

YOUR FRANKLIN GOVERNMENT

by **Brian Brock**

This is the first in a series about our local government. Later installments will cover the Justice of the Peace, Assessor, the Fire Departments, the Board of Education, and the Village Board.

I. EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES

Of all the levels of our country's government, it is at the local level that you can have the greatest effect with the least amount of effort. Monthly, you can observe and influence the operation of local government with only a short drive from home. Every other year, you can vote for most officials. You can also place a candidate or a law on the ballot with a few tens or hundreds of signatures.

Conversely, local government can have the greatest effect on you, both taking and giving. Local government takes through real estate taxes; if you fail to pay, you will lose your property. But local government gives by educating children, maintaining and plowing roads, responding to emergencies, regulating development and construction, dispensing justice, keeping records, and controlling animals. In Treadwell, it even provides for power and water.

From the first official town meeting in Franklin in 1793, there has been a Supervisor, a Town Clerk, Assessors, Tax Collectors, and one or more Commissioners of High Ways, later called Superintendent of

Highways. Together these officials make up the executive branch of Town government.

The legislative branch is the Town Council, formed to assist the Supervisor. Early on, the Town Council comprised four Justices of the Peace. Starting in the mid-1950s, the number of Justices was reduced one by one and a Councilman filled each vacancy. Finally in 1980, the one remaining Justice on the council was replaced, thus separating the legislative and judicial branches of government.

Today our Town Council manages a \$1.5 million annual budget, employing approximately a dozen full time and dozens of part time workers. The Council is responsible for passing laws and ordinances, drawing-up the annual budget, and administering Town government. The Town Council was originally called the Town Board and still is informally known as such. Councilmen are known as Members of the Board.

The Town Supervisor and four councilmen constitute our modern Town Council. These are part time, paid positions. Our officials are a comparative bargain, with salaries

that are among the lowest in Delaware County. The Supervisor is elected for a term of two years. The Councilmen are elected for a term of four years, two one year and then the others two years later.

There are less than 1500 voters registered in Franklin, with 30 to 60% voting. We vote in three districts: two at the Town Garage just outside the Village of Franklin, and one at the New School in Treadwell.

Our supervisor and councilmen represent the whole town at large rather than a specific district within Franklin. The Supervisor also represents our Town on the Delaware County Board of Supervisors.

Councilmen typically serve for a term or three, but our present Supervisor, Don Smith, is completing his 30th year. Throughout the 1800's, Supervisors served for a year or two, but starting in the early 1900's, their terms stretched beyond a decade.

If a councilman can not finish his term, the Board appoints a replacement for the remainder of that year. Any resident citizen who is over 18 years of age and not a felon can run for election to the Council.

To get your name on

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NET ENERGY: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

by **Eugene Marner**

One of the least understood - and most important - aspects of our energy predicament is Net Energy. We are so accustomed to flicking a switch when we enter a room and having the lights come on, or effortlessly pumping gasoline into our fuel tanks that, even if we know better, we behave as if our consumption of energy is limited only by our desires or our wallets.

If we stop to think about it, however, we'll quickly realize that there is much more to it. Lots of energy must be used to bring us the convenience and ease that we expect of the light switch and the gas pump. It takes energy to get and use energy. Fuels must be found, extracted and refined, machinery must be built from steel or other metals that must be mined, workers must get to work; all this requires energy.

Net Energy is the amount of energy that we have left over to do work (such as powering a car engine) after subtracting the amount of energy we use in order to get our hands on the energy in the first place.

Back in the 19th century when the first U. S. oil wells were drilled in Pennsylvania, the Net Energy of the oil was very high. The oil was fairly close to the surface and so not too much drilling was required to reach it. Pennsylvania oil was also very high quality - light and sweet, as they say in the oil business. So

it didn't need much refining - again saving a lot of energy. Even today, some Pennsylvania oil is pure enough to lubricate sewing machines after just a little filtering.

West Texas Intermediate was another light sweet crude oil that gave tremendous Net Energy. The Energy Return on Energy Invested (EROEI) of some Texas oil wells (remember the gushers in movies back in the 1920s and 1930s?) was often 30 to 1 and even as high as 100 to 1. That means that for every barrel of oil invested in finding, drilling, refining and transporting the oil, the producer got back 30 barrels or

See **ENERGY** on Page 4



COMMUNITY GREENHOUSES: A PRAGMATIC SOLUTION

by **Mark Davies**

There has been considerable talk around Delaware and Otsego counties about using greenhouses to extend the growing season for farmers, building community greenhouses for use within community gardens, and building school-based greenhouses and agricultural programs to enhance curricular offerings. Each of these ideas holds more value when we begin to consider the implications for food and food production in an energy depleted society.

As the cost of fuel and oil rises, we are all starting to feel the cost increase in ways beyond the "pump shock" experienced when filling up our car or truck - we are now starting to feel the increase in the cost of basic food items. As the cost of shipping food and produce increases, it is going to make localized food production more important. But in our climate, greenhouses become a necessary tool to extend the growing season.

Many farmers know the value of cold frames and plastic row covers which protect early plantings or extend the fall harvest by protecting produce from late and early frosts. But many local farmers are beginning to consider larger greenhouses to drastically extend the growing season from seed to harvest and to maximize production.

Community organizers in Oneonta are discussing the building of a community greenhouse on newly a newly developed community garden site. A community greenhouse is especially valuable for the "backyard gardener" because it allows for the starting of seedlings during the colder months of February and March, enabling the earlier planting of mature plants. By locating

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THE FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

This summer's Farmers' Market on Institute Street was a rousing popular success.

See Page 7 for more pix and an end-of-season wrap up

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The NEW Franklin Register

The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil
Editorial Board

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What are we about?

The Town of Franklin Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil was authorized by the Resolution reproduced on this page. Our purpose is to assess the needs and resources of the Town of Franklin in the face of Peak Oil, and to report back to the Town Board and to the people of Franklin.

We are a group of Franklin residents who meet for one evening every month, at a location determined at the previous meeting. Often, we meet at a member's house for a pot luck supper before we get down to actual business. All are welcome to join us, to ask questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas

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

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

In a nutshell, we are trying to imagine a more energy efficient habit of living, and to put it to work here in Franklin, for a brighter, more sustainable future..

We hope you will join us!

For meeting times, location and directions, email us at franklin_local@frontiernet.net

You can also join our Peak Oil Awareness Yahoo Group. It's POA_CNY@yahoo.com.

That is, Peak Oil Awareness_Central New York.

This group fosters discussion of local efforts, potential or ongoing, to deal with the effects of Peak Oil on our communities.

Sit. Be still and listen.
For you are drunk,
And we are at the edge of the roof.
- Rumi

FRANKLIN MAKES HISTORY

On December 6, 2005, the Franklin Town Board became the first in the nation to pass a resolution establishing a Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil, in order to explore the needs and resources of the citizens of the Town of Franklin in the face of the global problem known as Peak Oil.

RESOLUTION :

Whereas oil production in the lower 48 states peaked in 1970, making the United States ever more dependent upon imported oil, and

Whereas a growing body of professional opinion in the energy industries believes that the world has already arrived or will soon arrive at the peak of global oil production, and

Whereas North American production of natural gas has already peaked, and

Whereas no alternatives are in place or ready to substitute for oil and natural gas and are decades away from being ready, and

Whereas the economic, political, and social implications of declining energy resources are not generally understood, and are likely to have dramatic effects

Whereas, in conditions of energy decline and reduced mobility, communities will be forced to rely ever more upon local resources,

Therefore,

Be it resolved that the Franklin Town Board authorizes the creation of a Citizens' Commission to examine the issues raised by declining energy supplies and rising energy costs, to explore the needs and resources of the Town of Franklin affected by energy costs and supplies, and to report back to the Board and to the citizens of Franklin the results of its discussions and deliberations.

The New Franklin Register is an independent entity funded entirely by its editorial board, with the help of occasional contributions from interested friends. We have no granting organizations to answer to, and no taxpayer dollars come our way.

The NFR is grateful to Seathrun O'Corrain for his support of Issue No. 3.

AN UPDATE ON OUR PARK:

First, thank you all for your support!!!

The Franklin Improvement Society raised enough money to purchase the property! The property is in the process of being turned over to the Village. Once all the paperwork goes through, we can begin work. We will be looking for volunteers to help us clear the area. We are hoping to have a clean-up day before Winter settles in for good. Over the winter months, we will develop a plan for the park so that by the time Spring arrives, we can begin the work.

We do need financial help to pay for the

costs this will incur.

We did get a matching grant from the O'Connor Foundation, of \$15,000. That means we need to raise that much before we will get the grant. Let's all chip in!!! Anything you can help with will be greatly appreciated.

Please mail donations to Franklin Improvement Society, PO Box 166, Franklin, NY 13775. We believe having a nice green space in the middle of Main Street, instead of the vacant overgrown lots they are now, will greatly enhance all the other improvements that have been happening in our Village in recent years.

If you have any questions or ideas, please call **Kim at 829-8820**.

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING FAMILY FEUD

BY JIM MULLEN

Historians agree that the Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving was a one-time event. It wasn't turned into a yearly celebration until Abraham Lincoln made it official during the middle of the Civil war, some two hundred and fifty years later. New documents have come to light which may explain why.

"Never again," writes John Alden in a newly discovered cache of papers composed by the original passengers of the Mayflower.

"Six long hours we have spent looking at the hind end of a horse on the overly crowded road to the house of my parents and lo, for what? To see my brother with whom I barely speak and his harpy wyfe who so disrespecteth me and mine in a backhanded way? He starteth acting like a wee childe from the time we stepped from the carriage until the time we departed. He bringeth up small jealousies and grievances from our youth long ago. His unhappiness is like a contagion, a pustule that never heals. 'Letteth it go and getteth a life,' he has made me wish to scream, and more times than one. We should be spending less time together, not more, me thinks.

"One unpleasantry follows another as I suf-

fer my uncles and aunts to runneth on and on about my cousins -- how well they are doing, how much money they are sending to their parents, what comely grandchildren they have produced. Yet I knoweth these same cousins. They would soil themselves if they were ever made to do a day's work.

"They wish their parents dead and spend their days making plans to squander their inheritance in a warmer clime. Their small children hear not the word 'no' and understandeth not its meaning. They runneth around and screameth all day when peace and quiet is called for.

"And my wyfe cares not for the way my mother prepareth the meal. 'She useth not oysters in the fowl's stuffing,' she rails at me. 'She putteth not the bird in a paper bag in the hearth.' It maketh me fatigued to hear such words. Yet Priscilla's own stuffing would not winneth any prize, even in the land of my birth where they can taste not the difference between soup and soap. She knoweth not, but secretly I giveth my portions of her bounty to the hound beneath the table. It teacheth him not to beg.

"My wyfe speaks ill of none, yet I can tell from the bearing of her body that she would

rather be ducking witches on a cold day in December than be in the company of my family and their offspring. As if her family be a barrel of salted fish. Her sisters make it well known that their spouses buy them more kitchen tools than I, and that the corn from their labor is bigger and better than that of my own. They maketh my head hurt. Were they not aboard, the journey of the Mayflower could have been as a fun ship. With them, it was as the hate boat.

"It occurred to me suddenly that we may have left the wood stove on at home. Priscilla, volunteered that it may be true as she had often noticed my forgetful habits. Happily, we fled the festivities. On the road home we spoke not to each other for many hours. 'Let us hope we can do this again next year,' at last I spoke. It got a hearty laugh as Priscilla knew I was in perfect jest. In truth, you could not make us do that again were two hundred and fifty years to pass. And for that we gave thanks."

Jim Mullen is the author of "Baby's First Tattoo: A Baby Memory Book for Modern Parents" You can reach him at jim_mullen@myway.com

Your Neighbor's View...

WIND TURBINES: LOVE 'EM OR HATE 'EM?

by Bob Miller

Recently Assemblyman Peter Lopez organized a bus trip to three wind turbine sites; Madison, Fenner and Lowville. Many of us from 3 counties went. We talked to homeowners, farmers, landowners, town board members and wind industry representatives.

Each individual town negotiated their own benefit package. For instance, a town near Lowville received 1 ¼ million dollars up front. Their annual budget was about a third of this. We all know this is a bribe but with this amount they were able to update their town hall, library, road and equipment. All roads used by the turbine company were repaved and/or stoned at the company's expense. This particular town expects to be able to totally wipe out land taxes at the end of this contract.

There was originally some opposition from all these areas. This was overcome with much discussion during many information meetings. One of the big pluses resulting from these wind farms is that all farmers participating were able to stay in business. Some of the things we hear in our area are vastly exaggerated. Such as:

BIRD DEATHS: The Audubon Society insisted birds were being killed but since they didn't find them they guessed the dead birds were being eaten by predators. So they placed 100 dead birds under turbines, 5 days later 96 dead birds were still there.

TURBINES TURN 250 MPH: They turn one complete revolution every 3 seconds.

ICE FLIES OFF BLADES, POSING A DANGER TO ANYONE WITHIN 250 YDS. Blades can ice up but they stop automatically till the ice falls off. So the danger would be to anyone standing directly beneath the tower.

TURBINES BOTHER WILDLIFE: One farmer said a deer hid her fawn directly under the tower. He mowed 2 cuttings of hay right up to the tower and saw the fawn and her mother frequently throughout the summer.

THE LARGE COMPANIES DON'T DO AS THEY AGREE: At all 3 sites everyone testifying stated that these companies did everything they agreed plus extra. Any problems that arose were very promptly taken care of.

THE NOISE IS LIKE SEVERAL JACKHAMMERS: We gathered directly under a turning windmill and carried on a normal conversation until a car went down the road near us. The car made more noise than the turbine.

The Lowville field can produce 1% of New York State needs. Just think 10 fields of equal capacity and 10% of our needs would be met.

I wish more people from our area would visit the windmill farms to get the real story. I hear the same good reports from folks in other states such as W. VA., who have lived with them much longer.

I certainly agree with those who would like to see wind power developed locally by local people and/or governments, so the millions now made by the big corporations could benefit us. But so far the will or expertise or dollars hasn't surfaced.

I'm very interested in seeing us do more about conserving energy. How about 10% conservation along with the 10% wind power?

ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER?

If not, you should consider exercising your right as an American citizen!

Registration forms can be downloaded from co.delaware.ny.us/depts/elec, or are available at the Franklin Town Hall, the Post Office, and the Library. They can be submitted up until 25 days before the election.

HONORING WALTER RICH

This year's Christmas Concert will be dedicated to the memory of our neighbor, friend and benefactor, Walter Rich, who died this past summer.

The concert will be held on Saturday, Dec. 22nd, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, at the corner of Institute and Main Street in Franklin, starting at 7 p.m.

The performance will feature bass bari-

tone Steven Markuson, and the Catskill Brass Quintet.

Steven Markuson is an Artist in Residence at Hartwick College. He teaches at SUNY's Oneonta and Delhi, and performs frequently as a soloist.

Erna McReynolds Morgan and Tom Morgan will continue their sponsorship of this favorite Franklin event.

YARD OF THE MONTH

The September Yard of the Month was:

11 Maple Street.

This corner property offers to the passer-by a mature mixed garden to one side of the house, and on the other, a charming view through a trellised fence (covered with roses, neatly-pruned now that they're past their bloom) into a complex inner garden behind. The mixed garden is particularly well-balanced, without being static - an inventive grouping of evergreen and deciduous shrubs, perennials and even vegetables, co-existing happily in a large rectangular plot, with trees to the left and a mass of shrubbery to the right, defining the edges of the composition.

As before, settling on one choice was difficult. The whole village looks just spectacular, with its delightful variety of presentation styles: from formal and linear to lush and cottagey. We particularly noticed the clean, fresh lines of the hedge pruning at several properties, so harmonious with and often a witty comment on the architecture that we wondered if they had all been sheared by the same clever hand.

For October, the final 2007 Yard of the Month was:

81 Center Street

As fall arrives in earnest and the flowering plants end their season, the more

permanent structures - the "bones" of the garden - begin to dominate the design.

This stately older residence on Center Street comes into its own at this time of the year, with its shapely plantings of mature evergreens and shrubbery. The house and lawn are well-cared for. The overall composition is clean, hinged around a magnificent blue spruce at one corner, and clasping the house in an elegantly asymmetrical embrace. The classically limited palette of dark greens against white is subtly energized by a few colorful potted plants.

Over the summer, we had noticed the quietly changing displays on the upper balcony. This time, we were amused to see little pumpkins and an owl among the mums, offering a tasteful nod to Halloween and the harvest season.

We'd like to add an honorable mention for the several delightful uses that Franklin gardeners have found for the lovely blue morning glory, now offering up a last glorious show before the cold weather descends.

We hope you've all been out there planting bulbs, so there'll be even more to look forward to next spring. Congratulations to all the Franklin gardeners who have made the village shine so brightly. Have a good winter rest!

The panel:

Sondra Freckelton
Jane Couch
Marjorie Kellogg

"YOUR NEIGHBOR'S VIEW..." will regularly showcase opinion pieces from around our township. These views may not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of the New Franklin Register.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ISSUES FACING OUR COMMUNITY?

Please write to us and let us know: c/o **The Editor**
The New Franklin Register
P.O. Box 258
Franklin, NY 13375-0258

Or you can contact us by email: franklin_local@frontiernet.net

A CHRISTMAS STROLL IN FRANKLIN

Saturday, December 8

Come, join us in our annual Village-wide (and beyond) Christmas Celebration.

Houses open for tours 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Craft Sale at 422 Main St. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tree lighting at the Methodist Church at 6:00 PM with

Santa will arrive shortly thereafter. All the children are invited to Dawn's afterwards for free hot chocolate. Then on to the Fire House for pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

"The Christmas Shoes" will be presented at the Community Bible Church, Center St., at 8:00 PM (also at 5:00 PM Sunday, Dec. 9)

Maps (\$10) showing the houses on the tour will be available at 425 Main St. (next to The Beehive).

A Dinner Special will be served from 4:00 - 7:00 PM at The Beehive.

The Senior Class will sponsor a Lasagna Dinner at the school from 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Available that night, the sixth in a series of collectible Christmas ornaments featuring historic buildings of Franklin.

Also for sale - 2008 calendars featuring watercolor paintings of local buildings/scenery by Lizbeth Firmin, prints of Old Stone Hall, Stone Hall crocks and Franklin cream pitchers.

Sponsored by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and The Franklin Improvement Society.

PEAK OIL IN BRIEF:

United States oil production peaked in 1970. Today, we import 60% of the oil we burn. After Canada, Mexico and Saudi Arabia are our largest suppliers of imported oil.

Production from Mexico's Cantarell field, the largest field in the Western Hemisphere and the source of most of Mexico's oil exports, declined by 20% in 2006. No new reserves have been found to replace this production.

Saudi Arabian production declined by 8% in 2006. No new reserves have been found to replace this production, either.

Many analysts in the oil industry believe that the global peak in production has either passed or will arrive soon.

If global oil supplies decline at a rate of 7% a year, then production will be down by 50% in ten years. Can you use 50% less energy in ten years? And 50% less than that, ten years later?

If global supplies decline at a rate of 14% a year, production will be down by 50% in just five years. Can you use 50% less energy five years from now? And just half of that in another five years?

Join with us to explore how we can create a low-energy local economy, less dependent on imported energy supplies.

FROM THE GREATER FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

NOMINATE THE BUSINESS AND PERSON OF THE YEAR

Nominations are being sought and accepted for the Chamber's 2007 Business of the Year Award and Person of the Year Award.

Those awards will be presented at our annual dinner, scheduled in February, 2008

The Business of the Year Award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a business to the development and economy of the Greater Franklin area. Special emphasis will be given to achievements including stability, growth and community involvement.

The Person of the year Award recognizes a community-minded individual within the Greater Franklin community who has distinguished him/herself through outstanding contributions of support and service to the area, thereby making a positive impact on the community.

PICK UP A NOMINATION FORM IN ANY LOCAL BUSINESS OR CALL A COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Deadline for receipt of nominations: December 30, 2007

Return form to: Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 814
Franklin, NY 13775

Nominating Committee Members: John Campbell: 829-5890 Donna Archer: 829-3933
Tom Briggs: 829-6885 Caroline Ganim: 829-5676 Artie Swenson: 829-3509

List your products with us!

The New Franklin Register will be adding a new feature: a regular listing of local produce and products for sale in our community.

But we need your help to make this listing grow.

Let us know who you are! Sign up with us now, using the form below.

Mail completed form to:
Editor, New Franklin Register, P.O. Box 258, Franklin, NY 13775

Name: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Product: _____

Location where product can be purchased: _____

ENERGY - continued from Page 1

more that could be sold or used. The same was true of Middle East oil back in the 1950s.

But we've been burning oil for about 150 years now and the world has changed dramatically. The easy-to-reach light sweet crude was found and extracted first. That was natural. No one would choose to drill thousands of feet beneath the Gulf of Mexico or in the harsh conditions of Alaska's North Slope if it were possible to drill a relatively shallow hole in the temperate climate of Western Pennsylvania. Not only the monetary cost but the energy cost of drilling in more forbidding environments is often far higher than the cost of drilling in an on-shore temperate climate.

A massive drilling platform that can withstand hurricanes in the Gulf or the storms of the North Sea takes a lot of energy to build and to operate. Rigs like ExxonMobil's Beryl Alpha in the North Sea are as big



as a village and cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

As I said earlier, back in the heyday of oil exploration from the 1920s through the mid 1960s, it was common to get an Energy Return of 30-to-1 and more on the Energy Invested. Today, the return is more likely to be 6-to-1 or even less. As it gets ever more difficult to find, extract and refine oil, at some point it will require one barrel of oil to get one barrel of oil. Once the return drops below the energy cost of production, the energy source stops being a source and becomes an "energy sink."

Why is it important for us to understand the concepts of Net Energy and Energy Return on Energy Invested (EROEI)?

In fact, it's more than important. It is critical to consider EROEI when we search for what are called "alternative" sources of energy. Researchers David Pimentel of Cornell and Tad Patzak of Berkeley (<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/July05/ethanol.toocostly.ssl.html>) have shown that ethanol from corn and switchgrass, and biodiesel from soybeans and sunflowers are all energy losers: they require more energy inputs from fossil fuel operated machinery and transport than can be obtained from the allegedly "green" fuel. Furthermore, these crops degrade the soil by removing what we mistakenly call plant "waste" instead of reincorporating it into the soil. In nature, there is no waste; everything returns to the soil to nourish the next year's growth. If we burn these biofuels, we are, in effect, burning our topsoil. Despite these facts, our government is subsidizing ethanol production in grandiose corporate welfare projects that do nothing to solve our energy problems but everything to reward cronies and campaign donors. This is not a partisan statement: Republicans and Democrats alike promote such boondoggles using our tax money. The lack of EROEI analysis risks using our precious remaining fossil fuel resources to reward political supporters instead of trying to build a sustainable way of living.

For many thousands of years, human beings lived like every other living thing - animal and vegetable - using only the annual energy income of the earth; that is, the solar energy that falls on the planet. Some of that solar energy is harvested by plants through the process of photosynthesis. The sunlight striking plants powers their tiny factories that turn carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and other elements into sugars and proteins that animals then eat. We eat some of the plants ourselves, burn others for warmth, eat some of the animals and, if we are sensible, return what is left over to the soil.

The discovery of fossil fuels allowed us to add to the earth's solar income the solar harvests of millions of years ago, stored in the earth for eons as coal, oil and gas. Fossil fuels have allowed each of us to use vastly more energy than the earth's annual energy income. In effect, we have been spending savings rather than income. As the available oil, gas, and coal declines, we need to make wise choices. The study of Net Energy - the Energy Return on Energy Invested - can help us to do that.

We are accustomed to thinking in terms of prices and often find it difficult to remember that it's not the financial investment that counts, but the investment of energy.

The distinction is crucial. The Federal Reserve can print money but no bank can print energy.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PEAK OIL PREPAREDNESS

by Brandon Dennis

Many folks who finally understand the implications of the peaking of global oil production naturally ask, "What can I do?"

Hats off to those folks who are willing to take the next logical steps to prepare for this unprecedented event. Here are some ideas to start with, once you accept the reality of the depletion of non-renewable resources.

- 1) Buy a fuel efficient car
- 2) Car pool when possible
- 3) Support local businesses
- 4) Buy local farm produce (support the Franklin's Farmer's Market)
- 5) Grow a garden
- 6) Learn food preservation skills
- 7) Upgrade inefficient heating systems
- 8) Upgrade home appliances to more efficient ones
- 9) Improve home insulation
- 10) Convert to wood heat or have wood heat as back up
- 11) Get out of debt
- 12) Get to know your neighbors better
- 13) Develop hobbies, interests, and social activities that are less energy intensive
- 14) If seeking new employment, choose an occupation that is more critical to community necessities as opposed to a consumer luxury economy
- 15) Politically support energy conservation and renewable energy
- 16) Stay informed on current fossil fuel depletion news
- 17) Encourage family and friends to conserve energy in their daily lives
- 18) Act now while fossil fuels are still abundant and cheap
- 19) Learn to live using 30% to 50% less energy than you do now

MYTHS OF BIOFUELS

The federal government is spending a huge number of our tax dollars on subsidies for biofuels. Local dairy and livestock farmers have been suffering increased feed costs due to the high demand for corn to be made into ethanol.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, ethanol is a Net Energy loser, and could not compete as a fuel without taxpayer subsidies.

David Fridley, a scientist at Berkeley Livermore National Laboratory in Berkeley, CA, delivered a lecture on the subject in Santa Clara, CA. A well-edited version of the lecture, MYTHS OF BIOFUELS, is available on DVD, **free**, from The New Franklin Register.

(The makers of the DVD encourage wide distribution, so we are not violating anyone's copyright.)

Peak Oil Templates for Action:

The Tompkins County Relocalization Project outline can be found at:

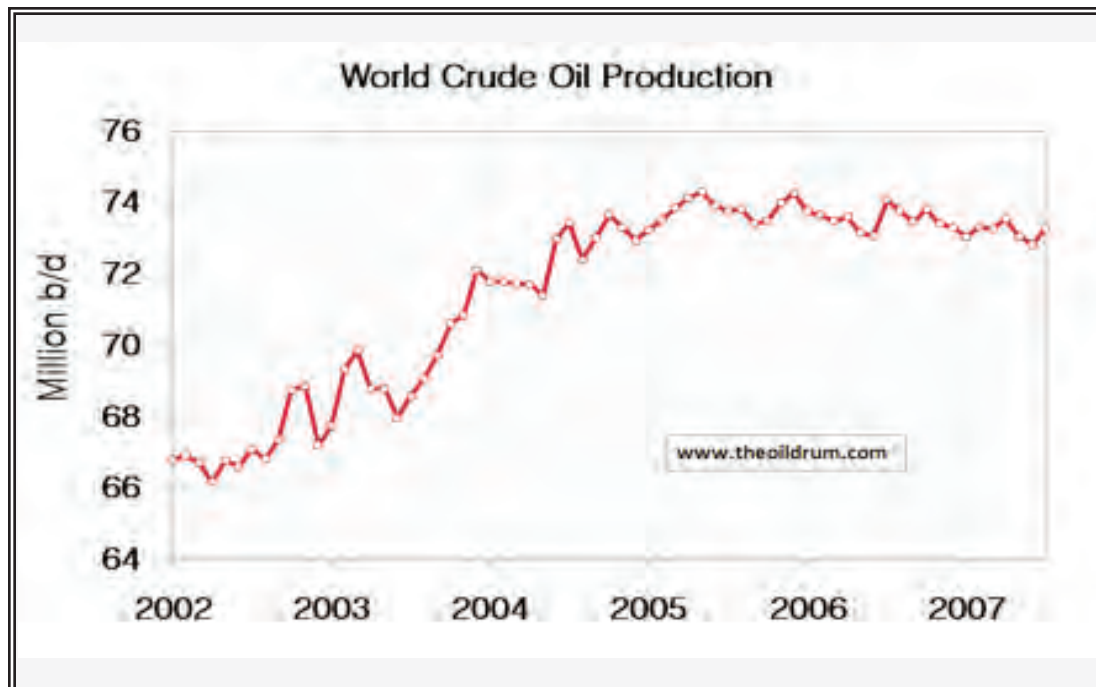
<http://ibiblio.org/tcrp/doc/project.htm>

The Kinsale Energy Descent Action Plan is at:

http://transitionculture.org/?page_id=104

The Hirsch Report:

http://www.netl.doe.gov/otiic/World_Oil_Issues/Oil_Peaking_NETL.pdf



WORLD PEAK IN 2005?

The record set for world crude oil production was in May 2005 at 74.3 million barrels per day.

We are currently producing over a million barrels less a day, at around 73 million barrels per day.

A number of oil industry experts believe that May 2005 will go down in the history books as the all time world oil production peak. Their conclusions are based on the observation that many of the old giant oil fields are now in decline with a lack of significant new discoveries to replace current depletion rates.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Agency
b/d = barrels per day

"One cannot but reflect what a sucked orange the earth will be in the course of a few more centuries. Our civilization is terribly expensive to all its natural resources; one hundred years of modern life doubtless exhausts its stores more than a millenium of the life of antiquity. Its coal and oil will be about used up, all its mineral wealth greatly depeted, the fertility of its soil will have been washed into the sea through the drainage of its cities, its wild game will be nearly extinct, its primitive forest gone, and soon how nearly bankrupt the planet will be!"

- John Burroughs, in *Leaf and Tendril*, 1908

COMMUNITY GREENHOUSES (continued from Page 1)

greenhouses in a community garden, backyard gardeners are able to come together and share ideas, resources and knowledge that will greatly aid each other and the people of the community. In some towns, the community garden is used by local gardeners as a place to cultivate their gardening knowledge while producing fruits and vegetables that can benefit other members of the community. Many towns that have community gardens have grown enough produce from their gardens to give every contributing gardener a bushel of produce every other week, as well as supplying elderly folks in the community with weekly fresh produce.

Both the Cooperstown based group Sustainable Otsego, and the Oneonta based Environmental Work Group, have been actively discussing the creation of community gardens associated with local schools. This idea has excited various members of the groups because it offers opportunities to connect schools and community as well as educate students about the process of growing food. Group organizers hope to bring outside experts to the area to discuss community based and school based greenhouse/ gardens and to create several local school-based programs modeled after a successful program at the Goff Middle School near Albany.

The Goff Middle School program has successfully educated students about growing fruits and vegetables while also generating revenue through the sale of the produce. Students hold a farmers' market on the school grounds to sell the fruits and vegetables produced in the school garden. Revenue from these sales easily offsets the cost of agricultural and greenhouse programs, and creates a source of income for other school programs or student clubs that quickly exceeds the revenue from baked good sales. Produce grown and harvested at the school could also be used for school lunch consumption.

School-based greenhouses also enhance curricular offerings by providing a practical lab setting for classes in science. The greenhouse can be used to study horticulture, agriculture, botany and other useful and essential sciences. Students in these programs also learn essential food production skills as they take a plant from seed to market and study all of the required steps in between.

Locally, the Otsego County Conservation Association has worked with local schools on a variety of different conservation programs including a school garden in a courtyard at Laurens Central School. Funding for programs such as these is often a big obstacle faced by community groups and school administrators.

But opportunities to apply for grants for school-based garden and greenhouse programs do exist. Erik Miller, Executive Director of OCCA, states, "annually we give grants to schools to fund environmental educational opportunities such as these throughout the County." While these grants may not cover the full cost of a program, they can certainly jumpstart the creation of such programs.

School-based garden and greenhouse programs can offer many opportunities for students to gain knowledge and skills that can contribute to our local food production. If our schools are preparing students to become responsible, successful citizens by teaching skills and habits that we deem valuable, or even essential, it would seem that in an energy depleted world teaching small-scale food production and gardening skills is just as important as history, math and literature.

When more local farmers begin to use greenhouses to extend the growing season and communities and school programs develop greenhouses and gardens it will increase both the knowledge of food production and actual production in our developing local food economy; and as food prices continue to rise, this option is beginning to look better and better.

For an interesting documentary on Peak Oil, take a look at OIL APOCALYPSE. It ran on the History Channel, and can be watched on a computer with a broad-band connection.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=495148273412977176&hl=en>

Local news
Local events

FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local issues
Local concerns

The Relocalization Business of the Month: Sherman Hill Farm

An interview with Linda Smith

by Carole Marner

It is Thursday morning and in a neat white-washed room, nestled two steps down behind a low white wooden door, Linda Smith is wrapping fresh goat cheese, a hundred and fifteen pounds of it, in 4 ounce packages. It is a small room, built into the old barn, but it has all she needs: the pasteurizer, the sinks, two refrigerators, a scale and a cheese presser/mold. She has spent the past week here by herself making this cheese and others. Linda has been raising goats since 1972, shipping milk since 1988, and making cheese since 1993.

Linda has a devastating smile, both welcoming and amused. She is a small, pretty woman, lithe but sturdy, with high cheekbones, a firm jaw and lively eyes. She grew up in in small blue collar town in western New York. "Never had a pet, not even a dog or a cat." She moved east when her husband, Arthur George, got a job at the college in Oneonta. At first they lived in an apartment. But in the early 70's, they got caught up in the back to the land movement and bought twelve acres of rocky hillside on Sherman Hill in Franklin. They built a house, then a barn, had a boy, Nick, and a girl, Morgan, and brought in some goats to browse and keep the briars cut down. Since then, for Linda, her life at every step along the way - milking goats, shipping milk, becoming a cheesemaker - was just like buying those goats in the first place, a thing progressing naturally as if with a will its own.

In the late seventies, when a friend, Mary Leavey, separated from her husband and needed a place to stay, she moved in temporarily with her two small daughters, Erica and Kathy. They stayed 20 years. And it became two families living and working together. It was mainly the women who were doing the homesteading: Mary and Linda and their daughters, Erica, Kathy and Morgan. In those days, Linda did most of the farm work. Art and Mary both had outside jobs and the children were small. But every-one did chores.

They soon outgrew both the land and the house. Together, they bought (and later restored) a lovely, big, old Victorian farmhouse on County Route 21, but kept the name, Sherman Hill Farm. It was not legal for them to sell their goat milk, so they raised "pigs & cows and this and that." In the mid eighties, someone said, "if you get legal, I'll buy your milk."

Getting legal meant dealing with Ag and Markets, and "it's always this and that with them, too, so it takes a while. By the time we got the money together to get all the equipment and put in all the improvements we had to - in order to comply with all the codes - that buyer disappeared, and the only one we could find was a cheese maker in Columbia County, 120 miles away, and we had to deliver the milk all the way to her. But from 1988 to 1993 we were a grade A dairy." One day the milk inspector suggested they make their own cheese. "He helped us round up equipment and his advice was invaluable." It took over a year, from fall of '92 to the summer of '93 to get licensed and buy the cheese-making equipment and get started.

"Learning cheesemaking was not easy." - Linda Smith

At first it was hard. Learning cheesemaking was not easy. There was not a lot of literature around, much less old timers who could give advice. It was a lot of trial and error. The three girls worked at the dairy while in high school and during college vacations, but after college, they all left. Erica was on the farm till the early 90's. After college, she got a job in New Hampshire. A few of years after, Mary Leavey, who missed her daughter very much, decided to move to be near her. Mary's other daughter, Kathy, went to Cornell, graduated in 1995 as a vet, and moved to Massachusetts. "Now she just deals with dogs and cats." Morgan was the last one at home, went to college in Oneonta and then took off to see the world.

Around this time, Linda and her husband separated and divorced. Arthur George died about six years ago. All the work fell on Linda's shoulders. A nephew lived with her for a while and helped. Linda's son, Nick George, still lives on the farm. But Nick milks cows. He has been been a dairy farmer for twelve years. He worked as a kid for Franklin dairy farmer Jeff Taggart, and "you know how it is, you bring home a calf and it becomes a cow and you start to milk. By the time Nick was 22, he was shipping milk. He did help me out with the goat milk-

ing, which was great because he does it faster than I do."

Then a few years ago, Morgan George came back with her boyfriend, Jason Jamison. She missed the farm and the country and the goats. Jason got a job off the farm and Morgan became her mother's partner, taking over everything to do with the goats and the milking. Linda is the cheese maker. They all live in the same big house but in different parts. Nick and his young family have a completely separate apartment in the back of the house. Morgan and Jason (they now have a baby girl, Hailey) have their own separate four rooms in another part, but share a kitchen with Linda. Nick makes his own hay for the cows, but Linda buys hers locally from Jim Archibald. "So I guess you could say we are 100% local. But there aren't kids out there to help like there used to be." She would prefer square bales, for instance, and store them in the barn. "Would provide some insulation. But Jim's hay is good. He does' t wrap it in plastic and he keeps it in the barn, so it stays nice and



there's no waste." Before, when the kids were on the farm, they all worked with the Smiths (another Franklin dairy farm) for a share of hay. "The Smiths could count on us to come down and help get hay in and we could count on them for hay."

Now with Morgan back, Linda has time to experiment with new cheeses. She makes basket cheese (which is like farmer's cheese) and a tangy feta, which she puts in brine. She once took a cheesemaking course with a Scots woman and learned to make Caerphilly, a firm, white fresh cheese originating in Wales. It's delicious sliced with herbs or roasted vegetables in a sandwich, though the Welsh use it in everything from sausage to teacake (http://www.builth-wells.co.uk/recipes.php?item_ID=10). On a shelf are gorgeous, ivory 9 inch rounds of runny camembert, "which gets better the longer you keep it." Linda now teaches cheese making workshops for the Watershed Commission, the Cooperative Extension and PASA, the Pennsylvania Association for a Sustainable Agriculture, "which is a great organization doing just what we need here." (<http://www.pasafarming.org/>)

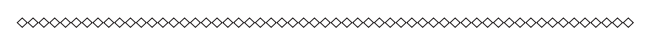
Although nearby stores like Annie's Organics in Oneonta and Good Cheap Food in Delhi carry her cheese, eighty percent is sold at farmers' markets. "It is time consuming," she says, "and I spend a lot of time going and coming, but the fact is that most of my days, I am here in this room all by myself, so I regard farmers' markets as my social occasions. Some people don't like getting out and kibitzing with the public. Although I am not good at pushing my cheese personally, I do have a really good time meeting other people." She and Morgan cover different farmers' markets, such as Bethel, Margaretville, Callicoon, Liberty, and Cooperstown. The Warrens of Stone and Thistle Farm of East Meredith sell her cheese at the Oneonta Farmers' Market. Sue Mullen sells her cheese at the Franklin Farmers' Market.

Linda believes strongly in the Local Food Movement, which for her means buying food within the region where it is produced, in this case, Delaware, Otsego and Sullivan Counties. Recently, at the Bethel Farmers' Market, a woman was flabbergasted to hear that Sherman Hill Farm was in Franklin, though the woman lives in Franklin. "We must teach people to expect that local food is there for them and the more they expect it, the more there will be. The culture of cheese making is evolving pretty fast in this country. We are creating our own heritage." Linda no longer

calls her fresh, soft goat cheese 'Chevre' because "it is not French cheese. Our goats don't eat what French goats eat, or live in the same climate, and so it has its own identity: Sherman Hill Fresh Goat Cheese."

But it is difficult to create an identity when you first introduce a cheese, since almost all Linda's customers are familiar with European cheese classifications. Her fresh goat cheese has been around long enough to have a market that knows what it is. Someday soon, she hopes, her Caerphilly and Camembert and Feta will develop their own reputation and have their own, local names as well.

Her time off is in January and February when the goats are dry, "which is just as well because there is not much to do but relax." Last year, she was invited to attend the biannual Terra Madre Slow Food Conference in Turin, Italy. Slow Food is an international organization founded to promote regional food production within all the nations of the world, and to preserve the multiplicity of variations of seeds and strains in plant and animal raising. According to their website - <http://www.slowfood.com/> - Terra Madre 2006 was attended by "4,803 farmers, breeders, fishermen and artisan food producers from 1,583 food communities and 150 nations; 953 cooks; 411 professors and representatives from 225 universities; 2,320 observers and guides; 776 volunteers." Although it was exhilarating for Linda to be there, and to feel part of a world-wide community food movement, "actually," she says, "there were just too many people. The workshop presentations could only be ten minutes long, so I did not learn much. I did learn about Agritourism, a big thing in Italy. It encourages and supports farmers who want to have restaurants and B & Bs on their own farms as long as some of the food served is produced there." The event that was truly fantastic was lunch. The conference was held in the Winter Olympic stadium, built for speed skating races. "It is immense. They managed to serve lunch to 6000 people at the same time, and the waiting time was shorter than you might find at a school or church dinner here. It was truly amazing and, of course, the food was delicious." Another event that impressed her greatly was Italy's Slow Food Exhibit. "It was called the Salone del Gusto and the variety of hams, cheese, olives, bread, sausage, everything, was mind boggling. It is such a small country, when you think of it. I had a grand time."



Jane Hebbard's Famous Pumpkin Cake

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp ground allspice
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups fresh pumpkin puree (or 1 lb canned puree)
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup breakfast cereal, crushed (All-Bran, Corn Flakes, etc.)
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate morsels (or nuts and dried fruit)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl, combine dry ingredients: flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, spices and sugar.

In a large bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Add pumpkin, oil and cereal. Mix well. Add dry ingredients. Mix only until moistened.

Fold in chocolate morsels. Spread evenly in ungreased 10"x4" tube pan or bunt pan.

Bake for about 70 minutes, until toothpick comes out clean.

Let cool completely before removing.

Note: The best pumpkin flavor comes from Long Island Cheese pumpkins.





FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

October 6 was the last Farmers' Market for 2007. At a follow up meeting with the farmers, we looked back and evaluated our success. The farmers were very pleased with the participation and the local support for the market. We talked about possibilities of expanding the market:

- 1) more market days
- 2) more vendors
- 3) a larger variety in produce.

We are researching the possibility of registering the market with the government as an independent entity so we can qualify to accept Food Coupons. All these aims will require a greater commitment and a well planned organization. We decided to research our possibilities and bring that information to a meeting in January, when we will create a calendar and make the decisions for the Farmers' Market in 2008.

It would be very helpful to us if we could hear your ideas and wishes for the market. For instance, how often would you like to be able to come to the market, and what would you like to find there? We also would appreciate volunteers to help with the Market.

Please send your comments to:

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

or e-mail to: franklin_local@frontiernet.net



Another satisfied customer at the Franklin Farmers' Market!

YOUR TOWN HISTORIAN

Recently, the NFR asked our Town Historian, Kathy Campbell, to describe her duties.

She said: "I make a scrapbook documenting happenings in Franklin. Most of the articles come from local newspapers. Obituaries are also included to help in genealogy searches. The finished scrapbooks are located in the Franklin Historical Museum in Stone Hall.

"I also help anyone who has information requests about people or places in Franklin. These usually come in the form of relatives doing famil genealogy or looking for the family 'homestead'."

Thanks, Kathy!

IN FRANKLIN:

NOVEMBER

- 14th** Wed. 8:00 Treadwell EMS, Treadwell Firehouse
15th Thu. 7:30 Board of Education, Franklin Central School
17th Sat. OPENING DAY, Regular Deer Hunting
19th Mon. 9:30 Parent & Child Story Time, Preregister, Franklin Free Library
 7:00 Franklin EMS, Franklin Firehouse
22nd Thu. THANKSGIVING
26th Mon. 9:30 Parent & Child Story Time, Preregister, Franklin Free Library
 7:00 American Legion, American Legion Hall
28th Wed. 6:00 Chamber of Commerce, Swenson's

DECEMBER

- 1st** Sat 9:00-11:00 Artists Over Easy Beehive
2nd Sun 1:00-6:00 Scrap Book Workshop, \$10 American Legion Post
3rd Mon. 9:30 Parent & Child Story Time, Preregister Franklin Free Library
 7:00 Franklin Fire Department Franklin Firehouse
 7:30 Treadwell Fire Department Treadwell Firehouse
4th Tue. 4:00 Friends of the Library Franklin Free Library
 7:30 Recreation Committee Village Hall
 7:30 Franklin Town Board Town Garage
6st Thu. 7:00 Holiday Concert Franklin Central School
 7:30 Franklin Planning Board Town Garage
8th Sat 9:00-11:00 Artists Over Easy Beehive
 Grandma's Pantry Franklin Methodist Church
 3:00-5:00 Christmas Stroll Village
 6:00 Tree Lighting
9th Sun 3:00-5:00 Exhibition and Publication Reception Bright Hill Center
10th Mon. 9:30 Parent & Child Story Time, Preregister Franklin Free Library
11th Tues. 7:00 Treadwell Com. Im. Club, Friendship Tea Bright Hill Center
12th Wed. 7:00 Franklin Citizens' Committee on Peak Oil at the Marners'
 8:00 Treadwell EMS Treadwell Firehouse
13th Thu. 6:00 Franklin Town Court Town Hall
15th Sat 9:00-11:00 Artists Over Easy Beehive
17th Mon. 9:30 Parent & Child Story Time, Preregister Franklin Free Library
 6:00 Franklin Improvement Society Village Hall
 7:00 Franklin EMS Franklin Firehouse
20th Thu. 7:00 Ouleout Valley Historical Society Town Garage
 7:30 Board of Education Franklin Central School
24th Mon. 9:30 Parent & Child Story Time, Preregister Franklin Free Library
 7:00 American Legion American Legion Post

25th Tue. CHRISTMAS

- 26th** Wed. 6:00 Chamber of Commerce
27th Thu. 6:00 Franklin Town Court Town Hall
28th Fri. 7:30 Franklin Town Board, Annual Meeting Town Garage
31st Mon. 9:30 Parent & Child Story Time, Preregister Franklin Free Library

To have your event listed, contact Brian Brock at this newspaper or 829-3202.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The Treadwell Food Bank is open to all, on Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m.

**Contact Donna Briggs
 PO Box 235
 Treadwell, NY
 Phone: 829-6885**

GOVERNMENT, con't from Page 1

the November ballot as an Independent, you must file a petition with valid signatures totaling more than 5% of Franklin residents who voted in the last gubernatorial election. Currently, this is only 42 people.

Meetings of our Town Council have been held on Tuesdays since 1793. Currently they are on the second Tuesday of the month, except when there is a conflict, such as with Delaware County Fair Week or Election Day. (Also typically there is a second meeting in late December and none in January.) Notices of time and place of meetings should be posted and published at least three days before, but no agenda of meetings is available to the public beforehand. There must be a quorum of three of the five members to convene.

Meetings are generally open to the public, as required by the New York State Open Meetings Law, although the Council may go into executive (private) session for part of the meeting to discuss certain subjects, including personnel, negotiations, litigations, or criminal matters. Anyone present may raise a matter of concern. Meeting are sparsely attended, generally by only one or two residents bringing a particular concern before the Council. Patty Lollot from the Walton Reporter also attends, as it is the official newspaper of the Town and prints a summary of the meeting the following week.

Minutes of the meetings, as recorded by the Town Clerk and approved

by the Council, are on file in the Town Hall, 554 Main Street. Minutes from 1793 to 1994 (handwritten until 1961) are on microfilm at the Franklin Free Library, 334 Main Street.

Local laws are also passed by our Council, one or two a year. Most laws are passed unanimously, although only three votes are required. There must be a public hearing before voting on a law, which is usually held before the monthly meeting. (Like other public meetings, notice must be posted and published, but 5 days ahead.)

Copies of the proposed law should be available before the hearing at the Town Clerk's office. Over the last 25 years, Franklin has added 13 laws and ordinances. These are on record in our Town Hall and with the State Records and Law Bureau, which publishes an annual compilation.

This year the Council has passes two laws: Local Law #1, the Wind Energy Facility Law, and Local Law #2, for Administration and Enforcement of NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes. Local laws can also be enacted directly by the voters through petition - a right not available to us in County, State, or Federal government.

To put the question of a proposed law on the ballot, first a petition must be signed by adult citizens whose primary residence is Franklin. (The number of signatures needed is 25% of the number of Franklin voters in the last gubernatorial election, or currently 212 people.) In late August

or early September, after the petition is submitted to the Town Clerk, if any of the signatures are challenged, then the Supreme Court Justice in Delhi must rule on them. Finally, in November, a majority of the votes must be in the affirmative. If the question is agreed on, the Clerk records it as a Local Law.

This year, there was Local Option Question #1: Selling alcoholic beverages to be consumed on the premises where sold. This proposition was defeated 260 to 202.

The Town budget runs for the calendar year January 1st to December 31st. The Town Supervisor, who is also the appointed Fiscal Officer of Franklin, starts work in the fall - together with the Deputy Fiscal Officer - on next year's proposed budget. The Council reviews and amends this budget in October. After the public meeting in November, the budget is further amended and accepted.

The budget is financed mostly by property tax, but in a typical year there are also a few hundred thousand dollars of assorted fees, fines, sales, grants, and interest.

Once the estimated appropriations (costs) for the year are totaled and estimated revenues and any balances from last year are subtracted, the remainder is what must be raised by the property tax. This remainder is divided by the total assessed value of property in Franklin to provide the tax rate for the year. Copies of the budget are available from the Town Clerk.

The duties of Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Registrar of Vital Statistics, and

Records Management Officer are presently fulfilled by one person. (This position was the first in our Town to be held by a woman, starting in 1986.)

The Clerk records the happenings of Town and government. Clerk and Collector comprise a single elected position with a two year term. Registrar and Officer are appointed positions. The Town Clerk posts and publishes notices before Town Council meetings, takes minutes during meetings, and files minutes for a permanent record of proceedings. She issues handicapped parking permits and licenses for hunting or for dogs.

As Tax Collector, she collects the Town property tax. The bills are calculated and sent by the County Treasurer, but the Clerk collects the payments and accounts for the funds. After the deadline for payment, she forwards the accounting to the County along with the list of delinquencies.

As Registrar, she records births and deaths in Franklin and issues certificates. She also issues marriage licenses, several each year, and forwards the records to New York State Department of Health. These licenses are good for marrying anywhere in New York State except for New York City.

As Records Management Officer, she handles requests under the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). Currently, office hours are Monday and Tuesday mornings 8:30 to 11:00 and Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00.

Other positions in our local government that the Council administers and fi-

nances include: Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Fiscal Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, Assessor, Town Attorney, Treadwell Water Operator, Dog Enumerator, Health Officer, and Historian.

Positions that were once filled but no longer exist include: Constables, Sealer of Weights and Measures, Fence Viewers, and Poor Masters a.k.a. Overseers of the Poor. The Council also appoints and finances the members of boards of Planning (5 members), Zoning Appeals (3 members), and Assessment Review (3 members). Appointments are made for the next year at the Annual Meeting in late December. At times it is hard to fill these part time and not highly paid positions.

The Council also provides some of the finances for the Franklin and Treadwell Fire District, Town Justice, Board of Elections, the smaller cemeteries, the Delaware County Historical Association and the Franklin Free Library, although it has no oversight. Treadwell is a hamlet and unlike the Village of Franklin, it is not incorporated with its own government. So the Town administers the hamlet's street lights and water system, billing the residents through fees and taxes.

New York is a "home rule" state, which means that many important decisions are taken at the local level. The members of the Town Council welcome interested citizens at their meetings, and try to answer their concerns. Try participating more in the process. You may be happier with the results, and help to renew our democracy..

DID YOU KNOW...

...that your Highway department accounts for just over two thirds of our Town budget and recently, for additional millions of dollars of FEMA funds? It is administered by the Superintendent of Highways, who is elected for a term of 2 years - the only full time elected position. Our Superintendent is ultimately responsible to the voters and reports to the public at Town Council meetings. This department maintains all 75 named roads in the Town, a total of 105 miles, 40 miles paved and 65 miles dirt. It does not cover the numbered routes: those are the responsibility of the County (14, 16, and 21) and State (28 and 357).

In the warmer months, paved roads need patching, surfacing (oil and stone), or grinding down and paving; dirt roads need grading. Both need brush cut back, ditches dug out, signs replaced or added, and culverts and bridges maintained and replaced. There are some 2500 culverts and smaller bridges in the Town. (County is responsible for the 34 bridges over 20 feet long.) In the cooler months, most roads need plowing, except for a few seasonal dirt roads. Plus, there is a fleet of 20 vehicles to be maintained. All this is accomplished by 9 full time and 2 part time workers.

YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS - 2008:
(‘e’ indicates an elected position * = elected in 2008)

Supervisor, e.....	Donald Smith*
Deputy Supervisor.....	Jeffrey Taggart
Town Clerk, e.....	Connie Young*
Deputy Town Clerk.....	Catherine Stalter
Superintendent of Highways.....	Mark Laing*

Deputy Superintendent of Highways.....	Billy Hanley
Town Councilman, e.....	Jeffrey Taggart*
Town Councilman, e.....	Arthur Swenson
Town Councilman, e.....	John Campbell
Town Councilman, e.....	Garret Sitts*
Town Justice, e.....	Nathan Banks*
Court Clerk	Jan Schlafer
Tax Collector, e.....	Connie Young*
Assessor.....	James Basile
Treadwell Water Operator.....	Brinton Mueller
Board of Assessment Review.....	Tom Collier
Board of Assessment Review.....	John Peterson
Board of Assessment Review.....	Burton Barnes
Fiscal Officer.....	Donald Smith
Deputy Fiscal Officer.....	Paul Warner
Code Enforcement Officer.....	Mark Tuthill
Planning Board, Chairman.....	Dan Schlafer
Planning Board	Teddy Storey
Planning Board.....	Darryl Drayton
Planning Board.....	James Komenda
Planning Board	(Robert Huyck)
Planning Board, Council Representative.....	Jeffrey Taggart
Zoning Board of Appeals, Chairman	Christian Walter
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	Mariane Kiraly
Zoning Board of Appeals	Ellen Sokolow
Historian.....	Kathy Campbell
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Connie Young
Records Management Officer.....	Connie Young
Dog Enumerator.....	Julia Lamphere
Health Officer.....	Alberto Gaitan