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## EDITORIAL

# In recognition of FAMILY BUSINESSES

The Sullivan Catskills have a storied history. World-renowned hotels, filled main streets, attracting some of the biggest names in the world, whether it be as they looked for employment or just a visit. The likes of Frank Sinatra to Wilt Chamberlain ... but when the hotels of the mid-to-late 1900s fell on hard times, so did our main streets.

In the decades that followed, while the overall economy in the Catskills suffered, a number of family businesses, whether it be in industries like retail or oil/gas, etc. carried on. They could be relied on, when our year-round and seasonal residents needed them the most.

Fast forward to today, and the future of the Catskills economy once again looks promising. A new generation of innovators in tourism have brought their talents to the area. A global pandemic, while life changing, brought a number of talented folks here year-round, who sought to escape overcrowded cities.

Our economic development and local agencies have worked tirelessly to support the business community that exists and are at-

tracting new projects to the area, in an effort to both strengthen our tourism and hospitality roots, while diversifying the business portfolio to provide more jobs.

These efforts have been rewarded as the county has been at the forefront of year-over-year job growth for several months in NYS Department of Labor data.

## So what does this have to do with family businesses?

Distribution centers and large corporations coming to the area are certainly a boost to the economy, and if they want to come and the project fits with the goals and visions of our local towns, then great, we welcome you.

Having those ratables are crucial to limiting the burden on local taxpayers.

But at the same time, the thing that is going to bring back our main streets are small and family-run businesses.

We are lucky to have many great couples and families residing in the Sullivan Catskills, providing unique goods and services, some dating back more than 100 years.

To ensure sustained growth and the continued rebirth of our

area we must support them, financially, letting them know how valued they are and how important their role is in our long-term success.

The **Sullivan County Democrat** certainly values family businesses, as one that's been in the Stabbert family since February 1, 1927.

This publication, printed each January, has strived to put a focus on family business and how these talented people have added to the fabric of the community.

This year we feature three more local businesses in various sectors of the economy. They are Myers Century Farm, the Stickett Inn and Cohecton Self-Storage/Frank's Car Wash.

You will also find a list of family businesses, right, that we've featured in past issues.

This publication will continue to highlight family businesses in future years and for those not yet featured, we look forward to telling your story.

You are truly important to this community, and we thank you for doing your part to make the Sullivan Catskills a great place to live, work, play and visit!

## FAMILY BUSINESSES FEATURED IN THE PAST

ADM (2014)  
American Electric LLC (2011)  
American Storage (2011)  
Art's For Him and Her Too (2020)  
Bennett Lawn & Log (2021)  
Bernas Corp/Sullivan Structures (2017)  
Callicoon Theater (2014)  
Canal Towne Emporium (2011)  
Catskill Custom Floors (2012)  
Cohecton Mills (2018)  
Cohecton Oil (2021)  
Colonial Memorial Funeral Home (2015)  
Combined Energy (2011)  
Coombe Bender & Co (2019)  
Dick's Automotive Inc (2016)  
Harris Funeral Home (2012)  
Fallsburg Lumber (2011)  
Foster Supply (2019)  
Garigliano Law (2017)  
Grey's Woodworks, Inc (2011)  
Gasko & Meyer Inc (2012)  
Homestead School (2011)  
J Hughson Excavating Inc (2015)  
J & H Express Mart (2020)  
Jerry Land Jewelers (2019)  
Kohler Lumber (2011)  
Landscape Trailers (2014)  
Liberty Diner (2020)

M & M (2011)  
Matthew J. Freda Real Estate (2011)  
Monticello Greenhouses, Inc (2018)  
Northern Farmhouse Pasta (2016)  
Prestige Towing (2020)  
Rasmussen Furniture (2012)  
Rieber Realty (2021)  
Riverside Remedies (2017)  
Robert Green (2011)  
Rockland House (2013)  
Rouis and Company, LLP (2011, 2016)  
Samba Cafe (2011)  
Scott's Auto Body (2018)  
Sedlack Auto Body (2015)  
Service Scaffold (2012)  
Seven X Motors Inc (2012)  
The Heron Restaurant (2018)  
The New Munson Diner (2021)  
Thunder View Farms (2011)  
Van Etten Oil (2011)  
White Sulphur Springs Inn (2011)  
Resnick Group (2016)  
Harris Monti McLaughlin Insurance (2021)  
Mobilemedic (2021)  
Raimondo's (2021)  
Case Tier Service (2021)  
Fiesta On Main (2014)  
Two Guys (2014)  
Scarfalloto's (2014)  
Premier Care (2013)  
Rolling V (2014)  
Creekside (2014)  
Roscoe Beer Co. (2014)

## All in the Family

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# Eight generations of Myers Century Farm



STORY BY DEREK KIRK

It's all hands are on deck for the fifth through the eighth generations of the Myers Century Farm Family!

A longstanding collaborative effort, the farm's deed dates back all the way to 1837. The homestead was originally located around 110 Street in Manhattan, New York City. However, as more space was required for the family's farming needs, the move to Jeffersonville marked the start of a lasting agricultural enterprise which remains active today.

Generation seven, which includes Rianne Erlwein, and her two brothers work alongside generation 6, parents Pete and Dawn (Myers) Erlwein. All pitch in to assist on the farm in various ways, including maintenance, working with crops and livestock, caring for the cows, and creating farm products.

Generation five, Earl and Marian Myers and Adele Erlwein continue to support the farm with various vital tasks.

The youngest on the farm, Wesley, Evanne, and Tucker (generation eight) are already keeping up with tradition and assisting where they can. These responsibilities include keeping an eye on their elders with goodies and treats in hand and ensuring there is never a shortage of smiling faces.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Even the youngest on the farm have role and duties - making smiles!



A family business goes nowhere without the support of the family, and a business goes nowhere without the support of the community. We are so grateful to all of the businesses who stock our products and to all of their customers and our farm store visitors who purchase them. We look forward to great relationships for years to come.

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Sisters-in-law of Rianne, Kelsey and Meagan, do their part in uplifting the farm.

Kelsey works in the processing plant, creating batches of the home-made ice cream and other milk products, while Meagan designs all of the labels and containers, as well as web administration for their website, [www.myerscenturyfarm.com](http://www.myerscenturyfarm.com).

Rianne said that the best part about working with family is that they all realize that no one is perfect, and that they know each other's strengths and weaknesses.

"We all appreciate, respect and genuinely love each other despite our sometimes imperfections," Rianne said.

Beyond the immediate family, many aunts, uncles and cousins are always ready to lend a hand to make sure that no matter what, the family and

the farm are always looked after and cared for.

With all that teamwork and dedication, what is taken away at the end of the day is well worth it.

Numerous home-made products are crafted on-site with fresh farm products, including milk and ice cream. The farm products run generally anywhere from \$4-\$9 at the farm store, including white milk, which runs from \$2 a quart to \$6 a gallon, and heavy cream for \$5 pint to \$8 a quart. Ice cream is \$6 a pint, \$4 a sandwich and \$5 for specialty treats.

Find all of these products fresh at their farm store, located at 112 Earl Myers Road, Jeffersonville.

Rianne assured that the whole family puts in the work to ensure that they "strive to offer the purest form of dairy products at the most reasonable price [they] can."



Clockwise from top right:

The Friday night milking crew putting in the work together.

There are currently three entire generations of family members who work in tandem on the Myers Century Farm.

Stop by the homestead and pick up some delicious farm fresh products, located at 112 Earl Myers Road in Jeffersonville.





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BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

# Building on each others' dreams

When we hear 'family business' our minds often think of establishments that have been passed down from generation to generation, which many times is the case, but those family operations have to start somewhere, and for Johnny Pizzolato and husband Roswell Hamrick it started in Barryville.

Back in 1998, Roswell, trained architect as well as set and production designer for TV and film, purchased the former Barryville Congregational Church and began the process of converting it into a home. Not long after, Roswell met Johnny and they began dating in 2005, soon making regular weekend trips up to Barryville.

"We didn't really venture out a lot when I first started coming up with Roswell," stated Johnny, "but we did have a lot of friends and family come up from all over - artists, actors, designers, musicians, etc. We loved hosting, but it's exhausting to have everyone in your house all the time, so the idea of an 'inn' sort of evolved."

In 2011, the local bank told Roswell and Johnny that a property along the D&H canal with a building on it built in the 19th century was going up for auction. Roswell was on a film set in Atlanta and Johnny was busy running his recently opened store and showroom in NYC, but at the last minute decided to drive up for the auction. Surprisingly, he was the only one there that was interested in the property.

It was in rough shape, according to Johnny, and they weren't sure what they were going to do, but with the help of family and the support of the Planning Board, their dreams were actualized and the Stickett Inn was born.

"A couple of months after the auction, my parents were visiting and we were driving around the Poconos," Johnny said. "We passed Tuck-Em-Inn and started word association with my mom who blurted out Stickett Inn. We thought it was genius, and punny. She was a voracious writer and reader, and so it stuck, so to speak."



Johnny and Roswell restored the building, keeping the original windows, moldings, and wood floors while adding modern, sleek elements. The Inn consists of four two-room suites, each with a special feature including a kitchen, a large trough tub, a steam shower, and a bar.

They officially opened the doors to the Stickett Inn in 2012.

"We want guests to be able to sort of play house in the woods, take a break and relax, support local businesses, and enjoy the river community."

But that's not all Johnny and Roswell have done. Along with other motivated members of the Barryville Chamber of Commerce, they jumped in to help plant, beautify, get grants for signage, clean up trash in the area, and more.

"Barryville, and the Town of Highland, is a sort of 'all-in' kind of place. There are waves and movements of community leaders and activity here," expressed Johnny. "The Inn is a first stop for a lot of new homeowners, and we feel responsible to let them know about all the great businesses, services, tradespeople, and artisans that can help them get settled in. Most of all, we are a safe space for anyone who wants to visit the area, drink a cider, eat a taco,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Johnny Pizzolato, left and Roswell Hamrick.

Stickett Inn Cider at Barryville Oasis is the pair's latest project.

ners, and as family together, is being able to build on each others' dreams and visions, and then watching it come to fruition.

not be judged, and have fun."

In 2017, Johnny and Roswell teamed up with Wilklow Orchards to make their very own Stickett Inn Cider. A cider that they feel reflects life in upstate NY - dry, hard, and beautiful. Their cider, and tacos, can be found at the Barryville Tasting Room - the Stickett Inn's Bang Bang Bar.

Most recently they purchased the former D&R Service Station in hopes of relocating their cider operation there, and 'keep the gas pumping at Stickett Inn Cider at Barryville Oasis'. They're still working out some kinks, but with the help of the town and state officials, they're hoping to open as soon as they can.

For Johnny and Roswell, what they love about working as part-

"Every morning is a board meeting," laughed Johnny, "and that can be exhausting. We try to separate, but sometimes, we can't turn it off. We have great friends and employees that sometimes pull us away from a debate, but it all works. We meet in the middle."

Family also means their dog, Lamonte, who just turned 18 and is very much the mascot of the Inn, and their cat, Francois, who hung around a lot at the service station.

"When it started to get cold this fall, we took him in, so he's the Oasis guy, but he lives with us at the church. This is our little family, and we hope everyone finds their joy here."

For more information, hours, or to book a stay, visit [stickettinn.com](http://stickettinn.com), email them at [info@stickettinn.com](mailto:info@stickettinn.com) or call 1-845-557-0913.



# A fleet of ventures crewed by the Kratz family

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY DEREK KIRK

Cochecton Self Storage LLC is just one of three separate local businesses owned and operated by the Kratz family.



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Frank and Kasey Kratz, along with the assistance of their children Jenna and Jared, own and operate three separate businesses. This family is the power behind Cochection Self Storage

LLC, Frank's Car Wash and Laundromat LLC, and Kratz Concrete Construction, LLC.

The Kratz family have been at the helm of the self storage business for almost eight years and have been giving people a place to wash their clothes and their cars for a little over 15 months. The oldest of the three is the construction head of this trifecta with a history of 16 years.

This wide range of practices and businesses stem from it being a family thing – allowing the Kratz family to

have the freedom to try new things.

Because they have their family at their side, the Kratz family feels as though they can make mistakes without the fear of failure or punishment. Who else would you want to help steer a fleet of ventures besides those you hold the closest?

The Kratz exemplify this, understanding and appreciating that this close-knit family business model allows them to put in the extra hours and effort needed to make the businesses successful without sacrificing time spent with each other.

These businesses also keep it affordable, as the Kratz Family's push for serving the community understands

family needs.

Although the pricing for the storage varies depending on the size unit needed, there are various sizes available for customers to choose from. The sizes available are 5x10, 10x10, 10x15 and 10x20.

The pricing for the laundromat varies depending on what size machine you are using and any additional options that you choose. Pricing for the car wash is \$3 for 4 minutes.

To contact the Kratz family for further information on any of their three businesses, send them an email at [cochectionselfstorage@yahoo.com](mailto:cochectionselfstorage@yahoo.com), or give them a call at (845) 932-5140.



The Kratz Family. From left to right, Jared, Jenna, Frank, and Kasey.

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