

CAMPAIGN FOR

NEW YORK

HEALTH

LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT

NEW YORK HEALTH ACT

By Sarah Outterson-Murphy

Many people worry about the cost of their own healthcare, but local business owners also worry about their employees.

“I can’t afford to offer healthcare to my coworkers,” said Faiga Brussel, owner of Good Cheap Food in Delhi. “Years ago, I tried, and quickly ran into a brick wall of financial disaster and had to backtrack. Now it is so much worse.”

Health coverage is particularly important for local farmers, well aware of their work’s physical dangers (<https://goo.gl/hGXYKT>).

“The occupation itself is an injury to your body,” said Eleanor Blakeslee-Drain, who owns Berry Brook Farm in Delancey. “So health insurance is a must for us.” Blakeslee-Drain, her husband, and two sons will lose Medicaid this year, because their vegetable farm now makes enough money that they no longer qualify. “We used to joke that since giant agribusiness gets mas-

See **HEALTH**, continued on Page 18

SIDNEY CENTER SEES PROGRESS

Part 1: Beautification

By Michael Sellitti

The Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization formed over ten years ago with one basic idea - getting people together to clean up Sidney Center. We’ve come a long way since then. As volunteers working together, our mission is to improve the quality of life for those living in and around the hamlet of Sidney Center. To further this mission, SCIG focuses on three areas: free community events, clean water education and outreach, and beautification and improvement projects. All these share the common goal of promoting a healthy Upstate NY lifestyle and helping to change local attitudes about realizing the renewed potential of our area when it’s supported by meaningful progress.

Over the next few issues of *The New Franklin Register*, I will outline each focus area with fewer words and more pictures, in order to show the results of our work to the community and to the next generation, who we hope will either stay or return to this area.

Because beautification and general improvement was

See **SCIG**, continued on Page 17



REMEMBERING

LEWIS HINE

By Lynne Kemen

Like many of us, the famous photographer and American Progressive Lewis Hine visited Franklin and fell in love with the beauty of the landscape. Timothy J. Duerden has written his biography.

Duerden is the director of the Delaware Historical Association in Delhi, NY, and is an adjunct lecturer in history at the State University of New York, Oneonta. He has edited, written or co-written six books about Delaware County, but this book was more personal. Duerden lives in Franklin and wanted to share the story of a well-known person associated with our town. Hine is buried in the Ouleout Valley Cemetery.

There are many books about Hine’s photography, but this is the first full biography of a talented and complicated man. Today, Lewis Hine is widely recognized



as “one of America’s greatest and most influential 20<sup>th</sup> century photographers and social reformers,” Duerden says. He is primarily known for his work exposing child labor practices, bad conditions in factories and mills, and for documenting the building of the Empire State Building. Even if you are not a historian or photographer, you will recognize many of the iconic photos taken during Hine’s career.

Hine grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. His educational plans were put on hold as he worked long shifts as a laborer, and while he suffered through periods of unemployment.

See **HINE**, continued on Page 16



The roundabout - finally taking shape. Photo by Aron Berlinger

FRANKLIN FISCAL FAILURES

By Brian Brock

The third term of Supervisor Taggart began as his first did, with town finances being audited by the Office of the State Comptroller. Again the Board’s response to this audit is the same as before, keeping the OSC audit from the townspeople, with no mention of it at monthly meetings. And again the audit was revealed to the public by a newspaper on its front page, this time *The Reporter* in its edition of April 10<sup>th</sup> of this year.

The second audit, same as the first, found significant failures of oversight. In fact, it found exactly the same failures. In their re-

sponse to the 2014 audit, the board agreed with the criticism of their financial operations by the first audit in their letter of April 30<sup>th</sup> and agreed with OSC recommendations for changes in the Board’s Comprehensive Action Plan of July 16<sup>th</sup>. Despite this, the Board failed to produce a single annual audit or annual accounting during the four years between OSC audits. Not only is this a violation of their CAP but also of both Town Law and General Municipal Law.

In these failures, the Town of Franklin is the sole outlier in our region. Of the other towns in Delaware County, all eighteen are fil-

See **FISCAL**, con’t on Page 17



INSIDE

THIS ISSUE...

<b>REGULAR FEATURES:</b>	
Neighbor’s View	Pg. 2
Mayor’s Corner	Pg. 3
Kitchen Basics	Pg. 4
Greenbanks Garden	Pg. 5
The Bare Truth	Pg.10
Real Estate Sales	Pg.20
<b>FRANKLIN LOCAL:</b>	
Farm Family Award	Pg. 2
Old Franklin Day	Pg. 2
Village Audit	Pg. 3
Chamber Picnic	Pg. 3
Education Foundation	Pg. 3
Senior Bus Routes	Pg. 5
Catskill Carriage	Pg. 5
Park Geology	Pg. 6
New Businesses	Pg. 7
Conserve Your Land	Pg.11
<b>FOCUS ON ENERGY:</b>	
Microgrid Update	Pg. 8
Clean Microgrids?	Pg. 8
Clean Energy Grants	Pg. 9
<b>LOCAL ARTS:</b>	
Franklin Stage 2018	Pg.11
Book Reviews	Pg.12
Poem	Pg.12
Upstate Arts	Pg.13
Stagecoach Rum	Pg.13
Bright Hill Grant	Pg.14



# Your Neighbor's View...

*Editor's note: This letter, at 2444 words, was way over our word limit, so is excerpted here. Although the opinions herein are not necessarily shared by the New Franklin Register, we fully support a citizen's right to speak his/her mind, especially within our pages.*

To the Editor:

May 28, 2018

Please let me point out that *The New Franklin Register* carries the words "INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS AND FREE" on the cover. The Spring Edition mentioned that Sidney Center is concerned about speeders. My fearless and free point is to argue against reduced speed limits and more enforcement of them. The posted speed limits are almost always low, sometimes very low. It is no wonder that people are violating them! Even a slow and careful driver could easily violate the speed limit in many places. We need more reasonable speed limits, but issues like liability and law suits may keep us where we are. We don't want to make matters any worse.

Traffic tickets aren't written solely to protect people's safety. Tickets are also given out so as to raise revenue. A speeding ticket can be very expensive and more than one of them puts a person in danger of losing their driver's license. People often drive out of necessity rather than for fun. They may be going to work or to the grocery store, or on some essential errand. Loss of one's driver's license could mean, among other things, the loss of that person's job! A low speed limit puts people at risk of being excessively fined.

Moreover, a pullover could escalate into something more. A confrontation with a law officer could result in serious problems for the individual who gets pulled over. The temper and disposition of the police officer could have an impact on what they decide to do to the person they stopped. In fact, such a confrontation could be potentially dangerous to both parties, which is something people don't usually think about. It is impossible for a police officer to get out of their vehicle and walk over to a car they pulled over in complete safety. The person they pulled over or another occupant of the vehicle could do any number of things, even if it was very foolish of them to do so. Something could happen that doesn't necessarily have anything to do with somebody's deliberate intentions. I once heard a story of a police officer who pulled someone over and got bitten by their pet snake! Then there is the danger posed by passing traffic. Just sitting in a car on the side of the road while a ticket is being written is dangerous. At any time when a ticket is being administered, a passing car or truck could hit either the police car or even the vehicle that was pulled over!...Ironically, enforcing traffic regulations, which many see as protecting our safety, can be unsafe!

The amount of the fines currently being charged for traffic violations are often excessively high. It is possible that they violate the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which reads, "*Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.*" In addition, interpretations are made that may be incorrect or unjust, like in the case of the hazardous driver assessment, which can be imposed on anyone going over twenty miles above the posted speed limit...

[For instance] The posted speed limit and school bus safety don't necessarily go together. A school bus can travel slower than the posted speed limit. Other vehicles wouldn't have to be restricted to that speed unless they happened to be behind the school bus. Speed limits can be raised with only minimal impact on school bus safety, partly because the school bus can travel well below the posted speed limit if that facilitates the safety of its occupants. School bus safety and the posted speed limit aren't necessarily connected.

In any case, the call for the enforcement of speed limits often has nothing to do with school safety or accident prevention. It has much more to do with the noise traffic is making on the roads. People who live near a busy highway are aggravated by the noise passing traffic is making. Yet, most such people drive themselves. Their vehicles contribute to the noise heard by others who live next to a busy road...To a lesser extent, people living next to a busy road may be bothered by the threat of being hit by a passing motorist while engaged in a routine activity like getting the mail. The call for enforcement of the speed limit might be a somewhat selfish reaction by people who live near a well-traveled thoroughfare.

Traffic safety doesn't depend only on speed limits. Low speed limits are an impediment to normal driving. They also increase the risk of a driver getting an expensive ticket that could cost them not only a lot of money, but the loss of their driver's license, which could mean the loss of their job. Calls for enforcement of the speed limit aren't as wise as they seem...The facts don't necessarily support the prevailing ideology of having low speed limits and a lot of traffic enforcement. In part, those who are asking for speed limit enforcement are expressing nothing more or less than an opinion. There are in fact many people who would like to have higher speed limits because they want to drive faster. Those who want to drive faster might be the majority!

Yours truly,

*Scott Syme*

Scott Syme

Treadwell, NY



**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**

## New Old Franklin Day

### SAVE THE DATE:

*Saturday*  
*August 25, 2018*

**Family Friendly Entertainment Including Live Music, Children's Bounce Houses, Zoo-Mobile, Free Face Painting, Vendors, and Food**

For more information, visit: [www.franklinny.org](http://www.franklinny.org) or write OFD@franklinny.org



### AND DON'T FORGET!

### The Franklin Free Library's GIANT BOOK SALE

at

New Old Franklin Day  
& Franklin Farmers' Market  
Aug 25-26

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

in front of Chapel Hall

**One book, one dollar!**



## OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARM FAMILY

### Staff Report

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce has presented the Outstanding Young Farm Family award for 45 years. It highlights the vitality of the agriculture and dairy industry in our county. The award goes to a farm family who represents all that is good in farming as both a vocation and a way of life; is progressive; is business minded; has a positive attitude; serves their community; and maintains a farmstead that provides a positive image to consumers.

The 2018 award was presented to Ronan and Susan Robinson at the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware County Dairy Princess Coronation

Dinner held at the South Kortright Central School on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Robinsons and their two sons received the award from Delaware County Chamber of Commerce President Ray Pucci and Delaware County Dairy Promotion Chairperson Barb Hanselman.

The Robinsons milk over fifty Holstein cows each day on Moo Juice Farm, Otego Road, Franklin. They harvest crops and hay. By using a silo, the Robinsons avoid wasteful plastic wraps. In addition to farming, they run a bluestone business. Ronan's motto is keep it simple and stay out of debt. Their farm has been a Dairy of Distinction since 2001.



From left, Ray Pucci; Ronan, Sheldon, Jonathan, and Susan Robinson; and Barb Hanselman. Photo: Delaware Chamber of Commerce





# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## VILLAGE BUDGETS OVERBALANCED

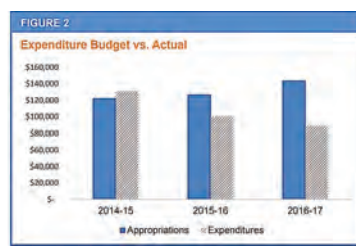
By Brian Brock

This year, separate audits of the village and town of Franklin found problems with fund balances, their accounting, reporting, or managing. Unlike with the town, the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) found no violation of laws by the village, which has annually filed the required end-of-year financial reports.

OSC notified the Village of Franklin of an impending audit in the summer 2017. The staff visited

the village office sporadically over a two-month period in the fall, first looking at the village books for the seventeen months of June 1, 2016 to November 10, 2017. Then they extended the scope of their audit back two years to June 1, 2014 to analyze financial trends.

Village trustees received a draft of the resulting report in March 2018, and responded by letter on April 12<sup>th</sup>. OCS released the final report on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and the village posted a notice of this report in The Reporter of May 15<sup>th</sup> in the legal section of the classifieds. Village trustees



discussed their required Comprehensive Action Plan at their June meeting and expect to file it by the deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Over this period of three and a half years, the fund balance increased by almost half from \$128,300 to \$187,300. This fund grew because the Village Board of Trustees (Thomas Briggs, Paul de Andrea, and

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

## EASTER EGG HUNT

On Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>, two dozen local kids braved the frigid weather to gather at the village park for the annual Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the Franklin Garden Club, Franklin Eyewear LLC, and Wayne Bank. The event was preceded by a pancake breakfast at the Fire Hall, hosted by the Franklin Fire Department.



Master of the Hunt, John Campbell at right, and friend

Photo by Johanna VanDeusen

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

*"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."*

This of course is from the Declaration of Independence...the covenant legacy that we as Americans subscribe to. It lists the ideals that the founders envisioned for a civilly advanced society and the commensurate means (government selected by the governed) with which these ideals may be secured and maintained.

Although there are those (myself included) who contend that government has upon occasion failed to keep these rights secure, the purpose of this article is to address the dynamic of securing these rights as it is carried out at the local level.

There are times when these inalienable rights come into conflict with each other. For instance, speed limits are imposed within the village to protect those who would attempt to

cross the street safely. The driver might contend that he should be able to drive his car as fast as he chooses...it is his right...his liberty to do so. The pedestrian has the right...the liberty to cross the street wherever and whenever he chooses to do so. It is the government that must secure the rights of both parties. If the government does not create laws to protect the lives of the governed - even though someone's liberty might be held in check - then the government has failed in its obligations. Furthermore, if the government does not develop rules to manage pedestrian traffic such as crosswalks and traffic lights, even though this may limit the liberty of the pedestrian, then government will have failed its constituency.

In Franklin, as in many rural communities, there is a strong resistance to the adoption of local laws (in the highest spirit of libertarianism). It is a challenge for village government to manage civic conflicts. We have laws against homeowners allowing grass to grow too tall, against sidewalks going unshoveled, against the accumulation of unlicensed vehicles etc. The Village Board has adopted these laws to maintain public safety. I would be misleading the reader if I neglected to mention that these laws were also developed to protect the appearance of the Village.

Aside from the friendly nature of Franklin's residents, our strong suit is Franklin's overall charm, its architecture and the care that Franklin homeowners take in maintaining its appeal. People from parts elsewhere find the Village attractive - so much so that some choose to live here over neighboring communities. It is this dynamic that adds to the sustainability of the community. We need to have people with the

means to be able to afford to own and maintain these houses. The alternative is yet another iteration of the slow and depressing decay of the villages in rural America.

But beauty without soul is a shallow and transitory thing. Attractive houses and like-minded people by themselves do not a healthy community make. Children on bikes, dogs, older folks, people of diverse backgrounds, young people working hard to get by, philosophers, pragmatists, plumbers, teachers, back slappers and curmudgeons all lend themselves to a bold and interesting stew. The pursuit of happiness by a diverse population of people, all functioning on a relatively equal footing, though from different socio-economic backgrounds, is how village life should be played out.

Can Village government create local laws to dictate how people decorate or maintain their property? The answer is...probably. Can we do this and stay within the intended vision of our forefathers? I would say...probably not. Some of our residents do not have the means or the ability to keep up their houses. Can the Village fine them or condemn their houses? There is no easy answer.

In a more perfect world, a "Good Samaritan" committee would be formed that would volunteer to undertake cosmetic and upgrade projects for homeowners unable to do this on their own. Yes, this is what I'd like to see. All of us in this village are stakeholders. At some point we need to realize that a limited government leaves room for its citizens to take a leadership role to work for positive change. This is the trait that defines a healthy community and the quality that may be the best fit for us in our collective pursuit of happiness.

## SAVE THE DATE!!

Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce

## Annual Picnic 2018

Saturday July 21st

Northstar Blueberry Barn  
Franklin Heights Road

Appetizers 5 p.m.  
Dinner 6 p.m.  
Awards 7 p.m.

### Honorees

Business:

Treadwell Carburetor Co.

Person: Michael Hyser

Student: Lilliana Bevilacqua

Tickets \$10, available from Chamber members

The Chamber will provide appetizers, hamburgers & hot dogs, and non-alcoholic drinks

Please bring a dish to pass

FranklinNY.org

## FRANKLIN COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

By Patricia Tyrell

The closing days of the 2017-2018 academic year are upon us, with seniors eager to graduate and underclassmen gearing up for summer vacation. Three Franklin Community Education Foundation scholarships will be awarded this year to graduating seniors who have demonstrated scholarship, character and effort during their school careers. An award of \$200 each will go to Jennifer Meo, Jillian Parascandola, and Megan Northrop. Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

The scholarship is awarded monthly to a staff-nominated student on behalf of the Foundation and Tom Morgan and Erna Morgan McReynolds, in memory of Wendy Brown. Ten

See **AWARD**, con't on Pg. 18





kitchen

basics

By  
Carla  
Nordstrom



Summer is here, and the grill can be put to work for another carefree season. The great thing about cooking on a grill is you leave the heat outside. We use a gas grill, which requires flicking a switch to ignite, but these grill recipes can be done on charcoal or wood. Keep in mind that a gas grill is easier to regulate: for the pita, you'll need high heat and for the chicken or lamb, medium heat works best.

Grilled Chicken or Lamb, Middle Eastern Style

- Marinade
- 1 medium chopped onion
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 1 cup of yogurt
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 1 tsp. cayenne (optional to spice it up)
- 2 tbsl. 7-spice mix

(You can make your own 7-spice mix. Combine one part ground all-spice, black pepper, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, ginger, ½ part ground fennel-greek, coriander, pinch of cardamom, and cumin.)

Grind the onion and garlic together in a food processor or mince finely, then mix in a bowl with the other ingredients. Marinate bone-in chicken pieces for 2-3 hours, or for shish kebab, cubes of boneless chicken for 1-2 hours, and lamb for 3-4 hours. When ready to grill, scrape off most of the marinade and discard. Grill at medium heat until cooked.

Pita on the Grill

This dough can also be used for pizza on the grill, by covering the flattened dough with toppings. In the Middle East, people sprinkle za'atar mixed with olive oil to make Man'oushe.

- 4 cups of flour (bread flour works best)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tbsl. fast yeast (if using dried yeast, soak in warm water first)
- 2 tbsl. olive oil
- 1 ¾ cups of warm water

Combine flour, salt, and yeast, then add olive oil and water to make the dough. (The humidity of the day will affect the dough.) It can be made

in a mixer with a dough hook, in a food processor, or by hand (this will require kneading). The dough should be smooth and pliable. Place in a greased bowl to rise until doubled for about an hour. Turn the grill onto high. When the dough has risen, drop onto a counter and let it rest for 10 minutes. Cut the dough into 12 pieces. Roll each piece into a disc and let rest again. When ready to bake, roll pitas into thin rounds. I usually work with two at a time, rolling them, and baking on the grill on one side for 3-5 minutes. I start the next batch while the previous is baking. Depending on the heat, some will make pockets while others will be flatter. Place hot pitas in a basket with a cloth napkin or dish towel surrounding them. They can be served warm or put in a plastic bag to stay soft.



Togetherness

Slowly he walks  
Trying to avoid  
Her closeness,  
Coming too close  
  
She falls  
  
She falls  
Turns her head  
Unexpectedly  
  
Her face catching  
His shadow  
  
He looks past her  
  
One eye closed  
One eye open  
No blinking  
No breath  
  
Nothing between them  
Only a sense of time  
A moment  
Easy to fall into  
Impossible to leave behind  
  
They shall live forever  
Together  
With only time to tell

- Edmond Rinnooy Kan



Book individual rooms, or the whole house!



Franklin Guest House

113 center street, franklin, new york

917 428 8253

franklin.guest.house@gmail.com

franklin.guest.house



Come tour an historic sawmill, gristmill, and woodworking shop, powered by water and steam.

Free admission for kids 12 & under

Enjoy Special Events!

July 4: Independence Day Celebration

July 28 & Sept. 1: Free Family Saturdays

Sept. 8: Antique Engine Jamboree

Oct. 13: Woodsmen's Festival

EXPLORE THE POWER OF THE PAST

Open Wednesday-Sunday, 10-5

51 County Highway 12, East Meredith, NY

607.278.5744 hanfordmills.org



# RIDE TO NYC IN COMFORT

Staff Report

Someone wants to visit you, but how to get them here? So many people cannot or will not hassle with owning a car in Gotham. And is it really worth renting a car just to drive up and back? Commuter rail will get them as close as Middletown, but that is still almost a four-hour round trip to pick them up. Trailways bus gets them to Oneonta (less than an hour round trip), but that ride is long and round about.

Now there is another option: Catskill Carriage will get them to Roscoe Friday evening and take them back Sunday afternoon, or Monday afternoon on a holiday weekend. And they do not leave from the crowded Hoboken NJ Transit train station or Port Authority bus terminal. In Manhattan, the location is Barcelona Bar on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 55<sup>th</sup> Street. This seasonal service is planned through the Columbus Day weekend, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

The earlier, luxury ride, including hostess and dessert, leaves Manhattan at 4 p.m. and arrives at the Prohibition Distillery on Roscoe's Union Street at 7 p.m. Price for a one-way trip is \$55 if bought a week in advance, \$65 if during the week ahead, or \$68.75 on boarding. (Trailways, NYC to Oneonta: \$49.75) Along the way, it makes stops at Middleton and Livingston Manor. The later ride (without treats) leaves Manhattan at 6 p.m. and arrives at the distillery at 10 p.m. Price is \$40 if bought a week in advance, \$50 if during the week ahead, or \$55 on boarding. It makes an additional stop in Callicoon. Fares for round trips are doubled.

Return trips are Sunday afternoon or Monday on a long holiday weekend, leaving Roscoe at 3 or 4 p.m. Beside Manhattan, both buses make an additional stop at NY Distilling Company on 79 Richardson Street in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Ticket price

includes a coupon for a half-price drink at the historic Western Hotel in Callicoon, Sullivan County. PayPal, Master Card, Visa, Discover, American Express, or Apple Pay accepted. Advanced tickets are not refundable.

The buses are 2016 Prevost H3-45s with free WIFI. Each of the fifty or so high-backed reclining seats with footrests have power outlets, reading lamps, and environmental controls. In transit, movies play on drop-down HD, which can be heard only through headphones. Typical fare is a romantic comedy or a nature documentary.

Currently, pets are not permitted except for service dogs.

To contact them: [getonthebus@catskillcarriage.com](mailto:getonthebus@catskillcarriage.com) or 917-399-8150 or PO Box 442, Downsville NY 13755.

Should this venture succeed, perhaps we can look forward to someone starting a connecting van service from Roscoe to Oneonta, with stops along the way in Downsville, Walton, and Franklin.

# GREENBANKS GARDENING

With  
Deborah Banks



Many relationships begin with fantastic foliage. You may say you love that *Heuchera* for its bright flowers held above the plant on thin stalks, but who are you kidding? I saw the way your eyes dropped to those marbled leaves, that ruffled edge, those dark veins. And how about all those dark-leaved plants in your bed? *Penstemon* 'Dark Towers', *Ligularia dentata* 'Britt Marie Crawford', *Weigela* 'Wine and Roses', *Physocarpus* 'Diablo'. Sure, they all flower, but no one is inviting them home for those little blossoms. And there are the blonds, like *Tradescantia* 'Sweet Kate', *Spiraea* 'Ogon', *Physocarpus* 'Gold Dart' and *Aralia* 'Sun King'. People have been talking...about how fantastic they look! Who needs flowers when the foliage is so striking?

Any plant that has burgundy or dark leaves gets a second look from me. Even dark stems – I love the native wood aster, *Eurybia divaricate*, for many reasons, but those almost black stems grab me every time. *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple' wins my award for most beautiful shrub foliage overall, with its glossy rounded leaves of dark purple. *Euphorbia dulcis* 'Chameleon' is a small stature perennial with beautiful dark burgundy leaves that I think of as a great 'doer'. It seeds around (but not too much), spontaneously appearing in other places to demonstrate how well it combines with almost any other plant. *Actaea atropurpurea* is a tall perennial with those dark reddish purple stems I love, and ferny fronds of dark greenish purple. When it sends up stalks of fragrant white flowers in late summer, you'll be smitten. The cultivars 'Hillside Black Beauty' and 'Brunnette' have even darker purple foliage.

For variegation, *Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima' gives pale green foliage with white margins. *Cornus* 'Golden Shadows' has gold and green variegation. *Filipendula palmata* 'Variegata' leaves are the palest green shot through with white. *Physostegia*

*virginiana variegata* has soft green leaves edged in ivory. *Knautia* 'Thunder and Lightning' has leaves of cream and green, topped in mid-summer by wine red pincushion blooms. *Iris argenteo variegata* is ribbed in alabaster and sage green. The big variegated comfrey that calls to you from across the yard in flashy golds and greens is *Symphytum* 'Axminster Gold'. And there are hostas for every possible variation in green, white, gold and blue. Sedums, grasses and conifers too.

There are special treasures for the shade garden. *Polygonatum* (Solomon's seal) has several cultivars with striking variegation, including 'Fireworks', 'Double Wide' and 'Carlisle'. *Polemonium* (Jacob's Ladder) has variegated cultivars that light up dark areas, notably 'Stairway to Heaven' and 'Brise D'Anjou'. *Daphne* 'Carol Mackie' is a small fragrant shrub for part shade that has pale edges to the leaves. *Dicentra* 'Gold Heart' has leaves of the brightest gold but may be ephemeral in a dry summer, disappearing until the next spring.

This lust for unusual foliage could leave you with a garden full of forty kinds of variegation, or only gold or purple-leaved plants. That's fine if that's what your heart desires – in the end, only you can decide what your garden should be – but it can be hard to pull off. It is easier to use these gorgeous plants as accents in among all the other plants worthy of your love.

It works nicely when you echo the same hues, or even repeat the same plant periodically throughout your garden beds. Edge with *Sedum* 'Angelina' here and also over there. Use another bright gold groundcover like *Lysimachia* 'Aurea' (creeping Jenny) in an open area nearby where you can let it run. Pick up the gold in a few different hostas, some *Hakonechloa* 'All Gold' forest grass, and maybe a gold-flowered *Aquilegia*. (Yes, of course, flowers are allowed too.)

Different textures and sizes also make foliage See LEAVES, con't on Pg. 14

# MORE LOCAL BUS ROUTES

Staff Report

Delaware County Office for the Aging (DCOA) runs a Senior Transportation System for people sixty years and older and for handicapped adults eighteen years and older, as space is available.

For years, it has run trips on Wednesdays and Thursdays, leaving from Delhi. Last year DCOA began new routes on Fridays, which make pick-ups in Treadwell, Franklin, and Sidney Center.

On the first and fifth Fridays of the month, the eastbound route to Oneonta stops at Walmart, Southside Mall, Hannaford's, Main Street, Price Chopper, Fox Care Center, Fox Hospital, Bassett on Main Street, and Basset on River Street.

This bus leaves Treadwell (Barlow's) at 8:30 a.m. and Franklin (Mirabito's) at 8:40. It arrives Walmart at 9:00. The return trip leaves Oneonta at 1:00 p.m. and arrives Franklin at 1:20 and Treadwell at 1:30.

On the second and fourth Fridays of the month, the westbound route to Sidney



and Binghamton stops at Sidney Senior Village, Laundromat, Sidney Civic Center, Kmart, Boscov's, Parkway Plaza (Target and Kohl's), Town Square Mall (Walmart), Oakdale Mall, and Wegman's.

This bus leaves Treadwell at 8:30 a.m., Franklin at 8:40, and Sidney Center (General Store) at 8:55. It arrives Sidney at 9:10 and Binghamton at 10:00. The return trip leaves Binghamton at 2:00 p.m. and Sidney at 3:00 and arrives Sidney Center at 3:15, Franklin at 3:30, and Treadwell at 3:40.

The bus seats 18 and has a wheelchair lift. When only a few passengers reserve, there is a van that seats seven. For more information or to make a reservation, call 607-832-5750. Suggested donation is \$5 for the round trip.

This service is supported by the New York Office for the Aging and Delaware County.

# FRANKLIN RABIES CLINIC

Staff Report

The annual clinic will be held Wednesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Franklin Fire Hall, 351 Main Street. Shots are free, but you must bring a record of the previous vaccination to show that your pet is eligible for this three-year coverage.

Public health law requires you to vaccinate against rabies all dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets within four months of birth, and again within the year after. Periodic booster shots are also required. Failure may result in a \$200 fine.

Should your unvaccinated pet bite a person or animal, it must be confined for observa-

tion for 10 days. If boarded, this is at the owner's expense. If your unvaccinated pet is bitten, the pet must be quarantined for six months or euthanized. A vaccinated pet requires only a booster shot within five days of attack. Once symptoms show, rabies is almost always fatal. Infected animals are euthanized.

At the clinic, dogs must be on a leash and kept under control. Cats and ferrets should be in a carrying case. Also you are responsible for cleaning-up after your pets.

If you cannot make the Franklin clinic, there are clinics in other towns during the summer: <http://delawarecountypublichealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/rabies-clinic-website-ad.jpg>. For more information: 607-832-5200.





## Franklin Eyewear LLC

*My focus is your eyewear*

Private appointments welcomed at YOUR convenience!

Offering high quality eyewear at affordable prices!

The area's only traveling eyewear service!



Prices starting  
at \$60 for a  
single vision  
plastic lens!

Open in Franklin at 574 Main St.  
Mondays and Fridays 1pm until 6pm  
or by appointment

Also see me in Delhi, Hamden or Walton  
Home visits available!

**Schedule a private appointment  
by calling 607-287-4986**

Johanna VanDeusen NYS Licensed Ophthalmic Dispenser  
[www.franklinspecs.com](http://www.franklinspecs.com) [www.facebook.com/franklinspecs](http://www.facebook.com/franklinspecs)

## GEOLOGY OF OUR VILLAGE PARK

By Brian Brock

During the Devonian period, some 400 million years ago, to the east of Franklin, the Acadian Mountain Range eroded, and rivers carried the resulting sediments westward to the great Catskill Delta.

Thin layers of gray, green, and blue silts were deposited at the far end of the delta where Franklin is today. These can be best seen in the large slabs on the western side of the park. Rarely, they preserve fragments of shells from the near shore, such as pieces of crinoids, brachiopods, and scallops. Other layers preserve carbonized remains of plant fragment from coastal forests.

As this delta filled-in, layers of red silts and muds were deposited along the shore here. In them, you can see root casts and rain-drop marks, such as in the large rock at the edge of the frog pond.

All these sediments were buried miles deep where heat and pressure

hardened them into rocks, which we see in the park only as pieces sticking-up through the soil.

Then, this bedrock was uplifted slowly enough that erosion kept the land close to sea level. Rivers meandered across this plain. Their bends can be seen preserved in the sinuous course of the Delaware River.

Tens of millions of years ago, the speed of uplift increased, raising the Appalachian Plateau. As the land rose, streams cut the many valleys that we see around us. The remnant of the plain is seen in the consistent heights of hill tops.

Starting in the Pleistocene epoch, about 2.6 million years ago, glaciers came and went. The most recent Wisconsin glaciation reached its maximum extent about 25,000 years ago, reaching as far south as Long Island. Above Franklin, the ice sheet was thousands of feet thick. This ice carried Devonian sedimentary rocks as big as trucks southward for relatively short distances. Smaller cobbles of much older Proterozoic metamorphic rocks were carried here from the distant

Adirondack Mountains.

On the hillside at the southern end of the park, the glacier left a thick layer of mud and rocks. Water does not easily drain through this hardpan, as can be seen from the marshy ground below the springs on either side of the park. As the glaciers melted away, some 15,000 years ago, huge volumes of water carried sediments which filled the valley bottoms. Sand and gravels were left at the northern end of the park. The village is built on this dissected delta that extended into a lake once filling the lower Ouleout Valley. Since then, rain-fed streams have made only minor changes, locally cutting down through the glacial sediments.

During the last 10,000 years, weathering and plants have formed soil on the surface, though in places, it is only a few inches thick. During the last two hundred years, local folks made some small changes to this landscape. In the east side of the park is a hand-dug watering hole. Someone drilled holes in two large rocks to blast them to bits.

## Sidney Center Park & Play- ground Update

By Michael Sellitti

Revitalization of the Sidney Center Park & Playground is underway. Phase One of the project includes restoring and rehabilitating the park: basketball court and swings. This summer, new signage will be erected to make the park more visible. New park features such as picnic tables and benches will be installed. The Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) purchased an 8'x12' shed for the park grounds, to be used for storage for the Group's seasonal decorations, plus park equipment and supplies.

SCIG is also proud to announce a partnership with the Sidney Central School Alumni Association (SCSAA), which has commenced their own fundraising effort to support the project. SCSAA mailed a donation request letter to their entire alumni network,

asking for support. They are committed to matching up to \$2500 raised, for a total contribution of \$5000 towards the park, if the goal is reached.

SCIG will also be enlisting the help of Sidney students from various service clubs to help with grounds work and with constructing the picnic tables. SCIG is excited about having local youth involved as well about as the many benefits this restored park will offer the community.

Finally, SCIG would like to thank the Town of Sidney Highway Department and the Delaware County Department of Public Works for their assistance in the first stages of this project. The Group looks forward to working together in the future on this important community-led project.

For periodic updates on progress with the project, please visit our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/SCIGNY](http://www.facebook.com/SCIGNY)

If you would like to contribute to the Sidney Alumni Association's fundraising campaign, please visit [www.SidneyAlumni.org](http://www.SidneyAlumni.org).



Old Hands - oil painting by Joan Dworkin

# FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

SUNDAYS FROM 10AM-2PM  
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND

Chapel Hall in the Village of Franklin

SPONSORED BY RICH'S AUTO BODY AND THE GREATER FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## HEBBARD FENCE, LLC

558 Otego Road  
Franklin, NY 13775  
607-829-8664

[donhebbard44@gmail.com](mailto:donhebbard44@gmail.com)

High tensile electric, woven wire, board, and deer fencing

**ADVERTISE IN YOUR HOMETOWN  
NEWSPAPER!**

**THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER**

**contact Manette Berlinger**

**[manette.berlinger@gmail.com](mailto:manette.berlinger@gmail.com)**



## NEW BUSINESSES ON MAIN STREET

By Brian Brock

This year, four businesses have come to the commercial district in Franklin village. Three have set-up in spaces on the first floor of the old department store at 422 Main Street.

Entrepreneur Eden Rehman, formerly of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, has relocated to her vacation home in East Meredith with her husband Jake. Major renovations at the new home sent her looking for separate office space, and she was charmed by the vibe of the village.

Ms. Rehman, who has a degree in fashion design, is starting her own line of swimsuits. She plans to have them in stores in time for the 2019 season. Currently she also runs her day job from the office. The front door is kept locked not to keep out visitors out but to keep in her hyperactive red Australian cattle dog pup, Siousie Sioux.

Born in Wimberley, Texas, to a family in the movie industry, Ms. Rehman lived in Austin and Los Angeles before moving to New York City. She has worked in both film and television but was looking for a change of pace.

Next door, in the small addition to the left, Rural Delivery by High Country will sell a variety of antiques, vintage textiles, furniture,

books, things for kids, and camping equipment. Owner Maureen Holderith is relocating her store from Andes. She plans to be open by the weekend before Independence Day.


Ms. Holderith and her husband Robert have lived for fifteen years in Meredith, midway between Treadwell and Delhi. She has always liked the Village of Franklin, and knows the new owner of the building, who owns the store across the street from hers in Andes. He asked if she would be interested in one of the spaces here.

On the other side, rumors and conjecture: a mother/daughter partnership of Alex Egan and Candice from Brooklyn is said to be setting up a store for vintage goods, including vinyl records, pictures, rugs, and kitchenware. They plan to open this summer.

The building was formerly owned by Mike Wallace, but in May was sold to Sean Scherer and Gary Graham of Andes for \$215,000. Both renters expect that the new landlords will renew their leases. Mr. Scherer owns Kabinett & Kammer, a contemporary curiosity shop in the hamlet of Andes. Rumor is that they plan to relocate here eventually.

Across Main Street and just down the block is the old attorney's office at No. 397. This winter, Mike Zurn moved up Main Street from his former office in the lower village, which he occupied from 2002 to 2015.

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

Mr. Zurn was born in Sidney and raised in Franklin, graduating from Franklin Central School in 1977, majoring in science and woodworking. Before returning to Franklin, he spent four years in the Army as a Morse code intercept operator, worked in home improvement, and then in four cabinetry shops. Mr. Zurn's specialty is creating shop drawings for custom architectural millwork, using AutoCAD (computer assisted design). These drawings can then be converted into files to run Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines.

Locally, Mr. Zurn has worked on custom homes, additions, and the Redwood Motel in Emmons, Otsego County. He has also worked on projects for Yoko Ono, Sean Lennon, and Mariah Carey. The office is open by appointment only, and he can be reached at 607-829-2000 or 607-437-5060 (cell).


As in his previous location, he has a music studio set-up in front, filled with guitars, amps, keyboards, and a drum kit for practice and lessons. Mr. Zurn also does some repairs on guitars.

It is good to see the commercial spaces on Main Street filled again. This comes on top of a record year for real estate sales in the town, a trend which continues into this year as can be seen in the listings in this newspaper.

"The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades." – Timbuk 3.


*Brian Brock is President of the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce*





FINANCIAL

# EXPERTISE



## Wayne Bank

Member FDIC

**Debra Renwick** Franklin Community Office Manager

607.829.5200 • 536 Main Street • Franklin, NY 13775

NMLS# 458570





# FOCUS ON ENERGY

## CLEAN ENERGY? A CLOSER LOOK AT MICRO-GRIDS

### MICROGRID UPDATE

By Stuart Anderson

The outpouring of energy news from Albany seems boundless, with daily updates on pipelines denied, gas power plants approved, and policy acronyms proliferating like rabbits. A casual observer might think that the Public Service Commission (PSC), in a flurry of funding opportunities and demonstration projects and interim reports, may actually be fulfilling the stated goals of its flagship energy program and Renewing our Energy Vision (REV). The Governor and the PSC are strutting their green credentials.

But the statistics on what is really happening in the New York energy markets reveal a different truth. The main electrical grid in the state—the high voltage transmission lines like Marcy South—is managed by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO). NYISO publishes an annual Gold Book which describes the changes to the grid and the entities that it coordinates, the primary generators (like Indian Point) and the distribution utilities (like NYSEG). According to data in the 2013 and 2018 Gold Books, New

Yorkers' additions to renewable energy generating capacity in 2018 were eighty-two percent greater than the additions made in 2013... sounds promising. But additions to fossil fuel based generating capacity in 2018 were 123 percent greater than additions made in 2013. On the grid, fossil fuel-based generation is now growing faster than renewable based generation by a megawatt ratio of more than two to one. All that green talk is mostly talk.

Astute readers with long memories will recall that one of the REV program objectives is the division of the main electrical grid into an array of interconnected microgrids. Each microgrid must have enough native generating capacity to allow it to maintain services to local customers even in the event of a main grid blackout; this is called the islanding requirement, and the PSC does not specify what kind of energy—renewable or fossil—can be used to supply local generation. When the social costs of carbon are ignored, gas-fired turbine generation is by far the most economical approach to meeting the islanding requirement.

In the REV plan, major electricity consumers on each microgrid will be allowed to manage the development and operation of each

microgrid. For example, a hospital with emergency standby generators might take some of its neighbors under its wing and submit a microgrid plan; the same might be done by an industrial user who has generators that they normally use for peak demand management. If a portion of the grid has no major electrical users willing to step forward and manage their local microgrid, the REV plan will allow the local utility (such as NYSEG) to perform that function. As a corporation responsible to its shareholders, the utility is expected to make decisions that are most likely to be profitable to shareholders, within the bounds of environmental regulations, regardless of the environmental consequences.

An optimist might suggest that local residents who are reluctant to live on a gas-fired microgrid might employ the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) to exercise some sort of fossil fuel restriction or ban at the local level. Responses to inquiries into the application of SEQRA to microgrid development made to a number of officials (Town of Otego Code Enforcement; NY State Department of

Public Service Chief for Environmental Certification & Compliance; Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Deputy Regional Permit Administrator; and a DEC Professional Engineer in the Division of Air Resources) all made it clear that local control (by a town board or planning board) of a microgrid SEQRA process is very unlikely. Indeed, the pro-gas faction in Albany seems to have things well under their control, as evidenced by a DEC statement in a 2018 Permit Review Report for a gas-fired compressor station in Brewster: "For greenhouse gas[es] (GHG), the net emission is above [the allowable] threshold ...[but] based on the recent Supreme Court decision addressing GHG emissions and [point source discharge] permitting requirements under the Clean Air Act, the Department is utilizing its enforcement discretion regarding the applicability of GHG [regulations]."

In other words, DEC declined to make a decision that it feared would meet a legal challenge.

See MICRO, continued on Page 17

### NEW YORK STATE: National Clean Energy Leader?

By Don Hebbard

We read in the newspapers, see internet articles, hear reports on the radio, sit through TV news shows, all proclaiming how Governor Cuomo and New York State (NYS) are the leaders on energy reform and innovation in the nation. Or how NYS leads in shutting down aging coal-burning and nuclear-powered electric generation plants. Or how NYS is initiating programs to decentralize electric generation in "micro-grid" facilities, versus new large-scale electric generation plants and new transmission lines.

EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) and the 2016 New York State Reforming the Energy Vision Plan (REV) were developed to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions created by burning fossil fuels. Both plans recognized CO<sub>2</sub> as a greenhouse gas (GHG) and set goals to reduce levels in the atmosphere by 2030. Sounds like a wonderful idea.

The major flaw in both plans was to ignore methane, another major greenhouse gas. By only considering CO<sub>2</sub>, one might conclude that natural gas is a "clean" energy source, since natural gas does produce less CO<sub>2</sub> than burning coal. But coal contains no methane, while natural gas is primarily composed of it.

I believe this misconception was deliberately promoted by the gas and oil industry, and supported by administrations heavily depen-

dent on fossil fuel campaign donations. Scientific evidence was readily available to support reducing methane emissions, but financial gain from increasing natural gas infrastructure and consumption became the overriding factor in energy decisions, so methane was conveniently ignored.

This "clean energy" ad campaign has resulted in the public misperception that switching to natural gas was the correct path (bridge fuel) to reducing GHG levels and slowing climate change. Nothing could be further from the truth. Methane is a much more damaging GHG than CO<sub>2</sub>, trapping eighty-seven times as much heat in twenty years, and thirty-six times more over a hundred years.

Plus, the cumulative methane emissions to the atmosphere are seriously under reported. EPA calculations of GHG ignore the fugitive leakage (accidental leaks and intentional venting) along the natural gas supply and distribution chain. Conservative methane leakage estimates range from four to seven percent of gas consumption. Robert Howarth of Cornell University reports that methane leakage from transmission and distribution pipes of only 2.8 percent of total consumption results in methane's heat-trapping effect surpasses CO<sub>2</sub> over a twenty-year period.

In New York, NYSERDA (NYS Energy Research and Development Authority), uses tax dollars to provide various incentives promoted as reducing GHG emissions. Grants for energy studies, installation of renewable energies, insulation and other energy-conservation mea-

asures, electric vehicles, "micro-grids", and other programs are designed to shape our future energy use and reduce GHG creation. But do they really meet this objective?

Let's just look at one program: New York Prize - Community Microgrid Competition. The objective of NY Prize was to "make these communities more resilient and energy-secure in the event of power outages, while *also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.*"

The program started in 2015 with eight million in grant money for eighty-three feasibility studies to select potential communities across the state. In 2017, Stage 2 funded eleven million to eleven teams to develop detailed engineering designs and business plans for microgrid projects. Stage 3 will be completed in 2018 with twenty million in funding for actual construction and post-operation monitoring of these microgrids. So the total tax-supported investment in "clean energy" for this program to date is thirty-nine million. NY Green Bank, a division of NYSERDA specializing in supporting clean energy markets, has offered another fifty million to each of the eleven Stage 3 projects – another \$550 million.

What are the approved eleven "clean energy" projects? Empire Plaza and University Heights in Albany area; Huntington, Rockville

See ENERGY, continued on Page 16





# INFRASTRUCTURE UP-DATE

Compiled by Brian Brock

March 12<sup>th</sup> **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** rejects petition by CPC (2/12/18) to reconsider the rejection by FERC (1/11/18, CP 18-5) of the denial by NYSDEC (4/22/16) of Water Quality Permit for the Constitution Pipeline Project.

March 14<sup>th</sup> **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation** files brief with SCOTUS in opposition to a petition for writ of certiorari by Constitution Pipeline Company (1/19/18, 17-1009).

April 19<sup>th</sup> **FERC** opens an inquiry (Docket No, PL18-1) as to whether, and if so how, it should revise its 1999 policy on the certification of natural gas transportation facilities to determine whether a proposed natural gas project is a public convenience and necessity, as established in sec-

tion 7 of the Natural Gas Act of 1938. Deadline is June 25<sup>th</sup>, later extended to July 25<sup>th</sup>.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> **Economy Paving Company, Inc.** begins construction of the Franklin Roundabout at the intersection of state highways 357 and 28. Project is expected to be finished no later than end of November.

April 30<sup>th</sup> **Supreme Court of the United States** refuses to review NYSDEC denial of a WQP for the Constitution Pipeline Project, leaving in place a United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit NY ruling (No. 16-1568, 8/18/17) that endorsed the decision.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> **Williams Companies, Inc.** files its quarterly Form Q-10 with Security and Exchange Commission, reporting that Constitution Pipeline Project has cost \$379 million to date and would cost \$740 million more to complete, for a total of \$1.02 billion

May 9<sup>th</sup> **Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry** told a House panel that the Trump administration could cite national security as a means to thwart states trying to block oil and natural gas pipelines from being built.

May 19<sup>th</sup> In its monthly status report 2018-0621, **Constitution Pipeline Company** states that it has vacated the major supply depot in Northeastern Industrial Park railroad yard, Guilderland Center, Altamont NY: “Constitution has withdrawn its pipe from Contractor Yard 5B and removed its erosion and sediment control devices. The site is no longer in use by Constitution and inspection has discontinued.”

There were thousands of 40' lengths of 30 inch pipe stock piled there, each weighing over two tons.

Rail yard containing pipes:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/@42.6892791,-73.9576001,3143m/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en&authuser=0>



## BLUE FARM

---

### ANTIQUES & LETTERPRESS PRINTING

---

322 MAIN STREET  
FRANKLIN, NY

WEEKENDS FROM 12-5:30PM  
Tel: 718.781.5487  
Online at [BlueFarmAntiques.com](http://BlueFarmAntiques.com)  
[f/BFAntiques](#) [i/BlueFarmPhil](#)

## STATUS REPORT: CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES

By Don Hebbard

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is a public benefit corporation offering objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and *reduce reliance on fossil fuels*.

NYSERDA sponsored a state-wide **Clean Energy Community Grant Program (CECGP)** as an incentive designed to advance specific New York State (NYS) energy-use goals by the year 2030:

- 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gases from 1990 levels
- Generate fifty percent of NYS electric usage from renewable energy sources
- Twenty-three percent reduction in energy consumption in buildings

Under the CECGP, small municipalities with a population less than 40,000 could become eligible for a \$100,000 or \$50,000 grant to be applied to reducing that municipality's future energy usage.

Franklin, located in the Southern Tier Region of NYS, was one of many municipalities passing a resolution to become a Clean Energy Community. It duly received an initial award of \$2500 that was not encumbered, though the implied use was to reduce energy consumption. There were four grants of \$100,000 and ten grants of \$50,000 to be awarded as communities qualified by completing four of ten high energy-impact items on a first-come first-served basis.

The Franklin Town board selected the following four High Impact Items:

- Adopt the NYS Unified Solar Permit process

- Benchmarking – report annually the energy used in 1000 square-foot
- Energy Code Enforcement Training – for the local code compliance officer
- Clean Energy Upgrades – achieve a ten percent reduction in energy usage in a municipal building

Franklin completed the first item at a Special Town Board Meeting on July 24, 2017, with a resolution to adopt NYS Unified Solar permitting and setting the Town solar permit fee. Franklin has completed three items listed. Other municipalities completed all four High Impact Items ahead of Franklin and all fourteen Southern Tier Region grants have now been awarded.

A total of eighteen municipalities qualified as Clean Energy Communities in the Southern Tier. In Delaware County, only Hamden and Meredith completed all four items and have therefore qualified. This designation is important because it makes *any* Clean Energy Community eligible to apply for an additional \$5000 NYSERDA Grant, also awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Franklin only needs to complete a cost-saving LED upgrade as soon as possible to win this \$5000. At the May town board meeting, the board voted to convert to LED lighting in the Town Shed building. This upgrade indicates a savings of approximately fifty-seven percent from current energy use. Add in the \$2500 NYSERDA award already received, and the LED upgrade will pay for itself in just over two years. If Franklin can complete this installation before other Southern Tier communities and finally achieve the designation of Clean Energy Community, that additional \$5000 would be available for use to further reduce Town energy costs.

*Don Hebbard is a long-term resident of Franklin, active in encouraging renewable energy.*



Pipe yard near Albany

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2018

Franklin Town Council meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Franklin Town Sheds at the intersection of Routes 357 & 21.

Every third month, as indicated below, meetings will be held in Treadwell at Kellogg Educational and Community Center, 138 Church Street.

- January 2nd
- February 6th
- March 6th (*Treadwell*)
- April 3rd
- May 1st
- June 5th (*Treadwell*)
- July 10th (*due to July 4th holiday, meeting is on the second Tuesday*)
- August 7th
- September 4th (*Treadwell*)
- October 2nd
- November 7th (*due to Election Day, meeting is on the first Wednesday*)
- December 4th (*Treadwell*)





# THE BARE TRUTH

By Robert Lamb

(Photo by the author)

“Don’t it always seem to go that we don’t know what we’ve got till it’s gone. Pave paradise and put up a parking lot.”

Joni Mitchell’s song was ahead of its time. As a young fellow I was told that if man can conceive it, man can build it. We have in just a couple generations gone from horse and buggy to the moon and back. We discovered OIL and from it, many drugs and materials modern man could not live without. And one substance has truly changed modern life: plastic.

Plastic is everywhere in everything. We drink water from it and microwave our meals in it. Our autos wrap us in its safety. We use it for food preservation and packaging. Plastic has made life easier and safer but it has also brought us to the edge of extinction. In creating plastics, humans, at the top of the food chain, have invented a monster.

Less than twenty percent of plastic gets recycled. Much recycling takes place in impoverished nations, exposing the people and environment to toxins worse than the raw material itself.

As a traveler in Alaska and a retired environmental manager, I am saddened by the degradation plastic has caused. Studies tell us of the rapid disappearance of sea life. Most of them lay blame to global warming and the stress it places on wildlife. I am here to tell you that global warming, nuclear war or a catastrophic comet strike are not our only worries.

Of the five kinds of salmon in Alaska, the King is most sought after for its tasty flesh. The King is also the most endangered at this time. Salmon that do manage to return to spawn are meeting warming waters and a changing environment. But the real threat to them is while they are at

sea, growing to maturity.

Our seas are dying faster than I ever imagined, and plastic is the culprit. Try to wrap your head around this. Nine billion pounds of waste plastic and trash are dumped into the oceans every year. **NINE BILLION POUNDS!**

Even pristine beaches in the most remote areas of the earth are drowning in plastic. Everything from old fishing lines and nets to Bic lighters and Zip-lock baggies wash up. Sea turtles eat jellyfish and a floating baggie looks like an easy meal...a meal sure to kill it.

The very bottom of the ocean’s food chain is being disrupted and the reason is what happens to plastic due to ocean waves. It’s said that plastics do not degrade for hundreds of years. But we now know that it disintegrates rapidly in the oceans, as the salt water and wave action break the plastics down into micro-particles. One might think that a good thing, but the reality is horrifying.

Microplastics have been found in every ocean. It is used in many products from toothpaste to polishing agents. It passes through our modern wastewater treatment plants on its way to the sea. Our bodies even incorporate in in our cells. Microplastics mimic the very base of our ocean food chain. The smallest organisms are eaten by larger ones all the

way up the food chain, ending with us at the top. One recent study found twelve thousand particles of microplastic per liter of Arctic sea ice. When spring comes, the Arctic seas blossom with new life. This new life feeds on microscopic algae and diatoms. In turn they are eaten by crustaceans, bi-valves, small fish

sea mammals that wash up starving. If the ocean cannot support the life that depends on it, how can it support the humans who depend on that life for so much of our food?

The challenge of future generations is how to reverse decades of dependence on this wonder product known as plastic.

KENNETH L. BENNETT  
FUNERAL HOME

425 MAIN STREET  
FRANKLIN, NY 13776

607-829-2272

and krill. As the ice melts at this critical time, it releases the microplastics that have concentrated in the ice. Plastic has no nutritional value. Creatures feeding on it do not grow. They do not reproduce. Their bodies waste away

I have seen the results of microplastics. From the mushy flesh of halibut - due to poor nutrition - to the

How do you filter these microplastics from trillions of gallons of seawater, that is, one point three billion cubic miles of water?

I ask, no I beg all you readers to do your part. Recycle! Limit your use of plastic. It is the biggest threat to the continuation of our species. When the oceans die, so do we.

Real Estate for Catskill Dreamers



Delaware County's Finest Independent Boutique Brokerage  
Love Where You Live! Support Local Small Business



Laura Krukowski  
Licensed Associate Broker  
cell -607-226-1297  
catskilllaura@gmail.com  
10 Rosa Rd., Margaretville, NY 12455







Conserved hayfields in Delaware County

## CONSERVATION EASEMENTS 1.0

By David Diaz

Conservation easements have been used for decades to help conserve and protect the important natural resources across the country and right here in Delaware and Otsego counties. To the surprise of most folks, millions of acres of land have been protected in the United States using this method. The Otsego Land Trust has been using conservation easements to further its land conservation mission since its first easement in 1989, and holds approximately one hundred of them.

### What exactly is a conservation easement?

It's a written legal agreement between the Landowner and Land Trust that ensures the important conservation resources are protected forever. These resources may include, but are not necessarily limited to, natural resources, agricultural resources, scenic areas, cultural resources, and public drinking water sources. In a nutshell: a conservation easement will prohibit industrial and large scale commercial activities and prevent excessive subdivision and damaging activities like poor forestry practices. It will also designate different levels of protection based on the unique characteristics of the property. For example, the easement may say that no building is allowed along a stream corridor, but could allow the building of a barn or residence in a designated area.

The terms of conservation easements are agreed upon by the Landowner and Land Trust and based upon the Landowner's needs, the Land Trust's mission, and the attributes of the land. No one is forced to grant a conservation easement, and the Land Trust works only with willing landowners. Nearly all of the Land Trust

held conservation easements have been donated by landowners.

### Are there tax benefits for donating a conservation easement?

Yes, there are two very specific tax benefits associated with the donation of a conservation easement. The first is the Federal Income Tax Deduction. The Deduction is based upon an appraisal written by a qualified appraiser. In a nutshell: the landowner may deduct the appraised value of the easement from taxable income. Please contact the Land Trust for more information about this benefit.

The second tax incentive is called the New York State Conservation Easement Tax Credit. The credit is based upon the property taxes paid on the protected land (structures not included) and allows the landowner to claim a tax credit equal to 25% of the property taxes with a maximum of \$5000 per year. If the Landowner owes no NYS income taxes at the end of the year, they will get a check from the State.



Conserved wetlands in Otsego County

It's important to note that this credit does not impact the local tax base. There is no local tax reduction due to the conservation easement and the Landowner gets his/her usual property tax bills. The credit comes from New York State with the source money coming from Environmental Protection Fund. It's New York State's way of thanking landowners for protecting their lands. It's also important to note that the credit stays with the protected land. This means that when the landowner sells their property or hands it down to the next generation, those new owners can take advantage of the credit - a thank you to those that purchase lands protected with conservation easements.

### What happens after a conservation easement is in place?

The Land Trust is responsible for ensuring



that the conservation values described in the easement are protected forever. This is accomplished by visiting protected property annually. Many of the Land Trust's annual visits are done with the participation of the landowner(s). The Land Trust welcomes the opportunity to get to know conservation partners better! Conservation partner is an apt phrase because all of the landowners with Land Trust-held conservation easements are allies in ensuring that future generations benefit from improved water quality, increased farmland availability, good forest management, and high quality wildlife.

The trust's staff can also assist you with questions regarding wildlife, habitat, and other land management related activities.

### The take-home message:

Established in 1988, the Otsego Land Trust is a private, non-profit conservation organization with a mission to conserve our natural heritage of woodlands, farmlands, and waters that sustain rural communities, promote public health, and support wildlife diversity within the Upper Susquehanna Watershed. Every time we conserve a property with a conservation easement, we take a step towards furthering our mission. Conservation easements benefit you, the property owner, by protecting the conservation values of your land into perpetuity. Conservation easements also benefit the larger community because all land protected contributes to the environmental and ecological health of the entire region. We are a community organization which truly believes that a good quality of life depends on the health of the lands and waters that sustain us.

Please contact the Otsego Land Trust for additional information about conserving your land - David Diaz (Land Protection Manager) 607-547-2366, ext. 109, or david@otsegolandtrust.org.



## FRANKLIN STAGE 2018 SEASON

Press Release

The Franklin Stage Company, Delaware County's renowned classical summer theater, announces the roster for their 22<sup>nd</sup> season, presenting and producing performances from July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend through Labor Day.

"We're looking forward to bringing a wildly diverse mix of theater to Franklin," said Leslie Noble, Co-Artistic Director of the

theater, "Filled with color, music, drama, debate, and a healthy dose of silliness, there's something for everyone." She and collaborator Patricia Buckley took over the company in 2017.

The season will open on July 6<sup>th</sup> with *Bitter Banquet: A Euripidean Song Cycle*, composed and performed by songstress Annie Lewandowski. It fuses lush music and immersive projection design to portray the ancient poet's tragic and heroic characters. "We're so thrilled to have Annie Lewandowski bring her amazing work to FSC, and to partner with The Cherry Arts Space in Ithaca," added Buckley.

For its second offering, FSC will stage Lee Blessing's *A Walk in the Woods*, a Tony-nominated tale of cold war diplomacy that examines Russian-American power dynamics with wit, humor and surprising insight. Next up is a concert by NY cabaret sensation Julian Fleisher and his Rather Big Band. On the same weekend, Kevin O'Keefe's family show, *Circus Minimus* will

delight kids of all ages.

FSC's second full production will be the 2005 Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Doubt*, by John Patrick Shanley. Set in a Catholic grammar school in 1964, *Doubt* is a taut drama that confronts faith, power, and their abuses. The season closes with an encore production of Off-Broadway hit *Cry Havoc!*, a captivating *tour de force*, written and performed by actor and veteran Stephan Wolfert, that weaves Shakespeare's war speeches into a deeply personal account of his own journey through war trauma and healing.

The company will also produce two visual art shows, one featuring international photographer Wijnanda Deroo in July, and in August, Broadway scenic designer Marjorie Bradley Kellogg, who will also design the set for *Doubt*.

This year, FSC patrons will find several improvements to Chapel Hall, starting with a new accessibility ramp, made possible by a grant from the George and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation. Other

building improvements include safety railings on the seating platforms, and the replacement of the basement dirt floor with a concrete slab. This will greatly improve safety and accessibility for staff, artists and community partners. The basement project was funded by the Community Foundations of South Central NY, the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, and the Delaware County Office of Economic Development.

The Franklin Stage Company season will run from July 6 through September 2 at Chapel Hall, 25 Institute Street in Franklin, NY. Please note all evening shows have a curtain time of 7:30 p.m. and this year FSC will add a 3:00 p.m. Saturday matinee for most shows. Free admission. General Seating. For reservations, visit [www.franklinstagecompany.org](http://www.franklinstagecompany.org) or call 607-829-3700.

Programming at the Franklin Stage Company is made possible by the New York State Council and the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



music  
literature  
education

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

fine arts  
poetry  
holiday fun

# AT THE LIBRARY

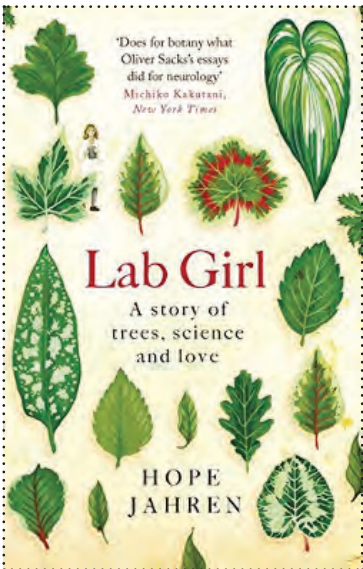
LYNNE KEMEN  
REVIEWS NEW BOOKS



## LAB GIRL By Hope Jahren

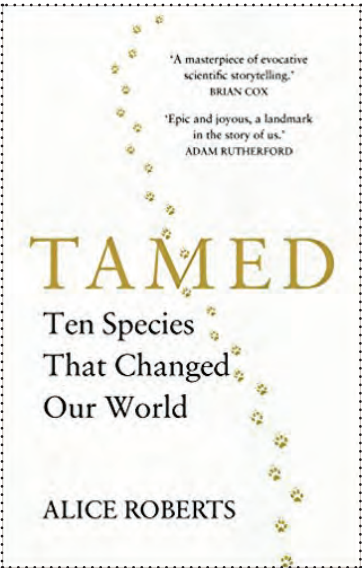
When I first heard from friends about Hope Jahren's book, *Lab Girl*, I was mystified. Every time I asked what it was about, I got a different answer - science, botany, friendship, mental health, nature. The only consistent comment was: "You must read it." In terms of genre, everyone was right. Plus, it was mesmerizing - probably one of the best non-fiction books I have read in a long time.

The author begins by tracing her first experiences with math and science, and the joy she found in both. Her father was a teacher and would let his daughter tag along to his school on weekends. Her upbringing was in a cold environment - both the long winters and the chill of her Norwegian-American parents in dealing with their children.



The writer discovers the joy of science and, in particular, of trees. She shares her excitement and describes her academic career. Along the way, she finds a life-long friend and colleague, Bill. Initially, neither had any money and he lived in her lab. His understanding of her passion for her research bonded them and, as she was promoted and moved, she always brought him with her.

Jahren is an incredibly driven woman who often works days and nights with little or no break. She eventually is diagnosed as bipolar and writes about her struggles to keep going. She is a gifted writer and scientist who shares enough of her science to help you understand what she is writing about, but who also remembers that the reader is not another botanist. This book is highly recommended.



## TAMED by Alice Roberts

Like Michael Pollan's *Botany of Desire*, the author describes different species that have been tamed by humans. The list includes dogs, wheat, cattle, maize, potatoes, chickens, rice, horses, and apples.

Chapter by chapter, Roberts explains the untamed nature of each species and how humans adapted each to their needs. Roberts is an anthropologist; her writing is much more technical and scientific than Jahren's. While *Tamed* is interesting, I found it much drier than *Lab Girl*. I also suspect that the pleasure of this book was reduced because I had already read Pollan's book. Still, it is a good read, and I recommend it.

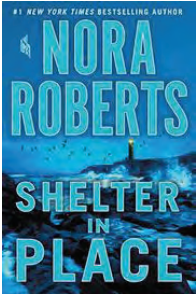
## YOUR LIBRARIANS' PICKS FOR SUMMER READING:

### SHELTER IN PLACE By Nora Roberts

"The victims of a mass shooting...are moving forward in their lives, affected in different ways, when they're stunned to discover a serial killer is targeting survivors... Facing the hunter means fighting for their lives, love, and happiness... Fascinating characters... a sprawling plot that covers a lot of ground yet keeps the reader engaged... a surprisingly compelling and poignant redemption story..."

"Roberts' newest is part thriller, part romance, part survivors' psychological study with a touch of New Age magic—and a lively, captivating read."

- Kirkus Reviews

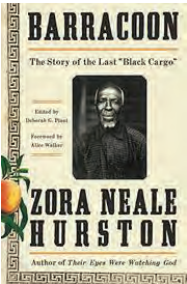


### BARRACOON By Zora Neale Hurston

"A newly discovered work of anthropological and historical reportage by the canonical African-American writer..."

"A student of the pioneering ethnologist Franz Boas, Hurston conducted... interviews with her subject toward the end of his life, in 1927... The initial manuscript, a scholarly article, fell into disrepute when, in the 1970s, scholars discerned that it borrowed heavily from existing literature. This fuller manuscript derives from Hurston's original fieldwork, so that there is no question of plagiarism..."

"We are fortunate to have this late work of Hurston's, which is sure to be widely read"



- Kirkus Reviews

## A Narrow Fellow in the Grass —by Emily Dickinson

A narrow fellow in the grass  
Occasionally rides;  
You may have met him,—did you not,  
His notice sudden is.

The grass divides as with a comb,  
A spotted shaft is seen;  
And then it closes at your feet  
And opens further on.

He likes a boggy acre,  
A floor too cool for corn.  
Yet when a child, and barefoot,  
I more than once, at morn,

Have passed, I thought, a whip-lash  
Unbraiding in the sun,—  
When, stooping to secure it,  
It wrinkled, and was gone.

Several of nature's people  
I know, and they know me;  
I feel for them a transport  
Of cordiality;

But never met this fellow,  
Attended or alone,  
Without a tighter breathing,  
And zero at the bone.

Emily Dickinson spent almost all her life in Amherst, Massachusetts. Although she was known as a recluse, she found a universe in her house and in the property that surrounded it. She was one of the great American "seeing" poets, paying attention to every single thing in that universe, knowing that nothing was beneath her notice. By being quiet, by truly looking, she was able to transcend the usual distaste and fear of such creatures as snakes. Her poem, "A Narrow Fellow in the Grass," is one of my favorites; reading it, I am with Emily, listening as she points out what the snake looks like and what's happening. This watcher, this American genius slowly guides us through her experience through precise and perfect words, then knocks us flat with the last two lines: "Without a tighter breathing, / And zero at the bone."

—Bertha Rogers

Bertha Rogers is a poet and visual artist, and founding director of Bright Hill Press and Literary Center. Her poems have been published in literary journals, anthologies and collections.

# THE SILVERSMITH & GOLDSMITH

Yes, We Have Pearls!  
And We Do Repairs

101 Secor Rd. Otego  
(607) 988-7973  
Open Wed, Thur, Fri & Sat 10 - 4

Click Ad to Visit our Web Site and SHOP On-Line!!



# UpState Arts

with Charlie Bremer

## TWO BOOKS AND AN INSTALLATION

### HUMANITY

By Ai Weiwei

Edited by Larry Warsh, Princeton University Press, April 2018

In the introduction to this most beautiful small book, editor Larry Warsh asks: “What is our human obligation?”. The following 103 pages, with the words of Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei, present a passionate and poetic appeal to humanity to find our heart and compassion, and take action to solve the overwhelming tragedy of the global refugee crisis.

Ai Weiwei, 60, has dedicated his entire career to raising awareness of the issue of human rights. This collection of quotes drawn from his many interviews, writings, public statements, and films is divided into seven chapters: Humanity, Crisis, Borders, Power, Displacement, Freedom, and Action. This book will fit in your coat pocket but is a powerhouse of spirit, inspiration, and truth. Here are some

beyond the physical boundary. Humans are so beautiful in that way. That’s why we have poetry, we have music, we have art. (4).”

“Artists don’t have to become more political, artists have to become more human (13).”

“Power has to be represented by generosity and confidence (49).”

“Indifference does not liberate us, but instead cuts us off from reality (103).”

“Art is about aesthetics, about morals, about our belief in humanity. Without that there is simply no art (9).”

Artist **Christine Heller** has created an important and compassionate work titled **The Faces of Syrian Refugees**. The work, a series of large banners, reflects on the human face of the global refugee crisis. Heller’s recent mural work has used portraiture and the human figure to reference issues of social justice and connectivity. Her exhibition titled “Truth is the Only Ground to Stand Upon,” featuring portraits of the New York State Suffragists, was shown at the

excerpts:

“As human beings, we are lucky enough to have imagination. Our hearts can be so big, we can imagine

Arkell Museum in Canajoharie, NY in 2017. Her new installation will be on view through September of 2018 in the Sanctuary of the Presbyterian Church, near the corner of Pioneer and Church Streets in Cooperstown, NY. It is open daily from 9am to 7pm. Visitors are welcome.

### THE SECRET LIVES OF COLOR

By Kassia St. Clair

Penguin Books, October 2017

I love books on color...and this latest one is unique in both its content and design.

During a decade spent researching women’s fashion history at London’s Victoria and Albert Museum, British writer Kassia St. Clair became fascinated with the story of color. In this book she creates something akin to character studies for each of seventy-five fascinating shades of color. The six

major primary and secondary color spectrums are covered, plus black, white, and brown.

While many of the color names are classic - magenta, ultramarine blue, or chrome yellow - many are popular

terms such as avocado, blonde, nude, or dragon’s blood. Her stories are wide ranging, with intrigues of crime, mystery, scientific wonder, history, and social upheaval. The book’s colored end pages allow the reader to visually search a color and open to that shade’s story. The research is very well documented, with foot notes and a glossary of other interesting colors she has not covered.

This book is great fun and will be inspiring to both artists and anyone appreciating a colorful life. For instance, here is an excerpt about cerulean blue:

“It is spiritual as well as peaceful. Many Hindu gods, including Krishna, Shiva, and Rama are depicted with skin the color of the sky, symbolizing their affinity with the infinite. The French call it *bleu celeste*, heavenly blue. It is also, confusingly, the color of many of the buildings at the Church of Scientology’s Gold Base in California - including the mansion awaiting the reincarnation of the religion’s founder, L. Ron Hubbard. (The man himself, when founding Scientology, is reported to have told a colleague, ‘Let’s sell these people a piece of sky blue.’). Pantone named its paler forget-me-not shade as the color of the millennium, guessing that consumers would ‘be seeking inner peace and spiritual fulfillment in the new millennium.’”



## Saturday & Sunday - JULY 7 & 8, 2018 - 10 AM - 5 PM

Welcome to the 23rd Annual Stagecoach Run Art Festival. Enjoy your self-guided tour of artists’ studios and galleries around Treadwell and Franklin, NY. The beauty of these Catskill Mountain foothills draws painters, printmakers, photographers, weavers, musicians, potters and writers to the area. Sixty-eight artists are participating this year.

### NOTE: MAP IS NOT TO SCALE

Look for numbered yellow roadside signs identifying the locations.

There is ample street and off-street parking in Treadwell & Franklin. PLEASE RESPECT VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND DO NOT PARK ON LAWNS OR BLOCK DRIVEWAYS.

**P** PARKING **F** FOOD **T** TOILETS **\*** EVENT OR DEMONSTRATION



Save the date! Tear out this map and post it on your fridge! Pin it to your calendar! Tape it to your mirror! Stow it in your wallet! Stuff it in your purse!



# WAR, WORDS, DANCE

By Lynne Kemen

Bright Hill Press and Literary Center of the Catskills (BHC) has been awarded a state grant and is approved for a federal grant for “War, Words, Dance: A Collaboration,” a multi-disciplinary performance and arts education project. “War, Words, Dance” brings together veterans of war, professional dance choreographers, student dancers, and high school student artists for a series of workshops that will culminate in publically staged and outdoor performances. Collaborators include Jessica Vecchione (Hamden, NY), owner of VeccVideography, and two not-for-profit organizations: Feast of Crispian (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), and Lake Arts Project (Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

BHC Executive Director Beatrice Georgalidis designed the project in 2017, based on a five-year collaboration with Lake Arts Project, with Feast of Crispian joining to further expand the scope of the multidisciplinary arts education and performance project. BHC was awarded the Regional Economic Development Council of New York State grant of \$27,260 in the category of Arts and Cultural Impact: Art in Public Places. “This is an incredible project for our area students and New York State veterans,” Georgalidis said. A National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant of \$16,000 was also ap-



proved. NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, “Through the work of organizations such as Bright Hill Press in Treadwell, NY, NEA funding invests in local communities, helping people celebrate the arts wherever they are.” Additional funding will come from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O’Connor Foundation and the George A. and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation, to support workshop costs and scholarships for students in Walton, Hancock, Deposit, and surrounding areas.

BHC will host a five-day writing and visual art workshop. Bertha Rogers, master teaching artist and Founding Director of BHC, will lead students in a series of exercises during which students write and create visual art about the veterans’ experiences, based on various themes such as leaving home, or returning a changed person. Rogers has taught workshops at Bright Hill since 1993. She is the Poet Laureate of Delaware County, and was given the Association of Teaching

Artists Distinguished Service to the Arts in Education Field in 2007. She is a member of the Catskills Arts in Education Advisory Council.

Jessica Vecchi-

one is an award-winning videographer who makes documentaries primarily about issues or people in upstate New York. In 2009, she made called *Bienvenidos a Fleishchmanns - An Immigrant Community in Rural America* about the growing Hispanic population in a mostly rural mountainous region. The film won several awards. In 2011, she made *Robert, Portrait of an Art-er*, about a locally famous stone artist, which also won awards on the film festival circuit. Her most recent endeavor is *Smacked! Heroin Addiction and Recovery in Rural America (2018)*. In Vecchione’s workshop, teenage students will learn to film the process, the rehearsal and final performances of *War, Words, Dance*.

Feast of Crispian is a non-profit organization bringing professional actors together with veterans to help strengthen their emotional resources and deal with reintegration issues. The name refers to a rousing speech from William Shakespeare’s *Henry V*. Each year, the group brings one fully produced play to the public where the all-veteran cast holds extensive community conversations with the civilian audiences. “There have been incredible results from their

work – we are excited to welcome them to upstate New York for a series of workshops, for which we are actively seeking veteran participant,” Georgalidis said.

Lake Arts Project is another not-for-profit organization based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. “The mission of Lake Arts Project is to give young people an experience immersed in art, teaching them that art is an essential part of life. We accomplish this through creative and collaborative performance-based projects.” The organization, directed by ballet teachers, has previously collaborated with Feast of Crispian. Lake Arts will bring to life the art work and writing created by high school students, and Bright Hill will produce the two final performances of the project.



There will be a flash mob at the Delaware County Fair in Walton on August 17. Here, advanced level students with professional ballet and modern dancers will perform in street clothes. The audience will have the experience of being very close to the dancers, as if taking part in the performance. The final project performance will be held at The Walton Theater on Saturday, August 18 at 7 PM. Tickets go on sale at the end of June.

To participate, veterans and student artists should visit [bright-hillpress.org/children-youth-programming/](http://bright-hillpress.org/children-youth-programming/) to download the registration form. For tickets and more information, email [info@brighthillpress.org](mailto:info@brighthillpress.org), or call 607-829-5055.



## FRANKLIN STAGE COMPANY

*The Catskills' Only Professional, Admission-Free Theater*

# 2018 SEASON BEGINS JULY 6

JUL 6-8	BITTER BANQUET
JUL 13-29	A WALK IN THE WOODS
AUG 3-4	JULIAN FLEISHER
AUG 4-5	CIRCUS MINIMUS
AUG 10-26	DOUBT, A PARABLE
SEP 1-2	CRY HAVOC!

Limited Seating • Reservations Recommended  
Admission is Free and Donations are Welcome

**FranklinStageCompany.org**    **607.829.3700**  
25 Institute Street, Franklin, NY    [f /FranklinStage](https://www.facebook.com/FranklinStage)




Council on the Arts

## LEAVES, con't from Page 5

look good. Maidenhair fern’s toothed stalks show off their delicacy when backed by your favorite broad-leaved hosta and edged by the shiny round leaves of *Asarum europaeum* (European wild ginger). Plant the mammoth *Ligularia japonica* with its foot-wide serrated leaves next to the palmate, rounded and dark leaves of a *Rodgersia*. Adding *Hosta* ‘Sum and Substance’ gives the combo a sweet golden glow.

Sadly, we aren’t the only lovers of foliage. Slugs and snails can leave your hosta and ligularia leaves in tatters. Powdery mildew and other fungal maladies can strike. Rabbits and deer may eat their share (and yours too). For some plants, like *Alchemilla mollis* (lady’s mantle), *Euphorbia* ‘Chameleon’ and *Physocarpus* (nine-bark) cultivars, when the leaves

look tired or sick, you can cut them back in mid-summer and they will put out a new crop of fresh, beautiful leaves. For other plants, don’t practice this tough love indiscriminately without an initial test.

If you have yet to take your garden to the dark or the golden side, take the plunge. Focus on plants with outstanding foliage. You will never go back.







CELEBRATING OUR 26TH SEASON

WORD THURSDAYS

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday, welcoming national award-winning poets

THE WORD & IMAGE GALLERY

Stagecoach Run Art Festival Spotlight Show: July 7 & 8 from 10 AM - 5 PM

Roy Purcell: August 5

Bremer Family Show: September 16

SUMMER AND FALL LITERARY & VISUAL ART WORKSHOPS

(ages 6 - 21)

BRIGHT KIDS BOOK CLUB

Books supplied by Bright Hill

War, Words, Dance: A Collaboration

Contemporary Dance and Ballet Final Performance, at The Walton Theatre, August 18, 2018 7 PM

Winner: Nantional Endowment For the Arts & New York State Council on the Arts Grants

Flash Mob Performance on August 17 at the Delaware County Fair in Walton, NY

SEASON SCHEDULE & TICKETS:

607-829-5055 or info@brighthillpress.org

www.brighthillpress.org



A BRIEF HISTORY OF YOGA

By Patricia Tyrell

My yoga practice began two and a half years ago when I quit smoking cigarettes and began attending weekly classes at Franklin's Heathen Hill Yoga Studio, owned by Susan Orem. Within the year, I met my second teacher, Pam Medina, owner of The Yoga Lily, at a yoga retreat held at the SEVA Foundation in South Kortright, NY.

A year later, I became an official teacher trainee, attending a nine-month, 200-hour program. The following is a brief overview of the discipline of yoga.

Frequently exalted as a healer of chronic conditions and soother of fried nerves, the practice of yoga has been slowly becoming a regular medical recommendation and gym favorite among people of all ages, interests and backgrounds.

Formally introduced to the United States in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Paramahansa Yogananda, and further propelled by yogis like Sri Swami Satchidananda, beginning in 1969 at the opening ceremony of Woodstock, yoga has been accepted throughout society - at least the physical practice of yoga.

What many people do not know is that the iconic postures that Westerners have come to know, like downward-facing dog, are only a fraction of the discipline of yoga. Yoga isn't something you do for just an hour each week. It is a lifestyle.

Translated from Sanskrit, yoga means "union." It represents a transformational process of quieting the noise of the mind and attaining enlightenment or bliss. The union of yoga is present on many levels: between the body and breath, ease and effort, consciousness and source.

Patanjali, the father of yoga and writer of the Yoga Sutras, provided us with the eight limbs of yoga to guide the practitioner as they journey through life toward enlightenment. Like the ten commandments, the first two limbs, yama and niyama, entail a total of ten codes of ethics and observances, such as non-violence, self-discipline, truthfulness, and service to something bigger.

Third is the physical poses, or asanas, that have become known in the United States. A major difference between most popular at-modern practice versus the traditional is that the original purpose of yoga asanas was to prepare the body and mind for long periods of meditation. Now, many people practice for tight, flexible bodies, to warm up for workouts, or to remedy a health condition.

Another limb is breath mastery or pranayama. Ever taken a slow deep breath to calm yourself?

That is using conscious breath to gain control of the mind and body. There are many different forms of pranayama, just as there are many postures in asana.

From the foundation provided by the first four limbs, the practitioner is then able to practice withdrawal of the senses, or pratyahara. It is through this practice that one may move into deeper levels of consciousness.

The final three limbs consist of concentration (dharana), meditation (dhyana) and enlightenment (samadhi).

Concentration is the act of sustaining physical and mental conditions to focus on one thing over a length of time. Meditation, or a state of inward observation, is achieved through the routine training of the mind-muscle.

Finally, enlightenment is a state of consciousness experienced as a poignant and fleeting feeling by many, yet lived as a constant by a relative few. It is here that we experience our

oneness with the universe, a connection to all, and an attachment to nothing.

In summary, the discipline of yoga is anything but easy and is multi-faceted in both its structure as well as its benefits. It is important to note that following a strictly physical practice is not a bad thing, as it still offers health benefits both physically and mentally. Science has even begun to verify the health benefits of not only the physical practices, but also of the breath work and especially of meditation. I truly believe the saying that if every eight-year-old was taught meditation, there would be world peace. It's that effective.

While not a traditionalist at all, I do believe it is important to know the history, deeper meaning and functions of any ancient tradition being practiced in modern times, which is why I've shared this part of my story. Yoga changed my life, and I hope to help change the lives of others by passing on what I've learned.

Namaste.



The author at her practice

LONG DISTANCE AND AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

CALL ED

REFERENCES AVAILABLE

607-437-9561



HINE, continued from Page 1

Certainly his personal hardships informed his determination to better the lives of others. He once said, "Photography is empathy towards the world."

In 1899, Hine met Sara Ann Rich while they were both students in Wisconsin. They married in 1904 and together made a life in New York.



"Stone House in Pines, Franklin Farm [undated]" (George Eastman Museum, 1985.0024.0005)

In 1901, Hine began working at the Ethical Culture School. New York City was undergoing a tremendous wave of immigration and a blending of cultures, with the extremely wealthy and the desperately poor living side by side. With this great disparity came the urban social reform movement, or Progressivism. Most of the Progressives were from middle class or upper middle-class backgrounds, but they were outraged by the hard living and working conditions of the poor.

Hine also attended the Columbia University School of Social Work (1904-1907). It is easy to imagine how Hine used those skills to gain the

trust of his photographic subjects. In 1905, he began photographing immigrants as they landed at Ellis Island. Later, he photographed children working in the mines and mills. Sara Rich Hine's parents moved to Franklin in 1918 after they lost their dairy farm in Wisconsin. Lewis and Sara and their son Corydon began visiting Franklin every summer and most holidays, perhaps a perfect antidote to his work recording the grim labor conditions of the poor. The stone house where they stayed on these visits is still on Route 357, just outside of town.

Until the Great Depression, Hine worked steadily. But just as that economic crisis happened, the technology of photography was changing. Hine was now considered too old and his style too old-fashioned. He was never good at advancing himself and his career. Many of the people he had relied on for assignments all his life were no longer alive or able to hire him. By the late 1930s, his career was nearly over.

In 1939, the Hine family home in Hastings-on Hudson was foreclosed by the bank. Hine had exhausted all financial resources. Sara died just before Christmas, 1939. Hine could not afford the cost of the funeral or the cremation, and had to turn to his wife's family in Franklin for

help. In November of 1940, Hine himself died. Corydon made arrangements with the Rich family to move the remains of both his parents to Franklin. During his lifetime, Lewis Hine and his family made very little money from his work. After his death, his art began to get the attention it deserved. In the 1980s, an art collector noticed that suddenly the market was glutted with prints "signed by Hine." The dealer became suspicious and called in the FBI. Forensic studies revealed that the paper of many of the prints Hine supposedly made before his death in 1940 were in fact from 1950s, and some of the chemicals used were also blended much later! Work that



"'Frenchy' riding on hoisting ball. Empire State Building, summer 1930" (George Eastman Museum, 1977.0160.0032)

has been vetted and shown to be truly that of Hine now goes for \$10,000 or more. It seems tragic that such a talented man died in poverty.

Timothy J. Duerden has written a compelling biography that includes both the artist and the man whose work did much to help the plight of those people he documented. His book, **Lewis Hine: Photographer and American Progressive**, is available at Blue Farm Antiques in Franklin, at The Green Toad in Oneonta, at Delaware County Historical Association in Delhi and online.



LEWIS HINE  
Photographer and  
American Progressive  
TIMOTHY J. DUERDEN  
Copyrighted Material

From the cover: The shadow of Lewis Hine and his camera are visible in this photograph of a newsboy.

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, National Child Labor Committee Collection.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Tim Duerden will give a talk at the Franklin Free Library on Saturday, July 14 at 7pm. Signed books will be available to purchase.

He will give a second talk at the Delaware County Historical Association on Saturday, July 21st, at 2 p.m.

A book signing will be held at the Franklin Train Museum on Saturday, July 29th, from 2-4pm.



Photo at right by Helen McLean Author Duerden at Hine gravesite



- 1) **TLC FAMILY THRIFT SHOP**  
146 DELAWARE STREET  
(607)226-4357  
OPEN EVERYDAY 10 A.M.-6P.M.

2) **FULL CIRCLE ANTIQUES**  
164 DELAWARE STREET  
(607)865-5819  
OPEN EVERDAY 10A.M.-6P.M.

3) **ANNA LEE'S FULL CIRCLE ANTIQUES**  
151 DELAWARE STREET  
(201)390-7551  
OPEN EVERDAY 10A.M.-6P.M.

4) **J&M ANTIQUES**  
136A DELAWARE STREET  
(607)766-5529
- 5) **ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE**  
109 DELAWARE STREET  
(702)845-4917  
PIZZA21RED@YAHOO.COM

6) **LITTLE DIPPER ANTIQUES**  
127 DELAWARE STREET  
(607)761-2670  
ASKFORARLENE@YAHOO.COM

7) **ALICE'S ATTIC CONSIGNMENT SHOP**  
136 DELAWARE STREET  
(607)865-9117  
TUESDAY-SATURDAY 9 A.M.-5 P.M.

8) **WALTON PICKERS**  
6 TOWNSEND STREET  
(607)267-3552  
THURS-SAT 11 A.M.-5 P.M.  
SUNDAY NOON-5 P.M.
- 9) **CRAFTIQUES**  
7 TOWNSEND STREET  
(607)865-6224

10) **ELIJAH'S CLOSET**  
4 MEAD STREET  
COGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
(607)865-4066 -CHURCH  
(607)865-8961 -KAREN  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
10 A.M.-3 P.M.

11) **TJ'S WAGON WHEEL ANTIQUES**  
2695 MARVIN HOLLOW ROAD  
2.6 MILES OFF RT 10  
(607)865-7165  
WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY  
OR BY APPOINTMENT



**FISCAL, continued from Page 1**

ing. (As we reported in our fall issue, Town of Davenport was the lone other persistent non-filer, but since then it has made progress by filing six of the backlogged reports.) Of the villages in Delaware County, all 10 are filing. Of the school districts in Delaware County, all 12 are filing. And of Delaware County itself and the neighboring counties, all eight are filing. These four dozen local governing boards succeed in reporting where Franklin failed. Has our government been uniquely unable or uniquely unwilling?

One difference between the two audits: the first audit (Report 2014M-32) examined financial operations whereas the second audit (Report 2018M-8) examined financial conditions. As such, the recent audit revealed additional failures concerning inaccurate and incomplete accounting of fund balances.

This was not obvious to the townspeople because they had not seen an annual financial report for the last nine years, 2009 to 2017. While we do see an annual budget document, these list only estimates of fund balances for the coming year, which often do not change from year to year. This is unlike the reporting of revenues and appropriations, for which the actual amounts are given for the two previous years.

The 2018 OSC report provides examples from the highway accounts. For four years (2014 to 2017), the estimated fund balance of the account for town-outside-of-village (DB) remained at \$150,000, but in reality the DB fund balance decreased from \$215,000 to \$87,500. Conversely, the estimated fund balance of the account for town-wide (DA) remained at \$36,000, but in reality the DA fund balance doubled.

This may not have been obvious to the board because they were not provided with monthly balance sheets and because the inter-fund transfers were not recorded. Corrections are being made with the assistance of the OSC staff.

The second audit achieved what the first did not: it motivated the board to act, restarting both annual auditing and filing annual reports.

The OSC states "Perhaps one of the most significant and complex oversight responsibilities of the governing board is its requirement to conduct audits. The audit process ... is an integral part of local government's system of checks and balances." For the first time in years, the board audited the town books, albeit a month after the statutory deadline of January 20<sup>th</sup>.

True to form, the board kept the townspeople uninformed. The annual audit meeting should be a public meeting according to the Department of State. However, the audit committee of Dwight Bruno and Donald M. Smith neither posted notice of the meeting beforehand so that townspeople could attend nor recorded minutes of the meeting for reading afterwards. These inactions are illegal under Open Meeting Law. Also statements to and minutes of audits are required under Town Law.

In addition to the audit by the board, the Franklin supervisor filed the first of the nine missing financial reports, the one for 2014 which was the first year that Taggart was supervisor. (In November of 2016, when this newspaper first asked about the missing audits and reports, the board stated that the 2014 report was being worked on and would be filed shortly.) This report is available at the office of the Town Clerk on Tuesdays during office hours and on the OSC website anytime:

<http://www2.osc.state.ny.us/transparency/LocalGov/LocalGovIntro.cfm>.

To handle the backlog of reports, the town has hired Mike Giovinazzo, a Certified Public Accountant and retired state auditor, for \$45 per hour but for no more than \$1,000 per report. This contract is for only three of the missing eight reports, 2015 to 2017. Funds to pay for this have yet to be identified. Timely filings of these reports, as the board had committed to after the first OSC audit, would have saved Franklin taxpayers this expense.

Our board has no plans to release the five reports for the last few years of Supervisor Smith's term, 2009 to 2013. To date, the board has not explained why Franklin stopped filing reports in 2010 nor why it failed to honor its commitment to resume filing after 2014.

Our board has a practice of secrecy. After the two audits, the resulting reports have never been discussed in any public meeting. While this is legal, it is contrary to the practices of the Village of Franklin, of neighboring town boards, and of Delaware County.

At times, the board is even willing to violate the Open Meetings Law to keep the townspeople in the dark. After release of the first report, the board's CAP was submitted to OSC without the required resolution, which would have had to be made in an open meeting. The CAP for the second audit was due at the end of June, but a motion to submit it has yet to be made.

After the release of the second report, there was a special meeting of the board to interview for an open seat on the Board of the Assessment Review. Following the interviews, they went into executive session to discuss this report without legal justification. They gave as the cryptic reason to discuss an audit, and no mention was made of the audit being by OSC. (A committee of the board had recently audited the town books.) Existence of this OSC audit was generally unknown in the town until publication of The Reporter that week. In general, executive sessions are to prevent harm from the public airing of an issue, not to avoid embarrassment. Specifically, there are only eight statutory reasons for an executive session. Discussion of the response to a report is not one of them, and therefore this was illegal under Open Meeting Law.

*This article is the fifth in an ongoing investigative series on the nearly decade-long neglect of fiscal responsibilities of our supervisor and town board and their concealment of this from the townspeople. Earlier articles on this minor scandal are:*

*Franklin Fiscal Farce (Spring 2017) on the first OSC audit and report*

*Franklin Fiscal Follow Up (Summer 2017) on the cover-up*

*Franklin Fiscal Fall Out (Fall 2017) on possible harms from not filing annual financial reports*

*Franklin Fiscal Fact Finding (Spring 2018) on what earlier filing can reveal about town finances*



607.865.8424 Office  
607.865.8151 Fax

**Donald M. Smith**  
General Manager



205 Delaware Street • Walton, NY 13865

**SCIG, continued from Page 1**

the Group's founding motivation, it seems like a natural place to start. For many years, SCIG has maintained over thirty flower barrels and several large planters, one of which holds the community announcement sign. These were initially purchased with a grant the Group received. Every year, flowers are planted and maintained by volunteers. One can drive through the hamlet and not only see the beautiful flowers but also the lively insects that inhabit these barrels. These cheerful bugs were constructed and hand-painted by volunteers, adding a unique piece of art to each barrel.

Another project, years in the making, has been to restore and improve the hamlet entrance signs. At the start of last winter, the signs were taken down and reconstructed, with care taken to help the signs withstand the elements for years to come. This will not only enhance the curb appeal of Sidney Center, but also remind motorists that they're entering a small hamlet, so please drive slowly.

Finally, as has been written about in previous issues, the Sidney Center Park & Playground is in the process of being restored. This is a larger effort with multiple parties involved. The success of SCIG over the years can be attributed

to the partnerships created to accomplish these tasks. This spring, SCIG received a donation of approximately 200 trees from NYSEG's Vegetation Management Department. These were given out to the public for free, and a couple dozen were planted in the park.

SCIG is an all-volunteer organization, therefore the success of these projects is contingent on support from members, friends, local leaders, town & county departments, and folks from the community. We are funded entirely through donations, grants acquired for specific projects, and fundraising events. With any volunteer organization, it takes time to accomplish tasks. SCIG appreciates everyone's patience and understanding while we make progress in Sidney Center.

SCIG is always looking for new, fresh ideas and perspectives. Volunteers are always appreciated so if you'd like to help in our effort to make Sidney Center a nicer place to live, please consider attending a meeting, which are always open to the public. SCIG meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at the Sidney Center Fire Hall, unless our facebook page states otherwise.

To learn more visit:  
[www.facebook.com/SCIGNY](http://www.facebook.com/SCIGNY)  
or [www.SCIGNY.org](http://www.SCIGNY.org).

**ENERGY, continued from Page 8**

Centre, and Village of Freeport on Long Island; East Bronx, Clarkson Avenue, and Sunnyside Yards in New York City; Buffalo-Niagara Medical Campus and the City of Binghamton. All will be gas-fired combined heat and power (CHP) facilities with a token 700 kw of solar power. The City of Syracuse is the one exception to natural gas consumption, with 39.6 mw of waste-to-energy power.

What do we get for our tax-supported investment? We get ten new facilities burning natural gas to generate electricity and provide heating, and more pipelines to supply this increased consumption and meet export demands. According to FERC and the gas companies, the capacity of existing pipelines is maxed out already. This increase in gas consumption will confirm the "convenience and need" provision for a direct pipeline from PA through Delaware County.

So is NYS the National Clean Energy Leader? No, it is not. NYS is one of the leaders in promoting natural gas consumption and gas infrastructure expansion. How ironic, for the state that banned fracking!



MICRO, con't from Page 8

Lacking vigorous enforcement, our salvation is not in the regulations.

Of course, keeping a gas-fired turbine generator off the local microgrid creates a whole new problem: what to replace it with. Solar panels and wind turbines can generate the power, but not always when it is most needed; for renewables to serve as around-the-clock sources, an energy storage system will be essential. A demonstration project is being planned by the Orange & Rockland utility using Tesla batteries primarily for reducing customers' grid demand during peak usage periods; however, the system's designers have yet to solve the problem of islanding. While engineers and entrepreneurs delve into flywheels and compressed air and batteries, the most practical solution to the renewables problem may be a technology that has served the New York grid since 1973: pumped hydro storage.

The Blenheim-Gilboa hydroelectric power station stores and generates power on the same scale as other major generating facilities (1100 megawatts) but has a huge geographic footprint as it includes two

reservoirs which hold five billion cubic feet of water and cover a combined area of roughly five square miles. The NYISO Energy Storage Report in 2010 flatly stated that, "The pumped storage portfolio in New York is not expected to expand significantly during the near term due to a lack of sites where pumped storage facilities can be economically constructed."

That view has been repeated frequently. Finding five square miles of undeveloped land spanning an elevation differential of over 1000 feet in close proximity to major transmission lines and a major water source is highly improbable. But finding a site for a microgrid-scale pumped storage facility (fifty acres, 400 foot elevation, five megawatts) is not all that difficult, at least not in the rural areas of upstate New York. Pumped storage hydro could be the key to building all-green microgrids in some parts of NY.

Who will make this happen?

Stuart Anderson *lives in Otego and hopes to leave his grandchildren a habitable planet.*

Reference Links for "Microgrid Update":

- NYISO 2018 Gold Book  
<https://home.nyiso.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018-Load-Capacity-Data-Report-Gold-Book.pdf>
- DEC Permit Review Report: Algonquin Gas Southeast Compressor Station  
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/dardata/boss/afs/permits/prr\\_337300006000013\\_r3\\_2.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/dardata/boss/afs/permits/prr_337300006000013_r3_2.pdf)
- NYISO Energy Storage Factsheet:  
<https://home.nyiso.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-NYISO-Energy-Storage-factsheet-1.pdf>
- NYISO The State of Storage 2017:  
[https://home.nyiso.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/State\\_of\\_Storage\\_Report\\_Final\\_1Dec2017.pdf](https://home.nyiso.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/State_of_Storage_Report_Final_1Dec2017.pdf)
- Blenheim-Gilboa Hydroelectric Power Station:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blenheim-Gilboa\\_Hydroelectric\\_Power\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blenheim-Gilboa_Hydroelectric_Power_Station)
- Staff Assessment Report on O&R's Innovative Storage Business Model 5 30 2018:  
<http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={C24B07EC-9D95-4EAC-A2D6-51A1C07563BA}>

AWARD, con't from Page 3

Certificates of Excellence were presented throughout the school year. Award-ees include Abigail Beckle, Megan Northrop, Nolan Boyles, Matthew Dyke, Irene Cox, Madelynn Ackley, Tyler Gregory, Katie Sanford, Daniella DeSilva, and Madeline McLaughlin.

Following our mission to support educational and enrichment opportunities

for students of Franklin Central school, several programs and field trips were sponsored by the Foundation this year, including funding college credit courses, a First Grade STEM program, Ski Club assistance, the Spanish Trip, and a field trip to Museum of Modern Art in NYC. These and several others would not have been pos-

sible without the support of so many people in, from, or touched by the Franklin School and community.

Most recently, the Second Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale was a huge success, raising almost \$1,000. With the amazing baskets grown at Schaefer's Gardens, it is no wonder sales were up. We did learn about potential color variation this year. Meanwhile, thanks to everyone for their continued support.

Keep an eye out for your next big chance to win cash prizes, with the Huge End of Summer Raffle. More details to follow, and tickets will be available soon! Winners will be drawn and announced at New Old Franklin Day, Saturday August 25, 2018.

ADVERTISE IN YOUR HOMETOWN  
NEWSPAPER!

THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER

contact Manette Berlinger  
manette.berlinger@gmail.com

HEALTH, continued from Page 1

sive government subsidies to not grow corn, Medicaid was our small farm's subsidy. But without Medicaid, I'm worried that our options will be either expensive or not very good coverage."

These and other small business owners in Delaware County support the New York Health Act, state legislation that would cover all healthcare for New York residents. According to the grassroots Campaign for New York Health (NYHCampaign.org), the bill would eliminate networks, deductibles, copays, and insurance companies. All medically necessary care (including vision, dental, prescriptions, and devices like dentures and hearing aids) would be covered, as determined by your primary care physician.

NY Health has gained momentum alongside calls for national Medicare for All. The bill (A4738/S4840) passed the state Assembly on June 14 for the fourth year straight but needs one co-sponsor for a Senate majority. Senator Seward, who chairs the Insurance Committee, is not a co-sponsor.

NY Health will be financed through a progressive payroll tax with employers paying eighty percent and employees twenty percent, and a similar tax on capital gains for upper incomes. Those making under \$25,000 a year

would pay nothing, according to an analysis by economics professor Gerald Friedman (<https://goo.gl/MWq3Rd>). For those making \$50,000, healthcare would cost employer and employee a total of \$2,250 a year, and for those making \$75,000, it would cost \$5,000.

This tax would replace premiums, deductibles, and copays, and would cover all dependents. Friedman concludes that costs will be this low, even after expanding coverage, because single-payer NY Health will reduce administrative complexity and begin negotiating drug prices.

Currently, businesses pay a lot more. According to last year's Kaiser Employer Health Benefits survey, 2017 premiums for family coverage increased to \$17,615 for an average small business worker, with employer paying sixty percent and employee forty percent (<https://goo.gl/yNrTP8>).

For local businesses with thin profit margins, this cost is daunting. The median weekly wage in Delaware County is \$820 ([goo.gl/B5qC6K](https://goo.gl/B5qC6K)). Do the math: family health benefits add twenty-five percent to

labor costs at an average Delaware County small business.

Such costs can force an impossible choice: go without health coverage, or go out of business. Pam Gueldner, who owns a food service business in Ithaca with forty employees, wishes she could provide health benefits for herself and her employees.

"Not having health care raises anxiety levels in staff, and also creates a lot of turnover because employees eventually seek jobs that provide health care," Gueldner explained. Even covering just employees, not their families, would add ten percent to her business's labor costs. "That doesn't sound like

much," she said. "But when you consider that our profit margin is zero to five percent, providing healthcare would put us in the red."

Even when businesses provide insurance, insurance covers less each year. Deductibles now average above \$2,000 for small business employees, according to the Kaiser survey. Even insured people avoid getting necessary care, making them sicker and less

productive at work. NY Health will eliminate deductibles and other financial obstacles to care.

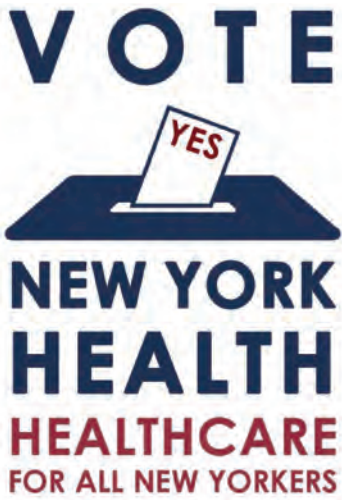
By providing health coverage for everyone, supporters argue, NY Health would encourage entrepreneurs to start businesses without fear of losing coverage. NY Health ties coverage costs to workers' income, easing the relative burden of healthcare costs on low-margin businesses. It also eliminates the time businesses spend to administer health plans, allowing them to focus on growth.

Meanwhile, according to Friedman, the savings from reducing people's healthcare costs statewide will pump money into New York's economy and create around 200,000 new jobs, many of them in small businesses glad to have comprehensive, affordable healthcare.

Small businesses may not earn big profits, but they drive our economy.

"We create jobs in agriculture with respectable wages, we grow food for our local community, and we try to give as much help as we've gotten from our friends and neighbors," says Blakeslee-Drain. "NY Health would level the playing field for farming families like mine."

Sarah Outterson-Murphy lives in Delhi, parents two small children, and teaches English part-time.





**BUDGET. con't from Page 3**

John Wilson) had annually underestimated revenues and overestimated expenditures. (*See graphs of budget to actual, this page.*)

In part, this unrealistic budgeting resulted from a lack of information. Trustees were provided with monthly receipts and disbursements but not monthly budget-to-actual reports or balance sheets.

In accounting, the fund balance is basically the difference between revenues and expenses. In budgeting, it is typically managed to keep a positive balance and provide available cash and a cushion against unexpected expenses for the current year.

In the opinion of the OSC, the fund balance had grown too large. In 2017, the annual village expenditures were a frugal \$90,000. (Village of Franklin has one of the smallest tax bases in Delaware County, with 375 residents and 200 taxable parcels.) All of these expenses could have been paid out of the fund balance and still leave an equal amount for 2018.

Reserve funds are typically larger sums set aside over longer times. They may be dedicated to a particular use or remain undedicated for general use. Often they are used to save for major expenses planned or unexpected.

ed. Franklin trustees do have a dedicated reserve fund of \$11,000 for capital expenses.

The OSC report recommended that the trustees establish a policy for the approximate amount of the fund balance to be maintained. Then excess funds could be saved by increasing the existing reserve fund or establishing additional ones. Otherwise, excess funds could be expended for capital projects or a temporary decrease in property taxes. Trustees are planning to spend some of the fund balance for fencing around the reservoir.

They should also develop a comprehensive multi-year plan for annual expenses and capital projects. Realistic budgeting should implement these policies and plans. On Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>, there was a special meeting of the village board to plan for multi-year capital projects and uses of the fund balance, but it was after the deadline for this article.

The OSC recommends that to these ends, the clerk treasurer provide trustees with adequate monthly financial reports. This is already being done.

Mayor Briggs said

that the large fund balance was unplanned due in part to awaiting a Dasney Grant before spending allocated funds. It was also due to a few small accounts with funds that had never been spent. In addition, revenues grew due to unexpected payments of delinquent taxes.

He and the other trustees welcome guidance by the OSC to bring their accounting and budgeting up to current best practices. For example, they expect to establish additional reserve funds for equipment and for the village pool.

This audit of the village fund balance management can be read in *Report of Examination 2018M-13*. It is available in the village office on Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, and at the OSC website anytime: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/villages/2018/franklin.htm>.



## 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](mailto:nfr@franklinlocal.org)



The Newsletter of Franklin Local

#### Editorial Board

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

Editor  
 Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

### HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register

P.O. Box 258

Franklin, NY 13775

or by email: [nfr@franklinlocal.org](mailto:nfr@franklinlocal.org)

## What are we about?

Franklin Local Ltd, the parent organization for The New Franklin Register and of the Franklin Farmers' Market, is a not-for-profit corporation made up of Franklin residents.

Our mission statement: to work to preserve the rural character of Franklin, to build the local economy, to encourage volunteerism, and to raise awareness of economic and social challenges that may result from climate change and the transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy.

We generally meet once a month, at 7 P.M.; the date and location are posted on our website. All are welcome, to offer questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas, to make things happen.

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

Together, let us imagine a more energy efficient, healthier habit of living, and put it to work here in Franklin, for a brighter, more sustainable future.

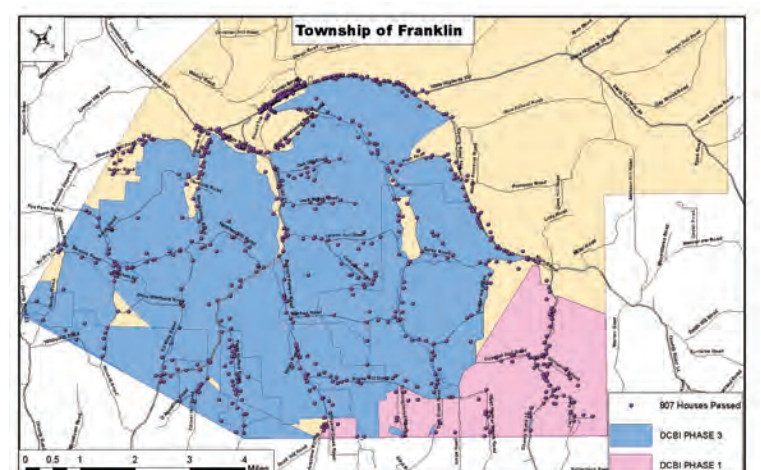
### PLEASE JOIN US!

**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.**



**Delhi Telephone Company's proposed map of future fiber-optic routes for high speed internet service... will it EVER happen?**





# Top Dog

## TIMBERLAND PROPERTIES

**Integrity/Leadership/Innovation Since 1971**   **TimberlandProperties.com**   **CatskillPremier.com**

**(B) Business included**

226 Main St. Franklin, NY