

CHANGE STALKS OTEGO

By Stuart Anderson

Just over the ridge to the west of Franklin lies the sleepy village of Otego: a post office, a firehouse, a library, and a handful of small local businesses...oh, and an enormous empty school. Faced with declining enrollments and potentially massive repair expenses, the Unatego school board opted last spring to shutter the Depression-era building and move grades K through 2 to the Unadilla elementary building this Fall.

The decision to close Otego elementary was not made in haste. A private

consulting firm was hired to research steps taken by other New York school districts facing similar circumstances; the consultants held numerous public meetings to seek community input, and provided the school board with a preliminary plan. The school board then held another round of public forums, and, in the end, concluded that closing the building was financially less risky than any of the proposed alternatives, and that the educational impact on students would be manageable. Over the summer, the Otego staff packed up and moved to Unadilla, and the school board selected a few community members to make recommendations on what to do with the vacant building. With a dollop of optimism, they have

See OTEGO, continued on Page 18



Hop Pickers, ca. 1880-1899, Arthur J. Telfer, glass plate negative, H:5 x W: 7 in. Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, New York, Gift of Arthur J. Telfer, Smith & Telfer Photographic Collection, 6-01,222.

DOCUMENTING HOPS GROWING AND HARVESTING, THEN AND NOW

By Christina Milliman

Many people local to the Mohawk, Leatherstocking, and Catskill regions know that historically this area was known for the cultivation of hops. But when? Do we know when those seemingly wild hops that now grow on our properties, in our fields, and on our mailbox posts were planted? When were Otsego and Madison Counties known for producing the “King Crop”?

In the collections of the Fenimore Art Museum and The Farmers’ Museum are books, diaries, letters, hop rhymes, tools of the trade, and photographs that tell this story. By 1880, Otsego County hop yards grew and sold the most hops of any place in the United States. Hop yards owned

See HOPS, con’t on Page 4



Art & Crafts style front entrance to Otego Elementary School

TOWN COUNCIL
ELECTION
COVERAGE
SEE PAGE 8

SIDNEY CENTER GIRL RAISES FUNDS FOR PLAYGROUND

By Michael Sellitti

When six-year-old Isabella Conroy was asked by her parents what she wanted for her seventh birthday party, she replied confidently, “Ya know, we really need to get the park looking better. I want people to give money to it instead of presents.”

Though impressed that their daughter would consider being so selfless and thoughtful, they assumed this was a fleeting idea. But when it came time to send out invitations, Bella insisted that was what she wanted.

The Sidney Center playground has seen better days: such as the days when peewee and little league teams from around the area came to Sidney Center to

FRANKLIN FISCAL FALLOUT

By Brian Brock

For many years now, the Town of Franklin has annually violated New York Town Law by the board not auditing the town books (Section 62) and by the supervisor not releasing the end-of-year accounting (Section 29(10)). How could their malfeasance bring trouble down on our town? Possibilities include ineligibility for state assistance and lowered credit ratings.

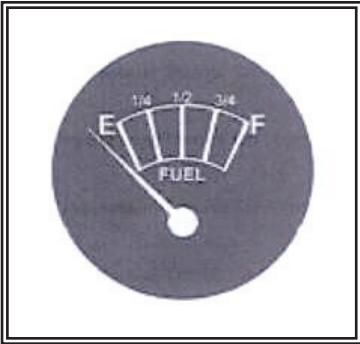
Economic stresses on local governments and school districts are estimated by the Office of the State Comptroller. By stress, the OSC means the ability of an organization to raise enough money to pay its

budgetary obligations, now or in the future.

Estimates of current fiscal stress are based on numbers in the annual financial reports (Annual Update Documents), which are used to calculate component factors such as fund balance, operating deficit, cash position, short-term debt, personnel costs, and debt service. Estimates of future susceptibility to stress are based on trends in population, age distribution, poverty rates, property values, employment base, state/federal aid, tax limits, and sales tax. Both rate the stress on a scale from zero to one hundred, with zero being the least stress.

Purposes of this Fiscal

See FALLOUT, continued on Page 17



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Bella Conroy at the Playground

Your Neighbor's View...

To the Editor:

The Delaware County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on Wednesday, October 11. I wanted to speak at this meeting, but was informed that I would need approval in advance, and that I would have to say what I wanted to speak about. On September 24, I emailed Penny Bishop, administrative assistant to the Board, to say that I wanted to speak about how such consequential and costly decisions as the siting of the new Department of Public Works facility and of the Office for the Aging could be made by the Board with little or no public discussion. In reply I received the following from Christa Schafer, Delaware County Clerk of the Board.

Dear Ms. Johannessen:

Public comment and feedback on issues is [sic] very important to our process, there are only certain times under the law where public hearings are required. Public hearings and public votes are not required when a County purchases or sites a building. However, if by the purchase or siting of a building there is an environmental impact, then a hearing may be required.

As stated in my earlier email, if you wish to address the Board, you must first go through the appropriate committee, get their consent and then, approval of the Board Chair.

Sincerely,
Christa Schafer

All right, I thought, then I'll speak specifically about the siting of the Office for the Aging and the DPW facility, and about the environmental impact of both. I emailed Ms. Schafer to that effect and never heard back from her.

The Board of Supervisors is a publicly elected body. Why isn't any citizen of Delaware County entitled to speak before the Board without prior approval? To me, this smacks of censorship. I found my exchanges with Ms. Schafer to be very disheartening, not least because she never indicated how I would know what "the appropriate committee" would be to consider my request, but also because, even if said unspecified committee did approve it, I would need the further approval of the Board chair.

I thought we lived in a democracy, nationally and locally, but apparently, I'm wrong, and I believe I'm not the only citizen of Delaware County who is fed up with the conduct of the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,
Joy Johannessen
Delhi

Otego: Who Are We?

Our nation asks a lot of our military men and women. We ship them around the nation, and deploy them around the world, often in places where many of the locals are openly hostile. So, imagine you're a U.S. soldier, hunkered down in a stone hut in the mountains of Afghanistan, watching for enemies intent on killing you. Kinda gets your blood pressure up and your heart thumping, doesn't it. Now imagine you're that same soldier, worrying about an RPG coming in the window, and also worrying about your family back home in Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

You've seen the news reports from Puerto Rico. In the countryside beyond San Juan, people are living in the Stone Age. The devastation is complete. People are drinking creek water, eating whatever they can scavenge off the land, and sleeping in the debris that was once their homes. They have no electricity, no communications, and every reason to believe that

the situation will get better only in months, or years.

According to the U.S. Army, more than 10,000 active duty military personnel from Puerto Rico serve in all branches of the U.S. armed forces. Those men and women are serving their nation, our nation, while their own families are literally struggling to survive. How can we, in a little backwoods place like Otego, honor these patriotic Americans and lessen their worries for their spouses and children?

We've all heard fantasies about what we'd like to see at Otego Elementary—a health clinic, day care (for kids and/or adults), summer feeding and activity programs for our kids—all fine and useful services for our community. But even if we funded them all, all that funding would be coming from our local community, and that is simply not sustainable in a high-maintenance old building. Just keeping the heat and lights on would cost more than we can afford: maybe \$100,000 per year, with a little thrown in for grounds and maintenance.

A solution could be to bring in an occupant with deep pockets from outside Otego. Unatego

school board member Dick Downey has been researching possibilities for over a year, looking at what other towns have done with their abandoned schools. There are successes and failures, but one trend is indisputable: the longer a building stands vacant, the less likely it is to be rehabilitated. Every passing day inches us closer to having no alternative but demolition. We need to act now, if we can, and the only way to find out if we can is to try.

Can we offer disaster relief housing to the families of Americans serving in our armed forces? Can we get help from one or more disaster relief organizations like the Red Cross, to fund development and operation of Otego Elementary as an emergency shelter? Can we embrace such an effort and muster the determination to see such a project through to completion? Or will we all go home and pop a beer and let the children of our soldiers subsist (or die) in the chaos that has befallen their little islands?

What kind of people are we?

Stuart Anderson
Otego

The Franklin Farmers' Market has ended another successful summer of bringing fresh local produce, good conversation and fine company to Franklin.

But we're already planning for the 2018 season, and we will be looking for volunteers to help on one or more Sundays as market managers. If interested, contact Ellen Curtis at 607-829-5631

It's not too soon to plan for Summer 2018!



FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD meetings remaining in 2017

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, except for November, due to the conflict with election day.

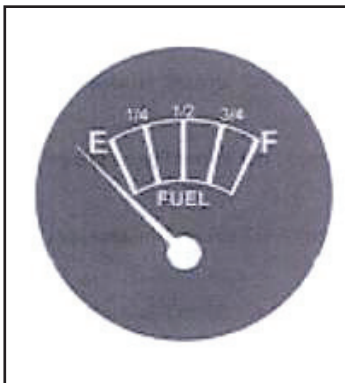
Oct. 3, 2017	Franklin	Budget Workshop
Nov. 8, 2017	Franklin*	Budget hearing
Dec. 5, 2017	Treadwell	

*Wednesday

In Franklin, meetings are at the town garages.

In Treadwell, the meetings is at the Community Center.

PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING YOUR TOWN BOARD MEETINGS!





FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



FRANKLIN'S FIRST BLUEBERRY BAKE-OFF

By Carla Nordstrom

The Franklin Garden Club has been talking for years about ways to encourage people to use the Franklin Village Park on Main Street. During a discussion at our June meeting, Deborah Banks told us, "You know, when I was in college we loved having bake-offs." With blueberry season approaching, a blueberry bake-off seemed like a delicious idea. On August 5, 2017, Franklin had its first Blueberry Bake-off in the Franklin Park.

Community members brought picnics and lawn chairs to the park, and



The discerning judges: l. to r., Jeffrey Taggart, Georgetta Skovsende, and John Campbell. Photos by the author

bakers delivered thirteen blueberry delicacies to the display table. Pies, cakes, cobblers, and a salad to cleanse the palate were laid out on a red tablecloth.

Three of Franklin's icons - Georgetta Skovsende, Jeff Taggart, and John Campbell - were the judges. Mayor Briggs was officiating a wedding elsewhere and unable to

attend. The baked goods were given numbers so that judges couldn't play favorites. Four criteria were considered for each dish: taste, appearance, originality, and use of blueberries. They were judged on a scale of 1 - 5 with 5 being the best.

The judges took their time to consider each blueberry preparation as they

See **BAKE-OFF**, continued on Page 7

ROLLING IN CLOVER

Staff Report

The fifteenth annual Delaware County Duck Race grossed over \$4,000 for the 4-H Club. A near-record 887 ducks were sold, at \$5 each or five for \$20. Out of the proceeds, \$1,550 went to prizes. Those whose ducks floated across the finish line first through

fifth won a total of \$1,150, and the rest was awarded to those who did best in sales. Among the clubs, the first-place winner was the Little Flowers of Franklin, led by Donna Machala with help from Emily Brownell and Jim Sickler. They won \$100, plus their name on the Quack Award, which

See **DUCKS**, con't on Pg. 19



Top sellers for the Delaware County 4-H Duck Race 2017. From left to right: George Machala (2nd place), Donna Machala, Rachael Cobane (1st place), John Hannum, and Emily Roach.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

A VALUABLE LOCAL ASSET

Many of us who live in the Town of Franklin understand what a valuable resource we have in the Franklin Library. Not only does it offer a wide selection of reading, audio entertainment, and research opportunities, but the library sponsors a variety of interesting programs for children and adults as well. Currently, after undertaking a major renovation to make the library building handicapped-accessible, the Library Board is conducting a fundraising campaign to address unmet financial obligations. I encourage the NFR's readership to support these efforts.

Of special interest to me - and to anyone interested in researching Franklin's history - is the extensive scrapbook collection of Pearl Wigham, stored at the library. Ms. Wigham spent a great deal of her time scouring the local newspapers for articles referencing both local history and current events in Franklin over the years. The collection is so extensive that a grant was submitted and implemented to organize and categorize the content of the ninety-plus scrapbooks. It is truly a local treasure.

My wife and I reside in the old Turner Tavern on Main Street in Franklin. Located in the planting strip in front of our house is an iron New York State Historical Marker bearing the following inscription:

Turner Tavern

First Home to be erected in the Village of Franklin Inhabited by Asa Turner in 1792

After we moved into the house in late 2006, I became curious about the details of its history and began a title search at the County Clerk's Office in Delhi. I could find no reference to Asa Turner in the libers, and the title search from my deed came to a dead end when the search reached back only to the late 1800s. I then began searching for Asa Turner on the internet. This is the point where things began to take an interesting twist. I learned that indeed there was an Asa Turner living in Franklin in the 18th century, and he undoubtedly lived at this location. But Asa left Franklin with his family in 1788, four years before this house was purported to have been built. It seems that Asa had received the calling. He ventured north to Ontario, Canada, and founded one or more Baptist churches there. Interestingly, an iron sign remains there as well, citing Asa's contribution to the settling of that region of the province.

Well then, if Asa did not live here in 1792, who did? Other questions arose. In looking at the house in detail, I became doubt-

ful about its alleged age. It has some very interesting features that would be consistent with an early house, such as the remnants of a beehive oven in the basement, as well as wonderful back-to-back fireplace chimneys in the parlor and the library. It has the original faux-painted wainscoting in the tap room and several other curious features. But based on the type of nails used for fasteners and its late Federal design, I thought it could not have been built as early as claimed.

My original title search took me back to Mary Loveland, who lived in this house in the 1880s and died in 1906. Who was the mystery occupant of Turner Tavern before Mary Loveland? I went to the Beers Atlas of 1869, which is available in reprint and can be found in most local libraries. I located the map of the Village of Franklin (located curiously on the same page as the Town of Masonville).

After counting down along Main Street from the Episcopal Church, I discovered the name P. Case, listed as the owner at the time. This is the point where the Wigham scrapbooks proved their value.

I had heard about the scrap-

book collection from several local people, but until I actually saw it, I had no idea of its depth and breadth. As I began my search, there opened before me a glimpse of the pioneer days of old Franklin. I learned that P. Case was Parmelia (Ward) Case. She became the second wife of Roger Case, Jr. in a wedding ceremony at the "Old Scots Church" in Delhi in 1826. Roger's first wife Betsy had died the year before of consumption, leaving him with nine children to raise. Roger had first come to Franklin with his father Roger, Sr. and family in 1792 from Connecticut. They settled near Leonta Corners and built the stone house that is still standing there today (recently much restored).

With this information, I was able to deduce that Roger Case, Jr. was the owner of the Turner Tavern sometime in the early 19th century. Subsequent to the discovery of the Case connection to the house, I learned from an elderly Franklin resident that Pearl

Wigham had received a letter from an old timer saying that the original Turner Tavern was a three-room log cabin. I also discovered from an internet search that Asa Turner's father Jebediah died in 1819 while still residing in the Village of

See **TAVERN**, con't on Page 17



The Main Street facade of Turner Tavern with historical marker

Photo by Tom Briggs

HOPS, con't from Page 1
by Taugers, Clarks, and Buschs in Otsego County produced a majority of the hops—80% of the entire U.S. crop. Have you ever seen a hop cone? Picked one? Held one in your hand?

Several varieties of hops were grown in this region, including fuggles and English cluster. Root stock were placed in the ground in hills. Once they emerged they were trained to climb tall poles, generally 12 to 16 feet tall, as seen in the background of the photo here. Near the end of August and into early September in the Northeast, the cones would be ready for picking. In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, this work was mostly done by migrant workers. Entire families came; entire families picked. Each cone was painstakingly picked by hand from the vine, and placed into a large hop box consisting of four quadrants.

Once a box was filled, pickers would receive a ticket with their name and number of boxes filled. This ticket could be traded in for goods or money. The cones were then dried in a hop kiln, a barn-like structure found on many farms



Pope Hop House. The Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown NY

in the area and certainly in the hop yards. Once the hop cones were dried, they were often baled and dried further, then shipped to market. Remnants of the kilns still exist today, and can be found on country roads and on old farm properties. The Pope Hop House at The Farmers' Museum can still be explored today.

One interesting hop industry item in the Museum's Library is the "Telegraphic Cipher" book dated 1890. This book lists codes used by buyers and sellers to keep the content of their conversations hidden because telegrams, while quick, were not private. The book lists ciphers for such things as dates, varieties of hops for sale, condition of the crop, origin and more. For example, *Palmetto* in the book means "Cooperstown" and *Famously* means "Otsego County Hops."

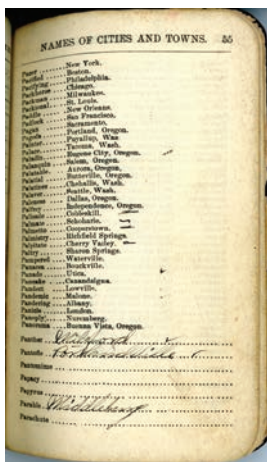
How is this history kept alive today? Many hop yards have been started in the area in recent years. Among these are Hager Hops in Cooperstown and Muddy River Hops in Unadilla. Although these hop yards are not open to the public, you can often catch a glimpse of the preparation necessary - hop vines

growing up strings fastened to tall poles - and can just imagine the painstaking work it takes even today to help each small cone and vine prosper.

On view in the Museum Library is an exhibition created by students of the Cooperstown Graduate Program of SUNY Oneonta discussing the history of the hop industry in Otsego County in the late 1800s and early 1900s. And this past August, The Farmers' Museum held a first-time event, Hopsego, celebrating the history of hops and the resurgence of hop growing in our region today. Look for this second annual family-friendly, hop-centric event in August 2018

For more information about the history of hops in Otsego County, see photographs online in the *Plowline: Images of Rural New York* collection (plowline.farmersmuseum.org) at The Farmers' Museum, peruse the Smith & Telfer photographic collection, or seek out the many books available on the subject by visiting the Museum's Library.

Christina Milliman is Curator of Photography, Fenimore Art Museum and The Farmers' Museum



Telegraphic Cipher Book, 1890, W.S. Peers & Bros., NY, NY, booklet, H: 6 1/2 x W: 4 1/8 in. The Farmers' Museum Research Library, Cooperstown, New York.

PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz

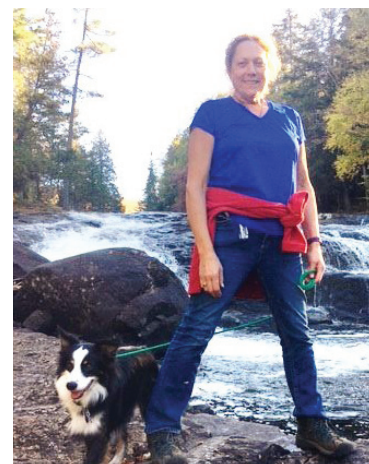
Hello, Readers:

I hope you and your animals all enjoyed the summer. I haven't received many questions since my last column, so I will write about something that has been on my mind.

In my office (and I'm sure other veterinary offices throughout the state), I see many new dogs that have been rescued from catastrophes in warmer climates, as well as rescues from the high kill shelters in Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, and other southern states. These shelters have so many dogs that they give them only a short time to be adopted before the dogs are euthanized. Rescuers go down to these shelters and bring the dogs up here to be adopted, often at the last minute. The adoption process can be expensive as the dog has to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated and dewormed. All this is great.

What bothers me is that many of these dogs have heartworm disease. This is a disease carried by infected female mosquitoes. It takes six months for an infected dog to have adult worms in its bloodstream. The adult worms mostly live in the heart and pulmonary arteries around the heart. We have a very low incidence of heartworm here because weather conditions have to be warm for at least a month for a mosquito to become infectious. According to the American Heartworm Society, the incidence in NY is a low 1.12 %.

A dog cannot get heartworm directly from a dis-



eased dog. A mosquito in which the microfilaria (or larval stages) have matured must then bite a healthy dog for that dog to get heartworm disease. It takes several months for all this to occur.

But now we have heartworm-diseased dogs coming to New York. Will this raise the level of the disease here? Maybe or maybe not. Many of the rescuers will initiate treatment of these heartworm-positive dogs by starting them on heartworm drugs such as the monthly pill that you may be familiar with. This will kill the microfilaria. Another treatment is to give an antibiotic called doxycycline, which renders the adult worms sterile, thus the microfilaria will not be produced. The full treatment for killing the adult worms in the dog is a very costly and somewhat dangerous series of injections with melarsomine dihydrochloride. We can only hope that the rescue dogs arrive already treated.

But what if they are not all treated? What if some are coming here to be bitten by our mosquitos so that those mosquitoes can infect our local dogs? The American Heartworm Society has released guidelines for relocating southern rescue dogs that I am hoping all rescuers will follow.

I really don't want the incidence of heartworm to blow up like that of Lyme disease, which has become an epidemic.



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ANNA AND BLACKBERRY

By Robert Lamb

I write my column, *The Bare Truth*, to inspire people to get out and experience nature. I often mention people who have inspired me in one way or another, hoping to inspire others to face their limitations and exceed their own expectations.

So let me share with you Anna and Blackberry's rise in the world of barrel-racing. Barrel-racing is an exciting rodeo event. Horse and rider complete a clover-leaf pattern marked by steel barrels. Both horse and rider must make split-second decisions in order to post the fastest times.

This is Anna's world.

Anna is one of twins born to Art and Nancy Masucci of Franklin. By seven or eight months, twin Sarah was climbing up the kitchen chairs and onto the table while Anna was content to sit looking at a book. While Sarah was talking up a storm, Anna struggled to communicate. Against her doctor's advice, Anna's mother began using sign language. By the time Anna was three and began to speak, she already knew over two hundred signs.

When Anna was one, doctors discovered she had a serious lack of muscle tone. This made it difficult for her to master gross motor skills. Her doctor suggested physical therapy, so at two years old, Anna began horseback riding. Her therapist saw how much Anna loved the horse, so she would schedule Anna last so she could groom it and give it treats and water.

At age six, Anna got thrown another hurdle: type one juvenile diabetes, with needles and finger sticks daily. Mood swings and dietary decisions all take a toll on a diabetic and Anna was no exception. With the love and support of her family, Anna learned to live with these challenges.

Both sisters wanted horses and at twelve, Anna and Sarah purchased horses with their own money. Anna bought Blackberry, a

three-year-old Blue Roan Appaloosa. Before she met him, Blackberry was headed for the slaughterhouse, destined to become dog food. Fate and a trainer at the stable interceded and Blackberry got a reprieve. For a while Anna was content to trail-ride and work Blackberry in the ring. But then she caught barrel-racing fever. Working for her trainer and others, Anna paid her own way. She spent days in school and evenings at the barn. Despite her diabetes, Anna was determined to be a barrel-racer. While most other girls worried about their nails, Anna worried about Blackberry's hooves. Impressed with Anna's passion to succeed, her trainer Laura did what ever possible to support her.



Anna and Blackberry

Anna couldn't have taken on a greater challenge than to train a slaughterhouse horse to barrel-race. Not just race but win races, many of them. They started slowly. Anna entered every race her time, parents, and health allowed. She began to accumulate ribbons and awards. Anna and Blackberry became a phenomenon. Sarah has also enjoyed a successful riding career, but it was Anna who took her horse to the New York State Fair 4-H equestrian events, where she won a first-place ribbon. Anna has earned a place in the 2017 World Barrel-Racing Championships in Georgia this fall. In fact, Anna and Blackberry are so darn good they have a spot in next year's world championships. There she will compete against many horses and riders, some professionally trained and backed by big sponsors.

Win, place, or show, Anna is already a champion.

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NEW TREES IN OUR VILLAGE PARK

By Jack Siman

Just when we thought it was time for the heat to drop and foliage to start coloring up, temperatures hit the eighties with no rain in sight. Luckily, nights were cool and offered the flora in the park some respite. Still, a few well-established shrubs started wilting. But members of the Franklin Garden Club, armed with hoses, came to the rescue, and heat damage was limited to the park's barrel petunias looking a little the worse for wear.

One of my favorite suppliers, Rare Find Nursery in Jackson, New Jersey, was running a sale. Plant junkie that I am, I drove down and picked up some nice specimens. I don't like adding perennials to the Park's borders without the approval of pros like Diana, Deborah, Jane, etc., but when it comes to trees and shrubs, I feel fairly confident. So, from Rare Find, I brought two trees to our park.

The first is a *Hamamelis virginiana*, our native witch hazel, which gives us the sharp-scented astringent we all grew up seeing in Mom's or Grandma's medicine chest. The joy of this plant is that it blooms in late fall, and soon after, its leaves turn a brilliant yellow. Our new arrival, in full bloom, is planted on the edible landscape trail.

Side note: Trish Tyrell has been writing grants for funding the trail. One was to provide funding for handicap-access. Walking the first trail we'd blazed, Brian Brock and I found that it won't take too much work to make it level enough for

wheelchair or walker. We passed our newly planted witch hazel, then a stand of Jerusalem artichokes, a tripod of hops vines, and some heritage apple trees, arriving at a vernal spring which Brian had discovered. After a rest or a bit of meditation, a visitor will find an area large enough to turn walker or wheelchair around and return to the park proper.

The second treat from Rare Find is an *Aesculus turbinata* 'Marble Chip' or Japanese Chestnut tree, with variegated foliage. It is now planted up by the picnic tables, near the iron sculpture of a figure with a bird perched on its hand. The Japanese chestnut is basically a horse chestnut, producing tons of mahogany-colored fruit, inedible but fun for kids to toss around.

A third purchase, marked down fifty percent at Home Depot, is a *Nyssa sylvatica*, or native black gum. The black gum is considered by Michael Dirr* to be "one of our best, most consistent, and most beautiful trees in the fall." Ours is now planted behind the flag, behind the black fence in the rough area at the eastern edge of the park. In a week or so, although it's only a five-foot sapling (it will reach 30-50 feet in height), you can expect to see the brilliant fall foliage for which this tree is famous.

*Michael Dirr's book **Manual of Woody Landscape Plants** is considered a horticultural bible by most gardeners and landscape designers. His **Hardy Trees and Shrubs** is also an essential guide for plantings in our area.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

THE FRANKLIN CHRISTMAS STROLL HOUSE TOURS: 1 P.M. TO 5 P.M.



Tickets will be on sale at the Holiday Market at the Franklin Fire House on Institute Street:
Dec. 9th, 12:45 p.m. to 4 pm

If you would like your house on this year's Stroll, please contact Lisa Heimbauer at 607-434-2591.

Everyone in the Village can help by putting up Christmas decorations and lights to add to the festivities!

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Holiday Market (local foods at crafts) at the Franklin Firehouse
Grandma's Pantry (soup & sandwiches) at the Franklin United Methodist Church

Book readings with Santa at the Franklin Free Library
Decorated trees at the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum

Tree lighting and Santa & Mrs. Claus at the park -- and at the firehouse for photos, crafts, and hot chocolate

GREEN BANKS GARDENING

With Deborah Banks

READING THE GARDEN

As winter approaches, all those outdoor jobs like planting bulbs and cutting back the phlox and shredding leaves for the shade garden are either nearly finished or not feeling all that important any more. Just get out the heater for the bird bath and head on inside...to read about gardening!

Garden readers fall into two basic camps: the Dreamers and the Doers.

Doers want manuals and how-to books. They read about the best roses for New England, or propagation and pruning primers or how to build a thirty-foot waterfall in your back yard. Any book entitled "The Complete Guide to..." catches their attention.

Dreamers like to read about other people's gardening adventures and ideas. I appreciate good reference books as much as the next girl, but I fall firmly into the Dreamer category. The best Dreamer books teach me a great deal about gardening.

My favorite garden writer is Henry Mitchell. He was a gardening columnist for the Washington Post in the seventies and eighties, and many of his columns are available in collections. *On Gardening* is a good place to start, or *One Man's Garden*. His writing is full of passion and dry humor, and is both opinionated and factual. Take his note on the Iris 'Perry's Blue' from *The Essential Earthman*: "Mine is blue-violet, and you would never think of calling it blue at all, unless you are color blind (as an infinitude of people are, especially fanciers of irises)." I challenge you to pick up one of Mitchell's books and not be entertained.

My gardening bookshelves are full of stories about the creation of gardens. Mirabel Osler's *A Gentle Plea for Chaos* is a good example. She writes in detail about the struggles and successes she and her husband experienced while creating their English garden. The book includes many luscious photographs of their results. Another such saga is *A Year at North Hill* by Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd. Their spare-no-expense approach is a bit off-putting, but their Vermont garden is exquisite and so is their writing. And they share their thoughts on every page.

Another great writer who happened to be a gardener was Christopher Lloyd. He was a prolific writer, and one of my favorites is *The Year at Great Dixter*. His garden in East Sussex lives on as one of the most famous gardens in England, and this book

provides much detail about the management of the garden, as well as discussing the numerous plants that are grown there. His climate is much milder than our own, so some research on hardiness is recommended before running out to purchase his favorite perennials.

I also love Beth Chatto's writing. Here is yet another English gardener, famous for her plant nursery and for the dry gravel garden and the damp garden that she created at her home. Her book *The Green Tapestry* is subtitled "Choosing and Grouping the Best Perennial Plants for your Garden," and so would appear to fall into the Doer category. In fact, it also describes her own garden, and coupled with *Beth Chatto's Garden Notebook*, it gives a good understanding of the garden as well as the character of the amazing woman who created it.

I try to read everything Helen Dillon has written. This Dublin gardener brings her deep knowledge and experience to her humorous writing. She has an acclaimed garden in Dublin and has won many awards. Reading *Down to Earth with Helen Dillon* is like having coffee with your best garden buddy. One chapter on shade begins with "'I've got shade,' said this woman, in a low voice, as if she was announcing an attack of diarrhea." Her writing grabs your attention, like that of the best fiction writers.

Elisabeth Sheldon lives in upstate New York near the Finger Lakes, and so her plant selections are more relevant to our area. Her book *Time and the Gardener* contains her "writings on a lifelong passion." She is a fine writer, and provides good advice on plant selections, as well as her thoughts on many aspects of gardening. I also am fond of her earlier book *A Proper Garden*.

Another type of book I devour contains letters between two gardeners. My favorite contemporary one is *A Year in Our Gardens*, which contains letters between Nancy Goodwin and Allen Lacy. Goodwin lives in North Carolina and is known for her garden and former nursery, Montrose. Lacy is a prolific garden writer in New Jersey. The letters between them are chatty and warm, full of notes on what is happening in their gardens and sharing other news. Another great book in this vein is *Two Gardeners: Katharine S. White and Elizabeth Lawrence*.

All these books will broaden your horizons as a gardener, connecting you to a larger community of gardeners. Gardening is a big world with a lot of interesting people, and many of them are wonderful writers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

\$1000 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) who savagely murdered and beheaded our three-week-old baby lamb on June 2, 2015 in Franklin.

Please call Sgt. Pidgeon at the NYS Police: 607-561-7400.
All calls will remain confidential.



435 Main St
Franklin

607
829-4040

October 17 & 19	Aromatic Medley: Foods from the Spice Islands
October 24 & 26	Mashreq and Magrib: Tastes of the Middle East and North Africa
Oct. 31 & Nov. 2	The Land of the Palms: Brazilian Tapas
November 7 & 9	The Bounty of the Land: A Menu Featuring Local Produce *
November 14 & 16	Cuisines from the Rising Sun: East Asian Tapas
November 21 & 23	Thanksgiving around the World
November 28 & 30	La Comada de Tejas: Tex-Mex Tapas
December 5 & 7	An Evening on the Bosphorus: Turkish and Mediterranean Tapas *
December 12 & 14	Traditional European Holiday Foods
December 19 & 21	Foods from the Des: Pakistani, Indian, and Bengali Cuisine
January 2 & 5	Bringing it Back Home: Comfort Food
January 9 & 11	The Middle White Sea: Mediterranean Meats
January 16 & 18	Tapas from the Land of the White Elephant: Thai Cuisine
January 23 & 25	Charcoal and Smoke: Grilled Specialties from around the World

Our Winter Hours are:

Breakfast: Mon-Thurs 6:30-8:30am
 Brunch: Tues, Sat, Sun 8am-3pm
 Dinner: Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 5-8pm

LOOKING FOR A LOCATION FOR YOUR SUMMERTIME WEDDING?



Consider getting married in the Village Park on Main Street in Franklin, N.Y.

Mayor Tom Briggs can officiate at your ceremony.
Flower arrangements can be provided by

The Franklin Garden Club

Vintage wedding attire can be found at:

The Squire's Tankard

173 Main Street,
Franklin, NY
(607) 829-6885

The wedding feast can be catered by:

The Tulip and the Rose

453 Main Street
Franklin, NY
(607) 829-4040

<http://thetulipandtherose.com>

Local artistic baker **Xina Sheenan**

can create your wedding cake.

You or your guests can stay at:

The Franklin Guest House:

113 Center Street
Franklin NY 13775
franklin.guest.house@gmail.com

Franklin, the perfect place for a summertime wedding!



A GRAND SACRIFICE

By Aron Berlinger

Bruce Zimmer, school bus driver on weekdays, and vegetable, meat and egg vender on Sundays at the Farmers' Market in Franklin, raised more

than \$1500 for St. Baldrick's Foundation for kids with cancer, and lost all his hair doing so.

On Sunday afternoon, October 14th, at the Red Jug Pub in Oneonta, Mr. Zimmer donated his six-year-old hair and two-and-a-half-year-old beard in a Head-



Shaving Event

to raise money for the research foundation.

Mr. Zimmer warned his little schoolbus passengers the Friday before that, "you will have a new bus driver on Monday."



According to Mr. Zimmer, "No kid on the bus recognized me."



Photos by the author

Cronauer/Brower



Electric & Plumbing

56 Cronauer Rd
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BAKE-OFF, continued from Page 3

filled their plates with small slices of cake and pie. The task was so daunting they eventually took their plates to a bench at the other side of the park to finalize their selections.

The winner of Franklin's first blueberry bake-off was May Miller with a cake of her own creation called Berry Cream Delite. Jon Fitzpatrick came in second with an elegant Blueberry Kuchen (recipe follows). Third prize went to Trish Tyrell, who made a Blueberry Zucchini Poke Cake. Sneaking zucchini into a blueberry dessert is such a Franklin thing to do!

Once the judging was done and the winners announced, everybody at the picnic dug into the desserts and enjoyed the delights of our local blueberry harvest.

Now you might be wondering what type of prizes would be awarded to winners at a blueberry bake-off. That was an easy decision for the Franklin Garden Club. All club members have beautiful flowers to pick, supplies of vases stashed in closets, and an eye for pairing different varieties and colors of flowers with each other. The prizes were gorgeous flower arrangements.

With buckets of freshly cut flowers brought by club members to the park, Jane Hebbard, first prize winner May Miller, and yours truly sat around a picnic table to pair lilies with hydrangea blooms. We made enough arrangements for the winners and judges, plus a few left over to give away.

Lessons for next time: a red cotton table-

cloth is not a proper table covering for a blueberry feast. Luckily, a full day's soak in Oxi took the purple out, but next year, we'll know to use plastic or paper to catch the juices. We'll also remember to take pictures of the winners with their prize desserts and flower arrangements. And we will ask participants to provide their recipes so we can begin building a collection of blueberry recipes.

Evening is a lovely time to gather in the Franklin Village Park, and guests had a chance to visit with neighbors after feasting on many blueberry delights. It was agreed that this should be the first of many bake-offs. So, mark the first Saturday in August on next year's calendar and start checking your cookbooks for blueberry recipes.

Jon Fitzpatrick's BLUEBERRY KUCHEN

Pastry: 1 cup flour
2 tbs. sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
1/2 cup butter (1 stick) chilled
1 tbs. white vinegar

Filling: 3 cups fresh blueberries
2/3 cup sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tbs. flour

Topping: 2 cups fresh blueberries
2 tsp. powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

IN THE KITCHEN

With Sue Avery

PAVLOVA

This recipe was given to me by my dear friend Jean Lyon many years ago. It is, she said, the national dessert of her native New Zealand.

*6 egg whites at room temperature
(absolutely not a speck of yolk!)*

2 cups sugar

2 tsp. vanilla

2 tsp. vinegar

*1/2 pt. heavy cream, whipped with a
dash of vanilla*

fresh fruit, to taste, diced or sliced

Preheat oven to 250°.

Beat the egg whites till very stiff.

Gradually beat in sugar, 1 tbs. at a time.

Beat in vanilla and vinegar.

Pile into a pie plate or cake tin, building up the sides.

Bake at 250° for 1 hour.

Cool in the pan.

*Just before serving, pile the center up
with whipped cream.*

Garnish lightly with fruit.

Stir flour, sugar, and salt in a bowl and cut in the butter until it becomes coarse crumbs. Sprinkle the vinegar on top and gently form into dough. Press it into an ungreased 9-inch round drop-bottom cake pan to a thickness of 1/4 inch. The crust should rise up to an inch above the bottom.

Put the blueberries into the crust. Combine the sugar, cinnamon and flour and sprinkle over the blueberries. Place the tart in the oven on the bottom rack. Bake for approximately 50 minutes or until the crust is golden and the berries are bubbling.

Remove the kuchen from the oven and sprinkle immediately with remaining blueberries. Let the tart cool for at least an hour and sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.



Garden Club stalwarts Jane Hebbard (l) and May Miller arrange flower prizes.
Photo by the author



Coming Up for Fall 2017!

Bright Hill Press & Literary Center Of the Catskills

November 4 - 24 - Bright Hill Kids Workshop Exhibit
Opening Reception with Anthology Launch + Readings
 Saturday, November 4, 3 - 5 pm

November 11, Noon - 5 pm - Veterans & Community Day
Readings, Workshops, Discussions

December 16, Noon - 5 pm - Bright Hill 25th Anniversary Celebration
25th Anniversary Anthology Launch, Readings, BHP Book Exhibit

All Events Free & Open to the Public + Refreshments!

*Come, see what Bright Hill has brought
to our mountains these 25 years!!*



Bright Hill Press & Literary Center of the Catskills
 94 Church Street, Treadwell, NY 13846 - 607-829-5055
 Website: www.brighthillpress.org



ONWARD AND UP- WARD AT THE FFL

By Mary Ellen Collier

Since 1931, the Franklin Free Library has stood proudly atop its hill, approached by a gracious but lengthy set of hard steps. Although the building has a classic beauty, it is extremely challenging for people with limited mobility to climb the stairs to the front door. But help is on the way. The current rehabilitation project will improve access to the Library for all our patrons.

Last year, two trees were removed from the lawn, a mere hint of what was to come. Now, as the leaves turn color and fall again, the Library's appearance is truly changed with the creation of a new walkway. To the right of the main entrance, a path level with the sidewalk guides patrons to a new entrance on the Library's lower level. The handsome gray retaining walls and concrete pathway were installed by Eastman Associates of Oneonta. Soon, hedges will line the top of the new walls to soften the edge of the lawn.

Inside the Library, the transformations continue.

Universal Contracting of Maryland, NY, has remodeled and enlarged the bathroom to accommodate patrons using wheelchairs. Fixtures have been installed to conform with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Library is grateful to the Catskill Center for Independence and their representative for reviewing and approving the design.

Also at the lower level, a small meeting room is being completed, with a conference table and comfortable seating. This area will offer meeting space to small groups such as book clubs, or children's discussion groups and clubs. An adjacent alcove will become a comfy reading nook, where patrons can grab a cup of coffee, settle into an overstuffed armchair, and read for a while. The reading alcove was the dream of the former president of the Library Board of Trustees, Jim Mullen. Though Jim has recently moved from our community, Library patrons will long appreciate his vision and planning in bringing these improvements to fruition.

Last month, Accessibility Solutions, Inc. installed the elevator that will ferry

patrons using walkers or wheelchairs from the lower level entrance to the main floor collections. Steve McClintock, licensed electrician, is completing the electrical work needed to make the elevator operational, along with other electrical upgrades, including exterior lighting for the new entryway, and a



The FFL's lower level entrance approaching completion

security system to monitor both the entryway and the lower level.

Meanwhile, Universal Construction, in addition to building the interior spaces at the lower level, will also enhance the elevator exit at the main level. New bookshelves will match the existing shelves in size and style. The computer stations and printer/copier/fax machines are being re-

See FFL, con't on Page 16

EDUCATION FOUNDATION UPDATE

By Patricia Tyrell

The Franklin Community Education Foundation (FCEF) wishes to extend a big thanks to Linda DeAndrea and Linda Worden for their years of dedicated service to the children and youth of the Franklin community, especially for their work coordinating the Scholar of the Month award.

Most sincere gratitude also goes to the community at large and beyond, for supporting the Foundation's most recent fundraisers, including the Huge End of Summer Raffle and the Fall Bake Sale. The End of Summer Raffle was a new fundraiser: even though we didn't sell 300 tickets, we did net \$1,600. Winners of the raffle were: the \$400 prize to Bill M., the \$300 prize to Ed L., and the \$200 prize to Linda D.

For the Fall Bake Sale, we exceeded records from last year, raising over \$1,000. Special recognition is owed to Wayne Bank for agreeing to host the sale. A big thanks to the more than thirty bakers who donated baked goods, to Ann Law, Kellie Renwick, and Donna Whitbeck for assisting with

set-up and sales, and to all those who came out to support the Foundation and the good work we do.

Your contributions directly contribute to our ability to support school programs and student aspirations. To list a few: FCEF continues to offer funds towards college credit courses for eligible high school students, supports the First Grade STEM program, contributed \$300 to a music abroad opportunity for one student, and recently gave \$1,000 to the school weekend backpack program.

We also continue with the Scholar of the Month award, thanks to the generous giving of Tom Morgan and Erna Morgan McReynolds, in memory of Wendy Brown. Beginning in June 2018, the amount of the scholarship will increase to \$200 upon graduation.

The Franklin Community Education Foundation supports extracurricular and supplemental educational opportunities for the youth and students of Franklin, from cradle to career.

ELECTION 2017: CANDIDATES FOR FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL

DAVID GRANT: declined to submit information or statement.

GARRET SITTS: declined to submit information or statement.

PATRICIA TYRELL

AKA- Patty, Pam, Trish
Maiden name: Knapp

Education:

1999 Graduate Franklin Central School
2003 Graduate St. John Fisher College,
Rochester

Employment:

Delaware County Department of Social
Services, as Staff Development Coordina-
tor

Children:

Corbin and Xander Tyrell, Leah Brower
- all 5th grade students of Franklin Central
School

Current Affiliations:

Franklin Community Education Foundation, President 2017,
- member since 2015
Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Secretary '14-current,
- member since 2013
- New Old Franklin Day Organization Committee, '15-current
Franklin Local, Ltd., Secretary '11-current, member since 2010
- Contributor to New Franklin Register
- Assistant Farmers' Market Manager
Fall Youth Boys Soccer (OYSA), Assistant Coach '16-current
Franklin Edible Walking Trail, '16-current

Past Affiliations:

Franklin-Treadwell Recreation Commission (2013-2016, Chairperson '16)
Franklin Alumni Association (2013-2014, Treasurer)



**"For Franklin.
By Franklin.
In Franklin"**



The three candidates for the Franklin Town Council spoke to residents during the recent Candidates Forum at the Legion Hall. Left to right: David Grant, Garret Sitts, and Patricia Tyrell.

FORUM HOSTED BY FRANKLIN LOCAL

A public forum on October 17th, sponsored by Franklin Local, offered the three candidates for the Franklin Town Council the chance to present their platforms and ideas to a lively crowd of Franklin voters. Following the candidates' presentations, the audience was invited to ask questions, and a healthy discussion ensued.

Thanks go to Village Mayor Tom Briggs for his able moderating, and to the American Legion for the use of their downstairs meeting room. Light refreshments were provided by Franklin Local.



Mayor Tom Briggs officiating at the Candidates Forum
BELOW: Eager listeners take notes and ready their queries.



Why I'm Running:

I am running for Franklin Town Council because I believe I can play an instrumental role in serving Franklin's people and future. I believe Franklin is a community full of hard-working individuals and families who all fundamentally want the same thing- a prosperous Franklin. I believe the people of Franklin deserve someone who has and will continue to dedicate great energy towards making that happen.

Our elected officials must look towards the future to create opportunity. There are things that the Town can do, has the responsibility to do, to help Franklin achieve prosperity. These should include active pursuit of economic opportunities, support for new and existing industries, and collaboration with local businesses, organizations, and community members.

Our town needs more representation that is fully invested and willing to go above and beyond for the betterment of all Franklin. I care about my home and the future of everyone in it a great deal, which is why I have worked hard to do what I can where I am here in Franklin. Serving on the Town Council will help me do more for you.

Platform:

- 1.) Economic Development through active pursuit of resources and opportunities to keep and attract local businesses, people, and families to the Town.
- 2.) Transparency and accountability through establishment of a Town Website where citizens and visitors can easily access information, and the Town Council can easily share information.
- 3.) Pursuit of the elements of a Clean Energy Community- seeking a decrease of fossil fuel emissions through energy efficiency and fostering alternative energy opportunities.
- 4.) Unite the community through a shared vision of a prosperous Franklin.
- 5.) Give back- entirety of annual stipend will be donated to 3 local organizations each year.

For more information, visit me on Facebook or at: www.patriciatyrell.org

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7TH DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!

For those of you who missed the Oct. 3 Budget meeting... WHERE DOES OUR TAX MONEY GO?

Staff Report

The tentative 2018 budget for the Town of Franklin spends \$1.72 million. To partially finance this sum, it raises \$1.16 million in taxes from landowners, an increase of 2.3% over the 2017 budget and just \$1,000 under the state-imposed soft cap.

Increases in appropriations total \$21,397. Almost a third (\$6,897) goes to unavoidable increases in Social Security, state retirement, and insurance.

Salaries (personal services, PS) increase a total \$1,500: town clerk Ritz \$750 (7% increase), tax collector Ritz \$250 (8%), and superintendent of highways Laing \$500 (1%).

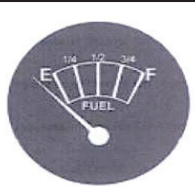
Salaries for town officials are: superintendent of highways Laing

\$46,700, assessor Basile \$27,150, supervisor Taggart \$15,900, clerk/collector Ritz \$15,500, assistant finance director Warner \$12,000, justice Arndt \$5,500, dog control Lockwood \$1,800, and councilmen Bruno, Grant, Sitts, and Smith \$1,200 each. Taggart's salary receives \$3,800 (24%) from the town and \$12,100 (76%) from the county.

Capital expenses (contractual expenditures, CE) increase a total \$13,000: for town clerk \$1,000 (100%) and for highway general accounts \$6,000 (1%) and machine equipment \$6,000 (4%).

Appropriation for the Franklin Free Library is unchanged at \$2,000, but councilman Smith requested that the chairwoman of

See BUDGET, con't on Page 12



FOCUS ON ENERGY

CAN FRANKLIN BE... A CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY?

By Don Hebbard

In 2015, New York State adopted a detailed plan designed to achieve specific energy-use goals by the year 2030. Named "Re-forming the Energy Vision" or simply "REV," its major goals were:

40% reduction in greenhouse gases from 1990 levels
Generate 50% of NYS electric usage from renewable energy sources

23% reduction in energy consumption in buildings

Several programs have been implemented to provide incentives to individuals, businesses, and municipalities to work toward achieving these goals.

The **Clean Energy Community Program**, sponsored by NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority), is one such incentive. After qualifying for this program, a municipality becomes eligible on a first-come, first-served basis for one of ten \$50,000 grants, or one of four \$100,000 grants, to be applied to reducing municipality energy use. Franklin would compete with other local municipalities for these grants, so qualifying as soon as possible is critical. Qualifying entails completion of four of the ten **High Impact Items** listed below:

Adopt the NYS Unified Solar Permit – intended to standardize the permitting process for new solar energy systems within NYS. Franklin has completed this action. Following a presentation by Cornell Cooperative Extension Energy Specialist Tara Donadio, the Town Board passed a resolution at the Special Board Meeting on July 24, 2017. This won Franklin an additional incentive of \$2500.

Benchmarking – adopt a policy to report the energy use of municipal buildings over 1000 square feet. The Town Shed building with the town offices qualifies. This action item was adopted at the August 1, 2017 Board meeting, and the report on energy usage was presented on September 5, 2017.

Once reported to NY-SERDA, Franklin will have completed a second High Impact Item.

Energy Code Enforcement Training – train local compliance officers in current code regulations. Franklin's Code Enforcement Officer Mark Jacobs also serves the Town of Walton. Upon completion and documentation of the training, Franklin will have completed three High Impact Items.

Completion of the necessary fourth item is more complicated, but it can be done. Working on more than one action at once will improve our chance of success.

Clean Fleets – two possible options: install electric vehicle charging stations or purchase and use an alternative fuel vehicle. An electric vehicle charging station would be best located within the village, giving people something to do while their vehicle is charging. This will require a working relationship where the town owns the charging station, but it is located on private or corporate property. Costs would be covered by the charging fee (likely via credit card) and profit could be shared between town and landowner. The second option is not a realistic one as the town uses pickup or dump trucks as their fleet.

LED Street Lights – convert street lighting to energy efficient LED technology. Franklin Village would be a candidate for LED lights, but the village is a separate municipality within the town. Treadwell is a hamlet within the town, but NYSEG owns the poles and lights. This needs further exploration.

Clean Energy Upgrades – achieve a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from municipal buildings. This requires an investment to upgrade the current building: LED lighting, replace old heating system, adding insulation, energy efficient windows and doors, new overhead doors, and such. These upgrades would pay for themselves with lowered op-

See CLEAN, continued on Page 12

THE FUTURE OF PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION: The DCEC's Electric Car Charging Station

By Patricia Tyrell

Photos by the author

A visit with Mark Schneider, CEO and General Manager of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC), proved to be extremely educational as well as transforming, when one considers the future of personal transportation. Located at 39 Elm Street in Delhi NY, the DCEC hosts a rare item locally: an electric car charging station.

One of only three in Delaware County, the DCEC's charging station was acquired through collaboration with Kristina Zill of Transition Catskills. She secured the NY-SERDA funding that made the project possible. The grant is a four-year program measuring a number of factors, including the number of site employees purchasing an electric/hybrid plug-in car over that time period, as well as the volume and frequency of station use.

By the terms of this particular grant, patrons of the DCEC charging station, as well as those utilizing the same service in Hobart and Margaretville, receive their car-charging for free. This is intended partly as incentive for potential electric car owners and partly as a 'range anxiety' reliever for current owners. The presence of electric car charging stations can help usher in a new era of transportation, one not as dependent on fossil fuels.

Schneider is quick to admit that electric cars and charging stations are not the sole answer to reducing emissions. Electricity is generated via a number of ways, some of which are dependent on fossil fuels. But he says e-cars will encourage the transition of parts of the transportation system

next three to thirteen years.

Now a year and a half into the grant cycle, Schneider describes the number of patrons utilizing the charging station as "a handful," mostly local residents and employees in Delhi, but sometimes visitors from other areas. While the charging station and grant program advocate for a growing local-user base, another conversation around location and economic development opportunity is occurring.

Proponents assert that a charging station would bring economic benefits if placed in the commercial/retail/municipal area of town. Attracting EV-driving tourists and locals, centrally sited charging stations would draw customers to local shops, eateries, and services, resulting in increased sales.

DCEC's charging station is a fast charge "ChargePoint" model, featuring two plugs for use. Users have a ChargePoint account

and receive a card that is waved near the physical charging station, registering the user and initiating the charging session. A charge could take anywhere from twenty minutes to over an hour, depending on the battery's charge state. What better way to fill your waiting time than going shopping?

Under current regulations, stations are providing a service, and can charge only for the amount of electricity used. Selling electricity for a profit turns the seller into a utility, thus subjecting them to potential regulation by the Public Service Commission and other regulatory entities.

Installation of the station requires the average residential 120/240 volt circuit, with a 100 amp breaker, with each plug requiring its own 240 volt circuit. DCEC elected not to have a second meter installed specifically for the charger, thus avoiding additional monthly service charges.

Currently, all charge sessions are paid for by DCEC and then reimbursed back to them through the NY-SERDA grant, with the upfront cost currently only being tens of dollars a month. Schneider noted that the fate of the car charging station at the end of the grant period will be up to the Cooperative's membership.

DCEC has approximately 5,300 members, spanning a large area including Bainbridge, Tompkins, and Chulchester to the south and west, and Jefferson, Summit, and Maryland in the north and east. Approximately ninety percent of the energy provided by DCEC is sourced through the clean energy hydroelectric Niagara Project.

For more information about DCEC, visit: www.dce.coop.



The DCEC's charging station in Delhi



Dashboard of a Prius showing charge information

toward something more easily regulated and adaptable for future technologies.

Many major car manufacturers, including Volvo, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, and Honda, are looking toward the future by making huge investments in the research and development of electric vehicles (EVs), with the majority hoping to offer an EV selection for sale within the

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Compiled by Brian Brock

June 28th Constitution Pipeline Company, LLC requests that U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit in Constitution Pipeline Company, LLC v. Seggos, No. 16-1568 limit its ruling on the waiver agreement to procedural issues. Constitution plans to pursue a parallel proceeding before FERC to resolve the waiver issue based on the opinion of June 23, 2017 in Millennium Pipeline Co., LLC v. Seggos, No. 16-1415, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

June 30th DEC charges Xpress Natural Gas (XNG) for operating compressors at the Manheim Station without permits. These additional compressors were installed to accept gas from tanker trucks.

July 11th Board of the Town of Franklin passes resolutions to grant franchise for Delhi Telephone Company to install fiber-optic network in the town and for an easement to build an equipment shed on town land near the town garages.

July 13th President Trump nominates attorney Kevin McIntyre to be chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

July 24th At special meeting, BTF adopts New York State Unified Solar Permit after listening to presentation by Tara Donadio about Clean Energy for Communities Program.

August 10th NYS Department of Transportation opens bids for Franklin Roundabout Project. Low bid is \$1.281 million by Economy Paving Co. Inc. of Cortland.

August 18th U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit rules for defendant in CPC v. NYSDEC, No. 16-1568. The three-judge panel of Kearse, Wesley, and Droney unanimously rejects both petitions, denying the contention that Department of Environmental Conservation had acted arbitrarily and capriciously in rejecting the Water Quality Certificate for Constitution Pipeline Project and dismissing the contention that DEC exceeded statutory time limits for lack of jurisdiction by this court.

August 30 Verizon begins installing their equipment on the cell tower at the town garages.

September 1st CPC appeals rejection by the three-judge panel of 2nd Circuit and requests that the whole bench of active judges rule en banc.

September 12th XNG tanker truck overturns heading southbound on State Highway 205 outside of hamlet of Hartwick, Otsego County. Returning from a delivery to Iroquois Pipeline at Manheim Station, tanks contained only 200 psi of natural gas. This is the third truck accident this year along this virtual pipeline.

September 14th NYS DOT accepts the bid on Franklin Roundabout Project from Economy Paving Co. Inc. Start date has yet to be set. Completion is expected in the fall of 2018.

October 3rd Delaware Engineering D.P.C. presents to the town board considerations for a new town hall adjacent to the town garages.

October 11th Federal Energy Regulatory Commission opens a new docket for the Constitution Pipeline Project.

October 11th CPC requests a declaratory judgment from FERC that NYS DEC failed to act in a reasonable time on its application for a Section 401 Water Quality Certificate. If granted and if the judgment survives the inevitable judicial review, then construction could begin.

MEMO TO FRANKLIN FROM PUERTO RICO

By Gene Marner

Are there lessons that we here in Franklin can learn from the tragic loss of life and property in Puerto Rico?

At first glance it seems that while we can show solidarity and offer sympathy (and money if we have any to spare), the trials and disasters of a semitropical island more than 1600 miles away in the balmy Caribbean have little to teach us who live in the cool and forested hills of the northern Catskills. But while a great wind is unlikely to rip off our roofs and tear out our trees any time soon, the devastation in Puerto Rico is a dramatic reminder of the fragility of our own social arrangements.

For the past decade, the New Franklin Register has often run articles stressing the need for and advantages of local self-reliance. In my own articles, I have pointed to the inevitable decline in energy resources as one of the factors that will oblige us eventually to become

more self-reliant.

In Puerto Rico, we see the sudden collapse of the island's electrical power grid, its drinking water and waste water systems, its food distribution system, its medical services, and virtually all the systems considered essential for a modern life. All these systems, in Puerto Rico as elsewhere in the United States, are highly centralized. What is the consequence of centralization? Advocates usually point to economies of scale and efficiency of administration, and sometimes they are right. But those economies and efficiencies in most cases depend upon the availability of cheap and abundant sources of energy, so that people, materials and equipment can be quickly and readily moved around. Think of delivering food grown in distant places or of maintenance trucks that must travel long distances to repair electric grids; both of these apply in Puerto Rico.

A community that grows most of the food it needs and relies

upon local energy resources is far more resilient than one that imports everything from a distance. Local people know how local systems work and are highly motivated to cooperate to repair and maintain them. When communities are not self-reliant, they become dependent upon others who are less concerned with their welfare than with the profits to be made from selling goods and services. When this happens, wealth is removed from the community and banks move in to supply loans for entrepreneurial or community projects. But bank loans swiftly become a treadmill—for communities as for individuals—and interest payments gobble up the surpluses that might otherwise build local wealth. This is clearly the case in Puerto Rico, a colony where banks mine the local population for interest payments and cheap labor. This has left the island with unrepayable debt.

How does this apply to Franklin? We are unlikely to experience a Category 4 hurricane, but let's not get overconfident. Franklin's economy is pretty fragile. Few of us are truly self-reliant, and nearly all of us need to fill our gas tanks in order to feed and clothe ourselves, to build and maintain our homes, to attend to medical problems, etc.

We import almost everything we buy. The largest economic sector in Franklin is probably dairy farming, but our dairy farmers are in perpetual crisis: the markets for their milk are distant, the price paid for it is inadequate, their production costs are largely out of their control. Many farmers, especially younger ones, are on the debt treadmill, requiring borrowed capital to start out and needing constantly to grow in order to make interest payments, which means yet more debt and ever higher interest payments.

At the website of the Cornell Small Farms Program (<http://small-farms.cornell.edu/2012/04/19/dairy-farm-profit-benchmarks/>) is a Dairy Farm Profit Benchmarks worksheet, prepared in 2012 by Cooperative Extension Resource Educator Mariane Kiraly of Franklin. It lists small farms with as little debt as \$130 per cow (for a debt-to-asset ratio of .01) to as much as \$7,452 per cow (debt-to-asset ratio of .65). The first may be earning a living; the other perhaps not so much.

Here we have a colonial situation not unlike Puerto Rico's,

See MEMO, continued on Page 19



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BUDGET, con't from Page 9

the library board, Carol Jensen, submit a copy of their budget to be reviewed.

With only these small changes, the 2018 budget would be similar to that of 2017, with highway department receiving \$1.305 million (76%), all other town accounts (general) \$0.386 million (22.4%), and Treadwell light and water \$0.027 million (1.6%).

Appropriations and revenue for the hamlet of Treadwell are unchanged from 2017. Expenditures of \$26,750 are partially offset by revenues of \$11,030. The balance of \$15,720 is a subsidy paid by all Franklin landowners.

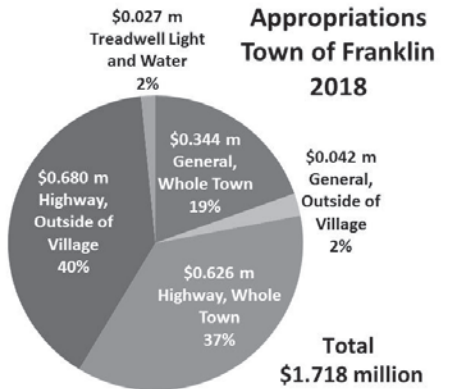
The increase in the levy for the Franklin and Treadwell Fire Departments, which is set by the departments themselves, was not known at the time of the budget workshop. Levy for 2017 was \$0.21 million. This levy is collected through town tax billing but is not part of the town budget.

This tentative budget was considered during the annual budget workshop at the board meeting on October 3rd. But no actual work was done on the budget that evening. Beforehand, the tentative budget was prepared by supervisor Taggart (financial officer) in consultation with bookkeeper Warner (assistant financial officer). At the workshop, Mr. Warner read only the changes from the 2017 budget. (If you forgot to bring your copy of that budget, then you could not follow his presentation.) After the supervisor made some remarks, the board approved his tentative

budget without change. Thereby it became the preliminary budget.

Copies are available from the town clerk. A public hearing on the preliminary 2018 budget will be held Wednesday the 8th of November at 7:30 p.m. (maybe) in the town sheds, intersection of highways 357 and 21. Mistakenly, the time of the public hearing was not set during the October meeting.

The public will not have the benefit of consulting the



Franklin annual financial report for 2016 when considering the proposed budget. For the last eight years in a row, the town has not released this required end-of-year accounting of how the board actually spent monies.

Immediately after this hearing, the board may approve the preliminary budget with or without revisions. While a budget does not have to be passed that evening, it must be approved by November 20th.

BELLA, con't from Page 1

As a result, the baseball field and some playground equipment were removed. Easy access from the center of the hamlet was also cut off. To get to the park now, one must walk up a street with sidewalks in very poor condition, cross a country road with no crosswalk lines and go down another street with no sidewalks at all. The other option is crossing the stream, which can be dangerous for even the most experienced stream walker. Since the project was completed, nothing has been done to repair the park or replace the lost equipment. As a result, the community does not use the park.

The Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) is a registered non-profit organization formed over ten years ago to do exactly what its name implies. SCIG is made up of volunteers from the community and focuses on three main areas: community events, beautification projects, and clean water. SCIG's goal is to represent the people of the community and support the changes they want to see. The group works to implement long-term strategies to improve the curb appeal of the hamlet of Sidney Center, promote upstate NY life and culture,

and ensure a healthy environment and watershed.

In recent years, Sidney Center has seen an influx of young families moving into the hamlet. More kids are riding their bikes, hanging out and, yes, inevitably getting into trouble. SCIG heard requests from its members and the community for a safe, open space for their kids to play and be occupied outdoors instead of stuck in front of a device. The Group looked at the state of the playground and decided this would be their next initiative. They started with the annual Lucky Day Auction Fundraiser in July, where donations from local businesses, artists, and individuals were auctioned off to raise money for the cause. In one day, the Group raised over \$2000 toward the renovation of the park, a great start for sure.

This is where Isabella Conroy came in. Her mother, Jennifer Conroy, a member of SCIG, was involved in the auction fundraiser. Being unusually perceptive for her age, Isabella recognized why the fundraiser was needed. She wanted to contribute in her own way, so her birthday party invitations included a note saying that in lieu of presents, Bella requested donations to SCIG for improvement of the Sidney Center Park.

Since her party, her story has been picked up by the Tri-Town News and The Daily Star, giving her undertaking more attention and helping move the project forward. To date, Bella has raised close to \$750 for the project. SCIG has also received a commitment from the Sidney Central School Alumni Association to start a fund-raising campaign through their network of alumni, matching donations up to \$2500. SCIG will also apply for community improvement grants and will seek support from the Town of Sidney and Delaware County.

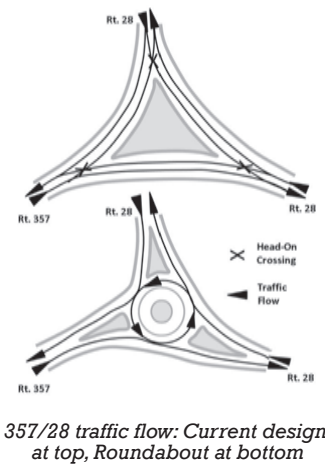
The project aims to restore the current state of the park, install new equipment, and improve park access. The Group is deeply grateful for the support already received from the community, the Sidney Alumni Association, and of course, seven-year-old Isabella Conroy.

To learn more about the Sidney Center Improvement Group and details about the restoration project of the park and playground, please visit their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/SCIGNY.

If you'd like to contribute to the project, please send donations to: SCIG, P.O. Box 456, Sidney Center, NY 13839.

ROUND 'N ROUND 'N ROUNDABOUT

By Brian Brock



357/28 traffic flow: Current design at top, Roundabout at bottom

The Franklin Roundabout Project at the intersection of state highways 28 and 357 has yet to break ground. More than a decade in the making, it was approved for the Regional Capital Program

iSe(tember of 2007.

In 2009, the project got underway with an in-house scoping in March. Local government officials and landowners learned of it by letters from NYS Department of Transportation in April and May respectively. In January of 2010, the scoping of this project was approved by DOT.

As engineering design continued, DOT tried to build local support. The first presentation to Franklin residents was in August of 2011 at the town garages. A second presentation was held almost three years later in May of 2014. This was closely followed by a presentation to the town board in July.

In September 2014, the Franklin Town Board passing a resolution opposed to the roundabout, reflecting the feelings of most of those who attended the public meetings, but a reversal of their resolution of support from the month before.

Traffic flow through the roundabout would be inherently safer than through the existing triangle: when bearing left, the crossing of oncom-

ing traffic is eliminated. And because cars bearing left must travel a third of the way around a tight circle, drivers must slow down when entering the intersection.

So why is the roundabout so unpopular locally?

One objection is the cost of the project, over a million dollars. All this money is from federal and state; none from county or town. If not spent on this project, it will be spent elsewhere. Local purchasing of materials and labor would add to our local economy.

Warning of the hazardous intersection with better signage and flashing lights would be much cheaper, but DOT staff insisted that the improvement in safety would be minimal.

Another objection is the difficulty for farm equipment and large trucks to navigate such a tight circle. The center island would have an outer apron, ten feet wide with a sloping curb, to allow large vehicles a double-wide lane for turning.

The final design offers

CLEAN, con't from Page 10

erating expenses, as well as help qualify for a grant that could be used for another project.

Solarize – start a local campaign to educate, promote, and encourage residential or business solar energy systems. A Solarize campaign typically results in a group rate 10% to 20% below individual market pricing. A minimum of ten new solar installations is required. Not entirely out of reach, given the number of residences and businesses within the Town of Franklin.

Three other High Impact Items are not realistic choices for the Town of Franklin.

Climate Smart Communities Certification – get certified by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as a Climate Smart Community. A long and difficult process.

Community Choice Aggregation - the Town would become an electric supplier and bid for the total amount of electricity purchased by its customers. Not a

practical option.

Energize New York Finance – the Town would be involved in financing business clean energy upgrades with repayment through a special charge on their property tax bill. Also not a good choice for Franklin.

Completing four of these High Impact Items is a reachable goal, with three down and one to go! The real challenge is completing the fourth item before all the grants have been awarded. Given the hundreds of municipalities (Counties, Towns, Villages) within the Southern Tier, surely more than fourteen will seek these grants, so time is of the essence. Having the Town Board select two additional High Impact Items would be a good place to start. Appointing volunteers to help finish up details on the first three items and gather information on the other two would speed the process. There are bound to be willing volunteers in our community.

See ROUNDABOUT, con't on Page 19



THE BARE TRUTH

By Robert Lamb

I first met Jared in 2004 while working at the McKinley Chalet resort in Denali, Alaska. Through our mutual love of fishing, we soon became good friends. In our off hours, we went on many exploratory adventures, seeking out-of-the-way places to fish. That first season, we found many local streams with salmon runs and rainbow trout. When I returned the next year, I bought a Toyota Dolphin RV, which expanded our range. We traveled several thousand miles, fishing every piece of water that looked like it might hold a fish or two. As the season ended, circumstances dictated a reluctant return to my responsibilities in New York.

Meanwhile, Jared stayed in Alaska to become a re-

nowned fly fishing instructor and guide. I have returned every year for always memorable fishing expeditions with him. We bought land together in Port Fidalgo on Prince William Sound. Surrounded by the Chugach National Forest, the bay is a fisherman's paradise. We also bought a cabin site forty-two miles from the peak of Denali mountain to be close to the rivers and streams we love so much. Jared started guiding with Denali Fly Fishing Guides a decade ago and has found his calling. He has been praised as a patient instructor with children and adults alike. It is amazing to watch him teach a ten-year-old child to cast a fly and catch a fish. Jared is soft spoken and has a quiet demeanor

which immediately puts his clients at ease. He has taken out kids from the Make-A-Wish Foundation and single mothers looking to bond with their daughters. His love of teaching is bringing him the recognition he deserves as a professional instructor. It has also earned him the moniker of fish whisperer. Whether speaking to a client or calming a hooked fish before gently releasing it, Jared rarely raises his voice.

Jared lives and breathes fly fishing. He is the master of all things Grayling. In his off time, he chases Rainbow Trout for fun.

A Grayling is a beautiful fish with a large dorsal fin, iridescent in the sunlight. It reaches maturity around eight years of age and can live up to thirty years in the wild. Because of their late maturity, Graylings have disappeared from many streams due to overfishing. Denali fly fishing guides are strictly catch, take a picture,

and release.

We have rafted rivers and stomped through clawing underbrush to fish. We have spent days and weeks planning, only to have nature and the weather change our plans, but we have always fished. Jared is also an excellent oarsman and I trust him with my life. I also trust his uncanny skills at navigation, for I would have been lost a hundred times without him. Jared is the calm, I am the storm. I am ready to jump at a moment's notice while Jared takes a more mea-



Jared, ready to release his catch

sured approach to things. I get excited and loud when landing a large fish. Jared just smiles, whispers to them, and gently lets them go. I have never

seen Jared keep a fish. It could be a trophy rainbow and he will let it go to fight another day.

One fish that really gets Jared excited is the dwarf Dolly Varden, which he has discovered in some local streams. He rarely takes

clients to these streams because he wants to conserve the fish. Fishing on my own while Jared guided a client, I caught a fairly large Dolly and was shocked. Not only have I never caught a Dolly, I never expected to catch one right next to the highway. I had cast a tiny spinner into a roadside water hole. A familiar-looking fish followed it, rather like a New York Brook Trout. On my third cast, the little beauty hammered my spinner and fought with such ferocity that I feared it would escape. This is Alaska's version of the Brookie we love here in New York. Our Brookie is a member of the Char family (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). The Dolly Varden is also a Char (*Salvelinus malma*).

Oh, what a lucky man I am! I get to fish with the fish whisperer on his days off. When Jared is guiding clients, I get to hang out with some of his fellow guides. Guide Josh and I fished the Tangle River for Grayling one weekend. The fish were very accommodating and we caught and released dozens.

For me, Alaska would not be the same without the fish whisperer and his friends.



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AT THE LIBRARY

LYNNE KEMEN
REVIEWS NEW BOOKS



The history of New York State, and indeed of the entire country, might have been quite different if the development of the Erie Canal and other canal systems had not occurred.

I read two very different books on the subject.

FLOATING WEST: The Erie & Other American Canals, by Russell Bourne, is a historical account of the planning, engineering, and execution of the canals.

In 1785, George Washington became president of the Potomack Company, turning his training as a military surveyor and engineer to building a canal connecting the Potomac to the Ohio River. The effort failed because private (for profit) funding could not sustain it.

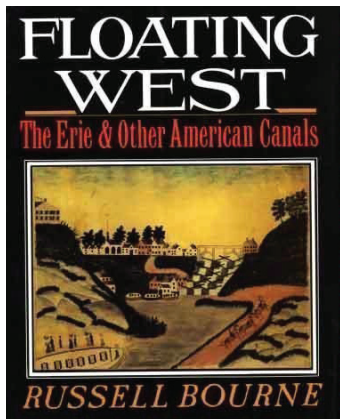
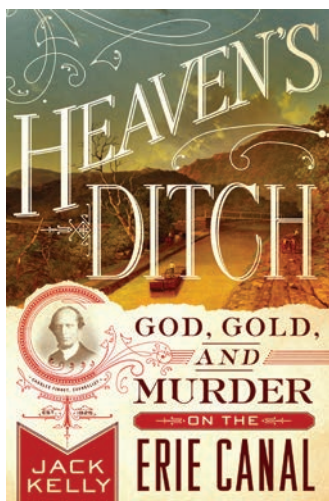
On the other hand, New York State funding made a success of the Erie Canal. The geography they were attempting to cross was mountainous wilderness, so it was heavy going. Work crews of black slaves and white (mostly Welsh and Irish) laborers were the first teams. The conditions of extreme cold and heat coupled with disease made for extremely daunting work. Begun in 1823, the 425-mile canal

was completed in 1825. Bourne's recounting of the struggles to find funding and overcome the harshness of the wilderness makes for exciting reading. He also spends time discussing the changing politics of our young country.

In contrast, Jack Kelly's **HEAVEN'S DITCH: God, Gold, and Murder on the Erie Canal** spends more time analyzing the social changes and upheavals in religion and politics at the time of the building of the Canal:

"Life along the Erie Canal was changing too quickly....Social status was growing more slippery, class distinction sharper. Money was the new idol, land speculation a national obsession. Fortunes were made and lost with shocking suddenness.... The pace of change made citizens sensitive to anything that challenged revered values. Scandal raised the specter of conspiracy. Anxiety turned to fear."

Both books make clear that the Erie Canal made New York the Empire State by enabling lower cost and rapid trade and business between the Midwest and the Atlantic community.



THE LIBRARIANS' PICKS OF THE SEASON:

BORN TO RUN

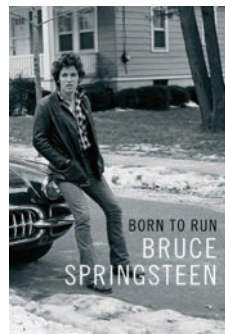
By Bruce Springsteen

Excerpts from the jacket copy:

"In 2009, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band performed at the Super Bowl's halftime show. The experience was so exhilarating that Bruce decided to write about it. That's how this extraordinary autobiography began.

"Over the past seven years, Bruce Springsteen has privately devoted himself to writing the story of his life, bringing to these pages the same honesty, humor, and originality found in his songs.

"**Born to Run** will be revelatory for anyone who has ever enjoyed Bruce Springsteen, but this book is much more than a legendary rock star's memoir. This is a book for workers and dreamers, parents and children, lovers and loners, artists, freaks, or anyone who has ever wanted to be baptized in the holy river of rock and roll."



HOUSE OF SPIES

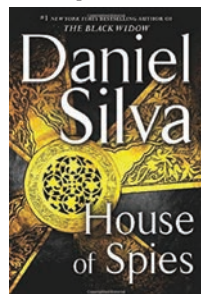
By Daniel Silva

Excerpts from the jacket copy:

"In **House of Spies**, Gabriel Alon is back....determined to hunt down the world's most dangerous terrorist, a shadowy ISIS mastermind known only as Saladin.

"Four months after the deadliest attack on the American homeland since 9/11, terrorists leave a trail of carnage through London's glittering West End. The attack is a brilliant feat of planning and secrecy, but for one loose thread: the French-Moroccan street criminal and ISIS operative who supplied the combat assault rifles....

"Elegant, sophisticated, and filled with unexpected moments of wit and grace, the story moves swiftly from the glamour of Saint-Tropez to the grit of Casablanca and finally, to an electrifying climax...But **House of Spies** is more than just riveting entertainment; it is a dazzling tale of avarice and redemption, set against the backdrop of the great conflict of our times."



WHO HAS SEEN THE WIND?

RIDDLE-POEMS BY BRIGHT HILL LITERARY CENTER OF THE CATSKILLS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

1. By Zoey Bartow, 6 years
Delaware Academy Central School District
Delhi, NY

I'm soft like a baby's skin.
I feel comfortable.
You like me.
I'm like a kiss.
I'm on the beach.
Who am I?

Answer: Sea breeze

2. By Griffin Leddy, 11 years
Franklin Central School
Franklin, NY

I am a superhero of a sort.
I am faster than a jet but I am one.
I am named after a type of water.
I can be deadly.
I am above your head.
I am invisible.
I am millions of years old.
I am colder than ice.
Who am I?

Answer: Jet stream

3. By Killian Newman, 9 years
Delaware Academy Central School District
Treadwell, NY

I circle around
yet I'm not a tornado.
I can be made
of frost or muck.
I am almost
as tall as a man.
I don't make things fly
I hover, like a car
from the future.
I'm such a sight!
Who am I?

Answer: Dust devil

4. By Carly Potrzeba, 8 years
Delaware Academy Central School District
Treadwell, NY

I gang up with the rain
and flood the area.
I make every single person
go inside because
I am highly dangerous.

I am so fierce!
I am a wrecker.
I don't visit often.
I have one eye
Who am I?

Answer: Hurricane

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SEE INSIDE

During the mid-twentieth century, smokers reaching for a light often encountered matchbooks with advertisements offering a “Free Talent Test.” I knew about this because in the early 1960s, my dad would smoke while writing his weekly Sunday sermon. Occasionally on a Saturday afternoon, I would be called on to make the walk to Kern’s corner grocery store to fetch more cigarettes. Books of matches were given out free at the checkout counter and I became aware that... “You are in demand if you can draw!”

A company called Art Instruction, Inc. out of Minneapolis, Minnesota, ran a matchbook cover advertisement showing an artist with a sultry model, and the tagline “Draw Me.” Sometimes these ads would feature a dog



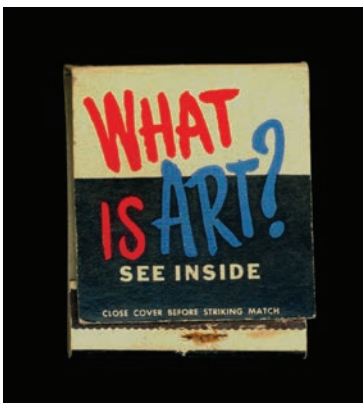
or a clown or a cartoon, but as a young boy, I was drawn to the artist-model one. It seemed incredible to me that if you filled out a form from the inside cover of a pack of matches and mailed it to Minneapolis, someone could, might possibly, discover that you possessed talent ... whatever exactly that was or might be. I never filled out the form.

Another matchbook ad from this same company had a come-on that captured smokers in a completely different way. It read: “What is Art? See Inside.”

Pause here for a moment for reflection. Few questions in the history of art or philosophy have been more elusive, more confounding, or riper with diverse answers than the question: What is Art? Few thinkers have parsed this question to satisfaction. But here was a matchbook purporting to answer it. A century ago, shortly after Art Instruction, Inc. was founded in 1914, Marcel Duchamp challenged the notion of what-is-art with his re-purposed urinal, titled “Fountain,” first shown (or rather not shown) in New York City in 1917. By the time the matchbook cover asked its question nearly a half century later, Jackson Pollock was splashing paint on canvas, Andy Warhol was popping out Campbell’s Soup Cans, and the art compass was spinning in circles.

None of this could have anticipated our current digital age another half century later. Our re-configured visual lives now flow like a fluid. The art compass spins wildly and continuously. Trying to figure an answer to what is art will slow your boat, if not take the wind out of your sails completely. An attempt to confront the question may well induce early retirement.

But all this is good. Anything well designed will reveal its maker. In fact, everything designed will reveal its maker. Looking at the matchbooks in recent years, I’ve realized that the answer to the question was right there on the cover: art allows us to see inside, see inside another’s life, see inside our own, individually and as a whole.



The great American songwriter Tom Petty passed away October 2nd of this year. Turns out this was one day short of fifty years after another great one passed: Woody Guthrie.

Coincidence?

Probably. Nothing extraordinary to read into the dates almost lining up. Just an interesting asterisk in popular music lore.

Another, less interesting fact the two artists share is that neither of them ever had me in their audience. Woody had long stopped playing by the time I was born in September 1967, so my absence at his performances is understandable. But my zero-attendance record at Tom Petty’s concerts I cannot live with as easily.

Point is, are there any Tom Petty-like artists passing through our area that I should catch now so I won’t have another regret to add to my list of wish-I’d-seen-’ems? How about other musical artists visiting our community as they roam and ramble and follow their footsteps into the Great Wide Open?

Well, as a matter of fact, on this very night that I write, at the B Side Ballroom in Oneonta, a songwriter named Nathan Kalish is performing. His press bio indicates he might be the sort I’m speaking of: “Nathan Kalish is a Multi-instrumentalist, Songwriter and Touring Musician. He keeps a busy schedule on the road all year long that takes him to Europe and around the entire U.S. He performs with his roots rock band Nathan Kalish and the Wildfire, his country band Nathan Kalish and the Lastcallers, and also

MUSIC HERE AT HOME

By Jason Starr

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

- Bob Marley

as a solo singer songwriter.

“His music draws comparisons to John Prine, Tom Petty and Paul Westerberg. He has self-released six albums and played on countless other artists/bands records and continues to be a prolific writer in between all his other musical efforts.”

I will be on the lookout for a future local appearance by Mr. Kalish, but perhaps someone reading this now can let me know how the show was and double my determination to catch him on his next time around.

An artist I have a better chance of seeing is the violinist Tess Lark. Living in a different musical world from the guitar-slinging troubadours, Miss Lark also has a bio which puts her in the really-should-see category: “This budding superstar, winner of the 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Naumburg International Violin Competition, is praised consistently by critics and audiences alike for her astounding range of sounds, technical agility, captivating interpretations, and multi-genre programming, from classical to bluegrass. She has performed as soloist with renowned orchestras here and abroad, and plays the 1683 “ex-Gingold” Stradivari violin on



generous loan from the Josef Gingold Fund for the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis.”

She is scheduled to perform November 3rd at First United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut Street in Oneonta.

So, there we have a couple of musicians playing here at home, who are likely to wind up with a lifetime body of work and performances comparable to that of Messrs. Guthrie and Petty. They will not, perhaps, rise to the same level of cultural touchstone as those two guys, but they are certainly treating audiences lucky enough to see them to the same kind of magic made by the masters.

You can make your life and your world better by taking in some live music. Maybe it’s live music night at the restaurant or bar near your house. Maybe it’s your neighbors having a pickin’ party. Maybe it’s just someone or some group playing as part of the festivities during this season’s Harvest and Holiday Festivals. Take a minute or ten and check out a musical act you’ve never experienced before. It could turn into a memory you’ll never regret.

RIDING THE WAVE:

Reflections on Franklin Stage Company’s 21st Season

By Leslie Noble

My stepson surfs. He gets up at 5:00 a.m., pulls on a wet suit in the chilly San Francisco dawn, grabs his precision board, and paddles out into the bay. What

follows is a mysterious, muscular dance between fear and exhilaration, skill and chance, surrender and control. At the heart of the game is balance: knowing where you are in the grand gravitational pull and how to position yourself to stay on the board.

Though I’m not one to hang ten myself, by the close of our first season at the helm of Franklin Stage Company, I have developed a deep appreciation for the undertaking.

Last February, when Patricia Buckley and I volunteered to steer the theater through a major leadership transition, we knew we were embarking on an awesome undertaking. Former Artistic Director

Carmela Marner, together with her parents, Carole and Gene, had spent the better part of the last twenty years building FSC into a respected and valued community institution. There were only four short months before opening day of season twenty-one, and we didn’t have a show in place yet. So, with the FSC Board’s support, we got to work.

The spring was spent huddled around computers and kitchen tables. So many details to hammer down – play selection, guest artist contracts, housing and travel, royalties, marketing and advertising, building maintenance. So many things to figure out—

See WAVE, con’t on Pg. 18



A scene from Arthur Miller’s “The Price” at Franklin Stage

THE LIVING WALL

By Edmond Rinnooy Kan

During the height of the Vietnam War, I was a teenager, living comfortably in the Netherlands, where I was born and raised. The Vietnam War was far away, but I always felt a special connection to it. First of all, like everybody in the Netherlands at the time, I was pro-American. Americans were the grand liberators of World War II, less than one generation earlier. The intense, personalized, and dramatized media coverage of the Vietnam War made it easy for me to re-identify with the young American soldiers sent into battle.

These soldiers were about my age, a little older maybe, and were fighting a war that seemed to be worth fighting. On the one hand, I was happy not to be part of it for all the obvious reasons. On the other, I felt attracted to the sense of comradeship, sharing of hardship and adventure. Now, at age 64, I still have that double notion about the war in Vietnam. To me a Vietnam vet feels like someone who "went there," someone who – unlike me – lived up to the occasion either by choice or number. Just like the American troops that landed on the beaches of Normandy twenty years earlier.

I always wanted to see the Vietnam Memorial, but somehow it never happened. Over the recent Memorial Day weekend, Oneonta hosted a replica of the Memorial in Neah-wah Park, so I went to see it. My interest was not only to pay respect to the men and women who didn't make it back home. As a visual artist, I was also interested in the Memorial as a work of art. I knew about the deep emotions it evokes in Washington, DC. This is in essence what art is all about. So, what makes the Vietnam Memorial artistic? What makes it trigger those deep emotions? It is not just a wall with names on it. There are many additional characteristics that give this wall an unusual, artistic quality.

First of all, the wall is not straight. It bursts out of the ground and splits in two pieces, creating the sense of an open wound. It is made of a high-gloss, black stone from India. This creates a reflection of the person who stands before it, bringing past and present together. Visitors can touch the wall, and they do. They touch the name of a deceased friend or family member, sometimes put a piece of paper on it and then rub it with a wax crayon or graphite pencil as a memento of their loved one.

The Vietnam Memorial wall triggers people to leave sentimental items

behind, from a Harley-Davidson with a HERO license plate to a teddy bear and a small American flag. This makes the Memorial a work in permanent progress. Its form is never definitive, it keeps evolving. It's a living wall.

Last but not least, the casualties are listed in chronological rather than alphabetical order. To me this is a brilliant, artistic brain wave. It brings everything close to home. We are not watching a list of names. We are watching death strike day by day by day. Good days, bad days, death was always around the corner, as 58,315 Americans experienced. Friends lost, families broken. Until the wall ends.

All these artistic features are less prominent in the replica that was shown in Oneonta. That is too bad, but understandable. It has to be mobile, flexible, manageable, and lit up at night. This makes the replica more informative than artistic. It is a place to pay tribute, to commemorate. To experience the deeper grief, I shall have to go to Washington, DC. To see my reflection on the wall as it breaks out of the soil, and connect to something bigger than myself. That is the difference between an object and an art object. The difference between being informed and being touched.

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FFL, continued from Page 8

arranged on new work spaces and countertops.

Last year, the Library won a grant from the New York State Library Construction Grant program, and the majority of the funds were received in July. The grant will cover 75% of the cost of the renovations. This, plus a generous grant from the O'Connor Foundation, has made the entire project affordable for the Franklin Free Library. Thanks also go to the Rotary Club of Franklin for their recent, very generous donation.

The Library plans a grand opening celebration in early December. Be on the lookout for announcements regarding this event, but don't wait to visit! Stop by anytime the Franklin Free Library is open. We will be proud to give you a tour of the work!

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TAVERN, continued from Page 3

Franklin. Could it be that he lived in the log cabin at the time of his death? Could it be that Roger Case, Jr., with his growing family, bought the property and proceeded to build what is now the frame house misattributed to Asa Turner? These are still unanswered questions but would lend credence to the assumption that the current building was constructed three decades later than the information cast in iron at the front of my house.

Of particular interest is that Roger Case, Jr. was extremely active in the real estate business. County records reveal that in the early 19th century, he was buying and selling large tracts of land. In talking with a local attorney, I learned that it was common at the time for properties lost to bankruptcy and foreclosure to be auctioned off on the front steps of the local tavern. It would have been very convenient for a tavern owner like Case to purchase cheap property at a sale on his front porch and to turn a healthy profit. Records also show that his real estate ventures included partnerships with Edgerton and Frisbee, two of the most prominent Delaware County patriarchs of the first half of the 19th century. I would add that Case's brother was a stagecoach driver on the old Susquehanna Turnpike, which ran past the Turner Tavern. One could speculate that the Tavern was the primary stopover in the area for wayfarers traveling either eastward toward the Hudson or westward to the new frontier.

With Parmelia, Roger had two additional children. The youngest, Mary, was to marry, become widowed, remarry, and relocate to New York City. After her father's death in 1863 and mother Parmelia's death in 1879, she inherited the house. Upon her second husband's death, Mary Loveland returned to her beloved Franklin. In

1886, she modernized the Turner Tavern in the trendy Eastlake style, adding a side porch and modernizing her kitchen with towering new cabinets. She also had the center hall stairway redesigned to create a landing and a switchback so that she could rest before completing her climb to the second floor.

She must have been well liked in the community. According to Mary Loveland's obituary in the Wigham collection, "...she was possessed of a lively humor and conversational tact and has added much to the social life of Franklin." Another clipping refers to a report from the Oneida Casket Company announcing that they had recently been commissioned to build the largest casket ever built by that company. They estimated that the deceased weighed over 550 pounds. Furthermore, the casket, drawn up to the house by horses, could not fit through any of the doors, making it necessary to have the viewing on the Eastlake side porch. Mary Loveland's presence is visible today in the earth and stone mausoleum in the Ouleout Cemetery, commissioned the year before she passed away.

The scrapbook collection offers additional information on the Turner Tavern's history, as well as thousands of other local events from the 1780s to the 1980s. We Franklin residents are fortunate to have this collection as a resource, and we are fortunate to have had local history chroniclers like Pearl Wigham.

There is great value in understanding our past. It helps us to better understand our place in the present, and what makes a successful community as we plan for the future.

Please note: The Pearl Wigham Scrapbooks are being relocated to the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum.

FALLOUT, con't from Page 1

cal Stress Monitoring System are to provide a report card on current fiscal operations and an early warning of potential funding problems. Not only are the resulting ratings available in tables online, but so are the component factors, in an Excel spread sheet: osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/

OSC initiated their FSMS in 2013 with ratings calculated from the 2012 financials. Ratings have been revised annually for 2013, 2014, and 2015. Calculating ratings for 2,300 governments and schools requires months after the May 1st deadline for the submission of financial reports. Ratings for 2016 should be released shortly.

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation (Harvard Kennedy School) recognized

this FSMS as one of the twenty-five top programs for Innovations in American Government Awards in 2017.

At right, the table shows these ratings for the nineteen towns in Delaware County for 2015. In both categories, the towns with the least stress have their ratings in *italics*. Even the relatively high ratings of current stress for neighboring towns of Delhi and Hamden (22.5) are well below what OSC considers a "susceptible" level of stress at 45 to 55.

A nearby example of a susceptible level of stress in 2015 is the City of Norwich at 45.8. Higher levels of stress are moderate at 55 to 65 (Town of Cherry Valley, 63.8) and significant at 65 to 100 (Broome County, 67.5). By contrast, Delaware County is rated 12.9.

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ECONOMIC STRESS 2015
DELAWARE COUNTY

Towns	Current Fiscal	Future Factors
Andes	12.5	30.8
Bovina	6.7	15.8
Colchester	12.5	6.7
Davenport	?	?
Delhi	22.5	6.7
Deposit	6.7	16.7
Franklin	?	?
Hamden	22.5	14.2
Hancock	9.6	30.0
Harpersfield	12.9	13.3
Kortright	15.8	11.7
Masonville	6.7	22.5
Meredith	0.0	18.3
Middleton	6.7	30.0
Roxbury	12.5	25.8
Sidney	15.8	39.0
Stamford	19.2	6.7
Tompkins	0.0	25.8
Walton	3.3	39.0

? = Not Filed

town government has violated New York General Municipal Law (Section 30) by not filing AUDs with the OSC, as documented by the OSC in their Report of Examination, Town of Franklin, Financial Operations, Report 2014M-32.

The boards of the towns of Davenport and Franklin refuse to release the required end-of-year accounting, thereby deflecting examination of the fiscal stress levels of their management. Annually, OSC designates both towns as "not

filed." In the OSC progress report on the first three years of their FSMS, Davenport and Franklin are listed in the Appendix of Persistent Non-Filers, two of only 28 among the 932 towns in New York. In contrast, all other towns in Delaware County filed AUDs and have no designation for stress.

In May, a warning letter sent from the OSC to Supervisor Taggart cautioned that these stress ratings are consulted by state legislators, oversight agencies, and credit ratings services, among others.

Our town board is considering building a town hall adjacent to the town garages, which would require taking on debt. Any bank would consult credit ratings before setting the terms of a loan.

Without AUDs, towns can not be certified as "fiscally eligible" by state agencies such as the newly established Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments. Franklin could be considered ineligible for grants to defray the costs of building a town hall.

A final note: Indifference to the law by our town government could increase the cost of a new town hall, with those costs to be borne by Franklin taxpayers.

This is the third part of an ongoing investigative series into Franklin fiscal operations.



OTEGO, continued from Page 1

been dubbed the Repurposing Committee (RC).

Otego is just one of dozens of small towns across upstate New York trying to figure out what to do with an old school building. Some towns have found new owners for their vacant schools: private industry, senior citizen housing, new business incubators, arts centers. Other towns have had less pleasant outcomes: vandalism, boarded-up windows, dilapidated eyesores that blight entire communities. Fending off decay is critical—these old buildings are poorly insulated, and if left unheated through just one or two winters, they literally start falling down. Fending off decay is also expensive, many tens of thousands of dollars per year, and school districts faced with financially strapped property taxpayers and razor-thin budgets frequently find it impossible to justify spending money to heat and maintain an empty structure. Demolition can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars as well. So the derelicts haunt Main Streets for years, sometimes decades. Immediate needs trump long-term planning, and with each passing season, the probability of a good outcome shrinks a little more.

The Otego RC faces a tough row to hoe. The decay clock is already ticking. Many in the community who opposed the closing remain irate and vocal, and some have made it clear that, in the selection of a repurposing strategy, they have a powerful tool at their disposal: zoning. Any proposal from the RC will have to satisfy

both the school board and the Village of Otego Zoning Board. Some members of village government have pulled no punches explaining what they don't want to see in downtown Otego: no low-income housing (which would "bring in too much crime"), and no senior housing. At a presentation by the RC to the Otego Town Board on October 11, RC member and local entrepreneur Buzz Hesse said, "If the building is converted to elderly housing, our EMS staff is going to be overwhelmed." Town Supervisor Joe Hurlburt suggested that EMS overload is nearing anyhow: "If something like senior housing did happen, we'd probably have to make a contract with CMT [Cooperstown Medical Transport] to get a substation....it's not the cost of equipment, it's the manpower is the issue....someday it may go to that anyway."

When EMS overload was brought up again, Town Planning Board member Mark Dye remarked, "The demographics on this township....it's getting older twice as fast as the average. We're exporting our young people, we're accumulating old people, and we're cheating out on taking care of them."

The meeting between the RC and the Town Board rambled on for over an hour. Much attention was paid to the disposition of land around the school. Different potential developers will likely have different needs, but the consensus in the room was that the town and/or village should retain title to as much of the property as possible.

Unatego School Board President Jim Salisbury said, "We need to know if the village and/or town will accept ownership of vacant land that is not transferred to the new owner."

Unatego Superintendent Dr. Dave Richards reported that about \$1 million in bonded debt from the 1998 renovation remains on the books, so any payment the district might receive must go to pay down that debt. He also said that the District is not interested in retaining ownership of the building (for example, leasing some or all of the facility to a third party) because of the maintenance costs (heating, roof repairs, septic system) and heating expense.

RC chairman Ken Olson said that the committee is "...trying to stay within the parameters of the village and town comprehensive plans." The committee hopes to have a Request for Proposals ready for release in the spring, which will outline the uses and conditions that the school board will employ to evaluate developers' proposals. Dr. Richards pointed out that an RFP is not mandated to be a "highest bidder" competition; the school board can accept a proposal based on criteria other than simply the sale price. Dan Wilber,

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Town Code Enforcement Officer, said that the building is fully sprinklered and alarmed, which would support a wide variety of occupancies, including residential and commercial uses.

Buzz Hesse proposed that if an appropriate buyer cannot be found, the building should be quickly razed; some of the architectural details could be salvaged for construction of a memorial monument, and the cost of demolition could be covered by a special school tax levy spreading the expense over a few years. The size of such a levy is still being investigated.

In conversation after the meeting, school board member Dick Downey related that another potential use for Otego Elementary might be as an emergency shelter/preparedness storage/response staging facility funded and operated in conjunction with FEMA. With floods and hurricanes increasing in frequency and severity, demands for emergency aid are rising, as is the need for temporary shelter. Downey has initiated some inquiries.

WAVE, continued from Page 15

budget, grants, fundraising – how to pay for everything! To say nothing of scheduling and logistics.

By late April, our team of trusty interns was in place – veterans Jacob Glueckert and Nikola Spychalski, head intern/assistant tech director Lea Davis, and newcomer Demetri Jaromack, as well as technical director Scott Holdredge. With their help, and the help of the Board and several friends and neighbors, (special shout out to Brian Brock, Phil Warish, and Vincent Speranza, who helped in ways too numerous to count), May and June were spent preparing Chapel Hall. With me commuting on weekends from Syracuse, Pat, Scott, and the interns took on the bulk of the cleaning and organizing, as well as a second-floor dressing room renovation and electrical upgrade, completed by Franklin's own expert contractor and FSC friend Lee Cohen.

The last week of June, I retired from my staff job at Syracuse University, packed for a summer in Franklin, bid farewell to husband and cats, and paddled out into the bay. With a mere three days until our first event – the David Byrd art opening – I joined Pat, the interns, Board Treasurer Jack Siman (who curated both the striking Byrd exhibit and exceptional monographs of Lisbeth Firmin) and entered the roiling activity underway at Chapel Hall.

The fast pace of events and deadlines, the behind-the-scenes challenges, the limitations of staff and funding created such an exhilarating and exhausting flow that sometimes the waves felt like a series of small tsunamis. The oft-repeated question "What's next?" propelled us forward mantra-like, followed closely by

"What day is it?"

The season's frenzied unfolding also yielded many surprises, and many moments of grace. Just when something would fall through, like actor housing (which was a particularly constant and thorny challenge), something or someone would come through just in time to keep us afloat.

Without a doubt the most satisfying moments were those that brought people and art together. Old friends and new – over thirty artists and nearly 2500 audience members – converged on magnificent Chapel Hall this summer to share memorable experiences and many not-to-be-missed moments.

Here are a few that stick with me: Stephan Wolfert's elegiac dance at the end of *Cry Havoc!* and the talkbacks that followed, where vets and their families shared powerful stories of war, trauma and healing; Tom Vasquez's triumphant second-act number in Oded Gross's hilarious adaptation of *The Government Inspector*; our elation when the kid caught the banana (or nearly did!) in Dr. Kaboom's *Look Out! Science is Coming!*; the thrilling reenactment of *The War of the Worlds* in Matt Chiorini's *Orson Welles/Shylock*; Child of Mary's final devastating confession in Erin Layton's hauntingly beautiful *Magdalen*; the Franz brothers' agonizing impasse and Esther's ultimate longing for "some crazy kind of forgiveness" in the final moments of Arthur Miller's *The Price*.

For all these moments, Pat and I would like to extend a huge thanks to this community: our terrific interns and tech director, our excellent designers, artists, stage managers, the FSC Board, the Franklin Rotary, Franklin Local, The Tulip and The Rose Cafe, The Franklin

Guest House, Neil and Susan Rochmis, Tom and Donna Briggs & The Squires Tankard, Carmela, Gene and Carole Marner, Chris Altmann, Kristi McKay, Chris O'Conner & Annie McAdams, Jim Mullen, Wjinanda Deroo, Laurie Zimniewicz, Franklin Central School (particularly ace buildings and grounds manager Mike Hyzer!), John Campbell and The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum; all our generous sponsors and funders, and the many friends and supporters who made this season a success.

Looking ahead, planning for Season 22 is already underway. As the saying goes, "Time and tide wait for no (wo)man."

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DUCKS, con't from Page 3

is a duck-shaped plaque. The Franklin club sold 272 ducks, over one quarter of the total. (There are thirty-eight clubs in Delaware County.) Some of their prize money was spent at the Delaware County Fair for an old-time group portrait.

As you would expect, two of the individual winners were from Franklin Little Flowers as well. Rachel Cobane won first place of \$100 by selling 197 ducks, and George Machala won second place of \$75 for selling 52 ducks.

This win was not a lucky fluke. George's mother has been leader of the club for eight years, and during this time the Franklin Little Flowers has won five times. Usually Rachel was the top

seller. The Franklin club strives to do their best in all things.

Often, they have used some of the prize money for a sheet cake at the sellers' reception after the livestock auction at the Fair. The balance has been put



towards club trips to such places as bowling lanes, roller skating rinks, and Howe's Cavern.

Founded in Ohio in 1902 and focused on agri-

culture and rural communities, 4-H has spread worldwide to fifty countries. In the United States, there are over six million members of ages five to eighteen in 90,000 clubs. In this country, it is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture

The organization aims to develop citizenship, leadership, responsibility, and life skills through hands-on learning and positive youth development. The four Hs stand for the four areas of personal development: head, heart, hands, and health. Its logo is a four-leaf clover.

The 4-H has been a Franklin institution for over half a century.

MEMO, con't from Page 11

where the banks are extracting interest payments from the area's economic actors. That wealth is leaving the community and paying distant bankers' bonuses instead of remaining here and helping to build a resilient local economy. How do we change that situation? We should think and talk about it seriously. Puerto Rico's hurricane will manifest here more slowly but with the same collapse of financial systems, markets, and energy availability.

Visit the Franklin Free Library and have a look at the microfilms of the Franklin newspapers from the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Study the advertisements and you'll see a vibrant local economy in which most of what was needed for a

decent life was produced locally. I don't mean to get sentimental about a time when the hillsides were bare because all the trees had been cut down for sale elsewhere - Americans have never been shy about extracting whatever wealth they can and moving on. But Franklin has been here for 225 years, and if many of the founding families are no longer here, other settlers have taken their place. If we are ever to become a resilient community, we need to find new cooperative economic bases and rebuild the community solidarity that has become a faint memory. We must find a way to heal the toxic politics of *us and them* that has infected our town, the whole country, perhaps the entire world.

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ROUNDAABOUT, continued from Page 12

no help for vehicles descending Franklin mountain without breaks. One version included a direct route through the roundabout and onto a runout in the field to the south. Local objections led to its elimination.

Plowing this small circle of pavement with a raised central island and three splitter triangles would be difficult, but the DOT's responsibility.

Some of the local objection may be the typical opposition to anything new. In a survey by the National Research Council of twenty-eight roundabouts in nine states, reported public opinion was 68% very negative or negative vs. 14% positive or very positive before construction, but 0% vs. 73% after construction.

The Final Design Report of P.I.N.9018.58 was released in January 2015 and in a slightly revised version in September 2016. This design was then approved the next month. Start of construction was repeat-

edly delayed. In 2011, the projected start was to be 2014, in 2014 was fall 2015, and in 2016, summer 2017.

Similarly, the cost of the roundabout crept upward. In 2011, it was estimated to cost \$0.80 million. By 2014 the estimate had climbed to \$0.96 M, and by 2015, \$1.00 M. The project was finally put out to bid this summer. Bids were opened on August. The low bid was \$1.281 million by Economy Paving Co. Inc. of Cortland. The two other bids were \$1.289 million (only 0.6 percent more) by Bothar Construction LLC of Binghamton, and \$1.397 million (9 percent more) by Rifenburg Construction Inc. of Troy. After a review of bid documents, DOT awarded contract to Economy Paving on September 14th.

The department and the company have yet to discuss a timeline for the project. DOT expects Franklin Roundabout to be completed in the fall of 2018. It would be the first roundabout in Delaware County.

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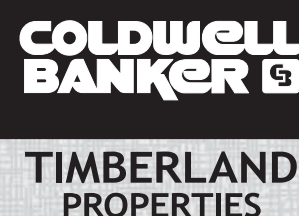


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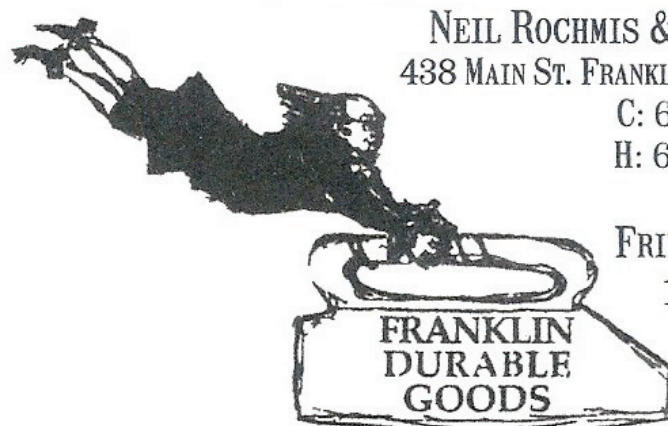
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08/02/17	Fleming Rd	17.41	Rural vac>10	38,000	49,000	Schnuerle, Herbert	Levitan, Daniel
08/03/17	2116 Bennett Hollow	1.50	1 Family Res	165,000	193,000	Callari, Charles	Bauer, Sean W
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