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Wine Fest founder: Improve LG's Festival Commons

By Cathy DeDe
 Chronicle Managing Editor

“There are not enough events being held at Festival Commons and it’s a shame,

because it has a TON of potential,” says **Sasha Parady**, founder of this weekend’s 10th annual Adirondack Wine and Fest and co-owner with her husband Mike of Adirondack Winery.

“This is a beautiful, green grassy lawn located right at the base of The Queen of American Lakes, surrounded by hotels, restaurants and attractions, less than a gas tank away from two of the largest metropolitan areas in the country.

“It’s a great location for a festival, however, it’s VERY, VERY hard to throw an event here. You are starting from scratch.

“You have to source EVERYTHING on your own, from dealing with the County and the

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Sasha Parady has built a successful event but says site not welcoming.

Class of 2026 Graduation Section inside!



Saratoga couple Ardie & Dan Russell will run The ED for GF

By Cathy DeDe
 Chronicle Managing Editor

Ardith “Ardie” Russell and her husband Dan Russell, of Saratoga Springs, will operate “The Ed” for the City of Glens Falls as of July 1. It’s the Farmer’s Market and events pavilion on South Street.

The contract is for 18 months, to December 31, 2027. The Russells will handle management, operation, marketing and costs of the venue, including for personnel, says the contract, and for collecting fees and other income from events.

The City receives 20 percent of facility rental fees for the weekly Farmers Market,

18-month contract, they seek to book events; paid from the rental revenue.



Dan & Ardie Russell will form a new LLC to run The ED, the Market Center on South Street, for the City of Glens Falls.

Chronicle photo/Ben Westcott

guaranteed to be at least \$800 monthly. It receives 12 percent of rental income for all other events.

As operators, the Russells, or the LLC they plan to form, will receive all other revenues from

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Exclusive: CEO of biz that now runs The Great Escape

By Cathy DeDe
 Chronicle Managing Editor

When Six Flags sold The Great Escape and five of its other smaller, underperforming parks to Kansas City investment firm EPR Properties in April, a separate company, Enchanted Parks, took over operating the parks.

James Harhi (pronounced Har-High), is the **founder CEO and owner of Enchanted Parks.**

Mr. Harhi says of The Great Escape, “We’re very excited to be in the market.”

He says, **Great Escape “does very well. It has good support. It makes money today. It made money last year.**

“It’s never been at a point where it’s lost money, **but it definitely is not making as much as it did years ago.**

“We think it has opportunity to go back to its heyday.”

Mr. Harhi says, “AI can’t replace the experience you get at a theme park. People want physi-

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James Harhi, 50, is ‘founder CEO & main shareholder’ of Enchanted Parks, which now runs The Great Escape & five other former Six Flags parks.

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