

NEW BUSINESSES IN FRANKLIN!

By Carla Nordstrom

“Is everyone moving to Franklin?” a friend from Connecticut asked me recently. She’d been shopping in Andes and had heard the rumor there.

Well, it may not be everyone, but Sean Scherer’s Kabinett & Kammer, “a contemporary curiosity shop of antiques, natural wonders and art,” will be joining fashion designer Gary Graham at 422 Main Street. This showcase for curated objects d’art and original women’s fashion designs opened Memorial Day weekend in the old Robinson and Kelsey Department Store build-



A view of Kabinett & Kammer ing. According to Sean, “422 will be a combined environment, with Gary’s designs blending effortlessly and naturally with my curatorial discoveries. Both objects and clothes will be displayed in vignettes that underscore their connections.”

Sean Scherer opened

See NEW BIZ, con’t on Pg. 9

HEMP:

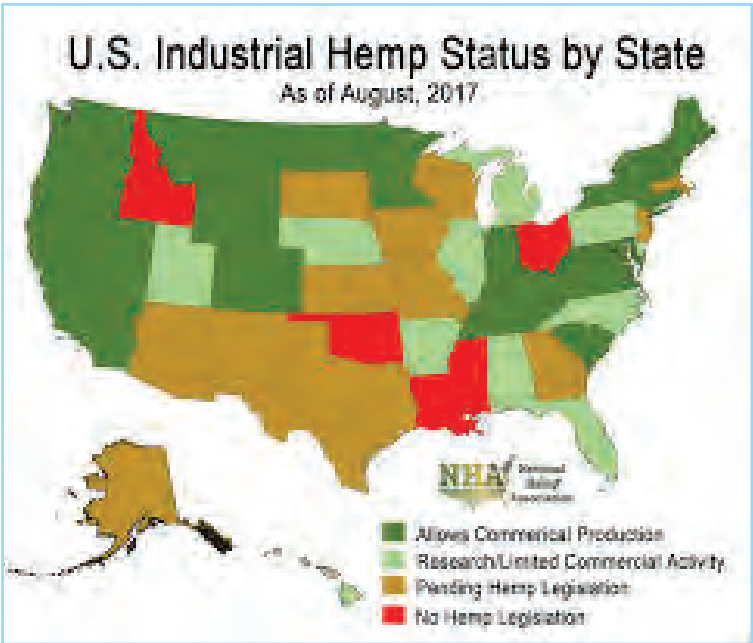
The Next Agricultural Opportunity?

By Patricia Tyrell

It’s reefer madness out there. Except, it is not madness; it is a potential economic opportunity. And it’s not reefer, it’s industrial hemp, for producing the cannabis chemical compound *cannabidiol*, or CBD.

Not be mistaken with its psychoactive relative tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), CBD is touted to have near miraculous effects on medical conditions ranging from pediatric epilepsy to chronic pain to anxiety.

Gaining immense popularity, CBD tinctures, salves and other products are readily available at your local health food store without prescription but carrying a hefty price tag. CBD products can also be



obtained with prescription through medical marijuana dispensaries at similarly breath-taking prices.

But the prices are largely reflective of the investment and effort associated with creating a successful operation during these “cowboy days” of the hemp-growing industry.

See HEMP, con’t on Page 16

WHAT IS YOUR HOUSE REALLY WORTH?

By Susan Barnett

You may think Zillow knows your home’s value on the open market. It says it does, right there on the page matching your address. The website has become most people’s default expert. But Zillow is not infallible. In fact, it has not got much of a clue about what your house is worth.

How do I know?

See WORTH, continued on Page 17

BUDGET MATTERS: Salaries

By Brian Brock

The public hearing on our 2020 town budget is still months in the future. However, starting early lets us look into the budget in depth. Typically, the discussion at the Franklin budget workshop in October is over small increases from the previous budget (and rare decreases), which assumes that the last budget was the best possible.

First, I’m a realtor.

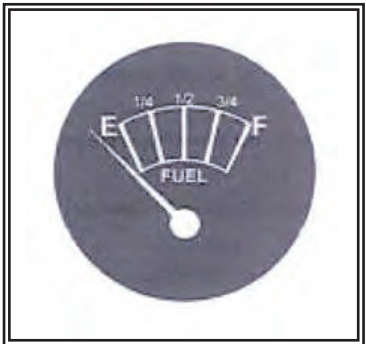
I spend a lot of time figuring out what’s going on in the market. Second, I’ve seen Zillow get it wrong too many times. For instance, it happened to me.

We moved to Franklin about a year ago. The day we moved in, Zillow proclaimed that our house had dropped in value by twenty-two percent. No reason. It just did. It has “gone up” by five thousand dollars since then, but it is still nowhere near market value.

Why? Because Zillow does not understand a rural market.

So how do you figure out what your home is really worth today?

Well, you are not going



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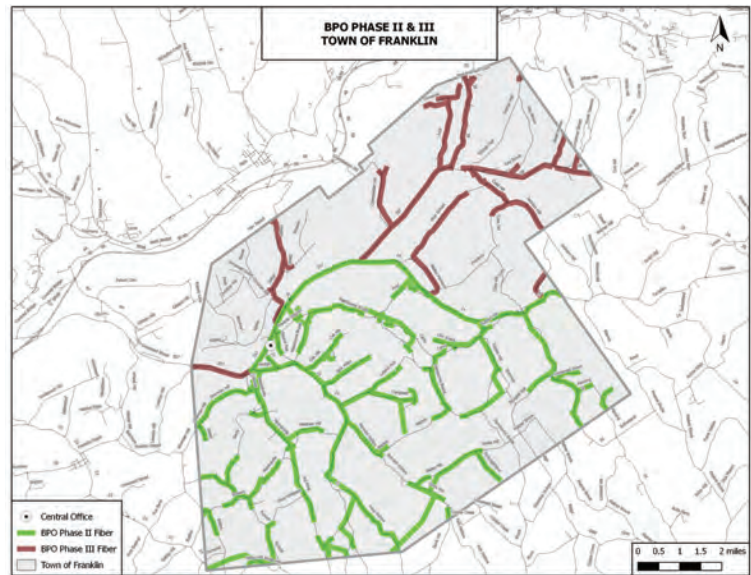
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FREEDOM FROM FRONTIER A Boost for Local Business

By Brian Brock

This year, the option of phone, video, and internet via fiber-optic cable is coming to many in Franklin as an alternative to the existing service via copper-wire cable. Long-time provider, Frontier Communications Corporation, has been the bane of local businesses and homeowners with its slow data transmission rates and poor service.

All last year, the contractor for Delhi Telephone Company, CCLD/Eustis Cable, was busy laying the network of cable for bringing their service to much of Franklin. Its contractor also built an equipment shed next to the cell

See DELCO, continued on Page 8



Your Neighbor's View...

LEAN ON ME

By Robert Lamb

Anyone who has read my musings in this paper has read about Jared, the "Fish Whisperer." Jared and I have roamed the back roads and trails of Alaska for fifteen years in search of fish and adventure. This past year I didn't get up to see him. Timing and funds just didn't align. Summer passed, and in late October, I called Jared to ask him about his trip to the races in Talladega. When he answered the phone, I could barely hear him. Not unusual, as he is so soft spoken anyway, but when I asked again how the trip went, he responded with the words *hospital* and *leukemia*.

"WHAT? Who is in the hospital with leukemia?" I shouted.

"I am," he said.

I couldn't breathe. My head spun. I choked out that I would call him back. The contents of my stomach left me in a rush. When I could breathe again, I screamed at

the top of my lungs and cursed the gods until hoarse. How could this be? My best friend in the hospital with leukemia?

When I regained some composure, I called him back. He said the doctors told him he was lucky because his type of leukemia is curable but is going to take some time. Jared had to leave his home in Alaska for a hospital in Houston Texas. He will be there almost a year for treatment.

Jared chased the American Dream. He forged himself into an expert fly fisherman, wilderness guide, and friend to many. He bought a home and worked as a maintenance man at the town school. He has health insurance. But like many Americans of all ages, Jared found that his insurance and income ran out after twelve weeks. Unable to work, he was faced with the COBRA payment, his mortgage, and the long-term treatment co-pays, leaving him as it does many, in dire financial straits. Insur-

ance will not cover the cost of his life flights or his co-pays. It does not cover his living expenses while staying in Texas.

The good news: as of this column, Jared is in remission and will soon return to the streams, community and school he loves so much. The Fish Whisperer will return to Cantwell!

Like Jared, many of us put a lot of faith in our pensions, social security and insurance policies. A catastrophic illness is called that because there is no government program or insurance that covers all your needs. If you lack a social and financial safety net, it is even worse. It is in times like this that we need to lean on each other. America is great because its people are great. No government programs do what a community can do.

While Jared was being treated, his many friends started a fundraiser to help him with his expenses. We set a goal and blew it out! And that is the heart of my column this time around.

Generally, I take society in small doses. I have seen and ex-

perienced the worst it has to offer. However, when we posted Jared's situation, the outpouring of love, prayers and donations overwhelmed my hard-hearted view. So many businesses, artists and individuals donated their services, art and time to raffles and auctions for the fundraiser, donations that brought me to tears so many times. The smallest donation came from a single mother with five children. The largest came from an anonymous stranger. People from many Facebook groups spread the word far and wide.

Folks in Jared's hometown really stepped up for one of their own. Jared's Warriors raised double our original goal. I am glad to have been part of it, for it has renewed my faith and love for my fellow man.

If you hear of a friend or stranger in need, please take a moment to read their story. If you can help, great. If you can't donate, pray. Visit them. Send them a note of encouragement. Join your community. Become someone's WARRIOR today.

Franklin, New York

FREE RABIES CLINIC

Staff Report

The annual Franklin rabies clinic will be held Tuesday, July 9th from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Franklin Fire Hall, 351 Main Street.

This free clinic is run by the Delaware County Department of Public Health. You must bring a record of any previous vaccinations to show that your pet is eligible for the three-year coverage.

Pet owners are legally required to vaccinate all of their dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets against rabies within four months of birth and again within a year after that, under Public Health Law, Article 21, Title 4. In addition, the law requires periodic booster shots. Failure to do so may result in a \$200 fine.

Should your unvaccinated pet bite a person or animal, then it must be confined for observation for ten days. If boarding is required, then this will be at the owner's expense. Should your unvaccinated pet itself be bitten, then it must be either euthanized or quarantined for six months.

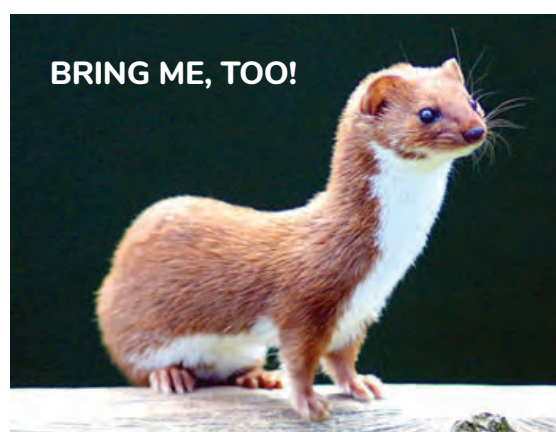
By contrast, a vaccinated pet requires only a booster shot within five days of the attack. Once symptoms show, rabies is almost always fatal. Symptomatic animals are euthanized.

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

If you cannot make the Franklin clinic, there are clinics in neighboring towns during the summer:

<http://delawarecountypublichealth.com/calendar/>

For more information: 607-832-5200.



SAVE THE DATE!

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LIVE MUSIC, VENDORS AND GREAT FOOD!**



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GIANT BOOK SALE!**



**NEW OLD FRANKLIN DAY
& FRANKLIN FARMERS'
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AUG 25-26

**SATURDAY, 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
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**IN FRONT OF CHAPEL
HALL**

**one BOOK, one
DOLLAR!**



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



IT TAKES A VILLAGE... NEW TOWN OFFICES?

By Lynne Kemen and Louise Hebbard

The phrase “it takes a village” particularly applies to volunteering in a small community like Franklin. We do not have enough resources in manpower or funding to do everything that a small community needs without the help of our volunteers.

In our area, there are many different organizations that need your help. Many people think of financial donation as a way to contribute. This is always welcomed by not-for-profits, but there are plenty of other ways to make a difference.

Volunteering time and skills can have a profound effect on both the volunteer and the organization. This series will highlight some of the places in Franklin and Delaware County where you can really make a difference. But more generally, here are

some of the advantages of volunteerism.

First, helping others:

This could involve anything from donating food and time to a food pantry, joining the local fire department squad, to working with the garden club to maintain the flower barrels on Main Street.

Learning new skills:

Whether you are a high school student, a retiree, or anywhere in-between, volunteering is a great way to learn by being around people who know something you don't. You could pick up computer skills, learn how to identify and care for local trees and plants, become expert at putting up a tent, or get experience with public speaking.

Getting the Job You Want:

Volunteering is an opportunity to network with others, or to practice skills that you may want for a future job application. This can be a great way to add skills to a resume or a college

Staff Report

Last fall, the NFR published a plan by Delaware Engineering for an addition of offices to the town hall. That option has been abandoned. The hill behind this site and the cell tower beside it limit the available space and would prevent any future expansion.

Currently being considered is a site in the village at 202 Main Street, owned by Chris Downin. The property is long and narrow, extending between Main Street and Franklin Heights Road. It is already subdivided into two parcels, of which the town would buy the lower, flatter parcel along Main Street. In the past, it was the site of a gas station, and fuel tanks are still buried under the front lawn. The plan is to remove them before purchase.

Delaware Engineering has examined this building and proposed three options: using the first floor for offices and a small courtroom with parking behind; using the first floor for offices but with a larger courtroom in a new addition in back, and parking behind; or demolishing the two-story Greek Revival house and constructing an office building at the back of the parcel with parking in front. For the first two options, an existing shed addition would be removed from the rear.

The new single-story building would be forty by sixty-six feet (2640 sq. ft.) with a wrap-around porch six feet wide. In addition to moving the court, clerk, and CEO from the old Rich tenant house, the town would move the bookkeeper and the assessor from the town garages.

With this shift in location, construction is targeted for 2020 with the town moving in before the fall heating season. Costs are uncertain, but a figure of half a million dollars has been mentioned. Currently, there is a building fund of more than \$100,000, which was started by Supervisor Taggart. Bonding would be required to make up much of the balance, although there may be state grant money available from the New York Justice Courts Fund (<https://www.nycourts.gov/courts/townandvillage/>), and New York State Archives Grants, which is part of the Department of Education (<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/grants>).

The presentation by Delaware Engineering at the May town board meeting, with the discussion that followed, can be viewed on line at: <https://franklinlocal.org/franklin-town-board-may-2019/>, beginning at 20:50 minutes. The video is by Tony Breuer. Plans for these three options are available for viewing in the office of the Town Clerk.

See VOLUNTEER, continued on Page 17

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

While in Florida this winter, my wife and I stayed at a funky bungalow complex in Cedar Key for a couple of nights, and I chatted with one of the owners. He had retired from a position with a federally funded organization that studied and addressed poverty and its effects on people in rural America. As this was a special interest of mine, we started comparing stories.

One project that he had been involved with (and I remember reading about this in a professional journal) was a program addressing the prevention of edentulism in poverty-stricken areas in Arkansas. The thinking was that if children were trained in proper dental care, they would retain their teeth longer into adulthood. This would lead to a more positive self-image, which would improve prospects for higher paying jobs, thus helping to break the cycle of poverty. Unfortunately, the project was not as successful as the

researchers expected. One of the more common responses from surveyed parents was stunningly non-compassionate: “Our family has gotten by with tooth loss for generations - why should my child be

any different?” Researchers were surprised not only by this apparent lack of concern for the success of their children, but that this success posed a threat to the parent's ego and status within the family.

This brought to mind a book I had read several years ago, written by anthropologist Colin Turnbull, who had spent time living with the Ik tribe in northern Uganda. His book, “[The Mountain People](#)”, was written in the mid-1960's after Turnbull returned from a very depressing two years living with them. Prior to World War Two, the Ik tribe was a thriving group of semi-nomadic people sustaining themselves by hunting and gathering in lands that their ancestors had settled hundreds of years ago. After World War Two, their way of life was harshly interrupted by the creation of a large game park that encroached upon much of their traditional hunting land. Deprived of access to this territory, they were forced into a life of deprivation and starvation.

In just three generations, the devolution of the Ik was such that survival of the fittest now applied even within family units (‘family’ being loosely interpreted). By the time Turnbull arrived, qualities commonly used to describe a well-functioning society no longer pertained. Truth, trust, empathy, nurturing, generosity, selflessness and hope became liabilities as Ik tribe members competed with each other in order to survive. The trauma and desperation of this existence forced each tribal member to disconnect from the others. Parents often drove their children out of the hut at age three, either to form alliances with other children (in roving gangs preying on anything that might sustain them) or to die and be one less mouth to feed. The gangs were the closest thing to a family the children ever knew. Elders were of no consequence. When they became sick, it was considered a waste of food to revive them. Their death gave others the opportunity to fight over the spoils. Humor was limited to situations that cost others their dignity or their well-being. In one instance, a mother laughed when her child screamed with pain after having crawled to a campfire and been burned. In another, a gang of youngsters made fun of an elder after they beat him and stole his food, taking some of it right out of

his mouth.

Turnbull observed that poverty eventually dehumanizes its victims, forcing them to limit their sphere of concern to themselves alone, for the purpose of self-preservation. This is especially so when hope itself becomes a liability, when all attention must be directed toward a never-ending search for food or shelter.

One would think that the depth of poverty experienced by the Ik would never turn up in these parts, yet in some ways it has. With the increasing number of young people addicted to powerful drugs like meth, heroin, and Oxycontin, we are seeing a phenomenon remarkably similar to that faced by the Ik. Substance abuse leading to uncontrolled addiction is equally as dehumanizing as profound poverty. Children are abandoned to raise themselves, sometimes forming gang-like alliances with other lost youth. Elders are beaten and robbed for drug money. Abusers become pushers, without regard for those who become consumers. We can see this today by just reading between the lines of police blotters. We have a drug problem in rural America and in Delaware County, and have neither the resources nor the expertise to address it as effectively as we need to.

See MAYOR, continued on Pg. 15



Community members scything in the rain at East Brook Community Farm Photos by the author

COMMUNITY FARMING

By Cicada Musselman

The Franklin Farmers’ Market season is upon us, and we at East Brook Community Farm are going into our fourth season at the market this year. We love attending the market in Franklin, because it is not just a chance for folks to pick up all the local groceries available, but a time to socialize, enjoy music, and create community!

At East Brook, we raise annuals, perennials, and chickens on a ninety-two-acre ex-dairy farm right outside the village of Walton. We cultivate just under two acres of annuals on a south-facing slope, using no-till, regenerative agriculture techniques, as well as permacultural and holistic management practices. We don’t have a tractor and do not till or plow the soil; we farm by hand, using just hand tools to weed, seed, and transplant.

Our variety of no-till farming involves preserving and bolstering all the varied life and systems in the soil by layering cardboard or kraft paper (a matzoh factory discard) and old mulch hay to build garden beds. Typically, we then transplant our seedlings (with a hug of homemade compost) into the bed after the paper and hay has had some weeks to break down. This is also called lasagna gardening, for the layering.

Our farming techniques are not the only thing that sets us apart from other farms in the area. We are also an intentional community. We live in community with intention! We are much like a large traditional nuclear farming family, except none of us is related to each other. We chose this family and this way of life because we want to bring our food system closer to us. We are also committed to the work of self-awareness and growth that is necessary to live sustainably with each other and the land. We all moved here from different re-

gions for many different reasons. But building the community among us and with the land is our shared vision; that’s the “intention” behind our intentional community.

What does living in community look like in practice, day-to-day? For us, it means that we meet two to four times a week to discuss all the ins and outs of daily life. We discuss our shared goals for the community and the farm business, as well as our individual goals: spiritual, intellectual, and physical.

Some of us here at East Brook are income-sharing, which means that we pool all of our incomes, and make decisions, budget, and plan for the use of that money together. We also share cars, chores and errands, and a business (the farm). Not all of us generate income purely through the farm business. One of our members is a PHD candidate at Binghamton and works as a teaching assistant and a video content creator for their own business. Another of our members works as a Holistic Management farmer-and teacher-trainer.

Just as we are devoted to building community among ourselves, we are also interested in supporting networks and communities of other folks in our area. We admire the community that has sprung up around the Franklin Farmers’ Market, and we support another network through our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) memberships. CSAs connect families to nutritious, sustainable, local food systems and encourage a relationship with the farmers. We host a Meet and Greet potluck every year at the farm, and have events, workshops, and work parties throughout the season. Not only are we concentrating on growing good food, we are also developing relationships between our small community and the larger surrounding community.

When someone becomes a CSA member of East Brook, they are directly contributing to the support of their local community food system and farmers, as well as to regenerating the soil and their own health. We think this integration of support is very important and it’s why we encourage folks to become members, no matter what their food budget is. We are committed to working with families to make sure we can get healthy food in their bellies. We can take SNAP/EBT as payment for CSA membership and are happy to arrange a payment plan or develop a work- or skill-trade exchange as well.

In addition to attending the Franklin Farmers’ Market, we also sell our vegetables and Collected Creations herbal body products line at the Walton Farmers’ Market every Friday of July through September, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more details, check out our website: www.eastbrookfarm.com Or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

FRANKLIN RIVER WALK

By Brian Brock

The Village of Franklin lies four miles upstream from the East Sidney Lake dam and above the floodplain, on the southeast side of Ouleout Creek. The ESL management area extends past the village, approximately a mile further upstream. Franklin is proposing to enhance recreational opportunities by developing a trail along the creek, in place of existing informal trails, which are unmarked and unpublicized but generally passable, with some muddy stretches which can require boots. A pair of boat accesses would be added, at the upper and lower ends of this trail,

Development would facilitate hiking, birding, nature walks, bank fishing, picnics, biking, cross-coun-

reational opportunities in key areas. This trail would also provide ready access for the fire department’s off-road equipment.

Upstream, the trail would begin at the bridge where the Otego Road crosses the creek, and end near the bridge where State Highway 357 crosses Handsome Brook, a tributary to Ouleout Creek. The land around this confluence is marshy, so the trail would actually finish a bit upstream near the end of the access road to the Town of Franklin gravel pit. The distance between is approximately two miles.

The upper portion of the trail is in the floodplain, in the flat open grasslands bordering the village. The plain is quite wide here, and the trail is well outside the floodway. Mostly,



Giant Ironweed behind the school Photo by Jan Mulroy

try running, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, driving ATVs, kayaking, and tubing. In addition to the natural features, this multipurpose trail passes the foundations of old mill works and the stone abutments of an abandoned bridge. Hunting is allowed on the land owned by US Army Corps of Engineers. A Franklin river walk and boat access would fulfill the third objective of the ACE master plan to expand rec-

it remains dry year-round, except during historic flooding such as in June of 2006, so is unlikely to be damaged by flooding. All is within the flowage easements obtained by ACE. The land is owned by the Franklin Central School district and the Ackerman family.

The lower portion is on the high ground southwest of the village on the delta of a pro-glacial lake. The trail

See RIVER, con’t on Page 11



Planting potatoes by the ‘lasagna gardening’ method: paper is laid down on top of grass and weeds, and old mulch hay is piled on top.

422
KABINETT
& KAMMER
GARYGRAHAM422

422 MAIN STREET • FRANKLIN NEW YORK • 13775
FRIDAY 12-5 • SATURDAY 11-5 • SUNDAY 11-5



The 2019 FFM season poster, by Dee Singer

FFM SETS UP FOR SNAP

The Franklin Farmers' Market is an FMNP (Farmers' Market Nutrition Program) authorized market, accepting both WIC and Senior FNMP checks. Fresh Connect coupons are also accepted.

And as soon as all the red tape is in order, the FFM will join the SNAP/EBT Market Program.

For updates and further details, visit the Franklin Farmers' Market on Facebook.

MONEY FOR OUR MUSIC



Staff Report

Patricia Tyrell (above, at left), manager of the Franklin Farmers' Market, and Franklin Local member Vicki Davis show off the project poster for MUSIC AT THE MARKET at a ceremony on April 26th at the Roxbury Arts Group, awarding the 2019 NYSCA Decentralization Grants, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and administered in Delaware County by the Roxbury Arts Group.

This grants joins funds from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation and the Delaware County Department of Economic Development, to support admission-free, live musical performances every Sunday, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M., at the Franklin Farmers' Market, at Chapel Hall.

GARDENING HAPPINESS

Gardeners are happier than other people. How can you doubt it in June, when you are surrounded with flowers and newly greened leaves? The garden looks freshly minted and you still believe you can win the war on weeds. The air positively sizzles with energy as your garden grows and blooms. Still, you know tough days lie ahead. Drought. Floods. Groundhogs. Powdery Mildew. Your indifference in August. To keep a positive outlook, you should follow the ten garden commandments for happiness.

One: Spend time in your garden every day. Maybe today's the day you take the bar exam or travel to Manhattan to speak at a conference on climate change. Fine. You can still take ten minutes to walk through your garden. Admire what is blooming. Listen to a wren singing. Smell the fragrance on the breeze. Notice what has changed since yesterday. Eat a strawberry. There is nothing more important.

Two: Don't belittle your gardening efforts or make fun of your garden. It's okay to have a new garden, to have accidentally weeded out the foxgloves or to have killed the first shrub you planted. All of us have killed plants. None of us created Sissinghurst. Respect your garden and your abilities. Both will grow. Enjoy the process.

Three: Jealously guard your gardening time. If you find yourself driving all over town doing errands on a beautiful Saturday morning when you wanted to work in the garden, you're not thinking enough about your priorities. Put gardening on your calendar to carve out the time you need. I take one vacation day every week in May and June to work in the garden. There is no finer feeling than pushing my wheelbar-

GREENBANKS GARDENING



With
Deborah Banks

row into the dewy garden in the early morning with the entire day ahead of me, full of possibilities.

Four: Celebrate scent in the garden. Plant a fragrant rose under your bedroom or dining room window. Put a lilac by the garden gate, and lavender by a path where you will brush past it. Choose the daffodil bulbs described as particularly fragrant. Set out a row of scented peonies this fall. Plant thyme between your stepping stones.

Five: Ban poisons from the garden. Take your pesticides and herbicides to the toxic waste collection this fall and don't buy more. Not even a "natural" pesticide. Are the aphids on your viburnum really important enough for you to kill bees and butterflies unlucky enough to fly by after you spray? No, they aren't. And by the way, poisons aren't great for your health either.

Six: Don't include any plant that will try to take over your garden. Even if it looks great in the picture. It may not be the next bush honeysuckle or Japanese knotweed, but you don't want to spend your time fighting a plant that sends out lots of runners or sets hundreds of seeds that all germinate and quickly develop deep tap roots. Know what you're bringing home from the neighbor or the big box store or the local nursery. Read about it online before it sets one root in your soil.

Seven: Borrow ideas shamelessly from others, while adding your own sensibility. Notice plants that look great together, another gardener's method of landscaping a slope, an

interesting staking idea or trees in nearby gardens that you did not realize were hardy. Putting new ideas into play in your garden adds to the fun.

Eight: Appreciate and enjoy the gardeners you meet as the kindred spirits they are. When your magnolia's exquisite blossoms turn to brown pulp overnight in a late spring freeze, no one will understand your pain like another gardener. You can talk about new plants and interesting gardens with another gardener long past the point where your spouse's eyes have glazed over.

Nine: Plant seeds. It always feels magical to see little green shoots emerging from the soil because I planted seeds. Watching them grow gives me joy. You don't need a lot of equipment and it isn't complicated. You can direct sow in your garden in the spring or do winter sowing of seeds that require a period of cold before they germinate. Or sow "hardy annuals" in the fall – this refers to annuals whose seeds can survive the winter and germinate in the spring, such as calendula, nigella, poppies and viola.

Ten: Share with others. Swap plants with your gardening friends. While you're digging, pot up extras for a local plant sale. Share your love of gardening with your children, a niece or nephew, or a young neighbor. Volunteer your time at the local arboretum. Passing it on increases your happiness.

Happiness is not so complicated after all. We can all find joy in the miracles we witness each day in our gardens. Happy gardening!

HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

FOUND, three or four, in a Delaware County backyard high in the hills between Oneonta and North Franklin, in late April.

IT IS: *Griposia aprilina*, the *merveille du jour*, a moth of the family Noctuidae. It ranges from Sardinia and south-east Russia, from the southernmost part of Norway and Saint Petersburg through northern and central Europe to southern France and northern Italy, as well as in Castile. - Wikipedia

According to the Butterfly Conservation website, the caterpillars feed on the leaves and immature flowers of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*). Common and fairly well distributed across England and Wales and in Northern Ireland. Local in mainland Scotland and on the Isle of Man. Thinly distributed across Ireland. Common in Europe. So, what are they doing here? The next invasive alien?



kitchen basics

By
Carla Nordstrom



Photo by Andy Bobrow

OLD FASHION SUMMER DELICACIES

Summer is the season of easy entertaining, when meat or fish on the grill, salads, and fresh vegetables are simple to prepare. What about dessert? With so much fresh fruit and berries available, all you need is a cup of heavy cream to create elegant desserts with an old fashioned flare.

Syllabub (4-6 servings)

½ cup white wine,
juice and peeled rind from one lemon
1/3 cup sugar
1 cup heavy cream
grated lemon rind
pinch of nutmeg

Combine white wine, lemon juice, rind, and sugar in a small saucepan. Heat until sugar is dissolved, then remove from the heat. Strain, then cool until very cold. Whip the cream and stir in the lemon mixture. Spoon mixture into individual cups or glasses and garnish with grated lemon rind and nutmeg. Serve cold from the refrigerator.

Blueberry Fool (4 servings)

1 cup or one-half container of blueberries, plus fresh blueberries for garnish
2 tbs. water
2 tbs. sugar
1 tbl. Cassis (if you don't have Cassis, use grated lemon rind)
1 cup heavy cream
½ cup of plain Greek yogurt
2 tbs. sugar

Combine blueberries, water, sugar and Cassis in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Simmer until blueberries burst. Strain, then cool until cold. Combine heavy cream, yogurt, and sugar and whip until medium peaks form. Spoon a layer of the whipped cream into individual cups or glasses. Add a tablespoon of blueberry mixture and repeat with cream and blueberry mixture. Using a chopstick or spoon, gently swirl the mixture so that blueberry syrup is streaked throughout. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Garnish with fresh blueberries.

Rich Chocolate Pudding (4 servings)

3/5 oz. of dark chocolate

¼ cup water
¼ cup sugar
1 tsp. of rum or bourbon (optional)
1 cup heavy cream.

Chop chocolate into small pieces and put in a glass bowl. Combine water and sugar in a small saucepan and heat until sugar is dissolved. Stir the hot syrup into the chocolate to melt it. (If it doesn't completely melt, pop it in the microwave for 10-15 seconds.) Add the spirits and set aside to cool. Whip the cream. Add half of the whipped cream to the chocolate to lighten it. Blend in the rest of the heavy cream. Spoon the pudding into cups or glasses and refrigerate.

All of these desserts can be served with berries or summer fruit. Fresh sprigs of mint are a delicious garnish.

FRANKLIN FILES FINANCIALS FOR 2018


Staff Report

The Town books for last year were audited by councilmen Bruno and Smith in January/February, and this audit accepted at the March meeting. The annual report was then prepared by Michael Giovinazzo, CPA. The Annual Update Document was filed with NY OSC on March 7th, and a notice was posted in The Reporter of April 3rd.

A printed copy of the Annual [Financial Report] Update Document (55 pages) is available at the office of the town clerk on Tuesdays and Thursdays (9:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.) and Saturdays (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.).

The AUD can be viewed or downloaded from the Office of the State Comptroller anytime at: <http://www2.osc.state.ny.us/transparency/Local-Gov/LocalGovIntro.cfm>.

This OSC website allows comparison of the 2018 budget with past budgets for Franklin or with budgets of other towns. This is the second year in a row that the town board has met these legal obligations.



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CHAMBER COMMUNITY PICNIC

Your Chamber of Commerce invites all our community in the Greater Franklin area to its annual picnic at the Northstar Blueberry barn on Franklin Heights Road, overlooking the village and the lower Ouleout valley.

Festivities will be held on **Saturday, July 13th**, beginning with appetizers at 5 p.m. and followed by dinner at 6 p.m., with awards being given after.

Dinner will be from Bea's 422, The Tulip and The Rose Cafe, and Two Brothers.

After dinner, the chamber will honor award winners for:

Business - Franklin Durable Goods, owners Neil Rodmis and Tom Briggs

Person - Franklin EMS Squad.

Business Student - Tyler Gregory

There will be a short business meeting after the awards. The Chamber welcomes member businesses and potential members.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from chamber members (preferable so that we can get a head count) or at the door.

BEER AND WINE AT LAST?

By Brian Brock

This summer, Franklin residents again plan to circulate petitions to place Question #2 of the Alcohol Beverage Control Law, Article 9 (Local Option) Section 141 on the November ballot.

It reads:

"Restaurant alcoholic beverage license. Shall the operator of a full-service restaurant be allowed to obtain a license which permits the restaurant operator to sell alcoholic beverages for customers to drink while the customer is within the restaurant? In addition, unopened containers of beer (such as six packs and kegs) may be sold "to go" for the customer to open and drink at another location (such as, for example, at his home)?"

Out of 932 New York State towns, the one percent that do not allow in-eatery wine and beer consumption while allowing to-go sales of same are mostly at the western end of Southern Tier, with Franklin the only town east of Interstate 81. These nine towns, in Cortland, Steuben, Tioga,

Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties, represent less than 0.01 percent of the state population.

Beer has been on sale since 2000 at the Mirabito convenience store and gas station on Main Street. There, it is legal to buy armloads of beer, but at the Two Brothers restaurant down the block, it is not legal to have a beer with your burger. Typically, eateries receive significant income from alcohol sales.

Regardless of any change in law, there will still be a no-alcohol dining option in the village, at The Tulip and the Rose Café.

The petition is supported by the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Petitions should be available to sign and circulate at various Chamber members' premises, including Franklin Eyewear, the Franklin Farmers' Market, at New Old Franklin Day, and Two Brothers.

Petition signers must be residents of Franklin, US citizens, and over the age of eighteen. A minimum of 266 valid signatures will be required, one quarter of the number of voters in the last election. The window for signing is July 31st to September 6th.

FSEF UPDATE


By Patricia Tyrell

A very special thank you to community members supporting the Foundation's Third Annual Spring Flower Sale. A total of 197 flower baskets were sold, raising more than \$1,000. All raised funds are applied to various academic and extracurricular activities and programs for Franklin's youth. Many thanks also to John Campbell and the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum for use of the barn and parking lot for easy customer pick-up.




Another extension of gratitude to long-standing former Board members Don Hebbard, Nancy Cloonan and Lorelle Dutcher, who have moved on to other personal endeavors. Their commitment and dedication to the community and youth of Franklin have been commendable.

Joining the Board are Diane Whitbeck, Sarah Cleaveland, Sara Leddy, Crissie Elmendorf, and Matthew Banks. It is with great excitement that we step forward into the future to continue the good work of the Foundation.

The following students



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were recognized with the 2018-2019 Franklin Central School Scholar of the Month award: Alyssa Pantale, Collin Campbell, Avery Ito, Edwin Ibrahimovic, Bodie Jordan, Rileigh Brown, Zaeda Beadle, Olivia Hyzer, Jessalyn Taggart, and Cailyn Williams. Each student received a Certificate of Excellence and a scholarship in trust of \$200, awarded upon graduation.

Our deepest gratitude goes to Erna Morgan


McReynolds and Tom Morgan for their generous donations that have funded scholarships since 2012, in memory of Wendy Brown.

Finally, CONGRATULATIONS to the graduating Class of 2019!!

In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams." May you be motivated by your goals and inspire with your actions.



FINANCIAL EXPERTISE

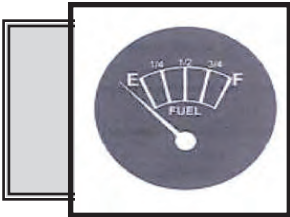


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Debra Renwick Franklin Community Office Manager
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FOCUS ON ENERGY

PIPELINE UPDATE

Compiled by Brian Brock

November 5th **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** grants a two-year extension of Constitution pipeline project until December 2nd, 2020 on request filed by CPC (June 25th 2018) and Iroquois (August 1st 2018). This is the second extension granted since the project was conditionally certified on December 2nd 2014).

November 30th **Stop the Pipeline** requests rehearing and rescission of the Order Granting Extension of Time, 165 FERC ¶ 61,081.

December 21st **Constitution Pipeline Company LLC** asks that FERC deny request for rehearing for grant of extension of time for project.

January 25th **US Court of Appeals for D.C. Circuit** decides in *Hoopla Valley Tribe v. FERC* 913 F.3d 1099 that a project and state agencies may not conspire to deliberately and indefinitely withdraw/submit identical applications for WQC specifically to frustrate action by FERC.

February 25th **FERC** filed an unopposed motion for voluntary remand a petition for review of the Commission's orders in *Constitution Pipeline Co., LLC*, 162 FERC ¶ 61,014 (2018), and *Constitution Pipeline Co., LLC*, 164 FERC ¶ 61,029 (2018) so that it may consider the implications of the D.C. Circuit's decision in *Hoopla Valley Tribe v. FERC*

February 28th **D.C. Circuit** granted the Voluntary Remand Motion.

March 11th **FERC** invites parties to file supplemental pleadings and record materials with the Commission by April 1st 2019, addressing the significance to these proceedings of the *Hoopla Valley Tribe v. FERC* decision. The parties may file responsive pleadings with the Commission by May 1st 2019.

Meetings of the Franklin Town Board

New York State ELECTION CALENDAR 2019

January	8 th	6:00 p.m.	Town Hall Organizational
February	5 th	6:00 p.m.	Town Hall
March	5 th	6:00 p.m.	Kellogg Center
April	2 nd	7:30 p.m.	Town Hall
May	7 th	7:30 p.m.	Town Hall
June	4 th	7:30 p.m.	Kellogg Center
July	2 nd	7:30 p.m.	Town Hall
August	6 th	7:30 p.m.	Town Hall
September	3 rd	7:30 p.m.	Kellogg Center
October	1 st	7:30 p.m.	Town Hall Budget Workshop
November	6 th	6:00 p.m.	Town Hall Budget Hearing
December	3 rd	6:00 p.m.	Kellogg Center

Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month except for January and November.

26 Feb	First day party candidates may petition citizen residents
1 April	First day party candidates may file petition with county BoE
4	Last day party candidates may file petitions with county BoE
16	First day independent candidates may petition citizen residents
2 May	County Board of Elections finalizes candidates for primary
21	First day independent candidates may file petition with county BoE
28	Last day independent candidates may file petitions with county BoE
31	Last day voter may register for primary election*
25 June	Voting in primary election, noon to 9 p.m.
8 July	County BoE canvases returns not counted and audits voting system
25	County BoE recanvases any remaining returns
31	First day citizens may petition for ballot questions
21 Aug	First day citizens may file petitions for ballot questions with town clerks
6 Sept	Last day citizens may file petitions for ballot questions with town clerks
12 Sept	County Board of Election finalizes candidates and questions
16	Last day voter may file change of address
11 Oct	Last day voters may register for general election*
5 Nov	Voting in general election, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
20	County BoE canvases returns not counted and audits voting system
15 Dec	State Board of Canvassers certifies election results

* Post marked or hand delivered

See DELCO, continued from Page 1

tower at the town garages and installed the necessary switching equipment.

The contractor strung seventy miles of cable along roads past 870 potential customers. (Franklin has 118 miles of town and county roads, some of which are already strung with high-speed internet.) Work ran longer than expected because the utility easements had not been maintained, and much tree trimming was required. Pruning by Asplundh Tree Service and cable installation continued throughout 2018 and into this year. Workers are expected to finish in a month or so. A further speed bump was NYSEG's slowness in processing applications for permission to attach to their utility poles.

Plans are to begin connecting customers to its network this summer. DTC will not automatically connect all potential customers, but instead will connect to only those who apply. Eligible property owners (those with a coil of black cable high on the closest utility pole) should have received a postcard announcing the new network and inviting them to sign up. If you missed it, then you can sign up here: <http://www.delhitel.com/fiber/>

This only puts you on a list to be scheduled and does not obligate you to connect.

Once the road work is completed, sometime in July, DTC will make a presentation before installations begin. Appointments will be Monday through Saturday. While property

owners can install their own equipment to the network, the technician must be able to enter the building to install the outlet. Service visits should continue through 2020.

Installation is free. While the enabling grant requires DTC to install only up to 150 feet from the road for free, company will do so for distances a few times greater. However, DTC will only string along existing poles or through existing buried conduit. For new underground installation, landowners will have to trench across their property and bury conduit.

Once all the cable for the current Phase II is strung, this summer roadwork will begin on Phase III, north of State Highway 357, with completion aimed at for the end of this year.

DTC will offer phone, video, and internet in various combinations and options. Combinations with the least expensive options range from monthly \$60 (internet) to \$100 (all three), not including fees and taxes. The rate schedule for Franklin will be the same as surrounding towns, which are listed here:

<http://www.delhitel.com/bundles-2/>.

Basic transmission rate is 75 million bits per second (download) by 10 (upload). This should meet the needs of most homeowners unless yours is a big family, you work from home, or there is multi-player gaming. (House phone and cell phones would use some of this data feed.) For those willing to pay extra, speeds of

up to 1,000 by 1,000 Mbps are available. None of the options put an upper limit (cap) on the total amount of data each month.

For an additional \$8 per month, DTC will provide the Wi-Fi hardware. That adds up to almost a \$100 a year, year after year. But for customers with little or no knowledge of hardware, this convenience might be worth it.

More details can be read in a previous article *Franklin Fiber-Optic Finally* in issue number 32 at: <https://franklinlocal.org/nfr/nfr-index/>

This deployment of fiber-optic is made possible by a grant to Delhi Telephone Company and DTC Cable, as part of the Delaware County Broadband Initiative, by State of New York through the New NY Broadband program.

Note: you may have seen blue and white signs on utility poles, offering HIGH SPEED INTERNET. This is for a competing internet provider. Its communication network uses a satellite above and dishes below, with slower transmission rates and a cap on data for all but the most expensive option. Its basic transmission rate is 12 by 3 Mbps with a cap of 25 gigabytes for \$85 a month. Broadcast transmission can be degraded by precipitation.

Brian Brock is president of the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce.

NEW BIZ, con't from Page 1

Kabinett & Kammer in Andes in 2007. A trained artist and art historian, he began collecting antiques as a teenager and became intrigued with combining objects from different periods with unique textures to create scenes that complement modern living. Sean collects vintage prints, taxidermy, 19th-century furniture, and antique art that he curates into imaginative and pleasing displays.

“I source from all over, near and far,” Sean said. “You never know where something good will turn up, and I almost instantly know if it’s a Kabinett & Kammer object as soon as I lay my eyes on it.”

He expects his customers will be second home owners as well as local artists and day visitors who are looking for interesting home decoration possibilities.

Kabinett & Kammer
422 Main Street
Franklin NY 13775
Hours: Friday, 12-5; Saturday & Sunday, 11-5
607-643-5573
<http://kabinettandkammer.com/the-store>

Gary Graham relocated his Tribeca fashion design studio to Franklin to take advantage of the natural surroundings and availability of vintage textiles. His website notes, “Each small run will center on narratives that combine real stories with fictional characters to blur distinctions between past, present and future in mysterious ways.”



A love of history is evident in the designs, which include information on the provenance of the textiles and the people who created each garment.

Gary Graham422
422 Main Street
Franklin, NY 13775
<https://garygraham422.com>
Customerservice@garygraham422.com

Bea’s Four Twenty-two Cafe opened the weekend after Memorial Day in the annex at 422 Main Street. This breakfast shop and grocery will serve egg sandwiches, the best BLT’s in Delaware County, baked goods, soups, delicious coffees and tea. All food will be locally sourced



Bea’s BLT

and homemade. The grocery will also carry local products such as milk, butter, syrup, and honey. Bea Sohni, the proprietor, was born in Brazil but raised in Los Angeles, where she worked in film. In 2009, she visited Bovina, fell in love with the area, and re-opened Russell’s Grocery Store, which Bea’s Four

Twenty-two will be based on. “I was really busy in Bovina but wanted a fresh outlook. I’m looking forward to working with Sean and Gary - they are so creative.”

Bea plans to stay open for most of the winter and also hopes eventually to serve dinners.

Bea’s Four Twenty-two Cafe
422 Main Street
Franklin, NY 13775
Instagram @Bea’s 422
Hours: Thursdays through Saturdays, 9:00 -2:00

Aural Gratification, Inc. is a sound studio and record label that has opened on Hodge Road in Franklin. Kevin Bartlett moved his operation from Woodstock and has done commercial recordings for Sesame Street. MTV, HBO, Spaulding, G.E. as well as numerous banks, restaurants, fashion stores, and car dealerships. The facility is a full-service sound studio for Kevin’s projects as well as for the artists his label represents.

As a composition space, it is available for rental to local artists and is particularly well suited for producing the music of singer-songwriters. Kevin can also provide forensic sound recordings for the spoken word, such as a

project he did of stories from the Catskill Center.

Aural Gratification, Inc.
95 Hodge Road
Franklin, NY 13775
845-679-5674
(by appointment)
auralg@gmail.com



Now that Franklin has attracted successful businesses from Andes, Bovina, New York City, and Woodstock, Hollywood is in the works for the spring of 2020.

A mini television and movie memorabilia museum and snack shop will be opening at 375 Main Street. Michael Paxton, a Hollywood filmmaker and writer will sell posters, games, toys, and promotional items from TV shows and movies. “My goal is to create a fun and magical place for people to stop by, satisfy their sweet tooth and get a glimpse of the wonderful products the television and movie industry have produced over the decades.”

Kabinett & Kammer photo provided by Sean Scherer
GaryGraham422 photo provided by Gary Graham
Bea’s 422 photo
<https://foursquare.com/v/russells-general-store/4dfcf28c1f6e05048d87c0b1?openPhotoId=5af0b934dd8442002c673c7a>
Aural Gentrification photo
<https://www.discogs.com/Various-Aural-Gratification-Volume-1/release/3976639>



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FRANKLIN
ANNUAL EVENTS
CALENDAR - 2019

April 14: Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast

May 26: Farmers Market opens for the season

May 27 : Memorial Day Parade

June 7: New Franklin Register summer issue out

July 5: Franklin Stage Company season opens

July 13: Franklin Local Annual Meeting

Aug. 3: Blueberry Bake-off

Aug. 24: New Old Franklin Day and street fair

Sept. 2: Labor Day

Oct. 13: Final Farmers' Market of the season

Nov. 2: New Franklin Register fall issue out

Nov. 5: Election Day

Nov. 28: Thanksgiving

Dec. ?? Christmas Stroll

Dec. ?? Christmas Concert

Dec. 22: First night of Hanukkah

Dec. 25: Christmas Day

annals of sustainability

GREEN BUDDHISM: *Practice and Compassionate Action in Uncertain Times*

By Stephanie Kaza. Boulder: Shambhala, 2019; 217 pages.

Reviewed by Charlotte Zoë Walker

Stephanie Kaza grounds her recent book, "Green Buddhism" in her own experiences of nature and her practice of Buddhism, but also in her training as a naturalist. It is a valuable work for anyone interested in environmental concerns, whatever their philosophical or religious background. Kaza, a professor emerita of environmental studies at the University of Vermont, opens the book with her observation of a group of wild turkeys near her current retreat center in California: "These high steppers moved lightly and gracefully on long legs, each step deliberate, a dozen turkeys flowing through the grasses." For a reader in upstate New York this evokes many pleasant moments watching our own wild turkey neighbors. From this intimate, solid ground, she takes the reader on a journey that examines environmental issues and considers how they can be benefitted by Buddhist concepts and practices, such as mindfulness and compassion. The book is divided into three main sections: "Intimate Relations," "Envisioning Green Buddhism," and "Acting with Compassion"-- each with several chapters of varying lengths.

For instance, the Buddhist concept of seeking to avoid inflicting harm is clearly relevant to good environmental practice, as we try to do less harm to the non-human environment as well as to our own future on the planet. Her chapter on the poet Gary Snyder is also very affecting, linking Snyder's interest in Native American values with his interest in the environment, and his lasting contribution through his own poetry.

One important Buddhist concept, the idea that desire creates suffering, becomes an important theme in which Kaza considers greed as a natural extension of desire. With a deep self-awareness, she asks the reader to consider not only the greed we may find fault with in an industrial world, such as the profit motive or consumerism, but also our own greed for a greater contact with nature - an intrusiveness which might cause us to inadvertently do harm to an ecosystem, or to the well-being of individual creatures.

One of the most moving chapters in the book is entitled "Conversations with Trees," which is also the title of a previous book by Kaza. Her deeply attentive approach to trees--actively listening for what an individual tree may have to teach us-- is one of the most personal and inspiring aspects of this book.

A chapter that strikes me as especially valuable to the practitioner of an environmental ethic, regardless of philosophical background, is her chapter on spiritual friendships. This chapter is inspired by an influential relationship with a teacher of environmental Buddhist thought, but it also stresses the importance for all of us of finding fellowship in others who are dedicated to protecting the environment. As with most chapters in the book, she conveys her ideas by linking them to her own specific experience as both meditator and naturalist.

"The Gift of the Dark Time," the final chapter of this wonderful book, is about the turning of the year, when nights are long and days are short--but it is also, clearly, a metaphorical ending, encouraging us to remain dedicated even in a politically or ecologically dark time: "I join the land in welcoming the turning of the year. Small steps in the dark time, small steps along the path. I touch the earth and sing into the empty sky, a plain voice rising in the open hills."



The West Kortright Centre will hold its twenty-eighth annual Landscape and Garden Tour on Sunday, June 30th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring outstanding properties in the greater Gilboa-Stamford area.

Pre-registration is required to receive directions to the first garden. For more information, call (607) 278-5454, or visit www.westkc.org to purchase tickets before 1 p.m, Friday, June 28. Everyone must begin the tour before 1p.m. and end by 4p.m. Tour will be held rain or shine.

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Hanford Mills Museum
51 County Hwy 12, East Meredith, NY
hanfordmills.org • 607.278.5744

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Riddle-Poem Workshop Led by Bertha Rogers
Saturday, September 21, 10 am - 1 pm

MURAL ON MAIN ART GALLERY
631 Main Street ~ Hobart, New York
607-538-3002 ~ muralonmain@gmail.com ~ www.muralartgallery.org

RIVER, con't from Page 4

remains above flood level, but the floodplain below is relatively narrow. This terrain is hummocky forested. It is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Between the two portions, there are segments of a glacial esker, with its high ground providing elevated views on all sides. This land is owned by various resident

Public access roads exist at four spots along the trail. These allow shorter walks and floats: Water Street in the village, the road to the village pool, Mill Lane just southwest of village, and the road to the old gravel pit by the intersection of County Highway 21 with State Highway 357.

The village itself owns two key parcels. One is a fourteen-acre parcel bordering the creek just northeast of Otego Road, which could offer siting for an upstream boat launch. Currently there is an ac-

canoes, kayaks and inner tubes. Unimproved roads already exist to these sites, and there is flat ground for parking areas.

The first phase of development would include securing landowners' permission, marking the trail



The Ouleout, from the Otego Road bridge

Photo by Jan Mulroy

(which branches in places to loop back or dead end), stabilizing wet spots with gravel fill or culverts, formalizing parking areas at

development would make our village a little bit nicer a place to live in and visit.

The Village of Franklin has submitted this proposal to ACE for inclusion in the revised master plan for the ESL management area. The Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce will work with the village to realize this project, including applying for grants to fund the first phase. Volunteers are needed, in particular someone to head this project.

Step forward! Franklin needs your skills and help!



The fishing rock under the Otego Road bridge

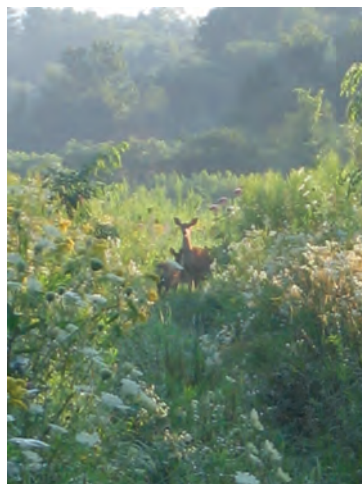
Photo by Jan Mulroy

cess road for emergency filling of fire department tankers. The other is a half-acre parcel at the end of Water Street, just above the floodplain. This could be the site of a nature center, should funds become available. Much of the trail is flat, so a nice segment could be developed as handicapped-accessible.

Except in spring and during flooding, the Ouleout Creek is too shallow for power boats, so accesses would be designed for

boat launches, and posting signs directing people to sites. Costs are expected to be modest.

As funds become available, the second phase could include placing explanatory signage at such features as the floodplain, floodway, abandoned stream channel, esker, delta, gravel pit, mill works, abandoned bridge, etc. A map could be displayed at each of the six access point. In addition, picnic tables and trash receptacles could be placed at each.



Wildlife along the trail

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contact Manette Berlinger

manette.berlinger@gmail.com

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AT THE LIBRARY

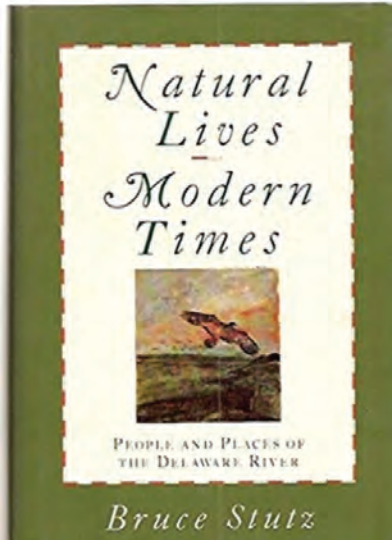
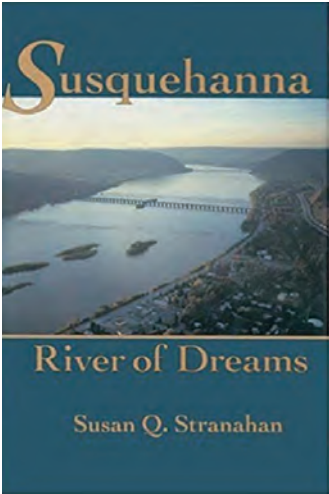
**BILL ROSSOW
REVIEWS NEW BOOKS**



NATURAL LIVES – MODERN TIMES: People and Place of the Delaware River
By Bruce Stutz
SUSQUEHANNA: RIVER OF DREAMS
by Susan Q. Stranahan

These two similar books tell the history of two great river basins, from geological formation through Native American occupation, European colonization, up to the current day. The latter two periods are described in the engaging voices and stories of past and current-day residents.

First, some differences: the Delaware drainage basin is relatively narrow in its path from south-central New York, with only two small reservoirs near its origin (on the two branches, at Downsville and Deposit) and no other significant dams, whereas the Susquehanna drainage basin encompasses most of Pennsylvania and much of south-central New York, from its origin from Otsego Lake in Cooperstown, with a large number of dams and reservoirs. Both rivers empty into major east coast bays (Delaware and Chesapeake, respectively) through tidal estuaries. The two lie on opposite sides of the Appalachian ridges in their upper portions, but the Susquehanna comes to the east side near Wilkes-Barre. The Delaware is relatively well-behaved in its flow, despite the lack of dams, but the Susquehanna is very erratic even with all its dams.



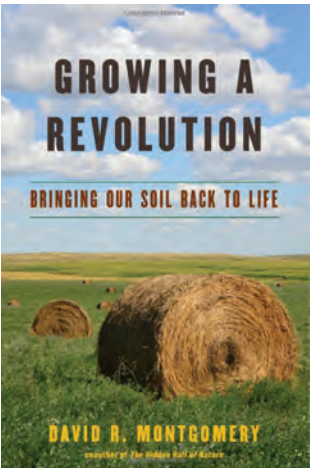
The similarities are that both stories are very sad, telling of the major degradation of the river environments – plants, animals, people -- by the exploitation of natural resources, beginning with European settlers and continuing through the subsequent explosion of U.S. population and industrial usage. In the case of the Delaware, much of the damage is due to human pollution from Philadelphia and Camden, and so on down to the Bay. However, the upstream population has grown, with consequent paving over of wetlands and increasing human pollution.

For the Susquehanna, the main pollution sources have been logging and mining in Pennsylvania. The nearly complete removal of forest cover in Pennsylvania made the flow even more erratic than before, and mining introduced acids and heavy metals that killed river life. These stories are sagas of misunderstanding and mismanagement of resources – assumed to be inexhaustible. Both stories end in the 1990s, on slightly hopeful indications of some recovery – more plants and animals, less pollution - but the ecology now being established is still overwhelmed by people (as the population is still growing), so the rivers have no chance to return to their natural ecology.

LIBRARIAN’S PICKS from the Franklin Free Library:

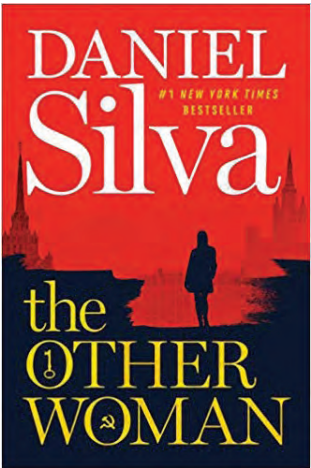
THE OTHER WOMAN
By Daniel Silva

“Another jewel in the bedazzling crown of a spy-fiction master...There is an even more elaborately detailed back-story than usual, and it is every bit as compelling as the tension-drenched drama slowly unspooling in the present and leading to a socko finale.”
- *Booklist*, starred review



GROWING A REVOLUTION:
Bringing Our Soil Back to Life
By David R. Montgomery

“Surprising, inspiring, and thoroughly engaging...Relevant to farmers, backyard gardeners, and everyone who cares about our future, this is a clarion call that should not be ignored.” - *Booklist*



The Window
By Conrad Potter Aiken

She looks out in the blue morning
and sees a whole wonderful world
she looks out in the morning
and sees a whole world

She leans out of the window
and this is what she sees
a wet rose singing to the sun
with a chorus of red bees

She leans out of the window
and laughs for the window is high
she is in it like a bird on a perch
and they scoop the blue sky

She and the window scooping
the morning as if it were air
scooping a green wave of leaves
above a stone stair

And an urn hung with leaden garlands
and girls holding hands in a ring
and raindrops on an iron railing
shining like a harp string

An old man draws with his ferrule
in wet sand a map of Spain
the marble soldier on his pedestal
draws a stiff diagram of pain


But the walls around her tremble
with the speed of the earth the floor
curves to the terrestrial center
and behind her the door

Opens darkly down to the beginning
far down to the first simple cry
and the animal waking in water
and the opening of the eye

She looks out in the blue morning
and sees a whole wonderful world
she looks out in the morning
and sees a whole world.

Conrad Aiken (1899-1973) was an American poet from Geogia. He was very interested in psychoanalysis and identity (“The Window” is a wonderful example of his fascination with the interior personality). Aiken published many books of poetry, among them, *The Charnel Rose*, *Selected Poems* (Pulitzer Prize winner, 1930), *Brownstone Eclogues*, *The Kid*, *Collected Poems* (The National Book Award), and another *Collected Poems*. He served as Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress (now Poet Laureate) from 1950-52.

Notes and poem choice provided by Bertha Rogers



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CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES

BY JOHN O'CONNOR

SPECTACULAR LINEUP AT THE FRANKLIN FARMERS MARKET

With the introduction of grant money to support live music at the Franklin Farmers' Market comes the opportunity to diversify the programming. I have been singing from the steps of the Franklin Stage Company for several years now, sometimes accompanied by the spoon man, Gene Marner. I've done the lion's share of the singing at the Market, but there have been occasional others, such as Jason Starr and Kathy Shimberg. Now, with a full scheduled season of music, we're in for a season of much more variety, thanks to the grant-writing efforts of Trish Tyrell, Marjorie Kellogg, and Lynne Kemen.

Here's what we have to look forward to. The Sunday of Memorial Day, May 26, Rickety Fence will open the season with their eclectic mix of folk, classic rock, and Americana. Their sets range from classic rock such as Neil Young and Grateful Dead to current artists such as the Decemberists. With this great spirit and sound, the Market music series will open with a bang. Rickety Fence will also appear on June 23



The Market is lucky to feature the talented songwriter and performer, Colleen Kattau, from Cortland. Colleen tours nationally and performs with great spirit and finesse, singing songs that matter to all of us. She'll appear on August 4.

The Hyzer Hillbillies will make their first appearance at the Market on June 16. They are the local Delaware County folk and bluegrass duo of Joseph Laureira and William Duke. Joseph plays guitar and sings, while William sings and plays banjo, mandolin, and slide shovel guitar. Joseph has an extensive rock background, and William has been a folk musician and singer/songwriter for many years. Their second appearance at the Market will be on July 21.

On August 25, the Franklin Farmers Market will take a welcome turn toward classical music by featuring the Catskill Music Consort, a group of musicians who play and perform in various classical ensemble configurations, but whose primary focus is their community orchestra which meets in Delhi in the

ART BOOKS

A beautiful new book about color comes from Abrams Books titled: **MAKE INK: A Foragers Guide to Natural Inkmaking**, by Jason Logan (2018).

This remarkable book is a must read for artists, writers, and anyone interested in discovering the diverse and sublime natural palette of the world around us, and also, in how to make amazing inks. The writer Michael Ondaatje penned the forward to this volume and is in conversation with the author in the final chapter. Logan, who grew up in Canada and then lived in New York City for a number of years, recently returned to Toronto to start a family and founded the Toronto Ink Company, a business that specializes in unique small batches of hand-made inks. Their company motto: "We make colour from anything."

I love this book. It has an intuitive, organic way of teaching us about color. It reminds me that the boundary between the materials we use to create our work and the allegory we hold within us about the world we live in, can be as fluid as we dare to make it. In his forward, Ondaatje writes, "Whenever we met, our conversations began over a delicious homemade soup, and then at the very same table, he would begin to show me unknown inks of great subtlety and boundless colors that he had recently concocted and invented. Inks made out of lichen, wild grapes, rusty nails, drywall dust harvested from an overpass, and, most recently, an ink derived from gunpowder. Often in that small kitchen, while soups and other ingredients were being heated up in saucepans to make those new inks, the border between food and ink tended to be porous. In fact, at one time he did say that he always felt I was a bit careful around his soups."

The book is smartly divided into three main sections: Find Ink, Make Ink, and Test Ink. Each of these chapters is a lesson in creative exploration. The author's list of eight "ground rules" for natural inkmaking has an intuitive feeling and a finely distilled sensibility. They are: Ink Is Alive, Learn with Your Hands, Do Your Research, Color Is a Moving Target, Failures Can Be Beautiful, Let the Ink Do Its Thing, Record Your Experiments, and Go Weird. There is even a page devoted to foraging pigments in winter, which seems tailor-made for artists in our region.

This book is beautifully illustrated with lots of artwork as well as many ink tests with the author's recipes. There is detailed information about making ink, useful to anyone wanting to try their hand at this skill. Near the end of the book, a conversation between Ondaatje and Logan is a nice gem. Here, two creative minds play their

UpState Arts

with
Charlie Bremer

thoughts on the subject of ink against personal memories and anecdotes, observations on the material and its history, as well as how they creatively explore its sources and applications.

To learn more:

<http://www.torontoinkcompany.com/>

The late John Berger's final book of essays, "**Confabulations**" (2016), is a small but poignant collection. Berger died in January of 2017 at the age of ninety. He was best known as a novelist and art critic, but he was also a painter and a poet. His

first essay, "Self-Portrait," begins: "I have been writing for about eighty years." He goes on to explain that "language is a body, a living creature ... and this creature's home is the inarticulate as well as the articulate." Throughout these essays Berger explores painting, politics, friendship, language, memory, music, and never misses an opportunity to rail against the

global tyranny of speculative capitalism, the failings of political discourse, or the appalling working conditions for so many on this over-heated planet. In his final short essay, "How to Resist a State of Forgetfulness," Berger moves full circle. He describes painting forms of nature - a tree, a cloud, a flower - and asks, "Is it possible to 'read' natural appearances as texts?... texts from a language that has not been given to us to read...yet as I trace the text I physically identify with the thing I'm drawing and with the limitless unknown mother tongue in which it is written." As a final beautiful note, Berger states, "We are not points on a line; rather, we are centers of circles...We will learn how to wait in solidarity. Just as we will continue indefinitely to praise, to swear and to curse in every language we know."



Local Seisiún's traditional Irish instruments

and August 11.

On June 9, the Local Seisiún trio, consisting of Jean Withrow, concertina; Jim Haggerty, flute and whistle; and Kathy Shimberg, fiddle and piano, will grace the Market with Irish traditional music. The trio grew out of a regular session that began in Bainbridge, NY back in 2007 and continues twice a month, sharing a common love of the older styles of traditional Irish dance music -- jigs, reels, hornpipes, waltzes, polkas, barn-dances -- slow airs, and an occasional song or story. They will return also on July 14 and September 22.

summer. Nicholas Scarim, the driving force behind the ensemble, is a Brooklyn-based composer, conductor and arranger, whose operas and symphonic music have been performed nation-wide. Performing as part of a trio are Amy Pratt and Wynn Shilling on flutes.

Another welcome departure from the usual folk orientation of the Market's music schedule will be the Old Masters on September 8. They are Tom Iversen on keyboard, Tom Ives on bass and Dan Martin on trombone. All seasoned and professional area musicians, they will bring jazz

See **MUSIC**, con't on Page 15



"Confabulation with Nature," by Charlie Bremer



The library's entrance facade at Bright Hill Literary Center

BRIGHT HILL JOINS 4CLS

Bright Hill Community Library, in partnership with the Franklin Free Library, proudly joins the Four County Library System. Come to Bright Hill for the ribbon cutting ceremony on August 9, 2019 at 2 P.M.

Library youth programs will include Young Collector's Club, Pajama Story Hour, Reading Mentors, and Craft Days. Writing workshops held in the library will be announced. Bright Hill's 12,000 volume special collection of poetry, literary and art titles will be available for circulation.

Please visit www.brighthillpress.org for hours of operation, and to sign up for the program newsletter.



A selection of children's books at the Bright Hill Library

WALTON ART WALK

Staff Report

The Walton Art Walk will take place on July 20, 2019, from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. in Walton, NY. It is a project of the newly-formed West Branch Artists. WBA's mission is to build community and economic resilience in Walton through creating, making, and sharing art.

The tour is self-guided, and will feature the work of local visual artists and artisans. Tour-goers will see original artworks on display in the storefront windows of local businesses and within venues along the tour route, which stretches from Big Little Art Studio at North and Mead Streets, through Gardiner Place, and down Delaware Street to Veterans' Plaza.

Visitors may pick up tour maps and programs anywhere along the tour route.

The map will list locations and a description of each artist's work.

The event is free and open to the public and will attract art lovers, artists, and collectors from the entire Western Catskills area. It is an excellent opportunity for both the artists and our local businesses to highlight what they do best. A rain date has been set for Sunday, July 21st.

As part of this first Annual Walton Art Walk, a beautiful new mural will be unveiled on the side of the Full Circle Antiques building on Delaware Street. The yet-to-be-revealed design was created by members of the West Branch Artists and students, and will include different elements of paint, mosaic and handmade ceramic tiles. It will be constructed by a team of professional artists, community members and students.

For further information, contact Kathleen Hayek at: k.hayek@mac.com.



The Franklin Garden Club's spring plant sale, held in the Village Park on Saturday, June 1st, brought in \$650 to be used to buy plants for the village flower barrels.

Photos by Jane Hebbard



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CATS, continued from Page 13

and standards to the Franklin Market.

One of the Market's friends and favorites, Jason Starr will play twice at the Market; once on August 18 and September 29. Jason is a guitar player and singer who has been performing in the area since he arrived in Franklin with his wife and daughter in 2010. He plays in the genres of bluegrass, blues, Americana, the Great American Songbook, Motown.

And yours truly will be singing my Franklin Farmers' Market repertoire on a few dates throughout the summer. But I am very pleased to report that on June 30 I will be introducing to the world my new musical ensemble, John O'Connor and his Fellow Travelers. The Travelers are Steve Murtha on guitars, banjo, mandolin and ukelele, Tom Ives on bass and Robin Seltzky on clarinet. These three are fabu-

lous musicians and to put the icing on the cake, they all sing. We will be playing songs from my Market repertoire as well as my own songs.

The last two farmers markets will host Franklin's own jazz piano legend, Charles Eubanks. Charles has toured with jazz greats, such as Art Blakey and Archie Schepp. Don't miss this. October 6 and 13.

We are fortunate to have such great music on schedule for every Sunday from Memorial Day to Columbus Day (or Indigenous People's Day ... c'mon, New York State, get with it). Music starts around 11 a.m. and goes to about 1 p.m. So, come on down to the Market and hang around, and buy a few organic onions while you're at it. It will be the hippest place to be in the Western Catskills on Sunday mornings.

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS
AT THE FRANKLIN FREE LIBRARY:

All programs are at 10:00 A.M. and at the library unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, 7/9	The Bubble Man
Tuesday, 7/16	The Dirtmeister
Tuesday, 7/23	Portable Planetarium -
	NOTE: at the Franklin Firehouse
Tuesday, 7/30	Moreland the Magician



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DELAWARE COUNTY NY

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Saturday: 10am-2pm



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MAYOR, continued from Page 3

This drug problem is creating a poverty crisis which if unchecked will lower our society's collective desire for a more humane way of living. This would be unfortunate and a tragic legacy for us to bequeath to future generations.

In these divisive times we as human beings are at odds with each other over some the most basic of issues. Will impoverished family members continue to begrudge their children the opportunity for their personal success, even if it means that they may have to settle for enjoying this success vicariously? Is it really to the best interest of humanity for the strongest to thrive while the weakest struggle hopelessly in poverty? To what level are we as family members, as neighbors, as Americans, as fellow human beings obligated to rescue those who have fallen on hard times, regardless of its cause? Do we believe that we have an inherent obligation to future generations to raise the collective goodness of mankind?

HEMP, continued from Page 1

Not for the faint of heart, hemp agriculture requires a significant initial investment and involves numerous risks. Contrary to popular opinion, hemp grown for CBD is a very high maintenance crop. It must be grown in stages, monitored for regulatory compliance, harvested by hand and dried for shipping and processing.

Despite these difficulties, business and government leaders believe the hemp industry may offer struggling farmers a potential boost. Director of Delaware County Department of Economic Development, Glenn Nealis, explained that the hemp industry is “not a get-rich-quick deal, but it is a clear opportunity for people who do their homework, have a clear understanding of the investment and risks involved, and who are willing to work hard.”

Only in the past several years has hemp cultivation become legal again, through the Agricultural Act (farm bill) of 2014, which allowed state governments to set their own regulations for the cultivation of hemp and hemp-based products, especially CBD.

The farm bill of 2018, celebrated by hemp farmers and manufacturers, removed hemp-derived products from the list of Schedule I controlled substances, approving them for industrial growth in all fifty states. Jeff Bump, hemp farmer and president of Grow Hemp New York, further explains that this legislation also made legal the transport of hemp product across all fifty states, and allowed for crops to be insured against loss.

As a hemp-grower since December 2017, Jeff has spoken at three forums hosted



Young hemp plants being started in a greenhouse

by the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce (DCCC), drawing attendance from local government leaders, agricultural research and support agencies, as well as interested farmers and community members. Video of these presentations is available on the county chamber’s Facebook page.

A good-humored and direct man, Jeff begins by sharing his own story, all too familiar in this area: a struggling multi-generational dairy farm driven to sell off livestock and turn to hay production. When New York State hemp regulations went into effect, Jeff and his family, plus several

private investors, pulled together the resources to start their hemp farm in Windsor, Broome County, New York.

Almost two years later, this sixth-generation dairy farmer is now a consultant to ten other hemp growers, offering a sort of crash course - - Hemp 101.

Growing hemp for CBD is not like growing corn; seeds must be started and raised indoors until mature and strong enough to be planted outside, ideally in raised beds. Crops must consist of all female plants; frequent and regular inspections are strongly recommended to identify and remove male plants to prevent pollination which could ruin an entire crop.

To qualify as hemp under the law, plants must contain less than 0.3% THC. The chemical composition of crop samples must be tested throughout the growing season to ensure and enforce the established limit. Results higher than 0.3% render the plant illegal, then considered to be the “high” inducing marijuana plant. High quality hemp is composed of 10% CBD.

Hemp looks and smells just like marijuana, because they are the same plant but with different chemical compositions. That said, any growers are advised to notify local law enforcement parties of their license to grow hemp so as to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings.

There is no reliable machinery yet for harvesting hemp crops, which is currently done by hand. At an hourly rate of \$15/hour, a sixty-person temporary workforce of retirees, high school youth, and several family units, took six whole weeks to harvest Jeff’s forty thousand plants across a hundred acres of hemp fields.

Luckily, getting started does not require having a hundred acres of farmable land, but a minimum of ten is highly recommended. Seeds cost \$1 each, with plants averaging an investment of \$10 each, and a gross return of \$30-\$40 a plant with 10% CBD content. The upfront cost is likely to be near \$150K to get started.

Seed-to-bud operations that cover the whole production cycle are also not required for a start-up. Numerous possible branch industries exist, such as seed feminizing, seedling nurseries, crops, harvesting, and processing. Developing seeding, planting, and harvesting machinery is another area of potential.

Broome County, where a number of CBD processing and manufacturing plants are due to be opening, is quickly becoming the hemp center of New York State. Earlier this year, the Canadian marijuana company Canopy Growth, announced its investment of \$150 million to build an industrial park for the manufacturing of CBD products in Kirkwood, NY.

While the hemp industry offers much economic promise for our area, it does not seem to be the hoped-for silver bullet to save struggling farms. Growing hemp is not for everyone. But the sky is the limit for those with the resources, willingness to learn and work, and desire to get an edge on the market.

This article does not discuss industrial hemp grown for fiber, as it is not yet considered a viable option for this area.

MAYOR, continued from Page 3

This drug problem is creating a poverty crisis which, if unchecked, will lower our society’s capacity for and belief in a more humane way of living. This would be a truly tragic legacy to leave to future generations.

In these divisive times, we as human beings are at odds with each other over some of the most basic issues. Will impoverished family members continue to begrudge their children the opportunity of personal success, even if it means settling for enjoying this

success vicariously? Is it really in the best interests of humanity for the strongest to thrive while the weakest struggle hopelessly in poverty? What is our obligation, as family members, as neighbors, as Americans, as fellow human beings, to rescue those who have fallen on hard times, regardless of its cause? Do we believe that we have an inherent duty to future generations to raise the collective goodness of mankind?

MUSIC AT THE MARKET!

at the Franklin Farmers’ Market

2019 Performance Schedule

Rickety Fence	5/26, 6/23, 8/11
Folk, classic rock, and Americana	
John O’Connor	6/2, 9/15
Country, folk, and original songs	
Local Seisiun	6/9, 7/14, 9/22
Traditional acoustic Irish	
Hyzer Hillbillies	6/16, 7/21, 9/1
Folk and bluegrass	
John O’Connor & His Fellow Travelers	6/30
Country, folk, and original songs	
Bill Steely	7/7
Country singer/songwriter	
Skinny Cow Workshop	7/28
Singer/songwriters	
Colleen Kattau	8/4
Bilingual singer/songwriter	
Jason Starr	8/18, 9/29
Bluegrass, folk, singer/songwriter	
The Catskill Mountain Consort	8/25
Classical and original compositions	
The Old Masters	9/8
Jazz and standards	
Charles Eubanks	10/6, 10/13
Jazz keyboard	

Performances are on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sponsored by the New York State Council on the Arts, The A. Lindsay and Olive B. O’Connor Foundation, and the Delaware County Department of Economic Development.

READERS!


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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.ill@4c

The following issues are missing:
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VALUE, con't from Page 1

to get a good answer from the Internet, and here's why.

Zillow has a set of parameters that work well in urban or highly developed areas, where there's a lot of similar housing stock to compare. If your house is pretty much like fifty others within five miles of you, it's not hard to figure out values.

Here in upstate New York, we don't fit so neatly into Zillow's equations. There are too many variables. Two houses of similar age and size may seem comparable, but one sits on a hundred acres and another has an acre lot. One hasn't been updated since the Depression, and another has been gutted and remodeled in the past five years. One has a converted coal burning furnace (or maybe a functioning coal burner), a woodstove, knob-and-tube electrical

wiring, and a fuse box. It all works, but is not necessarily up to modern code. If the systems were updated, it would add thousands to the home's value.

Zillow doesn't understand upstate communities, either. Like all the big real estate websites, it paints with a very broad brush. In their analytical model, every community in Delaware and Otsego County is like every other. Those websites recognize that Cooperstown has luxury-level sale prices, which are an anomaly. They see that Oneonta has a lot of housing stock but they don't know why. Otsego, Franklin, Sidney, Unadilla and Walton are all pretty much the same to Zillow and its ilk.

If you live here, you know each of those communities is quite different. Each has its own features and its own challenges.

Any buyer looking for a home here knows it, too.

How, then, to figure a home's value? Generally, realtors do it through access to a huge database of active, pending and sold listings, and can refine by a long list of variables, ending up with what we call a *comparative market analysis*. Not so easy to do yourself.

In brief, we search for every property that is active, pending or sold in the past year within a reasonable distance of the subject house. We try to find houses of similar age, size, acreage and condition. If we can't find enough, we cast our net a bit wider, but never so wide as to include an area that simply doesn't compare. Once we've got at least three (preferably more) properties, we can add and deduct value for bedrooms, bathrooms, out-

buildings and custom features. Finally, we use our judgement. We've seen what sells and why. We know whether the market is hot or not. There's no formula for that.

The result is a pretty accurate picture of the fair market value of our client's property. We can usually calculate what the sale price will be within a few percentage points.

It's not magic. It's using local knowledge to predict what the market will bear: the price a buyer might be willing to pay for what's on offer, based on real information.

Technology hasn't yet figured out how to do that in a rural market. I suspect it never will.

Two other important factors to consider, whether you're dealing with a realtor or figuring your home's worth on your own, are sentiment and unrealistic expectations.

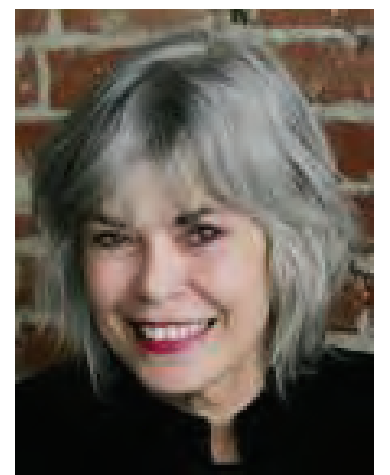
Sentiment adds no quantifiable value to your home, though it certainly adds value for you. Your home is more than a house. It's where you've raised your kids, where you spent happy summers, where your grandparents waited with hot cocoa after you went sledding, where you enjoy visits from your grandchildren. The feelings you have tied up in a house will absolutely influence your sense of its value, and make it hard to set a market price yourself. Sentiment won't add dollars to the sale price unless

it can be communicated to a buyer.

The other issue is unrealistic expectations. You know how much money you spent to fix that foundation, put on the new roof, update the bathroom. You know how much will make it worth selling. But you must adjust your expectations as you try to set a price. You may not get back the money you invested. If it's a down market, it's a down market.

Fortunately, we are not in a down market. There is an influx of young buyers escaping to the country, and they've already overrun the Hudson Valley and eastern Catskills. They'll be coming west soon, and that's going to be good news for our home values. Our prices look absolutely incredible to people used to paying half a million dollars for a third-floor walkup apartment.

Maybe Zillow will even decide that my house is worth what I paid for it.



Susan Barnett is a writer and a Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker with Keller Williams Upstate NY Properties in Oneonta. She lives in Franklin.

VOLUNTEER, con't from Page 3

application.

Making New Friends: This is a benefit you might not expect, but when you volunteer, you easily make new friends. Volunteering puts you side-by-side with like-minded people who care about the same things that you do. If there is a cause you both care deeply about, it's likely that you'll have other things in common as well. Whatever your passions and interests are, you can likely find a volunteer organization where you'll be able to find your "people."

Let's look at the **Franklin Free Library**.

Carla Nordstrom, chair of Friends of the Library, says: "The Friends do a number of things to support the library. We cover for the librarians on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friends raise money through book

sales and bake sales, which allow the library to do some extra things, like the recent purchase of more large print books, or planting flower boxes. Volunteers help with children's programs like the holiday party, and also lead story

hours. Become a trained volunteer librarian."

Wendy Barckhaus, Director of FFL, adds that volunteers can help set up for an event, assist in maintaining the library collection or give a library program on a subject of their interest

or expertise. In the past, local authors have discussed their books, travelers have spoken about and shared photos of trips. Recently, a forester from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation presented a "How To" of Tree Pruning.

"I'd say, first and foremost, we need volunteers to man the desk on the days we don't work," says Assistant Director Xina Sheehan. "Coming in and working a shift is the most vital role of the volunteers. But also, we are very grateful to have help with our fundraising sales. We gladly accept baked donations for our bake sales!" Sheehan adds, "We have school kids who come in to fill some community service hours." One high school student has shoveled snow for the library for two years.

Other students have assisted with the maintenance of the books. Ev-

ery year, for the New Old Franklin Day, members of the boys' and girls' soccer teams move the many boxes of books from the basement of the library to the lawn in front of the Franklin Stage Company and help unpack for the grand book sale. Volunteers set up and strike the tent while another group mans the sales desk. This year, for the first time, FFL added a smaller winter book sale for which volunteers sorted and set up the books, and worked during the actual sale.

If you have other ideas or talents to volunteer or would just like to help, please contact the librarians to discuss possibilities, by phone: (607) 829-2941, or email: fr.ill@4cls.org.

This article is first in a series about volunteering in our area, inspired by a conversation between the authors about raising awareness about the many local opportunities to make a difference.

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RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS.	SALES	SELLER	BUYER
8/03/18	Dunk Hill Rd	38.39	Rural Vac>10	64,000	40,000	Armstrong, Daniel V	Diangelo, Michael
8/08/18	2047 Russell Rd	13.72	Rural Res	102,000	35,000	Fannie Mae	White, Gail
8/10/18	Blue School Rd	154.50	Rural Vac>10	160,000	-	Halstead, Kenneth R	Boning, Christopher (R)
8/17/18	Grange Hall Rd	6.30	Rural Vac<10	19,000	8,000	Nunnally, Scott D	Thorp, Allen
8/20/18	9154 County Highway 16	2.00	1 Family Res	89,000	-	Mitchell, Joseph C	Mitchell, Douglas (R)
8/22/18	398 Main St (2)	4.80	1 Family Res	150,000	-	O'Brien, Marion	Butler, Kathleen (R)
8/22/18	498 Olin Evans Rd	5.50	Rural Res	108,000	175,000	Lupo, Salvatore	157 Saratoga Corp
8/23/18	Ceresna Rd	15.98	Rural Vac>10	-	40,709	Williams, Daria	Sanford, Richard
9/05/18	288 Otego St	0.17	1 Family Res	90,000	165,500	Knox, Douglas L	Tarbell, Bryan Floyd
9/05/18	3560 County Highway 14	4.70	Rural Vac<10	20,000	19,000	Schinnerer, Richard	Lynch, James
9/11/18	999 E Handsome Bk Rd	3.59	1 Family Res	84,000	17,250	Wells Fargo Bank Nat Ass	CR 2018 LLC
9/14/18	528 Round Top Rd	5.80	1 Family Res	127,000	142,000	Smalling, Linda	Gravelin, Mark D
9/21/18	6501 State Highway 357	15.10	Rural Res	98,000	220,000	Hillis, Ethel	Haner, Scott W
9/24/18	Pomeroy Rd	79.00	Vac Farmland*	74,000	125,000	Koopman, Ralph W	Jones, Ryan
9/28/18	4428 County Highway 14	0.32	1 Family Res(B)	90,000	155,000	Phillips Gaetano, Rachel	Schlafer, Jael A
10/01/18	Ceresna Rd	14.85	Rural Vac>10		38,000	Williams, Daria	Ruff, Michael
10/02/18	Tupper Hill Rd	15.00	Rural Vac>10	26,000	33,000	Davidson, Douglas	Staffa, Vincent F
10/05/18	467 Henry Edwards Rd	4.00	1 Family Res	96,000	118,450	Orelowitz, Claire M	Tyrell, Patricia A
10/09/18	6374 State Highway 357	27.36	Rural Res	175,000	192,000	Little, Lorraine M	Fairchild, Connie
10/15/18	375 Main St	0.13	Office Bldg.	47,000	62,900	Wallace, Michael S	Paxton, Michael
10/18/18	10830 County Highway 21	25.77	Rural Res & Ag	165,000	130,000	Batalion, Nathan B	Brown, Steven
10/26/18	117 Case Hill Rd	0.13	1 Family Res	48,000	50,000	Parcells, Balcom	Quinn, William
10/29/18	999 E Handsome Bk Rd	3.59	1 Family Res	84,000	39,500	CR 2018 LLC	Rodgers, Brissa
11/09/18	Tupper Hill Rd	20.37	Rural Vac >10	41,000	39,000	Pedersen, Vic	D'Amato, Thomas
11/13/18	323 Round Top Rd	1.00	1 Family Res	88,000	105,000	Sliwa, Elizabeth	White, Robert
11/14/18	678 Henry Edwards Rd	31.06	Rural Res *	200,000	300,000	St. Innocent's Retreat	Coulter, George
11/19/18	Ed Klug Rd	5.50	Rural Vac <10	10,000	15,000	Leva, Umberto	Leva, Joseph F (R)
11/19/18	315 Center St	0.30	1 Family Res	160,000	165,000	Weiss, Jonithan A	Marsh, Janet L
11/21/18	Tupper Hill Rd	20.37	Rural Vac >10	41,000	39,000	Pipczynski, Thomas R	D'Amato, Nicholas
11/21/18	1670 Tupper Hill Rd	31.00	Rural Res	113,000	140,000	Pipczynski, Thomas R	D'Amato, Thomas
12/04/18	Pomeroy Rd	33.75	Rural Vac >10	400,000	20,000	Wallace, Michael	Stanley, Kirk
12/05/18	10479 State Highway 357	1.20	1 Family Res	195,000	10,000	Williams, Heather	Divita, Andrew (R)
12/06/18	287 Overlook Dr	9.24	1 Family Res	140,000	183,000	Gilmer, William	Rodriquez, Victor
12/11/18	Round Top Rd	9.28	Rural Vac <10	26,000	35,500	Losurdo-Santiago, Donna	White, Robert
12/12/18	4379 County Highway 14	1.28	1 Family Res	77,000	125,000	Kelley, Timothy D	Lockup LLC
12/13/18	846 Post Rd	28.28	1 Family Res	256,000	270,000	Christie, Joseph	Hunce, Joseph G
12/17/18	6396 County Highway 21	6.80	1 Family Res	126,000	145,000	Menyhart, Robert	Azmat, Sahibzadaabdul
12/19/18	Grange Hall Rd	40.6	Abandoned Ag	37,000	26,450	H4 Properties LLC,	Jesus is Lord Church
12/20/18	2059 Rich Rd	2.50	1 Family Res	65,000	22,500	Scarzafava, Jo (NW)	Kaplow, Robert
1/10/19	9910 County Highway 21	0.58	1 Family Res	115,000	110,000	Gelin, David	Anderson, Charles M
1/10/19	7000 State Highway 357	0.75	1 Family Res	110,000	95,000	Scarimbolo, Michael	Maricle, Scott A
1/11/19	County Highway 16	12.45	Rural Vac >10	29,000	25,000	Kartzmer, Kim	Scanlan, Kim
1/22/19	1006 Sherman Hill Rd	6.00	1 Family Res	90,000	162,500	Decker, Steven C	Anderson, Erin
1/29/19	7025 State Highway 357	14.90	Rural Res	175,000	125,000	Stalter, Lois (Estate) (NW)	Congdon, Michael P
2/05/19	198 Frank Slawson Rd	10.88	Rural Res & Ag	110,000	100,000	Pickhardt, Edwin W	Pickhardt, Eric (R)
2/08/19	4467 County Highway 14	0.12	1 Family Res	72,000	84,800	Crowley, Timothy J	Zafra, Adan
2/15/19	4466 County Highway 14	0.83	1 Family Res	180,000	145,000	Cummings, Marie	John R. O'Connor Liv. Tr.
2/20/19	10405 County Highway 21	78.6	Rural Res	185,000	230,000	Ross, Stephen	Carneiro, Leonel
3/06/19	Bissell Rd	5.52	Rural Vac <10	17,000	10,000	Grimes, William	Brown, Eugene
3/07/19	10024 County Highway 21	14.43	Vac w/Imprv	45,000	49,100	Young William (Est.) (NW)	Robinson, Timothy L Jr
3/07/19	1059 Grange Hall Rd	17.58	Rural Res *	94,000	195,000	Tzortzatos, Markos	Welch, John
3/22/19	1025 Snake Hill Rd	22.76	Rural Vac >10	45,000	55,500	Ebert, William	Riordan, Raymond

(B) Business Included

* Sub. Change

(NW) Not Warranty

(R) Relative



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BUDGET, con't from Page 1

two smallest towns (Bovina and Masonville) budgeted less than \$1.0 million. Almost half the towns budgeted \$1.2 to 1.8 million. Franklin is in this group. Five towns that are slightly larger in area and/or population (Andes, Colchester, Hancock, Middletown, and Roxbury) had the largest budgets at \$3.0 to 3.8 million. Towns with the largest populations (Delhi, Sidney, and Walton) had intermediate budgets at \$2.0 to 2.7 million.

In our county, there are nine towns (out of the nineteen) with modest budgets: Davenport, Deposit, Franklin, Hamden, Harpersfield, Kortright, Meredith, Stamford, and Tompkins. These have a population of one to three thousand people and an area of 40 to 100 square miles. Three of these are our immediate neighbors: Davenport, Hamden, and Meredith.

Franklin has the largest budget of these nine with expenses of \$1.76 million in 2019. Arguably, it is also the largest town of the group, with both the second largest population (2,411 in the 2010 census), and second largest area (51.8 square miles). Davenport has the larger population of 2,865 people, and Tompkins has the larger area of 104.4 square miles.

At last year's budget workshop, the controversy over the salary for Franklin Justice Arndt raised the question: how do you set a fair salary for officials in what is not a free market?

The Cost of Elected Officials:

The State of New York considers salaries of elected officials to be of special interest, asking that they be listed in the legal notice of the public hearing on the

Figures for most towns are taken from their Annual Update Documents filed with the New York Office of the State Comptroller and available at: <http://www2.osc.state.ny.us/transparency/LocalGov/LocalGovIntro.cfm>. The exception is the town of Davenport, which does not file mandatory financial reports.

The smallest salaries go to councilmen (more like honorariums), ranging from \$1,200 to \$3,000 each. Franklin pays the least, a pattern that we will see repeated for other elected officials. Likely this covers little more than their expenses.

The next smallest salaries for elected officials go to justices, despite their long hours and great responsibilities. Most towns in this group paid \$10,000 to \$13,000, but Franklin paid just \$5,500 -- not including a raise of \$500 this year. Franklinites owe a debt of gratitude to our justice, Gary Arndt, for doing so much for so little.

Consistently, supervisors are paid more than justices. In our group of nine towns, most received \$18,000 to \$24,000, which includes approximately \$12,000 from the county. Exceptions are towns of Davenport and Tompkins, where supervisors are paid over \$30,000, and Franklin where Taggart is paid under \$16,000 -- almost a two-fold difference.

Salaries for clerks show the greatest variability, ranging from \$9,800 (Hamden) to \$38,600 (Harpersfield) -- almost a four-fold difference. Franklin paid the next smallest at \$11,250. The Franklin clerk also serves as tax collector (\$3,250) and the registrar of vital statistics (\$1,000) for a

\$46,000 and \$50,000, with Franklin again paying the least at \$46,200. While our superintendent, Mark Laing, received the lowest salary of these nine towns, Franklin has the largest network of roads to maintain. (What is more, Franklin's network is the fourth largest in the county after Hancock, Middletown, and Andes.) Arguably, Laing should have the largest salary of this group. In the last fifteen years, our superintendent has received \$12,880 in salary increases. Before 2017, annual increases were typically \$1,000 or more, but since then salary increases have shrunk to \$500 annually.

Despite having the largest budget of this group of nine towns, the Franklin board has been paying its elected officials the least -- balancing its budget at their expense. To provide even minimal parity with the group would require Franklin to increase pay by: justice \$4,000 (73 percent), superintendent \$3,000 (6 percent), clerk \$3,000 (27 percent), supervisor \$2,000 (13 percent), and councilmen four times \$400 (33 percent) or \$1,600, although the increase for the clerk is somewhat arbitrary. Arguably, Mr. Laing's increase should be \$4,000.

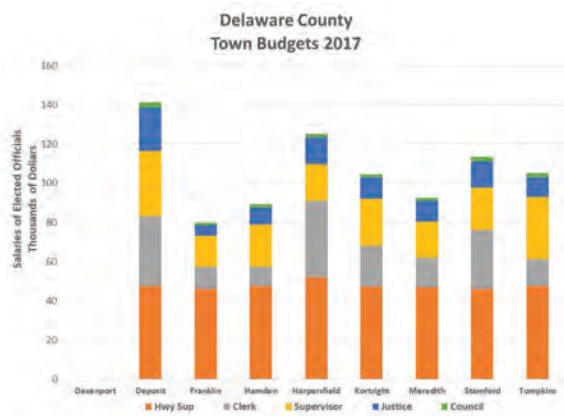
Typically, the board increases our property taxes by the amount allowed by the state soft cap, which in recent years has been mostly in the range of 1.3 to 2.3 percent above the previous year -- roughly \$20,000 to 40,000 in 2020. To catch-up in the next year would require that half the typical budget increase be allocated to salaries, which is unlikely.

Officials can be compensated with more than just salary. In 2017, our town officials' benefits totaled \$57,200: Social Security (\$9,024), state retirement system (\$15,500), and disability and medical insurance (\$32,676). Among this group of nine towns, the benefits packages for officials run \$41,000 (Tompkins) to \$69,000 (Stamford). Franklin salaries are well below average, but its benefits are above average.

Social Security payments are mandatory for officials, but state retirement payments may be declined. Insurance is optional, and Franklin pays for only two full time officials, one elected and the other appointed -- a benefit of over \$16,000 each. But when needed, insurance

total of \$15,500. Clerks are paid more than supervisors in Deposit, Harpersville, and Stamford

The largest salaries go to the only elected officials who work full-time (and then some), the highway superintendents. All these towns paid between



budget. These notices are published before the election in November, and the public hearing on the budget is held after the election. We will be comparing the figures from the 2017 budget, the most recent year for which all numbers were available at the time of this writing.



The Newsletter of Franklin Local

Editorial Board

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Editor
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register

P.O. Box 258

Franklin, NY 13775

or by email: nfr@franklinlocal.org**What are we about?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE JOIN US!

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

franklinlocal.org**Printed in Norwich NY by Sun Printing, Inc.**

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is priceless. Our previous town clerk, Dawn Ritz, quit in part because the board would not provide insurance for that position, which is only part time.

The tentative 2020 budget for Franklin will be presented by our deputy financial officer at the budget workshop on October 1st. Before that, suggestions can be made to Supervisor Taggart, the chief financial officer. After that, the public hearing on this budget will be November 6th, the day after the general

election.

This article is the first in an occasional series on how Franklin tax dollars are spent.





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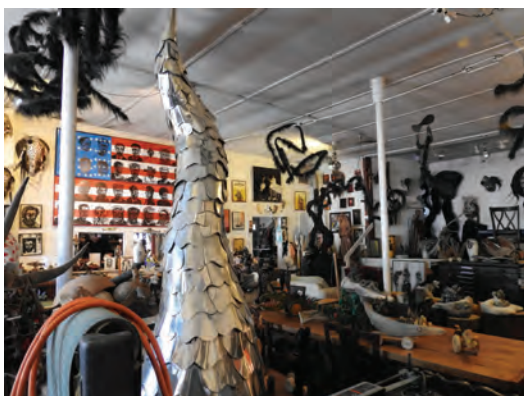
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THE 2019 STAGECOACH RUN ART FESTIVAL



The Treadwell Museum of Fine Art is also Joseph Kurhajec's work space and always a must see.



Celebrating 24 years of the arts in the great Western Catskills: Delaware County's Stagecoach Run Art Festival happens Saturday and Sunday, July 6-7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine!

Artists in and around Treadwell and Franklin are once again opening their studios, homes, barns and galleries to host friends and visitors from all over New York State for this two day long, unique art experience.

From realist to conceptual, and conventional to experiential, 2019's roster includes artists working in a wide range of media. Participation in the Festival is by invitation only, ensuring that work is both diverse and of a high caliber. The festival mission is to spotlight local artists, strengthen relationships among them and the community, and demonstrate the cultural and financial value artists bring to this region.

Many visitors begin their self-guided tours at the Bright Hill Literary Center in Treadwell, where a month-long exhibition and sale of Stagecoach Run participating artists' works will be staged in salon style. It's an opportunity to get a more accurate idea of what's on the tour, and maybe where to head first.

In addition to the studio tour, the Franklin Stage Company in the Village of Franklin opens their 23rd season on Friday night with a show hand-picked for Festival audiences: *Horsetale!* The show runs through the weekend, so check their website (FranklinStageCompany.org) for info, times and reservations.

Admission, as always, is free. Maps will be available across the region leading up to the event, and at all of the venues during the event. The map is also downloadable via the festival's website (StagecoachRun.com) at any time.

Set designer and author Marjorie Bradley Kellogg shows set drawings and models at the Freck-Beal Studio Barn.

(Photos courtesy of GreatWesternCatskills.com)



The "Studio Barn" at Freck-Beal Studios seems like it was built for events like Stagecoach Run. And its creekside setting couldn't be more perfect. Seen here, paintings by Colleen O'Hara (right wall) and Chelsea Gibson



Set designer and author Marjorie Bradley Kellogg shows set drawings and models at the Freck-Beal Studio Barn.



Fisher's Barn was converted to studio space ages ago. It plays host to 14 artists during the Festival. At center, artist Charlie Bremer.