

PROTECT NEW YORK’S FOOD SHED

WWW.FOODNOTFRACKING.ORG

By Alanna Rose

I gave birth for the first time in June, at home on our farm in Plainfield, NY. The labor was protracted - thirty-five hours in total. We had with us a team of two home-birth midwives out of Albany. The work was intense and satisfying; creating and expanding my tolerance for a number of sensations I was not used to. But as the hours wore

on, and it became clear that my daughter’s position was obviously hindering her descent into this world despite our numerous attempts to change it, I began to grow weary and afraid. At around hour thirty-two, we considered various options. Two stood in stark contrast to each other: the first would be continuing in our home for an unknowable amount of time with my stamina waning, and the

See **FOOD**, continued on Page 13

GO FOR THE GOLDEN!

By Helen McLean

In early February, I had the good fortune to be part of a small group of people who observed a Golden Eagle up close. This juvenile female raptor, later named Maxine, was captured early one morning and “processed” for the next few hours as part of a research project. Processing entailed weighing, measuring and fitting her with a lightweight telemetry unit. The telemetry unit will upload data describing Maxine’s travels as she migrates to and from New York to her summer range in Canada. Information from her and other eagles will help researchers understand the migration patterns of Golden Eagles in the eastern United States.

One reason for studying the migration and habits of Golden Eagles is the con-

cern that they like to travel the same ridges which are ideal for siting wind turbines. When wind turbines are placed along these migration paths, the risk to eagles and other migratory birds of prey is great: collision mortality, habitat degradation, etc.. Data col-

lected in recent years show a steady migration path between northeastern Canada and the southern Appalachians. Having reliable migration information will help researchers to work with developers and identify areas for wind energy which have minimal risk for migratory birds.

More information on this fascinating research project can be viewed on the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society website: doas.us.

Helen McLean is the editor of The Belted Kingfisher, newsletter of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society.



Maxine, juvenile female Golden Eagle, captured, tagged and released February 8th, 2014, in Andes, NY

(photo by Helen McLean)

AT LAST! THE TULIP AND THE ROSE!

Photo by Andy Bobrow



The Tulip and The Rose, coming soon to Main Street in Franklin

THE LESSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

By Alexis Greene

New York will never produce as much shale gas as Pennsylvania.

That’s the consensus of four retired experts: a geologist, an engineer, an oil executive and an oil investor. They spoke on January 16 at the New York Society for Ethical Culture in Manhattan. Their topic: “New York Shale Gas Potential: How Does It Compare to Pennsylvania?”

The four men – geologist and Franklin resident Bri-

an Brock; James (Chip) Northrup; Thomas G. (Jerry) Acton; and Lou Allstadt – demolished the notion that the Marcellus or Utica shales beneath New York State can produce the large volume of natural gas which the DEC and fossil fuel companies claim exists. Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, a Cornell Professor of Engineering, moderated the evening, as he did last October for the panel in Ithaca.

See **LESSON**, con’t on Pg 7

FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT: A VERY BUSY YEAR

By Dale Downin

The Franklin Fire Department and Emergency Squad have had a busy year. The department has responded to over 140 fire and rescue calls, and the squad has answered over 240 ambulance calls, this is with all-volunteer help. Some of the long-distance help that we provided was sending people and equipment to Long Island to help after hurricane Sandy and to Herkimer County to help

See **FFD**, con’t on Page 2

By Carla Nordstrom

In Turkish culture, each flower evokes its own special meaning. The tulip, which originated in Turkey, symbolizes truth and oneness since it points upwards. It has been paired with the rose, representing love and passion, to name Franklin’s new restaurant, The Tulip and The Rose Café.

The Tulip and the Rose Café will be opening in April, and will serve breakfast seven days a week and lunch on Saturdays through Thursdays. Brunch will also be available on Sundays. The menu will include traditional American food with a number of Turkish delicacies.

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IT TAKES A VILLAGE

By Patricia Tyrell

What defines a community? Is it buildings and businesses? Is it parks, parades and events? Individual people? More likely, it is relationships *between* individuals that create a foundation for community and its infrastructure. Embracing this belief, a new partnership between the Boys & Girls Club of Sidney and senior citizens seeks to foster intergenerational relationships, in order to create and enhance a sense of community in Sidney via programming and projects. It's called It Takes A Village.

While the proverb behind "It Takes A Village" usually refers to the development of children, our new twist introduces

the idea that individuals on either end of the age spectrum can benefit from involvement in mentoring, recreational activities and community service – working together.

To see this vision emerge, the Boys & Girls Club of Sidney and the steering committee of It Takes A Village established a Senior Information and Social Center in the Sidney Civic Center. The center gave a very successful Open House in January, attended by seniors, community members, service providers, business owners and political leaders. Since its opening, the Center has established a variety of activities for senior citizens, developed according to their expressed needs and interests. Beyond use of the Senior Information and Social Center, senior citizens also have access to the Boys & Girls Club facilities



Arts and Crafts Day at the Center

during the Center's hours of operation, which are Tuesday through Thursday, 10 AM to 2 PM.

By setting the stage for the creation of intergenerational relationships, and ultimately a wide variety of programs, The Boys & Girls Club of Sidney believes that both youth and senior citizens will benefit from the new connections, knowledge and skills so

acquired. Relationships and programs can evolve simultaneously, gently guided by the current schedule of programs. The Club and its youth have already benefitted from seniors who volunteer in the homework program, at the pool table and on the Board of Directors, as well as from their ideas for new youth programs and activities.

Through seizing the

mutually beneficial opportunity to serve youth and senior citizen populations, The Boys & Girls Club of Sidney contributes to the greater good by promoting and supporting the creation of new relationships which encourage a sense of belonging to the community. With the immense support and interest already granted by the Sidney community, It Takes A Village promises to be a model initiative, illustrating that Great Futures really do start at the Boys & Girls Club of Sidney.

For more information about The Boys & Girls Club of Sidney, It Takes A Village or the Senior Information and Social Center, please call (607) 561-2311 or (607) 563-7111. And check out our Facebook page:

Bgc OfSidney.

Patricia Tyrell is Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Sidney.



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FFD, continued from Page 1

after the flooding.

We currently have seventy-two members, from fourteen year-old explorers to members that have over sixty years of service. With this, it is nice to see all of the different age groups sharing experiences and working together for a common cause.

Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services in New York State are now facing many challenges. The first is the amount of mandatory training that is required. Basic Firefighter class is twenty-eight weeks long plus Occupational Safety and Health Administration training amounting to thirty-six hours annually. The Emergency Medical Technician refresher is now ninety-two hours every three years just to stay certified, which is longer than the original course. On top of this, there is department training and the amount of time spent on emergency calls. And then there is fund raising.

With the high cost of doing business,

tax revenues cannot cover our cost. The cost of equipping one firefighter now is about \$3,000 just for the bare necessities, and the gear has a life span of about six years depending on how active the member is. Trucks are our biggest cost, with fire engines costing in the \$450,000 range and ambulances in the \$175,000 range. We have been fortunate in the past to receive grants. In the past eight years, that has amounted to \$1.2 million which has not had to be raised locally. But the costs continue to go on, so we do rely on donations to support our operations.

It is with heavy heart that we have lost one of our most dedicated members and a friend. Jim Wilber has served the department for forty years as member, Emergency Squad Captain, and as Assistant Chief. He had dedicated his life to helping our community and could be counted on twenty-four hours a day. His presence, knowledge, and friendship will be missed.

IN THE KITCHEN

With Sue Avery

CARROTS, glazed

12 fresh carrots, large but sweet
2 tbs. unsalted butter
1 cup apricot or other fruit juice, plus more if needed
salt

Wash and scrape twelve carrots. Place in a baking dish with two tablespoons of butter and 1/2 teaspoon of salt.

Pour over them one cup of canned apricot or other fruits juice.

Cover and bake in a 375 degree oven until tender (25 to 30 minutes), adding more liquid if necessary.

Uncover for the last ten minutes to brown slightly.

(Baking time will vary with the size of the carrots.)



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



FRANKLIN LIBRARY DIRECTOR RETIRES

By Jim Mullen

Photo by the author

When Linda Burkhart became the Director of the Franklin Free Library in 1983, there were no eBooks, no Kindles, no computers, no Facebook, no fax machines, no wi-fi, no internet and no email. Patrons searched for the books they wanted in the card catalog, students came in to use the gigantic dictionary and the Encyclopedia Britannica, 3 x 6 inch cards kept track of all the books taken out and returned.

The card catalog is long gone, books are checked out by scanning a barcode. There are high-speed computers in the library now, and free wi-fi for laptop and tablet users. The fastest growing collection is books on CD. For thirty years, Linda Burkhart has kept up with the changes while preserving the traditional things that matter -- Story Hour for children, lap sits, summer programs for children, adult programs, after school programs, book clubs, genealogy records, the historical records of Franklin and the Delaware Literary Institute and, of course, the collection



Retiring Director Burkhart with Franklin Mayor John Campbell

of real, hold-them-in-your-hands, turn-the-pages books.

For thirty years, Linda Burkhart has been the library's sole employee, responsible for everything from vacuuming the carpet to acquisitioning new books, keeping up with the ever-changing technology and coordinating the volunteers. She is retiring this March. The Friends of the Franklin Free Library honored her thirty years of service by presenting her with a Sondra Freckelton print at a celebration in the library. Franklin Mayor John Campbell presented her with citations from State Senators Stanley Crouch and Jim Seward and Congressman Chris Gibson, citing her long years of dedication to the community.

The Franklin Free Library Board of Trustees has named Carrie Fishner to be the new library director. Ms. Fishner has a Master of Library Science from SUNY Buffalo and several other degrees and had been working at the library in SUNY Delhi.



A Town plow overturned on Henry Edwards Road. No one hurt. What a winter!

Photo by Jim Mullen

FRANKLIN ACTIVIST WINS GRANT

This January, Patricia Tyrell was one of 100 American fractivists to be awarded a \$500 mini-grant from the social and environmental rights organization MoveOn.

A Franklin native, Tyrell has long been part of the local effort to educate about the dangers and false promises of horizontal high-volume hydrofracking, the controversial natural gas extraction method. More recently, she ran for local office with anti-fracking as part of her platform. Originally, Tyrell requested funding for the purpose of seeking a fracking ban within the Town of Franklin. However, given the current local political environment, Tyrell says she wishes to use the funding for less futile endeavors.

Instead, Tyrell plans an event, similar to a debate, in which she and a local pro-fracking advocate will present their particular views, supported by evidence, to advance the community's understanding of the two sides, and of the driving forces behind them. She says, "I hope to open a civil dialogue and encourage public questioning. Persons of all fracking persuasions could gain from a better understanding of the topic."

Tyrell holds that the current pro vs. anti fracking stand-off only further alienates an already divided community. She hopes that debate and discussion will encourage a shift from marking out stubborn positions to discovering the shared needs and desires that can open the way to future innovation and

FRANKLIN GARDEN CLUB 2014

By Nina Hart and Deborah Banks

For a second year, in late winter and throughout the spring, the Franklin Garden Club is sponsoring a series of lectures of interest to local gardeners. The lectures will be held on selected Saturday afternoons at the Franklin Railroad & Community Museum, starting at 3 PM, and are free and open to the public, with donations suggested. Light refreshments follow each lecture, with a chance to talk with the speaker and other gardeners.

The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, at 572 Main Street in Franklin, is the large building behind the National Bank of Delaware County. The entrance is to the left (northwest) of the Town Clerk building. There is ample parking.

The series began on February 22, when Don Statham presented "The New Perennial Movement," tracing this international movement from its founder, William Robin-



Potted plants at England's Great Dixter Photo by Diana Hall

son, through the Arts & Crafts Movement in England with Jekyll, Johnson, and Sackville-West; to continental Europe and America with the contributions of Karl Foerster, Mien Ruys, and Oehme Van Sweden; and finally to the present-day innovators Piet Oudolf, Tom Stuart Smith, Sarah Price, and James Golden. Statham has worked as a garden designer here in the U.S. and in Scotland for twenty years, and has written a garden column for *Kaatskill Life* magazine since 2005. He also writes at DonStathamBlog.com, often featuring his Totem Farm Garden, which is located in East Meredith.

On March 8, Kathy Purdy spoke on "Colchicums: Autumn's Best-Kept Secret." Purdy has been gardening in the cold climate of upstate New York for over 25 years. A garden writer whose work has appeared in several regional and national magazines, she wrote the definitive article on colchicums for *American Gardening* magazine in 2007. An early pioneer of garden blogs, Purdy

See GARDEN CLUB, continued on Page 5

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success in our community.

This event is still being planned, so please stay tuned for future announcements and advertising. The real winners of this debate will be those in the Franklin community who attend, and leave better informed.

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FRANKLIN CHURCHES

Aldrich

Baptist Church

Route 28, North Franklin
Phone: 607-829-5502
Pastor: Pat Judd
Sunday Service: 9:30 A.M.
Location: 1/2 mile east of the Ouleout Golf Course

Franklin United Methodist Church

Main and Water Streets
Franklin
Phone: 607-829-2956
Pastor: John Hill
Sunday Service: 10:45 A.M.
Coffee hour following
Sunday School for children following Children's Time Holy Communion, first Sunday of each month.

Treadwell United Methodist Church

68 Church Street,
Treadwell
Pastor: John Hill
Sunday Service: 9:15 A.M.

St Paul's Episcopal Church

307 Main Street, Franklin
Phone: 607- 829-6404
All faiths welcome

Service every first Sunday of the month at 1:30 P.M. followed by fellowship dish-to-pass dinner.

Service every second thru fourth Sunday at 8:15 A.M.

First Thursdays Soup Dinner every month, by donation, to benefit roof replacement fund. 5-7 P.M. Join your friends for homemade soups, chili, salad and conversation!

Community Bible Church

89 Center Street, Franklin
Pastor: Dr. Walt Schlundt
Phone: 607-829-5471
Sunday School (Sept. Through May): 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 10:45 AM

We are a church that faithfully teaches the word of God and seeks to glorify Him through worship, service and in all that we do. We seek to fulfill the great commission through evangelization, missions and training. We offer two Ladies' Bible Studies and one Men's Bible Study.

This space sponsored by Handsome Brook Farm.

PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz



Dear Dr. Puritz,
Would you please talk about bathing pet dogs. My long-coat chihuahua has quite a bit of dry skin flakes. I give him a bath every three or four months, and I comb him in between. Would bathing him more often help his skin condition? I have been using baby shampoo.
Why isn't it recommended to use human dandruff control shampoo on dogs?
Thank you for your wonderful column.
Sincerely,
Carolyn Gloman (Oneonta)

Dear Carolyn,
Several conditions may cause dry flaking skin on dogs and cats. *Seborrhea* is a term used to describe an abnormality of either keratinization or cutaneous lipid production, or more commonly, a combination of both.
Blood work might rule out certain causes of persistent skin problems such as diabetes, Cushing's, hypothyroidism. Low humidity or forced hot air from heating systems can also lead to xeroderma (dry skin) and excess scaling/flaking. I'd increase omega fatty acids, and place the pet on a skin-support diet. I believe both Royal Canin and Science Diet make such foods.

And while there's nothing toxic in human shampoos, in general they tend to be drying to the skin of dogs. Shampoos formulated for dogs tend to be milder and leave more oils in the skin, reducing the risk of dry, itchy skin. This raises the question of how often a dog can be bathed without adverse effects such as dehydration, or when conditioners should be used to keep the skin moisturized. In dry weather, it is suggested that you bathe your dog no more than once a month. In more humid areas, it becomes less likely that frequent bathing (2-4 times monthly) will dry out coats and skins excessively.

As for human dandruff shampoos, they contain selenium, and none of the veterinary products on the market have done toxicological studies on its efficacy or side effects. I do recommend it for very smelly seborrhea coats and have found that, with other appropriate antibiotics or anti fungal medications, it may be helpful. I'm not saying your Chihuahua has any of this, just that it's possible. Good luck. Flakey coats can be difficult to treat.

On another note, I've been thinking about spring and warm weather and kitten and puppy season. According to the Humane Society of the United States, about 2.7 million healthy dogs and cats are put down in US shelters each year. Please do your part to help end animal overpopulation by getting your pets spayed or neutered.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Puritz

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GARDEN CLUB, continued from Page 3

started ColdClimateGardening.com in 2002. She is also a self-proclaimed colchicum evangelist, having converted more than one local gardener into “colchicophiles.”

Sondra Freckelton’s lecture “Art and Garden Design” on March 22nd brought together her acclaimed accomplishments in both fields. Freckelton studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has had solo exhibits at major galleries in New York, Chicago, Washington,

Hall offers “Inspiration in the Spring Gardens of England and France.” Hall has a jewel of a town garden in Franklin that has been included on several garden tours. Her Botanical Treasures shop in the village features beautiful plant containers and garden ornamentation. She will be sharing slides from her May 2013 tour of renowned gardens such as Great Dixter and Sissinghurst.

On April 26th, Deirdre Larkin will present “Herbs Into Weeds: Medieval Me-

tributor to The Medieval Garden Enclosed, a blog on the Museum website devoted to the plants and gardens of the Middle Ages. She recently left her position as Managing Horticulturist at The Cloisters to live and garden in Bovina.

Steve Whitesell will discuss “Bulbs for the Longest Possible Bloom Season” on May 17th. A landscape architect for the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Whitesell has BFA and BLA degrees in landscape architecture from Rhode Island School of Design and an MA in the history of decorative arts, with an emphasis on gardens, from Bard College. He lives and gardens in Schoharie County.

The final lecture in the series, on May 31st, will be “Fall and Winter Interest in the Garden,” by Mel Bellar. Bellar is a landscape designer and owner of Zone4 Landscapes, as well as a member of the Common Ground Garden Club. A regular garden club speaker, Bellar lives and gardens in Andes.



Attendees at a Garden Lecture view historical exhibits on the Railroad Museum’s main floor. Photo by M. Kellogg

D.C. and San Francisco. Her works have been exhibited at many museums, galleries, and traveling shows throughout the United States. Her extensive garden bordering Ouleout Creek in North Franklin has been featured on many local garden tours over the years.

The series will continue on April 12th, when Diana

dicinals Naturalized in New York State.” Larkin is a horticulturist and plant historian with a special interest in medicinal herbs and medieval pharmacology. She was associated for some twenty years with the gardens of The Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and was the creator and principal con-



Delicious snacks encourage chat

T&R, continued from Page 1

For breakfast, there will be a selection of eggs, pancakes, and French toast. Beef sausage and bacon will come either from Wheat Hill Farm or from other local producers. Breads, muffins, and pastries will be baked at the restaurant. One feature in the planning stage is a ‘grab and go’ counter, with breakfast items for people to pick up on their way to work.

Traditional American fare such as hamburgers and chicken will be available for lunch, as well as vegetarian dishes such as Turkish lentil soup. Weekly and seasonal specials will expand the menu.

One item that will set this restaurant apart from others in our region is the *doner*, a tasty sandwich of shaved beef or chicken served on flat bread. It’s similar to the Greek gyro or the Middle Eastern shawarma. An inverted cone of seasoned meat or chick-

en is cooked slowly on a vertical rotisserie. In Turkish, doner means to turn around. Once the meat is shaved onto pita, it is covered with tomato, cucumber, onions and a yogurt sauce.

The doner is similar to the popular sandwiches that Wheat Hill Farm has served at the Franklin Farmers Market for the past three years. But instead of simple grilled meat or chicken, this will be the real thing in more ways than one. Most restaurants serving gyros or shawarma buy prepared meat cones from outside producers. In Franklin, the doner will be made with locally grown meat, either from Wheat Hill or other local farms. The meat will be seasoned, layered, marinated, and prepared specially for the restaurant.

Providing locally grown food is important to the proprietors of The Tulip and The Rose Café. As lo-

cal residents with a farm in Sidney Center, they want to be sure their food is healthy, deliciously prepared, and affordable. Their meat, poultry, eggs, and produce will all come from farms in our area. They also will plan their specials depending on what is available during a given season.

A friend recently remarked, “I just hope they have good coffee.” Not only will they have good brewed coffee - a light and a dark roast. They are also installing an espresso machine. Teas and fruit drinks will also be available. No wine, beer, or alcohol will be served at the restaurant, but they will introduce interesting beverages such as *ayron*, a yogurt drink with mint. Erdem Kahyaoglu, one of the proprietors, suggested that it goes really well with roasted meats.



The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum

FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

At this time this is the planned schedule.

- 2/4/14 - Meeting starts at 2:00 p.m.
- 3/4/14 - Meeting starts at 2:00 p.m. and will be held in Treadwell at the Fire Station
- 4/1/14
- 5/6/14
- 6/3/14 - Held in Treadwell at the Fire Station
- 7/1/14
- 8/5/14
- 9/2/14 - Held in Treadwell at the Fire Station
- 10/7/14 - Budget Workshop
- 11/7/14 - Budget Public Hearing
- 12/2/14
- 12/30/14 - Organizational Meeting

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Franklin Town Garage unless otherwise indicated.

To confirm, call the Town Clerk: 607-829-3440

DID YOU KNOW?

It was Walter Rich’s intention that The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum’s public spaces be available to Franklin residents for meetings and events.

There is the downstairs lobby, with nearby restrooms, and the larger, furnished second floor meeting room, accessible by stair or elevator.

For information, contact John Campbell at 607-829-5890, or by email: johncampbell8@gmail.com.

Currently, the restaurant is still under construction, but the walls are already a gorgeous blue, and the ceiling is honey colored wood paneling. Since it will be open during the daytime, they want the ambiance to be light and airy. There is a patio in the back that will be open during the warm weather and they plan to put café tables and chairs in the front. There will also be free wi-fi.

The Tulip and the Rose Café will start with a small menu of well-prepared dishes when it opens in April. Erdem said they are eager to try different things

and will be available for catering. They also plan to open for dinner in the summer when Franklin Stage is open for performances.

The people who are creating The Tulip and The Rose Café live and work as a community in Sidney Center. They have lots of experience with growing and preparing food for large groups. They are also committed to providing taste and healthy food in Franklin. Armed with a tulip and a rose, Erdem says they will prepare delicious dishes and serve their customers with love and with heart.

The Tulip and The Rose Café
435 Main Street
Franklin, NY 13775
607 829-4040
Open 7 days a week
Mon-Thu 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Breakfast and Lunch
Fri 6:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Breakfast
Sat 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Breakfast and Lunch
Sun 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Breakfast and Brunch



FOCUS ON ENERGY

PEAK OIL: A Concise History

By Gene Marner

Back in 2007, when The New Franklin Register started publishing, our focus was often on Peak Oil. As we sought to explain, Peak Oil refers to the moment when the amount of crude oil that can be extracted from the earth reaches its maximum and starts to decline. We also discussed the dire consequences likely to follow, since almost everything in modern industrial civilization depends upon a freely flowing supply of cheap and abundant oil.

We now know that global production of conventional oil - the cheap and fairly accessible stuff most of us grew up with - peaked in 2005. The dire consequences first showed themselves to the average

citizen in the prices of gasoline, diesel oil, and heating fuel. Back in 2005, gasoline cost about \$1.88. You know what you pay now.

But gasoline prices are only the most noticeable sign of crisis. Oil does much more than heat our homes and fuel our cars. It is the essential resource upon which all of industrial civilization depends.

Up until the beginnings of agriculture, 10,000 or so years ago, our hunter-gatherer ancestors had only the sun for energy. As now, sunlight made plants grow, animals ate the plants, and humans ate both plants and animals, and burned fallen timber for fuel. There was neither need nor opportunity to use too much as there were not many humans and the population was kept in check by the availability

See **PEAK OIL**, con't on Page 14



From our London Correspondent:

FRACK OFF IN EUROPE

By Stephen Morris

Although there has been much talk across Europe about bans on fracking, outright prohibition is actually operative only in France and Bulgaria. At the other end of the spectrum, the governments of the United Kingdom, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, countries all with significant prospects, have been each making positive noises. In the UK, actual exploration, even of an investigative kind, has been extremely limited. The most recent attempt attracted a great deal of opposition and press coverage. It was in Balcombe, a commuter village thirty miles south of London and about as well-heeled as they come. The oil company involved, Caudrilla Resources, has postponed any further work.

The battleground recently shifted to Brussels, the home of the European Commission (EC), a fundamentally important institution because it alone may initiate laws and regulations binding on all the member countries of the European Union. Reports suggest that the UK and others lobbied very hard to avoid any new controls specifically applicable to shale gas extraction. Here is what the EC said most recently :

"The Commission responded to the calls for urgent action by adopting on 22 January 2014 a Recommendation to contribute to bringing clarity and predictability to public authorities, market operators and citizens. It invites Member States to follow minimum principles when applying or adapting their legislation applicable to hydrocarbons exploration or production using high volume hydraulic fracturing. The Recommendation



Residents of all ages protesting in Balcombe, England

is inubtended to complement EU existing legislation, covering issues such as strategic environmental assessments and planning, underground risk assessment, well integrity, baseline reporting and operational monitoring, capture of methane emissions, and disclosure of chemicals used in each well. The principles are expected to be made effective by the EU Member States within 6 months of their publication. Member States are also invited to inform the Commission annually about measures taken. The Recommendation includes a review clause to assess the effectiveness of this approach. The Commission will also consider the need to propose further legal clarification where necessary."

The lobbying clearly worked and halted any attempt to supplement the directives that are already in place and are, as with all such directives, legally binding throughout Europe. These existing directives about Environmental Impact Assessments, Water Frameworks and Mining Waste do indeed provide a formidable armory of control. They remain insufficient, however, to satisfy the wide range of environmental groups who continue to campaign for outright bans.

Image comes from <http://frack-off.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/P1030668.jpg>,

MORATORIUM MORASS

By Brian Brock

Almost six years ago, our state government made it practical for large drilling and fracking operations to begin in New York. None have, as of yet.

Back in 2008, the Department of Environmental Conservation slipped through the legislature a seemingly inconsequential bill. It amended the list of spacing-units for oil and gas drilling in New York to include units for shales, thereby enabling drilling into shales without a hearing to set the individual unit size for each well. This bill was not on the DEC's list of legislative goals for the year, and no hearings were held about it. Instead, the bill was introduced in the rush of legislation at the end of session, and passed both houses overwhelmingly.

Some legislators said they voted for it assuming that since the bill was presented by the DEC, it was pro-environment. Afterwards, legislators heard from unhappy constituents. Before Governor Paterson could sign the bill, the Assembly liaison to DEC (Lupardo) scheduled public meetings on the topic.

At the first meeting, in the town of Chenango, Broome County, the state was represented by Division of Mineral Resource's regional supervisor (Collart) with other representatives from the Farm Bureau and Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Even before the standard Division slide show was over, the panel was bombarded by questions. They were unable to offer satisfactory answers.

The next night in Greene, Chenango County, the panel was replaced by heavy hitters from Albany: the director of Bureau of Oil and Gas for DMR (Dahl), the deputy commissioner of DEC (Gruskin), and the chief environmental advisor to the Governor (Enck) -- but with similar results. The uproar convinced Paterson that there were too many unknowns to permit this new form of drilling combined with high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF). As a compromise, the Governor signed the bill but required that a Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement would be written before drilling and fracking could begin. At the time (July 2008), the completion of this SGEIS was expected to take less than a year.

Had the DEC waited to prepare even a mini-

mal SGEIS before the spacings bill was passed, questions could have been answered and drilling could have begun following the signing. Instead, after more than half a decade, there is no certainty if or when the moratorium will be lifted.

After a draft scoping document and public hearing, a first draft of the SGEIS itself was released in September of 2009, occasioning a barrage of criticism. Over 13,000 comments were submitted -- far surpassing the 204 comments received by the 1988 draft GEIS, the first guide to environmentally safe drilling. The administration decided that a second draft was required.

When Andrew Cuomo became governor in January of 2011, the revised draft was still not released -- two years after the first draft and three after the start of the moratorium. While Cuomo signed an executive order to continue the moratorium on HVHF, he required the speedy completion of the SGEIS by July. Most of the revised draft was released by his deadline, but a cumulative impact appendix was not added until September of that year.

Public comments were taken on the revised draft, both at hearings and in writing. The re-

See **MORASS**, continued on Page 14

LESSON, continued from Page 1

Many of us who live in the Southern Tier know the myths purveyed by fossil fuel companies eager to bring hydraulic fracturing to our neighborhoods. These myths promise local job creation and fat royalties in exchange for drilling rights and, of course, no spillage or contamination.

But the biggest myth of all? An abundance of shale gas beneath New York's rocky surface.

The story begins with geology, Brock told the audience, around 150 people assembled in the Society's domed, wood-paneled auditorium.

A productive shale well, he explained, needs a perfect storm of organic content, thermal maturity, thickness, and depth. Most of New York's shale is either "barren and overcooked" (the Catskills) or "thin and shallow" (much of the Southern Tier). Either way, Brock said, "shale drilling in New York will never reap the bonanza it has in Pennsylvania."

Acton, a retired IBM and Lockheed Martin systems engineer, analyzed publicly available data from 1,795 productive Pennsylvania wells in 6 counties along the Northern Tier and 1,023 wells in southwest PA, all drilled from 2009 to 2013.

Supporting the conventional wisdom of the industry, Acton's maps,

graphs and distilled data demonstrated that the most productive Pennsylvania wells occur where the Marcellus shale is thickest and deepest, largely at the intersection of Wyoming, Susquehanna and Brad-



L to R, Lou Allstadt, Jerry Acton, Brian Brock and Chip Northrup. Photo, Courtesy New York Society for Ethical Culture:

ford counties (the so-called "sweet spot"). To the north and west, where the shale formation becomes thinner and shallower - similar to New York's - productivity drops off dramatically.

In New York, shale deposits with the most potential exist only in a few spots along the Pennsylvania border, and those sites don't promise enough shale gas to make drilling economically viable at today's prices.

Why, then, does the fossil fuel industry seem determined to hydrofrack in New York, if the geology and the economics are not on the industry's side?

Once upon at time,

hyping New York's potential productivity drew investor capital and upped the value of a company's shares. Lately, according to Allstadt, a retired executive of Mobil Oil Corporation, many oil and gas companies, deterred by the pros-

pect of expensive drilling and low return, have pulled out of New York State. But other firms, he cautioned, may be eager to frack on the cheap despite the poor economics.

There are bigger threats, in Allstadt's view: the lung-cancer-producing silica in the sand used during fracking; the methane emissions from pipeline leaks; radioactive material in the fluid that comes out along with the oil and gas; and the inadequate disposal of toxic fracking waste, which can drain into soil and water, endangering people upstate and down who eat local fish, meat and produce or drink water

from the tap.

"Fracking has an impact hundreds of miles beyond the wells," said Allstadt.

Take the chemical-laden fluid -- euphemistically known as "brine" -- that flows back to the surface after fracking. When not trucking it to Ohio for disposal, Pennsylvania uses it to de-ice roads during the winter. New York's DEC says flowback water from hydrofracking is not being spread on the Empire State's highways, but in 2013 the environmental group Riverkeeper (www.Riverkeeper.org) examined documents showing that for many years the DEC has given Beneficial Use Determinations, or BUDs, for brine from non-shale, vertical oil and gas wells.

State Senator Terry Gipson of Dutchess County has introduced Senate Bill 3333, which would keep flowback water from oil or natural gas wells off New

York's roads. But that would address only part of the threat. Allstadt notes that New York has no injection wells to handle fracking waste such as drill cuttings or used drilling mud. Northrup, a gangling Texan, formerly an executive at Atlantic Richfield, warned that in New York, "Most towns are not going to get fracked -- they are going to get dumped on."

The lesson from Pennsylvania, the panelists concluded, is that hydrofracking in New York would be a low-reward, high-risk project. There is still much to fight for, they told the audience. The story isn't over yet.

Alexis Greene is an author and editor. She and her husband, Gordon Hough, work in NYC and live in a cabin outside of Walton.

To see the series of videos of the Manhattan talk on Youtube, go to:
<http://goo.gl/dOFOIu>

Marcellus Geological Constraints



PIPES AND POWER

Compiled by Brian Brock

October 17th: NYS Public Service Commission approved a suite of projects to foster grid reliability in the event that the Indian Point Energy Center is unable to generate due to the expiration of the federal operating license in 2015, including improving the efficiency of Marcy South

November 11th: Constitution Pipeline Company submits to FERC revised route maps and information supplemental to their application. This is their second revised map since application.

December 19th: Cabot Oil & Gas states that construction of Constitution will be delayed again, and certification is not expected until September of 2014. "As a result of this new schedule, the in-service data for Constitution Pipeline could be pushed until later in 2015."

December: North America Transmission establishes a website for Edic to Fraser Project: <http://www.nat-ny.com/>

December: Next Era Energy establishes a website for Oakdale to Fraser Project: <http://www.neetny.com/>

January 7th: Draft of **New York State Energy Plan** stated that "The new [Constitution] pipeline will initially be designed to transport at least 500,000 dekatherms (Dth) per day, but will be expandable to meet growing demand for takeaway capacity in northeast Pennsylvania." Such expansion would require booster compressor stations along the pipeline and/or a second parallel pipeline.

January: CPC states that start construction of Constitution is planned to begin in first quarter of 2015 and start of operation for late 2015 or early 2016. The latter is a year later than initially planned

February 12th: PSC has extended the study period to October 31st 2014 on power lines projects, including the two lines Edic to Fraser and Oakdale to Fraser.

February 12th: FERC releases its draft Environmental Impact Statement. Comments can be submitted at <http://www.ferc.gov/>, Documents and Filings under CP13-499 or CP13-502 until April 7th.

February 12th: FERC announces four public hearings on their dEIS, to be held daily from March 31st to April 3rd, including one in Oneonta on April 1st at the High School.

February 20th: PSC to develop an expedited, 10-month review process for power line projects built wholly within existing utility or state-owned right-of-ways. Deadline for the fourth round of applications has been extended until April 15th.

February 20th: Williams Partners LP, in the 3rd quarter earnings conference call, states that DEC regulations are an issue, whereas "FERC has certainly been productive and they are pushing things along" and "we are very thankful for the FERC continuing to do their part to accelerate these projects."

February 20th: CPC awards \$350,000 in community grants. Sidney Center Fire District received an award, and Delaware County received three. No applications were submitted from Franklin. Deadline for the fourth round of applications is September 30th.

March 9th: Stop the Pipeline holds the first of a series of workshop for commenting on the dEIS in Oneonta, Sidney, Meredith, Richmondville, and Bloomville.

NOTE: This regular compilation of events was started in spring of 2012 on the Constitution Pipeline alone, but with this issue we expand it to include the two proposed power lines.

WATER WATCH: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Tammy Reiss

Thousands of us give so much of ourselves in different ways to protect the State of New York and our communities from the oil & gas industry's continued threat of horizontal hydrofracking and the contaminated waste generated by the industry.

Water Sentinels are a trained and certified group of volunteers who collect data from creeks, streams and rivers throughout different counties in the sacrifice zones to prove that we have some of the cleanest water - methane, radioactive, heavy metal and chemical free - in the East. Volunteers devote hours to this cause because we can not count on federal and state officials and agencies or our town boards to be preemptive in the face of heavy industry coming to our backyards.

Thank you to the volunteers who have stepped forward as Water Sentinels.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING, PLEASE CONTACT US at:
nywatersentinels@gmail.com



CONSTITUTION PIPELINE:

YES PIPELINE

By Matthew Swift

As the temperature in New York City plummeted to seven degrees on Jan. 22, the price to deliver natural gas into the city spiked to a record \$123 per thousand cubic feet on the spot market. On the same day, less than one hundred miles away in Pennsylvania, the same amount of gas cost just under \$5.

The arctic weather has exposed some critical weaknesses in the region's pipeline infrastructure, underscoring the need to add more pipeline capacity so that northeastern consumers can realize the full benefit of low-cost energy.

Some elected officials are starting to take notice that the most effective way to stabilize prices is to add pipeline capacity.

On Jan. 23, six New England governors advanced an unusual proposal to have their states act as one to get more natural gas pipelines built. The plan calls for states to jointly seek proposals to move more "clean energy" into New England. Energy prices have skyrocketed in New England because of constraints brought on by lack of gas pipeline capacity.

The 124-mile Constitution Pipeline is proposed to help change that. If constructed, it would immediately become a key piece of natural gas pipeline infrastructure in the Northeast, creating an important connection between consumers and reliable supplies of low-cost energy.

The pipeline project reached a major milestone on Feb. 12, 2014, when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), concluding that the project's environmental impacts would be reduced to, "less than significant levels" with the implementation of a proposed mitigation plan and other measures recommended by FERC.

Determining the best location for pipeline facilities is a long regulatory process that involves a significant amount of public input. We solicited input from state and federal agencies, property owners, municipal, environmental and community leaders, collecting valuable input that ultimately led to us modifying more than half of the original project footprint.

While the majority of the natural gas transported by Constitution is destined for markets in the New York City and New England, it is important to note that at least some of the natural gas will likely serve communities in the project area. We are working with a local natural gas provider that is working to set up natural gas franchise in southern New York.

In addition, just a few weeks ago the Delaware County Industrial Development

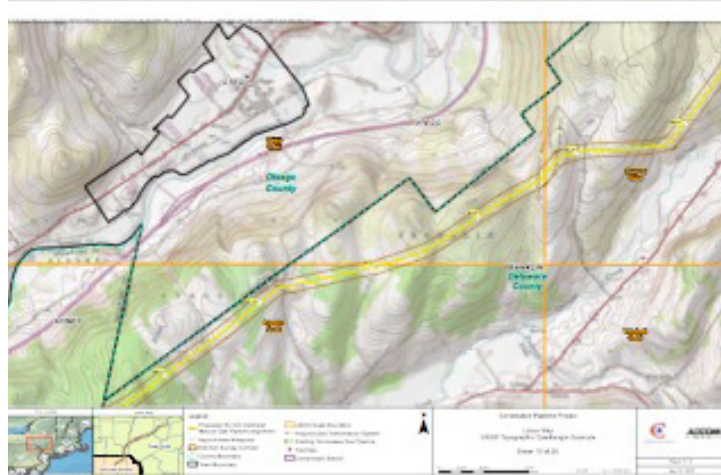
Agency was awarded a grant to construct a natural gas distribution line from the Constitution Pipeline to Amphenol Corporation's existing facility. Amphenol is the largest employer between Albany and Binghamton and we've been told the ability for the facility to access natural gas is expected to help retain about 1,000 jobs.

We've also heard from a lot of people in the community who support the project. Most of the support has been from individuals, chambers or local governments who recognize the permanent economic benefits of the project, in addition to creating the opportunity for possible future local natural gas service.

The economic impact during the construction phase of the pipeline project is projected result in \$130 million in new labor income in the region, approximately \$26 million going to residents of the region. It would also include \$17 million in new sales and income tax revenue.

While these benefits are temporary, it is important to note that once operational, the pipeline's economic impact is anticipated to result in \$13 million in new annual sales, income and property tax revenue and more than \$600,000 in new income in the region. These are annual dollars that can help improve local governments and schools in the area.

Matthew Swift is a project manager for the Constitution Pipeline Company.



WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER
HOPES TO HEAR FROM YOU
ABOUT THIS CRUCIAL TOPIC.

WRITE TO US TODAY!

EMAIL: nfr@franklinlocal.org
with "Letter to Editors" in the
subject line.

REGULAR MAIL: P.O. BOX 258
Franklin, NY
13775

The editors of The New Franklin Register felt that the controversy surrounding the proposed Constitutional Pipeline has been rife with misinformation and obscuring rhetoric, and that in the absence of a proper forum for discussion, a formal presentation of the opposing sides in the debate might prove helpful to those citizens of Franklin who are still seeking a definitive position on the issue.

BRASS MONKEYS HEAR NO EVIL

The value of listening to both sides

By Andy Bobrow

Here in Franklin and in the surrounding counties, contentious issues are being debated, and the outcome of these debates will have a profound impact on the quality of life in our communities for decades to come. Whether or not to permit gas production by hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale is one of these issues. Another is the proposed construction of the Constitution Pipeline through the area. Both of these projects have sharply divided the region. Mirroring the polarized political climate of the nation as a whole, these debates are being driven by those with the strongest – and most divergent – opinions.

As concerned citizens, many of us are opposed to hydrofracking in the region and do not believe that the proposed pipeline serves the interests of those who live on its path.

There are strong arguments to buttress our positions and we feel it crucial to press the fight to persuade our fellow citizens.

However, there are other citizens who believe that the potential economic benefits of these projects – to individuals, if not to the region as a whole – are powerful arguments in their favor. If we want to change the opinions of those who believe, rightly or wrongly, that their own economic wellbeing is aligned with either the pipeline or frack-

ing, we need to understand their reasoning.

Everybody is familiar with the classic image of the three "wise" monkeys -- see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. But living in the real world means seeing and hearing things we would perhaps prefer to ignore, and occasionally saying things that others may prefer not to hear. Not listening to those with whom we disagree will not keep them from spreading their message. More important, it leaves us without the tools to refute their arguments or persuade them to change.

Persuasion is, after all, not something you do *to* people but something you do *with* them. It is a conversation, not a monologue. Arguments are not won by shutting down those with whom you disagree. They are won by changing minds.

Social judgment theory is one way that social psychologists explain how this process of persuasion works. The theory asserts that opinions and attitudes are rarely changed dramatically or instantaneously. Instead, persuasion is an incremental process.

People tend to compare what they hear or read about an issue to what they already believe, their "anchor" position. Arrayed around the anchor position are "latitudes" of acceptance, rejection, and non-commitment. The latitude of acceptance is the range of positions that are most likely to be welcomed or accepted. The latitude of non-commitment consists of positions about which an individual is neutral and the latitude of rejection is, not unexpectedly, those

FOR OR AGAINST?

Therefore, we searched out willing representatives of the two opposing views, and asked for a written response.

We posed them a very specific question:

“If the Constitution Pipeline is built, how will it affect Franklin, both during construction and after, while in operation?”

positions that an individual disagrees with most strongly. All of us tend to locate information within one of these latitudes when we receive it. Similarly, people tend to distort incoming information based on the anchor position they hold on that issue, what some like to call the “Fox News effect.”

So, for those of us who are trying to sway public opinion, what are the implications of this principle and how can we apply it to make our arguments resonate more strongly?

Quite simply, if you advocate positions that fall into the latitudes of rejection of your intended audience, you are not going to be persuasive. And one way we can determine just where these latitudes might fall is to listen to their arguments.

Our best chance of changing someone’s opinion, then, would be to advocate a position that falls within the latitude of non-commitment — even if it isn’t where you ultimately want them to end up. If you are coming from a position in the latitude of rejection, you won’t get too far, and might even cause them to cling to their anchor position more strongly. This means that persuasion takes place in a series of small movements. As we

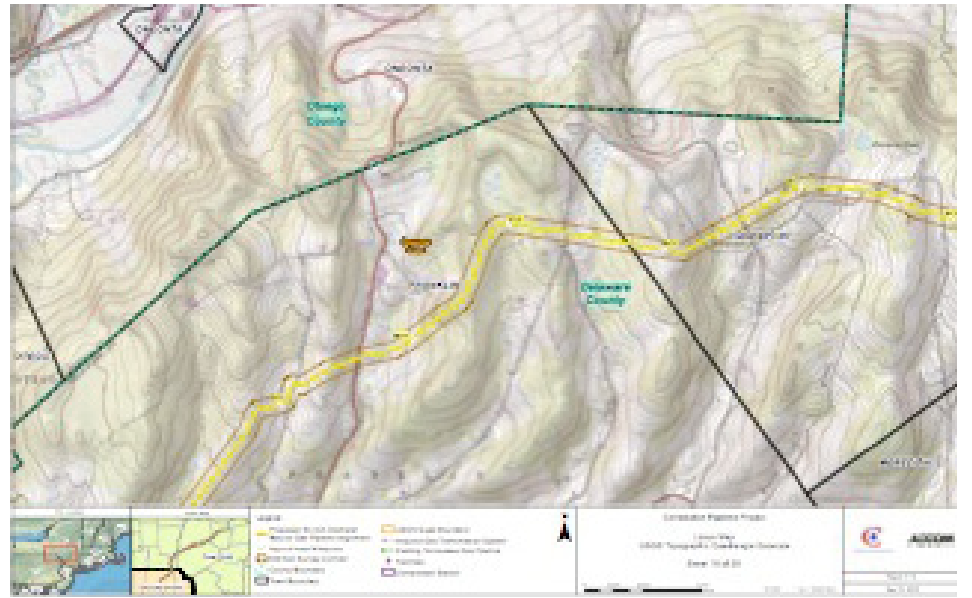
shift their anchor position ever so slightly, we are also shifting their latitudes of non-commitment and acceptance ever so slightly, which means that they will be a little more receptive to our next round of persuasion. The idea is to get people to open up to new ideas rather than cling to their preconceptions.

It is much easier to get someone to agree with you if they have already agreed with you on another point, so you can develop a pattern of “yes” responses. In effect, they get into the habit of agreeing with you. In our case, we might need to find another issue — separate perhaps from the pipeline or fracking and within their latitudes of non-commitment — upon which we can find a point of agreement. Our best chance to find that space is to start hearing them out.

Andy Bobrow is an assistant professor in the School of Media Studies at New School University and a lecturer at SUNY Oneonta.



Photo courtesy of audiologyfoundation.org



NO PIPELINE

By Joan Tubridy

“Constitution” Pipeline and its builders, Williams/Cabot/Piedmont/WGL, will NOT make good neighbors, in spite of the picnics and community grants the industry employs to buy favor. While “Constitution” promotes the benefits of creating 1300 jobs, property tax collections for the counties, and local gas distribution, theirs is an inaccurate picture.

Half of the pipeline crew will be from out-of-state, with only 25% from the five impacted counties (which *might* mean 65 *temporary* jobs for all of Delaware County). Taxes collected will be offset by landowners’ grieving with local assessors about the devaluation of their property. Homeowners may entertain the promise of

velopment will likely occur.

Other than the obvious risks of explosions and fires, gas pipelines produce fugitive emissions of methane and hydrocarbons through leaks from microscopic holes, corrosion, welds, connections, compressor seals and rod packing, blow and purge operations, ‘pigging’, valves, and pneumatic devices. Compressors generate volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, methane, NOx, and carbon dioxide, with an impact (e.g. asthma, heart conditions) range of at least three miles.

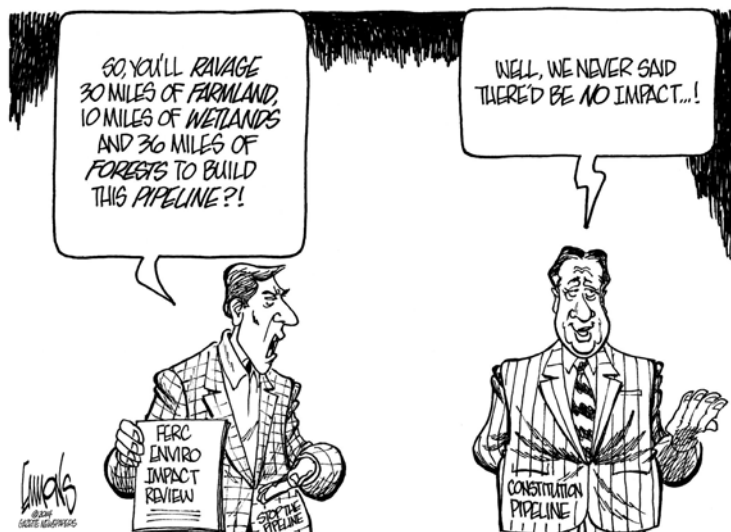
Additional impacts include: cutting thousands of trees, forest fragmentation, soil compaction, use-restrictions on ROWs, noise and aquifer contamination from blasting, and erosion from ROW pathways for storm runoff.

Signing an easement agreement with “Constitution” carries the following consequences: obtaining liability insurance and/or a mortgage (for you or a buyer) will be difficult or impossible; as a “Constitution” business partner, you will be liable for accidents or damage; the easement belongs to “Constitution” and can be used or sold for other transmission purposes, including gathering lines for fracking. In return, the landowner receives a one time payment with no further compensation. A pipeline on one’s property, contrary to what “Constitution’s” Chris Stockton claims, will decrease its value, beauty, and saleability. While Stockton claims that Eminent Domain (ED) is used as a last resort and only as an evaluation process, affected landowners report being threatened with ED if they don’t accept “Constitution’s” inadequate offers.

“Constitution” has not seriously investigated co-location within existing pipeline, utility, highway, or railroad ROWs, as requested by FERC, NYSDEC, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Landowners who refuse to sign easement agreements (currently 70% in Delaware County) send a clear message to FERC that “Constitution” is not welcome here, potentially prompting FERC to deny “Constitution’s” permit.

“Constitution” is a FOR-profit corporation whose motivation is profit. They are not concerned with the health or economic well-being of Franklin or any town. While the opinions expressed are my own, I urge all to go to www.stopthepipeline.org to learn more about attending the April 1 FERC Hearing in Oneonta and making comment before the April 7 deadline.

Joan Tubridy is a mother, former farmer, and Meredith resident who got her start as an elementary teacher at Franklin Central School.



cheap gas for domestic use, but additional infrastructure would be needed to reduce pressure from 1500 psi to 3 psi maximum, adding to the industrialization of our rural towns. Even if a local distributor transmits gas to homes and businesses (none planned for Franklin), how long before ‘cheap’ gas becomes expensive gas due to competition from global markets? After all, Iroquois Pipeline, slated to connect with “Constitution” in Schoharie County, has published plans to export this gas to Canada by reversing the current flow from South to North. Energy Independence, or Energy-to-the-Highest-Bidder?

Here’s what “Constitution” *will* bring to Franklin: 9.45 (of 124.4) miles of high pressure, 30” fracked gas pipeline running along the ridge between the Ouleout and Susquehanna Valleys, carrying 500,000,000 cu.ft/day of gas worth \$2,000,000/day; a booster compressor likely at midpoint; a mainline valve on Stuart Road; seven road and eleven stream crossings; six permanent and two temporary access roads; air pollution; and construction chaos along Route 357. Like Millennium Pipeline, ongoing future de-

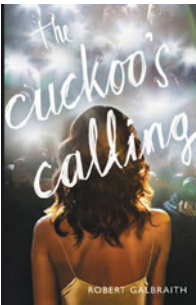
AT THE LIBRARY

JIM MULLEN REVIEWS NEW BOOKS



CUCKOO CALLING By Robert Galbraith

Robert Galbraith is the pseudonym of Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling and this is not a Hogwarts class reunion but a literary mystery in the style of, and equal to, those of Elizabeth George and P.D. James. It is probably the first of a series, featuring seriously flawed lawyer Cormoran Strike and his new secretary/sidekick TK. It is a can-of-worms, nest of vipers, who dunnit with the best of them and in some respects better. The larger mystery here is why would it surprise anyone that J.K. Rowling can write a page turner with insight and dark wit and two, why didn't this book become a best seller before people knew who wrote it? That alone says that Kindles and iPads aren't the only reason publishers are losing their shirts. It proves that corporate stupidity knows no bounds.

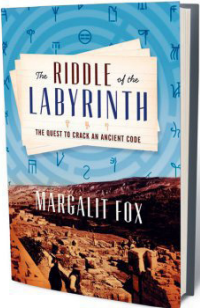


THE RIDDLE OF THE LABYRINTH By Margalit Fox

Linguist Alice Kober spent much of her short life trying to break the code of an ancient, pre-Grecian language known as Linear B, written on thousands of small clay tablets discovered in the ruins of the Palace of Knossos on Crete by famed archaeologist Arthur Evans in 1900. How do you go about translating a language you will never hear, don't know what its characters or words mean, even if you somehow manage to figure out what letters go in what order. It is also the story of the type of person who would spend their life doing this.

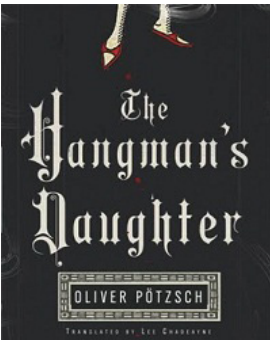
Arthur Evans was a Indiana Jones. He wanted never did. He did not play guists like Alice Kober, a of what he had discovered. with her mother in Brook-at the age of forty-three in guages, Akkadian, Sume-in her life, she finally got hoarding. Her discover-Michael Ventris to translate the language in the early 1950s. For those of us who still struggle through Spanish 101, it is easy to think these people were geniuses, but the simple truth is that they were workaholics. They enjoyed doing this.

The book also makes you wonder about our own language. What will English be like 3500 years from now? When the definition of a word like "thug" can change in very short time from meaning a gangster to being a code word for a black teenager who scares white people senseless, you wonder if the riddle of our own language will ever be broken.



THE HANGMAN'S DAUGHTER By Oliver Potzsch

This is the first in a series of mysteries set in 17th century Bavaria where witches are burned with great regularity, torture is the main component of the justice system and the punishment for almost every crime, large or small, is a festive public hanging. Our hero, like his father before him and his father's fathers before that, is the hangman for the small town of Shongau. While he gets paid to do the town's torturing and hanging, he really doesn't enjoy the job. But one of the other strict rules back then was that you do what your daddy did or leave town. By the end of each book, it's clear that he is really a nice guy who saves the innocent and only hangs guys who really, really need hanging. The hangman also practices alternative medicine, reads philosophy and collects rare books. Those hangmen, they are full of surprises. Sure, that's a little much but it is enjoyable, like reading Ellis Peter's Brother Cadfael series with a bit more edge to it.



ODE TO EGGS

By Cain Rodriguez
Walton, NY

(Inspired by Pablo Neruda's Odes to Common Things)

Talk to me,
be my friend,
don't bite me,
be nice,
no spitting,
don't drown,
don't be square.
You are smooth,
watch your mouth,
no kicking,
I'll crack you up,
You can be green,
You can be brown,
Now I ate you.
Bye, eggs.



Ed Vassallo as Astrov and Tim Crouch as the title character in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, FSC 2002.

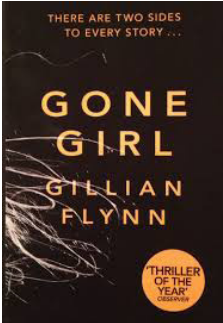
FRANKLIN STAGE LOSES FAVORITE

Ed Vassallo, an Associate Artist at the Franklin Stage Company, was a magical actor and an extraordinary human being. Many actors flower only on the stage, husbanding their humanity for their performances. Ed shared all of himself, all the time.

Indefatigable in searching out opportunities to act on behalf of others, Ed's attitude was always I'm here, so what can I do? For years he volunteered at The 52nd Street Project, which brings young people from New York's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood together with professional actors and directors to create original theater. When Ed first came to Franklin Stage in 1999, he looked around at our beautiful rural countryside and decided that just what inner city kids needed was some time in the country. During three summer seasons, he brought 52nd Street Project kids to Franklin where they created and then performed a program of short plays in FSC's Chapel Hall.

Two and a half years ago, Ed was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Eddie responded well to treatment and by the time Hurricane Sandy rolled around, his cancer was in remission. Just as in Sept 2001 when Eddie was one of the first to volunteer to work alongside cops, firemen and sanitation workers at the WTC site, after Sandy he threw himself into disaster relief work. He spent months organizing collection centers for food and clothing all over the ravaged city, as well as leading the distribution teams that went into flooded areas.

Ed died on Feb. 25. He was 45 years old.

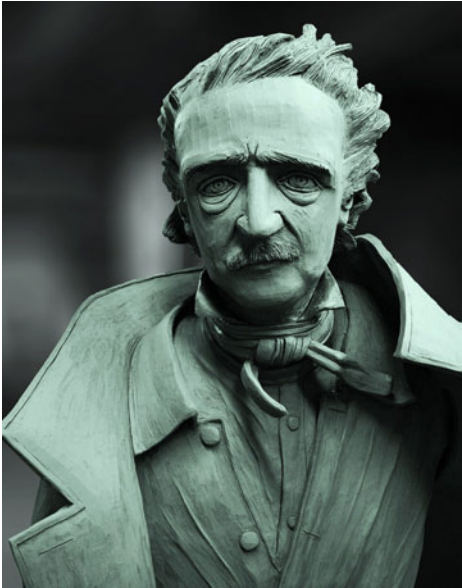


GONE GIRL By Gillian Flynn

I could not finish this book and I have no idea why it was a best seller or why it was published. It is the story of an unpleasant, unhappy, self-destructive couple who suffer from the horrible affliction of being well-off, well-educated white people. If you have read it, please don't tell me how it ends -- because I do not care.

EDGAR ALLAN POE & LOCAL SCULPTOR, STEFANIE ROCKNAK

Boston's Mayor Thomas M. Menino dedicated the Edgar Allan Poe Square at the intersection of Boylston Street and Charles Street South in Boston in April of 2009, on the 200th anniversary of Poe's birth



in Boston in 1809. At that time, he installed a historic street sign and called for the creation of a permanent work of art in the square. The Edgar Allan Poe Foundation sought design proposals from artists for a life-sized bronze sculpture to be placed in the square.

Stefanie Rocknak's *Poe Returning to Boston* was chosen in 2012 from among 265 proposals that came from 42 states and 13 countries. Rocknak's sculpture shows a cloaked Poe striding toward his home with a suitcase full of papers and accompanied by the fowl he's synonymously and endlessly linked to - the raven. Rather than a pedestal, the piece will be mounted directly on the brick path in Poe

Square, scheduled for unveiling between June and October - perfectly timed for the eeriness of New England's autumn.

Mayor Menino said, "Edgar Allan Poe is one of the most influential writers ever born in the City of Boston. As [the mayor of] a city proud of its rich history, I'm so pleased to see this wonderful tribute come to fruition. The statue chosen for Poe Square is full of life and motion, and is sure to inspire residents and future writers alike for generations to come." Honoring Poe calls attention not only to his birth in Boston but to his career-long quarrel with the Boston writers he called 'Frogpondians,' including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Ralph Waldo Emerson, James Russell Lowell and Cornelia Wells Walter. He thought that their moralistic poems and stories sounded like the croaking of frogs.

Stefanie Rocknak is an active member of the local community of artists, and serves on the Stagecoach Run Art Festival Committee. She is an award-winning member of the Sculptors' Guild, and will have a solo show, *Gut Check*, in 2015 at the guild's gallery in Brooklyn. Rocknak is



a professor of philosophy and the director of the Cognitive Science Program at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, where she has taught since 2001. She is a 1988 Magna cum Laude graduate of Colby College in Waterville, Maine. While there, she met fellow

graduate Jeff England who owns a house on West Platner Brook Rd., just outside the Treadwell/Franklin area. Rocknak will show her sculpture there this July during the

Stagecoach Run Art Festival.

Rocknak says she has been influenced by all things European: Michelangelo, Donatello and Bernini, seen in Rome in 1987. In 1997 she returned for a four-month fellowship at the Institut für die Wissenschaft vom Menschen in Vienna, Austria, where she saw Germanic Medieval wood sculpture for the first time. Rocknak confesses "that I am very suspicious (if not occasionally contemptuous) of gratuitous intellectual complexity—an affliction that plagues academia as well as the art world. As a result, some, but certainly not *all*, conceptual art leaves me cold. So my figures, quite intentionally, are immediate and obvious; ideally, they do not need a theory to do their talking."

The art community will have a unique opportunity to meet Boston's latest celebrity and see her work this summer at the Stagecoach Run Art Festival.

For more information about Rocknak, Poe and the Stagecoach Festival:

<http://www.steffrocknak.net/>

<http://www.bostonpoe.org/>

<http://www.stagecoachrun.com>

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GOU-GOU DEBUTS

Approximately three years ago, a strange, stocky creature started to appear in the paintings of Franklin artist Edmond Rinnooy-Kan. This creature's name was Gou-gou.

Gou-gou is a shy creature that is always uncomfortable no matter where he is. He is detached from the outside world, self absorbed and finds it hard to relate to anything.

With time, Gou-gou has become the central figure in all of Rinnooy-Kan's work, from paintings and sculpture to animation movies and ceramics. Now, in a most recent development, Gou-gou has become a cartoon.

It is not easy for Gou-gou to be a cartoon, because - with the exception of his own name - Gou-gou cannot talk. But Gou-gou can think, that is, to some extent. He has spontaneous thought-blurbs full of confusion, full of misunderstandings about the world and how it works. But Gou-gou is not crazy and somewhere in these distorted thought-blurbs might hide some peculiar Gou-gou insight.

None of the Gou-gou cartoons have been published before. So the NFR proudly presents the world premier of 'Gou-gou Thinks It', the first in a series of cartoons about the perceptions of an outsider.

(For more about Gou-gou, go to www.gougouworld.org)

OTSEGO LAND TRUST:
Connecting People to Land and Water

By Virginia Kennedy

“It’s our responsibility to have respect and be grateful for the land, the water, and all living beings that share Mother Earth.”

These were the words of Chief Tom Porter, Bear Clan Elder of the Mohawk Nation at the dedication of Deowongo Island in Canadarago Lake, an island donated to Otsego Land Trust and opened to the public.

Chief Porter’s words summarize the philosophy of Otsego Land Trust, a conservation organization that protects healthy land and clean waters now and for future generations. OLT believes that we all need to respect and care for the lands and waters that sustain us. Humans are biological beings; cells, blood, and bone just like other living beings that survive on earth. No matter who you are or what you do in your day, where you work or go to school, where you volunteer, or where you recreate, if you don’t have healthy lands from which to eat and build shelter and clean water to drink, you will not have a healthy and productive life.

OLT uses three specific



approaches to protecting healthy land and clean water. First, we work with landowners and communities who want to voluntarily protect their land through conservation easements. Conservation easements are legal agreements between landowners and a land trust like OLT that permanently protect the lands and waters of a property. With a conservation easement agreement, landowners maintain ownership and all rights to the property and agree to sustain the farmland, forest lands, open spaces and water resources without fragmentation for residential development or exploitation for industrial development. Work is allowed on lands that are protected by conservation easement, such as farming, foresting, or building a house or barns, as long as the land and water are not polluted or damaged. Landowners often receive generous tax benefits from

conservation easement agreements.

Second, using grants and donated funds, OLT purchases special places to open to the public for outdoor enjoyment and education. We know that people are more likely to care for the land if they feel connected to it. We encourage people to use our public sites so they can enjoy being outside, learn about the plants and animals with whom we share our earth, and become personally invested in caring about the

earth that cares for us.

Currently, OLT owns seven properties along what we call our Blueway, protected places bordering or near important water sources that provide fishing, hiking, paddling, bird watching, and educational opportunities. The Blueway begins with Deowongo Island in Canadarago Lake and extends down Oaks Creek to Brookwood Point on Otsego Lake and Compton Bridge on the Susquehanna River.

Finally, Otsego Land Trust conducts educational programs that are fun and focused on helping people of all ages to learn more about our connection to the lands, waters, flora, and fauna that thrive where we live, work, and play.

OLT is centered in Otsego County, but also protects lands in Southern Herkimer, Western Delaware, and Schoharie Counties. We are a non-profit orga-

nization, so all of our funds come from donations and grant support. Our supporters and volunteers are your friends, neighbors, and local business people; farmers, parents, teachers; people like you who love where they live. They fish, hike, canoe, hunt, farm their land, manage their timber, employ local residents. They generously invest in OLT, giving their time, talent, and financial support. They want an active, local voice in our region’s future.

Conservation – protecting the lands and waters that sustain all of us – is a community undertaking. OLT cannot conserve healthy land and clean water without the support of community members in our unique region of New York State. We are honored by the public support we receive and are dedicated to partnering with the communities of this region to make sure that our healthy lands and clean waters stay that way for us now and for our children and grandchildren, into the future.

To learn more about Otsego Land Trust, please visit www.OtsegoLandTrust.org, send us an email at info@otsegoLandTrust.org, or give us a call at 607-547-2366.

Virginia Kennedy is the Executive Director of Otsego Land Trust.



P.S.: THE OTSEGO LAND TRUST SAVES LAND IN DELAWARE COUNTY, TOO!



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*** COMMUNITY NOTICE ***
SUMMER LIFEGUARDS NEEDED!

Lifeguards and WSI needed for Franklin Summer Pool Programs. Please send your letter of intent to the Franklin Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 886, Franklin NY 13775.

All letters must be received by April 18, 2014, for consideration.

For more information, please call: Tonya at (607) 651-3332 or Joanne at (607) 829-5913.

**U
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**By
Dana
Matthews**





FOOD, continued from Page 1

second would be traveling thirty minutes to the nearest hospital and opening myself to a number of possibilities and risks that were not currently on the table - caesarean section being the most frightening among them.

I asked my midwives what we should do. They wanted to give me freedom to choose what was most supportive to my process, but they made it perfectly clear that our child was fine, despite the prolonged stress of labor, and that they had full confidence in my ability to move forward safely and continue birthing at home. I felt fearful and exhausted, but I also felt the firm ground of their experience and encouragement beneath me. Their confidence, together with my willingness to endure - come what may - allowed me to deliver at home, as my husband and I had both wanted and planned.

What does this have to do with fracking? Everything.

When we bought our farm in the fall of 2009, all we knew was that the previous owner had not sold the mineral rights. We didn't know if our neighbors had sold theirs, or if the local government was willing to stand up to the incursion of corporate gas interests. We felt very vulnerable. Here we were putting the bulk of our liquid assets into the land - and not just any piece of land, but this specific property in this particular place that we knew very little about.

Our business plan necessitates that there be clean air and water here, not only for ourselves, but for our animals. Our marketing plan relies on the confidence our customers have that we are producing what we say we are - grass-fed and finished beef, heritage turkeys, and pastured pork raised in the open air without antibiotics, hormones, crowding, etc. Fracking threaten all of this, as its track record elsewhere so amply demonstrates.

As farmers, our time is heavily invested in this place, and that is as it should be. It is a means of quality control and an investment worth making, but it limits our ability to communicate our perspective to the larger world.

This is where *Food Not Fracking* comes in.

Food Not Fracking is a loose alliance of farmers, food distributors, shop keepers, and consumers, who envision a New York State economy based on healthy practices and taking a long view towards sustainability, rather than a boom-and-bust extraction model.

The people who have come together to form the *Food Not Fracking* alliance are acting as midwives for the larger movement towards local, sustainable food production in New York State. They are aggregating the small experiences of individuals to form a collective that can be used to effect change, both on the local level and the larger political stage. They are taking this message where we often can't: to New York City to raise awareness among city dwellers, and to Albany to further legislation that will protect the interests of small farmers like us.

Our ability to produce excellent food, in a manner that both enriches the environment and heightens our collective quality of life, needs to be protected. We are strengthened by a dialogue about our shared needs and hopeful that *Food Not Fracking* will help to hold open possibilities for a future in New York State that we both want and plan for.

Alanna Rose is a working artist and mother, collaborating with her husband, Garth and his brother and sister-in-law to run Cairncrest Farm, in Plainfield, NY. (www.cairncrestfarm.blogspot.com)

Food Not Fracking (www.foodnotfracking.org) regional meetings will be held throughout the state before the planting season. For more information, or to join the alliance, please write to foodnotfracking@gmail.com

Hey! It's early spring and time to plan for this season in gardening. A few questions first:

- are all your tools clean and sharpened?
- do you have some idea of what plants you want to move around?

- have you got friends so give extras to?

- have you sources for plants you may want to buy?

- do you have the help you need lined up?

- are you in good physical shape?

I will take each of these questions in turn and hope some advice will help.

Tools are not only necessary for gardening, but good ones are a pleasure and also make the job easier. Don't buy cheap tools; get good ones as they will last a lifetime. Make sure the heads of long-handled ones are well seated and not just attached with one screw. Use trowels made of one piece of steel. Have pruners that fit your hand; there are ones for lefties, so you don't have to suffer.

Sharpen and clean your tools. I use one of those one horse-power motors with a grinding wheel on one side and metal brush on the other. It works well, but a good clamp on a table and some elbow grease, steel wool and a hand sharpener also does the job. Keep your tools clean and sharpened all season, and they'll work better.

Last season, you must have noticed that some plants are in the wrong place. Think about where they ought to go, and move them just after the foliage begins to show. That will give them plenty of time

THE GARDEN GATE

By Penelope R. King



to settle in before the heat hits and possible drought occurs (and I sure hope it doesn't - last year was tough).

Garden friends with whom you can swap plants are so much fun. If you don't have those folks in your life now, cultivate them. It will add a whole new dimension to gardening pleasures.

Plant sources: it is getting tougher to find sources around here, as nurseries have either gone out of business or down-sized. The Green Thumb in DeLancey has a bit of everything and good vegetable plants. Small local greenhouses like the one just outside of Meridale on Co. Route. 10 and the one outside of Delhi toward Bloomville have standard annuals such as petunias, impatiens and geraniums, but it is harder to find unusual annuals. Let It Grow outside of Cooperstown has some annuals, as well as the best selection of herbs and perennials around, lots of small trees and shrubs, though the selection of shrubs is limited except for hardy roses, of which they have a good selection. To get there, drive to Milford on Route 28, turn right at the light in town and go 17 miles to Roseboom and on for another 2 miles. Turn

left on Co. Route 33. 1/2 mile up that road is the nursery and worth the trip.

Asbury Gardens on lower River Street in Oneonta has a new owner so I don't know how that nursery will pan out.

Or you can go to Otego to the The Perennial Field on Route 7. Ruby Mitchell has lots of perennial plants and a great selection of hardy ornamental grasses. Beyond her is Otsdawa Greenhouses. George, the owner, keeps saying he's going out of business, but it was open last year. Take a look.

When hiring help, I recommend you work with any =candidate for a day to see how it will go: can s/he follow instructions, find work when you are busy elsewhere, will show up on time and not whine over hard work?

Finally, get into shape as much as you can. Use tools to help such as a tarp to haul burlapped plants around or to take weeds to your compost. Do not bend and twist as you can put your back out. Stay straight and use your thighs to left if you can. I am over 70 years old now, so I know what I am talking about and can still work. You can, too, if you work smart.

Have a great gardening summer.



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www.franklinlocal.org

MORASS, continued from Page 6

sponse was even greater. Over 60,000 comments were received, most of them critical of drilling. Apparently this made an impression, as did the frequent public protests.

So time passed with no obvious progress. Because of a statutory deadline, in November of 2012 a series of regulations were proposed to implement some guidelines of the SGEIS, even before those guidelines had been finalized. But after much criticism and over 200,000 comments (mostly opposed), those proposed regulations were withdrawn.

Repeatedly, the Governor has missed his own deadlines for deciding whether or not to allow HVHF in New York. For the last year or so, he has claimed to be waiting on a review by the state health commissioner Shah. His indecision may have more to do with public ambivalence about fracking. For years, Quinnipiac and Siena opinion polls have been closely divided on the question of drilling, though recently there has been a slight plurality opposed.

The prospects for drilling in New York are nowhere near as promising as in Pennsylvania. Yet pro-drilling groups have hyped the potential from the start, including leasing coalitions such as Joint Landowners Coalition NY, industry groups such as Independent Oil & Gas Association-NY, and government agencies such as the NYS Division of Mineral Resources. Although this agency has the primary responsibility for oversight of the oil and gas industry in New York, the DMR is essentially an industrial development agency, required by law to maximize production and minimize product left in the ground.

While their hyping of the prospects built a groundswell of support for drilling, it has had the unintended consequence of building an even more vocal opposition. As a result, New York is the only state that has a moratorium in place while the environmental impacts of HVHF are being evaluated. Had

it been public knowledge from the start that shale gas prospects are few in the Catskills and the Finger Lakes regions, there would likely be drilling right now along the border with Pennsylvania.

Ironically, the pro-drilling faction bears much of the responsibility for the moratorium. Their earlier, short-sighted attempt to expedite horizontal drilling and HVHF by forgoing an SGEIS prior to enabling legislation led to the moratorium. Under Cuomo, their hyping the prospects of drilling rallied the opposition, encouraging the endless delaying of his decision, thus extending the moratorium. Otherwise, this sort of drilling might have begun in New York years ago.

For fiscal year 2014/15, the state budget has no funds to begin regulating shale drilling, and the Commissioner of DEC has indicated that issuing the necessary permits is “highly unlikely” in the next fiscal year – in other words, not until after the next election for governor.

But just last month, the Joint Landowners’ Coalition of New York and some land owners have petitioned the state under Article 78 of Civil Practice Law and Rules to (among other things) force release of the SGEIS and issuance of the Findings Statement – the final steps in the SGEIS process. Still, with appeals likely, the final judicial decision may come no sooner than the governor’s.


And what might Cuomo’s decision on the HVHF eventually be? He has presidential ambitions and like most mainline Democrats, strongly supports the use of natural gas. In his draft New York Energy Plan (2014); Volume 2, Sources; Chapter 2, Natural Gas Report, New York Production Forecast, he writes: “As shown in Figure 32, the State’s annual natural gas production was expected to more than triple to about 115 Bcf in 2035. However, this forecast is predicated on the ability to produce from New York’s shale reserves.”

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YOU EAT
(IT'S NOT ALL FOOD)

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PEAK OIL, continued from Page 6

of food. But when those ancestors settled down and became farmers, everything changed. Where farming succeeded, crop surpluses resulted. Crop surpluses led to growing populations, to cities and civilizations and the empires that arose wherever people needed or wanted to expand their influence and control. Empires grew until their populations exceeded the carrying capacity of the land and water that sustained them and then the empires collapsed. This happened to Babylon, to Rome, to the Mayans, and others.

Humans are clever and thousands of years ago learned to smelt metals, giving us the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Making steel for armor and weapons takes a lot of charcoal fuel and by the late 15th century, Europe found itself with rapidly declining forests and a population growing faster than the food supply. How convenient it was, then, that they found the Americas with their vast landmass, abundant forests and water, rich soils, and people with no immunity to European diseases. The highly developed trading networks of Central and South America had concentrated in the Inca, Aztec and Mayan cities great quantities of gold which the Spanish and Portuguese promptly stole. The English and French stole some from the Spanish, and the gold got to Europe where it funded what we call the Renaissance, banks, the rise of the Atlantic slave trade, and the great expansion of science and technology that led to the Industrial Revolution.

When the Industrial Revolution really got going at the end of the 18th century, energy was needed and the English learned to mine coal from deep in the earth. The work of mining coal is very energy intensive: either you send men down the mine to toil with picks or, as now, you blast the tops off mountains and dig it out with great diesel-burning machines. So, when the first oil wells were drilled in Pennsylvania in 1859, having oil flow relatively easily from the earth seemed little short of miraculous.

With cheap and abundant oil, the world changed. Ships and, later, airplanes could swiftly cross the oceans and move raw materials and manufactured goods to markets, and people to wherever they thought they could make a better life. Petroleum gave birth to chemical industries, industrialized food production, and a previously unimagined ease of living.

But, alas, a century and a half of growing oil supplies and increasingly easy living has allowed us to forget thousands of years of struggle and hard work—and has encouraged some delusional thinking. For example: the fantastical notion that, on our finite Earth, we can keep growing our economy forever.

Well, we can't. A growing economy requires a growing energy supply and we can no longer grow our energy supply. At present, we are barely managing to keep our energy supplies at level, and that only by increasingly desperate measures, such as drilling five or more miles beneath the ocean, or destroying hundreds of square miles of Canada to cook tar out of sand, or by fracking. These methods of extracting fossil fuels are very expensive and use a lot of energy. And they penalize the future by leaving a toxic chemical mess that will harm future generations, poison the sea and air, and damage the systems that sustain life. Meanwhile, they deplete faster than the old free-flowing oil wells. The energy companies and some politicians understand the reality of declining energy supplies, but they seem intent on capturing the last nickels at the bottom of the oil barrel.

In a town like Franklin, we still have a chance to preserve a healthy life on clean soil, drinking pure water, breathing clean air. But only if we work together to protect these precious resources and use them wisely.

(To be continued.)

MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!

I stopped in at the Valley Lo Restaurant for some fried Oreos the other night. That's the place where seniors and children get a discount, superseniors even more, and the dead eat for free.

Overheard some interesting news. Jack is out of town on assignment.

Oh, yeah. I'm not Jack. I'm the guy who broke into his house while he was gone.

Brought a small suitcase with me so I could load up. I figured Jack must have some cool stuff.

Back when I was a young burglar, feelings of guilt always followed me when I broke into people's homes. Then I discovered that leaving something behind in exchange assuaged the guilt. So for Jack- a nice Lava Lamp, a Chia Pet, and a Clapper should do just fine. I thought about Christmas as I tucked them into my suitcase.

Getting in was easy.
I put on my bright blue neoprene gloves and began in the kitchen.
I found Jack's stenopad in the refrigerator and made a few additions.
How could I not?
Here's what I found:
-a partially severed and bloody softball
-an urn filled with ashes
-a horseshoe
-a bottle of Old Slugger beer with something (nevermind) floating in it
-binoculars
-empty scotch bottles
-lots of unopened mail from a gas company
-an awfully large bone
-a bow tie
-two human fingers in a ziplock bag
-a black cloth-draped framed photograph of a pretty lady
-a Ouija board
-a golf club and some shiny balls
-a crossbow
-photos of some mutilated deer
-a Rubik's cube with all the squares on each side painted the same color
-sonograms
-an electric carving knife
And all this just on the kitchen table.

The local fire department put up one of those new programmable LED signs right on Main Street. With the addition of a grant from Homeland Security, they were able to make it dual-service as a giant bug-zapper, capable of killing crows and seagulls if they perched on top. Town announcements would be readily available except for the gruesome pile of bird bodies blocking the screen.

The frequent liars program, recently instituted at the local public school, borrows alot from the airlines. If a student makes three weeks straight attendance, they get a half day off.

What's next? Frequent squatters? One year in gets half an acre?

Got my new cellphone with all the bells and whistles including the 2-tetra microwave. Aim and fire. I know, I know. There are all the usual Luddite arguments against, including the guys who've held the microwave scanner backwards (ouch). But it's great. Turns a peanut butter sandwich into a Reese's cup in 4 seconds.

Makes a great paint remover too.

Heard a crunching sound in the snow outside so I quickly ducked into the back staircase and closed the door to within a few inches. This woman came into the kitchen. Couldn't see her face until she turned. Jeez, she looked just like Cruella DeVille! She started rummaging around

looking for something, slamming cabinet doors and rifling drawers.

Suddenly this *thing* bounded in through the back door, leaped over the table, hit this woman in the chest knocking her down, and bit into her thigh. She screamed and began thrashing on the floor, wrestling furiously with what was almost a dog except that it had feathers and creepy orange eyes. They smashed against the table and things went flying everywhere.

Suddenly the tumult stopped and it went quiet.

The crack of the door was filled with one great orange eye peering up at me.

I promised myself right then and there that I'd send a congratulatory postcard to Dr. Moreau if I made it through this with fingers intact.

It's times like these that I can't help remembering that the Farmers Market might not exist if Columbus had stopped to ask directions. On the other hand, time waits for no one unless you live in New York in which case you wait for it to catch up. History will forever regret that Columbus set the precedent for disdain when it comes to farmers and their markets.

Somewhere a child is messing with matches and there's always somebody playing with dynamite. But fracking takes the cake. And life as we know it.

Meanwhile the fireball from a recent fracking well explosion roasted all the free-range chickens on the farm next door.

The Gas Company brought the biscuits and the mayor brought the beer.

They call it,..food. Food science has been little concerned with nutrition, concentrating mostly on fillers, flavorings, and colors, sugar, salt, & fat. High fructose corn syrup was a miracle of profit. And if it doesn't make you sick right now, it's okay.

Take a little sawdust, shape it any way you want, color it, flavor it, put it in a colorful wrapper and market the hell out of it.

They call it food.
We need a new word

As I gently pushed the door open keeping my eye on whatever was staring back at me, Cruella scrambled to her feet, grabbed something off the floor, tossed it into my suitcase, closed it, and bolted out the back door. But not before she took a good hard glance at me.

Didn't see what else she took.
Damn. This can't be good.
Hope she likes the lamp. Can't imagine her growing anything. She probably already has a Clapper. The fun really starts when you have more than one, because when you clap to turn one on, it turns the other one off. Kind of like cheerleading.

The dog-thing smiled and wagged its feathered tail.

Blue gloves, orange eyes, and a green tongue. My, aren't we colorful.

The thought occurred to me that I should probably offer it something to eat.

The binoculars or the bowtie?

I swear he said, 'Beer.'

Oh, great. He reads minds too.

Down boy!

Now what should I take? Besides Valium I mean.

And what can I leave behind?
(To be (as always) continued...)

The NEW
Franklin Register.

The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil

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HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!
At: The New Franklin Register
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What are we about?

The Franklin Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil was authorized on December 6th, 2005 by a Town Board Resolution. Our purpose was to assess the needs and resources of the Town of Franklin in the face of Peak Oil, and to report back to the Town Board and to the people of Franklin.

Renamed as Franklin Local Ltd., we are a not-for-profit corporation made up of Franklin residents. We meet once a month, at 7 P.M. in the Town Board Room. All are welcome, to offer questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas.

Please join us!
We have a number of projects that we hope to move from idea to action:

- Local food production network
- Skills and services exchange
- Goods exchange
- Ride sharing bulletin board and/or website
- Farm to School Program for school lunches
- Community Greenhouses
- Community Energy Production
- Community Health Network

In a nutshell, we propose to imagine a more energy efficient habit of living, and to put it to work here in Franklin, for a brighter, more sustainable future..

We hope you will join us!
For meeting times and location,
visit our website: franklinlocal.org

You can also join our Peak Oil AwarenessYahoo Group.
It's POA_CNY@yahoogroups.com.
That is, Peak Oil Awareness_Central NewYork.
This group fosters discussion of local efforts, potential or ongoing, to deal with the effects of Peak Oil on our communities.

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REIGN OF ICE

By Felix Marner Bridel
Franklin, NY

(Open Form Poem)


The frost of winter spreads its wings
And echoes over a thousand lands
The rain's dark brother, life of cold
Shadow of a thousand springs
A hunter, the usher of death
Deadens earth with silence
Its frosty daggers smite the alive
And claim a thousand hearts
The bane of light, the frozen flowers
Hurry death on its way
Hunger rules compassion
When life is not possible
Only survival
Who buries summer
Quenches a thousand memories



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RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

Date	Location	Acres	Property type	Assess.	Price	Seller	Buyer
9/25/2013	Tara Ln	4.90	Rural vac <10	14,000	6,820	DeMuth, Diane E	O'Carroll, Michael
9/26/2013	878 Grange Hall Rd	13.41 #	1 Family Res	168,000	120,000	Maziot, John	Graham, John
10/3/2013	101 Rod & Gun Club	0.64	1 Family Res	84,000	135,000	Bull, Keith	Shaw, Ronald E
10/11/2013	32 Christian Hill Rd	11.40	Vac w/imprv	70,000	90,000	Polster, Earl	Morrison, Alan Jr
10/15/2013	Franklin Heights Rd	74.32 #	Rural vac >10	new parcel	222,900	Walter G Rich Trust	E. Hansome Bk Fm LLC
10/18/2013	300 State Hwy 28 S	10.00	Vacant rural	new parcel	40,000	Petersen, Douglas J	Whitaker, Glen E Jr
10/21/2013	2395 Grange Hall Rd	27.10	Rural res	113,000	100,000	Lavigueur, Margaret	Danalis, Konstantinos
10/28/2013	3699 E.Handsome Brk	10.50	Vac w/imprv	25,000	49,900	Costello, Richard M	Sgambati, William J
10/28/2013	11770 Cty Hwy 21	1.00	1 Family Res	78,000	39,000	Goss, Dolores A	Goss, Dolores A
11/8/2013	2804 C'ty Highway 14	19.50	Mfg housing	58,000	68,000	Tennant, Linda J	D'Amato, Thomas J
11/18/2013	546 Case Hill Rd	6.70	Mfg housing	35,000	23,000	Cole, Robert H	Potrzeba, Luke
11/18/2013	Franklin Heights Rd	34.52 *	Rural vac >10	103,500	103,500	Walter G Rich Trust	Worden, Thomas
12/6/2013	322 Main St	0.33	Det row bldg	64,000	145,000	Firmin, Lisbeth	Warish, Philip M
12/16/2013	10425 State Hwy 357	1.20	Mfg housing	25,000	35,000	Bouton, Katherine L	Giudice, Sue Ann
12/19/2013	435 Main St	0.50	Diner/lunch	120,000	220,000	Cassinelli, Gar	Osmanli Properties LLC
12/27/2013	County Highway 16	17.55	Conser Ease	new parcel	34,992	Carbine, William G	City of New Yo
12/31/2013	Rich Rd	0.50	Priv forest	new parcel	1,000	Hungerford, Fred. J	Petersen, Douglas J
1/24/2014	12144 State Hwy 357	5.10	1 Family Res	85,000	113,935	Bassett, Brooke	Tammac Holdings

Two or more parcels * Partial



Photos: Constitution Pipeline Company

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