

DELAWARE  
COUNTY IDA

Part One:  
IDAs and Compressors

Our 25<sup>th</sup> issue!  
Eight years and counting...  
(Who'd a thunk it?)

CLUELESS  
IN DELHI?

CCE to create new food  
co-op...really?



Compressor cooling fan staring straight at you

By Brian Brock

Often-heard is that Tennessee Gas Pipeline LLC would pay considerable property taxes on their mid-stream station. However, TGP could evade taxes on their facility, as many have before. Consider the example of the only compressor station in Delaware County so far, built by Millennium on Hungry Hill Road near Long Eddy, in the town of Hancock. The

Why would anyone in Franklin want a compressor station in our town?

It would bring continuous noise and air pollution into our peaceful countryside, disturbing the neighbors and pulling down property values. This industrial facility would be at odds with Franklin's Comprehensive Plan.

See IDA, continued on Page 8

Brian Brock has been writing for The NFR since our very first issue. We are grateful for his dedicated community service and concise, informative stories. The NFR would not exist without him.



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Good Cheap Food on Main Street in Delhi

By Susan Dapkins

Cornell Cooperative Extension's (CCE) recent announcement of its Delaware Bounty Project has generated local controversy. The project, funded by two grants from USDA in the amount of \$100,000, includes a retail store in Delhi selling Delaware County agricultural products exclusively. The store, which opened in March at the eCenter in Delhi, will also feature an on-line CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) component allowing consumers to order products directly from local farmers and pick them up at the eCenter store.

Since the project's announcement, several local businesses have voiced concern that a grant subsidized retail store represents

See CLUELESS, continued on Page 5

Sue Dapkins is a first time writer for the NFR. New writers are our favorite thing at the NFR. Welcome, Sue, and thanks for working with us.

FOR THE COMMON GOOD

By Donald Hebbard

Compressor Free Franklin is a grassroots organization of concerned citizens working together to oppose the construction of a natural gas compressor station in Franklin Township. It evolved as a result of the pre-filing to FERC by Kinder-Morgan, revealing that a second natural gas transmission line was planned to run parallel to the Constitution Pipeline. Constitution is a proposed 'greenfield project,' previously announced by the Constitution Pipeline Company. Kinder-Morgan included in their pre-filing a compressor station within

See FREE, continued on Page 11

PRSR  
STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

Local  
Customer  
Postal

COMPRESSOR  
FREE  
FRANKLIN

Poster design for Compressor Free Franklin

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

By Tom Briggs

I'm not a great self-starter. I admit that I'm more inclined to be productive when I'm immersed in an environment where there are people who are more motivated. I guess I have more of a reactive type of personality in that regard. This is why I enjoy getting my batteries charged whenever I get the chance to visit a city. In more progressive cities, great ideas seem to be everywhere. Street art, museums, funky restaurants, the theater, architecture, all of that creative energy pulsing and prodding humans to be doers, as well as to be be-ers. Some might suggest that urban areas are the cradle of inventive thought. Maybe, but I wouldn't go that far.

I know that the pressure to adhere to a peer dominated social perspective can be as restrictive as it can be enlightening in friendship clusters in metropolitan areas. Say the

See MAYOR, continued on Page 3

## Your Neighbor's View...

*Felix Bridel gave this testimony at the DEC public hearing on their Section 401 Water Quality certification of the Constitution Pipeline, January 13, 2015, Oneonta, NY.*

My name is Felix Bridel. I am 14, a freshman in high school, and live in Franklin, New York, well within the burn zone of the proposed route of the Constitution pipeline.

I have a great love and respect for nature and life, and I should hope you at the DEC do too, because it is your job. Which is why I'm completely baffled that this hearing is even happening.

How can there be any doubt that the environment will be affected? Not even taking into account the cut through the forest, fragmenting bird populations, and the increased traffic and pollution, there is still so much that could go wrong. You are funneling a highly flammable substance, at high pressure, through a long stretch of pipeline. The history of pipelines, and of Williams in particular, shows us that pipelines leak. Pipelines explode. The environment collapses. The water is poisoned. The gas companies have always shown they have no concern or knowledge of how nature and ecology work; nor have they shown anything more than a passing regard for human life.

Not many days ago, the governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, announced his ban on hydro-fracking. Never a particularly big fan of Cuomo, I still immensely respected that he had had the bravery to stand up against big money and the power wielded by gas companies. And this pipeline, or rather these pipelines, for one will pave the way for the other, will be carrying fracked gas. When there is an explosion,

this gas will leak into the surrounding waterways, full of whatever chemicals have already elevated cancer levels, polluted aquifers, and done god knows what else in places like Pennsylvania.

Gas is a pollutant, and the planned compressor station will release many, many other dangerous pollutants into the air, where they can land on water, in lungs.

Besides, gas is not a sustainable resource. Global warming is happening, the environment is changing, and rather than attaching ourselves to this natural gas, this limited resource that will likely dry up within my lifetime, we should be thinking of some way to help earth's biosphere to survive. We won't be fleeing earth via rocket anytime soon; we're stuck with what we've got, and we have to protect it, for its sake, and for our own.

I have fought to keep earth, our home, as healthy as can be; so I can die happy, and I hope my grandchildren will remember what I did for them. But I may not have grandchildren, or even children, if the constitution pipeline is permitted. I may die at 25, from cancer. I may die at 20, from water poisoning. I might die just a few days or weeks after construction is finished, in the fire of an explosion. And around me, this beautiful area, one of the last clean, safe, pristine areas on earth, will die too. But I will die knowing I fought for my life, for the lives of others, and for the wonderful beauty of the trees and the streams and the birds in the air. My conscience will be clean.

But you who let the pipeline through will be to blame - for the death of innocents, for the destruction of the clean water which is nowadays so rare, for the annihilation of this incredible wilderness. I could never live with that on my conscience. Can you?

## SUNDAY IS MARKET DAY!

For the ninth year, the Franklin Farmers' Market will return to the lawn of Chapel Hall, every Sunday, 10 AM to 2 PM, from Memorial Day weekend (May 24th) to Columbus Day weekend (Oct 11th). Twenty-one market days!

Most vendors from last year will be back to offer seasonal produce - always freshly picked. Fill your shopping bags with fresh baked breads and rolls; honey, maple syrup and candies; cheeses; mulch, bedding and barley pellets; soap and candles; even sheepskins. In the spring, find herb and vegetable plants for your garden. In the summer, choose flowering plants and fresh cut flowers. Everything is locally grown and made, so shopping here supports your neighborhood.

Keep up with what's happening in Franklin at the Information Table, and meanwhile, the Hospitality Tents have plenty of chairs and tables where you can relax and snack on baked goods and coffee, or lunch



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on gyros, sweet cakes and ice tea. Or just sit and talk. There is often live entertainment, and many special events during the summer. Bruce will have bunnies and balloons again, and the kids' cor-

ner offers toys and books and a chance to make new friends. And there is always a big bowl of water for our four-legged friends.

Come join us after you wake up, or after church. You are always welcome!

## CONTINUING A FRANKLIN NEWSPAPER TRADITION

By Brian Brock

Franklin enjoyed almost a century of its own newspapers.

In 1855, George W. Reynolds published a weekly that continued for over eight years but for a two year hiatus when he was owner and editor of *The Binghamton Standard*. It was first called *The Weekly Visitor* before being renamed *The Franklin Visitor*.

From the start, it was a Republican paper. During the travails of the Civil War, the paper was sold to Sturtevant and McIntosh, who merged it with their *Delaware Republican* of Delhi (Sturtevant had previously worked at *The Visitor*). That paper became the current *Delaware County Times*. Mr. Reynolds blamed his paper's sparse advertising on an excess of competition with the three other Republican papers in the county.

With the war over and county life returning to normal, a new independent paper, *The Franklin Register*, was started in 1868 by Hitchcock and Smith. Both *The Visitor* and *The Register* were folios (four pages), first in seven column format, then in six columns

During its first eleven years, *The Register* went through several editors, returning to being a Republican paper under Nathan L. Lyon in 1877. (Mr. Hitchcock later started *The Walton Chronicle*, competition for *The Walton Reporter*.)

The motto of *The Franklin Register* was "Independent, Fearless, and Free."

By 1879, there were thirteen newspapers in Delaware County. In that year, Joseph Eveland, who had apprenticed at *The Visitor* under Reynolds, bought the paper from Lyon and edited it, along with his son, for the next forty-seven years. In 1883, he transformed it into *The Delaware County Dairyman and Register*, a quarto (eight pages) in five column format. In 1891, Eveland shortened the title to *The Delaware County Dairyman*, but news from Franklin continued to

appear under the heading "The Franklin Register" until early 1936. In 1926, after his son died, Eveland sold the paper to S.B.D. Belden. Due to shortages during WW II, the paper ceased publication for seven and a half months, then resumed publication in November of 1944 under Jesse Palmater, soon returning to a full eight pages. In its final years, the paper was weakened by a shortage of advertising. The fatal blow was the loss of their printer. The last issue came out on March 7, 1952. The final editorial is reprinted in our Town's history, "Through the Years in the Town of Franklin."

Contents of the papers changed with the times. *The Visitor* and *The Register* had columns of dense ten point text. *The Dairyman* continued in this manner until illustrations were introduced in the early 1900's. Political cartoons were introduced in 1930, but a comic section was not included until the start of WW II. Always a good buy, a yearly subscription to *The Visitor* and *The Register* was variously \$1.00 or \$1.50, and for *The Dairyman*, \$1.50 until 1946, when it rose to the enormous price of \$2.00.

Microfilms of most issues are at the Franklin Free Library, and some paper editions are preserved at the Delaware County Historical Society outside of Delhi, the New York State Historical Society of Cooperstown, and Ouleout Valley Historical Society of Franklin.

*The New Franklin Register* continues tradition as a tabloid like *The Dairyman*, but slightly smaller at 11½ by 17 inches. The current *Register* has five columns, same as *The Dairyman*, but with 11 point type (slightly larger than the 10 point type in *The Dairyman*), making it easier to read.

For a Franklin newspaper, there has never been a better bargain: Free!

*This article is adapted from one printed in our first issue from Summer of 2007.*





# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## A GRATIFYING SUCCESS!

By Deborah Banks and May Miller

Some said that holiday wreaths and table arrangements wouldn't sell very well less than two weeks before Christmas. But at the Franklin Holiday Market on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Franklin Garden Club sold nearly every item in their booth stocked with glorious greens. The best sellers were the wreaths, but most other items went well also, and at the end of the day, the club had raised \$500 above expenses.

The money will fund a one-time college scholarship for a Franklin Central School student planning a major related to agriculture, forestry, ecology, horticulture, landscape architecture, parks, biology or a similar field.

The bonus for the gardeners was the fun we had together, making the wreaths and other items. Tim and Jan Mulroy graciously offered the use of a heated workshop for our work. With Christmas music playing and baked goodies on hand, it was an enjoyable couple of days. Less fun was had by the hardy team that cut the truckload of greens at May and Bob Miller's farm. The weather just would not cooperate!



The FGC booth at the Franklin Holiday Market 2014

### MAYOR, con't from Page 1

wrong word or express the wrong thought and your descent from grace can be quick and catastrophic. Playing by the rule of law makes things go more smoothly for sure, but one can lose oneself abiding by these rules (the political correctness tightrope walk). This is the stuff of what judgementalism and litigation are made of. Sometimes with these restrictions, the cradle is less likely to rock.

If there is an advantage to living in a rural environment, part of it may be that folks are more inclined to administer the spirit of the law when sensing themselves at odds with each other. (Is the transgression truly hurtful or is it something that would normally be laughed off by someone with balance in their life?) This by no means implies that all rural folks are balanced. There are those who are fearful of the urban immigration and tend to react with great suspicion when encountering people from parts elsewhere. But my experience is that

most of my neighbors who are native to this area are welcoming and genuinely happy that our new metropolitan neighbors have exercised the wisdom to relocate here.

I was born and raised in a small village. There are many advantages to village life. Yes, you have neighbors who tend to know more of your business than you'd like to share, but it is these same neighbors that tend to look after things when you're unable to. A perfect case in point is my current lot in life. Because of a recent operation, I am confined mostly to my house in the village. While I'm convalescing, I have neighbors who have taken it upon themselves to maintain my sidewalks through this brutal winter. I have several neighbors who have brought over food for my wife and I. I have called upon neighbors to drive me to medical appointments and have been assured that this was no im-



The Treadwell house in its original Italianate style, early 1900s

## MEET YOU AT THE RAILROAD CAR

*Special events heading our way*

By John Campbell

The Franklin Train and Community Museum is open the last Sunday of every month from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment if you call John Campbell at [607-829-5890](tel:607-829-5890). We try to have new programs and new exhibits every month.

Anyone with programs and/or exhibits that they are interested in showing off, please contact John for information.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., we will host a quilt show put on by the Susquehanna Valley Quilters. This will be a great opportunity for quilters or want-to-be quilters to see some outstanding work done by local quilters. You be able to view their finished products and ask them questions.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, local writers and artists will exhibit their work at the Museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as part of the annual Stagecoach Run Festival.

position. I have received cards and phone calls from dozens of well-wishing neighbors as well as having a steady stream of visitors. This is what happens in healthy communities. It's heartwarming to know that several of my well-wishers are those people who have relocated to this area from downstate.



The Village of Franklin is fortunate not to have lost this quality of good neighborliness as it has edged into the 21st century. It is also blessed with a great group of people from the metropolitan area who have brought with them a strong dose of energy and new ideas to blend in with the sense of community that has been sustained in Franklin for the past two centuries.

Just as the "melting pot" phenomenon is credited for strengthening our nation, I think it's fair to say that our new neighbors are having a similar effect on the sustainability of our community.

So my declaration for 2015 is this: bring on the energy, the new ideas, the respect for those who are native to these parts, the welcome wagon for those who are new...and let's work together to make Franklin the jewel of Delaware County.

**On another note:** For those who are having difficulty shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns or keeping up with village taxes, please contact me or Edwyna at the Village Office. Maybe something can be worked out. Unshoveled walks put others at risk, unsightly property reflects negatively on the entire village, and unpaid taxes are an affront to all who do pay their taxes and pay them on time.

*Franklin mayor Tom Briggs has shared his gentle wisdom with us since the 2014 Summer Issue.*

*Many thanks, Tom!*

## LANDING IN TREADWELL

### Part II: If Only The Walls Could Talk

By Magali Veillon

The house in Treadwell exposes itself slowly. It is fortunate that I have a newfound patience, acquired while looking for my place in Delaware County. Bought at a tax auction, the house was filled with piles of the previous owner's belongings. Before the snows arrived, I requisitioned help to clear out the house. Skippy from Hamden came to select treasures for his flea market. Then followed the local sanitation company. Bruce Shaw and his sons worked overtime, carrying away an underestimated mound of rubbish. A shocking display of waste, but it felt remarkably satisfying to see boxes full of junk and smelly carpets flying out from the second floor into the garbage truck. Now the house stands empty, showing its beauty and its flaws.

Thanks to the kindness of Deb and Dave Tuthill, my neighbors across the road, I found old photographs of the house in the archives of the Treadwell Community Improvement Club. This confirmed two things: it is indeed Italianate, hence built between 1840 and 1885, and it had an entirely different roof—the current gable structure used to be flat. An inspection by Frank Macak confirmed that there had been a fire, probably why the roof has been replaced. The front facade is secured with cables across the garret. An old house indeed holds endless mysteries. You start wishing the walls really could talk.

Owning a house is all very new to me: the prospect of renovation, the land connected to it. I wished it and now it's here, exciting of course but also overwhelming. Almost everyone I meet around here has gone through a similar experience of renovation or construction. Fortunately, the area hosts many capable contractors. Each and every one has ideas, comments, which I

See WALLS, con't on Pg. 15

# PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz

Hello, Readers,

As I sit here trying to write, my cat also sits, next to my computer looking at me with his large adoring eyes and I wonder, is he trying to tell me something, maybe about an important subject for the spring issue? Is he here just to keep me company, or to let me know he's here for me if I need him? *Speak to me, Sam. What is it?*

No, pets don't speak our language, but they can express their wants, needs and pains, if you spend a moment or two observing their behavior.

For example, when I see an older dog or cat in the clinic for its yearly check up and I observe him moving with a slow gait, I may ask if he's still getting around the same? Is he not jumping up on the bed anymore, or going up and down the stairs more slowly? Often the answer is: *yes, now that you mention it.*

Many pet owners do not realize that there are dog and cat, ferret



and rabbit anti-inflammatory medications that can be prescribed for these issues. Animals get arthritis, too. No need to let them suffer. Often once these medications are

given, the dog or cat seems to have suddenly turned back the clock a few years and starts acting more like their old self. It can be quite dramatic.

Perhaps when a dog or cat comes to you for a nuzzle or a hug, you notice an offensive odor. Check their mouth and gums. Often they have gum or teeth issues that need to be addressed. Brushing with a piece of gauze or good paper towel with baking soda and water or a pet tooth paste can help. (Human tooth pastes contain fluoride, which can be toxic to pets.) If brushing their teeth is not for you, other ways to prevent severe dental issues include water additives, food additives and dental treats for dental health.

When the mouth gets to the point of loose teeth or gum infection, the veterinarian will often use an antibiotic and be forced to extract infected teeth. Diseased teeth can lead to heart disease, if the bacteria spread

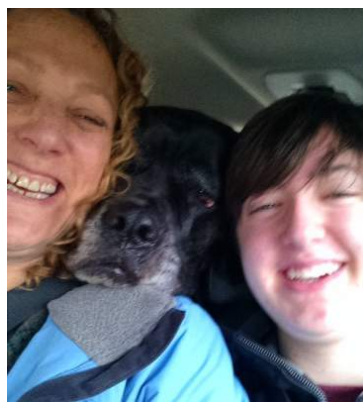
to the heart.

Another thing that may cause odors in animals is when a toenail grows into a pad and becomes infected. This most often happens on the polydactyl or multi-toed cat, or a dog with very curved toenails, such as pugs. If you observe a pet obsessively licking a spot on their foot, this may be the cause.

Another area of odor is from the anal glands. These are a set of scent glands on either side of the anus. They often get full and sometimes impacted. Usually, the contents are excreted during a bowel movement but if not, sometimes the pet will drag their rear end along the floor to release the pressure. Some pets have reoccurring issues with this and require a vet visit to have the anal glands emptied. You can also try foods high in fiber to help pets relieve the glands themselves.

What else might a pet be telling us, besides that it's time for a walk, or they'd like to be fed? The dog that shakes its head could have an ear infection. That older cat drinking water excessively could have kidney problems or diabetes.

There are many things that pets do to tell us something is wrong or right. We just need to stop a moment and look and listen. They are talking to you.



Dr. Puritz and friends

## 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.**

*Dr. Puritz has contributed compassionate and expert advice in her Pet Talk column since 2010. The NFR and her readers are ever grateful!*

## GREATER FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Spring Membership Drive

Businesses working to improve the economy and community of the Town of Franklin.

Annual dues of \$35 entitles a business to posting on the Chamber's website and discount membership in the Delaware County Chamber.

Monthly meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Franklin Train and Community Museum.

The Chamber is now taking nominations for its annual awards to the person and business of the year.

We have begun organizing for Franklin Day 2015, August 29th. Those interested in participating, please contact the Chamber


Contact us: <<http://franklinny.org>>  
or Marc Burgin: 829-8500

## ADVERTISE IN YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER!

## THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER

CONTACT JIM MULLEN  
607-829-5044  
OR  
[MULLEN.JIM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MULLEN.JIM@GMAIL.COM)

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## TOWN BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Franklin NY Town Board meets monthly, generally on the first Tuesday of the month, except for November.

All meetings are at the town garage unless otherwise noted.

12480 County Highway 21, intersectin of Route 357,  
Franklin NY

Meetings at the Treadwell Firehouse are scheduled for:

March 3, 2015 at 3:00pm  
June 2, 2015 at 7:30pm  
September 1, 2015 at 7:30pm  
December 1, 2015 at 7:30pm

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



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## FRANKLIN CHURCHES

### Aldrich

### Baptist Church

Route 28, North Franklin

Phone: 607-829-5502

Pastor: Pat Judd

Sunday Service: 9:30 A.M.

Location: 1/2 mile east of the Ouleout Golf Course

### Franklin United Methodist Church

Main and Water Streets  
Franklin

Phone: 607-829-2956

Pastor: John Hill

Sunday Service: 10:45 A.M.

Coffee hour following  
Sunday School for children  
following Children's Time  
Holy Communion, first Sunday  
of each month.

### Treadwell United Methodist Church

68 Church Street,  
Treadwell

Pastor: John Hill

Sunday Service: 9:15 A.M.

### St Paul's Episcopal Church

307 Main Street, Franklin

Phone: 607- 829-6404

All faiths welcome

Sunday service with music  
and communion: 8:15 A.M.  
Clergy:

The Rev. Scott A Garno  
First Thursdays Dinner  
every month, by donation,  
to benefit restoration projects:  
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  
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CLUELESS, continued from Page 1

sents unfair competition for small businesses in the area already selling locally grown products, as well as potential competition for local farmers' markets and farm stores. Local retailers and agriculture producers say they were never consulted during the project's development phase, and were dismayed when the initiative was announced.

Faiga Brussel, of Good Cheap Food, a local store in Delhi which has specialized for years in providing locally and regionally grown products, questioned why a local not-for-profit entity, the Cooperative Extension, would open a store down the street from her business, using tax dollars to create a store that would be in direct competition with her business.

Patrick Ryder, owner of Greenane Farms, a local beef farm with a retail farm store in Meredith, echoed her complaint. Like Ms.

Brussel, he takes issue with Cooperative Extension's use of taxpayer dollars to develop a for-profit business, subsidizing its rent, payroll, insurance, etc., thus giving it an unfair advantage in the marketplace. Ryder had to invest his own savings to develop his farm store and CSA.

Those with concerns feel the CCE should have consulted with local producers and retailers to develop a project that would help local producers identify new retail and wholesale markets, while strengthening already existing businesses. From their perspective, the CCE has ignored decades of experience gleaned by both producers and retailers that could be of great benefit in developing a program to support them.

Susan Dapkins lives in Meredith, NY.



GRADUATING SENIORS, TAKE NOTE!!

The **Franklin Garden Club** is offering a \$500 one-time college scholarship to a **Franklin high school senior graduating in 2015** who plans to further his/her studies in one or more of the following: Agriculture, Forestry, Horticulture, Natural environment, Soil biology, Environmental education, Landscape architecture, or a related field.

Please let your high school counselor know if you are interested in applying.

IN THE KITCHEN

With Sue Avery

NESSELRODE PIE

Sixty or seventy years ago, there wasn't a fish restaurant in New York that didn't serve Nesselrode Pie. Today, virtually no one knows what it is. I loved it and was delighted when *The World Telegram* printed a recipe for it. Confession: this recipe is not authentic. The original Nesselrode pie, as devised for Count Nesselrode a hundred and fifty years ago by his chef, was far richer and more complicated, and included chestnuts.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 envelope plain gelatin
  - ¼ cup cold water
  - 1 cup milk
  - 1 cup light cream
  - 3 egg yolks
  - ¼ cup sugar
  - ½ tsp. salt
  - 2 tsps. rum flavoring
  - 3 egg whites
  - 2 tbsps. Maraschino cherries, chopped
  - 1/3 cup sugar
  - ½ tsp. shaved chocolate (or more)
  - 1 **baked** pie shell

There is nothing so good as a homemade pie crust, but for those with no time or inclination to make it, the Pillsbury pie crusts are fine. Find them in the dairy case, two to a long thin box. They keep in your fridge forever and are easy to use.

Soften the gelatin in cold water.  
Scald the milk and cream.  
Combine slightly beaten egg yolks, ¼ cup of sugar, and salt.  
Add scalded milk and cream, stirring slowly.  
Cook over hot water until mixture coats the spoon,  
about seven minutes with constant stirring.  
Remove from heat, add gelatin and stir until dissolved.  
Cool and add rum flavoring.  
Chill until it begins to thicken.  
Beat egg whites until stiff, adding 1/3 cup of sugar.  
Fold cherries and egg whites into chilled mixture.  
Fill the baked pie shell.  
Sprinkle with chocolate shavings.  
Chill.



**Heathen Hill Yoga**

Weekly community class - Sundays

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

810 Heathen Hill Road, Franklin NY

SUSAN "LIP" OREM  
Franklin 607 829 5328

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



## PROTECTING LOCAL LAND

### The Otsego Land Trust in Delaware County

By Virginia Kennedy

The Otsego Land Trust protects the healthy lands and clean waters that sustain everyone. Though our name starts with *Otsego*, we work regionally, including in Delaware County. In fact, we have recently protected two very special properties in Delaware County, one property of beautiful hillside woodlands and ecological diversity on the Ouleout Creek and one property of rolling farmlands and rich forest and wetlands on Carr's Creek. We are currently working to protect a third property of wildflower fields, farmlands and forests near the headwaters of the Ouleout.

What does it mean to say we *protected* these special places? It means we partnered with each of the landowners to place a conservation easement on their property. A conservation easement is a legal agreement that protects the prop-

erty's natural attributes now and for the future. Does this mean that property can't be used, enjoyed, farmed, or forested? No. A conservation easement does not prevent people from enjoying or working their lands. The easement protects the land from being segmented or exploited for residential or commercial development and industrial practices like drilling for fossil fuels.

It has been a pleasure for Otsego Land Trust to work with Cat Gareth and Marjorie Kellogg to protect their lands, as it is a pleasure to be working now with Sondra Freckelton to protect her special property. I have noticed that in the last two years, since I first came to Otsego Land Trust from Delaware Highlands Conservancy in Pennsylvania, more and more women landowners are seeking to protect their lands. In fact, I'm currently writing an article for the Center for International Forest Research about women's land ownership in the U.S. My research indicates that the numbers of women landowners desiring to protect their land seem

to be rising across the country.

For this trio of Delaware County women, the larger impact of their personal acts of conservation is important to them. Marjorie explains that, for her, "A conservation easement is one small gesture that one small person can make to help stave off the reckless and raging destruction of species and habitats going on world-wide. Change has to start somewhere." Cat Gareth thinks about the potential her land has to teach her and others in the future. She asserts that, "this small piece of land taught me to examine and cherish our local environment's often over-looked details. In that sense you could say that it was the architect of its own conservation because, by learning what it taught me, I came to value it enough to preserve it and allow it to evolve undisturbed and educate others." Sondra speaks to the need to accept how dynamic the land is through time and that it will always change naturally. "But," she affirms, "the easement means that people will live with nature on this land; they will have to take care of all this wildlife and flowers and things that make this land what it is."

The whole community truly does benefit, in Delaware County and everywhere where people protect their land with conservation easements. Otsego Land Trust has protected close to 10,000 acres of land in Otsego, Delaware, Scho-

harie, and Herkimer Counties. The protection of these lands means their farm and forestlands, their wetlands and clean water will be sustained into the future, helping to prevent fragmentation and negative development in the region.

So many of us in central New York State care deeply about the lands and streams, ponds, lakes, and rivers that give us food and clean water, that provide places for play and opportunities for good work, places where we can go to rest, reflect, and enjoy nature. Otsego Land Trust works hard with the people of our unique and beautiful central New York region to see that these lands are conserved now and for future generations.

We are grateful for and honored by the people in our community who work with us and support our mission. What better gift to give to our children, our grandchildren, and their children than the gift of healthy lands and clean waters. What better legacy to leave than the legacy of our Earth protected.

For more information about protecting land through conservation easements and all of Otsego Land Trust's other activities, please visit [www.OtsegoLandTrust.org](http://www.OtsegoLandTrust.org) or email :

[Virginia@otsegoLandTrust.org](mailto:Virginia@otsegoLandTrust.org).

*Virginia Kennedy is Executive Director of the Otsego Land Trust, based in Cooperstown, NY.*

## WILD FOOD

By Marguerite Uhlmann-Bower

Plants make the world go round. Let me tell you how. From fleshy greens to woody barks, from lowly weeds to perennial beauties, from shrubs to vines and trees, from fungi, lichen and mosses to seaweeds, plants make the world what it is today. Due to plants, we are fed, clothed, soothed (medicine) and smoothed (toilettries), housed and warmed and have electricity, petrochemicals for the machinery we use and the plastics that cover and carry our wares. Plants feed the animals we love and the meats we eat; plants give us honey, sap, oil and vinegar. Plants make our air breathable (oxygen) and our water drinkable (oxygen), filtering both as well. They are the fabric for combustion. What did I miss? No matter, you get the picture. If it weren't for plants (and of course water), we could not, would not be here.

My workshops, called *Weeds, Leaves, Seeds &*

*Shoots: Balance Your Budget – Steward the Land*, came into being five years ago. What are they all about?

As a traditional herbalist, I harvest weeds for food and herbal preparations for self, friends and family.

As a NYS licensed nurse, I've researched and witnessed great things when weeds and herbal preparations are consumed, inhaled or topically applied, for nourishment and wellbeing. One leads to the other, after all.

As a community member, I know that interaction



Maple buds

now I think we won't kill the plants so much as make this earth uninhabitable to humans. The plants will adapt. In fact, it was the threat of hydrofracking that pushed me into offering workshops on these topics to the general public. We all know water is critical for life, so here's an update on the state of water on this planet. In April 2010, National Geographic devoted an entire journal to the topic of water. A bit of their research shocked me, and this was it: there are only three underground sources of pristine water remaining on Earth, and one of them is

right here under upstate New York, in the Catskills. That did it for me. Hydrofracking could not take place here or nor should it anywhere. I had to do something, anything that could make a difference, no matter how small it might be. That something became these classes. I realized that if you can't bring the plants to the people to help them recognize that polluting the water, air and soil is polluting themselves, then bring the people to the plants and let the plants do the talking.

I invite you to attend one or more classes this year. Bring a friend or two. Pre-registration is a must, as I lim-

it classes to 25 to 30 people. The workshops cover a variety of topics based on the season and on current issues, local or national. Each has three segments: plant identification, a wild pre-prepared foods tasting, and a hands-on and/or a wellness discussion related to the dense nutrition weeds (and invasives) provide, to how to make oils, extracts, food recipes and gardening soil amendments. Included is an emailed 15 to 25 page informational handout about the plants, wellness topics and recipes of the day.

The spring to summer schedule is at left. If you'd like to know more, or have a plant topic you would like to hear about, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Topic next time: Plant Neurobiology and Forest Medicine.

Contact Marguerite at 607-278-9635 or [3moonsisters@gmail.com](mailto:3moonsisters@gmail.com).



Maple in bloom

#### WEEDS, LEAVES, SEEDS & SHOOTS :

#### BALANCE YOUR BUDGET-STEWARD THE LAND

April 25 <sup>th</sup>	West Katright Center, East Meredith \$20.00 Contact WEC <a href="http://www.westkatright.org">www.westkatright.org</a> 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ommegang, Cooperstown \$15.00 Contact: 607-278-9635 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Farmers Museum, Cooperstown Contact Farmers Museum <a href="http://www.farmersmuseum.org">www.farmersmuseum.org</a> Cost: TBA 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Turquoise Barn, Hobart Contact: Turquoise Barn 607-538-1235 Cost: TBA
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Catskill Forest Association Contact: <a href="http://www.catskillforest.org">www.catskillforest.org</a> Cost: TBA 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Hoves Caves, Cobleskill Contact: 607-278-9635 Cost: \$20.00 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	West Katright Center, East Meredith Contact Center <a href="http://www.westkatright.org">www.westkatright.org</a> Cost: TBA 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Farmers Museum, Cooperstown Contact Farmers Museum <a href="http://www.farmersmuseum.org">www.farmersmuseum.org</a> Cost: TBA 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

benefits the whole,

As an environmental activist, I'm aware that humans need to care for the land around them.

I used to think we were going to kill all the plants and ourselves as well, but

April 2010, National Geo graphic devoted an entire journal to the topic of water. A bit of their research shocked me, and this was it: there are only three underground sources of pristine water remaining on Earth, and one of them is

# THE GARDEN GATE

By Penelope R. King



## **Shrubs For Winter Interest**

It may seem odd to be talking about shrubs in winter while they're all covered in snow. But perhaps if I write about them now, the snow will melt and we might see them before April.

Everything is quieter and more subtle in winter. You can see the shapes of trees and shrubs. Some are graceful in wind. Some are sturdier but will still move in enough wind. In my yard, the maples sway in the background while the branches of the big Blue Spruce just move up and down, even with snow on them.

Now the evergreens come to fore in your landscape. Large-leaved Rhododendrons have shiny dark green leaves to brighten your view. The small leafed Rhododendrons (like PJMs) have cordovan colored leaves.

Texture also becomes more important. The long soft needles of pines sigh in the winter winds. Spruces have short stiff needles and come in greens, grays and blues. The Dwarf Alberta Spruce has tiny soft needles and is perfectly cone-shaped. It makes a good foundation plant as it grows very slowly. (Don't put holiday lights in it, though, as they burn brown holes in the needles.) *Chamaecyparis* (Cypress) varieties can be yellow, or yellow-green or green, and each can have a unique needle shape to add to the variety: False Hinoki Cypress, looking like a migrant from a Japanese garden, is tall and straight, and can create a striking hedge.

Though evergreens offer the most color and texture in your winter garden, other shrubs will provide interest as well. *Euonymus alata* (Burning Bush) has angular twiggy stems that hold snow beautifully. *Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry) will provide red berries that hold until the birds eat them, their bright color lasting well into winter. And because this plant is deciduous (losing its leaves), the berries show up very well. This shrub can get big (six feet or so),

but there is a short variety called 'Red Sprite' that only grows to four feet. Sadly, few of the evergreen *Ilex* (Holly) varieties can stand our winter temperatures. If you have a protected spot, try 'China Boy' and 'China Girl.' You will need to plant at least one male within ten feet of your females, in order to get berries.

Last winter, a rapid cold snap injured or killed some broadleaved evergreens: The Electric Co-op in Delhi lost two Rhododendrons and some of Delhi Telephone's holly leaves turned a brownish gray. We had to cut them all out. The plants are re-growing new foliage but it will take a while.

While we're on problems in the winter landscape, what about animal damage? Rabbits and deer are the main culprits, while snow covers their grassy foods. Deer are a little more selective than rabbits but on their hind legs, they can reach over six feet high. You must cage to that height or cap your cages or stake your cages far enough away from shrubs, using sturdy stakes so they can't push the fence over. Deer will browse on all fruit trees as well as most shrubs and evergreens. The only ones they avoid are spruce. Perhaps the needles are just too spiky. They will browse hollies, though, so fence if you are unsure.

Rabbits will eat anything, even Bird's Nest Spruces, and since they can walk right on top of snow, you never know how far up a plant they can eat. One inch chicken wire is the only fencing that has holes small enough to keep them out and if you leave holes or close the fencing sloppily, they will get in.

Rodents like voles and mice will chew on trunks, so trees need protection, too. Hardware cloth works best here.

It may seem we are under siege, but the wild things we live with love our interesting plant choices as much as we do, so take care. Protect your garden investment.

## **FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT...**

### **CONSERVATION FOR EVER**

By Stephen Morris

When my wife Barbara's old friend Marjorie Kellogg first bought a house off Franklin Depot Road, the family farm over the hill was still a going concern and its matriarch, Frances Benowski, wrote weekly for the Walton Reporter about local affairs.

By 1988, her younger son Joe was unable to keep the farm going on his own, and put it up for sale. At the time, the future of rural property looked rosy only to those eager to develop or subdivide. Fortunately, another family bought the the house and barn and fifty acres. Marjorie and Barbara went in together to buy the rest.

The land was then, and still is, a combination of active hay fields and northern hardwood and hemlock forests, divided down the middle by a stream that eventually empties into the Susquehanna River.

Since then, we have intervened as little as possible, arranging for local farmers to cut and maintain the better hay fields and leaving the woods to themselves but for minimal logging and forestry management. After a catastrophic breach, the resident beavers began redamming the stream quite literally overnight, eventually creating a far larger pond with even

wider wetland borders. Seedlings rapidly covered some patches of untended land and grew into saplings and now young trees. The woods slowly acquired a new floor. Other parts, especially the higher fields, have changed remarkably little, reminders of the lack of fertility in their unmanured soil and the challenges faced by those who originally cleared this land and farmed it for generations. The richness that is reaccumulating is one of natural diversity. Wildlife on the site now includes foxes, coyotes and fishers, interesting enough to be studied by the DEC.

Years on from their original purchase, Marjorie and Barbara agree on the need for rural conservation, both for its own sake and as an essential complement to urban development. They want to safeguard the returning natural diversity of their land and to allow its wonderful regeneration to continue unimpeded, if possible for ever. This required a form of legal protection sufficient to prevent any unsuitable change or development, as well as a legal entity that will be able to enforce this protection however the ownership may change. New York State law provides the means for both in the form of conservation land trusts and conservation easements.

By formal definition, a conservation land trust is a

nonprofit organization that actively works to conserve land either by undertaking or assisting in land acquisition or conservation easement acquisition or by its stewardship of such land or easements. A conservation easement is a power invested in a private land conservation organization or in a government body to constrain in perpetuity the exercise of rights otherwise held by a landowner over a specified land area so as to achieve certain conservation purposes.

The Otsego Land Trust operates out of Cooperstown. It was founded in 1988 and now protects nearly 10,000 acres of farms, forests, open spaces, and healthy waters. Its mission is to conserve the natural heritage of woodlands, farmlands, and waters that sustain rural communities, promote public health, support wildlife diversity and inspire the human spirit. In America today there are 1,700 land trusts that have so far conserved 37 million acres, an area roughly the size of all the New England states combined.

Just added to the inventory of the OLT are all Marjorie and Barbara's acres in Franklin. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, they signed the documents granting a conservation easement on their property to the OLT.

So if you're wondering what to do with the back forty, think no further. Call those good folk at OLT!

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# FOCUS ON ENERGY

## IDA, continued from Page One

Millennium Pipeline Company, LLC does not own the land on which their station sits. Instead, this parcel is owned by the Industrial Development Agency of Delaware County, which is exempt from real property taxes, as well as the mortgage recording tax. Also, IDA projects can be exempt from sales taxes.

Property taxes can be lost not just on the facility, but also from the decrease in value of surrounding properties. On the same side of Hungry Hill Road as this station, there were two residences to the north. The immediate neighbor was bought out by our IDA, while the home owners further north were bought out by Millennium, along with the next parcel northward. The immediate neighbor is now classified as vacant. (To the south is a large parcel used for hunting.) On the opposite side of the road, there is only one year-round residence, and the family there may be leaving shortly. If so, there will no longer be a permanent resident within a half mile.

Why would an IDA subsidize a compressor station at the expense of tax payers?

Under the NYS General Municipal Law 18-A (Industrial Development Agency Act), §852, IDAs are “created for the purpose of preventing unemployment and economic deterioration.” To these ends, they may deal in real estate (acquire, hold, lease, and dispose of), build or renovate, negotiate PILOTs, make contracts, issue tax-exempt bonds, file lawsuits, and employ municipal workers. IDAs can use eminent domain.

Modern compressor stations are mostly automated, requiring few employees. Dominion Resour-

es Inc. requested a PILOT for its new compressor station in Brookmans Corners, but was rejected by the Montgomery County IDA. This station would add the equivalent of four full-time positions. Director Kenneth Rose said, “It really equated to \$4 million of incentives per each job. Obviously that is not the intent of what we are here to do.”

In Hancock, the school district, town, and county do not lose all the potential revenue of property taxes. Instead Millennium agreed to a Payment in Lieu of Taxes. A PILOT costs them less than the property taxes would and is a financial incentive for the business to locate or expand. In a 2003 study of nearly 4,800 IDA PILOTs, the Office of the State Comptroller found that payments averaged only 38% of taxes. PILOTs also figure into the calculation of the annual tax levy limit for the town, lowering the limit.

Nevertheless, PILOTs would bring in tens of thousands of dollars annually, but at a price of siting an industrial facility in a rural setting. In the mission statement of our IDA, the primary goal is to “improve the quality of life in Delaware County.” This seems at odds with the siting of compressor stations on Hungry Hill Road.

Sometimes an IDA is pressured into a deal on taxes after the compressor is in place. The Iroquois Gas Company is negotiating two PILOTs, one for its existing compressor station in the town of



Millenium Pipeline Company compressor station, 15,000 hp, in Hancock, NY

Wright, which is currently taxed, and one for the expansion of that station to accommodate the Constitution Pipeline. At the moment, Iroquois pays \$1.8 million in combined property taxes, but Schoharie County is close to agreeing on substituting a PILOT for the existing facility in order to settle long-standing litigation.

Unfortunately, such lawsuits are common for infrastructure assessments. Typically, early promises of high property taxes are soon followed by repeated attempts to reduce assessments under threat of litigation. This is enough of a loss to Delaware County that the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution this January to support towns in defending against such suits.

For Franklin, would it be a good deal to exchange the imposition of an industrial facility on a rural neighborhood for a few jobs (not necessarily employing residents) and a fraction of the property taxes?

Back in April, TGP announced the NED pipeline with one of the compressor stations slated for Franklin. By September, TGP had narrowed the location to a four

mile stretch centered on Stuart Road. More recently, TGP has further narrowed the possible location enough for a few site visits. By comparison, what has our town government accomplished concerning the proposed station?

**Note: The New Franklin Register obtained documents concerning the PILOT between Del Co IDA and Millennium through the New York State Freedom of Information Law.**

**The next installment in our series on the Delaware County IDA will examine this Payment in Lieu of Taxes. Look for it this summer.**

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### Signs of a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak

Any one of the following could be a sign of a leak:

- Blowing or hissing sound
- Gaseous or “rotten egg” odor
- Flames, if a leak has ignited
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area
- Dust blowing from a hole in the ground
- Continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas

### Hazards Associated with a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak or Rupture

- Dizziness or suffocation if leak occurs in a confined space
- Ignition/fire if ignition source is present during leak which may result in burns
- Potential explosion if the natural gas is mixed with air
- Projectiles ejected from the force of escaping gas

### What to Do If You Suspect a Pipeline Leak

Your personal safety should be your first concern:

- Evacuate the area and try to prevent anyone from entering.
- Abandon any equipment being used in or near the area.
- Avoid any open flames.
- Avoid introducing any sources of ignition to the area (such as cell phones, pagers and two-way radios).
- Do not start or turn off motor vehicles or electrical equipment.
- If you suspect natural gas has leaked into your house, evacuate immediately. Do not turn lights on or off, use the phone from the house or do anything that could produce a spark.
- Call 911 from a safe location or contact your local fire department or law enforcement personnel.
- Notify Spectra Energy by calling the toll-free emergency number (below) or the emergency number listed on the pipeline marker.
- Do not attempt to extinguish a natural gas fire.
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For more information about PIPA recommended practices visit:  
<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/pipa/landuseplanning.htm>.

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Egan Hub Storage, LLC | Moss Bluff Hub, LLC | Bobcat Gas Storage  
Saltville Gas Storage Company L.L.C. | Big Sandy Pipeline, LLC  
Steckman Ridge, LP | Dauphin Island Gathering Partners (DIGP)

# PIPES AND POWER

Compiled by Brian Brock

September 11<sup>th</sup>: **Constitution Pipeline Company LLC** requests FERC certification by November 25<sup>th</sup> so that they may begin tree clearing no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>.

November 5<sup>th</sup>: **Tennessee Gas Pipeline, LLC** files draft resource reports for their Northeast Energy Direct project.

November 13<sup>th</sup>: **Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic** reaches agreement with CPC to receive a copy of their precedent agreement to transport gas for Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation and for Southwestern Energy Service Company.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** grants a conditional Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to CPC through a notational vote outside of their monthly meetings.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Saul Ewing, LLP**, a law firm, sends letter to landowners who have not signed easement agreements that would give them a final chance to accept the previous offer before legal proceedings for condemnation. It erroneously claims that CPC would have the legal right to trespass within ten days.

December 5<sup>th</sup>: Bowing to intense opposition, **TGP** announces a major rerouting of NED pipeline out of northcentral Massachusetts and into southern New Hampshire.

December 11<sup>th</sup>: **NYS Public Service Commission** adopts a modified procedural process and schedule for power line projects. It sets January deadlines for revisions to applications.

December 12<sup>th</sup>: In **US District Court, Northern District**, Albany, CPC begins filing for eminent domain over 141 parcels, including 11 in Franklin. Filings are completed just before Christmas.

December 24<sup>th</sup>: **NYS DEC** issues notice of completed application by CPC for the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification which is required for the US ACE Section 404 Nationwide Permit.

December 30<sup>th</sup>: **Earthjustice**, for Catskill Mountain Keeper, Clean Air Council, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, Riverkeeper, Inc., and Sierra Club, requests rehearing and rescission of certification of Constitution. They were followed on January 2<sup>nd</sup> by PELC and on January 5<sup>th</sup> by Allegheny Defense Project and Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, Inc.

## 2015

January: **CPC** announces that construction will start in the first quarter of 2015, ie late March.

January 2<sup>nd</sup>: **CPC** begins serving legal notices to land owners.

January 7<sup>th</sup>: **NextEra Energy Transmission NY Inc.** files supplemental information for application with PSC for Oakdale to Fraser line. Files additional material on 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Estimates acquisition of ROW beginning in late 2016 and construction in mid to late 2017. Cost put at \$98.3 million.

January 9<sup>th</sup>: In an affidavit supporting their motions, **Manager of Constitution project Mathew Swift** states that in-service date will be in the second half of 2016.

January 12<sup>th</sup>: **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation** holds public hearing on CPC application for a Water Quality Certification in Binghamton. Two other public hearings follow on the 13<sup>th</sup> in Oneonta and the 14<sup>th</sup> in Cobleskill.

January 12<sup>th</sup>: **CPC** files for Omnibus Motion for Preliminary Injunction to begin surveys and construction by February 16<sup>th</sup>.

January 14<sup>th</sup>: **US Army Corps of Engineers** reminds CPC of continued deficiencies in their Section 404 permit application.

January 20<sup>th</sup>: **North America Transmission LLC** files amended application with PSC for Edic to Fraser power line, i.e. Marcy South II. Estimate of cost is \$260 million, and construction schedule is 2018 to 2019. NAT revises downward additional width of ROW from 150 feet to 80 feet.

January 24<sup>th</sup>: **Appleseed Inc.** reports that the Edic to Fraser line, when new, would pay annual property taxes of \$153,000 to Franklin Central School, \$192,000 to Town of Franklin, and \$249,000 to Delaware County.

January 28<sup>th</sup>: **Delaware County Board of Supervisors** votes to ban overweight divisible loads from county roads and recommends that towns do likewise for their roads.

January 29<sup>th</sup>: **CPC** requests from FERC a two month delay on their submission of their Implementation Plan from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

February 9<sup>th</sup>: **CPC** concedes that construction will not start until early summer 2015.

February 13<sup>th</sup>: **US Fish and Wildlife Service** critiques the draft Biological Assessment (December 2014) for the Constitution Pipeline project.

February 18<sup>th</sup>: **USDC, Northern District Judge Norman A. Mordue** grants first Motions for Partial Summary Judgments against two landowners who did not respond when served.

February 20<sup>th</sup>: **Schoharie County Board of Supervisors passes a resolution opposing the use of eminent domain by pipeline companies.**

February 24<sup>th</sup>: **US District judge Mordue** grants right of eminent domain to CPC for properties of landowners who had not signed easements.

February 24<sup>th</sup>: **Davenport Town Board** passes a resolution requesting that DEC hold an adjudicatory hearing before issuing its Water Quality Certification for Constitution.

February 25<sup>th</sup>: **Delaware County Board of Supervisors** passes Resolution 45 requesting that DEC thoroughly review the Constitution Pipeline project before certification and that all stream crossing be designed to withstand a 50 year flood.

February 27<sup>th</sup>: **Stop the Pipeline** delivers over 5,000 comments to DEC concerning the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Constitution Pipeline on the day of the deadline.

March 4<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for comments to **PCS** on the proposed power line projects. Decision expected September 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## THE NEW MATH OF BUSINESS

### Industrial Development Agency Funding

By Donald Hebbard

There was a time in the United States (and Delaware County) when starting or expanding a business enterprise meant that you, the person expecting to benefit from this business activity, actually used

your own equity (we used to call this your *savings*), and maybe added to it by borrowing some from your local bank. That was the ‘old math.’

Now we have the Delaware County Department of Economic Development [DED] and the Industrial Development Agency [IDA] creating the ‘new business math.’ Apparently if American entrepreneurs today figure out that they can’t make a profit from their investments, the IDA will step in with grants and PILOT [payment -in-lieu-of taxes] agreements using other people’s money (i.e., our tax dollars) to cover a large part of the investment cost. Remember that someone has to pay for grants, and we all pay more in our taxes when taxes are reduced for someone else!

Thus, taxpayer dollars are used to help foot the cost of private enterprises, which are intending to make a profit from their business activities. These are private companies, not not-for-profit foundations. Often this is presented to the public as a way of creating or maintaining jobs.

This example of IDA activity [see left] must be hypothetical because the DED and the IDA do not publish on their website any data more recent than 2011, even though they are a public governmental entity. When the real numbers emerge, we will be able to report actual amounts of dollars lost to town and county taxes.

Don Hebbard is a Franklin native, farmer, engineer and conservationist with degrees in Business Management.

### IDA “New Math” Example

	COST	Franklin Tax Rate	Taxes Due Each Year	Total Taxes Paid 15 Years
Private Home	\$200,000	\$13.09/\$1000	\$2,618	\$39,270
Compressor Station	\$12,000,000	\$13.09/\$1000	\$157,080	\$2,356,200
Compressor with PILOT	[15-year agreement; 85% reduction year 1, reduce 5% each year]			
				Taxes Lost
[85% reduction- year #1]	\$1,800,000	\$13.09/\$1000	\$23,562	\$133,518
[80% reduction - year #2]	\$2,400,000	\$13.09/\$1000	\$31,416	\$125,664
Year 3 to	“	“	“	“
Year 13 [do the math]	“	“	“	“
[20% reduction - year #14]	\$9,600,000	\$13.09/\$1000	\$125,664	\$31,416
[15% reduction - year #15]	\$10,200,000	\$13.09/\$1000	\$133,518	\$23,562
			\$1,178,533	\$1,178,533
			Total Tax Paid	Total Tax Not Paid

Avg.\$78,533 / year lost INCOME



# annals of sustainability

## GOATS EAT POISON IVY!

By Joanna Jolly

Reprinted from the BBC News Magazine

Each country has its own invasive species and rampant plants with a tendency to grow out of control. In most, the techniques for dealing with them are similar - a mixture of powerful chemicals and diggers. But in the US a new weapon has joined the armory in recent years - the goat.

In a field just outside Washington, Andy, a tall goat with long, floppy ears, nuzzles up to his owner, Brian Knox. Standing with Andy are another seventy or so goats, some basking in the low winter sun, and others huddled together around bales of hay. This is holiday time - a chance for the goats to rest and give birth before they start work again in the spring.

Originally bought to be butchered - goat meat is increasingly popular in the US - these animals had a lucky escape when Knox and his business partner discovered they had hidden skills.

"We got to know the goats well and thought, we can't sell them for meat," he says. "So we started using them around this property on some invasive species. It worked really well, and things grew organically from there."

They are now known as the Eco Goats - a herd much in demand for their ability to clear land of invasive species and other nuisance plants up and down America's East Coast. Poison ivy, multiflora rose and bittersweet - the goats eat them all with gusto, so Knox now markets their pest-munching services one week at a time from May to November. Over the past seven years, they have become a huge success story, consuming tons of invasive species.

"I joke that I drive the bus, but they're the real rock stars," says Knox, who also works as a sustainability consultant.

Typically, chemicals and/or machinery are used to clear away fast-growing invasive plants, but both methods have their drawbacks. Chemicals can contaminate soil and are not effective in stopping new seeds from sprouting. Pulling plants out by machine can disturb the soil and cause erosion.

Goats, says Knox, are a simple,



Brian Knox and his Eco-goats

biological solution to the problem. "This is old technology. I'd love to say I invented it, but it's been around since time began," he says. "We just kind of rediscovered it."

One of the reasons goats are so effective is that plant seeds rarely survive the grinding motion of their mouths and their multi-chambered stomachs - this is not always the case with other techniques which leave seeds in the soil to spring back.

Unlike machinery, they can access steep and wooded areas. And tall goats, like Andy, can reach



plants more than eight feet high. A herd of thirty-five goats can go through half an acre of dense vegetation in about four days, which, says Knox, is the same amount of time it gets them to become bored of eating the same thing.

"When they move on to a new site, you can see the excitement in the way they eat. They like the magic of getting on the trailer when all the food has gone and then they ride around for a bit and the next thing, the door opens and there's a whole new smorgasbord to eat."

Even more plant species could be added to the goat's diet, judging from some new research. At Duke University in North Carolina, marine biologist Brian Silliman has spent twenty years working on understanding and eradicating the invasive species phragmites. This reed, which thrives in salt marshes,

can grow up to 10 feet tall, pushing out native species and blocking bay and sea views for coastal residents.

Silliman says at first he tried insects and other forms of "bio control" to tackle the plant, but nothing worked.

"Then I took a holiday to the Netherlands, where the plant comes from, and saw it wasn't a problem there because it was constantly being grazed by animals," he says.

In studies, Silliman found that goats were very effective - in one trial, 90% of the test area was left phragmites-free. "I think all wetland managers should take up this method," he says. "It's cheaper, less polluting, better for the environment and goat farmers get paid."

Brian Knox, in Maryland, notes that some goats can be troublesome and even admits to donating his grumpiest animal to a local butchery class. But overall, he says he has a happy relationship with the animals. "They certainly earn their keep," he says.

Goats aren't a silver bullet. Knox often combines the goat clearance with some manual root cutting and even with a chemical treatment if needed. But his goats have started to make an impact on the weeds choking America and, he says, they are having a lot of fun doing it.



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**FREE, cont. from Page One**  
the Town of Franklin on this second pipeline.

Please note that Wikipedia defines 'greenfield investment' in a project as "an investment in an area where no previous facilities exist." Green, as in 'innocent.' The Constitution pipeline invokes a second 'greenfield' definition as well. It will slash a hundred-foot-wide path across the pristine forests and naturally green fields of Franklin and four neighboring townships in Delaware County.

Once a right-of-way [ROW] has been established through a 'greenfield', it is nearly impossible to prevent future uses parallel to that ROW for

other projects. Hence, if the construction of the Constitution Pipeline does happen, Kinder-Morgan could very well receive approval for a second pipeline ROW parallel to the Constitution without facing any significant FERC opposition. Most of the roadblocks for such a co-location would have been removed by permission for constructing the first pipeline.

A shining example of this phenomenon is the Marcy-South power line. The first line was built over local opposition with eminent domain authority. Our farm near Treadwell was in the pathway and a hundred and fifty foot ROW was taken, resulting in an open slice through forest land which became a snowmo-

bile route. Now a second power line is proposed, which is indicated to follow the same corridor, and probably will take another eighty feet of ROW.

A particularly disturbing fact about the proposed second pipeline, also noted as NED [Northeast Energy Direct], is that Kinder-Morgan is so confident that Constitution will be granted a ROW that they announced a compressor station to be constructed in the Town of Franklin, somewhere in the four-mile corridor between Bissell Road and Chamberlain Hill Road. This is close to the geographic center of the hundred and thirty-five mile pipeline.

By contrast, Constitution Pipeline has not so far indicated any need for a

midstream station along the same route. The Millennium Pipeline provides a good example of the tactic being exerted here. After the original construction permits had been approved and construction completed, they reapplied and received permission to construct two additional compressors along the route. The closest to us is the Hancock station on Hungry Hill Road.

This is known as segmentation: seek approval only for what you believe can be approved in the immediate filing, then add-on as you see fit to complete the project. Divide and conquer. It is very likely that if the Constitution Pipeline is constructed, and when they want to increase the capacity of gas transported, a second compressor station will become necessary. Most likely midway in the pipeline again - in Franklin!

So CompressorFree Franklin was formed to research the facts behind the scene and pass this information along to our neighbors in the Town of Franklin. You may have heard some of the issues associated with a compressor station: methane leaks, low frequency vibrations, continuous operational noise, extreme "blow-down" noise events necessary for maintenance, airborne exposure to various dangerous chemical compounds during blowdowns and flaring off of gas. The list goes on.

One goal of Compressor Free Franklin is to raise enough resistance to a compressor station that

Kinder-Morgan will not locate one in Franklin. A second goal is to support other groups already fighting to stop the Constitution Pipeline. If we stop the first 'greenfield' pipeline project, we stop the second one as well, and the accompanying compressors. This is a better outcome than just getting the compressor station foisted onto one of our neighboring towns.

The ultimate purpose of these natural gas transmission pipelines across New York State is to send Pennsylvania's fracked gas to locations where it can be compressed to liquefied natural gas [LNG] and exported to other countries. This is now documented by a pre-filing submitted to the Department of Energy by Pierdae Energy USA, LTD, seeking to export natural gas from the U.S. to a Canadian LNG facility for overseas sale. No local benefit as the gas passes through our towns, and the potential for higher energy prices as the Marcellus and Utica deposits are depleted.

We would welcome your support in this endeavor to prevent a compressor station in Franklin. The negative effects of compressors and pipelines greatly outweigh any perceived benefit to the Town of Franklin, or Delaware County.

Compressor Free Franklin has standing meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 10 AM. We meet at the Franklin United Methodist Church, Main Street, Franklin.

Please drop in and voice your opinions, or contact me, [dahebbard@gmail.com](mailto:dahebbard@gmail.com) or 607-829-8664.

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**Testimony of Carole Marner, 1245 Oak Hill Road, Franklin, NY 13775 at the DEC public hearing on the WQC for Constitution Pipeline January 13, 2015, Oneonta, NY**

"Department of Environmental Conservation." A good name. To conserve means to keep what blessings we have today so that we will enjoy them tomorrow, whether they be our harvests or our topsoil or our forests or our water or our built environment -- which means we have designated you, the DEC, not only to protect what we have now but what we will keep. Thus you are the guardians of our past, of our present and of our future.

I live in the town of Franklin NY. Franklin was settled by Europeans in the late 18th century. Its founders, living under adverse conditions and in difficult times, built not for the present but for the future of their children and grandchildren.

Within 50 years of clearing land for farmland and their first rude cabins, they had built not only churches and one-room school houses but also a magnificent secondary school. Two of its original buildings remain...They also built a fine busi-

ness center, residential homes of grace, simplicity and beauty, and St. Paul's Church, which is a National Historic Monument. When the railroad came, they decided to keep the depot well outside the village so as not to introduce smoke and noise to the pristine and peaceful place in which they lived. Like birds, they did not soil their nests.

And that is why our beautiful village is, in its entirety, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. And that is why we have trout and minks and bobcats and fishers and bears and foxes and the sometime-resident cougar. We have always had hawks and woodpeckers and bald eagles year round but recently our excellent Delaware and Otsego Audubon Society has proved that we have winter resident golden eagles as well.

The village of Franklin sits in the Ouleout Creek basin, with hills on either side. Every year we are reminded of the fragility of our stacked shale hills which heave up every winter and slide down every spring. No matter how much you clear the stones from your garden in the summer, the following spring you dig up a whole new crop of rocks. Along these hills above

See DEC, continued on Page 17

**Dedicated activists Carole and Gene Marner have been the core of Franklin Local since its inception ten years ago, and have written for the NFR from its birth as a four-page newsletter. Carole has recently undergone heart surgery and is recovering in NYC. Looking forward to having you back with us!**



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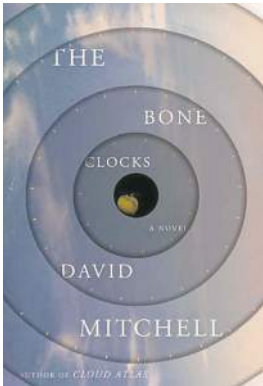
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JIM MULLEN REVIEWS NEW BOOKS



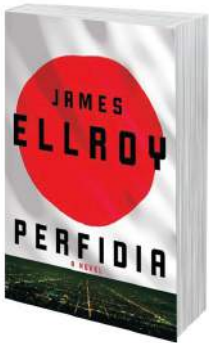
THE BONE CLOCKS  
By David Mitchell

Mitchell, the author of *Cloud Atlas* and *The 1000 Autumns of Jacob DeZoet*, both wonderful books, has stretched himself once again, presenting full-blown a new genre, a mix of the literary novel, the magical, the thriller and sci-fi in *The Bone Clocks*. On page one, he proves he can write teenagers better than J.D. Salinger, as a young Irish girl has a “you’ve wrecked my life” fight with her mother and runs away from home. Soon, it becomes clear that he can write adults better than Raymond Carver. In spite of fact that his books win many prestigious awards, they are really entertaining. He obviously does not think literature is some kind of contest to weed out “serious” readers from those who read for pleasure. If you loved *Cloud Atlas* (and were spared the pain and suffering of watching the inexplicable, humor-free movie version), you will enjoy *The Bone Clocks* even more.



PERFIDIA  
By James Ellroy

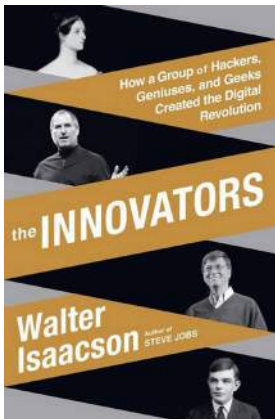
James Ellroy is the best today. His *L.A. Confidential* is conspiracy theory heaven, a long time without *My Dark ones*. It starts with the murder the day before Pearl Harbor are the robbers, and worse. know exactly what’s going to do. The Japanese-American medical examiner doesn’t know that there’ll be internment camps, Bette Davis doesn’t know she’ll be selling war bonds, Jack Webb’s days on *Dragnet* are way in the future. There’s barely a sentence in this book I’d feel comfortable printing in a newspaper, but like scat singing (and I mean singing about scat), if you like it, you’re going to love it.



and the worst crime writer working pure jazz, his *American Tabloid* is but the world could have gone on for *Places*. *Perfidia* is one of his good der of a Japanese family in noir L.A. and, as in most of his books, the cops The thrill of this book is that we all happen, but none of the characters

THE INNOVATORS  
By Walter Isaacson

Another book (and PBS TV series) called *How We Got to Now* has a lot of science history in it, but *The Innovators* is by far the better read. From Lord Byron’s mathematician daughter, Ada Lovelace, to Charles Babbage’s Difference Engine to Turing’s Imitation Game to Bell Labs invention of the transistor, Isaacson patiently explains how one group of workaholics after another got us from the Industrial Revolution to the Digital Revolution. And each step of the way depended on someone figuring out the next little step. You could have a computer with vacuum tubes, but you couldn’t have a home computer with vacuum tubes. You couldn’t have a Bill Gates or a Steve Jobs without someone inventing the microchip. You couldn’t have the internet without someone inventing a simple, fast protocol. And most of these inventions were group efforts, not one guy in a room alone inventing the sewing machine or the cotton gin, but groups of people working together to solve problems. They invented computers, but they also invented the modern way of doing business. They invented Google and Apple and Facebook’s corporate structure (or lack of it) as well. It wasn’t the Man in the Grey Flannel Suit who came up with iTunes, Netflix and Google.



DEATH AT CHÂTEAU BREMONT  
By M.L Longworth

Two mysteries, by two different authors, both take place in the second-home mecca of Southern France, Aix-en-Provence, about 140 years apart. Neither story is extraordinary, but in the middle of a snowy, cold winter just mentally travelling somewhere else can be rewarding. I’d forgotten that Cezanne was actually from Aix, and his being suspected of a fictional murder is as good a way as any to explain how his art must have looked to people at the time. The murder of Count Bremont at his family home is a modern mystery of a once wealthy family who must finally learn how to pay the bills after centuries of being rich. Of course, the real mystery here is that the authors can find any French people left to murder in a town that has been taken over by English, American and Russian ex-pats.

CÉZANNE’S QUARRY  
By Barbara Corrado Pope

WELCOME TO WIJNANDALAND

By Edmond Rinnooy-Kan

Dutch photographer Wijnanda Deroo has made a name for herself with her compelling images of interiors, or as she calls them: “spaces in which we live and work.” The leading image of her exposition at SUNY Oneonta – “Papaya Dogs 42<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Ave” - is such a live-and-work space. It is a fast food restaurant in New York City. The walls are bright yellow. The signs are toxic green, fire engine red and deep purple. All forms and shapes are sharply defined. There are no smooth transitions. The eye is not drawn in a specific direction. Everything claims attention at once. And most importantly: there is no one around. Not only is the restaurant empty, the street outside is also empty, deprived of any living being (a rare moment on the streets of New York).

This is the essence of Wijnanda’s work: emptiness. Her spaces don’t just lack people. Nothing moves, as if everything is holding its breath. Even the light is fixed forever. No human being has ever entered these spaces and no human being ever will. If I were sitting in the Papaya Dog Restaurant, I would not be wondering when the waitress would come. I would be wondering if she would ever come at all.

Yet Wijnanda’s stillness is not a frozen moment. There was no moment before and there will be no moment after. The work depicts the absolute, nonnegotiable stillness of an endless in-between. A small moment in time stretched into eternity.

Wherever she goes, Wijnanda will bring home the still images of Wijnandaland, a beautiful country, with mesmerizing colors and shapes and with no one around to block the view.



“Papaya Dogs 42nd and 9th Ave,” by Wijnanda Deroo

WHERE SHADOWS

By Felix Bridel

(A French Rondeau completed in Bright Hill Teen Workshop Intensive, January 2015)

Where shadows dance and wildcats cry,  
wolves howl beauty into sky.  
Across the moon, blazing stars fall  
while beneath them beasts and beetles crawl  
and for power struggle, vie.

And little creatures, down they lie.  
As night approaches, dusk is nigh,  
the stars and moon illuminate earth’s pall,  
where shadows dance.

Where each choice is “live or die,”  
where darkness holds you in its thrall,  
where beasts and birds to each other call,  
and overhead, dark clouds fly,  
where shadows dance.



# UpState Arts

By Jane Carr

## FARMING, ANIMALS AND THE ARTS

Small and large family farms ensure a healthy population, food security and land preservation. During the last century, farming in upstate New York was booming. Dairy farms were what our villages and towns were all about. This area is one of the most beautiful places in which to live and work. Clean air and water, a rural landscape, forests, mountains, lakes, home grown food, open land on which to raise animals – we have all this because the people, the farmers who came before us, who raised their families, cared for their animals and tended their fields, resisted turning their land into cement cities. Because of their legacy, artists have found that upstate New York is their muse and inspiration.

Let me tell you about three artists who were drawn here, who live here and work in the arts with animals. All three have been making art since they were young children.

**Frank Anthony** is a painter in acrylics who has a home and studio off East Brook Road in Hamden. Frank's uncle had a farm in the Saratoga area where Frank, as a child, watched horses train for the races. He loves horses, so he paints horses. He discovered when he first moved here that his studio was just down the road from the East Brook Buffalo farm, and he



Painting by Frank Anthony

has incorporated buffalo portraits into his work. He says that he enjoys doing the detail work that animals require. Working with a Number Two series brush, acrylics and lots of water, he is able to cross-hatch the painting with a transparency that renders his colors magical. Even his large canvases are painted with a Number Two brush. Trained at the School of Visual Arts in NYC, Frank has shown his large canvases in our area, but his joy is in the process.

**Leila Durkin** has been a photographer for over thirty years. She and her husband live in Cherry Valley. In 1998, she opened *May The Circle Be Unbroken*, the first of three photo installations celebrating her rural community. *Sacred Spaces in Everyday Life* followed in 2000 and *The Heart of the Country* in 2002. She says, "Frank, the man in the photo with his cat, was our neighbor for almost 30 years. As

I look at the series of portraits taken from 2002-2008, there is a deluge of memories. Memories of riding on farmers' tractors, hanging out in their barns. It was humbling to be invited

into the sacred spaces of individuals I didn't know and many of them aren't the type to want to be photographed, much less to have their



Photo by Leila Durkin

portrait in a exhibition. But they were all kind, receptive and beautiful. To them I say thank you."

**Laura Bredin Hussey** and her

husband live on a large working farm in Delhi. Laura also started painting as a child, and when she was sent off to boarding school and felt the need to paint, she pulled out the drawers of her bureau and painted on their bottoms. She paints mainly in oils, but is just as accomplished at watercolor. Laura and John raise two breeds of pigs – Tamworth and Gloucester Old Spot. Besides the dogs, goats and chickens, Laura raises Suffolk Punch Draft horses. Her daughter, Irene, is in the process of launching a company called *Wayside Cider* from the family farm.

All three of these talented artists tell me what I already know: it is the doing of art, the process that calls to them. It's work, agony sometimes, but it is what makes them happy. Selling art, having shows, getting recognition is not why we sit down in our studios. We paint, sculpt, photograph, print because we have to. And we thank the men and women from a century before us for protecting the beautiful landscape we live in and that nurtures our art.



Painting by Laura Bredin Hussey

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## THE RUMOR MILL

Who knows how rumors get started, or why?

At The New Franklin Register, as seekers of the truth, we've become aware of a few we'd like to respond to.

The first concerns the newspaper itself, and we find this one amusing and ironic, because of how much easier it would be for us if it were, in fact, true.

So, Rumor # 1: **The New Franklin Register is entirely funded by Yoko Ono.**

Oh, friends and neighbors, what a lovely fantasy!

The reality is, however, otherwise. Because everyone who writes for or helps with the NFR is a volunteer, the paper's expenses consist simply of the cost from Sun Printing in Norwich to print 2000 copies (\$458.38) plus the cost of mailing free copies to every household in Franklin and Treadwell (\$177.10). Any other incidental amounts come out of our own pockets.

Our revenue stream, such as it is, comes from our local advertisers and a small number (31) of paid subscribers who cover the mailing and handling costs of sending out three hardcopy issues a year, mostly to out-of-town addresses. That the NFR has been able to grow over the eight years of its publication from four pages to twenty is entirely due to our advertisers, to whom we are endlessly grateful.

So there's the facts, folks. We hope you're not disappointed. Meanwhile, any time Ms. Ono would care to contribute, we'd be all smiles and welcome.

**Rumor # 2: The Osmanli Naksh-i'bendi Dergah is buying up property all over town - nineteen parcels and it's all tax-exempt.**

The number is 9, not 19, five of which are original parts of the farm now housing the study center on Wheat Hill. Only the restaurant is in the town of Franklin, and as of this writing, none (zero) of them are tax-exempt.

In place of fund-raisers, the Sufi Center buys broken down buildings, repairs them and sells them again.

# Spring & Summer 2015 Bright Hill's Bright Season!

## \* Word Thursdays, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 pm

Featured Poets & Writers from Everywhere!  
Special Women's History Month Reading, March 26, 7 pm

## \* The Word & Image Gallery Exhibit Openings

First Sundays of each Month, 3 - 5 pm  
Annual Stagecoach Run Exhibit & Auction, July + Closing Party July 25

## \* National Poetry Month Reading, April 9, 7 pm

HS Winners of Mohawk Region, Poetry Outloud + More

## \* Great American Poets Celebration, April 18, Noon - 5 pm

New York Poet & Activist Edna St. Vincent Millay Celebration, with Keynote Poet & Regional Poets

## \* Bright Kids Book Club, March 14, 28, April 11 & Into the Summer & Fall

Reading Rick Riordan's *The Blood of Olympus* (Other Books & Dates TBA)

## \* Annual History/Nonfiction Day, July 18, 9 am - Noon

Regional Historians & Nonfiction Writers Reading from & Answering Questions About Their Work

## \* 21st Annual Bright Hill Summer Literary Workshops for Kids Program (Ages 6 - 14)

1. Kenya: the Great Rift Valley/the Cradle of Man & Womankind - June 29, 30, July 1, 2, 3
2. Tales of Mesopotamia & The Great Flood - July 27 - 31
3. From Dinosaurs to the Most Beautiful Birds in the World - August 17 - 21
4. Teen Videography Workshop with Jessica Vecchione - July 6 & July 14-17



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## INVASIVE ALERT!!

By Sara Scheeren

The Japanese barberry shrub is the number one sought-after plant in ornamental landscaping in New York State. It comes in an assortment of colorful cultivars, tolerates heavy pruning, grows quickly, is nearly deer-proof and drought resistant.

The danger is that Japanese barberry does not stay confined to cultivated gardens. Birds eat the red berries from the underside of branches and then spread the seed far and wide into natural areas.

Barberry can invade forest understory habitats, altering soil composition, overtaking native shrubs and inhibiting tree seedlings. It creates a dense thicket that deer ticks like to call home.

New York State is taking a serious stand against these invasive ornamentals. Beginning this month, ornamental plants identified as "prohibited invasive species"

cannot be bought, sold, transported or intentionally planted in New York.

If you enjoy time spent outside adding cultivated beauty to your land in the form of gardens, be careful what you plant.

To view the list of prohibited species, visit the DEC's website: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov).

To find sources of native plants, visit [www.plantnative.org](http://www.plantnative.org).

Sara Scheeren is a 2011 SUNY Cobleskill graduate with a Bachelor's of Technology in Plant Sciences. She currently serves as Outreach Coordinator for Otsego Land Trust.



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WALLS, continued from Page 3

welcome and am grateful for. But every suggestion makes me feel like I am running a race that gets me nowhere. Restoring to what the house was in the 1800's would be laudable but somehow impractical. Tearing it all down to build anew, erasing the history of the house, that would be too sad. I could just fix it up and hope that everything will hold for another few years. But then, even with a few improvements, I will have the same inefficient house that gobbles energy

in every way, which means expensive upkeep. So what is improvement, really? Winter seemed a good time to hold back on renovations, to sit and ponder. In January I went to a conference in Saratoga Springs where Klaas and Mary-Howell Martens, farmers from the Finger Lakes region, were honored and gave a talk about their experience improving their farm. They quoted architect William McDonough. In the book *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make*

*Things*, he writes: "Design is the signal of intention. What is the very best that designers can intend...and how might a building manifest that intention?...To design systems that are 'less bad' is to accept things as they are, and to believe that poorly-designed, less destructive, are the best that humans can do. The ultimate failure of the 'less bad system' is a failure of the imagination to grasp an entirely different model." I see a home as a web of connections. Over the past few years, as I gradually left New York City, I became curious about permaculture. It can be seen as a toolbox to help organize any kind of system to be financially viable, socially equitable and environmentally durable. It teaches the notion of regenerative design, a concept also used by the authors of *Cradle to Cradle*. It strives to go beyond the 'less bad' and rather than merely engendering less pollution, it looks at solutions that bring cyclical life to waste, i.e., recycling. It tells us to consider the input and output as well as the interactions within the system. And each element in a system is part of a chain

of events that created it and will support it, including the discard of it. That chain engenders interactions at every level, from inside the system to its surroundings on local and global levels. And in interaction, you have action: elements actively relating to each other. Indeed, in his talk, Klaas Martens remarked that "systems cannot be static." If complex, diverse and flexible systems should prove to be more efficient, integrating them into the design of a house is not simple. But I believe

it could allow the project to require fewer superfluous resources and be one of the answers to a successful, more economical and durable home. However at this point, I am still laying out the pieces of the puzzle, and how they will fit together remains a complete blur.

*Magali Veillon began the story of her move to Treadwell in our Winter Issue. Welcome, Magali. We hope to hear more from you!*



Table Painting by Jack Beal

Music on the Delaware  
at the Walton Theatre

March 28 - 7:30

CHERISH THE LADIES  
with Maura O'Connell

We are proud to be selected to be part of their 30th Anniversary Tour featuring GRAMMY nominated Maura O'Connell and WORLD CHAMPION IRISH STEP DANCERS. Most sought after Irish-American group in Celtic music. DON'T MISS THIS CONCERT!

April 25 - 7:30

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Don't forget  
pre-concert  
jam sessions  
6:30



Check website for further details  
www.waltontheatre.org

SOME LIKE IT HOT

By Barbara Johnson

*Jack Beal: Hard-Edge Paintings, 1968-1972*  
George Adams Gallery, Chelsea NYC

A visual feast for the eyes in the cold month of February! Like a race car mechanic, Jack Beal took apart and rebuilt the engines of pictorial space. He was driven to break down the flat picture plane so beloved by the 20th Century, and infuse it once again with depth. This is investigative painting, the result of years of analytical drawings, seen in his journalistic *Form Book*, his own version of Leonardo's notebooks. He was parsing the language of picture making, laying out

the building blocks of form. A simple table, drawn in almost Asian or isometric perspective, becomes the chosen unit of volume to engineer spatial tension. In his race for space, Beal theatrically spot-lit subjects, casting hard edged shadows painted in near complimentary colors, and stretched his picture plane almost to abstraction. It is a rare pleasure to see these paintings together, the root source of that hallmark energetic color we find in his later figure paintings. Like his cherished Venetian painter, Jacopo Robusti Tintoretto (or "Fat Jack the Color Man"), Beal built paintings to grab you and pull you into the dimensions of stor. Jack Beal was mining pictorial gold in the hills of North Franklin, and his paintings are the evidence.



Table Painting by Jack Beal

Hold on to yer straw hats and John Deere caps, friends and neighbors. It's time for another thrilling installment of....

# MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

Yeah, it's her all right. Still wearing those stilettos.

I pulled the collar of my pajama top up over my nose and pushed my tricorne down over my eyes. If she sees me I'll have to start counting my pills.

What a surprise to find a vendors' library of children's books in a second floor corner of the rest home. They had all my favorites including The Velveteen Rabbit, Jonathan Livingston Seagull, and my all-time fav, Vicki and The Magic Raccoon.

I must've fallen asleep in the quiet but it was a crash that woke me up. It was dark. Nobody around. Hmmm.

A flashlight skimmed the ceiling and hovered in a corner office. I could hear file cabinet sliders and banging drawers.

Something was not quite right.

I slid off the chair onto the floor and slowly moved toward the sound like a rugrat on sand. More sliders,...more drawers. I heard a muted yelp and a stiletto came flying out of the open door crashing against the opposite wall and dropping onto a tray table covered with little paper cups filled with a wild assortment of multicolored pills. The pills splattered all over the floor while a rapid series of banging slaps like newspaper on desktop and curses quietly muttered emanated from the office.

By this time I was close to the door of the office with my back against the wall. I wanted to peek inside but as I curled around the doorjamb a large rat scurried around the corner and almost ran right into me. It stopped, stood up on its hind legs and looked me straight in the eye.

I was startled but only half so compared to what came next.

Wilson's dog came charging through the double doors to the ward, slid across the tiles all brakes on, grabbed the rat in his mouth and bit down hard.

Lovely. Especially since he smiled at me as he chomped and chewed.

But I sure was glad to see him.

As I suspected, it was Donna who at that moment, uno-stiletto, came limping out of the office with a large folder under one arm. She glanced at me, went pale at the dog, and gagged at the rat while trying to hide her face as she hobbled across the hall, grabbed her shoe and ran out through the double doors.

Wilson's dog was wagging his tail so hard that feathers were flying out all over the floor. He trotted over to the laundry basket, dropped the emaciated rat into it and darted around the hallway licking up the pills for a post-rat dessert. This oughta be good.

How did he get here, why was he here, and what airline did he use?

It's become common at nuevo sustainable-fabric fashion shows for models to sashay the runway with the animal that produced the fabrics he or she is wearing. Easy with sheep or alpacas. But one wonders how Dior might perform such a show. Models carrying potted cotton plants? Walking their silkworms on little tiny leashes? What would they do for Spandex, Lycra, or polyesters?

What was the folder Donna stole from the second floor office?

Wilson's dog changed color three times and passed out on a gurney. I went into the office. One of the file cabinet drawers was still open and the files were splayed at the letter 'P'. What could it be? Pipelines? Pensions? Pomade?

On the other hand, the flashlight was poised and pointed at another cabinet drawer with the letter 'F'. Fracking? Fluoride? Franklin?

Two very large old cemeteries outside of Philadelphia compete for bucks and kudos by opening up to community events. Almost every weekend there's a jellybean hunt or a puppet show, blade races, fashion shows, birdwatching tours, soapbox derby, even quilting in the crematoria. Sponsors include

Pepsi, Nike, Disney, and the Koch brothers.

Don't think they get too many complaints from the inhabitants who don't drink soda, don't wear sneakers, don't watch movies, and don't vote. A captive audience nonetheless.

The next morning I went up to a small third-floor veranda with a cup of coffee, a croissant, and a thought.

What's she up to?

It was a lovely day with the sun shining brightly and the usual crew throwing horseshoes at each other down on the lawn. Closer to the building someone was huddled over something at a filigreed glasstop table. I got out my little plastic Pirates of the Phlebotomies telescope that I'd won at the county fair back home.

Aiming carefully I zeroed in on the table.

Damn! Donna had a full-fisted clutch on a crayon and was scribbling maniacally on a legal pad while tracing lines from the file beside her with the tip of her finger. Lists of some kind. Names? Places? Recipes?

One of the nurses came by with a bowl of cream-of-wheat with a prune stuck in it and put it on the table. She said something to Donna who went motionless and then spun around suddenly and looked straight up at me.

It's a good thing I was wearing my Teletubbies pajamas but I pushed back out of sight anyway. After waiting a few minutes I edged back to the rail and looked down.

Donna was looking up at me with her Pirates of the Phlebotomies telescope.

At that moment Wilson's dog trotted out onto the veranda, sat down next to me and stared at my coffee.

Understandable.

Rough, he said.

I put my cup on the ground and watched him inhale it, sigh, and collapse on the paving stones. He never liked croissants. Too flaky.

Takes one to know one.

In the early days of heart medication, nitroglycerine met with some nasty setbacks.

One gentleman in Chicago leaned back too far in his chair. When he hit the floor he exploded.

A minor league baseball catcher in Cooperstown exploded when his pitcher delivered a ninety-mile-an-hour strike.

A vaudeville show in the auditorium of the local hospital ended with numerous explosions when everyone from the coronary ward burst into applause.

Statistics show that 90% of bankrobbers, miners, and Fourth of July patriots have heart conditions. Look out.

Head nurse came out of a side door, walked over beside Donna, and started talking to her while gesturing madly. Donna pretended to listen carefully while nodding and staring at her prune. Head nurse had her say and stood silently with hands on hips. Donna hesitated, then stood and followed Head Nurse into the building leaving the file on the glasstop table.

I reached down and poked Wilson's dog awake. Here's our chance, I said. Roof, he said. No, first floor, said I.

We raced down the stairwell to the first floor and outside through the emergency exit. Wilson's dog beat me to the table and sat staring at the prune. I tossed it to him and flipped open the file.

Page after page of countless names listed in no particular order but each followed by a capitalized letter such as S (sick?), A (alien?), D (dead?), O (organic?), U (unfriendly?), C (contrarian?), G (gullible?), ....I was perplexed to say the least. Where's the key?

Suddenly, two hands gripped my neck from behind. Wilson's dog pitooed the prune pit, growled, belched, and leaped. Leapt. Leaped. Leipt. Lept.

He jumped.

*To be, as always, continued...*

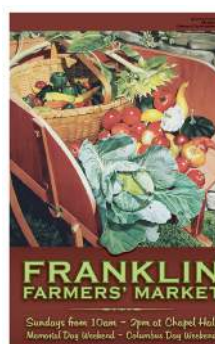
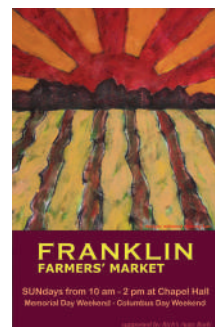
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Doodle Bugs

# NEW ‘OLD FRANKLIN DAY’

The Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce is organizing the annual Franklin Community Day. It's never too early, so all interested vendors, talents and other participants are invited to get in touch and start planning. Reply via email or by the contact form on the website: <http://franklinny.org>. More photos from last year's bash are also on the website, at <http://franklinny.org/franklin-community-day/>. Join us in making this a great fun day for all!



Mini Farmers' Market



Franklin Free Library annual mega-book sale



Hand-crafted wood pull-toys by Joseph Kurhajec

## AND WHILE WE'RE CELEBRATING... MEMORIAL DAY: HAMLET AND VILLAGE PARADES AND CEREMONIES

Commemorate Memorial Day in the Town of Franklin on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of May.

In the hamlet of Treadwell, the parade kicks off the commemorations at 9 a.m. in front of the A.L. Kellogg school building and marches up Church Street then via the Delhi-Leonta Road (County Highway 14) to the Croton Union Cemetery. At the conclusion of the parade, a ceremony is held at the cemetery about 9:30 a.m.

In the village of Franklin, the parade follows at 11 a.m., starting in front of the Franklin Central School and marching up Institute Street and via Main Street (State Highway 357) to the Ouleout Valley Cemetery. A ceremony caps the commemorations at noon around the Soldiers Monument in the Ouleout Valley Cemetery – a tradition since the dedication of the monument in 1889.

For further information, contact Ken Taylor: 607-829-8765.

## SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

Individual copies of the the following letter signed by hundreds of concerned Franklin citizens were faxed to the Governor, Senator James Seward and Assemblymember Clifford Crouch on March 13 as part of a statewide effort to get the Governor to restore school budget cuts now that the financial crisis is over. Many believe the governor is not restoring the school budget to its pre-crisis level in an effort to force schools with under 1,000 students to consolidate with other schools.

March 3, 2015

Dear Legislators:

Over the past five years schools across New York State have struggled with devastating reductions in state funding through the Gap Elimination Adjustment. Collectively, the sixteen component districts of the DCMO BOCES have seen millions of dollars in reductions in state funding. In response, our component districts have slashed budgets, reduced staffing and have increasingly seen the programming we are able to offer our children erode.

As economic indicators have shown an improvement in New York State's fiscal condition schools anxiously looked forward to an improvement in State funding to our struggling schools. In his "State of Opportunity" address and budget presentation, Governor Cuomo caught schools off guard by announcing that he would be withholding over 1 Billion dollars in monies earmarked for schools. These monies would only be forwarded to schools provid-

ed the Legislature enacts a series of educational reforms. The governor's proposal would provide schools with \$377 million (1.7%) increase if these reforms are not enacted and \$1.1 billion (4.8%) if they are enacted. Under the current funding formulas, even with this increase of \$377 million, it is estimated that 146 districts statewide would receive less aid than in this current school year. Our hope for an improvement in state funding has been dashed.

Under our Governor's proposal, our children's educational opportunities are being further eroded. Additionally, schools in our BOCES and across NY State are impacted by the Governor's proposal in the following manner:

No state aid runs have been provided to districts. Without, these estimates, Districts cannot, with any sense of assurance, develop reasonable and responsible budgets.

Without aid runs, schools cannot comply with reporting requirements for the property tax cap. By law districts are required to submit data to the State Comptroller by March 1.

This is not possible without projected aid numbers.

Schools have an expectation of openness and transparency in the development of school budgets. Withholding aid figures limits schools' ability to develop responsible budgets that support student needs and that can be supported by local communities.

Expecting schools to propose budgets based on estimated levels of state aid in light of the current property tax cap is irresponsible and untenable. The tax cap provides a maximum local levy that once voted on may not be changed in the event that final aid figures come in differently than estimated.

The failure to accurately calculate local tax levy limits the ability of schools to meet the reporting requirements associated with the tax cap legislation thereby jeopardizing the tax rebate that many homeowners have come to anticipate.

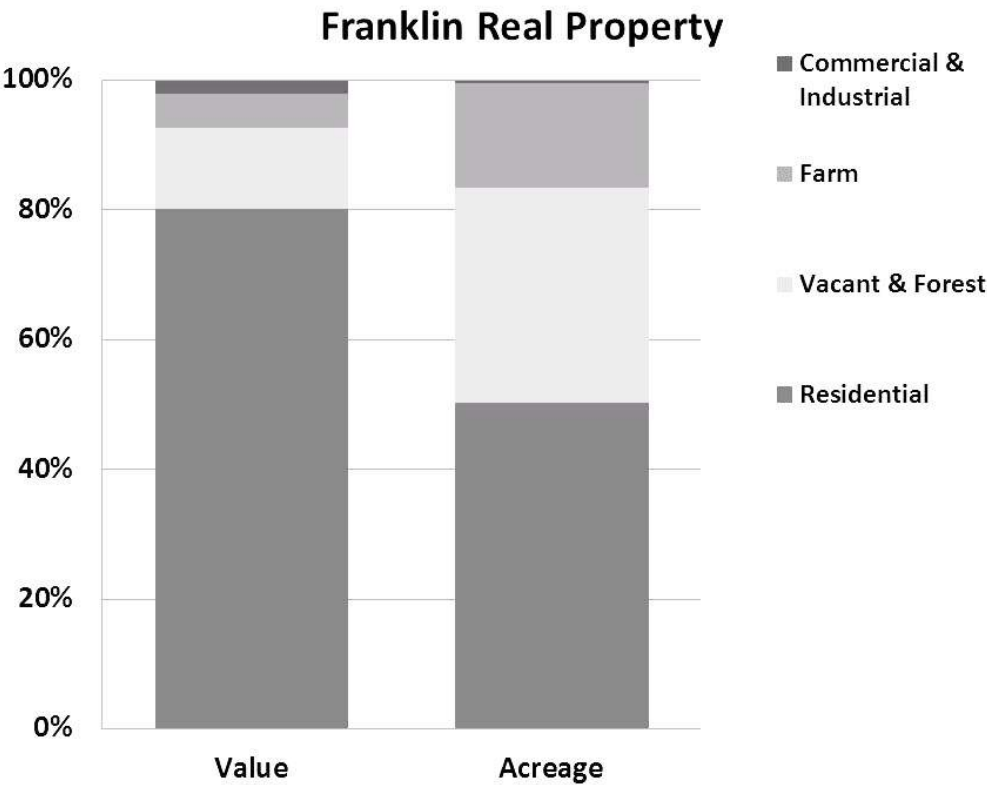
Respectfully,

(The Undersigned)

**NED West Open House Dates/Locations**  
*All Open Houses are 6pm – 8pm*

- **April 6: Schoharie, NY**  
Days Inn & Suites; 160 Holiday Way, Schoharie, NY 12157
- **April 7: Davenport, NY**  
Charlotte Valley Central School; 15611 State Highway 23, Davenport, NY 13750
- **April 8: Sidney, NY**  
Sidney Junior/Senior High School; 95 West Main St., Sidney, NY 13838
- **April 9: Sanford, NY**  
Deposit Central School; 171 Second St., Deposit, NY 13754
- **April 13: Schodack, NY**  
Green Meadow Elementary School; 234 Schuurman Rd., Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
- **April 14: Richmondville, NY**  
Radez Elementary School; 319 Main St., Richmondville, NY 12149
- **April 15: New Milford, PA**  
Blue Ridge Middle/High School; 5058 School Rd., New Milford, PA 18834
- **April 16: Towanda, PA**  
Towanda Area Junior-Senior High School; 1 High School Dr., Towanda, PA 18848

[http://www.kindermorgan.com/content/docs/NED\\_Open\\_House.pdf](http://www.kindermorgan.com/content/docs/NED_Open_House.pdf)



*Distribution among the major property classes of value and acreage in the Town of Franklin. Residential, commercial, and industrial classes carry a larger fraction of value because of improvements.*

# The NEW Franklin Register.

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# The NEW Franklin Register.

The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil

**Editorial Board**

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

**Editor**  
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

**HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!**  
At: The New Franklin Register  
P.O. Box 258  
Franklin, NY 13775  
or by email: [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)

## What are we about?

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

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

Please join us!

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

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

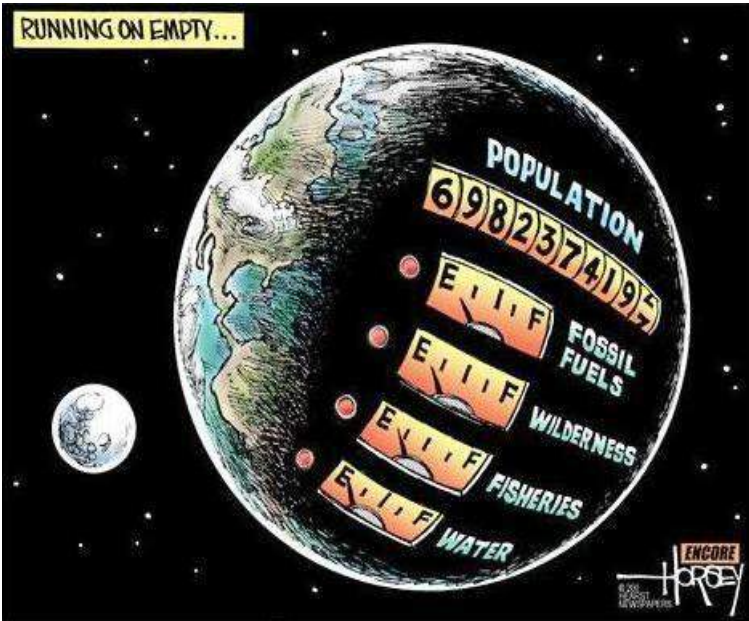
In a nutshell, we propose to imagine a more energy efficient habit of living, and to put it to work here in Franklin, for a brighter, more sustainable future..

We hope you will join us!  
For meeting times, location and directions, email us at [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)

You can also join our Peak Oil AwarenessYahoo Group.  
It's [POA\\_CNY@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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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DATE	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS.	PRICE	LOCATION	SELLER	BUYER
7/20/2014	23.80	Rural vac>10	41,000	53,000	Merrickville Rd	Every, Graham	Kapelonis, Alexandros
7/30/2014	0.90	1 Family Res	104,000	100,000	143 Hodge Rd	Rockefeller, Mark Alan	Lambrecht, Lorenda
8/22/2014	17.00	Rural vac>10	27,000	12,000	Case Hill Rd	Curtis Woodlands LLC	Foster, Raymond E
8/26/2014	0.17	1 Family Res	84,000	135,000	120 Water St	Gunther, Donald R	Haqq, Tahir
9/25/2014	19.07	Rural vac>10	40,000	60,000	Pomeroy Rd	Moss, Brice	Veillon, Magali
9/26/2014	20.86	1 Family Res	110,000	64,900	332 Campbell Estates	Wells Fargo Bank N.A.	Newman, Phyllis I # G
10/3/2014	30.81	Rural res	148,000	150,000	686 Campbell Estates	Cooke, Raymond C.	Bellino, Joseph P #
10/13/2014	1.00	Mfg housing	34,000	45,000	4975 Cty Highway 14	Miner, Walter C	Lynch, James H
10/14/2014	6.20	1 Family Res	71,000	55,000	4327 Cty Highway 14	Barbara Scheck Estate	Dedominicis, Aaron G
10/16/2014	0.97	Religious	100,000	82,000	113 Center St Comm.	Bible Church of Franklin	Freiburg, Anna C.
10/21/2014	3.02	1 Family Res	102,000	108,000	4030 E Handsome Bk	Auger-Dominguez, Christopher	Cagrici, Abbas
10/29/2014	3.61	Rural vac<10	12,000	20,000	Otego Rd	Bracco, Robert	Morgan-McReynolds, Erna
11/6/2014	0.25	1 Family Res	52,000	63,500	17 Third St	Haynes, Roberta P.	Buckley, Patricia
11/12/2014	0.75	1 Family Res	85,000	60,000	4650 Cty Highway 14	Delaware Natl Bnk/Delhi	Scanlan-Yerly, Jessica M.G
11/25/2014	0.58	1 Family Res	115,000	97,250	9910 Cty Highway 21	Cammisa, Vincent	Gelin, David
11/25/2014	23.00	Rural res	58,000	45,100	6504 Cty Highway 21	Delaware Natl Bnk/Delhi	States, Dennis G
11/26/2014	1.00	1 Family Res	100,000	102,000	11148 St Highway 357	Collins, Steven	Collins, Kyle E
12/9/2014	70.00	Rural vac>10	60,000	77,000	Sherman Hill Rd	Maria B Devlin Rev. Trust	Lyons, Thomas J
12/11/2014	27.60	Seasonal res	100,000	90,000	2939 Cty Highway 14	Coleman, Ronald	Clark, Simeon E
12/17/2014	1.60	Mfg housing	13,000	3,000	County Highway 14	Meggali, Zakaria	Gerges, Sameh S

**G Government agency**

## THE FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD ONLINE

Take a look at Franklin Local's Town Board page and catch up on what's happening. Recent meetings have included concerns from residents about the possibility of a compressor station in Franklin, as part of the Northeast Energy Direct project of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company. If you have an opinion on this, or would like to be better informed, these recordings will help you understand the details.

<http://franklinlocal.org/franklin-town-board-minutes/>

# Franklin Local

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## Franklin Town Board Minutes

FEBRUARY 6, 2015

### Franklin Town Board – February 3, 2015

*Franklin Local / Town Board Minutes (audio)*

The minutes of the January 15, 2015, Town Board Minutes will be posted as soon as approved and sent to Franklin Local. Below is a link to an audio recording of the meeting.

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