



## DRIVING WHILE BLACK

**A conversation with  
Gretchen Sorin**

By Alexis Greene

“What we know about other people and places is based on our lived experience,” said Gretchen Sorin, author of the revelatory history of African Americans’ experience, *Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights*, and Director of SUNY Oneonta’s Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies. “In this day and age, we have to start to understand the

experience of others, and empathy is something we really need for understanding one another. It’s how you maintain a democracy. You can’t have a democracy that protects just one group.”  
For Sorin, with whom I spoke on the phone in May 2021, that statement encompasses what she said were her most significant discoveries while researching and writing *Driving While Black*. Begun as a Ph.D. dissertation at SUNY Albany, her study of the dangers, humiliations, and joys of travel for Black  
**See SORIN, con’t on Page 9**

## A TOUCH OF SWEDEN IN OTEGO

By Carla Nordstrom

Several new vendors have joined the Franklin Farmers’ Market this summer and Trollbok Farm is one of them. Johan Grimm, Alissa Borshchenko, and Johan’s family bought a thirty-three-acre farm in Otego last September, and began to make plans for a successful business venture. Johan has a background in filmmaking and Alissa is a bioengineer who works for a pharmaceutical company. They chose to locate in Otego because it is halfway between Albany where her job is located and Binghamton where Johan’s parents live and run a bed and breakfast.  
It is important for this couple to be close to family since  
**See TROLL, continued on Pg. 18**



## PANDEMIC WANES

By Brian Brock

Having finally reached the far side of the peak of infections, we can look back. Delaware County has been in the COVID-19 pandemic for almost 500 days, with the first case diagnosed on March 13<sup>th</sup> of 2020. Last spring, the exploding number of patients downstate triggered a statewide lockdown. That kept the first peak remarkably low here with only twenty-five cases in the fifth week, although tests were in short supply back then.  
After that peak, we had a safe but wary summer due to the continued lockdown (gradually relaxed), warmer weather which allowed outdoor socializing, and residents’ caution. All summer (June, July, and August), we saw only thirty additional cases. For many weeks, there were two or fewer positive test results. This background of infection  
**See WANES, con’t on Pg. 12**



\$5.00 Finn and Molly, herd leaders -Courtesy of Honey Pie Productions

## WHERE HORSES GET TO BE HORSES

By Cat Gareth

You don’t have to have been a horse-crazy girl like I was, with my imaginary horses galloping alongside my parents’ car, to be inspired by what’s happening at Rosemary Farm Sanctuary.  
The Sanctuary is set among hillside pastures on both sides of Roses Brook Road in South Kortright. It was founded in 2009 by Dawn Robyn and her husband, Robert, motivated



Photo by Tony Breuer

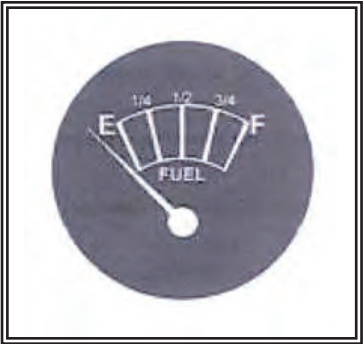
## HEAD START What is it?

By Shirley Ferguson

If you have lived in Franklin for any time at all, you have seen the building on Main Street with the Head Start sign out front and lots of colorful and fun-looking play equipment in the side yard. Sometimes a sign will announce dates for registration or let us know about available openings. And you might have been lucky enough to see a line of youngsters walking down the sidewalk, all holding onto a lead connecting them each to another, with a teacher

at the front of this cute little parade and another following along at the end. The kids were probably chatting happily with each other, maybe pointing at and exclaiming over a curious sculpture in someone’s front yard, or watching a lively dog being walked next door, or gaping at an impressively noisy construction machine passing

**See START, con’t on Pg. 18**



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

REGULAR FEATURES:	
Neighbor’s View	Pg. 2
Mayor’s Corner	Pg. 3
Kitchen Basics	Pg. 5
Green Banks Garden	Pg. 5
Town Board Meetings	Pg. 7
Inside Local Realty	Pg.13
Real Estate Sales	Pg.20
LOCAL ISSUES:	
The Franklin Party	Pg. 3
Local Org. Needs U	Pg. 3
Work Day in the Park	Pg. 6
Community Day	Pg. 6
New Restaurant	Pg. 6
Assessor Report Card	Pg. 7
Trailer Theft	Pg. 7
Farmers’ Market News	Pg.11
Class of 2021	Pg.12
Town Government II	Pg.19
FOCUS ON ENERGY:	
Last Pipeline Update	Pg. 8
LOCAL ARTS:	
Music at the Market	Pg.10
Book Reviews	Pg.14
Poetry Shelf	Pg.14
Catskill Cats	Pg.15
Bright Hill Events	Pg.16
Upstate Arts	Pg.17

**See HORSES,con’t on Pg. 4**



# Your Neighbor's View...

To the Editor:

## WHY I AM RUNNING FOR TOWN BOARD

One of things I love most about Franklin is its history as a dairy producing community. For most of the twentieth century, it was the bread and butter (local butter, at that) of the community. Recently, when my sister visited our hometown in Connecticut, she stopped by the old ice cream and dairy company, to say hello. When she mentioned that her brother lived in Franklin, New York, they said that used to be where they got all their raw dairy products, back in the days when we lived in the area.

My Franklin house was built in 2008 on the site of the Arctic

Creamery on East Handsome Brook Road, founded around 1899. When my house was built, there were two dairy farms on my road and one on the hill behind me. Now there are none. If I had my way, Franklin would still be a vital dairy town. What has been done to small farmers all across America is shameful. That our state and federal governments aided corporate farms in dropping the bottom out of prices for small farmers is one of the great political failings of our era.

We now live in a town where dairies are no longer the driving force of the economy. They haven't been for years. There are still dairy farms of course, a testament to the tenacity of the dairy farmer. But Franklin, for better or worse, is a different place than it was forty or fifty years ago. Or even ten years

ago. I have been persuaded to run for the Franklin Town Board because I am one of those local citizens that did not come from a dairy family, the numbers of which are growing. We came to Franklin for other reasons. We came to Franklin because we love it here.

I would like to see the Town Board continue to do its best for farmers for as long as there is still one farm standing in this beautiful part of the world. But I would also like to see the Town Board recognize that we no longer live in the twentieth century. In my opinion, we need a community that respects its past and in whichever way we can, preserves that heritage, while also recognizing that the current economics for towns like Franklin are challenging in different ways than they were for dairy farmers.

Though I worked on my best friend's farm in Iowa when I was young, my living was made by mak-

ing music and working unskilled labor jobs until the mid-nineties, when I went to New York City to work as an organizer for the largest local musicians' union in the country. In 2010, I was elected as a chief officer of that union and, for six years, was in charge of the administration. I believe I can put some of the same skills I used to make positive changes for the musicians' union to work in Franklin. We need to be creative about developing the future of our town, contributing to the economy of the village as well as the rural surroundings. This is not a partisan challenge. It is a challenge of bringing neighbors together with neighbors to make Franklin the best it can be, honoring both the past and the future.

I hope you will join me in this challenge.

Sincerely,  
John O'Connor



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To the Editor,

Franklin needs to talk about senior housing. And then we need to do something.

I'm a realtor. I've tried to find appropriate housing for older people who want to stay in town. There is little real estate of any kind available, so it's no surprise that an historic village in a rural area has even less that works as senior housing.

But the demand exists, and it's only going to increase. The big old house that was once a perfect fit can become too much work, too challenging, as we grow older. There should be a chance for people to stay in this community and in housing that suits their needs.

I watched Kingston tackle its lack of low-income housing with imagination and success. RUPCO, the Rural Ulster Preservation Corporation, is a non-profit organization that re-tools existing space or builds new space to create senior and affordable housing. A former warehouse was converted into artists' live/work space. Historic homes were redesigned as attractive duplexes for low-income families. RUPCO is

now repurposing an historic prison into attractive senior housing.

Things that people said could not be done were done. And RUPCO doesn't confine itself to Ulster County. They're taking applications right now for a new senior housing complex in Prattsville.

Cherry Valley, an economically depressed village near Cooperstown, has retrofitted its old school as senior/low income housing. People will be moving in this summer.

Franklin is an active, creative community. I believe we can figure this out and guide the process ourselves.

There are large, empty buildings in our village that could be reimagined as senior housing. Old Stone Hall is an obvious example. The location would be ideal for seniors, and clever, imaginative retrofitting could address its accessibility issues. There are also privately owned buildings in the village that are currently unused.

Funding exists for these kinds of projects. That's how RUPCO does what it does. And it appears the current administration in Washington intends to support fund-

ing for projects related to senior as well as low-income housing.

Public/private partnerships are possible. I used to be press officer for New York's biggest builder, DAS-NY. That's an organization worth talking to -- they also administer all state grants.

Perhaps there's a developer interested in retrofitting historic buildings who would partner with the community.

The first step in any project is to agree it is needed. I believe it is. And if the community wants to do something about it, I'd be happy to be part of any group exploring possible answers.

Susan Barnett  
Hodge Rd.  
Franklin

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# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



The following commentary does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff of The New Franklin Register.

## WHY THE FRANKLIN PARTY?

By Andy Bobrow

This year, two candidates for town council are running on the Franklin Party line.

Right, you say. Just what we need. Another political party.

Not exactly. The Franklin Party isn't a traditional political party and it isn't intended to take the place of established political parties. In fact, you could hardly call it a political party at all. It is independent, non-partisan, and not affiliated with any other political party or organization. There is no hierarchy; there are no officers.

The Franklin Party provides a place on the ballot for candidates who are running on local issues that directly impact the lives of the citizens of Franklin. Instead of getting bogged down in the divisiveness and tribalism of national politics on issues that aren't relevant at the local level, Franklin Party candidates concentrate on presenting a shared agenda to help build a better Franklin for everyone.

It is a home-grown, grassroots movement made up of people who want to participate in determining a future direction for their town.

On the most basic level, Franklin Party candidates support good governance for our town -- transparency, accountability, inclusion and participation, communica-

## FRANKLIN LOCAL WANTS YOU!

Staff Report

The Town of Franklin is rich in volunteer organizations whose members give valuable time and resources to serve specific interests in our community. Start with our heroic Franklin/Treadwell Fire Department and EMS squad, then move on to Franklin Rotary, the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce, the Franklin Garden Club, the Franklin Food Pantry, the Franklin Community Educational Foundation, and the many volunteer boards of churches or cultural organizations such as Franklin Stage, the Franklin Free Library, the Franklin Railroad and Community

Museum, and the Bright Hill Press and Literary Center.

But one organization aims to serve the diversity of interests in our community: Franklin Local.

Our mission statement: *"Franklin Local, Ltd., is a not-for-profit volunteer organization of residents of the Town of Franklin, NY, and the surrounding area. We are dedicated to rebuilding the local economy, restoring community solidarity and raising awareness of the economic and social problems that are likely to result from climate change and the transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy."*

Incorporated in January 2009 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, Franklin Local can apply for and administer grants from both public and private sources. These funds support projects created for the betterment of the community. Since our

founding, we have organized and maintained the **Franklin Farmers' Market** (recently adding its Music at the Market series) which draws vendors and patrons from Franklin and neighboring towns. We offer a user-friendly website, **franklinlocal.org**, a comprehensive source of town news and information. We publish a local newspaper, **The New Franklin Register**, (this is issue 43), mailed free to every household in Franklin and Treadwell three times a year. We maintain and expand the **Edible Walking Trail** in the village park. We host talks on local issues as well as meet-the-candidate forums to help inform voters during town elections.

It costs nothing but time and energy to participate in Franklin Local. There are no dues, no required donations or membership

See **PARTY**, continued on Page 16

See **LOCAL**, continued on Page 8

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

Recently, as viewed in social media posts and in listening to conversations on the street, there seems to be a growing interest in the creation of a senior housing complex in the Franklin area. Although I think that this conversation is healthy for the community and although I think that senior housing is very much needed here (as it is in most of the country), traditional senior housing is unlikely to happen.

With less than 400 residents, our community would be unable to support a senior complex.

We do not have a pharmacy, or a healthcare facility, or a grocery store, or a taxi service, or adequate parking or a sponsoring organization, all of which are necessary to support a senior housing facility. Because of this, we would not be eligible for government funding to build traditional senior housing. The private sector would not be interested in investing in senior housing in the Franklin area for the same reasons.

The need is certainly here. With the recent COVID-related real estate boom, rental units have all but disappeared and rates have risen rapidly. Food costs have also risen significantly (twenty percent in the last two months) as have energy and other essential products and services. In Delaware County, where one person out of every four is over sixty-five and most likely on a fixed income, reducing housing costs may be essential in order to age independently in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Forty years ago, senior rights champion and

"grey panther" Maggie Kuhn called attention to the need for new innovations to housing options for senior citizens. At the time, as today, displaced seniors faced difficult and unsatisfactory choices. Some ended up in nursing homes as a last resort, even though they were quite capable of taking care of themselves. Besides pressing Congress to expand funding for senior housing, Kuhn made popular the concept of home sharing, where a senior would rent out rooms in her house to others, or a group of seniors would pool resources to purchase a house to be shared. Often this practice would include an agreement, usually a legal contract detailing the expectations of the participants in the living arrangement. Maggie Kuhn herself lived in a large, multi-generational, "shared" house in Philadelphia that would have been unaffordable had the costs not been shared. The popular television show 'Golden Girls' created additional interest in home sharing, though it also made light of some of the pitfalls. Persons interested in further information regarding shared living can google the National Home-share Housing Resource Center.

Another housing concept that might succeed in this area (if enough interest is generated) is cohousing or elder cohousing. Cohousing, started in Denmark in the 1960s, involves the creation of an intentional community by persons who share common ideals and core values, who choose to live and grow together. Contemporary cohousing communities can consist of connected or closely located houses that incorporate common spaces, like a community center, a laundry, or a park. Members would own their homes and be responsible for sharing the operating costs of the entire community. Members share work duties and are expected to participate in regular activities at the community center. Currently there are a couple of cohousing complexes in Ithaca as well as others dotted around New York State and beyond.

A friend of mine, Curtis VanBuren, a local housing expert, has shared with me much of what he has learned about innovative housing initiatives that have started up around the country of late. Some might not be viable in these parts due to climate, lack of resources, local culture, political indifference, population sparsity etc. But one concept might work.

Assuming that, given the option, many elders would prefer to live in stand-alone houses, and that they would feel safer and more socially engaged if located in close proximity to others, we have come up with the "cottage community" concept. In this scenario, a housing authority would be established to purchase and manage property for the building sites and to provide oversight for the project. Small, green-built cottages (600 to 900 sq ft) would be constructed in clusters - picture a cul-de-sac comprised of four or five units designed to mimic the prevailing architecture of the surrounding community. Residents would have ownership and limited equity in the interior of the cottage and would be involved with its design and enjoy the freedom to live independently within the parameters of an agreed-upon covenant. The housing Authority would continue ownership of the cottage property and would broker resale of the residence upon the owner's departure, remitting partial earned-equity to the resident or the resident's estate. The housing authority would provide supportive services for the residents and encourage them to work and socialize with members in their cluster. As more clusters are developed, a community center would be constructed to enhance socialization.

Due to limited copy space in The New Franklin Register, I am unable to elaborate further on the cottage community concept but I'd be happy to meet with others to talk about or brainstorm upon this or other housing ideas that might benefit the greater Franklin area.

My email is: [plutarch@citlink.net](mailto:plutarch@citlink.net).



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## HORSES, continued from Page 1

Each horse is welcomed with a genuine desire to understand that horse's specific needs and to provide as much help, in whatever form, as the Sanctuary has the capacity to offer. It is all done by a small, dedicated team, assisted by volunteers, supported only by donors, and guided by Dawn Robyn, now the Sanctuary's executive director. Although the Sanctuary's mission, to rescue horses in need and protect them for life, can be stated simply, achieving it requires courage and commitment as well as compassion.



Dawn Robyn and Rhett  
Photo by Cat Gareth

mal surroundings. All handling is undertaken with the horse's safety, history (if known), and emotional state in mind. Work to establish trust between horse and handlers is paramount and begins immediately. Once a horse can be safely handled enough to allow urgent physical needs to be met, the process of assessing the horse's emotional scars, fears, needs, and capabilities begins in earnest. And takes as long as it needs to.

The process is empathetic and intuitive but grounded in careful observation and deep understanding of horse behavior and the ways in which horses communicate with humans and with other horses. Gradually, mutual trust is established. Training and introductions to other horses can begin.

Empathy, the second super-power, is also at the heart of training. At Rosemary Farm, training consists of gently applying incremental, positive reinforcement techniques. The farm's skilled trainer, Daniel McCarthy of Catskill Natural Horse in Hobart, can harness (pun intended) his understanding of horses' instinctive behaviors to build trust and coop-

eration between horse and human. Depending on the horse, training may be minimal, just enough for trust and safety, or it may continue all the way to working under saddle and a possible future as a riding horse. It all depends on the individual horse's interest, aptitude, and level of comfort.

Horses, like other prey animals, evolved to be vigilant and reactive, in order to survive. These primal imperatives do not disappear just because humans have other ideas of how they want horses to behave. When living in a herd, horses rely on their herd mates and a strong herd leader for companionship and protection. Collectively, they are safer than any horse can be on its own. Nothing comforts and sustains a horse more than



Dawn and trainer Dan McCarthy  
with Murtagh Photo by Cat Gareth

the close companionship of other horses. And this is the Sanctuary's third super-power.

With thoughtful pairings and careful introductions, Dawn and the team build friendships be-

tween horses. From those friendships, they build bands of compatible horses, led by confident,



Rosemary Farm view  
Courtesy of Honey Pie Productions

experienced horses with which Dawn and team have developed strong relationships. (One of those leaders is Finn, that \$5.00 stud colt no one else wanted.) These bands spend all their time together, moving as a group from pasture to shelter to pasture, around the farm. This gives damaged horses a structure they instinctively recognize, plus a sense of security that might take years to develop with a person. The herd nurtures and consoles new arrivals, speeding their transition into stable, healthy, happy horses.

That's how they do it at Rosemary Farm, and it is truly beautiful to see.

Rosemary Farm Sanctuary provides guided tours most Saturdays in summer. Appointments are necessary. Much more information is available and on the Sanctuary's Facebook page and their soon-to-be-launched new website:

<http://rosemaryfarm.org/>



# GREENBANKS GARDENING



## GARDENING FRIENDS

When I started gardening in my late twenties, I had just purchased a fixer-upper house and was living on my own in an older neighborhood, an hour northwest of Philadelphia. I didn't know any of my neighbors and I started working in my little yard to give me something to do outside. Before long, I was hooked on gardening, but I remember those early days of uncertainty at the garden nurseries and all the mistakes I made. Plants I bought that grew too big for my garden or were not hardy enough. A hydrangea planted on the west side of the house that wilted every afternoon in the hot summer sun. Most memorable was the weekend I was digging out an overgrown yew 'foundation' shrub and managed to crack the natural gas line near my house. I had four gas company trucks at my house on a Sunday morning, with all the neighbors peering at me from their front windows. I had other challenges and a few triumphs but no gardening friends with whom I could share them.

When I sold that house eleven years later, I had replaced most of the grass in my small yard with trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs. I was now married and my nearest neighbors were good friends. But I still had no friends that shared my gardening interest. Ironical, given that I was living near Philadelphia, a gardening hot spot with an abundance of public gardens and plant societies.

These days in upstate New York, I am blessed with many gardening friends. I love going plant shopping with garden buddies. Sometimes we combine our orders at online nurseries to get better pricing or to save on shipping. I know whom to ask about an unlabeled plant and which friends will be most available for garden programs and tours. There are friends whose gardens I know pretty well and who also know mine. There are people I "know" by reading their online blogs or looking at

## With Deborah Banks

their garden postings on Facebook.

Meeting like-minded people took some effort on my part. I attended classes offered by the local cooperative extension. I went on gardening tours in the area, sometimes by myself. I went to the first meeting of what became the Franklin Garden Club. I joined an online garden forum and connected with members from the Catskills area. I volunteered at garden-focused events.

Why do you need gardening friends? To share your gardening excitement as well as your troubles. Going on garden tours and attending garden programs is more fun with a friend. A non-gardening friend will lose interest in spending time with you after you take them on a drive through all of Delaware County to look at someone's vegetable garden. A gardening friend will go happily and let you know when they hear about other garden tours. Your spouse or partner may be reluctant to accompany you to a garden lecture on the merits of twelve different varieties of colchicum. A gardening friend will go with you to the lecture and then let you know when they see colchicums on sale at some online nursery.

Gardening friends tell you when the local garden center is having a sale. They admire your efforts at edging your shade garden instead of commenting on your weeds. They ask where you got your new winterberry hollies and tell you about the native plant nursery they visited last week. They'll loan you their book on heathers when you decide to plant a few. They'll sympathize with your efforts to water new plants during a drought before they tell you about the great rain they just had on their side of the mountain.

The best part of garden friendships is plant sharing. My garden is full of memories, not just plants. There's the viburnum my mom rooted for me from her big plant. My first phlox and monkshood plants were from a gardening neighbor who moved to Florida. A crested fern

came from my sister-in-law when she moved to Alaska. The dwarf goat's beard and dwarf lady's mantle were from a garden club friend. A walk through my garden provides many fond memories of family and friends.

Plant sharing is also insurance. If a cherished plant in my shade garden dies, I can ask for a start from the division of it that I shared with friends. Also, I may learn something new about the plant by seeing how a friend cared for it. Their plant may be healthier or bigger because it is in more sun, gets less moisture or more compost.

There are so many ways that garden friends enrich my life. My garden benefits as well. Friendly gardeners are everywhere. You just need to look for them.

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# kitchen basics

By  
Carla  
Nordstrom

## PERUVIAN GRILLED CHICKEN WITH CILANTRO SAUCE

Occasionally, a recipe for a simple dish like grilled chicken pops with delicious flavor. That is what I thought the first time my husband made Peruvian Grilled Chicken, based on a recipe from Melissa Clark. While this recipe has a lot of ingredients, it is very easy to put together. Give the chicken at least 2-3 hours to marinate before grilling.

### The Marinade:

Combine the following ingredients in a blender or food processor.

6 cloves of garlic

3 Tbl. soy sauce

Zest from ½ lime

1 Tbl. lime juice

1 Tbl. Double concentrated tomato paste

2 Tbl. aji amarillo paste\* (can substitute with sriacha or sambal chili paste)

2 Tbl. Aji panca paste\* (can substitute with pasilla chile powder)

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

1 tsp. ground cumin

1 Tbl. fresh thyme, rosemary, or oregano or 1 tsp. of dried herbs

2 tsp. ground pepper

Salt to taste

¾ cup of olive oil

Blend until smooth.

Split a chicken in half so each piece has a breast, wing, thigh, and leg. Put the chicken in a sturdy zip lock plastic bag. Pour the sauce over the chicken and massage it into the chicken. Place in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours and up to 12 hours.

Heat up the grill to medium heat. Shake off excess marinade and discard. Place the chicken skin-side up on the grill for about 20 minutes, then turn it over to finish it up. It usually takes about 30 to 40 minutes total.

\*Aji amarillo and aji panca paste are available online or at the Masonville General Store. You can also get them as powders that have a longer shelf life than the paste.

### Cilantro Sauce

Combine the following in a blender or processor:

1 bunch cilantro, stems & leaves

2 jalapeno peppers, cut up

2 cloves of garlic

1½ Tbl. lime juice

2 tsp. fresh oregano or thyme

2 whole scallions

1 Tbl. aji amarillo paste

½ tsp. ground cumin

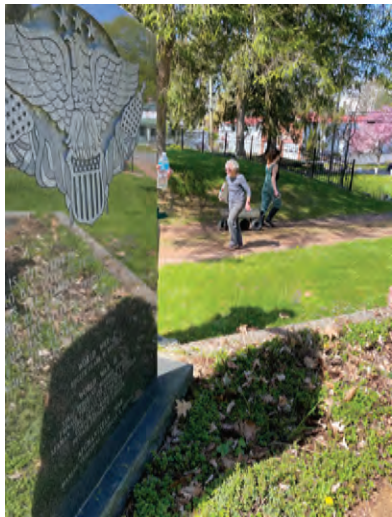
½ cup olive oil

Combine until smooth and serve with the chicken. Garnish with lime wedges.



Photo by Andy Bobrow





# A WORKING WALK IN THE VILLAGE PARK

PHOTOS BY TONY BREUER

THANKS TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED!

(YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!)



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Colchester	3	1.26	38
Davenport	71	1.04	18
Delhi	55	1.04	15
Deposit	4	1.14	38
Franklin	88	1.06	16
Hamden	100		
Hancock	12	1.20	40
Harpersfield	28	1.17	32
Kortright	100		
Masonville	93		
Meredith	100		
Middletown	102	1.09	22
Roxbury	100		
Sidney	74	1.11	22*
Stamford	26	1.21	39
Tompkins	4	1.11	31
Walton	100		
NYS T&F target	100	0.98 to 1.03	< 15

Towns that meet NYS T&F guidelines for assessment uniformity are in italics  
\*For Sidney, being more densely populated, the target is COD<12

Annually, NYS Department of Taxation and Finance calculates three measures of assessment. Using these, it rates 70 percent of towns as meeting guidelines for uniformity of property assessment. Franklin passed, as did more than half of the towns in Delaware County. While ER is calculated contemporaneously, PRD and COD are a year behind.

**Equalization Rate** measures how closely assessed value of the town comes to sales price. Less than 100 means that assessment values average less than sales prices. NYS recommends that towns aim for 100. For towns with ER less than 90, it has been decades since a town-wide reassessment. For Franklin, ER was 100 after the last town-wide in 1999. This year there was a town-wide reassessment, but the ER for 2021 won't be calculated until assessment rolls are finalized in July. It is expected to be 100.

**Price Related Differential** measures how more-expensive properties are assessed relative to less-expensive ones. At 1.00, assessments are equal, whereas greater than that indicates that more-expensive properties are under-assessed relative to less-expensive ones. NYS guidelines are for range of 0.98 to 1.03. It is extremely unusual for towns to rate less than 1.00 for residential properties, i.e. for inexpensive properties to be under-assessed relative to expensive ones. Most towns rate between 1.00 and 1.10 and Franklin rates in the middle of that range. The towns of Colchester, Hancock, and Stamford are among the most unequal towns in the state.



Neil Rochmis & Tom Briggs  
c: 607-829-5613  
h: 607-746-2359

Official Opening:  
July 4<sup>th</sup>  
weekend

FRANKLIN DURABLE GOODS  
UNUSUAL ANTIQUES

Franklin Durable Goods will become Durable Goods, and relocate to 9289 County Route 14, halfway between Delhi & Treadwell.

**Coefficient of Dispersion** measures how closely assessed values of properties come to sales price, greater or lesser. NYS guideline is COD less than 15 for rural towns with population density of less than 100 people per square mile. Franklin has a density of 26.

FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD MEETINGS 2021

- January 5 6:00 p.m. (F)
- February 2 6:00 p.m. (F)
- March 2 6:00 p.m. (T)
- April 6 7:30 p.m. (F)
- May 4 7:00 p.m. (T)
- June 1 7:30 p.m. (T)
- July 6 7:30 p.m. (T)
- August 3 7:30 p.m. (T)
- Sept. 7 7:30 p.m. (T)
- October 5 7:00 p.m. (T)
- Nov. 3 6:00 p.m. (F)
- (Wednesday)
- Dec. 7 6:00 p.m. (T)



the Squire's tankard

The Squire's Tankard Antiques has relocated to 318 Center Street, Franklin  
Vintage clothing & accessories, linens & jewelry  
By appointment only  
Call Donna Briggs: 607-829-6885  
We will hold a large yard sale of surplus goods - Date TBD

WE ARE HIRING

Work Fall weddings and events in Cooperstown, NY.

Teens with working papers \$15/hour  
Teens 18+ and adults \$18/hour  
Bartenders w/ experience \$22/hour

Plus generous hosts add tips.

No required schedule, work when it fits your calendar.

Will train.

Not up to working many hours?  
Retired looking to earn extra \$?  
Sign up to work abbreviated hours and assist in serving dinner.

BARTENDERS AND SERVERS APPLY AT:  
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\*REWARD IF FOUND

PLEASE HELP US RECOVER OUR STOLEN TRAILER  
Please call, 5162466693

On March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm our utility trailer was stolen from our driveway in Sidney Center. The trailer is somewhat unique. It will be easy to spot because it has a rear gate and a small side gate as well. It was stolen by 2 men in a dark colored Quad Cab pickup.



NORTHEAST DAIRY FARM BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM announces

Dairy of Distinction 2021  
District 10, New York  
Danny and Naomi Buel  
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# FOCUS ON ENERGY

## THE LAST PIPELINE UPDATE!

By Brian Brock

This is the last installment of *Pipeline Update*. Our regular feature originated after Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company presented its Northeast Exchange Pipeline project in the fall of 2011. Starting in 2012 as *Pipeline Postings*, this chronology ran for twenty-six installments, totaling hundreds of entries. Later, *Pipeline Update* expanded to cover a second pipeline, an enhancement of the Marcy South power line, and a roundabout. In the end, only the roundabout was built.

The vast majority of our coverage concerned the second gas project, Constitution Pipeline, which was proposed by a partnership of a pipeline builder and operator (Williams Companies) and a gas producer (Cabot Oil & Gas) to move gas from Pennsylvania to Canada in conjunction with the Iroquois SoNo Reversal project. It was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in December 2014 but was long delayed by opposition first from local individuals and Stop the Pipeline, then from regional and national environmental groups, and finally from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The denial of a Water Quality Certificate by the DEC blocked construction for five years. By the summer of 2019, this obstacle was

largely overcome by actions at the federal level. In the interim, demand for methane had so declined that betting on decades of income from exporting gas was no longer a sure thing. In the winter of 2019/2020, the partnership of now four companies decided that they would no longer finance the project. While having spent \$354 million, spending the additional \$723 million required to finish was seen as too risky. While a hundred miles of pipe were purchased and stored in a railyard outside of Albany, not one shovel of dirt has been turned.

In the end, what did Franklin have to show for a decade of sound and fury? Landowners who signed easements were paid without suffering the trespass of construction and operation. (Arguably, those owners would have been paid considerably more but for the landmen's threats of eminent domain.) However, for many those easements remain on their deeds and could be used someday.

In contrast, all those who did not sign have clean deeds now that the easements seized through eminent domain have been released, but not without considerable aggravation. Some people were paid for services provided to the partnership, but lost out on more income during construction and maybe even operation. A

few non-profit groups received small grants to buy good will. When the town board signed a road-use agreement with the Constitution Pipeline Company, the town was paid \$56,000, which it has since spent on a 2012 Volvo grader.

Not all the effects were financial. One concern of the DEC was how the pipeline would be laid crossing hundreds of streams, eighteen of which are tributaries to the Ouleout Creek -- a potentially serious water-quality issue. Also, our Franklin community was spared the inconvenience of the year(s) of construction. More importantly, we avoided a company taking residence in our township for decades, a company that had repeatedly shown itself to be untrustworthy. At its first presentation to the Franklin community, CPC said that the right of way was in the I-88 corridor when in fact it was along the ridge above. Also, the company claimed that it had not studied routing the pipeline down in the valley. Subsequently, property owners found that they could not rely on the word of the landmen who solicited the easements.

Perhaps the greatest advantage to Franklin is that we avoided opening the door to we know-not-what that might come in after. At the last minute, a chain of one-hundred-foot transmitter towers were

added to the Constitution project. With the restart of the original pipeline project (renamed Northeast Energy Direct), TGP wanted to build a compressor station on the hill above the village, plans for which kept expanding to more compressor power, outdoor cooling units, and treatment using a highly toxic chemical. CPC refused to deny that they also would build a mid-stream compressor station in Franklin.

More generally, we avoided entrenching for decades more damaging infrastructure for using a fossil fuel at a time when our country is shifting to renewable energy.

Perhaps the greatest disadvantage is that the county, town, and school district will not receive property taxes from the company. However, the amount lost was never clear. CPC claimed that the combined annual taxes would be close to a \$110,000 per mile or a million dollars for the 9.4 miles through Franklin. The company refused all requests to justify this amount. Instead, it referred us to an economic report from a consultant,

The Center for Governmental Research, which listed this amount but provided not one word of original research or reference in support. The number seemed to be pulled out of thin air. Researching what pipeline companies paid, we found similar amounts promised but nothing on how much they actually paid once shipping gas. Researching what states received, we found only one report from Iowa Department of Revenue which estimated an average of \$5,000 per mile. Utilities are notorious for returning repeatedly to town assessors to argue-down their payments, so much so that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to financially support towns in court.

You can read this entire chronicle online at [franklinlocal.org/nfr/nfr-index](http://franklinlocal.org/nfr/nfr-index) starting with issue #16. With the continuing transition to sustainably generated electrical power, there will be a need for greater transmission capacity. Should there be a restart of the project to upgrade the Marcy South lines, the NFR will chronicle that.



**Dew on Bunchberries** (*Cornus canadensis*) Our smallest native dogwood, about six inches tall, spring-blooming, and grows in colonies.

Photo by Cat Gareth

### **CRONAUER/BROWER**

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### LOCAL, con't from Page 3

qualifications. We meet as needed, generally once a month at the Franklin Farmhouse Community Center or occasionally at a member's house for a pot-luck supper.

The Farmers' Market, the website, and the NFR continue to operate in our 15<sup>th</sup> year. But after more than a decade, several of our founders have moved away and others are feeling the burdens of age. It is time for a new generation of Franklinites to join our ranks and create exciting new projects that answer our evolving community's current and vital needs.

The possibilities are endless.

If this catches your in-

terest, if you have an idea you would like to bring to the table, please get in touch so we can let you know the time and place of our next meeting.

For further information, email us at: <https://franklinlocal.org/contact/>

We hope to hear from you soon!





# Five Star Subaru

## wedosubaru.com

### SORIN, continued from Page 1

Americans in the era of Jim Crow became the basis for both her book, published in 2020 by W. W. Norton & Company, and for a 2020 PBS documentary created by Sorin and filmmaker Ric Burns.

Gretchen (Sullivan) Sorin was born in Newark, New Jersey, the daughter of African Americans Clyde and Alvenia (Wooten) Sullivan. Sorin's paternal great-grandmother, Chaney Sullivan, was born a slave in South Carolina. Sorin's father's father was white, a family secret that Sorin did not learn until she was twenty-five years old.

Sorin's parents met in 1941, when Clyde Sullivan was stationed at Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville, North Carolina, where Alvenia was attending college. Shortly after World War II, they got married and, Sorin writes in her book, they were eager to head north. In 1947, Sullivan traveled to Newark to become the Newark Branch Photographer for the *Baltimore Afro-American*. Alvenia soon followed and found a teaching job in Newark's public school system.

In Newark, where the Sullivans lived until Gretchen was thirteen and the family moved to "the New Jersey suburbs," she and her younger brother, Gary, often roamed the exhibitions at The Newark Museum of Art. There, Gretchen developed a passion for museums and for this country's complex history.

In college at Rutgers University, a professor urged her to pur-

sue museum studies in graduate school, which brought Sorin in 1974 to SUNY Oneonta's Cooperstown program (her M.A. thesis was on the famous 18th-century Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, Virginia).

Since then, Sorin's career has involved curating and consulting at museums and historical societies, including local establishments like the Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith, The Farmers Museum in Cooperstown, and the Greater Oneonta Historical Society. In 1994 she became Director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies, a neighbor of the Fenimore Art Museum and the New York State Historical Association on Lake Otsego. But for the moment, the apex of her career is *Driving While Black*, which contributed to her being a 2021 finalist for the NAACP's Image Award.

The book's title becomes a metaphor for traveling while Black and, by extension, living while Black. Sorin takes us first to the Africans who, at least 400 years ago, were kidnapped and transported to the New World, chained in the holds of ships that delivered them to slavery. These enslaved Africans were unable to travel of their own free will, but were forced to travel by boat, cart or shank's mare when

sold by one owner to another.

In the decades from the end of the Civil War to the Civil Rights era, African Americans used public transportation. But Jim Crow laws, segregation and discrimination sent Black men and women to the back of the bus or to the soot-filled coach behind a train's engine.

No wonder, then, that the arrival of affordable automobiles gave Black Americans mobility and freedom. "Between the 1920s and the 1960s," writes Sorin, "automobile ownership changed African American life." Trips to visit relatives and friends, or simply see America, could be made in comfort and privacy. Or you could pack your car and move from a southern state to a less racist part of the country, to find jobs and newly thriving African American communities.

Driving while Black definitely faced obstacles. Well into the 1960s, especially in the South, the majority of white-owned hotels, motels, restaurants, and gas stations would not accept African American guests or serve them. Victor and Alma Green's *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, published annually from 1936 until 1966, became an indispensable tool for Black drivers, guiding them to welcoming eateries and to private

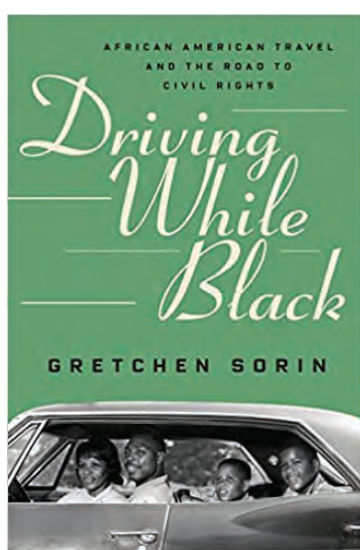
homes offering an extra bedroom or two.

Driving while Black has also been perilous, which recent encounters with white law enforcement continue to demonstrate. Sorin remembered her parents alerting her brother to the dangers of being an African American man behind the wheel, and she writes in the book's Epilogue about how, when she and her husband, Martin D. Sorin, were teaching their son, Gregory, to drive, "I cautioned [Gregory] to be extremely careful if a policeman stopped him."

Sorin herself recounts a time when a police officer "stopped me on Route 20 for nothing. He stopped me for not wearing my seat belt," she told me. "Of course I was wearing my seat belt. Had me sitting there for twenty-five minutes for no reason. It was almost abusive. And he had followed me for quite a while. And then he let me go. It frightened me. When you're stopped for absolutely no reason, it's particularly scary."

But *Driving While Black* is "not about attacking the police," said Sorin. "It's about finding solutions to problems. Americans don't know our shared history. But that shared history informs who we are today. That shared history provides us with very valuable lessons."

As Sorin writes, she hopes her book "encourages us to consider the context within which today's race relations developed. Looking back often provides a way to move forward."





**7.04** Jim Dorn  
**7.11** Iron Mountain Variety  
**7.18** Colleen Kattau & Jane Zell  
**7.25** Tributary

**8.01** Mary Frances Perricone  
**8.08** Catskill Mountain Consort  
**8.15** Mike Herman  
**8.22** Local Seisiún  
**8.29** Charlie & The Roomers

**9.05** The Old Masters  
**9.12** Hyzer Hillbillies  
**9.19** Jason Starr  
**9.26** Rickety Fence

**10.03** Thumbs & The Professor  
**10.10** Randy Miritello

# Music

## at the MARKET

Sundays, 11am – 1:30pm, July 4th – October 10th

free shows live music

[FRANKLINLOCAL.ORG/FARMERS-MARKET](https://franklinlocal.org/farmers-market)

# Join us at THE FRANKLIN Farmers' Market 2021 FOR FOOD AND FUN!!

The Franklin Farmers' Market, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> season, continues every Sunday through October 10th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The open-air market is located on the lawn of Chapel Hall on Institute Street.

The market offers local produce and products for sale - breads, rolls, beef, chicken, eggs, dog treats, herbs, honey, jams, jellies, jewelry, maple candies and syrup, mushrooms, plant seedlings, pork and lamb, preserves, a variety of produce, relishes, Scandinavian baked goods, sunflower oil, and fresh and smoked trout. The market accepts coupons from the Farmers' Market Nutritional Program.



**Music at the Market** programming returns July 4<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with performances every Sunday through October 10<sup>th</sup>. The line-up of local and traveling musicians includes:

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Jim Dorn – Singer/

songwriter playing pop, country, and folk from the sixties through present day on guitar and vocals.

July 11<sup>th</sup>: Iron Mountain Variety/ Steve Eisenberg & Jim Thompson performing a variety of country, Celtic, show tunes, rock and roll, jazz, blues and more on flute, bodhran, harmonica, whistle, percussion, and vocals.

July 18<sup>th</sup>: Colleen Kattau & Jane Zell – Bilingual powerhouse Colleen Kattau offering Latin-influenced

Indy folk and socio-environmentalist music on guitar and vocals is joined by Upstate New York favorite Jane Zell for a blues, swing, and funk flavor.

July 25<sup>th</sup>: Tributary/Kathy Shimberg, Dane Scudder & Ed Maher – Folklore-enthusiasts playing old-time, traditional music from the mountains.

August 1<sup>st</sup>: Mary Frances Perricone – A vocal performer hailing back to music from the fifties through the seventies.

August 8<sup>th</sup>: Catskill Mountain Consort/Amy Pratt – Trio celebrating classical favorites and original

compositions.

August 15<sup>th</sup>: Mike Herman – Country blues on fingerpicked guitar with rugged vocals from a Northern Catskill performer.



Kathy Shimberg of Local Seisun

August 22<sup>nd</sup>: Local Seisiún/Jean Withrow, Jim Haggerty & Kathy Shimberg – Local trio performing tunes fit for an Irish pub on traditional instruments.

August 29<sup>th</sup>: Charlie & The Roomers with Phil Leinhart, Charlie Reiman, Reggie Barnes, Orion Palmer & Hank Stahler – Featuring the mastermind behind Fokish bread and baked goods, the band will be playing blues, funk, soul, country, New Orleans, and more.

September 5<sup>th</sup>: The Old Masters/Tim Iversen, Dan Martin, & Tom Ives – Group of long-time area musicians playing jazz standards out of the American Song Book.

September 12<sup>th</sup>: Hyzer Hillbillies/Bill Duke, Gayle Brown & Joseph Laureira – Local folk and bluegrass group featuring cover songs and originals on banjo and guitar.

September 19<sup>th</sup>: Jason Starr

– Singer-songwriter with foot-stomping country bluegrass music.

September 26<sup>th</sup>: Rickety Fence – Playing a little bit of this and a little bit of that, the trio performs songs across genres and time periods.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Thumbs & The Professor/Tim Iversen et al. – Songwriters duet playing a wide variety of blues, traditional and original tunes on a wide variety of instruments.

October 10<sup>th</sup>: Randy Miritello – Nationally-touring musician mix-



A satisfied customer

ing classic country and blues for a honkytonk good time.

Seating is available for these free performances, beverages can be purchased from the hospitality tent, and food is available from multiple vendors. **NYS COVID-19**

**continued on next page**





Colleen Kittau

precautions are being followed, and all customers and their households should be free of symptoms. For the protection of the non-vaccinated children, patrons should wear masks.

The market is hosted by Franklin Stage Company, managed by Franklin Local, and sponsored by Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Music at the Market is made possible with funds from the Delaware County Arts Grants, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered in Delaware County by the Roxbury Arts Group, the A. Lindsay & Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, and Delaware County Economic Development.

For more information, visit [facebook.com/FranklinNYFarmersMarket/](https://facebook.com/FranklinNYFarmersMarket/)

CALLING COMMUNITY GROUPS

In celebration of community and entrepreneurial spirit, The Farmers' Market has a dedicated a market space for the use of Franklin community groups and their fundraisers. You are invited to request use of the space by emailing [FFM@Franklinlocal.org](mailto:FFM@Franklinlocal.org), or stop by and talk to Trish.

MARKET BASKET RAFFLE

Win a \$50 minimum value basket of Franklin Farmers' Market goods- bread, meat, cheese, veggies, fruit, dessert, flowers, soap, and more!

Tickets available \$5 each THROUGH MONTH OF AUGUST at the Franklin Farmers' Market. Drawing August 29, 2021

Need NOT BE PRESENT FOR DRAWING, BUT MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP.



Sponsored by the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce

© 2021 Eileen Crowell

FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

SUNDAYS 10-2 Memorial Day weekend – Columbus Day weekend at CHAPEL HALL on Institute Street in FRANKLIN

CORDWOOD ACRES FARM

Berries, garlic, gourmet mushrooms, & goat milk soap.

EAST BROOK COMMUNITY FARM

Open House, 2pm-6pm  
3rd Saturday, Jul-Oct  
Farm Tour, Work Party, Potluck

EMPIRE ANGUS FARM

Retail cuts of beef, special requests w/ notice (whole tenderloin, rib roast, etc.), & 1/2 & whole beef available.

FOKISH

Massive choice of certified organic breads, rolls, sweets & more.

HARE & FEATHER FARM

Jams, fudge & cashew crunch. Special orders gladly accepted. Karen Bouton, Laurens, NY

IZZABON

Semi-precious stone & metal jewelry at an affordable price. Custom orders welcome.

OFF-ROAD MAPLE

Gift sets & boxes make the perfect holiday gift or Franklin souvenir.

SKYTOP SPRINGS FISH FARM

Pre-order online & pick-up at market. Harpersfield Cheese & smoked trout dip-NEW! Ask about our farm tours & trout tastings

BEST DOG COOKIES

Handcrafted, all-natural dog cookies. "Every day is a good day for Best Dog Cookies!"

SAJOBE FARM

Stop by to get the list for fall 1/2 or whole pork packages.

TROLLBOK FARM

Scandinavian baked treats & farm goods. Visit our farm store & eatery in Otego, opening June 28th.

BUKO BAKED GOODS

Curated baker's choice box with a new menu each week.

HUNTING at THE FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

HUNT FOR YOUR GOODS AT THE MARKET BY CAPTURING THE ELUSIVE VENDOR STAMPS/STICKERS. Once you have BAGGED YOUR CATCH from each vendor, TRADE THE MARKET MANAGER FOR a \$5 market coupon!



# FRANKLIN CENTRAL SCHOOL SENIORS

## THE CLASS OF 2021

Eighteen students will be graduating this year. We asked what their plans are.



**Gretchyn Ackley** (SUNY Cobleskill) plans to concentrate on Canine Management.



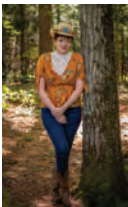
**Natalie Brown** (SUNY Broome) major yet undecided.



**Jeff Bullis** (SUNY Oneonta) major undecided.



**Kyle Chase** will be entering the auto repair industry.



**Breanna Ciborowski** - her plans are undecided as of now.



**Bryce Davis** (SUNY Oneonta) Sports management



**Tori Decker** (University of Arkansas-Little Rock) Science, Medicine.

**Nate Dennis** *Salutatorian* (SUNY Fredonia) major in Graphic Design/ Animation/Illustration



**Paige Dutcher** *Valedictorian* (SUNY Binghamton) Biology

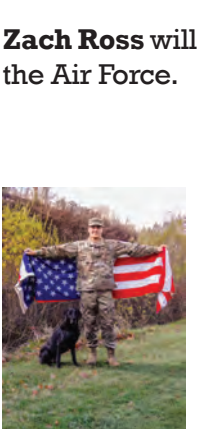


**Xander Hilgers** will be entering the auto collision repair industry.

**Emma Lobdell** (SUNY Delhi) Business Administration



**James Meyers** will be entering the workforce. Plans are undecided.



**Zach Ross** will be entering the Air Force.



**Cole Ruff** (Wells College) Sports Therapy and a military program with the NY National Guard.



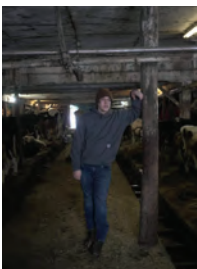
**Evan Sisson** will join the welding and building trades.



**Leo Temple** (SUNY Brockport) Exercise Science.



**Megan Yager** (SUNY Delhi) with a later transfer to a program in sonography.



**Tanner Young** will be entering the workforce. Plans are undecided.

### KENNETH L. BENNETT FUNERAL HOME

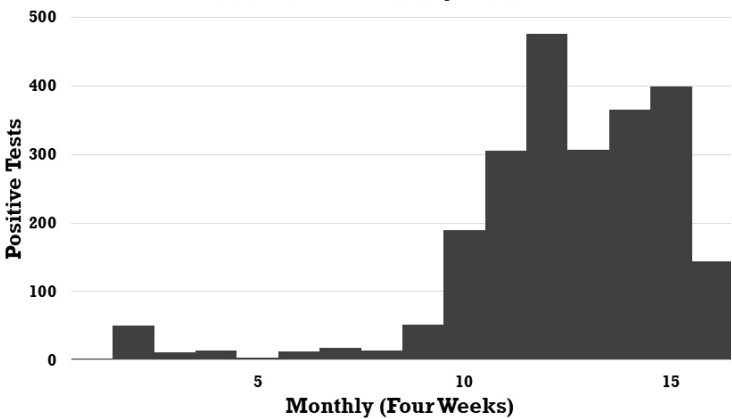
425 MAIN STREET  
FRANKLIN, NY 13776  
607-829-2272

#### WANES, con't from Page 1

tions was exceeded by a few spikes of a dozen or so cases which were traced to unwise indoor gatherings. Our great failure came with the cold winds of fall, when people stayed indoors and failed to take the necessary precautions. This led to exponential growth of infections in mid-October. Our peak was in mid-January when we had two weeks with over 150 positives each -- six times higher than the first peak. In Delaware County, we did not see an exponential decline until late April, months later than the rest of the state. While New York saw a small uptick in infections in March and April, our county saw a third peak nearly as large as the second. Now that the vaccinated people - and to a lesser extent the recovered - are denying the vi-

rus new hosts, we hope that infections stay low. Also, weather is warming, and the virus is much less transmissible outdoors. Likely it was the behavior of a subpopulation of residents that stalled the decline. A national survey of holiday travel found that people here made no reductions compared to 2019, the least of any county in the state and one of only three such counties in the entire northeast. Also, residents of Delaware County have remained the slowest to get vaccinated of any county in our region. The politicization of precautions continues to do its damage. With no lockdown, most children ineligible for the vaccine, and a substantial percentage of adults refusing vaccinations, the rate of infection is unlikely to fall to the levels of last summer.

DELAWARE COUNTY PANDEMIC  
March 2020 to May 2021



Compiled by Lynne Kemen

“This is a resilient class that played a role in bringing our district back from the depths of COVID-19. As government restrictions began to relax, they were one of the first classes in the district to return as a full class every day. They participated in a senior breakfast and are looking forward to other upcoming events we will host for the Class of ‘21. They are a brave and driven group of young individuals who make us proud. To the Class of ‘21, best of luck to you in the future, you will always have to think, so think big!”

-- **Brendan Coyle, FCS Counselor and Dean of Students.**

“The message I have left for the Class of 2021 is a quote from the great NBA player Michael Jordan: *“Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.”*

-- **Bonnie Johnson, FCS Interim Superintendent**

The New Franklin Register sends very best wishes and congratulations to the Class of 2021.



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TO GO !**

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NIGHT ON THE TOWN

WINE TOURS

WEDDING TRANSPORTATION

PROM NIGHT

SHOPPING SPREE

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BACHELORETTE PARTY

SPORTING EVENTS

CONCERTS

POINT TO POINT TRANSPORTS

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES .....

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CIRCLE OF LIFE TRANSPORTATION HAS A REPUTATION OF PROVIDING EXEMPLARY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE, TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE ALONG WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

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**IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU:**

IT'S SIMPLE! OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE YOU HAPPY. TELL US WHAT YOU NEED, WHAT YOU WANT, WHERE YOU WANT TO GO, AT WHAT TIMES, ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OR EXTRAS, AND WE WILL DO THE REST.

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## INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

### A QUESTION OF VALUE: What's Your House Worth Now?

By Susan Barnett

A house on Main Street in the village of Franklin sold this spring. It was a very nice house. It didn't have the biggest yard in town. It didn't have a bunch of outbuildings. What it had was curb appeal, some history, a lot of interior charm - and it was in Franklin. A major plus in today's market. It had multiple offers. The selling price was comfortably north of \$200,000.

Another historic home in the village went on the market shortly afterwards. It was priced even higher. It had an accepted offer in less than a week.

This is no doubt a jolt to people who have lived here long enough to remember when you could get a good house for half that, or even less. A lot less, in some cases.

Those days appear to be gone. But no one can predict what the real estate market will look like in one, two, or even five years.

The stories are all over the news, but there is no consensus. One pundit writes a vehement warning that the housing bubble is about to crash. Another suggests there's no end in sight. Others advise both buyers and sellers to wait and see.

But everyone agrees that this is a unique situation: a pandemic, overpriced housing in overcrowded cities, a region that's already an appealing weekend destination,

newly reliable internet - all that, combined with a growing acceptance by employers that working remotely not only works, but saves money on office space.

I see who is moving to this area and why. I'm sure this year's overheated market won't last forever, but I see no reason to think that a charming rural Catskills town with pretty widespread high-speed internet will lose its appeal to people who see \$200,000 as a bargain price for a place where they can live and work from home.

A combination of new businesses, a lot of buzz, and a desire for safety have resulted in a pent-up demand for houses in Franklin. *Specifically in Franklin.*

Downstate buyers love Andes and Bovina, but they're finding those areas way too expensive. Franklin has the small-town feel, the historic charm, and the same countryside they love in Andes and Bovina. The thriving arts scene in Franklin and Treadwell is another draw all its own.

Some agents and buyers don't understand what's happening in the Franklin market, so they consider today's prices unrealistic when houses are first listed here. What do they think when those houses sell quickly for at or near the asking price?

Determining value in this mar-

ket is tricky. Traditionally, a realtor does a comparable market analysis to set the correct price for a home. We look at the sales price of every similar home in the area for the past year or two, then tweak to adjust for differences in square footage, acreage, or location. A formula that used to work.

But the formula doesn't reflect the odd sellers' market we've been in since last year. There's very little for sale. A Franklin address adds a premium. So, determining price is about the house, the location, but also the demand.

It's not just Franklin, certainly. I've sold houses sight unseen in Cooperstown as well. I've written two purchase offers this spring on houses that weren't even technically on the market yet (both were accepted). Buyers routinely have lost two or three attempted purchases, so when something good becomes available, they're all over it.

But buyers aren't uncritical. The premium prices are for premium properties - for homes with history, with great locations, that are well maintained. It takes work for a home to show well, but it's worth it: an impeccable property gets top dollar.

A house that needs work, even a solid house with too much deferred maintenance, will not com-

mand top prices. It will linger on the market until, little by little, the price drops to a point where buyers see it as good value.

Selling a house is ninety percent preparation, and no realtor can do that for you. What a realtor can do is advise you what work needs to be done, and what is the easiest - and cheapest - way to make your house show well.

There is a downside to this sellers' market. It's hard on first-time homebuyers. It's hard on people with limited incomes. And it's certainly hard on seniors looking to downsize. They can sell their big homes, no problem, but finding a suitable place to go is tough. I have clients who've been renting since selling their home last year. They still haven't found a new home that works for them. There's too little available, and too much competition.

There's a cartoon online that illustrates this market pretty accurately.

A young couple is standing in front of a house with their realtor.

"I don't know," one of them tells her. "We'd really like to look at something higher priced."

"Okay," she responds. "I can bring you back and show you this house again tomorrow."



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## AT THE LIBRARY

### NEW BOOK REVIEWS



**CLAP WHEN YOU LAND**  
By Elizabeth Acevedo

Reviewed by Lynne Kemen

This new Young Adult book concerns two girls, only months apart in age, who unknowingly share the same father. He has been juggling two families, one in New York City, one in the Dominican Republic. The story is a fictionalized account of an aircraft accident that happened a few months after 9/11. A plane crashes just after take-off from New York City, heading to the Dominican Republic. There are no survivors. Until the accident, their father, Papi, lived nine months of the year in the Bronx and three months in

a small village in the D.R. Both girls adore him. The book is in verse, and each girl has alternating chapters. We learn about their lives and how the loss impacts each. Camino lives with her aunt, a healer for her village in D.R. Camino wants to go to Columbia University to study medicine. Her half-sister Yahaira has very different interests. She is not good in school but is a NYC champion chess player. The characters are well-written and likable. Other people are aware of the situation and enable it. The father is not an evil person, just torn by his desire to live two very different lives. Each girl has strong female role models.



The girls finally meet when their father's body is recovered and flown back to the D.R. for burial. It is a well-written book that manages to engage, teach, and touch the reader.

## LIBRARIAN'S PICKS



**THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY**  
By Matt Haig

Nora's life is in shambles. She is in her thirties and nothing is going right for her. She has lost her job, lost her best friend, and her cat is dead. She sees her life as worthless. So she tries to end it. Instead of dying, she wakes up in the Midnight Library. Not your everyday

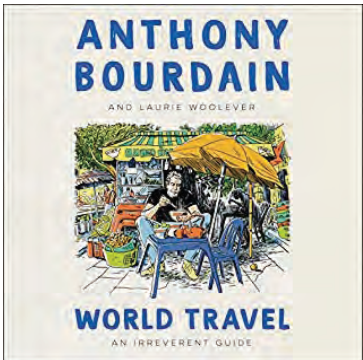
By Wendy Barckhaus

library. Each book on the shelves offers Nora an alternate version of her life. What if she had made different choices, handled her relationships differently? The options are endless. Heavy? Depressing? Not so. Who hasn't looked back and thought, "If only..."? And Nora learns some useful things about herself and life. Matt Haig has written a thoughtful and entertaining book.

**WORLD TRAVEL**  
**An Irreverent Guide**  
By Anthony Bourdain

Started before Bourdain's death, this book was completed by his long-time collaborator, Laurie

Woolever. Bourdain writes in a voice familiar to viewers of his television show. He has been everywhere and is an eager guide to places like New York City, Cuba, Myanmar, or Paris. He recommends restaurants (such as Katz's



Deli), museums, outings. He advises readers to learn about the culture and history of a destination, but not to prejudge a place based on second-hand information. The book includes essays by Bourdain's friends and beautiful illustrations by Wesley Allsbrook.



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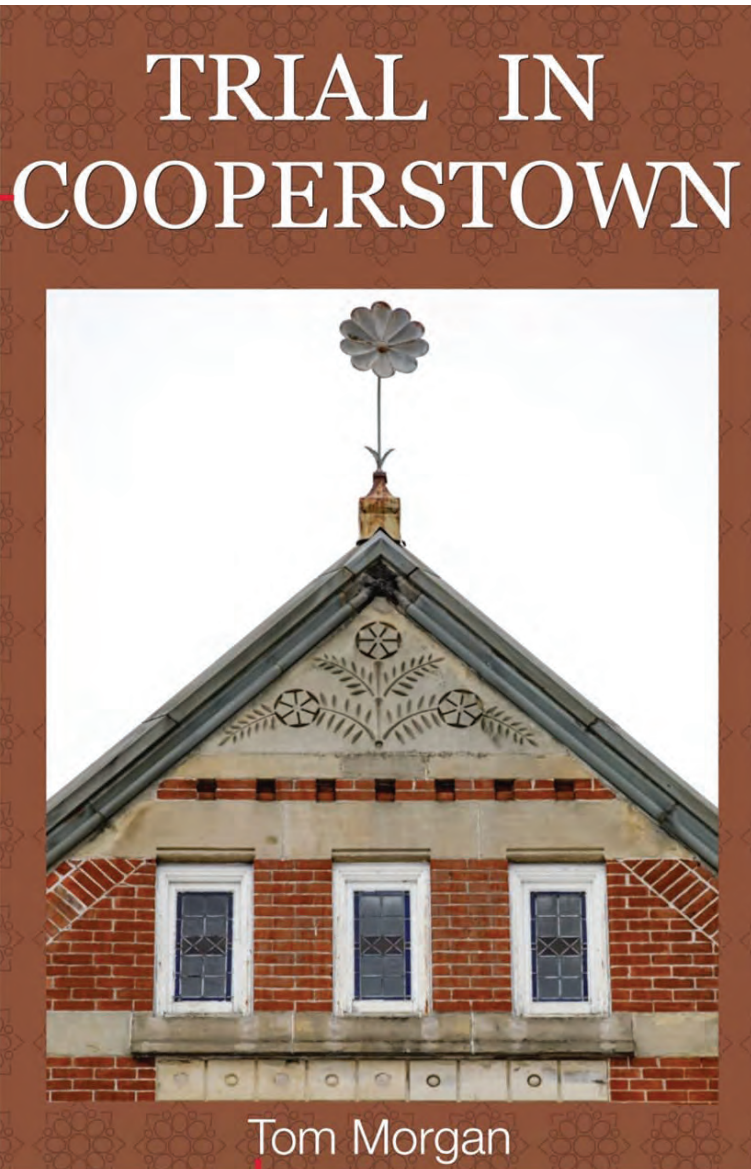
### THE LETTER

By Amy Lowell

Little cramped words scrawling all over the paper  
Like dragged fly's legs,  
What can you tell of the flaring moon  
Through the oak leaves?  
Or of my uncertain window and the bare floor  
Spattered with moonlight?  
Your silly quirks and twists have nothing in them  
Of blossoming hawthorns,  
And this paper is dull, crisp, smooth, virgin of loveliness  
Beneath my hand.

I am tired, Beloved, of chafing my heart against  
The want of you;  
Of squeezing it into little inkdrops,  
And posting it.  
And I scald alone, here, under the fire  
Of the great moon.

Amy Lowell was born in 1874. She lived and worked in Brookline, MA. She was a member of the Imagist movement, which emphasized clear and direct language. She wrote six poetry collections, two books of criticism, and a biography of John Keats. A lesbian, she had a long relationship with Ada Dwyer Russell. She died in 1925 and was awarded a posthumous Pulitzer Prize in 1928 for her collection *What's O'Clock*.  
*The Letter* is in the public domain.  
-- Bertha Rogers



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# CATSKILL CATS

## MUSIC NOTES

BY JOHN O'CONNOR



you will find an article written by me touting the fine line-up of musicians (many of them contacted and booked by me) for the season of 2019.

I bragged to the community (from Cooperstown to Delhi) about how the FFM raised funds and was paying union minimums.

That ended at the beginning of this year's Market season. After reaching out to Franklin Local for several months, asking for a meeting so we could set up the same system we used in 2019, I was ultimately told by its leadership that they would not meet with me. (They did meet on their own on a date that I clearly indicated was a date I would not be in town.) Franklin Local set its own rates for musicians that in effect overpays some musicians and underpays others.

When objections were voiced by me (and the president of Local 443), the reply was that Franklin Local believed their rates were fair\*. This struck a familiar chord. The whole country had just followed the news of Amazon employees organizing over, among other

it is hard to express how much it meant to me in so many ways.

Alas, I am compelled not to grace those steps again. It's my fault. Or I should say the fault of the innate sense of justice that has guided me my whole life. You see, in 2019, due to the good work of some folks at Franklin Local (which runs the market), enough money was raised from various grants to pay musicians to play.

As soon as I heard the news, I met with a committee of Franklin Local and we worked out the formula to pay musicians the Local 443 (musicians' union) minimum rates for freelance musicians. I was an executive board member of Local 443 at the time; I am now its Vice President. (Those who know me at all, know I have been a union activist my whole life and have been very active in bringing fairness to musicians all over the country.) If you go to the FFM web page,

### SO LONG, FRANKLIN FARMERS MARKET

For the first time in more than a dozen years, I will not be singing this season at the Franklin Farmers Market. It pains me to say this, probably much more than it will pain the many merchants and patrons who have said they have enjoyed my music as a mainstay of the Market.

Not long after the FFM first set up its village of merchant tents, I began bringing my small sound system to the steps of the Franklin Stage Company, and my bag of folk, country, and original songs to share with the community. I played for free, for love of song, on occasion accepting a small fee for expenses when the FFM had a little extra cash on hand. Sometimes children would join me on the porch and dance. Often, my good friend and comrade, Gene Marner, joined me and played spoons. I looked forward to it every Sunday I was available, and



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things, unfair wages. Jeff Bezos disagreed. He said he was paying fairly. Now, I am not saying Franklin Local is Jeff Bezos, but I am saying it is not up to Franklin Local, as the employer of musicians, to decide what is fair.

So, my friends, if I am protesting the unfair treatment of musicians, I can't very well accept the opportunity to play if it means undermining the minimum rates set forward by the musicians' organization of which I am Vice President.

Yes, I suppose it is a small thing. I should get over it. (Like, why should Franklin Local sit down

with someone who gave them over twelve years of free music?) But I am plagued with this annoying sense of justice and fairness, and because Franklin Local has decided to define fairness in contradiction to what area musicians democratically vote on as fair, I sadly have to decline. Frankly, it breaks a little piece of my heart.

*\*One Franklin Local board member informed me that the decision to refuse to pay the 2019 rates was not unanimous.*

**NOTE: The Franklin Farmers' Market replies on line at <https://franklinlocal.org/matm2021>**



\*All concerts live in theatre as well as live-streamed\*

#### Sept 18, 2021 - Lauren Jelencovich

American soprano crossover artist performing Broadway, classical, and popular music accompanied by pianist.

#### Oct 23, 2021 - Acoustic Eidolon

A husband-wife duo performing folk and rock favorites. Joe plays a double neck guitjo (guitar/banjo combination) and Hannah on cello

#### Nov 13, 2021 - Mile Twelve Bluegrass

Five member Bluegrass group returns to our stage with Americana, roots, Acoustic, and Bluegrass, county and folk music.

#### Feb 12, 2022 - Elvis & Elton John Tribute Band

Mathew Boyce will perform half show of Elvis music and impersonation and second half Elton John

#### Mar 12, 2022 - Realtime Dixieland Band

A fun evening of rousing Dixieland music with dancing and sing-a-long encouraged

#### April 30, 2022 - TAKE3

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#### PARTY, con't from Page 3

tion, responsiveness, and efficiency.

Like many similar small, rural towns, Franklin has been changing. It is a far different place than it was twenty years ago, or even ten years ago. Dairy farming, while still important, is no longer the driving force of the local economy. While it is essential to preserve the rural character of Franklin and respect our agricultural heritage, it is also necessary to look toward the future. Simply maintaining the status quo is not enough.

The town board can do more to help ensure a brighter future for the Town of Franklin. Instead of waiting to react when something happens, the board should pro-actively work toward making the town and village more attractive to 21<sup>st</sup> century businesses and entrepreneurs – businesses that depend on the internet, professionals who can work from home, and maybe even tourism.

The board should also try to obtain outside funding from the state and federal governments, or other sources, for projects that can benefit the town.

What does that mean?

Let's turn to a word that we've been hearing a lot lately – infrastructure. For instance, we have been promised improved broadband access for years. It is coming, but slowly and only to limited portions of the town. The board should add its voice to the chorus calling for a faster, wider build-out of this essential tool for 21<sup>st</sup> century business and education and do what it can to expedite the build-out currently underway.

And while mobile phone service has improved over the last few years, there are still large parts of Franklin where service is nonexistent and other areas where it is spotty at best. Perhaps additional towers need to be built – and those require permits. The town should do whatever it can to expedite the siting of necessary facilities to improve wireless access.

We understand that the town board may have limited influence or authority to bring about these goals but, as our representatives, they can, at the very least, lobby strongly on our behalf.

There are other changes, though, that can be made more readily. Easy

ones. Information about board actions, decisions, and financial reports should be accessible on an official Town of Franklin website. Minutes from board meetings should be published online. Forms, records, and documents appropriate for public access should be available online so that residents are not restricted to the limited in-person hours at the town offices. Board members and town officers should have official email addresses.

There are many other issues that are important to all of us who live in Franklin. Transparent, accountable, responsive government benefits everyone.

Economic development, community involvement and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive endeavors. We can protect the environment while encouraging new business, helping established ones, and preserving the right to farm.

This all sounds like a tall order. It is, for sure. It won't – it can't – happen all at once. But it can happen if we work together.

Which is why we started The Franklin Party. We hope you will join us.

#### BRIGHT HILL PRESS & LITERARY CENTER Schedule Of Summer Events 2021

**June 24, 7 PM - Word Thursdays** – Denise B. Dailey and Alice Pettway - Zoom and Facebook Live

**July 8, 7 PM - Word Thursdays** – Nandini Bhattacharya (Houston, TX) - Zoom and Facebook Live

**July 12 - 16 (8:30 AM - 2:30 PM)** Young Collectors Club - In person distanced workshop taught by Bertha Rogers with Katharine Kreisher - Program developed with Beatrice Georgalidis

**July 26 - 30 (8:30 AM - 2:30 PM)** Artistic storytelling through iPhone photography, with Nick Kelsh (In person, distanced workshop)

**July 22, 7 PM - Word Thursdays** - Millicent Borges Accardi and Elizabeth Maxey

**August 1 & 8 (3-5 PM)** Comedy writing workshop led by Su Yates "So, You Think You're Funny: Let's Write It"

**August 9 - 13 (8:30 AM - 2:30 PM)** Legends of the stars and planets - In person distanced workshop taught by Bertha Rogers

**August 12, 7 PM - Word Thursdays** – Featuring *Seeing Things* chapbook series poets: David Bachner, Vicki Whicker - Zoom and Facebook Live

**August 26, 7 PM - Word Thursdays** – Featuring *Seeing Things* chapbook series poets Lynne Kemen, Julene Waffle - Zoom and Facebook Live

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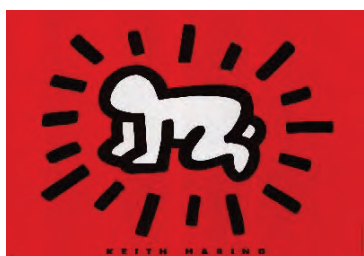


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## Keith Haring: RADIANT VISION

Fenimore Art Museum  
**May 29 - September 6**  
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A travelling exhibition by PAN  
ART Connections Inc



"Radiant Baby"

In the 1980s, while my friends and I strategized how to get into Studio 54, this kid with glasses could be seen regularly defacing the walls of NYC subway platforms - drawing with white chalk on black-papery frames that used to hold advertisements.

While those of us "on the street" enjoyed that this guy was drawing dogs and babies on the bleak walls of the platforms - seeing Keith

Haring as a cool dude making cool images in the warrens of our subway system - upstairs, the art galleries and the world of culture were beginning to catch onto the guy's potential.

The Fenimore Art Museum has staged an exhibition that could compete with any museum in the world in quality of works chosen, content presented in the wall texts, exhibition design and execution. The choice of matte black framing is a beautiful compliment to the direct power and simplicity of Haring's work.

And when two Liebowitz photographs are exhibited, those two frames, though black, have delicately carved surfaces, to complement the more deli-



Keith Haring

cate photographic medium of silver and gelatin on paper, in contrast to the bold ink on paper directness of the Haring works hung around them. The Haring/Burroughs collaboration "Apocalypse" is a beautifully installed monument. A formidable achievement, its inclusion enables us to peek inside a different facet of Haring's diversity of style and view work made

shortly after he was diagnosed with AIDS.

In his interview of April 1983 on Milwaukee's Channel 12, Haring, as "the prominent graffiti artist of the day," comes across as unaffected, articulate, genuine, and eager to please.



"Medusa"

Haring's journals (a collection is on sale at the museum's gift shop and worth a read) reveal an honest, child-loving man: "When I do drawings with or for children, there is a level

of sincerity that seems honest and pure. Admittedly, even some children keep their autographs because they are told they might be worth something later. But most of them keep them because they love them."

I used to think Haring's Pop Shop was self-promotion but then came to see

he was fulfilling his need to get his stuff out to a broader public. (By this point in his career, he was not in need of publicity.) Haring, with a nod to Warhol, believed art should be accessible to everyone and the Pop Shop was how he delivered it.

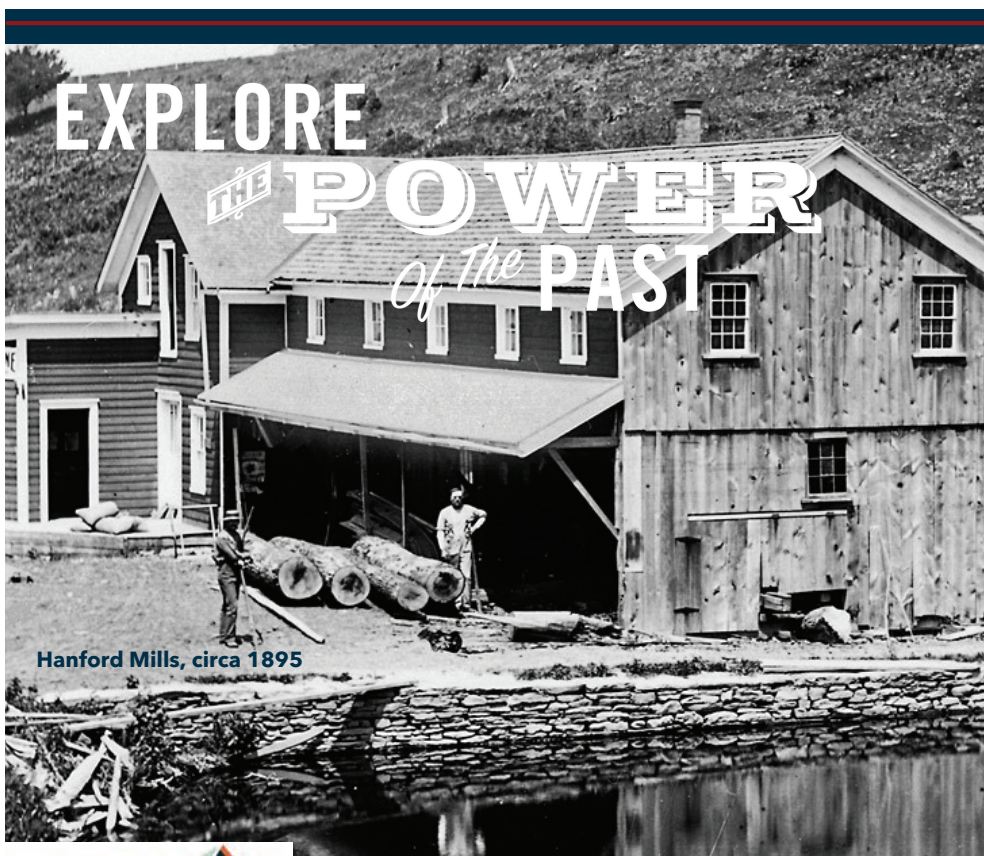
Haring's line is heavy, strong, and deliberate. Knitted into an image, the in-your-face power of his line is expressive despite its weight. Amazing that Haring drew directly onto his surface without following a sketched layout, yet he achieved a resolved composition, made up as he went along drawing. His work satisfies the aesthetic needs of the viewer; his placement of the subject - as in the Medusa



"Growing #2"

head - points up his intuitive brilliance at composition. A subway drawing in white chalk on black paper of a dog barking as a winged tv set flies over his head, with the tv broadcasting the image of a Radiant Baby? Who knows what it means? *Growing #2* (1988), a Mixtec-like totemic image, suggests a private mythology but does not supply a Rosetta stone to translate. But it demands attention, and its mystery is seductive. Haring created his own iconic language of imagery.

Driving back from the Fenimore, I could not help but see every road sign as a Haring image - simple, direct, made to be read while passing by. Unless you have been coached by driver's ed to see a pedestrian crossing sign as no more than a pedestrian crossing the road, that fleeting image offers something essential and enigmatic.



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Wood Anemone



Night Heron



**START, con't from Page 1**

by on the street. Everything is noteworthy when you are three, four, or five.

Most of us probably have a vague understanding of what Head Start does, but do we understand its true mission or what it is all about?

Head Start began as an eight-week summer program in 1965, overseen by an eminent psychologist and an equally distinguished pediatrician. Their findings ultimately resulted in the creation of a blueprint outlining the ambitious program that became Head Start. Part of Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, its goal was to break the cycle of poverty for at least half a million children. Over fifty years later, it has served more than 37,000,000 children and their families. Now a federal program fully funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start delivers comprehensive early learning, health, nutrition, and family support services to children ages three to five.

More than 1,700 local Head Start programs operate in every state and in every congressional district in the U.S., with significant diversity across the communities in which they appear – rural, urban, suburban, migrant and seasonal, Native American. Because of the overwhelmingly positive impact this program has provided over the last five decades, it enjoys broad bi-partisan support among voters, something we can all applaud in these conflicted times. Children who participate in Head Start are school-ready, less likely to need special education, and more likely to graduate from high school and go on to college. Who could argue with benefits like these?

In Franklin, we are fortunate to have had Head Start in our village since 1995. This amazing and meaningful program began here as a half-day program, but just last year, it was expanded to full day. The Franklin Head Start is one of nine centers across Delaware County overseen by Delaware Opportunities Inc., a not-for-profit community-action agency. Since its inception in '95, an estimated 300-350 children in Franklin alone have been served by the Head Start Program.

Franklin Head Start is open to children ages three to five from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., Monday through

Friday. It is an inclusive program, serving a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and a snack, all of which follow Child and Adult Care Food Program guidelines. How lucky to have this program right here in Franklin!

The dedicated and caring teachers currently provide loving and educational care for seven children. To participate, the child must be three years old by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Income eligibility guidelines are 100% of the poverty level; however, all interested are encouraged to apply, regardless of income, because a certain number of higher income slots are allowed each year. Currently, there are openings for three and four-year-olds.

The program closed for the summer on June 9<sup>th</sup> but will start up again on September 7<sup>th</sup>. To see if your child/ren might be eligible for the fall session, call Franklin Head Start at 607-829-3312, or fill out an online application, available at the Delaware Opportunities website at <https://delawareopportunities.org/HeadStart.htm>

And be sure to wave and say hi when you see those kids out for a walk! They will love it!

**TROLL, con't from Page 1**

both their families are involved in the business. It is a multigenerational operation, like others in the area such as Stony Creek Farm in Walton. At Trollbok, Johan's mother Pamela helps with the baking and cooking, brother Sebastian is setting up their farm store which will open this summer, and Alissa's father has established a beekeeping operation at the farm.

According to Alissa, "Trollbok is Swedish for spell book or story book." If you have bought their baked goods at the Franklin Farmers' Market, you know that their products have a magical quality. Ferie Dust Cakes, Spiced Treasure Mini Loaves, Troll Muffins, and Lingonberry Cardamon Granola are among the delicacies they offer. Most of what they sell is influenced by Johan's Swedish heritage.

While Johan and Alissa plan to be at the Franklin Farmers' Market throughout the summer, they are working on another operation that will also be of interest to the people of Franklin. They have purchased and are cur-

rently setting up a farm store on Route 7 in Otego. Many may remember it as the location of the Big M Supermarket, across from the entrance road to I-88.

There are plans for a cafeteria such as you might find in Scandinavia. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Fresh coffee, curated tea blends, Swedish baked goods, and homemade soups will be sold. Ingredients for their products will be sourced from local farms. In addition to the cafeteria, the farm store will sell locally grown produce and eventually dairy products and meats will be available. There will also be local vendors and artisans. Johan described it as a "place for the community."

Of course, my first question was, "Will there be ice cream?" He said that a lot of people have asked that question, so they are looking into finding a local ice cream source.

A few specialties will be offered, such as a selection of blended teas and racks of microgreens. A subscription service for Troll

Boxes is planned. They will be short run food boxes created around homemade soups and breads.

The Otego building is generous in size and there are future plans to install a creamery at the back of the store. Pamela Grimm is fan of Hushallsost, a Swedish farmer's cheese, which isn't



Alissa Borshenko & Johan Grimm at Trollbok Farm in Otego  
Photo by Carla Nordstrom

produced domestically. She has been in touch with Cornell Extension, local milk producers, and Swedish cheese makers to come up with a way to produce Hushallsost in Otego. She has also set her sights on

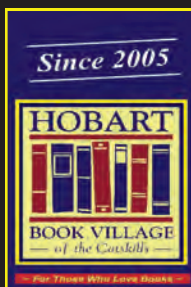
selling the cheese to Ikea which has stores throughout the U.S.

Alissa and Johan's farm is located on a south-facing slope about a mile from the store. It is a luscious property with a mix of pasture and wooded areas, overlooking the valley. While Johan has put in an orchard of fruit trees and they are growing vegetables in a high tunnel, there are no plans to farm the property. They are hoping to use the farm to attract tourists to Otego to experience the beauty of the region. They see it as a place where people can come for day visits to enjoy picnics, hike along mowed trails, and enjoy the view.

Johan said that there are great cooks in his family who enjoy entertaining and socializing. With these skills, the different business ventures they are planning to set up in Otego sound perfect after a year of staying at home due to the pandemic.

Visit Trollbok on line at: <https://www.facebook.com/trollbok>.

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MOUNT UTSAYANTHA REGIONAL ARTS LEAGUE  
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YOUR TOWN GOVERNMENT Part II

Rules and Regs of Public Meetings and Appointments

By Brian Brock

Monthly meetings of the Town of Franklin board have been held on Tuesdays for over 200 years. Currently they are on the second Tuesday of the month, except when there is a conflict, such as with Election Day. Notices of all meeting should be publicized. The time and place of these regular meeting have been published in The Reporter in early January and in all issues of The New Franklin Register. They should be posted in one or more prominent public place in Franklin, as specified in resolution. Currently the list is posted in the office of the clerk. In addition, upcoming meetings are listed on the homepage of the town website. Each year, there are a few special meetings on imminent matters, and notice of them should be posted at least three days before. Only matters listed in the notice may be acted upon.

There must be a quorum of three of the five members of the board to do business. Meetings are generally open to the public, as required by the New York State Open Meetings Law. However, the board may go into executive (closed) session for part of the meeting, but only to discuss certain subjects, such as personnel, negotiations, litigations, or criminal matters. The subject of the session must be disclosed beforehand, which has not always been done. Our board allows anyone in the audience to raise a matter of concern, although this is not required by law. Currently this happens at the end of the session. Meetings are sparsely attended by townspeople, typically by only one or two regulars and maybe someone bringing a particular concern. With no published agenda, residents can never be sure if what is being considered is of interest to them. If a reporter for the local weekly attends or watches the video, then an article is printed in The Reporter the following week.

The Reporter is the official newspaper of the town, and therefore all required legal notices are printed in its classified section, including a calendar of

regular meetings, special meetings, tax collection, the assessment roll, financial reports, calls for bids, public hearings, budget hearings, employment opportunities and franchise agreements. In addition, some towns include notices of organizational meetings, audit meetings, budget workshops, seasonal road closures, foreclosures, and permissive referendums. Minutes of the meetings, which are recorded by the town clerk and approved by the board, are on file in the town office, 554 Main Street. Minutes are not posted to the town website, but they are on the Franklin Local website at [franklinlocal.org/franklin-town-board-minutes/](http://franklinlocal.org/franklin-town-board-minutes/)

By the Open Meeting Law, a draft of minutes must be available no more than two weeks after the meeting, one week if there was an executive session. Minutes from 1793 to 1994 (handwritten until 1961) are on microfilm, which is now stored at the Delaware County Historical Association; formerly in the Franklin Free Library. Minutes from more recent years are filed at the office of the town clerk. Meetings have been videotaped since Tony Breuer started the practice in 2016. For the first few years they were posted on the website of Franklin Local because the board declined to build a town website. With the onset of the pandemic last year, Breuer passed-on the taping to councilman Bruno. In addition, the town started an official website last year, which posts these videos as required by law at <https://town-of-franklin-ny.org/town-council/>. For the planning board, the meeting calendar and minutes are posted on its page of the town website.

Appointments

The supervisor and four council members do not run our town all by themselves. Our board hires or appoints for over three dozen positions - see diagram on this page.

Annual appointments of officials include: attorney, code enforcement officer, court clerk, deputy fiscal officer, dog enumerator, fiscal officer, health officer, historian, and planning board chairman. These appointments should be made at the annual organizational meeting in early January. Town positions that no longer exist include constables, sealer of weights and measures,

fence viewers, and poor masters, a.k.a. overseers of the poor. At one time, it was the town government that looked after the less fortunate.

While the board has appointed the deputies to highway superintendent, supervisor, and town clerk, these are assistants to duly elected officials. Only the highway superintendent and town clerk have the power to appoint their own deputies under Town Law, Article 3: Town Officers, Powers, Duties and Compensation. The board may appoint the deputy supervisor, but only if the supervisor fails to do so. The town board does appoint the court clerk, but only with the advice and consent of the sitting justice.

For the last two years, the board has presented a list of annual appointments in January, but no vote to approve them was recorded in the minutes of the meeting. These actions and inactions by the board raise the question of the legality of the appointment of town officials and therefore the legality of their actions.

Not all of these positions are uniquely filled. The deputy supervisor is also a council member, the deputy superintendent is also an employee in the highway department, and the town clerk also serves as tax collector, record management officer, and recorder of vital statistics.

Also designated are board members to serve as the representative on the Planning Board, Kellogg Foundation, and Recreation Committee. The town board also appoints members of boards of planning (5 members), zoning appeals (3 members), and assessment review (3 members). Appointments are for three or five years, with the terms staggered. The planning board meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month as necessary. Zoning Appeals meets as necessary. Assessment Review meets annually on Grievance Day in late May or early June. These meetings are open to the public and must be advertised.

Contact information for elected and appointed officials is posted on the Franklin Local website at <https://franklinlocal.org/local/town-officials/>.

This article is reprinted from NFR issue #3, published in the fall of 2007. It has been updated. Look for **Part III: Budgets and Laws** in the fall issue.



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](mailto:nfr@franklinlocal.org)

What are we about?

Franklin Local Ltd, the parent organization for The New Franklin Register and the Franklin Farmers' Market, is a not-for-profit corporation made up of Franklin residents who volunteer their time to serve this community.

Our mission statement: to work to preserve the rural character of Franklin, to grow the local economy, foster community solidarity, encourage volunteerism, and raise awareness of economic and social challenges that are likely to result from the transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy.

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

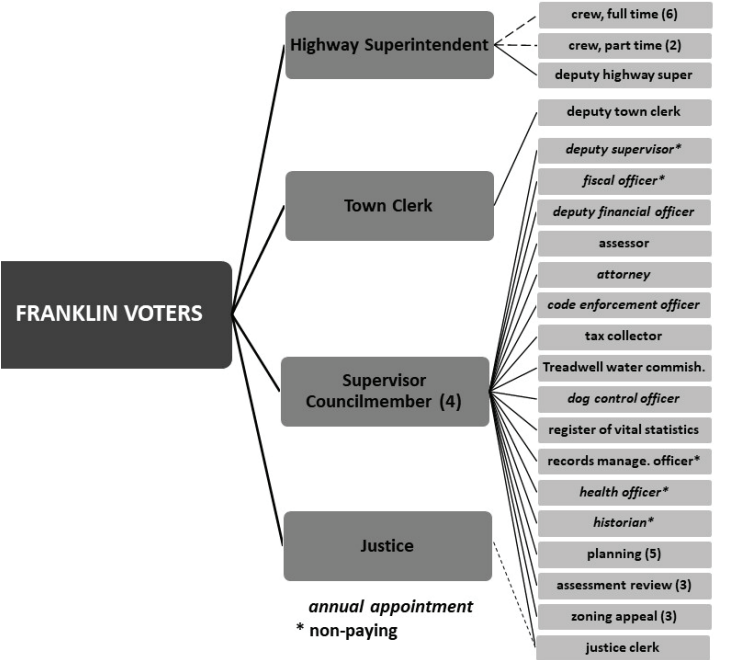
- Local food production network
- Skills and services exchange
- EV Charging Station
- Ride sharing bulletin board and/or website
- Farm to School Program for school lunches
- Community Greenhouses
- Community Energy Production
- Community Health Network

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

PLEASE JOIN US!  
For meeting times, location and directions, as well as lots of other information about our town, check our website:  
[franklinlocal.org](http://franklinlocal.org)

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THE FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET HAS LOST TWO FRIENDS:  
John Desiderio June 13, 1951 – April 15, 2021  
Lurline Elizabeth (Betty) Fischer November 7, 1945 - April 28, 2021





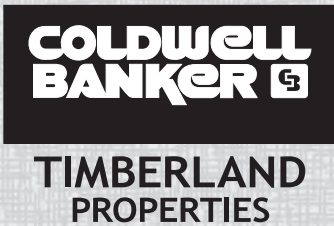
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## RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS	SALE	SELLER	BUYER
12/03/20	27 Church St	0.21	1 Family Res	110,000	184,000	Moon, William R	Hall, Murray J
12/23/20	7107 E. Handsome Bk Rd	18.38	Rural Res	157,000	55,000	Aliperti, Louis E	Peppard, John S (R)
12/28/20	6704 County Highway 21	9.78	1 Family Res	144,000	295,000	Hoyt, William R	Kornfeld, John A
1/11/21	6446 E. Handsome Bk Rd	37.60	Rural Res	240,000	335,000	Lovrin, Erik	McGovern, Philip T
1/25/21	Case Hill Rd	16.20	Rural Vac>10	37,000	34,500	Cole, Robert H	Novich, Bruce
1/28/21	1759 Russell Rd (2)	15.46	1 Family Res	247,000	283,000	Bucci, Michael G	Todes, Sarah
1/29/21	Campbell Rd	6.29	Rural Vac<10	19,000	17,500	Stack, Richard	Tunison, Richard B
2/02/21	2804 Cty Hwy 14	19.50	Mfg Housing	65,000	74,000	D'Amato, Thomas J	D'Amato, Walter (R)
2/04/21	1737 Tupper Hill Rd	31.60	Rural Res	91,000	304,210	Racevskis Family Trust	Serenity Lake LLC
2/08/21	Stewart Rd	23.41	Rural Vac>10	32,000	36,000	Love & Hope Animal Sanctuary	Kops, Myron S (r)
2/10/21	Poet Hill Rd	5.18	Rural Vac<10	17,000	24,000	Lavery, Patrick C	McLaughlin, John
2/11/21	611 Main St	0.51	1 Family Res	109,000	170,000	Whitbeck, Rollamarie	Khan, Junaid
2/22/21	Pomeroy Rd	7.32	Rural Vac<10	20,000	35,000	Capone, Victor J	Mavromichalis, C
2/25/21	1282 Cty Hwy 14	19.50	Rural Res	120,000	167,500	Martinez, Luis	West, Emily E
3/05/21	2601 Jackson Hill Rd	35.16	Rural Res	400,000	475,000	Marrone, Robert	Amato, Joseph J
3/05/21	194 Center St	0.18	1 Family Res	71,000	85,500	Sonia deFrances Family Trust	Villafuerte, Rita
3/08/21	8903 St Hwy 357 (2)	51.44	Rural Res	187,000	216,000	William L Butts Revocable	McSwain, Michael
3/08/21	675 Finch Rd	13.50	Vac w/Imprv	47,000	86,000	McClure, David	Capuano, Louis J
3/09/21	981 Carey Rd	170.10	Rural Res	182,000	399,000	Zurn, Daniel C	981 Carey Road LLC
3/15/21	5433 St Hwy 28 S	7.35	1 Family Res	100,000	165,000	Fleury, Amy L	Peterson, Suzanne Inez
3/18/21	1318 Campbell Rd (2)	11.93	1 Family Res	116,000	374,500	Sahraie, Nasim	Docker, Nicola (R)
3/19/21	Grange Hall Rd	6.80	Rural Vac<10	19,000	23,000	Street, Judith	Marzigliano, John Nuzio
3/20/21	300 Tara Ln	8.00	Mfg Housing	36,000	40,000	Amato, Salvatore	Olivera, Alfred
3/23/21	716 Rich Rd	3.40	1 Family Res	43,000	110,000	Michelitsch, Anton	Spampinato, Cheryl
3/23/21	201 Center St	0.36	1 Family Res	128,000	43,569	Kowatch, John	Ibrahimovic, Emsud
4/19/21	4993 Cty Hwy 14	0.25	Mfg Housing	32,000	12,000	Lynch, Emilienne N	Huyck, Tyler
4/19/21	1565 Tupper Hill Rd	3.01	Res w/Com	126,000	317,421	Salerno, Mark	Serenity Lake House LLC
4/22/21	Douglas Hall Rd (3)	68.00	Rural Vac>10	139,000	125,000	Spencer, David M	Davis, Cecil II
4/29/21	173 Main St	0.35	1 Family Res	130,000	245,000	Briggs, Thomas A	Townsend, Timothy C
5/05/21	318 Center St	0.31	1 Family Res	120,000	160,000	Newton, Gene	Briggs, Thomas
5/10/21	1937 Gibson Hill Rd (2)	10.23	1 Family Res		200,000	Kelly, John M	Barnard, Douglas
5/17/21	51 Bartlett Hollow Rd	3.40	1 Family Res	90,000	160,000	Peterson, John E	Smith, Donald T (R)

(#) Multiple parcels

(r) Related    (R) Relative