



The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Spring 2017 - Issue #34
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An Invigorated Gazette Marches Into The Future

by The (New) Gardiner Gazette Editorial Committee

It's amazing what happens when you announce your own death (*New Members Essential If Gazette Is To Continue*, Winter 2017). So many people reached out to keep the *Gazette* from folding that for a while we didn't know what to do.

The dust has settled. We're thrilled. Even before the Winter issue arrived in people's mailboxes in February, word got out and Liz Glover

Wilson, Lucia Civile and Alicia Civile stepped forward. With that small group we were able to proceed with this issue. Patty Gandin soon joined us and, over the ensuing two months, no fewer than eight more volunteers contacted us. We have yet to even meet them all, but we are on the path to an exciting new future.

"The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

Mark Twain, *May, 1897*

Two founding members of the Editorial Committee (Barbara Sides and Carol O'Biso) remain, and our new members are brimming over with enthusiasm and new ideas. In addition, others have volunteered to contribute regular articles. In this issue alone we have articles by five authors we have never heard from before.

We think you'll be pleased, going forward, with the wide range of topics and approaches all this new energy will bring. Thank you all for your tremendous support. □

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Above: the Shawangunk Kill river corridor and, at right, the Site Plan for the proposed luxury resort.

The structures shown on the site plan would abide by the 150 foot setback requirement, but would otherwise be constructed in the forested area to the right of the river bank in the photo above.



Resort on the Shawangunk Kill ?

As this issue of the Gazette was going to press, it came to our attention that a group of investors is in contract to purchase the 141-acre Rosedale Nursery tree farm between Route 44/55 and the river, and has submitted an application for a Special Permit to the Gardiner Planning Board.

The developers plan to build a high-end glamping (glamor camping) resort called "Heartwood" across from the Honey Farm and within several hundred feet of the Shawangunk Kill. The Gazette was unable to interview the developer, Planning Board and affected neighbors in time for this issue. What we were able to find out from public information acquired at Town Hall is that the proposal includes a 5,582 square foot Main lobby/ Spa; a 4,639 square foot restaurant

Resort, [continued page 13](#)

Jenkins-Leuken Orchards, 70 Years And Counting

by Patty Gandin

If you've driven west from New Paltz on Route 299, you may have seen the U-PICK signs at the corner of Yankee Folly Road announcing that the berries, pumpkins, apples or peaches at Jenkins-Leuken Orchards across the road are ripe and ready for picking.

Jenkins-Leuken began over 70 years ago, when Raymond Jenkins, a North Carolina college professor and Gardiner summer resident, planted some apple trees. He did not live locally, so he paid other local growers to care for the trees and pick and sell the fruit.

In the late 1940s a bright, hard-working, entrepreneurial friend of Raymond's, Jack Leuken, approached him about expanding the operation and going into business together. Leuken proposed building a cooler to store the apples, enabling them to sell apples year-round, at a better price. Leuken also offered to handle day-to-day operations. Raymond agreed.

In 1953, they built the store we still know today. Jenkins-Leuken now has thousands of apple trees representing over 40 different varieties. Owned and operated by Jack Leuken's daughter, Margaret, and her two sons, Eric and Robert, it has diversified to include pear, peach, plum and cherry trees, a pumpkin patch, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries.

Business is good. "I think people want local grown produce and fruit," Margaret says. "They don't want something that has been tampered with so much. Sprayed and coated and waxed.... You can take one of our apples, wash it off and bite it and not have a mouth full of car wax," she laughs. Jenkins-Leuken is a low-spray orchard except for their berries, which are never sprayed. "I said to Eric you'd better not spray...[the berries] Kids eat them right off the vine. You don't have



Eric James in the Yankee Folly Cidery. Photo: Patty Gandin

to spray them. They don't have the pests that apples do," Margaret explains.

In addition to seasonally available pick-your-own fruit, about ten years ago Margaret put in a greenhouse so they could grow their own vegetables, which include tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant.

And, two years ago, Margaret's son Eric converted one of his grandfather's old chicken houses into a cidery where he and his friend produce Yankee Folly Cider. They have tastings most Fridays, and will accommodate anyone interested in a taste any time the store is open. The store is unassuming, but full: in addition to the fruits and vegetables, Margaret's two daughters-in-law contribute

home-baked pies, cakes, organic peanut and almond butters, beeswax candles, and beautiful hand-painted birdhouses made from home-grown gourds. Honey from their hives is also for sale because, as Margaret puts it, "without the bees you get no fruit." The walls are lined with jams, jellies, specialty foods and gifts. They also sell lovely mums and other flowers in season.

So, if you ever find yourself driving 299 and you see a U-PICK sign, consider taking a side-trip to Jenkins-Leuken Orchards. You'll be glad you did.

Jenkins-Leuken is dog-friendly and open year-round. 9 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday; 9 AM to 7 PM Saturday and Sunday. 845-255-0999. Also visit jlorchards.com and yankeefollycidery.com. □

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Homeland InSecurity: A Tale Of Two Towns

by Mark Rosen

I'm sorry, but I don't know who I am. Yes, I respond to my name, perk up when I hear it referenced, and can readily introduce myself to any and all strangers. It's the "Where do you live?" question that triggers my troublesome crisis of identity. Make no mistake, I know how to find my house. I do it at least once every day, and my driver's license clearly states that I live in New Paltz. But therein lies the confusion.

I am one person in a fairly sizable demographic who happens to pay his taxes to the Town of Gardiner, but who also has that whacky 12561 zip code. Not a Man Without a Town, but a Man With Two Of 'Em.

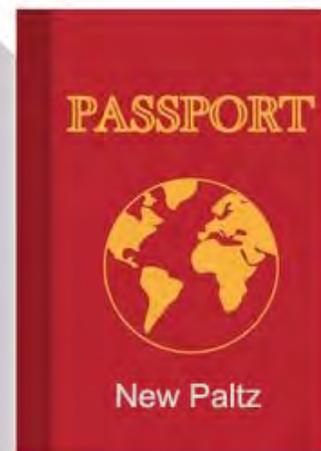
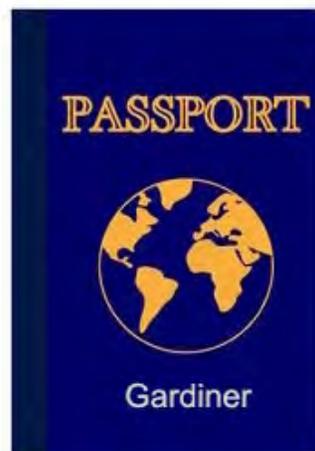
Actually I feel utterly comfortable and entitled to call myself both a resident of Gardiner and a resident of New Paltz, and I am not above using whichever town best suits my purposes. I have written letters to the New Paltz Times addressing issues like parking in downtown New Paltz, where I pass myself off as a pedigreed Paltzian. Yet I've signed letters to the same publication in support of New Paltz school board candidates as a resident of Gardiner, as if to underscore a candidate's wide geographic appeal. But only sometimes. Then again, I've had letters printed in the New York Times where I cite

New Paltz as my home base because it's much better known and there's a college there (which makes me appear smarter).

Wait, there's more. When I'm arranging furniture delivery from a store in Kingston, I happily live in New Paltz. Same furniture from Middletown? Gardiner is my one

and only. Recently, I've taken to calling Representative John Faso's office quite frequently, offering my thoughts on whatever happened last night that has me angry this morning; at first I was claiming New Paltz residence, but then I decided to start using my Gardiner identity since I assumed his phone

InSecurity, [continued page 11](#)



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Now Entering Town Of Gardiner

by Zoli Rosen

Gardiner is anything but just another small town. It's a heartbeat of the Hudson Valley. A burgeoning mecca of craft food and spirits.

But blink, and you might miss it speeding past.

I lived in the town next door and somehow Gardiner escaped me for years. I was just a transplant from the city, another "came up here for college and decided to stay" story. New Paltz was the only world I knew north of the Tappan Zee. The numbers 44 and 55 meant nothing to me, even when crammed together as 44/55. When I was invited to interview for a job at a new bar opening in Gardiner, I remember asking, "Where's Gardiner?"

It's been almost 18 months now, behind that bar, in the heart of town. I'll admit, at first I wasn't sure we'd connect, Gardiner and I. I was used to working Irish pubs and college bars with kids just barely old enough to drink; in New Paltz, you could always count on a replenishing supply of students to sell your pints of Bud-Light to.

Gardiner's different, more of a slow burn. Once the Mercantile (that bar ...) was up and running, we took a different approach to advertising, something like starting a very well-

crafted but extremely small fire and waiting for people's curiosity to get them up the steps and to the door for a quick peek inside; see the great big plow we have hanging from our tall ceiling.

My first several encounters with residents of Gardiner were people who came in past our retail shop at the front of the house, through the swinging doors into the farm bar, just to complain that there weren't enough signs outside telling them who we were. One woman even yelled at us. She actually yelled at us.

It was going to take me some time to acclimate; a new town with new people and a new way of doing things. Gardiner is not for the impatient. Craft takes time, all around, in all manners, and on all occasions.

Gardiner's not for the absent-minded or the apathetic. They will blink and drive on by. Gardiner's a taste to be savored, experienced. You can literally fall right out of her big open skies and land safely on the ground, not a scratch on you. It's



A sign that hangs inside Liquid Mercantile. Photo: Lucia Civile

true. I've done it. I've watched others do it from the front porch of the Mercantile.

In the end, it wasn't the Hudson whiskey that sold me, or the Whitecliff wines, Kettleborough Ciders, Yard Owl beer, Lenny's liquor store, Café Mio, Pasquale's Pizza, Tuthillhouse, Village Market, or even the Gunks.

In the end, what sold me was the

people. Yes, really. A good night for us behind the bar is a night when we get to meet a new personality, some kind of artist, some kind of entrepreneur, characters, visionaries at every turn. Even people who yell at us.

You all know who you are. Gardiner is absolutely full of them. □

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First Annual Craft Walk Pairs With GOST Tour

by Lucia Civile

Gardiner is home to artists and craft-people who push new boundaries with their work; their creations are definitely cause for celebration. This year, we're doubly fortunate to have two events, both held the first week-end in June: The Craft Market Walk (sponsored by Gardiner Association of Businesses) kicks off its first annual appearance on Saturday, June 3rd, from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

The Gardiner Open Studio (GOST) Tour, sponsored by its artist members and returning for the fifth year, will feature over 20 fine artists and their notable works and works in progress. As usual, GOST painters, sculptors, ceramicists, textile designers, photographers, and other fine artists invite tour-goers into their work spaces to catch a rare glimpse of their process. GOST will be hosted Saturday and Sunday, June 3rd and 4th, from 11 AM to 6 PM.

So, let's get into a bit more detail about the Craft, Market and Walk aspects of the day to whet your appetites. There will (of course!) be

crafts; there will be music; and, hopefully, there will be a walking, dance-shoes-wearing, get-your-shop-on, you. The walk begins at the Gardiner Library, connects to the Farmer's Market space on Main Street at Third Street, spans the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, and finishes at Yard Owl Craft Brewery on Steve's Lane.

CRAFT: the Craft Market Walk is about celebrating Gardiner's talented artisans, honoring the unique flair they bring to our town, and giving back to the community. An idea that developed to commemorate the unique vibe of our village, the Craft Market Walk features woodworkers, designers, hairstylists, builders, bakers and brewers.

MARKET: The Market stop of the Craft Market Walk is a farm emporium. Dedicated to local farmers, bakers and marmateers, this part of the walk features locally made and packaged items such as jams, hot sauces, syrups, cookies and more. And if you're watching your



Potter throwing a pot. ImageL: the Internet

calories, don't worry, there will still be plenty of time to walk it off before you make it to your final destination at Yard Owl Craft Brewery, where there will be raffles, food, and music, oh my!

WALK: The Craft Market Walk also invites visitors to walk for a cause. Proceeds from raffles, vendor sales and donations will benefit the likes of St. Jude Children's Hospital, Gardiner Library and the Gardiner Association of Businesses (the sponsor).

GOST: Craft Market Walkers are invited to spend the whole day in Gardiner and explore everything the town has to offer, which brings us to the GOST tour. Take the tour! These artists have come from varied backgrounds and myriad points of origin, and yet have all selectively chosen picturesque Gardiner as both their home and the locale to cultivate their artistic expressions.

Make the first weekend in June your day to tour the town, sample all the hand-crafted delicacies, and experience all the art it has to offer. We hope to see you there! ☐

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Correction

In the Winter 2017 issue of *The Gardiner Gazette*, the article *Disc Golf In Majestic Park: The Only Public Course For Miles* by Barbara Sides contained an error. It incorrectly stated that "Course construction was facilitated by the New Paltz Foundation, which became the steward of the funds raised." In actuality, the New Paltz Community Foundation was the organization that became the steward for the funds.



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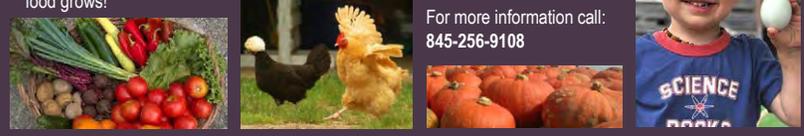
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Walden Savings Bank: Not Your Average Bank

by Lucia Civile

Walden Savings Bank opened its doors in 1872, and since then has established over ten branches that serve New York State. I was able to learn what makes this local bank tick from the Branch Manager, Debra Green, and Assistant Manager Raffaella Benson, and through close interactions with the owner and employees. The following is an inside look.

Think Walden Savings Bank is your average bank? Think again. Simply put, banking at Walden Savings Bank is an experience. Raffaella Benson, who previously worked with her family at Tantillo's Farm for over 20 years, explained that relocating to Walden Savings Bank "felt like a lateral move." In fact, colleagues and other branch employees seem to match that very sentiment. Pres-

ident and CEO Derrik Wynkoop explained, "We're a family here, and we want our customers to experience that." It's certainly an attitude that seems to be in line with the company's mission: to grow local businesses, support the community and enrich the lives of people who are a part of the community.

Located in the Gardiner Gables Plaza, the bank's address and mission start in the heart of our small town. And as a company that prides itself on lending services to local events, charities and causes, the bank contributes time and funds to several functions throughout the year in support of the Gardiner community.

Just some of the events on their roster include: Gardiner Day, the Gardiner 5K, the Cupcake



Assistant Branch Manager Raffaella Benson at a mixer held in March. Raffaella made all of the food for the event. Photo: Lucia Civile

Festival, and the Sunflower Art Festival. In addition to their financial donations and pledged volunteers for local gatherings, the bank also offers a program for employees to give a small portion of their paycheck to raise funds for a charity each month; a number that the bank will match.

Customer and employee appreciation is a core value of Walden Savings Bank. Four times throughout the year, the bank's Gardiner branch hosts a customer appreciation day, with a small potluck celebration.

The bank also makes customer safety and privacy a priority. In April, the bank

hosted the first of a series of free 'scam' seminars at the Gardiner Library. The course was held in an effort to protect customers from sales scams and identity theft and fraud. In fact, the company continues to work on projects to better their customers' experience with the bank. Raffaella further explains that working at the bank is "a challenge I enjoy rising to." And if the smiling faces and friendly demeanor of the bank's tellers, managers, CEO and customers are any indication, it seems that she's not the only one.

To learn more about Walden Savings Bank, visit their office at 2356 US-44/55, Gardiner.

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Gardiner: A Holistic Health Haven Grows

by Alicia Civile and Liz Glover Wilson

As Socrates said in the 4th century B.C., “the part can never be well unless the whole is well.” Long before x-ray machines and penicillin, healers recognized the importance of emotional and spiritual well being, and now, traditional Chinese medicine—which got its start almost 5,000 years ago—has made a comeback. Many in our community are choosing to utilize these therapies to support their wellness.

With a growing number of options for holistic health services available in Gardiner, residents have more and more access to massage therapists, acupuncturists, naturopaths, yoga studios, reiki healers, pilates, tai chi, rolfers, and more. Each offers a unique toolbox of skills and knowledge; helping indi-

viduals achieve whole health and balance.

Holistic health addresses mind, body, and spirit in unison, never isolating or segregating. And for those new to this approach, focusing on five simple concepts can be a welcome starting point: listen to your body and your intuition; rest to restore; breathe deeply to connect inwardly and spiritually; eat nourishing foods to support whole body function; and prioritize movement to feel grounded in the body.

Everyone’s holistic self care practice will be different, as each of us and our life demands are unique, but the idea is to take note of, and consciously observe and hon-



Holistic living. Photo: The internet

or, your ever-changing environmental, emotional, physical, and spiritual seasons. It is a highly personal and tailored approach to living, expressing, and healing.

ventative health care are all around us, and like nature, the greatest healing agent of all, we are fortunate to have these ever-present options right in our own backyard.

“One of the most important experiences a person can have in their plight to obtain better health and longevity is to simply become aware of our body inside and out,” says Kim Carlson, a long-term resident and Licensed Massage Therapist here in Gardiner. “Bodywork, Yoga, and Pilates are some examples of methods that provide awareness and a type of inner stillness and exploratory journey that help us progress in bettering our own health.”

So as you travel through Gardiner on Route 44/55 with the stunning view of the Shawangunk Ridge in your sight, know you can find your own personal pathway to holistic health. From Earthly Bodywork Massage (2356 US-44/55), to Dancing Meadow Yoga at the Gardiner Library (133 Farmer’s Turnpike), to Pilates on Main (127 Main), to Yoga at Sunflower Art Studios (2694 US-44/55), to Balance Rolwing and Massage Studio (Route 44/55), local residents and visitors can find balance and enrichment. □

Practitioners providing pre-

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Leaflets Three, Quickly Flee

Dealing With Poison Ivy

by Fred Gerty

This old ditty sums up most people's reaction to poison ivy: get away and leave it alone. Of all the scourges in the Hudson Valley, this noxious plant surely ranks as the worst. It particularly likes growing throughout the town of Gardiner. People susceptible to the oily secretions (urushiol) react in several ways, from an annoying itch, to blisters and extensive skin irritation. It is not a desirable plant for a homestead. Pets can carry the oil on their fur, and people can be exposed by petting or grooming them.

When we moved to Gardiner over 26 years ago, my spouse took a look around the place and said, "This poison ivy has got to go." She is highly allergic to it, and wanted nothing to do with the outdoors until it was eradicated. I noticed thick poison ivy vines growing up many of the pin oaks in and around our place. Some of the vines were an inch or more thick, and had been there for many years. Worse, their progeny was scattered all over, beneath those trees and elsewhere on the land. You can see much the same condition on many trees along the Rail Trail.

Early on, I worked with a large lopper to sever every poison ivy vine I could find growing up the trees nearby. But that was not enough—numerous small and not so small seedling poison ivy vines dotted the landscape, each requiring hand pulling, or spraying.

Hand pulling is highly effective, but must be done while well protected. Many a gardener is surprised after a session weeding the flower or vegetable plot to break out in itchy rashes on one or both hands and arms, from small poison ivy vines hidden among the desirable plants. You will need a long sleeved shirt, long gloves, preferably waterproof, long pants, boots, and much patience when pulling poison ivy.

Care is needed in removing the gloves and clothing, too, which should go directly into the washer, without touching any bare skin. Tools should be cleaned with alcohol if bare skin might come in contact with them later.

In spring, poison ivy is easy

to identify: first noticed are the three leaflets, which appear with a shiny, reddish tint, quite distinctive. Summer, the three leaves are green, sometimes with a glossy tint.

It's not unusual to start to pull up a vine, and then follow it for feet, or even yards, as it winds and twists through the undergrowth. But much satisfaction is realized when it's finally all out and dropped into a bucket.

Whatever you do, do not burn it, or even compost it. Instead, throw it in a plastic bag and into the trash, or somewhere remote on the property. The smoke can carry droplets of the oil, and get into your throat or lungs, or on your skin.

If you are very allergic to poison ivy, hand pulling is not something you should do. Leave it to the experts—several garden firms will work to control it—or resort to spraying. My preferred method of eradication is the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup). Every spring, around the end of May, I mix up a batch in a gallon sprayer, and patrol the land. Anytime I spot those leaflets-three, I give them a good dose. Using the wand keeps my skin away from the plant, and insures good coverage. Note that this herbicide is toxic to all plants, so careful application is necessary. But I am willing to take a loss of a few nice plants to clear my gardens of this scourge. I successfully rid a patch of myrtle of poison ivy, where I could not hand pull it because it was so intertwined with the myrtle, but did lose some myrtle in the spraying process.



A particularly HUGE poison ivy vine.
Photo: Fred Gerty.

If you prefer a natural treatment, a vinegar-salt mixture is reported to provide some success. Recipe: add one cup of salt to one gallon of vinegar. Heat if necessary to dissolve the salt. Add eight drops of liquid detergent (aids in spreading the mixture on the leaves). Use a sprayer, or pour onto the poison ivy plant. Note: this mixture is also toxic to all plants, and will kill desirable ones as well as poison ivy.

If you notice poison ivy near where boiling water is available, that will kill the plant—and, again, anything else it touches.

Later in the summer, if my spouse spots fresh seedlings, or notices resprouting from roots or vines, I'll get the sprayer out again, and deal with the new ones.

Where do all these noxious seedlings come from anyway? Birds are not affected by the oil. They munch and then drop the seeds all over the place. New vines often appear at the base of fence posts, thanks to birds, but may occur anywhere.

Each year, you may expect avian delivery of poison ivy seeds, so ever-vigilance is the watchword. □

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Home Delivery Of *The Gazette*: Every Home In Gardiner

It seems not everyone knows that every household in Gardiner, including those with New Paltz or Wallkill zip codes, should be receiving a copy of *The Gardiner Gazette* at home.

copy of the Gazette at home, please send your mailing address to gardinergazette@earthlink.net, or PO Box 133, Gardiner, NY 12525.

Mailing list management is something of a full time job, and apparently ours is not yet up to snuff. Our mailing list manager, Kaaren Vassell, and the rest of the team, are hard at work on this, so if you are not receiving a

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Historic Newspaper Project:

Just seconds to search almost six decades of newspapers

by A.J. Schenkman

Recently, there has been a lot of attention focused on the Old Huguenot Burying Ground located on Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz. This burying ground is one of the oldest in Ulster County. It has intact graves dating back to the early 18th Century.

The burying ground was "closed" in the 1860s. Since then it has been looked after by descendants of those buried there, community members and, still later, Historic Huguenot Street (HHS). HHS maintains the burying ground as well as the historic homes which line the street. There is a plethora of information when it comes to the houses of the original settlers of New Paltz. This is not true when it comes to the Old Burying Ground. Unfortunately, little is actually known about the early history of the burying ground.

While researching the burying ground for an upcoming article, a fellow local historian sent me a link to a relatively new online resource. She felt it would be a very useful web-

site to assist in the research. The name of the site is the New York State Historic Newspaper Project. Newspapers are great primary sources for researchers.

This source is a free service courtesy of the Northern New York Library Network. Its mission is to, "provide free online access to a wide range of newspapers chosen to reflect New York State's unique history." One of those newspapers is *The New Paltz Times* (1860-1919). When researching the New Paltz area, it is an invaluable source.

Prior to the digital age, researchers slogged through binders of clipped articles, microfilm, or the actual newspapers. Using the site's online search function makes locating specific words or phrases easier. When I conducted a preliminary search for the burying ground, it took seconds to search almost six decades of newspapers. I initially came up with three results.



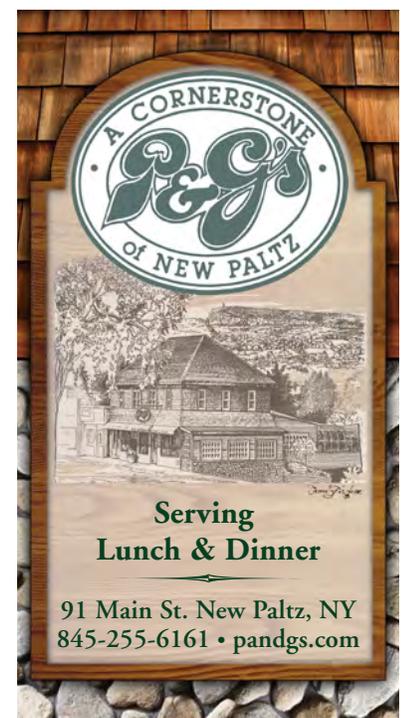
Library of Congress image. Date unknown.

The three results that came up were from the late 1800s when there was a renewed interest in not only the old stone houses on the street, but the burying grounds as well. The entries in the newspaper all pertained to keeping up the appearance of the grounds. The first reference was to Philip DuBois cutting down the weeds and grass in the Old Huguenot Burying Grounds on July 25, 1888. Yet another newspaper clipping dated August 1893, stated that, "the weeds in the Old Huguenot Burying Ground needed cutting." Finally, the last result spoke of low hanging tree limbs in the burying grounds.

The New Paltz Times, for now, is the only Ulster County newspaper contained on the site. It does have seven newspapers for Sullivan County, but sadly none for Orange County. Your best bet for digitized newspapers from Orange County is still *Fulton History* or *Hudson River Valley Heritage*.

Newspapers are a great resource for individuals conducting research on their communities from another period of time. They are also essential in researching genealogical questions. In some cases, newspapers are the only resources documenting someone's existence, or where they were in a particular period of time. □

[← Back Comment →](#)



InSecurity, from page 3

lines were already jammed with New Paltz complainers. There are advantages to be drawn from each.

So, I'm not really complaining, just confused. Both towns offer the services that fulfill my most basic needs. Both have brewpubs, great eateries, chiropractors, bike shops, a place to gather with friends over coffee (al fresco or whatever the opposite of al fresco is) and Pasquale's Pizza. Both have open spaces, guaranteed to remain so. And both are populated by wonderful, affable people who are enlightened, engaging and engaged.

Each town certainly has its own merits. I have to admit, following New Paltz politics

has always been more fun. The issues that have faced our brothers and sisters to the north have historically been more fiery (cell towers are only so fiery). But what is treasured by all who live here is that Gardiner retains its own distinctive character, with unmistakable and irrefutable advantages.

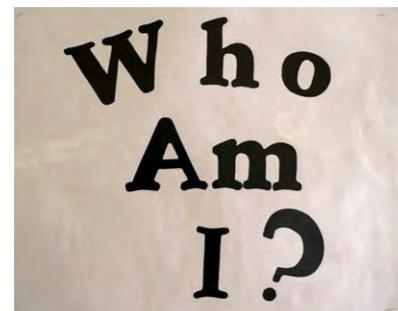
It remains a town without a parking meter. It has a park for dogs and a park for people. It boasts the friendliest post office in the entire US Postal Service, where a long line means standing behind some other guy. It has a library where, indeed, everybody knows your name, and a staff and volunteers second to none. The traffic on a fall Sunday afternoon in Gardiner is no worse than it

is on a Tuesday in March. It has a highway that bisects the town that is so special it has two numbers. There are only two traffic lights. And it is a small town with a big heart.

Gardiner even has its own gazette.

Editor's Note: When asked about why this situation exists, a Corporate Communications field contact for the Postal Service told us that it is not uncommon; some Gardiner residents also have Wallkill's 12589, and residents of the nearby hamlet of Rifton also receive mail delivery from New Paltz.

The contact further informed us that ZIP Code assignments are "closely linked to



factors such as mail volume, delivery area size, geographic location, and topography."

That sounds very official, but we remain puzzled as to what volume, size, geography or topography was enough to cast these folks out! Perhaps the system evolved before there were bridges across our rivers and they were trying to save the mail carriers a swim! ☐

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Cell Tower Number Two For Gardiner?

by Barbara Sides

Has the new cell tower solved your dropped call problems? Reception any better? If not, take heart.

The Gardiner Town Board is in the early stages of considering a proposal for the installation of a new cell tower on South Mountain Road, this time on town-owned Highway Department property.

Verizon has hired an engineering firm to look into the feasibility of installing the second tower.

The new tower would be erected at a higher elevation than the current tower and will, presumably, solve some existing cell phone woes as well as generate some revenue for town coffers. Construction of a new cell tow-

er would be subject to all Gardiner zoning laws as well as public hearings. Negotiations are preliminary, so stay tuned,

or get in touch with the Town Board if you would like to know more.

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Pete Patel

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LEADERS IN LEVELING

Resort, from page 1

(open to the public); a 3,332 square foot "Events Barn" for weddings and other events; an Indoor/Outdoor pool; tennis courts; Bocce Courts; a gym, a 165-car parking lot; a service building; 31 luxury cabins and 40 "Eco cabins." All the cabins will have full bathrooms. The water system will include two drilled wells with peak water usage estimated by the developers to be 12,600 gallons per day.

In total, the facility will accommodate 166 overnight guests, with a maximum capacity of 268 including day visitors. Two pathways will lead visitors down to the river, where a stone dock is planned.

Sewerage for the facility will be provided by four separate septic systems.

The Gazette will follow this story as it develops and will hopefully be able to cover it more fully in the next issue.

Meanwhile, if you are interested in the project; think you will be affected by it; or are concerned about the impact this type of development will have on Gardiner, contact the Gardiner Planning Board (845 255-9675; PO Box 1, Gardiner, NY 12525; or planning.tog@gmail.com) or the developer (Phillip Rapoport, Heartwood, 57 South 4th St. Brooklyn, NY 11249).

A public hearing for the project has yet to be announced, but Planning Board agendas can be found on www.townofgardiner.org/agendas. Previous appearances by the developers in front of the Planning Board have been listed on the agenda

The Developer's renderings of the proposed "eco cabins," (right) 5,582 square foot main building (below) and luxury cabins (below right). Images: Gardiner Town Hall/Public Information.



as: "Electric Bowery, Heartwood Lodging Facility."

Editor's Note: one Gazette Committee member might be affected by the project. Another is among the affected neighbors and is part of a

group organizing to call attention to, and challenge, the project. □

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Lots of outdoor seating, including a beer garden and screened porch.




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Mikey Monson: Gardiner's "Broadway Star"

by Annie O'Neill

Next time you go to the theater in New York City and see an enormous backdrop, delight in the fact that a Gardiner resident was part of the team making your experience visually exciting. Michalyn Monson, known to all as "Mikey," was twenty when she wandered into a scene shop—think theater, movies, concert backdrops. Her passion was born.

As a child she spent hours "coloring," later studied art at Pine Bush HS, and then moved on to the SUNY New Paltz painting department. In her final year at SUNY she decided to take an introductory theater course. This new artistic vocabulary evolved into an enduring fascination when she met Joe Forbes at the Scenic Arts Studio in Newburgh; she found her métier when she discovered that theater arts allowed her to do any type of faux painting, and even to reproduce old masters.

Not many people are aware that almost every Broadway backdrop originates right here in Newburgh, at the Scenic Arts Studio. Mikey took the studio's vocational course, which leads to becoming a member of Local 829-United Scenic Arts, and she soon also became a substitute teaching assistant there.

This multi-talented painter is proud to be part of the collaborative teams that execute a set designer's vision. Their

"canvases" are usually 30 x 60 feet as they bring a potential Tony Award-winning set to life. Her 11-year career has included work for theater, film, TV and concert tours. For Broadway plays she has been a scenic artist for *Mary Poppins*, *Young Frankenstein*, *White Christmas*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Legally Blond* and *Radio City Christmas*. She was lead scenic artist on *Bridge and Tunnel* and *Lin Miranda's* award-winning *In The Heights*. She worked on *Firebird* and *Vienna Waltzes* for the New York City Ballet, and on the sets for *Cyndi Lauper's True Colors Tour* and *Lady Gaga's World Tour-2010*. She also painted for *Eat, Pray, Love*; *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee*; and worked on "Boardwalk Empire" in 2009.

Mikey had independent contracts at the Children's Museum of the East End in Easthampton, and was an on-site interactive muralist at a Converse sneaker convention. Her individual work has been shown at the Quicksilver Gallery in London, and at Gallery 506 in Beacon. She will tell you that her scenic work takes the ego out of art and that is why she is sold on collaboration. She teaches her kids that "nobody wins unless we all win!"

Right now Mikey is taking time off to raise her daughters: Elle, 6 and Robin, 3, while her husband Joe is teaching



Mikey Monson working on the set for *Beauty and the Beast*. Photo courtesy Mikey Monson.

art at Red Hook High School. She still works summers and substitute teaches set painting at SUNY Purchase. As soon as Robin is in school she will be going full tilt at the Scenic Arts Studio. With her scenic painting collaborators, she is part of an artist's group with an online gallery outsidethelinecollective.com. Mikey suggests looking at scenicartstudios.com and studioandforum.org to better understand her world.

If you happen to be taking a "scenic" drive through Montgomery and notice a 90-foot mural on a horse barn, think Mikey Monson. Her challenges are over-sized and should not be overlooked. □

[⇐ Back Comment ⇐](#)

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Just A Sip ...

Nine Beers On Tap (and a Goulash Sandwich) ...

by Carol O'Biso

An impromptu lunch stop at Gunk Haus on a recent weekend proved that there really is nothing better than good beer and slow cooked pork piled high on a home made ciabatta roll. (A little cheese on top doesn't hurt. And a side of fries, well, that's really nothing to complain about either.)

It was too cool to sit on the deck and admire the Ridge, and the Catskills in the distance, but the bar is a cozy, friendly place to contemplate whether you'll have the König Ludwig Hefe-Weisse (Bavarian Wheat beer, \$7); the the Hofbräu Dunkel (German Dark Lager, \$6.50, the Ommegang Rare Vos (Belgian Amber Ale, \$6.50) or, perhaps the Doc's hard cider (\$6.50). The beers on tap change, of course, so you might find something else when you go, but that's part of the fun.

Gunk Haus does not sell flights, but they're happy to give you a taste be-

fore you order. We sampled five draft beers, and all were excellent.

There are a few bottled beers (a Jamaican lager; a gluten-free; and a good old Sam Adams), as well as a selection of beer/cider mixes (hard cider and sweet cherry wine; stout and hard cider, and so on). And, for the wine drinkers in your group, there's a small but decent selection of reds and whites, including the locals, Awosting White and Warwick Black Dirt Red.

There are some lighter lunch choices, so you don't *have* to eat yourself into a stupor with the huge and delicious slow-braised pork in a spicy Hungarian paprika sauce with mushrooms, onions, horseradish sour cream and cheddar cheese—but it was hard to resist. I can certainly tell you that dinner in our household was cancelled



The König Ludwig Hefe-Weisse and the Ommegang Rare Vos on tap at the Gunkhaus.

Photo: Carol O'Biso

that night. Gunk Haus, 387 South St, Highland, NY 12528. Mon., Wed., Thurs., 11AM–9PM; Fri. & Sat., 11AM–9:30PM; Sun. 11AM–8:30PM; Closed Tuesday. (845) 883-0866. □

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The First Highway: Huguenot Homesteads Tour

by Vals Osborne

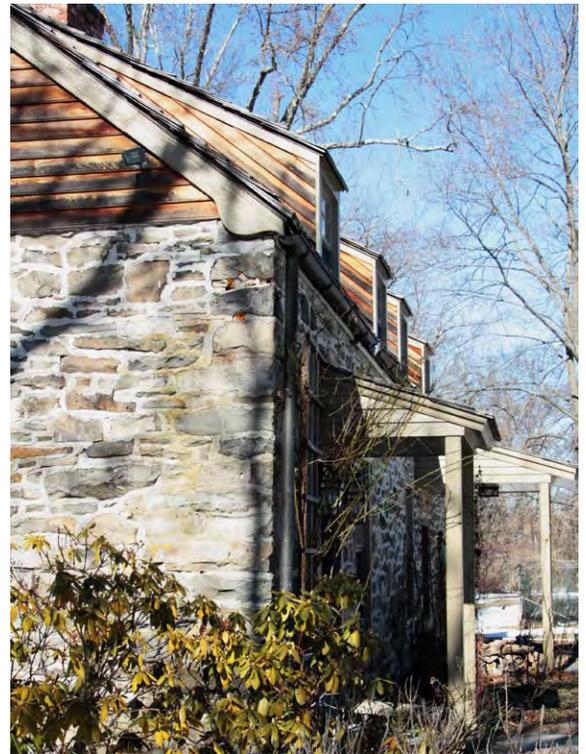
The Wallkill Valley Land Trust's seventh annual tour will take place on Saturday, June 3rd. Its focus on the Town of New Paltz coincides with the Land Trust's year-long celebration of its 30th Anniversary.

This year's tour explores the fascinating legacy of New Paltz's Huguenots and their expansion northward along the eastern banks of the Wallkill River to Bontecoe on the Esopus border. The "Patentees" – as the first dozen settlers were called – built their houses on the terrace above the Wallkill River where vistas sweep west to the Shawangunk Mountains. Their

descendants moved beyond New Paltz to cultivate the rich alluvial soil of the floodplain.

Historic Huguenot Street will offer a special orientation and exhibition at the DuBois Fort, designed especially for this occasion, as well as a private visit to one of its stone houses rarely open to the public. The tour also presents seven of the town's most unusual and important houses and farms dating from the early 18th century to the mid-twentieth. For more information or to register, please visit: www.WallkillValleyLT.org or call 845 255-2761. □

↔ [Back Comment](#) ↔



About This Publication

The Gardiner Gazette is a quarterly publication funded entirely by advertising and contributions. Dates are as follows:

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Spring, May 6 release (Submission deadline March 30)
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Articles are written by community members, not reporters. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please contact us to discuss it before you write your article. To suggest a business to feature, please contact us. To advertise in *The Gazette*, contact Jason Stern (845) 527-6205 or gardinergazetteads@gmail.com.

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LeRoy Conklin

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Please visit our website at GardinerFireAndRescue.org to for a printable application. Make as many copies as you wish and pass them out to your workers, colleagues, and managers.

Please consider making a difference in this community. The pay isn't great but the feeling that you get in knowing that you were there and helped someone who was in dire need of assistance cannot be measured. If you would like more information before you make this commitment please visit our website at GardinerFireAndRescue.org, come to one of our Monday night drills or call us at (845) 255-5887 with any questions you may have. You can really make a difference.

[Signature]

Matthew A. Carshaw

Yours truly,

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COMING THIS JUNE . . .

A woman in a grey cardigan and blue jeans is performing a standing balance yoga pose (Urdhva Dhanurasana) in a grassy field. She is holding her right foot with her right hand, with her left arm extended forward. The background features a large green tree on the left, a fence, and a line of trees under a blue sky with light clouds.

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- ◆ Town of New Paltz



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\$165,000

- ◆ Great location for Professional Office or Personal Residence
- ◆ Generous size 4 BR, 2 Bath Ranch
- ◆ Set back off road w/2 car garage
- ◆ Rear flagstone patio, large front porch & heated glass/screen porch
- ◆ Town of Gardiner



\$465,000

- ◆ Private, wooded landscaped lot w/pond
- ◆ Contemporary 3004 sq. ft. home situated on 3.2 acres
- ◆ Expansive kitchen-custom cabinets, granite countertops, slate tile floors & Viking gas stove
- ◆ Private Master Bedroom Suite

SOLD-Experience, Knowledge, Reputation



Sold in Montgomery \$304,000



Sold in Gardiner \$405,000



Sold in New Paltz \$180,000



Sold in Gardiner \$365,000



Sold in New Paltz \$622,250



Sold in Gardiner \$165,000

Let us help make your Real Estate dreams come true!!

