

# WARNING: COMPRESSOR STATION AHEAD!



Kinder Morgan’s Mexico compressor station on the Rockies Express pipeline. Two Titan 130 turbines are housed in large building, upper right. Photo: Alliance Wood Group Engineering, L.P

## FEEDING A HUNGRY WORLD: The Wonders of Bio-Char

By Bob Miller

Chemical and oil companies, and businesses that genetically modify food claim they have the only solution to reversing the growing problems of world hunger. We at Enviro Energy think there is a better way, by bringing back the use of carbon (biochar) to the soil. I would like to tell you about what we have been doing towards this problem for the last six years.

We started a business making pellets from the weeds and grasses sold to us by farmers. This material, harvested from fallow lands, would otherwise have no use. Putting this material to productive use has the added benefit of keeping land open for future food growing. Also, weeds and native grasses need no plowing, planting, fertilizer or spraying. They are harvested at full maturity; hence there is no “mining of the soil.”

Our original goal was to produce fuel pellets from this otherwise wasted material, soon discovering a secondary use as



Yes, you guessed it! The broccoli on the left was grown with bio-char. Photo: The Millers

a weed control mulch and soil conditioner. Grass pellets have proven to be very successful in improving the fertility and workability of soil.

Food was grown for hundreds of years with manure, compost and carbon without depleting the soil. This method largely went by the wayside with the discovery of petroleum based chemicals and fertilizer made from cheap oil. Because of this, most topsoil has been depleted of carbon and organic matter. The soil no longer absorbs or holds rain water well. Fertilizer

See BIO-CHAR, continued on Page 5

## REMEMBER ME? OUR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

By Andy Bobrow

It is hard to say whether the ability to see into the future might be a gift or a curse. I, for one, am not so sure I would want to know with any certainty what I will be facing – or when. Yet, it is essential that, individually and collectively, we try to envision the possibilities and determine what our course of action

will be.

Yes, the Town of Franklin has undertaken this potentially painful exercise and has developed a plan for its future. In fact, the Town adopted a Comprehensive Plan back in 2007 to “...guide future growth and development within the Town of Franklin in a manner that respects the Town’s rural character so that its unique sense of place is en-

hanced, its agricultural, historic, and natural resources protected, and its social and economic vitality ensured for years to come

Recently, I pulled out a copy of the Comprehensive Plan and read it through. I was impressed. It is a substantial document, weighing in at some one hundred pages. The plan is thoughtful, detailed, and forward looking. It incorporates historical context as well as a careful catalogue of contemporary issues. Some of the concerns we face today have presented themselves, albeit in slightly different form, in the past.

The plan is the result of a concerted effort to deter-

See PLAN, con’t on Page 18

By Brian Brock

Franklin residents may have not imagined that a finished Constitution pipeline would be much of a problem – unless they are landowners along the route. It would be just a hundred foot wide clear-cut stretching ten miles across Franklin from Route 357 west of the East Sidney Dam to Route 28 up on Franklin Mountain.

Those opinions may change now that a second pipeline, the Northeast Energy Direct (NED), has been proposed alongside the Constitution with a compressor station in Franklin. The recent request by Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) for pre-filing of NED with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission included detailed route maps, which located their station somewhere between Bissell and Chamberlin Hill Roads. An affected landowner reports that a dozen or so sites are under consideration. Constitution has yet to locate their mid-stream compressor station.

The TGP booster compressor station would speed the daily flow of the 500 million cubic feet of gas. It would be powered by a gas turbine – similar to a jet engine. The Solar Turbines Titan 130 would provide 20,500 horsepower. This turbine and the compressor would run day and night, 365 days a year, except for maintenance and

See WARNING, con’t on Pg 15

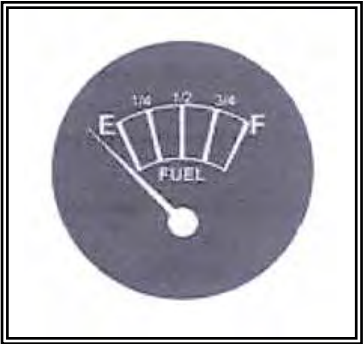
## FRANKLIN EMS: SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE

By Joan Cronauer

Sixty years ago, a group of wise and caring men in the town of Franklin realized there was a need for emergency care in the community. The Franklin Emergency Squad was organized by charter members John Burgin, Richard Johnson, Kenneth Simmons, Edward Slawson, Walter Stilson, Hubert Worden, and twin brother high school students, Richard and Robert Underwood.

The first meeting was held on August 12, 1954.

See EMS, con’t on Page 4



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

REGULAR FEATURES:	
Neighbor’s View	Pg. 2
Church Directory	Pg. 4
In The Kitchen	Pg. 5
Pet Talk	Pg. 6
Murder at the FFM	Pg.18
Real Estate Sales	Pg. 20

FRANKLIN LOCAL:	
Park News	Pg. 2
The Mayor’s Corner	Pg. 3
Landing in Treadwell	Pg. 3
Christmas Stroll	Pg. 3
Holiday Market	Pg. 3
Town Board Powers	Pg. 6

FOCUS ON ENERGY:	
Grass Pellet Misfire	Pg. 8
Solar Makes Sense	Pg. 8
No Revenue Fracking	Pg. 8
Pipes and Power	Pg. 9
Compressor Horrors	Pg. 9
DCEC Debate News	Pg.17

AGRICULTURE:	
Markets are Crucial	Pg.15

LOCAL ARTS:	
Dana Matthews photos	Pg. 7
6th Extinction Review	Pg. 9
Jim Mullen Reviews	Pg.12
Bright Hill Riddles	Pg. 12
Arts with Jane Carr	Pg. 13

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Tuesday,  
November 4th,  
is Election Day.

Meet this year’s  
candidates for  
FRANKLIN TOWN  
COUNCIL

View Sample Ballot  
Pages 10 & 11



# Your Neighbor's View...

## TURNING TIDES

By Patricia Tyrell

2013 Franklin Town Council Candidate

My political career, still in its early stages, began about four years ago when I finally registered to vote. Up until then, I had let myself believe that voting doesn't matter, especially as we are increasingly faced with an oligarchic society. I had never trusted government or corporate superpowers, with their shared tendency to bypass and assault life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Suddenly, likely as a result of life experience, a couple of graduate classes, and a burning desire to effect change upon issues I felt to be an immediate threat to my life, home, and family, I realized that if any real change is to be accomplished, it needs to start on the local level.

So I registered to vote – with allegiance declared to no party, sovereign and empowered – and that year voted in a local election for persons who had run unop-

posed for the past several elections. During this same period, I began to drop in on the monthly Town Board meetings, Board of Education meetings, and meetings of the group responsible for the publication of the newspaper you are now reading – Franklin Local.

Over the next couple of years, I did what I do: work, family, meetings, reading, ranting, cooking, rallies, writing, learning, rabble-raising, enjoying, thinking and breathing...all the while entertaining the notion of someday running for local office. Meanwhile, friends pressed me to consider the idea seriously and soon.

Now, let me share the terror I felt in deciding to run for office, especially small town political office. Am I smart enough? Am I strong enough? What will it mean for my family? My privacy? If I win, can I accomplish my goals? What the hell am I thinking?

Once I publicly confirmed my intent to run for Town Council, the game was, as they say, on. Filing for petitions to be signed to get on the ballot was an experience. As an aspiring candidate, I had to pick



Patricia Tyrell comments on the pipeline route map  
Photo by Dana Matthews

a political party – which I didn't have to do in order to vote. Independent by that time was the only option available, and that was fine for me.

More difficult was creating a name for my political party. What did I stand for? What did I want to do? How to convey this in just a few words? "Better Franklin" was the best I could do. Franklin is my home, where I grew up, where I chose to return to raise my family. A place of beauty, history, sanctuary, and rural aesthetics. In a world on the brink of destruction – all I wanted was for it to be better, for the people of Franklin to become their own champions, and be a example of how *better is possible*.

Onto the ballot Better Franklin went, and into campaign mode I went. An introvert at heart, I was uncomfortable but luckily prepared enough for the four month onslaught of public outings, engagements, and a lone speaking event. Against the advice of several people, I was openly against fracking. I also supported, and continue to support, a strong local economy by way of locally created and distributed energy and agriculture.

A turning point in the campaign was an open forum meet-and-greet in Treadwell, hosted by the Treadwell Community Club. This was the only event where all the candidates were present, and where those citizens in attendance had an opportunity to ask questions. Bright-Hill Press was packed! While I could feel my pulse in my throat, I was pleasantly surprised with the turnout, as it told me that people actually do care. Apathy had not yet won out.

Despite this new hope, it soon became clear that my opposition had no vision of the future – good, bad or indifferent. They showed little interest in taking control of or even

influencing looming town issues, and would rather relinquish their elected authority to denial or victimhood than make a stand. I am confident I am not the only person who figured this out that night.

Moving forward, friends and colleagues helped me to raise funds for signs and ads, conducted campaign phone calls, and told their friends and families. The support was phenomenal. I even received a donation from Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon. In the end, we all know who won the election. But now it seems my campaign may have been the first leg in a much larger race. So many people voted in the last election that they ran out of ballots and had to have more delivered. Since the election, I have had people who I would never have guessed tell me they voted for me. Many have suggested that because I went out on a limb against an ingrained system, others have been encouraged to do the same.

The tides are turning and I am humbled, honored and simply happy to have been, and to continue to be, a part of the process.

To a Better Franklin, indeed!

## PARK NEWS

By Kim Hyzer

You may have noticed that we had a lot of work done in the park this past June.

Around the middle of May, Mayor Tom Briggs learned of streetscape money that was still available. We had to move quickly as we needed plans and estimates to get approval for the grant. In addition, all the work had to be done by the end of June.

Fortunately, Jack Siman had volunteered to be our park curator just a few months before. With his experience and expertise, along with a lot of help from

Nancy Cloonan and Kathy Campbell, we were able to meet the requirements.

We had a stone patio put in around the monuments. This gives them a cohesive look and makes them more pleasant to access, as well as making that area easier to maintain.

A mix of evergreens was planted along one side to offer a visual demarcation at the edge of the park. Stop by and check it out!

The park is a project of the Franklin Improvement Society whose mission statement reads:

*"Our Society endeavors to encourage revitalization*

*of our commercial district and preservation of Franklin's historic character. We hope to encourage improvements that will create a positive effect on our economic conditions and quality of life in Franklin. We hope to help our community to grow and prosper for generations to come. We hope to attract*

*new residents, businesses and visitors to our community. We desire to work with and encourage organizations that already do so much for our community.*

*"We have such a wealth of beautiful architecture in our village that has been well maintained and pre-*

*served. We would like to see our downtown area rejuvenated with viable enterprises."*

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to come to our next meeting, give Kim a call at 829-8820 to find out where.

## FRANKLIN ALTERNATIVE TO VIOLENCE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

By Noelle Granger

The first Alternative to Violence community workshop was held in Franklin in early August. The workshop was a huge success. We had seven participants who are currently students at Franklin Central School and seven adult participants from Franklin and surrounding communities. The group collaborated through discussions and experiential activities to explore different areas of conflict in our everyday lives and conflict resolution strategies.



Participants in this summer's AVP workshop

The workshop proved that there is great wisdom in communicating with people across age groups. It also showed us that people of all ages are able to come together in a safe setting to learn together and have fun! We look forward to having more community workshops in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about AVP

or would like more information regarding future workshops, please call Noelle Granger at (607)343-3904.



A new stone patio graces the village park's memorial site.







# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## LANDING IN TREADWELL

By Magali Veillon

We might as well start with the obvious: I am the stereotypical urban dweller who found a calling to return to a simpler rural life, attracted by the romantic image of the perfect old house with a beautiful barn on land that would provide for a productive farm.

Yet this thought seems preposterous. Looking at properties, I quickly realized that picture-perfect did not necessarily mean a place would provide for the new life I had chosen. Farming is not picture perfect. Yet after working on nearly twenty farms to learn, I still fantasized about landing in a beautiful farmstead just waiting for renewed activity.

My first lesson was to cultivate patience, because things generally don't land in your lap. The search for a place where I would both live and work lasted much longer than expected. The country teaches one to slow down after years in the city. Hopefully, the uphill slant of settling in a new, different environment will keep reminding me to put the brakes on. In the end, it took three years for the wholesomely imperfect property to reveal itself, and in an unexpected way.

I grew up in a little village of 300 people in the Jura Mountains of Switzerland. We had chickens and rabbits that stayed with us for the warm months and made it to the freezer sometime in the fall, thanks to my father who would never hurt a fly except when it comes to pet manage-

See **TREADWELL**, continued on Page 14



Magali Veillon's house in Treadwell.

Photo by the author



Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the 2013 Holiday Market

## THE HOLIDAY MARKET

**Saturday, December 13, 2014**  
**12:00 – 4:00pm**  
**Franklin Firehouse**

On December 13, 2014, from 12 noon to 4:00 PM, the Franklin Holiday Market will be held at the Franklin Firehouse on Institute Street.

This community bazaar will feature baked goods, homemade chocolates, holiday breads, yarn, handicrafts, goat milk soaps and lotions, note cards, paintings, ceramics, jewelry and accessories, as well as local cheeses, maple syrup, and honey.

This year's market will sell wreaths and holiday table arrangements created by the Franklin Garden Club to benefit their college scholarship program.

Start your holiday shopping close to home. You'll find a wide variety of items to satisfy all your holiday gift needs.

## IS IT CHRISTMAS ALREADY??

## HOLIDAY EVENTS IN FRANKLIN

Join your neighbors for...

### THE CHRISTMAS STROLL

By Kim Hyzer

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

House tours, Farmers' Holiday Market, Grandma's Pantry, Christmas Trees and Trains at the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, Dinners, Santa, Children's Nativity Play, and more!

We've started our planning!

If you would like to have your house open for the tour, please call Kim at 829-8820. The tours are done in an open house self-guided format for a few hours in the afternoon.

If you would like to donate towards the community Christmas trees that line Main Street, call Nancy Cloonan at 829-3703. If we get enough donations, maybe we can put some on Center Street, too!

If you or your organization have anything else you would like to offer for the day, call Kim.

It is already shaping up to be a great day in Franklin!

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER



With Tom Briggs

Travel any back road in Delaware County at the end of September and be prepared to witness the quintessential autumn. This is the one

time of year that you can actually ingest nature's delicious colors. Fall has its own scent, a sort of sweet but slightly acid quality. One can envision the collective flora releasing the last of its fragrance in advance of nature's big sleep. And there's nothing like standing quietly in the woods and listening to the soft tapping sound of falling leaves as they locate their places below.

This part of the world is a well-kept secret. If it weren't, we would be deluged with immigrants seeking refuge from a hectic and dispiriting world. Franklin may not be the busiest burg and it may not have all of the conveniences of metropolitan living, but this little community is easy on the spirit. We have clean air, access to wholesome food, plenty of fresh water, no traffic jams - and a safe place for our children

to grow up in. From the porch of the Post Office, one can still capture a faint but comforting glimpse of the halcyon years of the 1950s. It's just a darned shame that all is not well in this little piece of heaven.

Like much of upstate New York, or even rural America in general, Delaware County could sure use a brush of prosperity. This is especially so for young working class families. There are jobs, but WalMart, Home Depot, and fast food restaurants offer only slightly more than minimum wage. Factor in all the costs related to getting to and from work, and there's not much left for managing a household. You can say the same about young farm families, whose fortune rests on fluctuating monthly milk checks. It's no wonder then that when representatives from corporate gas interests fan out across the countryside promising fat times ahead to besieged property owners, that they create a committed fan base. Add this to the accompanying promise of high paying employment and peripheral profit making opportunities for small businesses and you see the pot being stirred more briskly.

From my perspective, if fracking comes to upstate New York, the Village of Franklin will likely never be the same. Even if the gas could be extracted safely, there will be winners in the short run followed by losers in the long run.

Much like the brilliant flare of colors and ensuing stark winters that we experience here every fall, boom towns have their heyday and once the mother lode is exhausted...well, the reader can draw his own conclusions.

Another side of this issue is that Franklin faces sustainability challenges whether gas wells are drilled in the vicinity or not. If you take a gander around town, you'll notice that most of these beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century homes are inhabited by people from my generation or older. There are few young people who live in this area now who will be able to afford to heat and maintain these homes without additional income in the future. Franklin may never be the same one way or another.

I would hope that individuals and organizations in this lovely community take it upon themselves to engage in discussions to identify the positive qualities of life that define Franklin living. I would also hope that from this conversation a strategy would be developed to maintain and enhance these attributes, so that future generations will be able to benefit as well. For those of us who have enjoyed this community, it would be a shame if we leave this plane without being mindful of our responsibility to pass along the gift our predecessors left us to those who will follow behind.



## 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.*

#### EMS, continued from Page 1

An ambulance was donated through the efforts of the Franklin Fire Department. Soon the Squad was able to purchase other needed equipment and, with the help of voluntary contributions from civic organizations, grateful patients and interested community members, it was possible to meet other necessary expenses.

Through the years, other ambulances have been purchased. In 1957, a panel truck costing \$1450.00 was bought and converted



Jack trains 'em Early to an emergency vehicle. In 1962, a Pontiac Superior Coach demonstrator identical to the vehicle that transported President John Kennedy on his fateful trip in Dallas was added. In 1981, a Modular ambulance was purchased for \$30,000.00 from funds obtained from Squad fundraisers, an anonymous donation and generous townspeople. The present ambulance, purchased in 2001, was paid for by fundraising events, donations and grants. No bond issue was necessary.

Franklin Emergency Squad has kept up with the latest trends and modern equipment used in emergency care. A state of the art stretcher, automated blood pressure monitor and defibrillator, AEDs, stair chair and scoop stretcher have been added to the equipment list. Franklin EMS has been among the first to add BLS epi pens, nebulizer treatment, glucometer reading, and Narcan for opioid overdose.

Franklin's ambulance travels thousands of miles each year, answering fire and emergency

calls. Members contribute many hours of service, but also devote as many or more to classes and training. Call volume has more than doubled along with the addition of more rigorous training and certification requirements. Protocols are frequently added or changed, and must be implemented.

The Squad sponsors the Red Cross Bloodmobile, presents CPR classes to Health Classes at Franklin School, the Franklin Pool Life Guards and the Franklin community. Collecting food items for the Food Bank is a yearly project as well as educational presentations to Head Start and Morning Program at FCS.

The most important asset to the Squad is its members. If not for them, no amount of equipment or highly equipped ambulance would be of any use. They are the heart and backbone of the organization. Who are these people? They are some of the most committed, caring, determined, selfless citizens you will ever meet. They come from all walks of life. They are a retired school bus driver, a farmer, a retired school teacher, an electrician/plumber, a truck driver/carpenter, a retired police commissioner, retired professional



Front (left to right): Joanna Jones, Sierra Jones, Joan Cronauer, Peg Budine, Jack Early  
Back: Audrey Archibald, Jerry Valle, Naomi Buel, Tom Buffington, Bob Deeb, Bob Cronauer, Gary Arndt

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**WINTER 2014-15**

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**on the road at 353-5541**

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EMTs, a school aide, a college student, a nurse, a code enforcement officer, a semi retired social service worker, and an assistant to the Disabled/Challenged. They are the ones who get out of bed at 2 AM to answer calls, then hurry to be at work by 7 AM, who miss a doctor's or dental appointment, who miss a child's school party or play, and who may have a family member at home with a serious illness.

These people receive no monetary compensation. Their compensation comes from the joy of hearing the cry of a newborn delivered at home, from having the ability to treat

and comfort a trauma patient, from seeing a patient regain consciousness due to their action, and just knowing that they have made a difference in someone's life.

Now Franklin Emer-



Naomi Buel takes Gary Schiffer's blood pressure.

gency Squad along with other agencies in this area and throughout the country, is facing a difficult challenge. Our Department of Health representative has said that in five years, EMS may not be as we know it today. One of the greatest challenges is recruitment and retention of members. The demands of increased requirements in curriculum and skills has become overwhelming. Becoming an EMT requires more time and skills than ever before.

Franklin Emergency Squad needs your help now. Join your local Squad. Training is available. Help your community.

Call Joan Cronauer, Captain Franklin Emergency Squad at 607-829-5092.

## PHEASANT RELEASE SITES FOR 2014

Annually, about 30,000 adult pheasants are raised on the Richard E. Reynolds game farm in Ithaca and released just prior to and during the fall pheasant hunting season. Releases occur across the state at over one hundred sites on both state and private lands open to public hunting. In our wildlife management district, O4, pheasant season began October 1st and continues until February 28th. Bag limit is two birds per day, with no season limit.

Among the sites are five in Delaware County: Colchester, Harpersfield, Stamford/Bovina, and two in the Town of Franklin:

\* County Route 16 at the Franklin/Delhi line on NYCDEP property. (Please respect property and nearby private residences.)

\* State Route 357 across from Merrickville Road on Town of Franklin property. Hunters must obtain permission to hunt surrounding private land.





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BIO-CHAR, continued from Page 1

has leached out, contaminating ground water.

This history brings me to my central point. EnviroEnergy is moving into turning our mulch and soil conditioning pellets into *biochar*, which is essentially pure charcoal. As I said, this is not a new concept. It involves a process called *pyrolysis*; burning off the gas (*syn gas*), ending up with *biochar*. When *biochar* is incorporated into the soil, it is very stable. The carbon is sequestered for hundreds of years. Moisture is retained and if fertilizer is used, the amount can be reduced.

With the help of friends, neighbors and master gardeners, we have been using *biochar* in at least twenty-three test plots over a period of three years. The results have been far better than we anticipated. We've had results of up to 100% more produce per plant. Vegetables, plants and root systems are seen to be larger, earlier, and the color a darker green. Our next step will include test-

ing the nutritional value of the produce.

Both grass and *biochar* pellets return carbon to the soil. Plants absorb carbon from the air as they grow. There is some disagreement among scientists as to whether carbon in the atmosphere causes climate change. It is not the point of this article to debate that issue.

We are now working on a char maker that we hope will result in a more efficient and economical way of making char. Future hopes hinge on the best use of the *syn gas* that is a byproduct of the *pyrolysis* that turns pellets into *biochar*. *Syn gas* may be used for producing liquid fuels.

There appears to be no downside. Humans worldwide need food and clean water, so everybody wins, including planet Earth. If someone who reads this can see a downside, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you.

Bob Miller can be reached at (607)829-3183.

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Wed-Sun 10-5 or  
by Appointment

COMMUNITY EVENTS IN TREADWELL

Details? Contact Debbie Tuthill: [dtuthill@stny.rr.com](mailto:dtuthill@stny.rr.com).

- |         |                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| * 11/1  | Masquerade Miles (Halloween) 5K Run |
| * 11/10 | Wool felt Craft Workshop            |
| * 11/15 | Taste of Treadwell Cooking Demos    |
| * 11/22 | Holiday Bazaar and Turkey Luncheon  |
| * 12/8  | Cookie Exchange                     |
| * 12/13 | Sweet Adelines Concert              |

# IN THE KITCHEN

With Sue Avery

## COLCANNON

*Comfort food for the chilly seasons*

1 lb. potatoes, peeled  
1 lb. kale or cabbage  
1/2 cup chopped onions or leeks or onion tops  
1 cup cream or milk, plus some for the onions  
1/2 stick of butter, melted  
salt  
pepper  
mace

Boil the potatoes and kale/cabbage separately. Chop the kale/cabbage till fine. In the extra cream, cook the onions/leeks until soft.

Mash the potatoes in the 1 cup of cream. Add salt, pepper and mace to taste. Add kale/cabbage and combine, beating until fluffy.

Traditionally, the butter is added in a well made in the center of the mixture, and a bit included with each serving. Or you can add the butter to the potatoes when mashing them.

The Irish serve Colcannon on Halloween, sometimes adding small prophesying objects, such as a coin, a ring or a thimble.

Enjoy!

## What would you do to help FCS students if you had the money?

- Offer monthly incentive scholarships?
- Sponsor field trips?
- Sponsor after school programs?
- Assist disadvantaged students?
- Buy school supplies for students?
- Write grants to support the school?

The good news is that you already do!

By supporting the **Franklin Community Educational Committee**, you do all those things -- and we're planning to do even more.

Visit us at **FranklinCommunity.org** to join our email list and find out how easy it is to help.

John Campbell,  
President



# PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz



Hello Readers,

This column's topic is prompted by the number of dogs we veterinarians see every week of the Spring, Summer and Fall who've had a run-in with porcupine quills.

Yes, dogs think they can eat porcupines, so often late at night or early in the morning, they return home with a face full, or body or legs and feet. We veterinarians get the call to pull them

out. Yes, we sedate them. Few dogs will gratefully acknowledge that we are trying to help them by sticking our hands in their mouth and tugging on a painful quill attached to their tongue or lip. Often when we try to remove quills from awake animals, they break, because the quill is not that sturdy. Often they break anyway and stay buried in the dog's skin until they fester. Some quills

do migrate out, so we see them emerge days/weeks/months later. It could be just the result of random movement, but I think the immune system has a role in ridding the body of foreign objects. Removing quills often take from ten minutes to three or four hours, and that's with sedation

An interesting and common misconception is that cutting off the top of the quill makes it easier to remove. Not true! This actually can make removing it more difficult. Quills can penetrate parts of the body such as the eye, joint spaces or the chest cavity and do quite a bit of harm, even cause death. Reported deaths have been associated with migration into the lungs. Lameness can be caused by quills in the joint spaces, and quills in the eye have been associated with very bad outcomes.

Some breeds are more associated with quill events than others. I see the worse cases in Huskies, pit bulls and boxers. These guys just can't give up, no matter how much it hurts. Porcupines are mammals, and can carry rabies, but because of their quills, it is unlikely. They are nocturnal (night travelers) and are herbivores (plant eaters). They are not easily provoked and cannot shoot out their quills. Only when the quills are touched will the barbs lodge in an attacking animal. My advice is if you have porcupines in your area, don't

let your dogs run at large. Walk them on a leash at night or early morning, so you won't have a dog with a painful mouthful.

For an interesting article about quills, see the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*, March 1990;16(3):725-734; Uldis Roze; David C Locke; Nick Vatakis. It's called *Antibiotic Properties Of Porcupine Quills*, and says basically that there



Dog with facial porcupine quills being treated

is an antibacterial agent in the outer portion of the porcupine quill to assist porcupines in wound healing. I often give a dog an antibiotic when they have embedded quills, but maybe I should just let the quill give the antibiotic next time!

Thank you  
Joan Puritz DVM

**Readers!**  
**Do you have a veterinary question for Dr. Puritz?**  
**Write to her at [nfr@franklinlocal.org](mailto:nfr@franklinlocal.org), and she will reply in a future column.**

## THE SILVERSMITH & GOLDSMITH

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## WITH POWER COMES RESPONSIBILITY

By Brian Brock

The several parts of our local government each have their own powers and responsibilities. The Board of Education teaches our children. The Fire Department and EMS aid us in emergencies. The Highway Supervisor maintains and improves the roads. The Town Justice judges the accused. The Town Clerk keeps records, collects taxes, and issues licenses.

Our town board combines the executive and legislative branches of local government, representing the people. Four councilmen are elected for four-year terms, two every two years. The supervisor is the fifth member of the board. He presides over monthly meetings and has limited administrative powers. He also represents Franklin on the County Board of Supervisors.

In contrast with the other branches, the town board has diverse responsibilities for running our municipal

corporation. Town boards are charged with securing the public health, safety, welfare, comfort, peace, and prosperity of the town and its inhabitants.

In evidence at every monthly meeting is their greatest responsibility of all: the budget. With the power of the purse, the board exercises stewardship of the highway department, the clerk's office, and the justice's court. The school and the fire department control their own funding. The limited resources of small towns require boards to be thrifty, in order to minimize the inevitable annual increase of property taxes. Each October, the board reviews a preliminary budget for the next year, prepared by the financial officer (in Franklin, the supervisor) and in November, after a public meeting, votes it in. This sets the town property tax levy for the upcoming year.

The five elected board members appoint two dozen town officials. Al-

most all are positions required by state law. Many appointments are made at the annual organizational meeting, which is the second meeting in December, tucked between Christmas and the end of the year. This date may be a relic of the requirement that towns provide an annual accounting between December 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> - a requirement eliminated in 1971.

Appointed officials are delegated with some of the power and responsibility of the Board. For example, the assessor is appointed to appraise property values, which allows the property tax levy to be apportioned among land owners.

Less frequently in evidence is the responsibility to make law, a responsibility of town boards since the New York State Constitution was revised in 1963. Most years, our board passes not a single ordinance, and the most ever passed in one year were three. Many of the ordinances were either required by state law,

such as fire prevention and building codes or flood plain maps, or recommended by Delaware County. In the last fifty years, our board has passed perhaps half a dozen ordinances on its own initiative.

Town boards have the power to enact zoning restrictions. Twelve of the nineteen towns in Delaware County do not have zoning, but Franklin enacted general zoning in 1990. Since empowered in 1964, zoning has been the most common subject of ordinances, comprising half of those passed, including penalties for violating subdivision zoning (1986), and restrictions on mobile home parks (1981), dumps and dumping (1987), and wind turbines (2007).

In 2006 the board revised the Franklin Comprehensive Plan with considerable input from we the people and aided by a consultant, Planit Mainstreet [See article ??? on page ??]. By law, actions by the

board must be guided by the Plan. The town set out sixty-eight recommendations, but few have yet been implemented.

Town boards may restructure town government somewhat, although many changes require a public referendum. Recently, Franklin has waived residency for the code enforcement officer (2001) and allowed the appointment of an assessor (1996).

The Board has powers to regulate and license businesses. Historically, our town has banned the sale of alcoholic beverages, unlike any of the surrounding towns. Only since 1996 has beer been sold for home consumption. Our delis and restaurants are still banned from selling beer or wine for consumption on site. The licenses that our Clerk does issue, for dogs and hunting, are authorized by state law.

Elections at the local polling station are overseen by the board.

See **POWER**, continued on Page 17



# SPRING THAW



Photography by Dana Matthews. See more work at [danamatthews.com](http://danamatthews.com)





# FOCUS ON ENERGY

## GRASS PELLET MISFIRE

By Brian Brock

In a study funded by the Catskill Watershed Corporation, locally made grass pellets were tried as fuel for boilers at four town garages in Delaware and Greene counties for five and a half years. Two towns used indoor boilers (Andes and Franklin) and two used exterior (Hunter and Jewett). The corporation provided all boilers and grass pellets, as well as eight stoves for a total of almost \$200,000. Results were generally positive except at Franklin. The Town of Andes will continue to burn pellets, but our town will be reverting to oil heat this winter. The towns of Hunter and Jewett are undecided.

Advantages of pellets over oil include being half as expensive, supporting the local economy, and reducing global warming. But grass pellets are not without drawbacks. They produce more ash than wood due to a higher silica content – as much as four times more. Much of this silica is dirt gathered during harvesting, and could be reduced with improved equipment. CWC also concluded that the smoke from grass is more corrosive than that from wood. But Bob Miller, who supplied the grass pellets, said that his pellets analyzed as low in chlorine. He attributed the difficulties to poor design, resulting in higher labor costs for boiler maintenance.



The second grass pellet boiler at the Franklin town garage in a shed built for it by the town. The water tank above the boiler is part of the fire-suppression system.

Photo: Catskill Watershed Corporation

For instance, the boilers used in the study were designed for wood pellets. Boilers designed for grass pellets have better ash handling, require less maintenance, and should be more durable.

The Town garage in Andes, using the same pellet-run boiler as Franklin, had success. The building is newer and has radiant floor heating. The Franklin town garage was built in 1986 and uses forced air. This required the boiler to be run hotter and resulted in two boilers burning up. The first, Maxim M250 from Central Boiler, cost \$8,100 and the second, Bio-Burner 500 from LEI, cost \$36,000.

Heating the Franklin garage with grass pellets cost approximately \$3,200 per year compared to oil at \$7,800. Grass pellet heating can operate at substantial savings, but only if the hardware problems can be overcome.

The CWC report, Grass Bio-Energy Feasibility Study, is available at: [cwconline.org/linked/grass\\_bio-energy\\_feasibility\\_study.pdf](http://cwconline.org/linked/grass_bio-energy_feasibility_study.pdf).



## SOLAR JUST MAKES SENSE

A talk with  
Bryan Hickman

"We're making some power today," Bryan Hickman says with a smile, noticing the brightness of the noon sun. He turns to his electric meter, reading the various numbers flashing across the dial that confirm his previous statement. "Yup, the meter's running backwards. For a lot of people who go solar, it's about stewardship of the environment. For others, it's about owning your power, or saving money. For me, I'd say it's a combination of all three.

"Solar just made sense to me."

If you drive through Franklin on State Highway 357 with any frequency, chances are you've seen the large pasture, the Morgan Horses, and the farm stand on your right-hand side just outside of town as you head towards Sidney. And more recently, you've almost certainly seen the fifteen-kilowatt, sixty-panel solar energy system that occupies the southeast corner of that pasture, cranking out the electricity that powers Bryan Hickman's home, office and barn at the bottom of his winding driveway. Since March of



Bryan Hickman with his new solar array on Rt. 357 in Franklin

this year, solar power has been Hickman's predominant source of energy, and both personally and professionally, he's on a mission to spread the word to all of New York State about the benefits and economic viability of going solar.

Two years ago, Hickman moved to Franklin from Delhi, where he had lived for twenty-one years, bringing with him his family, his small marketing agency, and a whole lot of entrepreneurial spirit.

"It began as an advertisement in a magazine my company, Brydan, is producing," Hickman says of his business relationship with Smucker's Energy, the installers of his system. "But the more I spoke with the Smucker folks about their advertisement, the more I began to buy into their product as a viable alternative to standard energy suppliers."

John Smucker, President of Smucker's Energy LLC, traveled up from the main office in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, last summer to do a prelimi-

nary quote for the system that currently sits in Hickman's roadside pasture. In that visit, Hickman began to see the potential for a relationship that went beyond just his system.

"John and I hit it off," Hickman recalls. "And when he began talking about expanding his business into New York, the bells went off. The more we discussed the incentives, rebates and savings associated with going solar, the more I began to think 'More people should be doing this, and I can help with that.'"

Smucker's has been designing and installing solar energy systems in the Northeast United States for almost a decade, and their decision to take their booming business across the PA/NY border coincided perfectly with meeting Hickman.

"It was a perfect scenario," Hickman states. "Solar companies have popped up everywhere over the last few years, but John and his team have been there from the begin-

See **SOLAR**, continued on Page 16

## FRACKING AND REVENUE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

By Mike Bernhard

Recently, fracking promoters in Afton circulated a reprint of a press release in the Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin. The headline, "Marcellus fee nets \$22M for Pa. Counties," intended to suggest that gas revenues flowing to local government would reduce the tax burden of homeowners here in Afton and/or provide funds for services that local authorities sought to provide their residents. That suggestion is a mirage.

First of all, the funds at issue are not taxes collected by the localities in question, but 40% of the "impact fees" collected by the state on a per-well basis, not on the well's output. Pennsylvania is only one

of two gas-producing states that does not impose a severance tax (a state-level tax based on the output of the well), which in other gas-producing states is available to fund education, health, infrastructure and other social programs. The other state without a severance tax: New York.

Second, drillers in Pennsylvania, exempted from paying severance taxes that support public purposes, are happy to trumpet the levels of impact fees going to local governments. But the impact fee fund was front-loaded by law: the fee was applied retroactively to wells drilled before the law was passed<sup>1</sup>. The press release referred to the Pennsylvania counties (Bradford and Tioga) with the largest number of

See **FRACKING**, continued on Page 17



# PIPES AND POWER

Compiled by Brian Brock

- July 16<sup>th</sup>: **Constitution Pipeline Company** awards \$350,000 in its fourth round of community grants, including \$20,000 to Delaware County Firefighters Association and \$20,000 to the Greater Maywood Rural Community Center, Sidney Center.
- July: **CPC** moves location of Main Valve #6 and its 100 foot tall antenna from Stewart Road to Van Tassel Road, from the Millers' property to where there is a willing landowner.
- August 4<sup>th</sup>: **CPC** announces new location for spread yards including the yard for our area (3a, Sidney), which was moved from just east of the Village of Sidney off Route 23 to Union Church Road off Route 357. This yard would be supplied off I-88 via exit 12 (Otego), Route 48, and Route 44.
- August 5<sup>th</sup>: **Franklin Town Board** tables applying for intervener status with NYS Public Service Commission on power line projects and forgoes cash grants.
- August 17<sup>th</sup>: **Stop the Pipeline** holds first annual picnic and get together at Pine Lake in Davenport.
- August 18<sup>th</sup>: **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** announces a revised schedule for Constitution with issuance of the final Environmental Impact Statement on October 24<sup>th</sup> and a vote on certification by January 20<sup>th</sup> – the 90 day deadline.
- August 27<sup>th</sup>: **New York State Public Service Commission** grants extension deadline for comments on Edric to Fraser and Oakdale to Fraser power lines to September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014.
- September 11<sup>th</sup>: **CPC** requests that FERC vote on certification by November 25<sup>th</sup> so that it can begin clearing trees along route by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- September 15<sup>th</sup>: **Tennessee Gas Pipeline requests** pre-filing of Northeast Energy Direct project with FERC and includes detailed route maps. For Franklin, the route for NED closely follows the one for Constitution. Location for midline booster compressor station in Franklin has been shifted west to somewhere between Bissell and Chamberlain Hill roads.
- September 15<sup>th</sup>: **TGP** announces a series of 17 open houses to be held along the route November 10<sup>th</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>. Open house for our area will be early in 2015.
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>: **STP** files objections to CPC request for expedited vote by FERC. Instead it asks for FERC to delay vote and prepare a second draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- October 8<sup>th</sup>: **Army Corps of Engineers** informed Constitution that they have not provided ACE with sufficient information to decide on issuing permits, and that while Constitution has requested a decision by January 22<sup>nd</sup>, ACE will not commit to a decision by that deadline.
- October 24<sup>th</sup>: **FERC** releases final EIS.

# LIFE WITH A COMPRESSOR STATION

A letter to FERC by Carl Berg, Ph D.

Mr. Berg wrote to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission about living a half mile from compressor station #254 on an existing Tennessee #200 pipeline in the town of Nassau, Rensselaer County NY. The "compressor station proposed" is one planned for the NED pipeline in the nearby town of Canaan, Columbia County NY, to the southeast.

Although we are fully appreciative of the energy needs and limited resources that this country faces and the additional need to transport these resources via pipeline across great distances, it is important that consideration be given to certain key environmental impact factors in your

environmental assessment process that ultimately lead to your issuance of a Certificate for this additional pipeline. It is imperative to put this proposal into an environmental context. Pumping station #254 in Columbia County, New York is situated in an exclusively rural residential area in the pristine foothills of the Berkshire Mountains. There are absolutely no commercial facilities or structures in the immediate area. By considerable margin, the highest structure in the surrounding countryside is the smoke stacks and radio tower connected to the current

compressor station with its strobe light during the day and a red beacon during evening hours. It is located immediately adjacent to the Kinderhook Creek, a category one, public trout fishing stream. We reside approximately one-half mile due north of this compressor station, perched on a hill elevated above the station. In fact, one border of our property abuts the underground two pipelines exiting the compressor station. It is within this environmental context that the current compressor station exists and that the addition of another compressor station as part of a pipeline with gas at a two and one

quarter increased pressure is being proposed. The environmental concerns that need to be brought to your attention are fourfold and will be elaborated below. These concerns involve operation hours and seasons, noise, safety/security and fuel burning emissions and discharges

**OPERATION HOURS AND SEASONS:**

We have resided in the area for approximately thirty-five years. It has unfailingly been the case, until this past year, that the compressor station operates twenty-four hours per day, twelve months a year.

The operation of the compressor station is all too apparent due to the noise, vibrations and smell it generates from the compressor turbines. There have been disturbing noises of sudden and loud gas discharges and roars equivalent to jet planes taking off. When inquiries have been made by phone, on a number of separate occasions, we have received responses ranging from: "We are required by the EPA to test emissions which will last a week"; "We are testing newly installed equipment and the operation is temporary"; to lastly, "We have always operated twelve

See COMPRESSOR, continued on Page 16

# DISAPPEARING WORLD

Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*  
A Review by Alexis Greene

June 2014, and my vegetable garden is in decline. A rainy, cold, mostly sunless spring has sent night temperatures plummeting, and my tomato plants are shaking their heads, saying "No way."

Even if all were thriving and putting out blossoms, there would be few fauna around to pollinate them. Bumblebees have been scarce on my Walton hilltop, and where my shed was once home to numerous little brown bats, now it is a residence for squirrels and the occasional nosy porcupine. The bats, excellent pollinators, have succumbed to white-nose syndrome, a fungus that has killed them off in New York and New England, and spread South, West and to Canada.

My garden's spring breakdown would be immediately recognizable to Elizabeth Kolbert, whose new book, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (Henry Holt and Company), is an illuminating account of how we humans continue to destroy our planet's oceans and atmosphere, plants and animals, setting the stage for potentially eradicating the most precious animal of all – ourselves.

There have been five major extinctions dur-

ing the past half-billion years of life on Earth, caused by colliding asteroids and climate upheavals (the demise of the dinosaurs, around the fifty million mark, is probably the most famous). Kolbert, along with numerous respected scientists, believes we are in the midst of the sixth.

An environmental journalist and staff writer for *The New Yorker*, Kolbert has dedicated herself to raising a red flag about climate change. But *Sixth Extinction* is not only about human-caused global warming, although that figures large in her discussions of rising CO<sup>2</sup> levels in the seas around us.

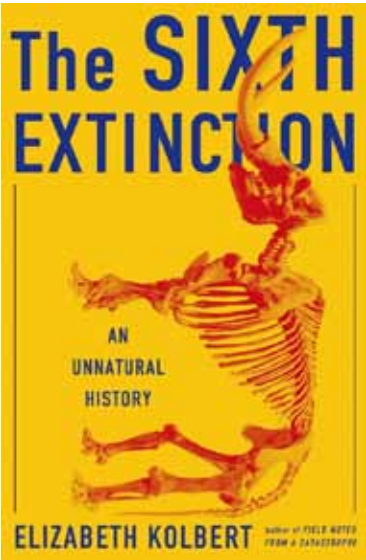
This wide-ranging book—a kind of "unnatural" adventure in thirteen meticulous chapters—also laments other ways in which we humans have eradicated flora and fauna. From the start of what the Dutch Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul Crutzen calls the "Anthropocene" epoch (in his view, beginning 11,000 or more years ago), humans have

razed forests and built up cities, so that many species do not have enough space in which to thrive. We poach our largest mammals into oblivion and carelessly send invasive species and murderous bacteria around the world.

The fungus that killed off the little brown bats, Kolbert writes, was most likely "accidentally imported from Europe." Locally, the fungus possibly migrated from one of the 200,000 tourists that annually traipse through Howe Caverns, in nearby Schoharie County. "Without human help," she comments, "long-distance travel is for most species difficult, bordering on impossible."

Kolbert smoothly integrates scientific history and contemporary research with first-hand observation. Traveling to Iceland, she connects with a fisherman who takes her to the base of a towering rock called Eldey Island, where the Great Auk made its last

See KOLBERT, continued on Page 19





# MEET THE CANDIDATES:

*The New Franklin Register wrote to each of this year's candidates for Franklin's two open Town Council seats, inviting them to send us brief biographical information and a statement of their positions and goals, if elected in November. We offer those statements exactly as we received them, uncut and unedited.*

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th. Polls are open from 6 AM to 9 PM.  
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

## BRYAN BABCOCK

Bryan Babcock believes that with several major infrastructure projects on the horizon in Delaware County, it is essential that we protect our roads and utilities. To do this, our Town Board needs to be proactive. Babcock feels that his experience as a business leader will help the Board be even more effective for Franklin residents. Babcock, a professor at Hartwick College, is committed to keeping resident taxes low and preserving the rural quality of life.

One example of his commitment to Franklin is his pledge to implement the Comprehensive Town Plan. Several years ago New York State provided funding for a Comprehensive Town Plan. Despite broad based input into the plan, the town board has not taken action towards implementation. Babcock believes it is time to implement the aspirations and goals of Franklin residents as expressed in the plan.

Another goal of Babcock's candidacy is to modernize town governance. He proposes that the town create a website to post Board minutes, agendas, and ordinances. This type of open and transparent public facility would allow all Franklin residents the opportunity to have a voice in town decisions.

Babcock operates Handsome Brook Farm (eggs, organic blueberries, sheep) and thus understands the challenges and opportuni-



ties of an agricultural community. As owner of Handsome Brook Farm Bed and Breakfast, he has brought tourism dollars to local Franklin businesses. Babcock intends to apply his business experience to serve and protect Franklin through objective decision-making and strong negotiation with outside parties.

Handsome Brook Farm is a 75 acre farm overlooking the village of Franklin. Farm operations include 15 acres of organic blueberries, an agri-tourism bed and breakfast, all natural fruit preserves, and pasture raised eggs (cage-free and organic). These products are available throughout New York at area Price Chopper stores, Hannaford, Shop-Rite, Fresh Direct, and local health food grocers. Beginning four years ago with 15 backyard chickens, Handsome Brook Farm eggs are now sold in over 20 states along the East Coast, Mid-West, and Texas. The bed and breakfast specializes in orienting urban residents to a small farm operation utilizing sustainable practices for energy, ranching, and farming. In fact, Good-Morning America featured the farm as one of four nationwide sustainable bed and breakfasts.

Babcock's business experience includes being CEO of a multi-hospital system, CEO and founder of an investment firm, and owner/founder of varied businesses from a donut shop to an aviation supply retail store. He has a PhD in Ancient History and Languages, an MBA in Business and Healthcare Administration, an MA in Ancient Near Eastern Language, an MTh in Theology, and a BA in Zoology.

## DONALD HEBBARD

Don Hebbard is a graduate of Franklin Central School and was raised on his family's Franklin dairy farm. He studied Chemical Engineering at Northeastern University in Boston and graduated from Cornell with a BS degree in Business Management. Don also completed a Business Management Certificate program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

After a thirty year stint as a dairy farmer in Treadwell, Don spent the next twenty years in the food industry as a research scientist and Pilot Plant Manager at DMV (now known as DOMO) in Fraser, and as Facility Manager and Plant Engineer at Flavors of North America in Carol Stream, Illinois. He then worked as an engineering technician at the Watershed Agricultural Council in Walton, gaining almost seven years experience in environmental issues and maintaining water quality. After retiring from the Council in March 2014, Don started a new venture, Hebbard Homestead Fence, which is filling a niche for dairy, horse, beef, sheep, and goat farm operations.

For the past 8 years, Don and his wife Louise have lived near the Village of Franklin.

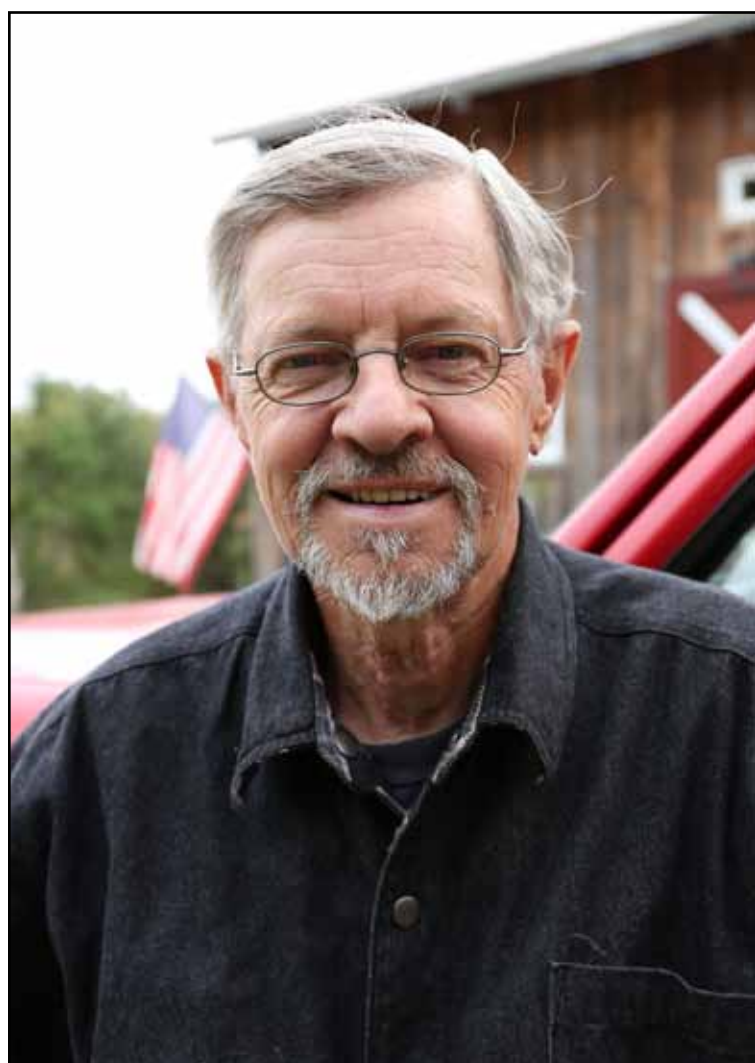
### Don Hebbard speaks:

As a farmer, engineer, conservationist and now, an entrepreneur, I believe my varied educational and vocational experiences will provide a positive, proactive perspective on the

Town Board. Franklin is facing many issues that threaten our rural environment and the very way of life we have enjoyed and desire to maintain for future generations. Threats to water quality and supply, increasing energy use that demands additional high voltage power lines, high pressure gas pipelines and compressor stations, wind turbine towers, and the specter of hydro-fracking are all issues challenging the Town of Franklin today, or will certainly arise in the near future.

Addressing these quality of life and environmental issues, as well as road maintenance, public safety, tourism, business retention and job creation, all the while maintaining an equitable tax base, should be a continuing focus for the Town Board. Many of these issues were addressed in the Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2006 and supported by a broad segment of the town's population. It is time to take that document down from the shelf, dust it off, and begin to implement some of the recommendations.

As a member of the Town Board, I will listen carefully to all residents of Franklin and strive



to represent the wishes of the people as we address these and other issues.

It is time to be proactive, and look ahead to Franklin's future with confidence.



FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL 2014

LISA HUYCK

My name is Lisa Huyck. I am running for a Town Board position in the Town of Franklin. I was appointed last spring to fill out a term of a Board member that had moved. I feel I am learning a great deal about the workings of local government, as this is my first official office I've held. I think it is important to have a female on the Town Board, as well as have someone able to represent the hamlet of Treadwell, which is a part of the Town of Franklin. Electing me to the Board would fulfill both of these important concepts.

A little about myself. I was born in Walton, and graduated from Walton Central School. I grew up on a dairy farm and had a great deal of responsibility as I was attending school. I was active in music, sports, and did well academically. Upon graduation from high school, I attended Clarkson University, in Potsdam, NY. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Distribution, a combination of a Business and Mechanical Engineering degree. After graduation I came back home and helped manage the family's farm. I substituted at Andes, Downsville, Walton, and Franklin Central Schools. In the fall of 1986, I was hired by Franklin Central School as a Business teacher, and have been there since. I attended SUCO and received a Master of Science degree in Educa-

tion in 1992. I have been an adjunct instructor in Accounting since the Fall of 2012 at SUNY Delhi.

In 1991 I married Robert Huyck and moved to Treadwell, where he is a partner in Huyck Valley Farms, a working dairy farm. We have two children, Lindsay and Lynndon. Lindsay aspires to become a welder at some point soon, and Lynndon has starting his college career at SUNY Delhi this fall. Occasionally I milk cows, when I am needed to (a skill that is not forgotten, ever...).

I feel it is important to give back to the community. I have been a member of the Treadwell Fire Department and Emergency Squad since 1991. I just renewed my EMT-B certification. I have served as a 4-H leader, Girl Scout leader, Boy Scout leader, Youth Soccer coach, and sat on the Supervisory Committee of Chen-Del-O FCU. Of course I stay busy with school activities too, as I have been the Advisor of Student Council, and 7th grade. I have also kept score at soccer games.

I value clean water, farm land, rights of



property owners, and honesty. I would appreciate your vote as I seek to win a seat on the Franklin Town Board!

DONALD SMITH

Mr. Smith declined our invitation to provide his biographical information or position statement.

The ballot as you will see it on Election Day. Note that the Town Board candidates are listed on the very far right side of the ballot. Three proposals are on the flip-side.

FRANKLIN SAMPLE BALLOT												
2014 GENERAL ELECTION												
51 <sup>st</sup> Senate & 122 <sup>nd</sup> Assembly												
OFFICES	1 GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR		3 COMPTROLLER	4 ATTORNEY GENERAL	5 JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT 8th District	6 REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 19th District	7 STATE SENATOR 51st District	8 MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY 122nd District	9 COUNTY SHERIFF	10 COUNTY CLERK	11 12 MEMBER OF COUNCIL 1 Year Unexpired Term Vote for ANY TWO	
	Vote ONCE		Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE	Vote for ONE
DEMOCRATIC	Andrew M. Cuomo 1A		Thomas P. DiNapoli 3A	Eric T. Schneiderman 4A		Sean S. Eldridge 6A						
REPUBLICAN	Kathy C. Hochul 1B											
LIBERTARIAN	Rob Astorino 1B		Robert Antonacci 3B	John Cahill 4B	Robert C. Mulvey 5B	Christopher P. Gibson 6B	James L. Seward 7B	Clifford W. Crouch 8B	Thomas E. Mills 9B	Sharon A. O'Dell 10B	Donald M. Smith 11B	Lisa M. Huyck 12B
INDEPENDENT	Chris Moss 1C											
GREEN PARTY	Rob Astorino 1C		Robert Antonacci 3C	John Cahill 4C		Christopher P. Gibson 6C	James L. Seward 7C					
WRITE-IN	Chris Moss 1D											
DEMOCRATIC	Andrew M. Cuomo 1D		Thomas P. DiNapoli 3D	Eric T. Schneiderman 4D		Sean S. Eldridge 6D						
REPUBLICAN	Kathy C. Hochul 1E											
LIBERTARIAN	Andrew M. Cuomo 1E		Thomas P. DiNapoli 3E	Eric T. Schneiderman 4E		Christopher P. Gibson 6E	James L. Seward 7E					
INDEPENDENT	Kathy C. Hochul 1F											
GREEN PARTY	Howie Hawkins 1F		Theresa M. Portelli 3F	Ramon Jimenez 4F								
WRITE-IN	Brian P. Jones 1G											
DEMOCRATIC	Andrew M. Cuomo 1G											
REPUBLICAN	Kathy C. Hochul 1H											
LIBERTARIAN	Steven Cohn 1H										Donald M. Smith 11H	Lisa M. Huyck 12H
INDEPENDENT	Bobby K. Kalotay 1I											
GREEN PARTY	Rob Astorino 1I	Michael McDermott 2I	John Clinton 3I	Carl E. Person 4I							Donald M. Smith 11I	Bryan C. Babcock 12I
WRITE-IN	Chris Moss 1J	Chris Edes 2J										
DEMOCRATIC			WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN
REPUBLICAN												
LIBERTARIAN												
INDEPENDENT												
GREEN PARTY												
WRITE-IN												



# AT THE LIBRARY

## JIM MULLEN REVIEWS NEW BOOKS

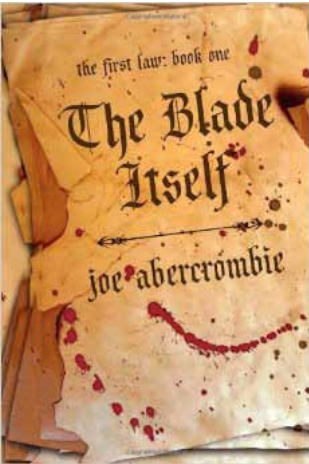


### Why Bad Things Happen to Bad People...

**THE BLADE ITSELF**  
By Joe Abercrombie

In the fantasy genre, if the story you're writing is not at least a trilogy, get out of the way, you're going to be trampled by the likes of Patrick Rothfuss, George R.R. Martin, J.R.R. Tolkien, Diana Gabaldon, Philip Pullman, J.K. Rowling, Neil Stephenson and a few hundred others. *The Blade Itself* is the first book of *The First Law Trilogy*. Don't ask me what the First Law is, because not explaining that kind of thing is part of the genre. Abercrombie will get around to it in volume seven or eight. Another trope of Fantasy is that all the major characters must have some kind of comic book-like super power, a power that is hard to control, a power which they are always the last person on their alternate earth to discover they have. Of course, no two characters can have the same superpowers, so they tend to cancel each other out. Rock, meet Paper and Scissors.

*The Blade Itself* is also heavy on the other major meme in modern fiction: that the hero is not a good guy, just the least-bad guy in the tale -- see Cap'n Jack Sparrow, Dexter, Tyrion Lannister. This is the fantasy *Treasure of Sierra Madre*, not the next *Lord of the Rings*, but something tells me he could do it someday. You might as well start here.



**GOING POSTAL**  
By Terry Pratchett

*Going Postal* is Pratchett's 33rd *Discworld* novel, set on an alternate world that reminds us of London in the 1840s, a world run by powerful Scrooges and peopled by a pitiable underclass with names like Moist von Lipwig, Tolliver Groat and Adora Belle Dearheart. If I didn't know better, I would swear someone had found and published a long-lost sci-fi comedy written by Charles Dickens. There is no way to explain the wit, charm and cleverness of this novel without, well, repeating every word in the book.



Ne'er-do-well con man von Lipwig, given the Hobson's choice of killing himself or running the city's non-functional postal service, reluctantly takes the job and discovers that none of the letters coming into the huge post office building have ever left it. On a whim he actually delivers a 40 year-old letter that starts a long, Dickensian chain of events. Once again, our hero is the least-bad person in the book. Pratchett uses his *Discworld* not just to parody our own, but also to explain it. I never realized what a small step for man but a giant leap for mankind was the invention of the simple postage stamp. It seems so obvious, so low-tech, until you realize that it wasn't and isn't. I'm going to read this again, after I read the first thirty-two.

**WORST. PERSON. EVER.**  
By Douglas Coupland

Raymond Gunt is a snobby British cameraman on the crew of a "Survivor" type TV show on a remote Pacific Island. Ray has no filter and comments on his daily frustrations in a way that makes the most foul-mouthed, misogynistic rapper sound like Mr. Rogers. Like a Tourette's syndrome *Seinfeld*, there is no First World problem too small to escape his bile -- children's names, the Pacific trash vortex, Americans, sporks, Homeland Security, and women's total lack of interest in having casual sex with him. Or any other kind.

Yet it is shockingly funny in the way that Sam Kinison's solution to Third World famines was to yell at starving, desert-dwellers: "Move to where the food is!" Obviously, this is not for everyone and you may think yelling at the TSA is petty or old hat, but I side with Raymond on this. Since our institutions are run by people who look like us and wear suits, we think it's normal to pay good money to be squeezed into a tiny seat for eight hours. If ISIS did this to us, we would slaughter them with glee and laugh about it. Yes, Raymond is offensive. But so is television, airlines, Homeland Security and all the other things he rants about. Why does his dirty mouth upset us more than institutions that are actually doing us the harm?

This book easily could have been called *The Way We Talk Now*. It is *Lord of the Flies* with grown-ups.



# TWO RIDDLES

From the Bright Hill Literary Workshops for Kids Summer 2014

This summer, the Bright Hill Literary Workshops for Kids Program explored different venues: we went to the Munson-William-Proctor Art Institute in Utica, the Museum of Science and Technology in Troy, and the Cornell Ornithology Lab & Sapsucker Woods in Ithaca.

More than 150 kids, with the help of junior interns, senior interns and teaching artists, built sculptures, dioramas, and artist books; they wrote puppet plays and performed them; and they wrote about their experiences, often in riddle form. Below are two riddles by local children, written after visiting the Cornell Ornithology Lab & Sapsucker Woods in Ithaca

### Riddle

A case of life, I might not reach my final state.  
High up in a tree, I only ponder the thought of life.  
All day I am watched and sometimes sat on.  
Survival is over without these soft guardian feathers.  
If I am crushed, all hope is gone.  
As my case opens, it starts to shatter.  
Out comes my wet, gross physical form.  
Soon I will soar through the skies.  
What am I?

—Demitri Jaromack, Franklin, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Answer: Bird's egg

### Riddle

I am like a tree  
My ears are not ears  
I often live in tall houses  
I come out when the sky shines  
I love to sing  
Who am I?

—Evelyn Potrzeba, Treadwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Answer: Screech Owl





# DESPITE VANDALISM... ARTS FESTIVAL A BIG SUCCESS

In early July, the artists of Franklin/Treadwell, supported by several local sponsors, held the 19th annual two-day Stagecoach Run Art Festival.

We had a very successful festival in many ways. Twenty-one art venues and fifty-five artists participated, with twenty-seven local sponsors. Thanks to a follow-up survey, we estimate that the festival brought in over \$25,000 in revenue this year. This includes the sale of art, plus purchases at local shops, food venues and gas stations.

We realize that some members of our community find the Festival inconvenient. For two days a year, it does draw a lot of traffic and, for some, upsets the rhythm of the village. From time to time, we've experienced some backlash from a few people here in the community. Previously the backlash has mainly taken the form of artists being heckled. This year, however, we also experienced vandalism. During the Festival weekend, signs directed visitors to various artists' studios outside of the village, some of which - with the roadwork on Route 16 - can only be reached by a detour. Fourteen of these signs were smashed and thrown off the side of the road, in Treadwell, Arabia and Franklin. Two banners were also vandalized. So it seems that it's time to talk about how the Festival benefits the residents of Treadwell and Franklin.

Most obviously, there's the more than \$25,000 that visitors spend in the com-

munity during those two days. Most of that goes to the artists, of course. The Festival not only supplements our income (few of us make enough from our art to live on it) with sales during the event, but allows us to make additional sales throughout the year to people who come to know our work by attending the Festival.

And by creating an art event in Treadwell/Franklin, the artists in our community are able to draw visitors from not only Delaware and Otsego counties, but even farther away. We now publicize the event in towns in the Hudson Valley. By opening our studios on the same weekend, and drawing so many visitors, we are able to introduce our art to a wider audience and more effectively market it.

So the Festival benefits the artists. But because it benefits the artists, it benefits the community. These artists making this money through their art are your neighbors. We spend much of that money in the community. I will pay my local mower, snow plower, garbage pick-up, cord wood supplier, and framer with the money I make from selling the art I produce. Furthermore, like many of the artists participating in the Festival, I own a home in the Town of Franklin, and my income as an artist helps me pay my property taxes, which help maintain and sustain our roads and schools.

So at the most basic dollars-and-cents level, the Festival is worth a little in-



convenience. For that reason, I ask everyone in our community to enjoy the Festival, but if you can't, please put up with the inconvenience that one weekend. The Festival supports your local artists, enabling us to do our share to support the community.

And I believe this is important for the long term survival of our community. Our area used to be supported by dairy farming. But dairy farming can no longer bear the entire burden. The survival of our community depends on our opening the door to other people producing and selling other kinds of things. Why not art? It's quiet. It's non-polluting.

If the dairy farmers of Franklin/Treadwell organized a Dairy Festival that drew hundreds of people into our community for a weekend, we'd anticipate that all members of our community, however they made their living, would enjoy the show. And even if they found it inconvenient, we would expect every one of them to put up with it. We wouldn't tolerate vandalism directed against the event.

The artists of this community ask for the same

## UpState Arts

By Jane Carr

level of respect and cooperation as we go about trying to make a living in the arts.

For as long as I've lived in the Treadwell area -- thirty-five years now -- the community has fallen into two groups: those whose

new people. Neither group can, by itself, make a small community work.

We've lost our general store, our post office and our community center in the hamlet of Treadwell. It is vitally important that we

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families have lived here for generations, and the new people. As dairy farming fades, and the community becomes home to a larger number of people supporting themselves by producing other kinds of goods and services, we need to reduce that gap between those who have lived here for generations and the

form a single, solid community: the town of Franklin, all of us. We don't need to have each other to dinner. We don't need to have warm and fuzzy feelings for one another. But we do need to tolerate one another, respect one another's traditions, try to understand one another, and most of all, work together.

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# FRANKLIN ONLINE

By Helen McLean

The Franklin Local website has a rich assortment of information for residents as well as visitors to our town. Originally created as a project of Franklin Local, it has expanded to be a vibrant information lifeline for the community.

A calendar lists all known events in Franklin. Events of interest to the general public can be submitted to the calendar using the online contact form.

Two other major projects of Franklin Local, the Franklin Farmers' Market and The New Franklin Register (NFR), are both represented on the website. All recent issues of the NFR are online, with older issues being added as time permits.

Of particular interest in this election season is the section devoted to local government. In the absence of an official town website, we post essential information such as a list of current town officials, local laws, the current budget, the Comprehensive Plan and minutes of the Town Board meetings.

The Comprehensive Plan was developed in 2006 by the Town Board, a group of interested Franklin residents, with help from the Delaware County Planning Department.

The Mission Statement of the Comprehensive Plan is: *"To guide future growth and development within the Town of Franklin in a manner that respects the Town's rural character, so that its unique sense of place is enhanced, its agricultural, historic, and natural resources protected; and its social and economic vitality ensured for years to come."* [See article on Pg. 1]

One of the plan's recommendations that has been successfully implemented is the creation of a Farmers' Market to allow for the sale of local produce and other farm products. Other recommendations have been forgotten over the years. Perhaps as concerned citizens, we should all re-read the Comprehensive Plan and work together to prioritize what we can do to maintain the character of this town we love so much.

You can download a copy here: <http://franklinlocal.org/local/comprehensive-plan/>

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HOME FARMERS' MARKET NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY NEWS CALENDAR CONTACT US

## Comprehensive Plan

The Franklin NY Comprehensive Plan was prepared in 2006 by PlanIt Main Street. You may download a copy using these links:

- Comprehensive Plan, Chapters 1-6 (5.6MB PDF)
- Comprehensive Plan, Chapters 7-13 (5.5MB PDF)
- Zoning Law (256kb PDF)
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**TREADWELL, continued from Page 1**

ment. My mom keeps a beautiful and bountiful vegetable garden. Across the road was the *laiterie* where the dairy farmers from the surrounding countryside would deliver their milk. As kids, we'd have to carry two metal jugs. I would do this contemplating an experiment in centrifugal force: what if I spun my arms up, back, down, and again? Of course I was too terrified at the possibility of the milk spilling and the consequences that would fall on me. I never did try it and now I wonder: which was more likely, the milk pouring out or my arms twisting out of my shoulder sockets?

That village life, growing up in it, defines a consequential part of who I became. The other part of growing up, becoming an adult, happened in the urban life of this country. One might say that I am now trying to reconcile the two: a village in a profoundly American place. It is a country where someone might literally walk away from a house, leaving piles of belongings behind, and allowing someone else to grab an opportunity.

A year after I had heard about the county auction of properties foreclosed on because of years of unpaid taxes, my real estate agent, Rosalie Glauser, mentioned a house that was on the list this year and might be what I'd been looking for. We drove by the place in Treadwell, and it was. Three days later, I was in the Delaware County courtroom with my number card

in hand. Buying property at the tax auction feels somewhat like playing at a claw crane vending machine. You sort of see what you want, you make a cheap try for it, and only if you get it do you really understand what you got.

And just like spending that quarter on the claw crane, the auction seemed to happen quickly. It was a long list of properties, and Franklin Township was mid-way alphabetically, but the suspense of not knowing how much the desired property will go for and how many people you will try to outbid makes time seem to stop and fly simultaneously. The day before, I had been given the result of the title search, and having been to auctions previously, I knew to put a mental limit on what I could spend. My real estate agent had kindly appeared at my side for moral support. I waved my number card until the other bidder stopped, luckily under my limit. A friend staying with me had exclaimed at breakfast, "Are you walking out this morning and coming back with a house?!"

That's exactly what happened.

Happy to be in the hamlet of Treadwell which I've been visiting already for a few years, I have both a house and a community to explore. Now that things are in motion, I am hoping that the milk won't spill and that my shoulders will prove to be stronger.

*To be continued in our Spring issue.*

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**WARNING, continued from Page 1**

repairs. Franklin has no ordinance to limit the noise pollution and protect the station's neighbors.

Even louder than a jet engine is a rocket engine. Whenever work is to be done on the compressor or adjacent pipeline, huge volumes of high pressure gas must be vented to the atmosphere during blow downs, sounding much like a rocket taking off.

Additional equipment may include filters and scrubbers on the input line to clean the gas and cooling units on the output line. Waste collected by the filters and scrubbers will need to be disposed of safely.

Most stations are remotely controlled, i.e. unmanned.

Compressors are a source of air pollution. Neighbors downwind of such stations have unexplained symptoms: respiratory, dermatological, and neurological. Turbines exhaust a continuous stream of combustion products. Blow downs release huge volumes of gas, which is mostly methane but contains numerous minor and trace chemicals. And there are persistent leaks, visible only in the infrared.

While methane is not toxic, it is combustible, creating a constant risk of explosions and fires. In February of 2012, TGP had a fire at its station #249 on its #200 pipeline in Carlisle, Schoharie County, which resulted in over \$100,000 damage. The Williams' Dunbar station on the Laser NE pipeline in West Windsor, Broome County, caught on fire in January of this year, the second time in as many years.

The certainty of noise and air pollution and the risk of explosion and fire make this industrial installation a very bad neighbor, bringing with it a substantial decrease in nearby property values. And certainly a compressor station is contrary to the goal of keeping the rural character of Franklin, as set-out in our 2006 Comprehensive Plan.

The location of this station is not certain. In April, the TGP announcement of NED placed this mid-stream station east of Route 28. In September, its pre-filing request moved the station a few miles to the west. The proposed location could be moved again in its pre-filing (31<sup>st</sup> October) or filing (September 2015). The middle of the 135-mile pipeline is at mile 67.5, near Crane Hill Road, Sidney.

Typically such stations are sited on parcels of a few tens of acres. Although a pipeline company could legally try to use eminent domain to seize a site, in practice it almost always locates a willing seller somewhere along the target zone.



Solar Turbine model Titan 130 turbine and C65 compressor producing 20,500 hp to move 20,000 cu ft per min at 1,600 psi. The compressor is the cylinder in the center with 30 inch input and output gas pipelines. The turbine is the smaller cylinder upper right, between the air intake and exhaust. Photo: Solar Turbines, Inc.



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# FARMERS' MARKETS AND A SUSTAINABLE WAY OF LIFE

By Carole Marner

In the NFR's last issue, Denise and Tom Warren of Stone and Thistle Farm in East Meredith (which produces excellent grass-fed meat, eggs and milk) wrote that the proliferation of farmers' markets in many towns in Delaware County is hurting certain farmers. Instead of patronizing a small village market, they asked, local residents should drive to one of the three large farmers'

markets - Oneonta, Cooperstown and Pakatakan - so that farmers selling at these markets can thrive. This also seemed to them to be environmentally sound. But to me, it seems wrong - for many reasons. Nowadays I try first to consider what is most sustainable.

Sustainability has joined our common discourse as a good thing. Often it is used as if it were merely a better choice, rather than an inevitable condition of life. For what is the measure of

sustainability? First and foremost, sustainability is a condition of life. If something is unsustainable, it will go away. It will not survive. Secondly, using this definition, sustainability is also frugality - not consuming more than you need and thereby using everything up. Thinking about sustainability forces you to think about how and what you do and how you spend your resources - your time and money - so that you can survive.

When we first moved to Franklin in 1971, the village still had every kind of business and shop. Not as self-sustaining as a hundred years ago, but thriving. Every week, grocer Palmer Clark would go into Oneonta to see what the supermarkets were selling and at what price, so he could provide this food and merchandise at the same price in his market in Franklin. We can lament that I-88 ruined all that but I-88 merely facilitated it. The loss was really our fault. There was no reason to shop in the malls on I-88. In order to save a bit of money on food and merchandise and - even worse - to be tempted to spend much too much on unnecessary purchases coming from other continents, we have committed a kind of crowd madness. If everyone in Franklin and other towns shopped at local farmers' markets as well as local businesses, they would all still flourish. Instead of hundreds of shoppers driving to a farmers' market in Oneonta, as the Warrens prefer, twelve farmers would drive to Franklin. And we would spend less time in cars and shopping, and do more enjoyable things. Like

spending a winter afternoon going into the woods to find princess pine for Christmas decorations.

Too expensive, you say. But think about it. We all have heard the statistic that seventy percent of the money spent in a community stays in the community. Instead of exporting money to billionaires like the Waltons of Walmart, it would go to our neighbors who own their own businesses. And all our farmers, not just those at the big farmers' markets, would thrive. Some say you cannot turn the clock back. I agree. But that is not a justification for an impoverished future. Just cleaning up the mess we have made will be tough enough without contributing to greater desolation. Support your local farms and businesses now so that when things get really tough, we will have some local resilience to fall back on,

So much that our parents did and that we continue to do is simply not sustainable. In fairness to us and to them, it was not until recent years that we have learned the enormity of this fact. If we refuse to think about it, our descendants will suffer consequences far worse than

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See **MARKETS**, continued on Page 17



**SOLAR, continued from Page 8**

ning. So not only were they experienced, but they have a tremendous reputation for integrity and quality that I knew was not only great for my system installation, but would be very easy for me to stand behind as a representative."

Once things were set in motion, it wasn't long before Hickman took on the responsibility of becoming Smucker's Energy NY—the Smucker's sales representative for the southern half of New York State.

Solar's biggest selling point, Hickman believes, is the combination of savings and affordability that people are beginning to realize is available.

"With energy prices rising, solar costs dropping, and incentives increasing, it is now more economically beneficial to have a system put in than to pay a power company," says Hickman. "We tell everybody the same thing when they're asking about solar—even

if it took you twenty-five years to pay off your system, which it won't, you've fixed your energy costs for the next twenty-five years. And do you think National Grid and the other guys will be charging the same rates they are now in five years? Ten years? No way. That's where you find the real savings."

Hickman details that the average home system is paid off in seven to eight years, while most agricultural and some commercial systems are paid back as quickly as three to five years. He also shows that his electric bill has been cut from about \$200 a month to \$30—the majority of which is hook-up fees. And with state and national incentives that are available for virtually every system installation, average system payback times have shrunk to less than a third of the system warranty.

"Most system components are warrantied at max production for twenty-five years," he says. "So af-

ter that short payback time, it's all free energy."

Hickman watches his electrical meter cycle through one more time, satisfied with the results. "My goal has always been to do well by doing good," he summarizes simply. "I feel like I'm helping people take back a part of their lives that previously has been out of their control, and for me, that's a good thing."

In the short time he's been selling systems in New York, Hickman has already quoted out over twenty

systems for customers as near as Franklin and as far away as Syracuse. "Interest is everywhere," he says. "People are beginning to realize the benefits, and there are few areas of day-to-day life where you can save this much money without affecting the quality of your lifestyle. Solar makes sense. It just makes sense."

If you want to know more about solar, Hickman invites you stop by or give him a call at (518) 944-6099.

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**COMPRESSOR, con't from Page 9**

months a year and these operations are standard operating procedures and represents no change." Has this operation been evaluated for its environmental impact? I have received no notice or correspondence of its impact on this residential community.

**NOISE:**

The noise and vibrations from the running of the existing compressor is quite apparent and disturbing. When running at full throttle in the winter months the sound from the compressor can be heard inside my home with all the double paned windows closed. During the past year, even during the summer months a constant drone is heard twenty-four hours per day. The compressors are housed in a simple corrugated metal structure with windows and apparently no sound reduction insulation. It is now proposed that an additional high capacity and high pressure pipeline be installed. That prospect is frightening and disturbing. An investment in a sound proof structure housing this turbine is mandatory, along with something equivalent to car "mufflers," on the numerous stacks that exhaust the combustion material necessary to run the compressor turbines.

**SAFETY & SECURITY:**

Given the volume and pressure of this highly volatile and explosive material being transported underground and in this above ground pipeline compressor station, the issue of safety and security is paramount. We have never

been informed of the safety considerations and plans of this facility. An early warning system alerting residents of danger to the surrounding numerous homes and its occupants has never been established and an evacuation plan never formulated and put in place and tested. By visual inspection, the facility is surrounded simply by a chain-link fence and there appears to be no visual surveillance equipment or security personnel patrolling the area. This situation leaves one feeling in great jeopardy regarding person and property.

**EMISSIONS:**

The compressor turbines are operated by the burning of fossil fuels. The exhaust of the combustion is discharged by the numerous stacks on the facility. I have no equipment to measure this output, but can report to the commission that a distinct odor is apparent during the operating months. Since it appears that operation is now twelve months a year, there is a continuous presence of this exhaust. Why hasn't this facility been required to install catalytic converters equivalent to those required in motor vehicle combustion? An additional pipeline simply compounds the existing problems.

These are the concerns regarding this proposal. The negative impact on the environment, health, safety and property values on the community are unquestionable and indisputable. A further investment in the infrastructure to support a fuel source in

limited supply rather than developing renewable and unlimited energy sources seems short sighted and ill conceived.

We urge the commission to carefully consider the points and concerns raised.

Carl Berg, Ph.D.

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## Coalition Forms to Fight Fossil-Fuel Pipelines Throughout Northeastern USA

On October 18th, representatives of more than three dozen groups from around the Northeast met in Albany to form an alliance to resist the huge proposed build-out of fracked gas infrastructure that threatens to devastate rural communities all over our region.





FRACKING, con't from Page 8

fee-paying wells, but even there, impact fee disbursements to local governments have already declined in the three years since the system was established, reflecting the declining per-well fee levels (\$50,000 in year 1, \$40,000 in year two, and \$30,000 in year three).

Third, the press release says that “the money helps counties and local communities address any impacts from the industry, such as the repair of local roadways, environmental protections and affordable housing opportunities.” That is, the fees are used to undo the damage done by the industry itself. They do not contribute to the general welfare as do taxes.

But the main problem with all revenues from the shale drilling industry, be they impact fees or severance taxes, is that the economic, financial and environmental damage that is part-and-parcel of the gas

industry will show up years or decades after these revenues have been collected and spent by localities.

In Afton, the three current well applications paid one-time fees, for a total of \$10,460. None of this trivial amount is forwarded by the state to our town. It can't even cover the administrative costs of the permitting, much less the cost of regulation and monitoring of the wells: another subsidy to the gas industry.

So revenues from gas drilling to New York town governments will be limited to their share of property-tax revenues collected on producing wells (the share that does not go to the county). Naturally, local gas promoters will be trumpeting and exaggerating those tax prospects, so I will deal with them in the next issue of the Vision.

Footnote: 'Since retro-active (ex post facto) laws

are clearly illegal, gas companies have consented to pay the fees for political reasons: to reduce the call for serious taxation of this super-profitable industry. The impact fee law, by its own terms, expires on the adoption of a state severance tax. Thus, every local official who needs the impact fee disbursements to mitigate local road and other damages by the industry has become a political opponent of any level of state-level taxation.

Interested in The Afton Vision:?

It goes out to everyone in the 13730 zip code and is available in hard copy at many businesses in the area. A digital edition is sent to a list of about 100 subscribers.

If you would like an email subscription, you can write to Don Gersch at [Aftonvision@gmail.com](mailto:Aftonvision@gmail.com), and he will add you to his list. Past issues are also available.

POWERS, con't from Page 6

The Board has the power of eminent domain, which could be used to obtain easements for local roads. However it has not been used with-in living memory.

Treadwell lighting and water districts are administered by the town board because the hamlet lacks its own government.

In conclusion, one must ask how well our town board has fulfilled these responsibilities. Did the board exercise its powers for good or has it not done much at all? Has it carried out the recommendations provided in the Comprehensive Plan? Should a town board do more for its citizens than clearing the roads and managing the budget?

The answer is in the ballot box.

FARMERS, continued from Page 15

anything we have known. Everyone hopes some magic technological bullet will save us from having to behave frugally and sustainably. Meanwhile, we distract ourselves with fantasies of space travel and mass evacuation to other planets when this one runs out.

I have this little mantra: Buy local, buy American, buy second-hand or do without. In the last fifteen years since discovering that fossil fuel is not infi-

nately available, my family has tried to do just that. So I suggest that if everyone in Oneonta shopped at their farmers' market and everyone in Franklin shopped at theirs, we would all have thriving farmers and sustainable communities.



GREEN ENERGY COMPLICATIONS: Running the Numbers in the DCEC Debate

By Tom Martone

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) held its annual meeting at the Delaware Academy in Delhi on Sept 19, 2014. In its most important matter of business, all three incumbents, one running unopposed, were re-elected to their seats on the board of directors. Only 130 votes were cast - a 2.4% turnout in the approximately 5,400 member cooperative.

Three significant challenges facing the cooperative - high winter rates, a policy change related to renewables, and reliability issues in two geographical pockets - were discussed by CEO/General Manager Mark Schneider in his annual meeting report.

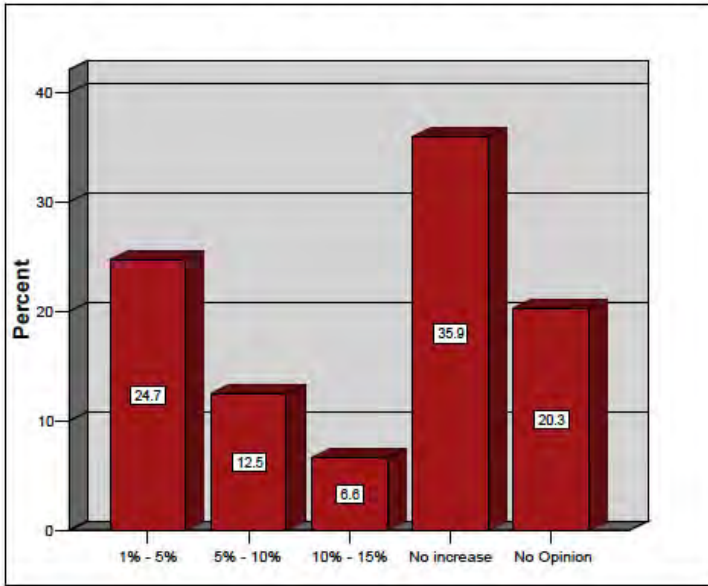
While cold winter weather and trees falling on power lines are problems for all electric utilities, the challenge of the renewables policy change was brought on by an initiative of the cooperative's board and management. Since 2009, DCEC members who have installed renewable distributed generation systems at their homes (solar or wind, typically) have been credited with the full retail value of the energy their system supplies to the cooperative's grid. This billing arrangement, referred to as net energy metering (NEM), is in effect for customers of investor-owned utilities throughout New York State and forms the foundation by which a household recoups the value of a residential solar investment. In this year's Jan/Feb Catskill Hi-Line newsletter, the cooperative announced that it had abandoned net energy metering in a policy change effective November 26, 2013. Following push-back by the membership at public board meetings and a private negotiation through an attorney conducted in closed executive session, the cooperative again changed the policy, effective July 22, 2014, to partially grandfather the existing installations while keeping the unfavorable policy for any new installations.

While the partial grandfathering can be celebrated as a small victory, it creates a situation which is even more complicated and unfair, with different billing arrangements for members based on their renewable system's instal-

lation date. The policy is clearly antagonistic to the promotion of local green energy generation by co-op members, today and into the future. It virtually ensures that DCEC members will be unable to install economically viable solar and wind systems at their homes.

Members concerned about this policy change have been waiting months for an explanation. At the annual meeting, Mark Schneider shed some light on the rationale when he spoke of the "burden on the general membership" attributed to the prior policy.

Q44. If DCEC were to increase the percentage of power originating from renewable sources, what percentage increase to your electric bill do you think is appropriate? [No Prompt]



He explained, “Right now with eighteen members selling renewable energy back to DCEC’s grid, the program costs DCEC’s members approximately \$8,000 annually, buying this energy at retail price as compared to wholesale price. With this old policy, if one percent or about 54 members installed solar panels at home, DCEC’s program costs would increase to approximately \$24,000 per year. Again under the old policy, if we had ten percent of our members installing solar panels at home, the program would cost DCEC members approximately \$240,000 per year. For many of our members on fixed incomes, this additional burden would be difficult.”

The cooperative has not provided an analy-

sis to support the claimed \$8000 program cost, but \$8,000 spread across 5,400 cooperative members equates to a mere \$1.48 per year per member. Currently, eighteen members have installed local green energy systems: sixteen solar and two wind. The first was installed in Andes in 2009, so it has taken five years to reach the current level of penetration (0.33%). The \$240,000 number which caused audible gasps in the auditorium is associated with a 10% penetration level, which would take 150 years at the current rate of installation. Note that there is a

statewide cap of 2% penetration for distributed generation on the investor-owned utilities in New York State. Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. is the only one of the five major utilities in New York that has reached that level and their President, James Laurito, stated at the New York Solar Summit on June 3, 2014 that they want to move beyond that because that's what their customers are demanding.

Couldn't DCEC do something reasonable like institute a penetration cap of 1% or 2%, thus keeping the door open for their members rather than shutting it completely? After all, Mr. Schneider stated that “the policy change was not made to respond to an emergency that we face today.”

How does the membership feel about this policy? No vote was called at the annual meeting, but perhaps this question from a poll conducted in 2010 gives a sense of how much they value renewable energy and what is an appropriate cost: among members who expressed an opinion, about 55% (179 of 326) think a rate increase of between 1% and 15% is appropriate. The claimed \$8,000 program cost amounts to an increase of less than 0.2%.

It seems clear that the abandoned net energy metering policy is perfectly in line with the intentions and values of the membership. Members can only hope that the management and board of the cooperative address this challenge by reconsidering their recent policy changes. and deciding to act in the interest of their membership.



PLAN, continued from Page 1

mine how the citizens of Franklin envisioned the future of their community. An initial public meeting was held on March 9, 2006 at the Franklin Central School. Additional meetings were held throughout the summer of 2006. The responses to a survey mailed to all property owners in the Town and Village of Franklin were also used to get a sense of the community. In the survey, the main concern of the citizens of Franklin was to preserve the rural character of the Town. Other important issues included protection of natural resources and preserving farming as an industry.

In keeping with the desires of the townspeople to maintain their rural lifestyle while increasing job creation, the plan recommended that the Town actively support the developing arts and entertainment industries as well as other small businesses that were compatible with the Town's rural character, including artist studios, antique shops, bakeries and cafes, as well as agri-and eco-tourism. Cultural resources, including the Franklin Stage Company and the Bright Hill Center in Treadwell, along with many local artists, provide an additional pathway to develop tourism, building on the demonstrated success of the Stagecoach Run.

The plan also suggested that the Town of Franklin create public access points along the Oule-out Creek, a DEC designated trout stream that is stocked annually. Trout fishing is a major attraction elsewhere in the Catskills, where it provides substantial support for local stores, restaurants and inns.

Almost 90% of Franklin residents agreed that it is important to protect farmland and keep land in agricultural production. However, it was also agreed that the Town should work more pro-actively with farmers to find ways to make it financially and ecologically sustainable to continue to farm. Along these lines, the plan proposed that the Town work with the Franklin Chamber of Commerce to establish a Farmer's Market, which can serve as an attraction to increase tourism as well as provide an outlet for local agricultural and artisanal products. While a market has been established, it is a project of the citizens' group Franklin Local. The Town of Franklin does

not currently provide any support for the effort.

In the realm of sustainable energy, the plan recommends that the Town establish standards for the development of wind farms, including noise levels, nuisance abatement, and appearance. The plan also suggests that developers of wind energy facilities pay for engineering assessments of local roads as well as cover

the cost of bringing those roads up to the standards necessary to support heavy construction vehicles. Similarly, the plan recommended that the town carefully monitor proposals for natural gas exploration to assure that they do not adversely affect the surrounding properties.

In brief, the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, as adopted by the Town of Franklin, are:

- Retain the rural character of the town*
- Revitalize hamlet business centers (Treadwell & North Franklin)*
- Enhance economic opportunities by expanding agriculture and*

- promoting agri and eco-tourism,*
- Preserve historic buildings, barns and other resources*
- Protect water quality and preserve open spaces*
- Better design of commercial & industrial development*
- Maintain and improve transportation system*
- Enhance recreational opportunities*
- Retain agriculture and farmland*
- Improve the appearance of the Town*

Today, we have been presented with a unique opportunity to reconnect Franklin to its natural and historic resources. Heritage, eco-and agri-tourism can boost the local economy without destroying our most valuable asset – the natural beauty of our land. Creating value-added goods, such as cheese, maple products, honey, pastured meats, and other artisanal products will strengthen both the agricultural and tourism sectors and allow for sustainable development.

Our Comprehensive Plan is a good plan, a healthy plan, a future-looking plan. But for it to be effective, the Town of Franklin must be willing to implement its recommendations and use it as a framework to guide our decisions going forward.



Okay, friends and neighbors - Jack is back and as confused as ever, and you are, too, right? So why not join him in another thrilling episode of...

# MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

Sorry, sorry, sorry. Sorry to be gone so long. Jeez, you'd think I was haulin your water by hand. Couldn't be helped. Away on assignment.

Somewhere along the line Trooper Cooper and the local paper decided to investigate not just our Farmers' Market murders but others as well. Apparently there have been many across the country. Vendors and managers alike seem to be in danger. Some people just disappeared but there were bodies. Lots of bodies.

They decided to embed a reporter at the Asclepius Rest Home for Mentally Tired and Physically Taxed Farmers Market Workers somewhere outside of Higglerville.

How could I refuse?

I flew out to Higglerville and caught a taxi. The ride from the desolate pavements of the airport through the defeated detritus of an industrial park was colored by my five o'clock shadow and weathered by someone else's overcast day. It was a truly American melting pot neighborhood of senior communities, mental institutions, liquor stores, and strip joints. A sustainable environment if ever there was one. Don't know why the word permaculture came to mind.

The driver let me off a few blocks from the Rest Home saying he wouldn't go near the place. I walked in trying to pretend I belonged there. I must've looked like I was walkin the dog without one.

The Director met me at the gate.

Not a garden on the grounds. The inmates would never agree on what to grow, the right time to harvest, the way to wash, or the price to charge.

Various vagrants in vegetable-print pajamas and money aprons glancing askance and mumbling to imaginary customers snuk by giggling into their palms. Just like home.

Between the hypos, typos and schizos this was no vacation.

The cops called them the cereal murders. To me they were Fruit Loops without the sugar. The fruit was moot.

Marie Antoinette selling brioches.

Joe DeMaggio selling coffee beans

Michael Jordan selling flip-flops.

Crazy Eddie selling stolen stereos.

Glassfed beef.

Flea-range chicken. Free deranged chickens.

Organic firewood with charcoal dressing.

Cross-dressing Crusaders.

Ester Williams selling lawn sprinklers.

The Adams Family selling weeds.

Galileo selling Fokichini.

A couple of Jimmy Carters selling for peanuts.

Ben Franklin selling baguettes.

Paul Bunyan selling grass-fed Black Angus and Blue Ox meat.

And George Washington selling cherries.

Another new vendor at the market!

The local funeral home.

I won't attempt to describe their farmstand.

Well, okay. Halloween in July.

Unfortunately, they're outrageously expensive.

Credit cards not accepted.

But at least they're organic. Ghoulash.

And their queue is always long. Depending on your point of view it either goes a long way back or a long way forward.

Next week they're giving out free fortune cookies.

I try to keep things within a reasonable distance of tidy. But my usual kitchen mess was not quite right when I returned home.

Didn't appreciate someone breaking into my house and writing in my journal while I was gone. Something was missing.

And where the hell was Wilson's dog?

Initiating the first annual Slugfest Farmers Market Spectacular!

Nothing to do with baseball, but it's crowd-pleasing, child friendly, lipsmacking good.

We start off with traditional recipes; deep-fried slugs, Slugs Parmesan, and candied slugs. We've got slugmuffins, slug-on-the-cob, and Old Slugger beer where one of our slimy friends floats in place like the worm in Tequila.

We've got Slugs Benedict, Slugs-On-The-Half-shell, Slugs Stroganoff, and Slugs Quarantine.

Yummy.

Then there's the competition for largest and smallest.

But the capper, the demo derby, the country music star of the festival is the slug race.

Built from one 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, get ready, get set, oooooze.

Come back in two weeks to see who won.

They took my shoelaces, belt, razor, and nail-clippers. They took my CD player, my phone, and my tablet. They took my pencils and pens.

Then they took my temperature.

I began pacing the halls in my jellybean hospital slippers trying to engage inmates in conversation, probing for information.

I met the Doctor of Apology who wears two watches because he needs more time.

I glommed rhetorical rheumatism and explored the wide-open spaces of interiority complex.

Yes, I would rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy.

But still I began to doubt my reality. I had to keep repeating my journalists' mantra.

'Success in life is simply a matter of being in the right place at the right time asking the right people the right questions when they're not ready'.

The devastating collateral damage of coerced institutionalization reinforced by pharmaceutical intervention far exceeds cures determined through vacuous assessment and diagnoses guided by stereotypical biases. But it doesn't come close to the greed of the pharmaceutical companies working to establish lifelong customers caught in a cyclical trap, ever-returning for every infraction.

Committed for life; Kafka is not a dancestep.

I missed my Facetube.

But a picture began to emerge. A pattern, a method, a motive began to surface. There was a link somewhere.

A chill the size of an iceberg went down my spine. That nurse. I recognized her.

Cruella 101.

It was Donna.

...to be continued.



**KOLBERT, con't from Page 9**

stand in 1844. On One Tree Island, at the southernmost tip of the Great Barrier Reef, Kolbert observes reef-building coral, which has declined there by fifty percent in just the past thirty years. She joins up in Peru with a forest ecologist who studies global warming's impact on a tropical forest.

The effect of Kolbert's wide-ranging approach is to demonstrate how global our predicament really is, and why it's human-made. The auks vanished because they were easy dinner for seafarers and did not breed fast enough to survive their decimation - a biological challenge currently facing elephants in Africa and rhinos in south-east Asia.

Coral reefs are dying because we humans burn too much fossil fuel, sending high levels of CO<sup>2</sup> into the atmosphere which is absorbed by the oceans, now thirty percent more acidic than they were two hundred years ago. Ultimately, coral will no longer grow, or calcify, in that acidic environment, and the intricate reef ecosystem - including fish that appear in our supermarkets - will vanish as well.

Kolbert writes in a more laid-back style than she usually displays in *The New*

*Yorker*, where parts of chapters of this book first appeared. Perhaps that's why the book lacks the fervor



Elizabeth Kolbert

and urgency of Rachel Carson's revolutionary *Silent Spring*, to which *The Sixth Extinction* has been compared. Carson's 1962 exposé of the perils of synthetic pesticides sent an easily grasped, forceful message: DDT means death for birds, fish and animals - including humans.

But as Kolbert herself recognizes, concepts such as mass extinction, climate change and global warming are hard to personalize and thus tough for the public to absorb.

Which brings me back to my Walton vegetable garden. Bumblebees eventually did appear, thanks to Michelle Suozzo of Franklin's Meadowbrook Farm,

who suggested I buy Spicy Lime Basil plants and let them flower. Bees, it turns out, can't get enough of the stuff. But the little brown bats seem to be gone for good, while Japanese beetles arrived in hordes - pests, Kolbert writes, that first appeared in the U.S. in 1916, in New Jersey.

Kolbert provides no solutions to the potential mass extinction she believes we have set in motion. She leaves us on notice that human beings now have an evolutionary choice: we can continue to abuse the natural world around us, potentially leading, centuries hence, to our own extinction. Or we can take any measures still available to lower our carbon output, preserve wildlife and protect the oceans and forests on which we depend for survival.

The choice is ours.

*Alexis Greene is an author and editor. She lives in Walton, NY and New York City with her husband, Gordon R. Hough.*



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Franklin, NY 13775

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### What are we about?

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

Renamed as Franklin Local Ltd., we are a not-for-profit corporation made up of Franklin residents. We meet once a month, at 7 P.M., at various locations - see our website for information. 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**

You can also join our Peak Oil AwarenessYahoo Group.

It's **POA\_CNY@yahoogroups.com**.

That is, Peak Oil Awareness\_Central NewYork.

This group fosters discussion of local efforts, potential or ongoing, to deal with the effects of Peak Oil on our communities.

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HEY, DON'T SHOOT! I'M A FRIEND!  
BESIDES, I WAS RAISED IN CAPTIVITY AND DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO RUN AWAY.  
IF YOU FEED ME, I'LL STICK AROUND ALL WINTER, TAKE POSSESSION OF YOUR PORCH AND CROW EACH MORNING.  
I SOUND LIKE A MECHANICAL ROOSTER.  
I AM GORGEOUS, AND IMPORTED (LONG AGO) FROM JAPAN.





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3/7/2014	17.04	State Highway 357	Vac w/imprv	51,000	58,000	Reynolds, Charles A	Multari, Frank J	
4/15/2014	1.00	321 Jackson Hill Rd	1 Family Res	118,000	75,000	Huyck, Terry	Huyck, Tyler J	Re
6/2/2014	38.10	2545 E Handsome Bk Rd	1 Family Res	130,000	118,621	Johns, Brian M	Johns, Robert T IV	Re, 2
6/4/2014	1.00	4695 County Highway 14	1 Family Res	68,000	35,000	Naylor, George D	Leitenberger, Patricia	NW,2
6/11/2014	44.00	703 Thoroughbred Rd	Rural res	227,000	140,250	Newman, Moses N	HSBC Bank USA	GA, 2
6/12/2014	23.00	6504 County Highway 21	Rural res	58,000	42,450	Randall, Timothy H	Del. National Bank of Delh	GA
6/16/2014	0.28	93 Water St	1 Family Res	110,000	115,000	Herklotz, Deborah	DeRoche, Kenneth	
6/17/2014	8.08	7263 State Highway 357	1 Family Res	155,000	180,000	Clark, Lauren A	Katharine Medina Trust	
6/17/2014	34.10	260 Finch Rd	Rural res	130,000	150,000	Ogborn, Antoinette A	Keith, Jonah	Re
6/18/2014	1.20	10479 State Highway 357	1 Family Res	11,000	18,000	Reynolds, Charles A	Yerdon, Kevin	
6/27/2014	0.75	4650 County Highway 14	1 Family Res	85,000	76,500	Clement, Peter	Del. National Bank of Del	GA
6/28/2014	16.80	County Highway 14	Rural vac>10	23,000	20,000	Willows, Richard A	VanDeusen, Ryan	
7/21/2014	6.76	3586 Freer Hollow Rd	1 Family Res	290,000	315,000	Bruning, Patrick	Uzzi, Richard	
7/23/2014	3.00	4614 County Highway 14	1 Family Res	123,000	30,000	County of Delaware,	Veillon, Magali	GA, 2
7/23/2014	0.74	State Highway 28 S	Rural vac<10	2,000	3,000	County of Delaware,	Constitution Pipeline Co.	GA
7/23/2014	0.49	201 Center St	1 Family Res	128,000	18,582	County of Delaware,	Kowatch, John	GA
7/23/2014	0.80	11795 County Highway 21	1 Family Res	50,000	1,500	County of Delaware,	Lamb, Robert W	GA
7/23/2014	9.23	Poet Hill Rd	Rural vac<10	25,000	9,500	County of Delaware,	Keahon, Jeanne M	GA
7/23/2014	1.60	County Highway 14	Mfg housing	13,000	500	County of Delaware,	Meggali, Zakaria	GA
7/31/2014	38.60	564 Leland Hull Rd	Rural res	150,000	153,000	Finnegan, Ralph K	Bellino, Joseph P	
7/31/2014	5.23	East Handsome Brook Rd	Rural vac<10	16,000	23,000	Decarlo, Frank	Davis, William	
8/1/2014	4.60	9219 State Highway 357	1 Family Res	200,000	181,340	Popescu, Edward	Brown, Bruce A	
8/7/2014	0.75	12080 County Highway 21	Mfg housing	37,000	25,000	Banks, Elizabeth A	Kujawski, Gregg	
8/15/2014	0.80	11795 County Highway 21	1 Family Res	50,000	1,500	Lamb, Robert	Smith, Donald T	Ot
8/18/2014	0.22	75 Water St	1 Family Res	120,000	123,404	Hood, Joyce M	Ash, Shannon M	
8/19/2014	1.06	157 Main St	1 Family Res	130,000	140,900	Archer, Timothy T	Wilson, John	
8/20/2014	0.24	200 Center St	1 Family Res	103,000	138,500	Archer, Donna	Archer, Timothy T	Re
				Ot- Other		Re - Relative	GA - Gov't Agency	