

# LOCAL NEWS

## Paintings of village to be unveiled

By James J. Skeggs  
Staff Reporter

**TIVOLI** — A hometown artist, hometown paintings and a hometown setting give a hometown feeling to the historic Watts dePeyster Hall.

The Village of Tivoli will host a reception to celebrate three new paintings of the village by painter Joel Griffith on Saturday, June 30 from 2 to 5 p.m.

After the reception, the paintings will be placed on permanent display at the historic Watts dePeyster Hall.

"I grew up in town and it's really nice as an artist to have a permanent display in my own town," said Griffith. "Art is about making a connection with people. This display lets that happen because it's public and people see it when they go to court, visit the library, or just

stop by village hall."

Griffith was born in 1974, grew up in Tivoli and earned his MFA from Bard College in 2003.

Griffith has been exhibiting throughout the Hudson Valley since 1994. In 2003, he was named "painter laureate" of Tivoli.

Since that time he has been completing a series of seven paintings documenting the town for permanent display in Watts dePeyster Hall.

Currently, four of Griffith's works hang, while the three newest will be unveiled at the reception ceremony on Saturday.

"When I was a kid, this building was totally abandoned and run down," said Griffith. "Since then, it has been totally restored and I'm really excited about my work being in such a beautiful building."

According to Village Mayor Tom Cordier, Griffith does a wonderful job portraying Tivoli.

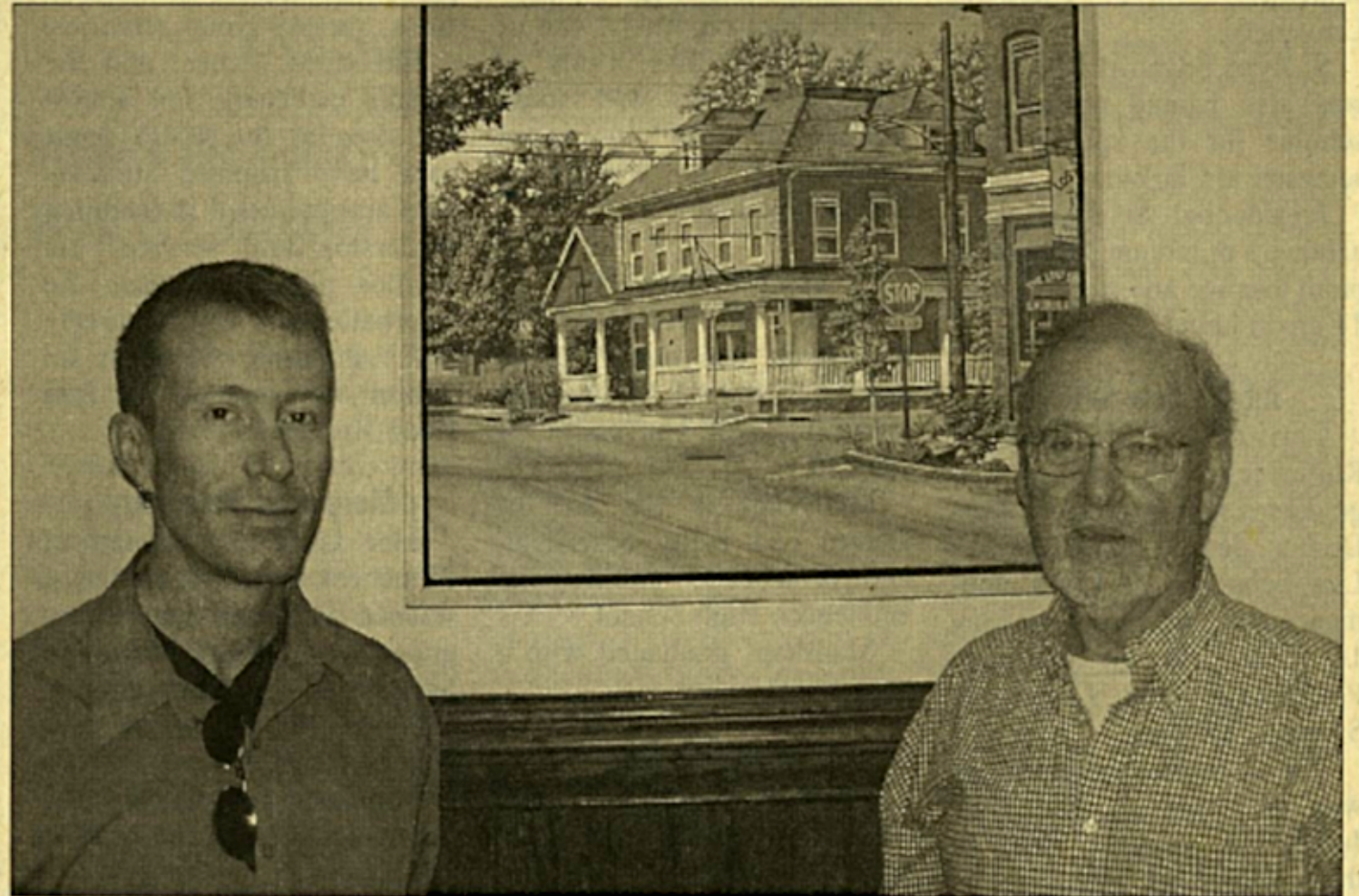
"I encourage everyone to come down and see the new paintings," said Cordier. "They are absolutely beautiful and they show how beautiful Tivoli really is."

Griffith says Tivoli is a great, diverse place to live.

"One of the most important things about art is to view the world and paint it with as much fidelity and sincerity as you possibly can," said Griffith. "Works like these make people proud of where they are from and where they live."

The reception with the artist for the new display will be held this Saturday, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Watts dePeyster Hall.

For more information on Joel Griffith and his work, visit [www.joelgriffithpainter.com](http://www.joelgriffithpainter.com).



**SKILLED ARTIST:** Joel Griffith stands with Village of Tivoli Tom Mayor Cordier in front of one of Griffith's paintings from 2004 in the historic Watts dePeyster Hall. (Photo by James J. Skeggs)