



The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Winter 2015 - Issue #25

Free! Please take one

A Glimmer Of Progress On Property Tax Reform

by Gioia Shebar

Most of us don't hate paying for the services we use, but most of us do hate property tax as the means of funding because it feels extortionate and out of control. And it is. Until recently, contrary to sound tax policy, this tax had no upper limit or relationship to income. Governor Cuomo's dramatic January announcement that he will fund our Omnibus Consortium Circuit Breaker—a relief package aimed at shifting funding for services from the property tax back to the state coffers—has changed that to some degree.

and The Omnibus Consortium are working to fully assess the plan. Initial response to the announced relief package is that the plan is a much better Circuit Breaker than hitherto offered, but may fall short of the measures proposed by Tax Nightmare.

This is how it will work. When your total property taxes (e.g. school, county, local) exceed 6% of your income, the state will give you back part of the overage. The rebate depends on your income with the cut

Members of Taxnightmare.org

Tax, [continued page 14](#)

House Calls As The Future, Not The Past

by Barbara Sides

Much to the chagrin of her professors, Dr. Maggie Carpenter chose Family Practice as her specialty in medical school. It carries neither the cachet nor the financial rewards of the *other* specialties, but, "It just made so much sense to have a family doctor who could take care of everything," Maggie explains. And Maggie makes house calls. Yes, you read that correctly.

Maggie and her family make their home in Gardiner. A

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The red barn on Guilford Road, built over 200 years ago next door to the Guilford Dutch Reformed Church, later the Agor farm, eventually saved from demolition and lovingly restored by Cliff Appeldorn. Photo: Bill Harvey. Visit our facebook page for more.

A Red Barn Continues Her Watch On History

by Bill Harvey

There are a lot of beautiful red barns in Gardiner, many falling to ruin, but the barn with the success story is the one at 471 Guilford Road, owned by Cliff Appeldorn, an architectural designer. You can see how pretty she looks in the photograph, but she wasn't so pretty when Cliff bought the property in 1986. Back then she was falling down, had big holes in the roof where shingles had flown off; even her enormous nearly 40 foot 200 pound beams were coming down. She was clearly not long for this world.

Cliff didn't have the money to renovate her, so it looked as if she'd have to come down. But something got into him and Cliff put off doing that. Maybe it was feeling for the

Red Barn, [continued page 9](#)

Wallkill River To Be Included In Riverkeeper Sweep This May

by Carol O'Biso

On Saturday, May 9th, in its fourth annual "Sweep," New York's clean water advocate Riverkeeper will, no doubt, remove thousands of pounds of debris from the Hudson River and some of its tributaries; last year 1,900 volunteers working in 82 locations gathered 31 tons of debris. Due to the efforts of local man Arthur Cemelli, the Wallkill River will be added to the list of locations this year.



Last fall, Cemelli, an electrical engineer who lives a stone's throw from the Gardiner border in the town of Shawangunk, joined a Riverkeeper meeting as part of the kayaking meet-up group Newburgh Area Kayakers. There, the plan to include the Wallkill was hatched. This spring he will scout

out the Wallkill to identify areas in need of cleanup.

Does it help to clean part of a river when more waste will flow from upstream? According to Dana Gulley, Riverkeeper's Manager of Strategic Partnerships, Outreach and Volunteer Programs, the answer is an emphatic, Yes. "Solid waste is a threat to the river and its creatures and should be removed, even if it gets replaced," she says. And the Sweep seems to be working: last year's sweep involved 36% more volunteers and 14% more locations than the previous year, but produced 18% less trash.

There are also indirect benefits. "People are less likely to pollute if they don't see trash already there," Gulley says, "and 1,900 local people devoting part of their day to take back their waterways starts to change the culture of the river community." The original idea of the sweep was to have the biggest possible impact in one day and Arthur Cemelli, who enjoys working with people and "thinking on his feet," says, "I am excited by the idea of getting people involved and having a bigger effect than I could by myself." He will work closely with Riverkeeper to identify public access points, coordinate with kayaking groups to handle segments that must be cleaned from the



Above: Wallkill Sweep leader Arthur Cemelli. Photo courtesy Arthur Cemelli. Below left: a participant in a previous year's cleanup of Wappingers Creek. Photo courtesy Riverkeeper.

water, and get permissions from land owners where private property is involved. "We also want to make common cause with other community partners who have already done Wallkill clean-ups in the past," Dana Gulley says.

Local businesses donate the supplies, but what Cemelli needs now is input, and vol-

unteers; if you know of a section of the Wallkill that needs attention, would like to volunteer to help, or live on the Wallkill and can offer a drop point for trash, put Saturday, May 9th on your calendar and get in touch with Arthur Cemelli (ACemelli@yahoo.com or 845 590-7349). To learn more about the Riverkeeper Sweep, contact Dana Gulley at sweep@riverkeeper.org or 914-478-4501 x222. □

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News From Town Hall

by Laurie Willow

Applying for Grants: At a Town Board meeting in January a presentation was made by Glenn Gidaly, a Gardiner resident and professional grant writer. Gidaly covered the basics of how the Town of Gardiner could apply for grants and low cost loans.

There is always some town infrastructure that needs financing, like the Clove Road bridge which currently needs rebuilding. Mr. Gidaly emphasized that application for a grant should start a year ahead of the deadline. Most grants require that the town match funds. That means that if we applied for and won \$50,000 to fix the bridge, the town board would vote to provide \$50,000 in matching funds.

The last major grant that the town won financed our new sidewalks. This was secured by



Photo: Anne A. Smith

Nadine Lemmon when she was a town council member. There were two federal grants for phase 1 & 2. Nadine applied for and won the first grant in 2006 (though she had applied for one in 2005 that was denied). The grants won were from the Transportation Enhancements Program: \$353,026, (some town match) and the ARRA grant (stimulus): \$1,057,490 (no match). Since then Supervisor Zatz secured a \$50,000 grant offered by NYS Senator John Bonacic, which will

be used to extend the sidewalks to the ball field, including twenty five additional parking spaces.

Applying for grants takes work and persistence. What appears to be needed to secure more similarly useful grants is a dedicated paid person or a volunteer person or a committee to focus on grants. It

would be a great place to serve the community of Gardiner.

Ah Yes, the Cell Tower Co-meth: Well, the foundation is in, the tower is up, the fence around it is being built. The permits are all in place. Wireless Edge, the Wright Farm folks and many Gardinerites are waiting for word from AT&T, who is the first tenant on the new tower. □

Thank You Generous Donors!



Your response to our request for on-going financial support was immediate, and very greatly appreciated. Our deepest thanks. Your gifts will help make the Gardiner Gazette a slightly less stressful ride!

Meanwhile, Gracie, the check-eating Gardiner Gazette dog says, "I'm a big girl now and I know better. Please keep sending checks and I promise not to eat them." □

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Annie O'Neill: A Local Artist Turns To The Functional

by Laurie Willow



was from Seaholm's to Shaft Road, then down to Bruynswick and then doing the loop back to North Mountain. It was about five miles and the kids who did it were so proud because we were about eleven and we did it without adults."

It would be many years before Annie moved to Gardiner full time. Meanwhile, after graduation from college, she opened a Mexican art gallery in New York City and spent a fair amount of time in Mexico researching and buying Mexican Folk Art. There she met Bill Truesdale with his family, including his son, noted Gardiner photographer Hardie Truesdale, who was about 12 at the time. In 1971, Annie's parents bought the Seaholm property. For Annie, it was the base she always came back to until she moved here permanently.

"I loved following the streams toward the Ridge. My first long walk Annie's art has progressed from crafts as a child, to pho-



Above, one of Annie O'Neill's ceramic plates (photo courtesy Annie O'Neill) and left, Annie (photo courtesy Hudson Valley History Project)

tography, to steel sculpture, and currently to functional clay pieces. Annie creates hand painted bowls, platters, and plates. Her pieces are whimsical and serious, and beautiful (I own a wonderful bowl with a horse dancing in it).

Annie has been a moving force and participant in GOST, the Gardiner Open Studio Tour, which happens

in spring and fall (*The GOST Artists Of Gardiner* by Marilyn Perry, *Gardiner Gazette*, Summer 2014). GOST is the public's opportunity to visit Gardiner artists in their studios. Visit their website, www.gostartists.org, or see more of Annie's work and reviews just by googling "Annie O'Neill ceramics." Annie can be reached at her studio on North Mountain Road at 845 255-5508. □

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Doctor, from page 1

graduate of Brown University, Maggie (as she prefers to be called) trained at SUNY Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine in Brooklyn, from which she graduated Summa Cum Laude. Maggie then went cross-country to complete her residency at The Swedish Hospital in Seattle.



Dr. Maggie Carpenter. Photo courtesy Maggie Carpenter

Seeing patients in their homes gives Maggie a much better picture of what is going on in their lives. Observing how her patients live, caring for them in their own surroundings and having their medications on hand clears up what can become a confusing picture, particularly for elderly patients who may be taking multiple prescriptions. Contrast this with the all too common experience of waiting an hour or more in a crowded waiting room to see a

doctor for a 10 to 15 minute visit. Unlike much of medical care today, Maggie's practice is patient-centered, and is characterized by respect, personal care and shared decision-making with her patients. "I just don't agree with the corporate style of medicine," she contends.

Teaching young residents three to four days per week at the Mid Hudson Family Practice Residency is another of Maggie's passions. She also has broad experience in women's reproductive health and brings that expertise to her teaching. The young physician has traveled extensively, and has worked in Africa and New Zealand. Maggie is the founder and Executive Director of privately funded Go Doc Go, Inc., a non-governmental international medical humanitarian organization that sends physicians around the world to establish preventive health programs in low resource settings. One example is a cervical cancer screening program set up in Ethiopia. Working with the National Cancer Institute, Maggie hopes to set up additional programs in countries like Uganda, Guinea and on islands in the Caribbean.

Maggie hopes to open her own small office this fall while

still doing home visits. "My goal is to hopefully find some other folks to do this with me," she muses. "The difficulty is that our medical system does not reimburse physicians to do the kind of care people really need." This is particularly true with regard to end of life care. Maggie is opposed to endless treatments that patients nearing the end of life are often subjected to. She suggests the need for the equivalent of a doula (a birth companion and post-birth supporter) to help people through the death process. "I'm much more a believer in quality over quantity, particularly when we're

talking about end of life care," Maggie adds.

To insure that the patients she currently cares for get the attention they need, Maggie's practice is not currently accepting new patients (except for hospice patients). Hopefully, that will change when she opens her own office with like-minded practitioners in the fall. In the meantime, learn more about how Maggie practices medicine by visiting NighingaleMedical.org. And visit Go Doc Go, Inc. on the web or on Facebook. You may find yourself inspired to support the mission Maggie cares so deeply about. □

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Just A Bite ...

Coffee and Dessert at Tuthillhouse At the Mill

by Carol O'Biso

If I can get past the (extraordinary) steaks, which is very hard to do, I've discovered that Tuthillhouse Restaurant is that illusive place that will not give you a dirty look if you show up and just want coffee and dessert. The world has a great shortage of such places; you've eaten at home, but you do need just a little indulgence!

Tuthillhouse At the Mill, sold to Tuthilltown Spirits by previous owners Toby and Joe Gabriello last November, has been under the management of CIA graduate Audra Norris since last July. When asked if she would bristle at the "coffee and dessert only" request Audra looked astonished and said, "Of course not. As long as we have a table available we'd be happy to accommodate you." That night I ordered Caramel Bread Pud-

ding with bourbon whipped cream and was pleasantly surprised to find it was *not* dripping in mountains of caramel. It was dense and firm, as bread pudding should be, and drizzled with a nice amount of caramel. My friend ordered Chocolate Rice Pudding with espresso whipped cream, which was an unusual combination of flavors (that worked very well together) in an unusual presentation (a mason jar).

Other standard offerings from new chef Jared Krom, (also a CIA graduate) are Chocolate Bomb (chocolate mousse and chocolate ganache on a cookie), or seasonal Fruit Crisp. (That night it was cranberry crumble.) They also occasionally have dessert spe-



Banana Bread Pudding and Chocolate Rice Pudding. Photo: Carol O'Biso

cials, like Banana Tart, Peanut Butter Bomb, and a new version of Flourless Chocolate Cake, and offer house-made ice cream in warmer months. All standard desserts are \$6.00, while prices for special desserts fluctuate.

There has also been a re-configuration of the main floor—the small, original bar has been replaced by a very large wrap-around bar in the

middle of the room. "Our goal," Audra says, "was to become a more multi-faceted operation, accommodate more people, focus on cocktail creations and offer more dining options—like a drink and quick bite at the bar."

So, if tables are full, chances are you could have that sweet indulgence and coffee at the bar. Now, if I can just stop myself from ordering the rib eye for dessert ... □

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New Owner, New Name: The Village Market and Eatery

by Laurie Willow

Dating back to 1894, the small, family-owned grocery store at 125 Main Street in Gardiner was home to families like the McKinstry's, the Schiros, and the Ognos. The second floor was their home. It was the quintessential "Mom and Pop" business, a mainstay of the fabric of rural American life at the turn of the century.

The building has gone through at least six major changes since then, its newest incarnation is, once again, a family owned and run deli and eatery. The new owner, Town Supervisor and serial entrepreneur Carl Zatz, envisions a venue where folks can go to the counter, order quality food and sit down at a comfortable table with friends and family, or a newspaper. He swapped Bakery for Eatery in its original name and calls it the Village Market and Eatery.

Zatz wants a casual community restaurant where neighbors and tourists feast from an ever-changing menu of interesting and delicious dishes. Zatz' daughter, Ruby, and even his ex, Diane, can often be seen working there. Zatz credits his staff for the Market's early success.

since Zatz took over last summer. The menu is new, delicious and interesting, with daily specials. As I write this, a quick check on the Market's Facebook page shows "Seafood Pot Pies today: The cook just grilled and browned our shrimp, then sliced them up and tossed them into our pot pie filling of clams, potatoes, celery, a whiff of Worcestershire, and a whole array of spices. Delicious! Our pot pies now come with a small side of mixed greens just like our sandwiches."

There is also live music most Saturday evenings. A recent weekend featured funk, blues, and R&B. Zatz also subtly redecorated and added large paintings by local artist Ryan Cronin.

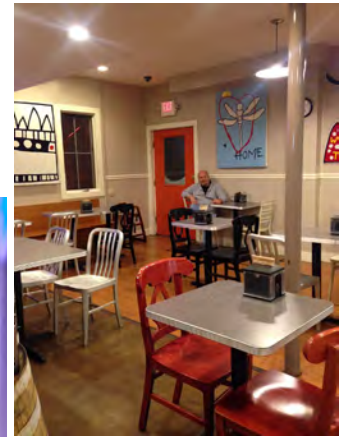
The Village Market and Eatery is a wonderful gift to Main Street Gardiner, which seriously needed some livening up after 5:00 PM. For a look at the menu, go to www.villagemarketandeatery.com, look at the Facebook Page for events and specials, or call (845) 255-1234. □

There have been some changes

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Above: Chris Jackson performing at one of the Village Market & Eatery's Saturday evening live music events. Photo: Laszlo Andacs (www.laszloimage.com). Inset: Carl Zatz in the newly decorated Village Market Photo: Laurie Willow





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It's Almost Salamander Time

by Anne Allbright Smith

It's raining hard at nine P.M. and the temperature is around 40 degrees. It's March, and the ice has barely melted along the gravel road. You pull on your boots and heavy rain gear. You do? Yes! It might be the night of the Spotted Salamander! (*Ambystoma maculatum*)

Every spring these salamanders migrate from their underground forest homes to wetland ponds ("vernal pools") to breed. There they perform their "love dance," a rather frenzied mass of squirming bodies.

The challenge is figuring out when will be The Big Night. Many say it's the first night of heavy rain after a winter thaw. Others say that it coincides with the return of the first phoebe. You take the chance of seeing nothing, returning

home in your sodden clothing to await the next big rain and another opportunity.

Spotted salamanders, common in the northeast but rarely seen because they are active at night, are glossy black and about nine inches long, with two rows of bright yellow spots down their backs and tails. They spend most of their lives under rocks or logs in the forest, but once a year during the mating season they crawl up to half a mile to their breeding pools, often running the risk of crossing roads and nighttime traffic. In some places volunteers station themselves to help the salamanders cross, stopping traffic on lightly traveled surfaces.

Some state parks close their



A spotted salamander. Photo: National Geographic. Visit our facebook page for more.

roads at crossings during vulnerable times. The salamanders return to the same breeding pool every year, and can live to be as old as 20 years or more.

The female lays one or more egg masses about 4" wide covered with a clear, milky, jelly-like substance, which stick to submerged branches and other vegetation. Each mass contains 100 to 200 eggs. You can see these masses with little black dots

inside if you look along the edge of one of these pools. (Wood frog egg masses and other salamander masses look similar.) The adults leave the pool after a few days; the larvae hatch in a month or two and become salamanders in two to four months. The vernal pools are ideal homes since they contain no fish which would eat the eggs and larvae. The pools then dry up.

And those who missed the salamanders will have to wait another year! ☐

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Red Barn, from page 1

raccoons and bats that called her home. Maybe it was the old note he found in the barn, carved into a piece of wood and dated 1908, that said, "Putting hay away. Hot as hell." But whatever it was, it caused him to do something that few of us would ever have given a second thought. He renovated her all by himself.

You'd probably have to take a shot of her from the air to get a real idea of how big she is, even today, and she was much bigger then. In the renovation Cliff took off a third of the front section, and lowered the roof by 15 feet.

The barn was built over two centuries ago, dominating the scene in spite of its neighbor, the Guilford Dutch Reformed Church, which was then one of the gathering centers of Gardiner and had been right next door since 1833. Very close by was the old covered bridge over the Wallkill (washed away in 1957) which made it possible for Gardiner residents living on the other side to get to the church easily.

The sexton of the church, Alonzo Lockwood, lived where Cliff lives now, in the house by the barn. Unfortunately, one morning in November 1908 Alonzo went to make a fire to warm up the church, came back to the house to make tea, looked out the window and saw the church burning down. He was too late to save it.

In its next incarnation, the barn and its silo became the center of the Agor Farm. Local resident Harold Agor grew up there. 50 cows lived in the barn, and a thousand chickens lived in a three-story chicken coop that is no longer there. Harold, who is a game warden, is the

only person allowed to hunt on the 68 acres Cliff Appeldorn and his partner, Barry Berman, bought out of the full 168 acres that had been the Agor Farm.

Cliff and Barry almost didn't get the property. They were all set to buy it but couldn't afford the estimated cost to renovate it. Barry's wife had her heart set on building a house in the field in back of the barn, with its deer and terrific view of the ridge, so they made it work by parceling the land, taking two of the pieces and selling a third. It made the economics work out.

Cliff saved the barn and gave it its current look in 1992-1993, entirely by himself. This entailed using a "ratchet come-along and cable and rope system" so that he could pull on the rope to get one end of the huge roof trusses up a couple of feet at a time, then the other side, and the ratchet would not let the truss down. He had to build a couple of scaffolding towers to stand on, because there was no safe spot to stand on the barn structure itself until Cliff had strengthened it.

One day, he was sliding the open silo roof into place, when something came flying out and brushed its huge claws over his arm. It was a giant barn owl, realizing that unless it flew now it was never going to be able to get out of the silo again. Entrapment did not worry the barnswallows; they stayed until later, when Cliff fixed the windows. (Most of the windows he used in renovating the barn were the original windows of the also-renovated house.)



A 1986 watercolor by local artist Lillian Manning, who apparently used her imagination to depict the barn in its prime. Photo: courtesy Cliff Appeldorn.

The barn had also once been used to store hay, as the note on the wooden board attests. A pulley system with pull-ropes was used to lift and move the hay around inside. Today, the barn is used as storage space by an antiques dealer, and for high-end mahogany wood for furniture making by Andrew Hunter.

There had been two farms on Guilford Road, and just a few months ago the other farm knocked down an even larger hay/dairy barn and silo, so I have to imagine that the red barn feels a special gratitude to the human, Cliff Appeldorn, who gave her a facelift and a whole new lease on life; perhaps she'll get another century or more, with luck. □

[Back Comment](#)

A logo for Gardiner Animal Hospital. It features a smiling sun with rays above a row of farm animals: a horse, a cow, a sheep, a pig, a dog, and a cat. Below the animals is a green field. The text "GARDINER ANIMAL HOSPITAL" is in white serif font on a dark red background. Below that, the phone number "845-255-1549" and the address "175 Main St., Gardiner, NY 12525" are in white serif font on a green background.

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Real Property Tax Exemptions: Don't Miss The Deadline

by Ray Smith

Maureen Gallagher, Gardiner Tax Assessor, explained, "Many Gardiner home owners are eligible for exemptions on a portion of the real property taxes on their primary residence if they meet the following requirements and file for exemptions on or before March 1, 2015."

Basic STAR: If your adjusted gross income for 2013 was below \$500,000.

Enhanced STAR: If your 65th birthday is in 2015 and your 2013 adjusted gross income, less the amount on line 15B, was \$83,300 or less.

If you have been receiving Enhanced STAR and your income has been reduced, you may also qualify for:

Senior Exemption: If you are 65+ and all income including Social Security for 2013 was \$37,399 or less. This exemption is based on a sliding scale ranging from 5 to 50% depending on your income.

Veterans: Available if you or your spouse served during a war time period.

Cold War Veterans: Available

if you served during the period 1945 to 1991 and you receive no other veteran's exemption.

Those residents who qualify for an Enhanced STAR exemption may sign up for the state's Income Verification Program (IVP). Each year, New York State will determine whether or not property owners in this program are still income-qualified for Enhanced STAR and advise our Assessor without divulging residents' actual income. This saves a qualifying homeowner from having to reapply each year. If, however, your income drops to a level qualifying you for the Senior Exemption, you will have to notify our Assessor and bring in confirming tax information.

Maureen emphasized, "The rules are fairly complicated so I urge anyone with a concern or question to call the Assessor's office at 255-9675, Extension 104 or 105. Forms for filing are available at both www.tax.ny.gov and at the Assessor's office but must be filed on or before March 1, 2015." □

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Gardiner Day Committee Calendar of Events for 2015

March 21st - "Fling into Spring" Wine Tasting at the Ribiero Winery, music by the Mustangs plus a silent auction.

April 4th - Plant Sale at the Firehouse 9am - 2pm

April 24th - Women Helping Women Dance Fundraiser at the New Paltz VFW, music by the Mustangs. All proceeds go to the local battered women's shelter

Gardiner Day will be on Saturday, September 12th, 11am-4:30pm.

We have more events in the planning stages, so stay tuned for updates and additions to this list. □



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Hudson Valley Seed Library: From Humble Beginnings in Gardiner To The the Bronx Botanical Garden

by Peg Lotvin

If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need ... This paraphrased saying by the Roman Philosopher Cicero has been Ken Greene's mantra since he and his partner, Doug Muller, started the Hudson Valley Seed Library (HVSL) about 10 years ago. Ken was the much loved children's librarian at the old Gardiner Library. He took the job as a part-time gig while he finished his Masters degree in education at SUNY New Paltz. The degree finished, Ken became full-time at the library, putting together original children's programs and summer programs for the next few years..

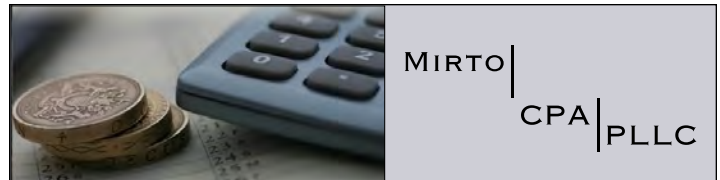
He talked more and more about gardening, and seed-saving in particular, even putting together



An assortment of "Art Packs" from the HVSL. Photo Peg Lotvin.

a summer program around gardening for kids. He ripped up the postage stamp sized lawn in front of the library and planted a garden. His smile always widened when one of the kids came in munching on a purple podded pea, now a signature vegetable at the HVSL. Adults would comple-

Seeds, [continued page 15](#)



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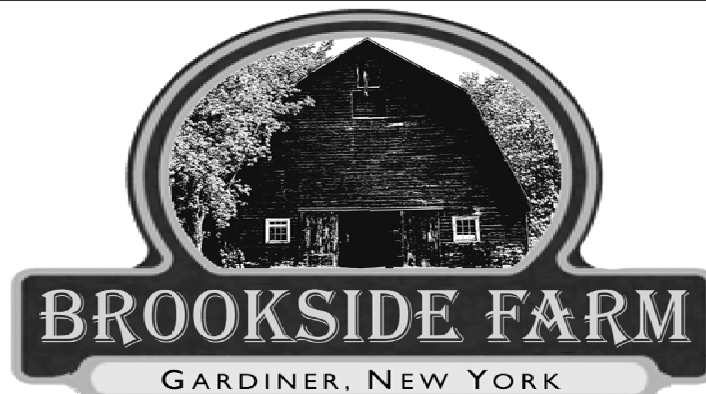
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Once Gardiner Resident, Now Children's Show Star in Thailand

by Ray Smith

Greg Raymond grew up in Gardiner under the looming rock face of the Gunks and, as he puts it, "I never yearned for a life beyond the beauty of my own home in Gardiner surrounded by woods and steeped with mountains."

He graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2010 with a degree in history and anthropology, knowing that he would become a teacher. To that end, Greg went to Costa Rica to teach English and to get his degree in teaching English as a second language. He returned home to finish getting his state teacher's license.

While Greg was still an undergraduate, a young Thai, known as Ann to her friends, spent a few months doing hotel work in Ohio. She wanted to come back to the States, and on her return home in 2010, applied to Au Pair in America. Au Pair found her and another young lady from Bangkok jobs caring for three young boys in Stone Ridge. Greg spotted Ann across the dance floor at a local watering hole and together, they went to her home town, Kalasin, in remote northeastern Thailand. "I was fortunate to ex-

perience the real countryside of Thailand, outside the tourist traps or in the cities," Greg commented.

Soon Ann and Greg were engaged, and with her help, he got a job teaching English in Kalasin. They were married there in traditional Buddhist fashion—a morning ceremony and an evening reception. The festivities included payment of the "bride price," which, however, was returned to the groom and his family the same day. Greg confessed, "My Thai was pretty weak at that point so I really had no idea what was going on, though the ceremony itself is quite beautiful and magical."

In Bangkok, Greg and Ann also started a tutorial school for young children interested in English. Demand increased so they rented a townhouse for the school. As an outgrowth, Greg became known as "Teacher Greg," co-host of a weekly



Above: Greg Raymond and Co-Host on Thai T.V. Photo: courtesy Greg Raymond

show, "Good Morning," on Thai PBS television. Its aim is to teach young children the fundamentals of English spelling and pronunciation in a low key, cheerful, spelling bee atmosphere. For each correctly spelled word, the program makes a contribution to a charity that helps children without a home or a school of their own. The show had been on the air for about a year when the previous co-host went back to the States. Greg was on the spot, had already been teaching young children English, auditioned by filming a couple of takes and was on the air the following week.

"Aside from my TV show and a few stints in other shows, my wife and I enjoy traveling around the country giving

English workshops or enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of Thailand." When not on the road, Greg and his wife live mainly in Bangkok, or relax at home in Kalasin. Videos of some of Greg's activities may be seen at www.facebook.com/krugreg

Greg summed up his time in Thailand; "Every moment has been a learning experience in the culture and language of Thailand. It's a wonderful country and I invite everyone back home to come see it with their own eyes and feel it with their own heart."

Editor's Note: Greg is the nephew of Town Clerk Michelle Mosher and still has other family in Gardiner and the immediate area. How long he and his wife stay in Thailand is an open question. □

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STS Tire & Auto Center: New At Ireland Corners

by Fred Mayo

Gardiner is lucky to have a wide range of businesses, some locally owned and operated, others locally managed. One of the newest in Gardiner occupies what many people have fondly called Garage Mahal (with apologies to the monument in India) at Ireland Corners. STS has taken over the facility and, with a new staff and manager, it is showing what a garage that cares about its customers can do.

STS in Gardiner is run by an Assistant Manager and (since last June) a new Manager, Bernie Obry, a lifelong Gardiner resident who is delighted to be providing quality service for his neighbors and people he has known for years. He wants the place to be known as a hometown garage with the consistency and quality of service associated with a large company. As the STS website promises, "Your vehicle is ready when promised; Our work is done right the first time and; You pay only for work you autho-



rized." Bernie and the STS staff in Gardiner are committed to that promise.

The Gardiner business draws customers from New Paltz, Modena, Clintondale, Walkill, Plattekill, Town of Newburgh, Pine Bush and Gardiner. Many of the customers are full-time residents, and a fair number have primary residences in New York City and other locations. Once you arrive in the lobby-like waiting room of STS, you can see why people feel comfortable waiting for their cars. It feels welcoming, with large couches, a fire place, a complete beverage set up and a child's play area.

Two-thirds of STS's business involves mechanical repair and regular maintenance and one-third involves sales, installation and repair of tires. A facility of 13,000 square feet is a challenge to run efficiently, but an advantage of the space is the ability to store over 1,200 tires and to house a huge parts department, including its own brand name lines of parts, Bosch, Quaker State, and others. The local garage is also supported by STS's huge New Jersey warehouse, which contains a supply of 650,000 tires and more parts.

STS as a company is dedi-

cated to training; each employee is encouraged to pursue learning cost-free and obtain certification on equipment and automotive principles and repair practices. Mechanics are classified into three categories and promoted as they learn more. The company also invests in state of the art equipment for its employees.

Employees report that they like working for STS in Gardiner since everyone takes pride in the work, commits to quality, and works like it is their own company—which it is—STS provides every employee with stock ownership, the amount based on each person's position and length of service with the company. The company's support for continuing education, and stock ownership, increases employee commitment to quality customer service. STS in Gardiner is also committed to community outreach and support. It



Bernie Obry of STS. Photo: Fred Mayo

has provided charitable organizations in the town of Gardiner—such as the Reformed Church, St Charles Borromeo, and the Gardiner Fire Department—with gift certificates for automotive service. In addition, it stands ready to provide any organization in the town of Gardiner with something for a charity auction, raffle, or other fund raising activity.

STS is open six days from 7 to 6 Monday through Friday and 7 to 5 on Saturday. Starting this spring, it will also open on Sundays. □

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Tax, from page 1

off being \$250,000. Income probably means all household income, no exemptions or deductions, but that isn't spelled out yet. This will be phased in over four years.

When phased in, the rebates will look like this:

Income Brackets	Threshold (Property taxes as a percent of income)	Relief (Percentage applies to the amount above threshold)	Maximum Relief Amount
Less than \$75,000	6%	50%	\$2,000
\$75,000 - \$150,000	6%	40% - 50%	\$1,500 - \$2,000
\$150,000 - \$250,000	6%	15% - 40%	\$1,000 - \$1,500

The Omnibus Consortium, coordinated by Ron Deutsch, is a partnership of pro bono tax reformers like Taxnightmare and progressive good government groups like the Fiscal Policy Institute. For some time we have been lobbying for the two-part Omnibus Tax Solution written for us by Frank Mauro. The two parts are the circuit breaker, and changes in funding of education and Medicaid for reform of the tax.

First, let me dispel the idea "it doesn't matter which pocket pays for public services." It does. State coffers have broader, more equitable, more elastic sources of income than ordinary

homeowners, small businesses, and renters. Among the sources are individual, corporate, and business taxes, user fees, and penalties (the latest surplus comes from a bank misconduct resolution).

So, the Circuit Breaker now seems to be in hand, but

there are still a number of things wrong with the property tax structure. For one, the taxing entity must stay within the State imposed CAP amount for this whole Circuit Breaker thing to operate. For example, if your school district decides to exceed the CAP—something they can do through certain legal measures—you get nothing. And we all know that the more money or political clout you have the more you can lawyer up and tailor your assessment or tax exemptions to suit yourself. That part hasn't changed, nor has the fact that basing a tax on guesstimates of real es-

tate value makes no sense. Changes in the funding of education and Medicaid will also have to occur in order to facilitate property tax reform. We're are still working on that.

What's more, tax exempt properties in NYS are valued at about 860 billion and climbing. Corporations and voting blocs routinely lobby, get tax reductions, and rarely deliver on the promises they made to get themselves declared tax exempt in the first place, and other unfunded corporate or religious exemptions or lowered assessments are picked up by other taxpayers (had DeNiro paid

less you would have paid more).

Still, we have, by dint of intense citizen advocacy, achieved a breakthrough; the Governor's proposed Circuit Breaker is near enough to our Omnibus version that Taxnightmare.org will support its enactment by the legislature.

This is not the end of our struggle. The Circuit Breaker is only a patch on a very bad tax. Eight years ago, six Gardinerites sat around a kitchen table looking for a name for our new citizen's organization and Mike Calderone said, "I don't know, but my tax is a nightmare." So the story began. The nightmare is not over yet. But the Circuit Breaker just means the state is starting to wake up. □

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Seeds, from page 11

ment him on the lovely flowers, but what were they? The eyes would widen when he told them the flowers were lettuce or spinach or radish going to seed. It was always about the seeds.

Soon he played around with the idea of a seed library where seeds would be available to whoever wanted them, as long as they saved some and returned them to the library after harvest. It started modestly, using seeds Ken had saved from the tiny garden in front of the library. (Oh yeah, there was also the raised bed in the backyard, with more vegetables going

and Ken traded information and tips about running a seed library for the Gardiner Library.

Another chance encounter, with Sarah Snow and her company, Treeo Design, set up what ultimately became Ken's Art Packs, the lovely and novel seed packages that have become famous. Each year, Ken and Doug invite artists to submit examples of their work. 20 or so designs are chosen. Each artist is assigned a vegetable, a flower, or an herb selected for the next year's seeds and the artist renders a design for the pack in any medium the



Ken Green's former garden in front of the old Library. Photo: seedlibrary.org

to seed.) About this time Sascha Dubrul showed up. He was interning at a local CSA but had experience with a seed exchange in the San Francisco area called BASIL, Bay Area Seed Interchange Library, which had been formed by Sascha and a few others. BASIL was probably the first seed library in the country, but not housed in a library.

The Hudson Valley Seed Library was the first seed library in a public library in the country. There are now more than 300 seed libraries in more than 40 states. Sascha

chosen artist works in. There are always many more artists vying to do an Art Pack than are chosen. Each year the competition gets stiffer.

When all the art work is done and accepted for the year, the seed library has a grand opening for the next year's packs. The first year the opening was at the new Gardiner Library; the 2015 art pack opening in November 2014 was held at the Bronx Botanical Garden. The Hudson Valley Seed Library has come of age. □

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An Enduring Outhouse

by Ray Smith

About 1890, one of two Dusinger brothers built a home at 22 Dusinger Road, complete with a small carriage house and, next to that, an outhouse.

All are still standing, seen in the picture at right, though a large red pine seems ready to nudge the outhouse towards the carriage house . . . if the red pine shoot moth doesn't do in the tree first. The builder's intent was obviously to make things last; he put the outhouse on a poured cement foundation (in all probability, Rosendale cement).

The outhouse is a companionable two-holer, and Joseph

and Cathy Gordon, current owners of the property, told me they had found corn cobs inside but thought they might have been put there for effect rather than utility. They did not find any Sears Roebuck catalogs.

Joe reckons the outhouse was in use until the early part of the twentieth century. Until then, water off the roof had been collected in a cellar cistern. From there, a hand pump in the kitchen provided water for the house. In the early 1900s, electricity came to Gardiner, mechanical pumps made modern faucets, and an inside flush, practical, and the old outhouse became a relic. ☐

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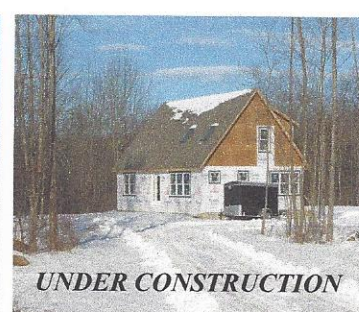
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	Jan-Dec 2013	85	51	\$370,033	232
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	Jan-Dec 2013	167	82	\$321,541	179

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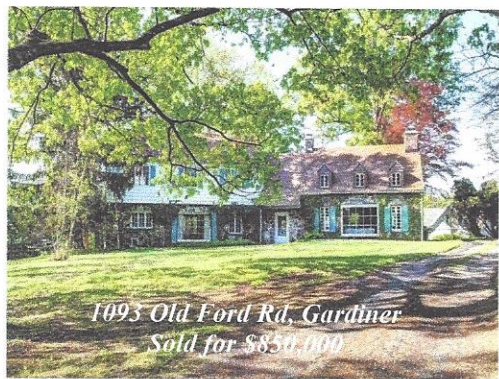
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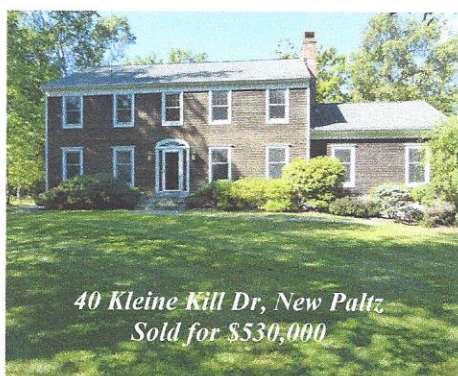
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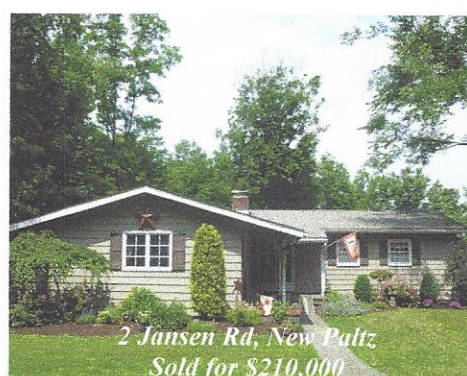
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www.STSTire.com

X-Treme Rides
845-270-2504; 24 Hr. Towing & Collision Restoration
www.X-TremeRides.com

LAW FIRMS/ATTORNEYS

Glenn & Breheney, PLLC
845-561-1951; Attorney
www.GlennBreheneyLaw.com

Peter Cordovano, P.C.
845-691-4200; Law Office
www.CordovanoLaw.com

FITNESS/SPORTS/DANCE

Gardiner Athletics
845-419-2177; Strength & Conditioning Center
www.GardinerAthletics.com

Got Rhythm? Dance Studio
845-255-6434; Dance Studio
www.GotRhythmGardiner.com

New Paltz Karate Academy, Inc.
845-255-4523; Karate & Martial Arts
www.NewPaltzKarate.com

HORSE STABLE/TRAINING/BOARDING

Journey's End Farm
845-255-7163; Horses, Sales
www.ACPS.org/JourneysEnd

La Luna Farm
845-332-4519; Horse Boarding/Lessons
www.LaLunaFarm.com

Lucky C Stables, Inc.
845-255-3220; Horse Boarding/Lessons
www.LuckyCStables.com

Mountain View Farm
845-255-5563; Horse Boarding/Lessons

RETAIL

Kiss My Face
845-255-0884; Body & Skincare Products
www.KissMyFace.com

Majestic's Hardware, Inc.
845-255-5494; Hardware Stores
www.MajesticsHardware.com

Oh Crow
845-255-0250; Rain Gauges
www.WorldsCoolestRainGauge.com

BANKS/FINANCIAL/INSURANCE

Fraleigh & Rakow, Inc.
845-876-7035; Insurance
www.FraleighandRakow.com

Mirto CPA PLLC
845-419-3854; Accounting
www.MirtoCPA.com

Walden Savings Bank
845-256-9667; Financial Institution
www.WaldenSavingsBank.com

PERSONAL CARE/HEALTH

Creative Edge Hair Design
845-895-3343; Full Service Hair Salon
Facebook

Goldman Family Medicine
845-255-5450; Medical Family Practice
Facebook

Happiness Day Spa
845-256-3840; Boutique Day Spa
www.HappinessDaySpa.com

Miracle Day Spa
845-702-3526; Skincare, Massage, Yoga
www.SpaMiracles.com

Peace of Mindfulness
845-255-9090; Massage Therapy
www.PeaceOfMindfulness.org

MARKETING/PRINTING/MAILING

Cornerstone Services
845-255-5722; Graphic Design & Fulfillment
www.CRST.net

Pages Printing & Graphics
845-562-3309; Printing & Graphics
www.PagesGraphics.com/Newburgh

ARCHITECTURE

Hoover Architecture, PLLC
845-598-4762; Architects
www.HooverArchitecture.com

CLUBS/ASSOCIATIONS

Southern Ulster Rotary Club
Community Service
www.SouthernUlsterRotary.org



GARDINER ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESSES