



# The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Summer 2019 - Issue #43

Free! Please take one

## Wallkill River To Be Given Monitoring Priority

by José Moreno-Lacalle

There was an excellent turnout when the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance held its fifth Wallkill River Summit on May 16 at SUNY New Paltz. It featured speakers Brian Duffy of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Riverkeeper scientist Jen Epstein. Until attending the meeting, I had no idea of the significance of the Alliance and the work that it does to help clean and preserve our River.

The Alliance has as its motto,

"We Fight Dirty"; very apt, for dirty is one way to describe this important tributary of the Hudson River. And the Summit's topic this year was "How's the Water?," which has a very simple and direct answer: "Not good!"

Consider that the Wallkill is the largest estuary of the tidal Hudson, from its rise in Sparta, NJ, until it merges with the Rondout 88 miles later, near Kingston, where it flows into the Hudson. Along

those many miles the river has 20 municipal wastewater facilities, which need more than \$70 million in documented needs for collection system and plant repairs and upgrades.

Think about the following: the EPA threshold for swimming is 60 entero fecal-indicator bacteria per 100 mL of water; at Goshen's Rio Grande tributary at Heritage Trail, the entero count is 1,213, and 0% of the river water there is safe for swimming. At Gardiner's Shawangunk Kill, it's 90% unsafe, with a count of 440. Only at Tillson, below Sturgeon Pool, is 52% of the water safe for swimming.

Wallkill, [continued page 12](#)

### Also in this issue ...

Eileen Majestic Ingraham, [p. 2](#)

A Gardiner Success Story, [p. 4](#)

Natural Skin Care, [p. 6](#)

Kaleidoscope Art Center, [p. 7](#)

Dairy Sheep Farming, [p. 8](#)

Gardiner Historic Barns, [p. 10](#)

Rock the Ridge Race, [p. 14](#)

Gardiner Day, [p. 16](#)

## Progress on Tillson Lake

by Morey Gottesman and Annie O'Neill

Thanks to community support and strong vocal opposition to draining Tillson Lake (*Tillson Lake Under Threat for the Third Time*, Gazette, Summer 2018), the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission (PIPC) and the New York State Office of Parks agreed to do a new study on the cost of upgrading the dam, including a fresh look at the dam's classification as "High Hazard." This study has been completed and the results and the dollar amount needed to do the work are awaited.

A recent meeting with the new Commissioner of Parks, Erik Kullesid, and the Deputy Commissioner, Tom Alworth, left Friends of Tillson Lake feeling officials are willing to work with the community to seek the necessary funds.

To that end, Friends held a very successful "Bake for the Lake" fund raiser on June 22 at Stone Wave Yoga. Over 35 baked goods were donated by local bakers to a cake auction that followed a delicious dinner. A replica "Lake Cake" was made by Maya Eyler and her son Miles. Friends also auctioned a two-night stay at the Inn at the Ridge, donated by the owners, who also baked two spectacular cakes.

Recent meetings and conversations with State representatives in the Assembly and Senate have provided assurances that they will actively seek funding from the State for the necessary up-

grades. Once a dollar figure is known, it will be incumbent on our community to lobby hard to have Tillson Lake included in next year's budget. Without the participation and support of the community and the Town Board, none of this would have happened. As additional details

become known they will be shared with the community on [savetillsonlake.org](http://savetillsonlake.org). The website has a Facebook page that allows anyone to read posts, see photographs and stay updated on all of our efforts.

We will have another exciting fund raiser in October. □



Annie O'Neill and Andy Hague, vice president of the Friends of Tillson Lake Board, auction off a cake. Photo courtesy Friends of Tillson Lake

## Eileen Majestic Ingraham: Bringing Gardiner History to Life

by Samuel Cristler

If you're not a native of Gardiner, you'd be forgiven for thinking that "majestic" is an adjective. Although now synonymous with Gardiner, the Majestic family did not appear in Gardiner until the early 1930s, when Eileen Majestic Ingraham's paternal grandparents, the Austrian/Slavic immigrants Joseph and Mary (really their names), moved here from New York City with eight children in tow.

At that same time, Eileen's maternal grandmother—a young widow named Anna O'Neill—moved her four children in with Maryann Moran, Anna's adoptive mother. They lived together in the one of the first houses ever to be built on Dusenberre Road, constructed in the 1890s.

Joseph and Mary were able to buy their home on Dusenberre because Mary secured a bank loan with the promise of selling eggs to pay the mortgage. One of their children, Frank, would soon meet Anna O'Neill's eldest daughter, Elizabeth. Still teenagers, Frank and Elizabeth fell in love. Beautiful music obviously ensued—and, in 1938 Eileen was born in the Moran/O'Neill farmhouse, followed by her siblings Patty, Paul, Jill and Charley, husband of Marybeth, who is now Gardiner's Town Supervisor.

Another of Joseph and Mary's sons, Eileen's Uncle George, would grow up to become Gardiner's revered and longest-running Town Supervisor (Majestic Park is named in his honor).

Life on the then-sparsely populated Dusenberre Road was

soon bustling with Majestics, O'Neills, Morans, Dewyeas and Majetichs (Joseph and Mary's original name, which was changed to Majestic by immigration officials). The Dusenberre Road/Moran farmhouse became the high-spirited gathering place for every Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthday, and summer vacation.

For a time, Eileen was the youngest at those gatherings, and she profited from the adoring attention. A neighbor often told Eileen that the day of her birth was a very happy occasion in Gardiner. Eileen laughs at the memory of her second husband, Bud, saying that she might have been "spoiled" as a child. Eileen's mother overheard that, and lovingly snapped back, "She received lots of attention, but she was NOT spoiled!". (Anyone who knew Eileen's mom knows that she was an ideal mother—gentle, strong and protective.)

Eileen's first vivid memory was at age three, on December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was bombed. She could sense that the grown ups around her were upset and scared. Throughout the war, when news came on the radio, conversation always stopped. Several uncles from both the O'Neill and Majestic families signed up to go to war—as did her Aunt Florence O'Neill, who was one of the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

During her childhood, Eileen's family occasionally needed to relocate, as her dad traveled widely out of state in pursuit of work. Frank helped dig the aqueduct that flows through Gardiner to New York City. His love of that work became the basis for his lifelong occupation: tunnel excavation, construction and stonework. He built the large home on Dusenberre Road in which he and Elizabeth raised their family, and a small home in front of that where his mother-in-law, Anna O'Neill, could live out her years. (Since 1998, Eileen herself has lived in that same house.) Frank also proudly spoke of rebuilding Marybeth and Charley Majestic's historic home next to the Ireland Corner's general store by hand, "stone by stone."

Regardless of where they went, Eileen and her family



Eileen Majestic Ingraham today.  
Photo: Carol O'Biso

always returned to Gardiner to be with the family for weekends, summers and holidays.

For Eileen, no matter where she moved, Gardiner was always home. Twice, she attended Gardiner's two-room elementary school—now our Town Hall—and enjoyed the advantage of being able to eavesdrop on the older students' lessons. She still speaks lovingly of a memorable and kind

History, [continued page 3](#)



Kimlin Energy is a family owned and operated business located in the Hudson Valley for over 35 years.

### Cozy Up with Kimlin

#### SUMMER SPECIAL DEAL

New customers who sign-up for a Kimlin Energy Service Plan before Labor Day for heating oil or propane receive \$200 off their first delivery!

#### BUNDLE THAT!

If you bundle both propane for hot water/fireplace AND heating oil, Kimlin Energy will give you great discounts!

For customers who bundle: their first heating oil delivery will be at a reduced rate of \$2.49/gal. then sets at market thereafter and their first propane delivery is \$1.99/gal. and for their first year a locked in rate of \$2.49/gal!!

For more info and to sign up:  
[www.kimlinenergy.com](http://www.kimlinenergy.com) / 845-255-7324



## History, from page 2

teacher named Hillie Freer.

When asked about her largest work in life, Eileen immediately responded, "Raising my three children!" (Joey DeMaria, Sharon Moran and Lisa Bergmann.) She has loved watching them all mature into great young adults. She also enjoyed every minute of a real estate career, and credits Bud, whom she married in 1973, with helping her build that business.

Eileen fondly recalls childhood summers at Tillson Lake, where families had picnics, swam, and dived with both high and low diving boards. Kids skated their hearts out at an indoor roller rink with an actual musician playing an actual organ. Eileen wishes that today's Gardiner residents had such Tillson Lake attractions (see also page 1, *Progress on Tillson Lake*).

And winter fun included after-school ice skating on a couple of ponds in the hamlet. In the 1940s and 50s, pond owners were not worried about being sued. Neighborhood children skated where they wished, even if they sometimes fell through the ice. Eileen once did, and recalls neighbor Liz DeGraff Upright rushing to her rescue!

One of the most memorable moments of Eileen's childhood was when the first TV set arrived in Gardiner—in the home of the Murphy family on Murphy Lane. They invited Eileen and a lot of other locals to watch the original iteration of America's Got Talent, known as "Ted Mack's Amateur Hour," on which a Gardiner boy who lived on Main Street competed as a trumpet player, and won!

This was, of course, Roger Thorpe, later famous as the director of the Sammy Kaye Orchestra. Years after Eileen watched his triumph on that first TV appearance, Roger played trumpet at Eileen and Bud's wedding. In 2006, he was also gracious enough to play at Bud's funeral.

Today, Eileen's passions include reading, quilting, pottery making and knitting, and she is now pleased to have Paula Kucera's White Barn Sheep and Wool Shop in Gardiner.

Eileen is justifiably grateful for her extraordinary parents, whom I'm proud to say, became friends of mine. Her dad, Frank Majestic passed away in 2006 at 87; Elizabeth in 2013. Eileen reflects on Gardiner's St. Charles Borromeo cemetery and all the childhood relatives.



Eileen Majestic in 1939, with her father, Frank Majestic Sr., in front of Anna O'Neill's house on Dusenberre Road.

"They're gone, but certainly not forgotten," she says.

I am thankful for the contributions of these early founding families towards making Gardiner a place we love. □



## The Early Bird Gets the Home



Pre-qualify for a mortgage  
24/7 at [UlsterSavings.com](http://UlsterSavings.com)

Take the first step to owning a home with a quick and easy pre-qualification at [UlsterSavings.com](http://UlsterSavings.com). Knowing what you can afford will give you the assurance you need when looking for that perfect home. Don't delay. Pre-qualify today.

**Ulster Savings**  
866.440.0391 / [ulstersavings.com](http://ulstersavings.com)

Locations throughout the  
Hudson Valley including  
Gardiner 2201 Route 44/55

NMLS #19306 /  EQUAL HOUSING LENDER / MEMBER FDIC  
Subject to credit approval. Certain conditions apply.

## A Gardiner Love (and Success) Story

by Sandra Cranswick

This past May, anyone driving around Gardiner will have noticed numerous small signs inviting one and all to the “Good Vibes Celebration” at Stone Wave on June 3rd. I decided to find out what Stone Wave and Sunflower Art Studios were all about.

Despite the iffy weather, I found a large group of adults and children gathered at the surprisingly beautiful Stone Wave campus, the former home of Utility Canvas, on Route 44/55 just west of the Albany Post intersection. Outside, some guests were involved in an hours-long Sun Salutation yoga ceremony, others played bocce ball on the lovely court out back. Most simply strolled, chatted and enjoyed the sculpture garden that surrounds the building. Inside, people were enjoying

delicious free food and drink, and music provided by local musicians. Everyone seemed relaxed and happy—a real community get-together.

And this is just what Liz Glover-Wilson and Keith Buesing envisioned back in 2015 when Sunflower Art Studios was in its infancy and Stone Wave was just part of Liz’s big dream. The story of how Stone Wave evolved in four short years is delightful, being a tale of personal romance and fulfillment for Liz and Keith, which culminated in the creation of a special place for all Gardiner area residents to participate in the arts and celebrate love and life.

Romance began it. Liz quit



The Stone Wave campus. Photo courtesy Stone Wave Yoga.

her corporate real estate investment job in Manhattan, in 2012, after the trauma of her sister’s death and the subsequent end of her first marriage. Her relocation to the weekend home on Halcyon Drive which she and her former husband had acquired was serendipitous. As Liz relates it, with a chuckle, “It happened that Keith Buesing was my neighbor- and I asked him, being a newly-single woman on her own in a house... if he would

come help me with my lawn, and we wound up going out on a date...”

“And the rest is history,” says Keith. He has lived on North Mountain Road since 1979, and has been in Gardiner since 1971. His parents owned a nursery business in Rockland County, but moved to Walkill when Keith was seven and commuted back and forth to run the business. Keith worked with his brother in the family business as

# DAWES

## SEPTIC & REPAIR

**Design • Install • Maintain • Excavation Services**

Septic Pumping and Cleaning • Repairs and Replacements

Cesspool/Dry Wells • Leach Fields • Septic Inspections

Sewer Pump Service • Engineering Available

1993 State Rte. 32, Modena  
Family Owned and Operated since 1952

**845-883-5440**  
**www.dawesseptic.com**



## Success, from page 4

a landscaper until 2002, when the nursery was sold to developers. Since then, he has continued to serve clients in Rockland County, while building a new clientele in Ulster County. In 2002, when the nursery closed, the brothers dug up, transported and re-planted the fantastic "StegoDile" topiary, now located at Ireland Corners and beloved by all us Gardinerites.

Keith's passion is working with stone and plants to create unusual earthworks and plant sculptures within sophisticated landscape designs. He often uses found objects, with Hudson River driftwood and local stone figuring largely in his designs. The Stone Wave campus is home to at least a half dozen striking examples of his work, set within a beautifully designed landscape which fully utilizes the majestic views of the Ridge. The name "Stone Wave" itself was suggested by an aerial view of the Ridge, which looks like a huge, stone wave breaking amidst the forested hills surrounding it—a natural "earth sculpture."

But back to the story! After Liz and Keith met, they quickly discovered that they had mutual interests. Liz had, at this point, opened Sunflower Art Studios—a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality art classes to local chil-

dren, regardless of their financial status—in a commercial building next to the Gardiner Post Office. Soon, she began to formulate plans to bring a bigger dream into being.

Even before moving to Gardiner, Liz wanted to establish a "wellness center" in the area. She shared her dream with Keith and the pair began to search for an appropriate location. Strangely enough, as Liz tells it, "I would come through the light on Albany Post Road almost every day, headed home to the mountains, and I would get to this view and I would say "God, I want THIS view", but I never paid attention to this building because it was so quiet ..." And then, in March 2017, a friend alerted Liz to the fact that the Utility Canvas building was on the market. The pair immediately made an offer, which was accepted.

Liz was determined to open Stone Wave by June 3, 2017, in commemoration of her sister's passing three years earlier. Keith and Liz took on the formidable remodeling job themselves, and, with the help of friends they managed to open as planned. "(Our) romance and creativity bloomed together—every little project we took on together was coin-

ciding with our love growing", says Liz.

The finished campus is a testament to their artistic and professional talents. The building is clean and spare, divided into two main areas—one for the yoga and wellness classes and the other for the arts classes and events. All spaces can be opened up to create one flowing space when required. The large arts room has a huge wall of windows providing a panoramic view of the Ridge. Outside, formal garden spaces embellished with sculpture flow into open spaces for group activities.

The one-acre property has reached its limits and Liz and Keith hope to find a way to enlarge it eventually. The community has embraced Stone Wave and its warm atmosphere. Liz and Keith want everyone to feel welcome here—they see their mission as much more than a business: "This is a gift we wanted to give to the community."

There is a wide range of classes offered—yoga for all ages and competencies—including a "by donation" Community Yoga class each Friday evening at 7 pm followed by refreshments. Sunflower Art Studios hosts



Keith Buesing and Liz Glover Wilson.  
Photo: Sandra Cranswick.

many young artists ages 5-15 each season, reaching a total of over 2,400 students since opening. Instructors are all local professionals, who share in the Stone Wave mission to create something special for the community.

Each year, the space opens to the whole community for free-admission Wellness Day. Sliding-scale-fee art classes for adults are on the horizon. The space can now also be rented for special occasions such as weddings, parties, showers, and fund raising events. Liz and Keith hope that their beautiful creation will be discovered by more and more members of the Gardiner community and welcome all with open arms and big hearts.

Visit [www.sunflowerartstudios.community](http://www.sunflowerartstudios.community), and/or [www.stonewaveyoga.com](http://www.stonewaveyoga.com) for info. You can call 845-419-5219, or visit the studio at 2694 US Route 44/55, Gardiner. □

## NEWBURGH WINDOW SHOP



Custom Window Treatments - 845 562-4880

*Newburgh Window Shop specializes in custom window treatments (including mini blinds, custom designed draperies and motorized shades for home or office). Interior design services are free, and with Newburgh Window Shop you get me, the owner, in every phase of your project, from design to installation. Customer satisfaction is my number one priority, so please give me a call and let's meet for a consultation so I can show you all of the most innovative products on the market.*

**Greg Dawes**

## Made with Love: All Natural, All Local

by Carrie Wasser

Many folks in Gardiner know that Michele Tomasicchio has been making all-natural skin care products—with love, of course—for many years at her studio on Albany Post Road.

But the owner of Made With Love Natural Skin Care has branched into some new areas lately, expanding her skin care offerings to address the needs of older women and men of all ages, and presenting opportunities for clients to get a deeper understanding of their skin care problems.

What sets Michele's products apart is that they are all natural, part of a growing trend in the U.S. towards products that don't include any of the harsh additives that many retail skin care products do. Michele is very eager to enlighten people about what might be lurking in their favorite conventional skin care products: fake fragrances, cheap oils, and toxic preservatives. "The FDA doesn't really monitor skin care industry labeling," she says. "'Natural' and 'organic' doesn't always mean that."

Michele uses only pure essential oils, high-performance botanicals, and natural preservatives to create products that Michelle says wake up the skin and spark lasting benefits. She has seen results on her own sensitive skin, and that of many of her customers. "When you try all-natural products, your body just knows, this is so good for me," she says.

A Gardiner native, Michele was working as a massage therapist when she took an herbalism course about 20 years ago. She wanted to offer herbal teas and tinctures to clients to facilitate

their healing, but during the course, the students also learned how to make body creams using wild plants and essential oils. After the course was over, she began making her own body creams at home. "I just became this mad scientist in my kitchen," she recalls. Once she made the body creams, she "really went nuts...I made face creams, therapeutic balms, sugar scrubs, hair butter." She also made a muscle relief balm to help her through a bad back injury—and then started offering it to her massage clients.

Around 2001, she gave skin care holiday gifts to friends and family, who started asking her for more. Her mother, Jewell Turner, who is Gardiner's Deputy Town Clerk, brought some into Town Hall, and co-workers were soon placing orders. Made With Love was born soon after. Today, Michele makes all her products on her own, at her studio, with extra help brought in during peak holiday seasons.

Recently, she asked customers what they might want from her next, and found that many women were seeing the effects of aging on their skin. After researching it, she launched her new "Revive Graceful Aging" line. "I don't want to call it 'anti-aging' because the women I connect with don't try to fight aging," she notes. Another product line, "Clarity," helps women with skin care sensitivities that crop up later in life due to fluctuating hormones. Adult-



Michele Tomasicchio in her studio. Photo: Alan Rothman

onset acne is one of these. Michele also believes that some issues may be related to years of using conventional skin care products.

Michele has also branched out into her first men's line, called "El Jefe." It means "the boss" in Spanish, "but I use it tongue-in-cheek," Michele says. "We let the guys think they're the boss, but we know who's really the boss!" The line includes face cream, body cream, a beard oil and a beard butter, and features more masculine essential oils, like bay rum, lime, and cypress.

For clients with more stubborn issues, Michele is now offering consultations (the first one is free) through her "Outside In, Inside Out Clear Skin Program." She is trained in craniosacral therapy, kinesiology, and muscle testing, and uses those mo-

dalities to determine underlying issues that might be causing a person's skin challenges.

Also new is a more user-friendly website ([madewithloveskincare.com](http://madewithloveskincare.com)), e-gift cards, and an online discussion group on graceful aging. She offers nationwide shipping. Locals can order online and bypass shipping costs by choosing the "Pick up order at Gardiner Studio" option. And keep your eyes peeled for pop-up shop hours at the studio by the road sign or at [facebook.com/MadeWithLoveSkinCare](http://facebook.com/MadeWithLoveSkinCare).

Michele tried selling her products in retail stores for a while, but she prefers small batch production to ensure the freshest products possible. And she loves being able to talk directly with customers. She particularly enjoys selling at area festivals and craft shows. "I love keeping it local," she says. □





## Coming this Fall! Kaleidoscope Arts Center

by Jennifer Bruntl

This past winter, Angelique Hanesworth offered to give my daughter's Girl Scout troop, and the girls' moms, a free belly dancing lesson. I had never taken a belly dancing lesson. I'm guessing that many of you could probably say the same? We jumped (or should I say danced) at the opportunity!

On a cold day in February, we all met at the Living Seed Yoga Studio in New Paltz, where Angelique taught us the basics, and then an entire belly dance. We worked up a sweat and had a lot of fun. At the end of the lesson she mentioned wanting to build a space in Gardiner for "creative stuff." She and her husband had been working on an idea. I told her to reach out to me if the time came to tell people about it. That time is here.

Angelique Hanesworth and her husband, Jeff Frey, are excited to announce that Kaleidoscope Arts Center, at the corner of Albany Post Road and 44/55, should be opening this fall. The center will host Angelique Belly Dance, Black Sheep Recording Studios and Eye Spy Photography as resident businesses, but also has space for any other creative types who have a business to grow. The couple says, "We are hoping to attract other teachers across the performing arts fields to teach at the Center. We will have a great space that will be able to cater to a lot of different disciplines and our vision is to host a creative playground for creative people."

Angelique says, "Our goal is to provide the community with premium facilities for dance, audio recording, music and photography. In addition, the

facility will be available for rent to other locals to support their creative pursuits. We are looking to help build and strengthen the arts community in this area."

Angelique has been a student of dance since 1997 when she moved to this area to work for IBM. Having such a technical job prompted her to look for a way to get some balance in her life. Belly dancing filled the void. She studied with the Salimpour School of Dance and, after many years of hard work, is one of only five teachers in the world authorized to teach the Salimpour format.

This fall, she will offer belly dance classes for adults and kids. "I'm proud to bring this type of education to the area," she said. "My classes are very diversified, with instruction for the beginner all the way up to the professional. I think dance should be celebrated by everyone, and my doors are open to anyone interested in learning."

While belly dancing is a primary focus, Angelique also developed a passion for photography following the birth of her first child. Her strong technical background and creative nature worked in perfect harmony to help hone her skills and eventually led her to start Eye Spy Photography. She offers all aspects of portrait photography—from families to head shots to weddings—and takes pride in "quality work that clients will be proud to show off for generations."

Angelique is not the only



Angelique Hanesworth, inset (internet photo) and the new studio  
Photo courtesy Angelique Hanesworth.

creative person in the family. While Jeff also worked at IBM for many years, from an early age his real interest was music. He says, "I was four years old when I saw The Beatles' U.S. debut on the Ed Sullivan show. I think I knew at that moment that music would forever be a passion in my life. I started playing the drums, and as time went on, the need for music in my life continued to grow stronger."

Jeff played in rock and roll bands in college, but put music on hold to focus on his career at IBM. Once he retired, he landed a recording engineering internship in New York City, with Grammy-awarded engineer and producer Steve Addabbo. Jeff says, "After a couple years working with Steve, it was time to pursue the dream of

my own studio, and helping talented musicians realize dreams of their own."

Jeff explained that beyond the expected services of a typical recording studio, which include tracking, mixing, and mastering of audio recordings by in-house engineering staff, the studio will also be open to artists with their own engineers, who want to take advantage of a wonderful space, first rate studio gear, and a professional environment.

Opportunities for broadcasting live performances over the internet will also be offered. In addition, they expect to offer studio time for educational programs, not only for musicians but for audio engineering as well.

Call 845.625.8716 or email [Angelique@AngeliqueBellydance.com](mailto:Angelique@AngeliqueBellydance.com). □

### New Paltz Travel Center



**Colleen Gillette**  
PRESIDENT

**43 North Chestnut Street**  
**New Paltz, NY 12561**  
**845 255-7706**

**[info@newpaltztravel.com](mailto:info@newpaltztravel.com)**  
**[www.newpaltztravel.com](http://www.newpaltztravel.com)**

## Dairy Sheep Farming in Gardiner

by José Moreno-Lacalle

Until I spoke with Brent and Carrie Wasser, I had no idea there were different breeds of sheep for dairy, meat, and wool. But the newly-married couple, who recently established Willow Pond Sheep Farm on Route 44-55 in Gardiner, have embarked on an unusual enterprise: a sheep dairy, of which there are only a handful in all of New York State.

The Wassers explained that no one sheep breed is optimum for all three products. For milk, there is the East Friesian breed, which originated in northern Germany and is renowned for its ample milk production. There is also the French Lacaune breed, notable for producing the milk used to make Roquefort cheese. Brent and Carrie are currently raising East Friesians as they work on establishing their sheep dairy. This year they will obtain a Lacaune ram to introduce new genes to their East Friesian flock.

Sheep's milk is especially high in fat, and very pleasant to drink on its own, as it tastes very much like cow's milk but is creamier. It is especially suitable for making yogurt, ice cream, or gelato, which are products that the couple intend to begin making and selling within the next year or two. (Cheese is not on the horizon for now.)

Brent and Carrie, whose farm operation is located at Seven Meadows Farm, which is owned by Carrie's parents, are also raising Dorsets bought from an organic farm in Vermont. The Dorset is an English breed that is especially suitable for meat. Carrie and Brent see meat as a complement to their eventual milk products, and

since last year have been selling cuts of their 100% grass-fed lamb at the farm, as well as at Insook's Korean market in Gardiner and the Rhinebeck and Hudson farmers' markets. Organically-tanned sheepskins are also available.

Brent and Carrie are both in their early 40s and have fascinating and varied backgrounds that imbue their commitment to farming with intelligence, knowledge, and passion.

Brent is from Sacramento, CA, studied German at Swarthmore College, then went to live in Germany and Austria, where he learned the skill of cheese making, which he brought back with him when he went on to study at the Culinary Institute in Hyde Park. While there, he worked as the head cheesemaker at Sprout Creek Farm in Poughkeepsie.

Brent, ever restless to learn and experience more, soon realized that he really loved agriculture, particularly biodynamic agriculture, a holistic approach in which the farm develops into a thriving community guided by the farmer's perceptiveness of the contributions of everything on the land: soil, plants, animals, and people. Soon after meeting Carrie, in 2015, he went to Germany to study biodynamic farming, then returned to New York to work at the biodynamic Hawthorne Valley Farm in Columbia County.

Carrie grew up in New York City, but her parents, Greg



Brent and Carrie Wasser at Willow Pond.  
Photo courtesy Brent and Carrie.

and Janet Abels, bought Seven Meadows Farm in Gardiner when she was ten. It would prove to be a life-changing event for her. She studied at Oberlin College, and for ten years was a reporter at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and other newspapers. She moved to Vermont in 2004, where she became the editor of a new magazine, Vermont's Local Banquet, and was its editor until 2017. To better understand the farmers that she

was writing about, she worked on a variety of different farms and even raised some lambs on her own.

Carrie is now on the board of the Dairy Sheep Association of North America. She is also the founder and editor of the wonderfully informative website, Humaneitarian.org.

In 2018, Brent and Carrie moved to Gardiner and began Willow Pond Sheep Farm on the Abels property. They are

**HOOVER ARCHITECTURE, PLLC**



**HooverArchitecture.com**  
**Member American Institute of Architects**  
**Excellence by Design**



## Sheep, from page 8

both committed to raising their sheep humanely and responsibly, as well as to respectfully dealing with the environment. They hope to become both organically and biodynamically certified.

Another aspect of their farming is their desire to welcome people who would like to visit the

sheep or find refuge from the stresses and strains of modern life. They aren't quite ready to receive drop-in visitors yet (instead, call them in advance to arrange a visit) but they intend to have on-farm events and a farm stand before long.

Their newly-renovated and impressive pre-Civil War

barn, where they had their wedding reception in May, is intended to be a gathering space for people in the future, and is one of the historic barn renovations that will be discussed in the next issue of *The Gazette*.

Willow Pond Sheep Farm is less than two years old, but Carrie and Brent Wasser

have long-range plans and a great deal of energy. They look forward to making the farm a true asset for the community of Gardiner.

Contact the farm by calling 802-310-2977 or by visiting [willowpondsheep.com](http://willowpondsheep.com). Lamb and sheepskins are available for purchase. Visits by appointment only. □

**Dedrick's**  
PHARMACY + GIFT SHOP

**PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED QUICKLY**  
On-line, while you wait, or phone-ins.

**EXPERIENCED PHARMACISTS**  
Always available to answer your questions.

**GREAT SELECTION**  
Beauty Aids, Surgical  
Supplies, First Aid.

**FROM OUR GIFT SHOP**  
Baby Items, Toys,  
Kitchenware, Occasion.  
Our gift selection is  
always changing.



Monday - Friday 8:30 - 8:00; Saturday 8:30 - 5:00; Sunday 8:00 - 1:00  
[dedrickspharmacy.com](http://dedrickspharmacy.com) 845 255-0310 190 Main Street New Paltz

**It's always restaurant week**  
at



**TUES.** Trivia, 7pm

**WED. BOGO**  
buy one of our  
specials get  
one 1/2 price

**FRI.** Happy Hour 4-6pm  
Win a free sunset skydive,  
compliments of  
Skydive the Ranch

**THUR.** Jazz Supper  
Club. Live music 6-9pm  
Prime Rib Dinner \$25

**SAT.** Karaoke 9pm

**SUN.** Live music  
on the patio, 3-6pm

**Nu-cavu.com**  
857 Plains Road, Wallkill  
845 885-8000

**Tues./Wed./Thurs. open at 4pm**  
**Fri. thru Sun. open at 11:30 am**

**Pete Patel**



**IRELAND**  
CORNER  
GENERAL STORE  
# 551, Route 206,  
New Paltz, NY 12561  
Ph: 845-255-6863 Fax: 845-255-1124 Cel: 845-527-2455

CAFÉ



**Mio**  
LOCAL FARE

845 255 4879  
2255 RT 44/55 GARDINER, NY 12526  
[WWW.MIOGARDINER.COM](http://WWW.MIOGARDINER.COM)

## Hidden in Gardiner's Barns, a Piece of History

by L.A. McMahon

In our last issue, we promised to discuss some of Gardiner's own old barn rehabs. Two of them are featured here, with another two to come in the next issue. It may provide insight into how and why these Gardiner residents took on the job of restoration, but also offers a glimpse of our history as a community. There is something inherently romantic about a barn, especially one that has weathered the storms of life and still stands strong to tell of it. The following barns are great examples of this:

**Phillies Bridge Farm Project Barn:** First farmed in 1743, the Phillies Bridge Farm Project is, according to the Wallkill Valley Land Trust and the Open Space Institute, one of the oldest working farms in New York. Currently, the Phillies Bridge Community Supported Agriculture Program serves one hun-

dred families in the area and is a completely not-for-profit organization. The Phillies Bridge Farm team says the barn is "between 150 and 175 years old" (circa 1844-1869). To give an idea of what was going on in our area around that time, the first Gardiner town meeting was May 17, 1853, and the Bardavon Opera House in Poughkeepsie opened in 1869.

The farm team discussed this restoration for years, and they were finally able to act this year. There used to be a second barn on the property, but its condition was so poor it had to be demolished for safety reasons, which made saving the big gray barn even more important. Its many historic fea-



The restored gray barn at Phillies Bridge. Photo courtesy Phillies Bridge

tures include original hand-hewn beams that make up the central structure, with a silo on the *inside*, which is very unusual. For a long time, it was thought to have been built that way, but during the reconstruction it was determined that the original barn, with the silo on the outside, was expanded and the addition encompassed the silo.

In order to get the barn rehab off the ground and properly

executed, Phillies Bridge asked for and received input from several experts. In the end, one of the original founders of the Phillies Bridge Farm Project, Dan Guenther, who also worked for many years as a general contractor, took on the work. He and his wife, Ann, as well as their small team, were able to do the job for a fraction of what it would have ordinarily cost. Clearly, they did an outstanding job.

Barns, [continued page 11](#)



**Jim DeMaio, Agent**  
246 Main Street  
New Paltz, NY 12561  
Bus: 845 255-5180  
[www.jim-demaio.com](http://www.jim-demaio.com)

State Farm, Bloomington, IL  
1211999



**Dolphin Plumbing Inc.**

Fully insured - Serving the Mid-Hudson Valley

- Pipe Repairs & Upgrades
- Water Heaters/Repairs & Installation
- Boiler/Furnace Service, Repairs & Installations
- Well Tanks
- Toilets, Sinks & Faucets
- Drain Cleaning
- Complete Bathroom Renovations
- Emergency Service Available

*You are in safe waters with us!*

**845- 834-2797**

[www.dolphinplumbingandheating.com](http://www.dolphinplumbingandheating.com)

*The*  
**Bruynswyck Inn**



2162 Bruynswick Road, Wallkill, New York 12589  
845 895-1147 • [www.bruynswyckinn.com](http://www.bruynswyckinn.com)  
Wednesday - Sunday, 5 PM - 10 PM

**Yoga Wellness Bodywork**  
100 Main Street, Gardiner, NY  
[yogawellnessbodywork.com](http://yogawellnessbodywork.com)  
(845) 275-0330  
\$25 off 1st hour of Thai Bodywork



## Barns, from page 10

### Osborne Barn: José Moreno-Lacalle and Vals Osborne:

Tucked away on Crispell Lane, this barn is an example of a transitional form, somewhere between the classic Dutch-style barn and English traditions. The restoration was done in consultation with the New York State Division for Historic Restoration, in accordance with the New York State Historic Barn Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program we discussed in the last issue of *The Gazette*.

"1820" is inscribed on one of the overhead beams. The barn was built then, by Crines Jenkins, two years after his marriage to Rachel Hardenbergh, owner of the property located on the Hardenbergh's Guilford patent in Gardiner. (For history buffs: Abraham Hardenbergh was granted the Guilford Patent in 1743, the year the farm was established.

Abraham was distantly related to the Johannes Hardenbergh of the Great Patent.)

In 1948, the barn was acquired by Vals' parents, Letitia and Francis Echlin. Its many features, unique to the Dutch barn, include an almost square footprint on a stone foundation; a high, originally shingled, roof line; wide horizontal pine siding, and double-height doors on the south gable end. Huge oak posts and anchor beams divide the interior space into a central planked thrashing floor, with two aisle enclosures on either side for livestock and horses.

Vals and José dreamt of restoring the barn for years (a common theme amongst barn owners—this "dreaming" period). The before photos are impressive, showing the deplorable condition of the barn, with its leaking roofs, deteriorating sills & siding and



The restored Osborne barn. Photo courtesy José Moreno-Lacalle


sagging doors and windows. To obtain the considerable funds needed, they sold a property in New York and began work in 2016. The barn is now almost complete. A New York State tax credit against income also helped enormously in their case.

José and Vals supervised the project themselves and noted that, "Just to start, the barn had to be emptied of several

levels of old hay and two feet of impacted manure." Impacted manure is like rock, and had to be laboriously chipped out. Once that work was completed, a diverse group of craftsmen from various disciplines (framing, siding, roofing, painting, and window glazing) went to work.

When asked what personality trait helped them most in rehabbing their barn, they said, "nerves of steel." Indeed. □


**Bring the pieces of your financial life together.**



**Personal Financial Planning**


Patrick J. Fillette  
Certified Financial Planner™

845-255-5888  
www.hvretirement.com  
70 North Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY



**Fillette & Schain Wealth Management, Inc.**  
Retirement Planning and Investment Services  
Certified Financial Specialists, member FINRA/SIPC

**Bialecki Architects**  
Matthew Bialecki, AIA



Winner of 10 American Institute of Architects Awards  
for Architectural and Sustainable Design

info@bialeckiarchitects.com • bialeckiarchitects.com

View of oculus, Angry Orchard Cider, Walden, NY



## Wallkill, from page 1

In other words, the Wallkill is considered to be impaired, according to the Impaired Waters List under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

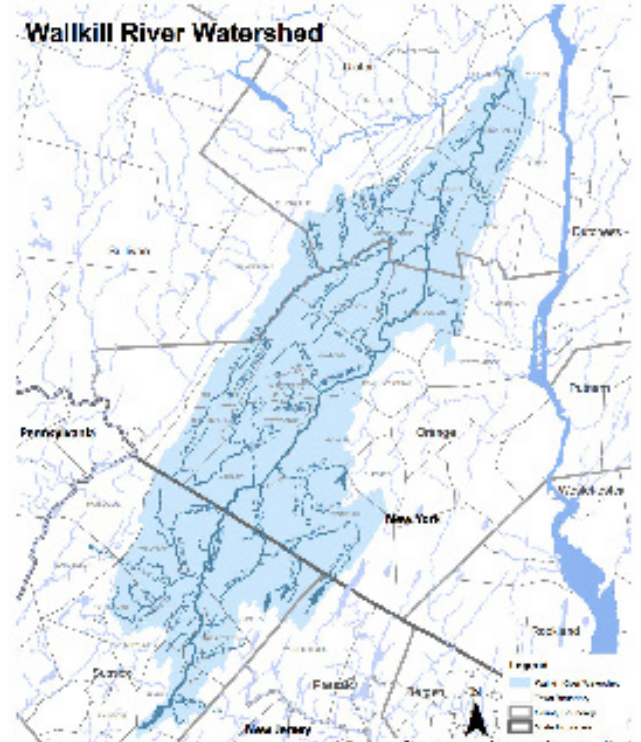
A significant problem is that treatment plants are not required to remove nutrients from treated effluent, and these nutrients feed harmful algae blooms, among other undesirable biota. Phosphorus (think detergents) and nitrogen are the main culprits here, and the State doesn't even have up-to-date criteria to accurately assess water quality in the Wallkill, let alone the entire state. Additionally, arsenic and DDT still affect the water, long after being banned from agricultural use.

Hence, the DEC announced at the May meeting that the Wallkill is to be given monitoring priority to determine its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of nutrient levels, particularly phosphorus, which will become the river's "pollution diet," in the words of Dan Shapley, Water

Quality Program Director for Riverkeeper. This entails, but is not limited to, upgrading wastewater treatment plants and encouraging farmers to reduce runoff by planting crops right up the banks of the feeding streams.

The Wallkill watershed covers 800 square miles and includes 42 cities, villages and towns in New Jersey and New York. There are countless streams, small and large, such as the Shawangunk Kill, that feed into the Wallkill, carrying with them stormwater and other effluents from these 42 communities, all of which contribute excess sediment, bacteria, and pesticides.

The Alliance is exploring the formation of a Stormwater Coalition to help municipalities comply with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) standards. Gardiner is one of 19 local governments that already



The Wallkill River watershed stretches 88 miles, from Sparta, NJ, to the Hudson River near Kingston.

participate in MS4 regulations; 23 more need to join.

In fact, the Alliance needs our support. You can, for example, call your state legislators to tell them what the Wallkill means to you, and that you support legislation such as the 2017 New York State Clean Water Infrastruc-

ture Act, which provides grants to municipalities to help them improve water quality by upgrading wastewater infrastructure. Ask what they are doing to draw grants to towns in the watershed, such as Gardiner and New Paltz. Attend monthly membership meetings to learn

Wallkill, [continued page 13](#)

A photograph of a woven basket filled with fresh vegetables, including leafy greens, purple beets, and red tomatoes. The text "MAINCOURSE CATERING + MARKETPLACE" is overlaid in white. At the bottom, the address "178 MAIN ST. NEW PALTZ, NY 12561" and phone number "(845) 255-2605" are listed, along with the website "WWW.MAINCOURSECATERING.COM". A small "MC" logo is also present.

178 MAIN ST. NEW PALTZ, NY 12561  
(845) 255-2605 • WWW.MAINCOURSECATERING.COM

An advertisement for "CRUISE PLANNERS" and "Dream Journeys Full Service Travel Agency". It features the name "Marty & Kathe Kraus" and the phone number "845.489.5040". The website "www.Dream-Journeys.com" and email "KKraus@cruiseplanners.com" are also listed.

**CRUISE PLANNERS**  
Your Cruise and Land Specialist  
www.Dream-Journeys.com • KKraus@cruiseplanners.com

**Dream Journeys**  
Full Service Travel Agency  
**Marty & Kathe Kraus**  
845.489.5040

An advertisement for "Full Moon Farm" featuring a photograph of a cow and a pig. The text "Grass Fed Goodness" is prominent, along with "Beef Pork Chicken Lamb". A circular logo says "100% GRASS FED BEEF". The address "54 Stoves Lane, Gardiner" and phone number "845-255-5802" are listed.

**Full Moon Farm**  
Grass Fed Goodness  
Beef Pork Chicken Lamb  
100% GRASS FED BEEF  
54 Stoves Lane, Gardiner  
Open Daily 8-6  
FullMoonFarmNY.com  
845-255-5802



## Walkkill, from page 12

about ongoing projects and to become involved in volunteer work. You can make a donation and become a member at <https://tinyurl.com/walkilldonation>. Sign up for the newsletter by sending a blank e-mail to [walkill+subscribe@google-groups.com](mailto:walkill+subscribe@google-groups.com).

We can all help restore our river so that it is once again safe for swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and other water activities, as well as make it safe again to

fish. (There are 22 known species in the river, most of them edible if taken in clean water.)

My own family has a farm on the river with almost a mile of frontage. We had a watering hole in which we could swim until about 15 years ago—not knowing that it was already becoming dangerous.

Perhaps our grandchildren and their offspring may be able to swim once again. May yours join them! ☐

# WHITECLIFF VINEYARD

**A PERFECT PLACE  
FOR FINE WINE  
AND RELAXATION !**



331 McKinstry Road, Gardiner  
845-255-4613      WHITECLIFFWINE.COM

# D and A Concrete Contractor

845-590-4117

Poured Concrete Foundations & ICF Structures



## Can't Beat 'Crete



SOMERO 840  
Laser Screed  
LEADERS IN LEVELING

# sunflower art studios


A 501c3 non-profit organization.

Located in  
Gardiner, NY

## CREATIVE KIDS ART CLASSES

[www.sunflowerartstudios.community](http://www.sunflowerartstudios.community)

# LUCKY C STABLES



"One of the finest Equestrian Centers in the Hudson Valley"



BOARDING-LESSONS-TRAINING  
SHOWING-SUMMER CAMPS-HAULING

Gary & Susan Clark      31 Yankee Folly Rd.  
845 255-3220      New Paltz, NY 12561

# Ridgeline Realty

40 Marabac Road  
P.O. Box 339  
Gardiner, NY 12525  
[www.ridgelinerealty.net](http://www.ridgelinerealty.net)

Jaynie Marie Aristeo  
NYS Lic. Real Estate Broker/Owner  
845 255-8359  
[Ridgelinerealty@gmail.com](mailto:Ridgelinerealty@gmail.com)



"When it comes to customer service,  
the sky is the limit."



## Rock the Ridge: A “Race” Like No Other

by L.A. McMahon

In early May, Rock the Ridge again. It's a 50-mile endurance challenge running course in the Mohonk Preserve and the Shawangunk Ridge. The course has four legs and is run almost entirely on carriage roads. For interested parties, it's time to start thinking about 2020.

Those who only want to run part of the course are welcome, along with seasoned endurance athletes who may be looking to make a good time or even set a 50-mile personal record.

Although there is a significant amount of elevation change, the roads are wide and level in most places,

with gradual slopes, creating a manageable course for those who choose to make just completing the distance their primary goal.

One regular Rock the Ridge participant says, “It draws in all kinds of people, no matter their fitness or training level. You have serious ultra-marathoners and people who walk it with a three-foot Subway sandwich stuffed in their backpacks— and everything in between. We're all just people who want to enjoy the outdoors and challenge ourselves on an adventure. It's truly a great experience.”

To sum up the great experience, here's a description of the four legs:



All photos from the Rock the Ridge website

### Leg 1: Up The Ridge

**(9.8 Miles)** This starts at Mohonk Preserve's Testimonial Gateway Tower; continues up Lenape Lane, over Guyot Hill, past Bonticou Crag for a breathtaking “Million Dollar View” of the Catskills; and finishes at the Spring Farm Slingerland Pavilion aid station.

### Leg 2: Across The Ridge

**(14.8 Miles)** This leg leaves Spring Farm and enters the Mohonk Mountain House Grounds; climbs to Skytop Tower to take in views of the entire ridge line; returns to Preserve lands on Forest Drive, Home Farm, and Overcliff Carriage Roads; crosses the newly renovated

Ridge, [continued page 15](#)





## Ridge from page 14

ed Trapps Bridge; and finishes at Lyons Road aid station.

### Leg 3: Summit The Ridge

**(12.5 Miles)** Participants leave Lyons Road and head into Minnewaska State Park Preserve, pass Awosting Falls; climb to Lake Minnewaska; continue climbing to Castle Point—the highest point on the course—descend past Lake Awosting; and finish at Lyons Road aid station.

### Leg 4: Rock The Ridge

**(12.6 Miles)** This final leg leaves Lyons Road aid station, crosses

Trapps Bridge and takes Undercliff Carriage Road, passing by the Trapps, a world-famous rock climbing area, heads up Oakwood Drive, Kleine Kill Road, and Duck Pond Road; passes Duck Pond; and continues down through the Foothills, finishing at the Testimonial Gateway Tower.

Aside from the copious fellowship and the natural beauty, what's also great about this type of event is the ability to eat huge quantities of food while training for it and not have to worry

about the calories!

There are volunteer opportunities every year, and Rock the Ridge could not be a success without a strong corps of volunteers. Whether it is acting on a committee, supporting runners at an aid station, being a course marshal, helping with event setup and breakdown, or any of the many other important roles, these are all open for local and not-so-local residents.

An event T-shirt, food, and other amenities are provided free to all who volunteer their services to Rock the Ridge. They'll also provide a volunteer certification document to any volunteer who plans to participate in an ultra-event that requires one.

To volunteer at the event in

any capacity in 2020, email [volunteers@mohonkpreserve.org](mailto:volunteers@mohonkpreserve.org) or call 845-255-0919. They guarantee that if you do, people will love you. □



**MARILYN PERRY ART**  
**PAINTINGS**  
marilyperryart.com • marilyperryart@gmail.com • (917) 834-4507

  
**stone wave yoga**  
2694 US 44, Gardiner, NY  
[www.stonewaveyoga.com](http://www.stonewaveyoga.com)  
DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE – PRIVATE SESSIONS – CHILDCARE  
GROW YOGA (K-8) – PRENATAL – WELLNESS RETREATS AND MORE!

**LAKE VIEW HOUSE**  
  
*Casual Fine Dining Overlooking Picturesque Orange Lake*  
**Lunch – Dinner**  
*Chef-Owner James A. Carter offers eclectic cuisine featuring duck, seafood, steaks and pasta.*  
*Also join us for outside Patio Dining. Specializing in Private Parties for all occasions.*  
  
343 Lakeside Road, Newburgh, NY 12550  
(845) 568-7100 • [www.thelakeviewhouse.com](http://www.thelakeviewhouse.com) 

## **The Gardiner Gazette**

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

### **Editorial Committee:**

Jennifer Bruntl	José Moreno-Lacalle
Sandra Cranswick	Carol O'Biso
Liz Glover Wilson	Alan Rothman
L.A. McMahon	Carrie Wasser

Carol O'Biso, General Manager

Jason Stern, Ad Manager  
GardinerGazetteAds@gmail.com; (845) 527-6205  
Kaaren Vassell, Mailing List Manager

Printing & mailing by Cornerstone Services, Inc.  
Proofreading and copy editing by Barbara A. Edelman  
(www.inyourownwords.net) & Sandra Cranswick

### **Contributing Writers:**

Morey Gottesman  
Annie O'Neill

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CRST.NET  
12550

## **Gardiner Day 2019**



Gardiner Day will be held on Saturday, September 7, from 11am-4pm. There will be craft and food vendors, live music, and children's activities at Majestic Park, Town Hall and Station Square.

Shuttles will provide transportation between locations. A full event schedule will be posted as the date approaches. Free admission, so come check it out! □

## **A Restatement of Purpose**

*by the Gazette Editorial Committee*

It has been brought to our attention that portions of the article, *Under the Radar: Development and Community Input in Gardiner* in the Spring issue of the *Gazette* were not up to the *Gazette's* usual standard of impartial journalism.

One of our editorial goals has always been to facilitate a dialogue which strengthens our community, encourages the development of community programs, and promotes caring for and helping those who live around us.

We think *Under the Radar* did

that nicely, with its call for each of us to involve ourselves more deeply in what becomes of our town.

We have also stated, however, that *Gazette* articles should not promote any particular point of view. The article didn't get that part quite right, and we should have caught it.

Sincere thanks to those who take the time to give us a nudge back in the right direction. We will continue our efforts to be a community service for all of Gardiner. □

### **About This Publication**

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

Winter, Feb. 18 release (Submission deadline January 8)  
Spring, May 6 release (Submission deadline March 30)  
Summer, Aug. 7 release (Submission deadline June 30)

Fall, Oct. 25 release (Submission deadline September 16)

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