

Warwick^{Valley}Dispatch

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America was originally a nation of small businesses.

Small self-sufficient farms, “mom and pop” stores on every corner, and a multitude of weekly, locally owned newspapers gave

structure to a system that favored checks and balances, local sovereignty and maximum creative input from the greatest number of citizens. The rule was “a free and informed public makes the best possible choices.”

The Warwick Valley Dispatch remains one of the few independent and locally owned newspapers in the Country and actually prints the newspaper on its premises located in the historic Village of Warwick. *The Dispatch* has been covering local, hometown news and events since it was founded in 1885 by George F. Ketchum. After Mr. Ketchum passed-away, his daughter Florence Ketchum continued in his efforts to record the life and times of the Town of Warwick, while capturing the voice of its residents.

In the early 1940’s Betty Jane Wright, granddaughter of the founder, ran the paper until she formed a partner-

ship in 1947 with her husband, Eugene Wright. Mr. Wright ran the *Goshen Independent Republican*, now called the *Goshen Independent*, newspaper until he passed-away in 1993. Mrs. Wright then became the owner of both papers and was a vital member of the community until her death on May 7, 2000.

The Wright’s son, Eugene, Jr., is currently the publisher of both newspapers. The owner and staff endeavor to continue the tradition of excellence established at its founding and to provide the Town of Warwick with an informative and interesting community paper. According to Wright, “Our mission is to provide the community with a voice not beholden to a distant, corporate board of directors. We serve the people and not big business profits. We favor the success and proliferation of the small businessman and we support our neighbors and community.”

These two weekly papers are printed, collated and distributed from the Dispatch building, located at 2 Oakland Avenue.

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