



The Gardiner Gazette

Winter 2013 - Issue #17

A call to community ...

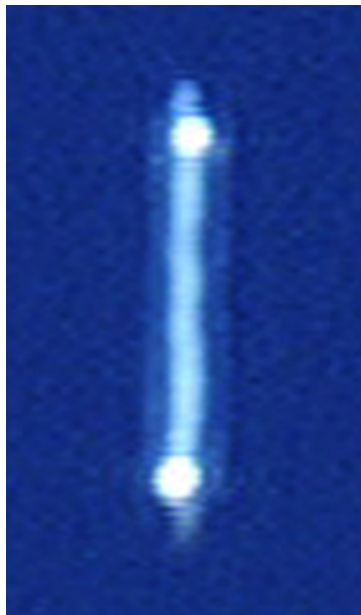
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Free! Please take one

Mysterious Aerial Object Over Gardiner

by Laurie Willow



Gardiner Resident Bill Richards stepped out of his office at Skydive the Ranch on Sand Hill Road a little after 3 PM on October 18, 2012 and saw a bright flash in the sky. High above him was a cylinder-shaped translucent object that wasn't moving. Bill called his two dozen employees in a nearby hangar to come outside and bear witness, and went to one of his helicopters that has a high-definition, built-in camera.

Translucent unidentified aerial object videotaped on October 18, 2012, between 3:15 PM to about 5 PM Eastern time high in the sky above Gardiner. Video frame © 2012 by commercial pilot and aerial photographer Bill Richards, from November 3, 2012, Earthfiles news report, "Another Mysterious Translucent Aerial Object, This One Over Gardiner, New York" © 2012 by Earthfiles.com and Reporter and Editor Linda Moulton Howe.

mystified about what large, cylindrical object could remain in the same spot at a high altitude for at least two hours—and why?

"Something I had never seen in the sky before was up there," Bill says. "It stood out because it didn't move. Usually everything in the sky moves somewhere! It's not feasible that this object could be stationary without some kind of propulsion! But in all my years of flying and observing, I have never seen an object like this. I say this is baffling!

Aerial Object, [continued page 12](#)

Gazette Launches Digital Campaign

by Carol O'Biso

Many non-profit organizations stage annual fund raising drives, and this is not so different; we aim to raise funds by lowering costs. That means we have to come up with novel, entertaining, (*manipulative*), engaging, (*guilt-tripping*) ways to convince you to switch from receiving a printed copy via snail mail, to receiving your *Gardiner Gazette* digitally via email. How are we doing so far?

Jerry Lewis did the telethon; National Public Radio does the "call now to make your pledge" thing; PBS inter-

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When Libraries Become More Than That

by Anne Allbright Smith



Table Rocks, Mohonk Preserve. Photo: Anne Smith

Like other libraries throughout the country, the Gardiner Library is continually looking for ways to partner with residents, local organizations and businesses to provide innovative programming and easier access to various services.

Recently, the Gardiner Library partnered with the Mohonk Preserve to create a pilot program that will enable library patrons to literally "check out" the Preserve with two free, three-day passes that the library will loan out. This special membership will allow these passes to be

Library, [continued page 3](#)

Gardiner Family Makes A Career Of The Military

by Ray Smith

"... [Sergeant First Class James R. Miller] aided his platoon leader in maneuvering the tank platoon deep into an enemy engagement area and decisively engaged and destroyed enemy BMPs [infantry fighting vehicles] and dismounts. During battle he never showed a concern for his life, but for those who trailed him." *From the Bronze Star Medal citation for then Sergeant First Class Jim Miller, a medal he won in the 1991 Gulf War.*



Sergeant First Class Jimmy Miller. Both his grandfathers served; both his parents served; his sister serves; and he and his sister would each encourage their children to do the same. Photo courtesy the Miller family. For more pictures of the Millers visit our facebook page.

The military draft ended in 1973, resulting in an all volunteer military. Today, only about 1% of the United States population is in military service, but the James Miller family of Bruynswick Road in Gardiner defies national averages: 100% of its members are in or have been in the service. Jim Miller comments, "I think the

draft was something that never should have faded out. It gave people a good set of base values to build off of ... to realize what was right and what was wrong and the country was better for it. It just made you realize how much you took for granted."

A Gardiner native, Jim enlisted in the Army right out of high school. That was not surprising; his father, also James Miller, drafted into the Army in 1952, served two years, but Jim also grew up hearing stories from uncles who served in World War II. "Everybody in my family had served," he said. "We're going to give this a shot."

After enlisting Jim served in various posts in the U.S., in Korea, in Germany and in the first Gulf War. Lastly, he was at West Point and retired after twenty years in the U. S. Army as a Master Sergeant, Armor, M1 Abrams tank platoon sergeant.

Jim's wife, then Kathy Day, grew up in Wallkill. Her father, William Day, enlisted in the Army in 1948, when he was 18 years old, and served 20 years. He retired in 1968. So, again, is it any surprise that Kathy was an army reservist for seven years, trained as a combat medic?

Though they lived nearby, she and Jim did not meet until they were in the military. After marriage and deployment to Germany, Kathy's rank was Sp4 when she joined the inactive reserve. As army brats, Jim and Kathy's two children, Jimmy, 27, and Megan,

25, absorbed the military life from the atmosphere. Just a teenager when Jim retired from the Army, Jimmy had been taken under the wing of the West Point scuba team, among other things. Like his father, Jimmy joined the Army after high school. As Kathy says, "He grew up in the Army."

Jimmy served two tours in Iraq and is married to Theresa Kenney from Wallkill. As a Sergeant First Class now based at Fort Carson, CO, he holds a Master Gunner's Badge and serves as an M1 Abrams tank platoon sergeant. The Abrams is the Army's and the Marines' main battle tank, weighing nearly 70 tons with a replacement cost of \$4,300,000 each.

Jimmy's sister Megan graduated from SUNY's College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse and joined the Coast Guard three years ago. She's now a Seaman E3 at the Coast Guard Station in South Portland, ME. Her responsibilities at that base include search and rescue, mitigating oil spills and hazardous materials releases, harbor safety and pollution prevention as well as boarding and inspecting domestic and foreign flagged vessels for compliance with laws and treaties. Megan wants to become a Marine Science Technician. Her father says, "We're trying to get her to go to Officers' Candidate School and she says she's going to give it a go."

While their children carry on the military tradition, Jim is now a commercial heating and air conditioning technician with DayCo

Military Family, [continued page 3](#)

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Military Family, from page 2

Mechanical Services and Kathy is a rural carrier at the Wallkill Post Office. In addition, Kathy and Jim are still serving all of us—Jim as Chief and Kathy as Assistant Chief of the Shawangunk Valley Fire Department.

Kathy summed up, "If you don't have anybody in your family in the Army, then you don't have a clue what it is and what happens. [Some people] have a hard time letting their kids go to college. Try letting your kid go to war. The military was a great life. I would never change anything we did. I missed my family but we made some of our best friends." She went on to explain that when Jim was sent to Iraq for many months during the first Gulf War, her family was worried about Kathy and the kids "being alone" in Gelnhausen, Germany, where they had been living before Jim's deployment. On the contrary, Kathy says. Gelnhausen is a major army base about 30 kilometers east of Frankfurt. There, she had a built-in support group. She was plugged into the military grapevine. She was surrounded by military families whose spouses were probably also in harm's way. It was coming back to the States that would have made them feel isolated, even though they would have been with family. Besides, Frankfurt also housed the military's main medical facilities, the 97th General Hospital and Frankfurt Regional Medical Center. If Jim had been seriously wounded he would first have been evacuated to Frankfurt; Kathy could have been at his side in less than

an hour. Ergo, staying put was a no-brainer, no matter how odd it might appear to family back home.

The story probably doesn't end here. Jimmy and Megan both share their father's views on the draft, and also say that when they have children, they will encourage them towards any endeavor that includes military service. ☐ [Back Comment](#)

Library, from page 1

checked out much in the same way as a book or DVD, by reserving up to 24 hours in advance. The Mohonk Preserve staff is excited to make the Preserve available to even more members of the Gardiner community.

With the goal of reaching more residents the library is also partnering with the Gardiner Livable Communities Committee to expand its services to local seniors. Volunteers will help seniors request large print books and then deliver the books to their homes. This program provides books and other materials to people who are not able to physically go to the library, helping them feel part of the community even if it is difficult for them to leave their homes.

Anyone interested in taking advantage of this program, or in becoming a volunteer for it, can visit the library at 133 Farmer's Turnpike, www.gardinerlibrary.org or call 255-1255. ☐

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Gardiner Historian Celebrates Notable Birthday

by Peg Lotvin



Carleton Mabee outside his Gardiner home.
Photo: Karen Vaasel

On December 24th 2012 Carleton Mabee, Gardiner Town Historian, turned 98. I expect he spent much of the day at work on his newest book, now nearing publication, and probably some of it at Arteaga's gym in Highland, where he is regularly seen.

Carleton was born in Shanghai, China on

December 24, 1914, where his parents were school teachers. His mother taught English; his father, chemistry. Can you imagine 1914 Shanghai!? He says he remembers what a child would remember from those days, although he and his wife Norma made a trip back there some years ago to renew some of the memories. The school and the campus where he and his parents lived was still there and still being used as a school. At the age of nine he came to the US and finished out his early school years in Maine. He received his Masters and PhD from Columbia University in New York City.

I assumed his writing career had come from his mother, the English teacher, but Carleton said his interest in writing arose during the time he was writing his PhD thesis. The idea for his first book came from an advisor who was himself interested in Samuel F.B. Morse but didn't have time to follow it up. Carleton wrote his thesis on Morse. It later became the book, *American Leonardo, the Life of Samuel F.B. Morse*. It won Carleton the 1944 Pulitzer Prize for Biography and he never looked back as an author. He was teaching at Clarkson College, an engineering school in northern New York State, when he wrote a book following the biggest engineering project of the time; the St. Lawrence Seaway. He says it was a natural. Engineering college, massive engineering project, writer all came together to produce a fascinating history.

While teaching at an experimental college in Michigan he became aware of the problems of segregation and the black experience, even in the north. From then onwards Carleton wrote and did research on the black experience. *Sojourner Truth: Slave, Prophet, Legend* is the culmination of this interest. Carleton's daughter, Susan Mabee Newhouse, was co-author of this book. Carleton told me his daughter is a very hard critic of her old dad. (And also said that is as it should be.) His meticulous research and Susan's sharp pencil makes this a necessary read for anyone interested in the life of Sojourner Truth. Other books by Carleton exploring the black experience are: *Black Education in New York State: From Colonial to Modern Times*; *Black Freedom: The Non-Violent Abolitionists from 1830 Through the Civil War* and *A Quaker Speaks From the Black Experience: The Life and Selected Writings of Barrington Dunbar*.

Historian, [continued page 5](#)



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Historian, from page 4

Carleton and his family came to New Paltz in the middle 1960s. He taught at SUNY New Paltz in the History Department until his retirement. He said he taught nearly every history course offered at one time or another: World, Chinese, Black American history and others. He purchased a 200 year old home in Gardiner from the Deyos, the family that built it in the 1790s, where he still resides. The home is lovely, tucked back among huge old trees. Inside, the woodwork is original and all the cupboards and closets are polished wood. The perfect residence for an historian.

Carleton has been the Historian for the Town of Gardiner since May 8th, 2001, when he was appointed by then Town Supervisor Laura Walls. Each supervisor since has reappointed him to the position. He has been keeping a newspaper catalog of Gardiner events and interests since that time. It now encompasses many notebooks full of clippings. Carleton said that his term as historian has brought him many interesting asides. One is a couple trying to "collect" places that Sojourner Truth walked. They were amazed and thrilled when he took them to the Sojourner Truth Library at SUNY New Paltz and the Sojourner Truth Park on the edge of the Wallkill River in New Paltz. Others interested in history in general, or in a particular bit of their personal local history, contact Carleton about where and how to fill in that niche. As he collects clippings and other bits of Gardiner history, he writes books. He has written a picture history of Gardiner and Lake Minnewaska, a history of the beginnings of the Gardiner Library, and now his new book which is on the history of open space in the Shawangunk Mountains. I don't know how many other towns across America have a Pulitzer Prize winner as their Town Historian (especially one who is actively snowshoeing and canoeing at 98), but I suspect that Gardiner is unique in that respect. We should be honored that Carleton Mabey is treasuring our history, keeping it up to date, and making it available for anyone now or in the future. ☐ [Back Comment](#)

Digital Campaign, from page 1

rupts regular programming to say "we have only 15 minutes left to raise 40 gazillion dollars!" So, what can the Gardiner Gazette do? How about, "pleeeeeease?" NO? "Pretty pleeeeeease?"

OK. We can do better. First of all, we realize that for some people, receiving a seven megabyte attachment to an email is, shall we say, unwelcome. One Gardiner resident who is still on dial-up told me it took him half an hour to download, and that if I ever (ever) sent him an attachment that large again he would hunt me down and do harm to me. Thanks to this subtle nudge, we have changed our digital delivery method. Gazettes are now delivered digitally via an on-line, large file sharing program. All you get is a normal email with a link in it. When you click on the link The Gazette opens and you can read it and close it, or save it to your computer. Isn't that cool? Isn't that modern?

OK, there's more. We have, in our hot little hands, a full-use, annual membership to Mohonk Preserve valued at over \$100. Switch to digital delivery before February 28th and you will go

into a drawing to win that pass. The winner will be contacted directly, and announced on our Facebook page. (Doing a lot better now, right?)

Finally, we're going to give you five great reasons to switch to digital delivery of The Gardiner Gazette:

1. There will be fewer arguments in your household. Instead of the usual savage fights over who gets to read *The Gazette* first, each family member can have their own copy, delivered to their individual email addresses.
2. The digital *Gazette* is in full color and has convenient links to our Facebook page at the end of each article so you can immediately post comments.
3. 2,500 copies of *The Gazette* are mailed every quarter. That's 10,000 copies a year. Each copy is 16 pages. That's 160,000 sheets of paper. According to howthingswork.com, a tree one foot in diameter and 60 feet tall would produce 80,500 sheets, so just to print the little old *Gardiner Gazette* we're DESTROYING two MAJESTIC trees that took HOW long to grow?! (OK, we got the guilt-tripping part out of the way).
4. We asked really nicely.
5. If you switch now you won't have to read another article like this next year.

So, email gardinergazette@earthlink.net NOW. Tell us the snail mail address we should remove from the list, the email address or addresses you want *The Gazette* to go to instead, and give us your phone number so we can follow up with you if we get any email bounce-backs.

How are we doing now?! ☐ [Back Comment](#)



How To Start A Chimney Fire (Or Not)

by Jonathan Smith, President of JP Chimney Services, Gardiner



As I was eating breakfast on a bitter cold morning a few years ago, I heard the fire alarm in the distance and wondered if somebody was experiencing a chimney fire. I began to think about how I could intentionally start a chimney fire in my own house. Ok, I admit this sounds totally absurd, but could a little reverse psychology prevent a chimney fire or two?! You see, one of

my goals in business is to improve people's overall wood burning experience by helping them limit dangerous creosote forming in the chimney. A chimney without excess creosote is sort of like having a gun but never being concerned about it accidentally firing because there is no ammunition available for it.

So here's what I would do if I wanted to have a chimney fire! We don't have to do ALL of these things, but if we want to have the best chance at "success," we need to do as many as possible!

1. First, I would only buy my "seasoned" wood when I'm just about ready to burn it, OR, if I buy my wood in advance, I would store it uncovered on the ground so it's most likely to have lots of water in it. Dense hardwoods are best because they hold lots of moisture—no pine or evergreen—they can burn too hot and clean. (Remember, we are trying to burn the best dirty fires!).

2. Next, I would choose an old wood stove that is not EPA compliant—a real "dirty" burner ...a nice creosote factory, if you will. (We can, of course, still have a chimney fire with an EPA compliant stove that is eh... "properly operated" for a chimney fire!)

3. Then I would have an exterior masonry chimney with a "dinosaur-age" terra cotta flue liner that is larger than needed, such as a fireplace-sized flue. For creosote buildup, bigger is better!!

4. I would develop a fear of getting the stove hot. A cooler fire usually results in a lot more unburned smoke and a hotter fire burns up more of the smoke in the firebox so, for now, no cardboard box burning! I must have poor combustion with lots of smoke coming out of the chimney and must make sure to set the air intake on a low level all the time.

5. Then we wait about two months for plenty of creosote build up and, on a really cold night when I'm a bit chilly, I would turn up the air control and do some nice cardboard or pizza box burning!

Finally, I'd watch the beautiful flames and sparks shooting out the top! It's the express route to a beautifully clean chimney.

OK, that was fun. Now let's PREVENT that chimney fire! The numbers in these two columns correspond to each other ...

1. Even seasoned wood, left outdoors, has too much moisture content, so we order our wood about a year in advance and stack it in ventilated sheds by the first day of spring. Tarps keep the rain off wood that has already been dried, but tend to trap moisture in wet wood. Burning pine by itself does NOT create creosote! This is a very common myth. It's true that hardwoods are denser and produce more heat, but it's not the TYPE of wood, but the DRYNESS of the wood that matters most with creosote accumulation.

2. Even though newer, EPA compliant stoves have been designed to burn cleaner and burn less wood, they can still burn dirty on wet wood with the air controls choked down.

3. Most masonry chimneys are built with the poorly insulated, terra cotta lined flues that have been used for over a hundred years. Creosote forms when smoke, rising up the chimney, cools and condenses on the flue walls, so an insulated liner is best, especially on outside chimneys that are exposed to the cold. Smoke that stays warmer does not condense as much, and warmer smoke is more buoyant and will improve draft performance. If you have a masonry chimney with a terracotta liner consider having an insulated stainless steel liner installed—and bigger is not always better! A flue sized properly to the heating appliance is best.

4. At first, we burn the fire hot and high with the flue full open. Depending on the type of stove and whether you are starting from a cold stove or reloading a hot one, that could be anywhere from ten minutes to an hour and a half before you close the damper and reduce the air. People develop their own technique—it's more of an art and a judgment than an exact science—but if you like, there are cheap magnetic thermometers for the stove top that can tell you if you are regularly getting your stove HOT, say to 700 degrees. As with anything, we don't go to extremes. Warping of a stove is rare, but can occur when someone leaves the air intake on high, then walks away and forgets about it, especially if it's done repeatedly. Moderation is the key.

5. It is very possible to build up enough creosote for a chimney fire in as little as a month. If you are uncertain, have the chimney inspected mid-season, and of course have it swept once a year.

6. Occasionally check to see how much smoke is coming out of your chimney—the less, the better! If you do have a chimney fire, call the fire department. In the meantime, try to choke the fire of oxygen by closing any air controls on the stove. A chimney fire in a fireplace can be particularly dangerous because it's harder to choke. Chimney fires can exceed 2,000 degrees, and with the proximity to combustible house framing materials it's easy to understand how disaster can strike quickly. Also, sparks landing on a combustible roof is not always a good idea!

What it all comes down to? Burn only DRY wood, and get your stove good and hot on a regular basis. May you stay safe and warm during this winter season. ☐ [Back Comment](#)

New Paltz-Gardiner Seniors: Aging With Flair

by Laura Rose

The New Paltz-Gardiner Seniors are a lively, active group, and if you are looking for something new to do, they ask that you join them. They are a cheerful bunch, and they welcome new members, aged 55 and up.

I just crashed their winter dance, ostensibly to complete this article and get pictures. I had a great time. When I consider what might help preserve my vitality into my later years, should I be lucky enough to live that long, it's apparent that dancing the Macarena with friends at 1:00 in the afternoon should be included on my agenda.



George and Carmen Goldstein, who have been married for 69 years, with George Wheeler (standing), at the winter dance. Photo: Laura Rose. For more pictures of the seniors visit us on facebook.

The party was at Stonehedge, in West Park; the venue was cheerful, the tables nicely set. Everyone was dressed up, the music was upbeat, and many people danced. Several on the dance floor were over ninety.

The group goes on trips several times a year and, though I'm not quite senior yet, I was invited on one two years ago. It was a great day and an amazing bargain. We took a chartered bus to Lake George, got on a boat, had lunch and a cruise and then stopped at a shopping mall on the way back. The ticket for the day was \$30.

When they are not dancing, having luncheons or on outings, the seniors meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday, to review the work of their various committees, have a presentation, a snack, and time to socialize. Upcoming presentations are quite varied. 2013 will include a women's acapella group, other musical acts, a dance group, authors, a master gardener and several local historians. Bella Zeines, who organizes the trips, says, "The speakers are very informative. And it's fun

to sit down and talk to people with whom you have something in common. It can be helpful, as well. When we like a doctor, or a lawyer, we tell each other."

The group was first formed in 1969. There are over 80 members now, but fewer are actively participating. "We had over a hundred several years ago... but our members keep dying off!" quipped Susan Tychostup, a past-president of the group. "I joined 17 years ago because I wanted to meet others of my peer group. I wanted to be able to socialize with people with whom I had things in common. I've stayed 17 years, so I must like it. And there are others who've been in the group for much longer." (Margaret Coats, at 36 years, has been a member the longest.) Susan said, "Older people can become invisible to the young. But we aren't invisible to each other." It's a terrible group!" joked Anne Korotsky. "Joining was the best thing I ever did for myself." "We look out for each other," added Joyce Alexander. Others were equally positive. Vita Halvorsan said she'd lived in Long Island for 16 years and never heard a word from her neighbors there, or met anyone. "Now, I know everyone," she says. "I love this group."

Teresa (Tess) Feminella, who moved up from Greenpoint to be with her children, never learned to drive. She says, "I made friends in this group. The ladies pick me up, and take me out with them. They always make it a point to include me." The New Paltz Gardiner Seniors form a valuable social network. Of their "Sunshine Committee," Gardiner resident Laurie Willow said, "When my mom, Adele, had several strokes and developed senile dementia, she and her full-time companion Myroon were no longer able to attend meetings. The seniors visited Adele and Myroon at home as well as sent cards. When Adele passed, they came and "sat shiva" with us. [the Jewish tradition during bereavement]." It made all the difference!"

The group also does charitable work. Each year they offer two scholarships to Ulster BOCES Adult LPN Nursing students, and at each meeting they collect food for the St. Charles Food Pantry in Gardiner and Family of New Paltz.

At \$15 per year, membership is a bargain. This even includes a free bottle of wine for your birthday. If you are of an age, you should join; what could be bad? If you wish further information before coming to a meeting, call Heinz Pfaff at 845-255-7290 or Fran Matthews at 845-419-5224. [Back Comment](#)

Pete Patel

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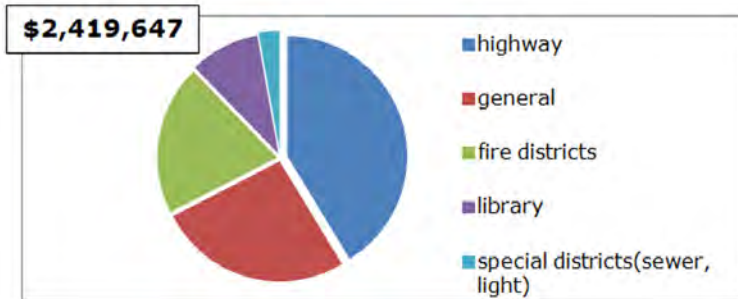
Photo: Anne A. Smith

Cell Tower And 2013 Budget Dominate News From Town Hall

by Laurie Willow

At the Special Meeting of the Town Board on November 17, 2012, the final 2013 Budget for the Town of Gardiner was adopted. It is a budget of over 2.4 million dollars. Where does it go?

Here's what it looks like graphically.



In numbers, that's:

Highway	\$999,263
General	\$633,269
fire districts	\$489,540
Library	\$229,230
special districts (sewer, light)	\$ 68,360

The annual budget debate in Gardiner is no different from the larger American debate. It centers on whether we are all willing to chip in to make life better for everyone. The only category over which the town of Gardiner has some spending discretion is the "General" category, but it must first cover salaries and benefits for town employees, the physical running of the town hall building, legal fees (about \$60,000 in 2012), justice court, tax collection, animal control, home relief, etc. It is only what remains after

those expenses are covered that is "up for grabs." This year's budget includes nothing for fireworks on the 4th of July, and allocates only \$104,000—about 4% of Gardiner's budget—for "culture and recreation." This pays for parks maintenance, the youth program (Summer Rec) and adult rec.

How does the rest of the town feel about this kind of quality of life expenditure? We can't know, since there is also no money allocated for commissioning a survey to find out: are fireworks important? Should we spend more money beautifying Main Street? Preserve more open space? Spend some money to study how we can boost our local economy? Would expenses like these be a worthwhile investment in our future, or a frivolous expenditure in a recession economy? "The people who come out to Town Board meetings for the budget discussions are always the people who don't want us to spend any money," says Town Supervisor Carl Zatz.

So, should we raise taxes for things that improve the community? Hypothetically, what if we added \$100,000 to the budget just for quality of life issues? If your house is assessed at \$400,000, you would pay \$56 more per year. It's time to find out what the "silent" portion of Gardiner's population has to say. Put your 2¢ into the discussions. Visit www.townofgardiner.org and look at the budget for this year. Come to Town Board meetings and be a part of what drives Gardiner into the future. Follow the Town of Gardiner on Facebook and Twitter.

On other matters, in a letter beginning "Notwithstanding its best efforts, Wireless Edge hereby withdraws its applications, due to changed circumstances, for site plan approval [that was] pending [before the various Boards] ...," efforts to build a cell tower in Moran Field next to the Town Hall came to an end. The letter closes with "Wireless Edge nevertheless remains committed to developing wireless telecommunication infrastructure in the Town to serve its citizens, first responders, tourists, and others traveling to and through the town."

Now that the site at the Town Hall has been abandoned, the next step is to find a site, or perhaps multiple sites, with shorter towers that could "hide in existing landscape." It may be possible for the Town Board to consider sites on private property, even though that will mean giving up an income from the cell tower. □

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Gardiner Writer Thrives At Home

by Laurie Willow



Betty Marton
Photos: Laurie Willow

Betty Marton has been a professional writer and editor for most of her adult life, and she works from home. In her home office, or at the kitchen table or on the couch in the living room, she changes views, but not her focus. Betty knows how to find the kernel of the story, and then develop it into a full-bodied sharing of information about a particular person, event or topic.

Betty didn't always work from home. When she and her husband, Jerry Teters, lived in New York City, Betty was the Commu-

nications Directors for the New York City Parks Council. When, at 35, she became pregnant with their first child, she knew that she wanted to work from home. Her employer tried to accommodate this, but since it really hadn't been invented yet,

and the infrastructure wasn't in place to support telecommuting, it didn't work out. Betty left that job to begin freelancing.

In 1990, she contracted with her first corporate client, American Express. Working from home, she conducting interviews by phone and relied on fax and mail. So followed other corporations, like NYNEX, Andersen Consulting and Baxter Healthcare, while helping to invent the concept and policies necessary to telecommute. In 1995, Betty and Jerry, with two small children, left the city for Gardiner. "The beauty of this business," Betty says, "is that you can do it almost anywhere, especially with Skype and email!"

After working for a decade as a corporate freelance writer Betty began to work for foundations and nonprofit organizations. She was reporting for the Carnegie Corporation on a roundtable discussion by a group Muslim business, education and civic leaders that was to be published just after 9/11, but the conversation changed and it never saw the light of day.

"To write about what other people know never gets boring," said Betty, whose work for such clients as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Casey Family programs allows her to write about such diverse subjects as children in foster care and reconciliation programs in the Western Balkans. She also writes about best practices in the changing health care system for several healthcare organizations and publications. As an editor, she worked with SUNY New Paltz professor, Nancy Schniedewind, on her recently published book, *Educational Courage*, and *Scattered*, a memoir by Justine Blau.

Following the 2008 recession Betty realized that all of her income eggs were in one basket, so she diversified and became the marketing agent for her husband's artwork (www.JerryTeters.com). She also launched a new segment of her business called "In Your Own Words." The idea is this: everyone has a story to tell; each life is unique. Betty interviews a person, recording his or her stories on a CD, and produces a book, with photos, if that is desired. This attention to someone's life, including your own, is a great gift to future generations. You can find out more about what Betty does at IYOWpublishing.com or martoneditorial.com. □

[Back Comment](#) ⇌

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New York State Burn Ban For Dummies

by Carol O'Biso



In talking with neighbors and friends over the years there seemed to be a lot of confusion about the New York State burn ban that is in effect every year. This conversation with Department of Environmental Conservation Information Officer Wendy Rosenbach will hopefully clear things up ...

CO: So, the burn ban usually starts on March 15 and ends on May 15th, just as we're coming out of the wet season of spring and heading into a hot dry summer. What's up with that? It seems backwards.

WR: I know it doesn't sound logical, but the fact is, those months when the burn ban is in effect are the months when we have the highest incidence of forest fires. Some of it is environmental—the trees have no leaves during that period so there is less moisture in the forests—and some of it is that people don't usually do yard cleanup in the summer; they typically do that in the spring and fall. Whatever the reasons, we can't argue with the fact that a burn ban in effect over those months has definitely cut down on the number of fires—we've seen a 60% reduction since the burn ban went into effect in 2010.

CO: It's a ban on "open burning." What exactly does open burning mean? Does it include camp fires and things like that?

WR: Open burning is the outdoor burning of vegetative yard waste. In towns like Gardiner, with a total population under 20,000, open burning also includes brush, which is defined as tree limbs with attached leaves where the limbs are less than six inches in diameter and eight feet in length. So those are the things you cannot burn

until the burn ban is lifted for the year. The burn ban does NOT include campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in diameter, small cooking fires or celebratory bonfires—all with the understanding that these fires cannot be left unattended, must be fully extinguished and that only charcoal or clean, untreated or unpainted wood can be burned. In fact, campfires are not regulated by the DEC, although the DEC can prohibit them on state lands if absolutely necessary during periods of very high fire danger.

CO: Umm... really, how do you distinguish between a pile of brush that has to be gotten rid of and a ceremonial bonfire? Does that mean as long as you have a few people standing around with a beer it's ok?

WR: Any police officer responding to a complaint can usually readily identify what is a fire for the purposes of getting rid of debris versus a true "celebratory" or campfire.

CO: Are the dates of the ban always the same?

WR: Last year weather conditions were so dry the burn ban was extended into October. Conditions were extreme and extreme measures were needed.

CO: Aren't there some things we can never burn in NY State, even when there is no burn ban?

WR: Yes, absolutely. Only brushy material is allowed to be burned. It's illegal to burn paper, leaves and household garbage—which releases dangerous compounds into the air—anywhere in the state at any time. We recommend composting leaves, recycling appropriate materials such as newspaper, paper, glass and plastic and having the rest or your garbage picked up by a waste company or taken to the transfer station.

CO: Thanks for your help with this.

WR: you're welcome. If anyone wants more information they can go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov>. □

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Help Hess Farm Keep Working

by Barbara Sides



Imagine a 74-acre Civil War Era farm across from the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, with scenic views, situated a mere mile from a vibrant small town hamlet. Any such farm would be a developer's dream but this particular Gardiner farm, fronting Sand Hill and Marabac Roads, is quite real. It has been in Albert Hess' family since 1928, and is slated for preservation through

the purchase of its development rights, with one crucial caveat: Gardiner's Open Space Commission must raise just over \$40,000 by March 31st, when a federal grant of \$225,000 expires.

With the help of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (\$225,000) and the Open Space Institute (\$112,500) as well as contributions by community organizations, local residents and foundations, \$410,000 of the \$450,000 required to purchase the development rights, has already been raised. Last June's fundraiser at Marty and Thelma Kiernan's Farm – the first Gardiner Farm to have its development rights purchased – raised \$10,000 toward the effort and other fundraisers are planned.

With real estate prices at record lows, the time for the purchase of a conservation easement couldn't be better. Fair market value is

currently just over \$6,000 per acre. Additionally, land protected in this manner remains on the tax rolls and, since Open Space requires fewer municipal services, municipalities that value preservation can also save on tax expenditures.

The Hess Farm produces corn and hay thus supporting our local farming industry, a critical component of our local economy. Its preservation ensures continued enjoyment of beautiful vistas, enhances our sense of community and provides economic benefits. But time is short. To be a part of this preservation effort, a tax -deductible contribution in any amount can be made in several ways:

To make your donation, you can use the convenient coupon below, or just send a check payable to "Open Space Conservancy" to the Open Space Conservancy, 1350 Broadway, Suite 201, New York, NY 10018. Be sure to write "Hess Farm" on the check's memo line.

Contributions may also be made on-line at Open Space Institute/Conservancy's website www.osiny.org (be sure to note "Hess Farm" in the memo box). ☐ [↔ Back Comment ↔](#)

You May Be Eligible For A Real Property Tax Exemption ...

by Maureen Gallagher, Sole Assessor, Town of Gardiner

Gardiner residents ...you may be eligible for tax savings if you meet any of the following requirements and you file the appropriate forms with the Gardiner Assessor's Office on or before March 1, 2013.

- Basic STAR: Available on your primary residence with a \$500,000 income limit.
- Enhanced STAR: Available if you are over or turning 65 in 2012 and your adjusted gross income is under \$79,050.
- Senior Exemption: Available for owners who have resided in their home at least 1 year, are over 65 with incomes less than \$32,399.
- Veterans: Available if you or your spouse served during a war time period.
- Cold War Veterans: Available if you served from 1945-1991 and you receive no other veteran's exemption.

Forms and further details are available at the Assessor's Office or online at www.tax.ny.gov. If you have questions, call the Assessor's Office, 255-9675, Extensions 104 or 105.

Again, remember that completed exemption forms must be filed on or before March 1, 2013. [↔ Back Comment ↔](#)

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Send check payable to "Open Space Conservancy" to the Open Space Conservancy, 1350 Broadway, Suite 201, New York, NY 10018. Be sure to write "Hess Farm" on the check's memo line.

Thank you for your support!

Aerial Object, from page 1

Richards called Air Traffic Control. Planes coming from Europe or Toronto travel down a jet way that comes by Albany and passes just about five miles west of Gardiner, at 12,000 feet. "I was more or less trying to warn aviation controllers that, 'Hey, there's something in the air near the jet way and it's sitting there! And it's a serious-sized object way the hell up there!'"

"I told Air Traffic Control that from where I stand, I don't even know, maybe 25 miles. This is the angle, this is the compass heading. "He heard them talking to airliners and asking them if they had seen anything out to the east, but never heard the airline pilots respond.

As far as Richards is aware, no one called police, fire or airports. "I'm the only one who called TRACON, which is Air Traffic Control in the New York sector. Nobody called me back. So I kept going on the internet; couldn't find anything. Then I finally went to UFO sites and got this thing called Mutual UFO Network. We saw an article about Pikeville, Kentucky, and NBC and this guy, Allen Epling. I looked at his videos—that's it—the same thing I saw!"

Bill Richards says the big question in his mind is why, at a time in which terrorism is at the top of the priority list of the U. S. Government, the authorities aren't interested in high altitude, unmoving, unidentified aerial objects.

"I think they probably have a protocol that says, 'If anyone sees anything Top Secret, just freakin' deny it!' He had already called the Federal Aviation Administration and says, "They weren't even interested—nothing. They don't want to know from Adam. That in itself may be seen as an order to remain silent. I would surely love to know what that thing was!" □

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Mobil Targets Spring Opening

by Ray Smith

In the fall issue of The Gardiner Gazette we reported on plans for an entirely new Chestnut Mart retail service station and convenience store at Ireland Corners. Hopes had been for an opening before year end, but final Town sign-off on the project did not come until mid December.

In the meantime, CPD Energy, owner of the property, demolished all the buildings on the site and removed the old fuel tanks and distribution lines in readiness for construction. Foundation work was the first order of business, in hopes of closing in the building before a serious snow. Once completed, the Mart will include two islands, each with two pumps, and more space so as to comfortably accommodate eight vehicles at the pumps simultaneously. Scott Parker, Director of Facilities for CPD Energy, described some of the other improvements: "We've abandoned the old well and will have a new one in a different location, farther removed from the new septic system. The old septic system and septic field were dug out and removed.

"The fuel tanks will be double walled fiberglass and distribution lines will be double walled as well. Both the tanks and the lines will be continuously monitored electronically so that any leak would be detected while still contained within the outside wall of the tank or line." Final touches including landscaping, blacktop and perhaps placement of the canopy over the fueling islands will wait for warmer weather. Nonetheless, Scott is aiming for a spring opening. □ [Back Comment](#)



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NY Makes Largest Addition To Adirondacks in A Century

by State & County Correspondent Nadine Lemmon

Looking for adventure beyond Minnewaska State Park or the Catskills? Ready for a new challenge? Soon, a whole new world will open up, only a hop-skip-and-a-jump up I-87.

Recently, Governor Cuomo and DEC Commissioner Joseph Martens announced the planned purchase of 69,000 acres in the Adirondack Park. This is the single largest addition to the park in over a century—and the park itself is the largest park in the country (at 6.1 million acres). To give you a sense of the scale of it all, the total area of Gardiner is 28,736 acres. Take a look at the map at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/83963.html (and on the [back page](#) of this issue), showing where the new land—multiple small and large parcels—will be added to the existing park.



Essex Chain of Lakes. With more than nine lakes and ponds, 14.7 miles of Hudson River shoreline and 8.5 miles of Cedar River shoreline, this tract is sure to attract anglers, paddlers, and campers after it becomes public land. Photo: The Nature Conservancy website.

In 2007, The Nature Conservancy purchased 161,000 acres of land formerly owned by Finch, Pruyn and Company (a paper manufacturer). 89,000 of those acres are now protected under

conservation easement, and the rest will be purchased by the state. It will cost \$49.8 million, and the contract is being phased over five years. The Environmental Protection Fund, which has a pot of money dedicated to land acquisition, will be the source of the funds.

Most significantly, this purchase was approved by all 27 of the host communities, and locals will have significant input on the future plans for the land. Additionally—a key for the cash-strapped North Country—the State will pay all local taxes on the land. As part of the deal, local communities also bought several thousand acres for their own future economic development possibilities.

The public hasn't had access to these parts in 150 years, and it will offer a plethora of recreational opportunities—hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, paddling and cross-country skiing. It provides critical links in the snowmobile trail system, and thus a big boost to the winter tourism economy. It will also protect key local businesses, such as logging on “working” forests. Here's an enticing description from the DEC's website: “Mountains, cliffs, wilderness lakes, ponds, bogs, fens, swamps, alluvial forests, and flat and white-water rivers. Moose, bobcat, black bear, brook trout, landlocked salmon, small and largemouth bass. 180 miles of rivers and streams, 175 lakes and ponds, 465 miles of undeveloped shoreline along rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, six mountains taller than 2,000 feet and countless smaller hills.”

What's not to like? ☐ [Back Comment](#)



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Just A Bite ...

This column reports on exemplary offerings from area restaurants.

Outstanding Pizza at The Gold Fox

by Carol O'Biso

Last winter, when I saw that the Gold Fox had become the "Gold Fox Restaurant and House of Pizza," I laughed. We tend to call them pizzerias in this country, so the name seemed a little out there, like finding "the House of Windsor" in Newburgh. Besides, since I'm first generation American, with Italian-born parents and pretty much olive oil in my veins, it was clear to me that a place with a knack for wings and beer should probably stick to wings and beer.

It was my husband who insisted we try the pizza, and Gold Fox, I am so sorry! This pizza, unbelievably, is excellent, a very European pizza with a thin crust that manages to achieve the holy grail of pizza crusts; it is both chewy and crunchy at the same time, with generous toppings that travel across most of the pizza real estate instead of leaving that huge pillow of white dough so many pizzas tend to sport around their edges. Gold Fox owner George Vlamis made the pizzas himself for the first six months and has now trained someone to take over the role. That first night I had the Greek and my husband had the Meat Lover's. We have now been back a number of times to try others of their 14 flavors, which include Seafood, Buffalo Chicken, Veggie Lover's, Eggplant and The White Vampire (lots of roasted garlic). They range from \$6.95 to \$12.95 for a 10" personal pie and from \$13.95 to \$22.95 for a large 18" pie, but during Happy Hour, from 3:00 to 7:00 Monday through Friday, all personal pizza's are \$7.00, and they often have "Super Specials" for takeout only, like a Large 18" one topping pizza, 12 wings and a two liter soda, all for \$19.95.

And, by the way, they call it a ten inch pie but it's actually a foot in diameter, and the so-called 18-inch is really 19 inches. More good news is that The Gold Fox Restaurant and House of Pizza offers free delivery on their full menu within a radius of seven miles, though they charge two dollars for delivery of orders under \$20, and while they're making all these big changes, they are also now serving a full breakfast menu every Saturday and Sunday from 7AM until noon.

Now, the Gold Fox's ad says "Best Pizza on the Plan et." That's a pretty indefensible claim, but they had to do something to get your attention, because this pizza deserves your attention. 600 Route 208, Gardiner (at Ireland Corners), 845-255-3700. ☐ [Back Comment](#)



The "personal" Greek pizza at the Gold Fox (with sauce; they will also make it for you without ...)

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Gazette's New Community Calendar ... Keeping Us Up To Date

Got something you think people should know about? The Gardiner Gazette has recently launched a new, web-based Community Calendar featuring visual arts events, performing arts events and community events. It can be found on the main page of www.gardiner-gazette.com and is also available on smartphones such as the Apple iPhone, iPad and Android phones and tablets. (You will find instructions on the web-page).

To arrange a listing, contact Gazette Ad Manager Andy Sosnowski at 845 750 4103 or gardinerGazetteAds@gmail.com. Unlike the printed Gazette, which is only released

on a quarterly basis, in most cases your ad or notice can be added to the calendar within a couple of days!!

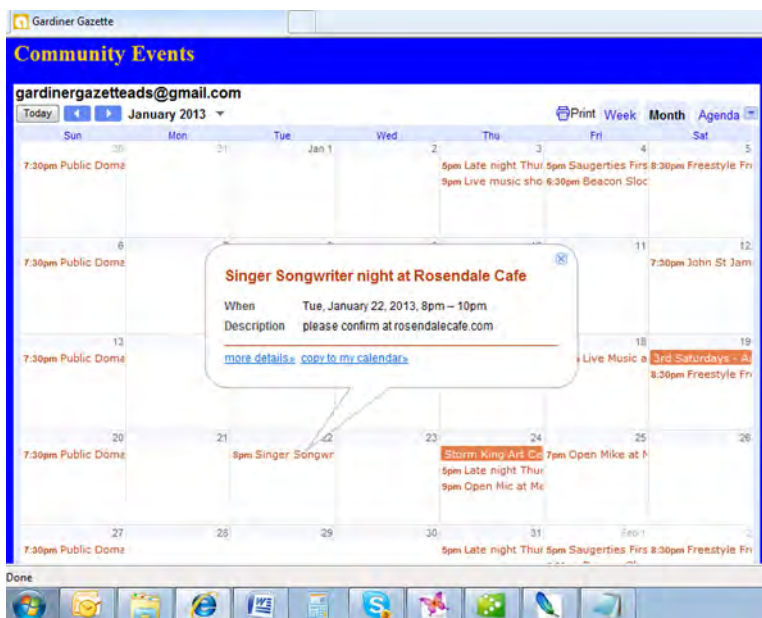
Calendar notices are brief, and text only, as shown in the image below. Non-commercial events that benefit the community will always be free but, for a limited time, The Gazette is

also offering free calendar ads to current advertisers; you can advertise your own events, sales, special promotions, open houses, readings, classes, etc. Many people are already taking advantage of this opportunity.

Some listed events for January include a Free-style Frolic dance venue in Kingston and Late night Thursdays at the Vassar Art Museum.

Help us keep the community informed. We look forward to hearing from you soon. □

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The Gardiner Gazette is a quarterly publication funded entirely by advertising and contributions. Release dates are as follows:

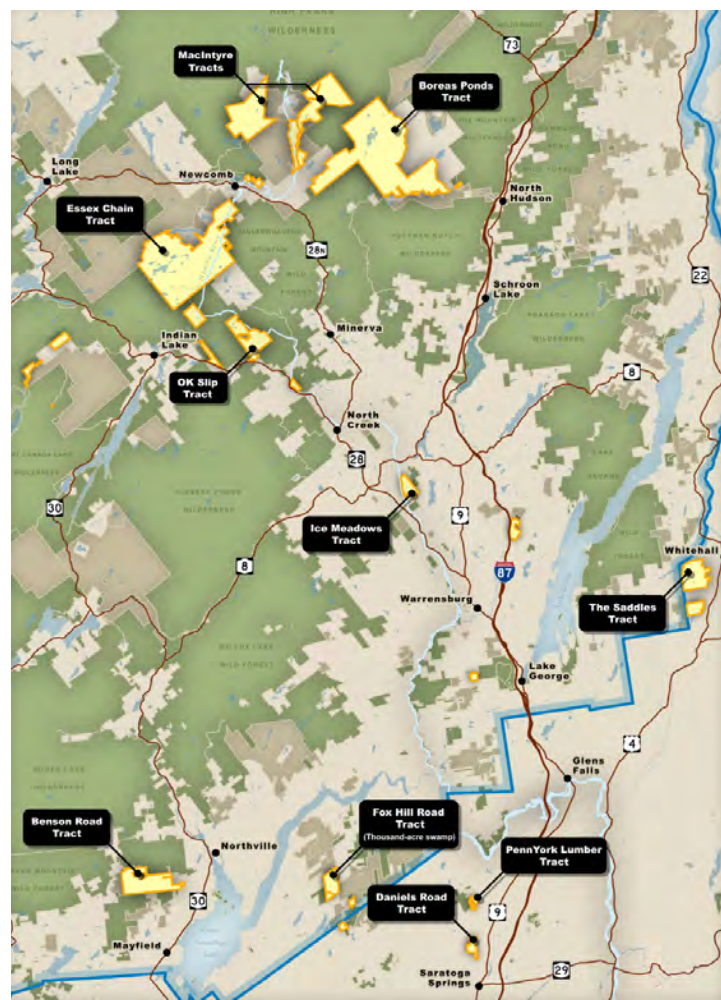
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Articles (usually between 350 and 450 words) are written by community members, not reporters. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please contact us. Articles do not promote any particular person or point of view. Articles promoting businesses appear only in the Business as Usual column and are written by our editorial committee. To suggest a business to feature, please contact us.

NY State Addition To Adirondack Park

The map at right, taken from the Nature Conservancy's website, shows the 69,000 acres of former Finch Pruyn Lands to be added to the Adirondack park (in yellow), lands currently managed by the Department of Environmental Conservation (in green) and land currently held in conservation easements (in gray). Read the full article on page 13.

↔ [Back Comment](#) ↔



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Almost 2 park-like acres are the setting for this impeccably maintained home. Featuring split floor plan with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, large kitchen w/lots of cabinets & counters and new stainless appliances! Cozy family room, laundry room & lots of room for outdoor entertaining on the oversized "Trex" deck. Many updates and improvements, including furnace. Ride along meandering country roads & enjoy all the wonders the Hudson Valley has to offer from this quiet, neat as a pin neighborhood in Gardiner. Priced to sell for Spring 2013 occupancy. **\$275,000**



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Unforgettable Family Holidays!



Whether 'Tis the Season or just a "let's get together" gathering, this unique Log Home invites everyone to join in the spirit of being with one another. From inside you can enjoy the open kitchen/breakfast nook and dining area that opens to the screened in porch and the expansive deck, looking out at the long mountain sunset views and onto the private rear yard with in-ground pool and circular patio with center fire pit for those slightly chilly evenings! Back inside you have private areas for office/hobby space and a family room that gives the kids a place to romp. Simply a wonderful romantic place to call HOME! So much inside & out that you must see!

\$374,900

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

High visibility at the intersection of Route 208 and 44/55 in Gardiner, where there is a new Mobil station going in, Ulster Savings Bank, and a car care shop. There are two buildings on 1 acre, zoned commercial. Currently one rented to an antique dealer and the other is owner occupied. **PRIME LOCATION, HIGH VISIBILITY!!!**

\$249,000



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(845) 255-3455

2356 Route 44/55, Gardiner, NY 12525

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