

The Newsletter of Franklin Local  
Franklin, New York

Vol. IX, No. 2

SUMMER 2015

‘INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS AND FREE’

## GET READY FOR GONE LOCAL

By Patricia Tyrell

With interest in sustainable and responsible food production on the increase, organic and locally<sup>1</sup> grown food is in growing demand. This can easily be seen at larger franchise supermarkets, where entire aisles, sections, and displays are now dedicated to such products, as well as in the continued demand for farmers' markets and food cooperatives. Such phenomena are celebrated by discerning food enthusiasts far and wide.



375 Main Street, Franklin, the new home of Gone Local  
Photo by the author

Unfortunately, with the summer-only exception of the weekly Farmers' Market, it is especially difficult to support local producers and meet basic needs or quality standards on a regular basis in our hometown of Franklin. Personally, I have always resented having to travel to Oneonta to do the bulk of my grocery shopping, secretly envying small towns like Delhi and Hamden who manage to support their own natural food stores.

So it is very exciting to announce the eagerly awaited debut of Gone Local, owned by Delaware County natives Kurt and Leah Schmidt. Due to open their doors on August 1, 2015, the Schmidts aim to provide basic food and household products sourced as locally as possible, but still competitively priced. Holiday novelties, summer barbecues, and other specialties are planned for the future.

With a degree in Restaurant and Hotel Management, a successful culinary career, and a current sales manager position with Adventure In Food Trading Company, Kurt has wanted to open a new business with his wife, Leah, for some time, but its purpose

See LOCAL, continued on Page 5



Franklin Weather Station

Photo: Helen McLean

## AND NOW FOR SOME REALLY LOCAL WEATHER

By Bill Gruber

One of the problems with living in a rural area is getting accurate weather information. The nearest official weather stations are Binghamton and Monticello, which doesn't do much for us on top of a hill in Delaware County. So we decided to investigate the possibility of our own weather station.

The simplest and cheapest (free) is a weather rock, but it's pretty basic and isn't easy to share.

Another inexpensive item is a 99¢ thermometer. Good if you are standing next to the window where it is mounted, but not much help otherwise.

We wanted a more accurate weather solution, one which could indicate temperature, wind speed and direction, rainfall, and barometric pressure, and ideally send the feed to the

See WEATHER, con't on Page 7



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

**REGULAR FEATURES:**

Neighbor's View	Pg. 2
The Mayor's Corner	Pg. 3
Church Directory	Pg. 4
The Rumor Mill	Pg. 4
In the Kitchen	Pg. 5
Murder at the FFM	Pg. 15
Real Estate Sales	Pg. 16

**FRANKLIN LOCAL:**

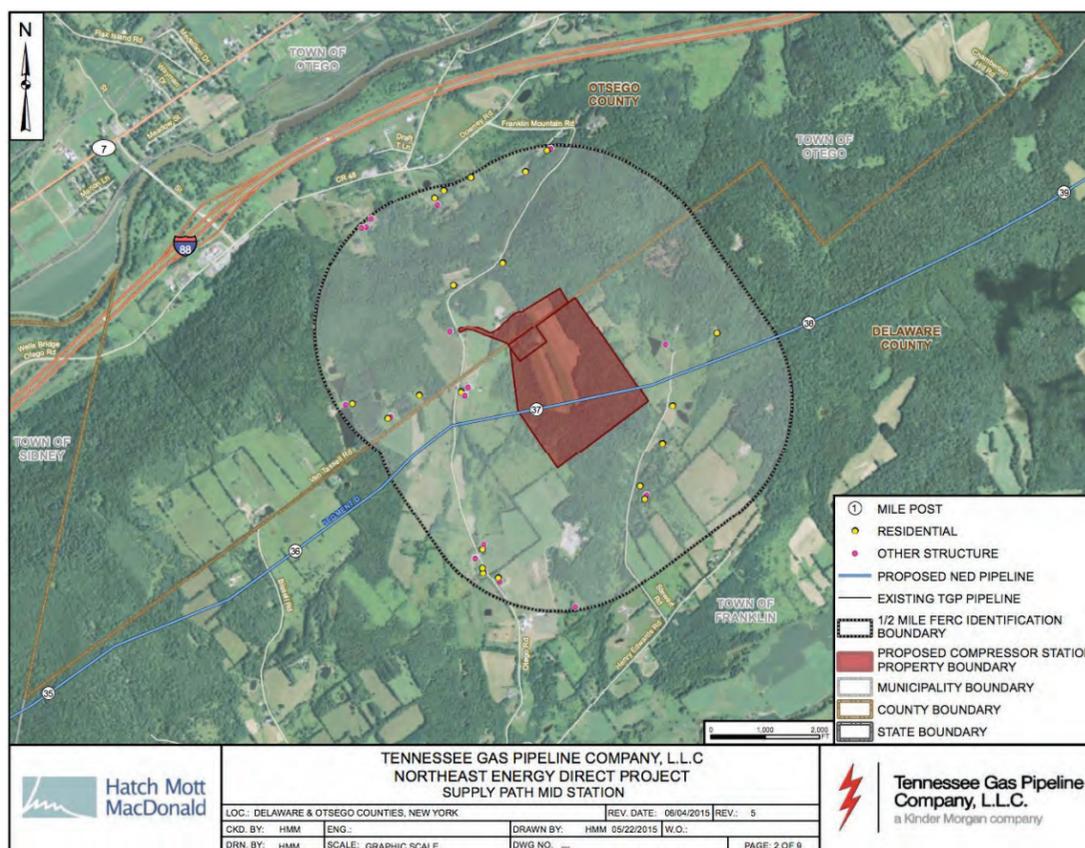
Upcoming Elections	Pg. 3
Landing in Treadwell	Pg. 3
Farm Families Win	Pg. 3
No Road Protection	Pg. 6
Local Law 1-2015	Pg. 7

**FOCUS ON ENERGY:**

Public Participation	Pg. 8
Pipeline Progress	Pg. 9
Pipes and Power	Pg. 9

**LOCAL ARTS:**

Rooting for Ideas	Pg. 6
Jim Mullen reviews	Pg. 12
Poet's Choice	Pg. 12
Arts with Jane Carr	Pg. 13
Jason Starr's Music	Pg. 13
Franklin Stage	Pg. 14
W. Kortright Centre	Pg. 14



## COMPRESSING FRANKLIN

By Brian Brock

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC (TGP) plans to build in Franklin the mid-stream compressor and office buildings for the supply path segment of the Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline. For this

See COMPRESSOR, continued on Page 11

# Your Neighbor's View...

## IN MY OPINION

By Bob Miller

As farming becomes less profitable and farm kids decide to go into other careers, farms are becoming scarcer. The diminished amount of farmed land must produce more food per acre to stay ahead of the growing population and the shrinking of farm labor.

It is obvious that as the world needs more food, we must begin to take better care of our soils and water.

Much of our food is now being grown in California, where a very serious lack of ground water is getting worse by the minute. For instance, I have recently read that it takes one gallon of water to grow one almond. (*Mother Jones, 2014*)

To make up for California's serious lack of water, we must grow more food locally.

We are fortunate in this area that our farms are diversified and have a good supply of manure to help maintain the integrity of our soil, but we must remain vigilant. The best way to keep our soil healthy is by returning carbon, compost, and humus to the soil.

The opportunity is great for more organically grown grain in this area, as currently, there is a deficiency of small grains being grown in New York State. Locally we have thousands of acres that are certifiable organic.

I am of the opinion that the West will keep drilling and pumping water until it comes up dust. Now is the time to be thinking about continually improving our soils and growing more food locally.

The 68th General Assembly of the United Nations has designated 2015 as the International Year of Soils: [fao.org/soils-2015](http://fao.org/soils-2015).

## And from our mailbox...

To the Editor:

There has been a lot of talk in the village about the removal of Compressor Free Franklin posters before the Memorial Day parade. I do not know who removed them or even why they were removed. But as a Vietnam Vet, I am saddened that on a day honoring those who gave their lives serving our country, someone would take it upon himself, or herself, to impinge on our basic right of free expression.

Sigmund Barckhaus  
Treadwell, NY



*The 2015 Franklin Farmers' Market poster  
Painting by Rhonda Harrow and layout by Phil Warish.  
Sponsored by Rich's Auto Body  
and the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce.*

173 Main Street  
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## \$200 REWARD

**For information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.**

On the night of Tuesday, June 2, near the end of a dirt road off County Highway 21 in Franklin, the decapitated body of their lamb was left in front of the home of the Bevilacqua family. It appeared that someone had wiped their bloody hands on the coat of the dead lamb. No note was left with the body. On the road, bloody footprints were found leading away from the body and to tire tracks.

This savage deed was perpetrated sometime between 8:30 p.m., when the mother stopped at the house briefly to return her daughter home from a school event, and 10:20 p.m., when she and her husband returned from a town meeting in Treadwell. Their teenage daughter was home alone at the time and remembers hearing sounds around 9:30 p.m.

**Tips about this mutilation should be reported to New York State Police, Troop C in the Sidney Barracks at [607-561-7400](tel:607-561-7400).**

## FRANKLIN'S NEW TOWN CLERK

Dawn Ritz has been appointed by the Town Board as Franklin Town Clerk for the remainder of the 2015 term to replace Connie Young.

Summer office hours (through September) are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 3 to 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 554 Main Street, 607-829-3440.

Mrs. Ritz plans to run for the 2016/17 term of Clerk on both the Democrat and Republican lines.



Doodle Bugs



The Franklin Free Library's annual mega-book sale

## DON'T FORGET! SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH NEW 'OLD FRANKLIN DAY'

The Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce is organizing the annual Franklin day of festivities.

It's never too late, so all interested vendors, talents, and other participants are invited to get in touch and start planning. Reply via email or by the contact form on the website: [franklinny.org](http://franklinny.org).

More photos from last year's bash are also on the website, at [franklinny.org/franklin-community-day/](http://franklinny.org/franklin-community-day/).

**Join us in making this a great, fun day for all!**



Mini Farmers' Market



Hand-crafted wood pull-toys by Joseph Kurhajec



# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

By Brian Brock

With all the coverage of national candidates, you might think that we will be voting for President of the United States this November. However 2015 is an off-year election with only local races for towns and counties. Last year's atypical local elections were required by the resignation of two councilmen.

This year most of the Town of Franklin officials are up for election: supervisor, two of the councilmen, clerk, and highway superintendent.

For the candidates, the election has already begun. Designating petitions for party nominations could be signed beginning June 2. For Republican candidates, thirty-four valid signatures are required. The dates to file these petitions with Delaware County Board of Election were July 6 to 9.

Incumbents Jeff Taggart and Mark Laing are the only two on the Republican ballot for Supervisor and Highway Superintendent

**This year, most of the Town of Franklin officials are up for election.**

respectively. Challenger Pete Bevilacqua will be running for Supervisor on the Democratic line. Mrs. Dawn Ritz is running for the first time for Town Clerk on both the Democrat and Republican lines.

Designating petitions for candidates running independently could be signed beginning July 7.

For independent candidates, forty-two valid signatures are required. The dates for filing are August 11 - 18.

Eligible to sign are Franklin residents who are registered to vote or will be eligible to vote by Election Day. One must be registered in a party to designate a party candidate. Whatever your registration, you may designate someone running independently. But you may designate only one candidate for each position, either in a party or running independently.

To register to vote in the primary elections, the last day in person is August 14 and by mail post marked by August 15. Voting in the

See ELECTIONS, continued on Page 7

## FRANKLIN FARM FAMILIES BRING HOME THE PRIZE

Staff Report

Franklin dairy families creamed the competition.

Garret and Traci Sitts were named the Outstanding Young Farm Family of 2015 by the Delaware County Dairy Promotion Committee and Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. This award was presented at the Fifty-Third Annual Delaware County Dairy Princess Coronation Dinner in South Kortright on May 30 – just ahead of National Dairy Month in June.

Together they milk a herd of ninety plus cows twice a day, raise a hundred twenty young stock, and grow over a hundred acres of crops on the three hundred acre Sittco Holstein farm in North Franklin,

across from the Ouleout Golf Course.

Married in October of 2011, the Sitts have twin sons, three year old Wade and Hunter.

For the highlight of that evening, Malorie Jordan, a sophomore at Franklin Central School, was crowned Princess, and her classmate Sabra Warner was crowned as the alternate Princess to serve in Jordan's absence. The two have been fast friends since pre-kindergarten. Ms. Jordan is the daughter of Jason and Diana Jordan, and Ms. Warner is the daughter of Paul and Heather Warner. Both have been Dairy Ambassadors for years.

Among the eight new Dairy Ambassadors selected is Amber Jordan, sister of Malorie.

## LANDING IN TREADWELL: *Listening*

By Magali Veillon

In early September, it will be one year since the county sent me the deed for my house in Treadwell. People ask me, "How is it going?" And I reply, "It's a slow process. Very slow."

This winter was fabulous—I was invited to stay at the Maceks' residence, living with Wijnanda Deroo and Nola Macek. I loved the snow, the beauty of whiteness surrounding us in this perfect setting. The house is a piece of art and an inspiration to a first-time home owner conceiving her own house plans. And the food—my sister reminds me periodically how as a small child I used to shriek with excitement when my mother brought the food to the table. Wijnanda and Nola's cooking excites me to the point of shrieking again. But I have stayed polite.

As the weather warmed, the urge to see my house develop rose as the snow melted. Yet as the summer unfolds, progress remains distant. The house sits there while I stand as a stranger. Raccoons know it better than I. And I have yet to identify enough pieces to start the puzzle.

See LISTENING, continued on Page 11

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

The following is a short speech that I shared with those who attended the flag presentation at the village park on Friday, June 26:

*Good evening and welcome to our little village park. We are honored to have Congressman Chris Gibson here in person to present us with a flag that has been flown over our nation's capital. This flag will take its place in this memorial section of the park to pay tribute to those service men and women from Franklin who have served and sacrificed to assure that the ideals of American life will be preserved.*

*One can observe that the park itself is a manifestation of the good will that comes from living in a democracy. It is the village of Franklin's haven of "domestic tranquility" referenced in the preamble to the Constitution...a fitting place for the*

*flag and all of its symbolism.*

*This park is a people's park. It is the product of a vision that was born from the grassroots. Community members...the Village Improvement Society, the Beautification Committee, the American Legion, former Mayor Campbell with the Village Board, and just plain interested citizens grew this from concept to what it is today. It truly reflects the sentiment of "We the people."*

*As the current Mayor of the Village, I'm proud that our role was limited to that of a partner...which in my mind exemplifies a healthy relationship between local government and its citizenry. When a sense of ownership is shared, the free flow of ideas is encouraged and sustainability is assured.*

The event itself was well attended, the weather was almost perfect and an accommodating breeze enabled Old Glory to present itself in its finest to the onlookers.



There were people displaying a sign thanking the Congressman for his support of environmental issues and asking him to address pipeline-related concerns. The sign was perceived by some as inappropriate for the occasion. The Congressman, however, went up to the sign holders, thanked them for their support, and engaged them in a conversation about their concerns after the ceremony was over.

I have to say, the event was a glimpse of how our democracy works.

We have our rituals and we give them great value. These rituals aid us to reach beyond the shortcomings of our senses. They charge our emotions and help us to recapture for the shortest of moments, the essence of our ideals. That day, in our park, our newly created haven of domestic tranquility, a discordant sign was displayed and as a result there were those who felt that a line had been crossed. A sa-

cred moment had been violated.

The irony is that the presentation of this flag, the symbol of, among other things, our First Amendment right to free speech, was the reason for the occasion. This is the stuff of which our democracy is made. Our legacy from our forefathers is our right to question, our right to disagree, and our right to be heard as we pursue positive solutions. The art form in this process is to do so without breaking the will and the spirit of those who we disagree with.

We should not however disregard the rights of those who had come solely to observe the flag dedication. Some felt that for this one occasion, differences of opinion should have been dispensed with.

There's really nothing clean-cut about the democratic process, except that it is the one vehicle that allows the voice of dissent to surface when determining the will of the people. Sometimes it may annoy us, but the alternative is unacceptable.

# 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.*



AVP Student and Adult Facilitators at Franklin Central School.

Photo by Debbie Valentine

## FRANKLIN'S ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT

By Noelle Granger

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) has been active at Franklin Central School for four years. We currently have forty-six student and seven adult facilitators. We welcomed twenty-five new facilitators into the program this year.

This program enables people of all ages to learn strategies that will help them handle situations in their everyday lives that may lead to conflict. This learning is done through experiential activities that help develop community and empathy among the participants. It is the goal of

the AVP student facilitators at Franklin Central School to help build community, not only in the school district but also in the surrounding community.

This program is not only for people who experience violence in their lives, but also for anyone who is interested in community building and helping with conflict resolution. We are holding our second community workshop on August 6 and 7 at the United Methodist Church in Franklin, NY from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending or receiving additional information, please call Noelle Granger at 607-343-3904.

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Visit our website at [franklinlocal.org](http://franklinlocal.org) for complete minutes and even videos of town board meetings. Be informed in the comfort of your own home.

## THE RUMOR MILL

*Here we are again, chasing down those silly notions people insist on taking as fact. This clarification of Rumor #3 comes directly from the "accused."*



Film editor and Treadwell resident Tony Breuer writes:

"I hear that some people are claiming that the videos of the Town Board meetings that I have been shooting and posting on the internet are edited to put the Town Board at a disadvantage. This is totally untrue. Here's the true skinny on that:

The videos I posted of the last five monthly Franklin Town Board Meetings have NOT been edited. This accusation is bogus. With the exception of the Delta representative's presentation during the June meeting, all the videos have been shot from one locked-off position, with only an occasional pan or zoom in and out to change the framing slightly. There are no cutaways to other shots. The scenes are continuous and the reason the meetings are broken down into five or six segments is because there is a thirty minute limitation on the camera recording time and I may miss a few seconds as I reset the record function around the thirty minute mark for each segment.

I've spent my career as an editor of broadcast documentaries and have experience with network news as well. Those stories are edited, but the Franklin meetings are not.

I figured that someone might eventually try to say they are edited and that things are taken out of context but I know better than to lose credibility by editing these videos. They are up there in their entirety and uncut as a public service. If anyone questions them, I will gladly show them all the files - they have the date, record and stop times stamped on each file. There is usually less than a minute missing between each segment, due to the camera limitations.

I'm pleased to provide these videos as a public service record and am happy people are watching very soon after I post them. I think the last meeting (June 2015) there were more than twenty-five plays pretty quickly."

- Tony Breuer, Treadwell, NY

LOCAL, continued from Page 1

and location had remained unknown. Having grown up in Walton and Delhi, Kurt and Leah have always had an appreciation for the beauty and potential of the area and wanted to remain local. Kurt even has ties to Franklin's history, having been the personal chef of Franklin native and railroad tycoon Walter Rich for eight years, up until Rich's passing in 2007. Finally, in 2014, they discovered 375 Main Street, Franklin, and therein, their business plan.

The former Hilderbrand building had been left vacant for several years, but Kurt and Leah, through vision and persistence, have brought out the diamond in the rough. Major repairs and improvements have been made to the building, including renovations of the bathroom, floors and ceilings. It was funded in large part through a NY Main Street Program Grant of \$15,000, awarded in 2014.

While its exterior seems small, I can say the interior is utterly surprising and impressive - both open and airy, with a refined country aesthetic and comfort. Antique and handmade shelving will host a myriad of products, including but not limited to, spices, sauces, breads, pastas, soaps, and lotions. Coolers and refrigerator units will contain milk, butter, eggs, produce, and meats. Even our domesticated friends will find their needs met with pet food and supplies available. Upon award of licensing, beer will also become part of the shop's available inventory, as well as deli platters, sandwiches, and coffee.

To be operated primarily by Leah with the help of family members and Kurt on the weekends, Gone Local will be open year-round, Tuesday through Saturday, 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., beginning August 1. With the impending closure of long-time community favorite Dawn's Deli, the timing could not be more opportune to offer both a local business option and locally sourced (possibly organic) items to Franklin's residents and visitors.

So get ready for Gone Local - where what you need is right at home. And remember: if you haven't already gone local, spending your hard earned dollars at local establishments helps the local economy, which in turn helps the local community.

1. Local or locally may mean immediate or regional area

Patricia Tyrell is a Franklin native and enthusiast of sustainable living.

# IN THE KITCHEN

With Sue Avery

## QUICK BISCUITS

*This unusual recipe produces delicious biscuits that are simplicity itself to make. They are great all by themselves, or...split and butter them, then pile on sliced strawberries or crushed blueberries or cut-up peaches, sweetened or not...the possibilities are endless!*

2 cups self-rising flour  
4 tbs. (real) mayonnaise  
1 cup milk

Preheat oven to 450°. Mix the ingredients together and drop by the spoonful on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for about 12 minutes.

Makes about twenty biscuits.

*Have a cup or two of left-over chicken? Cut it into pieces and heat in a cream sauce flavored with a little sage and a chicken bouillon cube. When hot, pour over split biscuits, and you have a dish fit for a king...or a queen.*



Carla Nordstrom discusses the care and uses of garden soils with local youngsters at the Franklin Garden Club tent.

## THE 2015 FRANKLIN GARDEN TOUR

By Carla Nordstrom

The Franklin Garden Club held its biannual garden tour on Sunday, June 28, 2015. Eight gardens hosted by Diana Hall and Lee Cohen, Jack Siman, John Fitzpatrick, Jane and Jerry Hebbard, Doreen (Coons) Charon, Alberto Gaitan and Lawrence Lewis, Gail and Elton Cook, and Deborah and Alden Banks were on the tour. A number of serious gardeners came out in the rain to see historic roses, rare plants and shrubs, as well as alpine rock and shade gardens. The Franklin Garden Club would like to thank all of the hosts and volunteers who helped make it

a special day.

The garden club added a new feature to this year's ticket table at the Franklin Farmers' Market. The Kid's Corner offered young people the opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn about gardening with a display of different types of soil and mulch. Local products such as Enviro Energy grass pellets and bio-char were included in the display. Each participant started their own garden by planting seeds in handmade newspaper biodegradable pots. Some of the kids also learned how to make the pots.

The Franklin Garden Club recently awarded a \$500 scholarship to Jonathan Ackley, a 2015 graduate of Franklin Central School. Proceeds from this year's garden tour will go towards planting next summer's village barrels.

Below, a selection of mulches and soil samples for participants to try out.



**FREE RABIES CLINIC**

**ANNUAL RABIES VACCINATIONS -- FREE**

**It is the law: every dog and cat must be vaccinated.**

Wednesday, August 12, 4 - 6 p.m.  
Franklin Fire Hall, 351 Main Street.

Delaware County Department of Public Health Services.  
607-832-5200

Dogs must be on a leash, and cats and ferrets must be in a carrying case.

## TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

The Franklin Town Board meets monthly, generally on the first Tuesday of the month, except for November. All meetings are at the town garage unless otherwise noted.  
12480 County Highway 21, intersection of Route 357, Franklin, NY

Meetings at the Treadwell Firehouse are scheduled for:  
September 1, 2015 at 7:30pm  
December 1, 2015 at 7:30pm

For further information, call the Town Clerk  
607-829-3440



## ROOTING FOR IDEAS

By Don Stathem

### Creating Vertical Elements in the Garden

Four years ago, I started a small willow nursery for personal use. I got willow cuttings from my friend Michael Dodge who owns Vermont Willows. I also bought twelve foot willow rods to make living willow tunnels for my chickens: an escape for my girls in case a bird of prey gets the wrong idea. The chickens love these dense structures that have the added benefit of providing some cool shade. Now that my willow nursery stock has matured, I have harvested sixteen foot rods, and started to build the willow structures I have always wanted to make.

This summer, I made the first of the large willow structures or garden obelisks. My garden is still young and lacks verti-



Golden hops just planted

cality and these structures provide an instant vertical element.

For the first structure I detained a golden hop that



Golden hops two weeks later

had been traipsing along the top of a retaining dry stone wall and devouring a bench every summer for a few years. No surprise, the hops loves the upright structure, and within two

weeks has pretty much covered it. My second structure replaced a sickly *Taxus cuspidate* - pyramidal yew, part of an alley of yews that leads down to the pond. This ten foot



Detail of willow structure

willow structure keeps the architecture of the alley, but adds an element of surprise. A *Lonicera sempervirens* 'John Clayton' - trumpet honeysuckle will cover the structure in a few years.

I decided to make one more large structure - twelve feet this time - in a lower border, and repeated the golden hops. At the end of an open valley, we have strong westerly winds so I buried re-bar rods and tied the top for added stability.

My next project is to make willow fences or 'wattles' around a few ev-



Tall willow structure

ergreen trees to protect the lower part of the trees from munching deer. I will post my future projects as I achieve them. Once my willow stock has been replenished I will make these structures available to local gardeners.

Read more of Don Stathem's garden blog, **Rooting for Ideas**, at [donstathem-blog.com](http://donstathem-blog.com)

Photos by the author

## DELTA FORCE

By Brian Brock

As yet, there is no decision on how Franklin is to hold companies responsible for paying for their major damages to our local roads - either by an agreement or by a law.

Whatever is eventually decided by the Town Board, the current state of local roads must be documented before construction begins if there is to be a hope of Franklin taxpayers not being left to pay for road repairs afterwards.

At the June meeting of the Board, Steve Sanyshyn (project engineer) presented the Road Protection Program (RPP) offered by Delta Engineers, Architects, & Surveyors PC of Endwell NY. This is the same program that was presented to Supervisor Taggart in December. Delta has been in business since 1976 and been offering RPPs since 2010.



Delta's plan has three parts or phases.

In Phase I, Delta would collect data on the existing condition of the roads and the typical level of traffic on a sample of roads totaling twenty miles or more. Also they would compare the expected construction traffic with the capacity of existing roads to identify any stretches that could fail catastrophically. All this data would be compiled in a report to the town.

In Phase II, Delta would train town officials and employees in the RPP and assist the Board of Franklin to establish the legal structure for our own road protection. Delta can provide a model agreement and/or law, which Franklin could modify to suit. (To date, Constitution Pipeline Company has shown no interest in negotiating an agreement, instead insisting on its standard contract, which requires company involvement in documenting roads.) The town government would need to set the Minimum Impact Threshold (MIT), which is the threshold which would trigger Phase III.

The purpose of the MIT is to exclude from regulation the typical uses of the local roads. For example, excluding uses by milk trucks, school buses, and logging trucks, which would all be below the MIT.

A Phase III survey would begin whenever construction traffic for a project exceeds the chosen MIT. Then Delta (or possibly another engineering firm) would assess damages.

The cost of Phase I would be at most \$7,500, less if some of the necessary data is already avail-

able. (Delaware County has set-up traffic counters in Franklin.) The cost of Phase II would be at least \$1,500 -- more if the legal firm that partners with Delta provides a template of a law and/or agreement. Costs for legal services would begin at \$2,500. The cost of each Phase III would depend on the work required and should be the sole responsibility of the developer. However this cost would be invoiced to the town. There is a small annual maintenance fee.

Some or all of the costs of Phase I and II could be charged to the developer as part of a permit fee, including legal fees. Likewise all costs of Phase III could pass along to the developer. However this cost shifting will require provisions under a local law. Otherwise all these many thousands of dollars will be borne by the taxpayers.

Delta's RPP has been adopted by fifty-four municipalities in ten counties throughout the Southern Tier. In Delaware



Photo Credit: PA Engineering District 4-0

County, two towns are clients: Davenport and Meredith. In Otsego County, seventeen municipalities are clients, including the towns of Oneonta, Otego, and Unadilla. Of the five towns surrounding Franklin that would serve as access to the pipeline route, only Sidney has not hired them.

Davenport, Oneonta, Otego, and Unadilla have all implemented their Road Protection Plan with a local law. Meredith is still in the process. Hamden passed its own law back in 2009 to protect townspeople from paying for road damage during construction of power lines to and from Fraser station.

More information on Delta's RPP can be found on the Franklin Local website:

[franklinlocal.org/delta-road-protection-program/](http://franklinlocal.org/delta-road-protection-program/), including: their PowerPoint presentation, a timeline of the program, and a list of answers to frequently asked questions.

At their July meeting, the Franklin Town Board did nothing yet again. Supervisor Taggart stated that instead he was considering hiring a local firm, Cedarwood Engineering Services PLLC of Oneonta, to save money.



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**Walton, NY 13856**

**WEATHER, continued from Page 1**

internet so everyone interested in the area could benefit. Of course, our budget wasn't unlimited either, so plunking down \$35,000 for a prepackaged solution was out of the question. With all this in mind, our investigation led us to a Davis Vantage Pro 2, plus some additional equipment to allow an easy connection to the internet.

Having decided on the appropriate equipment, we turned to other requirements. There are many standards dictating how the equipment must be located and mounted. For example, the temperature sensor has to be a certain distance from the ground, the wind anemometer has to be a different distance from the ground and it all has to be located far enough away from other obstacles. And there are further considerations. Ideally the anemometer should be ten meters from the ground when used for aviation purposes. But for local weather stations in farming communities, three meters is acceptable and gives a better reading of weather near the ground while being less of a target for lightning.

Our weather station is mounted on a wooden 4x4 post, approximately three meters off the ground in

the middle of a field near Gibson Hill Road. You can view this weather station on the Wunderground site:

[www.wunderground.com/](http://www.wunderground.com/)



*A fine example of a weather rock*

[personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KNYFRANK4](http://personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KNYFRANK4)

While the station itself is primarily solar powered (with a battery backup), maintenance is always an issue. For example, we have to deal with bird droppings frequently gumming up the works! Recently its fan has been acting up, so a new one has been ordered. And one of these days we should probably send it in for an extensive (and expensive) recalibration.

Most people just want the weather and don't need the boring details. Simply going to [Wunderground.com](http://Wunderground.com) and searching for Franklin, NY or just entering Franklin's 13775 ZIP code will bring up the cur-

rent conditions and adjusted forecast. (The forecast is issued by the National Weather Service, not by our weather station, but it is adjusted by Wunderground for the Franklin area.) The option to incorporate "Personal Weather Stations" instead of only National Weather Service stations should already be selected: [www.wunderground.com/weather-forecast/zmw:13775.1.99999](http://www.wunderground.com/weather-forecast/zmw:13775.1.99999)

[Weather.com](http://Weather.com) has recently acquired Wunderground and they have also begun to incorporate information from local weather stations.

Since we installed this station over five years ago, the availability and pricing for entry level weather stations has dropped significantly and other weather stations have begun to appear in the area. Personal weather stations can range from about fifty dollars to thousands, depending upon the features and accuracy preferred.

We hope others will consider joining the fun too!

**ELECTIONS, continued from Page 3**

primary will be Thursday, September 10, noon to 9 p.m. Dwight Bruno, Donald Hebbard, and Don Smith will be contending for the two Council seats in the Republican primary.

To register to vote in the general election, the last day in person or by mail is October 9. This is also the last day to change your address to the Town of Franklin

General election is Tuesday November 3, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. For all three voting districts in Franklin, the polling place is the town garages at the intersection of State Highway 357 and County Highway 21.

**LOCAL LAW 1-2015**

By Brian Brock

This is an auspicious year: Franklin has a new law. In most years, our Town Board has not voted-in a single law. During the fifty years since the towns were so empowered, Franklin has enacted only twenty-six or so laws. Most of those originated at the Federal or State level, dealing with such topics as flood control or building codes. Only a handful originated with the Board.

Our new law is one of those. At the second December meeting, a town resident requested a law to ban drilling and fracking waste from Franklin wastewater treatment facilities, solid waste management facilities (aka dumps), and road surfaces. Last year, the Town of Andes passed such a law based on a model from Catskill Mountainkeeper. At the April meeting, a retyped copy of this was proposed – including the typos. Before the Board's May meeting, remarks from residents were heard without comment. At the June meeting, this local law was passed unanimously, again without comments from the Board.

Town Clerk Connie Young forwarded the final version of the draft law to the town lawyer, Tom Ermeti. Then this draft and paperwork was sent by the Clerk to the New York State Secretary of State. Once the text is recorded, it will become Franklin Town Law 1-2015. This law is available at the Town Hall, 554 Main Street.

**Why did they bother...?**

Given that the Board passes their own law maybe once or twice a decade, what is the necessity for this one? Commissioner Martens of the Department of Environmental Conservation has banned high volume hydraulic fracking in New York for the foreseeable future. Therefore any such waste would have to come from Pennsylvania. Waste from conventional extraction is produced only in western New York. Because hauling adds greatly to the cost of disposal, these wastes are dumped close by.

Franklin has no wastewater treatment facility. In the distant future, should the state require one to be built, it would likely be the responsibility of the Village and not the Town. What is more, US EPA plans to ban fracking waste from municipal wastewater treatment

facilities.

Franklin has no solid waste management facilities. The town dump has been closed since 1990. Franklin Local Law 3-1987 already bans the "operation of a dump and dumping" in the town. The only active facility in all of Delaware County is in Hamden, and the state is unlikely to permit additional ones.

NYS DEC has banned the spreading of frack waste on roads. It does allow the spreading of produced water, which comes up with the oil and gas. Any road spreading of this requires approval of the town. Currently the Franklin Highway Department uses calcium chloride to control dust on local dirt roads. This works better than produced water, which contains sodium chloride, i.e. salt. In winter, the town spreads a sand/salt mixture.

**And your point is...?**

This local law bans waste that no one is interested in dumping at facilities that Franklin does not have. In 1970, the Town passed a law requiring a permit for a gath-

ering of more than five thousand people. During the intervening forty-five years, no permit has ever been applied for. Both laws seek to regulate problems unlikely to happen.

In contrast, imminent problems for Franklin go unaddressed. In the over three years since the Constitution pipeline was proposed across nine point four miles of Franklin

fields and forests, the Town Board has yet to propose a local law to require companies to pay for major road damages. Construction of the Constitution could begin in a month or two. In over a year since the NED 30,000 hp compressor station was proposed, the Town Board has yet to propose a local law to limit industrial noise or laws specific to industrial zoning.

**This local law bans waste that no one is interested in dumping at facilities that Franklin does not have.**

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# FOCUS ON ENERGY

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT CAN CHANGE OUR WORLD

By Donald Hebbard

We are all aware of examples where public involvement has changed the course of events: schools, businesses, corporations, and governments have changed their policies. These changes were due to concerned citizen involvement - people standing firm for their rights, willing to speak up to those entities that were trampling on those rights, willing to testify in front of governmental panels, willing to write, call, email their elected officials to seek relief from specific offenses. Restrictions on smoking in public areas or seatbelt laws are past examples of these actions.

A more recent example is the natural gas industry in Pennsylvania. Originally the construction of small compressor stations was fast and low cost. These tended to be reciprocating-engine compressors, operating to move fracked gas to larger compressor stations on transport pipelines. The equipment was installed and operated out in the open. Improved muffler systems and catalytic converters on the exhausts were the main investment the gas companies made to reduce the noise for neighboring residents.

As numbers and horsepower size of compressors grew, more homes were affected by these compressor stations, more residents were exposed to the continuous noise, and finally, residents demanded some relief. Improvements only came as the result of public pressure on governments to enact laws. Ultimately the gas companies were forced to make design changes for

new installations and make an investment in noise abatement. They used more expensive turbine-type power systems for the compressors, located the equipment inside buildings, and installed noise-dampening insulation. They even designed those buildings to resemble farm buildings to blend into the rural landscape.

***How can it be publically acceptable to allow anyone to release noxious chemicals and routinely release large quantities of methane into the atmosphere?***

Now compressor stations are more compliant to the FERC required 55 dB noise levels at neighboring homes. When I visited the compressor stations at Windsor and Wright, NY last fall, sitting in the compressor parking areas with our car engine shut off and the windows down minimal noise was heard. My conclusion? Gas companies can meet noise level dB requirements if they make the proper investments in noise abatement during the construction phase.

I applaud the Town Board members who have invested the time and expense to travel to the various compressor stations. Gaining first-hand knowledge is always beneficial. However, I feel that continuing to take trips to similar compressors after finding the noise is minimal at the first two, comes off as grandstanding. The gas companies were forced to spend the money to reduce noise. Public involvement worked! I have not felt the need to visit other com-

pressors to check the noise level after experiencing the minimal noise at Wright and Windsor, New York.

But let's move on to other compressor station concerns, specifically, exhaust emissions and releases of methane into the atmosphere. I will not list all the health risks reported from the particulate, VOCs [volatile organic compounds], formaldehyde, toluene, benzene, and other noxious chemicals that have been identified and verified by air quality monitoring in compressor station emissions. You should have heard it all by now. If Board members and residents continue to visit compressor stations, I would recommend the focus be shifted to exhaust emissions and blow-down events. Emissions can be observed using infra-red cameras. Blow-down events will be obvious by the very loud noise and low-lying haze resulting.

How can it be publically acceptable to allow anyone to release noxious chemicals and routinely release large quantities of methane into the atmosphere? Such

activities are equivalent to companies in the past routinely dumping toxins into rivers. Public outrage and health concerns with such actions resulted in requirements against and penalties for polluting rivers.

So we must use public involvement to force the gas companies to clean up their emissions, and collect the methane from blow-downs for resale, rather than just releasing it to the atmosphere. Have you seen signs near cities stating that trucks and buses must not be left idling for more than five minutes? How can it be acceptable to live near turbine engines running twenty-four hours a day?

We must use *public involvement* to require continuous air quality monitoring when a compressor station is built. We must use public involvement to require air quality monitoring to establish the air quality baseline *before it is built*. We must use public involvement to require collection of the methane that is released during "routine blow-down" events.

Large corporations focus on their bottom line profits, thus satisfying a high return to shareholders. They will not willingly



increase their costs of operation. Public involvement can make a difference.

You can make a difference.

Support Compressor Free Franklin with your time, your talents, and your dollars. Together we can prevent the energy infrastructure build-out planned for Franklin, better known as the Constitution Pipeline and the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline and its proposed compressor station above the village.



Signs courtesy of Jane Couch

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# PIPES AND POWER

Compiled by Brian Brock

**March 13: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC (TGP)** files draft Resource Reports and maps with FERC.

**March 27: Constitution Pipeline Company, LLC (CPC)** delays filing of its Implementation Plan for Constitution pipeline until late April.

**April 15: TGP** holds 'open houses' for Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline project in the Village of Sidney for towns of Masonville, Sidney, and Franklin, and the day before in the hamlet of Davenport for towns of Davenport and Harpersfield.

**April 21: US Court of Appeals for 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit** denies a writ of mandamus filed by Stop the Pipeline (STP) thereby allowing FERC to indefinitely delay ruling on a request for rehearing of the conditional certification of Constitution pipeline.

**April 23: Delaware County Board of Supervisors** asks to be kept informed by FERC concerning NED and makes a long list of requests from TGP.

**April 29: CPC** withdraws application to NYSDEC for a Section 401 Water Quality Certificate as deadline looms. CPC resubmits application, resetting deadline to April 2016.

**May 10: TGP** completes new aerial photography, both visual and infrared, and LIDAR for one mile wide strip centered on NED route. LIDAR (light/radar) uses a scanning laser to make high-resolution relief maps.

**May 14: TGP** delays filing of revised Resource Reports and maps for NED pipeline until July.

**May 19: CPC** files Implementation Plan (IP) for Constitution pipeline to begin June 1st with summer construction of short segments, fall construction of the remaining two third of pipeline, spring (2016) testing, and summer restoration.

**May 20: NYS Public Service Commission** delays various deadlines for powerline projects approximately one month. For example, deadline for responses to PSC rescheduled from 30<sup>th</sup> July to September 4<sup>th</sup>.

**May 27: CPC** awards \$200,000 to 25 organizations in its sixth round of community grants, with \$53,000 to Delaware County groups including \$12,800 to the Franklin fire department for Air Packs. Total awards of \$1.8 million: 1<sup>st</sup> round was \$0.30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$0.40, 3<sup>rd</sup> 0.35, 4<sup>th</sup> \$0.29, 5<sup>th</sup> \$0.30, and 6<sup>th</sup> \$0.20.

**May 29: PACE Environmental Litigation Clinic Inc.** files with FERC a request that the hybrid route proposed by NYSDEC for NED also be considered for Constitution.

**June 1: TGP** files locations of nine compressor stations for NED pipeline including the mid-stream Supply Path station in Franklin east of Otego Road. Supplemental information was filed June 3rd.

**June 2: CPC** expects to receive outstanding permits for Constitution pipeline by end of July including those from SRBC, PADEP, NYSDEC, USACE, and NYS OPRHP-SHPO. Revised IP will be filed with request for the final Notice to Proceed.

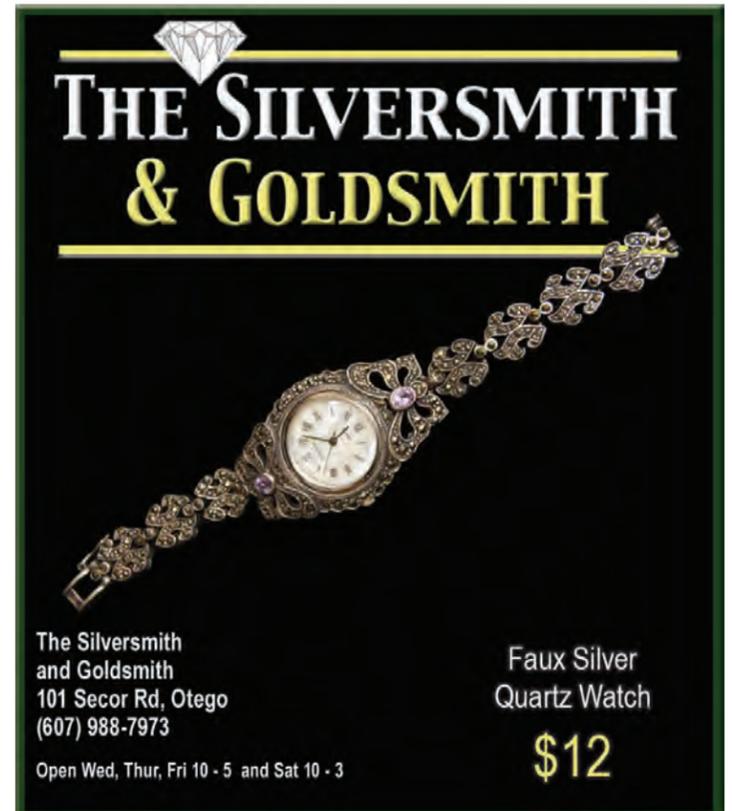
**June 2: Delta Engineers, Architects, and Surveyors PC** of Endwell present their Road Protection Program to the Franklin Town Board.

**June 26: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)** spokesman Tom Mailey said the section 401 water quality certification for Constitution pipeline remain under review, with no timeline for action.

**June 30: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** announces intention to prepare EIS for NED pipeline and will hold 13 scoping hearings including at the Foothills Performing Arts Center, Oneonta on Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**July 6: NYSPSC Trial Staff** recommended that the Edic to Fraser powerline (Marcy South II) "should be eliminated from consideration" based on high environmental impact.

**July 7: TGP** states in its weekly update that it expects the NYSDEC State Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity in August. In a later filing, it stated that US AEC's Clean Water Act permit is likewise expected in August.



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## And continuing the data stream: CONSTITUTION CONSTRUCTION

By Brian Brock

Instead of a good start and steady progress, repeated delays have forced Constitution Pipeline Company LLC (CPC) to improvise as shown by the Implementation Plan that they belatedly filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in May.

CPC missed its window to clear trees from the pipeline route in late winter. For the protection of rare migratory birds, the US Fish and Wildlife Service limits clearing during nesting season from April 1 to August 31. Also northern long-eared bats must be protected April 1 to September 30. A critical bat habitat is up above Stuart Road. As a result, any work in summer must "avoid and minimize tree clearing."

Some construction needs to take place during the summer months because NYS Department of Conservation requires most work in streams be done from June 1 to September 30.

The CPC Implementation Plan proposes constructing thirty-three segments between June 1 and September 30. Most are short, less than half a mile, but the longest is eleven and a half miles. These Summer Construction Segments total nearly forty one and a half miles, or one third of the route. Any necessary access roads would be constructed as well.

This "minimal" clearing would amount to two hundred and sixty four acres of forest, both upland and wetland. This is eighteen percent of the total Right of Way (ROW) and twenty-five percent of the forested ROW. In Franklin, a total of thirty-three acres of forest would be cleared.

Three of these segments are in Franklin:

Number 8 west of Bissell Road (0.46 mi.), Number 9 between Chamberlin Hill and Route 28 (3.20 mi.), and Number 10 west of Grange Hill Road (0.33 mi.). Permanent Access Road 44 (0.62 mi.) off of Route 357 by the Sittco Holstein farm would be built to supply the Chamberlin/28 segment.

Most of the pipeline in Franklin would be built by Spread (crew) 3 operating out of Yard 3A off Union Church Road, between State Highway 357 and County Highway 44. East of State Highway 28, the pipeline will be the responsibility of Spread 4 operating out of Yard 4D off State Highway 23 east of Davenport Center.

All town roads from the Ouleout Valley up to the ROW will be used to supply the construction: Bissell, Otego, Chamberlin Hill, Rich, Grange Hill, Gay Brook, and Swart Hollow. And all these roads will be used by overweight trucks. CPC estimates that a hundred or so vehicles would use these roads, repeatedly. Pipe alone would require at least a hundred eighty-four truckloads. Another twenty-three loads would go up State Highway 28.

The plan assumes summer work starts June 1, which it did not. CPC expects to receive all permits in August. Then CPC would have to request the final Notice to Proceed from FERC, at which time they would file a revised Implementation Plan. Construction could commence in late August – yet another two month delay.

Under their current plan, after taking four months to build the first third, laying of the rest of the pipeline is planned for between October 1 and the end of the work season, which may continue into winter. This includes the remaining five and a half miles in Franklin.

Besides the pipeline itself, three permanent access roads would be built: PAR-41 off Van Tassel Road (0.13 mi.), PAR-43 off Chamberlin Hill Road (0.47 mi.), and PAR-46 off Rod & Gun Club Road (0.77 mi.).

Work would resume March 1 of next year in preparation for pressure testing of the pipeline segments beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>. Spring, with the high stream flow, is the preferred season to withdraw water from Ouleout Creek. A maximum of six million gallons of water could be needed to fill three test segments: Number 5 from Corbin Road, Afton to County Highway 357, Sidney (Ouleout Creek), Number 6 between, and Number 7 from State Highway 28, Franklin to County Highway 10, Davenport. Each pipeline segment would be filled with water under pressure and held for several hours to see if the pressure drops, indicating leaks. After one test, some water may be transferred to the next test segment. The rest would not be returned to the creek but instead spilled on the upland slopes.

Main Line (Cutoff) Valves would be installed after hydrotesting, including MLV-6 off Van Tassel Road on the Smith property. The hundred foot communication tower for this remotely-controlled valve would be built along side. Also to be installed are cathode protective systems including R7 off PAR-44.

Final restoration of the surface would begin after August 31, 2016. Most likely, our roads will require serious repairs. As of this writing, neither local law nor an agreement requires CPC to foot the bills for this road work.

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**SIGN WARS**

*...or battles in the struggle for free expression*

**Staff Report**

No doubt you have seen the orange lawn signs about town, the ones with white lettering that say "**FRANKLIN SAYS NO TO COMPRESSOR STATION.**"

There must be over a hundred on people's front lawns and public spaces. There would be more, but some have been stolen or defaced.

Then on Sunday, May 24, Compressor Free Franklin (CFF) put up posters on utility poles in the Village: "**NO COMPRESSOR NO PIPELINE.**" You may not have seen them either, because someone tore them all down before the parade on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

One opinion claimed that these signs dishonored the veterans, despite the signs themselves making no mentions of vets. Yet the honored guest who spoke at the Ouleout Cemetery that day - veteran Paul Higgs, USAF pilot, retired - urged that the sacrifice of vets be memorialized by exercising your constitutional rights, participating in the community, and speaking out.

The person who vandalized the signs has yet to come forward, nor has anyone been willing to write in defense of the act. Hardly the actions of one who believes in the righteousness of their cause.

A few weeks later over Independence Day weekend, different posters were placed upon utility poles in Franklin Village and Treadwell. These said, "**KEEP FRANKLIN COMPRESSOR FREE.**"

They were also torn down -- this time without

even the fig leaf of using veterans as excuse for the vandalism.

But the mystery deepens. Now there is the matter of the display case that CFF installed on Main Street. In early morning of Thursday July 16, a cryptic sign was stapled to the woodwork of the cabinet: "**CLEAN This Hazard First. BeFore Someone Gets HURT !!!**"

The Delaware County Sheriff was notified, if only because of the ambiguity of the message: was it a threat that the cabinet should be removed, or else someone would be attacked?

This was somewhat clarified by Sunday July 19 when two different signs were stapled to the cabinet: "**Clean Your Yard First**" and "**Clean up Our Village - Take Down A Sign.**" Apparently the person who left this post is unhappy with some of the CFF signs, although whether it is the lawn signs or the pole signs is not clear.

Additionally three copies of the same sign were stapled to the railing behind the cabinet: "**Clean up This Hazard First.**"

At least this made clear that the poster was unhappy with the condition of the buildings next to the Post Office. Who could disagree? But of course, CFF has nothing whatsoever to do with those buildings, which are owned by Gary Cassinelli.

The irony of plastering the front of a building with signs complaining about signs being posted was clearly lost on the perpetrator, The person responsible for removing posters has been identified, and discussions with this village resident are ongoing.

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**COMPRESSOR, continued from Page 1**

facility, they have taken an option to purchase a hundred seventeen acres from the Haney's. This land is mostly north of (uphill of) the proposed route of the pipeline and east of Otego Road. It is two miles above the Village of Franklin and one mile above Village of Otego.

The compressor building would occupy a ten acre site close to the pipeline, which is near the southern boundary of this property. Access to the site would be from the existing road to the unfinished tower at the northern boundary. Plot plans are expected with the revised Resource Reports in July.

In the building, a C85 compressor would be powered by a single 30,000 hp gas turbine, similar to a jet engine. This model Titan 250 is the largest made by Solar Turbines Inc. Every minute it will push a half million standard cubic feet of natural gas through a pipe thirty inches in diameter.

The turbine would operate continuously except for testing, maintenance and accidents/repairs of the turbine, compressor, or pipeline. Any stoppage would require venting of the gas which is at 1,490 psi -- similar to a rocket exhaust.

A Titan 250 gas turbine exhausts 540,000 lbs/hr or 13 million lbs/day or 4.7 billion lbs/yr. Any toxin, even in minute concentrations, adds-up quickly. And then there are the contributions from gas leaks, accidents, and blowdowns.

It is common for turbines to be added to compressor stations after a number of years. All those acres provide plenty of room for lots more infrastructure.

The homes of twenty two residents of Franklin and Otego are located within the half mile zone around the property where FERC

is concerned about noise levels.

In an interview with the Daily Star, Supervisor Jeffery Taggart justified support of the compressor station by the positive financial benefits. At the June meeting of the Town Board, Taggart estimated that the compressor station would yield a twenty million dollar increase in taxable property value in Franklin. At a tax rate of \$1.0 per thousand, that could yield \$200,000 to the town.

Subtracting from this would be the loss of value of properties neighboring the site. Unlike with the pipeline ROW, industry does not even claim that compressor stations will not pull down values of neighboring properties. Also subtracted would be any relief negotiated in a PILOT by the IDA. Already the property that CPC bought in Franklin has been transferred to Delaware County and taken off the tax rolls.

Whatever the increase, it may be short lived. Utilities are notorious for pressuring a town to reduce their assessments and thereby their tax payments.

Franklin has been through all this before. As the Edic to Fraser power line (Marcy South) is owned by a Power Authority of the State of New York, no taxes are paid to the town on this infrastructure.

The positions of the four other Board members are unknown because, at least in public meetings, they all have withheld comment on this topic in the year since plans for a compressor station were announced.

The Town Board has done nothing to discourage TGP from siting

the facilities here, or even to mitigate the harm. Repeated requests by town residents to enact noise and zoning restrictions have been rejected. In May, a year after such a resolution was proposed, the Board did pass one opposing the building of the compressor station until certain unspecified questions were answered. This resolution was for local consumption, the Town Clerk

**“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”**

**- George Santayana, Reason in Common Sense**

having never been instructed to communicate it to TGP.

Their refusal to act seems con-

trary to New York State Town Law § 272-a, which states that all land use regulations must be consistent with a town's Comprehensive Plan. The top three goals of our Plan are to preserve the rural character, to preserve prime farm land, and to protect natural and historic resources. This is the consensus of the townspeople. When the Plan was written in 2006, two of our current Board members served on the steering committee, Supervisor Taggart and Councilman Smith.

What is it like to live with a compressor station night and day, three hundred sixty-five days a year? Standing outside for a few minutes after a long and noisy drive is hardly a fair measure.

The Town of Schoharie is now neighbor to the Wright compressor station for Iroquois and is slated for two more compressor station for NED. (Just as with pipelines, once one compressor is built, the location is the easiest place for expansion.) Supervisor Milone says “It would not benefit our people,” and vows to resist it. The town has had a moratorium on construction of compressor stations. A new lo-

cal law bans such stations.

Neighboring the mid-stream compressor station on Hungry Hill Road in the Town of Hancock, there were only four full-time residences within the half mile FERC zone. Of the closest three, one has been bought by Delaware County IDA and abandoned, a second has been bought by Millennium, and the third was under negotiation.

In August of last year, neighboring homeowners appealed a denial of the reduction of their assessed valuations due to heavy truck traffic, persistent low-level vibrations, noxious odors, and air contamination. The three town assessors granted two properties a twenty-five percent reduction and granted one with the addition of property damage from blasting during construction a fifty percent reduction. Said Hearing Officer John Creech, “I wouldn't want to live next to it.”

The Malichs have a second home near in Minisink where a mid-stream compressor was built on the Millennium pipeline. Two years ago, their teenage son developed late-onset asthma, with symptoms erupting during visits to their cabin, particularly when there were “odor events.” Neighbors have reported developing nosebleeds, rashes, sore throats, shortness of breath, and dizziness.

The current Town Board of Franklin has been in office since before the plans for this facility were announced in April of 2014. Inaction is consent. If built, the mid-stream compressor station of the NED supply path will be this Board's legacy to the Town of Franklin for a generation, for good or for ill.

**SILENCE IS CONSENT**



*In July of 2004, a gas pipeline explosion in Belgium took fifteen lives and injured one hundred twenty, among them policemen and firemen.*

*According to the BBC's Allan Little, “Debris from the initial explosion was found up to four miles away.”*

**Is this our vision for Franklin's future?**



**LISTENING, continued from Page 3**

I turned back to the first step: observing. One of the first principles of permaculture, a web of systems that can be regenerative in one's life, home, and land, is to observe. Surprisingly, passing through all four seasons has revealed little, as work allows only fleeting moments onsite.

So I use these moments to deconstruct. The controversy between keeping and restoring a compromised structure versus demolishing and rebuilding with more efficient materials has always been fascinating to me. The line defining what seems right keeps moving, the more one weighs each option. The charm of this old house and the role it has played in village life and aesthetics for over a hundred and fifty years encourage me to keep the structure held together by cables. But wanting to a home

that can withstand at least another hundred fifty years of changeable weather and new technologies is just as strong as my emotional attachment to the old.

The decision to do the deconstruction myself allows me more time to observe and discover. Each layer of renovation has a story. The two front spaces most recently were decorated as children's rooms: a little boy in the southwest room with a ceiling that mimics a night sky, and a baby girl in the northeast room with an odd combination of pink walls and Sponge-Bob SquarePants glue-on stencils. Years earlier, there was a kitchen upstairs as well as downstairs. The house had become a two-family home. My neighbor Dave Tuthill, who grew up in Treadwell and now lives retired in his childhood home, reminisces his days of cutting grass

for the elderly ladies who lived here: Helen Barlow downstairs and upstairs, Abby Prime. The pay was a quarter and a plate of cookies with a glass of milk.

Hence the slow process. I get lost in the history and struggle with the internal battle of wanting an efficient house in a very inefficient, endearing mold. Like moving through sweet molasses, I take down pieced-together trim, worn-out vinyl flooring, and sheetrock from the interior walls. The more pieces I remove, the more affection I develop for the house, as if the house has started speaking. Lines of old walls show up on the floor, old doorframes appear, and more mysteries arise.

*To be continued...*

music  
literature  
education

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

fine arts  
poetry  
holiday fun

## AT THE LIBRARY

JIM MULLEN REVIEWS  
NEW BOOKS

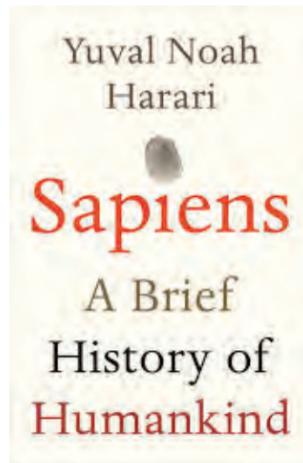


### SAPIENS: A Brief History of Humankind

By Yuval Noah Harari

This is an odd book about the oddest subject in the world: us. *Homo Sapiens*, alone in the animal kingdom, can consistently choose to behave non-instinctively. We can choose to be celibate. We can choose not to eat when we are hungry. We can choose to learn to play the piano, even though it's hard and unnatural. This book is a mixture of fact and hypothesis of how we became the way we are. *Homo sapiens* have been around for 150,000 years, but it's only in the last 15,000 that we have come to dominate the planet. For most of those tens of thousands of years, we were not close to being at the top of the food chain. We were much smaller - try to stand up below decks on the U.S.S. Constitution. You'll crack your head three ways to Sunday - and few large animals feared us.

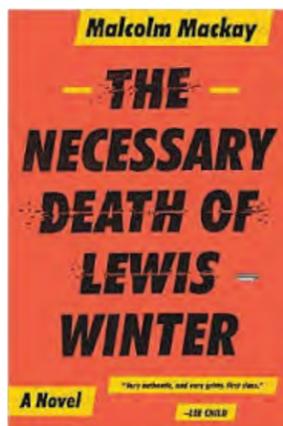
It's only in the last hundred or so years of that long, long history that we've had indoor toilets and hot and cold running water. What will we become in the next hundred years? Will our children's children's children be a new and different species? Already having all our wisdom teeth removed is not uncommon. Are our jaws getting smaller because we eat less and less uncooked food? Is childhood obesity an epidemic or is our DNA changing to adapt to a TV watching, Facebook life? Who heard of peanut allergies when we were children? Did you know anyone with asthma? Are we the new Neanderthals? Will our grandchildren be *Homo Kardashians*?



### THE NECESSARY DEATH OF LEWIS WINTER

By Malcolm Mackay

This is a modern "Crime and Punishment" set in underworld Glasgow. Well, actually, it's just Crime, there is no Punishment. That's what makes it modern. It's inside-out noir fiction. Instead of a hard-crime, our hero is Calum Ma- who is figuring out how to com- about killing the Mr. Winter of ger, it is that Winter's neigh- call the police before Calum in the act whatsoever. Calum or take drugs. He is smart and good at his job. Though dealers, bent cops, enforcers, and other hitmen, he sees -- not morally, but as a crafts- thing that is a blend of skill and don't really understand. This is an unusual book for this genre and very smoothly done. The first of a planned trilogy, this could end up being a very entertaining crime wave.



Crime

boiled detective figuring out a cLean, a professional hit man mit a crime. His main concern the title is not pulling the trig- bors might hear the shot and can leave. There is no guilt doesn't drink, smoke, gamble cautious. He is proud of being he travels in a world of drug pimps, prostitutes, mobsters himself as different from them man who is building some- art, something mere criminals

### SEVENEVES

By Neal Stephenson

Neal Stephenson probably wrote half a book while I was writing these reviews. And much of the time it works for him. *Cryptonomicon* was brilliant and prescient, featuring Alan Turing in 1999, long before *The Imitation Game* movie made him a hero. REAMDE [stet], was rollicking and prescient, featuring a plot based on computer generated money in 2011, years before Bitcoins became common. *Seveneves*, however, is a four hundred page book crammed into eight hundred and eighty pages. Things that should be footnotes are chapters. Things that could be explained in a paragraph go on for pages. Reading it is like falling asleep on a bus, every few minutes there's a jolt that wakes you up but you'll doze off again. But the four hundred pages are worthwhile. If you do manage to muscle your way through this you'll never look at a spaceship in a movie or TV show the same way again. Living space in space is precious, like a Manhattan apartment times a gazillion. The next time you see Captain Kirk running down a huge empty hallway on the Enterprise, or a hanger deck full of empty space on a Star Wars ship you will laugh. Any empty seat, any empty space, would be full of food, fuel or other supplies.

A better book on a similar subject, long-term living in space, is *The Martian*. Unknown author Andy Weir self-published chapters of the book and scored one of those lottery like successes. *The Martian* starring Matt Damon will come to a theater near you this summer.



Science Fiction

## WALNUTS

A Prose Poem

By Bertha Rogers

Just came in from planting twenty-five black walnut whips on my Catskill mountain - I'm doing it in increments because it's too much to plant all one hundred at once. Swinging the mattock in the sun, the mid-May wind breathing over the rise, I know I'm doing big work--some- day, where this glacial meadow waved, a walnut grove will burgeon, its trees wide and tall. Someday, a few generations from now, a woman will ramble among these trees, swinging a galvanized bucket, a receptacle for the wrinkled black nut casings she gathers from October's fallen leaves; she will toss them into the bucket and they will clatter and bang, like hail or thunder, like prodigious rain on roofs.

When I designed *King Lear* in Berkeley in the Seventies, the sound man and I fabricated a thunder machine; we punched random holes in a three-by-four metal sheet, then hung the metal from the light booth ceiling. Gripping the bottom and flexing the sheet, we created the illusion of a rumbling sky, an assault against the old man and his cohorts.

Walnuts in their tough husks, shaken in a sap pan, would have done. These black walnuts, when they are grown, will manufacture juglone, a chemical so toxic that it restricts the growth of other plants; a remembered defense against competition in the wild. It is for this reason that I plant the trees far from my flower and vegetable garden. The scientists at the DEC recommend planting walnut trees in rows, alternating with cardinal autumn olives. The olive trees, growing quickly, keep grasses down while allowing the immature walnuts to thrive. In a few years the olives are sacrificed to the walnuts' superior stamina and poisonous emissions. I like autumn olives, so my walnuts will slowly make it on their own.

Black walnuts (in primordial times growing to one-hundred fifty feet) are an upper-story, "climax" species in their original state. Long-lived and deeply-rooted, they are also drought-resistant. Leonardo ground the hulls for pigment but, although just the touch of them stains hands and clothing, the hue didn't endure in his works. The wood is valued for fine furniture and pianos; its grain is close, its color a rich and congenial purplish brown that takes a French polish well. In fifty years, someone, cutting my trees for lumber, could become wealthy.

Just north of the woodshed, on the Iowa farm where I was raised, there was a huge black walnut tree. Playing "King on the Mountain," a knoll of corncocks, we aimed the pod-heavy harvest at each other in the fall. We cracked the shells in winter, to make fudge and penuche. One year, at the edge of the lawn, a walnut volunteered to grow. The squirrel must have forgotten it, Dad said, and let it be.

What I love best about the black walnut is its bottom- less, elusive taste—a brief bite of earth. I love sleep and sex, too, for advancing me toward my last passing.



The walnut grove at Bright Hill Farm in Treadwell, in July  
Photo by the author

Readers, please welcome the NFR's newest columnist, **Jason Starr**, who will be writing for us about local music issues and events.

## MUSIC HERE AT HOME

By Jason Starr

*"One good thing about music/ When it hits you, you feel no pain."*

- Bob Marley



Bob Marley said it—sang it, I should say—and it seems to be as true a statement as you're likely to find. I have found refuge in music for as long as I can remember. Earlier in my life, that refuge was found primarily as a listener. And a singer. I have never been shy about singing. But I didn't begin learning to play an instrument until I turned twenty-one, working my first post-college job in Richmond, VA. I had been wanting to get a guitar for about a year before that, but my Dad was right when he told me I wouldn't have time for it then.

The fateful day came shortly after my twenty-first birthday, October I think it was. My friend Nate, another twenty-something who had been playing guitar for a couple years, took me to a local music store with the great advice to not spend a lot of money on my first guitar. Learn to play on something you can beat up a bit, then upgrade when you've learned how to take care of your instrument. He also advised me to learn on acoustic guitar first, then move to electric if I wanted to. I have an electric now, but probably ninety-eight percent of my guitar-playing life has been with an acoustic guitar.

I also took his advice to try a few guitars and see/hear/feel which guitar was the one for me. The one that glommed on to me was a small body Yamaha. FG-110 is the model number leaping into my head, and it looks right on the computer screen as I write, but I cannot unquestionably vouch for that piece of memory.

My memory also fails me in remembering details of that first selection process, but burned crystal clear into my memory palace is the moment I got home, sat down by myself in my efficiency apartment with my new guitar, clutched it to my torso, and plucked the low E string.

I heard the sound of course, but I was completely surprised by how I felt

the sound. I felt the vibration of the string resonate through my body as it resonated through the guitar body. This was amazing to me. I had gotten hit by music, and I sure as heck felt no pain. So I plucked again. And then I strummed. And thus it has been ever since, though now my plucking has evolved into "picking" and I am able to strum fewer than all six strings at a time if I want to.

Nate was my first guitar teacher, and he gave me a lot of good advice. Including the bit about how we ultimately have to teach ourselves how to make our instruments make music. Other people can show us things, but if you really want to learn to play something, your fingers have to figure it out.

My life since that first pluck has been directly influenced by learning to play the guitar. By becoming a musician. I didn't call or consider myself "a musician" right away. I knew I had a long way to go before I could do that. But after a few years, when some fluency with the guitar had been achieved and a bunch of songs had been written, I began to identify as a musician. That's not all of who I am of course, but I do love to play, so now I tell people that I'm a full-time semi-pro musician.

Music is what led me to be living in Franklin now. My band at the time got a gig in Delhi. My wife (who I first met at a gig) and I had begun house-hunting for a place outside of NYC to raise our daughter. I thought this was farther from the city than what we wanted, but looking for a place around here would make for a productive, scenic weekend. Long story short, after another year of searching closer to NYC, we came back to this area, and found THE HOUSE.

I have found musical playmates around here, but I haven't met all the musicians that live right here in Franklin. I've heard some



## UpState Arts

By Jane Carr

### THE STAGECOACH RUN ART CONTEST

The Franklin Railroad & Community Museum, a new venue this year for Stagecoach Run Art Festival's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, featured photography, sculpture, and paintings. Of special interest is a showing of the Franklin Central School Student Art Contest, under the guidance of art teacher, Kristin Lavigne and sponsored by the Stagecoach Committee. The exhibit



Painting by Jessi McNeilly

opened at the school in conjunction with the School Concert, and was moved to the Museum afterward. Prizes to winning students were awarded on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

The theme of the contest was "Community." All eleven entries were about Franklin. The first prize went to Jessi McNeilly, second prize to Miranda Little, and third prize to Jennifer Meo. Each received a gift certificate from Artware in Oneonta.

The Judges were Patricia Coyle of Franklin, Jane Carr of Treadwell, and Stefanie Rocknak of Oneonta.

Stagecoach wants to thank all the participants for their terrific drawings and paintings: Cassidy Gardner, Jessica Downin, Alexandra Smoot, Jessie Davis, Sheldon Robinson, Corynne Nordberg, Jillian Parascandola, Theresa Peterson, Jessie McNeilly, Miranda Little, and Jennifer Meo.

In addition to the Student Contest, five photographers were featured at the museum, along with wood sculptor Steff Rocknak, whose Edgar Allen Poe bronze was recently unveiled in Boston.

Brian Fox's non-digital photos of local scenes were available in framed and greeting card format.

Deb Zeigler's current works are imag-



Painting by Miranda Little

es from the "Beneath the Surface" series. They represent her first attempt at capturing natural occurrences on man-made objects. These beautiful patterns, textures, and colors are the result of erosion, or of the sun and water on the hulls of boats.

Jack Schlupe focuses on local landscapes and patterns in nature. Jason Sexton runs the gamut of subject matter from people to landscape. Whether his photos are color or black and white, he captures the light that defines the topic he films.

Steve Monosson's city and local landscapes have been given unusual, sometimes abstract, twists that amuse and confound.

The museum houses the NY Ontario & Western Car #30 – the Warwick. This private business car was built in 1889 and was rebuilt in 1926 from the original 66'6" to 72 feet in length.

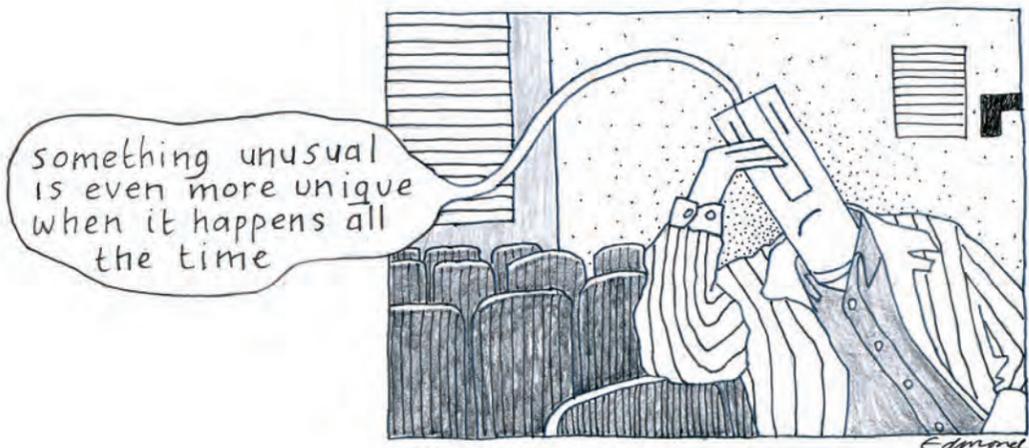
The Ouleout Valley Historical Society also exhibits in the railroad museum. There are many displays of Indian arti-



Painting by Jennifer Meo

facts, antiques and other Town of Franklin memorabilia. The museum is on three levels and there is an elevator always open for use. If you have not been there, be sure to stop in when you are in Franklin.

Thank you to Patricia Coyle who organized the Student Show, and to John Campbell who made this new venue possible for Stagecoach Run's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



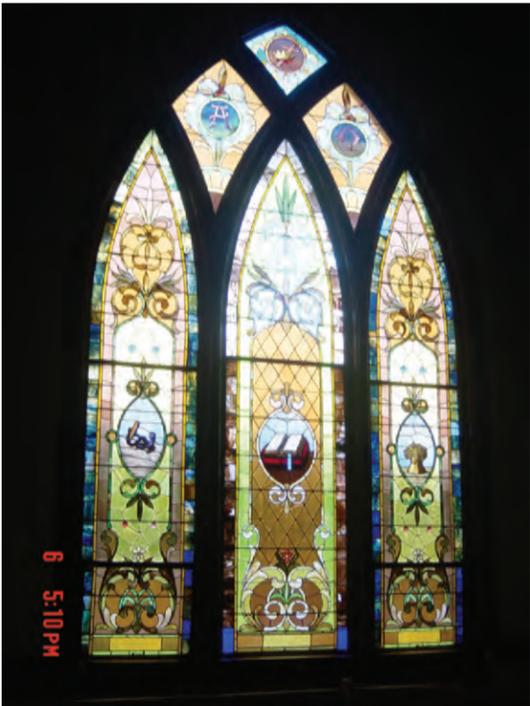
See MUSIC, continued on Page 15

# WEST KORTRIGHT CENTRE : FORTY YEARS YOUNG

Along our maple-lined country roads dotted with dairy farms, road signs will guide you to The West Kortright Centre, situated in the green pasturelands between Oneonta, Stamford, and Delhi.

For a century and a half, residents have come together in this building in the heart of a beautiful, historic valley. The Scots-

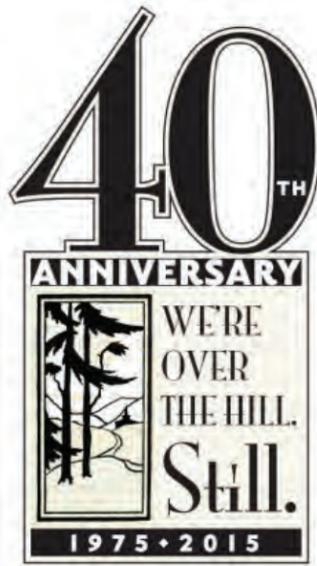
1850, served them for a hundred and twenty one years. In 1971, the church closed its doors, its congregants leaving behind a fine legacy of spiritual and social service to the community. In 1975, the valley's residents vowed to save the building, with its spectacular stained glass windows, kerosene chandeliers, and rich woodwork, and so the church began its second life of service as home to The West Kortright Centre, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to excellence in arts programming, and a renewed commitment to community.



Glorious stained glass graces the historic church

Irish who farmed this rich land built their church at a natural meeting place, the convergence of three roads with the old Catskill Turnpike. The elegant Greek Revival structure, built in

mate, acoustically excellent auditorium with gifted artists from around the world, across the country, and this region. The Centre has enticed musicians, actors, writers and other per-



formers from as far away as Ireland, Italy, Zaire, Ukraine, Jamaica, Angola, Palestine, Uganda, Cuba, Haiti, Peru, Zimbabwe, Mali, Sweden, Morocco, South Africa, and Brazil.

In addition to performing arts, The Centre's gallery features at least three shows per year. Throughout the season, artists and other professionals lead workshops for students of all ages. The West Kortright Centre is committed to enriching the region's youth and showcases children's talents each season with the Opening Acts program, as well as the popular Young People's Theater Arts Workshops and Shakespeare in the Valley. The Centre is also available for public use through commu-

nity programming and low-cost rentals.

Saving and improving the former church has been accomplished through the combined efforts of hundreds of members. Together, they have provided major renovations such as installing electricity, plumbing, and heat, refurbishing interior walls, repairing stained glass windows and renovating the stage. Significant improvements have included the creation of gallery space, construction of a permanent outdoor dance floor and stone walls, the addition of theatrical sound and lighting systems, restoration of the kerosene chandeliers, and the purchase of a grand piano. The West Kortright Centre has thrived because of the involvement and financial support of its members, area businesses, local foundations, and the New York State Council on the Arts. Admissions, workshop fees, and grants cover a significant portion of the Centre's programs and operating costs, but it still must rely on contributions to make up the difference. The continued support of the community allows The WKC to maintain the programs and facilities at levels we have all come to expect.

The summer is half over, and there's still a full schedule of events.

7/22 • "Girlchild Diary" w/ Meredith Monk: Documentary Film Screening

7/25 • Meredith Monk with Katie Geissinger & Allison Sniffin: 50 Years of New Music

7/31 & 8/1 • Shakespeare in the Valley: **Henry VIII**

8/6 - 8/27 • (Four Thursdays) East Meets West Theater Workshop with Lanny Harrison

8/15 • Rachele Garniez: *Original Roots Cabaret*

8/15 & 8/16 • Plein Air Painting: Paint the Farm with Richard Kathmann

9/4 • Gallery Opening: 2015 Benefit Exhibit (Group Multimedia Show): "Play the Numbers"

8/22 • Wild Food Foraging with Marguerite Uhlmann-Bower

9/6 • 2015 West Kortright Fair

9/19 • Alexander String Quartet: *Chamber Music: Mozart, Shostakovich, and Beethoven*

9/27 • Greg Brown: *Folk Musician/Songwriter*

10/17 • Nellie McKay: *Singer, Songwriter, Pianist, Ukulele Player, Satirist*

11/7 • The Fairfield Four: *A Cappella Gospel*

## FSC'S NINETEENTH SEASON

This 19th summer season at the Franklin Stage Company, Franklin's admission-free, professional theatre, has as its theme the evolution of the story, the celebration of the process of creating theatre and the discoveries made with an audience in the room.

Earlier this summer, FSC presented the first in its series of Works-in-Progress, *An Ideal Husband*.



Julian Fleisher and Nina Wray backstage during *An Ideal Husband*.

Photo by Christine Stevenson

*band* by Oscar Wilde, directed by Lauren Unbekant. Audiences responded enthusiastically, thrilling to the experience of a production not as a finished product but as a living, breathing event. As a part of the process, rehearsals for these productions continue throughout the two-weekend performance period.

The second Works-in-Progress

production is *The Country Wife* by William Wycherley, directed by Leslie Noble. This hilarious, fast-paced tangle of absolutely outrageous bawdiness and incisive social satire, a beloved classic of Restoration comedy from 1675, seamlessly links three distinct stories in one exhilarating plot. This runs July 30 - August 1 at 8 p.m. and August 2 at 5 p.m. and again the following weekend August 6 - 8 at 8 p.m. and August 9 at 5 p.m.

Following that is *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov, directed by Carmela Marner, with music by Julie Licata. Three actresses will play not only the titular sisters, Olga, Masha, and Irina, but also the array of military men, husbands, suitors, and lovers who surround them. Performances are August 13 - 15 at 8 p.m. and August 16 at 5 p.m., with a second weekend of performances August 20 - 22 at 8 p.m. and August 23 at 5 p.m.

The season will conclude with a rehearsed reading of Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* performed by a teenaged cast and directed by Josh Santiago. This will run August 28 and 29 (Franklin Day) at 8 p.m. and August 30 at 5 p.m. On Franklin Day weekend, FSC also hosts the Franklin Free Library Book Sale on its lawn, where FSC also hosts the Franklin Farm-

ers' Market every Sunday, Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

As always at FSC, admission is free (donations gratefully accepted) and reservations are recommended. Call 607-829-3700 or email [reserve@franklinstagecompany.org](mailto:reserve@franklinstagecompany.org).

FSC is located in Chapel Hall at 25 Institute Street in Franklin, opposite Franklin Central School.

Programming continues to be made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. More details about

FSC, Chapel Hall and the details of our 19th season can be found at our brand new website [www.franklinstagecompany.org](http://www.franklinstagecompany.org).

FRANKLIN STAGE COMPANY

Works in Progress

**An Ideal Husband** by Oscar Wilde  
June 25 & 27 at 8 and June 28 at 5  
July 2, 3, 4 at 8 and July 5 at 5

**The Country Wife** by William Wycherley  
July 30, 31 & August 1 at 8 and August 2 at 5  
August 6, 7, 8 at 8 and August 9 at 5

**Three Sisters** by Anton Chekhov  
August 13, 14, 15 at 8 and August 16 at 5  
August 20, 21, 22 at 8 and August 23 at 5

For information about the entire 2015 Season please visit  
[www.franklinstagecompany.org](http://www.franklinstagecompany.org)

admission is free  
(donations gratefully accepted)  
reservations are recommended  
[reserve@franklinstagecompany.org](mailto:reserve@franklinstagecompany.org)  
607.829.3700

Chapel Hall • 25 Institute Street • Franklin NY

Programming at FSC is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Once again, ladies and germs, another death-defying installment of our boy Jack's Awesome Adventures, better known as...

# MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!

Wilson's dog landed squarely on top of the filigreed table, splattering papers everywhere. He plunged his face into the cream-of-wheat, snarfed once, inhaled twice, and looked up smiling with his creamy beard dripping onto the table.

What a putz.

The hands belonged to Little Mary. Daughter of one of the inmates. Covering my eyes, she said, *Guess who?* She just wanted to play.

I said, Godzilla, as she raced away laughing hysterically and tripped, flying facedown over a croquet hoop someone left in the lawn.

Got my hands on some really nice oatmeal soap. Everyone compliments me on my after-shave because now I smell like breakfast. Made me remember training my dog with redmeat moccasins.

Tucked in behind Donna's files was a steno pad. Mine. One of the ones from my refrigerator. Either whoever broke in while I was gone took it and Donna took it from him/her, or the theft was for hire.

Only Wilson's dog knew for sure and nothing was for sure about him.

Telegraph poles started out very short until someone realized that people on horseback were getting garroted more than was popular. So when telephone poles became the norm, they were much higher. Unfortunately, everyone started topping them for firewood.

By doubling the power going into year 2015 revolution events, CERN's large hadron collider will create temporal localities that will cause re-

verse aging in all scientists present during the experiments. Big results may follow but they won't be old enough to understand them.

Spread-eagled on the lawn, nurse's uniform raked with grass stains, hair covering her face, Donna would have been sunning herself except that she was dead. As a doornail. If Wilson's dog hadn't run over to start licking between her toes, I wouldn't have noticed that her stilettos were missing.

I said, Well, that does it.

He said, Indeedity.

English wasn't exactly his first language.

As I drew closer I could see her face. Blood was still dripping from the corners of her mouth.

Only it wasn't blood. It was oil. Death by lethal injection.

Just like the first guy we found under the porch at the Farmers' Market.

Someone was behind her murder probably because her motivations had changed. It was doubtful that she was killed for her stilettos.

The local police swarmed.

There was no point in staying any longer. I retrieved my steno pad and the stolen files from her room and took some snap shots of the grounds just for the memories.

I couldn't wait to get back to town. Not much information for Trooper Cooper but lots of meat for the newspaper. Hopefully no one else had broken into my place.

I gave Wilson's dog a shave and dressed him up like my Uncle Gus. A few people on the

plane asked him for his autograph. I guess they thought he was Tommy Lee Jones or Keith Richards or something.

When we got back, work had started on a pipeline and compressor station. Work crews were clear-cutting a wide swath of forest just down from the top of the mountain. Hard to say whether landowners were giving in for money, waiting on eminent domain, or still taking shots at the landmen. The high school students were organizing an 'Occupy' movement, though it's hard to imagine occupying a pipeline. Some wanted to light big round hay bales on fire and roll them down the mountain at sections of surface-mounted pipe. Others thought planting burdocks, grapevine, wisteria and various trees underneath raised portions might work. Seemed somewhat dangerous.

I wondered if I could offset the compressor noise with big enough speakers playing Metallica 24/7.

The Cardiff Giant worked well enough at the time. What about calling for an archaeological survey or evidencing an ancient burial ground?

Abundant clean water, hunting, fresh air, quiet, decent roads,.....fugetaboutit.

Look, even if we think we can get used to the immediate effects of smell, noise, and lights, and it may even be well built, sooner or later there will be sickness, destruction, and devastation. Guess who's gonna pay for it?

*Don't fugetaboutit.*

To be continued...

## The NEW Franklin Register.

The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil

### Editorial Board

Ellen Curtis      Carole Satrina Marner  
Eugene Marner      Hank Stahler  
Associate Editor: Brian Brock

Editor  
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

### HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register  
P.O. Box 258  
Franklin, NY 13775

or by email: [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)

### 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, generally at 7 P.M. in the Franklin Free Library to share thoughts and ideas.

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..

### PLEASE JOIN US!

For meeting times, location and directions, email us at [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)

**The New Franklin Register is an independent entity funded by our local advertisers and contributions from interested friends. We have no granting organizations to answer to, and no taxpayer dollars come our way.**

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**Heathen Hill Yoga**

Weekly community class - Sundays  
 Winter Nov-April 10:30-11:45 AM  
 Summer May-Oct 4:00-5:15 PM

810 Heathen Hill Road, Franklin NY

SUSAN "LIP" OREM  
 Franklin 607 829 5328

All levels Welcome!  
 visit my web site at [www.heathenhillyoga.net](http://www.heathenhillyoga.net)

### MUSIC, con't from Page 13

names and met a few, but I know there are more musicians in our midst. I co-founded a group called Musicians In Franklin in part to draw you people out. We meet monthly at the Railroad Museum to play and discuss. Check the Calendar at [franklinlocal.org](http://franklinlocal.org) for specific dates.

You'll feel no pain.

*Jason Starr is a musician, a carpenter, a husband, a father, and now a columnist.*



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## RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES, TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	AS-SESS.	PRICE	SELLER	BUYER
12/9/2014	1296 Sherman Hill Rd	22.66	Rural res	145,000	160,000	Arroyave, Nelly	Casillo, Frank
12/9/2014	State Highway 28 S	11.11	Rural vac>10	part	9,000	Schmitt, James	Schmitt, Paul J
12/9/2014	5788 State Hwy 28 S	37.10	Rural res	part	29,500	Schmitt, James	Ogborn, Scott G
12/9/2014	State Highway 28 S	21.40	Rural vac>10	part	16,500	Schmitt, Werner H	Whittaker, Douglas A
	East Brook Rd	24.95	Rural vac<10	60,000	48,818	Walley, Brian	City of New York
1/12/2015	Freer Hollow Rd	6.33	Rural vac<10	18,000	30,000	Nichols, Susan K	Keenan, Kevin
1/19/2015	462 Poet Hill Rd	8.14	Vac w/imprv	30,000	47,500	Matheis, Michael T	Judge, Patrick J III
1/20/2015	8495 Cty Highway 16	6.50	Vacant Land	part	25,000	Orthodox Christian Brotherhood	Orthodox Christian Brother.
1/23/2015	290 Center St	0.50	1 Family Res	86,000	107,000	Reid, David	McGee, Daniel B
1/31/2015	Finch Rd	11.60	Rural vac>10	27,000	30,000	Ogborn, Antoinette	Culpeper Brown, Natalie
2/11/2015	3370 County Hwy 14	8.09	1 Family Res	130,000	51,581	Moltere, Steve A	FHLMC
2/12/2015	118 Jackson Hill Rd	1.00	1 Family Res	118,000	113,000	Zabell, Richard	McCracken, Kerry
2/17/2015	846 Walley Rd	4.90	1 Family Res	102,000	51,000	Barse, William C	Barse, William C
2/28/2015	10379 State Hwy 357	2.00	1 Family Res	77,000	38,500	Ackley, Peter	Ackley, Peter L
3/5/2015	269 Center St	0.27	Apartment	95,000	178,889	Mina, Minas A	LVS Title Trust I
3/12/2015	1545 Bennett Hollow	1.00	Rural vac<10	11,000	19,000	Zachow, Deborah J	Parry, Erik
3/16/2015	Dunk Hill Rd	7.58	Rural vac<10	20,000	39,000	Lobban Revocable Trust,	Wisburn, Wendy
3/23/2015	Dunk Hill Rd	5.49	Rural vac<10	16,000	13,000	Albohn, Thomas E	DeVito, Robert
4/8/2015	1190 Grange Hall Rd	13.55	Rural res	158,000	217,000	Bentley, Guy P	Merritt, Harry Alan
4/23/2015	County Highway 21	1.90	Rural vac<10	9,000	5,500	Ouleout Valley Amr Legion Post	Thwing, Jennie
5/8/2015	1363 Sherman Hill Rd	1.00	1 Family Res	85,000	100,000	Brown, Richard E	Toumbas, Angelica
5/21/2015	312 Case Hill Rd	1.00	1 Family Res	43,000	42,000	Lewis R Ackley Rev Trust,	Dudley, Lionel

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