



# The Gardiner Gazette

Fall 2011 - Issue #12

A call to community ...

Free ... please take one

Election coverage ... see page 8!

## Election Could Change Balance Of Power

by The Gardiner Gazette Editorial Committee

On Tuesday, November eighth, Gardiner goes to the polls for one of the most important elections in years. After six years of Democratic success at the polls, the last election, in 2009, saw two Republican candidates elected to the Town Board, resulting in a three/two Democratic/Republican split. All three Democratic seats are now being contested, introducing the possibility of a change in the balance of power.

Points of contention in this election are the Gardiner Master Plan and the current Zoning Law which were passed in 2004 and 2008 respectively, in response to intense development pressure in town during that

*Election...continued page 8*

## Gardiner Parks and Rec

by Barbara Sides

Have you ever wondered who maintains Gardiner's ball fields, paves the paths at Majestic Park, runs the best summer camp in the area (at a reasonable price!), schedules the leagues which use the fields and has built a safe playground for Gardiner's kids as well as the new pole barn that will serve our entire community? The answer? A group of passionate, dedicated volunteers who make up the Parks and Recreation Commission, headed, for the last eight years, by Gardiner resident Mike Gagliardi. Asked how he got involved in this particular volunteer effort, Mike refers to the reaction of his then small children upon seeing the "playground" at Majestic Park for the first time. "Let's go to that wooden park instead, Dad," they said, referring to a popular playground in New Paltz. Adds Mike, "Kids give you honest reactions." And it was his kids'

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Photo: Anne Smith



## There Be Dragons ... by Ray Smith

Am I the only one who has noticed that there is a dragon in the middle of Gardiner? Where did it come from? When did it get here, and why is it here? In particular I wanted to find out just how long the dragon really is. With a curled tail, it's 34 feet long; at full length, maybe 36 feet long. I'm guessing here, because, remembering the Hogwarts School motto, *Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus* (never tickle a sleeping dragon) no way was I going to uncurl the tail to measure.

When Ralph and Keith Buesing closed their nursery in New City, NY they were left with a dragon Keith had formed on the nursery grounds. Ireland Corners Garage kindly offered a grassy slope with ample prowling room. So in the midst of a December 2002 snow storm, the dragon

*Dragons...continued page 18*

## A Forum For Fiber In Gardiner

by Peter Beuf

Paula Kucera's White Barn Sheep and Wool on Albany Post Road in Gardiner looks like a functional edifice that would comfortably house cows and chickens. Instead, it is the realm of sheep. In short, it is a whirl of wool. Paula, a dead ringer for British actress Helen Mirren, is instantly engaging and her energy is infectious. Paula sells fiber—lots of it—but what she provides goes beyond peddling wool. The White Barn offers bushel barrels filled with exquisite skeins of local wool, sweaters, hats, knitting journals and books, rugs, scarves, needles, fabric combs, tape measures and tea cozies with miniature sheep sitting on a glen. A point of fact: not all yarn is wool. It can consist of acrylic, silk, bamboo, cotton and wool blends and the White Barn has all of them.



White Barn Sheep and Wool at 815 Alabany Post Road. Photo: Peter Beuf

Paula Kucera and her husband, David, moved from Williamsburg in Brooklyn to Gardiner 15 years ago. They didn't want to raise their children in the city. Paula grew up in Red Hook and she likes to get her hands dirty, so when her husband became enamored with the Ridge she was happy to move back to the area. David set up shop on Steve's Lane where he produces ornamental cast concrete for building restoration. At first, Paula spent much of her time raising her two children, Cameron and Lia, and she dabbled in handwork with fibers. Her children's education at The

Waldorf School in New Paltz rekindled her childhood interest in working with fiber. When she wasn't tending to her children she was traveling the world painting murals for wealthy clients. Ten years ago she and David bought the farm that included the White Barn. Around this time Paula was experiencing "mounting discomfort" with her career and an increasing interest in perma culture. Perma culture is a philosophy of sustainability that incorporates food, renewable energy, and natural building that meets the demands of a community and preserves the health of the land. Paula was becoming more interested

in developing a community where artists could share their ideas and techniques. Out of these beliefs the White Barn was born.

Paula uses the space for teaching various fiber arts: crocheting, knitting, felting and spinning. She sells fiber made by local artists such as Laura Watson's (Full Moon Farm) wool and hats, Heidi Lawrence's (Yogi Bear Camp Ground) Hand Spun batts and Lynne Nathan's (Gunx Cross Fit) blankets. Paula has created a forum for fiber artists in Gardiner and they have flocked to it (baaaaaahd).

The goods produced by her customers are beautiful. You can participate in this collective of crafters every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9PM and on Fridays from 9 to 11AM. She also offers classes in drawing and "upcycling"—recycling wool products into new creations.

For more information about what Paula is offering this fall check the White Barn's website: [www.whitebarnsheepandwool.com](http://www.whitebarnsheepandwool.com) or stop in and talk to her. The White Barn's hours are Wednesday to Friday 1 to 6PM, Saturday 10AM to 6PM and Sunday noon to 5PM. ☐

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## A Conversation With Maria C. Rice, Superintendant, New Paltz School District

by Ray Smith



Legislation passed in May mandates a phased-in, statewide evaluation of teachers and principals. These comprehensive evaluations will generate a single effectiveness score for each teacher or principal, 40% of which will be determined by student achievement measures. That score will become a significant factor in promotion, retention, tenure determination, termination and supplemental compensation decisions.

I emailed Mrs. Rice seeking an interview. She promptly responded that she'd be happy to meet, and gave me half an hour. When I arrived, she greeted me immediately, had no qualms about my taping our meeting and gave me her full attention for those thirty minutes.

Based on educational attainments and years of teaching ex-

perience, teachers are placed on a step in the salary schedule negotiated with their union, New Paltz United Teachers. Each year of service moves them up a step in salary. All teachers on a given step receive the same base salary.

Can you enhance salaries based on merit, I asked. "Absolutely not," was Mrs. Rice's response. "[Salary can be enhanced on merit] only with my administrators and with me."

If you cannot financially reward superior teaching, how do you achieve it, I inquired. "We have really high standards. We still evaluate teachers and look at them very carefully and if they're not working up to the New Paltz standards, then we'll give them a teacher improvement plan (TIP). And that's a joint thing. The

NP Schools...continued page 16



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## Climbing Before the Vulgarian Revolution

*Editor's Note: This is part two of a two part series. In Part One, former Gardiner resident and experienced climber Louise Trancynger discovered the now-fabled climbing cliffs at the Gunks, but also discovered that since the 1940s they had been controlled with military precision by elite members of the Appalachian Mountain Club, known as the "Appies"...*

In 1956, my first spring at the Gunks, I made an attempt to lead a few easy climbs, but the rules were dishearteningly frustrating; two qualifying leaders had to qualify me for each climb. Pitons already lined the routes and basically all I had to do was tap each piton with my hammer to ensure it was secure, clip a carabineer through the piton, then run my rope through the carabineer and secure the party at each belay ledge. A number of leaders judged me and approved that "first leg," but I never was successful in getting anyone to test me for a "second leg" to lead even one of those climbs.

Most Appies considered the cliffs preparation for climbing mountains. Organized weekends occurred only during the spring and fall, with many climbers going off in teams to conquer their mountain of choice during the summer. When organized climbing ended I wanted to continue climbing weekends. Fortunately, Krist Raubenheimer, her husband Wally, and Ted Church remained at the Gunks that summer. Though they were the nucleus of the power structure, I liked Wally and Ted, and they gave me the opportunity to climb

many of the hardest climbs at that time. We teamed up almost every weekend. Ted, who usually belayed me, often laughingly said, "You're cheating. You made that move look too easy."

I met Jim Andress, an outstanding athlete, artist and musician, early on in my time at the cliffs. We clicked. He was turned on just being at the Gunks, let alone climbing. Jim had served with the 10th Mt. Division during World War II and trained at Camp Hale, Colorado. There, the troops rock climbed, skied, engaged in mountain rescues and were pushed to their limits. Late in the war two platoons scaled a cliff in Italy in the moonlight to surprise the Germans, who never imagined our soldiers, weighted down by heavy equipment, could reach the top. The fighting was fierce month after month. Jim, a medic, became litter squad leader each time his leader was killed, but kept losing his stripes for failure to follow orders he believed were unwise; flawed orders had resulted in the deaths of some of his buddies. However, when he joined the Appalachian Mt. Club, he was eager to respect their rules. He loved the friendly interaction of interesting, dynamic people, especially the camaraderie at the end of the day at Schleuter's boarding house, just down the road from where the Mountain Brauhaus House stands today.

Jim and I started dating about the time my "mommy urge" surfaced. In those days, a single girl of 24 was considered close to becoming an old maid. Jim and I had a lot in common, especially when it came to active sports. In the winter of 1956 Jim switched from his seasonal job in construction to the job he loved: ski school instructor at Belleayre Mountain. I skied every weekend with Jim's friends while he taught, then we crowded into restaurants for food and fun, just the way we did at Schleuter's. We eloped at the end of the season.

We showed up as man and wife for the first Appie spring climbing weekend at the Mohonk Mountain House. Our room was crowded with partying well wishers, with so many people sitting on our double bed that the bed crashed to the floor. Yet, not one of my new friends in the inner circle of leaders was there to celebrate with us. Had I broken some rule by marrying Jim Andress?

After breakfast the following morning we assembled under



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the cliff with our climbing gear. The leader for the weekend assigned each team: a leader, second to belay the leader, and one or two more climbers. When he finished, Jim and I had been left out. "So," Jim asked the leader, "Who are we going to climb with?" The response was, "You're not. You'll have to wait until we get back." They left.

We were stuck in an Alice in Wonderland moment. Our predicament was absurd! Stunned to be told we couldn't climb, Jim quietly expressed his dismay. In an upbeat voice, I immediately responded, "I'm going to climb." "How are you going to do that?" Jim asked. "You're going to take me up something," I replied. And he did.

Jim was on the first belay ledge of "Gray Face" and I was halfway up the pitch when Wally Raubenheimer approached from below. "What are you doing up there?" he called. We laughed, "We're climbing." He marched under us and demanded, "Come down from there!" We laughed again and kept climbing.

I can't remember formally climbing with the Appies after that. Jim put up the climb "Handy Andy" with me as his second. I also vividly remember the two of us climbing "Andrew" with Hans Kraus. Hans led, Jim was next and I brought up the rear. It was an easy face climb, which meant if you relied mostly on your feet, you could cruise up, feeling like a ballerina dancing up the cliff. I'll admit I was showing off, attempting a flawless performance with minimal pauses. I was ready to climb over the lip of the cliff when I heard Hans' stern voice directly above me, "You are an unsafe climber. You should have three points of contact with the rock at all times!" This time I kept my amusement to myself.

Art Gran, who would create the first formal guide book to the Gunks in 1964, was bringing City College of New York students to the cliffs. Just enthusiastic climbers to begin with, most developed into Vulgarians. 1956 was the year 19-year-old Dave Craft showed up. He was another local, like me, who discovered climbing at the Gunks on his own, while hunting. I can remember Dave, totally awed, returning from the first ascent of "Yellow Belly," which raised the bar above the hardest climbs achieved by the Appies. Jim McCarthy led that climb, and pursued a string of challenging first ascents. Jim would continue to be respected in the Appie organization in spite of climbing with the Vulgarians as they became more revolutionary in climbing, as well as socially outrageous, like tipping over a Volkswagen bus.

Exasperated by the tight control the Appies had over every climber at the cliffs (they issued all the climbing permits), Dave Craft asked Gerow Smiley (a member of the Smiley family who owned the Mohonk Mountain House and the cliff property at that time) if climbers could get permits directly from Mohonk. One day Gerow handed Dave a batch of climbing permits; the Appies no longer had total control over who climbed with whom, when, and where.

We still loved going to Schleuter's. Margo's masterpieces (like her mouthwatering sauerbraten and Black Forest cake) never disappointed, and Jim McCarthy and Jim Andress entertained us with push up or sit up competitions. Andress went first ... McCarthy would always manage one more. I remember this scene: Jim and I were at the bar talking to Margo, serving as bartender. Jim placed our first daughter on the bar. She had inspired the name for the climb "Susie A.," put up by her father and Roddy Miller. Margo was amazed and delighted when Jim got ten-month-old Susie to do a sit up. (Exercise guru Bonnie Prudden had given us one of the early books she coauthored with Hans Kraus, President Kennedy's orthopedic doctor, advising parents on physical fitness for children. Inside the cover Bonnie had written, "To Susie, who probably doesn't need this book.")

At the time, no one thought to call me a Vulgarian, even if I had sown one of the original seeds of the rebellion. It was Jim who developed into an enthusiastic Vulgarian while I was busy taking care of babies: our second daughter, Mary Lou, arrived the day before Susie's first birthday, and our youngest, Carrie, ended my "mommy urge" a year and three months later. Still, just like Eve, It was I who had tempted the man. ☐ [Back ...](#)



Dave Craft leading Louise's first daughter, Susie Andress (around age five), up a climb in the Gunks. The climbing Susie did was much more challenging than what you see in the picture and she thought this was a lark. Photo: Kim Massey.



## A Gardiner Fairytale

by Julia Hill

As 1979 turned into 1980 the stars aligned themselves and I woke up needing to look at *The New York Times* Farm and Country Real Estate Section. My daughter had turned two and it was time to add some nature to her life.

Being an immigrant I really had a good sense of Manhattan, but the rest of the state map was an unknown. Still, as I perused *The Times* two ads stood out immediately. The first read:

Handyman special with one acre. The second: Handyman special with 60 acres. The price was the same. I had no idea what constituted an acre but 60 acres sounded much better. (I now know that was about the size of half a village in the Alps!) My European friends were in shocked awe while my American friends told me that 60 acres was just an American front yard — in the Seventies and Eighties there was an abundance of space that few people seemed aware of or interested in. My Texan friend declared, "You are spending your money on crap land!" I thanked him heartily for his encouragement and went to go see the property anyway.

With *The New York Times* in hand, I packed the family into a rental car and we set off to navigate uncharted territory. After a bit of driving and bumming around we found this place called New Paltz where we were met by a lovely real estate agent. I told her, "My grandmother came from der Pfalz am Rhein and I was born and raised in Neu-Isenburg which is a Huguenot village in Germany." I couldn't help but think these things were not a coincidence. We drove on Route 208 to Gardiner, made a

sudden right turn, slipped under a railroad track and then came to a sharp stop. I had not noticed the mountains or the apple trees in bloom; I was lost in the daydream of the fabulous dilapidated castle that was to be mine. The real estate lady chirped, "Um, it must be here somewhere," as we all stumbled out of the car and found ourselves in front of a wall of strangler roses. "Oh, wie schön," I said, not realizing then that though they were indeed beauties, I would spend the better part of thirty years battling those same roses. A beat up sign read, "No hunting, No fishing," when it should have read "Sleeping Beauty—do not disturb."



*The upstairs of the house after the first cleaning. Photo courtesy Julia Hill.*

With the smallest member of the family perched high on her Papi's shoulders—in case of dragons on the loose—we entered a space that seemed not to have been noticed by mankind for a hundred years. Pushing through the brambles, peeling back the barbed wire, we tip-toed over broken glass, hopped over bedsprings entangled with weeds and met mountains of tires and bathtubs

with strange floating contents. There were molding mattresses, contraptions, rusting farm equipment, barn after barn covered with asbestos tiles, sacks of lime, poisons and pesticides. Rusted tools, giant leaden milk coolers, pumps, wires dangled from the sky, collapsing barrels and iron wheels; it was all spread out lustily, like it had come down with the last rain fall. It was a post-agricultural wasteland.

A state trooper stopped his car and rudely wanted to know what we were doing here. We confessed that we were prospective buyers and he quickly apologized, explaining that escapees

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from the Walkill prison had made stopovers here before and he was on the lookout for trouble. (We later found their hideout in the barn.) The officer looked at us evaluatingly: we were a mixed race, long haired, foreign-speaking hippie couple in weird clothes with a toddler in an oriental jacket and big red rubber boots. After a pause he wished us a doubtful, "Good luck," and took off. Unperturbed we walked into the main house, which had begun its final meltdown into disrepair. It seemed Sleeping Beauty had reached a certain age and had unceremoniously been dragged off to an old age home leaving everything she had behind; mustard-colored depression curtains, dried up food, bibles and bankbooks, cigarette rolling papers and hardened washing powder. She had been a pack rat and everything in the kingdom remained. Sure, the raccoons, squirrels, bees and ants had had their fun. The kerosene stove had burned a hole through the floor. The basement was a dungeon from



The house as it looks today. Photo: Anne Smith

which we exhumed a large pot of slime soup that turned out to be (not Sleeping Beauty's rejected suitor) but a long forgotten pickled deer.

After meeting my piece of promised land in this state I pushed everyone back into the car in a bedraggled sort of silence. We stopped for a sandwich at the "Gay 90's" on Main Street in New Paltz, then sped towards the Thruway. But the stars had aligned and I could not fight them, as soon as I read 'Newburgh' on the green highway sign, I ordered the car into reverse. Forty-five minutes later our retainer check sailed onto the desk of the agent and after much hassling, tears and excitement all of Sleeping Beauty's long lost kingdom became ours to love and cherish.

What happened on Interstate 87 between New Paltz and Newburgh? I fell in love. I decided I was the only one who could turn this wasteland back into a paradise. And so I have. It's taken only thirty years, though I am surely not yet finished. Yes, some days, it almost seems I am just getting started. ☐

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## Election, from page 1

period. In general, Democratic candidates have viewed these documents as important protections for the Ridge and valley areas, while Republican candidates lean toward viewing them as overstepping individual property rights.

As of press time, no face to face candidates' debates are scheduled. In the past, these live debates have been an

important part of informing the electorate and offering wider exploration of the issues and respective positions of each candidate. *The Gardiner Gazette* continues its policy of providing a venue for each candidate to speak directly to the voters. This brief coverage is no substitute for an open forum in which voters can ask their own questions, but the two party platforms are presented here, along the candidates' responses to two questions posed. ☐

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**Election day is Tuesday, November 8th. We urge every resident to register and vote.**

## The 2011 Republican Party Platform

The Republican Platform continues to remain true to the core fundamental values and principles established by the Republican Party.

The Republican platform has been, and is very much so for 2011, that we need a local government to focus on the priorities of the whole town to manage it within it means. We plan to work with the townspeople to develop the list of priorities that best benefit the town and then responsibly manage the activities and funds available to accomplish them. We plan to fairly represent the Master Plan of the town in drafting zoning laws that are not only consistent with it, but remembering that most zoning applications are by small property owners and that their rights have to be protected. In addition, we need to protect the rural character of the town from large corporate developers who are motivated solely by profit and not developing the town consistent with the measured and controlled development accomplished for years in Gardiner. We are interested in developing all types of businesses within the town to generate revenues by means other than on individual residential taxpayers. This will require efforts to develop not only the Hamlet Commercial Zone, but also by limiting restrictions on home occupations, as long as the residential nature of the community can be preserved, and work with commercial and light industrial business by making our CLI districts business friendly. We also want to leverage the recreational areas we already have to draw people to Gardiner, this will help our businesses and will spread the word about how nice this community is to live and work in or just visit. ☐

## The 2011 Democratic Party Platform

Working Together for a Better Gardiner

Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility Through Smart Planning:

- Limit town tax burden on Gardiner property owners.
- Encourage business development to increase revenue base. Maintain current committee to pursue business contacts.
- Actively seek public and private grants to lower costs of town programs. Pursue cost effective initiatives to keep program costs within budget constraints.

Preserving Open Space:

- Preserve the rural nature of Gardiner and support the goals set forth in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan.
- Enforce established policies that protect the Shawangunk Ridge as a critical natural and community resource.
- Continue to implement Gardiner's Open Space Plan for farms and agriculture using bonding as needed.

Improving The Town:

- Develop the infrastructure of the Hamlet, including sidewalks and parking areas to ease access to businesses.
- Develop pedestrian linkages from the Hamlet center to residential areas.
- Continue to support the town library as a community asset.
- Enforce zoning requirements for businesses in industrial zones to minimize impacts on adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- Preserve and protect our water resources and aquifers with necessary modifications to the zoning laws.

Continuing Efficient Good Government:

- Enforce the laws, guidelines and processes of the Gardiner Board of Ethics.
- Continue open, inclusive government by encouraging participation by all members of the Gardiner community in town meetings and forums on issues of public concern.
- Seek volunteer professional services and advice from qualified members of the Gardiner community to work with town government as needed. ☐

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Candidates were each asked to respond to the following two questions in a maximum of 150 words for each question. Their responses have not been edited:

**#1. What do you see as the most important issue facing Gardiner, and what are your constructive ideas concerning this issue?**

**#2. The 2008 zoning revision has been in place for three years. What would you change and why and what do you think important to keep and why?**

## Candidates for Town Supervisor

### Democratic Candidate Carl Zatz



#### Response to question #1)

Taxes and the economy have the greatest impact on us. But claims that we're a tax and spend community are disrespectful of the employees, volunteers and citizens who serve each day with less. Gardiner's tax bills are divided like this: 12% Town taxes; 18% Ulster County taxes; and, a whopping 70% in School taxes. Half of our 12% town taxes go to the Highway and Fire Departments. So Republicans whining by the fire or at town meetings ignore the

big picture. I'll continue to appear in Albany before the NY State Assembly Committee on Tax Reform as I did earlier this year to amend NYS tax laws. I'll continue supporting programs like tax-nightmare.org for the sole purpose of protecting citizens from insidious tax burdens. I'll work to bring more revenue opportunities back into Gardiner. And I'll continue advocating for programs that make every penny the town spends worthwhile.

#### Response to question #2)

I will continue to support the provisions of the zoning that serve to protect our environment, our water resources, and the natural resources that breathe life into our diverse community. I will continue to support the current ridge zoning while respecting the citizens who populate the area. At the same time I will work to amend those provisions that have not stood the test of time including those that place an inappropriate amount of discretion in the hands of the Planning Board. Additionally, I'll work to remove, amend, or make more clear those provisions that actually obstruct the very intent of the 2007 rewrite, created to encourage small business growth, establish fair land use, allow for municipal services, and enrich community life for its children, residents, and seniors. ☐

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### Republican Candidate Bill Barrett

(Declined to provide a written response or a photo.) ☐

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## Republican Candidates For Town Board

### Republican Candidate Ron Bonagura



#### Response to question #1)

The most important issue facing Gardiner is how to maintain the excellent programs, (library, summer recreation, community events, parks, ...) infrastructure (safe roads, water, sewer,...) paying town employees fair wages, maintaining equipment and buildings, taking care of our resources (ground water, magnificent vistas) and managing development;

all with a shrinking revenue stream. The citizens of Gardiner are already overburdened with County taxes, real estate taxes and more unfunded mandates are being unloaded onto town responsibilities. I will work with the Town Board and meet with the highway superintendent, library committee, fire department executive council, Gardiner Association of Business, Gardiner Day Committee, Ulster County Executive, New Paltz Central School District School Board, and others, so that we can brainstorm and prioritize expenditures in order to maintain quality of services while being merciful to our tax payers.

#### Response to question #2)

The 2008 zoning revision was a very aggressive policy that I believe the citizens of Gardiner would find difficult to navigate through. There has not been much economic growth in Gardiner over the past three years and with the little that has taken place there has been a tense atmosphere. The chief architect of the zoning law himself had a difficult time maneuvering his plans for development through. As property rights of landowners come into conflict with aggressive zoning laws, there will have to be common sense reevaluations of the policy and revisions made. I like to think of the zoning law as a "living document" that can adapt and change as dictated by need, fairness and common sense. In fact, there is a review committee presently at work regarding the zoning regulations and I totally agree with this process. ☐

### Republican Candidate Mike Boylan



#### Response to question #1)

The most important issue facing the Town of Gardiner is the lack of a stable revenue source other than property taxes. Our Town's other sources of money have shrunk as the economy has slowed down, lower house sales and sales tax mean less dollars for the Town. We need to keep moving forward on the cell tower. The Town has acquired over the years several parcels

of land, we should create a list and see what we could do with them. One thought would be sell some of them and get them back on the tax roll. We also need to look at all services provided by the Town and ask the tough questions.

Do we need it?

Do we want it?

How do we pay for it?

Who pays for it?

#### Response to question #2)

After three years the first thing I would suggest is to review The Implementation Program [pages 59 thru 64] of the Master Plan and see where we stand. The current Town Board has the ZIC [Zoning Improvement Committee] in place. We could expand the scope of their committee to review this section of the Master Plan. In the last 3 years some problems with the code have been brought up [220-28, 220-11d and the use of the Planning Board's discretion]. As the code is reviewed if there are any changes necessary, the proper step should be taken to make the changes. The Zoning Code is not 'etched in stone' it should reflect the goals and wishes of the people of the Town. As the Town goes through changes the Master Plan may need to be up-dated which may make changes to the zoning code. ☐

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## Democratic Candidates For Town Board

### Democratic Candidate Warren Weigand



#### Response to question #1)

Keeping taxes low and maintaining adequate financial resources to protect Gardiner in the event of another serious financial downturn are the most critical issues. The Town has suffered a sharp drop in revenues, even as Albany and Washington have shifted some of their expenses, like pensions and healthcare, to us.

In response, we maintained essential expenditures like road upkeep, cut non-essential spending, like lawyers' and consultants' fees, and convinced Gardiner's employees to forgo raises in 2010 and 2011. The result: tax increases have been small and the Town has maintained adequate financial reserves. According to many of Ulster County's leaders, Gardiner's finances are among the strongest in the Hudson Valley.

My plan is to keep property taxes low by keeping wages, health insurance and pensions under control, maintaining vital spending on infrastructure yet avoiding non-essential capital projects and lobbying legislators to STOP forcing Gardiner to pay unsustainable increases in mandates.

#### Response to question #2)

The goals of the 2008 zoning law were to:

- Protect The Ridge from over development.
- Encourage more development in the Hamlet.
- Streamline the Planning Board's approval process.

First, the zoning law has been very successful in protecting The Ridge from haphazard development. Property owners can still build on their land, but must carefully follow the rules to protect the environmentally sensitive land. Second, the shifting of population density to the Hamlet also has been quite successful, changing the downtown from an eyesore to an attractive, vibrant village. Finally, we must fix the approval process for new buildings. Applicants often wait two or more years and pay hundreds or thousands of dollars to get the necessary approvals for straightforward projects. A special task force has not significantly improved the process. Let's disband it and appoint a group of Gardiner residents that have appeared before the Planning Board as applicants to make recommendations ASAP. ☐



### Democratic Candidate Mike Reynolds



#### Response to question #1:

One of the most important issues facing the Town of Gardiner is the financial instability that plagues everyone in this country. I feel it would be extremely important to make sure that any decisions implemented by the local government are financially cognizant of any spending that would occur. This will insure that the residents of Gardiner are not handed any future financial burdens resulting

from poor judgment and decision making. This should be accomplished through the collective development of creative solutions that utilize all resources available.

#### Response to question #2:

The zoning laws that were established are only a piece of the total solution. These laws attempt to preserve the open space and control land development in the Town of Gardiner. I believe that these rules are a work in progress and we should take into consideration all of the data that has been collected since they were put in place. Without getting into details, I would carefully evaluate the findings over the last three years and work to make sure that any changes made would reflect the collective views of not only the governing body, but also be mindful of the land owners themselves, many of whom have owned and held the land for generations. ☐ [Back ...](#)



## The Ulster County Legislature

Gardiner previously had three representatives in the Legislature, though these representatives could have been residents of other towns. New, single-member districts (Gardiner is District 16) mean we now have one representative, but that person is a resident of Gardiner. In the up-coming election one Republican and one Democrat will contest the available seat. The candidates were asked the following question and given 150 words in which to reply. Their responses were not edited:

### What are the most pressing issues currently facing Ulster County?

#### Democratic Candidate Tracey Bartels



We are in the midst of economic crisis. Property taxes are forcing our neighbors out of their homes. Who can afford to live in Ulster County? With rising costs and declining revenues, the years ahead will bring difficult decisions. We need leaders who are unafraid to roll up their sleeves and challenge the status quo. In my previous terms in the Legislature I suggested millions of dollars in real cuts. If elected, I will continue to work to find and demand savings. Every county program must be evaluated based on efficiency and efficacy. I will also use my position in the legislature to put pressure on Albany to do the same. New York State mandates make up nearly 90% of our county tax levy. Taxpayers deserve relief. □

#### Republican Candidate Jack Hayes



The major issue facing Ulster County in 2011 is the economy. We are in a time period of economic emergency. There has been enormous progress on the part of the Legislature and the County Executive's Office with regard to reforming Ulster County government. The past two years have been a time of consolidation and restructuring of county departments and agencies to obtain efficiencies while maintaining effective county services. The County has aggressively solicited the cooperation of state and local government to initiate Shared Services to create savings for all jurisdictions. Private industry has been instrumental in efforts to encourage growth and development in our county and has partnered with Ulster County to attract new business and retain existing businesses. Ulster County's economy drives our level of Quality of Life. County government must continue to make Ulster County an attractive place to live, work and pursue educational goals. I am committed to efforts that support good effective, efficient governance. □

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## Business As Usual

This column features two Gardiner businesses per issue.

### Clean Machine

by Barbara Sides

It was April. The winter had been fairly typical for the Hudson Valley—snow, sleet, freezing temperatures and then, mud. I was standing in my driveway examining my 2005 Honda Pilot whose odometer was pushing 100,000 miles. The outside was caked with dirt and salt. Inside, the front mats were muddy and full of shale. The back seat, holding three grandkids' car seats, contained enough crumbs to fill a lunch bag. A few



Charles Parker in front of his shop. Photo: Barbara Sides

coffee and juice spills added to the carnage. I was defeated. I usually put on old jeans and a t-shirt and pull out the hose. Not this time.

Recalling a sign I'd seen across from The Natural Pet Center on Route 208 brought a smile to my face. "Parker's Auto Waxing" where, Parker's card reads, "You're always #1!"

Fast forward a few days. My car is shining, mats and seats are clean and the crumbs are gone. Even the engine looks new! The person responsible for this magic: Charles Parker. Known as Parker to just about everyone, he began detailing cars in high school. He worked for dealerships readying cars-

*Clean Machine...continued page 14*

## Seeds From The Past Grow The Future For A Gardiner Family

by Kathy Muessig

Rain was in the air as I was winding my way down the driveway to one of two barns at Four Winds Farm on Marabac Road. I knew I was in the right place—rows and rows of fine, upstanding, robust plants, several cows along with a few pigs, and tucked way, way back, a sturdy looking house. Noticeably missing were big pieces of farm machinery and anything that resembled a weed. How could this be a 24-acre farm without those two elements??

Jay and Polly Armour, the owners of Four Winds, were only too happy (and proud) to tell me their story. Theirs was one of those by-chance meetings; they shared a common concern for the environment and met at a local gathering of Clearwater, the organization founded in 1966 by folk music legend and environmental activist Pete Seeger. This led them to something else they had in common—a strong determination to farm the land and experiment with organic methods. They combined their talents and resources to search for land and in 1988 arranged purchase of the Marabac acreage, which, at that time, housed an old, all-purpose barn and a run-down (but inhabitable) trailer.



Jay, Josh and Polly Armour. Photo: Kathy Muessig

Years of hard work, taking extra-curricular jobs away from the farm and tapping into the treasure of local resources (including

*Seeds From The Past...continued page 16*

## Just A Bite ...

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

### **An Entire Column About A Pretzel?**

by Carol O'Biso

If you think that's crazy, you haven't met the Bavarian pretzel at the Mountain Brauhaus. It's fat, it's hot, it's rich with the delicious flavor of caraway seeds, served with two kinds of mustard (a sweet and a savory) for dipping, and there's almost nothing I'd prefer to tear to shreds and wolf down with a beer. On a busy day the Brauhaus sells about 80 pretzels.



Visually and texturally these are a sort of bagel-pretzel cross, and are actually boiled and then baked, much like a bagel. Just before salting and serving they are brushed with clarified butter, but if you request a vegan version they will use grape seed oil (or no oil at all). I recently had the pleasure of eating at the Capital Ale House in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and while they don't bill themselves as a German restaurant, Jaeger Schnitzel, Pork Shank and a Bavarian pretzel on the menu give them away. I love that place, but the Bavarian pretzel there is simply a slightly better, bigger version of every soft pretzel you've ever eaten, and a pale shadow of what you'll be served at the Brauhaus.

It can get very crowded up at the Brauhaus, and not just because of the pretzel, so go early, or late, or mid-week (intersection of Route 299 and 44/55, Gardiner. 845 255-9766. They're closed on Mondays and Tuesdays), but go get yourself a pretzel and a beer. Be sure to order a second one for me. ☐

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## **Clean Machine,** from page 13

for new owners and thought, "I could do this for myself." He started his business in 1990 in New Paltz, but found the space he was renting too small. In 2002, his friends at Chestnut Mobil rented him a garage bay, and Parker's Auto Waxing was born. Parker moved in and renovated the adjoining space, which became the waiting and rest room he'd always wanted.

During the day Parker works for a dealer doing what he does in the evening in his own shop. His wife Anna works during the daytime hours washing, shampooing and hand waxing cars and saves the buffing for him when he arrives home. Parker enthusiastically lists the many services he and his wife offer. Clearly, this man loves his work. "Gardiner is a good place to do business", he adds. "I like the atmosphere and I like the people. They're down to earth."

Parker and Anna will transform your car, truck, camper, full size mobile home, van or motorcycle. They'll remove pet hair, clean wheels, install mud flaps, touch up paint, tackle mildew and scotchguard your seats. Parker says, "We pride ourselves in what we do." That was evident when I picked up my car.

Parker's Auto Waxing is located at 604 Route 208 next to Chestnut Mobil. For pricing, hours of operation, details about additional services or to make an appointment, call 399-3263 or go to [parkersautowaxing.com](http://parkersautowaxing.com). ☐

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## **Have A Say On Where Your Taxes Go**

Did you know that Gardiner's Fire Commissioners create the budget for the Fire District independent of the town? The budget is then presented to the town for payment, where it appears as a line item on your town tax bill. Your opportunity to be represented in this process is to vote for Commissioners at the Fire House on Tuesday, December 13. Two of five seats are up for election this year.

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## Parks and Rec, from page 1

disappointment that encouraged Mike to improve recreational venues and experiences for the entire town.

Operations (the daily running of the park, maintenance of the fields, lawn care, buses for summer camp, etc.) are funded by the Gardiner Town Budget. Additional funding comes from a fee per lot charged to developers, but this revenue stream has been negatively impacted by both the construction slowdown associated with the recession, and the fact that in lieu of payments to the Rec program developers are permitted to give a piece of land for recreational purposes. The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to see this practice end. Mike feels that this donation of land is not useful. "Have you ever driven into a development and seen people using the land set aside as "parkland?" he asks. The money from developers is much more valuable, funding projects like the playground and skate park.

This past summer the Parks and Recreation Commission, along with the Camp Director Frank LaRonca, achieved their goal of increasing the number of summer campers from 125 to 225, with each camper paying \$350 for the program. With the increase in numbers came the idea for the barn—a shelter large enough to house all the campers in inclement weather. The new pole barn, built with a generous donation from a Gardiner family as well as considerable volunteer labor from the community, was completed in less than four months. The

rest rooms were funded by Rose Marie Williams, in honor of her late husband Jerry. The Gardiner Day Committee will be donating a kitchen in which it plans to prepare food for its Spaghetti Dinner, and the barn will also be the venue for the committee's Hoe Downs. The pole barn has taken on a life of its own. Mike intends to have local organizations run team pitching and hitting clinics in it, there are plans to have a Volleyball League use the facility and plans to rent out the building for other events as soon as the electrical installation and restrooms are complete. A dedication of the new facility was tentatively planned for October but because the bridge leading to the barn was damaged by Hurricane Irene, the dedication will take place in the spring.

Currently, there are seven members of the Parks and Rec Commission and one alternate—Mike Gagliardi, Ellie Gardner, Jaynie Marie Aristeo, Carol Majestic Lohrman, Angel Ogno, Amity Dippel, Dale Bradshaw and Nancy Cass. (Members are recommended by existing members and appointed by the Town Board.) Nancy's idea for a dog park was recently approved by the Town Board. "I think we have a great group of people," Mike proudly adds, "volunteers who care about the park and the town. People take on a project and work on their own time."

What started as a goal to change things for his own kids has led to a safe, attractive playground for all Gardiner's kids, a vastly improved and well attended summer camp, well kept and well used ball fields, a skate park for teens and the pole barn which will serve as a community center. However, planning continues. Kim Hoover of Hoover Architects has been working pro bono with the Commission on a design for an amphitheater to be used for concerts, movies, and, eventually, weekend summer programs. Mike hopes that our own Roger Thorpe will perform, and mentions the West Point Band as an attraction that would be most welcome in Gardiner. Next up will be soccer fields and tennis courts. "We have a lot of land and we're trying to maximize the space used. Our goal is to make the park accessible and valuable for all age groups, but it's especially rewarding to see the kids playing on the playground," Mike explains.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is an example of generosity, and of the crucial role volunteers play in our community. The combination of the two, plus thoughtful use of town tax money, makes the impossible possible and improves the quality of life for all of us. □

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The pole barn and playground at Majestic Park. Photos: Barbara Sides



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## NP Schools, from page 3

union is with us on this every step of the way because they want excellent teachers in those classrooms. The union has mentors for even tenured teachers on improvement plans . . . we just work together.

"We really are trying to have a culture of success. We have so many dedicated professionals. Those that don't seem to fit may be in the wrong place so we make sure they know what the standard is and help them. If they don't get there, we really have to ask if they are in the right place. Perhaps they'd be a better fit elsewhere."

I asked if that really could be done with tenured staff. "We continue to work with the teacher until there is improvement. If a tenured teacher doesn't demonstrate the ability to work up to standard, despite an improvement plan, mentor, staff development or other assistance, there is a process that could eventually have the underperforming teacher leave."

With that pro-active approach already in place, I asked Mrs. Rice what impact the new evaluation requirements would have and how they would be implemented.

"One thing we want to do in New Paltz is to live those standards and ambitions, and to make sure our children don't become a test score and our teachers and administrators don't become a composite score.

"We're going to do everything we can to work legally and within the expectations of these new laws. But at the same time, I don't want teachers pitted against each other; I don't want unrealistic expectations. I want to make sure we're looking at each child individually and we're teaching to what that child needs. As we are now.

"I don't want to lose the good things we're doing because people are afraid of the score."

The New Paltz Central School District has a varied and diverse student body; graduates go on to everything from Ivy League colleges to construction. Mrs. Rice agreed but elaborated, "When they join construction, they will know how to do it because we have occupational and vocational opportunities for children to learn carpentry and that kind of thing.

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"We need plumbers, electricians. We need professionals. We need non-professionals. In our school we do our best to match the needs with the skills of our students and give them many opportunities. I have to admit we really are focused on college-ready for as many students as possible, or at least some form of post secondary education. That's really important to us."

I had framed my questions carefully and watched the clock. Mrs. Rice's organizational skills meant my appointment started precisely at the hour appointed, and ended the same way. Neither I nor whoever followed me sat around waiting.

In parting, Mrs. Rice said, "We're looking for innovative educators for students of the twenty-first century. I don't want educators that teach the way I was taught." ☐

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## Seeds From The Past, from page 13

their neighbors) combined to produce the present day Four Winds business model. Of their 24 acres, a total of four are planted, with one acre devoted exclusively to heirloom tomatoes. From the outset, they agreed that their choices had to be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable for them as a family. Four Winds maintains a National Organic Program Certificate for the farm.

*Seeds From The Past...continued next page*



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## Seeds From The Past, from previous page

While Jay concentrates his energies on producing 18-month-old, certified organic compost (a recipe he is happy to share) and fine-tuning highly productive no-rototill (no weeds) growing methods, Polly monitors the most efficient methods for reaching the consumers in order to best market their lettuce, beans, peppers, kale, tomatoes, beets, squash, greens, cucumbers, broccoli, onions and herbs. Together, over the years, their efforts evolved as they have participated in several different farmers' markets.

Beginning as early as 1993 they offered CSA shares (Community Supported Agriculture), and experimented with offering winter crop CSAs. As of 1999, the seedling sale at the farm took off in a big way. Currently the Armours have returned to farmers' markets featuring their organic heirloom varieties of tomatoes.

In their time in Gardiner they have added an additional barn, built their home and raised two children, Sarah and Josh, now in their teens. They depend on their land for their livelihood and take pride in being good neighbors and buying from other Gardiner farms what they don't produce (hay to feed cattle and straw for mulch).

Look for Four Winds at local farmers' markets and visit their website [FourWinds.com](http://FourWinds.com). Visit the farm in May for the huge seedling plant sale and discover the wonders of growing your own organic heirloom varieties of your favorite vegetables. ☐ [Back ...](#)



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## Dragons, from page 1

was transplanted to its present location at the intersection of Routes 44/55 and 208 where it continues to thrive under the care and attention of Keith Buesing and Coral Acres Nursery in Gardiner.

Coral Acres is no longer a nursery, but specializes in landscape design and installation, including topiary. That's the training and trimming of live plants into clearly defined shapes.

"Being around plants, born and raised in a nursery, planting and maintaining them, you get an appreciation of plants," Keith says. "Trimming a plant after a year's growth may suggest another shape."

Topiaries are normally constructed of evergreens with small, dense leaves. The variety of such plants allows the topiary artist to create larger figures in a variety of shades and textures of green. The darker green body and head of the Gardiner dragon are constructed of taxus, a type of yew. The tall yellow green dorsal spikes are of golden arborvitae and the huge, taloned feet are of lighter green parson's juniper.

Lately, Keith has gotten more interested in the human form and has constructed an 8 foot tall woman in front of The Bicycle Rack, next to The Bakery in New Paltz. She appears to be sunbathing, guarded by a considerably smaller dragon than Gardiner's own.

Early cartographers would frequently fill uncharted spaces on their maps with dragons and similar creatures. Inscribed on the eastern coast of Asia on the Lenox Globe (ca. 1503-07) is HC SVNT DRACONES (hic sunt dracones) or "here are dragons." We're still investigating how that became, in common parlance, "there be dragons" . . . which is also the title of a 2011 film centered on the Spanish Civil War. It was so titled, according to director Roland Joffé, "Because when I started this project, I realized I'd be going off the map a bit."

I, for one, think Gardiner's dragon is just another thing that puts us *on* the map. ☐ [Back...](#)

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## Five Gardiner Craftswomen At Unison Holiday Show

by Annie O'Neill

The Unison Craft Fair at the New Paltz Middle School on December 3rd and 4th will include Leonie Lacouette, Laura Watson, Alexa Ginsburg, Annie O'Neill and Amy LeFevre—five very talented Gardiner women.

Lacouette, a unique clockmaker, has been creating time sculptures in Gardiner for over twenty-five years. Leonie has a BFA in ceramics from SUNY New Paltz, but after her early ceramic clocks she has focused on mixed metals and wood, and is known for her exotic finishing techniques in creating finely designed contemporary wall pieces.

Laura Watson of Full Moon Farm has forty five Merino/Corriedale-cross sheep. Not surprisingly, she spins yarn and is a felter and rug-hooker who uses fiber from her sheep to create wearable and functional art—from hats and scarves to wall pieces and rugs. Laura has taken many workshops and creatively adapted what she has learned to her own unique style.

Alexa Ginsburg is new to the Hamlet of Gardiner. She makes stunning felted garments, wearables and accessories. She has been felting for over ten years and is a member of the Northeast Feltmakers Guild. Her work has been exhibited in many

group shows and she teaches workshops. Alexa studied art at Cooper Union in New York City and was a graphic designer for many years.

Annie O'Neill is a multi-discipline artist now working in ceramics. She makes functional platters, bowls and plates decorated with whimsical animals and motifs that draw on her long-time passion for Mexican folk art. Annie studied art at the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan and at Sarah Lawrence College.

Amy LeFevre creates artfully and whimsically designed illustrations for greeting cards, gift enclosures and small prints. Amy has a BFA in photography from Alfred University. For many years she created ceramic animals and plates, but has transferred her skills to paper.

The Unison Holiday show is not to be missed. These five women raise the standard of local talent. Get to know them! [Back ...](#)



Low fire earthenware plate by Annie O'Neill.  
Photo courtesy Annie O'Neill.

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## **Gardiner Gazette**

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### **About This Newsletter**

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

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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.



### **The Gardiner Gazette Advertising Lottery ...**

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Advertising is a good thing, but not every business can afford it.

**Just give us your business card!**

For each issue of *The Gazette* we'll pick one card "out of the hat" for a free ad.

Mail cards to Free Ad, *Gardiner Gazette*, PO Box 333, Gardiner, NY, 12525, or email digital copies to raydsmith@gmail.com.

### **Keep Gazettes Out Of The Trash**

The intent is to mail one *Gardiner Gazette*, free, to every household in Gardiner, including weekenders. Our address list was just updated using several sources and "weeded" for duplications and known errors—but we need your help. If your household received extra copies, a misaddressed copy, no copy at all, or there's any other wastage, please let us know. If you would prefer to receive your copy electronically and save paper, we'd like to know that, too. Email Ray Smith at raydsmith@gmail.com or phone him at 845 255-0347.

### **Ad Manager Sought**

*The Gardiner Gazette* is looking for someone who feels a personal stake in the publication to solicit and administer advertising. Published quarterly, *The Gazette* is distributed free and ad revenue must pay our printing and mailing costs. The best candidate probably lives in Gardiner; plans ahead; meets deadlines; is detail oriented; immediately responsive to both advertisers and *Gazette* colleagues by email; is Word and Excel proficient and keeps careful records.

*The Gardiner Gazette* is staffed largely by volunteers, but the ad manager will be paid a commission. Get rich you will not. You will help us sustain an important community resource. Email Ray Smith at raydsmith@gmail.com or phone him at 845 255-0347. Thanks.



# Keep Gardiner a Great Place to Live

## Carl Zatz, Warren Wiegand, Michael Reynolds and Tracey Bartels will

- Keep taxes low, today
- Maintain financial security, for tomorrow
- Invest prudently in Gardiner's infrastructure
- Preserve family farms and open space
- Protect our water and environment
- Enhance the community for our children and seniors

### Experienced Leaders with a Track-Record of Working for Gardiner.

#### Carl Zatz

Carl was the Town Supervisor from 2004-2007. He was instrumental in creating Gardiner's Comprehensive Plan, the new Zoning, and "Saving the Ridge" as well as finally building the new Town Hall. Carl also spearheaded the Town Board's effort to improve The Hamlet and to protect Gardiner's rural character and strong sense of community. Currently, he is the president of the Gardiner Association of Businesses, plus he leads the fight for property tax reform.



#### Michael Reynolds

Michael is an involved member of the community. Michael is a member of the Open Space Commission and is working hard to find alternate solutions to protect family farms without cost to Gardiner's taxpayers.



#### Warren Wiegand

Warren is an incumbent who was elected to the Town Board in 2007. For four years he has led the Town Board in keeping Gardiner's taxes low and in insuring that financial reserves remain high to protect the town in the event of another serious recession. He led the effort to raise \$1,000,000 in donations to build the Gardiner Library. He spearheaded the development of the Open Space Law and was the Open Space Commission's First Chair.



#### Tracey Bartels

Tracey Bartels is a two term Ulster County Legislator. She is known for being an environmental advocate and fiscal conservative. While in office, she recommended millions of dollars in real cuts — more than any other legislator. Tracey led the bi-partisan committee that investigated the mismanagement of the county jail. Tracey believes in open government. She co-authored the resolution that ended closed-door meetings on county property. Tracey will continue to work hard to lower your property taxes and to advocate for property tax reform at the state level.



**VOTE FOR ZATZ, WIEGAND, REYNOLDS AND BARTELS ON NOVEMBER 8TH**

# Keep Gardiner a Great Place to Live



## **Zatz, Wiegand, Reynolds, and Bartels have already done a lot to make Gardiner great.**

- Built a new Library that's become the center of the community
- Built a new Town Hall, using extensive volunteer labor to keep costs low
- Rebuilt the Town's Transfer Station
- Kept Gardiner's property taxes among the lowest in the county
- Maintained the town's financial reserves to protect against a severe recession
- Created the Open Space Law to protect working farms
- Protected the Kiernan Farm from development at no cost to Gardiner's taxpayers
- Created new zoning to protect "The Ridge" and to maintain Gardiner's rural character
- Built a new activities barn in Majestic Park for the young children at the summer day camp
- Worked with small businesses and G.A.B. to make Gardiner more "Business Friendly"
- Secured state and federal funding to build sidewalks in the hamlet — Construction to start in 2012
- Signed a contract to build a cell tower — Construction expected to start in 2012

**ELECT ZATZ, WIEGAND, REYNOLDS, AND BARTELS.  
VOTE ROW A ON NOVEMBER 8**