

BUDGET MATTERS: Town Spending

By Brian Brock

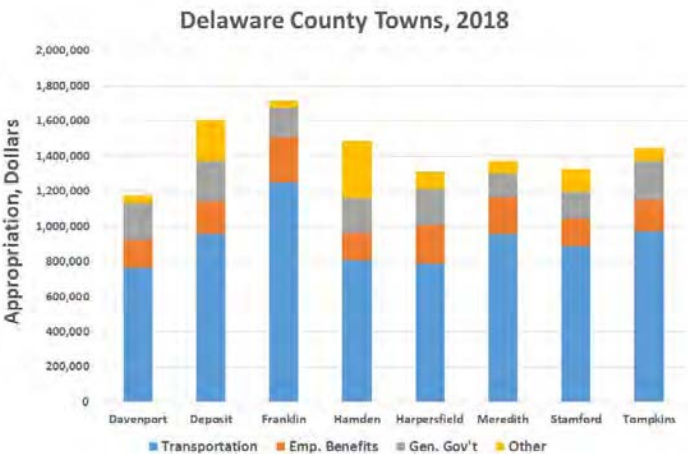
Last year, the Franklin town government spent \$1.72 million. Most of that came from property taxes (66 percent) and state aid (27 percent). Where did this all go, and how did this spending compare to similar towns?

Financially, the nineteen towns in Delaware County fall naturally into four groups. In 2018, the two smallest towns (Bovina and Masonville) budgeted less than \$1.0 million. Almost half the towns budgeted \$1.3 to 1.7 M. Franklin is among

this group. Five towns that are slightly larger in area and/or population (Andes, Colchester, Hancock, Middletown, and Roxbury) had the largest budgets at \$2.6 to 4.0 M. Towns with the largest populations (Delhi, Sidney, and Walton) had intermediate budgets at \$1.8 to 2.2 M.

In our county, there are nine towns (out of 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.

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RANSOMWARE ATTACKS FRANKLIN

By Helen McLean
and Bill Gruber

International intrigue visited Franklin recently in the form of ransomware on the village computer.

Ransomware is a form of computer hack or malware attack that scrambles (encrypts) data, making it unusable. In order to unencrypt the information, ransom must be paid. This scrambling or encrypting is reversible with a correct password, which is realistically impossible to guess, and can only be provided by the attacker/hacker.

Typically, extortionists demand payment in exchange for the password, which will unlock the files. The payment is in the form

of an untraceable currency, such as Bitcoin or other cryptocurrency.

Trust is an issue in all ransomware cases because paying the ransom does not guarantee that the victim will receive the password to unscramble their files. But even criminals realize that no one will pay if the probability of getting the files back is low.

In the Village of Franklin case, the files were restored. The Village has also contracted with professional support to ensure that this is unlikely to happen again. (For the purpose of this article, we reached out to their computer support for this incident to get more details, but have not heard back.)

Could this happen to you or your organization? And can you prevent it?

Currently, the primary

See ATTACK, con't on Pg. 19

ELECTION DAY IS
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 5TH.

DONT
FORGET
TO
VOTE!

MAKING REMOTE WORK

By Shana Ko

After what felt like six years of summer in New Orleans, I longed for crisp air and snowy days. I needed the stillness to think. Moving north would provide greater flexibility for my husband's career, but what should I do next? I wasn't ready to go back to a regular nine to five job after experiencing the freedom of self-employment. We managed our IT consulting company remotely for years, but those contracts were coming to an end and it was clear that we needed a new direction.

Despite the dreariness of mid-February, Franklin felt warm and inviting. A sunny kitchen caught my eye and enticed me to view a house for sale on Main

SPEEDING THROUGH SIDNEY CENTER

By Michael Sellitti

When the Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) was formed over thirteen years ago, the founding members began with identifying the issues in the hamlet that were most important to them. One problem immediately identified and unanimously agreed upon was speeding.

Speeding through Sidney Center has become commonplace, despite the big 30 MPH sign or the number of "speed zone ahead" warnings. Nothing has made a noticeable difference. SCIG members, especially those who live within the hamlet's limits, made it a personal priority



Electronic speed sign in Unadilla to address this issue. For years, discussions went on with town and county officials, presentations were made at meetings, petitions circulated and calls made to the Sheriff's Department and State Police, pleading for help with this problem. Those concerns

See SPEED, con't on Page 16



Shana Ko at work in Franklin

Street. We didn't move forward with that house, but the visit ignited a curiosity that kept me checking area real estate listings daily. I learned online that Franklin had a school, a theater, a library, restaurants, businesses and a park with nature trails. Nestled in the Catskill foothills, the village had all the quaintness of a forgotten time, while still feeling modern and livable. We discovered that you could own a piece of history in an idyllic setting.

The perils and pitfalls of purchasing an old home sight unseen from New Orleans is a story for another time. Fast-forwarding through tales of self-doubt and budget shortages, we arrived here in Franklin a little over a year ago with one kid, two cats and a commitment to work from

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Your Neighbor's View...

To the Editor:

I am responding to a recent article by Brian Brock. ["Franklin River Walk", Summer 2019]

I do believe that the concept is a fine idea for an area dedicated to nature and nature hikes. What I would oppose is the inclusion of all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes. Those mechanical devices, though enjoyable to those that have them, are a detriment to nature. In the winter, snow mobiles would also be a detriment to nature. You can't have both machines and people hiking or cross-country skiing on the same trails and the latter hoping to experience nature. They do not reasonably mix.

For people that are physically immobile, there should be an allowance for their use of a mechanical device to enjoy the experience in a quiet and respectful manner.

If the proposed trail is carried out to fruition, how will its intended use be reg-

ulated and controlled? People, as we know them, will do what they can get away with and act in the way that suits their desires. Will a position of ranger be created to carry out this task? I own a property that is on the opposite side of the Creek and bounded by Wally Rd.. We like to enjoy the peace and quiet there and the opportunity to witness various wildlife. That is, until the ATV's and dirt bikes are active on the opposite side of the creek. On the past Memorial Day we were serenaded all day by the roar of a number of dirt bikes on the opposite side of the Creek. Not the serene atmosphere that we were hoping for.

My hope is that as the planning for this trail progresses, all aspects of its use and regulation will be carefully considered to ensure its proper use and the protection of its neighbors.

Respectfully,
Thomas Hodges

BATTLING NIHILISM IN THE AGE OF WTF

These are harrowing times. The world seems to be going to hell in a handbasket, wrapped and delivered by those claiming to govern, serve and provide. Intelligence, truth, or justice seem no longer to be valued or aspired to.

So harrowing that even the most stoically optimistic might ask: *what's the point?* If nothing seems to matter, if there are no rules and no individual or group accountability...well, why should anyone give a #*&\$?

As a psychology major in college, I was first exposed to existentialism in the classroom. This philosophy is concerned with finding self and meaning in life through free will, choice and personal responsibility. Nietzsche's concept of the *ubermensch* (or superman) as the ultimate expression of an evolved human appealed to, even excited me, but I found the connected concept of nihilism perplexing.

If existentialism directs each of us to find our own meaning in life's experience, nihilism is the darkly whispered question: does what we do mean anything? Is it worth caring about anything at all? A step-parent to apathy, nihilism drains away all meaning, leading to despair or a lack of belief in anything at all. Not family. Not God. Not self. Nothing. Except perhaps the desire to de-

stroy anything that points toward meaning and belief.

Recently, I found myself reflecting on a research paper I wrote for that class, postulating that at any given moment, both the progressive evolution of self through existential drive and the corrosive emptiness of nihilism co-exist - like yin and yang - each growing and shrinking through time in contrast to the other.

When applied to current events, this theory would put us in the midst of, or at least on a steady climb toward, a nihilistic height of meaninglessness. But despite today's general feelings of angst, seeing life as a continuing cycle can lead us to a level of acceptance or understanding of how we got to this point, perhaps even to a bit of hope for the future.

Another study that I have been immersed in is the yogic philosophy which in part addresses the present moment, aiming at the shedding of egoic influences and at attaining a perspective of non-attachment.

These principles do not erase our past or remove the future. They do not require a complete loss of self, only a letting go of the illusion of self. Non-attachment is not about nothingness, but about letting go of the way the world wants us, thus accepting the way we are. It asks that we seek fulfillment by turning inward, through a process of reflective awareness, inquiry and discovery. Through this process we change and as a result, the way we view the world changes also.

In modern terms, this

means the undoing of social conditioning and preconceived notions in order to discover our authentic selves, our true purpose.

And for me, here lies the intersection of existentialism and yoga. As the Ancient Greeks might say, thou must know thyself to become thyself. Each of us can choose to live life as an intentional process of development or as a series of random, meaningless events. In either case, we are subject to the consequences of our choices.

Let's go back to giving a #*&\$.

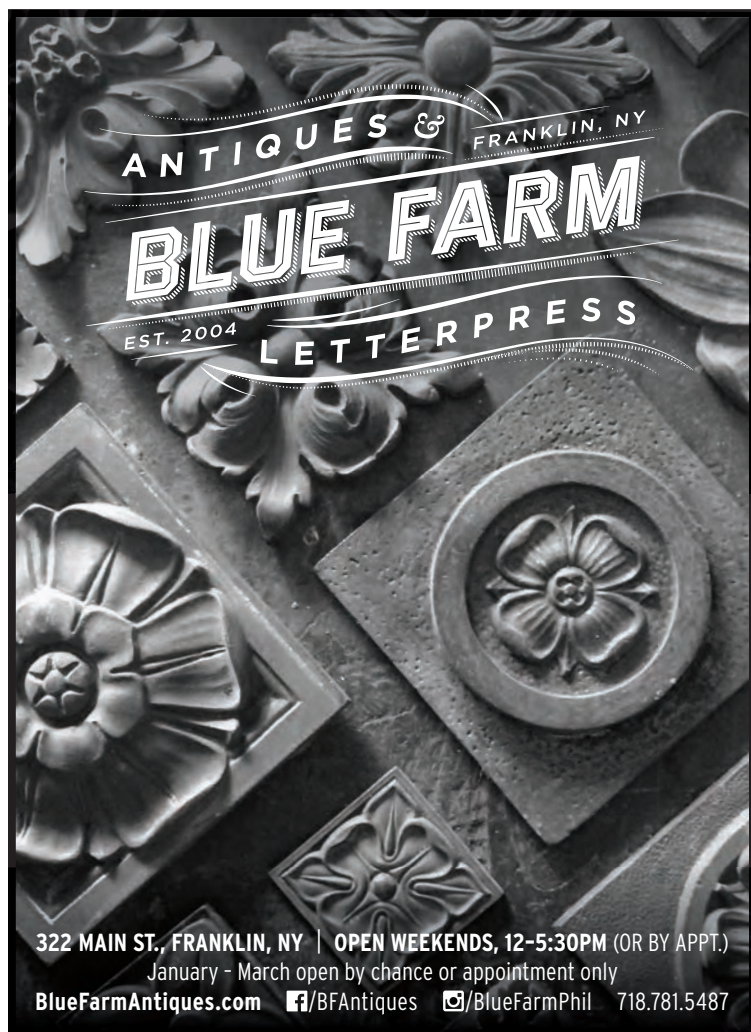
Doing so - or not - is a choice. Not just one choice, but a choice made constantly and daily. Since we need not look far these days to lose heart, what determines whether we succumb or rise above?

We must choose to have faith in possibility and find the courage to think for ourselves. Then we are free to create the *ubermensch* in each of us.

Only when we believe something is possible, when we pursue it with curiosity and purpose, only then does it have a chance to become reality. When we stop believing and accept only what we are told, we give away our power.

For every one of us can be powerful. We each have the choice to step into that power. In making that choice, we can create meaning and find purpose. In accepting responsibility for that choice, we counter the forces of nihilism and climb towards our highest potential.

Patricia Tyrell
Franklin



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HOLIDAY EVENTS IN FRANKLIN

Franklin Holiday Market and Christmas Stroll

Saturday December 7th
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Throughout the Village of Franklin

- Rotary Pancake Breakfast
- Holiday Story Time
- Grandma's Pantry and Luncheon
- Winter Book Sale
- Trains and Trees for Christmas
- Build-Your-Own Hot Chocolate
- Firehouse Holiday Market
- Christmas Stroll House Tour
- Senior Class Dinner
- Meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus

YOUR YULETIDE YARD: IS IT A WINNER?

Judging of Christmas decorations throughout village will occur on Thursday evening, December 5th.

Prizes of \$25 each are awarded in three categories of yuletide decorations:

- Traditional
- Original
- Kids

Last year's winners:

Traditional - Gary Heimbauer
Original - Shirley Ferguson
Kids - Carl Lobdell

**Sponsored by the Greater Franklin
Chamber of Commerce**

SAVE THE DATE!

THE FRANKLIN FREE LIBRARY'S WINTER BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

IN THE LIBRARY'S NEWLY RENOVATED
BASEMENT: 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

BOOKS, CDS, DVDS - ALL FOR SALE
ONLY \$1.00 EACH



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



VOLUNTEERING IN FRANKLIN: THE NEW STORE IN TOWN

By Louise Hebbard
and Lynne Kemen

(The second in our series about community involvement and volunteering.)

In many places, particularly in small, rural communities, volunteer fire companies provide the service for fire-fighting and medical emergencies. Franklin is no exception. We spoke with Fire Chief Thomas Worden and President Ruth Snow to learn more about the Franklin Fire Department and its volunteer opportunities.

What does the Franklin Fire Department do?

Well, they fight fires, help with motor vehicle accidents, deal with fallen trees, and provide Emergency Medical Service (EMS). They give support to other fire departments as needed. This summer, they helped search for and



Ass't Chief Downin at a house fire find a missing child. The firehouse is a designated emergency shelter with a generator for power and a full kitchen to provide food services. They host the Annual Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Every winter, they remove the trucks and make the garage space available for the Winter Holiday Market featuring local vendors. They also participate in fundraisers, such as the re-

See FIRE, con't on Page 17

Report by Susan Barnett

The little village storefront next to the firehouse best known as the Hildebrand building will be the home of a new Franklin business.

Karin Bowker has opened Mercantile On Main there with her son, Kenny. The store will feature country primitive furniture and decor. Bowker's previous business, Karin's Kountry Kubby, has been a

popular store in Walton for three years, and she says she is known to many people from her business presence at Delaware County Fair.

Bowker says she plans to be open from Thursdays to Sunday year 'round and may offer classes during the winter months. The building was bought last year by Los Angeles film director Michael Paxton. He hopes eventually to use the building as a showcase for his Hollywood memorabilia collection.

Mercantile on Main is now open for business.

Hometown Christmas Concert Featuring the Catskill Brass

Saturday December 21st, 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Village of Franklin

Sponsored by Tom Morgan
and Erna Morgan-McReynolds

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

WHAT REALLY IS FRANKLIN'S BRAND?

At the recent public information meeting at the Town Hall regarding the proposal to build a Dollar General store in the Town of Franklin, I was impressed with the responses from the audience, both pro and con.

One Franklin resident's position was especially evocative. He stated that in marketing terms, Franklin has a special brand that makes it unique within the Western Catskill region. With its abundance of charming mid-19th century homes (I am paraphrasing) and its stately Main Street architecture, the village is fortunate to have remained so well-preserved. The resident maintained that the addition of a Dollar General would significantly and visually compromise this brand. Others agreed, expressing their concern that property values would be negatively affected and the brand would be blemished.

Another town resident, speaking in favor of the Dollar General, reflected on an instance where she found herself having to feed unexpected guests. She was unable to find what she needed at the local Quickway and was forced to drive out of town to purchase her supplies. To her, the proposed store would offer the convenience of shopping locally with the additional benefit of competitive pricing.

In the back of the room sat the owner of the property directly across from the proposed site of the store, the person who would lose the most if the store is built. He is a successful businessman who returned to his hometown several years ago to purchase one of the most prized homes in the area. He has invested a great deal of time and money to craft a picturesque and valuable property. It would be a bitter pill to look across the street every day and every evening to view a convenience store in all its gaudy, florescent glory, replacing what used to be a pleasant tree-studded wetland.

Regardless of the outcome of this proposal, there will be those who will be pleased and those who will be upset. But how will this affect Franklin's brand? To answer this, we need a better sense of what Franklin's brand really is.

I am a history buff with a deep appreciation for old houses. One reason that I moved to Franklin thirteen years ago was its physical charm. But having lived and worked in Delaware County for most of my life, I've learned a bit about the qualities that our various hamlets and villages possess. Some are more welcoming, some more humble, others more active, and others less cohesive. What are some other qualities that speak to Franklin's brand?

Good neighbors: A few winters ago, when I was recovering from a hip replacement, my good neighbor on my left took it upon himself to shovel my walks after snowfalls. More recently, my neighbor on my right mowed my front lawn when it looked like I wasn't keeping up with it. Other neighbors have organized progressive dinners to which we have been invited to participate as well barbeques and other get-togethers.

Citizen involvement: I'm so impressed with the history of the Village Park. Not the

town or the village but community members themselves conceived the idea, rolled up their sleeves, cleared the land, planted and manicured the front lots, and now are developing walking trails up the hill behind. Healthy communities have residents who take ownership of the needs of the community.

Emergency Services: With so many small communities having trouble recruiting and training firemen and emergency squad members, Franklin still has an active and robust volunteer fire department and emergency squad. This is an asset that is essential to a healthy community.

Culture and education: With the Franklin Stage Company, our excellent public library, three book clubs, a lively farmers' market, and a decent school with very good community support, Franklin is a good place to raise children and to stimulate minds.

A caring community: Nothing says more about Franklin's 'brand' than the community-wide response to the tragedy that almost took the lives of two young boys at the end of the first day of school last month. Within only days after the accident, a fundraiser was organized and hundreds of well-wishers from all walks of life, many of whom did not know the boys or their families, showed up to express their support and donate their money.

But to tell you the truth, I would have been surprised if people from this community *hadn't* come out for this fundraiser. There's an understanding that this is just what we do in Franklin. This is our brand and this is what really counts.

Whether we get a Dollar General here or not has little to do with the essence of Franklin's brand. What defines us is that we care about each other and we recognize that this village of Franklin is a good place to live.

GROWING OUR FARMERS' MARKET

By Patricia Tyrell

The Franklin Farmers' Market (FFM) is sponsored by the volunteer community organization Franklin Local, Ltd., and by the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce. It was started and developed by the vision and dedication of Ellen Curtis, market manager for its first eleven years. As a testament to Franklin Local's mission of sustainable living and community building, the market has become a Sunday staple for people to shop locally, to gather and talk, or maybe just to enjoy a Fokish cardamom twist and coffee while listening to the music.

The FFM's thirteenth season hosted a number of familiar vendors and a couple of new faces, as well as featuring weekly performances by local and area musicians. Fortunate in the generosity of our area's artists, the market has been graced with the donation of a beautiful market poster for each of the last eleven seasons. This year's poster was created by Dee Singer.



Artist Dee Singer shows her poster

Next to the stunning poster, "Music at the Market" certainly stole the show in 2019. Music has been a part of the market for a while now, with local musicians John O'Connor and Jason Starr volunteering their talents to entertain market patrons. In 2018, a few new artists were added, including Rickety Fence, Local Seisiun and Bill Steely's Skinny Cow Singer/Songwriter Workshop.

Seeking to further expand the music program and its audience, but most especially, to pay the musicians for their skills, Franklin Local secured funding from the A. Lindsay & Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, the Delaware County Department of Economic Development, and the NYS Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by



The Franklin Farmers' Market in May, 2019 Photo by Helen McLean

the Roxbury Arts Group. Through these efforts, each market Sunday featured one of an eclectic mix of folk, bluegrass, jazz, classic rock, traditional Irish, and original blends. Music at the Market captured the ears and hearts of locals and visitors alike, an appreciation documented by weekly surveys taken by market visitors. [See survey results at right.]



Hare and Feather Farm

The survey also expressed the general disappointment that there was no longer a hot food vendor. For years, beef or veggie gyros, and chicken speedies were cooked to order every Sunday. In the absence of this long-time favorite, occasional fundraising efforts featuring grilled food and sno-cones were made on behalf of an area church for the benefit of youth to attend a leadership conference.

But at a farmers' market, there is always plenty to eat, be it freshly baked breads, cakes, scones, and Italian cookies, was able to significantly surpass last year's fundraising efforts for St. Jude's Children's



Cordwood Acres

Hospital and the Tunnels for Towers program which benefits NYC firefighters, raising over \$2,000.

Stepping outside the meat-locker, Meg Shivers of Empire Angus helped to round out a season of grilling for a cause, featuring her own family farm-ground angus beef. A total of \$100 was generously donated to the Franklin Community Education Foundation. The Foundation also debuted its likely-to-become-famous lemonade in the refreshment tent, briefly adding

variety beyond the usual coffee, herbal tea, and water available for sale.

Special activities, especially for children, were also available throughout the market season. Free rock painting again coincided with the annual Stagecoach Run Art Festival. Renowned artist Joseph Kurhajec provided the chance to hand-craft clay turtles. Bonnie Laugen of IzzaBon Jewelry offered weekly bracelet-making for a donation.

Beyond music and activities, a continued effort was made, via participation in the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, to ensure that local, healthy food is available to any and all, regardless of income.

Attempts were also made to become a SNAP certified market. Unfortunately, the SNAP program



East Brook Farm

did not get off the ground this year, but is expected to be in place for next season. Thankfully, the folks at East Brook Farm cracked the hard SNAP-nut and have enabled their own SNAP EBT capabilities at their market locations, farm store and CSA.

Looking forward to 2020, market-goers can expect the continued presence of their favorite vendors plus a few new ones. Hot food will be consistently available, along with expanded beverage variety, new and favorite musical artists, and more activities to enjoy each and every week.

Following the new tradition, market "leftovers" (AKA folks in the habit of convening for social purposes on Sunday mornings) will continue to gather by shifting their meetings to The Tulip and the Rose Cafe on Sundays at 11am.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who help out weekly at the market or who work behind the scenes, without whom there would be no market, no music, and no leftovers.

MUSIC AT THE MARKET

HOW DID WE DO?

Report by Lynne Kemen

The market ran from May 26 to October 13. That's twenty-one Sundays!

This was our thirteenth season, and the first year that we applied for and received grant funding to pay our musicians. We thank the A. Lindsay & Olive B O'Connor Foundation, the Roxbury Arts Group Decentralization Grant, and the Delaware County Tourism & Promotion Development Grants.

We compiled 451 responses to our survey and here's what we learned.

1. How often do you attend?

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-------|
| Weekly | 241 | (54%) |
| Once a month | 37 | (8%) |
| Occasionally | 104 | (24%) |
| Seldom | 53 | (12%) |
| Other | 10 | (2%) |

2. Number of attendees?

| | | |
|----------|-----|-------|
| Adults | 859 | (86%) |
| Children | 145 | (14%) |

(As it was more challenging to get people with children to fill out the survey, this number is under-represented)

3. Suggestions?

- Most frequent requests:
- more hot food vendors
 - more vendors
 - more homemade crafts
 - more fruits and vegetables
 - show local art

(And there were requests for non-local fruits and vegetables or for items not available in the current growing season. Generally, a farmers' market requires that the produce be from a hundred-mile radius of the market. So, no avocado is likely to be local in Delaware County – or asparagus in August!)

4. Did the entertainment make a difference in the decision to attend?

| | | |
|-------|-----|-------|
| Yes | 208 | (47%) |
| No | 108 | (24%) |
| Other | 129 | (29%) |

(Other included 'No Answers' or "No, but I like the music.")

5. If Yes to Q4, how did it make a difference?

Responses were mostly positive.
Most common: Enjoyment, Positive ambience, Fun

6. How would you like to be notified about Music at the Market?

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|
| Newspapers | 64 | (14%) |
| Direct Mail | 53 | (11%) |
| Social Media | 147 | (30%) |
| Radio | 39 | (%) |
| Doesn't matter | 169 | (36%) |

Thanks to all who participated in Music at the Market, whether as a musician, a member of the audience, a volunteer. We look forward to seeing you next season.

You can follow us on Face Book:

[Franklin, NY Farmer's Market](#)

If you are interested in participating in Music at the Market, please contact:

Trish Tyrell, Market Manager
Franklin Local, Ltd.
PO Box 258
Franklin, NY 13775
607-287-8853
www.franklinlocal.org



Rickety Fence



Soloist at the Skinny Cow Singer/Songwriter workshop



Bill Steely



Colleen Kittau



John O'Connor



Jason Starr

GREEN BANKS GARDENING



**With
Deborah Banks**

PLANT FOR FALL

Now that we are at the end of the fall gardening season, be honest. Was your garden finished after the summer phlox and coneflowers went to seed? Do you have plants you are excited about in autumn? Sure, most gardens have areas that look like death by September, especially for those of us who do not irrigate. Still, there are opportunities for fall garden glory beyond mums and pumpkins.

Japanese anemones are pure pleasure. They sit unassumingly in the background all summer, getting no attention at all, and then one day in September, they start flowering and you smugly take all the credit. *Anemone japonica* 'Honorine Jobert' is my favorite. It stands nearly four feet tall and has single flowers of pure white facing outward on thin sturdy stalks that seldom flop, even in my garden where staking is a theoretical concept, not a practice.

Have your friends told you yet about Colchicums? They are another joy in the fall garden. Often wrongly referred to as autumn crocus, Colchicums are another species entirely. They produce foliage in late spring similar to a day-lily, which dies back by mid-summer. Then in the fall the bloom appears by itself on a short stalk just above the ground. The various cultivars have flowers in shades ranging from pink

and rose to dark lilac, and also white. Some have white throats, others are solid pink. A special few have a subtle checkered pattern on the petals, known as tessellation. The showiest are the doubles, like Colchicum 'Waterlily' and C. 'Alboplenum'. Unlike crocus, Colchicums are toxic, so the squirrels won't eat them.

I tend to undervalue asters, since they bloom in every fence row in upstate New York, but there are many cultivars worth a second look. Aster 'Purple Dome' is a dwarf variety with heavy clusters of flowers in bright purple. Aster 'Alma Potschke' is a taller aster with flowers of an improbable shade of hot pink. Aster 'Lady in Black' is my favorite, with its greenish black leaves crowned in fall with clouds of tiny rose centered daisies with white petals. Aster lovers also rave about 'Bluebird' and 'October Skies'.

Several other perennials are standouts in fall. Monkshood (*Aconitum carmichaelii*) has hooded purple blossoms on a plant with deeply-divided dark green leaves. *Physotegia virginiana variegata* has dark lilac flowers on ivory-green foliage that turns magenta as the nights get colder. Giant burnet (*Sanguisorba tenuifolia*) charms with its tall stems terminated by scads of small maroon bottle brushes. Toad Lily (*Tricyrtis*) graces the shade garden with its dainty and ornately-spotted flowers. Gentians are loved for their vivid blue blooms. Geranium 'Rozanne' continues to flower profusely until a hard frost ends her five or six month run. Bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) is lovely in spring with its light blue flowers and stunning in fall with sweeps of golden foliage.

There are three events in my fall garden that I particularly cherish. The first is when the

leaves on my two Katsura trees (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) start to color in golds and oranges, releasing a strong fragrance of melting sugar. Then the berries on my winterberry hollies (*Ilex verticillata*) change to a bright red. They are lovely amongst the holly leaves and even showier after the leaves drop. Finally, I love when my native witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) drops its yellow fall leaves, revealing the small yellow blossoms covering its branches. The spicy scent is noticeable and it draws a crowd of native bees on sunny fall days.

There are many other trees and shrubs that are outstanding in fall. The native maples are ablaze in golds and reds. The dark red nine-barks (*Physocarpus*) like 'Diablo' continue to wow with leaves of dark burgundy. The red-twig dogwoods (*Cornus sericea* 'Cardinal') have golden leaves and then drop them to reveal stems of red. The native sumac (*Rhus typhina*) is a fall beauty with leaves of fiery red and fuzzy dark red seed cones. The cultivar R. 'Tiger Eyes' has chartreuse summer foliage that changes to orange in fall.

Ornamental grasses are often at their best in fall. Japanese blood grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) is a short stunner that flames red as the nights become colder. *Miscanthus sinensis purpureus* is one of the many grasses with showy plumes in fall. *Panicum* species like 'Heavy Metal' and 'North Wind' have airy clouds of bloom.

And did I mention seed heads? Many clematis species continue to hold their whirls of light-catching seed into fall. The seed heads on black-eyed susans and coneflowers provide food for birds. Then there's the red or orange hips on roses, blue-black seed pods on Baptisias, puffs on nigella and poppies, and so much more.

It's time to spice up your fall garden. Plant something next year that will make those mums look even better.

COME PLANT A TREE FOR FRANKLIN

NEW TREES FOR OUR STREETS

By Jane Hebbard

The Village of Franklin Tree Board is planning a street tree planting for next spring. This will be the first phase of the project to replace the trees that have died along our village streets.

Planting-site measuring took place this summer, and the proposed sites were marked with stakes. If a stake was placed on the public easement in front of your house, please call a member of the committee (listed below) to discuss

mittee will ask where your water line is, to avoid planting the tree near it.

In the spring, we will need a crew to help with the plantings. Most of the volunteers who helped plant trees fifteen years ago have 'aged out', so



Waiting for the next hole: left to right, May Miller, Jerry Hebbard, and Joe Hart.

new volunteers are needed to step up and take their place. The village backhoe will dig the holes, but able volunteers will be needed to place the trees, settle the roots, and cover them with soil. The trees arrive 'bare root' and weigh only a few pounds. The roots will have been gel-sprayed to prevent drying out, but they need to be kept damp while waiting to be plant-

ed, and then watered after planting.

Other less active jobs include picking up the trees at a drop-off site, transporting the trees to their sites on an open trailer, making sure each tree is in its proper planting site, and planting grass seed. Please get in touch with a tree board member to volunteer.

A group of volunteers, including Franklin Rotary members, took a training session from a DEC forester last spring and pruned a large number of the existing street trees. They will be starting to prune again as soon as the trees go dormant this fall. A training video is available if anyone would like to learn to prune trees and join the group.

The village board has a budget line for trees. With some of these allotted funds, dead and diseased trees were cut down and old stumps ground up. The tree board wants to save some money for trees that will need to be taken down in the future and their stumps ground. So the available funds can be supplemented in two ways. One is to donate a tree, perhaps in memory of some-

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one or in honor of a birthday, anniversary or holiday. Each tree is approximately \$100. A plaque will be attached to memorial trees. There are currently seventeen memory trees scattered around the village from former plantings.

Donations may be sent to Paula Niebanck, Village of Franklin, Box 886, Franklin NY 13775, or you may give it to a member of the committee. The other method is to match funding from a proposed matching grant. That way, each donation will be doubled.

So far, there have been donations for three trees, including prize money donated from the Blueberry Festival.

Together we can fill the holes in the urban for-

est that graces our streets, and make Franklin a more beautiful place to live, raise a family, shop and visit.

To join the crew, call:
Jane and Jerry Hebbard: 919-616-4872

Joan and Gary Orton: 607-230-4059



The same tree, a blooming crabapple, on Center Street today. The house where Jane Hebbard grew up has been since taken down.



Tree planting fifteen years ago on Center Street, with (left to right) Joe Hart, Ann Law, Jack Law, John Cloonan, Jane Hebbard, and Bob Miller on backhoe

having a tree planted at that site. This will involve your agreement to water it for the first year. The com-

kitchen
basics

By
Carla
Nordstrom

CLEAN-THE-FRIDGE SOUP

As the weather gets cooler, there is nothing better than a cup of soup to warm you up. What better soup than one that uses up leftover vegetables such as salad, cooked string beans, or sautéed zucchini. For years I would clear out the refrigerator at the end of the week and make this soup to take to work for lunch. When I need to make lunch for unexpected guests who may or may not be vegetarians, it is great served with fresh bread, cheese, and fruit.

This soup can be served at room temperature, cold, or heated up. It is a curry soup that can be mild or spicy depending on your taste preferences. You can make it with whatever vegetables you have on hand.

- 1 Tbsp. ghee or vegetable oil
 - 1 chopped onion
 - 1 crushed clove of garlic
 - 1 heaping Tbsp. of chopped ginger
 - 1 tsp. to 1 Tbsp. of curry paste or curry powder
(I like spicy and use Patak's Vindaloo Curry Paste)
 - 4 cups of chicken stock or water
 - 1 cubed carrot
 - 1 cubed potato (skins are fine)
 - 4 cups of leftover cooked veggies, salad, or greens
- Garnish with chopped parsley, lemon slice, plain yogurt or sour cream, or chopped chives

Heat the oil in a saucepan at medium heat. Add the onion and sauté until it becomes translucent. Stir in the garlic and ginger, and cook for a few more minutes. Add the curry paste or powder and stir until well combined and brown bits form on the bottom of the pan. Add the stock or water, turn up the heat, and bring to a boil. (If using frozen stock, it is okay to put the frozen mass into the pan and heat until melted.)

Add potato, carrot and any other raw, firm vegetables to the stock. Boil until they are fork tender for 10-15 minutes. Add cooked veggies, salad, greens and cook until wilted, soft, and cooked through. Give the soup time to cool and pulverize in a food processor or with an emersion blender. Garnish and serve.



Photo by Andy Bobrow



Photo by Andy Bobrow

JANE HEBBARD'S BLUEBERRY
CHIPOTLE BABY BACK RIBS

Recipe for 1-2 Racks, with membranes removed. BEGIN TWO DAYS AHEAD!

DAY 1 (at least 12 hours): Prepare a rub from a purchased Chipotle Rub or milder one. Combine and add as much as desired of each: brown sugar, salt, pepper, minced fresh garlic and smoked sweet paprika. Make enough rub for both sides of the ribs. Lay ribs on heavy-duty foil and apply rub to both sides. Wrap and refrigerate.

DAY 2: Prepare a slurry: In blender, add 1 to 1 1/2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries, 1 cup frozen peaches or one fresh peach peeled and cut in chunks, 1 coarsely chopped medium onion, and 3-4 sliced fresh garlic cloves. Blend just long enough to make a slurry. Place ribs on new foil sheet and apply to both sides of ribs, meaty side up. Wrap and refrigerate overnight.

DAY 3: in the morning, soak any fruit-wood chips in water and let stand.

Make the sauce: Blend 2 cups of fresh or frozen blueberries in the blender. Heat to bubbling on the stove, then 10 minutes more to form a sauce. Add equal amounts of the sauce and Sweet Baby Ray's Honey Chipotle BBQ sauce or a mix of Chipotle and SBR Original BBQ Sauce to achieve

desired hotness. Heat to bubbling on stove, 10 to 15 minutes.

Prep grill with wood chips. Remove foil from ribs and brush off slurry as much as possible. Grill on low heat with one burner on and ribs on other side. (If you have a grill like ours with no heat gauge, put the flame as low as it will go and use a stone or something to prop the cover open 2 to 3 inches to get the heat low enough.)

Turn often. Mop or brush frequently with a Fresh Blueberry Blend Juice, found in the refrigerated produce dept. Grill until meat is tender and reaches 160 degrees.

Heat oven to 250 degrees. Place grilled ribs on new foil, apply sauce to both sides of ribs and wrap. Reserve some sauce to serve with ribs. Heat in oven for one hour.

Enjoy!



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FRANKLIN ONLINE

By Helen McLean

The Franklin Local website was launched just about seven years ago. The website has information such as community events, town board meetings (minutes and video), and archives of this newspaper.

As Franklin Local's webmaster, I've noticed increasing online activity of groups, businesses and organizations in Franklin and Treadwell. In fact, in a recent conversation with some newcomers interested in sharing information about what's going on in the village, I began to jot down local resources such as websites, Facebook pages and groups, plus Instagram accounts that I knew of. Quickly, I had a list of close to fifty.

Some of these are fairly well known to Franklinites. For example, recently there was a lively discussion on the Town of Franklin Facebook page about Dollar General's interest in coming to town. Other resources are new, like the Village of Franklin Facebook group, started by new residents Shana Ko and Renata Dolezel, to share local events. Despite their names, neither of these Facebook connections are products of local government. Official town or village pages do not exist at this time.

Some resources are focused, like the Franklin Community Educational Foundation (FCEF), which supports our youth grades K-12 to achieve academic success and opportunity. Others encompass a more diverse community, like Franklin Local (FL), which tries to be a funnel for all the other groups and organizations in the area. The FL calendar posts as many events as possible, and has recently opened up a community event form so anyone can submit public items of interest to the Franklin/Treadwell community.

The full list of known resources is available here: <https://franklinlocal.org/online-resources/>

There is a link on that page where you can suggest other online resources to add to the list. The more we share information, the more connections we can make with each other, helping Franklin to function as a unified community.

PROHIBITION IN FRANKLIN

By Brian Brock

The Early Years

Booze flowed freely during Franklin's first century. With primitive roads, one of the few cash crops for export was alcohol fermented from farmers' grain. Barrels were shipped down the Susquehanna River to Philadelphia. Closer to home, inns and taverns along the Catskill/Susquehanna Turnpike served much beer and whisky. East Franklin (now Treadwell) was nicknamed Jug City because of its three distilleries.

In response to widespread drinking and considerable drunkenness, the temperance movement started in the early 1800s. After the success of Abolition, many supporters shifted efforts to temperance. In 1860, *Occasionally*, a journal of Franklin, published a "black list" of forty young men who broke their pledge of the Young People's Temperance Association. Of the churches, the Baptists, Congregationalist, and Methodists advocated going dry, whereas the more established Episco-

pal and Roman Catholic favored remaining wet. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union, founded 1874, was active in Franklin for half a century from 1892 through the 1940s.

Prohibition began in Delaware County through the election of town excise commissioners who pledged not to grant liquor licenses. In 1881, Franklin first elected a supporter of this no-license position by 406 to 156. Unlike other towns that alternated between wet and dry, Franklin and Bovina continuously elected no-license commissioners. These two towns remain the most restrictive to this day, with Bovina allowing sale only in year-round hotels.

In 1893, Franklin's first centenary celebration was officially spiritless.

Federal Prohibition

In 1899, the people of Franklin first voted directly on prohibition. Overwhelming majorities chose to go completely dry by banning purchase of al-

cohol, be it consumed off premises (9:1), on premises (6:1), at a hotel (2:1), or even from a pharmacy under a doctor's prescription (3:1). A re-vote two years later confirmed these choices by similar margins.



The temperance movement achieved its greatest success at federal prohibition when the 18th amendment to our Constitution was implemented in 1920 – the only amendment that diminished individual rights. Unintended consequences of this "noble experiment" were that tax revenue decreased, alcohol consumption increased, consumption shifted to hard liquor, public health declined, crime skyrocket-

ed, organized crime prospered, and a general disrespect for the law grew – a roaring time was had by all.

As a result, after only thirteen years, federal prohibition was eased with a law redefining "intoxicating liquor" to exclude beer and light (low alcohol) wine. The next year, the 21st amendment ended federal prohibition, but not state prohibition. Our State of New York returned to allowing each town to decide. In the first town election after federal repeal, Franklinites voted to remain dry by substantial majorities on all three ballot questions. Two years later in 1937, these choices were all confirmed, mostly by slightly larger margins, except for the hotel question.

Changing Times

Through the decades, a majority of Franklin voters continued on record as favoring local prohibition, but by an ever-decreasing majority. In 1899, the initial on-premises prohibition was favored by an

overwhelming eighty-six percent of the voters. In 1937, after repeal of federal prohibition, town prohibition was favored by seventy-eight percent. In 1975, the next attempt at repeal was opposed by seventy percent. In 1999, it was opposed by sixty-one percent. In 2007, the most recent attempt was opposed by just fifty-six percent. All these votes were in off year elections, when the lack of major political contests reduces participation. Less than one third of those eligible voted in 2007.

Over the years, venues at which towns can permit the sale of alcohol have varied in number and type. Currently there are seven: 1. bars, 2. restaurants, 3. hotels, year-round, 4. hotels, summer, 5. stores, wine and liquor, 6. stores, beer and wine coolers, and 7. stadiums and racetracks. The state set the wording of Question #2 in 2007: *Shall the operator of a full-service restaurant be allowed to obtain a license which permits the restaurant operator to sell alcoholic beverages for a customer to drink while the customer is within the restaurant. In addition, unopened containers of beer*

See JUG CITY, con't on Pg.16

FRANKLIN'S THRILL ON BLUEBERRY HILL



Flower arrangers hard at work

By Carla Nordstrom

The third annual Blueberry Festival was held on the first Saturday in August at Northstar Blueberry Farm on Franklin Mountain Road. Bakers and cooks from as far away as Stamford brought their delicacies to compete in different categories including savory, sweet, and the grand prize. Dishes were displayed on the farm's long counter and included tarts, cakes, scones, pizzas, salads, ribs, and jams.

The afternoon began with a workshop on flower arranging, sponsored by the Franklin Garden Club. Members donated cut flowers from their gardens along with glass vases to make the arrangements in. Due to a rainy summer, this year's flowers were colorful and magnificent. Lilies, hydrangea, golden rod, thistle, grasses, and foliage made for striking arrangements. Attendees were able to create their own designs to take home.

This year's judges for the Blueberry Bake-off were Brian Brock, John Wilson, and Rich Costello. Turns out judging so many delicious entries is a difficult task. They deliberated seriously for quite some time before deciding on the winners.

The grand prize went to Franklin's Jane Hebbard for her Blueberry Chipotle Ribs. They were finger-licking good! Check out the recipe on Page 6.

Franklin Mayor Tom Briggs won first prize for sweets with his Blueberry Layer Cake. Stamford resident Alan Kissinger won first prize for savory with a Blueberry Goat Cheese Pizza. Once the judging was completed, everybody had a chance to sample the dishes.

The Blueberry Festival was sponsored by the Franklin Garden Club and Northstar Blueberry Farm. Prizes were provided by both organizations. Early August is the height of blueberry season in our part of New York, and Northstar sells you-pick and we-pick blueberries throughout the season. Anat Volfovich of Northstar was a terrific host for this year's festival, making all who attended feel wel-




come. A nice addition this year was that families who came to pick berries that day were able to join us in sampling the goodies.

The day was perfect until it wasn't. Just as the judging finished and guests began to dig into sweet and savory dishes, a huge downpour dumped rain onto Northstar Blueberry Farm. Luckily, we were inside the barn and able to stay dry, but everybody's shoes got soaked as they made a mad dash for their cars.

Photos by Jane Hebbard and Andy Bobrow



The judges taste and deliberate: left to right, Brian Brock, Rich Costello, and John Wilson. Lucky guys!



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NEW TOWN HALL FOR FRANKLIN

By Don Hebbard

The Town of Franklin has held monthly town board meetings in the meeting room at the Town Garage, at the intersection of County Route 21 and State Route 357, since the building was constructed in the late 1980s, with funding provided by a grant from the Marcy-South powerline. The town operational offices of Assessor, Highway Superintendent, and Fiscal Officer are housed in this building and all town, state, and national elections are held in the meeting room.

Other town offices, including the Justice Court and Court Clerk, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Code Enforcement Officer, are located at 544 Main Street, Franklin. This one-time residence is owned by the Walter Rich Charitable Foundation, under a long-term lease to the town by

provision with Walter Rich's estate. This arrangement has worked for years, but the Justice Court has become increasingly busy and now truly needs more space. The Town Board does not feel it can invest in a building it does not own.

The Town Board, beginning in 2014, has been investigating options for a new town office building. Preliminary floor plans for an addition on the east side of the town garage were prepared by a local engineer. Installation of the cell tower provided a yearly rental payment, with the proceeds from one cell service provider ear-marked for a future building fund.

The relocation of Voting District Two from Treadwell to Franklin resulted in crowded conditions in the meeting room on Election Day and added momentum to solving the need for a larger facility.

Consolidation of town offices, efficiencies of town operations, reduced utility costs, and the potential to share a facility with village government in a handicap accessible building were primary reasons to begin the process of planning the construction of an enlarged town office space.

Initially, in 2017, the focus was on a low-cost addition to the town garage alongside the meeting room, toward the cell tower. The building under consideration would be pole-barn type construction on a heated slab. The obvious advantages were town ownership of the real estate and the reduced cost of constructing an addition versus a new free-standing structure, as well as the use of existing improvements such as driveway, septic, water, electric entrance. Several floor plans were reviewed, alternate construction techniques considered, and future space needs examined.

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Ultimately, the concept of adding onto the existing building was rejected. Floor space requirements, alternative uses of the space at the town garage site, and realistic construction costs all contributed to consideration of an off-site relocation. Election days being disruptive to normal working conditions for town highway employees, plus the potential increase of traffic at the site created liability concerns for the board. A special town board meeting was held on August 28, 2018 to discuss options for new town offices.

Over the next few months, several alternative locations were reviewed: Route 357 adjoining the town highway garage [Krusser], 202 Main Street [Chris Downing, formerly Bradley's], the closed landfill site in Bartlett Hollow [town owned]. All were rejected for various reasons: purchase costs, site preparation, regulations for conversion of private use to public use, location, parking, etc.

This year, investigation into two adjoining parcels on County Route 21 provided a possible solution. Located directly behind the town garage, these parcels had several real estate improvements: a driveway, two electric entrances, well, septic, and a partially completed basement with first-floor deck. The two parcels total approximately thirty-three acres, providing protection from development, as well as potential expansion space at the rear border of the current

town garage site. The parcels were on the market for a long time, and the price had been recently reduced. Negotiations and due diligence investigations resulted in the town purchasing both lots in September, using monies from the building fund. Actual construction funding ultimately could be repaid from cell service provider proceeds.

Delaware Engineering has been asked to provide floor plans of the unfinished basement and first floor areas. The goal will be to maximize available floor space. The hillside location provides a walk-out basement with potential for adequate parking. The first floor is also handicapped-accessible with parking potential. One possibility is to extend the first floor a few feet out past the basement on the down-hill side with a frost wall. This would provide additional space on the first floor, plus a weather-protected entry to the basement and create more usable floor space in the basement.

Currently, offices and record storage are planned for the basement area. The Justice Court and Court Clerk are planned for the first-floor area. That area would also be available for elections, hopefully providing the space needed for all three election districts. Depending upon floor space requirements, the assessor and director of finances offices could remain in their current locations in the town garage.

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A FREE LUNCH? YES! FROM DTC!

Staff Report

On November 1st, the Delhi Telephone Company will roll-out its Franklin Build, connecting customers to its fiber-optic cable network. Mailings and calls will begin after that. Contacts will be prioritized based on those who had applied online. Installations will follow based on availability of appointments on their calendar.

In addition, DTC will host a meet and

greet on Saturday, December 14th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Franklin Fire Department garage. DTC will offer a free lunch to all that come, and there will be giveaways and raffles. The staff will be set up to demonstrate services, answer questions on the build and services, and schedule their installation.

DTC is partnering with the Franklin Fire Department: with each new sign-up between November 1st and December 14th, DTC will donate \$25 to the department – this includes during the meeting.

For more information about fiber optics in Franklin, contact Delhi Telephone Company at 607-746-1500 or visit

www.delhitel.com.

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INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING IN FRANKLIN

"Franklin? There's a buzz there this year."

I've heard it from fellow realtors. I've heard it from business people. And when my daughter, who lives in Kingston, told a friend from New York City that she was visiting her mother in Franklin, her friend nodded.

"Something's happening in Franklin," he said.

"I hear that every time I tell someone where you live," she told me.

What is all this buzz? And what does it mean?

The most obvious answer is the rejuvenation of 422 Main Street. When not one, but three new businesses open, that's a big deal in a small town. An antique shop, a boutique fashion business and a small cafe have drawn visitors from Andes, Bovina, and New York City.

Conversations overheard on Main Street:

"We live in Margaretville right now, but we're moving to Franklin."

"We have a house in Delhi [or Andes or Shandaken], but I think we want to move to Franklin."

There seems to be a perception among Franklin's visitors that this is a town with a heartbeat. The stage company, the arts scene, the restaurant's good reputation, the sudden increase in Main Street businesses, all contribute to an appealing, lively, vibrant scene. Combined with the New England charm of our village architecture, our gardens and our park, this is very appealing.

That has translated, in my experience, to an increase in home values.

I've seen this before. I grew up in Woodstock (yes, that Woodstock) and was a news broadcaster, then a realtor in Ulster County for the past fifteen years. I heard a buzz building about Kingston a decade ago. It was coming from Brooklyn, where young couples and families were finding the city too crowded, too stressful, too expensive. A few of them ventured up the Thruway and discovered Kingston's historic Stockade District. They bought properties. Their friends began to visit, and soon joined the exodus. Air BnB



became the open door allowing more visitors to stay, and then became a viable income option for homebuyers wondering how to afford a second home.

They wanted a community as hip, as connected, as culturally lively as the one they loved in Brooklyn. They were my clients, the people I helped settle into new upstate lives. Today's Kingston is wildly different from the Kingston of fifteen years ago. It is younger, busier, more crowded.

Housing prices have risen by a third in Kingston, Woodstock, and Phoenicia - in some cases, doubled. Four years ago, a client bought a stunning, three-story historic home in up-town Kingston. So big, no one had wanted it. She paid just over two hundred thousand dollars. She's selling it now. The asking price is more than four hundred and fifty thousand dollars. She'll probably get it.

In my opinion, Franklin should be making plans. They're on their way.

Where do they work when they move here? They work remotely [See article on Page 7]. Or they have their own businesses. All they need is high speed internet.

The old requirements for urban-expat buyers - near Amtrak, no more than two and a half hours from the city - are no longer practical. Today's young buyers can't find bargains near the train. So they're buying cars, or renting Zipcars, and advising visiting city friends to take the bus.

My colleagues along Route 28 between Woodstock and Delhi say they're unbelievably busy. I believe Franklin is the next stop. Buyers are already scouting us.

In August, I had two listings for sale and one for rent in Franklin. They're all spoken for.

A couple from New Jersey put in an offer on a vil-

lage home on our first day out.

Another buyer told me that Franklin was her first choice. Only if nothing was available there did she want to cast a wider net.

Franklin has what these buyers want: charm, an arts scene, views, internet connectivity, and affordable houses. Locals will grumble that a two-dollar-plus cup of coffee at the new cafe is ridiculous, but if you're visiting from the city, you're paying for an experience, not just the coffee. It's part of a tourism economy. And Franklin is becoming a destination.

But it's a delicate thing, this buzz. Franklin also has empty storefronts, a gas station that needs updating, historic buildings that desperately need a makeover.

And Franklin has been targeted by Dollar General.

What would a Dollar General mean for the value of your property? If you're near it, nothing good. Neighboring residential values always suffer when a commercial building pops up in a formerly picturesque field. Buyers looking here breathed a sigh of relief when they heard that the compressor project appeared dead. Home values will most definitely be impacted if that project is revived.

There is a human tendency to try to stop the clock, to prevent change, to keep things as they are. And there is value in that. But the accompanying resistance to newcomers can be less productive.

Here's what I learned from the rejuvenation of Kingston and its economy: a town can quietly age and gradually decline, or it can open its arms to a new generation and its enthusiasm. In Kingston, newcomers have brought businesses, and an interest in the city's history and the preservation of its buildings. Their

See BUZZ, con't on Page 19

S.C. PARK RECEIVES HELP FROM SIDNEY STUDENTS

By Michael Sellitti

The Sidney Center Park & Playground is undergoing a much-needed facelift. The project entails improving existing features and creating new elements for residents of all ages to enjoy. Following a flood mitigation project which effectively cut the park in half, removing the baseball field among other features, there was a call by concerned citizens to restore the park for the community. This is where the Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) stepped in.

Starting in 2017, SCIG commenced a fundraising effort to get the project off the ground. Since then, substantial funding has been received, thanks to the dedicated volunteers of SCIG, the support and generosity of our community and beyond, as well as the assistance of the Sidney United Way and Sidney Alumni Association through their own fundraising efforts.

The most recent improvements to the park include repainting the swings, repaving the basketball court, the purchase of new basketball posts and a message center for posting announcements, as well as plans for additional playground equipment, a reading garden and a pavilion. And picnic tables and benches have been constructed for the park by Sidney High School students.



The Sidney Center park's new basketball court

Sidney High School teacher and Future Farmers of America advisor Jay Waltz has been working with SCIG and his students to identify what would make the park more comfortable and usable for people of all ages. "Sidney students put their knowledge and skills to work by building and donating two picnic tables and benches for the Sidney Center Playground Project," said Waltz. "Students in the Agriscience class had to design and develop the picnic table and bench plans in small groups before they could start construction. The Agriculture students hope that visitors of the Sidney Center Park will be able to enjoy a picnic or watch their children play while relaxing on the new benches and picnic tables. FFA members are hoping to support the development of future projects at the Sidney Center Playground," Waltz added.

SCIG members and the community are deeply grateful for the collaborative effort that is making this project a reality. Beyond the successful fundraising and the great work of the students, assistance has also been provided by the Town of Sidney Highway Department, which made the on-the-ground work possible. SCIG will continue to leverage the partnerships that will ultimately make this volunteer effort a success for all in the community and future generations.

Follow the progress on SCIG's Facebook page and learn how to contribute to the project at:

www.facebook.com/SCIGNY



Park furniture built by Sidney students for the renovated park in Sidney Center

REMOTE, continued from Page 1

a remote office in a rural setting. As I labored to remove two centuries of wallpaper from our new home, I worried that I wouldn't be able to reach clients or develop a compelling product from my far-off mountain paradise.

I may have imagined that we were moving to a sleepy old town, so was pleasantly surprised to be welcomed by an active community. Even more surprising was meeting

who by a myriad of paths and motivations landed in this picturesque corner of the Catskills. I can sell that same cloud technology that enables many of us to work from our home offices. Maybe by telling our stories, we could empower other adventurous individuals to leave the city and enjoy a virtual commute, a closer proximity to their food production, and a sense of real community.

To that end, I am



Shana, still at work Photos courtesy of the author

neighbor after neighbor whose career allows them to work in some capacity from a remote home office. Turns out we were not the only ones enticed by the possibility of having it all. Others are moving upstate to establish roots in the beauty of the Catskills, and they are bringing their technology jobs with them.

Inspired by my new surroundings, I spent the next few months redefining our business goals and thinking about how we would rebrand ourselves. By the time the first flowers of spring arrived, I realized that Franklin was part of my company's story. Not just my office in one of its historic homes, but the story of the village itself, the story of the people

launching a social media campaign. My plan is to establish "Making Remote Work" across a variety of social media platforms. We have all witnessed social media's ability to transform. My goal is to tap into a piece of that with a story I think is worth telling. Good things are happening in Franklin. Cloud computing is changing the speed and efficiency of IT services and, almost paradoxically, allowing some to enjoy life at a slower pace. I am living on a mountain and selling in the cloud.

If you work from a remote office and feel like sharing your experience, I would love to hear from you. You can reach me at sko@quantummsp.com.

PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz

Hello, Readers:

I hope this article will be as interesting for you as it was for me. Are you aware that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved the use of marijuana or hemp in any form in animals? The agency says it cannot ensure the safety or effectiveness of these products.

Yet these products are sold almost everywhere - in health food stores, health supply stores, vape stores, and pet stores, and in many different forms, such as treats, chews and oils. The labels make no medicinal claim, but anecdotally the word is that such products have the power to help animals in many amazing ways. CBD is promoted as having antianxiety, antipsychotic, antispasmodic, and antibacterial qualities - that is, many of the same properties as THC-containing marijuana products, without the accompanying euphoria.

So what's going on here?

Marijuana and its derivatives - including CBD - are federally illegal, even though more than half of the states have legalized marijuana for human medical use. There are no marijuana or hemp products that are FDA-approved for



use in animals, and thus the legality of veterinarians recommending an unapproved product can be confusing to everyone. I am not even allowed to discuss such products, except to say they have not been approved. Even veterinarians in states where marijuana is legal are banned from suggesting its use in animals. Would they take away my license to practice veterinary medicine if I did?

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), there has not been enough clinical research published on hemp or marijuana use in animals for the FDA to review. This type of research is very expensive and getting a DEA Schedule 1 substance to work with is very difficult as well. So, all those hemp-derived CBD oils are illegal in any form. The funny thing is that even though it is illegal and vets

cannot prescribe or talk about it, the many companies selling it do not get into trouble for doing so. The public widely approves of it.

Toxicity symptoms in pets that have got into an owner's marijuana stash include dull and dribbling urine, seeming to fall asleep while standing, and vomiting. Other signs include hypothermia, hypotension, bradycardia or tachycardia, tremors, seizures, incoordination, anorexia, weakness, hypersalivation, disorientation, and death. Some animals may simply present as recumbent or comatose. Several deaths have been reported in the literature, but mostly from the toxicity of whatever the THC or CBD was carried in, such as chocolates, or due to the animal aspirating its own vomit. Treatment is supportive, such as inducing vomiting, activated charcoal and IV fluids.

So, here is something that definitely needs more research, both by the FDA and the AVMA, before veterinarians can safely prescribe or recommend it.

I am sorry that I cannot comment further.

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FROM ALL OF US, A WORD OF GRATITUDE
TO TWO FRANKLIN WOMEN RETIRED FROM
THE FRANKLIN BOARD OF ELECTIONS:
JOYCE WORDEN WITH FIFTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE
VIVIAN GROAT WITH THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION THROUGH THE YEARS.

New York State ELECTION CALENDAR 2019

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 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 |
| 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. |
| 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 |
| 16 | Last day voter may file change of address |
| 11 Oct | Last day voters may register for general election (post-marked or hand delivered) |
| 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 |

*PUBLIC NOTICE *

\$2000 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) who savagely murdered and beheaded our three-week-old baby lamb on June 2, 2015 in Franklin.

Please call the NYS Police with any information: 607-561-7400.

All calls will remain confidential.

TENTATIVE TOWN TAXES '20

By Brian Brock

The tentative 2020 budget for the Town of Franklin spends \$1.78 million. To partially finance this, the town board plans to raise \$1.22 million in property taxes from landowners, an increase of \$ 0.02 million (1.96%) over the 2019 budget: see graphs on Page 18. This levy is just under the state-imposed soft cap and similar to the increase last year.

Increases in appropriations would total \$12,750, of which increases in salaries (personal services, PS) contribute only \$1,250: superintendent of highways \$500 (1% increase), town clerk \$250 (2%), and justice \$500 (8%). The superintendent and justice had received an increase last year. While this is typical for the superintendent, this is the first back-to-back increase for the justice in decades.

With these increases, salaries for town officials would be: superintendent of highways Laing \$47,700, assessor Basile \$27,750, clerk/collector/registrar Johns \$16,600, supervisor Taggart \$15,900, code enforcement officer Jacobs \$15,000, finance director Warner \$12,750, justice Arndt \$6,500, dog control officer Constable \$1,800, and councilmen Bruno, Grant, Sitts, and Smith \$1,200 each. (Taggart's salary is \$3,800 (24%) from the town and \$12,100 (76%) from the county.) Total of salaries for town officials in budget is \$137,300. In addition are \$61,000 in benefits for a grand total of \$198,300.

Capital expenses (contractual expenditures, CE) would increase a total \$11,500: town clerk \$500, attorney \$1,000, and highway ma-

chinery \$10,000.

No appropriations, salary or expense, would be cut.

Appropriations and revenue for the hamlet of Treadwell would be unchanged from 2019. Expenditures of \$26,750 are partially offset by revenues of \$11,030. The balance of \$15,720 is a subsidy paid by all Franklin landowners.

With only these small changes, the 2020 budget would be similar to that of 2019, with highway department receiving \$1.341 million (75.3%), all other town accounts (general) \$0.413 million (23.2%), and Treadwell light and water \$0.027 million (1.5%). Of the highway appropriations, labor (wages and benefits) would account for \$0.555 million or 31.5% of budget.

These appropriations would be mostly paid by property taxes, but there are significant contributions from revenues and appropriated fund balances. Revenues would remain essentially unchanged from 2019.

Appropriated balances are funds carried over from the previous years. These funds are allocated to provide operating cash and a buffer for unexpected costs. The total of \$188,000 is down \$6,000 from last year. Over the last decade, fund balances have declined from \$262,000.

Recently filed Annual [Financial] Update Documents (2014 to 2018) show funds that are not reported in the budget document. Total cash in the AUDs typically is a hundred thousand dollars more than reported in the budget document. For example, in 2018 the total allocated fund balances reported in the budget was \$194,000 whereas the total reported cash in the AUD was \$585,862 -- triple that amount. Funds in the eleven town bank accounts are not listed in the budget document. Last year, Supervisor Taggart revealed that the account for construction of new offices has grown to over a hundred

thousand dollars. Cash in the Kellogg Trust is included in that total.

Balance sheets for Franklin 2005 to 2008 and 2014 to 2018 can be read, downloaded, or printed at: <http://wwe2.osc.state.ny.us/transparency/LocalGov/LocalGovIntro.cfm>. Our board has not audited town books for 2009 to 2013, nor has the supervisor filed AUDs for those years.

The levy for the Franklin and Treadwell fire departments, which is set by the departments themselves, was not known at the time of the budget workshop. Levy for 2019 was \$0.206 million. This levy is collected through the town tax billing but is not part of the town budget.

This tentative budget was considered during the annual budget workshop at the meeting of the board on October 1st. Beforehand, the tentative budget was prepared by supervisor Taggart (financial officer) in consultation with director of finances Warner (assistant financial officer). At the workshop, Mr. Warner read only the changes from the 2019 budget. (If you forgot to bring your copy of last year's budget, then you could not follow along.) After some remarks by the supervisor, the board approved his tentative budget without change. Thereby it became our preliminary budget.

At the workshop, there was no discussion of how Franklin would pay for construction of the new office building, which has been estimated to cost several hundred thousand dollars.

Copies of budget are available from the town clerk. A public hearing on the preliminary 2020 budget will be held Wednesday the 6th of November at 6:00 p.m. in the town hall.

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

EDUCATION FOUNDATION UPDATE

By Patricia Tyrell

School was out, but this summer was an eventful one for the Franklin Community Education Foundation, and for some lucky students as well. Just before the close of school, a surprise oppor-

tunity arose with an invitation for Franklin youth to attend the musical *Show Boat* at the Glimmerglass Festival, nearby in Cooperstown.

This is a growing program for Glimmerglass, and the students' experience was far more than seeing the show. Before the year's end, during school hours, they attended a special presentation about the show, including the history of its music.

The August 5th fieldtrip began with a backstage tour of the theatre, led by the Festival's Resident Sound Designer and A/V Coordi-

nator, Joel Morain. The students were shown the stage sets, the dressing rooms, the orchestra pit, the auditorium, and the various lighting areas. The tour included the theatre's history and a Q & A session with the tour guide.

"They were a good bunch," reports Morain. "They asked great questions!"

FCEF provided coordination for the event, and covered the cost of lunch for all students and chaperones attending. Tickets to the show were supplied by an anonymous donor, with the intent of introducing young people to the theatre experience, hoping to cultivate a viewer's appreciation as well as offering a look at possible career opportunities in theatre.

Many thanks to the folks at the Glimmerglass Festival, to the anonymous donor, to Erna Morgan McReynolds, Franklin Central School, and specifically to FCEF board member Naomi Lima for a successful collaborative effort.

Rounding out the summer, FCEF hosted a table at New Old Franklin Day, featuring fresh lemonade for sale and several raffles including a 50/50, a school-supply bag, Lotto Flower, Dinner-In and Dinner-Out raffle items. Thanks to the thirst and generosity of Franklin's community and visitors, more than \$500 was raised.

Coupled with the ongoing bottle-drive, both fundraisers have helped to raise more than \$850, all proceeds going to supporting



Tour guide Joel Morain (far left) shows Franklin students around the orchestra pit students and programs of Franklin Central School. Can donations may be made at Dutch's Bottle Redemption Center by letting Dutch know the proceeds are for "FCEF".

The Foundation welcomes new board member Lynne Kemen and says farewell to longtime member and grant writer Justin Ash. Lynne also brings talents in grant writing and management, and a true appreciation of the educational experience.

Finally, a special thank you to all involved this year, especially the bakers of our annual bake sale. Hosted by Wayne Bank on Friday, September 27th, the bake sale has always been successful in raising funds and community spirit.

The Franklin Community Education Foundation supports extracurricular and supplemental educational opportunities to the youth and students of Franklin- from cradle to career.



Franklin visitors on the set of *SHOW BOAT*

music
literature
education

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

fine arts
poetry
holiday fun

AT THE LIBRARY

LYNNE KEMEN
REVIEWS NEW BOOKS



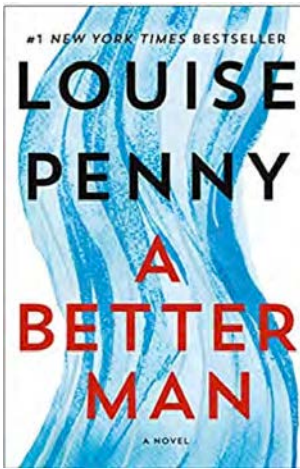
A BETTER MAN

By Louise Penny

This is the fifteenth book in a series set in Montreal and Three Pines, a tiny imaginary village in Canada. It features a mostly repeating cast of characters. At the opening, Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is returning to his job after a serious scandal. It is melt season. The local river is about to overflow and do serious damage. A domestic abuse victim is missing. She is the same age as Gamache's daughter. Both are pregnant. The Inspector cannot help but imagine how he would feel if the missing woman were his daughter.

Meanwhile, someone is posting anonymous negative comments about Gamache on the internet. At the same time, Clara, a talented artist in Three Pines, is having her latest work attacked, also over the internet.

This series often deals with the positive and negative aspects of living in a small community. This book also addresses social media and what it's like to be attacked and be helpless to respond. As with all of Penny's novels, addiction is at the core of the psychological story.



CHANCES ARE...

By Richard Russo



In *Chances Are...*, several men who met in college reunite for a vacation on Martha's Vineyard. They have grown apart and gone off to different lives, but during that long-ago summer, they all were in love with the same woman, a classmate who suddenly and mysteriously disappeared after spending a weekend with them. They suspect that she was murdered, but if so, by whom?

The men were seniors during the Viet Nam lottery. Their fortunes were largely determined by their draft numbers. In 2015, they meet on the Vineyard, where one of the men is getting his late parent's cottage ready for sale. There are many encounters between the year-round locals and the summer-residents.

The tensions between people is a big part of this story, as are the economic differences made by life choices, careers and sometimes just by chance. There are secrets between couples, friends, neighbors, family members. Russo is brilliant at blending varied people who love and hate each other. He also evokes memories of a time when many of the "rules" were being broken or changed.

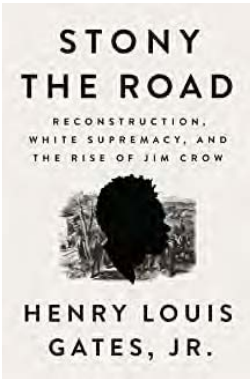
Both Penny and Russo continue to grow as writers.

LIBRARIANS' PICKS

THE TESTAMENTS

By Margaret Atwood

A sequel to Atwood's brilliant *THE HANDMAID'S TALE*. "The power of words and storytelling to get under the skin and to change hearts and minds is a theme in all of Margaret Atwood's books, and palpably so in her powerful new novel *The Testaments*, a terrifically wrought tale of horror and hope" - *Inews.co.uk*



STONY THE ROAD: *Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow*
By Henry-Louis Gates, Jr.

"A profound new rendering of the struggle by African-Americans for equality after the Civil War and the violent counter-revolution that resubjugated them, as seen through the prism of the war of images and ideas that have left an enduring racist stain on the American mind."

- Bookbrowse.com

DEAR MARCH, COME IN!

By Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Dear March, come in!
How glad I am!
I hoped for you before.
Put down your hat -
You must have walked -
How out of breath you are!
Dear March, how are you?
And the rest?
Did you leave Nature well?
Oh March, come right upstairs with me,
I have so much to tell!

I got your letter, and the bird's;
The maples never knew
That you were coming - I declare,
How red their faces grew!
But, March, forgive me -
And all those hills
You left for me to hue;
There was no purple suitable,
You took it all with you -

Who knocks? That April!
Lock the Door!
I will not be pursued!
He stayed away a year, to call
When I am occupied.
But trifles look so trivial
As soon as you have come,
That blame is just as dear as praise
And praise as mere as blame.

This poem is in the public domain.

Emily Dickinson lived what many today would call a "small" life, most of it in the family home and gardens. She was in love with the circumscribed world – that place, those days – she knew so well and was so willing to share with the world. This poem is written conversationally, a delighted "hello" to a close friend the poet hasn't seen through the long northeastern winter. By the third stanza, Emily's ready to receive April, that other friend who stayed away too long, but the poet takes pains to let the friend and the reader know that she won't hold a grudge, she'll always be welcoming. — Bertha Rogers

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CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES

BY JOHN O'CONNOR

Despite the fact that it's possibly the biggest little musical secret in Catskills, the Walton organization known as Music on the Delaware (MOTD) has created a text book example of how to bring music into a community not only for pure enjoyment, but as a fundamental part of music education in the town's school system.

When I decided to write a column on Music on the Delaware, I thought I would be mostly making a list of the folk music concerts that MOTD has brought to the Walton Theater. But when I called board member and volunteer Jim Haggerty to arrange an interview, he suggested I meet him and his spouse Jean Withrow at the Walton high school so I could observe an a capella group called *Backtrack* working with the high school choral class. Right away, I suspected that MOTD was a lot more than a few folk concerts each year.



The a capella group *Backtrack* performs at Music on the Delaware.

I joined Jim and Jean on seats in the back tier of the onstage risers. There, we were among the chorus students of teacher Rebecca Doig, who led the kids in vocal and warm-up exercises, anticipating the arrival of the day's guests. *Backtrack* is known for their acrobatic vocal arrangements on YouTube, but they also do live concerts and school workshops. They stood in front of a class of about thirty high school girls and boys, and began molding a song they had written into a choral piece to be performed by the class at a MOTD-sponsored concert the next day at the town library. After the class was over, we adjourned to the auditorium where *Backtrack* put on a short concert presentation for the entire student body.

formers also doing workshops and presentations at the high school. Most of these performances have been by musicians from the folk world, acts like Jay Unger and Molly Mason, John Gorka, Red Molly, and Cherish the Ladies.

Today, MOTD is still going strong, producing four or five concerts a year and seven or eight coffee-house performances, along with the usual arranging of workshops with the high school. Funding comes from ticket sales, grants and a program that MOTD calls Artist Partners, in which individuals and businesses pitch in between \$500 and \$1000 per year.

For this season's schedule, go to waltontheatre.org.



Music on the Delaware began twenty years ago when founder James Richardson arranged to bring the Catskill Symphony Orchestra (CSO) to Walton for concerts in the high school. The programs included involving high school students to play alongside professional musicians. It was such a success that CSO returned numerous times and the concerts were moved to the Walton Theater. Twenty years later, Music on the Delaware is a vibrant and successful music series that hosts touring musical acts and helps make Walton High School a shining example of music education.

Though the CSO concerts became a bit too unwieldy and expensive, MOTD continued to bring musical performers into the community for concerts, with some of the per-

UpState Arts

with Charlie Bremer

Several years ago, I created an aeolian wind harp that is installed on the campus of the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY. "Cassie's Harp" is a memorial to Cassandra Davino, a very talented young woman who studied music at Crane and whose life ended in a car accident during her sophomore year. Her parents, Al and Kathryn Davino of Delhi, funded the



Wind harp sits in original site

memorial to honor and remember Cassandra as well as other students whose lives were cut short during their education at the school. Currently there are close to a dozen names inscribed on a large sandstone rock in the garden near the harp.

The wind harp and its surrounding garden was conceived as a place of reflection and mediation for students, teachers, and visitors to the school. Focusing on the beauty of nature and the inspiration of natural forms, the space provides a quiet area apart from the regular activity of the campus. The wind harp itself is a responsive instrument that translates air motion into harmonic frequencies that rise and fall in tandem to the wind.

Subsequently, the school developed plans to build new classrooms and music studios. This construction would impact the area occupied by the memorial, so a decision was



Harp base dug out



Lifting crane in position



Harp base is attached to crane



Stabilized and removed from crane



16,500 pounds in motion

made to move the harp two hundred feet from its original location to a new site.

In September I spent a week in Potsdam to help oversee and facilitate the move. I had designed the sculpture so that the harp could be removed from its mounting stem if necessary. However, the base is two and a half tons of ornamental cement casting, permanently mounted to six tons of underground concrete foundation. This 17,000-pound mass needed to be carefully lifted as a single unit, and transported to its new home. In addition, it was deeply embedded in the very sticky hard-pan clay soil of St. Lawrence County. Ultimately, it took three different positions and lifting harnesses with a state-of-the-art crane to exert enough upward pull to extract it from the adhesive land.

A new garden will be designed and built around the harp in its new site near the entrance to the performing art center on the Crane Music School campus.

(Photos by the author)



Cassie's Harp in its new location



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EQUALIZATION RATES IN DELAWARE COUNTY

Staff Report

Equalization rate (ER) is an estimate of how close a town's total assessed value of real property is to its total market value, expressed as a percentage. By state law, all property in a town must be assessed at the same percentage of market value, but not necessarily one hundred percent. New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services calcu-

lates this for all municipalities: 534 villages, 932 towns, and 62 counties. It compares town assessment values to actual sale prices.

These rates are necessary for calculating property taxes in districts that cross town boundaries, such as many school districts. For example, in 2018 most Franklin residents paid taxes to Franklin Central School based on assessments at eighty-nine percent of market value, whereas Delhi residents pay to Delaware Academy Central School at sixty-one percent. For Treadwell residents paying to the Academy, their assessment is reduced by a factor of $61/89 = 0.69$ so that they pay at the same rate as Delhi residents.

Currently, more than a third of the towns in Delaware County are assessed at one hundred percent, as recommended by ORPTS – see shaded area in table below. Around the turn of the century, the ER for Franklin was likewise one hundred percent, and had been for years. Starting in 2005, the rate declined sharply to seventy-seven percent by 2009. Over the last decade, our ER has trended upward to ninety-nine percent in 2017. Then the town's uniform assessment rate resumed a downward trend and is now at eighty-nine percent.

This recent decrease may be due the hot real estate market in Franklin. Last year saw a doubling of the number of real property

sales over 2016, and a high rate has continued into this year. It is likely that this increased demand has driven-up prices, and assessments have yet to catch up, thereby producing the recent decline in ER. Last fall after a presentation to the town board by Assessor James Basile, both he and Supervisor Taggart agreed that there was need of a town-wide reappraisal in the near future. It is planned for completion in May of 2020.

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



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MEETINGS OF THE FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 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.

EVENTS AT THE HARRIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, OTEGO, NY.

For additional information or to make reservations, call 607-988-6661.

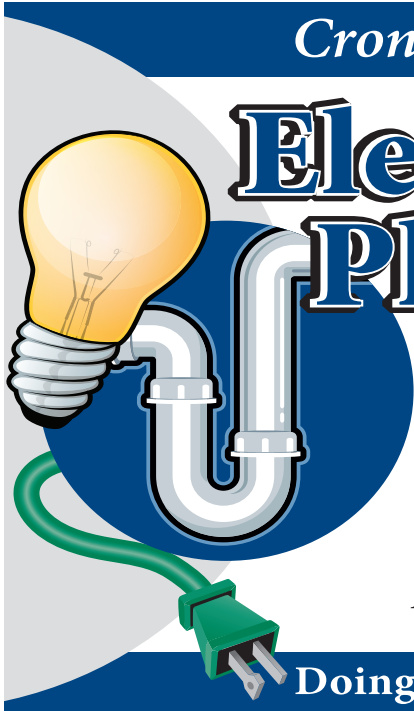
- November 4th:** Stitchers Knit, Crochet, and Craft, Monday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Join other local creators and work on your stitchwork project over coffee or tea.
- November 5th:** Game Night at the Library! Tuesday, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Bring the family (order dinner locally, if you like) to join other community members for board, card, or video games.
- November 9th:** Beginner Craft Class: Needle-felt a Pumpkin, Saturday, 1p.m. – 3 p.m.
\$15 donation requested, RSVP required.
Needle-felting is growing popular, and it's easy and relaxing to do. Library Director Shannon will take you step-by-step through the process. When you're done, you'll have one to three wool needle-felted pumpkins done to take home. Ages 10 and up. Call 988-6661 to reserve your spot.
- November 9th:** DNA: Through-the-Looking Glass Genealogy with Laura Lee, Saturday, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Learn how modern DNA studies impact the search for your family's roots. RSVP 988-6661
- November 12th:** Writers Write! Tuesday, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Join other local writers during National Novel Writing Month to work on your creative vision and writing. Some quick creativity, visualization exercises and word sprints, the goal being to inspire you forward with your work-in-progress.
- November 16th:** Local Author Panel, Book Signing and Book Sale, Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Meet some of our area's amazing local authors, hear about their journey to publication, ask questions, and purchase a book or two for your fall and winter reading!
- November 17th:** Word Nerd Tournament Library Fundraiser, Sunday, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., RSVP to Compete
Fun and competition as we stack letter tiles, trying to build the best words. Stretch your vocabulary, challenge your friends, and maybe you'll be the winner! Call 988-6661 or find us on Facebook at @harrislibrary for more information.
- November 18th:** Stitchers Knit, Crochet, and Craft, Monday, 1 p.m.- 3 p.m.
Join other local creators and work on your stitchwork project over coffee or tea.
- November 21 – 23rd:** Escape Room Library Fundraiser in the Historic Harris House, Thursday, 21st: 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday, 22nd: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., and Saturday, 23rd: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.; Tickets in advance required, \$10 donation for both rooms.
Work with your team of 3-6 people to solve the themed puzzles and challenges in the Library's two different Escape Rooms. Call 988-6661 or find us on Facebook at @harrislibrary.
- November 26th:** Decorate a Thanksgiving Cupcake, Tuesday, 3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.; RSVP required.
Decorate a festive fall cupcake to take home, ages 5-15.
- November 26th:** Writers Write! Tuesday, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. (See above, November 12th)

EVENTS AT THE FRANKLIN FREE LIBRARY, FRANKLIN, NY

- November 9th:** Sip and Paint Class. 7:00 p.m.; Socialize with friends as you enjoy a painting lesson. RSVP required! Email fr.ill@4cls.org or call 829-2941 to register.
This program is geared towards adults. Materials fee: \$10



Eager book lovers at last year's Grand Winter Book Sale at the Franklin Free Library, in the new downstairs handicapped-accessible conference room. Don't miss this year's big holiday sale of books, CDs, DVDs - all for \$1.00 each! December 7th, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.



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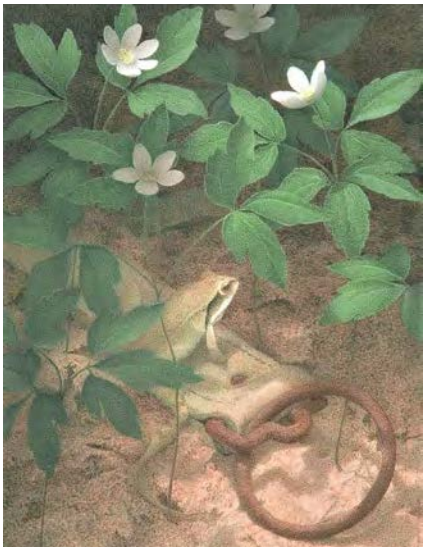
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Night Heron



Wood Anemone

BIG BUCK CONTEST

Deadline to Enter

November 15th

\$1 entry fee*



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

*** Sign-Up: Burgin's Auto, Rich's Auto Body, & White's Farm Supply
Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce, FranklinNY.org**

JUG CITY, continued from Page 7

(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)?

Franklin is not completely dry, more like damp. In 1998, the owners of RK's Grocery and Barlow's General Store, Ruth Marshall and Helen Mitchell respectively, organized a petition drive on the prohibition questions but failed to get them onto the ballot. The next summer, they gathered enough signatures (294) and the five questions were on the ballot. In November of 1999, the question of retail sales passed 429 to 274 (61 to 39 percent), although the other four did not.

In summer of 2007, a petition drive for Question #2 collected sufficient signatures. In November, with little or no effort by the "yes" faction to campaign or get out the vote, the question was defeated 208 to 269 (44 to 56 percent).

In summer of 2009, a second petition drive for Question #2 collected 338 signatures – more than half again as many as necessary. This petition was challenged. The town clerk,

after consulting with the county Board of Elections, the attorney of the Association of Towns, and the town attorney, ruled that the petition did not qualify. The legality of this ruling was disputed by a number of citizens, although they missed an opportunity to correct the record. (The protests sparked a write-in candidacy for the position of town clerk in the November election, which was unsuccessful.) As a result, we can buy endless cases of beer for a party in our backyard but not a single glass of wine with our meal in a local restaurant.

Today

We belong to a tiny remnant. Before federal prohibition, forty-five percent of the towns were dry and twenty-one percent were partially dry. Today, of the 932 towns in New York State, twelve forbid the consumption of beer and wine in restaurants but not their retail purchase; that is only one percent. All are in counties of the southern tier: Cattaraugus, Cortland, Delaware, Ontario, Steuben, Tioga, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates. Except for Franklin, these towns are

west of Interstate 81. These twelve towns have only 0.1 percent of the population of the state.

Last summer, the owner of Two Brothers petitioned for Question #2, but Ms. Taggart failed to collect enough signatures. This summer, the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce organized a petition drive for the same question, which garnered 297 signatures – thirty-one in excess of the minimum requirement of 266, which is one quarter of the number who voted last year. (The Chamber aims to broaden the appeal of Franklin restaurants and fatten their bottom line so that they can continue to succeed.) Tuesday November 5th, all voters will have a chance to register their preference for Franklin restaurants being able to serve a glass of beer or wine.

Should this question be affirmed, restaurant owners must qualify for a license from the NYS Liquor Authority before they can sell.

This article is a revision of one published in the fall issue of the NFR in 2009.

SPEED, continued from Page 1

were heard and dealt with as best they could be. Many thanks for the support of the NY State Police and the Delaware County Sheriff's Department over the years. Their increased presence in Sidney Center helps to slow traffic, but only while they are there.

Sidney Center is not unique in this problem. A decline in the size of our upstate towns and a decrease in daily activities has resulted in lowered consideration for those who still live and work in these small concentrations of homes, businesses and public spaces. In an effort to be proactive on the issue, the group took it head-on by researching potential solutions and what other communities have done to address the same issue. The breakthrough came when SCIG discovered a NYS Department of Health grant program called Creating Healthy Schools and Communities, which works with local communities to improve walkability for residents. Upon learning of the program, SCIG invited the program's director and community coordinator, Maureen Blanchard, to a board meeting to discuss some of the issues in Sidney Center, beyond just speeding.

In the summer of 2018, Blanchard and community members met to commence a "Walk-Audit" of the hamlet to observe and document the issues that threatened the safety and walkability of residents and students. These concerns were prioritized and discussed at length for solutions. It was decided that the most immediate and concerning issue was speeding as it relates to students getting on and off the school bus in Sidney Center. The most immediate and cost-effective way of addressing this issue was to take advantage of relatively new technology: solar powered digital radar speed signs.

"The radar speed signs will hopefully reduce the speed of traffic through Sidney Center to the posted 30 MPH limit, which significantly increases the chances of survivability of a pedestrian hit by a car," said Blanchard. "While we hope crashes don't happen, we know that students need to walk to bus stops and community members walk to the store, the library and the park. We want them to get there safely and not have to rely on their car for local trips. Residents care about their community and want to see community members healthy and safe," she added.

Through the grant program, Blanchard assisted SCIG in purchasing two radar speed signs, one for each end of the hamlet. SCIG then worked with Delaware County DPW and the Town of Sidney to determine the best use and location of the signs. The long-term benefit of these signs is the data collection feature. This tracks the speed, frequency and time of vehicles passing the sign. The data can then be shared with local law enforcement to focus their efforts of slowing speeding motorists during certain times or days of the week. The implementation of these signs, combined with local enforcement, has proven to significantly curb speeding in small communities like Sidney Center.

Sidney Town Supervisor Gene Pigford commented on the Sidney Center Improvement Group's involvement in this community concern: "...their ongoing efforts to enhance this lovely community in upstate New York are much appreciated. Most recently they have acquired two electronic speed signs to remind motorists to drive responsibly and obey local speed laws. Through a cooperative agreement with the Sidney Center Improvement Group, the Town of Sidney will assume the ownership and maintenance of the signs, and following the example of the SCIG, "encourages all residents to be responsible stewards of their communities."

The residents of Sidney Center and the volunteer members of SCIG would like to thank the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities, the Town of Sidney, Delaware County DPW and Delaware County Sheriff's Department for their continued support and for taking the community's concerns seriously. Through years of time and effort by volunteers, by building relationships and partnerships, progress can actually be made. SCIG hopes that concerned residents continue to reach out and offer their insight, and help on matters that affect us all.

To stay updated on the progress and installation of the signs, please follow SCIG's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/SCIGNY.

FIRE, con't from Page 3

cent dinner to help raise money for two local boys who were severely injured in a truck accident.



Chief Tom Worden at a Delhi fire

Chief Tom Worden grew up in Franklin and feels strongly connected to the people here. He has been a volunteer firefighter with the FFD for forty-three years, and recently celebrated his twentieth anniversary as its chief, following a long family tradition of service to his Franklin neighbors. His father, Paul, served sixty-five years with the department, ten of them as Fire Chief. Tom's two brothers are members of the FFD and his two sons are Fire Protection Engineers. Worden estimates that there are sixty members on the FFD rolls, with thirty to forty currently active. Many claim parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, siblings who have been part of this tight-knit group.

Ruth Snow joined sev-



Left to right, Josh Mostert, Trevor Doenges, and Ruth Snow

en years ago and never looked back. "I thought that I would just help with fire-fighting, but there's so much more. We are always in training, always learning new things. We are a team. Period."

And that team feeling

extends beyond the Franklin group. She said that she has trained with ten fire departments. That training has led to bonds. "You remember them and are always comfortable with them."

The word 'family' comes up often as Ruth talks about her local team, about the number of members who are related to other fire-fighters who have served over the years. Upstairs, outside the meeting room, is a listing of everyone who has been part of this team. "You have to like it."



Easter with the Bunny

Franklin is fortunate to sponsor and provide leadership through the Explorer Firefighter Program. This is an extension of the Boy Scouts of America and is aimed at youth aged 14-18. Once a member turns eighteen, they may become a full-fledged member of a fire department. There are currently twelve Explorers: ten from Franklin and two from Delhi (not every fire department has an Explorer program). Because of their age, the Explorers are not allowed to fight fires actively, but they are rigorously trained in setting up, unloading tools, helping with hoses and directing traffic. Their contribution is crucial to the adult fire-fighters.

Brandon Gregory dropped by during our interview with Ruth Snow. He joined the Explorers on his fourteenth birthday. His father, James Gregory, is a vol-

unteer fireman. His brother Tyler, now a freshman at West Point, was an Explorer as well. The Explorers learn that they are representing the fire department, and that with this honor comes responsibility.

There are many ways to volunteer with the FFD beside actively fighting fires. There is an alarming and growing need for EMS



Firefighter Micah Zuk

team members, for drivers or people to direct traffic at the site of an accident, to cook or serve food at the community breakfasts or at long fires. "We will always take volunteers," Ruth said.

The FFD is a not-for-profit organization and can always use contributions of service or donations. Homeowners' or medical insurance does not pay for medical transport or for the time required to put out a fire, so donations and monetary support are critical.

Both Franklin Fire & Rescue and the Franklin Fire Explorers have Facebook sites. Please visit those sites for more information about what these groups do, and how you could join with them in making Franklin a better place to live.

Want to volunteer with the FFD?
Contact Fire Chief Tom Worden or President Ruth Snow.
P.O. Box 8
Franklin, New York 13775
607- 829-6822

Photos courtesy of the Franklin Fire and Rescue or the Franklin Fire Explorers Facebook pages.

607.865.8424 Office
 607.865.8151 Fax

Donald M. Smith
General Manager



205 Delaware Street • Walton, NY 13865

WKC WINS GRANT TO PRESERVE BUILDING

PRESS RELEASE

The West Kortright Centre (WKC) in East Meredith NY has received a 2019 Preserve New York (PNY) grant of \$4,764, which will enable them to work with Chianis + Anderson Architects of Binghamton to create a comprehensive building condition report of the Centre's building. This will allow the staff and board of the Centre to create a plan for repair and preservation.

WKC is housed in an elegant Greek Revival church built in 1850. The building served the local congregation for 121 years until it closed its doors in 1971. In 1975, the Susquehanna Presbytery bequeathed the church building to the West Kortright Centre, Inc., which currently provides an eclectic blend of world-class performances, in-depth learning opportunities, and visual arts exhibits while preserving the legacy of its historic space, beautiful rural setting, and use as a communal gathering place. Although the building has had significant renovation and restoration over the years, it has never had a comprehensive condition analysis. Recently, it has started to show some signs of deterioration, such as occurring, noting cracks in the interior plaster (due to age and sonic vibration), and roof sag.

The 2019 PNY grant cycle was the most competitive in the program's twenty-six year history. An independent jury met in June to review over seventy applications. After two days of deliberations, \$262,498 was awarded to thirty-one projects across twenty-five counties.

Preserve New York is a regrant partnership between the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League of NYS. PNY enables the Preservation League to support projects in all of New York's sixty-two counties.

Since 1993, the Preserve New York grant program has provided funds to municipalities and nonprofit organizations that need technical, professional assistance to guide a variety of preservation projects. The historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys that are funded through this program can have profound impacts on the sites they are studying.

"NYSCA is proud to support the vitality and character of our communities through our Preserve New York partnership, which provides key resources to historic sites, buildings, and cultural centers statewide and underscores the importance of architecture and landscape design in community revitalization and economic development," said **NYSCA Executive Director Mara Manus**.

The Preserve New York grant program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Since its founding in 1974, the Preservation League has built a reputation for action and effectiveness. Its goal is to preserve our historic buildings, districts and landscapes and to build a better New York, one community at a time. The Preservation League of New York State invests in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes.



The West Kortright Centre



The Franklin Fire Department at their Sesquicentennial celebration in 2018

PIPELINE UP-DATE

Compiled by Brian Brock

March 7th - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requests that the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit defer oral arguments in *Catskill Mountainkeeper, et al. v. FERC*, Case Nos. 16-345, 16-361 pending its reconsideration 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).

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 D.C. Circuit’s decision on January 25th in *Hoopa Valley Tribe v. FERC* for the Commission’s two orders concerning Constitution. Then the parties may file responsive pleadings with the Commission by May 1st 2019.

April 2nd - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in a response cautions FERC that should it remand the state’s authority to deny the water quality certificate to CPC, FERC should expect a swift appeal in court. In addition, NYS DEC requests that any remand be stayed until judicial review is completed.

May 1st - FERC concludes a period of submission. It received more than 30 submissions including the motion from NYS DEC.

May 28th - FERC informs the Second Circuit that it intends to issue a decision within the next two months.

July 29th - FERC informs the Second Circuit that it intends to issue a decision within the next two months.

August 26th - Trout Unlimited petitions the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari regarding the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit’s decision in *Hoopa Valley Tribe v. FERC*.

August 28th - FERC issues an Order of Voluntary Remand declaring that the NYSDEC waived its right to deny the 401 water quality certificate to Constitution Pipeline Company because it did not act within one year of the initial application, regardless that CPC had twice withdrawn and resubmitted its application (168 FERC ¶ 61,129). Such withdrawals and resubmissions had been routinely accepted by FERC. This remand is not stayed.

August 28th - Constitution Pipeline Company LLC states that “The project sponsors are evaluating the next steps for advancing the project.” Owners of CPC are Williams Partners L.C., Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., and WGL Holdings, Inc.

September 4th - NYS DEC disagrees with the FERC decision of August 28th and will vigorously defend its denial of the WQC in the courts.

September 10th - US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in *PennEast Pipeline Company LLC v. New Jersey et al* Case Nos. 19-191 through 19-232 holds that FERC may not grant companies the power to file for eminent domain of state property, including property where states have easements. Instead Federal government itself may file and then transfer to property companies. While a decision in another circuit is not precedential, it could be influential.

September 19th - Stop the Pipeline sends a letter to solicit \$55,000 to cover legal expenses in upcoming cases in *Catskill Mountainkeeper, et al. v. FERC*.

September 27th - NYS DEC, CM et al, and STP separately requests from FERC a stay and rehearing of the Order on Voluntary Remand, which declared that NYSDEC waived its right to deny CPC application for a 401 water quality certification.

October 14th - CPC requests that FERC deny requests for a stay and rehearing.

SPENDING, continued from Page 1

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/Local-GovIntro.cfm>.

The exceptions are the towns of Bovina and Davenport, which have not filed the mandatory financial reports in 2018. (Davenport has not filed in the last decade.) The New Franklin Register obtained recent budgets from the town of Davenport (one of the nine) through a Freedom of Information Law request. We will be comparing the figures from the 2018 budget, the most recent year for which all numbers were available at the time of this writing.

Franklin has the largest budget of these nine. 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.

For rural towns such as those in Delaware County, the single largest appropriation is invariably for the highway department. For the largest towns, these appropriations make-up 40 to 50 percent of the budget. Mid-sized towns such as Franklin spend 60 to 75 percent of the budget on roads -- not necessarily because they spend more on highways, but because these towns have smaller overall budgets. Among these nine mid-sized towns, Franklin spends the most on highways, both in the amount and as a percentage of budget. At \$1.25 M (72 percent), it is the only town of the nine that spent over

a million dollars on roads in 2018. However, Franklin has the largest network of roads to maintain with 109 centerline miles. Richer Walton and Andes have similar-sized networks (96 and 102 centerline miles) and spend similar amounts (\$1.14 and 1.25 M). The richest towns with approximately one hundred miles of roads spend much more: Colchester at \$1.69 M and Roxbury at \$1.79 M.

Looking specifically at town spending of the various highway accounts, Franklin is mostly like the other eight mid-sized towns. The

and general government. Benefits usually make up the larger of the two, or the two appropriations are close to equal. Conversely, towns that spent significantly less on benefits are Andes, Deposit, Hamden, Sidney, and Tompkins.

In Franklin, the second largest appropriation is for employee benefits. For Franklin, this was \$0.260 M or 15 percent of budget. Almost all of this goes for the highway superintendent and seven full-time employees of the highway department. Typically, towns

(transfers). Most of the nineteen Delaware towns budget 10 to 20 percent for general government. Franklin is at the bottom with nine percent (\$0.16 M), and Sidney is exceptionally high with 34 percent (\$0.76 M).

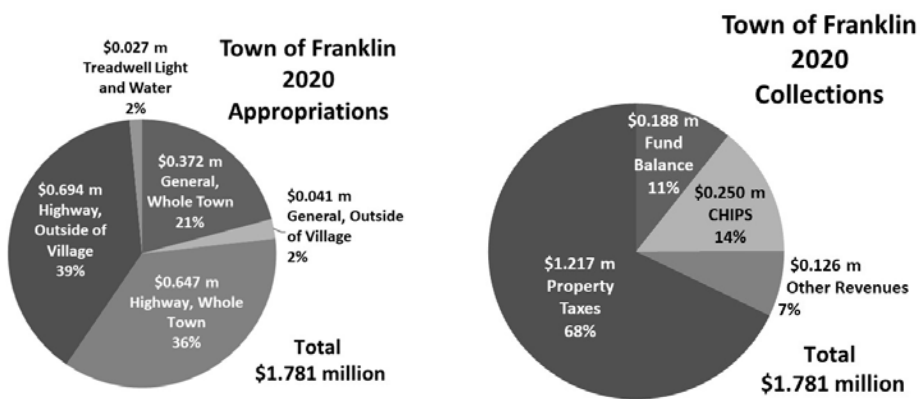
Together these three categories make-up 80 to 97 percent of the budgets for the nine mid-sized towns. Among this group, Franklin is exceptional in how few other services it provides. Its total appropriation for other than transportation, employee benefits, and general government is less than three percent. Of this remaining \$0.05 M, almost one half (\$23,970) goes for Treadwell water district and one quarter (\$14,370) goes for youth recreation. For Treadwell, roughly half of this expense is offset by fees.

To put this another way, Franklin spends over 98 percent of its budget (\$1.69 M) for the expenses, salaries and benefits of officials and the highway department.

More than third of the towns in our county are free of debt, including Davenport, Delhi, Franklin, Sidney, Stamford, Tompkins, and Walton. Towns that spent six figures on paying down their debt tend to be the richer ones: Andes (7.8 percent of budget), Deposit (6.8), Roxbury (4.8), and Hancock (3.4). (Even though town of Meredith spent only \$53,600 on debt service, this is 3.9 percent of its smaller budget.) Often debt is used to finance large infrastructure projects, such as the construction of town office buildings.

The tentative 2020 budget for Franklin was presented at the budget workshop on October 1st.

See SPENDING, continued on Pg. 19



exception is that in 2018, Franklin's spending for machinery was the largest and more than twice the average of the rest, \$0.34 M vs \$0.16 M. However, such spending varies greatly from year to year, with the replacement of a single piece of equipment costing well into five figures. For the last decade, the Franklin highway department annually spent \$ 0.18 to 0.34 M in machinery accounts, averaging \$0.26 M. Figures on spending in the five earlier years (2013 to 2009) are missing because Franklin officials did not file the required financial reports.

For the towns in Delaware County, the next two largest appropriations are for employee benefits

in our county budget 10 to 20 percent for these benefits, and therefore Franklin is not exceptional. When these benefits are added to the highway budget, maintaining our road system takes more than 87 percent of the total budget, or six out of every seven dollars. Our Franklin municipality is a highway department with a government tacked-on.

In Franklin, the third largest appropriation is for general governmental expenses. Most of this goes to salaries and expenses for officials at \$0.14 M. The rest (\$0.029 M) goes for attorney, auditor (AUD), board of ethics, elections, engineering, and traffic violation

ATTACK, continued from Page 1

targets of ransomware are small municipalities, health care facilities, small businesses and organizations - in short, groups who have valuable data and enough money to pay some ransom, but may not be able to afford a sophisticated IT department that would help to avoid or mitigate an attack of this kind.

So, while individuals have been, and continue to be targeted, there's usually more money to be made from extorting small businesses, municipalities or organizations, so individuals are less likely to be targeted. Regardless of your situation, with some planning, an organized backup system with multiple backups not connected to the network can help minimize the damage.

However, individuals continue to be barraged by computer malware not involving ransom, and we all need to be increasingly vigilant about protecting our

computers and personal data. Though a full discussion is beyond the scope of this article, a few quick tips are:

- don't click on links in email unless you are very sure of their origin
- don't open attachments from people you don't know
- be skeptical of email that purports to come from someone you know but doesn't look right. It's often best to call the sender to confirm that files were sent.
- never click on a popup that declares they can help you clean up your computer; force quit the app if you can't get out any other way; an "X" to close a window in such a case may very well initiate a malware infection.
- make sure security patches are applied to your computer.

Helen McLean and Bill Gruber provide a range of technical and computer services and advice to individuals and companies in the Franklin area.



Historic Main Street in Franklin

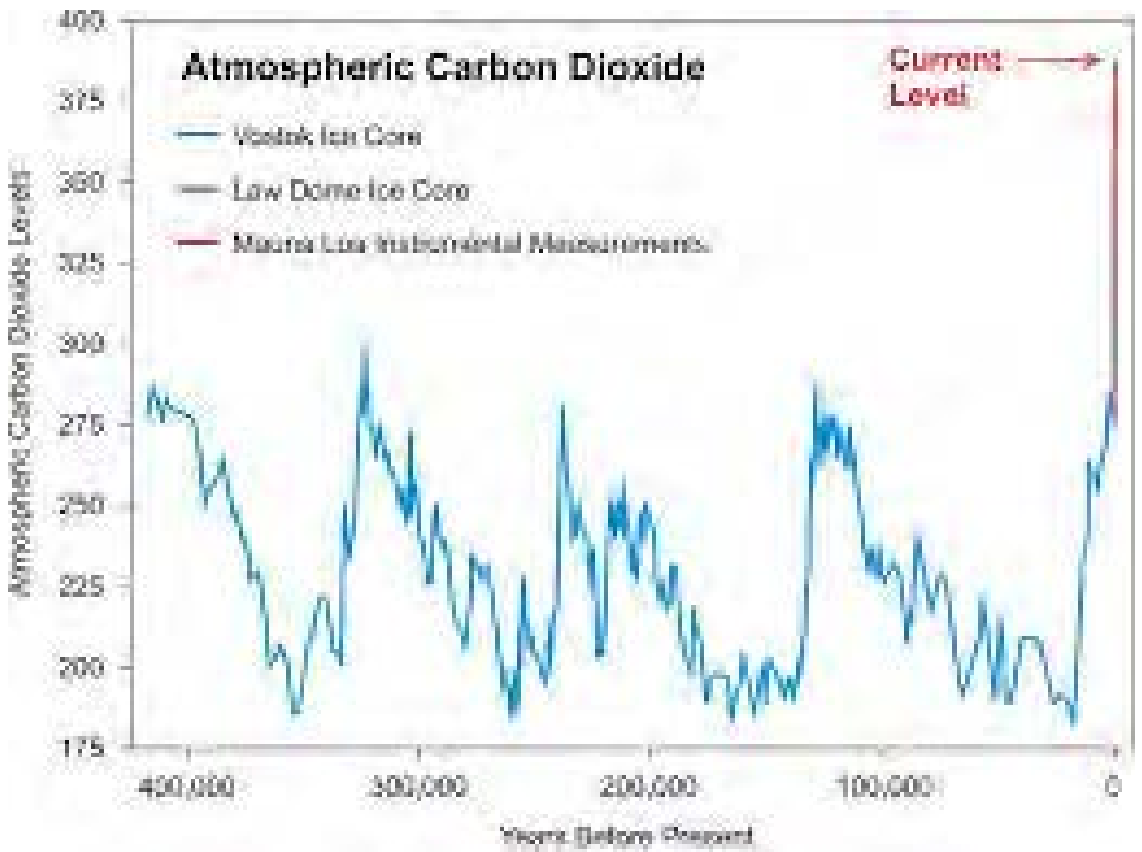
Susan Barnett is a writer and a Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker with Keller Williams Upstate NY Properties in Oneonta. She lives in Franklin

BUZZ, continued from Page 9

political activism is making them an entrenched part of the community. They have a strong belief in public education and they're proud to enroll their children in the local schools. They were sorely needed.

The downside of all these new buyers is the impact on affordable housing. They're driving up real estate values - great for residents thinking of selling, but bad news for people who relied on modest rents and low home prices.

That's good information to have when your town is the next stop on the line for young folks looking to move to the country. The puzzle is finding a way to make change work for everyone.



JUST IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...

SPENDING, con't from Pg. 18

Appropriations were little changed from last year – for details, see the article on Tentative Town Taxes '20, page ???. The public hearing on this budget will be Wednesday November 6th, the day after the general election. Following that, the board will vote to finalize the budget with any amendments.

This article is the second in an occasional series analyzing how Franklin tax dollars are collected and spent. The first article is Budget Matters: Salaries in NFR #37, Summer 2019.



The Newspaper of Franklin Local

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HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register
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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

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



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RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

| DATE | LOCATION | ACRES | TYPE | ASSESS. | SALE | SELLER | BUYER |
|---------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4/1/19 | 501 Hodge Rd | 1.00 | 1 Family Res (NW) | 86,000.00 | 87,450.00 | Cole (Estate), Richard Charles | Davis, Emily D |
| 4/22/19 | 4027 Freer Hollow Rd | 6.84 | 1 Family Res | 45,000.00 | 58,000.00 | Meyers, Richard | Scofield, Gary |
| 4/23/19 | 456 Main St | 0.04 | Apartment | 38,000.00 | 44,000.00 | Vitti, Robert G | 468 Main LLC |
| 4/26/19 | Bissell Rd | 4.19 | Rural Vac<10 | 15,000.00 | 12,000.00 | Bisignano, Vincent | Miller, Michael R |
| 4/29/19 | Christian Hill Rd | 6.21 | Rural Vac<10 | 17,000.00 | 20,000.00 | Reynolds, Henry | Bullis, Sierra E |
| 4/29/19 | 6920 State Hwy 357 | 1.00 | 1 Family Res (NW) | 102,000.00 | 105,000.00 | Denny, Thelma F | Freudenmann, Bernard |
| 4/29/19 | 218 Center St | 0.27 | 1 Family Res | 96,000.00 | 201,030.00 | Freudenmann, Bernard | Cronin, Lisa |
| 4/30/19 | 6504 County Hwy 21 | 23.00 | Junkyard | 58,000.00 | 55,000.00 | States, Dennis | Simpson, Jason |
| 5/10/19 | 4699 State Hwy 28 S | 125.10 | Rural Res (2) | 205,000.00 | 215,000.00 | Marquart, Vicki | Murphy, Christopher |
| 5/13/19 | 3679 State Hwy 28 S | 3.30 | 1 Family Res | 198,000.00 | 225,000.00 | Marsh, Clifford W | Allen-Carmody, Daniel C |
| 5/13/19 | 269 Main St | 0.45 | 1 Family Res | 100,000.00 | 75,000.00 | Murphy, Pamela | Kramer, Ann |
| 5/13/19 | 3756 Freer Hollow Rd | 184.00 | Rural Res | 212,000.00 | - | Hubert M Brink (est), | Knowles, Deborah Ann (R) |
| 5/15/19 | Tara Ln | 12.00 | Rural Vac>10 | 26,000.00 | 15,000.00 | Flanigan, Joan | Biskoroway, Peter F |
| 5/21/19 | 245 Case Hill Rd | 1.10 | 1 Family Res | 115,000.00 | 175,000.00 | Miner, Walter C | Scudder, Jeremy C |
| 5/24/19 | Henry Edwards Rd | 22.00 | Rural Vac>10 | 39,000.00 | 42,500.00 | Dewey, Thomas E | Harkin, Michael |
| 5/24/19 | 1673 Douglas Hall Rd | 60.70 | Rural Res | 400,000.00 | 445,000.00 | Cudahy, James J | Schulman, Brian Arthur |
| 6/3/19 | 1833 Rich Rd | 36.30 | Rural Res | 90,000.00 | 88,000.00 | Selene Finance LP, | McGillan, Maryangela |
| 6/3/19 | 9174 County Hwy 16 | 0.40 | 1 Family Res | 145,000.00 | 167,500.00 | Breuer, Anthony G | Toomim, Penelope K |
| 6/12/19 | 4553 County Hwy 14 | 0.10 | Det Row Bldg | 40,000.00 | 22,000.00 | US Bank Trust NA, | Irani, Merwan |
| 6/17/19 | 527 Bissell Rd | 8.00 | 1 Family Res | 195,000.00 | 221,500.00 | Komita, Richard | Heidrich, Melanie |
| 6/18/19 | 17 West St | 0.37 | 1 Family Res | 115,000.00 | 116,900.00 | Oliver, Matthew T | Sirva Relocation Credit LLC |
| 6/18/19 | 17 West St | 0.37 | 1 Family Res | 115,000.00 | 116,900.00 | Sirva Relocation Credit LLC | Breuer, Anthony |
| 6/20/19 | State Hwy 28 S | 13.12 | Rural Vac<10 (2) | 38,000.00 | 26,000.00 | Tomlin, Jenna | Frolish, Karen M |
| 7/10/19 | 2695 Pomeroy Rd | 7.80 | 1 Family Res | 160,000.00 | 220,000.00 | Kincaid-Levy, Andrea | Danielsen, Jeanne M |
| 7/17/19 | 652 Main St | 0.46 | 1 Family Res | 98,000.00 | 100,000.00 | Hansen, Viviana (F) | Cassinelli, Gary |
| 7/24/19 | 1031 Sherman Hill Rd | 16.85 | Rural Res | 133,000.00 | 120,000.00 | Larezza, Domenico | VanValkenburgh, Jamie D |
| 7/26/19 | Campbell Estates Rd | 7.13 | Rural Vac<10 | 18,000.00 | 12,500.00 | Montalvo, Ramon | Scofield, Gary Lee |
| 7/31/19 | 11451 State Hwy 357 | 0.82 | 1 Family Res | 89,000.00 | 83,000.00 | Ritz, Elsie I | Gillow, Rhonda |
| 8/15/19 | 195 Bennett Hollow Rd | 5.20 | 1 Family Res | 114,000.00 | 210,000.00 | Donelan, James G | Linder, Aimee Lyn |
| 9/5/19 | 2480 Pomeroy Rd | 10.40 | Rural Res (NW) | 128,000.00 | 120,000.00 | Joyce Opramolla Estate, | Jones, Ryan |

(2) Two parcels

(NW) Not warrenty

(F) Foreclosure

(R) Relatives