



The Gardiner Gazette

Spring 2010 - Issue #6

A call to community ...

EDITOR'S NOTE: *In an effort to help more Gardiner residents get acquainted with town government, this column will feature comments from different town officials in each issue.*

Protecting Our Canine Friends

by Anne Allbright Smith



Vinny Brognano has been Gardiner's dog control officer for ten years, and his Springer Spaniel Paddy has been with him for nine of them. He was building inspector with Don Otis for two and a half years and also ran the transfer

station. He still sometimes fills in for Merry McCall, the transfer station attendant.

Vinny has a passion for dogs and gives them his all. His job is to enforce Article 7 of the NY State Department of Agriculture & Markets. It covers the licensing, identification and control of dogs and the animal population in general. By the time Vinny gets involved he knows the animals are in some kind of tough situation, so he treats them all with kindness and sympathy. The job primarily involves picking up strays and investigating dog complaints about both the things dogs do to people (barking, running at large) and the things people do to dogs (being left out in the cold). Usually issues can be settled between neighbors. Less easy to deal with are those who hoard animals. Gardiner has had a few notorious ones, but fortunately not many. By law, no one is allowed more than four dogs without applying for a kennel license.

Dog Control Officer ...continued page 3

Where There's Smoke ... Gardiner Fire & Rescue in Action

by Raymond D. Smith, Jr.

Gardiner's firefighters and rescue squad are all highly trained professionals; they're also unpaid volunteers. The roster consists of 35 active firefighters with an average of nine responding to a fire call. In addition, the Rescue Squad has 17 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), eight of them very active, with an average of five responding to an EMT call.

Just to ride a fire truck requires 100 hours of "Firefighter 1" class. To become an EMT requires an additional 175 hours and re-certification every three years. The department also has training at least one night a week, which includes Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) updates. (The latter ensures that all emergency agencies use exactly the same nomenclature: when seconds matter, there's no time for "what does he mean by that?")

Those interested can become cadets at age 16 and full members at 18. Fire Chief Dave Bailin says, "This is probably one of the closest knit groups in town. Because of the amount of time you spend together and the amount of danger you deal with, it actually brings you a lot closer.

Fire & Rescue ...continued page 9

Gardiner's Proposed Sidewalks

by Carleton Mabee, Gardiner Town Historian

As Gardiner plans to build new sidewalks in its hamlet, few Gardinerites seem to know that the hamlet at one time already had a substantial sidewalk system. In the early 1900s, in the central hamlet, services were available which are not now available, such as a garage, drug store, a newspaper office, lawyer's office, doctor's office, hotel and railroad station. At that time, when Main Street was surfaced only with gravel, and its traffic was a mix of automobiles, carriages and

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wagons, old photographs show sidewalks.

In the center of the hamlet, photos show sidewalks on both sides of Main Street. Farther west, opposite the Reformed Church, sidewalks show only on the south side of the street. Old postcards seem to show the sidewalks as made of varied materials, including concrete and gravel. In at least one low, wet place, where Main Street intersects with Arch Street, more than one postcard—one of them postmarked 1907—shows a section of sidewalk made of planks. In the 1940s, Kathleen Conner, who grew up in the Gardiner hamlet, particularly recalls riding her bicycle on the south side of Main Street

Sidewalks ...continued page 10

More Than Just Books

By Melissa Fairweather, Volunteer Coordinator Gardiner Library

Libraries depend on many resources to function: publishers, computer networks, library systems—but most of all—people. In December of 1974 a group of women from the Reformed Church decided to hold a book exchange. It continued. They set up shop in the Reformed Church. The vision grew. According to *Gardiner Library: Its Beginning, Its Growing Energy, Its Struggle for Space*, by historian Carleton Mabee, when the new library wanted to move to Station Square, the people of Gardiner mailed in hundreds of post cards urging the town to allow the library use of the old firehouse.

The old firehouse hadn't been used for years and the only electricity went to one bare bulb hanging from the ceiling. There was no heat, no water and no rest room, but the people of Gardiner volunteered their time, energy, and money to make the building habitable. A community grant provided a heating system.

The library existed as an all-volunteer endeavor until 1980 when Peg Lotvin, who had been instrumental in its development, was hired as the library manager. Gardiner continued to grow. In 1985 an addition was built, partially funded by the Friends of the Library. Fund-raising efforts over the years—plant and bake sales, raffles, a fashion show, luncheons in private homes, the Southern barbeque, auctions and the well-known "Buy a Brick" program—were all planned and staffed by volunteers.

By the 1990s the building was well past meeting the needs of the community and the Library Board's exploration of options continued into the new century. Finally, the current property was obtained from the town and the real planning began. The community attended open meetings with the architect, gave their ideas on what was needed and was financially generous; by September of 2008 fifty local businesses and over 600 different families and individuals had made donations totaling over \$440,000.

People also gave generously of their time and energy. When the old Gardiner Library closed its doors people came and packed boxes, cleaned shelves, tossed garbage and moved furniture. On October 15, 2008, a human chain of more than 200 people passed the adult fiction collection from the old library to the new. More volunteers set up shelving and tables, unpacked

boxes, cleaned books, brought food and helped in every way possible. They enabled Gardiner to move an entire library for free, and to have it up and running in ten days!

Over 350 people (some estimates are close to 500) attended the opening celebration for the beautiful new building. The giving didn't stop. When the library received a donation of wooden shelving, volunteers came in and painted them. When the shelves were installed, volunteers helped move books.

Currently, there are volunteers who help daily and weekly. They are what allow the Gardiner Library to be "the full service library" it is. The Gardiner Library building is beautiful, but its true beauty is the people of Gardiner who created it, supported it all these years and continue to support it today.

Eastern Box Turtle Study

by Anne & Ray Smith

As spring approaches the box turtles will begin to stir from their winter habitats or hibernacula. As they begin traveling to their May-June nesting sites you may well encounter one on your road or in your yard. Admire its exquisite plastron pattern—but please don't move it except to the side of the road if necessary. They have established routes within their ranges.



An Eastern Box Turtle with newly laid eggs

We have been monitoring the box turtle population on our 65 acres for the past five years, seeking to understand their behavior and determine the boundaries of their range. So far we have found 28 turtles: seven have been found in more than one year, and two were in the process of laying eggs. Last

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fall, we outfitted one of them with a transmitter in the hope of determining her movements this spring with more accuracy. Each turtle is photographed and, because their plastron patterns are as unique as fingerprints, we can then quickly match a turtle with one found a year or more earlier.

On May 16 we will have our third turtle day sponsored by the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, to which anyone is invited for a morning hunt for turtles. Anyone who is interested can receive more information from and sign up with the Land Trust, 255-2761. We invite you to learn more about our project at www.boxturtlesny.com.

“Here Comes the Sun” Event to Raise Suicide Awareness

By Michelle Terwilliger-Hathaway

Please join me in the third annual “Here Comes the Sun” poker/motorcycle run to help prevent suicide and reduce the stigma of mental illness. More than 90 Americans a day die by suicide. That’s one death every 16 minutes—making it the fourth leading cause of death. I am not a biker but my brother was, and I participate in his memory: Bryan Terwilliger, 31, took his life on February 28, 2007, leaving behind a 14-month old son and shattering my family’s world.



Michelle Hathaway (white T-shirt) with her arm around her mother, Rose Terwilliger, at last year's event with other participants.

Sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Hudson Valley Chapter, “Here Comes the Sun” raises awareness and funds for educational programs and research. This year’s run, for riders and non-riders, takes place on June 5 (rain date June 19). Registration and free breakfast will be from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at East Side Bar & Grill, 624 Rte. 52, Walden. Riders depart from there at 11 am and, after a scenic two-hour ride, arrive back at the Grill. All attendees will enjoy a free hot lunch and an “after” party celebrating life. There will also be live music and raffles.

It's important that people speak up, speak out and/or seek help,

so if you're a biker, ride in memory of someone. If you are not a rider, but have lost someone you loved, join me to celebrate life, reflect and remember. We are also looking for volunteers, event sponsors and donations of goods or services to raffle off. \$25 per rider/attendee or \$40 per couple. Pre-registration is encouraged. Call Maria (914) 417-7993, or visit www.afsp.org.

Dog Control, from page 1

Vinny picks up about two strays per month. If the dog has identification it usually does not stay longer than overnight. Dogs with no identification are taken to the kennel at the Transfer Station. By law they have to be kept for five days before becoming adoption prospects. Vinny visits them three times a day. The kennel is heated, and a groomer donates time to bathe and trim dogs as needed. Prospective adoptees are advertised in the local newspapers and sent to Cornwall vet Laurie Stein, who does the necessary clinical work, which is cost effective for a dog control budget. If they're not claimed, dogs deemed un-adoptable are turned over to a rescue organization.

A common situation is that of the good Samaritan who notices a loose dog by the road and stops to “rescue” it but, unless the dog is in danger, chances are that you will transport the animal much farther from home than he actually is. Better to alert a neighbor, or chase the dog towards the nearest house (very likely his) or, if necessary, call Vinny (cell phone 914 388-2892) or the state police (691-2922). Most true strays are frightened, and with Vinny's professional, calm attitude, will jump into his car. He lures more difficult dogs into a Hav-a-heart trap. It can take time and patience, but nine out of ten dogs are won over by food.

Clinics for dogs (and cats) are scheduled in Gardiner in May and October. Animals receive an exam and all shots including rabies, and a heartworm test, all for a low rate—thanks to Laurie Stein. Additional clinics are offered by Laurie at the Plattekill Town Garage every third week in warmer months.

Right now, our Gardiner kennel is in need of renovation. Although inspected annually by the Dept. of Agriculture, the walls show signs of crumbling and the roof leaks. Vinny hopes to have a fund raiser—possibly a car show—to raise the needed donations.

Finally, have you licensed your dog with the Town Clerk? It's not only the law, but also ensures the safety of your canine friend should there be an emergency.

Back ...



Saving Minnewaska

by Tim Hunter, Gardiner (Creator of Save Minnewaska)

On February 28th a curious story appeared in *The Daily Freeman*. It stated that in order to close the State Budget deficit Minnewaska State Park would be shut down. After rubbing my eyes and reading a second time I saw that yes, this was what was printed. The next day Kevin Cahill's office verified that the Governor had, in fact, proposed a budget which closed Minnewaska.

This was beyond absurd and action was required, so I formed a group on Facebook called *Save Minnewaska*; Albany needed to hear from us and hopefully this would be one method of getting people together. The first day the site had 15 members, mostly friends, but all were extremely upset and said they would let their friends know. Well, within a week *Save Minnewaska* had 7,000 members, after 2 weeks, 15,000. The term for this, apparently, is "going viral." As of this morning over 21,000 individuals have signed up to be members of the Facebook Group *Save Minnewaska*. Since not everyone is a user of Facebook, we added www.SaveMinnewaska.org, where all of the important and breaking information could be obtained.

Save Minnewaska has received coverage in newspapers, radio and on television: among others, *the Times Herald Record* (front page) and WAMC's *Midday Magazine*. The media were paying attention.

On Sunday, March 20, we had our first Save Minnewaska rally. It was in the parking lot next to Rock and Snow in New Paltz. Wow, what a gorgeous day—some said it was *too* nice a day, as many were enjoying it up in Minnewaska. Nature was cooperating and we had over 300 people, musicians, sign painting, many local business giveaways and some speakers.

The first person on stage was our State Assembly member, Kevin Cahill. I introduced him with a little story about a call I received from the Deputy Secretary of the Environment for NY State. The Deputy said that the Governor did not want to, or intend to, close Minnewaska. "Then why," I had responded, "is Minnewaska on the Governor's Closure List?" The Deputy explained that the list with Minnewaska on it was intended only for purposes of negotiating the budget with the legislature and was not intended for the public. It was Kevin Cahill who recognized the import of the possible closure and, wait for it ... Kevin Cahill who decided to release it. Clearly he is the hero of this story.

Then we had Ulster County Executive Mike Hein, born and bred here in New Paltz, who could not imagine a world without Minnewaska for his children to visit. Next was our Congressperson Maurice Hinchey who had two groundbreaking announcements: first, that there is a law stating that any state park that accepts federal support is not allowed to close. And second, a bill just passed the House to study whether The Hudson River Valley should become a unit of The National Park Service. This could bring in needed federal funds to help run and maintain our cultural and natural treasures and, since Minnewaska has accepted federal funds, it might be required to remain open.

These are tough times, but even during The Great Depression we did not close state parks. And although our work is far from over, we are receiving feedback from Albany that they hear us loud and clear. The job of ensuring that Minnewaska remains open is not yet done. If you want to be heard, call your State Reps and the Governor's Office. And please go to SaveMinnewaska.Org. Everything you need to know, as well as who to contact, will be posted and updated regularly.

So, after all of this, is Minnewaska really going to close? Not unless we become complacent. The stakes are so high though, that this is clearly a case where failure is not an option.

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Gardiner Farm Awarded Protection Grant

by Greg Finger, Chair, Gardiner Open Space Commission

For the first time an Ulster County farm has been awarded a Federal Farmland Protection grant to fund the preservation of farmland in Gardiner. After a competitive ranking process, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the US Department of Agriculture selected the Kiernan Farm to receive a matching grant of \$440,000 towards the purchase of development rights for the farm. Application was made by the Open Space Institute (OSI) with the support of the farm owners, Marty and Thelma Kiernan, as well as that of the Gardiner Open Space Commission and the Gardiner Town Board. The Kiernan Farm, one of the most highly ranked farms among the seventeen New York applicants for \$2.6 million in protection funds, was one of only six grants awarded, the only grant awarded in Ulster County and one of the largest grants awarded statewide.

The grant, subject to adjustment based on a final appraisal, is contingent on a 50% match from other sources. It is awarded to fund the purchase of a conservation easement restricting nonagricultural development, while allowing farm activities to continue. This effectively lets farmers obtain the development value of their property without developing it. The preservation of privately held working farmland, one of the goals of both the Gardiner Comprehensive Plan and the Gardiner Open Space Plan, protects farmland for future generations. Currently in New York State a farm is developed every three days, with approximately 26,000 acres of productive farmland being lost each year. Protected farmland also provides wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes, as well as playing a key role in protecting water resources. Unlike other types of publicly held open space, however, the farmer continues to maintain and pay taxes on his or her land at no added cost to taxpayers.

Numerous studies show that agricultural land generates more in real property tax revenue than it requires in municipal services. In New York, for every one dollar in taxes paid by farmland, the local government will be required to spend only 35 cents on community services, leaving 65 cents of that tax dollar in

town coffers. In contrast, every dollar of tax revenues paid by residential development costs the local community \$1.32 in services, a net loss to the town.

The question now before the Town Board is whether to contribute from the town's Open Space Bond fund toward the required 50% match. The grant provides the town with its first opportunity to use its bond fund to leverage contributions from other funding partners to preserve an important part of its rural landscape. The Kiernan Farm is part of a priority conservation area in Gardiner's Open Space Plan. No final decisions will be made until after a public hearing and a vote of the Town Board. Whatever the town's share, the tax costs per household are likely to be small. For example, if the share the town decides to undertake through bonding is \$100,000, at current bond interest rates for a 20 year bond, the cost per household (for the median assessed residential property) would be between \$2.86 and \$3.09 a year. For a \$200,000 local share, the cost per household would be between \$5.72 and \$6.18 a year.

Over the last decade our neighbors in Warwick, Orange County, have preserved 17 farms within their borders by pairing monies from their bond fund with matching grants. Thanks to a very special Gardiner farm, Gardiner now has the unique opportunity to begin to do the same, to the economic benefit of its taxpayers. I encourage the town to join with OSI to insure that the local match required for the federal grant is met, advancing the community's goals expressed in its Comprehensive and Open Space Plans.



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Business As Usual

This column features two Gardiner businesses per issue.

Café Mio

by Barbara Sides

Michael Bernardo, owner of Café Mio, Gardiner's newest restaurant, comes by his love of food naturally. He grew up in Reading, Pennsylvania, where his aunt owned an Italian restaurant and his parents ran a small catering business out of their home and converted their basement into a chocolate factory. Michael's mother still teaches at a local Catholic school; his Dad runs a nursing home. But food has been an important part of Michael's family's life since early childhood. "I've been around the food business since I was five, helping at catering gigs since I was eight or nine," he says. Not surprising then that Michael attended the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park and interned at the DePuy Canal House in High Falls. "Interning is slavery," Michael quips. But he impressed the boss, John Novi, enough to become first Sous Chef and then Head Chef for two and a half years. There he also met Amanda, a young waitress who became his wife.

After the Canal House Michael coordinated the openings of two new restaurants, taking The Emerson and "Oriole 9, both in Woodstock, from concept through opening night in less than a year. It was exciting and challenging, but such hard work that Michael vowed the next opening would be his own.

It took about eight months before Michael and Amanda, who is now a massage therapist at Mohonk, found the perfect venue; the Gagnes, owners of the popular Red Rooster, were looking to move on and the match was made. Michael speaks with respect of Greg and Melissa Gagne. "The transition went smoothly and they were easy to work with. Great location, great little town." Michael's dream began to take shape.

Up and running since last November, Michael likes cooking a variety of dishes. He is particularly excited about using local produce and products—Full Moon Farm beef, maple syrup from Sugar Brook Farm in Kerhonkson, Widmark honey, apples and cider from Wright's Farm, Monkey Joe coffee from Kingston and eggs from Brookside Farm on Albany Post Road.

He marvels at the local wineries, Tuthilltown distillery, and our local beef farms. The quality and availability of local produce gets Michael's creative juices flowing. "Just put a fresh local product in my hands and I'm happiest," he says. In fact, aware of the importance of apples to our area, Michael, Amanda and a group of friends printed out hundreds of varietal names and ultimately chose "Mio," a little-known apple.

Michael enjoys working with other local businesses and organizations and looks forward to Gardiner Day and the Cupcake Festival. He's catering a Gardiner Association of Businesses event at town hall in April and has been patiently waiting for his liquor license in anticipation of opening for dinner. There are plans for an event with Enthusiastic Spirits and Frawleigh and Rakow Insurance and Michael proudly states that he's done receptions for up to 45. He's also hosted an event for the Hudson Valley Seed Library, vegetable gardening being another of his passions.

Michael's work ethic, for which he credits his hard working immigrant Italian family (his grandmother was born in Italy) has served him well. Michael's family, which includes a twin brother in graduate school in L.A., supports his great adventure wholeheartedly. "I've been doing this since I was a kid. It's been a long time coming. And best of all, my Mom is in awe!" Café Mio is open daily, 8:30 to 4:30, except Tuesdays. 255-4949 / www.miogardiner.com / contact@miogardiner.com.

Lucky C Stables

by Laurie Willow

I arrived early for my appointment with Susan Clark at Lucky C Stables on Yankee Folly Road. It was a very cold day and I was happy to find myself in a small heated room with a big window that looked into the huge indoor horse arena. There was a woman on a horse gently cantering around the ring at a steady, controlled graceful pace. Susan Clark appeared. She spoke to the instructor, spoke to the student, and then came to see me. As we sat on a couch in the viewing room Susan told me the story of Lucky C Stables.



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Lucky C, from page 6

Susan was born and raised in New Paltz. After graduating high school Susan followed her strong love for horses and went to William Woods University in Columbia, Missouri in the Division of Equestrian Studies. It was here in Missouri that Susan and Gary Clark met and fell in love. Gary was the manager of a large grain and cattle farm in Missouri, but he agreed to come east with his bride.

It was the early 80's, and family farms were going out of business here one after the other. For a few years Gary managed a local apple farm. They opened Lucky C Stables in 1987 on Dusenberre Road. A daughter, Lindsay, was born in 1988. In 1990, the day before their son Wayne was born, Susan and Gary closed on the land on Yankee

Folly Road. There was no house there, but there were over 20 acres and a barn. Susan and Gary, with a toddler and an infant, began to build the Lucky C as we know it today. They put up fencing and developed a riding and horse care program that created community and family as well as horsemanship.

The accomplishments of Lucky C riders are many. The 25-member SUNY New Paltz Team rides at Lucky C. In 2009 Lucky C Stables had the National Champion and Reserve in the Children's Hunter Division for the M&S League, as well as the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Champion which was won by Lindsay Clark. Just as an aside, Lucky C also produced a Nordic Skiing Champion. Wayne Clark won a Nordic Skiing Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin.

Lucky C Stables is a full-care, full-service horse farm. They provide lessons to the general public, from beginner to

national level. The facility has a large indoor arena as well as an outdoor arena. They have fourteen lesson horses and four instructors, and boast a seven day a week lesson schedule for the client's convenience.

As an addition to their lesson program, the farm offers seven weeks of summer camp for all levels. The summer camp program is either a half day or full day, depending on the age of the child and availability. This program is a great way to expose new riders to horses. Lucky C Stables also hosts four shows a year at their farm, as well as attending over 100 days of horse shows outside the farm. Lucky C has 31 stalls available for boarding, and provides training if needed.

The farm emphasizes safety and knowledge. Children of all ages learn about the wonders of the horse and, with assistance, can develop their riding career into whatever level they want to achieve. As a matter of fact, I was so dazzled that I enrolled

my 5 year old grandson.

For more information, call 845-255-3220 or go visit the farm any day from 9am-5pm at 31 Yankee Folly Road.



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Rosendale Extension Joins Wallkill Valley Rail Trail

by Christie Ferguson, Executive Director, Wallkill Valley Land Trust

In an exciting partnership the Wallkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT) and the Open Space Conservancy (OSC) have acquired 11.5 miles of the former Wallkill Valley Railroad, almost doubling the length of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. The highlight of this purchase is the iconic 940-foot-long railroad trestle perched 150 feet over the Rondout Creek in Rosendale. WVLT, along with OSC and the local communities, must now repair the 114-year-old trestle's steel infrastructure and install wooden decks and railings. In addition, the trail bed needs erosion control measures, trash removal, brush clearing, re-grading, and widening.

When completed this will create almost 24 miles of linear park, connecting the Towns of Gardiner, New Paltz, Rosendale, and Ulster! This important "missing link" in one of the best networks of rail trails in the Hudson Valley will encourage new economic development along the trail and be a recreational and cultural resource for residents and tourist alike. It will provide users with an unparalleled recreational experience as they bike, walk, run, bird watch, horseback ride and cross country ski through many hamlets and towns, as well as through woodlands, open fields and farmlands, discovering a wide variety of birds and other wildlife, along with panoramically beautiful views of the Shawangunk



The railroad trestle over the Rondout Creek in Rosendale, built in 1895.

Ridge and the Wallkill River.

Cost estimates for this work range from \$500,000 to nearly \$1,000,000. As daunting as those estimates seem, the WVLT, OSC, the Town of Rosendale, the Town of Ulster, and the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association are working closely to move forward on this project. WVLT and OSC have applied for several large and small grants to complete the decking across the trestle and open it up to public use, as well as to repair the trail itself. They are confident that with support of the local communities, in-kind donations, grants, collaborative efforts with other organizations, and volunteer dedication, they will be able to achieve the goal.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to make this unparalleled recreational experience a reality! Please contact us to make a donation, join our email list, receive our newsletter, and ask any questions you might have: (845) 255-2761 info@WallkillValleyLT.org and find us on Facebook!

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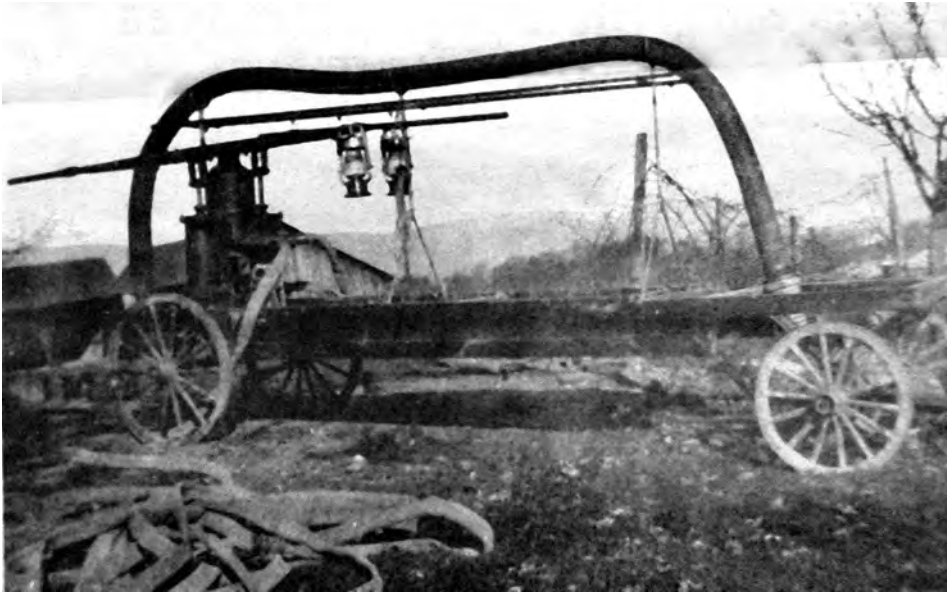
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Fire & Rescue, from page 1

Kathie Holter, Captain of the Gardiner Rescue Squad, emphasizes, "If you don't have family support, it's very difficult." Not surprisingly, when there *is* support, it often turns into involvement. Luke Lyons, Chairman of the Fire District, illustrates, "My wife is now an EMT; my son started out as a cadet."

In addition to no pay, volunteers also get no medical or disability insurance beyond what they have on their own. So what do they get? Kathie Holter says, "We're helping our community. And it's a second family. We have a lot of fun." Dave Bailin concurs; "We're helping people." Fire Department President, Jamie Ridgeway says, "Having my wife be an EMT, that knowledge is invaluable. I have boys who've needed stitches and Kathy has also been to our house more than once to provide first aid."



The only known photo of Gardiner's first pumper truck, circa 1912. Photo courtesy Joan Decker.

Jamie emphasized, "We have probably the biggest threats in the area – rock climbing; forest fire potential; sky diving; low flying planes; farm chemicals; large storage buildings; propane tanks and trucks; narrow and windy roads; new construction . . ." With a 2010 budget of \$342,994, the Fire District owns and pays for maintenance of the equipment and for fire suppression and rescue supplies. The Fire Department owns and maintains the buildings, houses the equipment for which the Fire District pays rent and provides much of the labor to maintain the equipment.

"We don't want people to have to call us, so they need to be aware of safety measures for their homes. We'd rather see them here at pancake breakfasts than at two in the morning. We'll go

out in any weather; we'll go out for any kind of call. But we don't want to have to," is the way Kathie summed up.

The department was formed in 1912. "There's a long line of very dedicated people who have been involved here long before we arrived. There are enough generational bridges that everyone has a little bit of a feel for what it was and why it's still here," Luke Lyons explained. "Now, we've got a cross section of people—the banker, the nurse, the construction guy, the IBMer, just among the four of us . . . a little bit of everything."

The Gardiner Fire Department will celebrate its hundredth anniversary in 2012. Festivities will mark the occasion, to which the town will be invited.

Editor's Note: *The Gardiner Fire Department needs donations annually. We encourage you to put this on your regular "to do" list. Checks should be made payable to Gardiner Fire Department or Gardiner Rescue Squad and mailed to PO Box 271, Gardiner, NY 12525.*

Back ...

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Sidewalks, from page 1

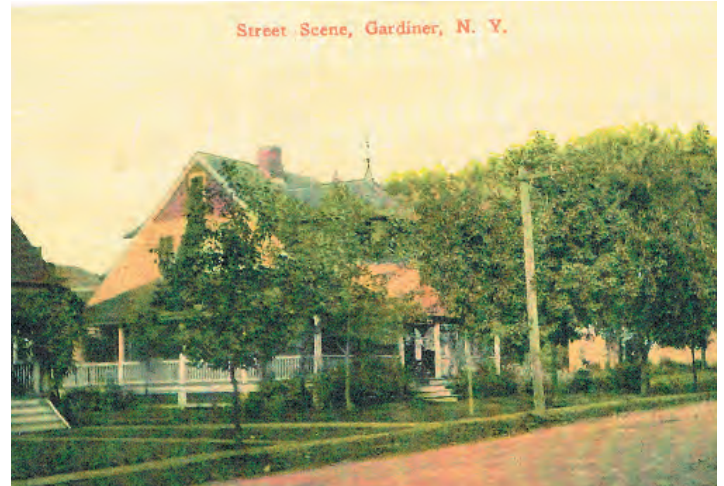
where it curves toward Sand Hill Road (a wine shop is on that corner now). She recalls the sidewalk there as consisting of ashes.

The current plan to rebuild the hamlet's sidewalks has been before the town since at least 2004. According to that plan, Main Street sidewalks would extend farther than they once did, reaching from the Reformed Church east through the central hamlet to the new Town Hall. Besides this there would be a branch reaching down the rail trail to cross Farmer's Turnpike and then connecting to the new Gardiner Library's existing sidewalk.

For years the plan has faced questions. Some people advocated sidewalks for the safety they provide, others tended to doubt the need for them. By 2006 a grant had been secured from federal sources and by 2009 grants from state sources had also been secured. Uncertainty remains, however, about what share of costs will fall to the town to pay. Some advocated that if the town were to pay any share of the cost, the town should create a special sidewalk district for the area where the sidewalks are to be, and require that the property owners there, rather than the taxpayers of the whole town, pay the cost. Former Town Board member Paul Colucci concurred, saying that the hamlet should pay for its new sidewalks because sidewalks would raise the value of hamlet real estate. Town Supervisor Joe Katz and Town Board member Nadine Lemmon, however, worried that this could stress hamlet businesses

and retired residents on fixed incomes, and also argued that the whole town benefits from sidewalks. By early 2009, however, the Town Board had rejected the idea of forming a sidewalk district and though there is some possibility this decision could be overturned, Supervisor Katz now sees the town as paying very little for the sidewalks, making the question of a sidewalk district seem less relevant.

The sidewalks can be built whenever grant funds are made available. This could still take some time since the DOT, having approved the grant, must now approve the plans, and at present is overwhelmed with work.



North side of Main Street, central hamlet, 1916. Sidewalks appear to be concrete, while road seems to be gravel. Photo: Wm. Lohrman collection

According to Katz and Lemmon, phase one is to reach from the Town Hall on Main Street to the Rail Trail crossing. This phase is to be paid for mostly by federal grants and partly by state grants, with only 5% coming from the town. The town has a reserve fund available for this amount. Phase two, which will be paid for entirely by Federal Stimulus funds, will reach from the Reformed Church to the Rail Trail crossing, with a branch to pass south on the rail trail.

While it remains possible that building sidewalks will squeeze out some parking opportunities in the central hamlet, the project is not expected to prevent continued parking on both sides of the street. Nevertheless, the town hopes to improve

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Undated post card (probably 1910s/20s). Reformed Church on north side of gravel road. Concrete sidewalk on south side. Photo: Wm. Lohrman collection

parking by paving the town parking site on Farmer's Turnpike in front of the library entrance pillars. There is also a proposal to add parallel parking on the east side of Second Street, a side road adjacent to HiHo Home Market. **Back ...**

Shared Services: the Future of Government

by Vincent Martello, UC Assistant Deputy County Executive/Communications

Even before being subject to one of the most serious financial crises in recent history, local governments throughout New York had been experiencing a steady decline in revenue and a steady increase in operating expenses. Now, local governments are struggling with how to maintain essential services without increasing the property tax burden on already beleaguered home and business owners.

To those who study governments, it became apparent that the multiple layers of government and taxing jurisdictions, particularly in New York State, were producing many overlapping and duplicative services, resulting in huge inefficiencies and millions of dollars of unnecessary expense to taxpayers. In an attempt to address this, New York State set up a Local Government Efficiency grant program. Under this program Ulster County recently applied for and was awarded a grant to study shared services opportunities, and contracted with Pattern for Progress, a Hudson Valley based non-profit public policy research and planning institute, to conduct in-depth interviews with fourteen municipalities, including

Shared Services ...continued page 12

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Shared Services, from page 11

Gardiner, and to look at multiple operational areas, including highway services.

The report found that substantial savings could be realized if the County was able to reach an agreement with local highway departments and actually pay them to plow and maintain County roads located within their jurisdictions. The report noted that over 30 New York counties were already actively engaged in such agreements, and it looked at several of those that were similar in size and geography to Ulster County. The report also noted that the Town of Hardenburgh, in Ulster County, had been operating successfully under contract with Ulster County for a number of years, and was generally pleased with the results.

After reviewing the report Ulster County Executive Mike Hein invited representatives from the Ulster County Association of Supervisors and Mayors, the Ulster County Association of Transportation Superintendents, the Ulster County Highway and Planning Departments, labor unions and other interested parties to form a committee to review and discuss the study and develop a strategy for implementing findings. The committee has completed an exhaustive review of other regions, addressed questions and concerns brought forward by committee representatives, and has developed a draft agreement and proposed compensation rates. Parallel to this, a team from Ulster County has been meeting with officials from individual towns.

Ulster County is now looking for a verbal commitment of intent from interested towns by mid-May of this year, with a signed agreement by the end of August, prior to the adoption of Town and County budgets. In order to give towns the opportunity to evaluate the program, along with results and savings, first year

agreements will be limited to one year. Subsequent agreements will cover a three to five year period to allow for long-range planning.

In asking towns to seriously consider the County's proposal County Executive Hein noted that the larger fiscal picture for both towns and the County is extremely challenging and that, in addition to local financial pressures, town and county budgets are also subject to the looming State budget deficits, which are certain to have a significant impact on taxpayers. Throughout the shared services discussion County Executive Hein has urged town officials to keep an open mind, evaluate the potential savings, and make an informed decision. The County Executive has been adamant about making sure that the proposal offers a win-win scenario for all parties; lower costs for the County, and increased revenues for the towns.

Back ...

Family Businesses: Not Just Mom and Pop Shops

By Paul Rakov, UCDC Director of Business Development

When most people think of a "family business," Norman Rockwellian images of small shops or enterprising two to three person operations enter their minds. But for two Ulster County companies, now locating on Steve's Lane in Gardiner, family business means big business, bringing much needed jobs to the region.



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Amthor International began with no employees, no budget and lots of vision. The company's humble roots can be traced back to founder Ed Amthor as he began the business in 1928 in an Ellenville blacksmith shop. It is unlikely he imagined, however, that "International" would ever be added to his company's name and that 80 years later the company would be the country's largest manufacturer of truck-mounted tanks. You can bet that the next time you travel the New York State Thruway or I-84, if you see a tanker truck, there's a good chance Amthor International manufactured it.

The company moved its operation to Walden in 1942 to address expansion needs, operating in that location for the next 50 years. In 1992 the company opened a large manufacturing facility in Gretna, Va. Recently, Amthor worked with the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA) to expand its Ulster County facility, relocating its operation to nearby Gardiner, and retaining more than 35 skilled manufacturing jobs for the area.

"Amthor is a family business that cares about Ulster County and the region," said Lance Matteson, CEO of the UCIDA. "It has a long history of providing quality jobs for local residents, exactly the goal of any IDA project."

Another family-run business enjoying "sweet" success is Gillette Creamery, the largest supplier of ice cream products to all classes of trade in Eastern New York State. The company has been family-owned and operated since opening in 1985 in Ellenville as Tri-County Ice Cream, serving a few counties, with four employees and two trucks. Since then the company has

grown to include over 70 employees, 26 trucks, 3,000 accounts in 19 counties and over 2,500 pieces of equipment.

In 2009 the Gillette Family was challenged by their own success. Demand for their products had pushed the limits of their cold-storage warehousing facility and they needed more space. Working closely with County Executive Mike Hein, his staff, the Ulster County Development Agency and the UCIDA, along with regional and state economic development offices, the Gillettes were able to keep their business in Ulster County with plans to move into a new facility in Gardiner in 2010.

"Every job is important in Ulster County," said Matteson, "as is the tax base these companies create for their towns and the county. And when it's a family-owned business it takes on special meaning. The Gillettes and the Amthors wanted to keep their business here and we are glad that they are. It means a lot to all the families who rely on those jobs for their incomes."

Pattie Eakin

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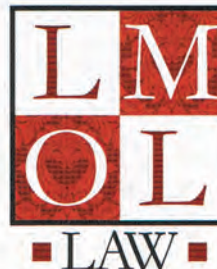
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GAB Membership On The Rise

by Michelle Hathaway

The March mixer of the Gardiner Association of Businesses (GAB) was filled to capacity with its own members as well as those of two neighboring business organizations: the Southern Ulster Rotary and the New Paltz chapter of Business Networking International.



From left: Cindy Dates & Kathy Delano, both of Ulster Savings Bank (GAB), Brian Hons of Verizon Wireless and Frank Tangredi, Realtor (NPBNI)

Hosted by Minnewaska Lodge at its contemporary facility nestled below the Shawangunk Ridge, the event was catered by the award-winning *Main Course*. Both are GAB members. Several new GAB members—including The Natural Pet Center and Len-Rich RV—were among the minglers who enjoyed delicious food and cocktails while exchanging business cards as the sun set behind the ridge.

Upcoming events include an April 21 dinner meeting at Town Hall with government representatives, and a social mixer, May 20, at Café Mio. Visit www.gardinernybusiness.com or GAB on Facebook.

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Amphibian Migrations And Road Crossings

by Laura T. Heady, Biodiversity Outreach Coordinator
Hudson River Estuary Program, NYS DEC

Many volunteers braved cold, rainy conditions during the second weekend in March to record amphibian migrations. Based on volunteer reports, both from the Hudson Valley and New England states, the numbers of salamanders and wood frogs moving toward woodland pools were relatively low. While it was certainly rainy, the temperatures were still a little cold for the much-anticipated "Big Night" migration. What we may see this year instead is a number of 'smaller nights,' depending on weather conditions, with migrations more diffuse over a few weeks.

Volunteers were urged to keep track of local forecasts and to look for migrations on rainy evenings when temperatures were at least 40F. Their observations enable us to identify and map road crossings where salamanders and frogs are especially vulnerable, and to learn more about where their habitats are located. This information can then be used for community planning and for groups of volunteers interested in starting "crossing guard" programs for the breeding season. Over time, we can also learn whether the period of spring migrations may be shifting due to climate change.

An advertisement for Full Moon Farm. It features a photograph of a red cow, a white sheep, and a pink pig in a grassy field. A circular graphic with the text "Grass Fed Beef & Lamb, Pastured Pork & Chicken" is overlaid on the image. To the right of the image, the text reads "Registered Devon Cattle", "Visit us at our new Farm Store on Steve's Lane.", and "Cash & Carry.".

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Push Pin: A Community Calendar

To have your event listed email mihathaway@hvc.rr.com or call 256-0018.
Preference to Gardiner events. Others as space allows.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 st & 3 rd Thursday, 7 pm | Adult Knitting – Gardiner Library. 5/6, 5/20, 6/3, 6/17. Info 255-1255 |
| 3rd Wednesday, 6pm | Community Dinner, Gardiner Reformed Church. Free. Info 255-0190 |
| 1st Wednesday, 7 pm | Gardiner Fire Dept. Ladies' Auxiliary meeting. Gardiner Fire House. Info 255-1689 |
| 3rd Sunday
8 am-12 noon | Pancake Breakfast, Gardiner Fire Dept. Adults \$6; children \$4; under 5 yrs. old free. Sponsored by Gardiner Fire Dept. Auxiliary. Info 255-1689. |
| Sun. Apr. 18, 3-4 pm | Herbal class, Jenkinstown Day Spa, 45 Jenkinstown Rd. Spring cleanse & herbs to help with seasonal allergies. \$15/class; \$10/class for Spa-Ahh members. Info/RSVP 255-3160. |
| Wed. Apr. 21, 6:30 - 9 pm | Gardiner Assn. of Businesses (GAB) dinner meeting, Town Hall. GAB members & guests speak w/ local govt. rep. \$20/person. RSVP Leitha, (888) 909-5444 or Leitha@lmollaw.com |
| Thurs. Apr. 22, 7 pm | Democratic Committee Mtg. Gardiner Library. Info Leon Steiner 255-3963. |
| Sat. Apr. 24 | Annual Rummage Sale – 9 am-3 pm, St. Charles-Borromeo Church Parish Hall. Food avail. Info Marie Regino, 255-1374. |
| Sat. May 1, time TBA | 50s & 60s Dance. The Gold Fox. Organized by Gardiner Day Committee. Info Jaynie Marie Aristeo, 255-8359. |
| Sun. May 2, 12-4 pm | Vendor Blender, Gardiner Fire Dept.. Shop for mom from local direct market vendors, Refreshments. Info Mary Alexander 255-7354. |
| Sat. May 8, 1-6 pm
(Rain date May 9) | 2nd Annual Gardiner Cupcake Festival. Main Street. Old fashioned street festival w/ live music, local food/shopping & CUPCAKES! Free. Cupcake hotline 256-1122. |
| Sat./Sun. May 15 & 16,
12-5 pm | Fresh Fish in the Vineyard. Whitecliff Vineyard, 331 McKinstry Rd. Taste new white wines w/ fresh grilled trout, caught by our winemaker in the Finger Lakes. Info 255-4613. |
| Sun. May 16, 3-4 pm | Top 10 healing herbs to plant in your garden. Jenkinstown Day Spa, 45 Jenkinstown Rd. \$15/class; \$10/class for Spa-Ahh Club members. Info/RSVP 255-3160. |
| Thurs. May 20, 7-9 pm | Gardiner Assn. of Businesses (GAB) Social Mixer. Hosted by Fraleigh & Rakow at Café Mio. Open to GAB members, their families & employees. \$10/person. RSVP Leitha, (888) 909-5444 or Leitha@lmollaw.com . |
| Fri. June 4, time TBA | Women Helping Women Dance. New Paltz VFW. \$20/per. Proceeds to battered women's shelter. Pot luck dinner/Must bring covered dish. Info Linda Majetich-Hansen, 706-0625. |
| Thursdays, May 13 to
June 17, 10 am-12 noon | Growing Together – Phillies Bridge Farm Project. For 2-4 year olds & their parents. Learn/grow w/ hands-on activities. Series: \$120 members/\$135 non-members. Pre-registr. reqd.. Info/register: Amie Barracks: amie@philliesbridge.org or 256-9108 |
| Sat. June 12, 12-3 pm | Spring Celebration, Phillies Bridge Farm. Kid activities, farm tours. Event free, Pizza made on-site in Cobb oven for purchase. Info Jill Rubin: jill@philliesbridge.org or 256-9108. |
| Sun. June 13, 3-4 pm | First Aid for Summer with Herbs. Jenkinstown Day Spa. \$15/class: \$10 for Spa-Ahh Club members. Info/RSVP: 255-3160. |
| Tues. June 15,
6:30-8:30 pm | Gardiner Assn. of Businesses (GAB) Networking Mixer, Hosted by Ulster Savings Bank at The Gold Fox. Open to public. \$7/ Members; \$10/ Non-Members. RSVP Leitha, 888-909-5444 or GAB@gardinernybusiness.com . |

www.thegardinergazette.bbnw.org for on-going and more extensive listings ...

Gardiner Gazette

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The Gardiner Gazette is a quarterly. Release dates as follows:

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Apr. 15 (Submission deadline Mar. 20)
Jul. 15 (Submission deadline Jun. 20)
Oct. 15 (Submission deadline Sep. 20)

Gardiner Gazette articles are written by community members, not by reporters. If you would like to submit an article for consideration contact us at gardinergazette@earthlink.net.

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The 2nd Annual Gardiner Cupcake Festival: May 8th

by the Gardiner Cupcake Festival Committee

Come one, come all! The Second Annual Gardiner Cupcake Festival will be held on Saturday, May 8th, from 1pm - 6pm on Main Street in the Hamlet of Gardiner (Rain date, Sunday, May 9th from 1pm-6pm).

Once again, this popular family festival promises to be an old-fashioned street fair with wonderful live music, local food, pony rides, shopping, a cupcake baking contest, wine tasting and, of course, plenty of cupcakes to enjoy!

For more information about attending or participating in the festival, contact the Cupcake Hotline at 845-256-1122 or check us out on Facebook under "Gardiner Cupcake Festival".

Remember, it is Mother's Day weekend, so bring the moms in your world. Looking forward to seeing you there!