

THE CAMEL’S NOSE

By Brian Brock

“The camel’s nose is a metaphor for a situation where the permitting of a small, seemingly innocuous act will open the door for larger, clearly undesirable actions.” (Wikipedia) In the fable, a camel seeks shelter from a raging storm in the tent of its owner. Initially he permits the camel to stick only its nose inside, but bit by bit it comes to occupy the whole tent, with the owner pushed out into the weather.

Back in 2012, a partnership led by Williams Partners L.P. of Tulsa planned to profit from ramming the Constitution pipeline down the length of Franklin. Only two years later, a Houston company, Kinder Morgan, wanted to cash-in similarly with the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline, only fifty feet from the first. This one would come with a compressor station. Revisions of the second company’s plan added a chemical facility to a much expanded complex.

Even more was proposed with the addition of a huge power generating plant, possibly next to the Marcy South high-voltage line.

The pre-filing of NED pipeline in September of 2014 by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company LLC (a subsidiary of KM) described a small compound of ten acres, much like the Hancock station on the Millennium pipeline, with only a single turbine/compressor unit and a control building. However, in its filing of November 2015, TGP more than doubled the size of the footprint to accommodate a second turbine/compressor and a bank of eighteen noisy cooling fans. These fans, unlike the turbine/compressors, will not be within a sound-deadening building.

Also added was an odorant injector. In the pre-filing, this chemical facility was planned for the Market Path segment of the pipeline, where odorant is required in the gas. Shortly before the filing, it was relocated to the Supply Path seg-

See CAMEL, continued on Page 18



The Franklin Robotics Club hard at play photos by Anne Burgin

FRANKLIN ROBOTICS CLUB: Successful Pilot Plans to Expand

By Patricia Tyrell

Using very similar technology to that used by scientists in NASA’s Mars Rover program, some of Franklin’s youth have recently found out just how cool robotics technology can be through a six-week robotics program pilot. Describing the recently concluded after-school program,

See ROBOTS, continued on Page 4

THE HOBART BOOK VILLAGE

A Bibliophile’s Report

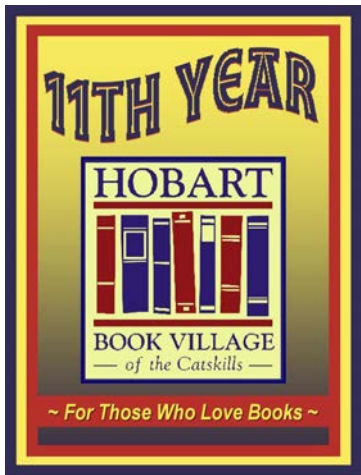
By Alexis Greene

Books have always been my companions, mis amigos, my teachers.

So it is not surprising, living as I do part-time in Walton, that I have become a disciple of the Hobart Book Village, a cooperative that began life eleven years ago and is now a destination for local and not-so-local bibliophiles.

The Book Village is also a font of literary and writerly activity, like the Festival of Women Writers, which for three years has made Hobart a go-to place the weekend after Labor Day (save Sept. 9-11, 2016 on your calendar).

This spring, a new bookstore will join the co-



operative, bringing the total to six. And two new restaurants, including a British-style pub, are slated to make their debuts on Main Street.

One snowy Sunday afternoon last January, I drove to Hobart with my husband to browse and buy, and catch up on Book Village news. Bookstore hours can be irregular from Columbus Day until Memorial Day weekend, but Diana Adams was sitting behind her desk at Wm. H. Adams’

See BOOKS, con’t on Pg. 14

RETURNING TO ROOTS

The Old and New at Pie in the Sky

By Pam Peters

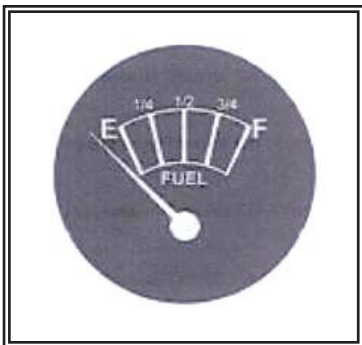
Janet Powers and Jamie Potter have been following their hearts since they were teenagers living in Greene, NY. Sitting in their kitchen this bitterly cold February, it was clear these high school sweethearts are committed to each other and to their passion: farming.

Janet and Jamie moved to the Oneonta area in the late 70s to attend SUNY Oneonta. While in college, they rented a farm in Mt Vision where they grew big vegetable gardens. During the summers, they sold produce, baked goods, granola, and more at the new farmers’ market in Oneonta. It was a successful venture, but they finished college and moved on.

Several years later, Janet, Jamie and now two partners - John Carter and Jamie’s brother, DJ Potter - moved back to Oneonta to try their hand at farming again, while they pursued their long term plan, their ideal, “pie in the sky” job.

By 1991, Pie in the Sky was a reality, first as a roadside stand in West Oneonta, and then at Cathedral Farms with signature products - apple cider, Christmas trees, pump-

See PIE, continued on Page 14



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

REGULAR FEATURES:	
Neighbor’s View	Pg. 2
The Mayor’s Corner	Pg. 3
Pet Talk	Pg. 4
In the Kitchen	Pg. 5
Murder at the FM	Pg.17
Real Estate Sales	Pg.11

FRANKLIN LOCAL:	
Summer Jobs	Pg. 2
Franklin Churches	Pg. 5

FOCUS ON ENERGY:	
Pipes and Power	Pg.10
TIMBER!	Pg.11
Mercaptan	Pg. 9
Microgrids	Pg. 9

SUSTAINABILITY:	
Wood Heat, Pt. 2	Pg. 6
Seed Swap	Pg. 7
Saving Your Land	Pg. 3

LOCAL ARTS:	
Jim Mullen Reviews	Pg.12
Music Here at Home	Pg.12
UpState Arts	Pg.13
Poet’s Choice	Pg. 5
David Byrd/VOICES	Pg.14



Your Neighbor's View...

WHO'S WATCHING OUR BACKS?

Who represents the interests of tax payers and voters in Franklin?

Is it the County Board of Supervisors (BoS), composed of the supervisors of the nineteen townships in Delaware County, who are looking out for Franklin residents' interests?

Not really! When Cabot and Williams pre-filed their Constitution Pipeline proposal with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), our Town Supervisor at the time, Donald M. Smith, joined several other town supervisors in jumping on the bandwagon with the BoS to pass resolution No. 149 on October 12, 2012, welcoming the Constitution Pipeline to Delaware County.

Is it the Franklin Town Board, composed of five members who are large landowners or relatives of large land owners, who are looking out for residents' interests?

Not really! The Town Board followed the BoS example of welcoming the Constitution to Franklin. The presumed "benefit" resulting from construction of the Constitution Pipeline is the tax dollars Franklin would receive.

A petition presented to the Town Board in June 2015 asked for a road use ordinance and a resolution of unconditional opposition to com-

pressor stations in Franklin. This petition was signed by a total of 800 citizens. Citizens have reminded the Town Board that the Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2007, is a road map for development that the Board is obligated by law to follow. It specifically opposes large industrial projects such as the compressor station complex proposed for Otego Road. To date there has been no Town Board action on these issues. Their silence implies consent.

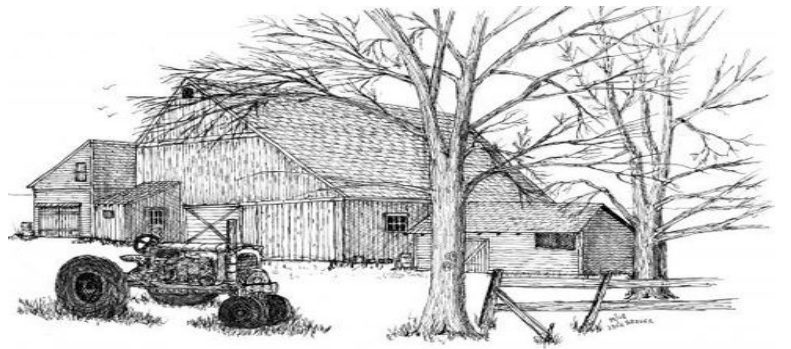
So, who does represent the interests of the tax payers and voters in Franklin?

Not our elected officials! It is up to the citizens of Franklin to represent their interests and protect Franklin. The Town of Franklin is at a crossroads. The Constitution and NED pipelines are very close to becoming a reality, one that will forever change the way we live. A reality that will

involve large scale industrialization in Franklin.

County and Town governments have not acted to protect Franklin. We citizens must stand up together against this threat to our town. Franklin is too small to afford the investment in a natural gas distribution line to the Village or Franklin Central School. We will not get natural gas service, so why should we accept

**COMPRESSOR
FREE
FRANKLIN**



property devaluation caused by construction of a major industrial site, or the noise, emissions, and health risks inherent in operation of a major compressor station?

Come to any of the monthly Compressor Free Franklin meetings - the second Tuesday night at 7 p.m. or the fourth Saturday at 10 a.m.

Ask questions, express your concerns for Franklin, become informed, add your voice. Come to a monthly Town Board meeting - the first Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. and express your concerns. Write letters or call our representatives in Albany.

Call me if you want to discuss this - I'm in the phone book. Do something! If, like the Town Board, you do nothing, your silence implies consent.

Working together, we can continue to resist these pipelines, continue to delay tree cutting and construction, continue to wear them down financially.

It is still possible to STOP this pipeline infrastructure!

Donald Hebbard
Franklin, NY

AGRICULTURAL GRANTS AVAILABLE: *Funding for Economic Development*

By Patricia Tyrell

Two major government grants are available this year, aimed specifically at the agricultural industry and associated agricultural businesses.

First, the Delaware County Office of Economic Development is accepting a second year of applications for the Agricultural Microenterprise Program. A total of \$185,000 of federal funding is available to aid existing agricultural microenterprises in Delaware County and the development of new ones.

While Delaware County, and specifically Franklin, count agriculture as a principal industry, the barriers to profitability and success remain strong for agricultural businesses. Aiming funds at new and small agricultural businesses might give such entrepreneurs the *oomph* needed to take their business to the next level. Franklin entrepreneurs take note: no one from Franklin received or even applied for funds in the 2015 funding cycle.

The funds available through the ag-micro grants may be used for any viable and reasonable working capital expenses

associated with the start-up or growth of an ag-micro enterprise. Examples of eligible expenses include the purchase of inventory and supplies, furniture, fixtures and equipment, and marketing/advertising.

Grant funds will require matching funds, and may be used to offset a portion of working capital and machinery/equipment expenses of the proposed project. However, land acquisition, construction, or renovation expenses are not eligible for funding, but costs of such actions may be used as matching expenses.

One of the major requirements of this grant program is job creation, so collaboration with the Office of Employment and Training is encouraged while filling newly created positions. Additionally, applications will be scored on a project's likelihood of spurring further economic development in the area, as well as improving substantially the viability of both the business and the area in which the business resides.

Applications are due by 5:00, April 22nd, 2016, and must be submitted to Delaware County Agricultural Microenterprise

Program, C/O Delaware County Economic Development, 1 Courthouse Square, Suite 4, Delhi NY 13753. Questions and other inquiries may be made by contacting Lori Paulson at 607-746-8595, or emailing lpaulson@dcecodev.com (subject line: Ag-Micro Grant).

Also available, with two funding cycles this year, through a partnership between the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, is a grant program designed to help farmers increase farm production, enhance profitability, and make on-farm environmental improvements. Projects deemed eligible through the application process may be awarded up to \$100,000 to assist with project expenses.

To be eligible for this grant, agricultural businesses must be in receipt of the NYS Farmers' School Property Tax Credit for three of the past five years. Additionally, applicants must be part of a Farm Business or Environmental Plan, and own and operate the agricultural operation in Delaware County.

Applications for grant

See GRANTS, continued on Page 4

SUMMER HELP WANTED

The Franklin Recreation Commission seeks qualified, responsible persons to fill part-time summer positions at the Franklin Village Pool.

Positions Available:

Life Guards: requires certification in First Aid, CPR and Life Saving

Water Safety Instructor: requires certification in First Aid, CPR, Life Saving and WSI



Pool Maintenance Worker: Maintenance of pool and grounds, including pool chemicals, cleaning, lawn mowing and other duties as required.

Works closely with Pool Director.

Pool Director: directs and supervises lifeguards, swim instructor and maintenance personnel; coordinates pool schedule and activities; maintains records; purchases equipment/supplies.

Other duties as required.

Send Letters of interest to:
**Franklin Recreation Commission,
Attention: Patricia Tyrell**
P.O. Box 886, Franklin NY 13775, by April 22, 2016

Questions may be directed to Patricia Tyrell by phone at: 607-829-3492 or email at:
tkty21007@hotmail.com

Pay determined by title and experience



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



LOCAL ARTIST CONSERVES LAND ALONG OULEOUT



By Sara Sheeren

Two recently completed projects cap off the Otsego Land Trust's second most successful year of land conservation in its twenty-eight year history. 2015 saw OLT pass the milestone of over 10,000 acres protected by completing nine individual projects across a four county region, including Otsego, Delaware, Herkimer and Schoharie counties.

Locally, OLT worked with artist and landowner Sondra Freckelton to protect her 108-acre property in North Franklin. Sondra's land is rich with diverse wildlife habitats and contains a managed forest that has been sustainably harvested over the years. The property has approximately 6,000 feet of frontage along the Ouleout Creek, an important trout spawning stream. Sondra has spotted everything from black bears and their cubs to river otter traveling the Ouleout Creek corridor on her property.

A barn on the property is the site

where Jack Beal, Sondra's late husband, painted perhaps his most famous work. He was commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor to paint a series of four 12-by-12 foot murals for the department's new building in Washington, D.C., which were installed and dedicated on Labor Day 1976 as part of the national celebration of the American Revolution Bicentennial.

"It was a great pleasure working with OLT's staff to conserve my property for future generations," said Sondra. "I am comforted knowing that OLT will always be there into the future to make sure that this land along Ouleout Creek will be stewarded with care for all the wildlife, like the trout, bear, and otter that I am so lucky to enjoy this special place with."

Ethan Rubenstein, OLT's Land Protection Project Manager, added: "Sondra's land is our second protected property along the Ouleout Creek, an important tributary to the Susquehanna and the source of drinking water of millions of people downstream. We hope to partner

See CONSERVE, continued on Page 16



Artist Sondra Freckelton with OLT's Ethan Rubenstein

THE FACTS THEY AIN'T TELLIN'

The Hype About Pipeline Tax Revenues

By Brian Brock

Support for gas infrastructure in Franklin comes down to a belief that great sums of money will flow to the town from property taxes paid by the Constitution and Northeast Energy Direct projects.

But how much would actually be paid to our town?

There is surprisingly little documentation of how much local governments eventually receive from pipeline companies after pipelines and compressors are in place, as opposed to the high estimates from companies when seeking approval for projects. Every project promises a cornucopia. If these promises were fulfilled, you would expect that companies would spread the good news.

In 2013, Constitution Pipeline Company LLC released The Economic Impact of the Constitution Pipeline by its consultant, the Center for Governmental Research. This study claims that Delaware Coun-

ty could expect \$4.9 million in annual property taxes for the forty-three miles of pipeline through the five towns. No calculations or references are provided to support this number, which was apparently pulled out of thin air.

When contacted, CPC would not substantiate this estimate (equaling a bit over \$110,000 per mile of pipe), instead referring us back to the study. Requests to the consultant were not returned. If there is proof of this fantastical number, why won't they provide it? It seems that, in reality, the tax revenue will be considerably less.

The Iowa Department of Revenue estimates that the total collected annually by its local governments averages \$5,000 per mile, far lower than the estimate from CPC. Using that state's figure, total Franklin property taxes would be \$47,000 annually. This would be portioned out as \$26,000 for the Board of Education (55 percent), \$13,000 for

See HYPE, continued on Page 18

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

I guess that even at this level, it's customary to provide a state of the municipality to those who care about local government. In the Village of Franklin, the good news is that the financial health of the community remains stable. We have a safe surplus. We have reserve funding to address sidewalk replacement and fencing for the village reservoir, and our maintenance equipment has been upgraded to enable us to address everyday infrastructure support.

We are fortunate to have sufficient volunteer interest to provide guidance for our village recreation program. A challenge always is to hire a Water Safety Instructor to oversee swimming instruction for our children. To me, this is essential if we want to have a sustainable swimming program for the community. I'm proud of the summer youth activities that take place on the school ball fields and am so appreciative to the coaches who give

so much of their time to assure the development of our young people.

I hope that this year we can integrate the use of our beautiful park into our recreation planning. The Village Board is grateful for the volunteer park development services provided by local landscape professionals and a small band of worker bees. I would add that the Village Improvement Group and the Garden Club are in need of additional volunteers to keep up with the maintenance of the park and the roadside planters that grace our streets during much of the year.

We have applied for DASNY funding through Senator Seward's office to assist us in upgrading our sidewalks. If approved, we will have an additional \$50,000 to replace degraded sidewalks during the next couple of years. We ask village residents to let us know if there are sidewalk sections that are particularly bad so that we can add them to our work schedule.

THE STATE OF THE VILLAGE

Franklin is especially fortunate to have community activities that enrich the quality of life for all. The Franklin Chamber of Commerce is having success with its various events during the year, making the village a destination for persons from all over the Leath-erstocking region. Adding to our good fortune is the very successful Franklin Stage Company. FSC is a top notch venue providing enjoyable and meaningful theater of a sort not normally available to small communities.

We have a really nice farmers' market during the summer and early fall that blends a good variety of locally grown and handcrafted products with musical entertainment. And hot coffee! Those of you Franklinites who have not attended really need to do so. It's a very festive and socially uplifting experience.

Of course, another of the Village's bright spots is the library.

Not only is it a repository for literature, audio books, periodicals and local history, it has a very active programming schedule. Of special interest are the summer programs for children.

But our future depends on the willingness of residents to step forward and volunteer to fill the voids created by those no longer able to serve. Our Fire Department and Emergency Squad are essential to the community. If young people ignore the need to serve, this village will face difficult times ahead. This applies to all community endeavors. The State of the Village does not alone depend on a balanced budget, a public works project, or a pretty Main Street. Indeed, the true health of the Village is determined by the level of involvement that residents invest in the endeavors essential to creating a sense of community within the community.

So far, so good. Will the same be true in the future?



ROBOTS, continued from Page 1

leader and mechatronics professional, Steve Cox exudes enthusiasm, emphasizing the impact robotics and other science and technology programs can have on our students.

With funding from the Franklin Community Education Foundation (FCEF), and in collaboration with Franklin Central School, the Franklin Robotics Club formed in October 2015. Six Lego EV3 Robotics Kits, each costing \$400, were distributed to six two-person teams made up of students in grades 5-10. Weekly challenges were dispensed, encouraging club members to work together and problem-solve autonomously.

In fact, one rule of the Robotics Club is if team members cannot figure something out, they must ask two team members within the group for help before turning to Steve for assistance. This rule was so empowering, Steve states, that eventually "I found myself standing there watch-

ing the teams figure things out all by themselves...It was teamwork at its finest."

Ultimately, each team programmed their robots to perform a variety of specific motion commands, which were demonstrated to board members and visitors at January's FCEF meeting.

During the demonstra-



Robo-boys Isaiah Smith and Robert Menyhardt

tion, participating students also expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the program. They were selected from a larger group of twenty-four, due to the program being a first-time venture and to the limited number of robotics kits available. Steve hopes that, with the success of the pilot and with added

support from the community, the Robotics Club will not only continue into the future, but expand to "include whomever wants to attend, learn and have fun."

Access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs provides youth with tangible experience and actual skills that can change and propel the professional trajectory of participating students - and if you ask Steve, of society as well. Stating that "all it takes to start positive change is to be involved," Steve believes offering Franklin's younger generations educational opportunities otherwise unavailable to them is also offering a better future for us all.

To learn more about the Franklin Robotics Club, please contact Steve Cox at: stevencox12@gmail.com.

To learn about other programs supported by, or in part by, the Franklin Community Education Foundation, or how to donate, please visit: <http://franklincommunity.org/>.

GRANTS, continued from Page 2

funding are available through the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program, and can be requested via mail at c/o Delaware County SWCD, 44 West St., Suite 1, Walton NY 13856, email southerntierprogram@dcsxcd.org, or phone at 607-865-7161. While the first grant application deadline has passed (March 7th), the second round of funding will become available at end of summer with an open application period of July 11- September 19, 2016.

KENNETH L. BENNETT FUNERAL HOME

425 MAIN STREET
FRANKLIN, NY 13776

607-829-2272

PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz



This time around, I want to talk about your pet's teeth.

What can be worse than being kissed by your dog when the odor is so foul, it can knock you out? Okay, maybe you don't let your dog lick your face, but dental health is still important for your pet. Left untreated and never brushed, the gums can get inflamed and pull away from the teeth. Pockets form that trap food and bacteria, which may eventually spread to the bloodstream and affect organ function, or create conditions such as endocarditis, which is bacteria around the heart.

It also can be painful. Although I've never heard a dog yell ouch, I have touched a mouth so sore that the poor dog almost bit me.

How to prevent all this?

Start early.

When your puppy or kitten is around two months old, it is time to start brushing. Use an appropriate size toothbrush or a piece of gauze with an animal-approved toothpaste or even a paste of baking soda and water. Human toothpaste contains fluoride. Because a dog or cat cannot spit this out, it can be toxic. Once they are used to one or two daily brushings, it will be easier when they are older.

If brushing is impossible, there are plenty of dental treats, or water and food additives to help clean the mouth. They are not as effective, but better than nothing.

But what if your pets

mouth is already awful? What if you notice your pet rubbing her face with her paws or drooling, or she has a swollen cheek from an abscessed tooth? You can still take your pet to your veterinarian for a dental cleaning. The veterinarian will look at the mouth and decide what to do. She will probably do blood work to evaluate your pet's organ function. For the dental work, your pet will be sedated, with a tube inserted down the throat for breathing and anesthesia, and so that bacteria do not get into the lungs. The mouth is thoroughly examined, the tartar, bacteria and plaque scraped off and the teeth polished. Sometimes teeth may have to be extracted due to fractures or decay, but your pet will be better for it.

If you have any doubt about your pet's teeth, make an appointment with your veterinarian to look at his or her teeth, and see what is needed. Your best friend will appreciate it.

Have a question for Dr. Puritz?
Email her c/o the NFR, and she will answer in a future column.
nfr@franklinlocal.org
Subject line: Pet Talk



franklin guest house

113 Center Street, Franklin, NY / Phone: 917 428 8253
airbnb.com/rooms/7631625 or 7631880 or 7631299 or 5056902

NOW OPEN***WALK-IN



FRANKLIN FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER SERVICE'S PLLC

Gregg Kujawski, FNP-BC
12080 County Highway 21
Franklin, New York 13775
Voice: 607-829-6544
Fax: 607-829-3190



With over 15 years of Family Practice & Emergency Medicine experience, **Gregg Kujawski, FNP-BC & Family** are proud to announce the opening of Franklin Family Nurse Practitioner Services, serving Delaware, Otsego and Chenango Counties.

Independently owned and operated, Franklin Family’s primary mission is to provide the best preventative, chronic and acute healthcare services available to you and your family. We even offer **Home Visits** for the medically-fragile, elderly or otherwise homebound.

Now Accepting New Patients, Same-Day Sick Patients.
For more information and to schedule your appointment please call:
607-829-6544

- Well Child Checks
- Well Women & Men Exams
- Sports and School Physicals
- DOT Physicals
- Psychiatric Medical Management
- Chronic Condition Management
- Preventative Health and Medicine
- Second Opinion Evaluations
- Skin Checks & Dermatology Procedures
- Infants to Elderly

Accepting
Most Insurance
No insurance? No Problem! Discounted Self-Pay Rates Available
.....

Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm
Friday-10am-6: 30
Sun & Sat by Appt.

 Find us on
Facebook

IN THE KITCHEN

With Sue Avery

Potatoes a la Provencale

2 lbs. boiling potatoes
1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
juice and grated rind of 1 lemon
2 tbs. flour
4 tbs. butter, margarine or oil
butter for dotting the top
2 tbs. chopped parsley
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
salt and pepper to taste

Peel the potatoes. Cut into quarters or sixths. Parboil in salted water for 3 minutes. Drain and toss with all ingredients, except the lemon, until blended.

Place in a buttered casserole. Dot with butter and bake at 450 for 20-25 minutes, until nicely browned.

Just before serving, pour lemon juice and rind over top and return to the oven for a minute or two.

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

St Paul’s Episcopal Church

307 Main Street, Franklin
Phone: 607- 829-6404
All faiths welcome.
Sunday Service every week at 8:15 a.m.
First Thursdays Community Dinner every month, by donation, to benefit restoration fund: 5-7 p.m.
Join your friends for homemade dinner and conversation!

Treadwell United Methodist Church

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

Community Bible Church

89 Center Street, Franklin
Pastor: Dr. Walt Schlundt
Phone: 607-829-5471
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 one Ladies’ Bible Studies and one Men’s Bible Study.

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.

This space sponsored by Handsome Brook Farm.

TWO RIDDLE-POEMS BY **NINI KAUFFMAN-OHEHIR**
Walton NY - 5th Grade - Home School

1.
In Africa’s Great Rift Valley
stand I,
Dressed in green,
The flat land’s tall queen,
Kind to travelers I am,
Strong as stone,
and gentle as a lamb.
Who am I?

(Answer: Tree)

2.
Loved by the flowers of the sky,
The flower of earth am I,
My green dress is trimmed with stars,
I live in your garden but also far,
And my stars will never reach the sky,
Who am I?

(Answer: Butterfly Bush)

TWO RIDDLE-POEMS BY **DESMOND KAUFFMAN O’HEHIR**
Walton NY - 5th Grade - Home School

1.
Earth wolf my name is,
Yet I am a hyena,
Big as a dog,
Insects I eat, In Africa I live,
Who am I?

(Answer: Aardwolf, native of Africa)

2.
On vines
grow my
horn- shaped blooms.
Who am I?

(Answer: Morning Glories)

These poems were written at Bright Hill Center’s Literary Workshops for Kids during the summer of 2015, while studying Africa’s Great Rift Valley.



annals of sustainability

HEATING WELL WITH WOOD

Part Two: Combustion Efficiency

By Norm Farwell

In the last issue I wrote about some of the pluses and minuses of using wood for heat, and about the importance of burning seasoned wood and why burning “green” wood is not at all that green. We now know that pollution from soot particles is very damaging to human health, and you lose at least 10% of the fuel value of the wood if you are trying to boil lots of moisture out of it. So it all starts with properly dried wood.

But seasoned wood is only half the story. The other half is how you burn it. We’ve been burning wood for tens of thousands of years, but it’s only over the last several decades that our understanding of how wood burns has matured. At last we know what’s required for a clean burn. Wood combustion is a complicated multi-step chemical reaction, so optimizing efficiency is difficult. But basically, first you burn the wood, then with the right conditions, you burn the smoke as well. (Full disclosure here: some of my business is in installing wood and pellet boilers.)

Until recently, most wood stoves were crude steel boxes that allowed combustion to happen willy-nilly, sending loads of pollutants and unburned gas up the chimney. These stoves tend to start slowly and burn out slowly, emitting lots of smoke in the process. They also have low efficiencies—typically in the 50% range. (Some of the worst offenders are those older outdoor wood boilers; EPA and New York State have both cracked down on these, and for

very good reason.) So if you want to burn wood well, you might have to retire your old stove or boiler and buy a better one.

What does clean wood combustion require? Very high temperatures (above 1100 degrees F) and just the right amount of oxygen. The ideal wood fire burns hot and quick. But of course, that’s not what a house wants for comfort, so you see the problem.

One option is to burn hot and fast and then somehow store the heat for later. This ideal is what traditional Finnish style masonry wood heaters do, as does a wood boiler with a thermal storage tank. Masonry heaters have been around a long time, but high performing wood boilers are relatively new. The latest generation of wood gasification boilers (like the Froling sold by Tarm Biomass) even have oxygen and flue gas sensors just like a car, so that they can wring every last bit of energy out of the fuel.

The other option is an improved stove design that can somehow do the impossible: burn both hot and slow. Some newer stove designs use a secondary burn chamber to burn the smoke. Some use catalytic converters to try to improve performance.

Recognizing that the public interest is served by better wood stoves, EPA has gradually raised minimum efficiency requirements, and now publishes independent test data on a range of stoves in order to help consumers choose better models. Stoves sold in 2016 must meet new standards, which limit emissions to 4.5 grams per hour, and the EPA publishes

a list of certified stoves—just google “EPA certified wood heaters.” It’s twenty-nine pages long, so it’s a bit overwhelming, but it’s a helpful way to comparison shop. Unfortunately, the industry put up fierce resistance to EPA’s efforts to improve the technology, so although progress is being made, it’s not as rapid as it could be.

Seeing an opportunity for further advances, The Alliance for Green Heat, in collaboration with NYSEERDA and others in the industry, sponsored a wood stove design challenge in 2013. The ten fi-



Taylor Meyers and Ryan Fisher with the Mulciber, the highest ranking stove.

nalist stoves underwent a rigorous series of tests and were ranked according to efficiency, emissions, affordability, innovation, and more. The goal was to spur a leap in innovation and boost awareness of the importance of efficiency. Given the project’s modest budget, the results were encouraging, and the effort brought national press attention to advances in wood stove performance.

The overall winner was the Woodstock Absolute Steel Hybrid, one of the



WINDHILL WOODWORKS INC.
Tim Mulroy 607.829.8455

Franklin, NY

Cabinets and Millwork

Kitchens	Baths
Media Walls	Home Offices
Libraries	Paneling
Mantles	

Specializing in local, reclaimed wood
Will install downstate and in Connecticut

cleanest stoves ever tested, which had emissions of .5 grams/hour. It is currently in production and costs \$1795. There was a fascinating range of entries, and one of the more interesting stoves was one designed by students at the University of Maryland, the Mulciber, which achieved extraordinarily low emissions of .2 grams per hour (less than half of a cigarette) and by one measure was also remarkable efficient at 93%. For reference, a typical stove might emit four grams per hour or more and might have efficiency around 65%. The Mulciber prototype spawned a start-up company, MF Fire, that plans to begin shipping a revised production version of the stove in Spring 2016.

Having succeeded so well with the wood stove project, Alliance for Green Heat is sponsoring a similar pellet stove design challenge in 2016, so I would anticipate that pellet stove technology and perfor-

mance may make a similar leap in the coming years.

New York State is also doing its best to encourage progress in wood burning efficiency. NYSEERDA is funding several projects, including **Renewable Heat NY**, which offers substantial incentives for residential and commercial consumers who install qualified wood and pellet boilers. Pellet stoves can also qualify for \$1500-\$2500 incentives. There is also an incentive for retiring obsolete wood burning appliances.

For details, go to: <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Renewable-Heat-NY>

Given recent advances in technology and some of the NYSEERDA incentives, now might be a good time to think about upgrading wood and pellet burning appliances. Assuming, of course, that you are already a year ahead on your wood supply.



ALLIANCE
FOR GREEN HEAT
low carbon, renewable and local

LIGHTS OUT:

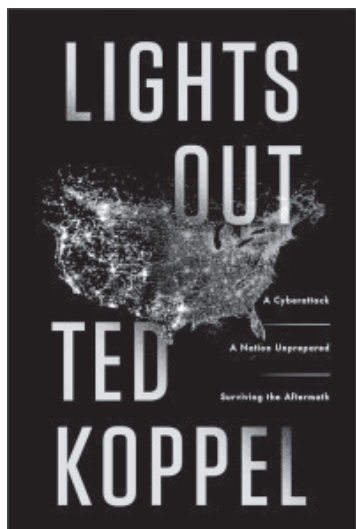
A Cyberattack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath.

By Ted Koppel

Crown Publishers, New York, 262 pages

Book Review by Tammy Reiss

Virtually all our civilian infrastructure – including telecommunications, water, sanitation, transportation, healthcare, and oil and natural gas pipelines – depends on three aging electrical power grids. On



a daily basis our nation’s grid is vulnerable to cyberattacks, digital time bombs, natural disasters, and physical attacks.

Ted Koppel, an award-winning journalist and forty-two-year veteran of ABC News, has an urgent message for America in his book *Lights Out*. He wants us to know it’s not safe to assume the federal government, in the interest of safeguarding the most critical infrastructure in the country, can simply impose security and maintenance standards on the industry. At present it cannot.

The list of people who appear in the book reads like a who’s who in the nation’s energy security services, procurements, and logistics. It is or-

ganized in three parts. Part one reveals how a majority of the experts interviewed concede the power grid is not as protected and resilient as our government and the industry would like the public to believe. It’s not a matter of if millions of residents will simultaneously lose their connection to the grid, for days or months on end, but when.

Part two covers the logistical nightmares of replacing transformers. More than 75% of our country’s custom built transformers come from overseas. Each can cost upwards of \$10 million and take months to receive. This section of the book continues with how inadequately prepared U.S. emergency response groups are trained to handle an extended power outage.

Part three reiterates how there is no national

See **LIGHTS**, continued on Page 16

EXCITING YEAR AHEAD

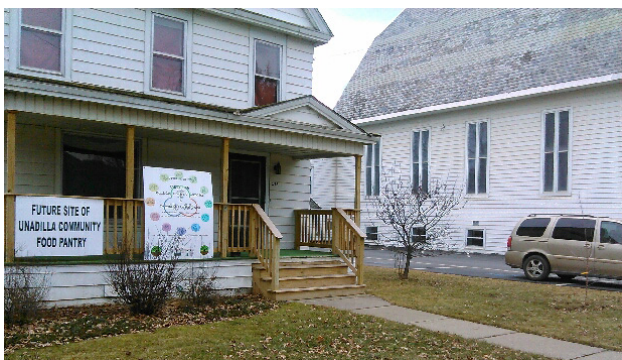
Unadilla Edible Forest and Permaculture Park

By Patricia Tyrell

Last fall, several articles were published in local newspapers introducing to our area a community supported plan to create an Edible Forest Garden and Permaculture Park.

Unadilla's Village Green Committee and the United Methodist Church are partnering to increase food security, community health, and quality of life through permaculture and park design. Specifically, they plan to transform a half-acre site into an edible forest garden offering "fruits, nuts, and berries for harvest, canning, gleaning, and picking, and a gathering space for discussion and celebration, as well as interpretive signage throughout the park."

With the first three phases of development completed, spring of 2016 promises to be a very busy time. Park planners and volunteers will be building, selecting, and planting what will become a perennial-based food system.



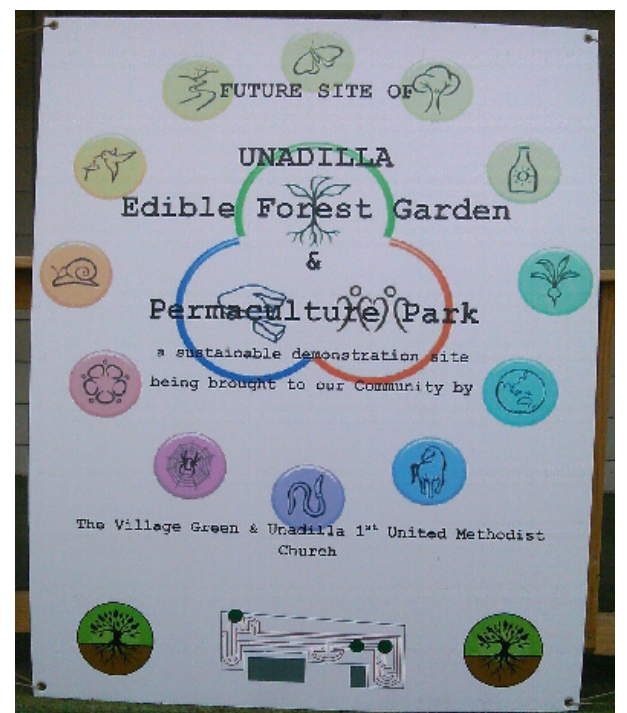
Edible Forest site in Unadilla Photos by the author

Following the installation of four zones this spring, expansion and refinement of the park will continue for three years, yielding a total of twelve pragmatically inspirational stations.

For example: Station 2, "Use and Value Diversity," features a mini-ecosystem that includes polyculture planting, bird habitats, and a pollination station. It shows that replicating a natural ecosystem is a sustainable method of food production. The lessons are "don't put all your eggs in one basket" and that polyculture's diversity protects against the threats and losses often associated with monoculture, or single-crop agriculture.

Station 11, "Apply Self-Regulation and Feedback," will feature a fruit-bearing but gnarled old apple tree. The tree, and the garden overall, demonstrate how nature can adapt and respond to changes and events throughout a life cycle and still be fruitful. This station also encourages children to "reach for the sky" like a tree's branches, as they adapt to life's lessons, joys and hardships. It is only through experience that we learn and grow-up.

The Village Green/UMC website offers a twist on American poet Edwin Markham's poem: *No man is an island, none goes this way alone. What we give to others, comes back into our own!* At the new garden, volunteer and community engagement opportunities abound, and the potential for positive long term impact upon people of the Unadilla area is immeasurable. Monthly workshops are held the second Sunday of each month, from 2-4 p.m. at Unadilla's United Methodist Church to discuss garden plans and a number of other similar or related initiatives.



First-in-our-area, Unadilla's edible forest park is part of a growing trend across the state and nation. Other successful community supported parks include: Auburn's Permaculture Park (Auburn, NY), Ithaca Permaculture Park (Ithaca, NY), and Beacon Food Forest (Seattle, WA). There are great rewards for people and communities resulting from the co-creation and care-taking of community resources to be appreciated and enjoyed for generations.

Visit <http://unadillaumc.weebly.com/village-green-projects--plans.html> for more information about the park, permaculture, upcoming events and workshops.

GONE LOCAL MARKETPLACE
 375 Main St., Franklin NY 13775
 (607) 829-5577
 ~Featuring~
 Fresh Made Sandwiches – Take Out or Eat In
 Jane's Ice Cream (April 1st)
 Meats, Cheeses, Creamline Milk
 Candles, Soaps, Lotions, Tinctures
 Cards, Gifts, and More...
 Find Us on Facebook

transition **catskills** PRESENTS

THE COUNTYWIDE SEED SWAP

AT **DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES**
 FROM **MARCH 15th** TO **JUNE 1st**

THE SILVERSMITH & GOLDSMITH

Sterling, Green-Onyx and Moonstones on 20" sterling chain

\$170

The Silversmith and Goldsmith
 101 Secor Rd, Otego
 (607) 988-7973

Open Wed, Thur, Fri 10 - 5 and Sat 10 - 3

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

At the end of each planting season, do you tend to wind up with a gazillion unused seed packets? Don't let them go to waste! Bring them to your local library and share them with your fellow gardeners. And while you're there, discover what interesting seeds have been donated by others. You might just find a new all-time favorite.

Here's how it works:

Each library in Delaware County has a card catalogue drawer stocked with leftover packets of seeds. To get the party started at each location, Transition Catskills has donated four Heirloom seed packets. That way, even the first participants may stumble upon a new variety that sparks their interest.

Seed swappers, bring in your partially used seed packets and file them under the appropriate letter (T for tomato). Next, have a look through the drawer for anything you might like to try (L for lettuce). Help yourself to the number of seeds appropriate for your garden space, and place the seeds in a provided envelope. Remember to write the type of seed on the envelope label so you'll know what goodies to expect in your garden.

Seeds can stay viable for years, but the germination rate diminishes...so it might be best to bring seeds packaged for the 2015 and 2016 growing seasons.

SEE YOU AT THE LIBRARY AND HAPPY GARDENING!



FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL Schedule of meetings for 2016

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

January	5	Franklin	Organizational
February	2	Franklin	
March	1	Treadwell	
April	5	Franklin	
May	3	Franklin	
June	7	Treadwell	
July	5	Franklin	
August	2	Franklin	
September	6	Treadwell	
October	4	Franklin	Budget workshop
November	10*	Franklin	Budget hearing
December	6	Treadwell	

* Thursday

In Franklin, at the town garages
In Treadwell, at the firehouse



THE BEAR TRUTH

By Robert Lamb

PEA-BRAINED

How can an animal with a brain a thousand times smaller than mine get the best of me?

How could I let it invade my dreams, make me scream in my sleep, only to awake shaking and cursing?

Why can't I forget the first time I faced it? Or the second, or third?

How many fortunes will I spend? How many more miles must I travel to satisfy this urge for vengeance? What primal fear drives my quest? Athabaskan legends tell of the beast dragging men to their deaths, of bathing mothers having babies snatched from their arms. This creature haunts me, scares me, and thrills me all at the same time. I have seen and battled it without success. Thrice it has beaten me. Once it almost took my life.

How can I vanquish this specter of my nightmares and daydreams? How can I be happy knowing it exists? There is only one way to go forward, only one way to finally rest.

I must catch it.

Thousands of years ago ancient glaciers spilling down off the Alaska mountain range carved massive valleys and gouged out pothole lakes connected by streams. These small but very deep lakes are set in the rolling tundra hills of the Tangle Lakes district several hundred miles north of Anchorage. After six hours of highway driving followed by eight hours of roller coaster washboard, there is a very special lake where my nightmare resides.

ground squirrels. Never would you guess a monster lurks nearby. The water of the lake is inviting. It is placid and calm and reflective as a mirror.

On my first attempt to catch this fish, I was woefully unprepared. I was using a one-man pontoon boat with no seat belt and a fishing pole better suited for small Grayling. When it appeared from the depths like a cruise missile, I screamed like a girl and al-



The author with a lesser catch

most threw my rod at it. By the time I regained my composure, the fish had circled three or four times. This was the biggest Lake Trout I had ever seen. I was sure it was sizing me up as a meal before it slipped back into the depths of the lake. Disappointed, I managed to land one small twenty-seven-inch fish before going home.

I returned determined and armed with the best tackle money could buy. I had a 3.0 Penn surf rod and reel spooled with one-hundred-pound test braided line. I used a stainless

steel leader and a glass eel striped bass lure. For three days, I drifted back and forth over the deep canyon, catching and releasing several lake trout in the twenty to forty-pound range. I was resigned to the fact that nobody would ever believe what I had seen in this lake. I alone knew there was a fish in there worthy of a state if not a world record.

And it was ignoring me.

Tired and hungry, I started rowing to shore, letting the lure trail behind me in the water. At first there was just a slight bump. Maybe I'd snagged into some weeds or rocks. When the pole started to go overboard, I grabbed it. I reared back on the heavy pole, setting the hook firmly. The fish thrashed its head, trying to dislodge the hook. This was definitely the fish that had haunted me for years.

It was over five feet long and well over ninety pounds. The fish fought the hook and towed my little boat around for an hour. I was sweating, my arms were cramping, but the fish kept up the fight. Suddenly, as if resigned to its fate, it quit struggling. As I brought it next to the boat, it rolled on its side, glaring at me with one eye. My elation quickly turned to cold fear. Something bad was about to happen.

With a mighty surge, it dove for the depths. The thick surf pole bent, crackling so much I feared it would shatter. I had a two handed death grip on it with my feet braced on the foot pegs. In an instant, the fish pulled me forward. With the seat belt tight around me, I doubled over and hit the water face first. The line snapped like a rifle shot. The pole smacked me on the head. I sprang back, wet to the waist and wondering what the hell just happened. I'd fought the battle of a lifetime with a pea-brained fish, and lost. Again.

Proxima tempus.

Franklin resident Robert Lamb has explored the wilderness of Alaska for many years and hopes to inspire a new generation of adventure seekers with his writing.

HealthLinks@FoxCare

The area's premiere fitness center!

Non-Members Welcome

Offering: 2 Pools, Spa/Hot Tub, Cardio & Strength Training, Group Fitness, Massage Therapy, all in 30,000 square feet of space.

Daily, Weekly & Monthly Guest Passes Available.

Mon-Thurs
5:30am-9pm
Fri 5:30am-8pm
Sat 7am-5pm
Sun 7am-3pm

www.healthlinksoneonta.com
One FoxCare Drive, Oneonta
Call 431-5454

NEW YORK
Oneonta
Life Enjoyed

HealthLinks
@FoxCare

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

Delaware County:	co.delaware.ny.us
Andes:	townofandes.com
Bovina:	bovinany.org
Colchester:	townofcolchesterny.com
Davenport:	No Website
Delhi:	townofdelhiny.com
Deposit:	No Website
Franklin:	No Website
Hamden:	hamdenny.com
Hancock:	hancockny.org
Harpersfield:	No Website
Kortright:	No Website
Masonville:	masonville-ny.us
Meredith:	townofmeredith.com
Middletown:	middletowndelawarecountyny.org
Roxbury:	roxburyny.com
Sidney:	townofsidneyny.org
Stamford:	townofstamfordny.us
Tompkins:	townoftompkins.org
Walton:	townofwalton.org



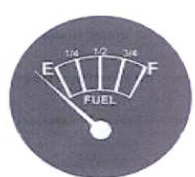
ADVERTISE IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!!

for rates and sizes,
contact:

Manette Berlinger
manette@nyc.rr.com
212-724-6450

Aron Berlinger
aron.berlinger@gmail.com
917-698-6764

Trish Tyrell
tkty21007@hotmail.com
607-829-3492



FOCUS ON ENERGY

THE FUTURE IS MICROGRIDS!

By Stuart Anderson

The New York Public Service Commission (PSC) is planning sweeping changes to the ways New Yorkers will receive their electricity. Huge central generating plants will be phased out, and much of the electricity supplies of the future will be locally generated by smaller facilities scattered across the countryside; these local generators are known as Distributed Generation (DG) resources. The spreading out of generation across the State will reduce the risks and inefficiencies of central generation and grid distribution; the grid will still exist, shuttling energy where it is needed, but DG will improve the grid's efficiency by geographically matching electric supplies with electric demands.

The current grid will be subdivided into a patchwork of microgrids. All of the customers on a microgrid will share and rely upon the DG resources within their microgrid; when they need more power than they can generate locally, they will be able to buy power from the main grid. If the DG resources on a microgrid produce more power than can be used locally, the microgrid will be able to sell its surplus into the main grid. If the main grid fails, the

DG resources on each microgrid must be capable of supplying enough power to keep the microgrid functioning (though possibly at a reduced level of power.)

Plans for organizing microgrids are still being developed by the PSC. The first microgrids will probably be built around major electrical consumers such as an industrial facility or college campus, with the surrounding residential and light commercial neighbors added in, based on the arrangement of the regional utility company's lines. The utility will retain ownership of the transformers, wires and poles, and will continue to provide metering and billing services; each microgrid will be responsible for its own DG facilities, and contracts for the purchase of outside power and sale of surpluses. In areas where the customers do not organize themselves (either alone or with the assistance of outside developers), the utility that serves each area will be responsible for microgrid development.

In keeping with the State Energy Plan adopted in 2015, Distributed Generation resources will be required to be "clean." This includes solar photovoltaic, wind, hydro (both conventional and pumped storage), biogas (digesters), and biomass; natural gas is



The author's Smart Meter

also considered "clean" energy under the State Energy Plan guidelines. Research by Drs. Howarth and Ingraffea at Cornell has repeatedly demonstrated the fallacy of the "clean" gas myth, but the facts have not convinced Albany thus far, so "clean" gas is in our future.

The first microgrids to be established under REV will be organized and assembled as demonstration projects designed by utility companies. From the experiences and insights gained in these projects, guidelines for additional microgrids will be drafted

"Research by Drs. Howarth and Ingraffea at Cornell has repeatedly demonstrated the fallacy of the 'clean' gas myth..."

by the PSC, many months from now. Private developers already exist in other states where microgrid development is ahead of New York, so consumer-based groups that wish to organize their own grids will have experienced professionals to draw upon when

the time comes for action.

How might the microgrid transition play out in Franklin?

The grid connection for Franklin, Otego, and the surrounding environs is the substation on Route 7 on the western edge of the Village of Otego. According to New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG), the substation's service area overlaps all or parts of at least six towns and villages in Delaware and Otsego Counties. Getting that many municipal bodies (town boards, village boards, county boards) to come together and agree on a microgrid plan seems improbable. The service area is not host to any large base load consumer, so organization by a major energy purchaser is not likely either. If the residents of the service area want to manage their own microgrid—choose their energy suppliers, choose their DG facilities (solar, wind, biogas, etc.)—then they are going to have to organize themselves. Otherwise, NYSEG will do the organizing, and as NYSEG's preferred mode of operation is gas-fired generation, that's what we'll get. NYSEG is probably very pleased that the Tennessee Gas Pipeline compressor station planned for Franklin Mountain has been upgraded with a second compressor to service local distribution—good for NY-

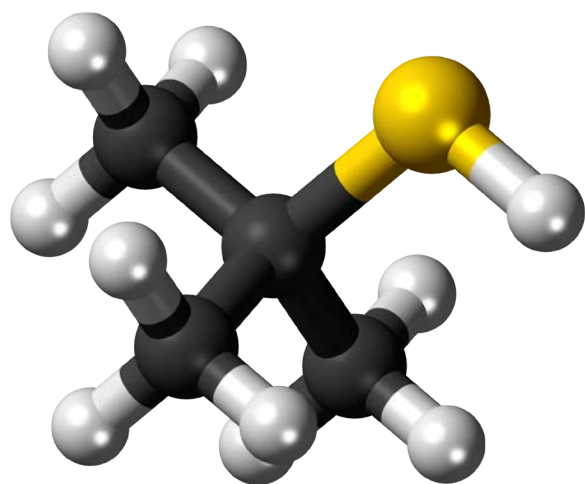
SEG, not so much for those living in the area.

But the Otego substation microgrid does not have to be reliant on gas-fired generation. The service area has several attributes that would make creation of a renewable microgrid possible and desirable. The substation abuts a large dairy operation where a biogas-fired generating facility could be operated; the area near the substation has lots of southwest facing slopes that would be ideal for a solar farm; west of Franklin is the East Sidney flood control dam, which currently wastes the energy of water passing the dam, and which might also be adapted to pumped storage. (As renewables become a larger percentage of total generation, the ability to store and recover energy will become increasingly important and valuable.)

But these and other renewable energy opportunities will likely go untapped in the foreseeable future if the developer of our local microgrid ends up being NYSEG.

Stuart Anderson is a resident of the Village of Otego, an organizer for Concerned Citizens of Otego, and member of Compressor Free Franklin and Stop The Pipeline.

See more about Reforming the Energy Vision at www.PleaseFixREV.wordpress.com



tertiary-butyl mercaptan (CH₃)₃C-S-H (wikimedia.org)

DO WE **REALLY** WANT THIS IN OUR BACK YARD?

THE FACTS ABOUT BUTYL MERCAPTAN
Staff Report

Butyl mercaptan (short for tertiary-butyl mercaptan or TBM) is a putrid-smelling gas, C₄H₁₀S or (CH₃)₃C-S-H. Its Chemical Abstracts Service number is 75-66-1.

Trace amounts of various mercaptans or thiols are found naturally. They contribute to the smell of onions, garlic, marshes, skunks, bad breath, flatulence, and urine after eating asparagus. Mercaptans are safe in these extremely low concentrations for short times, which is the basis for referring to them as non-toxic. But in higher concentrations, they are hazardous substances regulated by the OSHA and cited by ACGIH, NIOSH, NFPA, and DOT.

TBM is the mercaptan most resistant to oxidation, and therefore it is the most popular component for natural gas odorants. However, butyl mercaptan has a high freezing point (31 degrees Fahrenheit) and therefore is commonly blended with tetrahydrothiophene (CH₂)₄S or dimethyl sulfide (CH₃)₂S.

It is used to odorize natural gas because humans can smell it in concentrations less than one part per billion. But olfactory fatigue may prevent the smelling of hazardous concentrations. Plus, this chemical is colorless, i.e. invisible. Neither smell nor sight could warn you of dangerous levels of mercaptans.

Mercaptans are heavier than air, so after release, they can concentrate in low areas instead of dispersing.

Primary exposure is through breathing with minimal absorption through the eyes and skin

At low concentrations, mercaptans are an irritant to moist tissues such as eyes, skin, and upper respiratory track, thereby causing rashes, coughing, phlegm, and shortness of breath. For TBM, Occupational and Health Administration sets the legal Permissible Exposure Limit at 10 parts per

million averaged over an eight hour shift. Other organizations set a lower exposure. The American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists recommends a Threshold Limit Value of 0.5 ppm averaged over an eight hour shift. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommended an exposure limit (REL) of 0.5 ppm over any fifteen minute work period.

In higher concentrations, mercaptan causes acute damage to the lungs and is toxic to the blood and central nervous system. In increas-

See TOXIC, continued on Page 17

High concentrations of mercaptans caused the accidental deaths of four employees and the hospitalization of a fifth from the DuPont manufacturing facility in La Porte TX on November 15, 2014.

PIPES AND POWER

Compiled by Brian Brock

October 26th - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), New York State agencies, and TGP meet regarding permitting for Northeast Energy Direct compressor stations in New York.

November 3rd - Constitution Pipeline Company, LLC (CPC) starts coating pipe lengths with concrete ballast at the spread yard 5B in Town of Guilderland, Albany County.

November 6th - Franklin Town Council (FTC) votes to support roundabout for intersection of state highways 357 and 28.

November 6th - Delaware County Board of Supervisors (DCBS) supports recommendations in PSC Trial Staff final report not to pursue expanding power line corridors through the county. However, should the PSC vote otherwise, they should require companies to co-locate high-speed internet lines to benefit the transected towns.

November 9th - PACE Environmental Litigation Clinic (PACE ELC) requests a Memorandum of Agreement between FERC and New York and Pennsylvania State Historical Protection Offices (SHPO) for Constitution right of way.

November 10th - FERC files instead a Programmatic Agreement with NY and PA SHPOs.

November 20th - Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC (TGP) files application for NED with FERC. Supporting documents include hundreds of computer files totaling 22,000 pages.

December 1st - FTC votes to oppose roundabout for intersection of state highways 357 and 28, reversing itself.

December 2nd - CPC finishes coating pipe lengths. Then it begins to disassemble equipment, finishing on December 10th.

December 6th - FERC accepts TGP application for NED as complete. Opens period of one month to file as intervenor.

December 16th - TGP holds an open house at the Franklin Central School. It reveals that a large gas-fired power plant is planned for somewhere along NED pipeline in New York.

December 17th - NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) votes not to support either of the proposed powerline projects through Franklin, neither the Edic to Fraser nor the Oak Dale to Fraser projects.

December 18th - EarthJustice (EJ) requests that FERC revisit its Cumulative Impact Analysis of Constitution and reconsider its conditional certification of the project.

December 31st - TGP files information on alternate sites for NED compressor stations.

December 31st - US Fish and Wildlife Service issues biological opinion on Northern Long Ear Bat. Tree clearing in ROW is limited to between November 1st and March 31st.

January 4th - FERC extends deadline for filing as an intervenor in NED project from 6th to 15th after website was down for two four-day periods.

January 8th - CPC requests a partial Notice to Proceed (NTP) for selective manual felling of trees before March 31st. Reports that expenses to date are \$350 million out of budget of \$925 million.

January 8th - EJ files objections to a partial NTP for Constitution, followed by **PACE ELC** (January 13th) and **NYS Attorney General** (January 14th).

January 14th - CPC files rebuttal to objections.

January 14th - US Army Corps of Engineers finds that its Section 404 permit is not required for manual felling of trees in right of way of Constitution pipeline.

January 15th - DCBS comments on NED project

January 15th - Compressor Free Franklin and DCBS file for intervenor status on NED by deadline. **Franklin Town Council** does not.

January 17th - North American Transmission Corporation withdraws proposal for Edic to Fraser (Marcy South II) transmission power line.

January 28th - FERC denies numerous requests for rehearing of certification of Constitution project and requests by EJ and PACE ELC for stays of project. Grants CPC a variance to route pipeline around Kernan Trust property.

January 29th - FERC grants CPC a partial NTP. Non-mechanical felling

may begin, but only in Pennsylvania.

February 5th - EJ and **PACE ELC** petition US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit for reviews of recent orders by FERC on Constitution, case 16-345.


February 5th - CPC begins felling trees in ROW of Constitution in Pennsylvania.




Courtney
FUNERAL HOME
*Continuing a Family Tradition,
Since 1941*
607-865-4383
www.courtneyfh.com

Cal Courtney
Owner/Director

**25 Townsend St.,
Walton, NY 13856**




Comfort + Efficiency



With a ductless cooling and heating system from Mitsubishi Electric, any room can be perfectly comfortable, from the bedroom to the basement and anywhere in between.

- * 250% seasonal heating efficiency
- * Heating to -13 degrees and below
- * Outstanding AC efficiency



EQUITY ENERGY LLC
Save energy. Save money.

607 435 1364 www.equityenergy.net

YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AT RISK



Early this month, the Hollerans of North Harford Maple, a family business in New Milford PA, lost their court case against Constitution Pipeline Company. They had been hoping to prevent the felling of 90% of their only sugar bush to clear the right of way for the pipeline.

Family member Megan Holleran was quoted in Ecowatch: "We've been preparing for this for years, but watching the trees fall was harder than I ever imagined it would be...they refused to see us as people and brought guns to our home."

On a neighbor's Facebook page, Rich Garella wrote:

"If the American flag stands for anything, it stands for the rights that are enshrined in the Constitution. These pipeline companies are misusing eminent domain, and the courts are on the side of the companies. They are taking land, scarring our countryside and destroying livelihoods for the sake not of public use but of private profit, and nothing more."



Hearing the bad news at the Hollerans' sugar bush

TIMBER!

By Brian Brock

The Constitution pipe line project was under deadline pressure as 2016 began. The pipeline should be in service two years from the date of conditional certification: December 4th, 2014. Already one year had come and gone without breaking ground.

Before breaking ground, all trees must be cleared from the pipeline right-of-way.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service, in its Biological Opinion of last December 31st, required that to protect threatened migratory birds and the northern long-eared bat, most trees must be cleared between November 1st and March 31st. However, before clear cutting, the project must get a certification from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that the work will not significantly degrade water quality. This certificate had not been granted. Every day spent waiting for the certificate was one day less to clear trees.

During construction, the ROW is 100 feet wide and runs 124.4 miles from Susquehanna PA to Schoharie NY. With additional work areas, this occupies 1,946 acres, although not all of that is forested. The forested fifty-five percent of the land that needs clearing is 1,070 acres. If work began in late January, then that would require clear-

ing more than fifteen acres a day, seven days a week through late January, February, and March.

How much work is that?

Section 1605(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 cites an average of 700 trees per acre. For the Constitution ROW, that would total 750,000 trees – a huge number to clear in little over two months.

But the Constitution Pipeline Company, LLC, claims that it needs only to fell the larger trees, which it estimates at 68.72 per acre or 73,500 total – a more manageable number. The rationale is that birds and bats nest or roost only in the larger trees, and therefore clearing the smaller trees and shrubs could be done during spring and summer without disturbing the at-risk young creatures.

No work on this project may begin until CPC obtains all necessary permits. Then Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issues a Notice to Proceed (NTP). For over a year now, CPC has been waiting for NYS DEC to decide on a Water Quality Certification (WQC) under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, after which US Army Corps of Engineers may issue a Section 404 permit.

With the days passing, on Friday, January 8th, CPC requested that FERC issue a partial NTP to allow it to fell the larger trees. It argued that if the work was

ELLIOT COHEN DESIGN
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

5825 EAST HANDSOME BROOK RD FRANKLIN NY 13775

(607) 829-8559

uphill@frontiernet.net

(607) 434-2345

limited to manual felling of trees and if it avoided waters and wetlands, then the waters would not be affected and therefore the certification and permit would be unnecessary. ACE issued a letter in support of this interpretation, but DEC did not. CPC claimed that in phone calls with the DEC council's office and project manager, no objections were raised. But no transcript was provided.

Trees would be left where they lie. In heavily forested stretches, this would create a tangle 100 feet wide and, in places, running for miles. CPC's request assumes the eventual issuance of DEC certification and ACE permit. Otherwise the trees would rot there.

The proposed schedule, assuming that a NTP would be issued by Friday January 15th, was for training and mobilization to begin Monday the 18th and felling to

begin Friday the 22nd – only two weeks after the request. This would give CPC 70 days to fell 73,500 trees.

Immediately, EarthJustice filed with FERC to deny this request, followed a few days later by PACE Environmental Litigation Clinic and NYS Attorney General Schneiderman. CPC replied with a rebuttal.

Friday the 15th came and went as FERC considered the arguments. In preparation for felling, survey crews marked the boundaries of the ROW and posted warning signs for protected wetlands, including here in Franklin.

Two weeks later FERC issued a partial partial NTP. Non-mechanical felling may begin, but only in Pennsylvania, where the PA Department of Environmental Protection has already issued its WQC. FERC did not accept the interpretation of CPC. Any felling in New York (80 percent of the

route) must await NYS DEC issuing its WQC.

After a week for training and mobilization, CPC began manually felling trees at the western end of the ROW in Pennsylvania on February 5th.

The DEC has a deadline for ruling on the certification of one year after the application by CPC, April 29th. If it has not decided by then, the authority will pass to ACE. By then the winter 2015/16 window for tree clearing will have closed. The next will not open until November 1st.

As March 18th when we went to press, FERC has neither issued nor denied a partial NTP for New York. With only two weeks left before the deadline, completing even selective felling trees in the ROW seems impractical. Layoffs of subcontractors have begun. Spokesman for Constitution, Chris Stockton, declined to comment.

The Pipeline Version of Democracy

"In 2015, the Constitution Pipeline company used eminent domain to seize my best friend's family maple stand for their natural gas pipeline in New Milford PA. The family has not been compensated for their land.

In New York, the permitting for the pipeline has not been completed, so the family argued that cutting trees on their property was preemptive. When the family politely denied tree crews access to their property last month, the company took the family to federal court in an attempt to have them fined and put in federal prison for violating the eminent domain court order.

Today the company arrived on the property with assault rifle-bearing federal marshals. They cut down the trees."

- Kelly Finan, New Milford PA, as quoted on Ecowatch



Federal marshals and tree-cutters at North Harford Maple in PA

RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSES.	SALES	SELLER	BUYER	
8/19/2015	822 E Handsome Brook Rd	14.17	1 Family Res	\$167,000	\$171,000	Prisk, John A	Kroll-Prisk, Sharon	R,M
8/27/2015	9179 County Highway 21	5.18	2 Family Res	84,000	28,000	Federal Nat Mortgage Ass	Nunez, Dallan B	
9/14/2015	1760 Gay Brook Rd	5.00	1 Family Res	115,000	118,000	Hitchcock, Matthew	Devin Doenges Supp Needs Trt	
9/25/2015	24 Maple St	0.20	1 Family Res	95,000	123,000	Lutner, Thomas H	Wilber, Kenneth F	
10/22/2015	380 Bennett Hollow Rd	11.00	Rural Res	98,000	55,000	Lamb, Charles H	Schmidt, Glenn A Jr	
10/29/2015	996 Gay Brook Rd	1.30	1 Family Res	67,000	50,000	Driggs, Fred B	Grant, David L	
10/30/2015	18 Institute St	0.20	3 Family Res	75,000	75,000	Terrano, James L	Pavlicek, Dennis	
11/30/2015	6815 County Highway 16	3.46	1 Family Res	122,000	124,312	Cahill, Gerald	Donato, Anthony A	

R Between Relatives M Multiple Parcels

AT THE LIBRARY

JIM MULLEN REVIEWS NEW BOOKS



SERIALS WORTH STARTIN'

CAREER OF EVIL
By Robert Galbraith

It's no secret that Robert Galbraith is really Harry Potter creator J.K.Rowling, but what is still a secret is what a great mystery writer she is. This, the third in her series featuring the self-destructive private eye Cormoran Strike and his plucky, love-crossed sidekick, Robin Ellacott, is even better than the first two. It's becoming clear that Rowling plays a long game, that minor points in books one and two continue to play out in book three and, no doubt, in the many books to come. Sure, there are crimes and mysteries that must be solved in this episode, but the real treat is the pop culture/class envy/observational comedy/real world/true crime/sexual tension stew that her characters live in. If Isherwood was a camera, Rowling is a sponge and it's a great treat to read what comes out when she squeezes it dry.

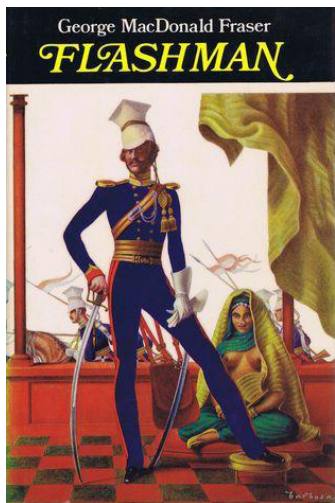
GHOSTWRITTEN
By David Mitchell

This is the first novel from the author of *Cloud Atlas*, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoot* and *The Bone Clocks*, all of which share characters and connections. Here, in ten cleverly connected stories, a roving spirit that is able to jump from body to body by the merest physical touch. At first you think you're reading a book written by different characters. About halfway through, you realize that the spirit is telling the tale. Talk about ghostwriting. Mitchell is no respecter of genres - this is a blend of mystery, horror, Sci-Fi and literary fiction. One chapter, a walk through London by - guess what? - a ghostwriter - seems to be an homage to James Joyce, a comic mirror of Leopold Bloom's pub crawl through Dublin in *Ulysses*. Like most people, I find reading *Ulysses* to be a long, unrewarding slog, but reading Mitchell is a delight. Joyce fans seem to think reading should be a contest where the first person to figure out what the author is talking about, wins. What they win is not exactly clear. Me, I think reading should be a pleasure, not a chore. But then, maybe I'm just not very smart.

JAR CITY
By Arnaldur Indridason

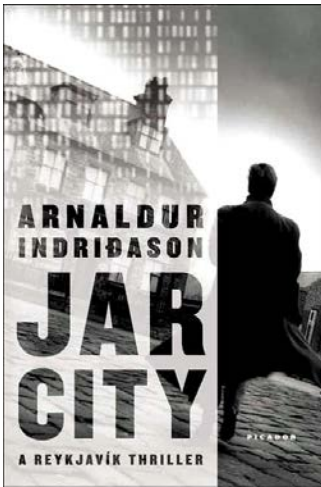
This is the third book in a series featuring Icelandic Detective Erelendur, but the first published in English, back in 2005, long before Iceland became the last resort-of-choice for the terminally hip. It reminds me a bit of the Wallander novels -- a bleak landscape, a troubled daughter, a senseless murder, a conflicted hero -- but that's also what keeps it entertaining. As Wallander's creator, Henning Mankell, died last year, this series should keep those of us who like character-based police procedurals mixed with local color happy for a few years.

FLASHMAN
By George MacDonald Fraser



The first of twelve books written by the fictional coward Sir Harry Paget Flashman, a despicable, racist, sexually abusive snob but hugely successful British soldier who accidentally ends up in the midst of every famous military misadventure of the 19th century. Charge of the Light Brigade? Flashman was there. Custer's Last Stand? Flashman was there, kind of a 1870s Forrest Gump, but with totally self-serving motives, which usually backfire. The more Flashman flees the frying pan of battle, the more he winds up in the battle's fire. Yet, somehow, he survives and somehow he's perceived as a hero, because the people he has stepped on and over on his mad dash to safety rarely live to tell the tale of his cowardice.

Find it under "hysterical historical fiction."



MUSIC HERE AT HOME

By Jason Starr

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



Franklin resident, Jim Hartel, is one of the great banjo builders in the United States. He makes replicas of authentic minstrel banjos, based on designs from the 19th century.

Last November, Jim and his banjo making shop were featured in the MUSIC episode of PBS's CRAFT IN AMERICA.

The cover of the February, 2016 issue of *Banjo Newsletter* shows singer Rihannon Giddens, an original member of the Grammy Award winning Carolina

dents. I don't think I knew a quarter of them. I hope schools like FSC can survive through this period of school budget cuts and consolidation. If it does, I believe people will come to realize how unique our school is.

Were you showing banjos to the kids?

I'd play banjo in the school occasionally for the morning program. Another music teacher, Brendan Dolan, would accompany me on the piano. I had plans to get the students to build



Jim Hartel and his banjo

Chocolate Drops, holding her Hartel banjo. This is the second time one of Hartel's banjos made it to the cover of the newsletter.

I spoke to Jim recently to find out a bit more about our local wonder.

What brought you to Franklin?

We've lived here since 1993. I moved here to work as an art teacher at Franklin Central School. It was difficult for me at first to adjust to the many different age levels of students who came into my classroom daily. Since I was the only art teacher, all grades, pre-K kids through 12th grade students attended my class every year. I had the same students, year after year, so I watched them grow up. And then, I began seeing children of former students begin their art education in my classroom. I liked it a lot.

The school helps keep Franklin a close-knit community. I graduated from a large suburban high school with 300 or more other stu-

simple cookie tin banjos. But other projects always came up. I was always making banjos at home. During my last five years at FCS, I made as many banjos as I make now—about ten or twelve a year. That's a good pace for me.

Have you noticed an increase of interest in 19th century minstrel music?

It's hard for me to have a view on that. Many of us were initially inspired to study the banjo by Pete Seeger in the 60s and 70s. Pete is gone now. But there are younger enthusiasts, and they're probably about as plentiful coming in as going out. The banjo is most popular as a bluegrass instrument, associated with the likes of Earl Scruggs and Tony Trishka. That is very different than the kind of banjo music that was popular in the middle of the 19th century. The history of the banjo is very American and ties directly to the African slave

See BANJO, continued on Page 15

Readers, please welcome our new arts columnist, artist Charlie Bremer, who "explores the fertile territory of artist materials, books, clay, and the human form. His home and studio are located along Brian Creek in Otego, NY, filled with beeswax and lampblack and every imaginable color of pigment."

Today we are creating images faster and more diverse than in any time in human history. In this age when so many people carry both camera and phone during every waking hour, our archive of contemporary visual documentation is staggering. Add Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, wi-fi connected cameras, facial recognition, thousands of orbiting satellites, and the exponentially expanding global internet... it is a wonder that anyone bothers to pick up paper and pencil, much less slow down and take the time and focus necessary to draw or paint an image. But old habits and passions don't fade easily and I believe that is a very very good thing.

The diversity of art in our region mirrors the remarkable and magnificent landscape we inhabit. The Susquehanna and Delaware River watersheds house a wealth of visionary artists. From landscape painters to abstract investigators, writers, dancers, still life observers, to actors, conceptual weavers, musicians or wildlife documenters, we all reflect in different ways how these precious headwaters move around and through us.

Many understand that living here comes with responsibilities. Humanity must not despoil its home. We need to confront the complex reasoning that contributes to our historic failure to protect our priceless natural resources. The list of ways we transform and industrial-

UpState Arts with Charlie Bremer

ize the world around us, so easily and without a second thought, is monumental. While we are distracted by the marketing of an ever expanding capital gain, our deep and sensual connection to nature fades away. What individual can parse contemporary society on these terms?



Bruce North *Cows Foggy Storm*

When is enough, enough? But I believe that living on and caring for this fertile soil fosters the growth of an ancient language of sustenance. We must learn to settle well in the present, to return and give forward a shared knowledge to the coming generations.

And where does art come in? Everywhere. The creative process is the art of paying attention, of looking closely, listening in new ways, of understanding and interpreting heart and mind,

of having the passion and the necessity to connect. This vision can be complex, all about paradox and contradiction, or simply about that beautiful bend in the river with the light and fog rising over water. The artists of our region care about what brings quality and well being to our lives and they contribute to that well-being through their work, by the making of a beautiful object, by visualizing a train of thought, by interpreting life around them as they see it.

As we pass the vernal equinox, as increasing light and fresh growth infuses our lives, we head outside into the landscape. The sheer optical pleasures of this season will carry us beyond every threshold. We renew our connection to light and warmth, we sprout, we bud out, we may even go to seed.

Here are a few of the diverse excellent regional art offerings coming this spring....

Monday, May 23rd, 5-7 p.m.

Opening reception at the **Smithy Pioneer Gallery**, 55 Pioneer Street in Cooperstown: Oil paintings by **Bruce North**, organic still life paintings by **Judith Lamb** (see Page 15), a tribute to the life and environmental vision of the late **Henry S. Cooper Jr.** (with Otsego 2000), plus ceramic works from the Smithy Clay Studio, and "**Botanical Art**" by the Smithy Pioneer Gallery member artists. On view May 23rd through June 19th. Upcoming this summer: **Art of the Model**: opening June 27th

Michael Stolzer Fine Art: 97 Main Street, Oneonta - exhibit schedule:

Barbara Ardan: opening **Friday, March 18th 7-10 p.m.** through April 8th

See ARTS, continued on Page 15

Spring & Summer 2016 Bright Hill's Brightest Season!

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

Featured Poets & Writers from Everywhere! + Open
Special Women's History Month Reading, March 24, 7 pm

* The Word & Image Gallery Exhibit Openings

First Sundays of each Month, April - November - 3 - 5 pm
Annual Stagecoach Run Exhibit & Auction, July + Closing Party July 29

* National Poetry Month Reading, April 9, 7 pm

Bright Hill's Poetry OutLoud Team, **Felix Bridel & Brady Gales**, + Featured Poet & Open Mic

* Bright Kids Book Club, March 19, 26, April 2, 9, & Into the Summer & Fall

Reading Noelle Stevenson's graphic novel *Nimona* (Other Books & Dates TBA)

* Annual History/Nonfiction Day, July 23, 9 am - Noon

Author **Edythe Quinn** *Freedom Journey* (Black Civil War Soldiers & the Hills Community, Westchester, NY);
Authors **Tim Duerden**, **Angela Gaffney**, **Ray LaFever**, **Picturing the Catskills: The Photography of Bob Wyer, 1938 - 1978**;
Authors **Tim Duerden**, **Ray LaFever**, **The Arcadia Book: Images of America Series: Delaware County, New York**

* 22nd Annual Bright Hill Summer Literary Workshops for Kids Program (Ages 6 - 18)

1. Summer I: Kids, Ages 6 - 14: June 27 - July 1 (Mon. - Fri.) - Celestial Travels Among the Planets
* Includes Visit to Museum of Innovation & Science w/Planetarium, Schenectady
2. Summer II: Teens, Ages 13-18 (7 participants), July 11 - 15 (Mon. - Fri.): Videography with Jessica Vecchione
3. Summer III: Kids, Ages 6 - 14: July 25 - 29 (Mon. - Fri.) - Long Ago and Far Away
* Includes Visit to Museum of the Earth, Ithaca
4. Summer IV: Middle-Schol, Ages 11 - 14 (8 participants), August 8 - 12 (Mon. - Fri.): Animation with Pooh Kaye
5. Summer V: Kids, Ages 6 - 14, August 16 - 20 (Tues. - Sat.): There Be Dragons/the Ancient Eastern World
* Includes Visit to Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca

Call 607-829-5055 or email wordthur@stny.rr.com for details and to register



Bright Hill Press & Literary Center
94 Church Street - Treadwell, NY 13846-4607

Where Literature Lives!

We're Here:

Voice: 607-829-5055

Email: wordthur@stny.rr.com

Websites:

www.brighthillpress.org

www.nyslittree.org



BOOKS, continued from Page 1

Antiquarian Books, the cozy three-story shop at 602 Main Street which she and her husband, Bill Adams, tend with loving care.

Diana reports that 2015 was the store's strongest year in terms of sales, and August its best month ever. The book addict can trawl the Adams' unique collections of classic Greek, Latin and English texts, theology, New York State history, art, natural history and science. After Columbus Day, Diana and Bill host a Winter Respite Lecture Series, and always there is a warming (free) cup of tea for anybody who stops by.

Up the street at 678 Main is the cooperative's largest emporium, Liberty Rock Books, with 3,400 square feet of retail space for children's books, art books, a Native American section, avant-garde 20th-century literature and 40,000 vintage postcards from the treasure trove of collector Carlton F. Bloodgood. There is also a bright, inviting room where John Mahoney, the proprietor, organizes readings and book-signings for Delaware County's ever-growing number of authors.



Diana Adams at work in Adams Antiquarian Books

The book business has been a bit tough lately, Mahoney told me. The building required a new roof, which, at \$64,000, was about \$60,000 more than budgeted. And income, even during peak summer months, does not always cover the expense of keeping the huge building open or investing in hard-to-resist collections (Liberty Rock currently has about 80,000 volumes in storage).

But Mahoney and Diana Adams believe that several planned additions to the Hobart environment will bring more visitors to Main Street and more potential customers for the Book Village.

In April, George and Kathy Duyer, who moved to Hobart in 2014 from Washington, D.C., plan to open Creative Corner Books at 607 Main (formerly Around the World with Books and Cooks).

The new store's tagline will be "Books for Cooks and Crafters," and the Duyers intend to sell new, used and vintage cookbooks, plus books about needlecrafts, jewelry-making, paper crafts and woodworking.

"George and I have always loved digging around in used bookstores," Kathy emailed me, "and the thought of running a shop ourselves sounded fun and exciting. Since I had an extensive personal collection of both cookbooks and craft books, those two areas seemed to be the logical niche for us to fill in the Book Village."

And speaking of cooking...a new restaurant, The Dinner Plate, is slated to open this spring in the historic Hobart Inn. And Oliver and Melissa Pycroft—he's a Brit, she's an American who lived seven years in London—have bought an 18th-century Colonial on Main Street and are transforming it into an inn and pub, The Bull & Garland.

"The Bull & Garland," Melissa emailed, "will be very much in the tradition of an English country pub, which is still the heart of the community in most English villages."

The Pycrofts hope to draw on local farms and breweries for the food and drink, which Melissa describes as "the best of English pub cuisine." The inn will initially have three rooms, and the couple hopes eventually to turn a cottage on the property into "a writer's residency."

The Pycrofts are aiming to open their taste-of-England-in-Hobart by Memorial Day weekend, just in time for the first of the Book Village's grand, semi-annual sales.

Good books, good food.

To borrow from George and Ira Gershwin, who could ask for anything more?

IF YOU GO TO HOBART BOOK VILLAGE...

WM. H. ADAMS' ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS

602 Main Street
607-538-9080

whabooks@stny.rr.com

CREATIVE CORNER BOOKS

Books for Cooks and Crafters

607 Main Street

240-308-0563

cooksandcrafters@gmail.com

BUTTERNUT VALLEY BOOKS

615 Main Street

607-538-3010

bvalleybooks@frontier.com

LIBERTY ROCK BOOKS

678 Main Street

607-538-1760

libtyroc@aol.com

MYSTERIES & MORE

688 Main Street

607-538-9788

ddales@stny.rr.com

BLENHEIM HILL BOOKS

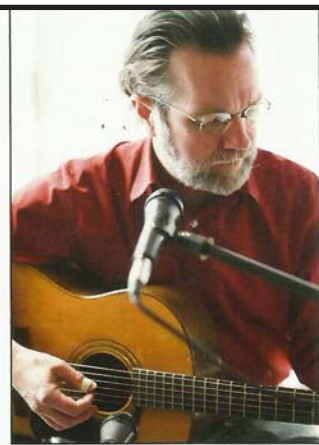
698 Main Street

607-538-92222

blenheimbooks1@gmail.com

Updates and events:

www.hobartbookvillage.com



Folk Singer-Songwriter

John O'Connor

*"Songwriting right out of the same well that slaked
Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger"*
St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch

With Special Guest

Jason Starr

In Concert to Benefit Compressor Free Franklin

March 26, 7PM

Refreshments served at 6:30

at the Franklin Railroad Museum
572 Main St, Franklin, NY
(behind National Bank of Delaware County)

Suggested Donation: \$15
(Pay what you can, more or less)



173 Main Street
Franklin, NY 13775

**the
Squire's
tankard**

Buying and Selling Country Antiques, Vintage Clothing
and Items of Significance

TOM & DONNA BRIGGS

(607) 829-6885



SUSAN "LIP" OREM

Franklin 607 829 5328

All levels Welcome!

visit my web site at www.heathenhillyoga.net

ARTS, continued from Page 12

Peter Exton: opening **Friday, April 15th 7-10 p.m.** through May 6th
Frank Anthony: opening **Friday, May 20th 7-10 pm.** through June 10th
Marie Cummings: opening **Friday, June 17th 7-10 p.m.** through July 8th

More Art Space: 77 Main Street, Oneonta
A retrospective exhibition of work by the late **Christine Gurbo.**
Opening reception: **Friday, June 17th 6 p.m.**
Upcoming this summer: **Anna Sea** and **Chelsea Gibson**

Cooperstown Art Association: 22 Main Street, Cooperstown
opening: **Friday April 8th 5-7 p.m. Frank Vurarro** through May 4th
opening: **Friday May 13th 5-7 p.m. Essential Art: Regional Group Exhibition,**
and **Cooperstown Central School Art Exhibit:** through June 4th
opening: **Friday June 10th 5-7 p.m. Richard Saba, Miniature Show,**
and **Leatherstocking Bush & Palette Club Show.** through July 8th

For other details and more on our local arts: connect • share

Bushel, Delhi: <http://bushelcollective.org>
CANO - Community Arts Network of Oneonta: <http://www.canoneonta.org>
Cherry Branch Gallery, Cherry Valley: <http://cherrybranchgallery.com/>
Cherry Valley Artworks, Cherry Valley: <http://cvartworks.org/>
Cooperstown Art Association (CAA) Cooperstown: <http://www.cooperstownart.com/>
Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown: <http://www.fenimoreartmuseum.org/>
Michael Stolzer Fine Arts, Oneonta: <http://www.michaelstolzerfineart.com/>
More Art Space (MAS) Oneonta: <http://moreartspace.com/>
Mural on Main Art Gallery, Hobart: <http://www.muralartgallery.org>
Roxbury Arts Group (RAG) Roxbury: <http://roxburyartsgroup.org/>
Smithy Center for the Arts, Cooperstown: <http://www.smithyarts.org>
SUNY Martin-Mullen Gallery, Oneonta: <http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/art/gallery/gallery.html>
Walton Theater, Arts in the Parlor, Walton: <http://waltontheatre.org/arts-in-the-parlor/>



The Ananya Dance Theatre

Photo by Petronella Ytsma

VOICES TO BE HEARD

By Jessica Farrell

“VOICES,” a special evening exploring the life and work of Delaware County artist David Byrd, will take place April 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Morris Conference Center (Craven Lounge) on the SUCO campus, presented by David Byrd: VOICES, SUNY Oneonta, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Otsego County, and SUCO students working to establish NAMI on campus.

“VOICES” is a free event combining elements of theater, dance, visual art, and mental health advocacy. The multimedia performance is a collaboration among area artists, the community, and students. Musician Michael Suchorsky who has toured and recorded with artists such as Lou Reed, Soldier String Quartet, trumpeter Don Cherry and French rock legend Jacques Higelin, will provide an original soundscape for the evening.

David Byrd was a painter and recluse who lived near Sidney Center NY from 1988 until his death in 2013. For thirty years, he worked as an orderly in a V.A. psychiatric

hospital. This experience inspired him to create hundreds of paintings, drawings and a book, *Montrose V.A. Hospital 1958-88*. Through word and image, David offers an honest and rare glimpse into the human experience of mental illness. His work has been exhibited across the country and at SUCO’s Martin Mullen Gallery in 2013.

David Byrd: VOICES works to preserve David’s legacy and organize events that provoke, challenge and explore perceptions of mental illness. The April 21st presentation will support mental health awareness in the community, as well as SUCO students establishing a student-run advocacy group on campus. NAMI student members hope to connect with their peers, educate and advocate through campus events and address issues of stigma that make it hard for young people to talk about mental health concerns.

Please join us for a fascinating and engaging look at the life and art of David Byrd. An open discussion will follow the performance. All are welcome!

For more information about VOICES contact davidbyrdvoices@gmail.com or call Jessica Farrell at 607-369-4916.

(Please note: after 6 p.m., you may park without a permit on the SUCO campus.)



Judith Lamb Basket of Chinese Squash

MUSIC, continued from Page 13

trade. In the 17th century, African slaves in America began making early banjos based on indigenous African instruments.

In the early 19th century, whites appropriated the banjo and slave music as popular entertainment for working class white audiences in circuses, taverns and small theaters in minstrel shows. The 19th century banjos that I make are replicas of the banjos used by musicians of that period.

Joel Sweeney from Appomattox VA was one of the first and most famous minstrel banjo performers. He performed throughout the South during the mid 1800s, performing in circuses, taverns and courthouses. In NYC, The Virginia Minstrels gave their first theatrical minstrel performance on February 6, 1843, at the Bowery Theater. They were an instant success and launched the minstrel show into the American heart for the next fifty years. “Dixie Land,” by Dan Emmett, became the anthem for the American Confederacy. Many tunes are still well known today: for example, “Camptown Races” and “Oh! Susanna” by Stephen Foster.

Although blackface

minstrel shows were popular throughout America and Europe and presented the most innovative American pop music of the time, they were also troubling because many of the song lyrics, costumes, skits and jokes mocked black people, women, Irish people, and many other minority groups. But the blackface minstrel performance genre persisted in popular American entertainment throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century. It was just too ingrained into popular American entertainment to quickly fade away. I remember the singer Al Jolson in blackface singing “Mammy” on TV.

Another example is “The Amos ‘n’ Andy Show,” a radio comedy skit by two white actors with minstrel background impersonating two African Americans in Harlem beginning in 1925. The legacy of blackface continues to cause issues today, since many people don’t understand or don’t care about the racist implications of its use.

For more information on this topic, go to: <http://minstrelbanjo.com/>

The Tulip and the Rose Café

Serving Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner...and Catering too!
435 Main Street, Franklin
607-829-4040

Please call for availability.

LIGHTS, continued from Page 6

strategy in place in case our nation's grid is brought down by a cyberattack. Koppel shares an interview with retired NSA director, Keith Alexander, owner of IronNet Cybersecurity, Inc. Mr. Alexander is used as an example of how our system of government allows departing government officials to transform their expertise, experience, and contacts into extraordinarily high fees, contracts, and lucrative businesses.

Given all this, it should be no wonder that a new lifestyle of resiliency and self-reliance is emerging. One branch of this movement is known as "preppers." A prepper believes that a catastrophic disaster or emergency is likely to occur, and makes active preparations for it, typically by stockpiling food, ammunition, and other supplies for this "Doomsday." Estimates say there are three million preppers, and the movement is growing around the country. While Mr. Koppel does not label people of the Mormon faith as preppers, he does mention actions taken

by the Mormon Church as another example of people taking personal responsibility for their own well-being should a catastrophe arise, instead of depending on outside help.

A few people interviewed for the book use renewable energy to be more self-reliant. Because this group's goals and reasons for becoming self-reliant are entirely different from the run-of-the-mill prepper's goals, they would rather be referred to as "early adopters." The "early adopters" are highlighted in the book as resilient and better prepared, and offering a glimpse into a more sustainable future.

A reasonable conclusion is that electricity is what keeps our society tethered to modern times, but that society is dependent on an unprotected industry that puts profit ahead of building a resilient infrastructure, thus compromising our national security.

Tammy Reiss teaches and promotes energy efficiency and independence through renewables and energy conservation in the Marcellus Shale region of New York State.

CONSERVE, continued from Page 3

The Freckelton-Beal house along the Ouleout Creek

with other conservation minded landowners throughout our region who want to protect their land for future generations."

In a great victory for landowners interested in conservation, the enhanced tax incentive for conservation easement donations was made permanent by strong bipartisan votes in both the House and Senate and signed into law by President Obama on December 18, 2015. The incentive, considered by many to be the most important conservation legislation in twenty years, encourages landowners to place conservation easements on their land to protect important natural, scenic and historic resources. Lands placed into conservation easements continue to be farmed, grazed, hunted or used for outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation, and these lands remain on county tax rolls, strengthening local economies.

The incentive now raises the federal income tax deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement to fifty percent of adjusted gross income, or 100 percent for qualified farmers and ranch-

ers, and extends the carry-forward period for utilizing unused deductions to fifteen years.

In Cherry Valley, Otsego County, OLT completed the second largest project in its history, conserving the 533 acre Graves Farm property. The project was second only to one of OLT's very first conservation easements, over twenty years ago, with the Greenwoods Conservancy in the Town of Burlington. The Graves Farm property encompasses over 14,000 feet of frontage along an unnamed tributary to the Cherry Valley Creek as well as forest and agricultural lands, which are in active production with a local farm family.

The project conserved not only the property's valuable agricultural resources but also the open space, wildlife habitat, numerous wetlands and clean water it provides to the Cherry Valley Creek. Hundreds of acres of forest on the property are conducive to sustainable forest management while also providing large migratory corridors and habitat for local wildlife.

New OLT Executive Director John Winter says, "I am excited to be joining OLT after such a successful year of land conservation where we were able to protect important lands across four different counties. 2016 is also shaping up to be an exciting year for OLT."

For more information on OLT's land protection efforts or to find out how to conserve your own lands, email info@otsego-landtrust.org, visit www.otsego-landtrust.org, or call OLT at 607-547-2366.

PIE, continued from Page 1

kins and organic fresh produce. Janet, Jamie and partners decided to make the venture more permanent, so purchased the current property on Route 7 in Otego. After six months of what Janet says was a "crazy wild renovation," they held a barn raising with almost 100 family and friends to help finish the construction. With necessary permits in hand, Pie in the Sky opened for business July 1, 1992.

Jamie remembers, "That first year we tilled soil that hadn't been turned in twenty years and it was beautiful."

Twenty-five years later, that same three and a half

acres is a sustainable, organic garden at the heart of Pie in the Sky. Jamie developed a crop rotation plan with a ten-bed system (each bed is 50'x150') mapped out until 2025. The vegetable garden is very productive, fertilized with green manure from cover crops like buckwheat, winter rye, and clover/timothy, and supplemented with lime, sawdust, and hay mulch from local fields. Jamie also planted over 100 fruit trees, bought land across the road along the river with a productive sugar bush and enough land to grow Christmas trees. They try to use everything available



Janet and Jamie at sugaring time

from their land to nourish their gardens. Jamie says, "We prune the apple trees, chip up the prunings, and spread that under the berry bushes. Ash and charcoal from our wood furnace feed the asparagus."

Over the years, Janet and Jamie tried new things (remember barn dances and lawn sales?), expanded their products (maple syrup, homemade gifts, videos), and in 1998, they entered a new phase with the purchase of the Polar Bear Ice Cream business.

Ice cream brought in more customers, but it required long hours and time away from other aspects of the business. Being tied to the vintage ice cream machine behind the counter meant Janet (and Jamie for the first seven years) had no time to work in the garden, plan menus, market products, and mingle with customers.

So the time was right last summer when a local family expressed an interest in acquiring the ice cream business. After eighteen years--and the longest in Polar Bear's seven generations--Janet and Jamie were ready to pass the torch.

Janet and Jamie are visibly excited about the path ahead for Pie in the Sky. They believe the resurgence in local, organic and



seasonable foods will help with the transition to their reinvented business. People still clamor for those Pennsylvania Peaches. Customers anxiously wait the arrival of fresh asparagus, strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, squash, basil, apples, pumpkins, and Christmas trees.

Janet isn't sure what will be on her kitchen menu, but you can count on pies and a selection of baked goods. There will surely be salads, sandwiches and soups. And tables to sit at and play chess or checkers with your friends. And jigsaw puzzles. And maybe some new things. As much as possible, Janet and Jamie will be serving food they grow themselves or buy from farmers who share their integrity and high standards. Most of all, they look forward to spending time with their customers and increasing connections with the Pie in the Sky's loyal community.



Pie-grown asparagus

Hearing their stories, I'm reminded of the writer Wendell Berry. Janet said she learned to listen to the old ice cream machines to understand how they worked. Wendell Berry believes we need to listen to the land to know what it needs. Janet and Jamie are listening.

Follow Pie in the Sky on Facebook and look for email updates coming soon. You can also call them at 607-432-3599.

Pam Peters lives in Franklin, NY with her husband and two children. She is an avid birdwatcher and outdoors enthusiast, and has shopped at Pie in the Sky since the 1980s.

MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

You may have guessed that I'd hidden a winning ticket for the two billion dollar Powerball lottery in that birdhouse. Too bad plastic freezer bags aren't fireproof. Anyway, easy come, easy go. I was going to buy a new Tesla pickup truck.

Actually I have greater regret at the stupid idea of hiding my steno pad and manuscript in that birdhouse, too. But having someone in the house while I was gone made me nervous and the refrigerator wasn't the best place for it.

So now I have to start all over again.

"My name is Jack. I'm kind of a farmer. I grow things."

Don't worry. I wouldn't do that to you. First issues of this paper are still available if you want to find out how it all started.

The charred wreckage of the birdhouse was being visited now only by big black crows. Insurance birds, I guess. Little black briefcases. Wilson's dog hadn't returned to bark them away.

Almost had a new pet cat when one of the feral barn felines decided she liked the house. Unfortunately, she had wrapped herself up unseen in my electric blanket, digging her nails in and nesting as they do. When I turned it on, she got zapped. I thought she was okay until she leaped from the bed to the floor and missed. Catatonic.

Well, we've still got seven murders on our hands and who knows

how many more we don't know about. The community is still split on powerlines, fracking, gas pipelines, and compressor stations. Unfortunately the companies that stand to profit don't live here. Their underhanded and dishonest ways of trying to increase their profits only make things more difficult. Yes, perhaps an excessive energy demand is driving opportunity but we now know that alternative sources can begin to replace what has become as destructive as it once was constructive. It's of paramount importance that communities work to protect themselves by making sure that these outside interests take responsibility for the inevitability of human error. There is rarely no downside to change. But change we must. The oil is running out. The gas will also run out. One thing is for sure. We are in this together and will experience the consequences of all actions or no actions also together.

So here's the deal. Whether to us or our children, damage will come. This isn't pretty trees and furry bunnies. In the end, some folks will never, ever be forgiven.

Conspiracy theories are so much fun to think about. The moon is just a road sign pock-marked with gunshots from an eternity of cosmic hunting seasons. Some shots miss. It's interesting trying to guess who's been hit by galactic birdshot. Rapt, wrapped, or rapped.

Now that our telescopes see farther out and our microscopes see farther in, we have at least twice

as much stuff to look at. We have to talk twice as fast to get it all in.

It's that time of year again to start setting the sugarin' pails, trim the grapevines, and plant cheerios. I'm determined to get a good crop of bagels this year. We hear said that climate change will bring out more insects and an increase in the usual rotating contingent of slugs, molds, and mildews. New plans from the Dept. of Agriculture include a rebate program of biofuels based on new instruments that allow for the direct extraction of methane from cows. A whole new market is being born. If cauliflower comes back, we'll be cooking.

Wilson's dog returned with a serious hangover and collapsed behind the refrigerator, snoring loudly. My bowtie was clipped to his tail.

When the police officer came by to take my report about my destroyed mailbox and birdhouse, Wilson's dog woke up and stared at him with those bloodshot orange eyes. Give anyone the willies. Besides that, he seemed to be panting, except his green tongue was stiff. I hoped I was the only one who knew he was not panting but sticking his tongue out.

The officer glanced at the hardware covering the kitchen table and raised his eyebrows. I told him everything had been found at the dump and I was writing a story using them for descriptive purposes only. I assured him that nothing was loaded. He suggested we take a ride downtown. I handed him the BB gun. He stared at me. I handed him

the boomerang. He stared at me. I handed him the balloons. He left.

It occurred to me that I'd never explored how radioactivity from the open fracking fluid pits had affected Wilson's dog. Had it enhanced his doggie powers, diminished them, or created new ones?

Let's try something simple. Tracking. Both the mailbox and the birdhouse had to have been approached on foot. I explained it to him and he agreed, so we set off on an idiot back-and-forth round-in-circles pattern trying to pick up a scent. Suddenly his ears went up, he woofed, and took off like a shot. I wished I'd brought my unicycle but I managed to catch up to him after a ways. We got into town, heading down Main Street, and in the parking lot of the diner, he sat down wagging his tail and woofing again. He smiled at me. I couldn't tell whether he'd found something or was just hungry, but this was where his girlfriend worked. So maybe.

All I could do was go inside for a cup of coffee. Wilson's dog took a running start, jumped to the loading dock, and bounced up into the air, disappearing into a dumpster.

After two cups of coffee and feeling very wired, I came outside and moved to the back of the building. That's when I remembered that I should do better about feeding the dog.

He was sitting beside the dumpster with a human arm in his mouth.

To be continued...

TOXIC, continued from Page 9

ing concentration, it causes dizziness, nosebleeds, headaches, nausea, fluid in the lungs, muscle weakness, vomiting, loss of coordination, confusion, coma, and death. The NIOSH limit of immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) is only 150 ppm or 0.015 percent

High concentrations of mercaptans caused the accidental deaths of four employees and the hospitalization of a fifth from the DuPont manufacturing facility in La Porte TX on November 15, 2014.

Even moderate levels of exposure, if repeated, may result in chronic damage to lungs, kidneys, and liver and may destroy red blood cells causing anemia.

These exposure levels are set for adults, but children are at greater risk. When exposed to the same concentration as adults,

they may receive a larger dose because of their higher ratio of lung surface to body weight. What is more, children breathe closer to the ground where the gas concentrates

Butyl mercaptan is a serious flammability hazard (Rating 3) according to the National Fire Protection Association. What is more it is explosive in concentrations in air of 4 to 22 percent, i.e. 4 to 22 parts per hundred.

Mercaptans are stored under pressure as a liquid, like propane. A small leak can quickly release large volumes of gas.

They are added to natural gas in concentration of 0.5 pounds per million cubic feet. At this rate, 600 pounds would be required each day to odorize the capacity of the NED pipeline, 1.2 billion cubic feet per day.

QUI TACET CONSENTIRE
VIDETUR

The NEW
Franklin  Register.

The NFR in your mailbox...or your inbox!

Live out of the area, or just too far from town? You can still read the NFR.

Sign up for mailed delivery.

Just **\$7.00 for a year's subscription** (3 issues, starting with the issue after we hear from you.) This fee will cover (ever-rising) postage and handling. The NFR is still free.

OR...perhaps you prefer to read your news on line?

Send us your email address, and we'll send you a PDF of the latest issue, as soon as it comes out. (The file is big, so if you have a dial-up connection, this will not be an option for you.)

SUBSCRIBER NAME:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

DELIVERY PREFERENCE (circle one):
E-MAIL U.S.MAIL

DATE TO START (circle one):
Summer Fall Spring

For mailed delivery, send this form with payment to:

Editor/ Subscriptions
The New Franklin Register
P.O. Box 258
Franklin, NY 13775

(Checks should be made out to **Franklin Local**)

OR

For electronic delivery (free), email your request to nfr@franklinlocal.org

CAMEL, continued from Page 1

ment, despite there being no such requirement for this segment. According to staff at the KM open house in Franklin, the odorant injector building was not even depicted as the right size because they did not have time to draft plans. On the site plan in Franklin and Otego, this building was dropped in without drawing the necessary driveway or parking lot, as provided for the other four buildings.

Conflicting reasons were given for this belated shift of the injector to the site in Franklin, officially called the Otego Compressor Station. It is worth noting that the head compressor station on the Market Path is in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County, where the local government fully supports the residents in opposition to the compressor station. In Franklin, not so much. So we get the odorant injector.

In Franklin, an alternate location for the complex was considered between Chamberlain Hill Road and the Marcy South powerlines. One of the reasons given for rejecting this location is that it is within a mile of the golf course. Unstated is whether the noise or the odor would be more distasteful to the golfers. Instead TGP chose the location off Otego Road, midway between the Franklin and Otego schools.

A blend of stinky chemicals is used to odorize the gas. Mostly it is butyl-mercaptan - see the ac-

companying staff report on Pg. 9. This chemical is used because humans can smell it in concentration of parts per billion. Any leaks from this complex are sure to be noticed by its neighbors.

The odorant injector could be a problem for more than just the two villages. Back in 2013, a leak of mercaptan in the city of Rouen, France could be smelled in southeast London, over 200 miles downwind and across the English Channel.

At the concentration in the gas, this odorant is safe -- at least over short exposures. (Neighbors of the Aliso Canyon storage facility for natural gas in southern California were driven from their homes as a leak stretched into days and weeks.) But mercaptan will quickly sicken you in concentrations of only ten parts per million. And it can kill you in concentrations of several hundred ppm, or hundredths of one percent. The storage tank in the odorant building will hold 6,000 gallons under pressure or more than twenty-two tons. It will need to be filled every few months. There are procedures to safely handle mercaptan. Nevertheless, a slip-up can be catastrophic because the fluid is both flammable and explosive.

On the NED Supply Path segment, twenty percent of the capacity (0.24 of the 1.2 billion cubic feet per day) is contracted for a new power generating plant in New York. KM will reveal neither the company nor the location. Howev-

er, high-voltage lines are required to transmit the power. Franklin is one of only six locations where such lines cross the proposed route of the Supply Path. Also it is one of only two locations with a compressor station, the other being Schoharie. Withdrawing one fifth of the gas from the pipeline will slow the flow unless the gas is re-compressed.

The first pipeline is the camel's nose. Once a greenfield pipe is in place, which for Franklin would be Constitution, all that follows would be so much more difficult to stop.

How was it that this camel's nose was first allowed into our tent?

The Constitution Pipeline was sold as being necessary to bring natural gas to Amphenol Aerospace in Sidney. This is not true. In the years before the misnamed Constitution project, Leatherstocking Gas Company was pursuing bringing natural gas from the Dominion Transmission pipeline in Madison County. Gas was to come south through the existing EmKey Energy pipeline, which was built by Norse Energy and then sold to partly cover the losses of its failed drilling program. Then the gas was to come east along a new pipeline to be built along State Highway 206 through the towns of Coventry, Bainbridge, and Sidney. In the year before Constitution was announced, Leatherstocking had obtained at least one of the necessary franchises and was perusing the other towns.

Only after the Constitution

project was announced, and Leatherstocking was offered four taps along that pipeline, was its earlier project abandoned and apparently forgotten. Thereby Constitution gained the veneer of a local benefit (the only such along the entire 124 mile route), and Leatherstocking gained greater prospects.

Local politicians have been played by Constitution Pipeline Company like babes in the woods. Belatedly, some have come to oppose the NED pipeline, which would be much harder to stop should Constitution be built.

There is no limit to how much gas infrastructure could be built in Franklin. Just this January, Millennium Pipeline announced that it plans to more than double the power of the Hancock compressor station, which has already depopulated the neighborhood of permanent residents. Additional infrastructure proposed include a third compressor station in the Town of Highland and 7.3 miles of thirty-six-inch pipe in Orange County.

What is to protect the affected landowners and neighbors from the encroachment of these pipelines and this compressor complex? The Town Council of Franklin has yet to extend landowner protections, despite years of requests.

Where will this leave the townspeople?

Out on their own with gas infrastructure deeply entrenched in Franklin. How will the next generation judge our actions...or our lack of action?

Weddings at Catskills Escape

--Create Lifetime Memories--

Boutique Barn Weddings for under 100 people

109 Post Road, Franklin, NY (607) 353-1533

www.catskillsescape.com

Special Pricing for Locals





Antiques & More

Wed-Sun 10-5 or by Appointment

Furniture, Linens, China, Primitives, Vintage Bears,
Country Gifts, Fresh Eggs, Jellies, Homemade
Soaps & Lotions, Sewing Notions and more!

95 Hodge Rd., Franklin, NY 13775
607-230-4004 • teapots212@yahoo.com

HYPE, con't from Page 3

Delaware County (27 percent), and \$8,000 for Town of Franklin (18 percent).

Estimate by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company for NED is also about \$110,000 per mile. At their open house in Franklin last December, TGP offered no estimate of property taxes to be paid on its compressor complex. On the NED website energymattersny.com, the figure for Franklin listed only taxes from the pipeline. (Since then, the page has been rewritten to list benefits by county.) In response to a request by this newspaper, TGP stated that the estimate including the compressor complex would soon be forthcoming. But after a few weeks, they stated "we plan to include updated tax estimates in a

supplemental FERC filing in coming months."

In Hancock, the compressor station (i.e. pump station) was assessed at only a third the construction cost. Next, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement cut that by half again, as well as

foregoing all the sales tax -- an estimated loss of \$3.7 million over fifteen years.

Most likely, any property taxes that are paid will diminish quickly. Last year at the March 17th meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Northfield MA, the town administrator, Brian Noble,

reported on his conversations with assessors in several towns with compressor stations. All reported that the companies asked for tax abatements in the year following construction.

Nearer to home, Iroquois Gas Transmission LP has sued Schoharie County,

four towns (Carlisle, Esperance, Schoharie, and Wright), and the Schoharie Central School District to force reductions in annual payments of property taxes for the existing pipe and compressor station and to force refunds of \$3.6 million already paid. This case has dragged on for almost twenty years. As is common, the local governments capitulated rather than pay the court costs and risk the refund. In October of last year, they agreed to a fifteen-year PILOT that was proposed by the Schoharie County Industrial Development Agency.

Even if TGP builds the compressor station in Franklin without requesting a PILOT, it will more than likely insist on one shortly thereafter.



Rendering of the proposed Otego Compressor Station with communication tower in the foreground and Stewart Road in the background (truescape.com)



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: nfr@franklinlocal.org

What are we about?

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

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

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, healthier habit of living, and to put it to work here in Franklin, for a brighter, more sustainable future.

PLEASE JOIN US!

For meeting times, location and directions, as well as lots of other information about our town, check our website:

franklinlocal.org

Printed in Norwich NY by Sun Printing, Inc.

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



FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

OPENING FOR THE 2016 SEASON ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

ON THE LAWN AT CHAPEL HALL FRANKLIN, NY

FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

SUNdays from 10 am - 2 pm at Chapel Hall Memorial Day Weekend - Columbus Day Weekend

supported by Rich's Auto Body

CALL FOR VENDORS!

The Franklin Farmers' Market is hoping to add to our produce offerings. If you grow vegetables, herbs or fruit, and are interested in selling them with us, please contact our market manager, Ellen Curtis: 607-829-5631 or ellencurtis184@aol.com



Types of Renewable Energy:

- PV Solar Energy
- Solar Hot Water
- Geothermal
- Wind/Turbine Energy

Start yourself on the path to energy independence. The financial rewards are considerable: lower heating or electrical costs, government rebates and tax deductions. Your actions will result in a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

For more information, contact:

FRED FELDMAN

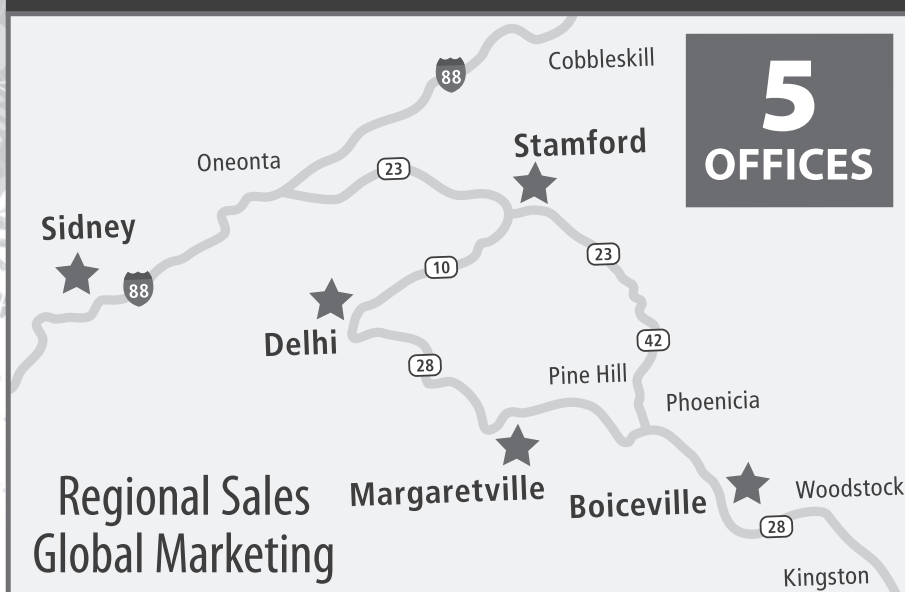
feldmanart@gmail.com
347-615-6816
great-brook-solar.com



We've Got Your Real Estate Needs Covered in Every Season



Catskill Region Leader



#1 in Sales
#1 in Service

Integrity
Leadership
Innovation
Since 1971

Bridge Street , Margaretville **(845) 586-3321**
Route 28 , Boiceville **(845) 657-4177**
Main Street , Delhi **(607) 746-7400**
Main Street , Stamford **(607) 652-2220**
Union Street , Sidney **(607) 604-4394**

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

**TIMBERLAND
PROPERTIES**

TimberlandProperties.com

CatskillPremier.com