



# The Gardiner Gazette

Fall 2010 - Issue #8

A call to community ...

Free ... please take one



In a little under a year the Town of Gardiner will have clear title to this house at the corner of Steve's Lane and Dusenberre Road. Then what happens? Story page 12 ...

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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.

## Jean Savago: Court Clerk of the Town of Gardiner

by Laurie Willow



Most people only get involved in the workings of the town court when they find themselves on the wrong side of the law. In Gardiner, that situation is somewhat eased by the effective but low-profile presence of Jean

Court Clerk...continued page 10

## World Trade Center Reflecting Pools Being Built in Gardiner

by Nadine Lemmon

Talk about a David and Goliath story. Two men, Kurt Wulfmeyer and Chris Powers, who own a small art manufacturing company, competed against the best and the brightest to win the contract to build the 9/11 memorial for the World Trade Center site in New York City. They won. The key to their success was coming up with novel design and engineering ideas that helped to radically reduce costs while reducing the potential for human error in the construction process. And the hub of activity is here, now, on Steve's Lane, in Gardiner.

The memorial, titled "Reflecting Absence," will be installed at the site of the twin towers that were destroyed in 2001. The memorial plaza at street level will be filled with a forest of trees. Two

recessed pools in the exact footprint of the former buildings will drop 30 feet below street level and the perimeter of the pools will be lined with steel parapets. The parapets will be inscribed with the names of the victims and their interior walls will be a cascade of the largest man-made waterfalls in the United States.

The memorial was originally designed by the Israeli-American architect Michael Arad, but it is Kurt and Chris who've been working out the details of how to make it actually happen. One of the more ingenious ideas

9/11 Memorial...continued page 8

## The Jewel In Gardiner's Crown

by Laurie Willow

What has 103 acres, killer views of the Shawangunk Ridge and the Wallkill River, and is arguably the most valuable piece of undeveloped land in Gardiner? It's a site owned by all of us who live and pay taxes in Gardiner. Located at the end of Steve's Lane, it is all but hidden by the presence of the Transfer Station, which occupies only about 17 acres. The rest of the land is still wild and undeveloped.

Coincidentally, there has been interest in this land coming from several quarters at the same time. There is a group that has interest in a dog park. There are folks who want to create walking and riding trails that could hook up with the Rail Trail. And of course, the fishers, boaters and picnic lovers have expressed an interest, too.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> when ten people gathered at the Gardiner Library to address the possibility of starting a world-class outdoor sculpture park, the town's spectacular land along the Wallkill was discussed once again; it happens to have views of the ridge, and happens to be close to an industrial zone that actually produces these kinds of large-scale works of art (see World Trade Center article, pg. 1). This group discussed the possibility of beginning small, with a temporary exhibition produced (hopefully) in collaboration with SUNY New Paltz, and though the venue is still up in the air, the land at the transfer station does seem ideal.

Greg Glasson, a Gardiner resident who is the principle of Glasson Sculpture, has taken the lead in meeting with SUNY representatives and locals interested in the idea. If you'd like to get involved with the sculpture part of the project, please contact Greg at: gglasson@hvc.rr.com.

**A trip of 1,000 miles begins with one step!** If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested in designing and creating a multipurpose park on these 103 amazing acres, please come to the Library on Wednesday, October 20th, at 7:30 to join in a discussion of possibilities. Call Laurie Willow for more information at 255-7827.



*An aerial view of the 103-acre property at the foot of Steve's Lane. Image from Ulster County Real Property Tax Maps*

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## Just A Bite ...

*This column reports on exemplary offerings from area restaurants.*

### World's Best French Toast at Café Mio

by Carol O'Biso

It was a tough job, but somebody had to do it. I recently tried both the "Strawberries and Cream" French Toast (\$8.50) and the intriguing "Caramelized Banana and Bacon" French Toast (\$9.00) at Café Mio. I do have some self-respect so, no, I did not order them in the same visit.

Both versions of the toast feature two large, thick slices of dense, good-quality bread with deeply browned, crisp edges that contrast beautifully with the creamy, eggy centers. The Strawberries and Cream variation is rich but light, mounded generously with sweet, ripe strawberries (which mutate into baked apples, pears or other fruit depending on the season), dusted with powdered sugar and served with maple syrup. It's a big serving but I happily finished mine. My companion struggled.

The Banana and Bacon version features bananas fried with sugar until the sugar melts and turns into a rich caramel. With two slices of French toast, *two whole* bananas and *four* slices of bacon this was, while absolutely delicious, HUGE. I have been (lovingly) accused of having the eating capacity of four young, male gorillas but banana and bacon French toast got the better even of me.

Owner Mike Bernardo says he doesn't mind if people share, and next time I wake up craving bananas and bacon I'm going in with



Seasonal baked Honey Crisp apple French toast  
at Cafe Mio. Photo: Mike Bernardo



back-up troops. Café Mio, 2356 RT 44/55 (Gardiner Gables). Open daily, except Tuesday, 8:30 to 4:30.

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## Flowers In December

by Anne Allbright Smith

If you think that everything is over by the end of October and that no flowers will bloom again until spring—you're wrong! You can find star-like yellow flowers on leafless stems from October through December. This is WITCH-HAZEL (*Hamamelis virginiana*) and it is quite a remarkable shrub not only because it is the last plant to bloom in the Northeastern forest, but because the fruit, flowers and next year's leaf buds all appear on the branch simultaneously.



Witch-hazel in bloom. Photo: the internet!

The flower has four slender yellow petals, and the fruit is a two part capsule containing two glossy black seeds. There are few

*December flowers...continued page 17*

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## A Successful Summer

by Joe Katz, Town Supervisor

This was a great summer for the citizens of Gardiner. Our Parks and Recreation Commission has been very active in making Majestic Park a real community asset.

First of all, our Summer Recreation Program has been expanded to 225 children ages five through 13. The program, under the direction of Frank LaRonca and his staff of 26 counselors, was a model of fun, friendship and learning. The program was five days a week from 9 AM to 3 PM. On Monday and Wednesday, Majestic Park was the scene of sports, arts and crafts, games and the library program. On Tuesday and Thursday, the camp traveled by bus to the Ulster County Pool for recreational swimming and instruction. Friday was trip day: the Ulster County Fair, SplashDown, roller skating and Minnewaska State Park are examples of the trips during the summer.

The Parks and Recreation Commission, under the chairmanship of Mike Gagliardi, has also been active in parks improvement. A new pole barn, 40 feet by 90 feet has been erected. The building was financed by recreation fees charged to developers and a substantial donation from a private citizen. This building will be used for rainy day activities of the camp. In addition, when complete with bathrooms and kitchen facilities, community functions will be held in this beautiful large open space. Commission plans for the future include soccer fields and an amphitheatre.

I want to thank the members of the Parks and Recreation commission for their tireless devotion to the Gardiner Community. Volunteers are the backbone of Town Government and their work is greatly appreciated. Check out our wonderful park and see what I mean.

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## Preserving Kiernan Farm Privately

### How Much Should I Give?

by Ray Smith

*"Life is not fair; get used to it." – Bill Gates*

The Gardiner Town Board has committed \$50,000 to the Open Space Institute for the preservation of the Kiernan Farm. Six volunteers are working to raise that money by private donations before year-end, when the transaction is expected to close.

Suppose the Town had arranged a \$50,000 loan at 6% to be repaid monthly over twenty years. Total payments over that period would be \$85,972—\$50,000 of principal and \$35,972 of interest. We, the taxpayers, would pay that interest. If we *each* contribute our fair share to the private fundraising effort, we save \$35,972 in interest. What's my fair share? There's the problem ...

At New Year's, Tax Collector Michelle Mosher mails 2,900 tax bills to property owners in Gardiner. These bills include the much larger county tax bill. You don't have to understand the bill; you just have to pay it. All the checks come back to Michelle and the really swell thing—it's not share and share alike with the county. Michelle keeps *all* the tax money for Gardiner until our tax levy is fully paid, normally by mid February. Only then does she send tax money to Kingston.

We six volunteers raising the money for the Kiernan Farm can't mail you a bill you're obliged to pay, and we have no money for stamps or other expenses anyway. Those collection cans, the big signs around town, we bought and paid for with our own money. Nor are we able to bill for a big daddy like County of Ulster, whose cut we can skim until we get our own. We have to do it one on one, by phone and email. Sometimes the first question we get is "What's Kiernan Farm?" We'll never reach everyone in Gardiner this way, even if all would be willing and able to contribute their "fair share."

So, forget fair share.

Contribute whatever you can, but as much as you can. So far contributions have ranged from \$20 to \$1,000 with the average contribution about \$150. Have a look at the coupon to the left (or donate online at [www.townofgardiner.org](http://www.townofgardiner.org)) but please write a large check now, while you're thinking about it and still impressed with my logic. Thanks. [Click to go back ...](#)

### Donation Coupon

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Open Space Fund, PO Box 1, Gardiner, NY 12525.

**Thank you!**



## Gardiner Survey Reveals Silent Majority:

### Respondents Support Sale of Old Library Building



At the September seventh Gardiner Town Board meeting *The Gardiner Gazette* released the results of the town-wide survey that asked residents their opinion on the old library building—whether the Town should lease it to the Fire Department for a museum, or sell it.

Respondents voted 154 to 25 (86% to 14%) to sell the building. A second question, inviting “other ideas or comments,” attracted 54 respondents. The main reason cited by those interested in selling the building was financial considerations. Many respondents discussed the impact on taxpayers to restore and maintain the building, the desire to get the building back on the tax rolls and the desire to use the sale proceeds to lower taxes. Some respondents interested in leasing the building cited the Fire Department’s long contribution to Gardiner and supported some historical or Fire Department use.

Full survey responses are available at <http://the.gardinergazette.bbnw.org>. In total, 185 people participated in the survey. Citizen attendance at Town Board meetings is at times sparse—at the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, fewer than 10 people showed up. Sometimes, when there is a hot topic on the agenda, 30-50 people will show up, so to get this many responses on an issue that the Board is currently deliberating on is tremendous, and we thank you for your participation!

As far as what happens with the old library building, stay tuned.

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## Gardiner Green Market To Continue All Year

by Anne Dale Rogers

The Gardiner Green Market at the Gardiner Library, has been a welcoming gathering spot this summer! Early last spring a team of five Gardiner residents (Emmy Abrahams, Peg Lotvin, Annie O'Neill, Anne and Dave Rogers) wanted to establish a place where people could buy local produce from very local farmers, a place to come and meet friends, and a place to just relax in a special setting. The new Gardiner Library seemed the perfect place for this to happen.

Communities across the country lack gathering spaces—and they’re so important to individual health and the health of a vibrant community. The Gardiner Green Market is helping to fill this need in a small way. It is also helping several local farmers who use natural farming methods to share what they grow with their neighbors. The market is mostly made up of very small farms—most would probably call them large gardens—and a few other small producers of meat and eggs (Brookside Farm), baked goods (Magic Baking), infused oils (Luigi’s), cheese (Modena Made), honey (Keith Roosa) and maple syrup. Veggies and flowers are grown by Dancing Meadow, Libertyview Farm and Three Sisters, and Korean vegetables are harvested at Insook’s farm.

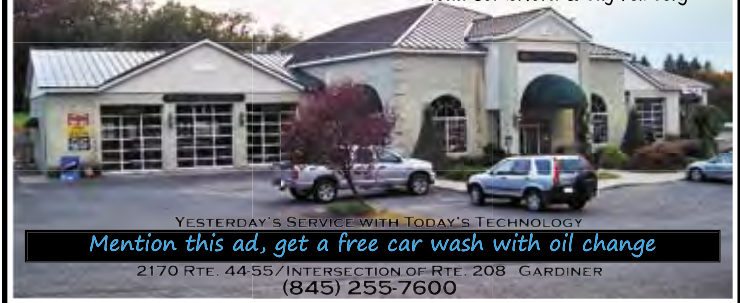
Each week more than a hundred people show up to visit to pick up healthy ingredients and to share a smile. Those who come are aware of the challenge of growing food naturally and preparing food for a market. The team has local chefs come for demonstrations and tastings, and they are planning a variety of activities throughout the winter.

The market team has received emails from several supporters offering them thanks for keeping it going, and every farmer has been given praise by a customer. The second week of the market Peg Lotvin was told—by a woman who raises her own zuchinni—that Peg’s zucchini were the best she had EVER eaten! My husband Dave and I were told by several

*Green Market...continued page 17*

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## Business As Usual

This column features two (and sometimes three!) Gardiner businesses per issue.

### HiHo Home Market and Antique Center

by Barbara Sides

Sixteen years ago, when Heidi Hill-Haddard was at home caring for her second child, she looked around her own home and was inspired. Heidi determined to use her skills as a former fashion merchandiser to take her home “from black and white to technicolor.” It was then that she decided that she could turn a personal passion into a business and still stay home to care for her children. Heidi started the HiHo Ornament Company and her work, both painted ornaments and painted glass, was sold in Gardiner’s Hamlet as well as in New Paltz.

Encouraged by Bill Richards to build her business in Gardiner, Heidi purchased the building at 132 Main Street from Paul and Mary Ann Osgood in early 2005 and opened HiHo Home Market and Antique Center four weeks later. Here, she was determined to create an environment different from home—something unexpected, over the top and constantly evolving.

Fast forward to 2010 and that vision, HiHo, has become a mainstay of Gardiner’s Main Street and business community and the recipient of Hudson Valley Magazine’s 2009 award, “Best Gift Shop in the Hudson Valley.”

HiHo is a Hudson Valley-centric enterprise and it is the Gardiner community that determines where and what Heidi buys as well as how she prices her wares. Heidi frequents local auctions and showrooms and creates an environment to showcase and sell her pieces in unexpected ways. Her use of layered displays, ladders hanging from ceilings, chairs as hanging shelves, doors as artwork, shutters as room dividers, children’s furniture as coffee tables as well as her use of color is playful and adventuresome. “We don’t take ourselves too seriously,” Heidi says. Her customers benefit from her light-hearted approach, enjoying colorful, imaginative displays and a variety of furnishings and gifts appropriate for any occasion. There is always an element of surprise and there is so much to see that Heidi enthuses, “it’s a three times around shop.”



HiHo Owner Heidi Hill-Haddard arranges new stock in the Headboards & Hotpots (bedroom/kitchen) room at HiHo. The dog on the couch only looks stuffed—in fact, Humphrey greets most visitors at the door.

Asked about her vision for the future of HiHo, Heidi expresses a strong belief in the unprecedented potential of our town. She

hopes to employ “more than a handful of employees and become an anchor in the midst of a developed but charming small town hamlet.” Given Heidi’s passion and optimism, we can count on being delightfully inspired by her unique home store for many years to come.

For much more about HiHo including store hours as well as the opportunity to shop online, visit [www.hihohome.com](http://www.hihohome.com).

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John Reilly and Karen Schneck in front of their new enterprise

## **The Village Market & Bakery: “Mom and Pop” At The Finest**

by Laurie Willow

It's been about six months since John Reilly and Karen Schneck became the new owners of the Village Market and Bakery. If you stop by early in the morning on your way to work, you will find great organic coffee, an unbelievable cinnamon bun, or maybe fresh fruit cut in perfect bite sized pieces.

“The bus drops off their seventh grade son Jordan and a few classmates, who enjoy their afternoon snack chocolate chip cookie at the store before heading off to Majestic Park for the afternoon. The Village Market has become a real hub in the community of Gardiner. It's a place, like the post office, where you can meet friends and run into neighbors. It is warm and welcoming, and the food is wholesome, creative, delicious and local. How about their amazing array of cupcakes—Boston cream, carrot, lemon-curd filled—and the half-size pies? I just had a homemade “Hostess” cream filled cupcake with chocolate icing and the little icing swiggle on top. It looked just like the originals except this one is made of real ingredients instead of chemicals! And by the way, The Village Market was just granted their beer and wine license, and can now serve you a beer or a glass of wine with lunch as well as sending you out with a six pack.

What is behind all of this understated expertise? How do they make it look easy? A lot of practice and an intense commitment to professionalism and delicious, healthy cuisine is the answer.

John Reilly, as it turns out, is one of the most highly regarded special events chefs in the country. He is a James Beard award-winning chef who has risen to success through his passionate commitment to quality. His extensive client list includes movie and music stars, heads of state and dignitaries such as Presidents Gerald Ford, George Bush, William Jefferson Clinton and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Both John and Karen bring their love of the outdoors and the Hudson Valley to the table. The best part is that this Mom and Pop haute cuisine is right here in the center of Gardiner accessible to all of us. They will cater your large or small event, as well as make dinner for you, and let you take the credit.

The Village Market and Bakery is open 7 days a week from 6:00 AM to 6PM except on Sunday and Monday when they close at 4:00. They can be reached at 845 255-1234.

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## **History Reborn in Tuthilltown**

by Laurie Willow

“It's good to come back home to retire” Toby Gabriello told me, as I dug my fork into the best crab cakes I've ever had. (I love crab cakes, I order them all the time, and these were by far the best.) If this is retirement....

The Gabriello family has been working non-stop for the last four years, and finally, the old mill in the Tuthilltown hamlet has been transformed into a stunning and elegant restaurant: Tuthill House at the Mill Restaurant & Tavern.



Toby Gabriello and her daughter, Samantha, the chef of the new restaurant.

*Tuthilltown...continued page 15*

## 9/11 Memorial, from page 1

they've come up with was to bevel and bend the steel plates for the parapets instead of welding the joints by hand. With 128 parapets in total, and four corners per pool, welding would have been labor intensive, with more room for error and less durability over the long term. Another challenge the duo faced was devising a cooling system for the steel structure. It will be a tactile surface that people will want to touch and lean on, but it will also have the potential to get scorching hot; metal, water and electricity don't tend to mix, but they've found a way.

Before working in Gardiner, Kurt and Chris were the co-directors of Tallix Fine Arts Foundry in Beacon. In 2006, they left Beacon and formed KC Fabrications. They soon found themselves working on deadline, on several large jobs in Kurt's property on South Mountain Road. An awkward fit for a home occupation, the business moved to a space in Gardiner's industrial zone, and

now they do custom manufacturing of art and architectural fabrications and restorations. They work with bronze, stainless and carbon steel, aluminum, and various resins. Their client list includes a Who's Who in the field of public

art and architecture: Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Jeff Koons, Zaha Hadid.

It's been a busy year. At the request of the National September 11 Memorial Committee and New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Kurt and Chris read the names at this year's name-reading ceremony. While it is always difficult to predict when mammoth projects like this will be finished, they're working non-stop, and it is anticipated that the final installation will begin in January of 2011. In the mean-

time, the media, including the *Gazette*, have been knocking on their doors.



*The World Trade Center site where "Reflecting Absence" will be installed. The two square foundations in the foreground mark the footprint of the former towers.*

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## Gardiner Library Book Sale Growing In Leaps and Bounds

By Susan Hill, President, Gardiner Library Board of Trustees and  
Book Sale Chair

Once again the Gardiner Library hosted a huge book sale from September 10th to 12th, 2010. Again we had thousands and thousands of books (estimated at 8,000 to 10,000 pieces) and we had another successful sale. Books were sold for \$1.00 or less and we raised over \$4,000 for the Gardiner Library.

Libraries, books and book sales make sense, and when I moved to Gardiner in 2005 I began asking about a history of book sales here in Gardiner. Previously I was on the board of the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (FPPLD). The FPPLD hosts one of the largest book



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*The Arts & Recreation section at the 2010 Gardiner Library Book Sale*

sales around, and as a result, raises a lot of money for the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

In Gardiner there was a book shed behind the old library and Peg Lotvin used to give people interested in buying books the key to the shed so they could buy books a handful at a time. Books were also sold from the second floor of the old library.

In an effort to revive this practice, I hosted a small book sale

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on Gardiner Day back in 2007, in a donated space under a tent at HiHo Home Market and Antiques Center. I sorted, boxed and hauled out all books in the book shed and raised \$800 for the Library. It seemed I was onto something, and I decided to grow the sale into what's become an annual fundraiser for the Gardiner Library.

In 2008, we asked for book donations and they came pouring in. A small team of volunteers helped sort donations by categories in preparation for the book sale in September. We rented a 20' by 40' tent and held our first three-day sale, establishing a pre-sale on Friday night, where we charge \$10 admission at the door to those serious buyers who want first dibs.

In 2009, the Gardiner Library had moved to its new location on Farmer's Turnpike and George Majestic was kind enough to move the book shed from the old library to the new library. Donations arrive at the Library on a daily basis, whether we ask for them or not. In addition to the huge annual sale, we now have two book carts located in the lobby of the library where we sell books year round. We also have a satellite book sale bookcase, located at the Village Market and Bakery. Donations may be dropped off at the Gardiner Library during normal business hours, and donation guidelines are available upon request.

Thank you for supporting the Gardiner Library.

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## Court Clerk, from page 1

Savago, Court Clerk for the Town of Gardiner.

Jean has been the court clerk in Gardiner for over 28 years. She began when her husband, the Honorable John Savago, became the Town Justice in 1982. They had to get special permission to make sure that there was no conflict of interest inherent in wife and husband serving as clerk and judge. At that time, the procedures were a bit different than they are today. It was a time when it was not uncommon for arraignments to be processed in the middle of the night, at their home on Phillies Bridge Road. It was a time when all the court records were kept at home in a home filing cabinet.

The town hall was in the old schoolhouse in Tuthilltown and Jean would bring the files pertinent to the evening's cases from home to court. It was only recently, and after several different moves over the years, that the situation changed. When the current town hall was completed a few years ago it became possible for the clerk, the judge, the court, the files and the police to all be in the same building at the same time.

One of the little-known facets of the court clerk's position is the fact that they have the responsibility of applying for a yearly grant from New York State. Jean has successfully secured for Gardiner computers, furniture, police videos and other court related items

through this grant from New York State.

Jean has served under eight town supervisors and has been a bridesmaid or witness for many weddings. She and the Judge have hiked up mountains to perform ceremonies for those who wanted to be married on a ledge overlooking Gardiner—and they have had numerous weddings for folks at their own home. Jean relates all this as if it were perfectly normal for a town judge and court clerk to give so much personal attention, care and love to the people of their community, and it is normal—for Gardiner. Jean and John Savago have spent 28 years making it that way.

Jean was born in New Paltz and went to the Campus School at SUNY. Jean and John have three children and five grandchildren. In fact, said Jean with a little touch of pride, "My first grandchild has just gone off to college."

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## Gardiner Day 2010 One of the Best

by Carl Zatz

Gardiner Day is always a nail-biter when it's come to weather, but on Gardiner Day 2010, the fun never set. Stellar blue skies and moderate temperatures helped make this Gardiner Day one of the best ever. The gates opened to music from the outdoor stage and Gardiner's Mark Rust playing his own engaging brand of acoustic folk rock. Near by, a lip-smacking menu of culinary delight was served at a hearty pace with favorites including Marty Kiernan's hamburgers, funnel cakes by New Hurley Reformed Church, great sausage and peppers by the Gardiner Reformed Church and wonderfully mouth-watering Jamaican cuisine. No one went home hungry.

Gardiner Day also kicked the tires on Majestic Park's new and spacious pole barn. The *Get Involved* exhibits featured local businesses and organizations. No more windy tent or rain-soaked Gardiner clay for these community building participants. Front and center, local politicians Carmine

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Mele, Rich Koenig and Jack Hayes threw image to the wind and met head on the challenge of the Dunk Tank. Sadly for them, the unusually excellent aim by this year's fair-goers kept these intrepid statesmen in the drink. Gardiner Day was then thrilled to welcome the spectacular Peruvian Horses of Gardiner's Majestic View Farms. Owners Bonnie and Bob Roth delighted on-lookers with a show worthy of any great arena. Four champion horses led by Bob Roth flat-trotted and danced to music, performing as only world-famous Peruvians can.



*Bagpipers enter majestic Park during the Gardiner Day opening ceremony.*

Most memorable was Gardiner Day's opening ceremony in honor of September 11. As a moment of silence swept through the park, Gardiner's Wanda Nicholson entered the park with bagpipes playing Amazing Grace. At the flagpole, father and son—Luke Lyons and Luke Jr.—briskly raised the flag to the top of the mast and respectfully lowered it to half. At that point Wanda was joined by another bagpipe and drum from The Capitol Region Celtic Pipe Band and played in concert to a dramatic end. Then the bagpipes and snare shifted to parade music and introduced the Gardiner Fire Department Color Guard marching in dress uniform followed by the volunteers of GFD marching in two by two. When the color guard reached its position before the flag, with the marchers standing before the audience, the traditional ringing of a bell emulating the



*Members of the Got Rythm? Dance Studio at Gardiner Day.*

alert by telegraph that a fireman was down rang five times in respectful silence until finally Nicole Ferrante began the singing of the National Anthem. It was a ceremony to remember and a Gardiner Day not soon forgotten.

Special thanks go out to the Gardiner Day Committee for their dedication and commitment, and to all who volunteered their services in order to contribute to our community. Coming up next for the committee and Gardiner is the Harvest Doo Wop Dance on October 23rd. See you then.

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## The Old House at Steve's Lane

by Ray Smith

"It came up for sale on a county tax sale. There's a provision in the county law that lets towns put a claim on something before the auction. We applied. It was granted and taken off the auction and I got it for the basic tax amount." That's how Supervisor Joe Katz describes Gardiner's acquisition of the old house at the corner of Steve's Lane and Dusingberre Road. The property was acquired by the Town in July 2009 for \$12,196.

Some work has already been done to the property: trees and brush have been cleared to provide better sight lines for traffic entering and leaving Steve's Lane, the corner has been cut back to facilitate turns by oversized rigs and a parking area has been created at the rear of the property. Since it is adjacent to the rail trail, it is hoped more rail trail users, especially horse trailers, will park here rather than in the more congested areas of the hamlet.

On advice of counsel, however, the hundred-year-old house on the property will not be touched until two years after acquisition, after which period the ability of others to lodge claims to the property will have expired and the town's title will be clear.



"At the end of that two year period the town will have to make some decisions about the house," says Joe. "We have not done a real analysis as far as structure goes. The alternatives are: knock it down, sell it or have it rehabbed as affordable housing."

When asked about repairing the building, Joe responded, "There are some really pretty details in the house. But I can't tell you structurally. I just don't know."

Summarizing his views, Joe said of the acquisition, "It's the kind of thing that just happens once in a generation. A key piece of ground that would be good for the town was available. And the fact that it was almost an acre and had a house on it—and we got it for \$12,000—I thought was a very good investment for the town."

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## Homeschooling in the Hudson Valley

by Nadine Lemmon

If you happen to see school-age kids around town during the day, don't assume they're truants—there is a growing home-school community in the Hudson Valley, and if you scratch below the surface, you'll see a network of parents providing a vibrant and varied learning experience for their kids.

There are many different methods of homeschooling and home-schooled kids definitely don't sit at home. Those who follow a more curriculum-based approach are combining outdoor learning with classes—at the Soujourner Truth Schoolhouse in New Paltz, at the Gardiner library, at Mohonk Preserve, or at local businesses—many of whom offer specific classes for kids. Home schooling can cost more—these classes are not always free, though many are inexpensive.

Others follow the “unschooler” approach and encourage their kids to follow their own interests, with the parents in a supportive and encouraging role. In either case Hudson Valley homeschooled kids are often on field trips—to the Catskills, learning to make slime in science class, to the New Paltz Town Hall learning about voter registration and civics, or over at Gardiner's Ultimate Gymnastics tumbling around. Janine Brutvan, a Gardiner resident and certified teacher herself is particularly excited about an up-coming archeology dig her kids will be participating in.

The reasons for choosing to homeschool are varied. Parents cite concerns about big classes and short recesses at local public schools and the long bus ride twice a day that leaves little time for kids to be kids. We are blessed with tremendous educational opportunities in the Hudson Valley, including Waldorf, Montessori, public and private schools. Home-schooling offers one more choice—and the super supportive network of home-school parents busts the myth that home schooled kids are less-socialized. There's a tremendous amount of interaction between different children and parents during the year.

Those who choose home-schooling send a “Letter of Intent”

to the school district when the child turns six. An “Individual Home Instruction Program” is developed, progress reports are submitted four times a year and there is a year-end assessment. The children take all the same standardized tests and some parents would love to see more cooperation with the schools so that home-schooled children could be enrolled in activities such as band and sports.

At any time, the home-schooled child can be entered into a local school. For more information visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HudsonValleyHomeEducators>  
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## Bricks And Stones at the Gardiner Library

by Melissa Fairweather

The Friends of the Gardiner Library hosted a celebration in August to honor those who created the library landscaping and memorial bricks display. The Friends began selling bricks with name plaques in 2001 to raise money for a new library. Last fall, as a community service project, members of the New Paltz High School football team began preparing the ground for placement of the bricks.

Honorees at the celebration included Gordon Pine of Gordon Pine Landscaping, who supervised the football team's work and whose own hard work, imagination and generous donation of materials for the memorial brick display came to fruition this summer. Pine designed the display to look like train tracks, matching the old train station feeling of the new building.

George Majestic was also honored for more than once answering the call to move the pallet of bricks when winter weather struck. Also honored were Colucci PE Excavation and Tantillo Landscaping Supplies and Excavating for their generous donations of boulders, crushed stone and mulch.

The memorial brick garden is located in front of the Gardiner Library. For further information, call the library at 845-255-1255 or visit [www.gardinerlibrary.org](http://www.gardinerlibrary.org).

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The newly installed memorial bricks at the Gardiner Library.

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## Tuthilltown, from page 7

Original wood beams, antique stained-glass windows, Venetian-plastered walls, and crystal chandeliers give the space a charming old feel. Rembrandt-style paintings by the mill's neighbor, Ron Schaefer, graciously line the walls. The original wood paneling was taken down so that the old mill room could be insulated; the wood was reused to build the bar. The existing floors were too thin and patched to fix-up, so new wood floors were milled to look authentic. And one of the best details—the original mill machinery and stones have been restored and added, here and there, throughout: the flour and feed grinding mill is in one corner, the grain shute, that goes from floor to ceiling, is the centerpiece of the dining room. The original store, that we all remember, is now the kitchen.

This is a local family business, in the true sense of the word. Joe Gabriello first came up to Gardiner when he was 10, and met his wife-to-be, Toby, who was attending SUNY New Paltz. Third generation Italian, Joe's family has been in the restaurant business forever. After a 20-year hiatus in Florida, running two different restaurants, the Gabriellos are back home and their 26-year old daughter, Samantha, is the Chef of their newest venture. A graduate of Apicius, the Culinary Institute of Florence, Italy, Sam took refresher courses at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, and grew up working in the restaurants her parents ran. She looks natural and relaxed in her new role.

Sam sources much of the food locally—including from Gardiner growers at the Gardiner Green Market (see article pg. 5), Brookside Farm, and Fourwinds Farm—and the Gabriello's have plans to plow up the fields out back for veggies and herbs. Mother and daughter described the food as "American with an Italian influence," and

many of the recipes have been handed down through the generations. Well, not the crab cakes; Toby, a New York City native, insisted on those, and the thing about these crab cakes is...crab. No bread filler here; each forkful is full of delicious crab with the light crunch of a crumb coating. They're served with a red pepper remoulade which is creamy and tangy and beats the heck out of tartar sauce. A carnivorous friend I went with is forever in search of the perfect steak and says she found it here, in the 20-ounce ribeye. It was beautifully charred on the outside, cooked exactly as she ordered it, and perfectly tender. It came with a large baked potato and a bundle of asparagus "tied" like a sheaf of wheat with a strip of prosciutto. For dessert, the chocolate espresso cake was a real treat.

It took the Gabriellos a full two years to get through the approval process but they persevered, and locals are thrilled that the history of the mill has been so lovingly preserved. Toby told me that George Smith, who ran the mill for as long as I can remember, has been coming by helping with the details. At an opening party, Elza Smith was beaming, with tears in her eyes. The day I was there, Ludwig Brandt's granddaughter (who owned and operated the mill before the Smiths) was taking a tour, and Carleton Mabee, Gardiner's Town historian, was enjoying the vittles and atmosphere himself.

Go check it out ....[www.tuthillhouse.com](http://www.tuthillhouse.com). 845-255-4151.

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## Letter To The Editor

*Submitted by Joyce Alexander, Gardiner Fire District Secretary since 1980, Fire Commissioner since 1995, and Fire Department member since 1977.*

After reading the *Gardiner Gazette* and the *New Paltz Times* I feel compelled to respond to inaccurate facts being expressed about the Gardiner Fire Department. The fire department is a non-profit corporation whose volunteer members serve the citizens of the Gardiner Fire District. Operating funds are obtained through private solicitations, donations and assorted fundraisers which allows the volunteers to maintain their two fire houses in the fire district.

Fire departments are a vital part of each community. The volunteer firefighters who seek membership are anxious to serve and help their neighbors and are called upon not only to save your life or property but also to help in many other unusual ways. They give their personal time attending classes, drills, etc., to insure they will be prepared when the call comes in the middle of the night or when their family is about to sit down to a holiday dinner. Many of us take for granted the services provided by volunteers in our communities. Tax dollars would be extremely higher if all the services provided by the volunteers were performed by paid personnel. We should be thankful for these people who live in our community and also pay property taxes. They never say NO when your emergency arises.

The Gardiner Fire District is a political subdivision having taxing authority. Each year an annual BUDGET is prepared according to Town Law and a legal notice is published in the *New Paltz Times* and on the Town website inviting the public to review the budget before the PUBLIC HEARING takes place. This public hearing is always on the third Tuesday in October and all persons are encouraged to attend and comments are always invited. The budget is prepared by the five member elected Board of Fire Commissioners, always considering the consequences to the taxpayers while following mandates required by law. The district supplies all the vehicles, training, proper safety gear and other numerous supplies for the volunteers of the fire department. The Budget Hearing will be held on October 19,

2010 at 7 pm at the Gardiner Fire House. Usually the public ignores this public hearing and then complains they have no say as to the budget expenditures.

The old firehouse property was deeded to the fire department in the early 1900's and was used to house a piece of firefighting apparatus purchased by the community. This 1908 pumper was recently discovered in the mud behind Majestic's store and is being restored by the fire department members.

When more modern equipment and space was needed, the Majestic and Burke families **donated** land for two firehouses and the old building was deeded to the town. The members and many town residents would like the old building returned to the fire district for use as a town/fire museum for the many artifacts that our long time residents now have in their homes. The fire department was a vital organization in the 'old days' as it is today. Past history is as important as our future. I have traveled extensively and often visit small museums in historic towns and they are operated by volunteers. Yes, they do seek donations and usually those of us who visit are very generous.

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## Abundance Day

by Anne Dale Rogers

Abundance Day will return to the Gardiner Library on October 23rd from 11am until 3pm. For those who missed the first one, now is your chance to search through your home for those items that are in great condition but are no longer useful to you. Bring them to the library on Abundance Day (not before please ...) and exchange them for other items that would be more useful to you.

It is really that easy! No money changes hands and it does not matter how much you bring or how much you take away. It is a great way to recycle the items you no longer need and shop for something new that would otherwise be collecting dust in someone's basement, or destined for a landfill. For more information email [dancingmeadow@gmail.com](mailto:dancingmeadow@gmail.com) or call 845 616-0798.

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## Green Market, from page 5

people that the greens beans from our Dancing Meadow Farm just couldn't be beat! Whether participating in the tomato contest, tasting a tidbit from a guest chef or learning new facts from guest hosts, people have been having a great time. The Gardiner Greenmarket will be continuing right through the winter in the Gardiner Library community room: third Saturday of every month from 11 to 4, beginning November 20th. For more information email [gardinergreenmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gardinergreenmarket@gmail.com).

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## December flowers, from page 3

fruits since there are few pollinators (bees and flies) at the time of blooming!

The flowers are welcome enough in late fall/early winter, but here's the fun part: Take one of those capsules home and just leave it on a table. About eight months later that capsule will explode! It will literally shoot its two seeds across the room at the most unexpected time.

You can find witch-hazel in any woods but it is especially prevalent along the Upper Awesting Carriageway, accessed from the Lake Minnewaska parking area in Minnewaska State Park.

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