



The Gardiner Gazette

Summer 2011 - Issue #11

A call to community ...

Free ... please take one

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

Jewell Turner, A Gardiner Original

by Barbara Sides



Photo: Barbara Sides

When Jewell Turner and her husband John both worked at IBM, they traveled to Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Cancun, the Bahamas and Spain. But, despite enjoying extensive travel, it's Gardiner that Jewell proudly calls home. This is where she feels connected and grounded and where she has lived her whole life.

In 1985, Jewell began working at Gardiner Town Hall as the assistant to the Building Inspector, as well as Deputy to Town Clerk Michelle Mosher. She has enjoyed serving under three different inspectors; Hank Pauli, Don Otis and, currently, Hank Vance. In her role as the liaison between the Building Inspector and Gardiner residents she schedules inspections and reviews building permit applications. She assists people by letting them know what might be missing on their applications and helps them obtain what they need to complete them. Some people are not sure if they need a building permit, and Jewell provides that information, then issues the required Building Permits, Certificates of Occupancy, or Certificates of Compliance, after Hank's approval.

As Michelle's assistant, Jewell assumes all responsibilities of the Clerk if Michelle is ill or on vacation. This includes attending meetings and taking Minutes, issuing Transfer Station permits as well as hunting, fishing and dog licenses.

Jewell's father, George Gardner, was the caretaker

Jewell Turner...continued page 17

The American Community Survey's Take on Gardiner

by Phil Ehrensaft, Metro Countryside Research

Last December, the U.S. Bureau of the Census presented us with an exceptional Christmas gift: the first annual edition of the American Community Survey's (ACS) tracking of economic and demographic trends in communities numbering fewer than 20,000 people. Until now, every ten years roughly a sixth of the population filled out a long questionnaire about jobs, commuting, education, ethnicity, housing, etc., and the huge size of the sample produced rock-solid information. Still, by 2006, information collected in 2000 gets long in the tooth.

The Bureau's solution was monthly surveys asking similar questions. For cities numbering 65,000 people or more, this works. Over 12 months you've sampled enough

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Climbing Before The Vulgarian Revolution (...a memoir)



Former Gardiner resident Louise Trancynger (left) met her husband, Hank, (right), while climbing at the Gunks when she was 54. In 1997, just weeks before her 66th birthday, he led her up 1,200 foot Devil's Tower in Wyoming (center). Read the first installment of her memoir about how she and her generation changed climbing in the Gunks forever (page 4). All photos courtesy Louise Trancynger.

The Faces of the Gardiner Post Office

by Ray Smith

"It's the local watering hole without the alcohol" is how Tony Yambay characterizes the Gardiner Post Office. Tony, along with Willie Perrotta and Postmaster Eugene Pozza, each described the customer service they provide as the most interesting part of their jobs. Our post office's front office works as a team—in Willie's words, "We're trying to keep the business here."

They certainly do their best to keep the customers coming back; one mid-summer Saturday, when a package arrived for me after I'd already emptied my PO box, Willie phoned me at home. The package said "KEEP COOL," and Willie wanted to ensure that it didn't stay in the post office over the weekend.

According to our postmaster, Gene, winter brings the hardest days. "I'm worried about the carriers because we have an open loading dock. Is there enough salt and sand out there and out front? Do we need to put chains on the delivery vehicles? I try to plan ahead—anticipate rather than procrastinate." Gene, who lives in Walkill, started his career with the post office eleven years ago (serving in Ossining, Brewster, Wappingers Falls, and Kingston) and previously worked for Airborne Express and Emery Air Freight.

He's rarely without a book about World War II, and also watches documentaries on the subject. But there's also time for family plus the Mets and Jets. Having grown up in Queens, Gene enjoys Gardiner's small town atmosphere: "I appreciate the stories our customers tell."

Willie Perrotta grew up in Wappingers Village and now lives in La Grange. Her post office career spans twenty-six years. Much

of that was in the post office plant in Newburgh, until a friend touted the praises of Waynesville, North Carolina; she and her family started going down annually until a post office job opened up. Willie moved to Waynesville, expecting her family to follow as soon as their home was sold. That didn't happen, so Willie came back, worked for six months in Thornwood and then came to Gardiner.

When asked about the best part of her job, Willie said, "I have to say—the people. In Gardiner there are so many artistic people. People come from all different countries to Skydive the Ranch. I met someone who does assignments for *National Geographic*." The least interesting aspect of the job? "Boxing mail," Willie says. That is, the robot-like chore of slotting the mail into the PO boxes.

Tony Yambay heads to Palm Coast, Florida, every chance he gets, and I finally found out why. His goal has long been a post office job near there and, when that seemed an easy possibility, his wife and children moved down. But the present economy put a damper on such transfers. So Tony waits. In the meantime, he lives with his parents in Plattekill,

where he grew up. Before joining the postal service seven years ago, Tony had a night shift job with IBM. But the postal service seemed like a good opportunity. He started in Phoenicia and has been in Gardiner for about five years. Hard to believe, but he claims he was deathly afraid of dealing with the public. Tony now says, "The most interesting part of the job is dealing with the customers. You have to have a real interest in the customers. I don't like to disappoint people, so I'm willing to go the extra mile."

All three preside over a most welcoming community gathering spot . . . without the alcohol.

Back ...



(left to right) Tony Yambay, Willie Perrotta and Postmaster Eugene Pozza, coping with the midday rush. Photo: Anne Smith



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Bees: A Response To Colony Collapse Disorder

by Anne Smith

What do you do if you are a farmer concerned about your crops and the disappearance of honeybees, known as Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD? Bart Colucci and his son, Tom, decided to take up beekeeping, which Tom describes as a "big faith walk." They bought the materials for three eight-frame hives. Two of the hives are NUCs, a nucleus of a hive complete with a queen bee. Each NUC contains 15,000 to 18,000 bees. The third is an empty hive which they hope will attract a "swarm," which is a colony of bees following an outcast queen in search of a home.

A hive consists of several compartments called "supers," which each contain eight frames, and in each frame is a "foundation," a waxy filament which gives the bees a start. Tom took two courses with New Paltz beekeeper Chris Harp, who has been a beekeeper for twenty years, and Tom and Bart have been planning their venture for months.



Left: Tom and Bart Colucci with the frame for one of their new hives.
Right: Leveling the platform. All photos: Anne Smith



The intensive work of nailing all these parts together—it took Tom four hours to unload the materials and build one hive—was followed by choosing a location for the hives that provided a wind barrier, warmth in winter and protection from predators. Honey is produced in the outer frames, producing heat and insulation. Bears can be a problem, and I'm sorry to debunk some

much-loved children's stories but, in fact, they are not after the honey. They are after the protein in the brood larvae! Bart's and Tom's focus is also on the bees rather than the honey.

There is no clear cause of CCD, and there may be many contributing factors such as mites, pesticides and depleting agricultural methods of monoculture in which trucks of hives are hauled from place to place. Whatever the cause, small colony beekeepers like Bart and Tom are consuming a vast amount of information on bees and becoming quite enamored of them. "Such intelligence," Tom said more than once, "such intelligence."




Left: Preparing the smoker. Right: Transporting the bees.

June fifth was the magic day when the Russian bees arrived, via Chris, from a supplier near Harrisburg, PA. Chris prefers Russian bees over the more popular Italian bees because they have good resistance to parasites, including varroa, which is a primary killer of bees. The first step was to prepare the site by leveling it and laying concrete blocks on the ground to keep out skunks. Next was preparing the smoker to subdue the bees. Actually it didn't work very well and seemed to be unnecessary; these bees are not aggressive if the handlers are quiet, avoid sudden frightening movements and do not interfere with them for an extensive length of time. Note that in the photos no one, even Tom's young son, is wearing protective gear.

Then the big moment: transferring the bees! It was very exciting to locate the queen bee, who is darker and a different shape from the others. Can you find her in the photo on page nine? In the 7,000 cells of the frame we could see the worker bees, the rice-like brood eggs in the cells, and the honey. One pound of honey requires five million flowers! Bees in commercial grower fields tend to be restricted and limited by exposure to only one flower, whereas Bart's bees in their natural surroundings will have access to many varieties. Even Purple Loosestrife, dismissed by many as an alien nuisance, can be quite beneficial. During droughts Loosestrife, because of its preference for a wet

Bees...continued page 9



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Climbing Before the Vulgarian Revolution

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of a climbing memoir by former long-time Gardiner resident Louise Trancynger.

You've never heard of the Vulgarian Revolution? It began quietly in 1957 with the breaking of one rule. Those who would become the Sixties Generation started showing up at the rock-climbing area of the magnificent cliffs that run for miles and tower above the land west of New Paltz, New York. At first eager only to climb, their youthful exuberance and penchant for breaking "authoritarian, inflexible rules" rapidly transformed them into the rebel Vulgarians.

The story begins in the late 1930s. While climbing Breakneck Mountain, east of the Hudson River, Fritz Weisner observed cliffs in the distance. Soon, another European-trained climber, Hans Kraus, was introduced to what turned out to be the premier climbing area of the east coast. The Shawangunk Mountains, cliffs with astonishing verticality, leaning slightly backwards as they rise close to 300 feet, are composed of hard conglomerate and have rounded stone nubs for fingerholds, small buckets for handholds, vertical cracks, for (at that time) hammering in pitons, and ledges to secure climbers on each pitch of a climb.

The Smiley family, owners of Mohonk Mountain House, were will-

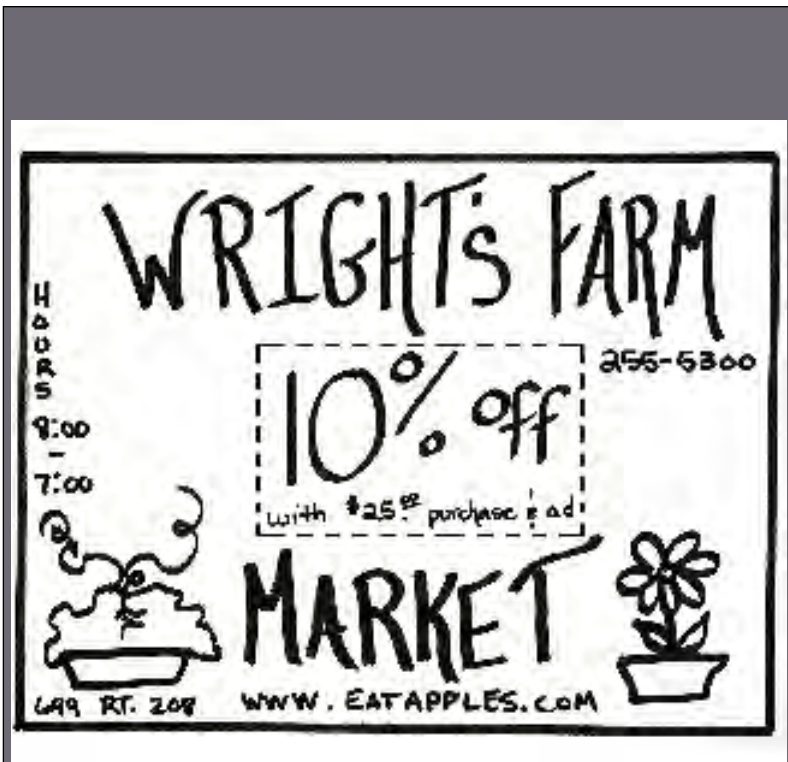
ing to risk Hans' proposal that they allow carefully supervised climbing. What evolved was a formal structure with a strict set of rules, much like the military. Climbers were classified beginner, intermediate, leader. Spring and fall pocket schedules were published, designating beginner, intermediate and leader weekends. Leaders made all the decisions. Registration was required. It was basically an elite organization that networked with Ivy League University climbing clubs and it went on like this for over twenty years.

In 1955, age 23, while driving my younger brother, Dick, to hike at Lake Minnewaska, Dick spotted a climber on the cliff above the hairpin turn. We scrambled up the shale bank and found a few people who said it was a leaders' weekend, but I could sign up for the following weekend, for beginners. Returning from the hike I rushed into the kitchen of our Victorian farmhouse on our 240-acre dairy farm five miles south of Poughkeepsie. My mother, who encouraged every adventure I had ever attempted, was almost as excited as I to hear that Dick had found the climbing cliffs I had heard of, but had previously had no idea how to locate!

I considered myself to be an experienced climber: in 1954 I climbed the Grand Teton in Wyoming; the following summer I spent every weekend at the cliffs at Devil's Lake, about an hour out of Madison, with other members of the mountaineering section of the University of Wisconsin's Hoofer's Mountaineering Club; I was later a valuable member of the student team that backpacked into the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia.

On that trip we climbed Adamont, the highest peak in the range, and though we were tied in—eight people spaced along two separate 120' ropes to guard against falling through a crevasse—our two leaders broke well known rules of the mountain. Rule: at least one member of the team should have experience on glaciers. None of us did. When we stopped for lunch, I thrust my ice ax into the snow to use the head as a seat and the entire shaft disappeared, almost to the head! Further thrusts elsewhere produced the same result. No one seemed to realize that we were standing on a thin roof with empty space underneath. After some discussion I convinced the leaders that our combined weight could collapse the area while we stood together to eat.

Rule: on steep pitches strong man, the leader, stays high to belay (draw up the rope as a climber ascends, or feed out the rope as a climber descends) to arrest a potential fall. Oscar, leader of the first rope, leaned over the crevasse separating us from a solid wall of glacier and climbed 20 feet to the top. We followed, one at a time. Rules were forgotten. Neither leader belayed. After lunch, stranded on our lunch site, we had to descend the way we came up. Oscar led his rope down. Speedy, the gifted athlete leading our rope, followed, leading our rope down. As the fourth and last person it was I, not the "strong man" left high, standing on the edge of the



wall. When Nancy, third on the rope, tried imitating Speedy's fancy footwork instead of relying on her ice ax for balance, I prepared for her potential fall. She fell. Experience and instinct told me what to do; I dropped over sideways, away from the edge, like a tree crashing to the ground, plunging my ice ax into the snow. Nancy was lucky: hanging by the length of the rope between us she was hauled out of the crevasse in no time, and then limped back to base camp using Speedy as a crutch. Her twisted knee recovered in a few days.

One month later, I excitedly attended my beginner's weekend in the Shawangunks. In spite of the rain I joined about 20 climbers who converged on Schleuter's rooming house. Margo Schleuter, a native of Germany, was an excellent cook and gregarious hostess. Climbers partied, ate and stayed for the weekend there. In those days, Appalachian Mt. Club leaders had total control of who climbed, when, where, and with whom, so right away I was confronted by an Appie rule: No matter how experienced I was I could not attend the upcoming intermediate weekend unless I was qualified by a leader. Doug Kerr, of "Doug's Roof" fame (name of his climb) volunteered to lead me up "Easy Overhang." It was fun demonstrating my ability to belay the leader up the climb, feeding out the rope just enough, ready to securely stop the rope in the event of a leader fall. With Doug tied into a belay ledge, I effortlessly reached hand over hand up the easy climb with the rain pelting hard on my face. Returning to Schleuters, both of us soaking wet, Doug officially designated me to be an intermediate climber.

On my first intermediate weekend I was teamed up with two top

women leaders: Maria Millar, who, in 1946, had put up the route she named "Maria"; and her friend, Ruth Tallan. We climbed "The Three Pines," an easy climb. Leaders who had heard about our mishaps on the Selkirk expedition had laughingly asked how many of us came back alive from one near disaster after another. So imagine my chagrin when Maria and Ruth chastised me for even showing up. On each belay ledge, as they supervised me securing myself to a piton, they kept trying to convince me this was no place for a young girl to find a husband. Why was I being admonished? In spite of my climbing experiences I believe I didn't fit the mold. I was a farm



Louise Trancynger (left) and her friend, Pat Ketchum, at climbing school, 1955. Inset: Louise's first husband, Jim Andress (left), with Doug Thompkins and Art Gran, 1962.

girl with only a State Teacher's College education and might be future competition for the few women climbers at the Gunks. As it turned out, I proved them wrong: I married a climber, and eventually another climber. That second climber, Hank Trancynger, led me up Devil's Tower in 1997, just shy of my 66th birthday.

Please come back and enjoy installment number two in the next issue of The Gardiner Gazette. We'll find out what happened when the Appie rules got to be just too much for those who would become known as The Vulgarians ...

Back ...



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Welcome Back Ralph

by Laurie Willow



Photo: Laurie Willow

Inside the Tuthilltown Spirits distillery, the custom made caldrons are a sculpture of smooth copper gleaming in the skylights. I am there just in time to see a small ceremony, where Tuthilltown Distillery presents a check for \$10,000 to Family of New Paltz. Ralph Erenzo is there for the ceremony with, among others, his wife, Vickie, and son Gable.

Ralph was in a near fatal car accident in Gardiner on December 21st, 2010. He was initially brought to Saint Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie where he underwent five days of procedures, vital support

and emergency operations. He was then transferred to Albany Medical Center for further treatment by experienced specialists.

Ralph describes his three months in the ICU as an experience of floating and struggling in a space of pain killers and hallucination,

love and fear, trust and paranoia. Every day Vickie would be there when he opened his eyes. His son Gable would also be there, and his stepdaughter, Anna Jane.

After Albany medical, Ralph went to Helen Hayes Hospital in West Haverstraw, New York, for a month of rehab. In Ralph's own words:

"Four days and I will exit the institutional life. I've been at Helen Hayes Hospital in Haverstraw these last three weeks, Rehab Boot Camp. Some important lessons have been learned during this experience, the most significant, of course, is the value of family in times of difficulty. They gave me the will to go on. But also the fragile nature of our hold on life. Each day at ICU someone new would arrive near death, delivered into the hands and talents of the nurses and doctors. There was constant pain surrounding me, much of it far greater than mine. I was one of the fortunate ones, surviving all and about to go home. And with a whole new perspective on Life and Living. I've not gotten religion or anything otherworldly out of it. But the most profound change is in my understanding of my place, a deep gratefulness for my life and family and friends, and the world."

A video has been made of Ralph's journey. You can see it at <http://vimeo.com/23965691>

It has been a long road back from the brink for Ralph, and it's great to have him home again!
Back ...



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Business As Usual

This column features two Gardiner businesses per issue.

Dr. Sam Schikowitz, A Doctor Who Listens

by Barbara Sides



Photo courtesy Sam Schikowitz

Dr. Sam Schikowitz, the naturopath physician with offices at 120 Main Street in Gardiner, is a seeker. Raised in Canada by parents he describes as “back to the land people,” Sam developed a keen curiosity about people as well as the natural world. He was encouraged in this by a mentor, Dr. Edwards, who was his science and gym teacher as well as his soccer coach.

After graduating from high school in California, Sam considered becoming a medical doctor, but the “fit” didn’t seem quite right. “I wanted to do something with more depth,” he offers, something combining the science of medicine with counseling, herbs and nutrition. That insight was encouraged by a friend, a naturopath and midwife/herbalist, who reaffirmed for him that the healing path was going to be his life.

While considering his options, his interest in the natural world led him to activism for ecological causes as well as human rights initiatives. He worked on organic farms and eventually enrolled at the University of California, Santa Cruz, known for its biological sciences. Armed with a science degree, he was accepted to Bastyr University in Seattle, a private institution internationally recognized as a pioneer in the study of natural healing. There, Sam studied Chinese and Western herbalism. “Chinese medicine,” he says, is a poetic, holistic way of look-

Dr. Sam...continued page 8

Mountain View Floor Covering: Giving Home Depot a Run for Its Money

by Carol O'Biso

This personal buy-local success story begins in 1999, when my husband and I buy a house in Gardiner and renovate. A receipt found in a drawer says the carpeting in the unusually large upstairs bedroom was installed by Mountain View Floor Covering in 1987, the year my stepson was born. It's still in excellent condition and would cost a lot to replace. We decide to keep it “for the time being.”

It's 2003 and someone introduces me to Mario Milano. When I hear that he owns Mountain View Floor Covering and runs the place along with his daughter, Michelle Nielson, and Liz Doering, I tell him where I live and about the 1987 receipt in the drawer. “You’ve got that blue carpeting upstairs,” he says. Since 1987 he remembers this? That’s not normal.

It's 2005 and my stepson graduates high school. That carpet is 18 too, but the bedroom hasn’t gotten any smaller and we haven’t gotten any richer. Soon, though. We’re going to change it soon.

2007 finds my stepson in college. On the radio I hear that catchy jingle for Empire Today’s 60% off sale; this is our chance to rid ourselves of a carpet that is almost old enough to drink. A man comes to our house with two sample books. We set aside the one that is so thin you can see the mesh backing, and select a color from the better grade. The man measures. He says no, they can’t bury the TV cable under the carpet for us. No, they don’t screw the squeaky floors down for us. After two hours he says, “\$2,700.” I say, “And 60% off.” He says, “No, that was only on the grade of carpet you rejected.” We throw him out of our house.

2011 arrives. My stepson has graduated college, gotten an apartment and a job and I have some sort of little apoplectic carpet fit. “Raid the home equity line!” I say. “Enough is enough.” Home Depot writes up a quote for \$2,950. On the way home we stop at Mountain View Floor Covering, even though we know we can’t afford them. Sure enough, the prices on their carpets are significantly higher, but Michelle asks to see the Home Depot quote. “Hmmm,” she says. Home Depot charges more for the pad; they charge \$13 per step (Mountain View includes the steps in the installation cost); they charge by the piece to move any furniture (Mountain View charges a flat fee of \$50 per room). In the end, the two quotes are within \$120 of each other. We tear up the Home Depot quote.

That’s not the best part. We express concern that we might have

Mt. View Floor...continued page 8

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Dr. Sam, from page 7

ing at human beings and bodies as eco-systems. I fell in love with it." He is a Chinese and Western Herbalist with Masters degrees in Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture. Initially skeptical about acupuncture, its efficacy in a clinical setting convinced him that it was another degree he wished to pursue. He also has a Doctorate in Naturopath Medicine, enabling him to treat his patients with the depth he so desired.

Dr. Sam, as he prefers to be called, likes to get to know his patients and allows two hours for a first visit. "I'll have a good look at your life. It's like having a nutritionist, a medical doctor, an herbalist, an exercise physiologist, a counselor and a physical therapist, all of us in the same room." He tries to discern his patients' comfort level with drugs, herbs, etc., and will advise, inform and advocate, but is not a zealot; the final decision about a course of treatment is always the patient's.

Dr. Sam, a member of the New York Society of Naturopathic Physicians, looks for simple solutions that minimize and avoid side effects by starting with the least invasive treatment and going on from there. He has patients seeing gastroenterologists, endocrinologists and other specialists, and his knowledge of the interactions among nutrition, herbs and drugs has been beneficial to these patients, particularly those with food allergies or other forms of toxicity. He has carefully researched supplements, their quality as well as the manufacturing process, purchases the brands he likes wholesale, and sells them from his office at the best possible price. He will discount these when there is financial need.

When asked about what motivated him to follow a healing path, Dr. Sam responds with two questions, and a look at a bigger pic-

ture. "What do you want to get from life and what do you want to give to life? What I get from it is this perspective of connecting on a deep level with people. I have a genuine need to contribute to the lives of people. I solve problems and that's deeply satisfying. My whole job is to make people happy and healthy by any means necessary. People feel better when they leave here. They feel heard and understood."

For more about Dr. Sam, his philosophy and the medicine he practises, visit www.WholeFamilyMedicine.com. *Back ...*

Mountain View Floor, from page 7



Mario Milano and Liz Doering in the showroom. Mario's daughter Michelle is taking a leave-of-absence to spend more time with her family.
Photo: Carol O'Biso

to rip out the old carpet ourselves, because we need time to screw down our insanely squeaky floor. Oh no, Michelle says, that's included in the installation. The T.V. cable? Tacking that down under the carpet is part of the installation too.

The day before installation, weather stations are hyping a late-season snow storm that threatens to unhinge our installation schedule. Liz Doering tracks me down. Can Brian, Mountain View's installer, come over that evening? He'll measure, cut the carpet that night and take the pieces home with him. That way,

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if the big snow really does materialize, Mountain View's long, steep driveway won't be an issue in the morning.

Well, buy-local stories don't get any better than this. Mario Milano has been in the floor covering business in the same location for 46 years. When asked how he survived the advent of Home Depot he said, "Experienced customers." Apparently there are plenty of people out there who have had bad experiences with the big box stores, and Mario reports that a survey in a floor covering weekly magazine they receive places the national average for mom and pop flooring shops 10 to 15% cheaper than the big boxes.

Thank you Mountain View Floor Covering. My stepson is now 23. Our bedroom now has rich, plush, cocoa colored carpet. Finally, these two facts are unrelated.

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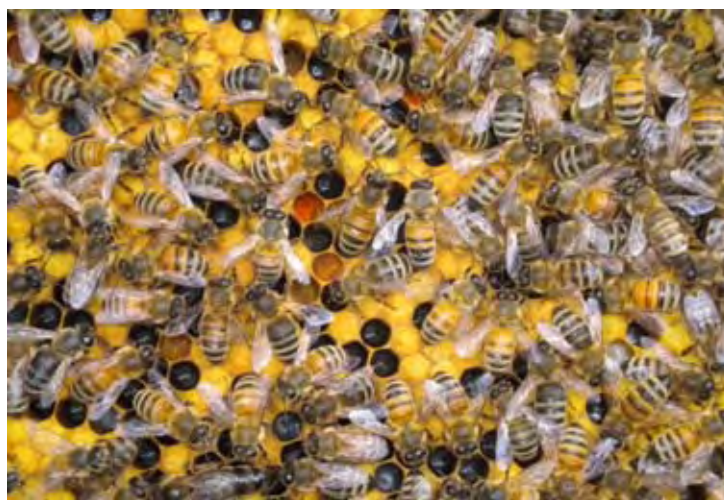
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Bees, from page 3

environment, produces nectar for bees. A side note: Chris cautioned that you never want to walk up to a hive with a banana, as the scent of the banana will provoke them to sting! Otherwise the bees rarely attack unless you mistakenly smoosh one, which is fairly easy to do.

Bart and Tom now plan to build a lean-to around the hives and install an electric wiring system to deter bears. They will monitor the hives every two weeks, gently prying open the covers in order to not upset the bees. To quote Chris Harp: "A house with bees is blessed. They create no structural damage." *Back ...*



The queen bee, above and enlarged at right, is longer than the others and lacks light colored bands.



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[Every] Morning on the Porch at Ireland Corners

by Laurie Willow

It's morning on the porch. The guys are holding their daily meeting, whether rain or shine; 90 degrees; 10 degrees; in sickness and in health. They are folks who grew up together, or just met yesterday. Some of them were at each others' weddings, and many have been at each others' funerals as well. They have formed a little community of friends and acquaintances which, while transient in nature, is as solid as a rock.

Anyone can attend this daily ritual gathering. The participants range from young to old. You will find judges, contractors, lawyers, surveyors, shop keepers, carpenters, painters and teachers, as well as those who have been temporarily put out of work by the current economy. Sometimes, even wives and girlfriends stop by.

Strangers are welcome, as long as they are willing to take up the gauntlet. Be prepared for the sport of verbal chops-busting and a rough and tumble conversation with a wide range of topics including, but not limited to local politics, hunting and fishing, or how to help one of the guys who is sick or out of work. There are plenty of running jokes, which you will only understand if you're a regular.



Photo: Laurie Willow

With local elections coming up, this is a good place to hear a certain perspective about the issues and which candidate stands for what point of view. The motto on a sign on the porch is "What you see here, stays here," and implies a degree of confidentiality or at least an intention to not spread gossip gleaned from information heard here.

Some days there is standing room only at the meeting, and some days there are just a couple of guys sitting around drinking coffee. It's

the luck of the draw. So stop by some time; reservations are neither required nor available.

Back ...

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American Community, from page1

people to generate a reliable annual update. For places numbering 20,000 to 64,999 people, it takes 36 months' worth of monthly surveys to get solid info. It's another kettle of fish for towns like Gardiner. It took from 2005 through 2009 to build up the first reliable ACS sample for small town America, and the world turned upside down smack in the middle of that. Rolling averages for things like ethnicity or family structure worked out nicely, but for matters like unemployment or real estate prices, what does an average of boom years preceding, and bust years following, the Great Recession really mean?

Real estate prices or unemployment claims can be tapped for important characteristics that are sensitive to business cycle fluctuations, so a substantial majority of experts strongly preferred staying with the huge decennial Census and its solid reliability on the nuances of social and economic reality in small places. Nevertheless, the American Community Survey is the game that's in town now, and we should use its many good features.

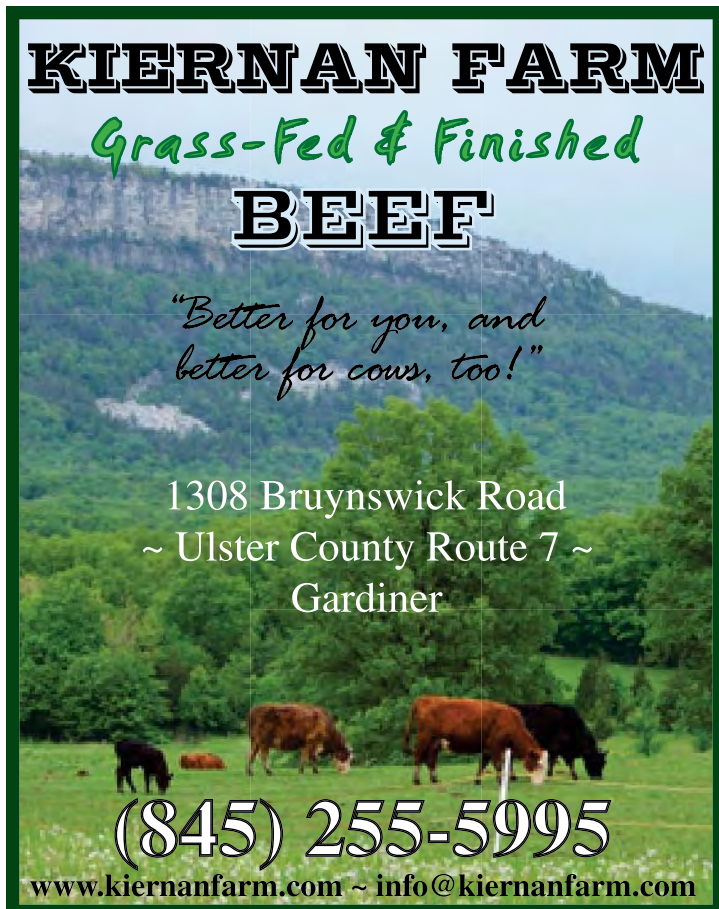
A paradox emerges from the new data; Gardiner's median family income of \$89,915 is considerably higher than Ulster County's \$69,364, Orange County's \$81,435 or Dutchess County's \$82,730, and a quite high 45% of Gardiner's labor force works in managerial or professional occupations, compared to 38% for Ulster and 39% for Dutchess. 20% of Gardiner residents have advanced university degrees too, compared to 13% in

Ulster and Dutchess Counties combined. Yet this prosperity co-exists with nine percent of our children living below the poverty line, and I'm sadly confident that the real, higher rate of child poverty in Gardiner would show up if we measured incomes for recent months rather than five years. Though our rate of child poverty is lower than the 19% for Orange and 10% for Dutchess, nearly one out of ten children in poverty in a generally prosperous place like Gardiner is nothing to be proud of.

To briefly summarize a few other statistics ... we're quite mobile, with 18% indicating a change of houses between 2005 and 2009 (most moving from other parts of New York State, usually nearby, but still enough residential churning about to create a challenge to building community cohesion). Racially, it bears stating the obvious: Gardiner is a very white place, with 93% Caucasians, compared to an 80% national average, not to mention New York State's 67%. Curious, because I think Gardiner is a racially tolerant town. Commuting patterns suggest predominantly local labor markets—average commuting time is 27 minutes, though a high 44% of Gardiner's labor force commutes to jobs outside their resident county (probably reflecting our proximity to the Orange County border).

The American community Survey is a fine resource, and the Census Bureau is exemplary in reaching out to share this rich resource with the public. I've only been able to cite a few insights from the ACS data. Enough, I hope, to get you to dig in on your own. Visit www.census.gov/acs/www/ or head over to the Gardiner Library to print out the section on Gardiner.

Back ...



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Queen of Many Things: Volunteer Robin Hayes

by Laurie Willow

Community volunteerism takes many forms. When folks volunteer, they tend to gravitate towards the place where their gifts and talents can be most useful. Much of what happens in a community as small as Gardiner happens because residents give so generously of their time and money, and, when a volunteer is having fun as well, the benefits increase tenfold. Here in Gardiner, people have found many creative ways to give their energy: the fire dept, the town boards, the library, visiting a sick neighbor, blood drives, Gardiner Day and road clean up, just to mention a few. The list is impressive. There are people who volunteer quietly, and no one even knows about it.

Robin Hayes likes to produce events. She does this with flair and humor. When she is organizing, the people who work with her not only produce a community event that is useful, but fun as well. A couple of months ago, Robin organized and hosted a gathering of 65 women at the Minnewaska Lodge to raise money for an artist-filmmaker's next project. The evening was an amazing creation of food, wine, gifts and delicious entertainment. The group became a "community for a night." (Remember *Queen for a Day*?) We all laughed together, ate together and shared a common purpose that was creative and productive.

Another of the events that Robin has helped to organize for the

past three years is the Gardiner Cupcake Festival. This event begins with meetings in January.



The festival involves millions of details which could become odious and boring, but instead become challenging for Robin. She treats every other member of the cupcake committee with respect. Robin's positive and energetic attitude to just about everything she does not only enriches the cupcake festival organizing committee but the whole Gardiner community as well.


Gardiner is lucky to have her.

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Just A Bite ...

This column reports on exemplary offerings from area restaurants.

Plentiful Parmigianna at Pasquale's

by Carol O'Biso

When a friend and I sat down at Pasquale's the other night so I could write this article, I told her we couldn't start eating until everything got to the table; I wanted to photograph the whole meal in one shot. Then they brought the bread. It looked like a huge garlic knot without the garlic, smelled wonderful and was still warm from the oven. We sat there talking, pretending that the bread wasn't crying out to us. They brought the salad. Something about the slightly old-fashioned decor of the room must have subconsciously led me to expect iceberg lettuce, anemic tomatoes and cruetts of oil and vinegar. My subconscious was so wrong. The salad was a beautifully presented variety of fresh, crisp lettuces with a bit of character to them and the homemade vinaigrette I'd ordered was nicely balanced. My friend and I held out for about two minutes before I succumbed and took a separate picture. "I'll superimpose it over the main shot, I said. We're eating this NOW." We weren't sorry.

We got two salads, but otherwise shared the meal because everything you see in the pictures comes with one serving of chicken parmigianna (Pollo alla Parmigianna, in Italian on the menu). And, in case you think that's a saucer you're looking at, the plate with the parmigianna on it is about 12 inches in diameter. It contains two large, thick slices of breaded, fried chicken breast topped with fresh mozzarella cheese and a generous portion of a pasta of your choice. Ours was angel hair.

Pasquale's is not a fancy place by any means, but that's one of its pluses. You can go there and feel comfortable and relaxed, have a very generous and tasty meal, and leave without having waited too long or paid too much. Pasquale Iovieno, who has owned Pasquale's in New Paltz for 20 years and Pasquale's in Gardiner for 10, says everything is homemade at his restaurants and has also achieved

something of a miracle ... he manages to cook chicken breast without drying it out. I usually avoid ordering anything with chicken breast in a restaurant because I'm not all that fond of cardboard, but the chicken cutlets in our parmigianna were moist and juicy and, in spite of the sauce, still retained enough crispness from the frying to offer some nice textural contrast.

Pasquale's is open Friday and Saturday, 11AM to 11PM and Sunday through Thursday, 11AM to 10:30PM, but you can place a phone order as early as 10:30AM. They also have the notable distinction of being the only restaurant in Gardiner that delivers.

So get over there and sample the chicken (or eggplant) parmigianna or other offerings from their extensive menu at 135 Main St, Gardiner (845) 255-4455.



Pollo alla Parmigianna at Pasquale's comes with fantastic homemade bread and a generous salad, all for \$14.95.

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Music Man Comes to Gardiner: A Roger Thorpe Story

by Annie O'Neill

A longtime Gardiner resident who needs no trumpeting is musician, bandleader and raconteur, Roger Thorpe. Roger leads the world famous Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye orchestra/big band and is a nationally recognized Classical/Jazz trumpet player, musicologist and professor emeritus.

Roger arrived in Gardiner from Freeport, Long Island. When his mom, a divorced mother bringing up twin boys, announced that they would be "moving Upstate," Roger was "dumbstruck." He never wanted to leave the civilization of Freeport, and all his friends. Though Mary planned to relocate to Columbia County, where they had 18th century roots, the Thorpe family's journey, in a 1939 "car with shades," ended in Gardiner.

For \$4,000 his mother bought the 1840/50s house next to the Parsonage on Main Street in the Hamlet (now restored by architect Matt Bialecki for his office and home). There was no water, heat or bathrooms, just two connected outhouses out back. The kitchen consisted of a big wooden sink with a hand pump that drew water from a brick cistern in the cellar, which collected rainwater from the roof. Young plumber George Majestic told Roger's mom she needed a well and she, thinking she was being taken for a naive city girl, reminded George that she *had* a well. George proceeded to install all the plumbing for a modern kitchen and bathrooms and after one day of use, the well, only 15 or 20 feet deep, was dry! As a consequence, Roger remembers that the winter of 1947

made "George Washington's Valley Forge seem like a picnic." He and his twin had to drag a sled (with steel runners) through deep snow to The Creamery to get water in 4ft steel containers.



Roger still reminisces about the "unforgettable first day of school" when he and his twin brother, who had come from a school of 1,500 children in Freeport, were walked up the street by their mother and



Roger (in white) with the Sammy Kaye orchestra playing *Remember Pearl Harbor*, at Pearl Harbor in 1998. The band returned to play at Pearl Harbor forty eight times. Inset: Roger more recently in the recording studio. Photos courtesy Roger Thorpe.

arrived at the two-room school house (now the Gardiner Town Hall) in white shirts, jacket, ties, knee sox and shiny shoes, to be greeted by teacher Mary Jenkins, who proceeded to show the twins where the hand pump was outside for the water cooler, the wood stove for heat and the two outdoor Boys and Girls "restrooms." The kids, some with rifles leaning against the door for hunting after school, were garbed in farm clothes and Roger recalls that the room smelled like a "barnyard." The local kids called the twins "tootsie-rolls" but, within a month, the Thorpes were dressed like the others and Roger became

a true "Gardiner boy," fishing in the Walkill, working in Floyd McKinstry's store as a soda jerk, mowing six to eight lawns a week for one dollar each.

His love of music began with trumpet lessons in Freeport at age 10, but he never said a word at school until Mary Jenkins persuaded him to bring his trumpet in. He stunned the class with a jazz rendition of *Sweet Georgia Brown*, instantly becoming "teacher's pet." When the New Paltz High School band director found out, he was picked up once a week and taken to rehearse with the High School band.

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In April 1952 Roger won a series of talent contests needed to appear on the famous NBC Ted Mack Amateur Hour TV and Radio show. He was the youngest competitor to appear on T.V., played *The Sugar Blues*, popularized by Clyde McCoy, and won. When he came back a second time, Ted Mack said on the air that Roger was going to put Gardiner on the map. Roger was bewildered and just smiled. He had seen it on a map before! This one event launched a long and exciting career.

In 1953 Roger was invited by the Smiley family to play for the 4th of July celebration at Mohonk, and to play recitals from a summer house across the lake. This June will mark Roger's 58th consecutive year of playing for the 4th of July ceremony. For 30 years his was also the house orchestra at Mohonk, daringly playing ballroom dances instead of the square dances that were the tradition. After graduating from New Paltz High School in 1955 he went on the road with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, then played with Woody Herman and Les Elgart, to name a few.

In 1960, Roger graduated from SUNY Fredonia with a Bachelor of Music and a passion for classical music. He then received a Master of Music from the Eastman Conservatory of Music in Rochester, and did doctoral studies at Columbia University in orchestral conducting, trumpet, and music theory. He taught and performed for many years, but the culmination of good fortune was his "father/son relationship" with Sammy Kaye. If you run into Roger he will regale you with stories about their fortuitous

meeting and long career together. In 1986, the ageing Kaye asked Roger to take over for him, and when Kaye died the next year the estate left guidance, directing and responsibility of the band name, "Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye" to Roger, the little boy from Gardiner. Sammy Kaye is the only artist with three stars in the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and Roger has been true to Kaye; the orchestra performed nationally in 40 states, on five cruise lines, 16 years on Miss Queen & American Queen river boats, at dances and in concert halls. The band has been to Hawaii forty eight times, cruised around the world five times. Leading the band led to lasting friendships with June Allyson, Maxine Andrews of the Andrews Sisters, George Montgomery, Virginia Mayo, Douglas Edwards, CBS Evening News commentator, Eartha Kitt, Leslie Uggams, Mrs. Fred Astair and Patti Paige.

In 1996 Roger was inducted into the Big Band Hall of Fame as a trumpet player and leader of the Sammy Kaye Orchestra. Now 75, he is picking and choosing engagements, and still living in "little old Gardiner" with his wife Barbara and two children. And, speaking of his beloved Gardiner, he laments the disappearance of the stately old trees that grew on both sides of the road, the Gardiner Train Station and the beautiful Gardiner Hotel. He is thrilled by the new Library and the wonderful things that have occurred in the town... I would say, after spending so much enlightening time with this "local boy-made-good," that we should consider naming a Gardiner village street Roger Thorpe Lane.

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Gardiner Receives Major Grant for Wetlands and Watercourse Law

by Janet Kern

In May of this year, the Hudson River Estuary Program awarded a major grant of \$36,000 to the Gardiner Environmental Commission (ECC) and the Town of Gardiner to research, draft and present a Wetlands and Watercourse amendment to Gardiner's new Zoning Law. Through the Estuary Program, New York State will provide outright funding of \$27,000, with the \$9,000 balance met by the value of in-kind services from ECC members and grant administration by the Town.

A rudimentary wetlands and watercourse section is included in current zoning. It was, however, always the intent of the Town Board to produce a comprehensive Wetlands and Watercourse Law subsequent to the passage of the 2008 Zoning law so that this crucial legislative component could benefit from the rigorous science and attention to detail requisite to its effectiveness. Despite existing state and federal wetlands laws, many if not most wetlands fall outside of their parameters. Both the state and the DEC prefer that municipalities exercise home-rule to create local laws. The Town Board therefore directed the ECC to undertake this work, and to this end the ECC and the Town of Gardiner applied for the Hudson River Estuary grant

Gardiner's surface and groundwater are essential resources; all of our potable water comes from groundwater, which also flows underground to the sea via the Hudson River estuary. And groundwater is connected to the surface waters of the Wallkill and Shawangunk Kill Rivers and their tributaries, which are Hudson River tributaries. The source of both ground and surface water is the precipitation which falls in the watershed. It percolates down through the permeable soils at the surface of deep wetlands, recharging groundwater. We use some of the fresh water to keep alive, to run homes and industries, for recreation and agricultural productivity, and to provide habitat for the plants and animals that also support our existence.

Wetlands are the source of groundwater recharge, but they also absorb and slowly release huge volumes of precipitation back to surface waters, greatly reducing flooding severity. In the past two years, Gardiner has suffered severe flooding three times. Whether this was coincidental or the result of global warming climate change is unknown; however, protection of wetlands is crucial for mitigating the severity of future floods which are predicted to result from climate change.

The proposed work has three stages:

- mapping
- creating draft wetlands/watercourse legislation for presentation to the public
- creating a final draft wetlands/watercourse zoning law amendment responding to public comment for presentation to the Gardiner Town Board

Unlike soil, water is not defined by boundaries. It falls from traveling clouds. It flows from acre to acre; it seeps through veins of rock and soil into an aquifer mosaic. When it comes to water, anyone's is everyone's. As the ECC begins to write the wetlands/watercourse law with the assistance of land-use experts and legal guidance, community stakeholders such as farmers, families, realtors, environmentalists and business owners, will be "at the table" to share their concerns, experiences and insights with the drafting team. We dearly hope that a law created with the community will produce legislation embraced by the community, thereby withstanding the vagaries of electoral change and forever protecting our most fundamental shared resource—our water.

Back ...

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Jewell Turner, from page 1

of Camp Walkkill, a camp run by the Children's Aid Society (today, the site of Robibero's Winery) and also ran a dairy farm on the land. In the summer, Jewell's mother Lucille was the camp dietician and kitchen manager. "It was like going away to camp without having to go," Jewell recalls fondly.

The youngest of five siblings, Jewell spent her first ten years on the farm and attended the Campus School in New Paltz. The family then moved up the road and Jewell attended the one room Tuthilltown School on McKinstry Road, where she and her two older sisters and her older brother were taught by Mrs. Atkins. At that time, Junior High and High School were combined, and Jewell attended both in the current New Paltz Middle School building, followed by a year and a half at Ulster Community College.

When Jewell was growing up, two black families lived in the community. "Race was never the dividing line," Jewell notes, adding that she never experienced racism in the Gardiner community. It was how long a family had lived in the community that mattered. "I think this is true in old communities and smaller towns in general," Jewell says. She and her first husband, an Italian American soldier, married in 1964. As an interracial couple they were totally integrated into the Gardiner community and had two daughters, one of whom lives in Gardiner, while the other lives in Florida. Jewell has

also raised a 19 year old grandson since he was 11.

Jewell began working at IBM in 1978, as Secretary to the Assistant Plant Manager of the Poughkeepsie plant, and stayed for 17 years. There, after she and her first husband had divorced, she met John Turner, to whom she's been married for 27 years. John's early experiences growing up in North Carolina during the height of the civil rights struggle were very different from Jewell's here in Gardiner. Segregation was very much a part of his experience. John graduated from an all black college in Maryland, where Jewell recalls that, when attending reunions, she was sometimes considered not quite "black enough."

Jewell's involvement with Gardiner is in no way confined to work. She volunteered with the Gardiner Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary for four years and has served on the Gardiner Day Committee since its inception. She particularly enjoys cooking for the Spaghetti Dinner. "I like to see the community come together. Our little committee works well together," Jewell shares. Jewell looks forward to another 50s Dance and possibly a Hoe Down in October which will include line and square dancing.

Jewell has soldiered through breast cancer and, most recently, a knee replacement for which she's still receiving physical therapy. None of this slows her down. Her enthusiasm for her family, her job, her friends of a lifetime and her town continues unabated. Attend a Gardiner Day Committee event and see for yourself.

Back ...



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Articles are written by community members, not reporters. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please contact us. Articles are usually between 350 and 450 words and do not promote any particular person or point of view. Articles promoting businesses appear only in the *Business as Usual* column and are written by our editorial committee. If you would like to suggest a business that should be featured, please contact us.



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See current lottery winner, page nine

A Few Upcoming Events

9th Annual Gardiner 5K Classic Run/Walk July 21st, 2011

Starts at George Majestic Memorial Park, Murphy's Lane, rain or shine, 6:30PM sharp. Kids' Fun Run at 7:30PM. Scenic course with rolling hills, a slew of awards for all age groups and a tasty barbeque to follow—it's an event that shouldn't be missed!! Proceeds will benefit The Gardiner Fire Department and the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail.

Although pre-registration ended on July 12th (and this newsletter probably won't hit your boxes until after the 15th), "day-of" registration is from 4:30-6:15PM. Call Donna Lyons (255-5887) or Barbara Clinton (255-0662) for more information.

Gardiner Day, September 10th, 2011

A full day of fun and activities that brings out the community spirit in Gardiner. George Majestic Memorial Park, Murphy's Lane. Vendors for food, crafts & "Get Involved" area needed. Demonstrators/participants, call Linda Hansen (845) 706-0625.

6th Annual Classics Under the Gunks October 8th, 2011 (rain date: Sunday, October 9th)

For those who prefer 4-wheeled transportation, there's a spectacular option this fall, Classics Under the Gunks, a car show billed as "Gardiner's most breath-taking view of the Valley." Kiernan Farm, 1308 Bruynswick Road, from 9AM-4PM. Proceeds benefit local charities including the Gardiner & Shawangunk Fire Departments. More info and car registration at: <http://www.classicsunderthegunks.com>.