



The Green's Auto "family" (front to back): Anastacia Marriner, Nikki Green, Dino Green, Tia Bassett, Jay Maviki, and Brian Rhods. Photo: Charlie Darling

GREEN'S AUTO ADDS USED CAR SALES, TRUCK RENTALS

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Green's Auto at 156 Main Street continues to grow. Owner Dino Green has hired another mechanic and a driver in order to be able to finish more auto service and state inspections each day. He's also added a new truck for his AAA towing and recovery service, as well as to handle dealer transport of vehicles.

Another new addition to the services offered at Green's Auto is Budget truck rental, for when you need to move something across town or across the country.

And Green's Auto has been ap-

proved by both the state and the town to sell used vehicles on Main Street. Dino plans to keep an inventory of about half a dozen quality, late model cars and trucks on the lot.

"Green's Auto has been your neighborhood mechanic for over two years now, and thanks to the community's great response, we're now able to offer more: better service, truck rentals, and quality used cars and trucks," Dino said. "Our motto is: One Call Does It All!"

You can reach Dino 24 hours a day at 735-6100, or stop by the shop at 156 Main Street, just about across the street from Pizza Chef.



Black Mountain Conservation Easement Struggles Toward December 15 Deadline

By Victoria Shouldis
Concord Monitor staff

From the October 24 Concord Monitor

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) is looking for a few bucks from everybody who has ever paused to take in life on Mount Kearsarge – whether from the highway or from the Lincoln Trail, the popular path for hikers – in order to preserve its majestic view.

One of the secondary peaks that completes Mount Kearsarge, 1,025 acres called Black Mountain, or the Black Mountain Forest, is privately owned and unprotected land. The land, long owned and forested by the Lewen family, was put up for sale a few years ago, suddenly open to residential development. At one time, the property – just more than 1,000 acres of prime forest – was listed for \$5 million. The real estate market began its free-fall about that time, though, and the acreage didn't sell.

Since that time, the Lewen family and the Forest Society got connected, and both sides began to consider whether conservation was the proper step to pursue for Black Mountain, and at what cost.

The Forest Society doesn't, as policy, believe that all land ought to be protected land. When a property such as Black Mountain comes up, staff consider whether there is appropriate reason to try to protect the land and whether the property adheres to the society's mission of protecting the state's important landscapes while promoting wise use of renewable resources, according to Jack Savage, vice president of communications and outreach for the Forest Society.

"At the end of the day, there still needs to be land available for development, and we are not opposed to that," Savage said. "In this case, Black Mountain is an area that is highly important to conservation, to our mission."

While making a deal with the Forest Society means that the owners sell their land in difficult times, it also means the landowner is willing to settle on what is often a significantly lower price than might eventually be paid by a residential developer.

"In selling the land to the Forest Society, the owner can only get paid based on the appraised value of the property," said Brian Hotz, director of land protection for the society. "We can't pay the owner based on speculative numbers, what anyone thinks the property might sell for if a developer came in."

After negotiating, the Forest Society and the Lewen family settled on a purchase price of about \$1.2 million; the Forest Society has paid a deposit and has until December 15 to raise the funds. At this point, its efforts have brought in "just shy of \$800,000," according to Savage.

Society employees also played host on the mountain to representatives of the state's Land and Community Heritage In-

vestment Program, or LCHIP; the society has asked LCHIP for \$200,000. There is no guarantee of LCHIP funding, and if funding is given, it could be all or any portion of what the society asked for.

There doesn't seem to be any opposition to conserving the land. The towns of Sutton and Warner, where Black Mountain is located, support the project, as do a roster of community and conservation groups. But fundraising is a tough job these days. The Forest Society has been hosting informational meetings and hikes trying to stoke interest.

"It's not an issue of convincing people that this is a good cause, it's that we're on this short time frame," Savage said. "We're hoping to connect with everyone who just loves New Hampshire, recognizes Kearsarge as an iconic peak and the importance of protecting that landscape. If we can get that message out there and raise \$250,000 from individual donors, we have a good chance of success."

Black Mountain Forest contains more than a mile of the Lincoln Trail, one of the most popular hiking paths to the top of Mount Kearsarge. It is a key part of the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway, which is described as a 75-mile "emerald necklace" of hiking trails surrounding Lake Sunapee and [passing through Andover, Danbury, Wilmot, New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Goshen, Newbury, Sutton, and Warner].

With the purchase of Black Mountain and the pending completion of a conservation easement between Warner, Sutton, the Forest Society, and the owners of the family-owned Gore Farm, there will be a vast and uninterrupted stretch of protected land, beginning in Warner, including the entire Mount Kearsarge State Forest, and reaching into Andover and Wilmot. Black Mountain also begins just behind Kearsarge Regional High School in Sutton, which could mean enhanced, first-hand educational opportunities for students.

Kearsarge Mountain was first officially mapped in 1652, when New Hampshire was still part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The mountain was explored as part of an expedition by Governor John Endicott to find the sources of the Merrimack River. The name was written as Carasarga, which eventually evolved into Kearsarge – apparently a word used by American Indians, which roughly translated to "notched mountain of pine."

The Kearsarge Mountain range – including Black Mountain – is one of the state's most ecologically significant mountains south of the White Mountains, serving as home to fir trees, spruces, oak and pine, as well as bear, bobcats, moose, deer, turkey, and various other species. Though it has been privately owned, the land has been responsibly managed by a forester who will stay on if the sale of the land to the

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