

Daily Freeman

Village of Saugerties on “10 coolest” list

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- The community is lauded by *Budget Travel* magazine.

By Ariel Zangla

Freeman staff

The Village of Saugerties is one cool place.

The community recently was named one of this year's 10 coolest small towns in America by Arthur Frommer's *Budget Travel* magazine.

This is the third year the magazine has searched the United States to find the coolest small, up-and-coming communities. Last year, the Greene County village of Catskill was on the list.



Main & Partition Streets

“I think that's great,” Saugerties Mayor Robert Yerick said of the village's recognition. He said the village is “doing so many things – we get so many compliments.”

According to *Budget Travel*, the editors look for communities with populations under 10,000 (the village of Saugerties had 4,955 in the 2000 Census) that are on the upswing and beginning to draw attention and new residents because of the quality of life, the arts and

restaurant scene or the proximity to nature.

“And cool doesn't mean quaint,” the editors wrote in their call for submissions. “We want towns with an edge. So think avant'garde galleries, not country stores.”

Yerick said he doesn't know how Saugerties was picked, but he was pleased with the recognition. He said his grandson called to tell him the news after seeing it on the Internet.

“As far as I'm concerned, it's the place to be,” Yerick said of Saugerties, which is known for its antique shops, restaurants and walkable business district. The mayor said the community is wonderful in terms of climate and relaxation opportunities and has good schools, more churches than bars, a low crime rate and new business still moving in.

Yerick said the Village also is involved in many activities from making road and lighting improvements to hosting events such as the Hudson Valley Garlic Festival and Mum Festival. He said the village also has excellent eateries and bed-and-breakfasts.

The *Budget Travel* article, which appears in the magazine's October issue, says Saugerties' “shop owners extend the welcome mat.”

“Don't be surprised if you're invited into someone's house the minute you set foot in Saugerties, 100 miles up the Hudson River from New York

City,” the article reads. Cited, in particular, are Richard Frisbie's Hope Farm Press & Bookshop, which he operates from his converted living room, and Miss Lucy's Kitchen and the Love Bites Café.



Love Bites, DIG and Café Tamayo Signs, along Partition Street

Joining Saugerties on this year's list of the 10 coolest towns in America are Cayucos, Calif.; Lexington, Va.; Breaux Bridge, La.; Tuback, Ariz.; Wallace, Idaho; Mount Vernon, Iowa; Jacksonville, Ore.; Rockland, Maine; and Whitefish, Mont.

The article can be found online at <http://www.budgettravel.com>