurie Willow

The revaluation of all taxable properties in Gardiner started about three years ago, in the winter of 2013-14. Gardiner's last revaluation was in 2004. The NY State Assessor's office recommends that revaluations of the town's parcels be done every five to six years.

Gardiner Town Assessor, Maureen Gallagher, and her assistant, Nancy DeStefano, have been hard at work on the "re-val" along with an outside contractor hired by the town. There are several sources for the research that go into determining a property's assessed value. Each property has a file in the assessor's office that documents its characteristics, such as how many acres, how many bedrooms, square feet, how old, etc..

Ms. Gallagher compares this information and other findings from a personal visit to each property to observe any improvements not included in the town's file. She also uses information from the building department, such as building permits issued.

Another source of information is the Multiple Listing Service of Ulster County (MLS). This is the data base used by realtors, when a property goes on the market or is sold, as well as pertinent characteristics of the property. By the way, due to a New York State policy known as "Welcome Stranger," the Assessor is not permitted to raise the assessment of a house solely based on the sale price. In order to reas-

sess a house there must be a physical change to the property, or a town-wide revaluation.

During these visits to each of the town's approximately 3,000 parcels, both residential and commercial, the state requires Ms. Gallagher to take date stamped photos and note any changes. Any physical changes noted are added to the file and forwarded to the Building Department.

There are real benefits to a town-wide revaluation. All properties, after the re-val is official, will have an assessed value which equals the Market Value, rather than an equalized percent of the Market Value. Traditionally, at the end of the revaluation process, approximately one third of taxable properties will go up, one third go down,

and one third stay where they are.

Once the assessments have been adjusted, they are applied to the 2017 Budgets for County, Town, Highway and School. At the end of February, 2017, or beginning of March, a mailing will go out informing each property owner the of their assessment for the 2017 Roll. If a property owner disagrees with their assessment, they are welcome to call Ms. Gallagher to make an appointment for a review.

It's a good idea to speak with Ms. Gallagher before taking the next step to appeal an assessment at the Board of Review in May. The phone number is 845- 255- 9675 extension 104/ 105, or visit www.TownofGardiner.org. For added information on revaluations see the NY State Tax and Finance site, www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/default.htm. □

⇐ [Back Comment](#) ⇨

An Important Property Tax Exemption Reminder

All exemptions for 2017 must be filed by March 1st, 2017. If you currently have STAR and are turning 65 anytime during 2017, you may be eligible to switch from the Basic to the Enhanced STAR exemption, depending on your income.

For 2017, all FIRST TIME STAR exemptions must be addressed directly to NY State Tax and Finance at www.tax.ny.gov or 518-4576-2036.

ATTENTION TO VETERANS: you may be entitled to a Tax exemption for your service.

Renewal forms for all exemptions were sent out and must be returned no later than March 1st, 2017. Please call the Assessor's Office at (845) 255-9675, extension 104 or 105 for assistance. □

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Setting The Record Straight On Two Historical Matters

No Squatters At The Old Hotel

The Gazette is pleased to report that one of the subjects of our article on the old Gardiner Hotel (*The Light Was On, Remembering the last days of the Gardiner Hotel*, Angelo Druda, Spring 2016) has made contact via Facebook. She found the article to be "a must read, touching and beautifully written."

We called her Jan, and her late husband, David, but we can now set the historical record

straight; they were actually Dennis and Fran Thompson, and they departed so suddenly because the hotel was about to be razed. They moved on to Montreal.

Most importantly, our Editor's note at the end of the article was incorrect. Fran confirms that they were not squatters in the old hotel, but had been asked by the owner to look after it. □



A post card of the Gardiner Hotel in the early 20th Century.
Photo from the Betty Moran Collection,

Apologies to Uncle Pat and the O'Connor Brothers!

David Sides, author of the article *The Walkill River Can Be Mighty Again* (Fall, 2016), had an interesting "confrontation" with Brian O'Connor after the article appeared. He "accosted" Dave, at the BrauHaus and accused him of plagiarism.

According to legend from about 70 years ago, the O'Connor brothers' Uncle Pat used to ask Brian and his brother, "What is the name of that river over there?" They said "The Mighty Walkill!" Evidently

Uncle Pat had told them about the very few rivers in the United States that flow south to north, against their own watersheds, and since the Walkill worked so hard to flow in the reverse direction the boys thought it must be a mighty river.

Our humble apologies to Uncle Pat and the O'Connor brothers for our uncredited reference to the Mighty Walkill. The name shall forever be theirs. □



The Walkill in a very dry season. Photo: David Sides

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Cars! Cars! Cars! The Ceramics Of Craig And Pamela Booth

by Marilyn Perry



As you drive down Bruynswick Road from Lombardi's, watch out for a lawn with a careening car, painted on a door. Here is the home and workshop of Craig and Pamela Booth, ceramicists extraordinaire who have created a world-wide business making small replicas of people's automobiles, the fancier the better. Welcome to the international headquarters

of Car-Toons by Booth.

When your passion becomes your life's work, you are lucky indeed. Forty-five years ago, when they met in New Jersey, Pam, an artist in metal, encouraged Craig, an automobile nut, to take a pottery class. And that was that. They also fell in love with the Shawangunk Valley, moving here in the 1980s and building their home and studio in Gardiner in 1998. One subject dominates their lives and their art. There is nothing they don't know about cars -- from vintage models to jalopies -- and when not making their clas-



Pamela and Craig Booth in their studio and, at left, a detail of one of their cars.
Photo Marilyn Perry

sic small sculptures of cars they can be found on the road at car fairs or car museums, meeting their clients and admiring, yes, their cars. Invention and whimsy typify a Booth ceramic car.

Made to order, each piece is typically about a foot long. The model and color are shown to perfection, and could include the owner in the driver's seat, or a blonde in the rumble seat, or a dog romping alongside. Or perhaps you'd like a wall piece that shows your car with racing flags or rounding a curve in a Prix de France town. Or a full set of six-inch cars for your

dining table. The Booths can accommodate your fancy.

And not only for cars. A visit to their studio reveals many more ingenious and whimsical ideas-in-clay on display, at many different scales. They make fire-breathing aroma dragons (you add the incense smoke) and mugs (double-meaning) of pilots. In a more serious and elegant vein, Pam Booth models 24-inch replicas of brides in their bridal gowns in high-fired white clay. If you can imagine it, they can probably make it for you.

You can see more of the Booths' work, by going to www.cartoonsbybooth.net and arranging a visit. □

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Disc Golf In Majestic Park: The Only Public Course For Miles

by Barbara Sides

It was the possibility of playing disc golf in his hometown that inspired Brian Hauser to approach the Parks and Rec Committee for permission to build a course in Majestic Park. With the help of new committee member, Andy Lewis, and some generous local businesses, Majestic Park is now home to the first municipal disc golf course in Ulster County, and the only public course within 45 minutes.

For the uninitiated, Disc Golf is a game in which players throw a 10 inch Frisbee at a target, attempting to traverse the course in the fewest number of throws. Between the years 2000 and 2008 the number of disc golf courses doubled; the game is now played in 40 countries.

Course construction was facilitated by the New Paltz Foundation, which became steward of the funds raised after then Supervisor Carl Zatz and the Parks and Rec Committee signed off on the project. The Mountain Brauhaus, Ulster Savings Bank, BeeLine Movers, Tantillo Landscaping, Hudson Valley CPA's of New Paltz and Thruway Sporting Goods of Walden participated. A private donor, Eric Judson, who has a small son and wanted to see improvements to the park, also responded to the appeal. The group raised a total of \$8,100, with a bit more still needed for final touches.

"Pretty much every free minute I had went into it," Brian explains. "I really couldn't have done it without Andy Lewis and the help of 15 volunteers from Gardiner, New Paltz and surrounding areas. Andy was out there help-

ing design, raise money and round up volunteers from the start. I think the hardest part was trying to hold him back the whole time," Brian adds.

The 18-hole, mid-level course meanders through the outskirts of the park and is suitable for all ages, including Brian's five and seven year old sons. On Sundays, anywhere from four to 16 people show up at 10 A.M. for doubles play.

Brian was excited, one day last summer, to see active use of the course for the first time. "There were a few families, groups of friends, and a couple of Dads were actually pushing all-terrain strollers with their kids so they could play." He has also encountered people from as far as Beacon, Danbury and Rochester. "This is a new park addition that not only lets locals get out to enjoy a fun game while enjoying the beautiful views of the Gunks and Walkill River, but also benefits business in the Hamlet and surrounding areas," Brian notes.

Brian is now Chair of a newly constituted Parks and Rec Committee, and the disc golf course led to a renewed enthusiasm for a list of other needed improvements. Now, Ellie Gardner (the only remaining member from the committee chaired for many years by Mike Gagliardi) along with Brian, Andy Lewis, George Devine, Michele Tomasicchio, Joshua Platt and Claudia Pulgarin, bring together their expertise and ideas to repairing the badly deteriorating park pavilion and finishing construction on



Andy Lewis on the left and Brian Hauser on the right. Photo: Tom Kievit

the pole barn (using a repurposed \$50,000 grant procured by former Supervisor Carl Zatz). The barn is currently used in bad weather for Gardiner summer campers, but it still needs bathroom stalls, a kitchen space, insulation and a heat source that will allow it to be rented out in all seasons, making it a potential revenue source.

Members of the committee also envision soccer fields behind the pole barn and better playground accommodations for two to three year olds, something Brian felt was lacking when his boys were younger. And the recent suggestion of a skating rink is, evidently, not a new idea; Brian found a note in very old Park and Rec minutes mentioning where equipment for the "new skating rink" was stored!

Hiking and biking trails below the transfer station and a boat launch have been suggested. And, of course, architect Kim Hoover's amphitheater in the park remains on the wish list. Hopefully, the new subdivision law that asks developers to donate money for parks rather than donating mostly unusable "parkland," will help provide some of the funds needed to turn these ideas into reality. Parks and Rec operates on a tight budget: \$17,200 for maintenance, including mowing,

garbage removal, electricity, Gardiner Day expenses and repairs. With that in mind, Brian plans to organize a disc golf tournament every year to raise money.

If you have any ideas for fund raising or want to add to the Parks and Rec Committee wish list or volunteer, contact Brian Hauser @ bch227@yahoo.com. □

[← Back Comment →](#)



Gardiner Association Of Businesses Back In Action

by Lucia Civile

Over time, Gardiner Association of Businesses (GAB) has seen many presidents, board and committee members. Started in the 1990s, as Paul Colucci explains, "over cocktails at Bensons," Gardiner Association of Businesses began with the work of a determined few, excited to spur growth and success in our humble town.

The Start of a Movement:

Founding members Doris Colucci and Barney Hanson started the Association in an effort to bring more recognition to Gardiner and its businesses. With the industrial park on Steve's Lane growing, the construction of Gardiner Gables beginning and the development of established businesses in the

town, it seemed like a natural progression. By 2007, GAB reached its peak; the result of an enthusiastic team effort of its participating businesses, committee and directors, boasting 149 members.

Trouble on the Forefront:

GAB has seen its fair share of 'golden ages' as well as lags, according to the Association's records and accounts of long-time members. And, as a non-profit organization, the Association depends on its unpaid officials and committee members to get the job done.

In past years, lack of volunteers or structure within the organiza-

tion eventually led to hiatus. Most recently, the Association experienced a two year lapse that nearly led to dissolution. With new blood and new reasons to be a part of the 'gab,' GAB is back in action with over 20 new businesses, and it's here to stay.

In With the New: The 'changing times' have certainly struck a chord with the association this year. Currently, the Association is featuring an online platform that aims to draw locals and outsiders alike to Gardiner and its businesses.

Some of the features of GAB'S new website, in addition to business listings, include a gateway to the area's upcoming events, a bi-weekly article highlight of local businesses, and profes-

sional photographs that spotlight Gardiner. More importantly, preventative measures for future lags within the organization have been put into play.

The Verdict: In the short time working with the Association, I have learned that it's much more than a simple networking opportunity for members. GAB is a platform that increases visibility to businesses, builds a credible network and establishes meaningful connections within the community; a growing community that deserves to be celebrated.

So, cheers to the new year and efforts, old and new, that have given GAB and its members a resurgence. We're back and we're here to stay.

To stay tuned in, visit GAB's website at GABNY.COM. □

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Houston, We Have A Problem



But not with our donors! Thank you all so much. Now, excuse my brevity while I go find someone to excavate my face.

Love, Gracie

The Gardiner Gazette

PO Box 333
Gardiner, NY 12525
gardinergazette@earthlink.net
www.gardinergazette.com

Editorial Committee:

Kathy Muessig Barbara Sides
Carol O'Biso Laurie Willow

Carol O'Biso, General
Manager

Jason Stern, Ad Manager
GardinerGazetteAds@gmail.com
(845) 527-6205

Kaaren Vassell Mailing List Manager

Contributing Writers:

Jon Benner
Doris Chorny
Lucia Civile
Marilyn Perry
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Some Gardiner Day Events You'll Want To Note



March 11, 2017 - St. Patrick's Day Dinner fundraiser
at the Gardiner Firehouse

April 15, 2017 - Spring Plant Sale at the Gardiner
Firehouse



May 5, 2017 - Women Helping Women Dance
at the VFW, New Paltz, to benefit the Battered
Women's Shelter

June 15, 2017 - Paint & Sip fundraiser



September 9, 2017 GARDINER DAY at Majestic Park

See Facebook page 'Gardiner Day New York' for complete
details.

Not This Winter (Or Last...)



...but a few years back, Anne Allbright Smith got
this amazing shot of Awosting Falls. Perhaps
one day we'll have a real winter again. ☐

About This Publication

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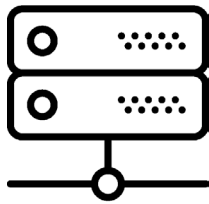
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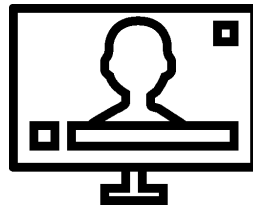
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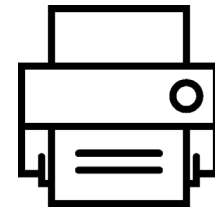
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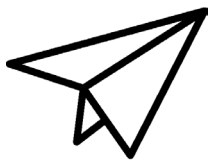
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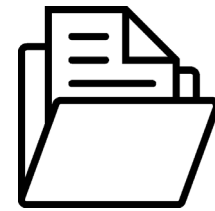
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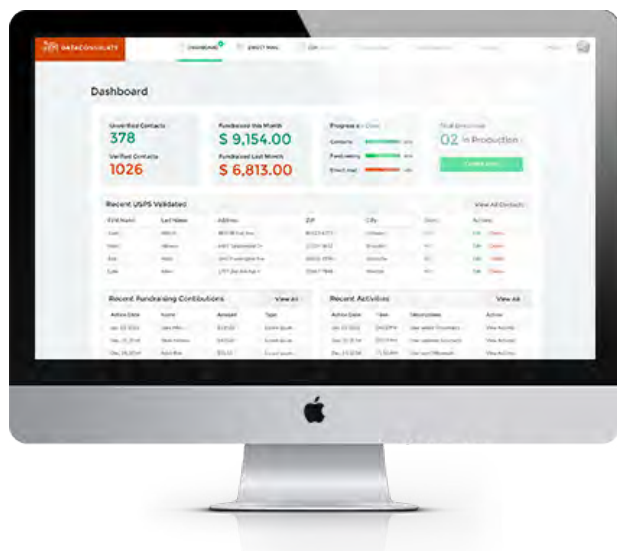


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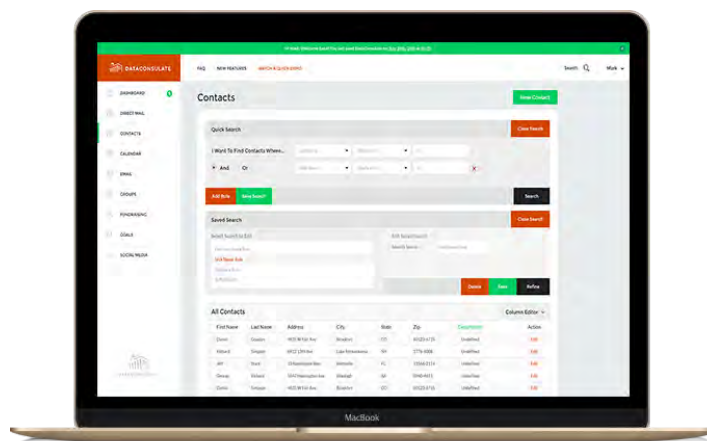
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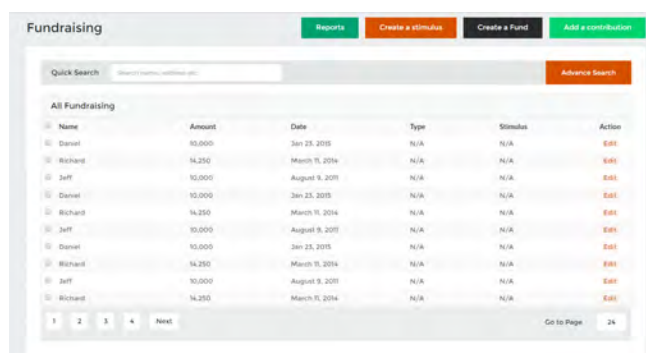
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- ◆ Get replacement estimates-Find out how much it will cost to repair an older roof or replace worn carpeting. The figures help the buyer determine if they can afford the home.
- ◆ Locate warranties-Gather up warranties, guarantees, and user manuals for furnace, washer/dryer, dish-washer and other items that will remain with the house.
- ◆ Spruce up the curb appeal-Walk out to the front of your home, close your eyes and pretend to be a prospective buyer seeing your property for the first time. As you approach the front door, what is your impression of the property?



How to Add Curb Appeal

- ◆ **Trim** bushes and branches so they don't block windows or architectural details
- ◆ **Set** a pot of bright flowers (or a small evergreen in winter) on your porch or front walkway
- ◆ **Install** new, matching locks and knobs on your front door
- ◆ **Repair** any cracks or holes in the driveway, and clean oil spots with degreaser and a steel brush
- ◆ **Edge** the grass around walkways and trees
- ◆ **Stow** your garden tools and hoses out of sight, and clear kids' toys from the lawn
- ◆ **Buy** a new mailbox
- ◆ **Upgrade** your outdoor lighting
- ◆ **Purchase** a new doormat for outside your front door
- ◆ **Clean** your windows, inside and out
- ◆ **Polish** or replace your house numbers
- ◆ **Mow** your lawn. Also, turning on the sprinklers for 30 minutes before the showing will make your yard sparkle
- ◆ **Place** a seasonal wreath on your door





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How to Hold a Successful Garage Sale

Garage sales can be a great way to get rid of clutter and earn extra cash before you move. But make sure you plan ahead!!

- ◆ Don't wait until the last minute-Depending on how long you've lived in your home and how much stuff you may want to sell, planning a garage sale can take a lot of time and energy.
- ◆ See if your neighbors want to join in-You can turn your garage sale into a block-wide event to lure more shoppers.
- ◆ Schedule the Sale-Saturdays & Sunday's will generate the most traffic. Start early and be ready for early birds.
- ◆ Advertise-Place an ad in the newspaper, free classified papers, websites, include date, time, address and what's available.
- ◆ Price your goods, if it's junk recycle or donate it.
- ◆ Display items nicely-Organize by category, and don't make customers dig through boxes.
- ◆ Stock up on supplies-Old shopping bags and newspapers for wrapping fragile goods.
- ◆ Manage your money-Obtain ample change for your cashbox, and have a calculator on hand. Assign one person to be the cashier.

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DATE	TOTAL LISTED	NUMBER SOLD	AVG SALE PRICE	AVG DOM
2015	2965	1409	\$234,739	149
2016	2906	1638	\$238,843	133

LOCAL MARKET ACTIVITY YEAR-TO-DATE (JAN-DEC 2016)

	TOTAL LISTED	NUMBER SOLD	AVG SALE PRICE	AVG DOM
NEW PALTZ	149	99	\$280,455	137
GARDINER	118	53	\$329,663	113

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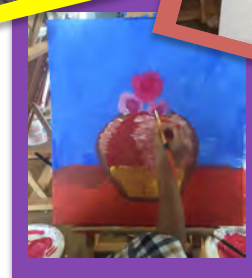
Wed 4-6 Grades – Advanced Workshop Series *

Thurs 3-5 Grades – Creative Kids

- Bus drop-off on Tuesdays, for Duzine – class starts at 4:20 pm
- Bus drop-off on Wednesdays, for Lenape only* – class starts at 4:15pm
- Bus drop-off on Thursdays, for Lenape – class starts at 4:09 pm

Buses drop off
From Lenape and Duzine

Healthy
snacks
included



LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER
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OUR WEBSITE

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845.419.5219

We are a 501c3 Arts Organization serving the Mid-Hudson Valley.

soon it's spring . . .

sowing unity



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(All-Levels)



Book Your Art Party
(For Adults and Kids)

budding creativity

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Coming soon !



SERVICES:

Building & Remodeling

(new construction & additions: a one-stop-shop for all your building needs including, custom carpentry, electrical wiring & lighting, plumbing, heating and cooling, flooring, custom entryways, siding, doors & windows, etc.)

Bathrooms & Kitchens

(new construction / remodeling, Let our in-house designer, *Vivid Design Studio*, assist you)

Attics & Basements

(convert your raw space into more living space: media rooms, bedrooms, play rooms or offices)

Roofing

(Timberline® Architectural shingles, cedar shakes, solar shingles, standing seam metal panels)

Siding Services

(wood, vinyl, cement board, stone)

Interior/Exterior Painting & Staining

(immaculate, high-quality, no mess)

Living in Space Support

(wheelchair & scooter modular ramp construction, doorway widening, safe bathroom systems)

Masonry

(custom design/building: walkways, walls, patios, etc.)

Decks, Stairways, & Fine Carpentry

(custom built-ins, tray ceilings, tongue & groove)



Your experience with us will be amazingly satisfying because we'll provide you with:

- 5-Year written warranties on most projects
- Conscientious and talented craftsman
- Value, quality & attention to detail
- Design & research assistance
- Superior communication
- EZ-access financing

