

# ONE HOUSE AT A TIME

## Solving the Energy Crisis

By Norm Farwell

**Part I:**

It is odd that the issue of energy waste gets so little play in America. Here we are, the world’s biggest consumer of energy, and no one talks about the most obvious fact - that we waste most of what we use. The statistics are familiar: we comprise five percent of the world’s population, but use twenty-five percent of its resources. Americans use seven times more energy per capita than the world average.

But the national conversation is all about meeting future demand: where is tomorrow’s energy going to come from? Which item on the wondrous menu of new technologies will prolong our party: fantasies such as fuel cells, biofuels, wave generators, shale gas, what have you? But we don’t talk about where all the energy goes, or how we might waste less of it.

No addict likes to contemplate the extent of his addiction, but it’s a good place to start a conversation about energy. Americans have a monstrous appetite for fuel. We use about a hundred quadrillion BTUs of energy per year. Some of that goes to transporting people and things (28%), some to industrial production and manufacturing, including food (23%). But that only adds up to fifty-one percent. Where’s the rest of it?

See **HOUSE**, con’t on Page 12



Ed Lentz, Sr. in his solar greenhouse Photo by Gene Marner

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

By Carole Satrina Marner

I first met Ed and Vicki Lentz about 8 years ago when a group of like-minded people got together to form the Environmental Work Group in Oneonta.

We met once a month or so to talk about alternative fuels, passive building styles and food growing and preservation. We organized events like Earth Day and the Farmers’ Speak-out and invited agriculturalists

such as Albert Bates who held a day-long seminar on permaculture. Many of us have shaped our lives by the knowledge we gained, but no one has done it like Ed and Vicki Lentz.

Ed is a prosperous patent attorney and Vicki is a professor at SUNY Oneonta, but many people in their same financial situation are off taking cruises. Ed and Vicki are hands-on farmers not only raising animals and food sustainably but experimenting with everything from passively heated greenhouses to alternative fuels to new ways of marketing their products - like a meat CSA.

Ed and Vicki met and married as students at Indiana State University. Vicki was from a small town in rural southern Indiana.

See **FAMILY**, con’t on Page 13

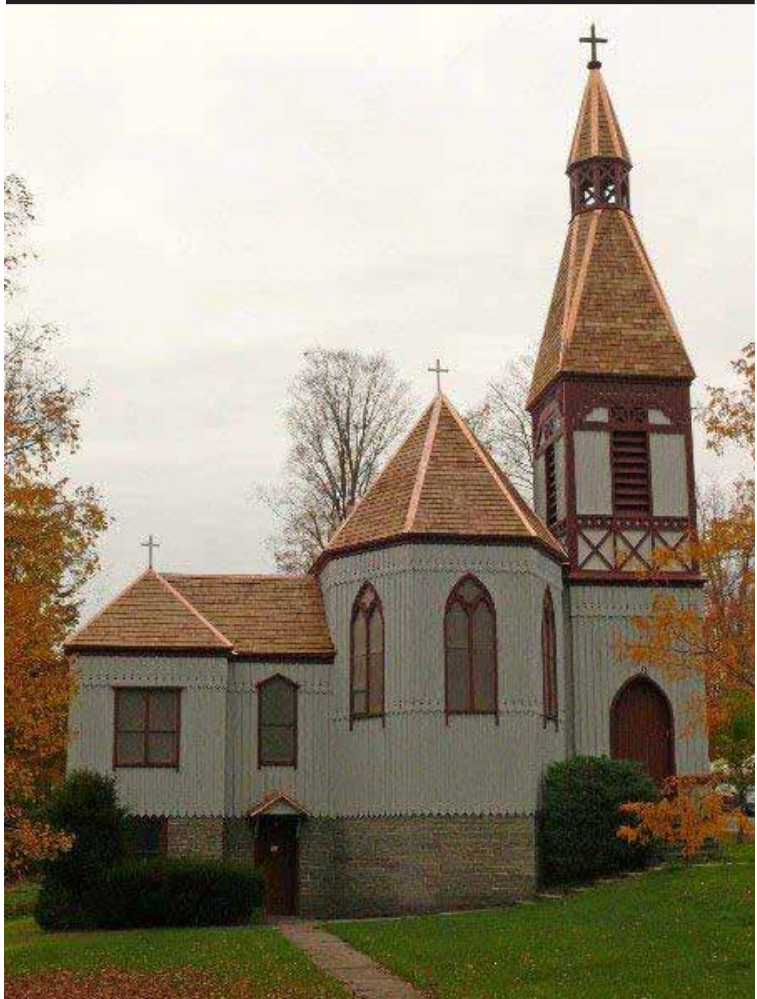


Photo by Nina Hart

## HISTORIC CHURCH RESTORED

By Jane Hebbard

A prominent building in Franklin’s Historic District, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, completed an extensive exterior restoration this summer after its roof was damaged by water in the winter of 2008 and 2009. The church’s congregation and the community are indebted to two church leaders, Dan and Janet Branigan, who guided the project along its rocky road for three years.

The Vestry started with estimates from local roofing companies for asphalt shingles, and then an eye-opening

See **CHURCH**, continued on Page 4

## IN DEC WE TRUST??

### Oil & Gas Pollution in New York State

By Brian Brock

#### PART I

##### Current Regulation:

Eventually the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will release the final Supplemental GEIS, which will include guidelines for the safe horizontal drilling and fracturing of black shales. If and when drilling and fracking come to Franklin, will the DEC assure that it is done safely? If past is prologue, then the DEC’s record should predict their future success or failure.

In New York State, existing regulations for the DEC’s Division of Mineral Resources (DMN) are antiquated and inadequate, most having been written in 1972.

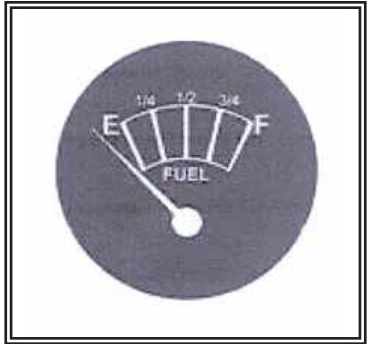
In 1992, the *Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on the Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program* included the first set of guidelines for safe drilling. The DMN did not see the need for such guidelines, and only began this study after being compelled to by the passage of State Environmental Quality Review Act. Even with

the study completed, the DMN under Director Sovas repeatedly failed to codify these guidelines through regulations. Instead of uniform and transparent statewide regulations, DMN uses a changing list of conditions attached to each individual permit to drill, and available only at regional offices or through a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request. One draft of the GEIS regulations was obtained by this newspaper through FOIL, but only after an appeal, as described in Volume V, Number 3.

What of the claim that NYS already has the best regulations? Earlier this year, the International Energy Agency published a study *Golden Rules for a Golden Age of Gas*. In the Annex [appendix] of Regulation and Best Practice are examples of regulations from Pennsylvania, Colorado, EPA, Bureau of Land Management, Alberta (Canada), and Queensland (Australia) – but not a single regulation from New York.

The DEC planned to permit this new combination of horizontal drilling and high-volume fracturing

See **TRUST?**, continued on Page 7



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## Your Neighbor's View...

Hello!

I am a 20 year old resident of Unadilla NY. I just moved here with my family in the beginning of summer from Long Island NY. There were a few major reasons why we moved up here. One of the main reasons was to get away from the air pollution we were all breathing in every single day.

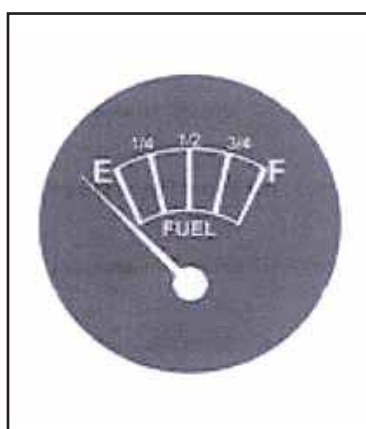
Now that I'm up here, I hear that there's a possibility of fracking being allowed? I truly do not understand how such a thing could be allowed. It makes me wonder if people know the facts. The environment around us will be completely polluted. The chemicals that these companies will use to have the natural gasses come up will contaminate my family's water and my water. Family friends of mine in Pennsylvania where fracking has begun complain and are upset because when they turn on the faucet or shower; their home fills up

with the smell of all the chemicals.

I live with my ninety year-old grandmother, and my parents themselves are seniors in their mid-60's. They already worry about their health as it is, being that they're older, but now they have to worry about this? Imagine the thought of taking a shower to be CLEAN, and then we smell chemicals? No, thank you. Never mind the other environmental risks. How about the animals that have died or the birth defects in the states where fracking is allowed? Cattle that we may use for meat, sick from the chemicals used for fracking. That doesn't sound too healthy.

The idea of fracking being allowed is completely outrageous. There are other ways of finding jobs for people.

Kerri Ficke  
Unadilla, NY

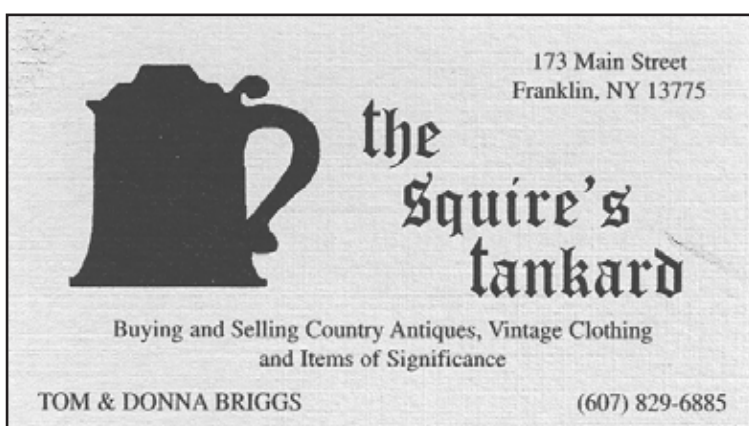


## INTERSECTION INDECISION

By Brian Brock

The reconstruction of the intersection of Routes 28 and 357 in North Franklin is scheduled for 2015 with a budget of \$850,000. This is a year later and \$50,000 more than was projected a year ago. NYSDOT has not yet made the choice between a roundabout and a T-intersection.

Sketches of the two alternatives are in The New Franklin Register Vol. V, No. 3. A second presentation on the project is expected in Franklin. A public information meeting will be preceded by letters to stake holders and a news release to the media.



## PARK NEWS

By Kim Hyzer

With lots of help from members of the Franklin Improvement Society and the Franklin Garden Club, we made it through the drought. So far it looks like we didn't lose anything! Thank you all! (And thanks for the weeding, too!)

If you've been to the park recently, you've probably noticed the obelisk behind the monuments. This used to be the road sign at the corner of Merrickville Road and Route 357. Al Marshall had said that he always wanted to get that post and put it somewhere in the village. Now it is in the park next

to the tree planted in his honor.

A small section of fence has been installed at the back of the park. This is just to let visitors know where the park ends.

The very nice metal sculpture of a man holding a bird is a generous gift to the park by sculptor Nathan Banks. This statue is up by the spruce trees behind the fountain.

Jacob Gregory has offered to do a revolving display of local history in the kiosk as his community project.

Our park bloomed beautifully this year! A season of rest now, for more beauty next year!

## the flatlander diaries fall 2012

By Sunny Hill

Here's how it starts: every other Saturday morning, Flatlanders share a two to three hour drive up Route 17, our hearts filled with excitement and anticipation about visiting our home away from home. The drive up is often beautiful and breathtaking. Turning into Roscoe, our eyes grow bigger and our breath slows down. Eventually, we begin coming up every Saturday. Next, we come up on Fridays, and some of us even find a way to leave on a Thursday. The final step is becoming a full-time transplant. The Catskills somehow feels like home in a way the Flatlands never will. Fresh air, clean water, green mountains. I hope we never take these things for granted.

What is the difference, then, between a Flatlander and a Catskillian? One answer: Etiquette!

The other day in the Flatlands, I was at the check-out counter of a large chain store. I was put off by the cashier's less than pleasant greeting. One gets the feeling that the cashier resents the intrusion onto their conveyor belt. The final straw was how they handed me the change. No thank-you or "Have a nice day, sir." Okay, not really so offensive, but what did irk me was the cashier not even looking at me while handing over the change. Already in conversation with the cashier next door, facing away from me while blindly shoving the change and receipt at my hand. Rude? Way beyond rude! Unfortunately, some of us have a reputation for bringing that rude behavior upstate. Tossing beer cans out of our window on rural roads, as if "rural" was synonymous with "garbage dump." And it's not just beer cans, but mattresses, bed frames, old chairs, washers and who knows what else. For this behavior, I am ashamed and angered. What else to do but patrol our roadsides with a garbage bag, picking up others' discarded trash? Not what I had in mind for a pleasant weekend, but a reality.

I find such a difference in the general behavior of the Catskillian. So often pleasant, offering up smiles and well-wishes with the daily greeting. I am always so happy when, walking down a Franklin street, a complete stranger smiles and says hello. Is it superficial? No. Rather, it is an invitation to engage in a conversation, maybe get to know a new person. True, this happens less in the "big cities" of Oneonta and Delhi, but can you imagine passing a stranger in Meridale and not saying hello? That would be weird.

We often pass the time during our long drive upstate by reading interesting license plates. Here are a few I've found that reflect the mood during the drive. Can you figure them out? H8 WRKN, IMNHVN, and here's a challenge: GOIVIT (hint: find the number here). At the Big M, I just had to ask a driver what "FINE 6" stood for. For the life of me, I could not figure it out. The gracious lady informed me that it was her family name and that she was the sixth of eight children. God bless her. Please let me know if you have an interesting license plate to share.

And thanks, Catskillians, for all the smiles.



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# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## THE CHRISTMAS STROLL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

By Kim Hyzer

Plans are well under way for a fabulous day of holiday cheer in Franklin!

The day will start with Grandma's Pantry at the Methodist Church from 11 to 3. Many homemade items will be for sale as well as a soup and sandwich lunch which always gets rave reviews.

The Holiday Market at the Fire Hall will also offer select items for sale, many from vendors familiar from the Sunday Franklin Farmers' Market. Items will include homemade and natural foods, knitwear, soaps and gifts.

Monica Wilber will have her handcrafted jewelry, "Scriptural Creations" for sale at her house at 856 Main Street. Betty Fischer will also have craft items available there.

Quilts by the Quilt Guild will be shown at the Episcopal Church from 11 to 4.

Local homes will be open for touring from 1 PM to 6 PM, in the usual self-guided tour format. If you would like to open your house for viewing or are just thinking about it and have questions, please call Kim at 607-829-8820.

The Senior Class will again be offering a lasagna dinner from 4 to 7 PM at the school. DJ Potter and A Company of Two (maybe A Company of Three this year) will offer great music, including holiday songs throughout dinner.

Hometown Pizza will be open and will be offering a dinner special.

And there's still more!

The Franklin Stage Company will be showing a family film at 7 PM. Watch for details.

The Community Bible Church on Center Street is planning a Christmas multimedia presentation. Watch for details and times.

Last, but certainly not least, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at the park at 6:00 PM, where they will greet children of all ages. From there, all will go to the fire house for free pictures, snacks and the opportunity to make a Christmas craft to take home.

If you have something you would like to offer as part of the day, give Kim a call at 607-829-8820.

## YOUR TOWN BUDGET 2013

By Brian Brock

The proposed 2013 budget for the Town of Franklin is \$1.83 million. Subtracting the \$0.29 million in expected revenues and a balance from last year of \$0.26 million, the amount to be raised through property taxes is to be \$1.27 million. Compared to last year, this will result in an increase in property taxes of \$0.027 million or approximately \$27,000 thousand.

This is an increase of 2.6%, but the Town is not required to waive the 2% tax cap because one third of this raise (0.9%) is for our contribution to the state mandated New York State retirement system, which is not counted towards that cap.

Most of this increase, \$26,570, is for Highway Department medical insur-

ance (\$13,724), state retirement (\$9,586), and social security (\$260).

Raises are proposed for some town officials: Highway Supervisor (\$1,000), Deputy Fiscal Officer (\$515), Justice (\$500), Assessor (\$500), Clerk (\$500), and Health Officer (\$50), which totals \$3,065. Some of these increases are offset by a small increase in expected revenues.

This \$1.83 million is distributed among highway 69.2%, general expenses 18.9%, fire district 10.5%, and Treadwell water and light 1.4%.

The final 2013 budget may differ slightly from this. It was voted for immediately after the annual public hearing on Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup>, which was after this issue went to press.



FOKISH BREAD SELLS OUT AT HOLIDAY MARKET 2011

### FRANKLIN HOLIDAY MARKET

SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 8  
NOON TO FIVE PM  
AT THE FIRE HALL

FOOD & CRAFTS  
THAT SPECIAL GIFT  
FOR EVERYONE  
ON YOUR LIST

## FRANKLIN LOCAL LAUNCHES WEBSITE

By Helen McLean

The Franklin Local website is now online at [franklinlocal.org](http://franklinlocal.org).

You will find local events listed on our calendar, extended versions of articles from The New Franklin Register, some local government documents, information about energy concerns in our area, and details about the Farmers' Market (closed for this year but look for us again in the spring).

As the website evolves, you will find more on our site, so keep checking. If you have events that should be listed on our calendar or suggestions for the website or newspaper, use the handy contact form to reach us.



The Home Page of Franklin Local's new website

Painting by Edmond Rinnooy Kan

IN MEMORY OF  
WENDY AND WILLIS BROWN

1954 - 2012



## HOW LOCAL IS LOCAL?

By Stephen Morris

Every Sunday morning, Barbara and I take a walk along the Thames to our nearest farmers' market in Chiswick, to buy apples and pears for the week. When the stored crop from the previous year is exhausted, there are strawberries, then plums and other soft fruit.

Appropriately enough, this market takes place in what was once a farmyard. Until the early 1920s, much of this part of west London, roughly five miles from the centre, was still cultivated as smallholdings and farms. They supplied the Covent Garden market, right in the centre, or Brentford, little more than a mile away. Successive waves of residential and industrial development have overwhelmed agricultural enterprises, often providing land sale profits for food producers to re-establish themselves even further out.



This cycle terminated in the 1970s with the closure of nurseries close to what is now the real metropolitan perimeter, the M25 orbital motorway. Within this ring, large areas of countryside are protected from development by the so-called Green Belt, whilst ceasing to be a significant source of local food.

When established in 1997, our market had an objective to sell produce which had traveled at most a hundred miles. Today, the closest producer, Richard Waller, rears ducks in Aylesbury, and wonderful free range turkeys and chickens. His farm is outside the M25, about twenty miles away as the crow flies. His local countryside looks genuinely rural but deserted, a standard English emptiness resulting from the most intense agricultural mechanization in Europe. Our fruit comes from Ringden Farm, vendors from the beginning. Its owners, Chris and Lesley Dench, drive a van sixty miles up from East Sussex. They run apple stalls at other markets and have their own farm shop (close to Sissinghurst and Great Dixter, in case you are on a garden tour). A little further away, near Eastbourne, is Hood & Sons. Their herd of cows has organic grazing and produces raw, unpasteurized milk. March House Farm in Leicestershire, about ninety miles away, provides all the meat for the butcher's stall. Then there is a jump outside the radius to Ted's

Veg from Boston, Lincolnshire, and then finally to Looe in Cornwall, at least double the distance, where the last long-term participant collects his fish. The other stalls, about ten out of sixteen or so, sell items produced locally, including delicious fruit tarts and jams, plus much else from further afield. There are baked potatoes, breads, cheeses, coffees, honeys, lamb burgers, Moroccan take-aways, olives, olive oils, pastas, pastries, salamis, seaweeds from the Shetlands, Spanish products, even sushi. Many of these stallholders are parts of businesses that import and export through warehouses in London and sell in other farmers markets or via the web. Outdoor delicatessen or not, I will still be happy if there are choices such as the apple offerings this week: Bramley, Charles Ross, Comice, Concorde, Conference, Cox, Egremont Russet, Ellison Orange, Elstar and Lord Lambourne, and with more to come as the season progresses.

*Stephen Morris lives in London and regularly writes for the NFR on European news.*



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## RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SACRIFICE ZONES

By Tammy Reiss

There are many ways to show your opposition to shale-gas development. And sometimes doing the right thing costs less, too.

If you are a NYSEG customer, consider switching your electricity provider to Energy Cooperative of America - Renewables. By switching to 100% renewable energy, you will be:

- 1) creating a market demand for clean energy
- 2) encouraging developers to build more renewable generation facilities in New York State
- 3) sending a strong message to Albany that Southern Tier residents support clean energy and do not want to encourage shale-gas development in our region.

### NYSEG's standard option sources its energy from:

natural gas 44%  
nuclear 25%  
hydro 16%  
coal 11%  
oil 2%  
solid waste 1%  
biomass less than 1%  
wind less than 1%.

### Energy Cooperative of Ameri-

### ca's 100% renewable electricity program sources its energy from:

hydro 44%  
biomass 29%  
wind 27%.

For ONE PENNY more per kilowatt hour, you can do the right thing for New York State and our planet.

To switch your provider to Energy Cooperative of America or for more information, call [1-800-422-1475](tel:1-800-422-1475) (ask for renewables) or go to [www.ecamerica.org](http://www.ecamerica.org).

Southern Tier residents who oppose pipelines and horizontal hydrofracking are raising their voices, joining together, and making themselves heard. Governor Cuomo and the DEC keep count of letters, phone calls, petition returns, and percentages of a town's population who consciously choose renewable energy. These are all benchmarks for them when they make decisions on which counties will get "sacrificed" to shale-gas development. We must keep the pressure on the state to enact a statewide ban on horizontal hydrofracking. That is the surest way we can protect all of New York State from the devastating impacts of shale-gas extraction.

And make sure you shut the lights off when you leave the room.

### CHURCH, continued from Page 1

discussion with a fellow Episcopalian, Jim Johnson of Delhi, who is an historical preservationist. He told the Vestry that other churches designed by Robert Upjohn, the original architect for the 1865 building, had experienced water damage similar to their church. Carmela Marner of the Franklin Stage Company suggested to a church member that the Vestry contact the same architect used for Chapel Hall's restoration, Kai Woo, a well known architect from NYC. Franklin resident Lee Cohen, of Cohen and Frazier Builders, volunteered to help investigate the damage.

Together, Cohen and Woo determined that the existing roof had no breathing space and that water had run up under the shingles, frozen and later thawed, rotting the shingles and causing water damage to the north wall, where the church's prized Stations of the Cross carvings by Ken Stalter are displayed. The wall damage peeled back a layer of paint applied in the 70s, revealing the original fresco finish. The roof also lacked insulation, which added to the high cost of heating the building.

After reviewing the preliminary assessment, the Vestry decided, "If we are going to do it, we are going to do it right." Woo was hired to draw up a plan to restore the church, doing the necessary repairs with modern techniques. A grant from Sacred Sites paid for part of this cost. The entire building was then evaluated by Woo and Cohen. More areas of the roof were found defective. They also found that one of the steeple's ten inch beams had rotted during the past hundred and fifty years, leaving only an inch left on the outside perimeter. The foundation had damage due to water seepage.

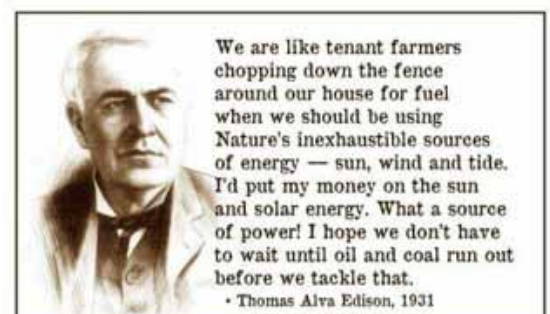
Funding was the major road block for the project. An insurance claim offered a start. Dan and Janet spent many hours preparing an extensive application to New York Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation, only to hear that this money had gone the way of Gov. Cuomo's budget cuts last year. Finally, in addition to the Sacred Sites grant, the Branigans wrote successful grants to the A. Lindsey and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation and two other local anonymous foundations. The church is grateful for these grants.

The congregation is also thankful for the local community's generous donations, including to the ongoing fundraiser now in its third year, the First Thursday Soup Supper, held from 5 PM to 7 PM on the first Thursday of each month. This event has become a community gathering time for all to socialize and relax.

In early summer, Lee Cohen was contracted to repair the roof, including adding a breathing space and one half inch of insulation, which was the most that could be added without changing the historic design of the building. He used sixty squares of pressure treated Canadian red cedar shingles and \$10,000 of copper flashing for ridges, valleys, and trim on the vents. He replaced the steeple's beam, rebuilt the decorative woodwork on the tower and painted the steeple and tower while he had the eighty foot lift on site. Cohen commented, "I felt privileged to have been able to do the church job. It is the highest profile job I have ever done." He told a church member that of all the jobs he has done, the church restoration has given him the most interest in his work. He purchased his supplies from a local business, Jess Howes of Sidney Center, and employed four local workers for eight weeks. Two Gothic crosses were restored by John Cloonan.

The Vestry, which lacked \$2500 to finish paying for the \$114,000 project, has taken out a loan and plans to use donations from its soup suppers and any other contributions received to make the payments. The next step of the project is to restore the interior walls to their original finish and stencil trim. Donations may be sent to the church at PO Box 72, Franklin, NY, 13775.

The church members welcome all in the community to join them at their Sunday services at 8:15 AM on Sunday morning. Father Scott Garno of Unadilla is the Rector. The church can be reserved for community concerts, events and celebrations by calling 607-829-6404.





# PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz



is a nonprofit organization called Alley Cat Allies with a website that explains how to catch feral cats and get them to the veterinarian to be altered.

My heart goes out to these poor animals that, through no fault of their own, are living out in the cold, scrounging for food or becoming food for some predator. The only way to end this cycle is for all people who start feeding a stray cat to take responsibility for it and take it to be altered so it cannot add to the problem. If everyone did this, we could halve the number of strays and feral cats roaming the streets. The cost of the surgery is not excessive: shop around, or call GOFAR, a nonprofit organization, for a voucher to bring to your veterinary hospital. Or get into one of their low-cost, low income spay and neuter clinics. Cats that are spayed or neutered are cats that stray less, and are less likely to be hit by cars. So please, go ahead and get a cat spayed or neutered, even if it's a neighbor's cat. Even one can make a difference if we all just do it.

**PET TALK READERS:** If you have questions for Dr. Puritz, please email her care of us at [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com). She will answer you in a future column.



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# PEAK OIL FOCUS



Cyclists in NYC Photo courtesy of Transportation Alternatives

## THE FUTURE IS BICYCLES!

By John O'Connor

If Hurricane Katrina was the preface to the new era of climate change, Hurricane Sandy was the introduction. I used to quip to friends that people won't get serious about global warming until a hurricane blows Miami off the map. But as it turns out, it's the hurricanes that belted the Northeast in the past couple of years that have gotten people to sit up and take notice. Hurricane Irene, which was predicted to hit New York City last year took a left hand turn and went through central New York state and headed up to Vermont in a never-before-seen storm of awesome destruction. New York City dodged the bullet. But it wasn't so lucky this time even though Sandy still wasn't a direct hit. (The eye of the storm hit New Jersey just below Atlantic City and was not quite a hurricane when it landed – we are still waiting for the direct hit in New York by a category 2 or 3 that will be the real monster.) But everyone seems to be noticing that two hurricanes in two seasons effecting the Northeast is something to be taken seriously.

My wife and I waited out the storm quietly in her house in Cobble Hill in Brooklyn and it seemed from our perspective that this was a repeat of Irene, where the city was not going to be hit that hard after all. But Cobble Hill and a few other areas were lucky. When the winds died down, the devastation from New Jersey to Long Island was prodigious.

Manhattan was affected by power outages that left almost a quarter of the city dark and completely without public transportation. When folks started going back to work on Wednesday, it became clear to many of us what

See BIKES, continued on Page 8

## FRANKLIN YOUTH SPEAKS OUT AT F.E.R.C. HEARING

The following statement was delivered by Felix Bridel at the FERC scoping hearing on October 24, 2012, at the Foothills Performing Arts Center. Photos courtesy of Anne Marie Garti

My name is Felix Bridel. I am a 12 year-old in the seventh grade of Franklin Central School. I have come after many others, because I do not represent Franklin, and am not a directly affected landowner. But I will be directly affected, as will everyone else here.

All life - human, animal, plant - is connected. Life on earth is a delicate, fragile fabric. When one strand is pulled out, the fabric begins to fray. But although all life depends on this fabric, we only know part of the pattern. Therefore, we don't know what we're doing when we yank on a thread.

The Constitution Pipeline will gouge a 120 mile trench across beautiful forests, clean streams, and wide meadows. As many others have demonstrated, fracking will follow the pipeline. Fracking has a terrible effect on the environment. It poisons air, water, and soil, creates noise, and lights up the night. We cannot be sure of

upon mice and rabbits, who decrease. The hawks then die off or move away. Foxes and weasels, who also depend on the hawks' prey, go with them. More young bobcats and coyotes survive, so their numbers go up. But with no small prey to feed upon, they turn their eyes to deer. The deer number drops, and then, their predators with them. Now, with few animals hunting them, deer populations suddenly explode. Because carnivores reproduce more slow-



ly than herbivores, their meager populations cannot control prey numbers. Deer, and the newly returned mice and rabbits, graze quickly, and drastically reduce plant life. With their food source obliterated, the herbivores starve, and the few remaining carnivores with them. Cows, sheep, and goats have nothing to feed upon, so can no longer be kept. After the livestock, guess who's next? Yes. Us. *Homo sapiens*. As a top predator, we are hit hardest.

I am not saying this exact scenario will happen. However, ecological disruption in other parts of the world has led to similar events. Ecology is a line of dominoes. Knock one down, the rest will soon follow. We humans stand at the end of the line.

I am asking F.E.R.C. to examine the complex ecosystem of the area, and how it will be affected by the pipeline. Knock one down, you knock them all down.

Thank you.



A packed crowd of concerned citizens listens the exact effects fracking will have on the ecosystem, but let's try to imagine it.

Fracking fluid poisons fish that bald eagles feed upon. The eagle population declines. With less competition, hawk numbers increase. They feed heavily

## OIL & GAS BIZ IN DELAWARE COUNTY:

### A Gallery of Believe It Or Not.

By Brian Brock

Our Delaware County Board of Supervisors has been taking care of business -- and doing it their own way.

When they were offered presentations on gas drilling, our Supervisors heard one from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and one from the Independent Oil and Gas Association of New York. They refused to hear one from their own residents - they refused repeatedly.

When IOGA-NY sent a letter to Albany in support of drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale, it was signed by many business

groups that stood to profit. Our Supervisors signed on -- the only town or county government to do so.

When residents took their protests about the lack of representation on gas drilling to the Delhi village square outside a scheduled meeting of the Board, our Supervisors abruptly canceled the meeting rather than talk with their constituents. Chairman Eisel claimed that the meeting was canceled due to a lack of business -- an unprecedented excuse.

When New York City succeeded in getting from the State special protection from drilling pollution for their drinking water, our Supervisors demand-

ed "reparations from the City and State for the mineral rights taken ... of \$81.3 billion to be paid over 60 years plus millions in real property tax revenues and lost employment opportunities;" or over \$28,000 per year for each man, woman, and child living in Delaware County. (The Board was more likely to get the City to stock their reservoirs with mermaids.) Resolution No. 40 was passed by the votes of 12 out of 19 Supervisors -- including Franklin Supervisor Don Smith.

When the controversial Constitution Pipeline was proposed, a letter was sent in the name of our Supervisors to become an in-

See BIZ, continued on Page 12



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TRUST?, continued from Page 1

without a SGEIS until compelled to by Governor Paterson. (In May of 2008, the Department claimed “Adequate state regulatory programs [are] already in place.”) The writing of the guidelines has overtaxed the DEC for more than four years, and even today there is much dissatisfaction with the quality and completeness of their work. Codifying these guidelines and enforcing the resulting regulations will be a larger burden still.

The GEIS (1992) was long overdue. Contrary to claims that there has been no pollution of water from the estimated 75,000 oil, gas, and brine wells drilled in New York, there were numerous such reports. So many so that in 1981 and 1986, the DMN had to strengthen the requirements for the casing of these wells – the latter under the direction of the Commissioner of the DEC.

Regulations by the DMN for drilling of oil, gas, and brine have been a day late and a dollar short, with change coming only after pressure from outside.

The Pollution Record

It is unrealistic to expect perfection from any regulatory process. To make an informed decision on whether drilling is regulated enough, we need to know the record. Exactly how often does exploration and production (E&P) pollute aquifers? We do not know because the DMN withholds this information.

Since 1985, DEC has compiled reports of all sorts of spills. Among these hundreds of thousands of spills, there are hundreds of oil, gas, and brine spills, but the Division of Mineral Resources does not list them separately. In 2009, a search by Toxics Targeting found 270 such reports, and in 2011, 72 more. The

map on Page 8, or at <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF&msa=0&msid=202463138808408334802.0004ca00f9799c14825a5>, shows the more significant of these pollutions.

Unlike DEC spill reports, DMN non-routine incident reports are unavailable even through a FOIL request. Also, in the three western counties where most of the drilling has occurred, complaints of polluted water wells are reported to county departments of health and these do not make it into state records. Included on the map are some incidents from files of Chautauqua Department of Health from the 1980s and 2000s.

The DMN Annual Reports contain no listings of spills, non-routine incidents, or county reports. What is more, the DMN maintains numerous searchable databases related to drilling, but none on spills and non-routine incidents, despite the fact that these risk-based data management systems were funded by DOE through the Ground Water Protection Council expressly to protect and conserve ground water resources.

The Record of Enforcement

The DMN provides even less information on their enforcement record. Typically, spill records are closed before enforcement actions are completed. County departments of health refer incidents of pollution to the DMN for enforcement. But the enforcement records of DMN non-routine incidents are also unavailable.

Fines imposed by the DMN could tell something about pollution incidents and enforcement. However, DMN Annual Reports cite the total of fines but list neither the companies fined nor their infractions nor the sites effected. (And

the fines themselves are minor: typically a few tens of thousands of dollars each year, on an industry that grosses hundreds of millions of dollars annually.) The DMN does everything within its power to shield the oil and gas industry from scrutiny.

Some complaints of polluted water wells became so publicized that the DEC could not ignore them. In one such case, back in 1983, the Short family’s sump exploded in Levant, Town of Poland, Chautauqua County. During the preceding two years, a dozen gas wells were drilled in the hills above, including a few less than a mile away. A consulting hydrologist concluded “the natural gas in [sic] at the Short’s property ... is being caused by activities associated with gas well drilling and production.” The DEC wrote three reports on this polluted aquifer, which affected fourteen other families. In the first, it proposed that the source of the pollution was land-fill gas. Later, analyses identified the gas as from shales. Also, the DEC suggested that the pollution was not caused by work at neighboring gas wells, but from the Blue Mountain earthquake in the Adirondacks, over 270 miles away. Saying that it was unable to “pin-point the source of the problem,” the DEC took no action.

Twenty years later, little had changed. In 2007, the Feruggia family’s well in Kiantone, Chautauqua County, began pumping water that tasted salty, stained fixtures brown, and intermittently smelled of hydrogen sulfide. Two years earlier, the Eckman 7-468 gas well was drilled 330 feet uphill of their home. Analyses of their drinking water showed high concentrations of TDS [total dissolved solids], sodium, chlorine and barium. Chau-

tauqua County Department of Health identified the cause of this pollution as gas production, but a subsequent report by the DEC disagreed. Geologists at US Geological Survey and SUNY Fredonia Department for Geosciences reviewed the two reports, and both agreed with CCDoH that this required further investigation. The DEC took no action.

These two are the best documented, but they are not isolated incidents. A review of reports on polluted water wells show repeated attempts to disregard or explain away pollution. In the final report on Levant, the DMN admits that “some cases [are] attributable to gas wells.” But it does not list any of these industrial pollutions. while in the same report listing several naturally occurring pollutions.

A case of industrial pollution that the DMN cannot deny was in 1996. In the Town of Freedom, Cattaraugus County, the water wells of the Lewis family and others were polluted by gas from the K.C. Powell et al 1 oil well -- over a mile away. The several plaintiffs were awarded damages by the NY Supreme Court, County of Cattaraugus.

It should be clear that current oil and gas regulation in New York State is insufficient, that pollution is significant, and that enforcement is deficient.

Can horizontal drilling and fracking be safely regulated in New York? Given its flawed oversight of the relatively simple vertical drilling, this is something that the Division of Mineral Resources has yet to demonstrate.

*In our next issue: Part II will investigate why the DMN works as it does and what might be done about this.*

FRACKING

By Klara Wichterle  
Seventh Grade: Manhattan/Otego

Imagine yourself having to shower in the dark, day after day, because you are afraid that the smallest spark from your light will set your water on fire. This is what Amee Ellsworth and thousands of others who live in areas where fracking happens must endure for their own safety. Hydraulic fracturing or fracking is an alternative to oil drilling in which natural gas is extracted from shale rock layers deep within the earth. It involves shooting chemicals and water at high pressure to release the gas. However, fracking can have terrible side effects. Water contamination, air pollution, potential earthquakes and health concerns are only a few in an ongoing list of risks and dangers that have been associated with fracking. By allowing companies to frack, the government is putting many people at risk. I believe that, instead, the government should be carefully studying the risks of fracking before allowing widespread drilling.

There have been already over a thousand cases of water contamination near fracking operations, and it is said that the leak rate for fracking is as high as four percent. There are over three hundred million people living in the United States. If fracking becomes widespread, twelve million people will be suffering the dangers of fracking. If the leak rate is lowered, the potential risk of fracking is also lowered.

Fracking has negatively affected innocent people all over the world. What if you were sleeping soundly one night, then all of a sudden you hear an explosion and find out that your basement has exploded due to a methane build-up from nearby fracking? People are constantly being impacted by the problems of natural gas drilling and the number will continue to rise as the fracking industry does, until a way to fix the

See FRACKING, continued on Page 8

You Couldn't Have Known

You couldn't have known or you wouldn't have leased.  
The rights to your land have effectively ceased.  
As well as your rights to clean water and air.  
And also your neighbor's. I'm sure you must care  
That because of your signature, there will now be  
Thousands of truckloads of toxic debris,  
Right past your neighbor who lent you his plow.  
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That his health is at risk because you chose to sign?  
Air doesn't stop at your property line!  
And his deeded land value has greatly decreased.  
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With tankers of water and sand and crushed stone  
And pipelines and access roads, chemicals stored?  
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Is this what the ads meant by “Clean Natural Gas”?  
Those promises made with such charm and such class,  
Pretending that high volume drilling's the same  
Drilling we've done -- with a different name.  
Lying that this will make our country free  
From depending on those with whom we don't agree.  
With the lure of big money, you bought Corporate Rule.  
You said, “Bring on a future of more fossil fuel!”  
With your formal consent, our democracy ceased.  
You couldn't have known or you wouldn't have leased.

- Gerri Wiley





Oil, gas, and brine pollution of water and air in New York State, 1983 to 2011.  
See article starting on Page 1, continued on Page 7.

BIKES, con't from Page 6

the future might look like when we enter an era where power outages and gas shortages will be the norm. The second day of going back to work, I jumped on my bike, realizing this was the best option for transportation. As I crossed over the Manhattan Bridge in the bike lane I saw a different sort of future. The bike lane held perhaps ten times the normal bike traffic. The city was awash in bicycle traffic. For all the signs of technology failing in face of a natural disaster like Sandy, one form of technology was the de facto king. The bicycle is a beautiful invention.

In the past year or two New York City has added

miles and miles of what are known as protected bicycle lanes, those lanes that are built between the curb and parallel parked cars, shielding bikes from vehicular traffic and making the streets of New York a safer place to ride a bike. It was as if the bike lane planners saw the hurricanes coming, because those lanes were as much traveled as the streets were during the aftermath of Sandy. The only difference was that the bikes were moving and the combustion engine machines, grid locked, were not. It was something I had never seen before. The future is on two wheels.

A few blocks from our house in Brooklyn is a shop

that sells bicycles of every variety: bikes that can carry a couple of kids, bike carts that can carry several bags of groceries, freight bikes that are designed for transporting large or heavy loads. We can view our future as apocalyptic or as an opportunity for a humane and bold experiment of sustainable lifestyles. There are lots of things to work toward: local solutions, sustainable systems, serious policies on conservation, and (the elephant in the living room) population control.

Transportation definitely needs to be rethought. Bicycles are the future. I know. I saw it this fall in the streets of New York.

follows fracking and will most likely come into play on a much larger scale if we continue to frack without proper safety precautions and regulations.

Supporters of fracking believe that in the end it will create more jobs, help the economy, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. While fracking could be a solution to these problems, I think that fracking on a large scale will create many other big problems such as the ones listed in the essay. Then the government will need to find a way to solve those problems instead.

In conclusion, I do not believe that fracking immediately is worth it and I strongly believe that if we wait for more testing and improvements to be made in the quality of fracking we will see much better results, with fewer negative effects.

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ELECTION CIRCUS

By Eugene Marner

By the time you read this, the 2012 election circus will be over and one of two candidates will have won the right to sleep in the White House. Sleep is the operative word here because both of them seem to have slept through the class on the real crises of our time.

Not once in the course of this campaign has either Republican mentioned, for example, climate change—a subject much on our minds at this writing, with Hurricane Sandy having just devastated much of the East Coast. Perhaps the pols really don't understand anything about it, or perhaps they trust the energy industry, which keeps repeating that the science is unsettled. Or perhaps the candidates are fearful of alarming the poor innocent public (whose peace of mind must not be troubled by reality), or perhaps they just lie and prevaricate. All the while, however, climate scientists (the real ones, thousands of them) write reports and issue statements warning that the danger is real and immediate and that they are terrified. The candidates are good at making faces that register concern with the all-too-real plight of the farmers of our parched wheat and corn states, but the history back to antiquity of crop failure leading to famine seems to be another class they both slept through.

Then there is the little problem of energy descent, often referenced in these pages as

Peak Oil. Our Republicrats insist on pretending to deal with this by drilling and pumping and digging and building pipelines. But they are lying to you once again. The cheap, easy and abundant energy sources upon which we built our present energy-intensive, wasteful way of life are rapidly depleting. Two guys with shovels in Texas or Oklahoma can no longer dig a hole and strike oil. Now, we need to drill through a mile of rock that lies under a mile of sea—with the collateral risk of poisoning all sea life in, for example, the Gulf of Mexico. Or we obliterate 54,000 square miles of the Canadian province of Alberta in order to dig up tar-sands which, with lots of energy, can be cooked into a sticky substance that can be refined into fuels at much greater expense than conventional crude (the cheap and easy and abundant kind that used to shoot up out of the ground in old movies). Or, closer to home, we persuade ourselves that it's not insane to explosively inject toxins into the ground where they can migrate into our drinking water, in order to collect some methane contaminated with radioactivity. The two presidential candidates don't talk about any of this. They are apparently as indifferent to cancer and birth defects as they are eager to sell off all of creation to their friends at the oil and gas companies.

But the message – the one they're ignoring - is simple and clear: stop doing what we're doing or we go extinct. We need to stop poisoning and overheating the only world we have to live in. Since most of the poisons and greenhouse

gases come from the extraction or burning of fossil fuels, we have to live more simply. Living simply will not be a virtuous decision, or one option in a menu of life-style choices. Rather, it is inevitable, because the seas are rising, the fish are dying, the climate is changing, and the fuel supplies are declining. A simple life is going to look a lot like deprivation to people who have become accustomed to the easy life of the past half century or so. But if we deliberately work –with all our strength - at simplifying our lives, perhaps we can reduce the suffering. I think that most people would agree that minimizing suffering is a worthy goal. Personally, I believe that it is the worthiest goal of all.

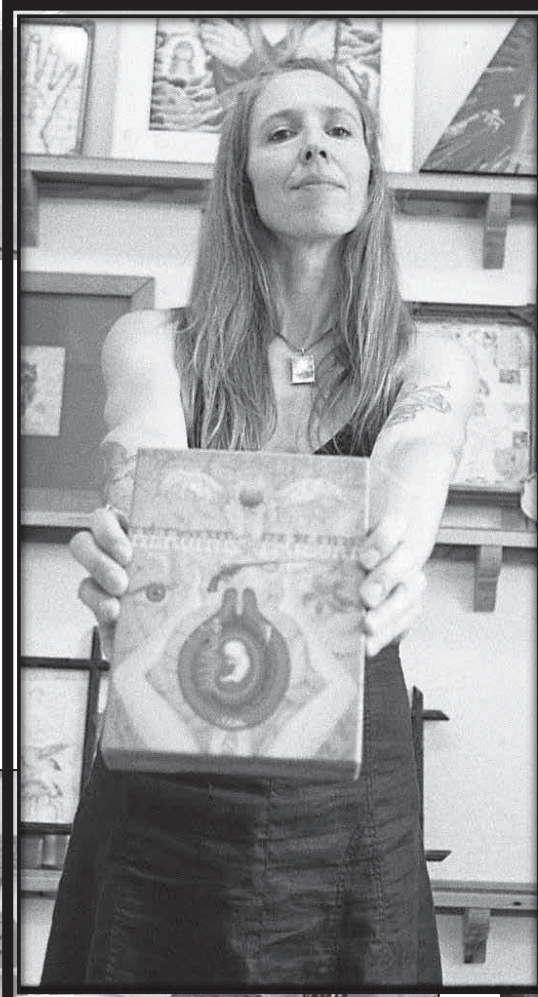
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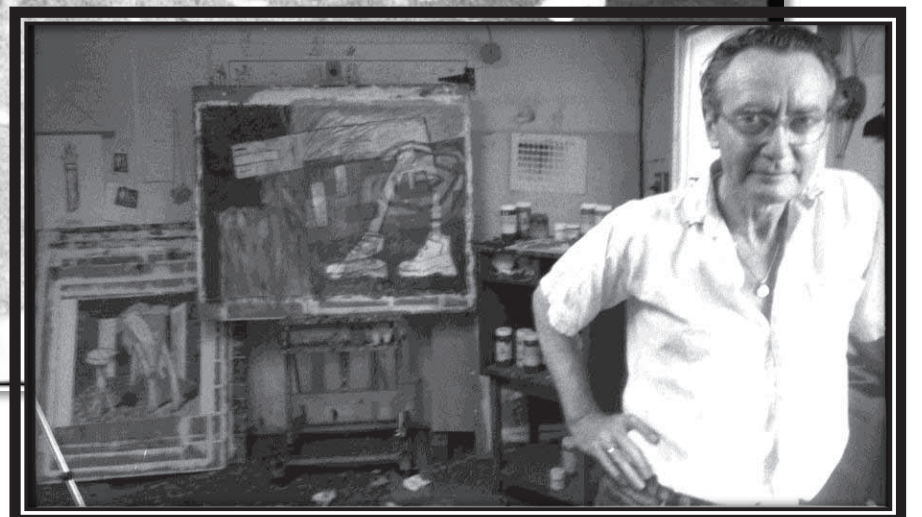
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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

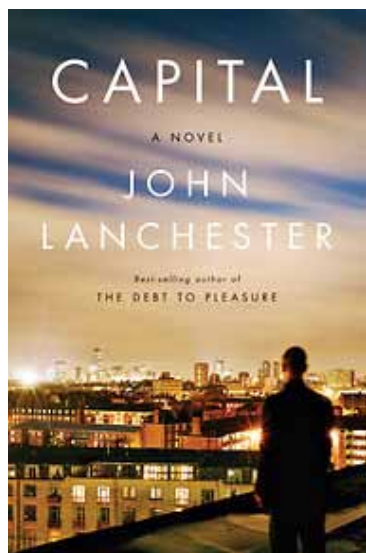
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## AT THE LIBRARY

### JIM MULLEN REVIEWS NEW BOOKS

#### CAPITAL By John Lanchester

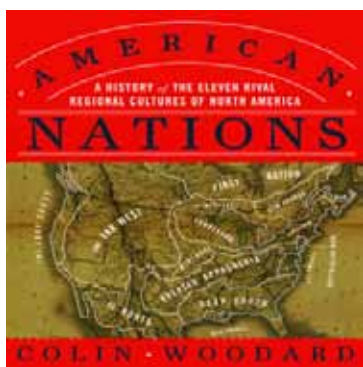
In a once middle-class but now ritzy London block of townhouses, the residents all start receiving postcards with a picture of their individual front doors that say nothing but "We want what you have." Is it a threat? A prank? An ad for a realtor? The irony is that each house has its own unique (and usually self-inflicted) troubles that no amount of money can solve, and that money sometimes causes. Lanchester has a great gift for interior monologues and pop detail. If Dickens and Tom Wolfe mated, this deliciously plotted book would be their first child.



#### AMERICAN NATIONS By Colin Woodard

I don't care how much American history you know, or think you know: this book, awkwardly sub-titled "A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures," is a revelation. I'll give you an example of my own -- where is the oldest building made by Europeans in the U.S? If you grew up in the Northeast, you're probably thinking it's in Boston or Philadelphia. Went to school in the Southeast, maybe it's in St. Augustine or New Orleans. So where you grew up has a lot to do with what you think you know. Don't believe me? Then why isn't The Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, New Mexico, built ten years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock,

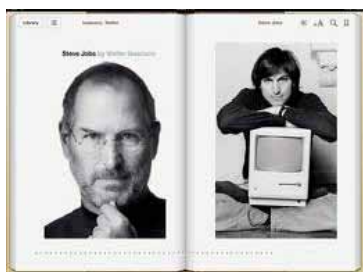
the first place that pops to mind? Why isn't it as famous as Plymouth Rock? Time and time again, this book reveals how our cultural roots from centuries ago still shape our worldview. It is why politics in



Oregon, with towns named after the places its early European settlers came from like Portland and Salem, has more in common with New England than it does with the Midwest or California. Proof that Faulkner was right, "The past isn't dead. It's not even past."

#### STEVE JOBS By Walter Isaacson

The man who invented the biggest company in the world lived in a normal neighborhood in a normal house without bodyguards or servants, just his wife and children. He liked to hold one-on-one meetings with associates by taking them on long walks around Palo Alto. He would fast often, go for months just eating one kind of food. Dinner at the Jobs' house might be just broccoli. He would never put license plates on his car. He was a Buddhist. He was a hippie. He loved Bob Dylan. An adoptee abandoned by his father, he abandoned his young



daughter during her early childhood. He was a horrible, screaming, rampaging boss who would take credit for other people's ideas. He only hired people who were smarter than he was.

Most of them hated him. Most of them loved him. He hired the CEO of Pepsi to run Apple for him by asking him if he wanted to sell sugared water for the rest of his life or change the world? That CEO eventually fired Jobs, then promptly ran the company into the dirt. Jobs owned forty black Issey Miyake mock turtleneck shirts. A sister he didn't know he had until he was twenty-five years-old is a best-selling novelist. He started not just one billion dollar company, but three. When he was fired from Apple, he started another computer company called Next. Its big feature was touch screen computing. He bought a fledgling movie company called Pixar from Disney Studios with his own money. He believed the circuit boards in his computers, and other parts that no user would ever see, should be just as beautiful as the outside. He changed the music industry overnight with iTunes and the iPod. He paid himself a dollar a year. Yet, even after you've read this highly detailed, entertaining 650 page biography, you can still say, "Who was this guy? What was he like?"

Who else's last words would be: "Oh Wow. Oh Wow. Oh Wow."?

#### Reviewer's Note:

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## DAVID BYRD DEBUTS AT SCHOOLHOUSE GALLERY

By Jody Issacson

The Schoolhouse Gallery at the Maywood Community Center in Sidney Center hosted a retrospective exhibit of paintings and sculptures by local artist David Bryd. The exhibit ran from September 29<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Born in 1926, David Bryd has painted since childhood, encouraged by his mother's belief in his talent. Although she also thought he should look for "suitable" employment after high school, he continued a life of making art, taking odd jobs that allowed him to continue painting. As a merchant marine, Byrd painted ship scenes when he had idle time. After his service, he moved to New York City to study at the Art Career School in the Flatiron Building. He later studied with French cubist Amedee Ozenfant at The Ozenfant School of Fine Arts on 23rd street in Chelsea. Other artists that have influenced Byrd are Pablo Picasso, Edward Hopper, Andrew Wyeth, Balthus, and Giorgio de Chirico.

Through the years, Byrd took various jobs but always continued painting. He was employed at the VA hospital at Montrose, and many of his paintings have been inspired by the patients he worked with.

Byrd began working in wood when he moved to Sidney Center twenty five years ago. He also continued working



Bridge Workers, by David Byrd



Patient Hearing Voices, by David Byrd

in assemblage construction, a practice begun years ago when he visited deserted Newburg, NY, and collected materials from vacant houses.

Though David Byrd has created hundreds of paintings, The Schoolhouse Gallery is pleased to have offered him his first exhibition to date.

It included paintings, wood sculptures and assemblages made of found materials.

Byrd has said, "It's a matter of religion to paint; to keep on painting is the main thing."



Balcony with Screen, by David Byrd



# ART WORLD

By  
Edmond  
Rinnooy  
Kan

## REMBRANDT vs. WARHOL

This year we bought a new lawn mower, a shiny little tractor with two headlights and a cruise control. Everything works better than with our previous one. It sits better, it drives better, it turns better and it even mows better. This does not come as a surprise. I expect that everything new, or rather every new *thing*, will be better than its outdated predecessor.

New things are not just better because they are new. New things are also better because they are different. They are new and *improved*. This is called development, evolution or progress, depending on your perspective. Time separates winners from losers. With time, every *thing* gets better.

While I was enjoying the smooth ride on my new

lawn tractor, I wondered if that would also be true for art. Does art get better with time? Is Picasso better than Michelangelo? Is Andy Warhol better than Rembrandt?

I didn't think so. But does that mean, then, that the 'Old Masters' are better? Does Rembrandt beat Warhol? I must admit, I had a slight hesitation here. But no, no, no, you cannot say that Rembrandt is better than Warhol. You cannot really compare them. They are products of totally different time periods. Old masters, Young Masters, both good, both brilliant. But one is not better than the other.

I had come to the conclusion that over the last five hundred years, there had been no development, no evolution and no prog-

ress in art what so ever.

I did not like that conclusion. My lawn tractor was a symbol of vitality, constantly renewing and improving itself, while art was dead as a doornail?

But as my smooth lawn tractor drive continued, I gradually understood that maybe it was not so bad for art to be a constant, rather than a victim of perpetual change. Of course, the form in which art presents itself has changed dramatically over the years. Art has become more abstract, more complex, more concept-driven, more chaotic, more multi media, more everything. But it did not get better. And it did not get worse. It just kept doing what it is supposed to do, i.e., expressing the mystery of life. Old Masters did it in the past. Contemporary Masters are doing it now. And the Masters of tomorrow will undoubtedly do it in the future. The essence of art stands firm against the never-ending storm of change. It doesn't get renewed or improved.

Art is not a *thing*.

## Coelophysis Sestina

By Julian Mathews

*Coelophysis* was a very small, early, fast-moving dinosaur, a carnivore from the late Triassic period.

My best friend is a coelophysis.  
Waiting for my only hope, wings,  
We dodge the forest trees.  
I wait for the end, the cliff  
We run and run from our pursuers,  
My face slapping into vines.

I hear my predators also swatting away vines.  
I go faster with my coelophysis  
They are closer, my pursuers  
I keep wishing for wings.  
We are approaching the cliff,  
We run into the trees.

We run into denser trees.  
There is a cluster of vines;  
We hide near the cliff.  
I heal my injured coelophysis.  
No more do I need wings.  
Passing, I hear my pursuers.

I am captured by the pursuers;  
They take me back through the trees  
To their leader with the second pair of wings.  
Suddenly, I jump out of the crate and grab vines.  
Luckily, nearby is my coelophysis;  
We run into the corrugated cliff.

We jump off the cliff  
We will no longer be chased by pursuers.  
This is the end for me and my coelophysis.  
I will no longer see the plant-covered trees;  
I will miss swinging in the vines.  
Wait! . . . I . . . can . . . have wings!

I sprout wide, white wings.  
As I fall off the cliff  
I start to rise over the vines,  
Over my pursuers,  
Over the trees,  
Off my coelophysis.

I get carried away from my coelophysis by my wings  
To a foreign land with no trees or cliffs,  
With no pursuers or vines.

*Julian Mathews is eleven years old, and from Franklin, NY.*

*This poem was written during the Bright Hill Literary Workshops for Kids Program - Winter 2012*

*The sestina is a complex form that is based on repetition of six end words, in different order in each stanza. The thirty-nine-line form is attributed to Arnaut Daniel, the Provençal troubadour of the twelfth century. During Bright Hill's Literary Workshops for Kids, we learn different forms in order to understand and appreciate how the language we use daily can create complete universes and weave intricate spells.*

*Bertha Rogers, Director*

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**ONE HOUSE, continued from Page 1**

It turns out that people don't waste energy, buildings do.

Forty-nine percent of our national energy is consumed by buildings. Our energy problem is fundamentally an architectural problem, because most of our buildings were designed and built in an age of cheap, "inexhaustible" energy, before we knew what we were doing to the planet. That age is over, but we still live and work in those buildings. They still use energy like crazy. Even worse, we still build new buildings the old way - inefficient, poorly sited, too big - because old habits die hard.

Yes, we should consume less plastic junk, and drive and fly as little as possible, and get as much of our food as we can from local sources - all good things. But our built environment is doing the greater damage, by locking us into a reckless and wasteful way of living, and preventing us from solving the basic problem of our overuse, in spite of our desire to change.

Winston Churchill put it beautifully: "First we build buildings, then they shape us." It's time to reshape our buildings.

Clearly we have a lot of work to do. But there is some good news in all of this. After all, this is the golden age of building science. We now know how to make buildings that are comfortable, durable, healthy, energy efficient, and cost effective. And the benefits of energy efficient construction are enormous. Not only do we end up living better because we have better places to live, we also strengthen the local community - energy efficiency and renewables reduce the risk of fuel price shocks, keep capital in the community instead of exporting it to corporations and faraway places, and create skilled local jobs.

So, let's say we want to take the plunge and do what needs doing, where do we start?

There are good rules of thumb for the dedicated DIYer, but fair warning: houses have become extremely complex. Understanding the interactions of mechanical systems, structures, temperature, and moisture can require much more than a tool belt and enthusiasm. For example, the first place to start in home energy conservation is usually air sealing. But most houses have moisture

problems, too - damp basements and crawl spaces. Unless they are dealt with carefully, those problems will increase in a tighter house. Insulation is generally good, and the more the better, but the wrong kind in the wrong place can lead to rot and mold. Likewise, a continuous air barrier is necessary, but if it's not aligned with the thermal boundary, condensation and rain in the living room can result. Well-intentioned mistakes on the part of homeowners and contractors are common and expensive, so getting expert advice can be a crucial step.

If your car isn't running well, you go to a mechanic. If you aren't feeling well, you go to a doctor. If your house is drafty, leaky, musty, damp, expensive to heat, you need a comprehensive home assessment, otherwise known as an energy audit.

It's like a physical exam for your house: a top-to-bottom survey of everything: appliances, insulation levels, air leakage, structure, health and safety, comfort, and efficiency. This involves several hours of data collection, an interview, fancy diagnostic equipment like infrared cameras and blower doors, and afterward, the use of computer modeling software to look at the costs and benefits of various scenarios: how much might you save by adding attic insulation? By air sealing in the basement? By replacing an old furnace with a heat pump? And so on. There might be thousands of dollars at stake on the savings side, and the expense side too, so the modeling is valuable to help with decision making.

Here's the clincher - energy audits cost nothing, or next to nothing.

New York State has some fantastic incentives to encourage homeowners to do the right thing. The state will pay for some or all of the cost of the audit; it offers innovative low-interest unsecured loans to fund eligible improvements; it offers rebates of ten or fifty percent of a project cost, and tax incentives and rebates for renewable energy as well. So for little or no cost, you can have an expert analysis of your home, a road map for its future, and meaningful help to make it all happen.

So why isn't an epidemic of efficiency sweeping the state? Although

our buildings need lots of work often requiring lots of skill, the physical work is less of a hurdle than the mental work needed to change how we think. Before we change our hardware, we have to change our software.

Ready to give it a try?

**For practical steps you can take to improve the efficiency of your home, see Norm Farwell's suggestions on our website: [www.franklinlocal.org](http://www.franklinlocal.org).**

## PIPELINE POSTINGS: A Chronology of Events

**July 7<sup>th</sup>:** Organizational meeting of **Stop the Constitution Pipeline** was held in Delhi. Monthly meetings followed.

**July 25<sup>th</sup>:** **Williams** held a second meeting in Franklin Central School. This was one of five "open houses" along the proposed route, one in each county crossed by the proposed route.

**Stop the Constitution Pipeline** sent a letter to landowners along the proposed pipeline route in Chenango, Delaware, and Schoharie counties asking them to oppose the Constitution Pipeline

Possibly reacting to comments made at the open houses and on line, **FERC** requested that Williams follow FERC guidelines for co-locating and propose an alternate route along the I-88 corridor.

**Stop the Constitution Pipeline** launched their website, ***StopThePipe.org***

**Williams** proposed an Alternate M route that runs close to I-88 except in the vicinity of Oneonta, and informed affected land owners in late August.

**September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>:** Two additional open house meetings were held in Oneonta and Cobleskill. Route M would completely avoid our Town of Franklin.

**Stop the Constitution Pipeline** sent a letter to landowners along the proposed Alternate M route in Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie counties, asking them to oppose the Constitution Pipeline

**September 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>:** **FERC** held three scoping hearings for its Environmental Impact Statement in Afton NY, Schoharie NY, and New Milford PA, with written comments due October 9<sup>th</sup>. After strong objections from Stop the Constitution Pipeline among others, FERC added a hearing on October 24<sup>th</sup> in Oneonta and extended deadline for comments to November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>:** First deadline for applications for grants being offered by **Williams** of up to \$25,000, in an attempt to buy good will with communities. Grants to be announced by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Five organizations in Franklin applied: Central School, Community Educational Foundation, Fire Department, Free Library, and Village.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Next grant application deadline. Find more information at ***constitution-pipeline.com***

**Williams** has stated that their target date for filing the Constitution Project with FERC has slipped from January 2013 to sometime in the second quarter, ie no earlier than April.

## NEW PIPES ON THE WAY

By Brian Brock

Work has begun to replace the 150 year-old system that supplies water to the Village of Franklin.

Beginning in late September, streets were trenched 3 feet wide and 5 feet deep. Green PVC pipe was laid above the existing water mains. Two 10 inch pipes were laid from the well house along Otsego Street. From there, an 8" pipe was laid down Center Street with 6" pipes branching off down side streets of Institute, Maple, Water, Wakeman, Second, Third, and West.

New hydrants were connected to the new pipelines, finally providing sufficient

pressure and volume in case of a structure fire. An additional hydrant was added next to the firehouse to allow the trucks to fill their tank. Next, the trenches were back-filled. The old pipes were left in place, but the old hydrants will be removed.

Then the crew began connecting individual services, each of which will get a new shut-off valve. Once that work was completed in mid-November, the trenches were paved.

Work was done by a crew of eight from LRS Excavating, Inc. from Lansing and Vacri Construction Corp from Binghamton.

Lines down Main Street will not be installed until spring. They will require digging-up the sidewalks because the NYS-DOT does not want Route 357 disturbed.

**BIZ, continued from Page 6**

tervener at the urging of Chairman Eisel and Commissioner of Watershed Affairs, Dean Frazier. This "motion to intervene" was premature, made months before the project was even filed with the federal government. This was a waste of the lawyer's time and our money -- not our usual county lawyer but Watershed's high-priced Albany lawyer.

When it was revealed that the question of supporting the pipeline had never been brought before the Board, Resolution No. 149 to support that letter was filed on the usual short notice. This resolution was passed by votes 14 out of 19 Supervisors -- weeks after the letter was sent

Elected officials have the obligation to collect the facts, listen to their voters, obey the rules, and act sensibly.



FAMILY, con't from Page 1

“My father had a town job but always did some farming on the side, soybeans, corn.” Ed grew up in the Bronx. “The closest I got to a farm was the Farm-in-the-Zoo in the Bronx Zoo.”

They both had always known they loved the land and someday wanted to live on it and live off what it could produce. Vicky’s other childhood dream was to be a scientist. With three kids, it took her a while just to get her BA. “My goal was to get a Ph.D. before I turned forty and I made it by less than a month. Meanwhile Ed got his law degree. They were living and working in Philadelphia - Vicky teaching biology at nearby colleges. Hearing about a teaching position at SUNY/Oneonta, she came right up, got the job. And so they discovered central New York. They found a lovely house overlooking the Butternut Valley in Otsego County.

They call it Foxfall Farm. It had not been farmed in years. They began with an organic garden, then built a root cellar. “Too many rocks to dig deep so we built it above ground and covered it with earth.” They fenced in a garden, built a chicken coop and added a couple of sheep. Vicki began weaving the wool, while Ed read and took workshops in everything agricultural. Their neighbor, Paris Reidhead, a pioneer in the alternative fuel movement in central New York, became a mentor and invaluable source of information about growing and refining canola for biodiesel.

But what made possible a truly sustainable farm was their son, also named Ed. A computer engineer, young Ed had been working in Japan for ten years when he discovered peak oil and decided to return to the US and build a sustainable life for himself and his Japanese wife, Yuriko,



The Lentz Family farm

and their two children. Ed, Sr. invited his son to partner with him on the farm. “They came in 2009 and that is when we started in earnest. Our plan has always been a collaborative effort...and our objective is to get to the point where the farm is completely self-sustaining.”

Young Ed and Yuriko do most of the farm work. “It’s his full time job and I pay him a very modest salary,” says Ed. “Luckily, an old farm next door came on the market and we were able to buy it for them. I recognize that the infrastructure cost, I will never get back. To be honest - I do not know how you can do this without what we had. If you had to borrow, for instance. Maybe, if you can buy an existing farm with outbuildings - or you inherit it.”

Their farm is built

around producing meat. They breed Dexter cattle and Katahdin sheep. “Katahdin shed like dogs and do not need to be sheared,” says Vicky. “They are wonderful animals. Very easy to work with.” They also keep Romneys “for looks.” They buy piglets and raise them up. “Chickens, we each



Photo by Gene Marner

have a flock for our own use. Extra eggs, we take to the farmers’ market.”

They decided on a CSA for meat. “People told us it was not a viable business



Ed Lentz filtering canola oil

model but it has actually been successful. People get a variety of meats. We sell a full share for a family of four, half-shares for a couple. \$600 full share, \$350 meat half-share. Enough

meat for six months. Not big portions every day, but enough. We usually turn away a few people every season. We can take care of special requests - a ham for a special occasion, say. Or, if someone does not like lamb we will substitute pork or beef. We looked at what other people charge and we priced it below that.”

The animals are mostly grass fed. “We supplement with grains we grow. No GMOs in any seed we use, not even GMO canola for oil - which was hard to find, but we did. In winter we maintain the animals with hay - don’t expect them to put weight on until they get on fresh grass in spring.”

They let the animals improve the pastures. “Bushhogging and then seeding has been good. Animals are eating it all down. With briars, we plowed and put in buckwheat, then before it went to seed, we combined it, used the green stuff for silage. The next



Photo by Gene Marner

year we planted pasture seed. This year we will try winter grazing. Sheep will do it and horses will too.”

They have eleven acres of grains: wheat, oats, buckwheat, canola, black beans

(“a good rotation crop”). Also spelt and rye. “For human food, we only process the wheat, beans and rye. The rest we feed to animals. Sheep and horses can eat it whole; for the pigs and cows, we crack it up a bit.”

They grind wheat and rye, and sell flour at the Oneonta Farmers’ Market. They found out that by adding a few cents worth of ingredients, they could charge a lot more for muffin mix, pancake mix, biscuit mix. “People just add milk and egg. This is what they want. We built a licensed certified kitchen in the milk room of an old dairy barn to make all the food products.”

They had planted canola for oil to burn in their diesel cars and trucks. It turned out that canola oil is “economically awesome. We can sell cooking-grade canola oil for thirty dollars a gallon, so we don’t drive with it. The oil we grow, we press and bottle. The oil we burn in the vehicles, we collect from restaurants - they still have a lot.”

On a hill above the house sit six large solar arrays. “Right now we are 80-90% food and energy self-sufficient. We do have tractors, we do have combines. And of course, we know that for now, things and parts can be replaced. But fourteen years from now? I don’t think there will be a sudden collapse. But things are going to change. We must learn to live with that and be ready for it. Some local politicians think they get it, but they really don’t.”

Ed himself is a Town Councilman in New Lisbon.

RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

Date	Address	Acres	Classification	Assess	Price	Seller	Buyer
1/3/12	3203 East Handsome Brook	8.30	Rural res	108,000	86,570	William A Sorensen	Equity Trust Company
1/3/12	Carey Rd	29.30	Rural vac>10	6,000	23,430	William A Sorensen	Randall Leavitt
1/6/12	4487.4489 Cty Highway 14	0.19	Det row bldg	57,000	110,000	Joseph C Mitchell	Glen G Gaetano
1/15/12	272 Center St	0.32	2 Family Res	107,000	97,000	Rita Hyzer	Peter Mason
5/3/12	2157 East Handsome Brook	54.62	Rural res	210,000	176,500	Emma C. Longstreet	Keith P Kaminskaskas
5/8/12	1813 Grange Hall Rd	100.48	Rural res	180,000	205,000	Francis Sanna	Daniel Gentile
6/12/12	162 Main St	0.38	1 Family Res	74,000	127,500	Elsworth J Griffin	Larry Archbold
6/27/12	1966 Beebe Rd	46.00	Rural res	250,000	18,348	County of Delaware	Richard C III Kling
6/27/12	County Highway 16	8.33	Vac w/imprv	18,000	3,969	County of Delaware	Catherine M Martyr-Finne
6/27/12	7563 County Highway 16	2.10	1 Family Res	82,000	17,408	County of Delaware	Catherine Martyr-Finne
7/2/12	184 Otego St	0.30	Mfg housing	34,000	20,000	Jeanne M Hall	Frank Walker
7/19/12	664 Carey Rd	12.00	Rural res	132,000	110,000	Kenneth DeRoche	Matthew Davidson
7/19/12	7434 East Handsome Brook	26.71	Rural res	310,000	450,000	Marc Healy	Gregory S Schnabel
7/25/12	Thoroughbred Rd	20.60	Rural vac>10	33,000	23,000	County of Delaware	Paul J Monton
7/28/12	Campbell Estates Rd	10.41	Rural vac>10	21,000	10,000	Kunibert Jutta Ludwig	Richard Schroder
8/10/12	499 Case Hill Rd	8.50	1 Family Res	242,000	274,760	David Huber	Luke Potrzeba
8/14/12	Freer Hollow Rd	5.06	Rural vac<10	15,000	1,000	Timothy L Robinson	Zachary Robinson
8/14/12	9511 State Highway 357	74.26	Rural res	188,000	120,000	Ruth C Herricht	Peter F III Zuk
8/15/12	509 Poet Hill Rd	6.00	1 Family Res	175,000	180,000	William Sears	Benedict J Albano
8/23/12	Heathen Hill Rd	2.00	Rural vac<10	9,000	7,500	Harry G Weisgerber	Jeffrey R Taggart



# FRANKLIN CHURCHES

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

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

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

**St Paul's Episcopal Church**  
307 Main Street, Franklin  
Phone: 607- 829-6404  
All faiths welcome  
Service every first Sunday of the month at 1:30 P.M. followed by fellowship dish-to-pass dinner.  
Service every second thru fourth Sunday at 8:15 A.M.  
First Thursdays Soup Dinner every month, by donation, to benefit roof replacement fund. 5-7 P.M. Join your friends for homemade soups, chili, salad and conversation!

**Community Bible Church**  
89 Center Street, Franklin  
Pastor: Dr. Walt Schlundt  
Phone: 607-829-5471  
Sunday School (Sept. Through May): 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship: 10:45 AM  
We are a church that faithfully teaches the word of God and seeks to glorify Him through worship, service and in all that we do. We seek to fulfill the great commission through evangelization, missions and training. We offer two Ladies' Bible Studies and one Men's Bible Study.

*This space sponsored by Handsome Brook Farm.*

Remember the golf balls? If not, you'll wish you did, in our latest installment of...

## MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!

It's payback time!

Dick called the other day and asked if I'd help tune his barn. I wondered what key. Some of these old barns were specifically designed to hold the tremendous weight of tons of sometimes-moist hay. Large cables from low in the center to high on the outer end walls can be adjusted with gigantic turnbuckles drawing the walls in or letting them out as the need may be.

Wind is a factor. Pigeons aren't. Dick had signed a contract with a drilling company to store fifty-five gallon drums and miscellaneous crates in his barn. Some of the skull-and-crossbones labeled drums contained benzene. Others were marked with chemicals I couldn't even pronounce. This stuff was unbelievably toxic and flammable.

I asked if he knew that this was the stuff they used in proprietary recipes to fracture the rock and lubricate their equipment when they drilled for gas. It all had to end up somewhere. Like in the water supply. He said all they told him was that it protected the highly expensive bits as they drilled. Those bits needed to be sharp.

B sharp? I asked. He nodded. We cranked on the turnbuckles. By then I'd noticed that the shipping receipts were still taped to the sides of some of the crates. When Dick wasn't looking I peeled a few away and slipped them into my pocket.

News Flash!  
Dateline: Franklin, New York.  
Thirty-year-old man eats organic food. Quickway devastated.

The Sheriff's office and jail building used to be a vegetarian diner. They didn't even remove the booths when the holding cells were built. Everyone called it The Celery. And now, Donna's escaped. D'ya suppose the Sheriff's in on this? No matter. I knew exactly where she'd go.

When I got home I pulled out the shipping receipts from Dick's crates and carefully unfolded them on the kitchen table. There in large letters by the 'Ship To' column was the name Clyde Johnson.

What?!

Clyde Johnson is the president of the Rotary Club! What's he have to do with all this?

No question about it: those who actually love their jobs and pursue them passionately, like farmers and teachers, are the easiest to take advantage of. Those who pursue only money constantly look for ways of taking it from others in one form or another. See 'exotic financial instruments.' How can it be that the incentive for success is the same as that for failure?

These are children. Even their pets won't look them in the eye. If they have any. Forget houseplants. Large and magnificent as it may be, the 'Divine Spark' can only be divided so many times before some folks end up with no more than a moist camping match.

I guess we know who these folks are.

Well, well, well.  
The Police raided the Market on Sunday.

The first rumor was that someone was selling alcohol without a license. Every time old Sven tapped off some mead, he'd put up a sign that read 'see the goat.' Guys would be disappearing into the tent behind his farm stand and wouldn't come out for hours. They'd stagger off into the woods while the kids would all want to see the goat, too. But their mammas wouldn't let them.

The second rumor was that the cops were after information about Tommy Tomato. I dunno. Competition between tomato growers is fierce but hardly worth murder.

The truth turned out to be the strangest of all.

Our bread merchant had been doing an unbelievable business for quite some time. Selling out within an hour of every market opening for months. Success breeds arrogance, I guess. This particular week he put up a sign and somebody called the cops.

"Country white bread gently laced with freshly ground organic viagraín."

All he would say as they dragged him away was that we needed more Democrats.

We marvel at the ingenuity of mankind.

There are good cooks and bad

cooks.

Then there are cooks who can kill you. My grandmother had a hired cook. From meat to bread to sauce it all just melted in your mouth. I wore a bib till I was thirteen.

Occasionally, Granny would assert herself to show that she still had that ole culinary charm. Tuna casserole.

The last step was gently spreading Kraft grated Parmesan cheese over the whole dish from its large metallic green cardboard shaker.

We all sat down to eat. It was awful. Disgusting. It was soap. There's another product that comes in a large metallic green cardboard shaker. It's called Comet Cleanser.

Well, at least no one had to brush their teeth that night.

This was the same grandmother who used to light her cigarettes with a Zippo lighter, before these disposable things. She'd pull her handbag onto her lap, open it, pull out a butt, stick it into her mouth, pick up the lighter, open it, flick it, light the cigarette, and drop the lighter back into her handbag without closing it.

Ten seconds later the Kleenex inside her handbag would catch fire and the flames would leap upward, removing eyelashes, eyebrows, nose hairs, and any other hair she happened to have at the time. Melted makeup and a warmed-up wig. Nothing serious.

I helped her draw all that stuff back on with cosmetics.

By that time I'd had my epiphany for abstract art but all things considered, taxidermy seemed more realistic.

I went back to the Masonic Temple to return Danny's pipe bender. After locking his tool room door I looked around very carefully to make sure no one was behind me. It was another fine and colorful autumn but I wasn't going to be a fall guy again.

As I turned just outside the stairway door, I heard someone sneeze. It came from upstairs. The (shudder) third floor. The (shudder) Temple throne room. The (shudder) den of the Grand Wizer and Mighty Poobah. Dark, empty, and unused for years

Call me dense but I had to check it out.

To be continued...



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# THE GARDEN GATE

By Penelope R. King

## IT'S ALL OVER, BUT NEVER OVER

October 12<sup>th</sup> was a doozy: rain, then snow showers, then some sun with lots of wind that knocked down most of what was left of the leaves and then a killing frost. So the perennial gardens are done for this year and it is time to put them to bed. Cut back all your plants except:

- those with seed heads the birds might like
- plants that retain some foliage, like *Heuchera* (Coral Bells) and *Digitalis* (Foxglove)



you. If you have planted a shrub that is not really hardy to zone 4 and you live outside of a village, you may need to shelter it from cold winter winds. Pound in four sturdy metal stakes around the shrub and then staple burlap all around it or just wrap the shrub in burlap and fasten the ends

on the bark at the base of your shrubs, so tape them up with tree tape, plastic or hardware cloth. I know this sounds like a lot of work, but if you do it once, you just remove the protections in spring and stash all of it for next year when it will not be such a big deal. I hang labels on the cages so I know which one goes with which shrub. I know they grow each year but I take that into consideration when I cut the sizes the first time. I overlap the first year and have less of an overlap the next so I don't have to piece or re-cut every year.

Now is the time to prune maples and birches; they will not bleed now as they are going dormant.

You will certainly be busy for a couple of weeks in the garden, but you can dream about what changes and additions you will make next year while you are doing all these chores. Write those thoughts down for perusal when your catalogs start showing up in late winter.

*Penny King has been a professional gardener for 28 years, designing, planting and maintaining gardens.*



From an antique postcard: A lovely road in old Franklin, NY

- grasses and *Sedum spectabil*.

Sounds like you can keep a lot, but unless you have a design that features these plants, you should cut everything down now. Don't put Peony foliage in the compost; put it in the trash and any plant matter from diseased plants.

Weed the garden and re-edge your beds so they will look crisp all winter.

If you have beasts in the area (deer, rabbits), cage the shrubs they'll want to snack on during the winter. If we get snow and I sure hope we do, as it is the best winter mulch, rabbits may chew on your shrubs and there is little you can do about it unless you cage the entire plant - no matter what the depth of the snow, rabbits can hop on top of it. Deer like Holly, Burning Bush, roses and Rhododendron. If you are new to landscaping care, ask an old timer what deer do and don't attack. Everybody who has lived with deer for any length of time will tell

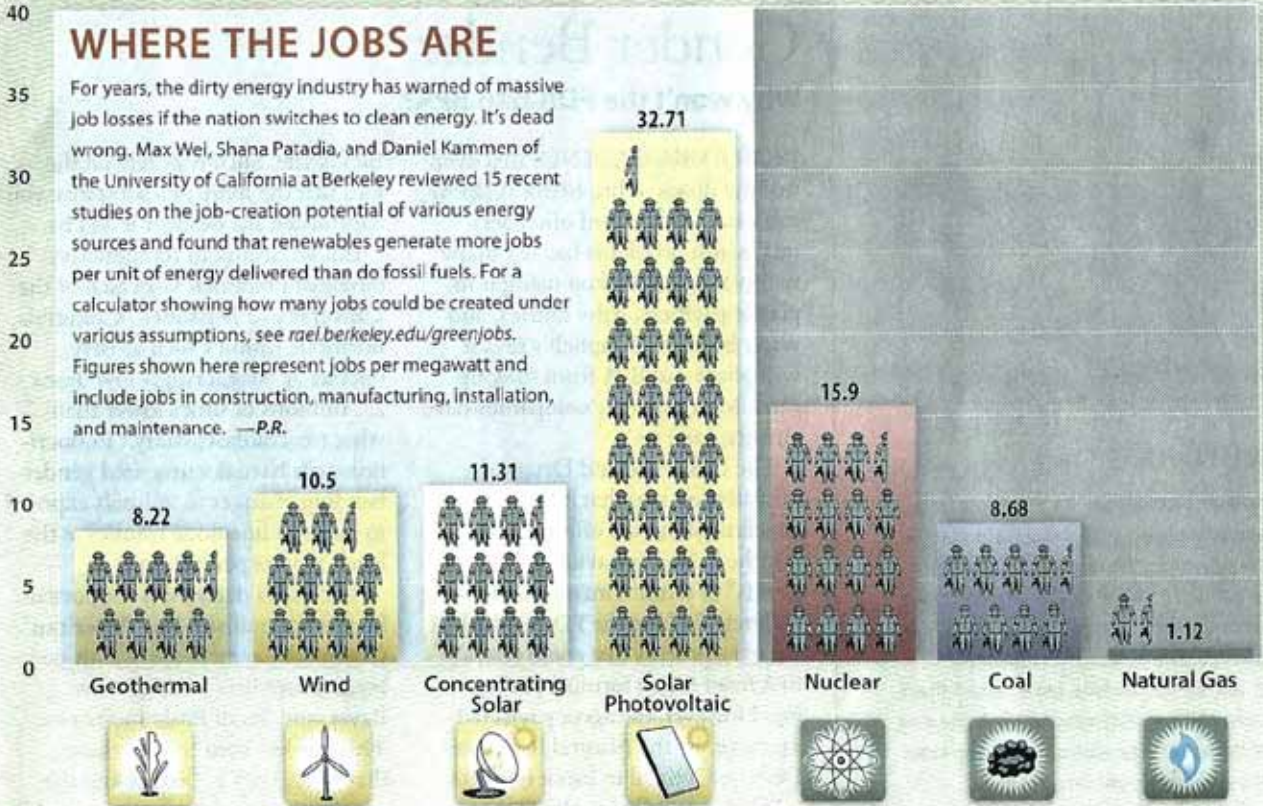
with staples or clothes pins to hold the wrap together.

In a couple of weeks, mound soil up around the stems of your roses to at least a foot. That will protect them from being killed during the winter.

Hungry voles and other rodents may want to chew

Re-searchers at the University of California at Berkeley have found that renewable energy sources generate more jobs per unit of energy than traditional fossil fuels.

*This chart courtesy of SIERRA, the magazine of the Sierra Club.*



# The NEW Franklin Register.

The Newspaper of Franklin Local

## Editorial Board

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

Editor  
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

## HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register  
P.O. Box 258  
Franklin, NY 13775  
or by email: [nfr@franklin](mailto:nfr@franklin)

## What are we about?

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

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

Please join us!

We have a number of projects that we hope to move from idea to action:

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

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

We hope you will join us!

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

or

check us out at our new website:  
[franklinlocal.org](http://franklinlocal.org)

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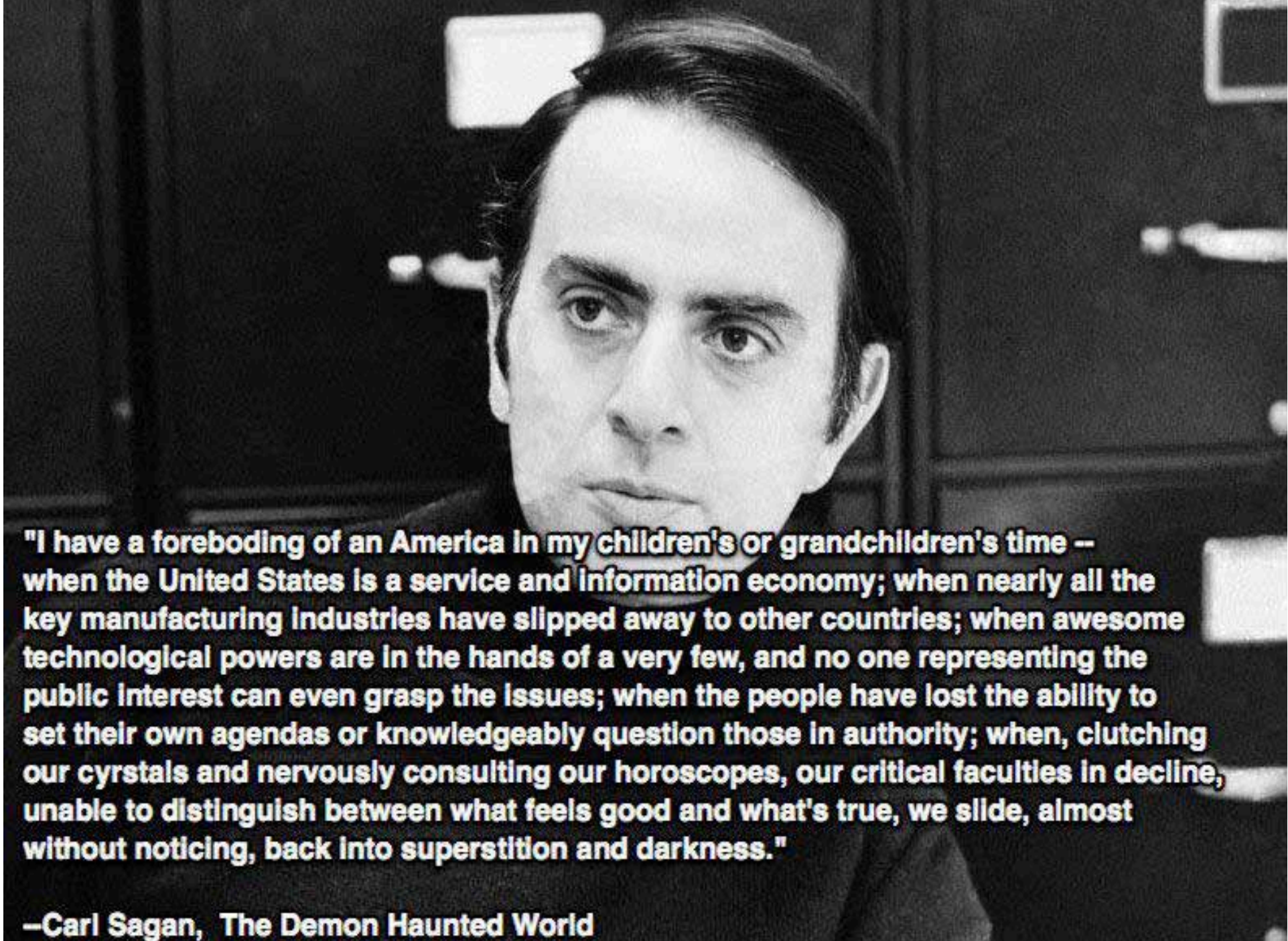
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*Uniting buyers and sellers since 1971*



**"I have a foreboding of an America in my children's or grandchildren's time -- when the United States is a service and information economy; when nearly all the key manufacturing industries have slipped away to other countries; when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues; when the people have lost the ability to set their own agendas or knowledgeably question those in authority; when, clutching our crystals and nervously consulting our horoscopes, our critical faculties in decline, unable to distinguish between what feels good and what's true, we slide, almost without noticing, back into superstition and darkness."**

**—Carl Sagan, The Demon Haunted World**