

The Newspaper of Franklin Local
Franklin, New York

Vol. XV, No. 1

SPRING 2021

‘INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS AND FREE’

GOT WATER?

By Jan Mulroy

On February 8th, a public hearing was held in Franklin for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Village of Franklin’s community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2021 program year.

The village municipal water reservoir is housed in a 131-year-old wooden structure, vulnerable to fire, rot, and roof collapse. It is leaking. The village is applying for the CDBG to build a “contemporary containment system.” This is the second time the village has applied for this



Reservoir building seen from Otego Mountain Rd. Photo by author

grant for this purpose.

Current design calls for a tank that will hold approximately 125,000 gallons of water or about a three-day supply for the village. We do not know yet if the holding tank will be glass lined stainless steel or made of cement. A radio system will link the holding tank and the pump house, providing notification of water levels and when to

pump. A mixing system will keep the water treatment chemicals in balance and the water from freezing during the cold months.

The current reservoir building will remain, but no water will be stored there. The new pipe installed in 2013, running from the pump house to the reservoir, will now be hooked up to the containment tank.

See **WATER**, con’t on Pg. 17

FRANKLIN TOWN SURVEY

By Carla Nordstrom

When a big election season ends, such as 2020, it seems as if election work is done and it’s time for a rest. But keep in mind, off-year elections, like 2021, are local and require us to think about how our town government can serve us better.

The Franklin Town Board has been very stable, the same people serving year after year. Recently, a group of citizens decided to test how satisfied Franklin residents are with our town government. Also, we’ve noticed that,

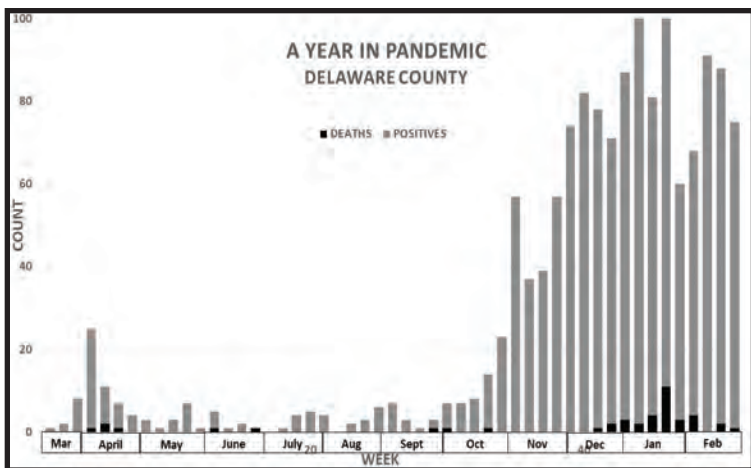
through the years, there’s been a lack of transparency in communicating with voters. We wanted to know more about that as well.

The Franklin Party is a nonpartisan political party dedicated to local issues and to running candidates for local office. We developed an online survey to explore what our commu-



Franklin Post Office Photo by author

See **SURVEY**, con’t on Pg. 16



PANDEMIC REPORT

By Brian Brock

More than a year has passed since the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Delaware County on March 13th. Displayed here is the known toll of those who sickened or died. The small and brief first wave started with the spring, ending with sixty positive tests and four dead. Then followed five summer months with a series of small outbreaks, quickly contained, but with two more dead. The cooler fall weather drove

people indoors, triggering the much larger and longer second wave, which has yet to fade. Since October, Delaware County Department of Public Health has logged more than 1,400 positive tests and 36 deaths. (For two weeks in January, the number of positive tests was over 150, above the top of this chart.)

Epidemiologists estimate that the number of people infected is eight times the number who have tested positive, and those who died from COVID-19 another 25% greater than attributed.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

By Jason Miller

Bringing fiber optics to the village and town of Franklin has been an ongoing project for local telecommunications provider, Delhi Telephone Company. The broadband build has been financed, in part, by a grant from the New York Broadband Program to the Delaware County Broadband Initiative (DCBI), a partnership of Delhi Tele-

phone Company, Margaretville Telephone Company, and Delaware County Electric Cooperative, which formed in 2013. Delhi Telephone Company has been actively building fiber infrastructure in both the village and town of Franklin to provide residents and businesses with a host of fiber services including telephone, internet, and cable television. DTC’s services have also expanded to include mySmartHome technology. This allows home-

See **DTC**, con’t on Page 16

YOUR TOWN GOVERNMENT

Part I: Town Board

By Brian Brock

In our country, it is at the local level of government that you can have the greatest effect with the least effort. Monthly, you can observe and maybe influence the operation of town government only a short drive from home. Every other year, you can vote for a few of the officials. What is more, you can place a candidate or a law on the ballot after collecting a few tens or hundreds of signatures.

Conversely, local government can have the

greatest effect on you, both taking and giving. The town takes your money through property taxes. What is more, if you fail to pay the Franklin tax, the town takes your property. But it gives by maintaining and plowing roads, responding to emergencies, regulating development and construction, dispensing justice, keeping records, supervising elections, controlling dogs, funding summer recreation, and more. In Treadwell, town government even provides for water and streetlights.

From the first official town meeting in Franklin in 1793, there has been a supervisor, a town clerk, as-

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Your Neighbor's View...

To the Editor:

Re: Animal Abuse Registry

The February 24, 2021 issue of The Daily Star covered a resolution passed by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors to establish a public county-wide animal abuse registry for convicted animal abusers. This law is in response to an incident in Franklin on February 10, 2020, involving twenty dogs seized in an alleged dog-fighting venue.

The neglected and abused dogs, now referred to as the Franklin 20, were rescued from the premises. The property owner has been charged with multiple misdemeanors. The object of the registry is supposedly to reduce animal abuse, but by identifying and tracking only convicted abusers, it falls short of that objective.

Much of the controversy over the Franklin 20 is outrage at the inability of the case to be moved forward. The pandemic has resulted in most court appearances being postponed. A second factor could be the

result of this being an ongoing investigation into the larger sphere of criminal dog-fighting.

Animal abuse and cruelty are addressed in Agriculture and Markets Law, Chapter 69, Article 26, Sections 351, 353, and 356. These NYS statutes delineate the state's anti-cruelty provisions and penalties. Section 531 addresses "animal fighting." It is a misdemeanor for a person to possess an animal intended to be used in animal fighting. It is a felony to train or actually be fighting the animal. This carries a penalty of up to four years in prison and a fine up to \$25,000. Many area residents will feel a level of satisfaction if the Franklin 20 investigation advances to that charge and a conviction follows.

I suspect the Franklin 20 offender was charged under Section 356, which provides further protection for caged or impounded animals. Failure to provide food, shelter, and water, and supply "good and wholesome" air is defined as neglect, a misdemeanor punishable with up to one year and a fine up to \$1000

per count. The landowner was charged with a total of forty-one misdemeanors per law. As the accused has not yet been convicted, under the recently passed Delaware County registry law, he could not be listed on the registry.

Section 353-A covers aggravated cruelty to companion animals, intentionally killing or causing serious physical injury, and if the acts are carried out to cause extreme physical pain or in an especially depraved or sadistic manner. This includes animal torture, overdriving, and failure to provide necessary sustenance - food or drink - and carries a felony charge with jail time up to two years. The Franklin 20 were not companion animals.

Section 353-B2 covers dogs left outside without shelter appropriate to the breed, physical condition, and climate. Penalty is \$50 to \$250 for first offense; \$100 to \$250 for subsequent offenses, no misdemeanor charge.

I feel any animal abuse registry need not be public but must be available to all



One of the Franklin 20 after rescue

law enforcement bodies. A public registry could result in false reporting and a waste of law enforcement time. I am not concerned about anyone of the public abusing my animals, whereas a convicted sex offender or a person convicted of breaking gun laws is a public danger and should be publicly registered.

I must agree with Franklin Supervisor Taggart that persons should be given a second chance. The current Delaware County law will put anyone convicted of any animal abuse on the registry, even Section 353-B2 above. My position is that one conviction in a court of law should get you a misdemeanor charge if it is a domestic animal incident. This provides a second chance for

the offender to mend their ways. I would expect to see multiple-animal offense convictions and multiple offense convictions put on a registry with a conviction of felony abuse and prohibited from owning or keeping animals. Felony abuse convictions should be recorded on a registry at the state level, not the county level. A repeat offender can move a few miles across the Delaware County line and avoid the current county registry.

Are the newly enacted county law and existing Ag & Markets laws strict enough?

NO!

There are no provisions for felony charges in the above abuse instances except for animal fighting. Both county and state laws should be changed to provide felony abuse charges for heinous acts of abuse. A felony conviction is no simple affair and can result in the loss of several rights as a citizen.

Sincerely,
Don Hebbard

The Hebbard family owned and operated a dairy farm near Treadwell for thirty years.

Don now operates Hebbard Fence LLC in Franklin.

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Franklin Community Education Foundation

YOU ARE INVITED!

Friends and neighbors! Please join us in a new on-line group promoting communication within the communities of Franklin and Treadwell.

Groups.io offers a simple email interface reminiscent of the classic list-serve. Members can initiate conversations and develop relevant discussions in a customizable and focused setting. Hashtags allow members to filter topics that they find interesting.

What is Groups.io about?

All things Franklin and Treadwell, NY - barter skills, labor, and stuff - share ideas, news and events - buy and sell - rideshares and errands - community discussions and musings - hiring and job seekers - volunteering - neighbors talking to neighbors. Those living in and near Franklin and

Treadwell, NY are welcome to join, as well as those with connections to these towns.

Groups.io is intended to complement the Franklin Facebook group, Village of Franklin, NY, while widening the discussion to all of Franklin and Treadwell. But not everyone uses Facebook, and some conversations or messages are time-sensitive or too complex to be fully presented on social media. So, we hope you'll join fellow residents on this supportive, useful email list. The more, the merrier!

TO SUBSCRIBE: Send a blank message to FranklinNY+subscribe@groups.io

IMPORTANT: After you send a message, you will receive a confirmation request message from Groups.io. You must respond to that confirmation request to complete your subscription and join the group.

Welcome!

- FranklinNY@groups.io

S.C. PARK PROGRESS DESPITE PANDEMIC

By Michael Sellitti

Like many facets of normal life over the past year, progress on the Sidney Center Park and Playground restoration has been affected considerably. Due to the lack of in-person meetings, the necessity to social distance, and inability to do on-the-ground work, the Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) has had to rethink how to approach the project.

For instance, what post-pandemic needs could the park fulfill? Priority discussions determined that health should be the focus. This inspired two new ideas: add a walking trail

around the park's perimeter and create activity stations along the path for folks of all ages, including those with mobility limitations. The park could become a safe outdoor space for people to get out to walk and take in fresh air and natural beauty, all while being able to distance from others if needed.

The SCIG volunteer members went to work searching the internet: what opportunities were out there for grants to help keep the project moving forward in our changed world? We learned of the Fall 2020 Community Fund through the Community Foundation of South Central New York, and applied for the fall round of funding.

Transforming the park into a healthy, outdoor space not just for children but for folks of all ages was not part of the original plan. Bu-



A sample activity station.

Photo courtesy of Southwood Corporation, the manufacturer.

CIG applied to the Community Fund with the intention of pursuing the two new ideas. In October of 2020, SCIG learned that we would be

See PARK, continued on Page 8



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



GIVING BACK

By Lynne Kemen

In the spring of 2020, Phil Warish, owner of Blue Farm Antiques & Letterpress Printing, faced a dilemma.

"I'd been at odds about how to open the shop for the 2020 season," he said recently. "Honestly, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the (now global) Black Lives Matter protests in response to institutionalized racism and violence, and the unrelenting attacks on the hard-won rights of LGBTQ people, it's hard to see how I can conduct 'business as usual.'"

The solution he found radically changed his way of doing business.

"For the foreseeable



Phil Warish at Blue Farm Antiques
Photo by Vincent Speranza

future, instead of the discounts that people have come to expect in a shop like mine, ten percent of every sale will be directed toward one of three organizations: Franklin Stage Company, the Oneonta Boys and Girls Club, or the

Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark. The cherry on top is that the person making a purchase decides to which their percentage goes."

It was not an original idea. Warish noted that a friend with an art gallery near Boston has been using this model for years. Susan Barnett, a local realtor, said she was "inspired by Phil's decision to donate a part of his proceeds to charity, so I started doing the same. Phil always has the best ideas. It's something I plan to continue doing indefinitely. I focused on the things that I think made this area so special and things dear to my heart. So, I donate a percentage of every commission I receive to the Franklin Stage, the Franklin Food Bank, the Ouleout Cemetery, or the Superheroes in Ripped Jeans animal rescue in Oneonta."

Patricia Buckley, Co-Artistic Director of Franklin Stage Company, enlarged on Warish's contributions. "From day one, Phil has been a community partner and neighbor that a small non-profit like FSC can usually only dream about. He has been so generous with

See PHIL, con't on page 17

THE VOLUNTOURIST IN RUSSIA Part II

By Shirley Ferguson

In our Summer 2020 issue of the NFR, Ms. Ferguson described her 2006 volunteer service trip with Cross-Cultural Solutions to Yaroslavl, a small city northeast of Moscow. She worked in an orphanage, a shelter, and several hospitals.

My second assignment in Yaroslavl was called The Hospital for Kids.

I asked, "What kind of hospital is this?"

"Oh, it's for kids who have difficulties getting along with others."

What became clear to me was that many of these kids (boys and girls from ages 7-13) had been drugged - probably to minimize disruptions from emotional outbursts. Their dull eyes and sad faces still haunt me when I look over my photos. We helped them make very basic art projects, played Jenga and card games, and looked at picture books with those who were interested. They particularly liked decorating the paper plates we'd brought one day with pom poms, glue sticks, markers, and crudely cut-out shapes.

Outside, the kids would come alive a bit, and it was

See RUSSIA, continued on Page 18

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THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

THE STATE OF THE VILLAGE 2021

The operation of the tiny Village of Franklin has always been a very humble enterprise. With only 200 households and a handful of businesses generating tax revenue, village government must function within its means or face dissolution.

The Village of Franklin has an elected, part-time mayor and two trustees who serve two-year terms for which they receive a modest compensation. There is insufficient funding to support a police department, so the Village depends on the State Police and the County Sheriff's Department to maintain order on the rare occasion that a police presence is needed.

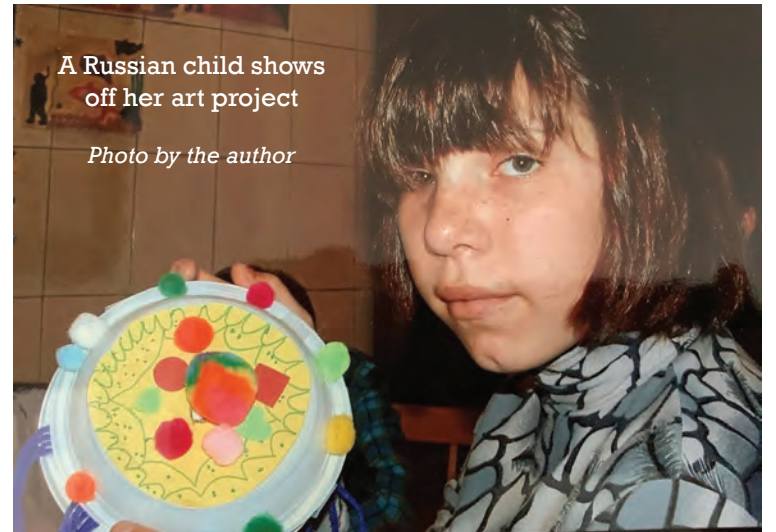
The Village has only one full-time employee: the Superintendent of Public Works, who attends to the maintenance and upgrade of streets and sidewalks, and who also is responsible for the safe operation of the water system. We have a part-time clerk who handles budgetary responsibilities as well as the execution of Village Board actions. The Village also employs a part-time crossing guard and an animal control officer. And there is a recreation committee to manage the operation of the village swimming pool and oversee the summer youth activities, employing lifeguards and recreation managers who are paid out of the recreation fund.

There are three citizen committees that, although independent, work closely with the Village to lift up its appearance and improve the quality of life in Franklin: the Park Committee, the Garden Club, and the Tree Replacement Committee. We are so fortunate in this community that we have a spirited group of volunteers who have taken own-

ership of things Franklin. One project under discussion is the erection of a pavilion in the park to offer shelter for small group events.

The Village budget is sound, though we were cited by the State for accruing an excessive fund balance a couple of years ago. Since then, we have developed dedicated accounts and long-term equipment replacement strategies. We have adjusted water usage and availability rates so that the water system can become self-sustaining while reducing the debt incurred by the cost of the 2014 village water system upgrade. In 2020, the Village had NYSEG change the streetlights over to LED lighting, resulting in a significant reduction of our monthly electrical bills. Our superintendent has replaced several signs in the village and has upgraded drains that had fallen into disrepair.

In 2021, the Village will assess and replace several substandard sidewalks. We will also erect additional 'no parking' signs on Center Street in order to establish one-side-only parking and give emergency vehicles unobstructed passage for the length of the street.



A Russian child shows off her art project

Photo by the author

In 2020, the Village began the process of reapplying for Community Development Block Grant funding to build a new water containment facility to replace the 19th century wooden structure that has served as the reservoir for the village water system since inception. The \$750,000 project would be in the form of a federal grant and would not affect the village taxes.

Recently the Village Board was approached by the Delaware County Soil and Water agency to see if the village would be interested in participating in a tree and shrub planting initiative to protect soil on the village property that surrounds the Otego Street bridge. The Board agreed to do so and is hoping to organize a task force of village residents to assist in planning and implementing this activity in the fall of this year.

Given the challenges that the Village of Franklin has faced since last March, we have endured and persevered. The Village Board has a positive outlook for this coming year and see a bright future for this community as the pandemic wanes and becomes something we can look back upon with relief and a sense of thanksgiving.

INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

NO SIGNS OF SLOWING 2020's Real Estate Rush Continues

2020 was a very good year for many local realtors - including me. It was the busiest of my ten-year real estate career, and even though I'm still relatively new to the area, I was a top producer at my office. I learned, to my surprise, that it's fun to get your picture on the office wall of fame.

But I can't take all the credit. Demand was strong, and everything seemed to sell, often with multiple offers.

According to the Otsego-Delaware Board of Realtors, in December 2020, area sales were up over 76% from the year before. Prices were up 36%. And inventory, the number of houses



Main Street, Franklin

listed for sale, was down over 21%.

That is the very definition of a sellers' market, and it is continuing into the new year.

Winter used to be the slow season for real estate. But, like everything else, that's changed. The phones quieted a bit between Thanksgiving and January 1, and then the buyers came rushing back. The only thing that kept them away was a blizzard, and even then, they'd reschedule.

What sold in Franklin? Almost everything. All the single-family homes, whether listed by me or someone else, got attention unless they were perceived as too overpriced. But any of our classic old homes, whether fully restored or needing some work, went quickly and didn't

sell cheap.

Where were the buyers from? A lot of them were from out of town. Some from the city, others were folks who had family in the area or were coming back after many years away.

What did they want? Internet. A little peace and country charm. A sense of community. Some wanted an historic house, others were focused on something newer. Some wanted total privacy and others like the village setting.

Many liked the idea of a property that could be used as a short-term rental when they aren't there. Air BnB potential is a big plus for them.

They all agreed that they weren't going to pay more than they felt a property was worth. These are cautious buyers, a bit unsure about the economy and its future, and the internet makes it possible for them to be well informed about local values.

What didn't sell? Commercial and multi-family properties lagged behind, which is the pattern when urban expats discover a new area. The homebuyers arrive first. Then the businesses and investors start snapping up available properties to provide services to the new population.

I predict we'll see new businesses in town, thanks to the interesting properties on Main Street that are for sale. Sellers of investment properties are likely to find buyers in 2021, if they set the price right.

Value should continue to be strong, as



Main Street, Franklin
Sold for full asking price



long as inventory remains low, so if you're considering selling your property, it's certainly a great market. But be prepared.

First, where are you going? Many sellers hoping to stay in the area are having difficulty finding a new home. It used to be common practice to make a purchase offer contingent on the sale of your current home. That's not a strong offer anymore. The market is too competitive. So, look ahead. Perhaps plan for short term housing between one home and another.

Either way, be sure to price your home well. Listen to your realtor. They can also help make your house a buyer magnet. A simple rearrangement of furniture, or moving out some clutter, freshening up paint, a few new plants outside - these are inexpensive fixes that can add thousands to your sale price and cut weeks off your time on the market.

Be sure you know your house. Buyers want to know about the roof, the septic, the systems, and whether your home floods in the spring. Have those answers ready, or address problems

See **SELL**, continued on Page 7



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kitchen basics

WORKING WITH GINGER

Fresh Ginger

It's either feast or famine when it comes to buying fresh ginger in and around Franklin. During the winter, small plugs of ginger root can be found in local produce departments. While unappealing to look at, they work as a flavoring essence, but their knobby skins make them hard to use for bold flavors. While ginger may be hard to find in stores, some mail order companies like Misfits Market include ginger in their orders. I've heard people around town wonder what to do with all this ginger.

I've relied heavily on fresh ginger for years. I put homemade ginger syrup on yogurt for breakfast and use a lot of it in Asian cooking. I prefer the big chunky ginger roots that are available on street corners or Asian markets in New York City, but have learned to

cope when I can't get it near Franklin.

Storing Fresh Ginger

If you plan to use ginger within a few weeks of purchase, it can be stored unwrapped in the fruit bin of your refrigerator. It will eventually begin to dry out and lose flavor. Ginger can easily be frozen. You can put it in a plastic bag and freeze the entire root, but I prefer to peel it and cut it into small pieces so that I can throw it into what I'm making without having to defrost it. If you are cooking with ginger, it keeps well if peeled, sliced, and submerged in a jar of dry sherry or vodka. It keeps that way for months in the refrigerator.

Ginger Syrup

One of my favorite things to do with ginger is to make it into syrup. I put it over plain yogurt for breakfast with fresh or frozen berries and sliced almonds.

Combine in a sauce-

**By
Carla
Nordstrom**

pan and heat until sugar is dissolved:

¼ cup sugar

¾ cup water

Add ½ to ¾ cups chopped ginger (I like it with lots of chunks of ginger.)

Simmer on low for 10 minutes.

Candied Ginger

By hand or using a mandolin, peel and slice ginger in 1/8" slices.

Cover the ginger with water, bring to a boil, and simmer for ½ hour.

Strain, reserving ½ cup of the liquid.

Combine ginger, liquid, and 2 cups of sugar in a saucepan, bring to a boil and simmer stirring occasionally for 40 minutes.

Strain and reserve the syrup for other uses.

Put a rack over a baking sheet and place slices so they are separated. After two hours, put sugar as needed in a bowl and coat each slice with sugar. Put the ginger slices back on the rack and let them dry



overnight. Next day store in a container. This recipe is based on <https://www.daringgourmet.com/how-to-make-crystallized-ginger/>.

Mock Ginger Ale

You'll have about a cup of ginger syrup when you make the candied ginger. Stir one to two tablespoons of the syrup into a glass of seltzer for a refreshing drink.

Bagel Update

There was a recipe for bagels in last summer's issue of the NFR. Thanks to a New York Times video

(https://cooking.nytimes.com/guides/81-how-to-make-bagels?utm_source=sharetools&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=website) I've updated the way I make bagels.

I form the bagels after the first rise and put them covered in the refrigerator overnight. I add ¼ cup of barley malt syrup and 1 tsp. baking soda to the water that I boil the bagels in. The additions of these two techniques make for flatter bagels with a deep brown crust.

Photos by the author



MARKET MEMOIR

By Trish Tyrell

With special thanks to John Campbell, the Franklin Fire Department, and Franklin Rotary.

Extending the Franklin Farmers' Market season to indoors on a monthly basis throughout the winter was the outcome of a handful of fortuitous events after an off-the-cuff suggestion made to me by Bruce Zimmer of Cordwood Acres farm. Never did we expect it to succeed so well as a

first-year event.

Not only was the market to move indoors in a new location, split between two buildings during the height of a pandemic, but there would be different hours and a new shopping format. Vendors and management stayed the same, everything else changed. No one seemed to mind.

You could argue that the November and December 2020 markets rode on the proverbial coattails of the single-most successful sales season in our market's history. Or that our market was one of the only local forums for holiday shopping. Or that the No-

vember market day was an amazing sixty degrees, and December was only tolerably cool, so patrons were willing to brave the outside world.

While these factors may all be true, I think our success is more a testament to the high-quality, diverse, and locally created products offered by our awesome vendors, goods that people from both near and far have come to really appreciate. In fact, most farmers' markets in the area have seen greater support of local growers from both customers and communities for their contributions to the local food supply.

Another factor influencing our market's success has been the location, claiming space within and around both the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, and the Franklin Farmhouse Community Center. Many regular market customers might not have known about the museum, or local people familiar with the museum might not have previously attended the market. This synergy has allowed more Franklinites to check out

what the market has to offer. The additional community connection has been hugely exciting, as the question of how to get word about the market out to the full community has long been an enigma.

Finally, from a manager's point-of-view, these unexpected successes came at the cost of very little additional effort. Except for some local signage and announcements on social media, there has been no extra marketing. No press releases, no paid ads, nada. This was intentional to

See MARKET, con't on Pg. 8

BURN BAN

The statewide ban on residential brush burning went into effect March 16th and continues for two months through May 14th.

In New York, spring is the wildfire season, after the snow melts and the dead grasses dry out but before the new grasses smother it. Since it was introduced in 2009, this ban has reduced wildfires by almost half.

Don't endanger life and property and make work for our fire department.

Cronauer/Brower



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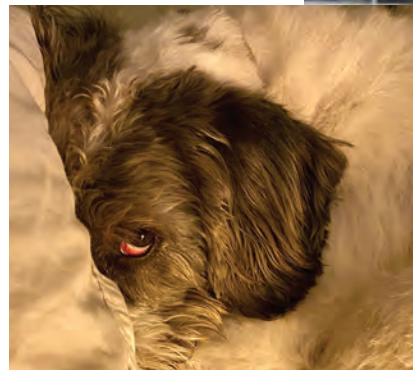
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"IT'S BEEN A LONG, COLD, LONELY WINTER..."

- THE BEATLES

PHOTOS BY TONY BREUER



THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

A New Tradition

By Pam Peters Photos by the author

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Christmas Day "side hunts" were popular. These were hunting competitions where two sides would compete for the most birds and animals taken in a day. In 1900, Frank Chapman, an ornithologist at the Museum of Natural History in New York City, proposed to the National Audubon Society that members go out and count as many birds as they could find in a day. Thus, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was born.

From that count of 1900, when twenty-seven birders went out on twenty-five different counts, the tradition has grown to over 2,500 Christmas bird counts and now spans a period of about three weeks. In 2020, 81,601 observers tallied over 42,000,000 birds, from northern Canada to all across the United States and Latin America.

How many birds do you think you would see if you drove around Delaware County on a winter day?

How many different bird species?

On December 31, 2017, a group of ten volunteers conducted the first annual Christmas Bird Count for Delaware County. Despite frigid temperatures (from minus three to two degrees Fahrenheit), they were rewarded with forty-eight different bird species and over 3,000 individual birds.

Highlights from that first year included ten different types of waterfowl, twenty-two Bald Eagles, one Golden Eagle, five species of woodpeckers, five Ruffed Grouse and 684 Juncos. The counters came from Franklin, Oneonta, Delhi, Walton, and Livingston Manor. They

covered 262 miles of back roads, visited every named hill and hollow, in search of wintering birds.

Since then, the Upper Delaware Christmas Bird Count has been conducted every year on the first weekend in January. We go out whatever the weather or temperature. The group has grown to eighteen, and we are always looking for new volunteers of all experience levels. The official name for our Christmas count is Upper Delaware (NYDE), named for the river that flows through much of the county.

All CBCs must be conducted between December 14 and January 5, as set by the National Audubon Society. Teams select one day during that period to conduct their count. Since neighboring Oneonta established their count in December, we opted for a later date in Delaware County. Each count is conducted within a circle fifteen miles in diameter, or about 177 square miles. The Upper Delaware count is centered at Bear Spring Mountain and includes Downsville, Walton, Hamden, and the edge of Delancey. Much of the territory is remote, and the terrain varies from steep hollows, forests, and river

valleys, to sections of the Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs.

The count circle is broken into smaller sections, and teams of birders set out in the morning and go all day. If you don't mind getting up at 4 a.m. when it's four degrees outside, you might spot an owl. Most teams cover their territory by a combination of driving



Red-breasted Nuthatch

and walking. Some volunteers stay home and report the birds visiting their feeders, as long as they (the people, not the birds) live within the count circle.

What birds have we seen? As one might expect, there are a lot of Wild Turkey, Crows, Mourning Doves, and Chickadees across the

See COUNT, continued on Page 17



Bird count tools and tally sheet

GREENBANKS GARDENING



With
Deborah Banks

As I write this spring column, I'm looking out the window at deep snow. It's a tough time for a gardener. My garden beds are bedraggled piles of snow and old grasses, punctuated by wire cages here and there that protect small shrubs and trees from rabbits and deer. Scores of last year's flower heads from my hydrangeas have been blowing around in the yard for weeks. The border out near the road is worse, with snow plow debris scattered everywhere and big mounds of snow pushing shrubs sideways. It feels a little like spring, with longer days and the temps occasionally above freezing. But the only things looking like spring are the fattening buds on pussy willows.

It's a good time to head for my basement to start some seeds. I get seeds for new varieties of Primulas nearly every year from the American Primrose Society. Some years I also participate in the seed exchanges offered by the Hardy Plant Society and the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). It's a heck of a deal. You can grow unusual plants for the low cost of a society membership and a few seed packets. Other good seed sources include Johnny's Selected Seeds, Pinetree Garden Seeds, Annie's Annuals (and Perennials), High Mowing Organic Seeds, Select Seeds,

and Hudson Valley Seed Library.

Seeds are so amazing. A beautiful flowering plant or edible vegetable can come from a little seed that looks like turkey grit or even a pinch of dust. I find it thrilling, every time, when something sprouts. And proud, as if my talent made it happen. The truth is... it's easy (for most species). Why isn't everyone starting their own seeds?

I think a lot of people believe it's difficult or too much trouble or that it takes a lot of expensive lights and equipment. I don't have a good set-up; it's just a small table on one side of the basement next to a shelving unit. It's too small to be a good work table, but it helps me keep everything in one place. I buy the 36 or 72-cell trays with plastic covers for seed starting, and I also save large clear plastic boxes with lids like you can get at the grocery full of salad greens. I use one blade of an old pair of scissors to punch or burn holes in the bottom of the salad boxes for drainage. I also put holes in the top cover (more on that later).

You can find elaborate "recipes" online for creating the ideal soilless mixture to use in your containers. I buy ordinary seed starting mix from the big box stores. These mixes typically consist primarily of sphagnum peat moss supplemented by other ad-

ditives. It is hard to get the mix wet. When I open the bag, I pour water into the bag, mix it in, add more water, mix, etc., until finally the mix has a nice damp quality. Then I fill my first tray or box with some of the mix and I'm ready to start sowing seed.

I use a tray with rows of individual cells when I have a small quantity of seed per variety to plant. I cut a notch on one side of the tray, so I know later which side faced me when I was planting. As I plant my seeds, I make a list of what I planted. For example, Col 1 Row 1-3 tells me the exact location of the cells used for the first variety I planted. For varieties where I want to sow a larger quantity of seeds, I use a salad box. I cut various notches in the boxes to differentiate one from the other, because "permanent" markers can fade and plant labels can get lost. I also note on my list what I sowed in each box.

I don't have grow lights for seedlings or anywhere to put them. For the hardy species I grow from seed, this doesn't matter. Many hardy species won't sprout until after being exposed to cold temperatures for some time. I do "winter sowing" by covering the planted containers with their lids and setting them outside in a protected area. The lids have holes in them so that rain and snow can get in. I secure the lids with duct tape. I usually set up a makeshift table on sawhorses on the north side of the house. My containers are in the light there but out of direct sun and sheltered somewhat from the wind. As temperatures warm up, I take the lids off periodically to check on them and water if needed. After the seedlings have a couple of leaves, I move them to bigger containers.

That's it! Magic!

LAND TRUST HIRES INTERIM



David Diaz at OLT's Brookwood Point

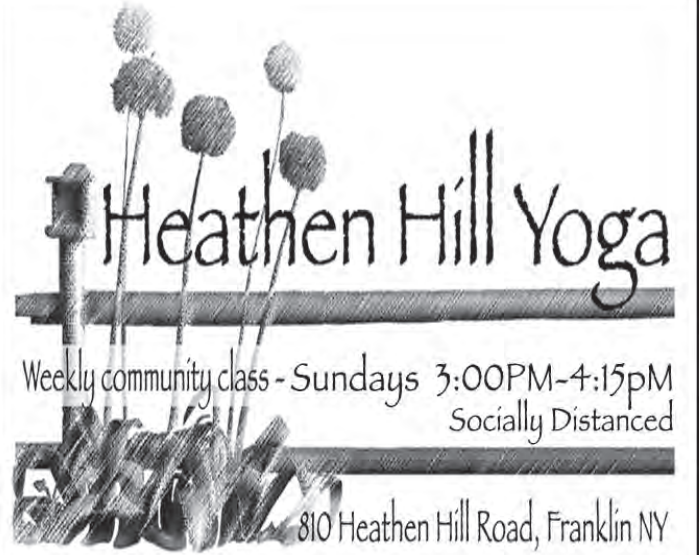
The Otsego Land Trust welcomes David Diaz as Interim Executive Director.

Mr. Diaz joined the OLT team in August of 2017, bringing with him more than twenty years of land acquisition and management experience. He holds degrees in Environmental Science from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, and Viticulture and Wine Technology from Finger Lakes Community College.

As Director of Land Protection at OLT, David fostered relationships with landowners, nonprofits, elected officials, government agencies, and other partners in Otsego, Delaware, and Schoharie counties. While managing complex, multi-partner land protection projects, David also led OLT's reaccreditation efforts and played a vital role in OLT's educational projects.

For information about conservation easements or other land protection questions, Mr. Diaz can be contacted at david@otsegolandtrust.org.

And stay tuned for the grand launch of OLT's brand new website!



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eastbrookfarm.com

SELL, continued from Page 4

before you list.

Finally, once your offers come in, evaluate every aspect of the offer. Purchase price is just the beginning. How much is your buyer putting down? If they're mortgaging more than 80% of the purchase price, that may create problems with a bank appraisal. How soon can they close, or can they be flexible if you need them to be?

Be sure to talk to your realtor about what all that might mean for you.

And then be patient.

These transactions are taking far longer than they used to. Six to eight weeks between the contract signing and the actual closing used to be the norm. Expect eight to ten weeks, maybe even longer. It's the new normal.

Perhaps the single most important part of the whole real estate process in this strange time is to remember it's a strange time. Nothing goes exactly the way you expect, but if you can relax into it, not let it get you too wound up, you'll

come through relatively unscathed and maybe even enjoy the process.

Change and upheaval are disorienting. But forewarned is forearmed.



Center St., Franklin - Sale Pending

FARMING AFTER BREXIT

The Future of Subsidies - From our London Correspondent

By Stephen Morris

On January 1st, the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union finally took full effect. Although there were none of the predicted scenes of chaos caused by mammoth queues of lorries gathering for customs checks, the practical problems of a new border have hit some people very hard. Fishermen used to delivering fresh stock without obstacles have suddenly found themselves with loads of rapidly decaying produce. Hoping to regain complete control of British waters, this small industry had been extremely vociferous in its support of Brexit and ironically disproportionately influential.

But the people who have remained unusually quiet, and who had remained quiet throughout most of the negotiations, are the farmers. In theory, all forms of farm subsidy could have ceased overnight on January 1st because all of them came under the aegis of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, which lost all validity on that date. The farmers had been effectively bought off by promises to retain the EU subsidy regime, initially on a cash basis, and then to replace it over a long period by 'something else', as yet unspecified except in government policy documents. But it seems certain that there will be significant changes to the way in which public money passes to agriculture, and these changes will affect everyone owning rural land, from single households with a few acres to industrial-scale farmers.

One of the things that we have missed most because of pandemic restrictions is being able to visit friends in the countryside, especially those far from London. Our friends James and Caroline live on the Welsh border, somewhat farther from London than Franklin is from Manhattan. They are classed by the government as 'farmers' because they receive a farm subsidy for the twenty-four acres which they own. Their house and garden take up a small proportion of this total. Being enthusiastic gardeners (the major reason for their leaving London twenty-five years ago), they take very good care of all their land



and try to ensure that it is used to best effect. They also take full advantage of any help, financial or otherwise, which the government might offer, and this assistance has altered considerably over time as agricultural policy has shifted.

James tells me that they currently receive a subsidy which covers little more than half the cost of keeping their fencing in proper order. It comes in the form of a tax-free 'single farm payment' based on acreage. They have also received specific grants contributing to the costs of planting a small orchard, towards the replacement of hedges and for work to maintain the diverse plant life in a patch of meadowland. The sums are relatively small compared to the amounts in hundreds of thousands of pounds which go to, say, an arable farmer with two and a half thousand acres in the east of England. James is highly critical of other 'massive grants' given for the construction of bio-digesters, thought of as the perfect solution for farm waste such as slurry from cows and chicken house litter, but resulting in damaging side effects like runoff into local waterways.

Many farmers supported Brexit because the large acreage-based subsidies came with many strings attached which were, in their view, burdensome and counterproductive. Even so, there had already been major shifts away from the approach of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy during its early years. Then, its much wider objectives included food security, income support, and safety net mechanisms for farmers, especially for small producers, and more generally for the preservation of communities via rural development programs.

In the British government's latest agricultural legislation, the emphasis is now on 'public money for public goods.' This means money given for managing

land or water in a way that protects or improves the environment; for supporting public access and enjoyment of countryside and better understanding of the environment; for managing land or water in a way that enhances cultural or natural heritage; for mitigating or adapting to climate change; for preventing, reducing or protecting from environmental hazards and for protecting or improving the health or welfare of livestock or of plants.

Whether this new emphasis is ever the subject of wide public debate is uncertain, mainly because the only countryside issue that tends to gain a high political profile - excluding one-off projects like nuclear power plants - is the expansion of housing developments into rural areas, many people being for and many against.

It will be a long time before we see the actual results of these new post-Brexit policies, and who knows how much money the budgets of future governments will finally allocate.

I asked James to say, setting aside the broader political arguments about the value of state subsidies, what he thought about the system.

"As a country," he replied, "We need a prosperous and sustainable agriculture industry that can survive without subsidy. The old way of support did not provide value for money and was too often distortionary in its effect. For hobby farmers like ourselves, it makes little difference. We will continue to put the environment and diversity first."

MARKET, continued from Page 5

avoid crowding, as there is a fine line between success and disaster in a pandemic. Additional volunteers turned up both at the market and to assist with social media posting. Personally, aside from logistical emails and physical set-up and tear down, the winter market has been a breeze. I see this as a sign of positive growth and a promise of future prosperity for the market, for the vendors, and for the community at large. With only two winter markets left to go as of this writing, I hope we will ride this trend into spring, finishing out a happy inaugural year.

As the seasons shift and mud-season gives way to garden-planting time, I look forward to the regular market at our familiar outdoor location on the lawn of the Franklin Stage Company at Chapel Hall.

Opening on Memorial Day weekend, the traditional garden-planting weekend for this area, the first market always features an enormous variety of potted vegetable, herb, and flower seedlings, in both perennial and annual varieties. Seasonal vegetables and many other

goods will be available every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through Columbus Day weekend. Depending on the COVID situation, we may host other activities and events as well.

But regardless of COVID, market visitors can continue to expect a friendly, open-air market with many products and much variety. We will welcome back our usual vendors and add a couple more. 2021 is shaping up to be a great year.

If 2020 did nothing else, it solidified our purpose, and showed us that the market has taken root in the fabric of Franklin's community. As Karen of Hare and Feather Farm once said to me about the Franklin market: "We may be small, but we are mighty."

The Franklin Winter Farmers' Market is the second Sunday each month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum/Franklin Community Center.

Date remaining:
4/11/21.

The regular weekly season begins Sunday, 5/30/21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the lawn of the Franklin Stage Company.



*The winter farmers' market outside the Franklin Community Center
Photos by Trish Tyrell*

PARK, continued from Page 2

awarded \$15,000, for adding the activity stations and as partial funding for the walking trail.

SCIG members were thrilled by this terrific opportunity for the community and the future of the Sidney Center Park. From the beginning, the park restoration project was intended not only to give Sidney Center residents a better outdoor space, but for young and old from around the entire area to enjoy, exactly what the new activity stations and walking trail will offer. After all, who doesn't have cabin fever and is more than ready to get out and enjoy all the good that nature provides? It's times like these that remind us of what makes living in a small community in upstate New York so great.

The Sidney Center Park & Playground Restoration project is being made possible by a grant from the fall 2020 Community Fund of the Community Foundation of South Central New York.

To see the progress or to donate to other aspects of the project, please visit or follow the Sidney Center Improvement Group at:
www.facebook.com/SCIGNY

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FOCUS ON ENERGY

MODERN HOME HEATING

By Don Hebbard

Louise and I designed and built our home in 2006 – 2007, with a lot of help from family and friends. We included several retirement-minded design features aimed at creating an energy efficient, low heating cost, handicap-accessible home where we could grow old.

We were successful in meeting many of these objectives and while we are still working on the growing old part, we also came to realize we did not think of everything.

We have lived in the Franklin area both as children and for most of our adult lives, except when educational and career choices took us to other parts of the country for a few years. When we built our home, we did not consider air conditioning; if it seemed warm in late summer, we just opened windows at night to cool the house and shut them during the day to keep the heat out. We had never lived in a home with AC - in fact, never even had a car with AC until you could no longer get a car without it!

Blame global warming, climate change, or whatever you want. By 2016, we were uncomfortable with the humidity and the effect it had on feeling hot in the house. We investigated options: the independent window units are woefully inefficient and have to be muscled into a window in summer and then removed in winter; whole house AC units, usually an add-on to your furnace, were too expensive and

our solar home does not have heat ducts to circulate air.

The solution we chose was a ductless air-to-air heat pump system. A major benefit is that the heat pump can be reversed seasonally to also heat the home. Plus, NYSERDA was encouraging alternative heating/cooling systems with



The Hebbards' indoor heat pump unit an incentive program, a tax credit which covered part of the cost. A tax credit is applied on a dollar-for-dollar against your tax bill, not just a deduction to reduce your taxable income. Thus, I would have paid New York State the dollar value of that incentive as taxes anyway.

We have been very happy with the system for five years now. It reduces the summer humidity, which seems to have gotten worse each year, as well as providing supplemental heating during the spring and fall. We do not run the unit in heating mode when the outside air temperature drops below thirty degrees. We could, but the efficiency is reduced when removing heat from very cold air.

If you are considering upgrading your heating system or adding air conditioning, you should investigate air-to-air heat pump systems. Mini-split heat pump sys-

tems make good retrofit add-ons for existing homes. They are ductless, so can be used for room additions where existing ductwork cannot be extended or distribution ducts are not feasible.

Federal and state tax incentives for air-to-air heat pumps have been extended until December 21, 2021. The IRS tax credit is \$300. It applies to your principle residence, i.e., the place where you live most of the time. The home must be in the United States. It can be a house, houseboat, mobile home, cooperative apartment, condominium, or a manufactured home, as long as you own it. New York State offers up to \$300 rebates through the Energy Star program. Credit amounts depend upon the system purchased. A local HVAC company or one of the big box stores could guide you in selecting the best unit for your home. Contact me directly to discuss or see the system.

How Heat Pumps Work

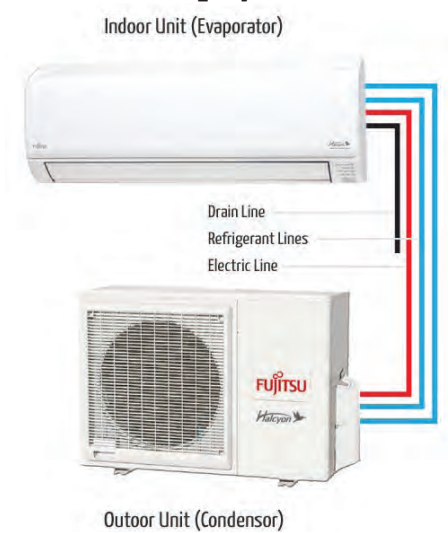
Heat pumps remove heat from one space and add it to another. You already have one in your kitchen, called a refrigerator. Your refrigerator is a basic air-to-air heat pump. Heat is removed from the refrigerator to keep your food cold. That heat is warming your home. However, the relative volume of the refrigerator compared to the volume of your home usually renders the heat from the refrigerator insignificant to your comfort.

A similar air-to-air system can be used to heat your residence by extracting heat from the outside air and bringing it inside. It will also

cool your home, moving heat outside, by reversing the direction of flow. In cooling mode, the heat sent outside also reduces the humidity.

The energy to move the heat is provided by electricity. For each kilowatt unit of electricity consumed, three to five kilowatts of heat are provided: 300 – 500% fuel efficiency. As a comparison, current high-efficiency gas furnaces capture 95-98% of the energy from the gas, while high efficiency oil burners are rated at 87%. Thus, air-to-air systems can lower heating costs as well as reducing humidity.

Diagram of Air-to-air Heat Pump System



The indoor unit is mounted on a wall. It heats or cools area as seasons change by reversing refrigerant flow.

The outdoor unit removes heat from outside air to heat the house, or removes heat from house for air conditioning.

Diagram: FUJITSU Corporation



AMPHENOL'S SOLAR FARM

By Don Hebbard

Take a driven down NYS Route 8 from I-88 to NYS Route 7 in Sidney and you will notice a huge field of solar panels on the right side. They cover most of the area previously housing the Amphenol manufacturing buildings and parking lot. This array can also be seen from Delaware Avenue behind the Sidney Federal Credit Union office. Constructed in 2018, this solar farm began sending electricity to the grid in November 2019. Amphenol partnered with EnterSolar, a national supplier of solar energy systems to the commercial marketplace, to install a 6.3-kilowatt solar energy farm covering twenty-three acres with 18,000 solar panels.

Many of our family and friends are, or have been, employed by Amphenol in Sidney. Amphenol started in 1925 as Scintilla, manufacturing aircraft magneto ignition systems. Scintilla

employment in Sidney peaked at 8,900 during World War II to meet the demands of the aviation industry. Over the years, its business changed with market demands. Scintilla has been renamed Bendix, Allied, and now Amphenol. The corporation has continued to be a major Delaware County employer, surpassed only by the agricultural industry. Amphenol Aerospace, a division of Amphenol Corporation, has continued to diversify and expand to become one of the world's largest manufacturers of electrical interconnector products for the military, commercial aviation, aerospace, and industrial markets. It continues to employ over 700 in Sidney and thousands at their other locations.

Two recent major flooding events nearly caused Amphenol to close its doors and leave Sidney. In 2006, tropical storm Lee dumped fourteen inches of rainfall in the Susquehanna Valley in less than a week, causing the Susquehanna river to crest at a record 17.72 feet in Unadilla, according to National Weather Service records. Over four feet of water coursed through Amphenol's facility, requiring a more than twenty-million-dollar investment in cleanup and rebuilding before returning to production. Five years later, tropical storm Irene dropped twelve inches of rain in the Susquehanna Valley, with the river cresting at 16.24" in Unadilla. Again, Amphenol was forced to shut down operations and incurred

another twenty million in flood damages.

Faced with the possibility of future flooding, Amphenol decided the exiting site was undevelopable and the possibility of Amphenol leaving Sidney was advanced. This would result in the loss of jobs, a reduction of the tax base for the city, town, and county, and cause grave economic hardship for many families of employees. Local and state governmental leaders scrambled to find a solution.

In 2012, Amphenol was offered an economic relief package totaling more than thirty-two million dollars to rebuild in Sidney at a new site, high above the flood plain. Empire State Developing (ESD), New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Delaware County Industrial Development Agency (IDA), New York State Homes & Community

See SOLAR, continued on Page 19



DELAWARE RIVER HYDROPOWER

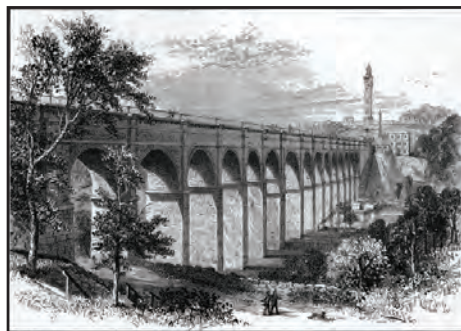
By Don Hebbard

An article in the "Looking Back" section of *The Reporter* stated that there are very few new ideas. Often ideas are just recycled and modified to fit changing circumstances. A case in point is *The Reporter's* January 27, 2021 article titled "Plan to Harness Delaware River," which was originally published in the January 21, 1921 issue of *The Walton Reporter*. The use of hydropower in the Delaware River system had been under investigation as early as 1912 with the hope of increasing the supply of rural electricity, but World War I sidelined those efforts. At that time, there was no central oversight with the legal authority to approve and regulate the hydroelectric process.

The Federal Water Power Commission [FWPC] was created in 1920 with the authority to grant permits, and the power of eminent domain to purchase real estate, dam rivers, and construct hydroelectric plants. The goal was to coordinate hydro-electric development between states. In 1921 an application named "Project 22" was filed with the FWPC by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company to construct hydropower dams on the Delaware River, which passes through four states: New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The ex-

press purpose was to construct five dams to supply electricity to New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and southern New York.

The 1921 proposal included four hydro-power dams on the Delaware at Cannonsville, Hancock, East Branch, and Livingston Manor. A fifth dam at Belvidere, New Jersey would provide water for a coal-fired steam electric station to supply base-load electricity during periods of low summer water flow or during droughts. There was no reference of these impoundments serving as a water source for New York City. These hydropower permits were not approved, in part be-



OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT

cause other projects were underway to access the abundant water of the Catskill Mountains to supply Manhattan.

Some historical background: the city's first public water system had been established in 1799, pulling water from wells and delivering it through wooden pipes. In 1820, a new system was planned: a 41-mile aqueduct from a dam on the Croton River in Westchester to a reservoir in what is now Central Park. A cholera outbreak in 1832

that killed 3500 residents - 2% of Manhattan's population - finally pushed the project forward.

Work began in 1837 and the first water flowed to Manhattan in 1842. Continued population growth plus the introduction of flushing toilets put stress on the Croton system. A larger dam on the Croton created a much larger reservoir and a tunnel replaced the open aqueduct, delivering three times the previous water volume. Today, the Croton system includes reservoirs in Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties, providing about 10% of New York City's water.

In 1898, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island merged with Manhattan to form the five boroughs of New York City. The creation of the New York City Board of Water Supply in 1905 allowed for the use of eminent domain to build reservoirs in the Catskills. The first was the Catskill Reservoir system in Greene, Ulster, and Sullivan Counties, today supplying 40% of NYC water through the Catskill Aqueduct.

Continued population growth further stressed the city's water supply, and four reservoirs were

added in Delaware, Ulster, and Sullivan Counties, creating the Delaware River System: Roundout was completed in 1950, Neversink in 1954, closer-to-home Pepacton in 1955, and Cannonsville in 1964. This writer can recall trips to Deposit and Downsville as the reservoir areas were being cleared and the water gradually rose. The Delaware Reservoir System supplies 50% of New York City's water through the Delaware Aqueduct, the longest continuous tunnel in the world.

Fast forwarding from 1921 to 2014, a second hydro-electric proposal gained traction. The Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) licensed plans for construction of a 14-megawatt hydro facility at the Cannonsville Reservoir near Deposit. These plans were scrapped in 2015 when test bores discovered a natural artesian aquifer at the site. Further study resulted in a revised

See HYDRO, continued on Page 16

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PIPELINE UPDATE

Compiled by Brian Brock

November 24th Constitution Pipeline Company, LLC files with FERC its final status report (ninth) for the Constitution Pipeline project under docket number CP13-499. Report deceptively states that "No tree felling or earth disturbance occurred in New York." In reality, trees were felled -- not by its contractors but by landowners. The company misled them into thinking that they should log the right-of-way themselves. However, under law, no work may be done in the project ROW without permission from FERC. The Office of the New York State Attorney General investigated.

December 2nd Federal Energy Regulatory Commission authorization for the Constitution Pipeline project lapses.

December ? Attorney for Stop the Pipeline **Anne Marie Garti** reminds CPC that under the order from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York on September 17th, Judge Mordue required it to record his decision and order with the appropriate county clerks. She presents an ultimatum that should they not fulfill this obligation by the three-month mark, STP would notify the court.

December 17th Lawyers for **CPC** record with the clerks in Broome, Delaware, and Schoharie counties that the 39 easements seized by eminent domain are dissolved and should be removed from deeds.

January 19th Williams CEO **Alan Armstrong** states that Biden's cancellation of the Keystone XL project is the clearest sign yet that constructing a major new pipeline in the U.S. "has become an impossible task. I can't imagine going to my board and saying, 'we want to build a new greenfield pipeline.'" He added that he does not expect to see any funding of big cross-country greenfield pipelines "because of the amount of money that's been wasted." For example, the \$357 million that Williams and partners wasted on not building the Constitution Pipeline.

January 21st President Joseph Biden Jr. names commissioner Glick to the chairmanship of FERC on his first full day in office.

January 26th FERC applies to U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit D.C. to dismiss two lawsuits concerning the Constitution Pipeline project because this project has been written-off by CPC and its permit has lapsed. Lawsuits are Catskill Mountainkeeper et al v. FERC (16-345, 16-361) and NYS DEC v. FERC (19-4338, 20-158, 20-208).

February 1st NYS Department of Environmental Conservation files with D.C. Circuit that it does not oppose motion by CPC with stipulation that any future pipeline project would require a new water quality under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

February 5th Earthjustice files with D.C. Circuit for Catskill Mountainkeeper et al that it does not oppose motion by CPC with stipulation that any future pipeline project would require a new application. Otherwise, it opposes.

February 5th Stop the Pipeline files with D.C. Circuit that it concurs with Catskill Mountainkeeper et al (it is among the et al) with the additional stipulation that the waiver of NYS DEC authority under CWA be vacated. Otherwise, it opposes.

February 11th FERC stipulates to D.C. Circuit that Constitution Pipeline project has been cancelled by CPC and that construction authority issued by FERC has lapsed, but that the argument by STP concerning the waiver is wrong.

NEW YORK STATE ELECTION CALENDAR 2021

Feb 1	<i>Certification of available seats by county and state Board of Elections</i>
Feb 23	Begin petitioning for party candidates
Mar 29 - Apr 1	File petitions with county BOE
Apr 13	Begin petitioning for independent candidates
Apr 29	<i>Determination of primary candidates by county Board of Elections</i>
May 18 - 25	File petitions with county BOE
June 12 - 20	Early primary voting in Delhi
June 22	Primary voting in Franklin
Sept 9	<i>Determination of primary candidates and questions by county BOE</i>
Oct 23 - 31	Early general voting in Delhi
Nov 2	General voting in Franklin
Dec 1- 15	<i>Certification of elections by state board of canvassers</i>

Actions in italics are by governmental officials.

TOWN of FRANKLIN, FISCAL YEAR

January 1:	First day of fiscal year.
January	Board appoints chief financial officer, official bank, etc., at organizational meeting
January	Clerk begins collection of property taxes for current year.
January 20:	Last day for supervisor and justice(?) to present accounts books for last year to town clerk.
February 1:	Last day for landowner to pay property tax for current year without interest being charged.
February	Council members audit accounts books for last year.
March 1:	Last day for supervisor to file AUD* with Office of the State Comptroller without exemption.
March 1:	Last day for landowner to apply for tax exemption.
April 30:	Last day for supervisor to file AUD with Office of the State Comptroller with exemption.
May 1:	Property tax roll for current year returned to county treasurer.
May 1:	Last day for assessor to post preliminary assessment roll for next year on town website.
May +	Board of Assessment Review considers appeals by landowners on Grievance Day.
July 1:	Last day for assessor to send final assessment roll to county treasurer. It is posted to town website.
July 31:	Last day for landowner to file a lawsuit contesting BAR ruling with state supreme court.
August	County board of supervisors accepts the equalization rates for towns as calculated by the state.
September	Supervisor, as chief financial officer, prepares tentative budget for next year.
Sept. 30:	Last day for supervisor to present tentative budget for next year to clerk.
October 5:	Last day for clerk to present tentative budget for next year to council at budget workshop.
November #:	Board holds public hearing on preliminary budget for next year.
November 20:	Last day for board to approve final budget for next year.
December 31:	Last day of fiscal year.

* Annual Update Document, i.e. annual financial report

+ Usually the fourth Tuesday in May but may be as late as the second Tuesday in June.

On or before the Thursday after election day.

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NEW BOOK REVIEWS

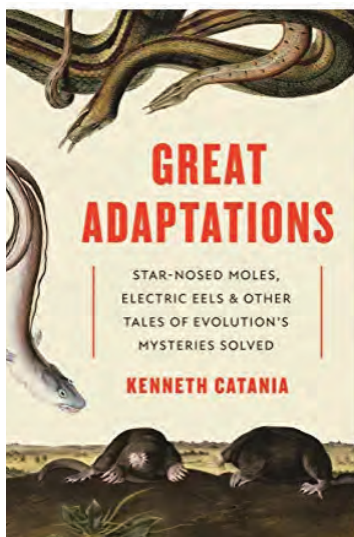
GREAT ADAPTATIONS

By Kenneth Catania

Reviewed by William Rossow

This enjoyably written book contains stories of scientific investigations of very unusual features exhibited by a variety of creatures from moles to worms to eels to wasps (and a few others). What does the star on the nose of the star-nosed mole do? Why do worms come out of the ground when it is vibrating? Why do electric eels jump out of the water when attacking? How do jewel wasps “zombify” cockroaches?

The author is a professor of biological sciences at Vanderbilt University but has obviously seen a lot of movies that connect to his stories. Each investigation starts with trying to discover the use to the creature of a peculiar feature or behavior. After all, if were not useful, why would evolution



have produced such an extreme variation? Finding the answer involves measurements in the field and laboratory, delving down to the organization of sensory and motion-nerve organization and how the brain processes the sensory information.

But the investigation does not stop with discovering the usefulness of the feature. It moves on to why that use is an advantage for the creature to better obtain food or compete with a predator. Why did the feature evolve? The story then encompasses the joint evolution of predator and prey, how they co-evolve. If the feature is used in an attack on another, did the prey evolve a defense? The explanations are detailed but easily understood, written with a good sense of humor. If you are fascinated by the wonders of nature, the report of these investigations will only enhance your wonder, even as it enhances your understanding.

LIBRARIAN'S PICKS By Wendy Barckhaus

CHANCE

Escape from the Holocaust

By Uri Shulevitz

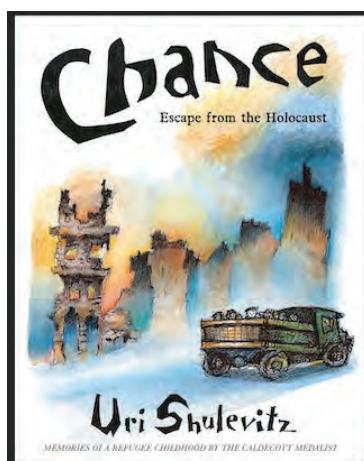
Uri Shulevitz, an author of children's books and a part-time Treadwell resident, has written a story detailing the eight years he and his family spent escaping the Holocaust. Although it is recommended for middle school age children, it is a worthwhile read for adults.

Uri is four years old when Germany invades Poland. His Jewish family flees to Belarus in the Soviet Union. There, because he shares his name with a counter-revolutionary named Uri, they are denied citizenship. Sent to other parts of the Soviet Union, they suffer extreme hunger, poverty, and anti-Semitism. Uri is sustained by his mother's stories and his love of draw-

ing. He writes that his family survives not due to any decisions they made but simply by chance.

The author writes and illustrates his everyday life including playing with other children, being bullied, and always, always drawing. He provides a vivid picture of his wartime life, tracing his development as an artist and storyteller.

A remarkable tale of survival, resilience, and chance.



things, but most of all about idiots.”

Oh, and by the way, it's about a bank robbery gone wrong, resulting in a hostage situation.

After fleeing the botched robbery, the culprit seeks refuge behind the open door of an apartment being shown to potential buyers. Inside are the realtor, the buyers, a man dressed as a rabbit, and now the robber: the anxious people of the title, eight of them. Police and media immediately surround the building.

Each of the eight has baggage and secrets. As the story unfolds with pace and humor, they discover they have more in common than you would think. A wonderful read to warm winter pandemic days.

AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN

By William Butler Yeats

I walk through the long schoolroom questioning;
A kind old nun in a white hood replies;
The children learn to cipher and to sing,
To study reading-books and histories,
To cut and sew, be neat in everything
In the best modern way -- the children's eyes
In momentary wonder stare upon
A sixty-year-old smiling public man.
I dream of a Ledaean body, bent
Above a sinking fire. a tale that she
Told of a harsh reproof, or trivial event
That changed some childish day to tragedy --
Told, and it seemed that our two natures blent
Into a sphere from youthful sympathy,
Or else, to alter Plato's parable,
Into the yolk and white of the one shell.

III

And thinking of that fit of grief or rage
I look upon one child or t'other there
And wonder if she stood so at that age --
For even daughters of the swan can share
Something of every paddler's heritage --
And had that colour upon cheek or hair,
And thereupon my heart is driven wild:
She stands before me as a living child.
Her present image floats into the mind --
Did Quattrocento finger fashion it
Hollow of cheek as though it drank the wind
And took a mess of shadows for its meat?
And I though never of Ledaean kind
Had pretty plumage once -- enough of that,
Better to smile on all that smile, and show
There is a comfortable kind of old scarecrow.

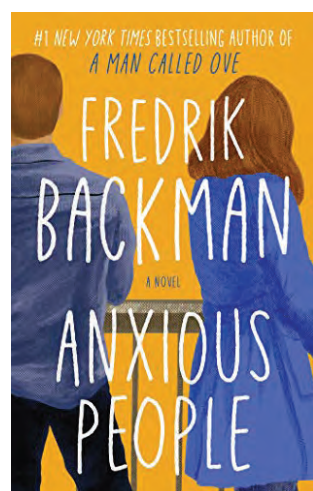
This poem is in the public domain

W. B. Yeats wrote this poem after a visit to a convent school in Waterford, Ireland in 1926. He was 60 years old at the time and a senator. The poem is a meditation on life and love and the creativity that can rise. The poem made me think of our children during this long pandemic period - how much they've lost by not being able to attend school, being with their friends, and participating in plays and sports. We've all had to adjust, but I think it's been much more difficult for the children. We can only hope that, by the time this newspaper is published, we're on the way to a more normal life.

- Bertha Rogers

ANXIOUS PEOPLE

By Frederik Backman



Good news! *Anxious People* is Frederik Backman's most heartwarming novel to date. This might seem odd considering that on the first and last page of the book he writes, "This is/was a story about many different

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MIXTURE OF JAZZ, AMERICANA & IRISH

MAY 2 - **DAVE BRAHAM**
MAGIC ON THE PIANO - BLUES, JAZZ, GREAT
AMERICAN SONGBOOK

MAY 16 - **BLUE TONIC**
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AND COUNTRY

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COPING WITH COVID

A few years back, Jody Isaacson and I worked on a Stagecoach Run exhibition at Chapel Hall. Our artist was David Byrd, a barely known reclusive painter, working in Sidney Center in a studio he had built himself. I grew fond of his work and fond of watching Jody and her assistant Jessica Farrell work to bring David to the art world's attention. Due to their efforts, Byrd's reputation has grown from obscurity (his first solo show was three years before his death) to being shown in Manhattan galleries. This past year, *The New York Times* listed *David Byrd: Montrose VA* as one of the "Five Art Books to Read This Summer." His latest exhibit opened February 25, 2021 at the Anton Kern Gallery in New York. But getting there would entail public transportation to, in, and from NYC, so, with only one dose of vaccine in me, I opted out of seeing the exhibit. For those of us waiting for our first or second inoculation... sadly, COVID still keeps us home



"Mr. Lincoln" by Bruce Goddard 2021

But members of the art world do find ways to circumvent social limitations imposed by the pandemic in order to bring their art to us. Sort of the way restaurants have learned to serve meals via bike messenger.

To respect social distancing and limit the number of inhabitants in a

closed space, studio visiting - a staple of the art community - has been temporarily shelved. Bruce Goddard and the members of The Wednesday Painter's Group have created an al-



"The D Train" by Lisbeth Firmin 2019, Oil on wood panel

ternative to their usual in-person sessions: studio visits via social media. Each member artist is charged with completing a work every week, then presenting the finished work to the group for review. Works in progress that are moving in a direction the artist is excited about can also be shared - but as exceptions. The Wednesday Group is thwarting COVID by social distancing, yet continuing to offer each other support and response with regular - if virtual - studio visits.

We are without many options for "real" spaces to show art. Lisbeth Firmin was selected to create a digital gallery, but with a time-sensitive twist. She was commissioned to show ten pieces on Facebook, the twist being that for each of ten allotted days, one new piece had to be shown.

As a digital gallery visitor, I would sign on daily, eager to see the next of the ten images Firmin presented. Her subjects are shown without masks (thus it's safe to assume these were pre-COVID images), yet they still seem isolated - as in her painting of three strangers in a NYC subway. As usual in a subway car, strangers rarely intermingle. In our current COVID environment, Firmin's paintings are a poi-

gnant reminder of social distancing in another form - emotionally.

During the pandemic, photographer Wijnanda Deroo and partner James travelled the U.S. by sailboat and trailer (taking all the precautions, of course). Wijnanda, a consummate photographer, took as her subject views of coastal towns and cities nearly absent of human activity. The photographs telegraph a sense of post-evacuation.


Taking advantage of a bad thing, Wijnanda shot COVID-wary New York City in broad daylight - Wall Street, Soho, Rockefeller Center - views we're used to seeing crowded with people, but for now, empty of pedestrians. Wijnanda shares her travels on Facebook, documenting the experience in the form of a cyber-travelogue: photos of beauty and abandonment presented as a daily journal of a world in suspension.

Sculptor Richard Friedberg's "Terrible Beauty," an exhibit of monumental sculptures representing natural disasters caused by human activity, opened on February 27th at the Munson Williams Proctor Museum in Utica to a limited,



Broadway at Houston, Soho, 4/4/2020

Photo by Wijnanda Deroo



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masked attendance. This one-man show of work created during the past decade had been in the planning for years, and in spite of COVID's arrival, the work was shipped and installed, the catalog printed, and press releases sent out. Area newspapers and art sites gave glowing reviews. But sadly, there could be no traditional opening reception, no artist's talk, no wine being passed, no celebrants circulating. Instead, Richard created a Zoom reception, a "here in thought

been compelled by such horrific events as the BP Deepwater Horizon well-head blowout...and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident and tsunami. These specific events...are transformed into sublime works reminiscent of terrible explosions, tidal waves, and smoke. The sculptures, made with aluminum mesh...are also graceful, at times even elegant...and demanding of our attention and respect."

The show runs until May 30th.



"Oil Fire" by Richard Friedberg

but not here in the flesh" digital celebration, certainly better than nothing.

From the museum's website: "Friedberg has

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CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES

BY JOHN O'CONNOR

MUSIC IN THE TIME OF COVID

There is perhaps no industry that has been hit harder by the COVID-19 pandemic than the music industry. Almost overnight, tens of thousands of performing musicians of all types lost most, if not all, of their source of income. Had the pandemic hit twenty years earlier, many musicians could have made up for the loss of live engagements by selling recordings. But digital streaming has deprived musicians of most of that income as well. Sadly, the glee that music fans have for free music has been a disaster for the musicians they admire.

Last spring, when it became suddenly clear that musicians couldn't work, whether through tours or local venues, they scrambled to find economic relief and alternative ways of scratching out a living through music. Within months, many musicians able to present solo performances were navigating the technical and promotional waters of streaming concerts through online platforms. Musicians with a fan base were able to make up for much of their lost touring revenue. Others, after a



rough start with state government administrators, were able for the first time to collect unemployment benefits made available to freelance musicians who were considered independent contractors. While there are a few full-time professional musicians living in Delaware County, most live by other means, including teaching and professions unrelated to music and performance.

The world of Zoom, Facebook and YouTube has provided an alternative performance space for musicians who are accustomed to playing live, whether on tour or locally. Some have found the means and technical savvy to offer live shows via streaming platforms. I have several colleagues in the singer-songwriter touring world who have been able to make up almost all of their lost income through streaming, one advantage being the lack of touring expenses.

Some music venues have followed suit by bringing their shows online, paid for both by voluntary donations and by ticket sales. One local venue, Music on the Delaware, "moved quickly with the coming of the pandemic, sponsoring twenty-

three coffeehouse programs in the spring, summer, and fall of 2020," according to board member Jim Haggerty. "In the spring and summer," he said, "there were coffeehouse programs once a week. In the fall, twice a month. We also began two longer concerts (an hour and a half) in the fall." They plan to continue through the spring. I played one of their early coffeehouse streaming concerts. I also put on a concert for the Yager Museum at Hartwick College in January. It was sponsored by the museum and the Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF), a fund affiliated with the music recording industry and the American Federation of Musicians. Since funds that would have gone to live performances have gone unused over the past year, MPTF put together a program of streamed concerts on their Facebook page, covering 100 percent of the performers' fees. The programming has been diverse, as would be expected from an AFM affiliate, offering classical, jazz, blues, folk, and ethnic performances.

Frankly, I find the streamed concert experience woefully lacking. The rapport and chemistry that come from an in-person live performance is almost completely lost. From the performer's perspective, the experience is neither live gig nor recording session, though it has elements of both. Of course, in this uncanny time of COVID, it is mostly all that is available.

But it makes the performer acutely aware that nothing really takes the place of a live performance. Music fans who have streamed concerts will be the judge as to how the experience stands up. It begs the question as to how eager audience and performers will be for live shows to return once we start moving toward normalcy, that is if anyone can remember what normal was.

In the meantime, music organizations are finding ways to get back to live performances as soon as possible. Glimmerglass Opera is planning live outdoor performances this summer, on a special stage to be built on the south lawn. "The Festival team is working furiously to plan a 2021 season, while keeping the health and safety of the company, audience members, and the Cooperstown community top of mind," reads the notice on their website.

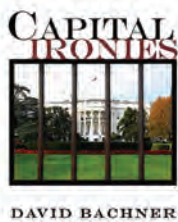
As of this writing, the Franklin Farmers' Market is unsure how much of musical program they will offer in their upcoming season. By the time NFR goes to press, there may be something more definitive. One thing we do know is that circumstances seem to change rapidly, for better or worse, under the cloudy skies of COVID-19.

I, for one, hope those skies are a little sunnier by the time Memorial Day rolls around.

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"Like a spoonful of honey stirred into a cup of tea Lynne Kemen's poems swirl the sweet and bitter into a warming, perfectly steeped blend. Scenes of gentle contemporary domesticity light the darker hallways of the past *More Than a Handful* is—for the here and the now—just right." —Linda Lowen



More than a Handful poems by Lynne Kemen

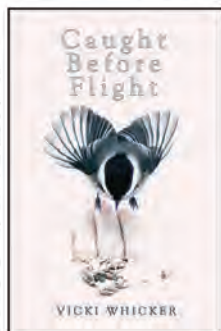


SO I WILL REMEMBER

poems by Julene Waffle

"Julene Waffle's *So I Will Remember*, her first book of poetry, is filled with small shining gems—glimpses of her young son; an ode to the world of wind and stars—full of insight into the human nature within us. I'd be much the poorer without her words." —Liz Rosenberg

Vicki Whicker's *Caught Before Flight* is storytelling with a strong feminine gaze: beautifully honest, edgy, sensual, lyrical and vivid. "...overflowing with exquisitely succulent imagery, creating residual longing that lingers beyond the final page...Rich, mature, and impressively lyrical, these poems demand to be savored." —Josh Kilmer-Purcell



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ZOOM and Facebook LIVE

APRIL 22, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS – UNITY

ZOOM and FACEBOOK LIVE

MAY 20 - GREATER FEDERATION OF WOMEN CLUB'S ANNUAL

YOUTH WRITING CONTEST (GFWC) - Young Collectors Club

MAY 13, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS - V.P.LOGGINS

ZOOM and FACEBOOK LIVE

MAY 27, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS – MARCELA SULAK and

JEANINE OUELLETTE

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TAUGHT BY JASON STARR

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A special fundraiser songwriting workshop with a suggested donation of \$25.00

JUNE 10, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS – RICHARD NEWMAN,

MARGOT FARRINGTON -

ZOOM and FACEBOOK LIVE

TOWN, continued from Page 1

sessors, tax collectors, and one or more commissioners of high-ways, later called superintendents of highways.

Today, a town board serves both legislative and executive functions. Early on, it was comprised of the supervisor and four justices of the peace. Starting in the mid-1950s, the number of justices was reduced one by one to be replaced by a council member. Finally, in 1980, the last justice on the council was replaced, thus cleanly separating the legislative and judicial branches of government.

administering town government, managing the employed and appointed, oversee capitol improvements, and occasionally passing a resolution, ordinance, or law.

Our modern town board is comprised of the town supervisor and a council of four members. 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. Council members are elected for a term of four years, two one year and then the others two years later. If a council member cannot finish the term, then the board appoints a replacement for the remainder of that year. Come November, there would be an election to fill that seat. There is no provision for recalls of town officials.

Otherwise, local elections are on alternate odd-numbered years. There are more than 1,800 voters registered in Franklin, with 30% to 60% voting in November. We vote in town hall just outside the Village of Franklin, at the intersection of highways 21 and 357.

The supervisor represents our whole town on the town board and on the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, although his representation on the latter goes large-



Your Town Board at work

The Town of Franklin is a municipal corporation controlled by the voters and run for them by elected and appointed officials. Our town board oversees a \$1.8 million annual budget, employing a dozen or so full-time workers and part-time workers and twenty-five appointed officials. It is responsible for drawing-up the annual budget, levying taxes, assessing properties, enforcing tax collection, dispersing the monies, making appointments,

FOR SALE

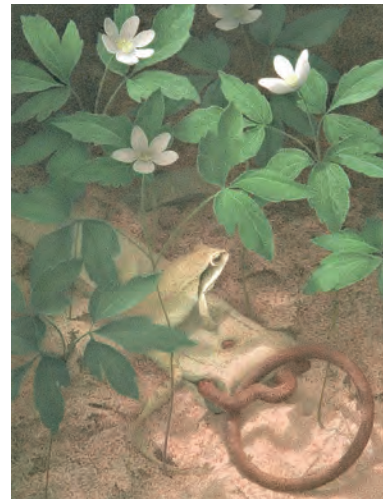
A selection of
the egg tempera paintings of

GAIL BUNTING

Contact John Ott

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Wood Anemone



Night Heron

ly unreported. Likewise, each council member represents the whole town of 2,400 residents at large rather than a specific district (ward) within Franklin. In effect, we have a five-fold duplication of representation.

The supervisor has one vote on the board, just as does any other member. However, he does serve as the presiding officer of meetings. Towns do not have a separate executive branch. The particular duties and responsibilities that fall to our supervisor are mostly administrative as the financial officer, a position to which he is appointed by the board. Often a supervisor is taken to be the leader of the town government, but this is by tradition not law.

Historically we have had a citizen legislature, with each supervisor serving for a few years. In recent decades, some seats on the board have become a semi-permanent. Supervisor Taggart has served for twenty years as a councilman and eight years as supervisor. Assistant supervisor Sitts has served twelve years as a councilman. This may be due, in part, to the increasing

complexity of the job.

Any resident citizen who is over eighteen years of age can run for election to the board. To get your name on the November ballot as an independent, you must file a petition by mid-May with valid signatures totaling more than five percent of Franklinites who voted in the last gubernatorial election. Currently, this is only fifty-two eligible residents, but there is legislation in Albany to lower this requirement to twenty-six. If you do not have the Franklin that you want, then you can make a change.

This article is reprinted from the Fall 2007 issue of the NFR, and updated. Part II: "Public Meetings and Appointments" will appear in the Summer 2021 issue.

KENNETH L.
BENNETT
FUNERAL HOME

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SURVEY, continued from Page 1

nity expects from the Town Board. Goal One was to find out what people think about town government. Goal Two was to see if we could interest people in becoming more involved. This informal survey was distributed during the first week of February 2021. It was emailed to lists of people who are either involved or interested in community activities. We also posted it on local Facebook pages.

The survey had four general questions, each followed by multiple choice boxes. We asked respondents to select up to three choices. Some did. Others did not. In the two sections for comments, one asked: *What do you think citizens of Franklin can do to make Franklin a better place to live?* The second read: *We're interested in hearing your thoughts.*

There were ninety-two responses to the survey. While we hope that each respondent answered only once, we suspect a few may have been doubles. Patterns of what people considered important were evident. For brevity's sake, only popular selections are covered in this article. A full report can be obtained by emailing carlanord@gmail.com.

Question # 1: How can the Franklin Town Board make the town a better place to live?

Choice A: *Create a development plan to bring compatible businesses to Franklin.*

65 replies/72.2%

Choice B: *Work to improve internet and cell phone service throughout Franklin and*

Treadwell.

51 replies/56.7%

Question # 2: What is the best way for the Town Board to communicate with the community?

Choice A: *With an up-to-date comprehensive town website.*

69 replies/75.8%

Choice B: *With a Town of Franklin up-to-date Facebook page.*

49 replies/53.8%

Question # 3: How would you like to receive information from the Town Board?

Choice A: *By meeting agendas, minutes, proposed budgets, and town notices posted on the town website.*

66 replies/73.3%

Question # 4: What qualities are important for Town Board members to have?

Choice A: *People open to citizens' ideas and suggestions for improving town services.*

71 replies/80.7%

Choice B: *People who advocate for Franklin and pass on love for our community.*

67 replies/76.1%

Choice C: *People who are involved in Franklin community activities.*

58 replies/65.9%

We understand that answering this survey was dependent on having access to a computer. This may explain why there is such interest in the Town Board using a website to provide information as well as to communicate with residents.

There were 59 responses to the question:

What do you think citizens of Franklin can do to make Franklin a better place to live?

Most of them were short and positive, such as: *"Be more involved with the community."* or *"Help improve the beautification of non-livable dwellings and farms."* Another was: *"A diversified Board working together in pro-active ways to enhance the natural beauty, services, and infrastructure of Franklin, with transparent and timely communications to residents being key."*

Treadwell residents weighed in: *"Get Treadwell into the picture. We feel second to Franklin even though we are a part of the town."*

There were some disgruntled comments: *"Leave it alone it is fine the way it is. If it ain't broke don't fix it."* And there was some good advice for all Franklin residents: *"SLOW DOWN TO 30 IN TOWN LIMITS FORCE THOSE BEHIND YOU TO GO 30 ALSO."*

To the question about interest in running for local office, seven responded YES, twelve responded MAYBE, and seventy-one responded NO.

Forty-one people shared their thoughts. One wrote, *"Franklin needs a more diverse town board."* Another pointed out the need to improve downtown storefronts: *"Our downtown, while trying, is still pretty discouraging."*

And one comment summed up how many of us feel about Franklin: *"Maintain the charm of Franklin, but we need to embrace change. Not avoid it."*

Thanks to all the people of Franklin who responded to the survey.



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DTC, continued from Page 1

owners to keep an eye on their homes while they are away, by utilizing video cameras, thermostat monitoring and control, and 911 dialing in the event of an emergency.

DTC is not just your local service provider, but rather a one-stop shop for all your connection and networking needs. By offering a range of services - including IT support, phone systems for small and large businesses, and network equipment such as routers, access points, and point-to-point beaming technology - DTC supports a growing customer base and aims to address all of their potential needs.

The New York State grant-funded broadband build has been a highlight in the Delaware County communications industry over the past five years. It provides previously under-

served residents with an optical fiber internet connection with endless potential for their home and business networks.

In particular, our local municipalities are benefiting strongly from the new fiber-optic network as an aid to growing and advancing Delaware County. As a community partner, DTC is providing concession internet and video services to municipal buildings along its routes, such as the Franklin Fire Hall, the Treadwell Fire Hall, Franklin Town Hall, and Franklin Village Hall. DTC sponsored a meet-and-greet event at the Franklin Fire Hall in December of 2019, inviting Franklin residents to meet DTC employees, ask questions, and sign up for services on-site. This resulted in a \$2,050 donation from DTC to the Franklin Fire Department.

Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge for businesses and residents alike in Delaware County. DTC has shown their commitment to the community by providing internet connections to residents working or attending school from home, and by pushing to continue the broadband build despite the pandemic, bringing thousands of customers the reliable connection they need to continue their day-to-day lives. DTC looks forward to expanding their footprint in the Franklin area.

DTC's work in the town of Franklin has been divided into phases by census blocks. Fiber optic installation was made available in many of those areas from 2019 into 2020. Current

active service areas cover the area along County Highway 14 in its entirety to the hamlet of Treadwell from south of State Highway 357. Service has also been made available in the majority of the Village of Franklin, with additional mileage to be completed in the next phase of their build.

In that next build, scheduled for early summer 2021, sixty-five additional homes in the Village of Franklin and nearly 300 homes outside the village will be added to DTC's coverage area, making service available along State Route 357 from Chamberlin Hill to Interstate 88.

Upon completion of these State-funded builds, DTC plans to expand its coverage in the greater Franklin area. With further grant funding over the next two years, DTC will construct fiber services west of the Village of Franklin and along State Highway 357 north toward the Franklin town line.

As DTC is able to release further builds, area residents and businesses will be sent information about the new services. To inquire about service availability in your specific location, please call the DTC business office at (607) 746-1500.



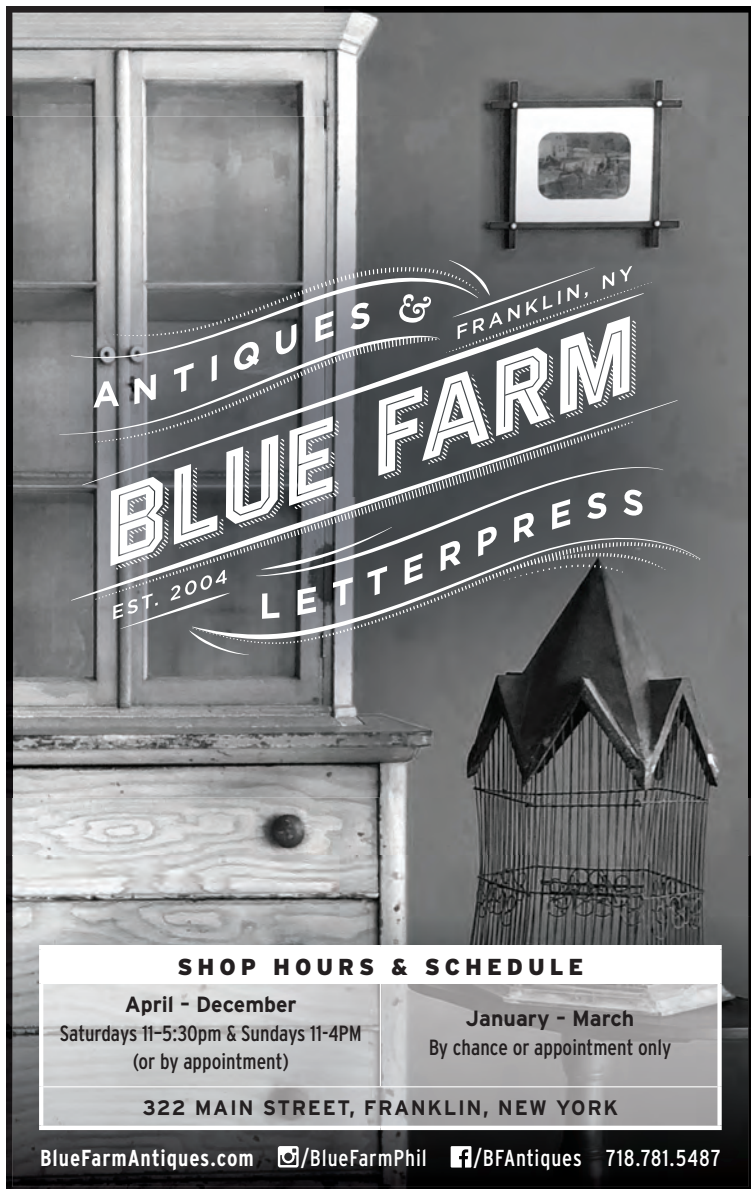
The East Sidney Dam

HYDRO, con't from Page 1

2018 design for construction of a 6-megawatt facility, providing enough renewable energy to power 3500 homes annually.

Completion is expected by 2025, when the facility will join four other hydropower installations operating on New York City's reservoir systems: Neversink Tunnel [25-megawatts], Pepacton Tunnel [18-megawatts], West Delaware Tunnel [7.5-megawatts], and the Ashokan [4.75-megawatts].

Which brings us back to that vision of 1921 and to using the energy of flowing water to generate electricity, with the added benefit of supplying urban water. Perhaps someday public pressure will convince the Army Corp of Engineers to develop hydropower on East Sidney Lake and utilize the renewable energy of water in the Ouleout.



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PHIL, continued from Page 3

his time and talent, partnering with us to rethink FSC's branding, designing all of our print pieces, and working tirelessly on our website design, in addition to countless other favors and support. So, the fact that he also saw a fundraising need for local non-profits and - without asking for anything - put this plan into place and allowed us to reap the benefits, was the extra bonus that, we've come to realize, is so characteristic of him.

"There are also other benefits," she continued. "Phil is great at social media and posted about his initiative. Everyone who came into Blue Farm heard about it. Folks from far afield who came to Franklin to shop and who'd never heard of Franklin Stage, especially in the off-season, now they know who we are.

"The kind of boost a small organization like FSC gets from being amplified by someone who is local but also has a wide reach is priceless. Our end-of-year fundraiser this year was our best ever. It's leadership like Phil's that can really lift a whole community."

In late November, Warish decided to concentrate exclusively on the local community. He selected the Franklin Community Educational Foundation, which works with the Franklin School District to fund needs such as college credit courses, field trips, scholar of the month schol-

arships, supplies for academic programs, books, and robotics equipment to use in classrooms, in order to enhance the academic experience of students and youth in the Franklin community. FCEF Board President Cristina Elmenendorf said, "We are incredibly grateful for the donation made by Blue Farm Antiques. Seeing our community working together to help each other is very humbling."

The Greater Franklin Food Pantry is the second recipient of Warish's donations. President Meg Shivers said, "We are very grateful to Phil for his continued generosity and the fact that his designation of our organization helps to spread the word of our presence and services we provide to the community."

Contributions do not have to be monetary. Besides the not-for-profits mentioned here, giving back to your community can consist of volunteering time, talent, skills, and supplies.

Organizations such as the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Franklin Free Library, Franklin Fire and Rescue, Franklin Garden Club, Franklin Local, Franklin Rotary, and the local churches all run on the efforts of volunteers.

"Be a participant," Warish concluded. "Not a spectator."

COUNT, con't from Page 6

count territory. Some birds you might not expect include Common Loon and Golden Eagle. Occasionally we are treated to Robins and Bluebirds. It's too early to talk about long term trends, but a few things we have learned: birds are more numerous around open water, river valleys, and populated areas. Higher elevations and forested



Eagle

areas have fewer winter birds. Some species, like Common Mergansers, Cardinals, Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, Red-tailed Hawks and Bald Eagles remain about the same number each year. Others, like Mallards, Juncos, Golden Crowned Kinglets, and Bluebirds vary in number year over year. Sixteen Bluebirds one year, none the next. 684 Juncos one year, thirty the next.

Delaware County results are similar to other rural northern territories, with some differences in variety and numbers of individual birds. For example, the nearby Oneonta Christmas Count reported two Bald Eagles and eighty-six Wild Turkeys this past year; Upper Delaware found sixteen Bald Eagles and 327

WATER, continued from Page 1

The plan calls for building the tank right next to the northeast side of the reservoir building.

Mark Blower and Jeff Francisco of Delaware Engineering D.P.C. in Oneonta gave details at the public hearing and will help with the grant process. Jeff will "prepare a facility maintenance plan/protocol" and Mark will "start the application on line," according to January 11th village meeting minutes.

The application will be processed through Albany this time, instead of the



Mallards and Crows

Wild Turkeys. A Golden Eagle has been seen two out of the last five years near Downsville--only a handful of Christmas Bird Counts in New York State have ever reported Golden Eagles.

Our observations are recorded and uploaded to a database hosted by National Audubon. It is shared all over the world and allows researchers, conservation biologists, and wildlife agencies to study the long-term health and status of global bird populations.

When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey and state-wide breeding bird atlases, the CBC provides a picture of how bird populations have changed over the past hundred years. For example, researchers have used CBC data to study Red-tailed Hawk migration, seeking to understand why fewer hawks are migrating and instead remain in northern latitudes over the winter.



Turkeys

Regional Economic Development Council. Mark's best guess is that we could hear by June if our application is accepted, but the COVID pandemic has made timelines less predictable.

If the application is accepted, the public will have the opportunity to view the plans and comment on the project. Many questions remain. What will the holding tank be made of? Will this contemporary containment system provide for residential and/or business growth in the village?

What is the expected life of the system? What provisions have been made for site conditions, including proper drainage? Anyone living on the east side of Main Street knows just how wet the hillside can be.

I am sure that village residents will have questions and comments of their own. Be sure to look for future public hearing notices so you can participate in this process. The New Franklin Register will continue to report on the CDBG grant as information becomes available.

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RUSSIA, continued from Page 3

reassuring to see that some of them *could* smile. No playground equipment here at all, although a couple of little gazebo-type structures provided a place for the kids to hang out and talk. At least the older kids seemed protective of the younger ones.

The third placement was referred to as The Shelter. It contained about fifty kids from as young as two years up through teenagers. This was explained as a 'holding place' for kids awaiting a decision as what to do with them, or alternatively while waiting to see if a parent could prove fit enough to have their child returned to the home. It was often difficult to get a straight answer to questions we asked, as if questions were seen as intrusive or critical, so we learned to limit them. The Shelter also served as a place to quarantine older runaways. Quarantine consisted of being locked in a room with barred windows. A pretty harsh punishment.



Runaway behind bars

Most of the kids at the Shelter seemed livelier than those at the Hospital. We created art projects for them, worked on puzzles, read simple books to them, pointing out words in English and asking how to say it in Russian. Our pronunciation provided lots of opportunities for giggles! And we played games outside. Gaggles of pre-teen girls would swarm around us on the playground trying to find out what life was like in America and did we know Madonna or the Back Street Boys, and was everyone rich,

etc. Most of these conversations had to take place through the interpreter because our limited Russian just wasn't adequate.

The fourth placement, a residential facility for women of all ages, was The Hospital for Women. The patients' conditions ranged from mental retardation to physical limitations to neurosis to bi-polar, even schizophrenia. This was the most challenging and most depressing place to work. Our first day there, we were taken into a small office and given white coats to wear - I guess to distinguish us from the patients. I was using a cane at the time, as I'd scheduled a hip replacement for after I returned home. The administrator told me I could not take the cane into the main room where we'd be interacting with the residents as it might be grabbed from me and used as a weapon. That gave me pause. We heard later that the previous year, one of the patients had murdered another.

That first day, we waited in a huge room in our white coats while the women shuffled in, wearing loose-fitting house dresses and threadbare slippers. Their hair was cut short, as if someone had just chopped it off with no thought to styling. The short haircuts allowed the matrons to check quickly for lice, working through the women's hair with a special comb.

We had brought the usual assortment of arts and crafts materials, decks of cards, and small games to play. But the biggest draw by far was the manicures we could give them! We had a dozen or so different polish colors, and after picking their color, the women lined up enthusiastically to enjoy this rare opportunity to express their femininity.

Perhaps this was the only time these women were touched in a kindly way. A middle-aged woman named Irina sat down across the table from me and held up a bottle of fire engine red polish. She knew some English, and within the first few minutes, she asked me if I was married, what I did for a living, how old I was, and were those my own teeth! Quite a start to the first manicure I had ever given to someone other than myself!

Without fail, every woman held up her hands to admire her finished nails, smiling delightedly. I noticed that some of their fingertips

were heavily calloused and some looked as if they were burned. Each patient was allowed one cigarette daily, and the interpreter noted that some would frequently singe their fingertips trying to smoke that cigarette right down to the last millimeter.

The behavior of some of these women suggested that they were drugged, like the kids in the hospital and for the same reason. An air of sadness and hopelessness was pervasive. Each time I went, I told myself that if I could bring five minutes of happiness to one of these women by polishing her nails and in the process gently hold her hands, that would qualify as a good day. A tough placement.

The month came to a close, and we said good-bye to the kids at the shelter. As I hugged two young teens with whom I'd formed a nice bond, they noticed tears in my eyes. One of them looked at me in surprise and said, "Why are YOU crying? You get to go home."

As I look back over my photographs, I think about those kids I got to know during that month fifteen years ago. By now, all but the very youngest would have aged out of the various institutions in which they'd been living. Where are they all now? What they are doing? Were any adopted? Were any returned successfully to their parents? Which of them is living a successful meaningful life?

Cross-Cultural Solutions no longer runs a program in Russia, so the questions will remain unanswered, and my memories will have to suffice.



"The older kids seemed protective of the younger ones."

ACTIONS BY THE FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD

DATE	MOTION	VOTE			
		Taggart	Bruno	Grant	Sitts Smith
1/05/21	No other motion was made.				
1/12/21*	List 15 officials and the official bank and newspaper.+				
1/12/21*	Support for town assessor to do reappraisal in 2021 at the request of NYS DT&F.	Y	Y	Y	Y
2/02/21	Appoint Doug Weber as Code Enforcement Officer.	Y	Y	Y	Y
2/02/21	Appoint Bruno & Smith to audit town books and Bruno & Taggart to audit court books.	Y	Y	Y	Y
2/02/21	Forward Public Health Emergency Operation Plan to town attorney for review.	Y	Y	Y	Y
3/02/21	Permission to rent broom in April and grader in May.	Y	Y	Y	Y
3/02/21	Purchase a set of 2020 New York State code books.	Y	Y	Y	Y
3/02/21	Approve agreement with Susquehanna SPCA.	Y	Y	Y	Y
3/02/21	Approve Public Health Emergency Operations Plan for the Town of Franklin.	Y	Y	Y	Y
3/02/21	Go into executive session to discuss highway department personnel.	Y	Y	Y	Y

No, **A** Abstain, **a** absent

* Special meeting
+ No motion made

NYS DT&F New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
Not included are routine motions to accept minutes, return after executive session, or adjourn meeting

Spring events at the FRANKLIN FREE LIBRARY

March 26: on Zoom – A Visit to Nepal - Franklin resident and Library Board member Shirley Ferguson shares slides and stories about her trip to Nepal

March 15, April 15: Winter Days - Let's Celebrate Art packets will be ready for pick up.

April, date and time TBA: on Zoom – Kids' Graphic Novel Book Club





The Newsletter of Franklin Local

Editorial Board

Ellen Curtis Helen McLean
Eugene Marner Manette Berlinger
Associate Editor: Brian Brock

Editor
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register

P.O. Box 258

Franklin, NY 13775

or by email: nfr@franklinlocal.org

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

SOLAR, con't from Page 9

Renewal (HCR), and local governments rallied to obtain funding in the form of tax incentives, low interest rate loans, and grants. Amphenol agreed to rebuild and retain its Sidney plant, constructing a new, state-of-the-art facility on Delaware Avenue, near the former Kmart and Tractor Supply Company stores.

In 2018, additional funding of fifteen million dollars was secured to repurpose the former site as a solar energy farm by removing abandoned buildings and debris, as well as constructing a levee to control further flooding. This would allow valuable brown-field real estate to continue as an income-producing asset, rather than be abandoned due to location in the floodplain.

Several agencies cooperated to secure this funding: Delaware County



Industrial Development Agency (IDA), NY-Sun (administered by NYSERDA), Delaware County, and the Town and Village of Sidney. The project would complement Southern Tier Soaring, a New York State strategy for revitalizing the region. Funding would include grants, loans, and tax incentives.

This solar farm has the potential to produce 7.5 megawatt-hours of electricity yearly, equivalent to powering nearly 800 homes or removing 720 cars from the road each year. Amphenol's solar farm is the largest corporate on-site solar installation in New

Amphenol's solar array

York State, and one of the largest in the United States. The solar power generated will reduce Amphenol's annual electric purchases, increase its energy sustainability, and lower its carbon footprint.

Amphenol personnel did not reply to requests for performance data to confirm the operating success of the installation. Further information on the solar farm and Amphenol can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfE3DDG4Mew>

Photos courtesy of the Amphenol Aerospace Corporation

FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2021

January 7	6:00pm	Franklin
February 4	6:00pm	Franklin
March 3	6:00pm	Treadwell
April 7	7:30pm	Franklin
May 5	7:30pm	Franklin
June 2	7:30pm	Treadwell
July 7	7:30pm	Franklin
August 4	7:30pm	Franklin
September 1	7:30pm	Treadwell
October 6	7:30pm	Franklin
November 4 (Wednesday)	6:00pm	Franklin
December 1	6:00pm	Treadwell



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RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS	SALE	SELLER	BUYER
8/10/2020	State Highway 357	31.74	Rural Vac>10	55,000	30,000	Herricht, Ruth C	Davidson, Christopher
9/1/2020	6901 Dunk Hill Rd	3.00	1 Family Res	80,000	295,000	Scanlan-Yerly, Stephen	Ngalikpima, Jean Michel
9/3/2020	6917 Cty Hwy 16	1.50	1 Family Res	105,000	137,000	Harrison, Kathleen L	Sherwood, Randolph E
9/4/2020	547 Main St	0.75	1 Family Res	110,000	124,900	Slawson, Elizabeth	DeKorne, Clayton R
9/14/2020	1467 Douglas Hall Rd (2)	32.49	Rural Res	250,000	370,000	Houck, Crystal	Fenhagen, James
9/21/2020	32 Christian Hill Rd	11.40	Vac w/Imprv	80,000	95,000	Morrison, Alan	Kanouse, Donald Evans Jr ®
9/30/2020	Merrickville Rd	3.90	Rural Vac<10	11,000	15,000	Taggart, Patricia A	Panopoulos, Xrestos
9/30/2020	12786 State Hwy 357	1.59	Mfg Housing	78,000	63,000	Dawes, Diana M	Yow, Christy
10/1/2020	25 Stewart Rd	3.33	1 Family Res	125,000	115,000	Love and Hope Animal	Kops, Myron S ®
10/9/2020	Case Hill Rd	22.50	Rural Vac>10	38,000	58,000	Treadwell Lumber Co,	Matthews, Shawn
10/9/2020	County Highway 14	8.00	Rural Vac<10	22,000	15,000	Lynch, Emilienne N	Huyck, Tyler
10/15/2020	2702 State Hwy 28 S	0.73	Mfg Housing	24,000	36,500	Lyktey, George	Horree, Peter
10/15/2020	272 Main St (2)	3.48	1 Family Res	145,000	176,900	Scharling, Christopher B	Sandler-Sims, Emilie Sara
10/16/2020	2371 Rich Rd	4.20	Mfg Housing	44,000	35,000	Hayward, Robert	Baker, Daniel J
10/20/2020	E Handsome Bk Rd	13.57	Rural Vac>10	31,000	45,000	Suto, Tiberiu	Lotus Holdings Westcat
10/20/2020	9191 State Hwy 357	0.74	1 Family Res	89,000	155,000	Cekala, Cynthia	Paxton, Michael
10/22/2020	Round Top Rd	8.40	Rural Vac<10	22,000	42,500	Taggart, John	Worden, Scott A
10/22/2020	Christian Hill Rd (2)	140.10	Rural Vac>10	182,000	40,000	Abbondandolo, Antonio	Cipriano, Marciano
10/23/2020	Carey Rd	24.89	Rural Vac>10	50,000	60,000	Zurn, Daniel C	FinleyJacob, Kendall
10/23/2020	1681 Snake Hill Rd	11.00	Rural Res	125,000	169,900	DeForest, David A	Follano, Fiore Enzo
10/23/2020	County Highway 14	45.00	Rural Vac>10	79,000	47,000	D'Erasmus, Peter	Cabano, Jamie M
10/28/2020	Franklin Depot Rd	3.10	Rural Vac<10	12,000	15,000	DeCicco, Michael	Prinz, Kevin
11/4/2020	Tupper Hill Rd	156.80	Vac w/Imprv	210,000	155,000	BD Tupper Hill LLC,	Dewhirst, Frank
11/6/2020	Main St	0.07	Vac w/Imprv	14,000	15,730	Russell Revocable Trust,	Burgin, John M
11/13/2020	725 Main St	0.87	1 Family Res	112,000	189,000	Dunham, Joseph W	Stuit, David
11/14/2020	595 Main St	0.56	1 Family Res	128,000	217,000	Flint Estste,	Masterson, Brett C
12/2/2020	Rich Rd (2)	102.12	Forest s480a	148,000	160,000	Petersen, Douglas	LaFever, Todd
12/8/2020	9154 Cty Hwy 16	2.00	1 Family Res	89,000	105,000	Mitchell, Douglas	Vlahos, Konstantin A
12/10/2020	1340 Post Rd	22.30	Rural Res	144,000	165,000	Owen, Richard L	Bohatyritz, George
12/10/2020	12144 State Hwy 357	5.10	1 Family Res	85,000	70,000	Beaver Valley, LLC,	Sickler, Stacey L

Two parcels (2)

Between relatives ®