



**The Newsletter of Franklin Local**

Vol. XII, No. 3

Franklin, New York

FALL 2018

**‘INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS AND FREE’**

## TENTATIVE TOWN TAXES

By Brian Brock

The tentative 2019 budget for the Town of Franklin spends \$1.76 million. To partially finance this, the town board plans to raise \$1.19 million in property taxes from landowners, an increase of \$ 0.03 million (2.4%) over the 2018 budget. This levy is just under the state-imposed soft cap and similar to the increase in 2018.

Increases in appropriations total \$45,755, of which increases in salaries (personal services, PS) contribute only \$2,100: superintendent of highways \$500 (1% increase), assessor \$350 (1%), director of finance \$750 (6%), and justice \$500 (9%). Only the superinten-

dent received an increase in the previous year.

With these increases, salaries for the town officials would be: superintendent of highways Laing, \$47,700; assessor Basile, \$27,850; supervisor Taggart, \$15,900; clerk/collector Ritz, \$15,500; CEO Jacobs, \$15,000; finance director Warner, \$12,750; justice Arndt, \$6,000; dog control officer Lockwood, \$1,800; and councilmen Bruno, Grant, Sitts, and Smith, \$1,200 each. (Taggart’s salary divides as \$3,800 (24%) from the town and \$12,100 (76%) from the county.) The total of salaries for town officials in budget is \$135,200. In addition is \$61,000 in benefits for a grand total of \$196,200.

ELECTION DAY IS  
TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 6TH.

**DONT  
FORGET  
TO  
VOTE!**

At the October meeting of the town board, Mr. Arndt requested an increase to \$7,500 citing the responsibilities and work load of being the sole justice in the town. Previous raises were \$500 in 2013 and \$750 in

See **TAXES**, con’t on Pg. 18

## FIGHTING BLIGHT

By Jessica Farrell

Thirteen years ago, a neighbor and I met with a local reporter to talk about the pervasive blight on Sidney Center’s Main Street. At that time, several dilapidated buildings in our tiny “downtown” had been spray-painted with racial slurs and swastikas. They remained that way for weeks. Years of absentee landlords had left these once grand structures as eyesores, dangerous havens for stray cats and straying kids. For me, the graffiti were the last straw in a string of insults that Sidney Center had suffered during my years liv-



Interior on Main Street, Sidney Ctr.

ing here. Frustrated, I started making phone calls to see what could be done. I connected with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. Plans were made for them to facilitate a visioning workshop in Sidney Center. My kids and I passed out flyers and invited neighbors.

See **BLIGHT**, con’t on Pg. 11



Gathered participants in this summer’s Skinny Cow Songwriter Retreat in Franklin Photo by Bill Steely

## MAKING MUSIC IN FRANKLIN

By Bill Steely

The last weekend of July, a group of sixteen singer/songwriters from around the world gathered at our Franklin farm to hone their craft in a four-day workshop.

Earlier this May, we met at a songwriting retreat

hosted by Judy Stakee, a former talent development agent who worked at Warner/Chappell Music. (She helped launch the careers of Sheryl Crow and Kate Perry.) After four days of writing together at Menla, a retreat, resort, and spa in Phoenicia NY, we decided we wanted to con-

tinue our collaboration and co-writing.

More than half of us came out to attend the first-ever Skinny Cow Songwriter Retreat. Writers flew in from as far away as Seattle, Dublin and Sydney, while others drove from Brooklyn, upstate New York, eastern Atlantic states, and even from California.

People arrived throughout the day on Thursday. After a delicious meal prepared by local home chef Karen Terry, we all went to the Franklin Stage Company for the opening night of *A Walk in the Woods*. It was a stunning performance and the perfect start to our

See **MUSIC**, con’t on Pg. 14

## EQUALIZATION RATES

Staff Report

Equalization rate (ER) is a measure of how close a town’s total assessed value of real property is to its total market value, expressed as a percentage as estimated by New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services.

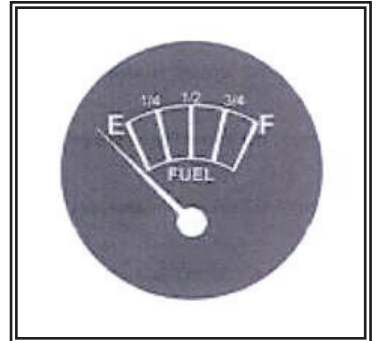
By state law, all property in a town must be assessed at the same percentage of market value, but not necessarily a hundred percent.

Around the turn of the century, the ER for Franklin was a hundred percent for years. Starting in 2005, the rate declined sharply to seventy-seven percent by 2009. Over the last decade, our ER has trended upward to ninety-nine percent – until this year when the town’s uniform assessment rate fell from ninety-nine to ninety point five percent.

Last year saw a doubling of the number of real property sales over 2016, and that higher rate has continued into this year. It’s likely that this increased demand has driven prices up, and assessments have yet to catch up.

After a presentation by

See **RATES**, con’t on Page 17



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# Your Neighbor's View...

## A SIGN OF THE TIMES

To the Editors:

I recently installed a campaign lawn sign at the end of my driveway. A few days later, I saw that it had a hole ripped through it. On the ground a few feet beyond the sign was an empty Stella Artois beer bottle. It was pretty clear that someone had thrown the bottle at the sign to damage it.

I'm not sure whether the anger that propelled that bottle was because somebody didn't like my choice of candidate or whether the rage was directed at the audacity of a black candidate with an ivy league pedigree running for Congress in a mostly white Congressional district. Until recently, racial animus as a cause of delinquency wouldn't have occurred to me, but we live in racially charged times.



Sign on Main Street, Franklin

Photo by Jan Mulroy

A few years back, Franklin had a problem with people removing or defacing lawn signs. Some were simply taken and other were marred with black markers. During the Stagecoach Run Art Festival, some of the numbered designation signs were stolen in Treadwell. This behavior was not limited to lawn signs - someone wrote a lewd comment about a candidate for town board in black permanent marker inside a voting booth on Election Day.

Nobody puts up a political lawn sign out of malice. Like me, most people do it because they believe in something positive that will benefit our community. No matter the candidate, political party, or cause, it is an optimistic gesture. Somebody decided to destroy marker signs for the Stagecoach Run, even though it is the town of Franklin's most popular summer festival. Defacing a New York State owned election booth is undoubtedly a crime.

This year, I've heard of other signs disappearing, and mine was damaged. While it seems to come with the territory in a political year, I am concerned about what this type of vandalism says about our community. It may not seem like a big deal to the culprit, but it is disturbing to a sign owner. The right of free expression is protected, and for many of us, no matter our views, we don't want to fall victim to an anonymous person attempting to shut us up. Removing lawn signs is not cute or a game. It's evidence of hooliganism. Most people don't want to live in a community where this type of behavior is on display.



Damaged Lawn Sign

Photo by Carla Nordstrom

Defacing signs is a display of anger that damages the reputation of a community. Instead of sharing ideas or asking why someone would like to elect new candidates or keep current representatives, strangers lash out with a beer bottle or permanent marker. I'm aware that there is a lot of anger going around, but the part I don't get is where our manners have gone or our respect for others' opinions.

Sure, I see signs along the road for candidates or policies that make my blood boil, but I won't remove or trash them. Everybody has a right to their opinions and the freedom to display their ideas however they want. I would hope that everybody in our community would show the same respect to me.

By the way, I would love to get back the Bernie sign that someone removed from my property two years ago. If you have it stashed away, that's fine.

I thought it was a keeper, too.

Carla Nordstrom  
Franklin, NY

## OPEN LETTER TO TOWN SUPERVISOR TAGGART

**Thank you for restoring crucial funding to the town budget in support of our hometown library.**

Sincerely,  
The New Franklin Register

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**A HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS**

PRESENTING THE  
**CATSKILL BRASS**

WITH GUEST ARTISTS

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

SATURDAY, 22ND OF DECEMBER AT 6 P.M.  
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
INSTITUTE AND MAIN STREETS  
VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN

PRESENTED AS A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY BY TOM MORGAN AND ERNA MCREYNOLDS, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CATSKILL CONSERVATORY



Tom Briggs, Gary Orton and Jerry Hebbard hard at work.



Tom Collier and Don Hebbard set up a section

The Franklin Rotary Club applied for and received a grant of nearly \$2,000 from the Rotary International Foundation for a beautiful wrought iron safety railing atop the new retaining wall at the Franklin Free Library.

Members of the Rotary also installed the fencing. Seen here are Rotary President Gary Orton, Don Hebbard, Tom Collier, Jerry Hebbard, and village mayor Tom Briggs.

Photos courtesy of Gary Orton

**MMS**

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# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## NEW GIRL IN TOWN

By Lynne Kemen

I met Bonnie Johnson a week after she began working as Principal of Franklin Central School. She was there with the boys' and girls' soccer teams as they helped the Franklin Free Library haul books from our basement to Institute Street for the New Old Franklin Day library book sale. Bonnie seemed entirely at home and had already established a great rapport with her students. You'd never have guessed she was so new to her job.

Previously, she was a physical education teacher at SUNY Delhi, Laurens Central School, and Middleburgh Central School. She then became a staff developer at ONC BOCES. She is the Recreational Soccer Director, Board Member, and Coach for the Oneonta Soccer Club. Her passion for soccer is shared by her husband Eric, daughter



Bonnie Johnson (center) with son Nathan and daughter Hannah  
Hannah and son Nathan.

She attended Campbell University and graduated with a B.S. in Physical Education. She graduated with an M.S. in education from Walden University, and her advanced certificate in School Building Leadership and Technology is from the New York Institute of Technology.

Like many of us, Bonnie has a personal connection to Franklin. Her husband graduated from Franklin Central in 1985. He and his family lived in Meridale before moving to Oneonta.

When asked about her goals, she laughed and said that her first goal was to learn the names of every student in the school by the end of October. She wants to understand all of the programs currently in play before deciding what works and what could benefit from a change. One crucial goal she hopes to achieve is increased lines of communication with the community.

We discussed the challenges of rural schools, and she noted that transporta-

See **JOHNSON**, con't on Pg16

## A TALE OF TWO BUILDINGS

By Brian Brock

Franklin town officials are a government divided, split between two office buildings. Down at the town garages (a.k.a. the sheds) and off the meeting hall are the offices of the assessor, bookkeeper, and highway superintendent.

Almost a mile up Route 357 is the Rich's tenant house with the town courtroom and offices for the court clerk, code enforcement officer, and the town clerk.

The garage offices were built in the mid-1980s with funds from the Marcy South power line project. The building is a single-story slab-on-grade. Offices and meeting hall are handicapped accessible with two accessible bathrooms in the rear. This summer, the lighting was upgraded with LED fixtures courtesy of a grant from the Clean Energy Community Program sponsored by NYSERDA.

Heating is by an oil boiler. In the winter of 2013/14,

an experiment with heat from locally-sourced grass pellets proved unsatisfactory. The shed built to house the pellet boiler still sits behind the meeting hall.

A decade ago, the Rich tenant house was leased from the Walter Rich Charitable Foundation for fifty years at \$1 per year. (Prior to opening these offices, the officials worked out of their homes.) While the building is quite large, the town uses only the west side of the first floor. By the terms of the lease, the foundation is responsible for the maintenance of the property.

The foundation has spent little to maintain the tenant house, instead focusing on renovating the farmhouse for a community center and for commercial office spaces, of which three are now rented.

The town board is unsatisfied with conditions there. In the cold winter of 2016/17, the boiler failed and the pipes froze, there-

See **TALE**, con't on Page 16

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

### HAD ENOUGH

For a period of about ten years, I served on the board of an organization in Washington, advocating for rural parity in policy and funding distribution. During this time, I had the privilege of meeting people who helped forge policy around some very impressive legislation (the Social Security Act, the Older Americans Act, Medicare, etc.). It was a time when we as a nation were experiencing the last vestiges of bipartisanship, and the conversation included lofty ideas about proper government practice for the common good.

Because my organization's objective was to make rural issues part of this conversation, we met with researchers and demographers to gain a sense of how best to push our agenda. I can still remember my surprise when one of these researchers confessed that "in the grand scheme of things, there's nothing sexy about rural." Which meant that there was little interest in what was going on in rural America. As a consequence, there would be very little funding for research. We knew that quality research served as a strong basis for appropriations. It was just then that a major study on the effectiveness of the Head Start program had come out,

and Congress had made a significant funding increase to early childhood educational initiatives as a result.

While much of our nation possessed a wholesome, bucolic image of life in the country, there was nothing to counter this view in order to stimulate concern. Farmers weren't burning down neighborhoods to shed light on stagnant milk prices. There were no massive protest parades to draw attention to the plight of small businesses as the box stores sucked the lifeblood out of rural communities. There was no powerful commission formed to study the impact of the loss of wealth and jobs and young people in rural America. Instead, there was indifference. People were satisfied to watch Hallmark movie depictions of life in the country, salted with images of quaint little shops and well-maintained village squares and shiny, rust free cars and – oh, yes - those happy, contented village folk.

Fast forward to today, and people from parts elsewhere are surprised to visit the country and see abandoned storefronts and houses caving in from years of neglect. They're surprised to hear of mobile homes converted to meth labs, or teen death rates increased by overdoses and suicides. They're shocked to see the same growing despair in rural communities that only existed in urban ghettos in the past.

In this recent presidential election, pundits were at a loss when much of rural America came to the polls and supported our current president. For many, it was hard to understand why people would don those red hats and identify with a self-crowned people's champion who might not really have their best interests in mind. It defied reason. For most who supported Hillary, the incredulity still exists. But if

you were born and raised in a non-metropolitan area, you probably have more than a clue why this phenomenon took place.

In the past four decades, we have seen wave after wave of human interest causes that have caught the public's eye. Legislation and funding have been brought forward to even the playing field for the oppressed. New social mores have been developed to bolster the image of those who were social pariahs in the past. Our very language has been scrutinized and altered to assure that no one is offended. Special treatment and earmarked funding have been directed to special interests to compensate for the sins of the past.

Meanwhile, rural America, the cradle of invention, growth and development in this country has been relegated to junk bond status. Rural America which still comprises a quarter of this nation's population and is its largest minority, is perceived (in my opinion) as having little relevance to our modern cosmopolitan society. We have been marginalized by our nation's transportation system, by changing technology, the entertainment industry, the economy and even by our society's shifting core values.

The latter is especially of deep concern to me. At some primal and probably nostalgic level, I think there still exists at the core of many of our small communities the remnants of a once powerful and highly esteemed national conscience, its legacy waiting to be rediscovered and re-venerated, once the acrimony burns itself out. I also believe that what will lead to this rediscovery has more to do with exercising the golden rule than the generation and proliferation of wealth and material.

I see it here in Franklin.

# kitchen basics

By  
**Carla Nordstrom**

When the weather cools down, the days end early, and autumn settles in, there is nothing I like better than roast chicken. For years I'd roast chicken on a rack or directly in a pan. Cleanup was a mess and the roasting pan method meant that the bottom of the chicken ended up pale and soggy. Trying to up my game, I discovered a recipe where the chicken was laid on a bed of vegetables. I gave this approach a try and have no plans to go back to the old way of roasting a chicken.

For this recipe I used the following vegetables, but feel free to use other fall or root vegetables. Sometimes I add black olives or different herbs to kick up the flavor.

Preheat the oven to 425°.

4 Tbs. olive oil  
8 fingerling potatoes cut in half along the length  
or ¾ pound of cut potatoes  
1 large carrot cut into spears  
1 large leek cut into 3 inch lengths and quartered  
or 1 onion cut into chunks  
5 oz. of cremini or baby bella mushrooms, quartered  
4 peeled garlic cloves, if large, cut in half lengthwise  
2 sprigs of rosemary  
Salt and pepper  
1 4-5 lb. whole chicken  
½ cup of white wine

Pour two tablespoons of olive oil into the bottom of a roasting pan or ceramic baking dish. Add potatoes and carrots and coat with oil. Place leeks, mushrooms and garlic on top of the layer of potatoes and carrots, also coating them with oil. You will need to add more oil to the top. It is important to layer the vegetables with the delicate veggies on top to

prevent

burning. Salt and pepper to taste.

Wash the chicken and dry thoroughly with paper towels. Spread 1 tablespoon of oil on the entire surface. Place the chicken on top of the vegetables with the breasts facing up. Put in the preheated oven and bake for 15 minutes. Remove the chicken and pour the white wine over the top of the chicken and into the vegetables.

Bake for 1 ½ hours, or until the temperature is 165° when thermometer is inserted into the thigh. If it looks too pale, either turn up the heat to 450° or use the convection setting on your oven to brown it for the last 10-15 minutes of baking.

Let the chicken rest for 10 minutes before carving.

The chicken should be moist and the vegetables tasty.

When the meal is done you can bone the chicken and put all of the bones and herbs into a pot with the juices and water to cover and boil for an hour to make a rich soup stock.

If there are leftover vegetables, drain them and fry in olive oil as a side dish.

This cold weather, one pot meal can be served with a salad and fresh crusty bread.



Roast Chicken on a Bed of Vegetables. Photo by Andy Bobrow



## THE FRANKLIN VILLAGE TREE BOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP

### For tree pruning:

The Village of Franklin Tree Board has been evaluating the Village of Franklin's trees.

A primary concern is the pressing need to prune the existing trees during their dormant season this fall and winter. Residents walking for exercise have mentioned dangerously low tree branches along the sidewalks. The board members themselves have "aged out" and are no longer able to do the pruning. Volunteers are needed!

Residents and friends of the Village: here's your chance to learn how to prune properly! A New York State forester has offered hold a pruning demonstration in the village, to instruct volunteers in proper pruning techniques, and to supervise them as they start the pruning process. This will make it safer and more pleasant for anyone walking around the village.

The current members of the board are Jerry and Jane Hebbard, Gary and Joan Orton, and Diana Hall. If no one volunteers, the village will have to hire someone to do the work.

### Memorial tree planting:

There is also a great need to replace trees that are diseased or have been lost to old age. Nine old stumps were recently removed. A list of diseased and dying trees to be removed by the village, DOT and NYSEG is under consideration.

Donations are needed to supplement the funds available for a planned major planting of trees next spring, to fill in the vacant areas of the village's urban forest. The board is offering the opportunity to create a living memorial by donating a street tree. There are seventeen memorial trees in the village from past plantings. Some choice of tree as well as its placement in the village will be available. A plaque with a name will be attached to the tree. Each tree will cost approximately \$90 to \$100. Additional donations of any amount will be appreciated. Please contact the tree board members to volunteer for pruning the trees and/or donating to the spring planting by calling the Hebbards at 919-616-4872, the Ortons at 607-230-4059, or Diana Hall at 607-829-5216.



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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

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|------------------|--|
| Delaware County: | <a href="http://co.delaware.ny.us">co.delaware.ny.us</a>                           |
| Andes:           | <a href="http://Townofandes.com">Townofandes.com</a>                               |
| Bovina:          | <a href="http://bovinany.org">bovinany.org</a>                                     |
| Colchester:      | <a href="http://townofcolchesterny.com">townofcolchesterny.com</a>                 |
| Davenport:       | No Website   |
| Delhi:           | <a href="http://townofdelhiny.com">townofdelhiny.com</a>                           |
| Deposit:         | No Website   |
| <b>Franklin:</b> | <b>No Website</b>  |
| Hamden:          | <a href="http://hamdenny.com">hamdenny.com</a>                                     |
| Hancock:         | <a href="http://hancockny.org">hancockny.org</a>                                   |
| Harpersfield:    | No Website   |
| Kortright:       | No Website   |
| Masonville:      | <a href="http://masonville-ny.us">masonville-ny.us</a>                             |
| Meredith:        | <a href="http://townofmeredith.com">townofmeredith.com</a>                         |
| Middletown:      | <a href="http://middletowndelawarecountyny.org">middletowndelawarecountyny.org</a> |
| Roxbury:         | <a href="http://roxburyny.com">roxburyny.com</a>                                   |
| Sidney:          | <a href="http://townofsidneyny.org">townofsidneyny.org</a>                         |
| Stamford:        | <a href="http://townofstamfordny.us">townofstamfordny.us</a>                       |
| Tompkins:        | <a href="http://townoftompkins.org">townoftompkins.org</a>                         |
| Walton:          | <a href="http://townofwalton.org">townofwalton.org</a>                             |

## GIFTING GARDENERS

It's November, which means Christmas is looming. I'm sure you are wondering what to buy for the gardeners in your life or what to put on your own list for Santa. In past years, you may have been given an aluminum bulb planter that bent sideways on the first hole you tried to make in our rocky soil. You probably own two or three gardening journals, those blank books created for all the garden notes that few of us actually make. Your Christmas tree is festooned in miniature watering cans, your earring collection includes dangling flower pots and hummingbirds, and you own at least a couple of "I'm in the Garden" signs for your door knob.

What helpful hints can you offer the non-gardeners who love you? You could start by spending a few happy hours dog-eared pages of the Lee Valley catalog. They offer well-made garden tools and an amazing array of gadgetry. You might love one of the Radius ergonomic hand tools or shovels, a Japanese pruning saw, or something from the large array of weeding tools. Maybe a torch for those thistles you just can't get rid of. You might request my favorite Felco pruners (#7 with the rotating handle to lessen hand fatigue) and the holster to carry them in, as well as the sharpener. How about memory foam knee pads in aqua with soft straps advertised not to bind or pinch? For under \$15, you could have a set of fifty copper plant tags or a pocket microscope.

Another source full of treasures is Timber Press, a premier publisher of gardening books. A few of their recent offerings include *A Tapestry Garden: The Art of Weaving Plants and Places*, by Ernie and Marietta O'Byrne; *The Landscapes of Anne of Green Gables*, by Catherine Reid; and *Designing with Succulents*, by Debra Lee Baldwin. Succulents are in, you know. But the latest thing is forest bathing, and of course Timber Press has Yoshifumi Miyazaki's book on that. Watch for the site's thirty-percent-off sales.

I have two recommendations on books from other publishers. In *The Resilient Farm and Homestead*, Ben Falk writes about permaculture and preparing for a future past peak oil. He shares details on how he designed his Vermont farm using a "whole systems" approach. If you don't have one of Elliott Coleman's books and you are raising vegetables, add his *Four-Season Harvest* to your wish list. No one does extended season gardening better than Coleman does in Maine.

You can't go wrong with Muck boots, those pricy and wonderful fleecelined rubbery work boots.

## GREEN BANKS GARDENING



With **Deborah Banks**

A romantic gift might be a mix of bulbs for forcing, pre-chilled and thoughtfully layered in a ceramic pot. A gift membership to the Berkshire Botanic Garden in Stockbridge, MA, or Landis Arboretum in Esperance might expand your horizons and also supports our regional public gardens. A Garden Conservancy membership includes one free ticket to an Open Days garden plus discounts on other purchases.

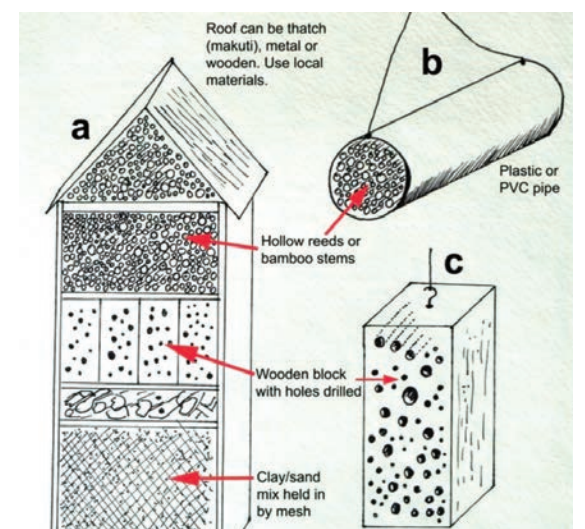
A rain gauge is something a surprising number of gardeners are living without. Our \$22 gauge from Original Floating Rain Gauge is a deck mounted version. The copper colored base holds a clear blue plastic tube that floats up as it rains, with the markings on the tube showing the amount of rain received. It's easy to read and good looking.

Good gloves are nice... if they fit. Womanswork offers many types of gloves, including hard-to-find winter work gloves for women. The Garrett Wade website also offers gardening gloves made especially for women's hands. They include a handy size chart based on hand circumference. My favorite lightweight glove is a \$9 pair available at Lowe's (Item # 792186). It fits my stubby fingers. It is hard to weed when you have an inch or two of glove flapping around past your fingertips.

One gift that should be attempted with caution is the garden calendar. Anything from the pop-up stall at the mall is probably not going to make it to the wall over your desk. And yet success is possible. This year, the Royal Botanical Gardens is publishing three gift-worthy wall calendars. The 2019 Cavallini & Co. Botanica Wall Calendar from Two Hands Paperie is also gorgeous. Other calendars that might appeal are the Old Farmer's Almanac Gardening calendar and the Gardening by the Moon calendar.

Finally, the thrifty giver might make the gift. Plant containers can be crafted from hypertufa, that mix of Portland cement, perlite and peat moss that magically resembles ye olde English stone troughs (sort of). Native bee nest boxes are big; this could be a nice homemade present. And if you're friends with Martha Stewart, you might get a personalized canvas apron stitched up by the diva herself (or so I understand from the magazine).

Good luck and happy giving!



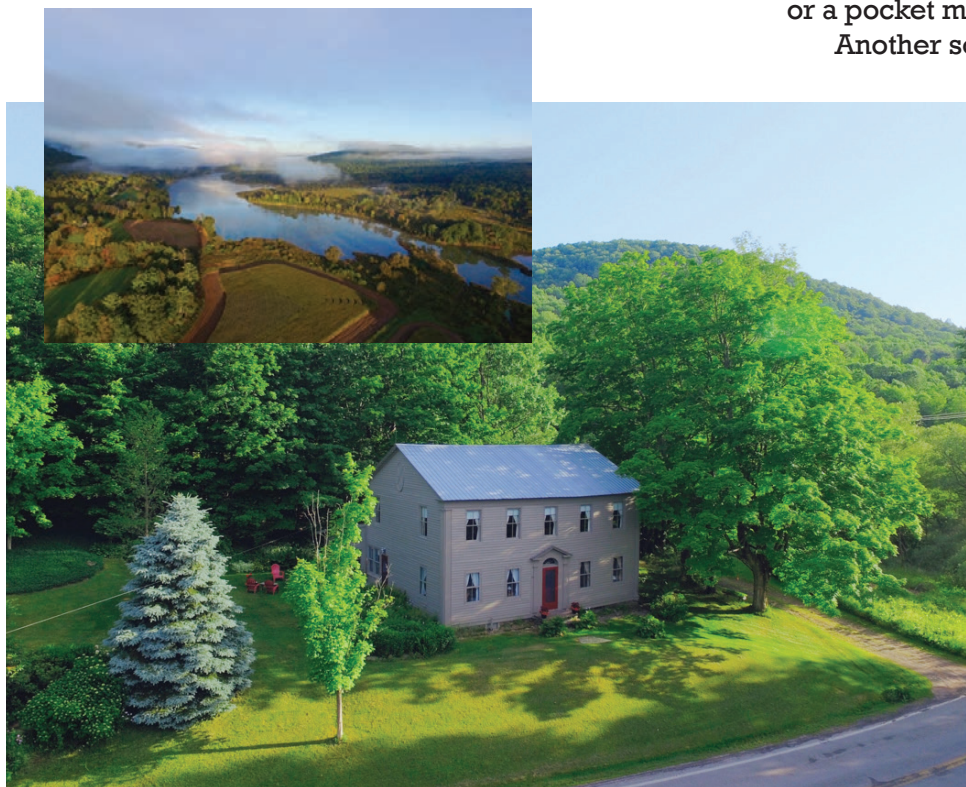
**Sustainable gifting: Build your gardener (or yourself) a native bee house, and help our threatened pollinators to thrive!**

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H: 607.746.2359

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### FOR SALE: Beach Tavern, Circa 1800. Federal style stagecoach tavern, meticulously restored with a purist mindset.

Five corner fireplaces; 40' upstairs ballroom; all original floors, trim, doors, cupboards and mantels, etc. Many original paint surfaces and hardware. Hand-hewn quartzite stone sink in kitchen addition.

**A purist preservationist's dream come true!**

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Email: otellod@hotmail.com www.beachtavernfranklinny.com

*Cronauer/Brower*

# Electric & Plumbing



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## FRANKLIN COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION UPDATE

By Patricia Tyrell

The Foundation welcomes new board members Diane Whitbeck and Sara Leddy. Diane, one of the founding members of the Foundation, returns with great enthusiasm and energy. Sara, our newest member and mother of a Franklin middle-school student, is eager to join the Foundation's mission of supporting and enhancing the educational experience of Franklin's students.

A newly arranged bottle redemption fundraising program has begun, with returnable bottles being accepted at the Oneonta Redemption Center on Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Simply let them know you are donating to the Franklin Community Education Foundation, and your return will be entered into an account that generates a check every month when fifty or more dollars are raised.

Most sincere gratitude is extended to the community and beyond for supporting the Foundation's most recent fundraisers, including the Huge End of

This year's bake sale broke all records, raising \$1,300! Thanks to ongoing participation by dozens of bakers, volunteers, Wayne Bank, and the Franklin community, this fundraiser continues to exceed expectations and be a main support of the many programs the Foundation contributes to.

Your generosity directly contributes to our ability to support school programs and student aspirations. To list a few: FCEF continues to offer funds towards college credit courses for eligible high school students, as well as for the backpack and weekend backpack programs, the Spanish Trip and Museum of Modern Art trip.

We also continue to award, through the bountiful giving of Tom Morgan and Erna Morgan McReynolds in memory of Wendy Brown, the Scholar of the Month award. Presented with a Certificate of Excellence upon award, and \$200 upon graduation, student scholars are nominated and selected by school faculty and staff.

The Franklin Commu-



*A table of goodies at FCEF's fall bake sale*

Summer Raffle and the Fall bake sale. Over \$1,600 was raised through the Raffle, but only because of the ongoing generosity of \$400 prize winner, Tom Morgan, who donated the prize back to the Foundation. Thank you, Tom! Other winners included \$300 prize winner Susan T. and \$200 prize winner Joe D.

nity Education Foundation (FCEF) meets the third Tuesday each month, at 7 p.m. in the Franklin Community Center. Visitors are welcome. The FCEF supports extracurricular and supplemental education opportunities for the youth and students of Franklin, from cradle to career.

# PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz



Hello Readers,

This time, I'm going to discuss rabies. Maybe this doesn't sound too exciting but it may save your life or the life of your pet. Let me tell you something that happened this summer.

It was a work day like any other in the veterinary hospital: anorectic cats, vaccinations, painful ears, itchy dogs, puppies and kittens all coming in for their appointments. But the afternoon brought an unexpected visit.

A young, healthy-appearing dog was brought in to be euthanized. This dog seemed very sweet-natured and the only reason he was being euthanized was because he was not current on his rabies vaccine and had tangled with a rabid raccoon. The owners of this dog had been given the option of a 6-month quarantine or euthanasia. The cost of the quarantine out of the home would be around \$3000. The owner had young children at home and could not quarantine him there. The owner was sad, as were the public health department, my staff, and I. Having to end the life of a wonderful pet because it lacked an inexpensive or often free vaccine was deeply upsetting. How could this have happened?

The rabies virus is in the saliva of a rabid animal. When the animal bites, the virus can spread to the blood of the bitten animal or person, which takes it to the brain, where it grows and infects them. Infection does not always occur, but if it

does, it is fatal. This poor pup's life was sacrificed because of lazy pet care.

The county rabies clinics are free, provided by our local counties' Public Health Departments. Otsego County has had thirteen free clinics and Delaware County has had twelve free clinics this year. For convenience, they are held in the evening, after work for most people. You wait in line with your dog, cat or ferret, and get the vaccine and paperwork and that's it. It's very easy. Besides the fact that it's the law to vaccinate your pet, it's also easy and free, so why are people not doing it?

I suppose some people worry that their animal may have a reaction to the vaccine. Yes, it may have side effects, but they are extremely rare. All in all, lives can be saved by having your pet vaccinated.

So please get it done. Don't wait. There were two confirmed cases of rabies in our area this summer. It is out there. Don't let it happen to you.



*Lining up at a free local rabies clinic*

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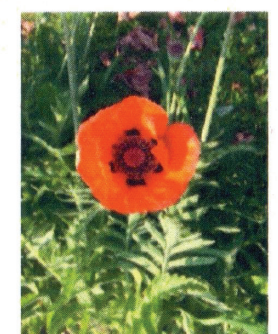
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## SIDNEY CENTER SEES PROGRESS

Part 2: Community Events

By Michael Sellitti

The Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose mission is to bring people together to clean up Sidney Center and improve the quality of life in and around the hamlet. SCIG has three focus areas to further this mission: community events, clean water education/outreach, and beautification/improvement projects. All of these share the common goal of promoting a healthy lifestyle and helping to change local attitudes about realizing the potential of our area, especially when it is supported by meaningful progress.

2018 marks the tenth anniversary of SCIG's status as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. To celebrate, we are sharing our accomplishments in a three-part series in the New Franklin Register. In the last issue, we shared our continuing efforts to improve the curb appeal of our hamlet. This part will highlight Community Events which SCIG hosts throughout the year to bring people together in a fun and engaging way.

SCIG's community member/volunteers are dedicated to organizing events that are enjoyed and looked forward to by people of all ages. But these events are also a platform for sharing the mission and goals of the group. Events help us connect with the public directly and build trust. As an organization, we have invested a great number of volunteer hours and funding to make the following events possible.

### Street & Stream Clean Up Day:

The idea of cleaning up the hamlet was the basis for the Group's formation. Over the years, this has evolved into an annual event. We gather in the center of the hamlet to hit the streets and streams, canvassing for light trash and debris that has accumulated over the previous year. This event is an effort not only to keep our

streets clean but also to keep our waterways and watershed free of trash that would otherwise stick around (adding to flood danger) or wash downstream. We've had the help of local Boy Scouts and student volunteers. We hope their involvement instills a sense of pride in their community and the responsibility to keep it clean.

### Lucky Day Auction & Crockpot Cook-off:

This two-part event has proven to be a successful fundraiser for SCIG and is a way for our group to support and promote local businesses. The silent auction offers baskets put together with a combination of goods and services donated by local businesses, artists, crafters and volunteers. While the auction is going on, folks from the community are also competing for the title of top crockpot chef, while attendees taste and judge the participants. Last year this event kicked off our fundraising efforts for the Sidney Center Park and Playground restoration project.

### Holidays in the Hamlet:



Holidays in the Hamlet

This event has become a staple for SCIG and the hamlet of Sidney Center; one which young and old alike have looked forward to for the last ten years. We are happy to report that 2017 was our most well-attended, with more activities geared towards families and children than ever before, including free digital photos with Santa, a holiday movie tent, themed crafts, reindeer food, selfie station, hot coco bar, gifts for children, live music and more! This year's event takes place on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sidney Center Fire House, begin-

ning at 5:30 p.m. We are proud to offer this event completely free.

### Tractor Parade:

Finally, for eight of the last nine years, SCIG has organized and funded the Tractor Parade, building it up to be what now brings hundreds of spectators and participants to the hamlet each year. In order to focus our energy on other projects and events, the SCIG Board of Directors voted to entrust the event to members of the Friends & Family Church, who helped organize the event this year. We are happy to see it continue!

SCIG is always in search of new, fresh ideas and perspectives. Volunteers are essential and appreciated, so if you'd like to help make Sidney Center a nicer place to live, please consider attending a meeting, which are always open to the public. SCIG meets the second 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/SCIGN](http://www.facebook.com/SCIGN)  
or [www.SCIGNY.org](http://www.SCIGNY.org).

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Franklin Central School's Class of 2018 lines up for a group photo in the Franklin Village Park before their Senior Prom. Congratulations, all! Photo by Susan Campbell

**Missing your weekly gab fests with friends and neighbors at the Franklin Farmers' Market?**

**Rejoin the conversation at LEFTOVERS!**  
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# FOCUS ON ENERGY

## THE MILLERS SHOW US THE WAY

By Eugene Marner

As we get older, most of us find it prudent and necessary to downsize: smaller house, easier to care for, less stuff. Bob and May Miller are no exception. But the Millers are also observant, thoughtful and resourceful, and discover opportunity where many would find only frustration and inconvenience.

The property where they've built their modest new house is at the end of a dirt road, just two tenths of a mile beyond the last power pole.

"The power company wanted \$25,000 to run the line two tenths of a mile," said Bob. "Then they wanted me to give them the line after I got it built—deed it right to them—and then they wanted to put a surcharge on the electricity I use because of 'extenuating circumstances.'"

"We aren't going to do that," he added dryly.

Bob said that he'd always hankered to be off the grid and now it looked like economic necessity was about to take what had seemed like a good idea and turn it into a project. Bob is a dedicated tinkerer and, as he says, "a pack-rat,"



Bob and Sparks point out the water intake

always saving up stuff he might be able to use one day. Now he'd make use of some of those odds and ends.

Micro-hydro appealed to him most. The Millers had farmed for many years and, after retiring from that, Bob spent several years working as an excavator, moving earth around and directing water where it could do the most good and least harm. He put that knowledge and experience to work.

A few years before, Bob had built some ponds uphill of their new house site. The idea was to take advantage of the forty-foot drop from the pond to the site: let gravity do the work by using the flowing water to generate electric-

ity. Bob and May dug six hundred feet of ditch from the pond to their power house - Bob on the backhoe and May down in the muddy, four-foot-deep trench setting the four-inch pipe.

With the water supply in place, the next step was to harness the energy. The Millers teamed up with Everitt "Sparks" Burrows, a master electrician and self-taught hydraulic en-



May Miller in her new energy efficient kitchen

gineer and, like Bob, a tireless tinkerer and experimenter with simple, home-made technologies. Sparks was full of admiration for the care with which Bob had evaluated the potential for micro-hydro, made the necessary calculations, and educated himself about the technology. In his Unadilla shop, Sparks built the turbine and helped install it in the Millers' power house. They added a couple of high-quality solar panels to supplement the hydropower, just in case some future summer should be very dry and the pond not recharge fast enough to keep the turbine spinning.

With Sparks' guidance, everything in the house was designed to be energy-efficient. Two on-demand water heaters were installed, one for domestic hot water and the other to heat the water that circulates through the radiant heating coils that are installed in the concrete floors.

"May selected energy-effective appliances," says Sparks, "and we put in LED lights and dropped energy requirements forty or fifty percent below the usual house. It's worked out really quite well."

"This is what people don't realize," he continues. "Approx-

imately thirty to forty percent of the electricity generated by the power company is wasted by the time it gets to your house, through ion exchange in the air, losses to resistance in the wires, and so forth. The Millers have eliminated that loss, so their impact on the environment is much lower than the average person."

"My goal," says Bob, "is to be as low-tech as possible."

"The cooperation between May, Bob, and myself is what made this project work," says Sparks. "You know, input from everybody. Are there things we're going to change? Yeah, a little bit, to make it better. We feel the water turbine is using too much water. I'm currently redesigning a turbine in my shop that operates differently, to try to reduce the amount of water, and I may have a third design for which I'm doing the mathematics to see how that's going to work. Bob and May have done an extraordinary job making this work."

"This has all come together in one year," added Bob, "with some adjustments in the spring."

"Not counting the digging," May reminded him. "We laid the pipe down last year in the mud—rained every day."

The conversation turned to the old days. May recalled the water supply on the hilltop farm where she lived as a child. "We hauled water from the spring below the house. A quarter mile away. My mother was tough."

"After high school," Bob added, "my folks put in a pump to bring water to the house. Backward living, but they lived."

Sparks took issue with the word *backward*. "You say that, but if something major were to happen in the world, you people would survive."

Bob laughed. "We had a neighborhood picnic here with the people close by and they were worried about a big storm forecast. It was coming up the coast and would wipe out things and the power was going to be off. I just kind of grinned and said, I'm not going to worry too much about that. And one of them said, you've got something else to worry about because, when the power goes off, we're all coming to your house."



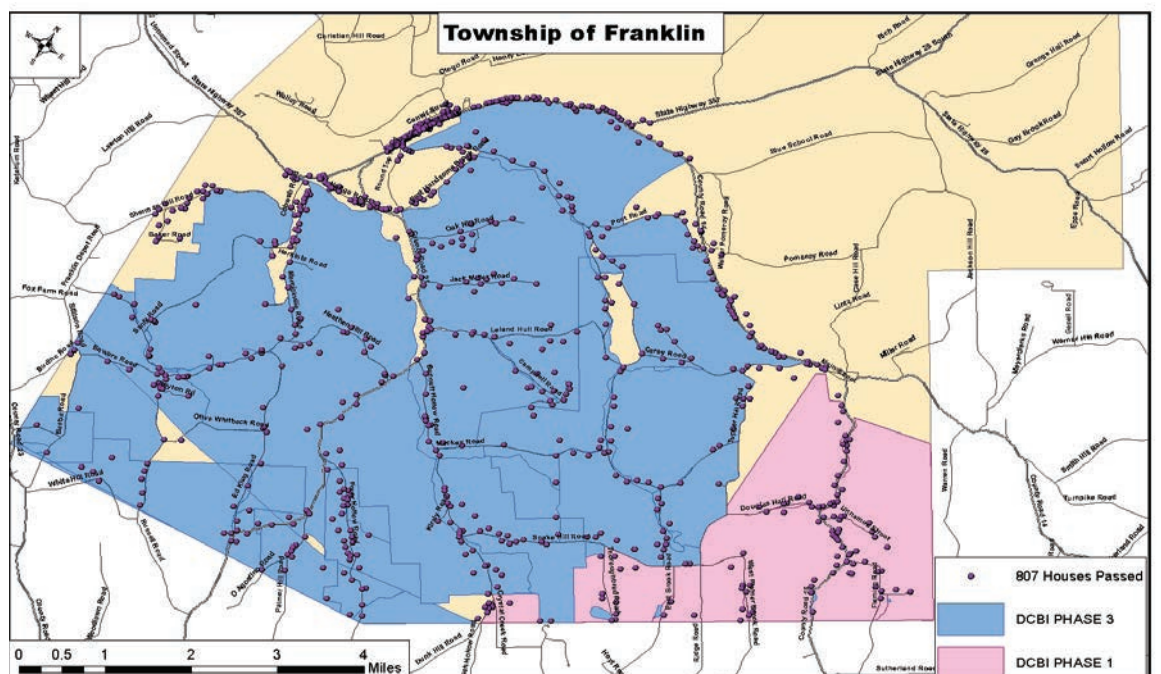
Interior of the Power House

Photos by the author

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## INFRASTRUCTURE UP-DATE

Compiled by Brian Brock

*June 25<sup>th</sup>* **Constitution Pipeline Company** requests from FERC a two year extension to finish the project until December 2, 2020.

*July 19<sup>th</sup>* **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** denies Constitution's request for rehearing of FERC's determination (1/11/18) that NYSDEC did not waive the opportunity to act on Constitution's Section 401 Clean Water Act application.

*July 27<sup>th</sup>* **NY Attorney General Barbara D. Underwood** files comments with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in response to a Notice of Inquiry (4/19/18) concerning the policy on the certification of natural gas transportation facilities

*July 31<sup>st</sup>* Four senators, **John Barrasso (R-Wyoming)**, **Shelley Moore Capito (R-West Virginia)**, **Steve Daines (R-Montana)** and **Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma)**, introduce bill S.3303, *To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make changes with respect to water quality certification, and for other purposes*. Bill was immediately referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

*August 1<sup>st</sup>* **CPC** requests extension of permission from USACE for extension of the administrative record for 15 months,

*August 10<sup>th</sup>* **US Army Corps of Engineers** grant CPC an extension of the Constitution Pipeline project until November 11, 2019.

*August* **President Trump** nominates Bernard McNamee, head of the Department of Energy's Office of Policy, to fill a vacancy on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from the resignation of Commissioner Robert Powelson.

*September 13<sup>th</sup>* **CPC** files their petition for review in the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit today, just days before the deadline of the 17<sup>th</sup>. They are challenging FERC's denial of their petition that DEC waived its rights (CP18-5), and the denial of their request for rehearing.

*October 4<sup>th</sup>* Five senators, **John Barrasso and Mike Enzi (R, Wyoming)**, **Shelley Moore Capito (R, West Virginia)**, **Steve Daines (R, Montana)**, and **Jim Inhofe (R, Oklahoma)**, request that the US Environmental Protection Agency review an Obama-era «handbook» that covers Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and to work with other federal agencies to determine whether new guidance or regulations are needed to clarify the law.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018

Franklin Town Board 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 either the Fire House or Kellogg Community Center.

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



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## One way to look at it...



### THE BARE TRUTH

By Robert Lamb

(Photo by the author)

The year my father George turned seventy-nine, we took our second trip to Alaska. Along with my good friend Chas, we had planned to mine for gold by dredging. Dredging involves immersing one's body in the coldest waters on earth. And then, as fate would have it, all my permits to cross salmon-bearing streams and dive in federal parks were rendered moot.

Two days before boarding the plane, I had an accident at work. While using a high-pressure steam generator to clean graffiti, I failed to notice a worn-out connector. I was less than two inches away from it when it blew apart. The pressure blew a hole clean through my calf midway to my knee and left me with second and third-degree burns. At the hospital emergency room, the doctors advised me to cancel my trip to Alaska. I had spent hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to arrange for the state and federal permits to mine for gold, and I'll be damned but I was going.

The doctors put a drain tube into the hole in my leg and said to come back in seven days to have it removed. I again explained I was getting on a plane in two days and nothing was going to stop me. The last doctor who tried to talk sense to me said if I went to Alaska, I would no doubt lose my leg to infection. I asked him if they could cut it off now because I was going

and that was that. He refused to entertain the idea and discharged me against all doctors' advice.

Wracked with pain and drugged to euphoria, I managed to get packed and on the plane. Once on the ground, our plans quickly changed. The truck with camper had no camper because the previous renter had wrecked it. It was raining without let up and my leg was thumping. I could barely stand, let alone dive, so I figured the best medicine for gold fever was fishing. Yes, the trip was planned to make us all rich. Gold fever is a horrible disease, and I was sorely afflicted. At least fishing takes one's mind off their troubles, and I got lucky with

Deep Creek Charters in Ninilchik, Alaska. They not only had an opening for three on their boat, the Arctic Explorer, they also had a cabin to rent. Awaking at four a.m., we headed to the boat launch, where large log skidders back the charter boats into the surf. Along with a pair of newlyweds and their best man, we headed into the fog covering Cook Inlet.

As the fog lifted, a large snow covered peak loomed in the distance. Dad said it looked like a volcano, and it was. In the distance, Mount Redoubt was spewing steam as a Minke whale breached between it and our boat. If you have to give up mining, I guess it couldn't get any better than this - or so I thought. As soon as Captain Woody baited Dad's line, he started pulling in halibut. The rest of us went barren except for a couple of sharks. Dad caught eleven halibut. He caught everyone's limit for them, an illegal practice today. He was very proud of his angling ability. We sent over two hundred pounds of fresh fish home by FedEx overnight. We did do a little mining and found just enough to pay our expenses.

While the mining was a minor success, the halibut was Dad's focus all the next year. I saw him every day after work, and every day for a year he would say "Man, I would like to catch a

bigger one." He had caught eleven fish weighing between twenty and sixty pounds but he knew they got bigger, much bigger. His dream was to land one. We spent the year doing every kind of side job to buy our tickets the next year. We logged trees and did commercial property clean-ups. Dad worked like a twenty-year-old, driven by a dream: to catch a fish as large as himself.

After a hellish thirty-five-hour marathon of plane rides, we arrived. The first fish Dad caught was a shark. Captain Woody suggested moving, but Dad said to give it a minute or two. Without saying much, he began to reel in his line. Then we saw why he was being so quiet: he was straining to hold on. Little by little, the old man reeled in the catch of his life time. At one hundred twenty pounds, the halibut was indeed as big as he was.

Anyone meeting George Lamb after that was shown a picture of that fish.



*The proof is in the photo!*

### MOVING TO TREADWELL:

*How to say goodbye to an old house*

By Magali Veillon

It has been a few years since I wrote about that old house in Treadwell. Many curious souls have wondered: What's up?

Two years ago, I had the plan to renovate, having done much research about insulation and feeling pressure to get something done. Luckily for me, life happens, and it forced me to take more time. So I took an intentional break on the renovation, spending a little time here and there with the house, with myself, and much time with the man who stole my heart.

Working on the house, I discover mysteries of its past life, yet the exhilaration of that puzzle slowly gave way to problems that the old house threw at me. Of course, if that place in the sweet hamlet of Treadwell wasn't a life project, I could patch it up like previous owners have done, making small improvements that are inherently restricted and compromised. But—hard for many to believe—I have picked that place with retirement in mind, not investment. As I work on the house and study the few at-

tractive, original details, yes, I can see myself living there. Actually, I have the feeling every time I walk into the house. I can see myself living in it, but in the same way that I'd live in a cabin on an Alaskan mountain or bivouac at the bottom of the Grand Canyon: it is not final.

The work of renovation revealed its challenges. How could I keep the sweetness of the old and have an efficient house? The roof, originally flat, had been very cheaply rebuilt as a gable structure, probably after a serious fire that compromised the front façade. It meant taking the roof down and putting a new one on, as well as re-framing the front wall since I want a structure to last me decades. Vinyl siding hides beauty and defects. In classes about architecture and sustainable building, I learned that insulation and light are crucial. The south-facing back side has the smallest openings of all four sides, so the back wall would have to be rebuilt to let in light and solar heat gain. All the interior of the outside walls would have to be rebuilt to incorporate tight insulation that I wish to be the least polluting possible. So how do I keep old moldings around windows and doors

and add a sustainable insulation? To achieve all this, I am left with an enormous budget, in the end only keeping two sides and the cellar as is. Everything else would have to be basically replaced.

A contractor friend from New York City came to inspect my house with the mission of convincing me to renovate. I value his opinion and felt very grateful for his help looking at the work to be done and estimating costs. In short, financially, I could renovate the house and refurbish the few details that are left of the original home and spend the rest of my days struggling with heat bills, repairs, and a loan I would not be able to repay. In the end, building a new structure makes more sense. A smaller footprint is of course more affordable. A smaller house also means more leeway to pick materials and details that are sustainable, healthy, and durable.

However, every day I still question: to renovate, or to tear down?

As humans, we like to think of ourselves as standing aside from nature, yet we cannot separate ourselves from the cycle of life and death. Things come and go, nature is ever-changing and we are, too. In practical terms, I am faced with a big

house and lots of decisions about the good, the bad, and the ugly! So, I took my time. Understanding the importance of waiting, observing, and modifying one's intentions eased the pressure that might have led to bad decisions. Thus, I gave myself permission to very mindfully tear down. Material I can safely remove will be reused, sold, or donated, saving me dumping fees.

My mother in Switzerland raised me to respect the past and our forebearers, to be frugal and tread as lightly as possible on the planet, and to keep a healthy body and soul. She took me by surprise when she sent a message suggesting I should read Ecclesiastes 3. Most of you have heard The Byrds sing it in the song *Turn! Turn! Turn!*, written by Pete Seeger:

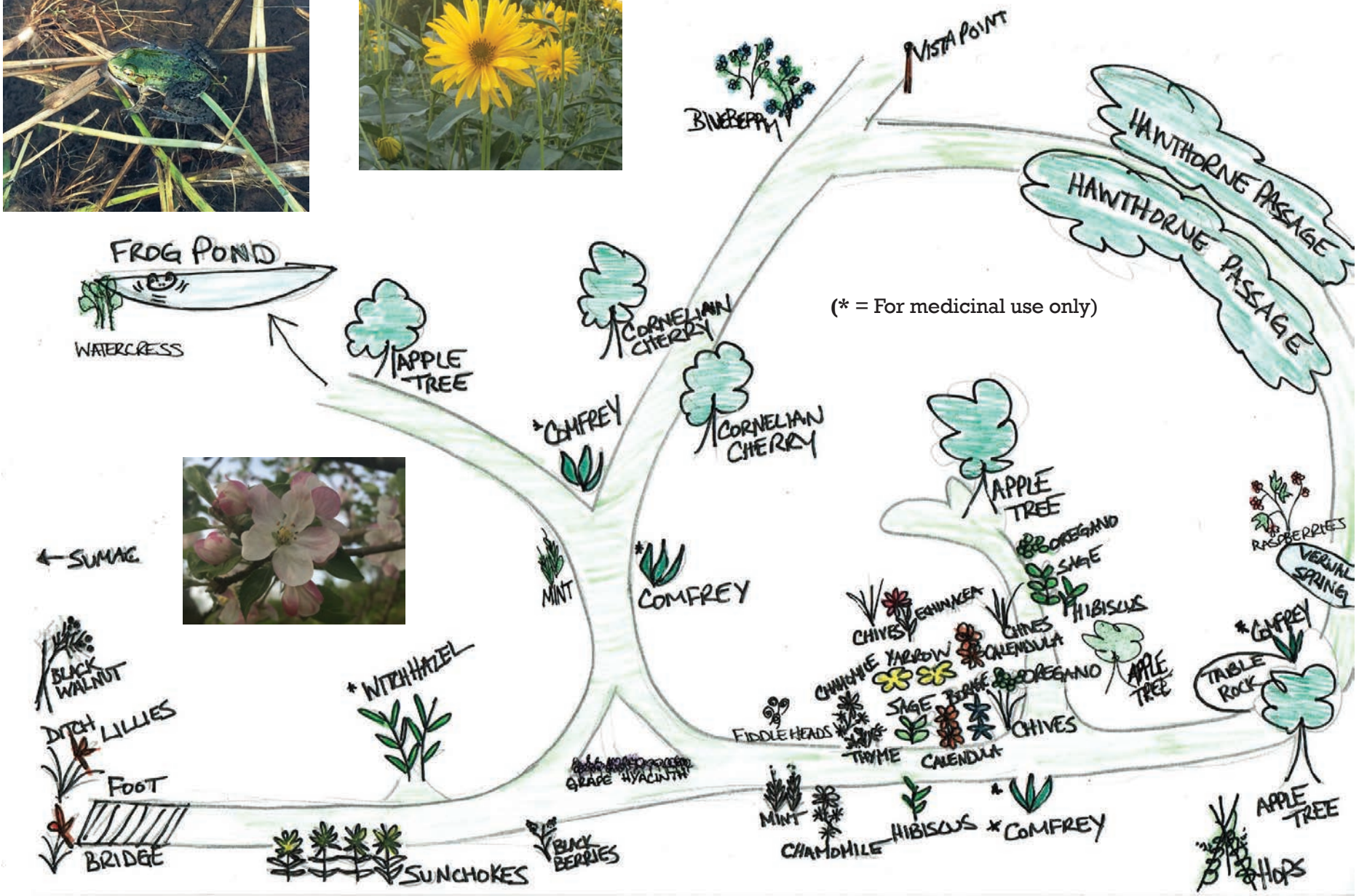
*"A time to tear down and a time to build up..."*

Hence this fall, I write again to share the difficult task of saying goodbye to an old house. The brain can rationalize, with budgets and theories, but emotions still stand. As we prepare for cold months coming, I grieve for the work of the past, but commit to bringing the best possible new life to a spot that is so dear to me.



**THE EDIBLE TRAIL, in Franklin's Village Park**

Drawing and photos by Trish Tyrell



**BLIGHT, continued from Page 1**

In 2006, residents gathered to discuss the future of our hamlet. We received a small Main Street grant for community barrels. Flowers were planted and a cleanup was organized. Flags were hung to display pride in our home village. People in the hamlet started meeting once a month to organize projects. In June of that year, the hamlet was hit hard by a devastating flood. We organized a bigger clean up. Our spirits were not dampened.



Several years later, the group became a nonprofit, the Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG). We continue to hold meetings on the second Tuesday of the month to address issues related to the environment, safety, and beautification of our hamlet. We organize free community events for all. It's a hardworking group of neighbors that generously give their time and talent for the betterment of our home.

Through the years, SCIG members met with different code enforcers and supervisors about Main Street, to no avail. Life moved on. My kids grew up. I began to believe the buildings would outlast me. No one had answers, no one wanted to take responsibility, not the absentee landlords, not the town, not the county. As an unincorporated hamlet, our concerns are not a priority.

Blight greatly impacts the overall mindset of a community. It affects the children growing up and the people who visit. Community minded neighbors become frustrated and move away. For years, our Main Street represented hopelessness despite all our efforts.

This spring giant red X's and police tape were placed on three Main Street buildings. I was told this was to warn firemen not to enter these structures in an emergency. Roofs caved in and exterior walls buckled. People became fearful one of these looming wooden relics might fall or a curious child might enter and drop through the floorboards.

Then, this summer, one building began to collapse. Even the structures had finally had enough. Within a few weeks, it looked like a bomb had fallen on Main Street. Thirteen years ago, I didn't have the internet. This time, I sent a letter with photographs far and wide. The reporter who had met me on Main Street all those years ago returned. Suddenly people took notice. Neighbors spoke with the press. A "Support Main Street" petition calling for the demolition of three buildings circulated. It received 150 signatures.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Town of Sidney supervisor Gene Pigford met with the community at the Sidney Center Fire Station. Approximately sixty people came out to voice their concerns. The supervisor and town board members were empathetic to our plight. They were working to contact the building's owners and bring closure to what had become a critical safety issue. Mr. Pigford assured us that the buildings would be taken down before winter 2018. Two days later,

the Sidney Town Board unanimously passed a resolution to remove all three structures. I was overjoyed! At last these unsafe eyesores will be replaced with green space.

How did we get to this point? The cycle of neglect was decades in the making. Condemned properties are sold and resold at tax auctions, often sight unseen. There's no plan in place for repairs. Codes are not enforced. The county and town get tax dollars and can wash their hands of any responsibility. Our Main Street is the final stop in the cycle. This is what decades of neglect and unaccountability look like. Ultimately, tax payers pay the price.

Despite a love of old architecture, I'll be happy to see these places go. I imagine the future. Maybe next spring small trees and flowers can be planted in our new Main Street green space. Soon our general store will reopen after being closed for years. It's time for Main Street Sidney Center to turn over a new leaf. Some of that rests in our leadership's hands, some in ours. I believe our community has demonstrated that we're willing to do our part.



Photos of Sidney Center houses slated for demolition courtesy of the author.

music  
literature  
education

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

fine arts  
poetry  
holiday fun

## AT THE LIBRARY

### BILL ROSSOW REVIEWS NEW BOOKS



#### **THE VIKING WARS: War and Peace in King Alfred's Britain, 789-935** By Max Adams

This history recounts almost a hundred and fifty years of raids and invasions of Britain and Ireland by various Norse groups that were not actually called Vikings but were going "a-Viking". This period began with many hit-and-run raids by young men looking for plunder, adventure, and status. Gradually, these incidents became invasions by Norse people who settled in northern Ireland, northeast England, and southern Scotland, displacing the Picts in the north and the Saxons in the south. The documentation of events and locations of battle sites and settlements in this period is based mostly on unreliable writings well after the events, but this book details the up-to-date evidence from archeological investigations, place-names, and language to better tell the story. The tendency of leaders at this time to give their sons their own names (and their daughters very similar names) makes the story often confusing. Nevertheless, this book provides a much better idea of the significant and complex role of King Alfred and his progeny in this dynamic period of British history when the many peoples and regimes began to resemble a single kingdom.



#### **THE WARS OF THE ROSES: The Fall of the Plantagenets and the Rise of the Tudors, 1420-1525** By Dan Jones



In contrast, THE WARS OF THE ROSES tells a much better documented, but still confusing story of the nearly hundred years during which several inter-related families vied, with many battles, for dominance in the English kingdom. This story is complicated both because the many claimants to the throne all traced their lineage back to Edward III, as shown in the provided family trees, and because the many powerful nobles involved controlled entangled land holdings, as depicted in a provided map that shows the kingdom was far from unified. The great confusion and contention over the crown succession was not called the "wars of the roses" until it was over, by later writers. The key disruptions of the succession were: (1) the deposing of Richard II (Lancaster) by cousin Henry II (Lancaster); (2) the weak-character, later insanity, of grandson Henry VI (Lancaster) leading to an usurpation by the York family and the crowning of Edward IV; (3) a coup by cousin Richard III (York and last Plantagenet), and (4) his removal by Henry VII (the first Tudor). The narrative flows easily and allows the reader to feel that it is almost understandable.

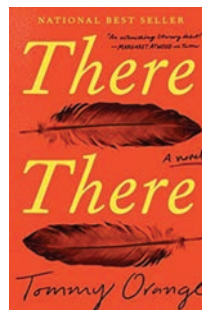
### LIBRARIAN'S PICKS FOR FALL 2018

#### **THERE THERE**

By Tommy Orange

"This is a novel about what it means to inhabit a land both yours and stolen from you, to simultaneously contend with the weight of belonging and unbelonging. There is an organic power to this book—a revelatory, controlled chaos. Tommy Orange writes the way a storm makes landfall."

- Omar El Akkad, author of *American War*



#### **FEAR: TRUMP IN THE WHITE HOUSE** By Bob Woodward

"Fear is a remarkable feat of reporting ...There's nothing comparable in American journalism, except maybe Woodward's *The Final Days*, co-written with Carl Bernstein, about the downfall of Richard Nixon." - *The New Yorker*



#### **To Autumn**

By John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

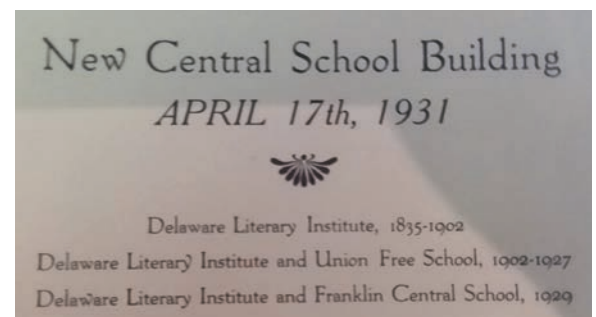
Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

"Ode to Autumn," written in 1819 by the English poet John Keats (1795-1831), is one of the most eloquent and inspirational poems in the English language.

In three stanzas of eleven lines each, the poet leads us through an autumn day, his sadness at summer's going and winter's coming; the loss of spring. It is so rich in image that we can see, in our mind's eye, every apple, tree, gourd, brook, and "hedge-cricket" (grasshopper).

This simple poem could very well be a picture of autumn in Delaware County; it is as though the great Keats had written it for us.

— Bertha Rogers



### FFL SEARCH FOR OLD YEARBOOKS

The Franklin Free Library is seeking to fill out their collection of the yearbook *Liberanni*, from the Delaware Literary Institute and Franklin Central School.

If anyone has copies of these yearbooks that they would be willing to donate or allow the library to copy, please contact the FFL at 607.829.2941, or by email: [fr.fill@4c](mailto:fr.fill@4c)

The following issues are missing:  
1925-1933, 1995, 1997, 1999-2006, 2013-2014, 2017-2018



Franklin Free Library  
P.O. Box 947  
334 Main Street  
Franklin, NY 13775



# UpState Arts with Charlie Bremer

This past September, Martha and I, along with two of our daughters, Karin and Lara, put together a family exhibition at Bright Hill's Word & Image Gallery in Treadwell. It was a particular pleasure to share our connection to the creative vision flowing from one generation to the next ... and back again. In our early years as parents, we observed the natural attraction of children to creativity through the senses: sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell. This innate impulse immediately reflects the unique inner world of the individual. In the larger realm, it also suggests that the most valuable square inches of human material on this planet lie within works of art. For good reason, the word "priceless" has been most often asso-

ciated with art, and our relationship with these works places our notions of artists, gods, and origins all in the same basket. The writer Joseph Conrad described this best when he said "The artist appeals to that part of our being ... which is a gift and not an acquisition - and, therefore, more permanently enduring."

poor negotiated with the company to buy exclusive artistic-use rights to the color, causing an uproar within the arts community, who were outraged at the notion that someone could actually own a color. Only in the 21st century! Kapoor, expressing his love for the void, used Vantablack last summer to create a work titled "Descent into Limbo" at a contemporary art museum in Portugal. The work featured an eight foot-deep, round hole in the floor of the museum and appeared either bottomless or non-existent, as so little light was reflected. As would happen, in August, a visitor fell into the hole. He was briefly hospitalized but recovered, and the installation was temporarily closed. Art does come with risks. As a foot-



ciated with art, and our relationship with these works places our notions of artists, gods, and origins all in the same basket. The writer Joseph Conrad described this best when he said "The artist appeals to that part of our being ... which is a gift and not an acquisition - and, therefore, more permanently enduring."

However, acquire things we do, and the ever-growing market sets new records for sales of art at the same rising rate that intense hurricanes now roll off Africa. This desire for power and ownership recently extended its reach to color. In 2014, a company called Surry NanoSystems created the darkest material black ever known. They called it 'Vantablack,' derived from the Latin word *vanus*, meaning 'empty.' Its surface absorbs 99.9% of visible light. The wealthy artist/sculptor Anish Ka-

note, Vantablack has now been out-blacked by Black 2.0, made by artist Stuart Semple.

Color, it seems, is one of the most elusive elements of descriptive experience. The 1930 Dictionary of Color describes color as "troubled light", a reference to the physics of particle refraction. The artist Frank Stella, in a rather pragmatic moment, said "thinking about color abstractly hasn't done me any real good."

The artist John Christie perhaps got closer when he said, "The beholding of the light is itself a more excellent and fairer thing than all the uses of it."

But I most like John Berger's take on the subject: "No color represents light. Light would vote for none. Or maybe for black - because black, by opposition, really makes one imagine light...Behind

black there is light...It's as if all the colors (and particularly the pure ones) are waiting to undress or be undressed."

Most artists working in rural studios share a direct understanding of natural light and the elements of the season, as they are right outside our door. The myriad forms of nature offer a vast visual resource, and as we now move through autumn into winter, the changes we observe can deeply influence our art: its color, hue, form and emotion. As environmental caretakers with the privilege of sight, we have unique responsibilities to observe and respond. Inside our studios, digital connections offer a different resource, with access to questions and answers bordering on the unlimited and instantaneous. Together, these sources form a rich duality, feeding creative life in the rural landscape.

What does it all add up to? That there is more than a kernel of truth in the humorous adage: "We are confronted by insurmountable opportunities."

## L'ART DECLARE LA PAIX!

By Manette Berlinger

The winds of peace are blowing in the Loire Valley. In this famous region of France, known for its magnificent chateaux, peaceful villages, and lush vineyards, artists with a passion for peace are affirming their ideals. Over seventy painters, sculptors, writers, musicians, singers, and dancers are participating in a festival called "L'Art Declare Le Paix" -- "The Arts Declare Peace."

Two years ago, faced with unrelenting reports of conflict in the world, my sister Sandra Shepard, an American-born art event organizer, conceived the



idea of a festival to celebrate peace. Together with her husband Jacques Beauchamp, a French photographer and blues musician, they invited artists from the Loire Valley and beyond to plan a multi-faceted happening.

"Everyone's ideas were

different." Shepard said, "Our goal was for each artist to express his or her vision of peace, not as the opposite of war, but as a positive reality."

Interest grew until events were scheduled in eleven towns and cities throughout the months of September and October. Nepalese dancing and three concerts that raised money for the foundation Playing for Change presented French songs, classical music, Indian raga, Japanese drumming, and American blues. In a 17th century Catholic church, a chorus of singers of varied nationalities sang the music of four religions. In other towns, a French chorus sang English songs, and two films were shown that described how peace in the Middle East is be-

ing nurtured through music and dance. Paintings, sculptures, and installations were exhibited in libraries and cultural centers, and poetry readings were held in a cultural center and an Asian restaurant. Tapestries, photography exhibits, and the paintings of a famous calligrapher were exhibited, and a patchwork quilt 150 meters long, whose squares were crafted a decade ago by women from around the world, was displayed in the Town Hall of the city of Tours.

"My favorite moment," Shepard said, "was when a Palestinian poet read a poem he'd written about peace, an Israeli born in the same city read it again in Hebrew, and they embraced."

The performances and exhibits drew hundreds of visitors, one of whom observed, "This is how peace begins."

Photos by Bernadette Coqueret





## CELEBRATING OUR 26TH SEASON

### WORD THURSDAYS

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

### THE WORD & IMAGE GALLERY

"The Catskill Glow" Jane Carr, November 4 - 23, 2018, Opening reception November 4, from 3-5 PM

"Strange Love Thinking" Steve Burnett, February 9 - March 1, Opening reception February 9, from 3-5 PM

### BRIGHT KIDS BOOK CLUB

Books supplied by Bright Hill

### FALL & WINTER LITERARY & VISUAL ART WORKSHOPS

(ages 6 - 21)

Feb. 18 - 22 - Winter Break - Winter I: Icebergs: How They're Made, How They Calve, How They Flip

Apr. 15-19 - Spring Break - Winter II: Cave Art: Who Made It and Why

Fall - Winter - Poetry Memorization and Recitation for Poetry Out Loud

Saturdays / Fall - Spring - Book Club (Led by Lorinda Morgan)

June 24 - 28 - Summer I - Flying Fractals & Wild Words

July 22 - 26 - Summer II - The World's Oldest, Tallest, Biggest Trees

Painting in the Style of the Hudson River Artists

Aug. 5 - 9 - Summer III: Art That Lives Outside

### VETERANS & COMMUNITY DAY

November 11, 12 - 5 PM Writing workshop intensive with veteran writers. Call for details



607-829-5055 or [info@brighthillpress.org](mailto:info@brighthillpress.org)

[www.brighthillpress.org](http://www.brighthillpress.org)

#### MUSIC, continued from Page 1

creative adventure. Afterwards, we reconnected as we sang and played music for hours after midnight.

For the weekend, afternoons were devoted to collaborative song writing sessions in groups of three. Members of the groups were shuffled each day, and each day was a different assignment. For example, on Saturday, our assignment was to write a hit country song. I'll be recording the song I co-wrote that afternoon at Larry's studio on October 15<sup>th</sup>. It's called *Country In My Blood* and will be available on my website before the end of October. Each night after dinner, we performed before the whole group in the converted hay loft of our 1888 barn, complete with keyboard, amplifiers, a PA system, and percussion. These sessions lasted into the wee hours.

Morning meetings concerned the business of being a singer/songwriter. On Friday, Ebony Rose, in from Australia, gave a presentation on licensing music for commercials, TV, movies and video games. Licensing can provide significant income for independent songwriters.

Saturday morning, Larry Beard of Beard Music Group in Nashville analyzed the top country hits for the patterns they all share. (Nashville is the home of country music in America.) Of last year's top ten hits, all were love songs, sung by male artists, with the song title in the last line of the chorus and repeated more than once in the chorus. Also, all but one had a two-verse structure, a bridge, and three choruses - the outlier had three verses but no bridge. The average time to get to the chorus was thirty-two seconds (including the intro), and the average song length was three minutes, ten seconds.

This information won't necessarily help you write a hit song but it can help you avoid writing a song that doesn't have a chance of becoming a hit. Radio stations make money selling commercial time, and longer songs

mean shorter commercials, which is why the average length of songs has gone down over the past decade. A four-minute song has no chance on commercial country radio.

Sunday morning, we were treated to a presentation and Q&A by Jenn Schott of Nashville. She played the Earlville Opera

artists themselves, and Jenn is no exception. It was delightful to hear her story of becoming a successful song writer, and to get her feedback on some of our songs.

We did get out to see some of Franklin. Before breakfast on Friday, we went on an hour-long hike so people could get used

to the landscape. Throughout the weekend, groups would go to different corners of our 135-acre property to write.

They also spent time in the milking parlor of the barn where the Terrys, ever gracious, patiently introduced them to dairy farming and answered all their questions.

Saturday began with a trip to Northstar Blueberry Farm above the village of Northstar. For an hour of berry picking, followed by a breakfast that included -- what else? -- blueberry pancakes and home-made maple syrup from our farm. The harvest was especially productive. So much so that my wife Janine made several pies, which quickly disappeared. Sunday we all headed to the Franklin Farmers' Market where we provided the entertainment until the market closed. My new friends got to meet some of my neighbors, and it was one of the highlights of the weekend.

Our retreat would not have been possible without the help of Matty Terry, who helped prep the space and in so many other ways; his mom Karen, who kept us full and happy; Pam Zuk, who cooked and kept the farmhouse tidy; Brian Brock, who arranged our performance at the Farmers' Market and helped with logistics; and mostly my amazing wife Janine, who coordinated groups, timing, sleeping arrangements, meals, meeting spaces and a hundred things I'm forgetting.

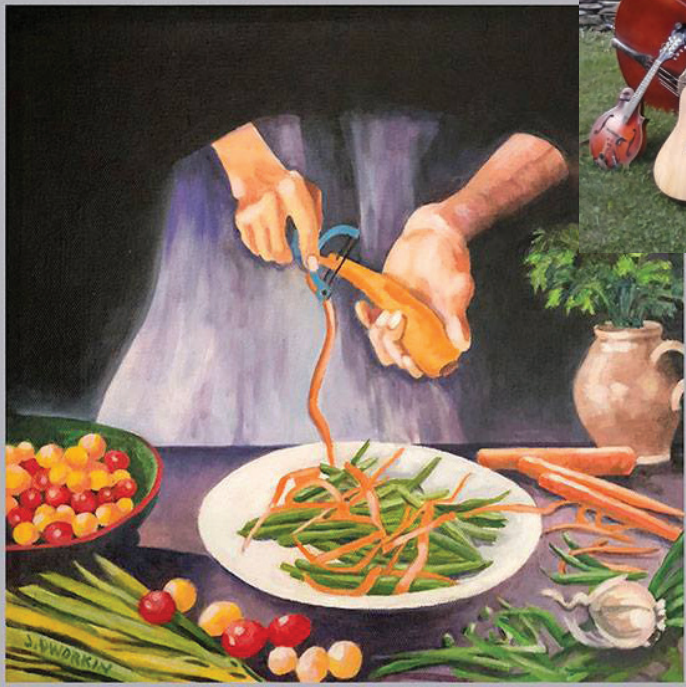
You can hear some of our music on the following sites: [www.billsteely.com](http://www.billsteely.com); [www.joannamarieburke.com](http://www.joannamarieburke.com); [www.reverbNation.com](http://www.reverbNation.com); [www.reverbNation.com/aworldforyou](http://www.reverbNation.com/aworldforyou); <https://soundcloud.com/miz-stefani>; [www.nataliemishell.com](http://www.nataliemishell.com); [www.reverbNation.com/laurenkuhne](http://www.reverbNation.com/laurenkuhne); [www.deannademola.com](http://www.deannademola.com);



*Skinny Cow Workshop members play the Farmers' Market*

House that Saturday night and came to the farm on her way home. Jenn recently wrote Tim McGraw's title track off his new record *Two Lanes of Freedom*. Many top songwriters with Nashville publishing deals are great

for an hour of berry picking, followed by a breakfast that included -- what else? -- blueberry pancakes and home-made maple syrup from our farm. The harvest was especially productive. So much so that my wife



Old Hands - oil painting by Joan Dworkin



Local Seisiun



# THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER CELEBRATES OUR FRANKLIN ARTS ORGANIZATIONS!



John O'Connor

## FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

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

Chapel Hall in the Village of Franklin

FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Jason Starr



Julian Fleisher  
Photo by Wijnanda Deroo



Bright Hill Literary Workshop  
25th Anniversary Exh

## Bright Hill Press



Where Literature Lives!  
[www.brighthillpress.org](http://www.brighthillpress.org)



Laura Menzie and Patricia Buckley in DOUBT  
Photo by Karen Sullins



Charlie Kevin in DOUBT  
Photo by Karen Sullins



STAGECOACH RUN 2018



Leslie Noble and Robert Zuckerman in A WALK IN THE WOODS  
Photo by Tom Spychalski



FRANKLIN FREE LIBRARY

**TALE, continued from Page 3**

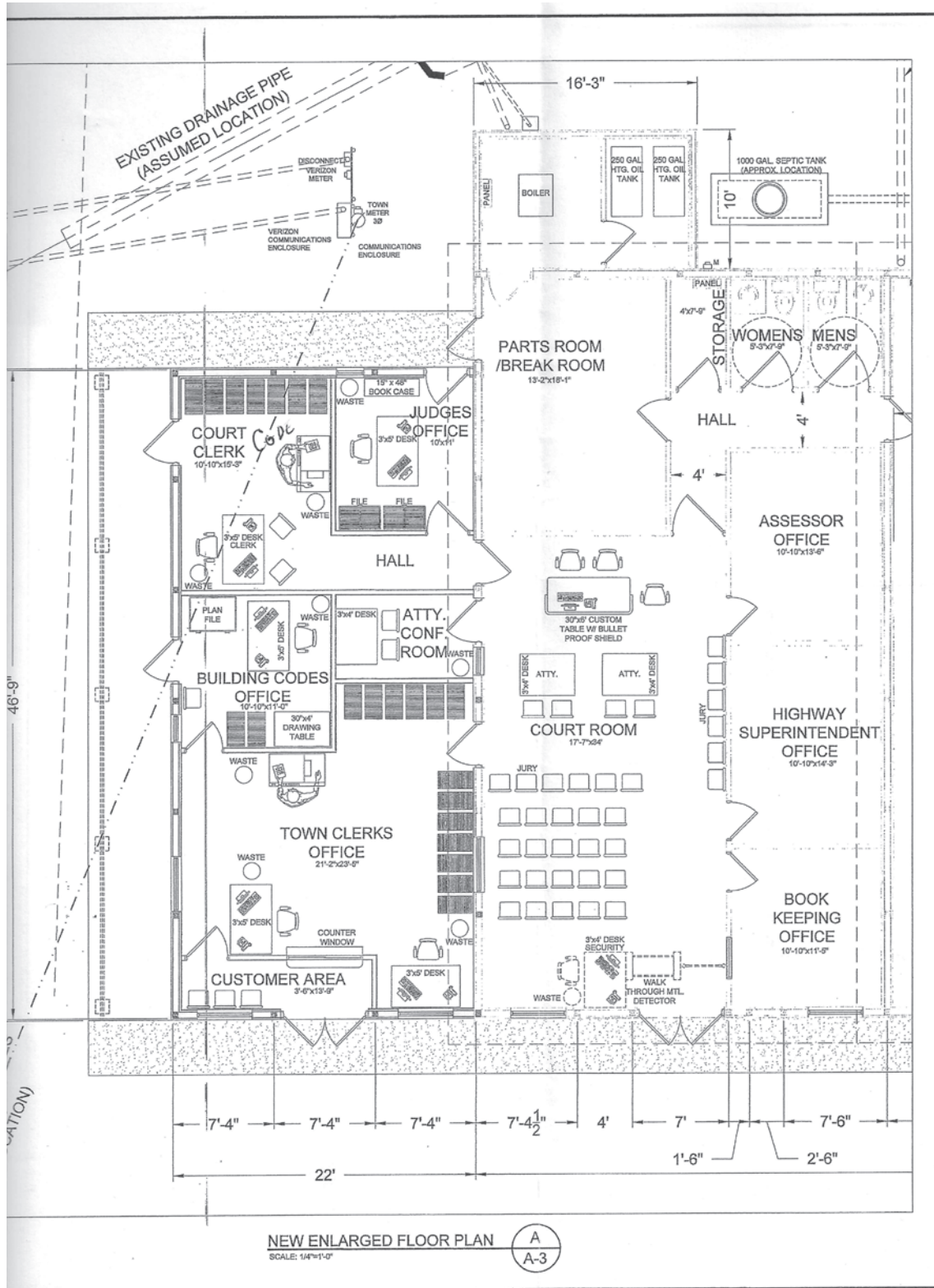
by filling the cellar with water. (The town is responsible for utilities, and the village asked that it pay for all the water spilled.) Friction also comes from the maintenance of the grounds. There have been disputes over winter plowing of the parking lot.

Because the town does not own the building, the board will pay for only emergency repairs. Our town board has considered various alternative locations and wants to move as soon as possible. Their preference is to build an addition between the town hall and the cellphone tower, a space roughly thirty by fifty feet, or 1,500 square feet. The building's footprint would be several hundred square feet, large enough to accommodate all from the ten-

waiting their turn before the justice to make phone calls, talk, smoke, etc.

Construction is estimated to cost in the six figures. Much of this would be financed from funds in one of Franklin's saving accounts, now with over \$100,000. This account was started four years ago by the incoming supervisor, Jeff Taggart.

Monies may be available from New York state. The Justice Court Assistance Program could provide as much as \$30,000. This year, the deadline for applying has passed, and therefore any grant could not be awarded until late in early 2020. Also, the New York Archives could provide Local Government Records Improvement Funds. Often state legislators



Floor plan of proposed new addition to the town shed

ant house and then some.

To free-up the space underneath, the overhead electrical to the rear of the building would be moved. To save money, the garages will be switched at the same time to three-phase service from single phase.

The new offices would be larger than those in the village. Space for record storage will be included in each office. The meeting hall is roughly eighteen by thirty-five feet or 650 square feet. It will double as the court room on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month and triple as the polling place biannually.

In addition to the three offices, there would be a small conference room for attorneys. Outside of the meeting hall, a porch will be added for those who are

can allocate funds for member's items toward construction. Any additional costs will require borrowing.

Progress is being made. In addition to discussions at the monthly meetings of the town board, two special meetings have been held for planning: one on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, and one Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October.

At the recent special meeting, Delaware Engineering, D.P.C, presented plans for a twenty-two foot by forty-seven foot addition, or roughly 1,030 square feet. Estimated costs would be in the neighborhood of \$150 per square foot, or roughly \$150,000 for the unfurnished space.

# JUNK REMOVAL

NOW SERVING FRANKLIN  
FOR WEEKLY RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE PICK-UP  
\$23/MTH FLAT RATE\*

- Furniture and appliances
- Construction debris
- Clean out - estate, barn, basement etc.
- Yard waste
- Anything you consider junk!

**CONTACT US NOW!**  
**607-369-DUMP**  
empirejunkremoval@gmail.com  
empirejunkremoval.com

\*Franklin residential garbage customers will receive a 10% discount on junk removal

**JOHNSON, continued from Page 3**

tion can be a significant problem for students who want to stay for after-school activities. "This can take considerable planning on the part of students and their parents/caretakers.

What's it like being a Principal?

"It's definitely 24/7. You need to be available at all times." Johnson credits her ability to achieve that kind of commitment to a strong support system of her immediate and extended family, good friends and the community. "It takes a village," she notes.

## 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)

### Courtney

## FUNERAL HOME

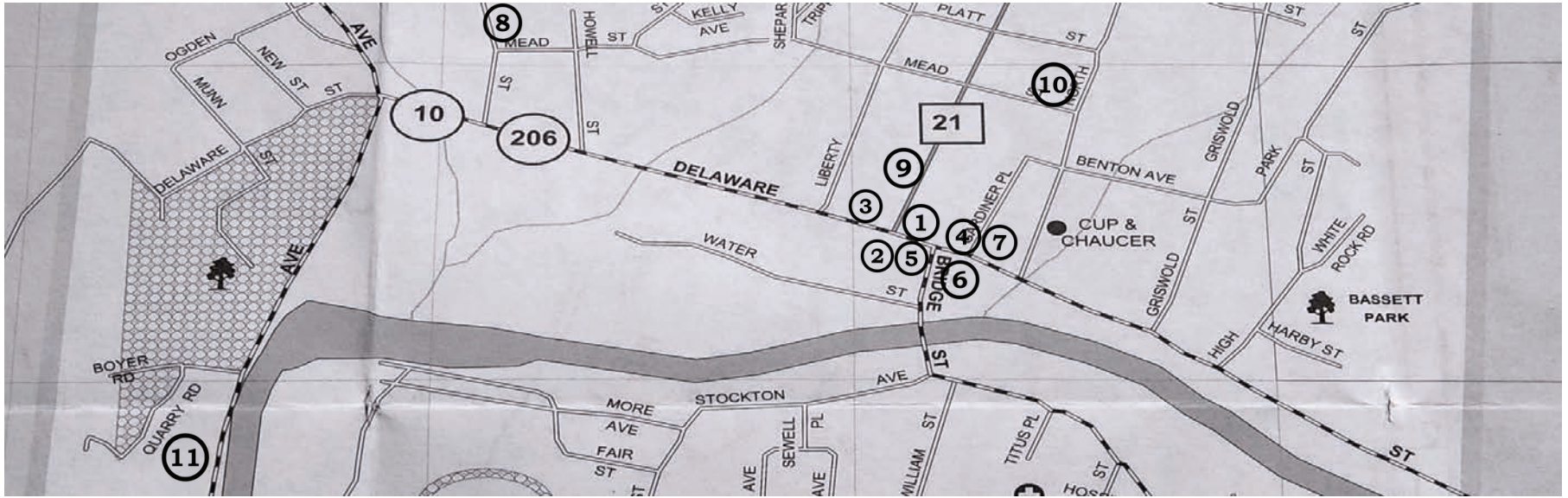
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Since 1941

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Cal Courtney  
Owner/Director

25 Townsend St.,  
Walton, NY 13856





- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1) <b>TLC FAMILY THRIFT SHOP</b><br/>146 DELAWARE STREET<br/>(607)226-4357<br/>MON-THURS 10AM-5PM<br/>FRI-SAT 10AM-6PM<br/>OPEN 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH</p> <p>2) <b>FULL CIRCLE ANTIQUES</b><br/>164 DELAWARE STREET<br/>(607)865-5819<br/>OPEN EVERDAY 10A.M.-6P.M.</p> <p>3) <b>ANNA LEE'S FULL CIRCLE ANTIQUES</b><br/>151 DELAWARE STREET<br/>(201)390-7551<br/>OPEN EVERDAY 10A.M.-6P.M.</p> <p>4) <b>J&amp;M ANTIQUES</b><br/>136A DELAWARE STREET<br/>(607)766-5529</p> | <p>5) <b>MOLTO ESPRESSO CAFE</b><br/>147 DELAWARE STREET<br/>(607)865-7375<br/>OPEN MON-FRI 7AM-8PM<br/>SATURDAY 8AM-5PM</p> <p>6) <b>LITTLE DIPPER ANTIQUES</b><br/>127 DELAWARE STREET<br/>(607)761-2670<br/>ASKFORARLENE@YAHOO.COM</p> <p>7) <b>ALICE'S ATTIC CONSIGNMENT SHOP</b><br/>136 DELAWARE STREET<br/>(607)865-9117<br/>TUESDAY-SATURDAY 9 A.M.-5 P.M.</p> <p>8) <b>AS YOU WISH DESIGNS &amp; GIFTS</b><br/>38 WEST STREET<br/>(607)865-2993<br/>TUES-THURS 12-6<br/>FRI 12-8 SAT 12-5</p> | <p>9) <b>CRAFTIQUES</b><br/>7 TOWNSEND STREET<br/>(607)865-6224<br/>Open daily or by appt.</p> <p>10) <b>ELIJAH'S CLOSET</b><br/>4 MEAD STREET<br/>CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH<br/>(607)865-4066 -CHURCH<br/>(607)865-8961 -KAREN<br/>FRIDAY &amp; SATURDAY 10 A.M.-3 P.M.</p> <p>11) <b>TJ'S WAGON WHEEL ANTIQUES</b><br/>2695 MARVIN HOLLOW ROAD<br/>2.6 MILES OFF RT 10<br/>(607)865-7165<br/>WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY<br/>OR BY APPOINTMENT</p> |
|--|--|---|

**COME AND SEE THE TREASURES YOU CAN FIND IN WALTON!**

**RATES, continued from Page 1**

assessor James Basile at the October meeting of the town board, both he and supervisor Taggart agreed that there was need of a town-wide reappraisal in the near future.

Whatever the ER, it does not affect the amount of town taxes paid by a landowner. The total amount is set by the town budget, and your proportion is calculated by your assessed value as a fraction of that of the whole town.

Currently a third of the towns in Delaware County assess at a hundred percent, as recommended by ORPTS, or nearly so – see shaded area in table below.

| Town            | Equalization Rates |           |           |           |           |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                 | 2014               | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      |
| Middleton       | 100%               | 100%      | 100%      | 101%      | 102%      |
| Andes           | 100                | 100       | 100       | 100       | 100       |
| Kortright       | 100                | 100       | 100       | 100       | 100       |
| Masonville      | 100                | 100       | 100       | 100       | 100       |
| Meredith        | 100                | 100       | 100       | 100       | 100       |
| Roxbury         | 32                 | 100       | 100       | 100       | 100       |
| Walton          | 27                 | 26        | 26        | 100       | 100       |
| <b>Franklin</b> | <b>92</b>          | <b>93</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>99</b> | <b>90</b> |
| Sidney          | 83                 | 83        | 82        | 86        | 86        |
| Davenport       | 75                 | 74        | 77        | 75        | 75        |
| Delhi           | 56                 | 56        | 60        | 60        | 61        |
| Deposit         | 4                  | 4         | 10        | 4         | 61        |
| Harpersfield    | 28                 | 28        | 28        | 28        | 28        |
| Stamford        | 27                 | 27        | 27        | 26        | 26        |
| Bovina          | 25                 | 23        | 23        | 24        | 23        |
| Hamden          | 18                 | 18        | 18        | 18        | 18        |
| Hancock         | 14                 | 12        | 12        | 12        | 12        |
| Tompkins        | 4                  | 4         | 6         | 4         | 4         |
| Colchester      | 3                  | 3         | 4         | 3         | 3         |

**BIG BUCK CONTEST**

**Deadline to Enter  
November 16<sup>th</sup>  
\$1 entry fee\***



**Weigh-In at  
Rich's Auto Body  
29 Hill Street**

\* Sign-Up: Burgin's Auto, Rich's Auto Body, & White's Farm Supply

Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce

**TAXES, continued from Page 1**

2009. For comparison, the smaller town of Kortright pays its justice \$12,000.

Capital expenses (contractual expenditures, CE) increase a total \$45,050: assessor equipment \$1,700, engineering \$2,500, board of assessment review \$50, building \$7,100, garage \$4,100, contingency \$1,700, cemeteries \$6,900, machinery \$9,000, and repairs \$12,000.

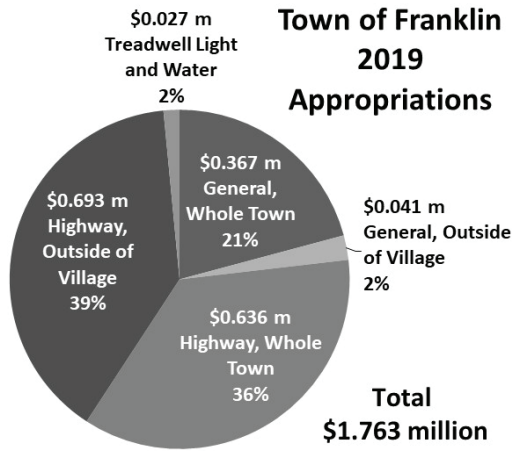
Only two appropriations are cut. For the attorney Sacco (Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP), appropriation is cut from \$5,000 to \$2,500 (50%). Appropriation for the Franklin Free Library is cut from \$2,000 to \$1,500 (25%). These cuts save 0.085% and 0.028% of budget.

Appropriations and revenue for the hamlet of Treadwell are unchanged from 2018. Expenditures of \$26,750 are partially offset by revenues of \$11,030. The balance of \$15,720 is a subsidy paid by all Franklin landowners.

With only these small changes, the 2019 budget would be similar to that of 2018, with highway department receiving \$1.326 million (75.4%), all other town accounts (general) \$0.408 million (23.1%), and Treadwell light and water \$0.027 million (1.5%). Of the highway appropriations, labor (wages and benefits) accounts for \$0.555 million or 31.5% of budget.

These appropriations are mostly paid by property taxes, but there are significant contributions from revenues and appropriated fund balances. Revenues increased roughly \$52,445, mostly from rent of space on the cell tower for additional antennas and from increased Consolidated (Local Street and) Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funds.

are not reported in the budget document. Total fund balances in the AUDs typically show over a hundred thousand dollars more in cash than in the budget. For example, last year the total unexpended fund balances reported in the budget was \$229,000, whereas the total reported in the AUD was \$552,050 -- more than double the amount. Funds in town savings accounts are not listed in the budget document. This year, Supervisor Taggart has revealed that the account for construction of new offices has grown to over a hundred thousand dollars.



This year was the first since 2008 that this data was reported. AUDs had not been filed for eight years until this spring, after a second audit by the NY Office of the State Comptroller again cited this delinquency. Balance sheets for Franklin 2004 to 2008 and 2014 to 2017 can be read, downloaded, or printed at:

<http://wwe2.osc.state.ny.us/transparency/LocalGov/LocalGovIntro.cfm>

The increase in the levy for the Franklin and Treadwell Fire Departments, which is set by the departments themselves, was not known at the time of the budget workshop. Levy for 2018 was \$0.216 million. This levy is collected through the town tax billing but is not part of the town budget.

This tentative budget was considered during the annual budget workshop at the board meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Beforehand, the tentative budget was prepared by supervisor Taggart (financial officer) in consultation with director of finances Warner (assistant financial officer). At the workshop, Mr. Warner read only the changes from the 2018 budget. (If you forgot to bring your copy of last year's budget, then you could not follow his presentation.) After some remarks by the supervisor and councilman Smith, the board approved his tentative budget without change. Thereby, it became our preliminary budget.

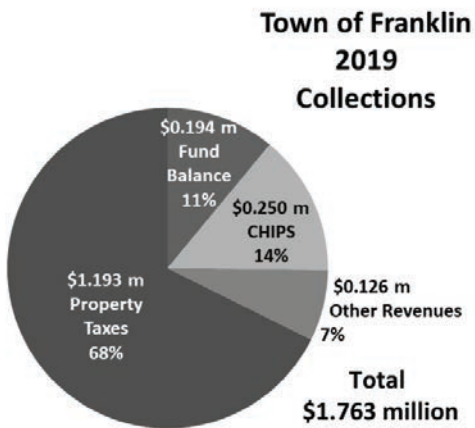
Copies are available from the town clerk. A public hearing on the preliminary 2019 budget will be held Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Mistakenly, the place and time of this public hearing was not set during the regular October meeting but at a special meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Immediately after this hearing, the board may approve the preliminary budget either with or without revisions. While a budget does not have to be passed that evening, it must be approved by November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**There are 24 radio stations that may be within distant listening range of Franklin, New York.**  
(42° 20' 26" N, 75° 09' 57" W)

| Call Sign     | Frequency | Dist./Signal | Format                 | City                 |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| WSQN          | 88.1 FM   | 19.0 mi.     | Public Radio           | Greene, NY           |
| WCIJ          | 88.9 FM   | 9.0 mi.      | Christian Contemporary | Unadilla, NY         |
| WSKG          | 89.3 FM   | 44.3 mi.     | Public Radio           | Binghamton, NY       |
| W213BL (WMHR) | 90.5 FM   | 7.0 mi.      | Religious              | Oneonta, NY          |
| WSQC          | 91.7 FM   | 8.5 mi.      | Public Radio           | Oneonta, NY          |
| WDLA          | 92.1 FM   | 14.8 mi.     | Country                | Walton, NY           |
| WKXZ          | 93.9 FM   | 20.4 mi.     | Hot AC                 | Norwich, NY          |
| WBKT          | 95.3 FM   | 18.9 mi.     | Country                | Norwich, NY          |
| WTBD          | 97.5 FM   | 13.0 mi.     | Adult Hits             | Delhi, NY            |
| W250BE (WCIJ) | 97.9 FM   | 7.0 mi.      | Christian Contemporary | Oneonta, NY          |
| WHWK          | 98.1 FM   | 44.3 mi.     | Country                | Binghamton, NY       |
| WAAL          | 99.1 FM   | 44.7 mi.     | Classic Rock           | Binghamton, NY       |
| WDHI          | 100.3 FM  | 16.9 mi.     | Oldies                 | Delhi, NY            |
| WCDO          | 100.9 FM  | 10.8 mi.     | Adult Contemporary     | Sidney, NY           |
| WZOZ          | 103.1 FM  | 7.4 mi.      | Classic Hits           | Oneonta, NY          |
| WSRK          | 103.9 FM  | 8.5 mi.      | Adult Contemporary     | Oneonta, NY          |
| WBNW          | 105.7 FM  | 44.9 mi.     | Top-40                 | Endicott, NY         |
| WHEN          | 620 AM    | 73.4 mi.     | Urban Contemporary     | Syracuse, NY         |
| WINR          | 680 AM    | 38.5 mi.     | Country                | Binghamton, NY       |
| WDOS          | 730 AM    | 11.5 mi.     | News/Talk              | Oneonta, NY          |
| WGY           | 810 AM    | 66.6 mi.     | News/Talk              | Schenectady, NY      |
| WKAJ          | 1120 AM   | 51.5 mi.     | Classic Hits           | Saint Johnsville, NY |
| WDLA          | 1270 AM   | 14.8 mi.     | News/Talk              | Walton, NY           |
| WCDO          | 1490 AM   | 11.1 mi.     | Adult Contemporary     | Sidney, NY           |

**Mileages show the distance between the station and Franklin, New York.**



Appropriated balances are funds carried over from the previous years. These funds are allocated to provide operating cash and a buffer for unexpected costs. The total of \$194,000 is down \$35,000 from last year and is all in highway accounts. This year the term for this category is changed to appropriated fund balance from unexpended balance. That term was misleading because this category does not include all unspent funds.

**Recently filed Annual Update Documents (2014 to 2017) show funds that**

173 Main Street  
Franklin, NY 13775

**the Squire's tankard**

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TOM & DONNA BRIGGS (607) 829-6885



The newly formed Franklin Volunteer Fire Department in 1890, with sponsor Dr. Erastus Egerton in wheelchair.

**FRANKLIN FIREFIGHTERS CELEBRATE SUSQUICENTENNIAL**



1926 Model T fire truck

By Eugene Marner

2018 marked the 150th year of service by Franklin's volunteer firefighters.

When the Village of Franklin was incorporated in 1836, the only available means of fighting fires was a bucket brigade of volunteers. In 1868, after a devastating fire burned down the business block in the Village of Franklin, Dr. Erastus Edgerton, a highly respected and successful homeopathic physician, sponsored the creation of the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department. He brought together two separate companies, the Edgerton Hose Company and the Ouleout Hook and Ladder company to create the company that now celebrates its 150th anniversary.

where struggle to remember that they must live and work together, the Franklin Fire Department remains an essential source of community pride and shared responsibility. As always, the department urgently needs and warmly welcomes new volunteers. Those interested should call the Department at 607-829-6822 or stop by the firehouse any Monday evening at 7 P.M., when the Department conducts training drills.



The Model T parading in Worcester, NY, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Worcester Fire Department

Photos courtesy of The Franklin Fire Department



Today's high-tech fire engine

The first vehicle used by the Fire Department was a hand-drawn truck that would carry equipment to fires in the Village. Rural residents were essentially on their own. The Department's first motorized fire truck was a Ford Model TT purchased in 1926 for \$405.50 from the local Ford dealer Ira Bradley. The body was designed and constructed in the Village to carry hose, firefighting equipment, tools, fifty-gallon chemical unit and ladders.

Today's Franklin Fire Department includes a well-equipped and skilled Emergency Medical Services squad as well as a modern inventory of top-quality pumpers and ladder trucks.

In a time when communities every-



The Newsletter of Franklin Local

**Editorial Board**

Ellen Curtis      Carole Satrina Marner  
Eugene Marner      Manette Berlinger  
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](http://franklinlocal.org)

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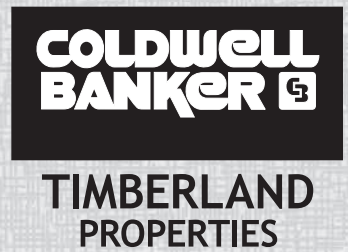
# Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties:



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|--|--|--|--|--|



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## RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

| DATE      | LOCATION                | ACRES | TYPE  | ASESS.         | SALE    | SELLER  | BUYER                              |  |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|-------|----------------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| 5/09/2018 | Tupper Hill Rd          | NRF   | 14.92 | Rural Res      | 69,000  | 60,000  | Videnieks, Peter                   | Cumur, Nuri  |
| 6/05/2018 | 520 Hodge Rd            |       | 0.79  | 1 Family Res   | 116,000 | 159,500 | Carey, James R                     | McAteer, Tyler J                                   |
| 6/06/2018 | 54 Center St            |       | 0.13  | 1 Family Res   | 58,000  | 25,000  | Cassinelli, Gary                   | Cawley, Earnest Jr                                 |
| 6/07/2018 | 669 Main St             |       | 0.25  | 1 Family Res   | 200,000 | 215,000 | Seltzer, David Starn               | Cable, Umayyah                                     |
| 6/14/2018 | 95 Hodge Rd             |       | 1.13  | Res w/Comuse   | 120,000 | 180,000 | Giardinello, Raymond P             | Barnett, Susan                                     |
| 6/15/2018 | 285 John Rd             | (2)   | 13.97 | Rural Res      |         | 177,500 | Lorenzo Contadino Revoc.           | Honan, Michael P                                   |
| 6/19/2018 | 700 Sanly Road.         | (2)   | 77.53 | Rural Res      | 246,000 | 101,000 | Greschak, John P NW                | MTGLQ Investors Lp                                 |
| 6/20/2018 | 401 Frank Slawson Rd    | (2)   | 41.10 | Rural Res      |         | 200,000 | Mortgage Equity Conver. Trt,       | Strauss, Jacob                                     |
| 6/22/2018 | Tara Ln                 |       | 7.00  | Vac w/Imprv    | 24,000  | 17,000  | Buczynski, Frank                   | Kelly, Patrick                                     |
| 6/22/2018 | 3370 County Highway 14  |       | 8.09  | 1 Family Res   | 130,000 | 55,500  | Wells Fargo Bank NA GA             | Aubry, Andre R<br>Andy I's Mountainside<br>Retreat |
| 6/25/2018 | Ed Klug Rd              |       | 14.69 | Vac w/Imprv    | 50,000  | 54,000  | Gast, Daryn L                      |  |
| 7/06/2018 | 29 West St              |       | 0.25  | 1 Family Res   | 94,000  | 60,000  | Whitney, Ernest E NW               | Downin, Natalie                                    |
| 7/06/2018 | Ridge Rd                | (2)   | 38.30 | Rural Vac>10   | 80,000  | 66,000  | Hitczenko, Pawell                  | Carbone, Thomas Joseph                             |
| 7/25/2018 | E Handsome Bk Rd        |       | 20.60 | Rural Vac>10   | 43,000  | 14,000  | County of Delaware NW              | Johns, Robert Thomas IV                            |
| 7/25/2018 | East Brook Rd           |       | 5.23  | Rural Vac<10   | 10,000  | 4,000   | County of Delaware NW              | Visions of Home LLC                                |
| 7/25/2018 | Gay Brook Rd            |       | 3.00  | Rural Vac<10   | 12,000  | 3,000   | County of Delaware NW              | Grant, David                                       |
| 7/26/2018 | 354 Main St             |       | 0.71  | 1 Family Res   | 111,000 | 218,000 | Parrow, Linda S                    | VanEssendelft, William M                           |
| 7/30/2018 | 11 Wakeman St           |       | 0.35  | 1 Family Res   | 96,000  | 90,000  | Campbell, John                     | Simonds, Matthew                                   |
| 7/31/2018 | 686 Campbell Estates Rd |       | 11.00 | Rural Res      | 106,000 | 130,000 | Bellino, Joseph P                  | Pellegrini, Danny                                  |
| 7/31/2018 | 674 Poet Hill Rd        |       | 17.07 | Rural Res      | 50,000  | 63,000  | Loiacono, Kenneth                  | Lewis, David                                       |
| 8/03/2018 | Dunk Hill Rd            |       | 38.39 | Rural Vac>10   | 64,000  | 40,000  | Armstrong, Daniel V                | Diangelo, Michael                                  |
| 8/13/2018 | 7830 E Handsome Bk Rd   |       | 29.18 | Rural Res & Ag | 192,000 | 265,000 | Salvatore Feroni Jr Estate         | Richardson, Aaron                                  |
| 8/14/2018 | 2500 Palmer Hill Rd     |       | 0.33  | 1 Family Res   | 69,000  | 18,000  | Prof-2013-S3 Legal Title Trt<br>GA | Finnegan, Ralph                                    |

NRF No Road Frontage

(2) Two Parcels

NW Not Warranty

GA Government Agency