

# NEWSLETTER

## ! From your Town Supervisor! ! !

**Greetings** Wilmington Citizens; here is the news out of the

**Supervisor Randy Preston !**

Supervisor's Office:"

**946-7179 !**

**The Wilmington/Whiteface Bikefest** was a huge success

**Town Board!** with



huge crowds at all of the functions through the three-day weekend event. We continue to add performances to enhance event. We had over 1000 competitors with their families as grow this event. We also try very hard to not than is absolutely necessary with the

**Rarilee Conway** the **524-0493** we continue to

**Steve Corvelli** impact the locals any more with the **946-7430** Whiteface Uphill Road Race closing Route

**Darin Forbes**

**946-2058** being conducted

minutes and the Wilmington/Whiteface 100 Mt. Bike Race mostly in the woods. We have the Friday night **Dawn Stevens** Jump Jam and the Saturday night Beach Party that is geared **586-2796** toward locals. This event has national recognition and has been ! featured in several magazines. We thank you for your patience

**Town Clerk!**

and look forward to the future as this great event continues to **Gerald Bruce** grow."

**Office 946-2105 Home 946-**

**2249** Along similar lines, the Town started a mountain bike shuttle ! which operates every other Sunday through September. It starts

**Town Justices!**

at our new bike shop, LEEPOFF Cycles on Route 86, and

**Timothy Kertz**

travels to the top of the infamous "Poor Man's Downhill," **946-8231** which is just below the Toll House on Whiteface Highway. So **Robert Kirby** far it has been an overwhelming success giving tourists and **946-2486** locals alike a great adventure this summer." **Justice Court**

!

**946-7129**

**The reconstruction of the Whiteface Mountain Veteran's Memorial**

!

**Highway** is coming along well. The expected completion date is June 2015. !

am sure Governor Cuomo will be back to re-open the grand highway."

**The new signage** has been installed and looks great! Thanks to the NYS Department of State for the Grant funding, along with Essex County **Cell 524-6758** which purchased the Hardy Road signage. We were **Code!** also successful in getting NYS Department of Transportation to remove a **Enforcement!** of cluttered signage that was at the corner of 86 & the Whiteface **Bob Guynup** Highway. There had been multiple signs all saying the same thing. We are

**2348** planning to continue to replace signage as funds allow. **!** " **Cell 569-4878 !**

**A big thank you** goes out to Leslie Kopec for planting and maintaining the

island at the Visitor's Bureau/Church Parking lot. It is nothing short of **Ed Orsi** amazing. **Ed Orsi** revamped the plantings at the Visitor's Bureau property. **524-0380** It is reported that do

having their picture taken with the **Emergency/after hours** bears. **!** " **Pager 574-8755 !**

"  
TOWN OF WILMINGTON"

### *Supervisor's Report (continued)*

Everything is still on track for **the stone bridge** in the center of Town to be replaced next year. Construction is to start March 1<sup>st</sup> and it will be closed to all traffic for 90 **!** days. Stay tuned for further updates."

Our **Beach Concerts** for the summer are well attended; however we are very short on donations to pay for the Concerts. We do not use tax dollars to pay for the bands; it is all through donations. If you wish to give please send your check to the Town at P.O. Box 180. We hope we do not have to cut back on the performances as many

people have enjoyed the c**!**ncerts for years."

**The Town has asked the Department of Environmental Conservation to re-visit the Wilmington Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.** This is the procedure needed to expand our trail system on state

lands. We have currently maxed out our mileage for the Flume and Hardy Road or Beaver Brook Trails. These trails have been a huge success; recently the APA visited the trails and observed the beauty and opportunity for the

community firsthand. While it is a public process and is certainly open for discussion, we are looking for a way to make a connection further into town, and also add some beginner mountain bike mileage to the Beaver Brook trails. We also continue to look for a connection through Indian Rock on private land to the trails (Beaver Brook) that about the development, allowing the connection from the Flume trails to be a fairly easy task. These trails are not just for mountain bikes; hiking, skiing and snowshoeing are also very popular. If you have spent any time on the trails you have seen that they are not damaged by the bikes. The soils actually hold up excellently to the use. These trails are something the Town can be proud of and can be a key to tourism growth. The Flume is one of few places that is handicapped accessible to the beaver pond where an abundance of wildlife can be seen. We will continue to

push DEC to revisit the UMP. **!** "

**Our Cemeteries**-Guy Stephenson, representing the Historical Society has been looking for volunteers to

### **History Trivia Questions**

assist with some upkeep of stones in our Cemeteries. We ask that family members with loved ones laid to rest to

Highway

Superintendent!

E

Enforcement!

Bob Guynup

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Water Department!

Ed Orsi

Pager 574-8755 !

check on the condition of the plot and if you want to volunteer to assist in repairing or resetting stones, please

reach out to Guy. ! "

**I want to give credit** to Meg Parker, who has been the administrator of the Essex County Creating Healthy Places Grant program. The Town has received several items through this grant, including the liner for our skating rink, funding for the sign design, a bike trailer with a capacity of 20 for the Mt. Bike Shuttle, the Hardy Road signs, a canoe, 2 paddle boards, and 4 spring toys at our beach and town park. This program is promoting healthy outdoor activities,

so get out and enjoy the beautiful place where ! we live."

The Town forces are continuing to work on areas for which we previously received **grant funding**. The Visitors Bureau area is finished with the exception of adding a table to the inside of the gazebo. We installed new fire pits, picnic tables and barbecues at the Beach. We will construct a

- 1. What was once advertised as a "spur on the Quebec-Miami highway"?"
- 2. Who were the last surviving Civil War veterans residing in Wilmington?

recreational path on the two acres the Town owns adjacent to the Beach and we will also construct a handicapped fishing deck next to the boat launch this fall. We are also going to add our homemade Adirondack lights to the four corners in front of Adirondack Chocolates. We are very fortunate to have such talented town

employees. ! "

**The saga of the old gas station** continues, we continue to try to get 7-11 Corp. to clean up the property with very limited success. We continue to cite them for violations and they fix some but not all items and drag the process out. It is quite a challenge when the huge corporation is in Texas, and attempting to force them to do something is quite frankly something that creates a great deal of stress. We hear about this building all the time and it is the biggest eyesore in Wilmington. 7-11 holds the lease until May 2015, we have not had much luck with the owners of the building either, other than they will sell it next year when the lease is finished."

*(cont'd on p. 3)!*

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OF WILMINGTON

TOWN

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### *Supervisor's Report (continued)*

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We are hopeful for the **continued renovations** on the Adirondack Spruce Lodge (formerly Mel's), Steinhoff's, and the old Holiday, as the old buildings were certainly in need of updating and seeing them open once again is

something we all look forward to. !"

**Festival of the Colors** is Saturday, September 13. More info in the Visitors Bureau section. ! "

The last item is the Town continues to seek a **hamlet expansion** from the APA, funded through a NYS Dept. of State grant. At the same time, with DOS funding, we are performing a sewage treatment study focusing on the hamlet expansion area and the current motel area of Route 86. We are in no way looking for a conventional plant which is too expensive and fails and pollutes before it is paid off. How many of us remember our beach being closed due to the Lake Placid plant failure? We are looking at new, smarter technology with high tech systems that are non-centralized. We feel "

there could be a way to do this and not bankrupt the community and also be friendly to the environment. We have also looked into a possibility of a new hotel with a study to see if it is feasible. The study did come back that a new hotel would be profitable in Wilmington and would enhance the businesses that are here. Now some of you are probably thinking, wait a minute, we don't want this, we live here because it is quiet. I can assure you the current Town Board does not want to be another Lake Placid, but we need some new and refreshed growth to survive. I was born here and when I was a kid there were many, many more motels and businesses, campsites, diners and such. It was a really nice town then and I would be tickled pink if we could get back to that before I pass on. We can grow and be prosperous and not lose the reason we live here. That

is our vision. ! "

That is all for now,"  
Randy Preston



### ***DOG CONTROL NEWS!***

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**All dogs over four months old are required by law to be licensed and should wear their license tag for identification purposes. Licenses need to be renewed each year. Owners that have unlicensed dogs or dog licenses that have expired can expect to receive a summons to appear in court in violation of the town dog control ordinance which could result in fines and court fees. ! "**

Also, a reminder that there is a leash law in Wilmington and it is a violation of the law for dogs to be running loose. Licensing may be done at the Town Clerk's Office at the Community Center from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. If you need a copy of the dog control ordinance, please feel free to contact me at 946-1282. PLEASE KEEP YOUR PET LEGAL AND SAFE BY GETTING THEM VACCINATED FOR RABIES AND KEEPING THEIR LICENSE UP TO DATE. The rabies clinic is usually held in July. We had a very good turnout this year. Thank you to those who attended and are obeying the law by licensing your dogs."

!

Shirley Lawrence"  
Dog Control Officer

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## *E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library News*



Summer is always a busy time at the library and we love having visits from people from all over. We are never too busy to chat with patrons, even the ones of the non-human variety! "

*At left, our friend Farkus, perusing a book selected by his personal assistant, Bailey. ! !*

In addition to our Summer Reading Program, we are fortunate to be hosting a writing workshop for students to create articles for the local CYC (Connecting Youth & Communities) Coalition magazine. It gets pretty lively in here on Wednesday afternoons. We are excited to see the creative juices flowing and can't wait to see the finished product. In June, the Friends of the Library hosted their Annual Friends Food & More Sale. It is awesome to see all the support from our community! The Friends are planning to rehab the masonry work on the front of our building with the proceeds of their fundraising efforts. "

The Library sponsored a team in the **Take a Bite out of Books Competition** on June 28th. Our team of two, Ashleigh Baer and Trent Yourdon, won second place. Our team of two solidly defeated all other teams until the last round, losing by one point to a team they had already defeated. This is quite an accomplishment as all the other teams had four members. This is our sixth year participating and our fifth year placing in the top two. We hope to continue this tradition in the years to come. "

### ***Francis Betters Memorial Statue Project***

Friends of Francis Betters are raising funds to commission a life-size bronze statue to be placed in Wilmington, to honor and memorialize the West Branch Au Sable River fly-fishing legend. To date we have raised over \$3000 towards our goal."



Fran was born in Wilmington, NY, in 1931 and lived to be 78. He began fishing as a young boy and never stopped. He said his father was the best fisherman he ever knew and that he taught him most of what he knew about fishing and the outdoors.

Fran wrote about fishing, was an expert fly-tyer, and was known for developing specialized local fly patterns such as the Haystack, Usual, Bomber and Au Sable Wulff. Fran built rods, too. He was an authentic Adirondack character and loved to tell stories, sharing his knowledge and great sense of humor. Fran especially loved the

West Branch AuSable River and its fast, challenging waters."

Fran owned and operated the Adirondack Sport Shop in Wilmington for almost 50 years and was inducted into the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and **!** Museum Hall of Fame in 2008."

Mr. TJ Swan donated audio CD's including over 70 minutes of Fran talking about his life, fishing, reciting his poems and his great stories. This CD will be given to you when you donate **!** (suggestions below):"

\$25 Mini-Muddler \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Usual \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Caddis \_\_\_\_\_ "  
 \$500 AuSable Bomber \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Haystack \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 AuSable Wulff \_\_\_\_\_ "

Donations are tax deductible & can be sent to: Town of Wilmington (501c3)"

Fran Betters Statue Project"

PO Box 180"

Wilmington, NY 12997"

(518) 946-7174"

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## ***The Mountain Greenhouse Project!***

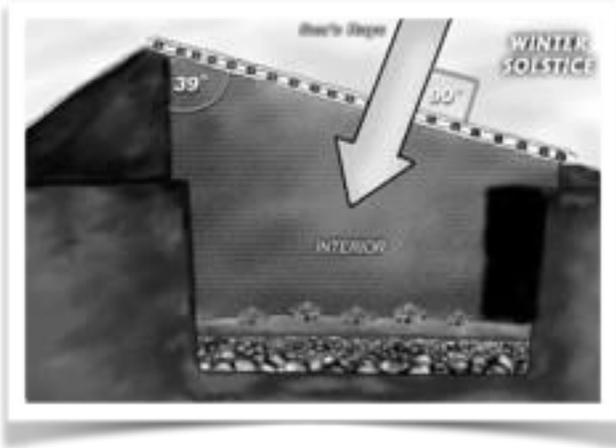
**!**

A fear for many parents is that their children have become disconnected. In the "selfie-obsessed" world, how many of today's children do not know what has gone into the production of their food? How far has that food traveled to its final end, the dinner table? How can we help families in our community with fresh produce? The Farm to Family concept is missing from children's lives even in our wilderness home in the Adirondacks.

We have begun a project that we hope will GROW **!** (*no pun intended!*). "

First, a big thank you to Brett Lawrence for starting her senior project during the summer. Brett's project is based on one idea: how can we, in a northern climate, produce healthy, natural vegetables year round on a budget! Her hope is to have a positive and lasting effect on our community, and to bring knowledge and a means to provide fresh produce to low income families through our local food pantries. We were looking for a greenhouse that could be in production year round, still have the spirit of DIY and fit in a budget of

\$300. The solution: Walipini or "place of warmth".



A walipini is a partially underground greenhouse. They were pioneered about twenty years ago in South America, and were designed to enable families to increase their food security. They are also known as pit greenhouses, and pankar-huyu, depending on where they are being built. Even in harsh mountainous climates in Bolivia, food can be grown year round in the "place of warmth". Walipinis gain and hold their heat for free via solar radiation, high thermal mass, and the heat of the earth. When it is up and running, even the micro-organisms in the soil generate much-needed heat. When there is snow above, under the frost line things are nice and toasty. Six to eight feet underground the temperature is a constant

balmy 55 F degrees (13 C) from the heat of the earth alone. A small walipini can be dug by two people over two days, with the roof and covering taking another two or more, depending on how elaborate a structure is built. Underground greenhouses can vary from low tech and low cost, to fairly hightech and pricier. Either way you go, this is a method that can extend the growing season and therefore our food security and self! -reliance, even in the far north."

Brett has applied and received a mini-grant from the CYC for \$300, our estimated cost to build the walipini. In the spring of 2015, The Mountain Greenhouse will be the new location for a farmers' market to GROW in Wilmington! Also a butterfly exhibit will be planned for the greenhouses first spring as well as a children's gardening program. Our hope is that construction will begin mid to late August and will be completed before winter descends upon us. There will be many group activity and work days for this project and all are welcome to attend. If there are any senior students out there looking to finish their thirty hours of community service, there will be some great opportunities coming up to put some time in on the project. "

If you would like to be a part of this project please send an email to " "  
WilmingtonYouthCenter247@gmail.com. "

!

We will be providing updates and work date information."

Kate Sears"

Wilmington Youth Center Director"

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#### **PLANNING AHEAD FOR A BUILDING!**

The Wilmington Historical Society is busy planning for a building to house our collections and provide space for research, programs and displays. While we appreciate the use of our current space in the Wilmington Community Center, we are outgrowing it.

A building committee has been working hard since October 2013 sketching plans, searching for a suitable location and researching requirements for a public structure that would meet the needs of the historical society's mission. On the committee are co-chairs Gil Dyke and Bob Peters (both retired technology teachers),

Guy Stephenson (long-time WHS member and town resident), Bill Waldy (proprietor of the Alpine Country Inn & Suites), and Bob Hockert (town resident & owner of Adirondack Sauna). Thanks to all who are serving in this

important capacity! "

#### **FINAL GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE SUMMER--- "HISTORIC ADIRONDACK FILMS"!**

Friday, August 15, 7 pm "Historic Adirondack Films" will be presented by guest speaker and media specialist James Griebsch at the Wilmington Community Center on Springfield Road. This presentation is a compilation of rarely seen motion picture footage taken in the village of Saranac Lake and the surrounding Adirondacks from the

1920's to the 1960's. Included among the many film clips are downtown scenes when the streets were shared by early automobiles and horse drawn wagons, ice sports, water sports, President Calvin Coolidge's 1926 visit, (then) Governor FDR's 1929 visit to the area, and much, much more. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments are provided by the Country Bear Bakery in

Wilmington. ! ! "

### **WILMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT THE FESTIVAL OF COLORS!**

*Saturday, Sept 13--- 10 am to 4 pm, Heritage Park and/or baseball park on Springfield Road!*

Visit our booth at *Wilmington's Festival of Colors*. The theme for our display this year is "History of Tourism in Wilmington." We have photos that show how Wilmington developed into a tourist destination from the entrepreneurship of mountain guides to the development of attractions like the Whiteface hiking and horse trails, High Falls Gorge, the Whiteface

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Memorial Highway, Santa's Workshop, Whiteface Ski Center, and world class fishing. Photos of accommodations range from pictures of the Whiteface Mountain House in the 1870's, to the tourist cabins of the 1920's and 30's, to the motels and restaurants of the

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1950's. We will also have books for sale, including the Wilmington Transcribed Serial Records by Harold Hinds, Jr and the book we authored, *Wilmington and the Whiteface Region*. We will also have Whiteface Mountain car stickers for sale. In addition, there will be a silent auction. Come see all that we have to offer at our

booth! ! "

### **LEARN HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY TREE!**

On Wednesday, October 22 from 1pm – 3pm at the Wilmington Community Center, Karen and Bob Peters will show you how to research and/or start your family tree. Materials will be provided. For those of you with Wilmington roots, the historical society has a wealth of research resources for you! For *all* those who attend, you

will begin to discover who you really are! ! "

### **Research Assistance –Authors, Authors, Authors!!**

While we continue to assist in research for the Whiteface Veterans Memorial Highway Project and the Wilmington Bridge Project as they progress and give ongoing

assistance to genealogy researchers, this year we seem to have an exceptional number of authors asking for information, photos and research assistance for their respective books.

We can all look forward to their books as they are published. Among them are Marty Podskoch for his book *Adirondack 102 Club: Your Passport & Guide to the North Country*, Erik Schlimmer for his book *History Inside the Blue Line: Place Names of the Trans Adirondack Route*, Jeremy Davis for his book *Lost Ski Areas of the Northern Adirondacks*, Sally Svenson for her book *African Americans in the Adirondacks*, Pricilla Partridge for her *Partridge Family* book, Jay O'Hern for an Adirondack story-cookbook and most recently Charles J. Shields for preliminary work to investigate the possibility for authoring a book on Julien Reiss. All of these books are in various stages of writing and publication. We are glad that the Wilmington Historical Society is able to contribute to

these exciting projects. We've been busy! ! "

### **Future Open Discussions !**

Our "Open Discussions" take place at 7 p.m. before the business portion of each regular meeting, and last about 45 minutes to an hour. You are all invited to relate stories, bring news articles, photos or artifacts related to the topic of each meeting. Or you can just come to watch and listen! We audio record the "Open Discussions" so that the information and stories gleaned can be put in digital audio form for researchers, topic by topic. We would appreciate your contributions to the preservation of Wilmington's history. Students are also welcome to attend! If you have something to contribute to the discussion, but are unable to attend, please call, write or

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email us with your information.

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Below is the list of Open Discussion topics for the remainder of 2014: Please Note: We do not meet in December."

August 6 (Wed.): "Schools in Wilmington"

September 3 (Wed): "The Owaisa Club"

October 1 (Wed.): "History of the Wilmington Stone Bridge"

November 5 (Wed.): "History of Extreme Weather in

Wilmington" ! "

Investing in the Future, Preserving the Past " In January 2014, the Wilmington Historical Society opened an "Acorn Account" with the Adirondack Foundation, formerly the Adirondack Community Trust, in order to better plan for our future and to sustain our organization in perpetuity. The Adirondack Foundation is an endowment fund which helps local non-profit organizations to build long-term philanthropic support through charitable giving. The Wilmington Historical

Society "Acorn Account" was seeded with a generous donation of \$5,000 from one of our long-time Wilmington Historical Society members, Dennis Keegan of Colorado in honor of his parents, Thomas and Ruth Keegan. It allows us to begin the process of setting up an organization fund. The Wilmington Historical Society "Acorn Account" at the Adirondack Foundation needs to reach the short-term goal of \$10,000 before it becomes an interest-bearing account. We thank Dennis Keegan for his belief in us, for his generosity and for his support in this very important step! Now we are seeking further donations to get to the \$10,000 level as a full-fledged permanent fund. Please consider a tax-deductible gift to help us reach the first goal, by either sending your taxdeductible gift as a check to the Wilmington Historical Society at PO Box174, Wilmington, NY 12997 (please put Adirondack Foundation on the memo line of your check) or by contacting directly the Adirondack Foundation (formerly Adirondack Community Trust) at [www.generousact.org](http://www.generousact.org) and click on GIVE NOW to donate to the Wilmington Historical Society Acorn Fund. Thank you."

#### OUR CEMETERIES "

One of our Wilmington Historical Society members, Guy Stephenson, serves as the historical society's representative on the Wilmington Cemetery Committee. The Town of Wilmington has limited"

funds dedicated annually to making cemetery repairs. The WHS has also committed to repairing and conserving one or two cemetery stones per year. One of the stones we had repaired recently was that of Stephen Partridge, one of the first soldiers killed in the line of duty a few days prior to the Battle of Plattsburgh in the War of 1812. We are making a friendly appeal to each family with members buried in Wilmington's cemeteries to examine their family's cemetery markers for any condition issues. We respectfully

ask that you please consider cleaning and/or having your family stones repaired or reset if necessary. Thank you for honoring our Wilmington ancestors in that way."

Website Once again, we thank our webmaster, Patrick McIntyre, for maintaining our website. Through Google Analytics, which collects all sorts of traffic information regarding our website usage, we know that our website traffic is up from the previous year. From January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013, the total number of visitors was 2,813 with 2,438 being unique visitors. Statistics include the following: 86.4 % were new visitors while 13.6% were returning visitors. There were 7,289 page views. What's to see on our website? On our website, [www.wilmingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wilmingtonhistoricalsociety.org), you will find photos, a brief history of Wilmington, our schedule of upcoming events & discussion topics, historical society news, information on purchasing our new book Wilmington and the Whiteface Region or the "Town of Wilmington" Transcribed Serial Records books, membership information & application, minutes and agendas of our meetings, links to related institutions, and much more. Our "research" link to RootsWeb has all of the Wilmington Cemeteries. Another useful tool found on our website for Wilmington history researchers is the Northern New York Library Network's link to New York State Historic Newspapers (1803-2013). You can also link to the National World War II Registry. Bookmark us on your web browser's "favorites" list and check it often. Become one of the "return visitors" to our

website! "

For further information, contact the Wilmington Historical Society at 518-420-8370 or email [whs12997@hotmail.com](mailto:whs12997@hotmail.com). "

Mailing address: "

P.O. Box 174, Wilmington NY 12997"

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#### **TRIVIA ANSWERS!**

1. Wilmington Notch Drive
2. Oscar Maynard and Minor Cooper. Oscar fought with the New York 93<sup>rd</sup> Volunteer Infantry in nine major engagements and was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness. Minor served with the New York 96<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry and was a prisoner of war in the Andersonville Prison, surviving with lasting health problems. They both died in the 1930s.

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Town of Wilmington  
7 Community Circle  
Wilmington, NY 12997

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RESIDENT  
WILMINGTON, NY 12997

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**Bulletin  
Board**



**Contact Rarilee Conway  
(518) 524-0493**

ACO Property Advisors, Inc. announces a new office in Wilmington, New York where it will provide real estate brokerage and consulting services

**[www.whitefacerealestate.com](http://www.whitefacerealestate.com)**



***A Note from our Planning  
and Zoning Boards***

Recently, the Zoning Board has had several applications for variances, and has held public hearings, for fences, because property owners have not applied for permits and have erected fences that do not meet our zoning ordinance requirements. "

Our zoning ordinances require that a permit be obtained from our Code Enforcement Officer, Bob Guynup, for installation of fences. There are regulations regarding height, and placement of fences. Following this procedure avoids your attendance at Zoning Board meetings/Public Hearings, additional paperwork, and possible removal of fences.

***Newsletter Editor!***  
Ginny Crispell"  
[crisp.nyhhi@gmail.com](mailto:crisp.nyhhi@gmail.com)"