



The Gardiner Gazette

Summer 2010 - Issue #7

A call to community ...

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

Making Sure We Get Where We're Going

by Laurie Willow



It's 7:30 AM on a bright summer morning and I'm driving on North Mountain Road to the town garage. As I go through the gates, a breathtaking vista opens up before me—the Wallkill River Valley with the highland mountains

in the distance. Here is an amazing bird's-eye view of the whole Town of Gardiner. This sight is the "welcome to work" that Charlie Haynes and his remarkable highway crew see every morning, weather permitting. In the winter, of course, when the crew gets called out in a snowstorm at 2:30 AM, they see mostly white; then, they try to remember that view!

Not just hard work, but maintaining a good attitude and a team spirit are what characterizes Charlie Haynes' highway crew and Charlie is a big part of the rare camaraderie that exists among them. He is a leader who sets the pace both in physical work and in respect for each other. During most of my interview with Charlie he talked about what a great crew has developed. The team consists of the Superintendent, two full-time mechanics, seven road workers and the office assistant, Robin, who keeps the business running smoothly. Charlie says his mechanics and drivers are among the best in the industry. They can repair virtually any of their equipment, both mechanical and high-tech, including all the electronic equipment

Highway Superintendent ...continued page 10

A Blast From The Present On-Line Sign-Up For Town Info

by Warren Wiegand, Councilman, Gardiner Town Board

Did you know that it's easy to keep up with what's going on in Gardiner via "blast" emails? They can be sent automatically by the Town of Gardiner to your in-box. Send your email address to www.townofgardiner.org and indicate whether you'd like to receive news, or agendas for Town Board, Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals meetings. Over 600 families have already signed up. See how easy it is to keep up with what's going on in town?

Ridge as Economic Driver

A newly-released economic study determined that the preserved open space on the Shawangunk Ridge serves as an important economic engine for our community, creating jobs, driving tourism-spending and contributing \$12.3 million to the local economy.

"Study of the Economic Impact on the Local Economy of Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Mohonk Preserve and Sam's Point Preserve," was written by Business Opportunities Management Consulting of Rensselaer, N.Y.. It used Money Generation Models developed for the National Park Service to determine the economic impacts these public parks have on the region, driven by visitor spending, employee spending and operations and capital expenses. Key findings include the facts that Minnewaska, Mohonk and Sam's Point host a combined 392,659 visitors who spend over \$13 million annually, and that the three parks generate annual local sales taxes totalling \$459,000 and provide over 350 local jobs. The total economic impact of the parks is \$12,307,593.

According to Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach, "The [parks] are great examples of 'clean and green' contributors to the economy. In addition to benefitting the local tourism market, this study demonstrates their positive impact on jobs and sales taxes."

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In March 2010, a report by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli came to a similar conclusion on open space. "*Economic Benefits of Open Space Preservation*" noted that "rather than conflicting with other goals, open space preservation can provide significant economic benefits." The report goes on to describe the benefits of open space preservation on regional economic growth through promoting industry, such as agriculture, forestry and tourism, contributing to increased land and property values, maintaining aesthetic values and offering outdoor recreational opportunities.

Farmland Protection Efforts Move Forward

by Greg Finger, Chair, Gardiner Open Space Commission

In early June, 2010, the Gardiner Town Board passed a resolution* that is the next critical step in Gardiner's first farmland protection endeavor. The resolution commits the Town to a \$50,000 contribution towards the 50% local match required to retain the \$440,000 Farmland Protection grant awarded for preservation of the Kiernan Farm on Bruynswick Road by the US Department of Agriculture in March. Though the Open Space Institute (OSI) had generously agreed to provide the majority of the required local match, it sought the town's participation in funding the project as the basis for seeking its own Board's approval. Ulster County also indicated willingness to make a \$20,000 contribution, but only if the town was also a funding partner.

The Town Board's June vote represents an important step forward for preservation of open space and farmland in Gardiner, one which was taken, at least in part, in response to the support expressed by many members of the Gardiner community both in writing and at Town Board meetings. Hopefully, this step will not only ensure that the Kiernan Farm preservation project will succeed, but also begin to move forward more open space and farmland preservation projects in Gardiner.

The Board's resolution presents two challenges for the Gardiner community. First, in deference to the difficulties that many of us are experiencing in the current economy, it expresses the clear preference for the town's \$50,000 contribution to be raised through private donations. Accordingly, a fund raising committee, lead by Warren Wiegand & Rich Koenig, has been formed to spearhead that effort (see article page 11). It is important that we all participate in whatever way we can, particularly over the next six months, since OSI's goal is to close on the purchase of development rights by the end of this year.

The longer term challenge presented by the Board's vote is to make certain that this initial farm preservation effort is not the only one Gardiner will undertake. Rather, our goal should be to offer opportunities and options to more willing landowners like the Kiernans, and to educate our neighbors on the benefits

to all of preserving working farms and open space. Doing this will require that we actively seek out funding partners and maximize funding opportunities through the use of the bond fund, and encourage our Town Board and the Gardiner Community to fully embrace the commitment to preserving Gardiner's open space and farmland expressed in our Open Space Plan and Town Law.

Editor's Note: A Town Board resolution resolving to form a committee with the goal of raising \$50,000 passed unanimously. A second resolution committing the Town to using tax dollars to supplement donations if the fund-raising goal is not met passed 3-2, with Carmine Mele and Rich Koenig voting in opposition. **Back ...*

It Used To Be A Dump

by Rich Koenig, Councilman, Gardiner Town Board

Long before the transfer station, long before the landfill, Gardiner, like many communities at the time, had a dump. It was similar to the dump I went to with my grandfather in Otisville, NY, which was located at the top of a hill. We threw our garbage over the embankment.

One of the first things I did when my wife and I bought our house here on the mountain, even before officially moving in, was visit Gardiner's dump. The house was built in the 40's and



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was showing it's age by 1976. As a requirement to closing, the bank wanted the shingles on the roof replaced. The owners, who were living elsewhere, agreed to pay for the shingles if I did the work. With a couple of friends, the deed was done and as it was getting dark, we loaded all the shingles that we had stripped off onto my old pickup truck and left it there to be transported to the dump the following day.

As I pulled into the driveway the next morning, the realization that there were more shingles in the truck than there should have been was brought home by the fact that the frame of the truck was resting on the rear axle, with the leaf springs wearing a frown. Unloading some of the shingles to lighten the load was not an option to be considered. With 4-way flashers on and directions in hand, I gingerly navigated the seven or so miles to the Gardiner dump, only to find my way barred by a gate suitably secured with a nice big lock and chain. Yep, the dump was closed that day. Now this was no Alice's Restaurant scene, but as I looked at my truck, then at the lock and chain, then back at my truck, I knew I wouldn't be taking that load back up the mountain.

The ever present tool box came out (how else do you get home when you drive an old truck) and after carefully unbolting the top board of the gate, I slipped off the lock and chain. After entering the dump, I backed up to the embankment, made my deposit, and exited. As I was re-securing the gate, I noted the schedule, to insure there was not a repeat performance.

But that was yesterday and this is today. We don't have a dump, or a landfill. We have a transfer station, and it just so happens to be a new (less than a year old) transfer station, sporting features that reduce operating costs to the town and add protection to the environment.

Since the town pays for removal of the trash and recyclables by the ton, keeping everything dry (the transfer station now has a roof) is a cost savings, because wet trash obviously weighs more. What isn't obvious is that the town also avoids having to perform the "storm water mitigation" associated with open dumpsters. This process involves treating the water that leaches through the garbage and drains onto the ground after it rains. As you may have suspected, the storm water mitigation process isn't free, so not having to do it, again, saves money. And the environment.

I do have one lament about the new transfer station, although it does have a silver lining. The lament is that there is no longer a metal pile to check out and "pick" through, something I, along with many others, enjoyed. All metal now goes into dumpsters, and, well, climbing through the dumpsters is something they *really* don't want you to do.

The silver lining is that, with the support of the town supervisor and Merry McCall, the transfer station supervisor, bicycles and bicycles parts are avoiding the crusher. Merry is collecting the bicycles before they go into the dumpster and storing them in a shed next to the office at the the transfer station for re-"cycling". Merry started collecting them in May, and early in June I delivered the first load to the Troy Bicycle Rescue in Troy, NY.

While taking the bicycles out of the waste stream makes a lot of sense in environmental and practical terms, it does reduce what Gardiner collects in scrap value. An adult bike weighs about 30 pounds, so with scrap metal going at about a nickel a pound, each bike is worth about a \$1.50. The intent is to recycle bicycles without it costing the town anything, so a donation of \$30 was made, more than covering the scrap value of the first load that went to the bike rescue in Troy (about 13 bikes of various sizes and miscellaneous bike parts). You can help re-"cycle" the bikes by giving Merry an extra ticket and telling her it's "for the bikes." Each extra ticket will allow two bikes to live on.



Gardiner Transfer Station Supervisor Merry McCall says goodbye to some salvaged bikes. Photo: Rich Koenig

Troy Bike Rescue is just one organization that works to rehabilitate bikes, and I know there are many others. If you know of another and are in a position to help coordinate getting bicycles to that organization, please call or email me. 255-5822 or koenig.richard@gmail.com. **Back ...**

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New Paltz Middle School: What Next?

by Barbara Sides

Despite four years of planning and a community forum to obtain voter input and advice, New Paltz School District voters turned out in force in February to defeat a proposed \$50 Million dollar renovation of the Middle School. 2,561 citizens voted against the proposal; 983 for it. School budgets usually attract about 1,500 to 2,000 voters. Clearly, the voters intended to send a message and, according to Donald Kerr, Vice-President of the New Paltz Board of Education and Chair of the Facilities Committee, that message was heard. "I think the board was very humbled and accepting of the Middle School vote. We will take direction from the community. They're the boss. We'll just work within the parameters that we're given."

In addition to the cost of the Middle School renovation, voters expressed concern about the condition of the other district schools. The Board of Education has hired *CS Arch*, the architectural and construction firm that brought the high school renovation in on time and on budget several years ago, to conduct a state mandated facilities review that is required every five years. The review will include cost estimates for repairs and renovations, but Don Kerr adds that in response to voters' concerns, *CS Arch* will use the information they gather to put together a long-term plan for our district. "They're required to do five years in terms of 'here's what's wrong and here's what's right,' he says, "but they're going to go beyond that to say, well, here's how you *fix* what's wrong and here's what the priorities are over the next twenty years." The focus will be on all the district buildings. Kerr is enthusiastic about the firm's plan to put together a large, broad-based community committee to work on goals and priorities and heartily endorses the concept of a long-term plan. The Board was recently informed that the Middle School roof is in need of immediate attention and that the heating system is also a top priority so Kerr adds, "Many of us believe that the Middle School will be the top priority, but the Board of Education is going to stay out of it and let *CS Arch* do their investigation."

In the meantime, the 1.3 million dollars in state construction

money supplied to the district by the EXCEL program (Expanding our Children's Education and Learning), which provides aid for approved school district projects, has now been re-directed to other district schools. Kerr says, "We did a lot of work at Duzine, a lot of work at Lenape and some work at the High School. And we were told by our internal staff that there are no big surprises lurking in the other buildings."

With obvious pride Don Kerr relates that, for the fourth year in a row, New Paltz High School was recently acknowledged by *Newsweek Magazine* as one of the top high schools in the country—number 405 out of 1,622. "That's based on the rigor of their programs," he says, and pending the results of the five-year review and subsequent remedial work, Kerr is confident that the district's buildings will be as sound as its curriculum." **Back ...**

In Memory of Barney Hansen

by Laurie Willow



A driving force in the Gardiner community on many fronts, Barney Hansen succumbed to cancer in April of this year. He will be missed by many for many reasons, but his gift of living by example is one of the strongest legacies he leaves behind. Barney found many avenues through which to connect and give back to the community. When he put time and effort

into a project, others saw its value and were inspired. Barney put energy into the Gardiner Fire Department, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Gardiner Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Barney's last subdivision, Ohioville Acres, will be the first subdivision to enact Gardiner's new affordable housing law. Barney was a strong believer in pay it forward; for every good deed he performed, the recipient was often inspired to do a good deed for someone else.

As I sat at Café Mio, across the table from Linda Majetich-Hansen, Barney's ex-wife and good friend, we talked about the little details that make up the kernel of another person's being. I mentioned how 20 years ago, when I was building houses, a woman in a man's world, Barney always treated me with kindness and respect and shared his expertise and knowledge with generosity. Years later, I still feel gratitude for that gift. Though we sometimes found ourselves on opposite sides of the fence on various issues, Barney and I learned to respect each others point of view. Linda shared a story about Barney's last days that pretty much summed up his philosophy of making lemonade out of lemons. He said, "I'm not happy that I have terminal cancer but I intend to live the rest of



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my life, however short it may be, with as little regret and as much enjoyment as possible." Barney then proceeded to spend the last months of his life seeing old friends, saying good-bye, and finding ways to laugh at the Grim Reaper. Barney created a legacy that will endure in the annals of Gardiner history for many years to come. **Back ...**

Gardiner Grads Receive Scholarships from GAB

by Michelle Terwilliger Hathaway

The Gardiner Association of Businesses (GAB) awarded its first scholarships in June—of \$500 each—to Michael Nelson and Joseph “Joey” Ridgeway, two Gardiner residents who graduated high school.

Nelson, a graduate of Wallkill Senior High School, will use the money toward continuing education at Universal Technical Institute, an automotive, motorcycle, and marine technical school in Exton, PA, that trains students for careers as automotive, diesel or collision repair technicians. Ridgeway, from New Paltz High school, has already landed a job as a welder at Amthor’s.



Michael Nelson flanked by his parents, David & Melissa Nelson. GAB President Leitha Ortiz-Lesh is far right. Photo: Michelle Hathaway.

The scholarships were awarded for demonstrating “an entrepreneurial spirit, a naturally inquisitive disposition, strong leadership skills, and active community involvement,” said GAB President Leitha Ortiz-Lesh. “I am glad we were able to do it.”

As part of its mission, GAB raises money each year to help fund

scholarships through community and business-related events like the Art in Gardiner “plein air paint out” and auction usually held in the fall. This year, the event moves to the spring.

Back ...

What Should the Town Do with the Old Library Building?



Before the (old) Gardiner library was a library, it was the (old) firehouse. In 1976, the fire commissioners deeded the building to the town, which had thoughts of using it for office space. For several reasons (noted in Carleton Mabee’s “History of the Gardiner Library”), the town decided not to proceed with the renovation that would have made it suitable for use as offices. At that point the library, desperate for space, asked if it could move in, in spite of the fact that the building had one light bulb, no heat, water or bathroom.

Now that we have a spanking, shiny new library, what do you think we should do with the old building? Please go to our website, www.thegardinergazette.bbnw.org, where you’ll see a Survey Monkey Link, and let us know your opinion:

- 1) Lease the building to the Gardiner Fire Department so that they can turn it into a fire department museum?
- 2) Sell the building, and put it back on the tax rolls? (The property has been appraised for \$140,000 and though the Board has received one private offer for \$100,000, any sale would have to involve a public advertisement).
- 3) Other ideas?



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Business As Usual

This column features two Gardiner businesses per issue.

Robibero Family Vineyards

by Barbara Sides

Harry Robibero delights in sharing his plans for Robibero's Family Vineyards, the 42-acre winery on Albany Post Road that he and his wife Carole now run with the help of their daughter Tiffany and Tiffany's fiancé, Ryan Selby. Most of us know the location as Rivendell Winery but, in fact, the Robibero's have owned the property since 2003; they rented it to Susan Wine and Robert Ransom, who managed Rivendell until 2008, when they decided to move on. "We always were waiting for the opportunity," Harry Robibero muses. Operating a winery was a long-held dream of the family, so when Carole and Tiffany pledged their support, the decision was made.

As a child, Harry grew grapes and other crops, and made wine with his Grandfather Tony and his cousins. He and his grandfather competed as to who could grow the tallest, sweetest corn. The memories were as sweet as the corn. "I did have a good feel for it as a young child," volunteers Harry. "Our hands were always in the dirt together."

Harry describes the wine courses, heavily weighted with chemistry, that he and his future son-in-law now attend. "Half of the excitement is the learning," Harry enthuses. Cornell Cooperative Extension has been supportive as have other local vineyards. The plan is to eventually cover the property with vines. A contractor by trade, Harry did the entire renovation with the help of his crew and a brother who is a plumber. The quality of the workmanship is evident as is the pride Carole and Harry have in the result. Carole is working on decorative plantings with a landscape architect and visualizes three vine-covered wrought iron arches leading up the driveway. The continual expansion of the vineyards, as well as the construction of a 2,000 square foot wine cave, a pond, and a program that allows customers to make their own wine—pick and press the grapes, bottle and label the wine—are all planned for the future. Carole also talks about the possibility of a B&B someday.

Harry and Carole tell a delightful story. Gardiner's own Jewell Turner, assistant to Building Inspector Hank Vance, lived on the property with her family as a child. She particularly remembers the floor in one of the houses on the property; she learned ballet on it. Sadly, the house was in such disrepair that it had to come down, but Harry Robibero knew the story. He saved a piece of the floor and used the salvaged wood to craft a wine box for Jewell. The gift, of course, delighted Jewell, and the story still brings tears to Carole Robibero's eyes.



The newly renovated deck at Robibero Family Vineyards

Carole and Harry currently live in Westchester, where they raised a son and two daughters, but they plan to build a home on the winery property in Gardiner. "I like the beauty and the slow pace here," Carole adds. They are looking forward to hosting weddings and other celebrations on the 90-foot winery deck and already have a 103-person engagement party planned for July and a wedding booked for 2011. The wedding will require a catering kitchen, and building one is also part of the plan.

When asked what he finds most enjoyable about running his own winery, Harry smiles. "You should see Carole interacting with the customers. I enjoy her enjoying the people." One is left with the strong feeling that Grandpa Tony is smiling, just the way he used to when his grandson won the family competition and grew the tallest and sweetest corn.



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The Natural Pet Center

by Anne Allbright Smith

When Heritage Feed & Supply in Bullville, which opened in 2003, began outgrowing its space, owners Michele and Dominick Zigrossi decided to leave Dominick in charge of the store and look for a second location so Michele could have a holistic store of her own. Ireland Corners had just the spot—the gutted warehouse on Route 208 just south of Route 44/55. But what a job it was restoring that building to the beautiful showpiece it is today: new floor, ceiling, walls and reframed windows, plus an office for Michele and a new storage room in addition to storage in part of the original warehouse. Today the building is spacious and inviting, the array of pet products varied and colorful.



Michele Zigrossi with her huge array of stock

Michele and her manager, Kim Burger, specialize in all-natural pet food and treats for dogs and cats, while featuring equine, poultry and livestock feed as well. Michele has a Bachelor of Science in nutrition from the University of Maine and her husband was an Agriculture Business major, so they are well suited to their special role in our community. Although natural feeds can be expensive, Michele emphasizes that she also has moderately priced, high quality dog food.

On Monday nights all of the displays are rolled back to provide space for a puppy class! Near the storage room a self-serve dog wash will be introduced in the future. The hours have been expanded and the center is now open Monday-Saturday from 10-6, 10-4 on Sundays.

To be informed of events at the center check the calendar

under “events” on Michele’s web site, www.thenaturalpetcenter.com. Also check the photos on their Facebook page, The Natural Pet Center at Ireland Corners. **Back ...**

Gardiner Day Cometh!

by Jewel Turner

Gardiner Day is just around the corner—well, at least it is if you’re on the Gardiner Day Planning Committee. They’re hard at work planning the 2010 festivities as you read this, so save the date; Saturday, September 11th from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM in George Majestic Memorial Park. The day will start with a rip-roaring Americana opening that will usher in a day of games, exhibits, music, shows, and fun—it’s Gardiner’s own World’s Fair.

What would the day be like without the Dunk Tank? There’s great reward in giving your family and friends a free ride into the watery abyss. Music by the 60’s revival band *The Mustangs* will headline rock, blues, and solo acts from around the region. And thanks to Gardiner’s Parks Commission, a brand new pole barn located on the west side of the park will feature even more fun and activities. Fans of skateboarding will see demonstrations from the bleachers while inside the park, dancing troupes, karate demonstrations, and a business tent fill the field.

Of course, there will be food food food. Whether it’s grass-fed

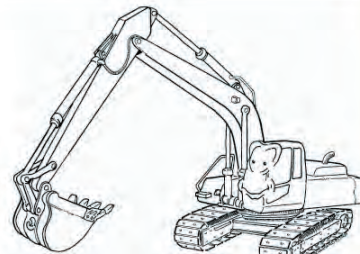
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Shared Services: An Update

by Vincent Martello, former UC Assistant Deputy County Executive/Communications

Ulster County Executive Mike Hein's proposal to pay towns to perform winter and possible light summer maintenance of County-owned roads within their jurisdictions (*Gardiner Gazette*, Iss. #6, Spring 2010) was made in response to a study commissioned with funding from a New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant. The study pointed out that over 30 counties throughout New York State were already engaged in similar arrangements with their local communities and that significant savings could be realized if a county could pay a town less than what it currently cost it to perform the services, and more than what it would cost the town to take on the additional work; in other words, a win-win-win scenario for both parties and taxpayers.

Following the release of the study, Hein formed a committee comprised of county and town leaders, along with representatives from labor and citizens organizations, to explore the potential savings opportunities in Ulster County and to develop an action plan to implement the proposal. The Implementation Committee held extensive discussions, asked and answered many questions, developed draft agreements and considered and discussed mile rates offered by the County. At the same time, representatives of the Ulster County Department of Public Works/Highway Department and the County Executive's Office met with Highway Superintendents, Town Boards and interested taxpayers throughout the County to outline details of the proposal and to answer a multitude of questions.

As of this writing the County has visited and met with the Town Boards of the towns of Gardiner, Marbletown, Rosendale, Woodstock, Wawarsing and New Paltz. The Town of Gardiner has signed the shared services agreement with the County and was actually the first town in Ulster County to do so. It is a one year agreement to test the concept. Gardiner's Highway Department will do winter maintenance (snow removal, sanding, etc.) on McKinstry Road and Sand Hill Road, a total of five miles. The county is also close to a final agreement with the Towns of Lloyd, New Paltz, Saugerties, Shandaken and Woodstock. In order to meet town and county budget deadlines, all agreements must be finalized by August 15, 2010. **Back ...**

Suicide Awareness Ride Raises \$10k

By Michelle Terwilliger-Hathaway

Thanks to Gardiner businesses, riders and volunteers from near and far, the third annual "Here Comes the Sun" motorcycle run on June 5th raised nearly \$10,000! The event featured a two-hour scenic motorcycle ride and "after" party with live music. Funds raised will bring suicide prevention programs, mental health awareness and anti-bullying campaigns to high schools and colleges in Orange, Ulster, Sullivan, Dutchess, Putnam and Rockland Counties.



A special thanks to The Village Market & Bakery; Café Mio; Bistro Mountain Store; Ireland Corners General Store; Skydive the Ranch, Inc; Jenkinstown Day Spa; The Gold Fox; Tantillo's Farm Market; Wrights Farm Market, and ImageINK for supporting us. Next year's event is June 4. (*Editor's note: the author participated in memory of her brother, who took his life in 2007.*) **Back ...**

Tantillo on TV:

Gardiner Man Assists Acclaimed Artist

by Michelle Terwilliger-Hathaway

Frank Tantillo of Marabac Road appeared in a PBS TV segment aired on WNET channel 13 on April 30th. Tantillo was also mentioned in an article in The New York Times and on the internet. Both the video segment and article showcased Tantillo's work as a contractor/partner with internationally known artist Maya Lin, best known for creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Tantillo and his team, of Tantillo Landscape Supplies & Services, Inc. on Marabac Road, operated bulldozers, excavators and other heavy machinery to sculpt the landscape to meet the artist's vision for her recent work called "Storm King Wavefield," on permanent exhibition at the Storm King Art Center, in Mountainville, NY.

Mrs. Lin "relied heavily" on Tantillo because he was "sympathetic and really supportive" of her vision, according

Pete Patel

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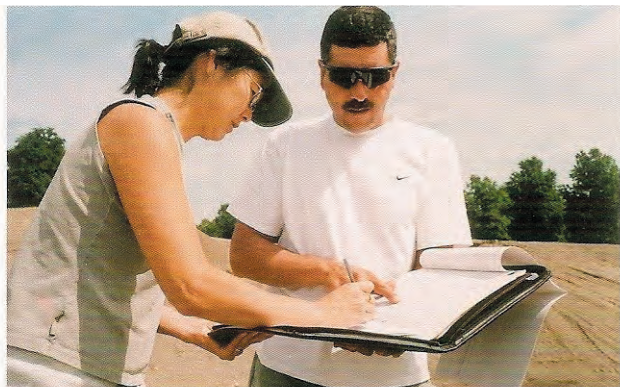


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to the Times article. The outdoor sculpture features a series of seven consecutive and parallel rows of undulating terraced land and grasses with 10- to 14-foot swells – and is designed to resemble ocean waves. It encompasses 240,000 square feet on an 11-acre site.



Maya Lin and Frank Tantillo reviewing plans for "Storm King Wavefield" as seen in a PBS documentary.

Back ...

Gardiner Day, from page 7

beef burgers, Italian specialties or delicious baked goods, no one ever goes hungry on Gardiner Day. The committee's successful spaghetti dinners, dances, and fund raisers all help make Gardiner Day a day to look forward to. By the way, don't forget the blood drive on the July 19 from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Town Hall. Donors needed. So keep your eyes and ears open for more announcements and scheduling info. And why not volunteer this year? You'll be part of making Gardiner Day 2010 a great success. For scheduling and vendor information call 845-255-9675 x 103 or email togjewell@libertybiz.rr.com.

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Lightsey Cycles in Gardiner Assists Walkill Scouts



Members of local Cub Scout Pack 76 completed the final requirement to earn their biking belt loop and sports pin with an early June visit to Lightsey Cycles. Shop owner Kirk Lightsey gave the Walkill boys a hands-on demonstration of how to change a flat tire. They finished the afternoon with a ride along the Rail Trail and pizza at Pasquale's.

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Highway Superintendant, from page 1

and software that runs the trucks and machinery. Not that long ago, Charlie says, you didn't have to be a computer whiz to fix a truck. Now, you do.

Their day typically starts at 6:30AM. When there is a snowfall, the day starts at 2:30 AM. The team gets assigned the projects for the day and the week. There are short term jobs and planned road maintenance and road reconstruction. Charlie is also the person who must approve the construction of new roads for town approval.

Charlie started working for the Town of Gardiner Highway Department in 1979 as a mechanic. In 1985, he took the six and a half hour Assistant Superintendent of Highways test and passed with flying colors. Charlie became Walt Bartsch's Assistant in 1990 (by the way, Walt is 90 years old now and was last seen under the kitchen sink fixing his plumbing). When Mike Calderone became Highway Superintendent, Charlie became his assistant. This year marks the ninth year that Charlie is serving as the elected Superintendent of Highways. **Back ...**

Tuthilltown Spirits Nabs Gold & Two Silver Medals

by Michelle Terwilliger Hathaway



Tuthilltown Spirits owner, Ralph Erenzo, at the distillery. Photo: Michelle Hathaway

Tuthilltown Spirits of Gardiner was awarded a gold and two silver medals in Louisville, KY, the heart of Bourbon country, when the American Distilling Institute, the industry association of micro distillers in the U.S., announced the top awards for artisan spirits from among 250 micro distilleries.

Tuthilltown's Hudson Manhattan Rye Whiskey and Hudson Four Grain Bourbon took silver medals in their respective categories

while Manhattan Rye Whiskey was awarded the Gold Medal. The distillery, on Gristmill Lane, also won for Best Package Design.

Tuthilltown Spirits is the first whiskey distillery in New York since Prohibition. It produces fine hand-made whiskeys, vodka, and rum from the bounty of local Hudson Valley farms and orchards. Both the whiskeys entered in the competition were made with rye and corn from Tantillo's Farm in Gardiner. The distillery's whiskeys and vodka are served in the finest restaurants, cocktail lounges, and hotels in 17 states, seven European Union countries and Australia. Open for tours on weekends, Tuthilltown Spirits will host a Facebook Fan Appreciation Day on Sunday, July 18, from 12 noon to 6:00 pm. There will be free tours & tastings, a live string band, and a raffle. A very special (and small) batch of NY Whiskey will be available only on this day. For more info visit: www.tuthilltown.com.

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Help Preserve A Wonderful Farm ... and Keep Taxes Down

Gardiner's share of the funding for preservation of the Kiernan Farm (see *Farmland Protection Efforts Move Forward*, page 2) will be raised in a novel manner—via donations from residents who want to preserve working farms *and* keep their taxes low. In order to raise \$50,000 by the end of the year the Town Board passed a resolution stating that "the Town of Gardiner will appoint a committee with the goal of raising \$50,000 dollars." The volunteer committee (Rich Koenig and Warren Wiegand, co-chairs, with Gale Foster, Ray Smith, Greg Finger, Mike Boylan, and Pam O'Dell) has already started to make the town aware of the fund-raising campaign and its benefits. Efforts will include newspaper articles, websites, signs, and, hopefully, a mid-summer event featuring local food and music.

Since many Gardiner residents will benefit—in their eyes, hearts, and wallets—from the preservation of this working farm, we hope everyone will contribute. Just use the coupon at right, or PayPal at townofgardiner.org to donate as generously as you are able. All contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you!

Back ...

Tackling Childhood Obesity with Complete Streets

by Nadine Lemmon

Like policymakers across the country, officials in Kingston have found that tackling childhood obesity requires a big toolbox that includes both education and investment in safe routes for walking and biking. To this end, the city's "A Healthy Kingston for Kids" initiative, funded by a \$360,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), identifies development of a complete streets policy and law as a key goal. The city officials and community organizations running the initiative will have to coordinate with a diversity of partners, embark on a grassroots

Complete Streets ...continued page 12

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Complete Streets, from page 11

education and advocacy program, and eventually build the community's overall capacity for active living.

Kingston's historic neighborhoods are well-suited for walking and cycling. The city proper is only 3 miles across, and is relatively compact, but its core is bisected by Broadway, a four-lane road, and many of its streets lack sidewalks or bike lanes. Though Kingston's proximity to the Hudson River made it a key shipping hub before railroads transformed the region, the city now has a depressed urban core. 19.6% of its residents (compared to 14% state-wide) and 26.5% of its kids are living below the poverty level. The well-known link between poverty and obesity is fully evident in Kingston—according to the Ulster County Health Department, about **44% of the children are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight**, compared to 33% of children across the country.

In January, Kingston and 40 other communities across the United States were awarded multi-year grants to find community-based solutions to childhood obesity. The grants targeted communities with high obesity levels exacerbated by other factors such as poverty, unemployment, crime, insufficient infrastructure, and poor food options. In New York State, Buffalo, Rochester, and Kingston were awarded grants.

The first step will be a thorough assessment of existing policy and identification of one pilot project, such as revitalizing Broadway, to kick-start the program. A separate committee, "Safe Routes to Schools and Parks," is mapping the walkability of routes within a 2-mile radius of the schools and parks in the city, and two additional committees are addressing access to healthy foods.

Turning around the situation in Kingston will require a lot of work and the effort there mirrors the efforts by First Lady Michelle Obama to get kids moving again. What cities like Kingston are finding is that they will need to work on both on streets and on hearts and minds. Around the four o'clock school-bus hour, in neighborhoods close to Kingston, one can often see parents sitting in their idling cars at the end of long driveways. The child gets out of the bus and into the car, and the parent backs the car up the driveway, delivering the child home.

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Gardiner Man Receives Patent for Windproof Market Umbrella

Gardiner resident Martin Hathaway (husband of Gazette advertising rep Michelle Hathaway) was recently issued a patent for his award-winning invention, "The Self-Closing Windproof Market Umbrella." The umbrella resembles any other patio or market umbrella, but the innovative, patented design enables it to close automatically in winds of about 30 mph, thus helping to ensure it won't snap its pole, tear its fabric or topple its table, thereby avoiding potential injury to nearby people or damage to surrounding property. It is a unique and useful device that will limit injury and unnecessary expenses. "You'll be blown away, but your umbrella will not," said Hathaway.



Martin Hathaway with his invention. Photo: Michelle Hathaway

Hathaway, of Sand Hill Road, showcased his invention in June of 2008, in Pittsburgh, PA at the INPEX[®] trade show, America's largest expo for inventions and new products. Mr. Hathaway was awarded a gold medal from INPEX[®] organizers and another prize from the Bosch Group, a leading global supplier of technology, tools, and services that applies for 3,000 patents a year.

More than 1,000 entries from 15 countries were judged by an international jury, with winners determined on the basis of usefulness, creativity and overall appeal. Hathaway will soon begin looking for a licensee to take his product to market. For more information, email martinhathaway@hvc.rr.com, or call 845.256.0018. The umbrella can also be seen at www.youtube.com.

Whitecliff Bests Napa and New Zealand

It is big news for a small, artisanal winery to win best in show at the San Francisco International Wine Competition, especially against more than 4,000 wines from more than 20 countries. Whitecliff Vineyards' 2009 Riesling won a double gold medal (unanimous amongst the judges) and Best White Wine in show among all the other double gold winners. This means Gardiner, New York, just beat the Napa chardonnays, the French Chablis and the New Zealand sauvignon blancs. Not bad! Whitecliff is at 331 McKinstry Road. 255-4613.



Whitecliff Owner Yancey Stanforth-Migliore poses with some of her award-winning wines. Photo: Michelle Hathaway

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Why Sidewalks? And When?!??

by Nadine Lemmon, Councilwoman, Gardiner Town Board

At a recent Town Board meeting, an audience member asked why we need sidewalks. There are two key reasons: safety and economic development.

Without sidewalks or crosswalks in our hamlet, and with a blind and dangerous S-curve, crossing the road is scary—especially for older pedestrians. New York State has the 3rd highest rate of pedestrian deaths in the country for people over 65. Older pedestrians take longer to cross the road and are often not as nimble at getting out of harm's way. Part of the reason the state ranks so poorly for pedestrian safety is that New York spends fewer federal dollars on pedestrian and cyclist safety projects per capita than most other states. Ranking #44, NY spends 1% of federal funds (\$0.73 per capita) on pedestrian safety, while 22.5% of New York traffic fatalities are pedestrians (over 21,000). Sidewalks and streetscape improvements can help slow down traffic, which is crucial for pedestrian safety. A pedestrian struck by a car traveling at 20mph has a 95% chance of survival, but if the car is travelling 40mph the pedestrian's chance of survival drops to 15%. So, as

a recent AARP editorial stated: "How do older pedestrians cross the road in NYS? Very carefully!"

Sidewalks also help to assure that all of those traveling through our hamlet will be encouraged to stop, park the car, and walk to our various shops—and hopefully spend money! A strong central hamlet provides local employment and local sales tax dollars. Many studies have shown that buying locally helps to assure that money is invested back into our community—instead of being shipped off to the owners of Walmart in Bentonville, Arkansas.

We've been talking about sidewalks for a long, long time, and they are coming....I promise! As Carleton Maybee's article in the last Gazette stated, there are two separate projects—Phase One goes from the Town Hall to the rail trail. It looks as if Phase Two, which goes from the Reformed Church to the library will actually be constructed first—it is fully designed and approved by DOT and should go into construction this year. Phase One is still in the questionable pile. The segment from Town Hall to the rail trail has a very limited right of way and each of the adjacent property owners has given a small sliver of their land to the town so that the project could go forward (the Town can only work on Town-owned property). This right of way acquisition is a very lengthy process—and I'm incredibly grateful to the 13 property owners who have been cooperative....these sidewalks wouldn't have happened without them.

Back ...



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Have You Seen A Box Turtle Lately?

by Anne and Ray Smith

We, along with the expertise of biologist Joe Bridges, have been monitoring Eastern box turtles on our 65 acres since 2005. They are on New York State's list "of special concern" and our goal is to learn their range(s), where they hibernate and to observe their behavior in general. For the past three years the Wallkill Valley Land Trust has hosted an annual Turtle Day in May, when residents are invited to come join in the turtle hunt. You can see photos from these events plus learn about the project at www.boxturtlesny.com.

The carapace design on the shell of an Eastern Box Turtle is as unique as a fingerprint so we can identify them easily (we do not mark the turtles or confine them in any way). In five years of monitoring we have found 42 turtles, 14 of which have visited us in more than one year. We have watched them emerge from hibernation in the spring, followed the females as they move to their nesting sites, and discovered many nests plundered by raccoons, coyotes, skunks, snakes, etc. We have photos of all of "our" turtles.

Transmitters on three of the turtles have made this an especially productive year. Each glued-on transmitter will last a year and we will remove it when we next find the turtle. (The ones with transmitters are all repeaters, so we do expect to see them again.) The main lesson of the transmitters has been that box turtles travel much farther than we had thought. When we lost the signal we blamed it on the transmitter, the receiver, the reception. Imagine our surprise when the DEC emailed us on June 16 to tell us that someone on River Park Drive had found one of our turtles. We had last seen "Alpha," our #1 turtle from

2005, in the rear of our field on May 4. She had traveled 2/3 miles! Apparently she has since laid her eggs near a mailbox there. All that remains is the hole and some dried up eggshells, but the transmitter tells us that Alpha is still in the area. My trained tracking dogs and I have been tracking her on River Park Drive since hearing from the DEC. Where will she go next? We have asked some of the residents of River Park and Emmy Lane to be on the lookout since the



"Alpha" in the tall grass at River Park.
Photo: Anne Smith

transmitter can only tell us so much; even when we reach the location the signal is indicating the turtle could be hidden in tall grass, not to mention plenty of poison ivy.

Eastern Box turtles can live as long as you and I if they aren't run down by their only real enemies—cars or mowers. Unfortunately, they like to dig their nests in shale driveways. Our neighbor mows his field regularly but carefully leaves a margin of tall growth next to the shared driveway, keeps his blades higher than usual, and watches ahead for signs of turtles as he mows. We urge everyone to do the same. We lost a turtle last year to the brush hog so we'll wait this year, and mow in late November when they are in hibernation.

We may have an unusual large box turtle population on our acreage, but suspect that there are also far more turtles about than anyone knows. Therefore, if you find a box turtle we invite you to take a photo of it and send it to us at annesid@gmail.com and we will add it to our web site!

Back ...



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Back ...



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.

Mon. to Thurs. July 19 to 29
9 am-2 pm, (Session 1 of 2)

2nd & 4th Tues.

7 pm (July through Oct)

Wednesdays, Sept 22 thru
Spring, 3pm

Wednesdays (9/15, 22,29 & 10/
6 only) 10:30 am

Thursdays, 1 pm (thru July 29)

First Thurs. each month, 3 pm

Fridays, 10:30-11:15 am
(thru July 30)

Fridays, 4-8 pm

Fridays, 12:30-4 pm thru Aug.
27

Sundays, 4 pm, from July 25

Sat. July 17, 5 pm

Sun. July 18, 4 pm

Sun. July 18, 12-6:00 pm

Mon. July 19, 5 pm

Tues, July 20, 5 pm

Wed. July 21, 5 pm

Wed. July 21, 6:30-9 pm

Mon. July 26, 4:30 pm

Thurs. July 29, 4:30 pm

Daily Aug. 16 - Sept. 30 -

Daily Aug. 18 - Sept. 15

Mon. to Thurs. Aug. 2 to12,
9 am- 2 pm, (Session 2 of 2)

Mon. Aug 2, 4:30 pm

Farm Camp for kids ages 6-11, Phillies Bridge Farm. \$360 members; \$400 non-members.
Pre-registration reqd. www.philliesbridge.org/ame@philliesbridge.org or 256-9108.

Gardiner Library Opera Guild, Gardiner Library. Discussion led by Roger Thorpe. No
knowledge of opera is needed. Free. Info 255-1255 or www.gardinerlibrary.org

Tea with former library director Peg Lotvin & other neighbors & friends. Gardiner Library.
Free. Info 255-1255.

QiGong w/ Martha Cheo, Gardiner Library \$40/4 sessions; \$12 drop-in. Info 255-1255.

Yoga Classes for Children under 6, Gardiner Library. Free. 255-1255.

Gardiner Library Book Club, Gardiner Library. Free. 255-1255.

Family Music Classes (birth to 4), Gardiner Library. \$40/4 sessions, 255-1255.

Gardiner Green Market, Gardiner Library. Local produce, seedlings, perennials. Workshops
weekly @ 6 pm (7/23: Making Smoothies; 7/30: Keeping Critters Out of the Garden)

Canasta Group Gardiner Library. Free. 255-1255.

Picturing America: Series of American History Discussions, Gardiner Library. Free. 255-
1255.

Family Circus w/ Claire the Clown, Gardiner Library. Free. 255-1255.

Intro to Forest Management w/ Ryan Trapani, Gardiner Library. Free. 255-1255.

Tuthilltown Spirits Facebook Fan Appreciation Day, 14 Grist Mill Ln. Free tours & tastings.
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Kids' Circus Skills Workshop w/ Claire the Clown, Gardiner Library. Free. Kids ages 6-12.
Pre-registration req. 255-1255.

Too Much Packaging! Paper Cloth Making, Gardiner Library, Free. Pre-registration req. 255-
1255.

Kids' Circus Skills Workshop w/ Claire the Clown, Gardiner Library, Free. Kids ages 6-12.
Pre-registration reqd. 255-1255.

Gardiner Assn. of Businesses (GAB) Dinner Meeting, location/host TBA. Want to host?
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Kids Cartooning & Comic Strip Workshop, Gardiner Library. Free. Pre-registration
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Kids Pop-Up Book Workshop, Gardiner Library. Free. Pre-registration reqd. 255-1255.

Handmade Books by Summer Reading Program participants. Library Hrs. 255-1255.

Art exhibit by Mira Fink. Library Hours. 255-1255 or www.gardinerlibrary.org

Farm Camp for kids 6-11, Phillies Bridge Farm. \$360 members; \$400 non-members. Pre-
registration reqd. www.philliesbridge.org/ame@philliesbridge.org/256-9108.

Kids Cartooning & Comic Strip Workshop, Gardiner Library. Free. Pre-registration
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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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