

ELECTION DAY IS  
TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>.

DONT  
FORGET  
TO  
VOTE!

TOWN COUNCIL  
ELECTION  
COVERAGE  
SEE PAGE 10

# EVERY DRESS HAS A STORY TO TELL

By Susan Barnett

Franklin became internationally famous in the summer of 2021. A global audience tuned in to see a fashion competition and got a glimpse of Main Street, the edible walking trail behind the village park, and even the streets of Cherry Valley, although misidentified as Franklin.



Coco in Treadwell Photo by Gary Graham

## SUPPORT THE FAMILY FARM!

By Duane Martin

Agriculture and family farms today are often viewed as being more of a problem than a benefit to society. But the recent dairy tour in the Franklin area this past summer highlighted not only advances in modern farm production but also the ways that many farmers are using Best Management Practices (BMPS) to protect their bottom line, the environment, and our natural resources.

Farm tours began in the 1910s and 1920s to show on-the-farm practical use of modern farm technologies. Three generations previously, in 1862, Con-



gress passed, and President Abraham Lincoln signed into law, the creation of the United States Department of Agriculture and later, the Land Grant College Act, which created colleges and universities to

See FARM, con't on Page 17

## PROHIBITION REDUX

Staff Report

In March of this year, legislation to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana was passed by our state legislature and signed by Governor Cuomo. This Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act allows town and village boards to choose to continue the prohibition of sale and/or on-site consumption by passing a local law by the end of this year. This summer, members of the Franklin Town Council expressed their intentions to do just that, and the town lawyer was tasked with writing the enabling Local Law 1-2021. Before their vote, the



required public hearing was held prior to the monthly meeting of the board on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Thirty residents were packed shoulder-to-shoulder into the back of the town hall. By the time the civics class arrived from Franklin Central School, it was standing room only. About a dozen members of the audience spoke, with those in favor of allowing sales outnumbering those against by 3:1. After the hearing, our board did not vote or even dis-

See REDUX, con't on Page 18



Fountain today Photo by ???

## CEMETERY FOUNTAIN NEEDS YOUR HELP

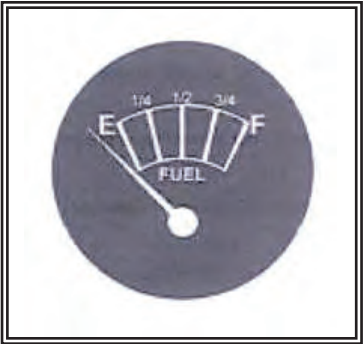
By Donna Whitbeck

This past spring, the Ouleout Valley Cemetery Board decided that it is time for a full restoration of the historic fountain, as it will soon deteriorate beyond repair.

The fountain was purchased in 1884 by Erastus Edgerton, one of the major founders of the Cemetery, and installed in 1895. It runs from dawn to dusk every day, and has endured over 125 years of rain, ice, and snow, but along with its plumbing and foundation, it is in desperate need of repair.

Cemetery Board member Jeff McCormack was able to trace the history of

See RESTORE, con't on Pg.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

REGULAR FEATURES:	
Your Neighbor's View	Pg. 2
Mayor's Corner	Pg. 3
Kitchen Basics	Pg. 4
Green Banks Garden	Pg. 5
Inside Local Realty	Pg. 9
Real Estate Sales	Pg. 18

LOCAL ISSUES:	
Office Efforts, Pt. II	Pg. 3
Do It Anyway!	Pg. 3
Town Council Election	Pg.10
Town Taxes 2022	Pg.11
Town Council Voting	Pg.11

FOCUS ON ENERGY:	
Oasis in the Dark	Pg. 8

SUSTAINABILITY:	
Franklin Food Pantry	Pg. 4
Farmers' Market News	Pg. 6
Sidney Center Park	Pg. 7

LOCAL ARTS:	
Book Reviews	Pg.12
Poetry Shelf	Pg.12
Local Authors	Pg.12
Paxton on Film (New!)	Pg.13
Franklin Stage Update	Pg.14
Trial in Cooperstown	Pg.15
Bright Hill Events	Pg.15
Halloween Scares	Pg.20



Planting trees for Franklin (Tom Briggs (l) and Gary Orton)



# Your Neighbor's View...

**To the Editor:**

Each time I receive and read the NFR, I'm impressed, informed and entertained. Thank you for making this paper come to life and stay alive. It's a congratulate fantastic contribution to our world.

Warmly,  
Kaima Nelson-Bowne  
Franklin

**HORSE HAPPY:**

**To the Editor:**

Thank you for the beautiful article about Rosemary Farm Sanctuary.

Cat Gareth's writing spoke to me. My vision was waking up on my birthday and seeing my pony in the yard, just like in the Dick and Jane primer we learned to read from as children.

I hope this article will bring more dedicated fans and supporters to Rosemary Farm. True journalism is a joy, especially these days.

Bless you all.  
With Love and Light,  
Adrienne Doughty

**To the Editor:**

Just a short note to thank you for Cat Gareth's wonderful article on Dawn Robyn and Rosemary Farm. This is such a wonderful sanctuary for equines, and I have been a follower and donor for several years.

I am not a "horse" person per se, but fell in love with following RFS on Facebook. Dawn has a beautiful spirit and has taught RFS followers so much about the animals that she cares for. She has such insight to these beings and can communicate through her website such beautiful descriptions of what happens at RFS. I live in South Carolina but when I read her posts, I feel as if I'm there with them.

RFS's commitment to their animals is for a lifetime, and many miracles happen there through the love and care they give their residents. Wish I lived close enough to visit and volunteer but I will continue to follow and send donations as long as I can. Those who live nearby would enjoy a tour, I'm sure. By the way, Dawn is also an artist, and her work is lovely.

Again, thank you for shining the light on Rosemary Farm Sanctuary.

Sharon Raffel  
Rock Hill, SC

*The editor notes that Cat Gareth's article about Rosemary Farm Sanctuary inspired more letters to the editor than any piece in the NFR's fifteen year history.*

**To the residents of Delaware County:**

If you could save a life, would you?

We are in epidemic of the unvaccinated: 70 million unvaccinated, even with plenty of vaccine available.

To date, 700,000 dead and counting in the United States. 4,500,000 dead and counting worldwide

My wife recently returned from exercising and told me how someone in the class had a cousin in his late forties who just died of COVID, leaving the whole extended family to mourn. "This makes me so upset," she said. "This could have been avoided, but he was unvaccinated."

Yes, avoidable. Not only this death, but so many others. Virtually all deaths and long-term serious illness from COVID are now the burden of the unvaccinated and their loved ones.

There are fourteen serious diseases that, due to vaccinations, Americans no longer need to fear. In the 1840s, just down the road in Richmondville, my great-great-grandma Rosa bore fourteen children, but only six survived to adulthood. (One of them was my great-grandfather Henry.)

In addition, the unvaccinated give this lethal vi-



rus more opportunity to outsmart the human immune system, leading to variants that can more easily be transmitted, are more deadly, and potentially cause more chronic symptomology (so-called long COVID). Mutations beyond the current Delta variant are unpredictable in their seriousness and may surprise us in hideous ways.

For this reason alone, we all should be vaccinated. And we need to help less fortunate nations access the vaccine. New variants do not respect borders and can spread quickly around the world. While the crippling disease of polio was eradicated in our country many years ago, vaccine superstition in some countries still leads to cases of this dread illness.

The science utilized by the American pharmaceutical industry to create COVID vaccines as part of Operation Warp Speed - initiated by our previous president Donald J. Trump - led to nothing short of a miracle, making it possible to prevent serious illness as well as death from COVID.

Almost 400,000,000 doses of vaccine have been administered in the United States as of today. Close to 200,000,000 Americans are fully vaccinated. Yet this is only about 60%. Almost 216,000,000 have had only their first dose. Currently we are playing catch-up, with the rate of shots given the USA being approximately 28,600,000 per day.

Any person twelve years and older is eligible for free vaccinations at drug stores, from doctors, and at hospitals. But in Delaware County, we are very far behind, keeping our citizens at significant risk. As of October 6, 24,292 people (55%) have had one dose and 22,474 (50.9%) are fully vaccinated. By contrast, our neighbors in Vermont are almost 70% fully vaccinated. Delaware County's current rate of COVID is higher than any New York City borough: 34 cases per 100 thousand. In urban Queens where vaccination and mask-wearing are high, the rate is 16 cases per 100 thousand.

Yes, it's an epidemic of the unvaccinated and the horror continues, as many states fall back on mobile refrigerated morgues to store the bodies.

If you are not vaccinated, it is your turn to be a

**COVID CONCERNS:**

hero. Help prevent the exponential spread of COVID, as well as its new and more dangerous mutations.

Be it from patriotic or religious reasons, or just due to common sense: "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Sincerely,  
Robert Ackerman,  
MSW, LCSW

*Mr. Ackerman is a Franklin resident, social worker, and former professor at SUNY/Downstate Medical School*

**To the Editor, and the Franklin Town Council:**

I attended the October 5<sup>th</sup> public hearing at the monthly town board meeting in Franklin, and was disturbed to see that Delaware County COVID-19 recommendations were not being observed.

On October 4, 2021, due to our county's high level of community transmission, the Delaware County Public Health Service requested that everyone, vaccinated or unvaccinated, wear a mask indoors in public places: <http://delawarecountypublichealth.com>. As of October 6, 2021, the vaccination rate for our zip code 13775 was 52.4%.

Many of the attendees at this meeting were unmasked, only one of the elected officials at the table wore a mask, the space was crowded with no possibility for social distancing, and the room was not well ventilated. Sadly, there were high school students present who witnessed town officials and adults flaunting public health recommendations during a pandemic.

Thankfully, Franklin has not experienced high rates of COVID, with the loss and disruption of medical services that many rural communities now face. Masks are important so that we can protect each other from the highly transmissible Delta variant. This is especially true for children who may not yet be eligible to be vaccinated. I can't imagine how sad it would be if one of our neighbors were to succumb to COVID.

I hope in the future that the Town Board will hold these meetings in a well-ventilated space and put a sign on the door requiring everyone to wear a mask.

Sincerely,  
Carla Nordstrom

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2021

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# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## OFFICE EFFORTS PART II: Not Anywhere

By Brian Brock

“PART I: Not Here or There” appeared in *NFR* in the fall of 2020. It chronicled the initial searches to replace an inadequate courtroom and consolidate offices.

Finding no suitable site for a town office building in the village, the board resumed looking outside it. Briefly considered was land owned by the town off State Highway 357, the site of the old dump. However, costs of bringing a road and services to this site are prohibitive.

A fifth option was suggested by Teddy Story, who noted that the land behind the town garages had been recently reduced in price after being on the market for a decade. Not

only could this provide more than enough land for any new town building, but there would be land for expansion of garages, which were then up against the property line. In addition, there is an existing foundation on the property with driveway, well, septic, and underground electric service. The board jumped at this opportunity and quickly purchased the thirty-three acres with these improvements for \$89,000. Yet again, Delaware Engineering was hired to evaluate the site and draft plans.

Turned out there are reasons this property had gone unsold for so long. The driveway is long, steep, northwest facing, and bottoms at a curve in County Highway 21. The County Department of Public Works would not allow it to be relocated. The hilltop

water well is only eighty feet deep, and it is dry. The septic system is filled with mud. Also, the plan was to locate the courtroom and meeting room upstairs and the offices in the basement, which would leave the offices with only one entrance/exit.

In February of last year, *The Daily Star* ran an investigation of the progress to date. A subsequent editorial was unusually critical of a town board, opining that the Franklin board had “bought a pig in a poke.” Our board took exception in a letter to the editor (published, oddly, in *The Reporter*) claiming that “some of the comments that were reported were patently false, or, at best, misleading,” although no examples were given.

The sixth and current

See **OFFICE**, con’t on Page 9



## BE AFRAID, BUT DO IT ANYWAY

By Erna Morgan McReynolds

One day, a woman called who had sat next to me at a fundraising dinner. She wanted me to speak at an event for women alumnae of NYU. She titled it, “An Interview with a Financial Superstar.” How could I resist? She asked about my grow-

ing up outside a little village in Upstate New York. How did I go from no hot running water to being on the Barron’s Top 100 Financial Advisors list?

Good fortune blessed me. Or I thought it did. As a child, I thought I was lucky. Wouldn’t it have been awful to be that poor in the city?

Instead, I grew up in a village of 300 and went to a small central school where teachers and villagers alike looked after every child. Knowing that our family was poor, a teacher helped me get jobs cleaning houses and serving at soirées for the wealthy families of the village. During high school, I worked at the grand summer home of a descendant of the village founder.

Mr. and Mrs. G. taught me special standards. As I dusted and polished, she

See **DO IT**, con’t on Page 19

## THE MAYOR’S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

A few weeks ago, I traveled to a diner near my hometown to have breakfast with some high school chums (something I do three or four times a year). We talked politics, the state of the world, wind farms, childhood memories, health issues, classmates no longer with us, and the condition of the village that we grew up in. They lamented the loss of businesses, the impact on the business district, and the overall dispirited mood of the community. Our chat came to an end, and we parted with our usual pledge to meet again soon.

I decided to drive into the village and see for myself what they were talking about. I started with the business district. Although there were empty shops and green spaces where once were thriving enterprises, the street was freshly blacktopped and detailed. With one or two exceptions, the storefronts were tidy, with some newly painted. My initial impression was that the village was fertile ground for new businesses, though it did seem that things were inordinately quiet.

I then toured the rest of the community, which like most area villages is comprised of turn-of-the-century Victorians and older buildings. It was depressing. Once-grand houses had been carved up into apartments with little regard for appearance and were showing decades of neglect. Residents with limited means and space had crammed toys, old couches, and cast-off appliances onto the sagging front porches. Street after street, this scenario was repeated. Single-family households didn’t fare much better. It was as if homeowners confronted

by the surrounding blight had given up as well. Though the business section looked promising, the residential community told a different story.

I understand some of the root causes of this. It’s no secret that poverty, substance abuse, poor or lack of parenting, media intoxication, chronic depression, and a variety of other factors are in play in this country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. And it’s no wonder that so many people who feel disenfranchised have allied themselves with movements marketing themselves as vehicles to recapture the power and glory of what some believe were better times.

Here in Franklin, we seem to be faring better than many communities in the region. The relatively well-maintained and charming old houses dotting the village have attracted a new generation from parts elsewhere. They seem to be a healthy mix of retirees, lower-middle agers, younger parents with school-age children, first generation Americans, professionals, and tradespeople. They span the ideological divide, but for the most part are mindful of being newcomers, trying not to ruffle too many feathers...for the moment, that is.

The village board is beginning to hear concern from residents regarding things that annoy them in the village. Some goats here, a barking dog there, noise issues, unsightly yards, etc. These are all old, recycled gripes, aired to the village trustees since the village’s inception. Old complaints, yes, but in these contentious times, who knows what kind of “Hatfield and McCoy” scenario might result if not sensitively addressed?

As part of the orientation to my new position as mayor seven years ago, the two trustees at the time informed me that the Village had few local laws. The prevailing wisdom was that if there was a dispute between neighbors, it was best, if possible, to let them work things out for themselves. In a village too small to support a police force, enforcing laws is difficult. More important, by calling in the police, the chance of reconciliation between the parties might be

lost. A prevailing libertarian ethos viewed the proliferation of regulations as a restriction of constitutional rights. For instance, would some new arrival to Franklin, offended by the smell of freshly spread manure, push the Village Board to regulate the farmer’s right to fertilize his fields? The creation of a local law is something that must be done tactfully and only as a last resort, when no other solution to a problem can be found.

For those new to our community, local laws currently focus on the following:

- In the wintertime, sidewalks must be kept shoveled by the property owner. If the property owner has failed to do so, he will be notified by the village and will have four hours to address the snow issue. If the property owner fails at that, the village will remove the snow and ice, and charge the property owner for labor. In addition, snow must not be deposited in the street

- Grass must be cut regularly during the growing season, not to exceed six inches in height. Property owners will be billed for grass mowing if they disregard this local law. (Exceptions will be made for those who substitute ground cover or decorative planting for grass). Shrubbery must be pared back to allow pedestrians to travel the sidewalks unobstructed.

- The village does have a noise ordinance to cover chronic or unnecessary noise-making within the village.

- Vehicles are prohibited from being parked on the village streets from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> between 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

That’s all the village currently has in place. So, we depend on the good will and responsible behavior of our residents to maintain a peaceful, attractive, and wholesome atmosphere in Franklin. We are prepared to create additional local laws to address unneighborly conduct or situations where public safety is at risk. I hope that we will never have to do so, but it would break my heart to see Franklin devolve to the condition that some of our neighboring communities have fallen into.





**Greater Franklin Food Pantry**  
574 Main Street, PO Box 209, Franklin NY 13775  
Open Fridays 2-4PM or by appointment  
Call or text: 607-386-1601

**Pantry Hours**

Individuals or families residing in the town of Franklin, including Treadwell and the former Treadwell school district, may shop once a month on Fridays 2-4PM or by appointment. First-time customers are required to fill out a brief and confidential questionnaire.



**We welcome donations:**

- Please mail checks to our Post Office Box
- Donate online thru our website
- Food may be dropped off during pantry hours

*Holiday Boxes*

In coordination with Headstart, Franklin Central School, Delaware Opportunities and the Methodist churches of Franklin and Treadwell, the Greater Franklin Food Pantry supplies boxes of Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals every year for families in need.

**Sponsor a box:** You may sponsor a box for \$50. Please send a check to our PO Box. Or donate thru our website.

**Receive a box:** Do you want to be on the list to receive a box? Reach out to the pantry with your information.

**Holiday Boxes include** turkey, ham or other meat choices, potatoes and vegetables, dessert **and** basic staples to help you through the week when kids are home from school.



*Thanksgiving Holiday Box*  
Sponsor or Reserve by Oct. 30

*Christmas Holiday Box*  
Sponsor or Reserve by Nov. 30



GreaterFranklinFoodPantry.org • info@greaterfranklinfoodpantry.org • facebook.com/GreaterFranklinFoodPantry

kitchen basics

By Carla Nordstrom

**WHAT TO DO WITH BACKYARD APPLES**

Many in Franklin have an old apple tree somewhere on their property. Some years, the apples aren't very good, but this year they are plump and flavorful, thanks to a rainy summer. They aren't much to look at with their brown spots and bruises. You may not want to bite into one. For cultivated apples, you should drive down to Covered Bridge Farm Stand in Unadilla, where they have several different varieties of tasty apples.

Backyard apples are good when cooked and baked into pies. But not all of us are as proficient at making pies as Franklin's Episcopal women. Two recipes come to mind that use a pie dough without too much fuss. Apple pandowdy, made famous in the song "Shoo Fly Pie and Apple Pan Dowdy," is an old American recipe. Supposedly, it was a favorite dish of Abigail Adams, and may have been created with backyard apples in mind. The French make a fruit dessert called a galette that uses a crust to encase the fruit. The pandowdy crust is on the top and the galette's is on the bottom. Both desserts can use the same crust and apple filling.

There are a few things to keep in mind when using apples from your own tree. They are hard to peel because they are not perfectly formed. They bruise more easily than store bought apples but lemon juice will help them keep their color. Whole parts of some apples

won't be useable, so just cut them out. I used to cut my apples into quarters and then cut out the core. Melissa Clark has a much easier approach. She peels them and then cuts four pieces from the core and slices these pieces. This works well with backyard apples because there is usually a quarter that is discolored and needs to be composted.

**THE CRUST:**

1 ¼ cups of flour  
1 stick of cold butter cut in small pieces  
¼ cup of ice water

This can be done in a food processor or by hand. Combine the flour and butter and pulse it in the processor or break it down with a pastry blender or fork until it becomes crumbs. Slowly add the ice water and mix until it forms into a ball. Press the dough into a disk, wrap it in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least an hour.

Preheat the oven to 400°.

Whether making a pandowdy or a galette roll out the dough on a piece of parchment paper into a thin circle. For the pandowdy cut the dough into small rectangles. Place the parchment in the freezer to firm up while you make the filling.

**THE APPLE FILLING:**

4 to 6 apples, peeled and cut into slices



Photo by Andy Bobrow

Juice of 1/2 a lemon  
¼ cup brown sugar  
¼ cup white sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon  
½ tsp nutmeg  
Combine in a bowl and set aside.  
2 Tbl butter cut into small pieces  
1 Tbl heavy cream  
1 Tbl sugar

For Pandowdy, place the apples into a shallow baking dish or a skillet and dot the filling with butter. Peel the dough off the paper and arrange it on top, overlapping the pieces so that the entire surface is covered.

For the Galette, place the dough and parchment on a baking sheet with a rim. Put the filling into the center and dot it with butter. Pull up the edges around the filling being careful not to break the dough.

Brush the dough with cream and sprinkle sugar on top.

Place in the preheated oven and bake until the apples are soft when poked with a knife and the crust is golden, approximately 40 minutes. Let it cool and either serve it warm or at room temperature with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.



# GREEN BANKS GARDENING



With  
**Deborah Banks**

## SPRING BULBS!

Spring bulbs are the “easy” button for gardeners. You buy some in the fall, dig some haphazard holes, throw in the bulbs and some dirt, and then go inside for the winter. In a few months you’re greeted by beautiful flowers. No hassle, no worries. Okay, if you plant them upside down, they might not do well. The roots or flat end goes down, pointy end up. If in doubt, plant it on its side.

Most bulbs are happiest planted sometime after the first frost. If you choose crocus or tulips, you might not get a show since those bulbs are like chocolate for chipmunks and squirrels.

I’ll bet you already are growing daffodils. How do you improve on that? I like to seek out the earliest and also the latest blooming varieties to add to the garden, so I have daffodils blooming for as many weeks as possible. Some of the earliest Narcissus are ‘February Gold’, Rijnveld’s ‘Early Sensation’, ‘Early Bride’ and ‘Tete-a-Tete’.

daffodils (ten inches or shorter), because they are easy to tuck in around other plants and the foliage doesn’t linger in the garden as long. Also, look for varieties especially noted for their fragrance. You may think all daffodils are equally fragrant, but it’s not true. Some will bowl you over with their sweet scent, while others... meh, not so much.

Another common bulb is grape hyacinth, also known as *Muscari*. Have you seen all the colors? I think the typical purple one looks nice planted in a wave next to a grouping of the pale blue M. ‘Valerie Finnis’. *Muscari* also comes in white, blue or a two-tone effect with blue topped with white or a lighter shade of blue. Pink *Muscari* seem odd to me – which is also how I feel about pink blueberries – but they are available.

The earliest bloomers in my garden are the snowdrops, or *Galanthus*. They have their own fan clubs and festivals, with rare varieties selling for over a hundred dollars per bulb. Luckily for us, some very nice ones are affordable –

dare I say cheap? *Galanthus elwesii* is known as the giant snowdrop. *Galanthus* ‘Sam Arnott’ is another larger one. *Galanthus nivalis* ‘Flore Pleno’ is a showy double with white petals tipped in green.

These bulbs can be mail ordered at web sites like Brent & Becky’s or John Scheepers. Snowdrops will spread over time, giving you a good show in February or March.

After snowdrops, the show continues with *Chionodoxa* ‘Blue Giant’, also called “glory of the snow.” Its bright blue blossoms with a white eye stand only six inches tall, but a whole colony of them under a tree near your driveway will be amazing. I planted the blue *Scilla Siberica* ‘Spring Beauty’ near them to amplify the effect. The two bloom together and both will spread slowly by seed. For a complementary effect, I added winter aconite (*Eranthus hyemalis*) at the back. This drift of bright yellow appears a little earlier than the blues, but *Eranthus* continues to flower with the others. All of these so-called “minor” bulbs are inexpensive, easy to plant because the bulbs are small, and have a big impact in very early spring.

For intense fragrance, plant Hyacinths. They bloom in mid spring in white, pale to hot pink, palest yellow, blue and purple. The typical Hyacinths have a stocky head that is almost too big for the plant’s small stature. There are new varieties with a looser flower that you

may prefer. Bulbs that prefer some shade include *Erythronium* and *Fritillaria meleagris*. You may know our native *Erythronium americanum* by its common name Trout-Lily. In your back field, you might see fifty little solitary brownish leaves with just a few small nodding bright yellow blossoms. There are showier species of *Erythronium* that are not such shy bloomers. Try *Erythronium* ‘Pagoda’ which is a larger plant with reliable lily-like yellow flowers.

*Fritillaria meleagris* has small white or maroon nodding bells. The maroon flowers are checkered and very charming. Like most bulbs, these look best in small groups, not in lonely ones and twos. If you are fighting the red lily beetle, the bad news is that they like these also. Chipmunks will also dig and eat these, usually after flowering.

Most bulbs don’t like to be planted in a moist spot. They will rot. However, there are two species that do well in just that location. The white blossoms of *Leucojum aestivum* ‘Gravetye Giant’ look like snowdrops on steroids. *Camassia quamash* is over a foot tall and has large blue flowers. The variegated C. Blue Melody has edges of pale yellow on its green leaves.

So many great choices. Others include miniature irises, Anemones, *Puschkinia* (striped squill), *Corydalis*.

Already I can’t wait for spring!

## Your Local Connection



**Susan Barnett**

Licensed Associate Broker

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Equal Housing Opportunity



# FARMERS' MARKET MATTERS

By Patricia Tyrell

When I reflect on this past market season, I am filled with bitter-sweet emotions. It has been a season of challenges, rewards, and a few welcome surprises. All resulting in an overlapping combination of gratitude, sadness, frustration, pride, and hope.



Looking westward along the central marketway Photos by the author

I never tire of hearing from vendors and patrons that the Franklin Farmers' Market is one of the best local markets. It is described as having a laid-back, friendly atmosphere with seating and a variety of products rivaled only by large urban markets. As manager, I cannot help but agree and feel proud.

But I cannot take the credit. The Franklin Farmers' Market is closing its fifteenth regular season, for only four of which I've held the title of manager. The first eleven years were built and maintained by the original (and only other) manager, Ellen Curtis.

She and other volunteers from Franklin Local, one of whom still works with us (Brian Brock), understood the vital role a farmers' market can have – should have – in a community. So they made it happen, working hard to recruit vendors, establish a routine, set up tents and tables, and offer good company.

Developing a successful local food resource, gauging both potential and need, is an amazing and inspirational feat. For the opportunity to be a part of it, I am grateful.

Beyond the volunteers that made and make the market possible, it is of course the vendors who are the main draw, and ours are

simply top-notch. Not only does each offer their fine products, but they also contribute to a larger whole that is the market family, with its colorful personalities and the interpersonal connections that weave the web of community.

And while that community does change, with vendors coming or going, we had not lost members to tragedy until this year. So we remember "John the Baker" Desidario, and Betty Fischer, a long-time volunteer and friend, who both passed away last spring.

We also miss Larry Roseboom of Elk Meadow Farm, whose condition unfortunately prevented him from rejoining us. These losses are a great sadness to us all.

But new life was breathed into the market with new additions. Four full-season vendors came aboard, including Trollbok Farm (Scandinavian baked goods), SaJoBe Farm (lamb,

an already strong lineup of familiar goods and vendors such as Fokish (certified organic breads), Cordwood Acres (berries, garlic, goat's milk soap, cultivated mushrooms), Hare and Feather Farm (fruit preserves, salsas, fudge, eggs), East Brook Farm (vegetables, so many vegetables!), Empire Angus (Black Angus), Izzabon (handmade jewelry), Off Road Maple (NYS maple syrup, local honey), and Skytop Spring Farm (fresh and smoked trout, farmstead cheese).

Looking at this list, I can't help but ask: what else could we possibly offer? One possibility is more dairy. Another: entertainment.

What began a few years ago as an earnest effort to pay volunteer musicians a little something grew into a grant-funded, multi-performance music program. It was named Music at the Market, and it just closed its second year in the regular market season.

With its schedule abbreviated due to the ongoing pandemic, the program was managed through the grit and grace of volunteer Vicky Davis who secured musicians, performers and marketing services for the program.

It was disappointing and frustrating to find this program subject to unnecessary and untrue claims, additionally naming the market as a bad-player contributing to those baseless accusations. Thankfully, cool heads and open minds prevailed.



Krista Pantale, FCS Student Volunteer, managing the beverage tent

pork. and eggs), Catskills Pasta Company (handmade pasta, home-made sauce), and Catskill Lily's (decoupage home décor).

Other new vendors joined us now and then, including The Best Dog Cookies (home-made dog treats), Buko Baked Goods (gourmet baked goods), Grandpa's Garlic (garlic, scape pesto), and Heart to Home Décor (custom home décor).

All this was added to

George Coulter (plus family). Thank you all.

I also want to extend a special thanks to my sons, Corbin and Xander Tyrell, who helped out on more occasions than I can count, making the farmers' market a cool place for youth to visit and hang out.

I have great hope for

the continued prosperity of our market, and for an increasingly connected community just down the line.

Thank you to the Franklin Stage Company, Franklin Central School, the Franklin Fire Department, and to this season's poster artist Eileen Crowell for a delicious design.

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FRANKLIN RAILROAD MUSEUM**

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# WE HAVE A TRAIL!

By Michael Sellitti

The Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) and its volunteer members are proud to share the completion of the next phase of their Park & Playground Restoration project. The walking trail around the perimeter of the park, along with ten activity stations spread out along it, have been installed and are ready for community use.

Since late 2017, SCIG has been actively planning and fundraising for improvements to the park and playground located off Baker Street in Sidney Center. SCIG has been working directly with community organization like the Sidney United Way, Sidney Alumni Association, Sidney Rotary, and others, to garner additional funds to move the project forward. SCIG has had the support of the Town of Sidney in executing the planning, layout and implementation of the project.

To date, SCIG has raised funds for and has completed or is working on the following improvements:

- Resurfaced blacktop for the basketball court
- Purchased and installed new Unalam basketball posts, backboards, rims and nets
- Installed a new park message center to display park and community announcements
- Repainted the swing set and

will add an infant swing

- Purchased a shed located at the park for storing park-related equipment, as well as SCIG decorations and supplies for events
- Installation of an approximate-



Activity stations along the trail

ly ¼ mile long walking trail with surface suitable for all levels of mobility

- Purchase and installation of 10 Trail-Fit Activity Station System for individuals of all ages

- Started the construction of a community art installation/mural project involving professional and student artists funded by a NYSCA Decentralization Grant administered by the Roxbury Arts Group

- New playground equipment/features chosen, to be installed in the spring

- Working with Sidney High School construction class to design and build a 16' x 24' pavilion, to be completed in spring

While the walking trail and activity stations are SCIG's most recent achievement, they were not part of the original plan but a re-think due to the pandemic. SCIG

members decided it would be important to add elements which promoted healthy, outdoor activities for everyone after being kept indoors for so long. SCIG enlisted the help of Howard Finch of Tri-Town Development Corps. who had done the primary excavating for the trail and drilling for the activity stations. The material for the path was provided by the Town of Sidney Highway Department. The stations were installed thanks to the hard work and dedication of Michael DeShaw and Gene Sundel. The walking trail and activity stations were made possible by a Community Impact Grant from the Community Foundation of South Central New York.

The walking trail was designed

with accessibility in mind to accommodate all mobility types and all ages. The approximately ¼ mile long trail starts at the parking area and wraps around the perimeter of the park – making for a nice leisurely walk along the converging streams and through the natural beauty of the park. Placed along the trail are ten individual stations equipped with signage demonstrating how to accomplish each activity. The stations are suitable for people of all ages and intended to be low-impact, encouraging heart-healthy activities that can be done at one's own pace and comfort level. As an added benefit, every activity station has a line-of-site view of the playground area so parents

See **TRAIL**, con't on Page 16



A drone shot of the new walking trail in Sidney Center

Photo by the author

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Wood Anemone



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# FOCUS ON ENERGY

## OASES IN THE DARK

By Craig Brock

When in Franklin, where can you go at 2 a.m. for a Subway sandwich?

There are not just one but two all-night oases near Franklin. One if your truck is a big rig, and the other if you are in your car. For your car, they offer electric, petrol, diesel, and biodiesel. Both are off Interstate 88 and run by Mirabito.

The big-rig location is just to the southwest of the I-88 exit 12 in Otego, only five miles from Franklin. It is a genuine 'truck stop lite,' with all the diesel you need and a place to shower. But the choice of food is Subway, Krispy Krunchy Chicken, or your standard gas station food. There are seven tables for eating and a small TV, which is rarely turned on. But if you are looking for laundry facilities or an inside rest area, you are out of luck.

The automobile location is just three exits to the east on I-88 at exit 15 along Oneonta's Southside, eleven miles from Franklin. The food is similar: Subway, Dunkin', and standard gas station food. Dunkin' is not open all night at this location, but literally next door is a 24-hour McDonald's drive-through - more about food in a moment.

This Mirabito provides: ten gas pumps,

eight Tesla Superchargers (350 kW), and four EVolve NY charging stations (one fast-charge CCS 350 kW, two CCS 150 kW, and one CHAdeMO 100 kW). Behind the station are both types of car washes: the automatic drive through and the twelve-quarters, you-wash-with-wand type.

Getting back to food, while your EV is charging, you have the luck of a few eateries a short walk away (Denny's, McDonald's, and Buffalo Wild Wings). A longer walk away are Applebee's, Panera Bread, Five Guys, Burger King, and Mt. Fuji. In the opposite direction are Southside Grill, Taco Bell, and Wendy's. Across Route 23 there are Jersey Mike's Subs and Moe's Southwest Grill. But most of these you will not find open after 10 p.m.

Fast food with your fast charge.

## JUSTICE IN A SHOE BOX

Staff Report

Operating out of its existing space handicaps the Franklin Justice Court.

Limited to 400 square feet, the courtroom barely has room for the participants. Public proceeding are a cornerstone of our

judicial system, but there is little space for spectators. Physical safety of the justice is jeopardized with the defendant only a few feet away. Health safety is compromised by this closeness, which can spread infections -- particularly in this time of pandemic. There is a bit of floor space for the clerk's office, but the bench must double as the justice's desk.

This poverty of space extends beyond the courtroom. There is little seating

for waiting, so that people mill around in the hallway and often spill out onto the porch. There is no room for a lawyer to privately confer with the client, a necessity for proper representation. Safety is further compromised by the lack of a place for police to segregate dangerous individuals.



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**OFFICE, con't from Page 3**

option is to build on the newly-purchased property above the cell tower. On that slope, construction would be considerably more costly than building on flat ground.

Before this option could be pursued, the COVID-19 pandemic began sweeping through the state. With Albany's increasing expenses and decreasing revenues, continued aid to towns was in doubt. Reasonably, the board decided that this was not the time to start the most expensive capital project that the town had ever taken on. Therefore, the offices would remain where they are, divided between the Rich's tenant house and the town garages.

However, the existing building on Main Street needs work, which the Walter Rich Charitable Foundation is unwilling to pay for out of its endowment. So, the town and foundation renegotiated the lease. Representing the town were councilmen Dwight Bruno and Donald Smith, and representing the foundation were Chris Downin and Tom Worden. Annual rent was raised from \$1 to \$4,800 or \$400 per month. Also, responsibilities are clarified. Foundation resumes maintaining the building, which is looking much better. As before, town plows

and salts the parking lot. Also, the town will repave the lot with materials supplied by foundation. What has this five-year project cost the taxpayers so far? First there is the land, costing \$89K for the purchase and \$2K for fees and legal service. (In 2019, it was assessed at \$55K.) Then there is Delaware Engineering evaluating three sites and drafting five floor plans costing several thousands more. Although the board has not discussed these payments during public meetings, funds would come from the appropriation for Engineering Contract Expenses, for which \$30K was budgeted for 2017 to 2021. There were yet more thousands for a survey of the land (\$1.45K) and legal fees for subdividing one of the parcels. All told, this could have paid for three decades of rent.

Most of these expenses are to be offset by reselling the two parcels. The board put most of the acreage back on the market. Town retains six acres adjacent to the garages. For the remaining 26 acres, the board asked one third more money for one fifth less land: \$120K or \$4.6K per acre. During a red-hot real estate market, it had been for sale for almost a year before an offer from Dalrymple for \$100K or \$3.8K per acre. Board voted to accept this

offer at September meeting

With this sale, the board claimed that they broke even. However, this land was not bought as real estate speculation but as part of an unsuccessful five-year-long project to build space. Costs of this quest for court and office space included the land, legal services for buying, engineering services for three site evaluations and several sets of plans, survey services for subdivision, legal services for subdivision and sale, and broker fees. The estimated total of \$120K is partially offset by the sale price of \$100K. Therefore, this unfulfilled search has left the taxpayers out of pocket. However, there is the benefit of six acres added to the sheds property. While the federal American Rescue Program of 2021 gave our town \$98K to spend now and more to come next year, office construction is not one of the allowed uses. With no construction of a town office building on the horizon, Justice Arndt continues to work out of a shoe box (see Page 8), and town offices remain divided between the village and the sheds.

"I would not like them here or there. I would not like them anywhere."  
*Green Eggs and Ham*  
 - Dr. Seuss.

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## REAL ESTATE IN A STRESSFUL TIME

By Susan Barnett

There is a real estate trend that snuck up on us in 2021. No one's talking about it in the news, and so far I'm not aware of any studies on it. The evidence is anecdotal, but it's undeniable.

We are behaving rather badly.  
 Notice I say "we." I am not excluding myself from this trend.

We are not horrible people, and we do not mean to behave badly. But we are stressed. And stressed people do not always display their best selves.

Buying and selling a home are already considered to be among the most stressful events in any life, and right now our lives are overloaded with stress. 2020 was not easy and 2021 is proving to be not much better.

A nasty variant of a virus we'd hoped would be long gone is growing stronger.

Our area was lucky with weather (as of this writing, at least), but my clients from other parts of the country haven't been so fortunate.

This summer, buyers from the West Coast arrived describing themselves as "climate refugees." They worry about whether water is clean, if there's enough of it, or if there's too much.

Buyers from downstate had to cancel visits because their homes flooded. They immediately worry about water in basements, and they hesitate to believe even an inspector's assurance that it's unlikely to be an issue. They're traumatized.

Showings have had to be postponed because sellers tested positive for COVID-19 and had to quarantine. Sellers and buyers worried that one or the other wouldn't wear masks or weren't vaccinated.

I'm required by law to comply with the state guidelines, which have changed over time and will likely change again if COVID numbers keep creeping up. Clients have gotten angry over those guidelines. I know they're venting. I think they need to.

There is a haze of anxiety in the air, and it's compounded by the usual stresses that come with a major life decision like moving.

I have seen more than one buyer back away from a house they love, convinced that something's wrong, that it's too good to be true, that somehow, someone is trying to pull something over on them, even after a thorough inspection.

I've seen sellers walk away from good, solid offers because they got upset at something a buyer or their agent did.

I've seen clients snap over something that didn't even make sense, then later tell me they're horrified at how they behaved. They didn't mean to be mean.

And I will admit that I'm wound a bit tight myself. But because I'm seeing it in so many other people, I'm trying to watch my behavior very, very carefully.

Our fuses are unusually short. We are not ourselves,

See **STRESSED**, continued on Page 15

"The cinematic worldbuilding and wonderfully nuanced characters set this well-rounded eco-thriller apart."

**THIS IS A WINNER."**

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW)

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A NOVEL OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
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# ELECTION 2021:

## CANDIDATES FOR FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL

### HERE'S WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY:

- **GEORGE COULTER:** See statement below
- **GARRET SITTS** declined to submit policy statement
- **HEATHER ROSS** declined to submit policy statement
- **JOHN O'CONNOR:** See statement at right



### GEORGE COULTER

My name is George Coulter and I live in the township of Franklin. My wife Jena and I have four children who attend Franklin Central School. Jena and I have been married for over nineteen years and have lived all over the U.S. I was born and raised in Kiel, Wisconsin where the farm fields are just as familiar there as they are here in Franklin. We moved to Franklin three years ago and honestly can't see ourselves leaving the area. It's reminiscent of "home" but has the east coast vibe that Jena and I really enjoy. Jena is a plant manager for a major food manufacturer, and I have been a stay-at-home dad for the last thirteen years. During the last year, we started an Airbnb which has turned out to be very successful. I primarily manage our Airbnb and maintain my responsibilities as an at-home parent.

I have served on two boards in the past. I was the Secretary of Giving Gardens of Indiana and a board member for Leo United Methodist Preschool. My work with Giving Gardens of Indiana included donating seedlings, planting, maintaining, harvesting and donating organic produce, working with local restaurants to collect food waste for compost, educating others on sustainable gardening, and grant writing. As a

School Board member, I approved budgets, special projects, and curriculum changes. I spent six and a half years on active duty in the US Air Force. My military experience included travel to four countries, logistical support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. I was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant six weeks after the birth of my first child. This began my journey as a stay-at-home dad. Higher education is very important to me. Chemistry and biology are a special interest, and I am using my G.I. bill to complete a bachelor's degree in biology.

If elected to the Town Council, my willingness to help and my dedication to our community will be a strong asset. I feel that our town council needs to be more transparent, proactive, and responsive to the needs of our community. I plan to go door to door and talk with people in our two major hamlets of Treadwell and Franklin. I want to hear what people prefer to remain the same and what they would like to change in order to improve their quality of life. I understand that council members receive a modest stipend of \$1,200 per year. If elected, I will donate that stipend to local charities here in our beautiful Town of Franklin.



### JOHN O'CONNOR

For those interested in an initial statement, please refer to my column in this summer's New Franklin Register [visit [www.franklinlocal.org/nfr-43/](http://www.franklinlocal.org/nfr-43/)]. Mainly, I feel that the Franklin Town Council needs diversity in points of view if it is going to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Town Council should recognize that local government can be a proactive and positive influence in making Franklin a vital and healthy community.

1. There is a persistent discussion as to how to develop small local businesses in Franklin. I believe that the village, especially, could be the engine for that project. The town should explore ways in which small independent businesses can be attracted to the area, while discouraging Dollar General types of business, which suck money out of the economy and discourage homegrown businesses. I worked on collecting signatures to overturn the dry laws in Franklin, which opened doors to restaurateurs wanting to do business in Franklin.

2. Transparency in the town government should not be an issue. There is nothing that the town does as official business that doesn't concern its citizens, and the minutes and reports of town meetings and its committees should be easily accessible to the public.

3. Whether the town opts out of new state marijuana legislation or not, it is unlikely that a dispensary would open in Franklin anytime soon. And the town does not have a say about the village opting out. Opting out would continue the perception that the town board is out of touch with the changing

culture around them, including this town. The town board should drop this idea and deliberate on more important matters of real concern to Franklin citizens.

4. As far as resident participation, we can't expect our citizens to come to every town meeting. But when there is a salient issue to come before the board, it behooves us to encourage participation. We can do better at that than the current town council does. I would also advocate having an annual or bi-annual open house for the people of Franklin to bring concerns to the board in the spirit of engagement rather than conflict. Such meetings should be well advertised for maximum participation and of course, should be hosted safely in the era of COVID.

\* \* \*

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



NYS ELECTION CALENDAR 2021

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

Actions in italics are by governmental officials.



The Franklin Town Council at work

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD

DATE	MOTION	VOTE				
		Taggart	Bruno	Grant	Sitts	Smith
4/06/21	Accept financial audits of town and justice court for 2020.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4/06/21	Accept bid by Peckham Industries Inc. for calcium chloride at 0.90 per gallon.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4/06/21	Accept bid by Cobleskill Stone Products Inc. for stone trucking at \$7.90 per ton.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4/06/21	Accept bid by Mirabito Energy Product for heating oil, diesel oil, & 60/40 blend at fixed price.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4/06/21	Accept bid by Robert Green for 2020 Dodge 550 diesel pickup with SS box at \$73,538.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4/06/21	Increase wage of Alec Elderkin to union rate retroactive to January 1, 2021.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4/06/21	Go into executive session to discuss personnel issues.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5/04/21	Accept financial report for Franklin Kellogg Trust through April 27, 2021.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5/04/21	List with Auctions International sale of the bridge parts on town property behind sheds.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5/04/21	Go into executive session to discuss continuing to list surplus property with Carol Greene.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6/01/21	Accept from New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal renewal of policy for \$30,327.	Y	Y	a	Y	Y
7/06/21	Go into executive session to discuss sale of surplus property behind sheds.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8/03/21	Go into executive session to discuss sale of surplus property behind sheds	Y	Y	Y	a	Y
9/07/21	Accept bid by Steven J Roberts Surveying for survey of surplus property for \$2,900.	Y	Y	Y	Y	a
9/07/21	Accept offer of \$100,000 from the Dalrymples for surplus property behind sheds.	Y	Y	Y	Y	a
9/07/21	Set public hearing on October 5 <sup>th</sup> for local law to prohibit marijuana stores in town.	Y	Y	Y	Y	a
10/05/21	Request that county consider extending the low-speed zone on Chase Hill Road in Treadwell.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10/05/21	Set public hearing on November 3 <sup>rd</sup> for preliminary budget for 2022.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10/05/21	Accept tentative budget for 2022.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10/05/21	Set special meeting on October 19 <sup>th</sup> to vote for local law to prohibit marijuana stores in town.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10/05/21	Go into executive session to discuss tax certiorari lawsuit.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10/19/21	Pass Local Law 1-2021 to opt-out of sale and onsite consumption of recreational marijuana.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10/19/21	Accept negative declaration of major action under SEQR for Local Law 1-2021.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10/19/21	Go into executive session to discuss tax certiorari lawsuit.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Y Yes, N No, A Abstain, a absent Not included are routine motions to accept minutes, return after executive session, or adjourn meeting.

TENTATIVE TOWN TAXES ‘22

By Brian Brock

The tentative 2022 budget for the Town of Franklin would spend \$1.84 million. To partially finance this, the town board plans to raise \$1.26 million in property taxes from landowners, an increase of \$ 0.031 million (2.50%) over the 2021 budget. This increase in the levy would be just under the state-imposed soft cap, as usual.

Salaries of most town official (personal salary, PS) would increase, the first in two or more years: assessor Basile \$28,000 (+\$500), clerk/collector/registrar Johns \$17,025 (+\$250), code enforcement officer Jacobs \$15,000, councilmen \$1,250 (+\$50) each, dog control officer Constable \$1,800 (+\$300), finance director Warner \$13,000 (+\$250), Justice Arndt \$6,500, superintendent of highways Laing \$52,000 (+\$4,000), and supervisor Taggart \$15,900. (Taggart’s salary is \$3,800 (24%) from the town and \$12,100 (76%) from the county.) Total of salaries for town officials would be \$117,350 with an increase of \$6,100. Benefits would increase \$5,485 to \$38,245.

Capital expenses (aka contrac-

tual expenditures or CE) for government (General A and B accounts) would decrease \$9,000: buildings \$15,000 (-\$8,500), director of finance \$3,500 (+\$1,000), dog control \$1,800 (-\$1,000), elections \$5,000 (+\$1,000), engineering \$5,000 (-\$2,000), and superintendent of highways \$1,500 (+\$500).

For highway department, employee pay would stay the same at \$350,000 and benefits would increase \$2,080 to \$165,915. Benefits are state retirement, social security, and medical insurance. Of the highway appropriations, labor (wages and benefits) would account for \$0.516 million or 36%.

Highway capital expenses would increase \$40,000: bridges \$20,000 (+\$20,000), equipment maintenance \$200,000, mowing \$17,000, road repairs \$440,000 (+\$10,000), snow removal \$80,000 (+\$10,000), and traffic signs \$1,000. Total is \$758,000.

Appropriations and revenues for the hamlet of Treadwell would be unchanged from 2021. Expenditures for water and light of \$22,950 would be partially offset by revenues of \$11,010. The balance of

\$11,940 would be a subsidy paid by all Franklin landowners.

With only these small changes, the 2022 budget would be similar to that of 2021, with the highway department receiving \$1.417 million (76.9%), all other town accounts (general) \$0.398 million (21.6%), and Treadwell light and water \$0.027 million (1.5%). The proportion of budget for the highways yet again rose almost a percent. If the current trend continues, then the highway department will consume all of the town budget by 2050.

These appropriations would be mostly paid by property taxes, but there are contributions from revenues and appropriated fund balances. Revenues would be up slightly from 2020 at \$0.390 million. Most of the revenue would be the \$0.250 million from New York State under the Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Improvement Program (CHIP) aid. The next largest would be \$0.046 million from rent of the land under the cellphone tower, \$0.020 million from the mortgage tax, and \$0.015 million from New York State per capita aid.

Appropriated balances are funds carried over from the previous years. These funds are allocated to provide operating cash and a buffer for unexpected costs. The total of \$0.188 million would be the same as last year. Over the last decade, fund balances have declined from \$0.262 million.

Annual [Financial] Update Documents (2015 to 2020) reveal funds that are not reported in the budget document, typically hundreds of thousand dollars more. In the most recent AUD, cash on hand was \$0.595 million whereas the total allocated fund balances reported in the 2021 budget was \$0.188 million – a third that amount. Funds in these eleven town bank accounts are not reported in the budget document. Neither is the cash in the Kellogg-Franklin Trust reported. This fall, Town of Franklin received \$98,500 from the federal American Recovery Plan Act. Likewise that money does not appear in the budget.

Annual financial reports for Franklin 2007 to 2008 and 2014 to 2020 can be read, downloaded, or printed at: <http://wwe2.osc.state.ny.us/transparency/LocalGov/LocalGovIntro.cfm> Our board has not audited town books from 2009 to 2013, nor has the supervisor filed AUDs for those years.

The levy for the Franklin and Treadwell fire departments, which is set by the departments themselves,

See TAXES, con’t on Page 17



music  
literature  
education

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

fine arts  
poetry  
holiday fun

# AT THE LIBRARY

## REVIEWING NEW BOOKS

### SOME KIDS LEFT BEHIND

By Lila Nordstrom

Reviewed by Wendy Barckhaus

It's a pleasure to review a book by an author with roots here in Franklin. Lila spent her childhood between her parents' apartment in Manhattan and their house in Franklin. Her parents, Carla Nordstrom and Andy Bobrow, are very active in the Franklin community.

This book is a memoir of her journey from



high school student to activist testifying before Congress. She also ends the book with resources on how to get started as an activist.

Lila was a student at Stuyvesant High School in lower Manhattan when the planes crashed into the nearby Twin Towers on 9/11. She describes the ensuing chaos and confusion. People fled with no clear knowledge of what was going on or which direction to go. Lila and her fellow students eventually made it back to their homes and were assigned to different schools while Stuyvesant was being cleaned up.

When Christie Todd Whitman and the EPA declared the air safe in lower Manhattan, students returned to Stuyvesant. We now know that we were lied to. The air was not safe. Lila reminds us that they were children being lied to by adults in power. The barges being loaded with debris from the site were right outside their windows.

Within a few months, students and teachers at Stuyvesant started coming down with illnesses related to exposure to the debris. One way for Lila to deal with her anxiety and frustration was to organize. She started Stuy-Health, an advocacy group for students who had been exposed to the destruction and the cleanup, as well as working with first responders in the struggle for the Victim Compensation Fund.

This is a fascinating read about how advocacy and perseverance can lead to results. Lila Nordstrom learned how to make her way through the worlds of politicians and our unfriendly health care system. This important book is available at our library.

### A POEM FOR THE SEASON: SPRING AND FALL

By Gerard Manley Hopkins ◀ 1844 ▶ 1889

- to a young child

Márgarét, áre you gríeving  
Over Goldengrove unleaving?  
Leáves, like the things of man, you  
With your fresh thoughts care for, can you?  
Ah! ás the heart grows older  
It will come to such sights colder  
By and by, nor spare a sigh  
Though worlds of wanwood leafmeal lie;  
And yet you will weep and know why.  
Now no matter, child, the name:  
Sórrów's springs áre the same.  
Nor mouth had, no nor mind, expressed  
What heart heard of, ghost guessed:  
It is the blight man was born for,  
It is Margaret you mourn for.

prosody. It is based on the number of stressed syllables in a line and permits an indeterminate number of unstressed syllables. In sprung rhythm, a foot may be composed of from one to four syllables.

This poem, written to a young girl, is one of his most beautiful. The poet wants Margaret to understand that the grief she feels in the fall will be felt again and again, but as she grows older, she will accept death as a necessary part of life, as we accept the loss of summer's flowers, knowing that spring will come again.

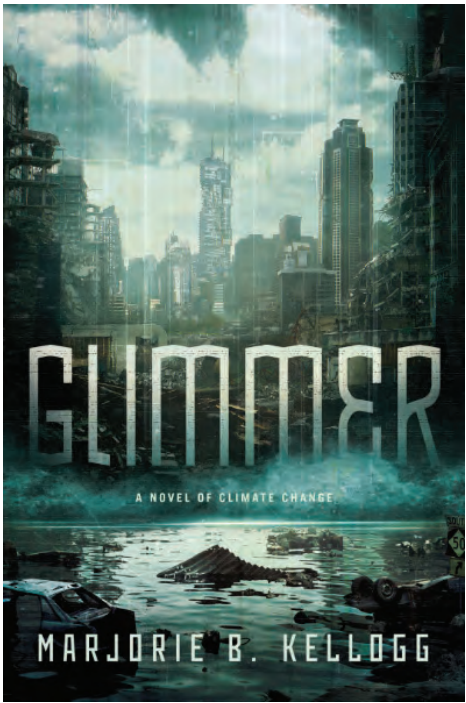
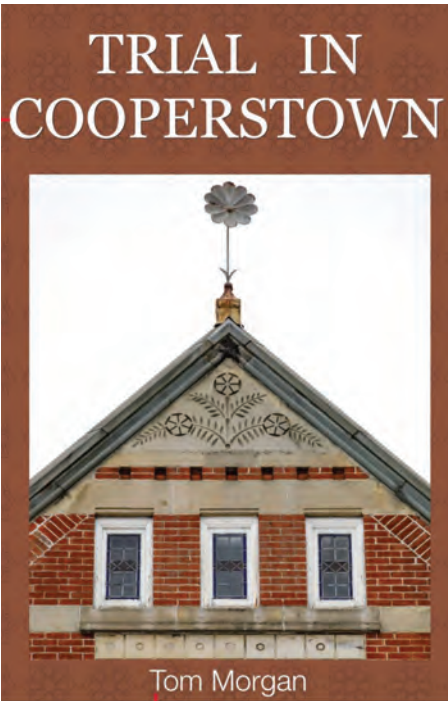
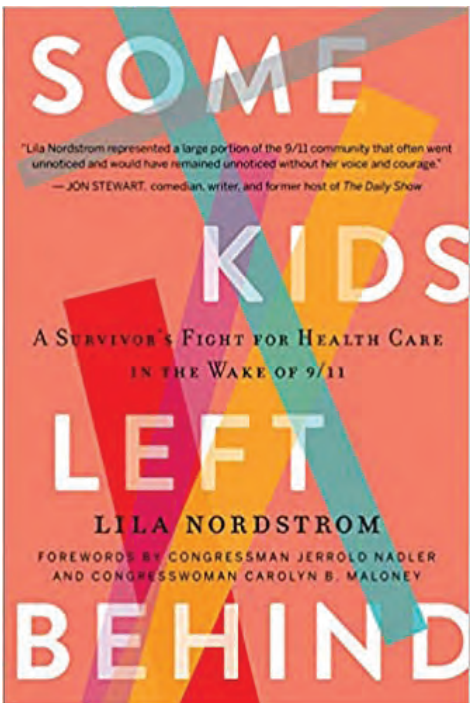
This poem is in the public domain.



IG: fdgANTIQUES

# OUR LOCAL AUTHORS HAVE BEEN BUSY OF LATE!

ALL OF THESE NEW BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FRANKLIN FREE LIBRARY





## GOOD NEWS, FILM FANS AND MOVIE MAVENS!

**The NFR welcomes Michael Paxton, a recent addition to Franklin. He will be writing for us about the cinema.**

Michael Paxton is an Oscar-nominated filmmaker who has written, produced and directed documentaries, narrative and animated films for over 35 years. He has worked for numerous studios, including Fox, Sony Imageworks, Walt Disney Feature Animation, Warner Bros., and MGM. In addition to authoring several books, he has taught a variety of film classes (history and production) at the Art Institute of California in Hollywood.

### NOT OUT FOR BLOOD: Horror Movies for Grownups

By Michael Paxton

I love Halloween. Mostly, because it is in line with some of my favorite things growing up: it's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown, Dark Shadows, Bewitched and FREE CANDY. Along with the other benchmarks of the season in upstate New York—crisp apples right off the trees, brilliant leaves and the scents of cinnamon and pumpkin spice everywhere—you would think that all this would point to a passion for horror movies.

But for me, the horror genre represented the darker side of the holiday. Perhaps because I'm a worrier, negative thoughts are easily magnified once introduced into my consciousness. The violence, gore, and vicious monsters—whether in nature (*Jaws*) or the supernatural (*Dracula*)—simply turned me off. So I was a lightweight when it came to horror movies.

When I was a kid, *Ab-*



*bot and Costello Meet Frankenstein* (Barton/Lance, 1948)—a classic—scared the bejesus out of me. As a teenager, I made the mistake of going with friends to see *Night of the Living Dead* (George Romero, 1968). I didn't sleep for six



months after that, requiring a light on at all times after dark. That movie, with its silent, flesh-eating zombies returning from the grave, turned me off cemeteries for most of my adult life. It took a spiritual awakening (and some serious analysis) to realize that cemeteries were not to be feared but revered, as peaceful places to pay respect to and reflect on lives lived.

In fact, that new understanding enabled me to appreciate the Ouleout Cemetery, which was one of the selling points of my moving from Los Angeles to Franklin. With all due respect to those that reside there, it's a great place to think and write. But the concept of the "walking dead" was so repulsive to me, it came to represent all that I loathed about horror movies. That is, until I became interested in film history, and watched the best films of the genre.

Most of the classic Universal monster movies had little on-screen violence or gore, but did have amazing cinematic artistry (dramatic lighting, innovative camera work, set design and unique musical scores), along with—most importantly—complex and compelling themes. The subjects ran the gamut from insanity, alienation, sexual deviance, obsession, and violence to sentimentalized monsters—misunderstood, maladjusted beasts who needed to be



controlled or destroyed. Movies like James Whale's *Frankenstein* (1934) and *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935) revealed in a stylized and dramatic way that messing with the natural order of things can have negative consequences. *Dracula* (Browning/Freund, 1931) tackled sexual repression and the role of power in relationships. Up to the 1930s, those films (and films like *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *Nosferatu*, and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*) came from respectable literature



and European art. Through the 1950s, the stylized and more "romanticized" images were replaced with contemporary places and characters. Current social and political issues took center stage instead of the previous fables and literary stories. But most of these films still had a point.

Unfortunately, from the 1960s to the present, the horror genre has taken on a more frantic, extreme tone; violence becomes more graphic and sex more ex-

plicit, the use of special effects—mostly in the service of blood and gore—is almost an end in itself, important or relatable themes be damned. Horror films are now a scary cinematic roller coaster ride at an amusement park with no substance. And the scarier, the better.

To paraphrase Seinfeld in a different context, "not that there's anything wrong with that." Like roller coasters, we can enjoy the "safe thrills" such movies offer us. Hitchcock called these "beneficial shocks." They ward off numbness—the repression of certain emotions—and give voice to our innermost fears. This "sensitization" offers a safe way to experience the things we would NOT want to actually experience in real life but are curious about. It provides a means of expression to things that are forbidden. The bad news is, we can be victims of "desensitization" when we are exposed to too many extremes of one thing (like graphic violence, murder and irrational behavior).

Nonetheless, I'm of the opinion that a movie needs to be more than an amusement park ride to really be art; it requires a point and a point of view, i.e., the theme of the story. So, if you're a film lover but don't appreciate what I call "violence porn"—like slasher movies about serial killers and/or supernatural monsters—I want to recommend two films you should see (or revisit if you saw them long ago): *Fright Night* (Tom Holland, 1985) and *The Birds* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1963).

Both use the horror genre's tropes to tell compelling stories with clear themes. Both are examples of combined genres; *Fright Night* mixes horror elements of the traditional vampire myth with comedy—specifically parody and satire—while *The Birds* combines suspense and psychological subtext, with the traditional "monster" character (embodied by those crazy birds). Both films' themes grapple with the topic of mature relationships, ones that opt for love over lust and honesty over manipulation. They each show how the protagonist has to grow in order to have an adult relationship with a romantic partner. These

films have something to say about the human condition by using the elements of horror as an art form.

A culture that exposes people to violence on a daily basis will be less sensitized to violence and gore, and will demand—



like any addict—stronger and more graphic violence in order to enjoy the "roller coaster ride." But horror movies can help burn off primitivism within a civilized society. Of course, the more uncivilized we become, the more horrific our horror movies will need to be. So, this Halloween, in between eating candy corn and Reese's Peanut Butter pumpkins, take a cinematic ride through the landscape of romantic vampires and



really angry birds to maybe learn a little more about the challenges of adult relationships and how to better navigate them.

All this without having to wear a mask or looking beyond your home entertainment system.

Enjoy, and Happy All Hallows' Eve!





## ROLL WITH IT!

By Leslie Noble

That was our 2021 slogan, given all the crazy and constantly changing factors that confronted our brave little theater as we endeavored to produce Franklin Stage Company's 25<sup>th</sup> season this summer.

The fact that we pulled it off during a period of ever-changing COVID protocols (due to the spread of the Delta variant) and in one of the wettest Julys on record is testament to the unrelenting devotion and resilience of our staff, our crack team of interns, the *Doll's House Part 2* cast and creative team, and all the visiting artists who travelled to Franklin to perform at Chapel Hall.

Struggling to produce theater at a time when so many are suffering loss and economic hardship was in itself a privilege. But in these hard times, the soul needs nurturing too, especially after a year of arts lockdown. When we finally hit the stage to welcome folks to our first performance, the burst of applause and hurrahs induced more than a few tears. It was this community of supporters that kept us going all through the



Kwaku Obeng with his drums

Photo by Evelyn Kinnear

pandemic, and here they were, sustaining us once again.

We opened the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend with a photo exhibit: "Franklin Stage Company and the Evolution of Chapel Hall," which charted the origins and transformations of our historic home, and featured photos from FSC's twenty-five-year production history. In case you missed it, this new exhibit will be on permanent display in our lobby.

African musicians Kwaku Obeng and Gino Sitson opened our performance series the following weekend with a masterful and crowd-pleasing show. With a break in the rain, we were able to hold Saturday's show on our outdoor stage—a perfect summer night of joyous music and

purple twilight. Next up was Doktor Kaboom in *Random Acts of Science*. Again, two out of three shows were moved inside due to rain,



Leslie Noble (left) and Oliver Wadsworth in *A Doll's House, Part 2*  
Photo by Russ Rowland

but those lucky enough to attend the single outdoor show were treated to a particularly explosive experiment involving a pinata and some dry ice. Easily the biggest laugh (and shock!)

of the season.

The next week we opened FSC's produced show, *A Doll's House Part 2*, a new comedy that picks up fifteen years after Ibsen's famous heroine slams the door on her stifling marriage. Because of the difficulty securing long-term housing for visiting actors, *A Doll's House, Part 2* featured two actors who already had housing in Franklin—FSC Artistic Directors, myself and Pat Buckley—in a cast of four that included two FSC favorites, Oliver Wadsworth and Laura Menzie. The show was scheduled to be on our

New Music to perform a concert version of a still-developing opera, *Libba: Here This Day*, which explored the life of blues legend, Elizabeth 'Libba' Cotten. Our final offering was Evan Zes in his hilarious one-man show, *Rent Control*, which chronicled his nightmarish tale of an Airbnb money-making scheme gone very wrong.

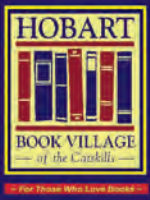
Even though our attendance was down to half of 2019's total, we were grateful that people actually came through all the uncertainty, fear, bad weather, and inconvenience. And happy that so many of those folks came early to dine and shop in Franklin once again.

Special thanks to Franklin Central School for lending us their lawn for our outdoor stage, to Phil Warish for his graphic arts genius, to John Czajkowski and LeMoyne College work study students Jimmy Kane and Evan True for helping to build the stage, to Scott Holdredge for his design and technical wizardry, to Mike Hyzer for keeping the grass cut, and to Brian Brock for keeping his keen eye on all things Chapel Hall.

And most of all, thanks to all of you who came out to see us this summer and ROLLED WITH IT!

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BRIGHT HILL: OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2021

October 14, 7 p.m. - Word Thursdays  
Jay Rogoff and Joellen Kwiatek (Zoom & Facebook Live)

October 28, 7 p.m. - Word Thursdays  
Carolyn Wright and Lynn Levin (Zoom & Facebook Live)

November 11, 7 p.m. - Word Thursdays  
Elizabeth Powell and Mary Kay Rummel (Zoom & Facebook Live)

November 18, 7 p.m. - Word Thursdays  
Jen Karetnick and Jennifer K. Sweeney (Zoom & Facebook Live)

**The Word and Image Gallery Exhibits:**  
Ekfrastic Poetry by Bright Hill Poets | iPhone Art Photo Exhibit by Bright Hill Photographers  
A virtual exhibit curated by Beatrice Georgalidis & Frangesco Piazzola

**The Experiential Learning Program**  
An ongoing educational training program at Bright Hill

**Seeing Things 6 --** Poetry workshop with Robert Bensen  
Random Acts of Kindness and the Kindness Project #brighthillkindnessproject

For our schedule, please visit  
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Or find us on Facebook or Instagram!  
To learn more about these and other Bright Hill programs please visit  
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## TRIAL IN COOPERSTOWN

Staff Report

Cooperstown is the setting of a new book by columnist and radio commentator Tom Morgan. Titled *Trial in Cooperstown*, it delivers an intimate account of a manslaughter trial that took place several years ago. With it, Morgan invites readers to sit in judgement of our trial by jury system.

Timothy Beckingham was accused of beating his wife to death. The county district attorney prosecuted. A legendary Albany attorney defended. (Local lawyers came to watch him in action.) Morgan was nearly selected for the jury and decided to attend the entire trial. He includes transcripts of what transpired in court as well as in the judge's chambers.

Retired New York State Supreme Court Justice Virginia Yancy says Morgan offers compelling insights into the criminal judicial system and the marvels of our exceptional jury system. But, she asks, would our verdict been the same as theirs?

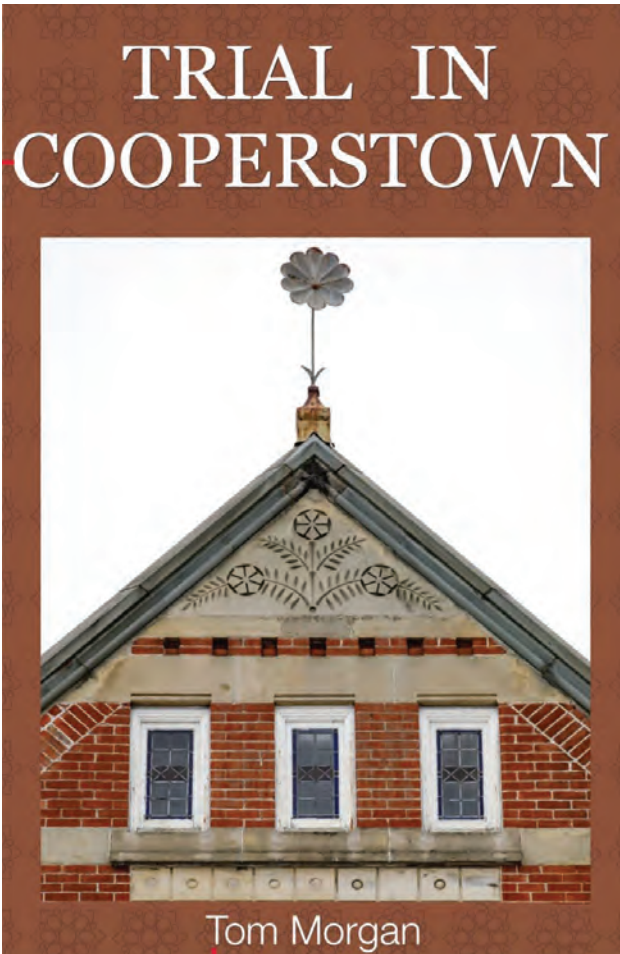
Cooperstown lawyer and CPA, Bob Schlather, says "Though I have never tried a case or served on a jury...I still found the narrative captivating and suspenseful. This book is quite timely given the just concluded Robinson murder trial."

The trial saw prominent pathologists square off against each other, as often happens in manslaughter trials. One pathologist swears the victim died one way. The other swears he or she perished another way. The prosecutor ham-

mers away at the accused's story and orders up damning witnesses. The defending attorney challenges or needles most of them, filling the air with emotional outbursts.

"Duels like this are exciting but they are ingredients of most such trials," Morgan reminds us. "Ironically, these are the very reasons why the account makes for good reading."

His point is that by their nature, trials draw



our interest. "They deal with tragedy and the suspense of the verdict. The jury trial is one of our most cherished institutions. It is the envy of millions around the world, in countries that have no such trials. We trust that each of our trials will be conducted fairly for all parties. In the end, I ask readers to decide if the players in this trial did their jobs properly - lawyers, judge and jury."

"The American jury trial is on trial in this book and its readers compose the jury," Morgan continues. "I try to bring them as close to the proceedings as possible."

The book includes Morgan's hour-by-hour ruminations on everything from procedures and witnesses to the beauty of the court's design. Readers tour the famous village (Morgan calls it one of America's favorite hometowns.) and visit its tiny diner. They eavesdrop on his conversations with the lawyers, pathologists, Tim Beckingham's parents and brother, Tim's wife's siblings, the family's pastor and others in the gallery. They learn about the court house's most famous trial, of murderess Eva Coo in the 1930's. Her circus of a trial attracted national news coverage and crowds of spectators.

This is Morgan's third book. Putnam's published his *Money Money Money* several years ago. His novel *The Last Columnist* was published last year. His next book, *Ales, Tales, & Ghosts at the Old Empire Hotel* will be out later this year. Proceeds from *Trial in Cooperstown* will go to the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown. The book is available at local bookstores and on Amazon. For further information, visit [www.tomasinmorgan.com](http://www.tomasinmorgan.com).

### STRESSED, con't from Page 9

or at least our best selves, right now.

You may have noticed it, too. I saw a woman pull up next to a car in a parking lot and chew out a group of people who were clearly from out of town. They had their doors open. What she might once have muttered under her breath, she yelled.

"Other people would like to park here, too!" She was really angry.

Fortunately, they apologized, and the situation didn't escalate. But it could have. And then what?

The old push and pull of newcomers and oldtimers has played out on social media here in Franklin, with people stunned at how quickly what they thought was an innocent remark turned into an invitation to an online firefight.

People, in general, are angry. And usually not truly

angry at what they say they are angry about. They're just so angry and tense it's spilling out everywhere and onto everyone. The unspoken agreement that we will be civil to one another seems to not be holding.

Other realtors are seeing it, too. They say more clients are difficult, and sometimes even unreasonable.

"I've never in my life had someone say they hate me," one longtime agent

said. "I couldn't even believe it!"

State and national realtor organizations are beginning to offer courses in mindfulness, meditation, and other strategies to combat anxiety and stress – an unspoken acknowledgement of the dark side of the real estate boom – it's accompanied by tension.

Anger and fear are closely linked. So it shouldn't surprise us that,

in a time when so much in our world seems uncertain and dangerous, people respond with anger.

But maybe we'd all feel a lot better if we just paused, took a deep breath, and thought about that anger before we expressed it. In a stressful time, it's more important than ever to be kind to one another.



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TRAIL, con't from Page 7

can be working on an activity while their children play, and still be able to safely observe them. For older individuals or those with limited mobility, the walking trail is gently sloped, has a smooth surface to walk on and is handicap accessible. Sidney Center resident, Kaiko Howard, expressed her appreciation of the new park features, "I took

my children there and we enjoyed all of the activity stations – simple but really made me sweat (a healthy one)! The [park] has turned into a pleasant one!" SCIG would like to encourage everyone in Sidney Center and the surrounding area to come see the progress at the park and take advantage of the new additions.

SCIG will also be hosting an event in the spring to welcome everyone to the restored park and enjoy all that it has to offer. Please check our Facebook page for more information. SCIG and its members are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who have graciously donated or offered assistance to seeing this project realized.

GARY, continued from Page 1

But upstate offered things the city could not.

"One thing you learn about living in the city, despite all the great outdoor spaces there, is that you live a very interior life," Graham explained. "I worked so many years in basements, behind other spaces, because that's what you can afford. So, when we moved to Andes, I was suddenly working in light, and had access to the outdoors. Life up here, it revolves more around the outdoors."

And outside, surrounded by scenery and history, Gary Graham has been feeding his inner storyteller. That storyteller has informed the fashions he has created here.

"What I love about Franklin is that each building has a history, and I've tried to weave the history of the building into the collection and into my store. In the beginning I was inspired by a photo of three women that's on display in the community museum. And when I first moved here, I wanted to build on that story. That's what I do. I explore the cemetery, and I make up stories about the names I see. Just being able to go outdoors and shoot – that's had a big influence on me and the way I think about clothing. And it's also about having more time."

At first, Graham said he was just making enough dresses to pay his bills every month. That certainly offered a kind of freedom he had not had when his business was in New York City.



A model in front of the Edgerton gravestone  
Photo by Gary Graham

"The fewer responsibilities you have in terms of employees, the more freedom you have to live in your head, which being upstate allows me to do." He paused. "Unless you turn into a multi-million-

dollar corporation."

Asked if he wanted that, he laughed. "I really don't know."

That kind of growth is within sight since Graham's participation in "Making the Cut." His impeccable tailoring and unique vision won him a second-place finish, but not before judge Jeremy Scott, creative director of Moschino, made an impassioned speech supporting Graham for the win, calling



Gary Graham works with a model on "Making the Cut." Photo by Chelsea Bada

him a "true artist" and "the future of fashion."

"It's an interesting moment," Graham said of the changes that have occurred since the show aired. "I went into the competition knowing I wanted to have this narrative-driven shopping experience located up here, which has involved a lot of filmmaking and history, so that's still my mission. But what kind of business model do I create around it, and what is the scale?"

Thanks to his television success, Graham now has his own shop on Amazon. And not only can you find his fashions, but you can find sweatshirts, tops, and even cellphone cases inspired by his designs.

Another important local asset for a storytelling fashion designer is Rabbit Goody's Thistle Hill Weavers in Cherry Valley. She is one of the world's foremost experts on historic fabrics, and her small Otsego County mill produces historic textiles for museums, historic sites and films. And for GaryGraham422.

"I didn't have an in with her," he said. "I didn't know her, and I didn't know anyone who knew her."

So, despite money being tight, he bought as much of her most expensive fabrics as he could at her annual holiday sale. And he

designed clothes with them. And gradually, a relationship began.

"I slowly wormed my way in, and now we're friends and we love each other. Fabric can take up to six months to make, so it's very different from the way fashion usually works. You have to be flexible in terms of your conceits and your esthetic decisions. But it's amazing, being there at the origin of the cloth."

But he needs the right help to transform that cloth into the clothing he envisions. Graham says the biggest obstacle to running his business upstate is finding skilled labor.

"For a fashion company, there's really very specialized, skilled labor. There aren't many, or even any people who sew professionally up here. I've gone to refugee centers in Utica and Buffalo. You have to be prepared for relocation for your employees. You have to be able to attract talent and have places for them to live. And how does that affect the community?"

Other businesses may be embracing remote work, but Graham says his business just can't work that way.

"I don't think you can be a manufacturer remotely if you want to create locally," he explained. "I mean right now I'm manufactur-

ing in Peru and in China, but the core of my company will always be where my business is."

Interestingly, the physical store, despite drawing an increasing number of visitors immediately after the show, is not, and never has been, a major part of Graham's retail income.

"Only two percent of my business comes from my store," he said. "That hasn't changed. There's a huge disconnect between the brick-and-mortar and the digital."

The retail space is not open during the week, but that does not mean it's quiet. During the week, Graham and his staff are busy on two floors, and things are constantly coming and going. But all that activity is hidden from the street.

"I don't think people around here understood what I'm doing – I mean maybe since the show they do a bit more, but there aren't many people up here doing this. I am a global company in a very small town. We ship all over the world. But people just see me walking the dog."

In the digital world, and in the world of fashion, Gary Graham's star is ascending.

"I have over fifty thousand followers now. I get thousands of direct messages a day. But with all that support and love, I still have the same plan, to build this narrative-driven shopping experience. With the Amazon Store, you can see the Marion film, that was done entirely in Delaware County, and it all networks with the YouTube channel and my own website. But now, I have the opportunity to reach much wider and farther."

It is clearly a path to business success. And for Graham, that also means a sense of personal achievement.

"For me, there's no difference between personal and business success. My work is personal. If I'm traveling the world, meeting all these makers, then bringing it back to Franklin, that, to me, would be a really great lifestyle."

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

research, develop and improve agriculture and modern farming technologies. This created educational institutions such as Cornell University, California Poly Tech, Texas A&M, Virginia Tech and Wisconsin State in Madison, to name a few, and in many states laid the foundation for state university systems.

At first, other than farm journals and agricultural textbooks, most of this research was slow to reach farmers. In 1911, the Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, the Lackawanna Railroad and the United States Department of Agriculture partnered to create the Farm Bureau. For the yearly membership fee of a nickel, farmers received a monthly newsletter highlighting recent advances in agricultural production and technology. John Baron, a Cornell researcher, was hired as a field agent to write the newsletter and educate farmers.

Knowing that seeing is believing, John Baron traveled Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, and Tioga Counties to help volunteer farmers put the research to use improving their farms. Tours brought other farmers to the test farms to see the

latest research applied on site and discuss the benefits and the drawbacks. Typical topics included record keeping (accounting and production records), animal care and breeding (vaccinations and mating selections), crop production (soil health, seed selection and contour plowing to prevent erosion), machinery (the introduction of tractors to the area), and building construction for livestock (ventilation and concrete floors). This program grew rapidly across New York and into other states. It was so successful that in 1919, Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act



Duane Martin with U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado

to replicate this program under a new name, Cooperative Extension Service, in all fifty states, to be administered by each state's land grant university. Cooperative Extension is the world's oldest continuing education program.

Cooperative Extension Services continue to

use farm tours to highlight current and new practices in the farm community. Farmers get to hear from the farm hosts about improvements they made and problems they faced or that continue to challenge them. These events are part educational and part social



Duane Martin's Uncle Lloyd planting corn - Martin family photo

for farmers, and in recent years have become educational events about agriculture for non-farmers and political leaders as well.

In Delaware County, the dairy tours have visited hundreds of farms, covering a variety of themes such as barn construction, silage harvesting, crop methods, barn efficiency, livestock care and feeding, and cattle breeds. One of this year's highlights was studying cover crops on the Slater Farm in Franklin.

Cover crops are planted after main crops such as corn or soybeans are

harvested. They help prevent soil erosion from wind and water events (rain and snow). As an additional benefit, cover crops such as rye or winter wheat can be harvested in early summer or plowed in as organic fertilizer before spring planting. These crops also

benefit the environment by taking up excessive nutrients that would otherwise run off into the water supply, as well as helping with climate change by sequestering carbon. In the fall, most farmers use no-till seeders to plant these crops, which helps sequester carbon in the ground. Over a quarter of the county's farms use some form of these planting practices. This important stewardship work by Delaware County farmers and Cooperative Extension Service was highlighted in a presentation to New York State leg-

islators by the Watershed Agricultural Council and at a conference on climate change by New York State Agricultural Commissioner Richard Ball.

Here's the downside: every Delaware County farmer is struggling with challenges in weather, labor shortages, shortages in critical production materials such as livestock medication and vaccines, machinery and parts, personal protective equipment such as milking gloves, seeds and even commercial fertilizer, low commodity prices and growing fuel and energy costs. As Delaware County Farm Bureau president, I have been working with local health-care professionals to study the growth of depression within our local farming community. Farmers have the highest suicide rate, right behind veterans and military personnel.

So please, when you see a farmer or deal with farmer, keep this in mind and give them a break. They are being pushed to the max.

*Duane Martin is president of the Delaware County Farm Bureau and a twelfth-generation dairy farmer at Martymoo Farm in South Kortright.*

## BOBBY SHARP CLASSWORKS

**TAXES, con't from Page 11**

was not known at the time of the budget workshop. Levy for 2021 was \$0.237 million. While this levy is collected through the town tax billing, it is not part of the town budget.

This tentative budget was considered during the annual budget workshop at the meeting of the board on October 5th. Beforehand, the tentative budget was prepared by supervisor Taggart (financial officer) in consultation with director of finances Warner (assistant financial officer). At the workshop, Mr. Warner read only the few changes from the 2021 budget. (If you forgot to bring your copy of last year's budget, then you could not follow along.) After brief remarks by the supervisor, the board approved his tentative budget without discussion. Thereby, it became our preliminary budget.

Copies of the budget

are available from the town clerk. A public hearing on the preliminary Town of Franklin Budget 2022 will be held Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November at 7 p.m. in the town hall.

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

**REMINDER:**

As of October 24th, you are required to dial the full 10-digit phone number.

The FCC says that this is necessary in preparation for when the 988 number for the suicide prevention hotline goes into effect nationwide next year. While there is no area code 988, there are many such exchanges. There are no #11 number left to assign to this hotline.

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371188A1.ocx>

**RESTORE, continued from Page 1**

the fountain back to the maker, the J.W. Fiske Company of New York City. The Fiske Company, a prominent design firm and ironworks, also made a "sister" fountain which was displayed at the 1893 World's



The fountain in earlier days

Fair in Chicago. That fountain now resides in St. Joseph, Michigan.

The Fiske Company went out of business in the 1990s. But luckily, many of the original molds were purchased by the Robinson Iron Corporation in Alabama. They were more than happy to help the Cemetery Board put together a plan for restoration using the original molds.

According to McCormack, the original fountain had four cast iron urns and four gargoyles around the base, with two cherubs on the second level holding up the figure of a woman on the top of the fountain. The missing urns and gargoyles will be replaced, as will the statue of the woman. But the cherubs would weigh too much to be put back on the upper base. The statues of the muses Hope and Constance, set to either side of the central plinth, will be refurbished and returned to where they belong.

This is an ambitious project, but sorely needed. The total cost is estimated at \$75,000, which will need to be raised through donations from all of us who enjoy this historic treasure.

Please send your donations to the Ouleout Valley Cemetery, P.O. Box 62, Franklin, NY 13775 or visit our web page at [OuleoutValleyCemetery.org](http://OuleoutValleyCemetery.org) to donate online.



REDUX, con't from Page 1

cuss the issue. Instead, discussion took place in private during the two weeks before a special meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, scheduled solely for a vote on this local law.

Their goal to perpetuate this prohibition on sales may not be the end of the matter. At any time, our board can reverse itself and vote to opt-in. More directly, the townspeople may take the decision into their own hands, as this local law is susceptible to a *permissive referendum*, provided for under Municipal Home Rule Law Act 3, Section 24.

This means that if a petition with the signatures of at least 108 voters is submitted to our town clerk within forty-five days after the vote (i.e. early December), then this question will be put on the ballot for November 2022. In addition, a local law to opt-out will be suspended unless and until it is confirmed by the people's vote next year.

In November of 2019, the prohibition on the sale of beer and wine in Franklin restaurants was overturned through such a popular vote. That referendum on question two of the Alcohol Beverage Control Law garnered almost 300 signatures to get on the ballot – almost three times as many as needed for one for the marijuana prohibition law. The alcohol prohibition was overturned by a 2:1 margin. Apparently, the townspeople do not like when government tells them how they may relax and where they may spend their money.

Even if it stands, this local law would apply only to the town *outside of the village*. As with the town, the village board and villagers get to decide on sales within their borders. The mayor and trustees have solicited opinions. At the time of this writing, the village board has taken no action, but research apparently suggests that many

towns in the area do not intend to opt out. Potential tax revenues from marijuana sales are a powerful incentive.


The MRTA permits sales after April 1, 2022. However, before marijuana may be sold, state regulations must be written. The Cannabis Control Board, which is assigned this task, first met October 5<sup>th</sup>. Its Office of Cannabis Management is under the New York State Liquor Authority. CCB has yet to set the fee for a license to sell recreational marijuana. It is unlikely to be close to that for the dispensing of medical

marijuana, which is \$200,000. A license for the sale of wine is \$2,000, renewable every three years.

If town and village boards do not opt-out, then they may pass reasonable regulations concerning the time, place, and manner of sales. However, municipalities may not prohibit the growth of marijuana nor its use by adults on private property, but smoking marijuana is prohibited wherever the smoking of tobacco is prohibited.


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RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS	SALE	SELLER	BUYER
3/2/21	1480 Leland Hull Rd [2]	20.00	Mfg Housing	71,200	215,000	Wenke, Thomas A	Mullane, Terrence
3/12/21	Campbell Estates Rd	6.20	Rural Vac<10	16,000	25,500	Raji, Hadi	Docker, Nicola
3/15/21	4030 E Handsome Bk Rd	3.02	1 Family Res	102,000	50,856	Cagrici, Abbas	Kaymak, Enise [R]
3/19/21	1094 Bowers Rd [2]	28.48	Rural Res&Ag	231,000	232,000	Olmstead, Carol Linda	Borntrager, Carl C
3/23/21	Ed Klug Rd	5.00	Rural Vac<10	16,000	14,000	Noble, Scott A	Kiley, Terry R
4/12/21	139 Center St	0.45	1 Family Res	103,000	106,000	Wynne, Faith	Ott, Gene [R]
5/10/21	196 Blue School Rd	42.89	Mfg Housing	62,000	80,500	Jones, Stephen	Klass, Elliott
5/21/21	Tara Ln	32.32	Rural Vac>10	47,000	40,000	Amato, Salvatore	Polenz, Richard
5/26/21	2771 Carey Rd	1.00	Mfg Housing	36,000	27,000	Weed, Daniel W	Seymour, Kelly C
5/28/21	3204 Freer Hollow Rd	5.97	1 Family Res	140,000	247,000	Rosalbo, Stephen J	McKay, Kevin
6/4/21	689 Main St	0.25	2 Family Res	84,000	124,950	Partridge, Dennis J	Larson, Michael K
6/15/21	327 Ed Klug Rd	56.18	Mfg Housing	110,000	110,000	Whitefleet, Wayne	Mazza, Salvatore
6/17/21	5180 County Hwy 14	9.60	1 Family Res	225,000	350,000	Coulter, Murray Keedick	Morgera, Giancarlo
6/24/21	Row Pomeroy Rd	13.00	Vac w/Imprv	26,000	39,000	Wallace, Michael S	Samuels, David J
6/24/21	Case Hill Rd	34.00	Rural Vac>10	51,000	109,000	Wallace, Michael S	Samuels, David J
6/25/21	9635 State Hwy 357 [2]	4.00	1 Family Res	290,000	590,000	McNaughton, John	Batson, Mathew A III
6/26/21	1278 Rich Rd [2]	7.40	Mfg Housing	42,000	20,000	Zimmerer, Heinrich	Sitts, Ralph
6/28/21	1780 Douglas Hall Rd [2]	56.90	Rural Res	142,000	176,000	Zukaitis Family Trust,	Zukaitis, Daniel J [R]
6/30/21	Snake Hill Rd	5.70	Rural Vac<10	17,000	32,500	Mcgregor, Douglas J	Butoi-Teodorescu, Bogdan
7/1/21	410 Van Tassell Rd	3.20	1 Family Res	97,000	115,000	Wheelhouse, Robert K.K.	Beach, Dale M
7/13/21	5094 County Hwy 14 [S]	2.65	1 Family Res	116,000	225,000	Lannert, Jason	Morgan, George B
7/15/21	2177 Pomeroy Rd	20.00	Rural Res	360,000	367,000	Drinan, John V	Triantafilidis, Konstantinos
7/19/21	Mackey Rd	8.37	Rural Vac<10	25,000	45,000	Gabster Associates	Costanza, John
7/19/21	4774 E Handsome Bk Rd	96.80	Rural Res&Ag	550,000	725,000	Couch, Jane A	Gendron, Guy A
7/26/21	1188 Chamberlain Hill Rd	33.65	Rural Res	-	235,000	Perry, George	Wenk, Michael D
7/27/21	Carey Rd	2.80	Rural Vac<10	12,000	15,000	Zurn, Gary Lee	981 Carey Road LLC
7/28/21	1665 Tupper Hill Rd	1.00	1 Family Res	87,000	277,250	Flavell, George	Tarpey, Benjamin
7/29/21	9626 County Hwy 21	90.00	Other Stock	300,000	345,000	Smith, Linda	Tippett, Jacob Hawk
7/30/21	State Highway 28 S	0.74	Rural Vac<10	2,000	2,000	Constitution Pipeline Co.	Elia, Matthew
7/30/21	1173 Douglas Hall Rd[S]	221.00	Field Crops	580,000	767,500	Hall, Michael J	Natoli, Frank
7/30/21	438 Main St	0.46	Att Row Bldg	85,000	202,000	Mulroy, Timothy A	Landmark Pres. Guild
7/30/21	Main St	0.06	Att Row Bldg	70,000	130,000	Rochmis, Neil	Landmark Pres. Guild
8/2/21	Oak Hill Rd	151.60	Rural Vac>10	214,000	250,000	Berritto Enterprises LLC,	Pakland Camp LLC
8/3/21	1959 Palmer Hill Rd	7.60	1 Family Res	78,000	124,900	Bedford, Harold R	Cazes, Annabelle
8/4/21	1365 Sherman Hill Rd	121.90	Rural Res	550,000	500,000	Sorbara, Pasquale	LaFamiglia Realty LLC
8/5/21	8371 County Hwy 16	1.88	1 Family Res	150,000	236,000	Gurka, Leslie J	Hall, Michael
8/12/21	325 Center St	0.44	1 Family Res	184,000	265,000	Stickerling, George	Black, Elliot Travis
8/25/21	Tara Ln	7.00	Vac w/Imprv	24,000	26,000	Kelly, Patrick	Moore, Bryan
8/30/21	4537 County Hwy 14	0.27	1 Family Res	97,000	50,000	Mooney, David W	Mooney, Sean D [R]
8/31/21	235 Center St [S]	0.50	1 Family Res	170,000	345,000	Cloonan, John F	Haberman, Elizabeth Ann
9/1/21	Ed Klug Rd	10.27	Mfg Housing	45,000	44,000	Piacente, Nina Marie	Krukowski, Mark
9/2/21	12501 County Hwy 21	1.40	1 Family Res	160,000	145,000	Taylor, Kenneth A	Klein, Donald
9/8/21	Merrickville Rd	7.00	Vac w/Imprv	56,000	9,500	Herklotz,	Fairbairn, Joseph [R]

[S] Substantial Changes

[2] Two Parcels

[R] Relatives



DO IT, con't from Page 3

dogged my steps with her white glove, ready to pick up any speck of dust. Her husband led me to his library for fifteen minutes every day. He wanted me to learn about music as diverse as the Welsh National Choir and the Brandenburg Concertos.

They gave more. On my weekly day off, I sat with them at their grand dining room table for lunch. I prepared those gourmet meals using the Cordon Bleu cookery course they had bought me. They taught me when and how to use all those forks and knives and spoons, and how to eat strange foods, such as what Mrs. G called “alligator pears.” Now I call them avocados. And I know how to do more with them than guacamole. Sometimes my knees shook under the table trying to do everything just right.

As a high school senior, my English teacher persuaded me to write an article which landed a scholarship at a journalism course. I was terrified. Yet somehow, I finished that course thinking I could be God’s gift to journalism. I took a series of jobs when women couldn’t be journalists, only secretaries, nurses, or teachers. I became a sports reporter while in college, then a radio news director and advertising sales-

woman at a local station. By selling ads for a group of weekly newspapers, I became a reporter/editor.

Want to know scary? A girl who couldn’t even dribble a ball writing about soccer and basketball? Going into rooms filled with cigar smoke, politics, and men who sometimes leered? I did it anyway.

Next, with the naivete of an under-20, I emigrated to New Zealand, where I became a reporter for the morning paper in the capital, Wellington. There were two other women in the newsroom: the women’s page editor and a woman who never saw the light of day since she worked overnight as a sub-editor. Getting a “round” or a beat was for men. So I became what no man would – the energy reporter. That was 1973 – the year of the oil crisis. Good fortune again. I was in the right place at the right time.

After all of those front page leads, I landed a job as a radio/TV reporter at the NZBC. Great tales attached to both jobs. Then on to London. By age twenty-three, I was producing the news and current affairs show which boasted the largest audience in Europe.

Lured back to the U.S. by the most persuasive man I ever met – my husband of thirty-five years – I

became a news producer at 30 Rock, NBC. Scary too. Would I be good enough?

My final career, I thought. Then another piece of good fortune. Lured back to Otsego County by that persuasive man, we built one of the largest investment advisory practices in the country. One of three top teams in America. We advised foreign governments’ social security funds and thousands of individuals.

During those thirty years, I became a Girl Scout Woman of Distinction and a Maker – one of a select group of women who “make things happen” along with women like Melinda Gates and Hillary Clinton. Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year. Part of the Barron’s Hall of Fame Advisors. And I spoke at the United Nations in the room where the General Assembly meets. Where they have all of those headpieces that translate to your language.

When my interviewer asked the audience for questions, the first one was ... how did you do all of this? What gave you the courage?

The answer: I have no courage. I have been afraid of everything I have ever done. But I went ahead and did it anyway.

THE PANDEMIC - YEAR II

By Brian Brock

Last March, Delaware County entered a second year in the pandemic. By then, the second wave of infections that had stretched over the holidays was merging into a third springtime wave driven by the Alpha variant.

As people vaxxed-up and the summer warmed, the third wave cooled down. By late June into early July (weeks #67 to #70), local viral testing was finding only a few positives each week, much like last summer.

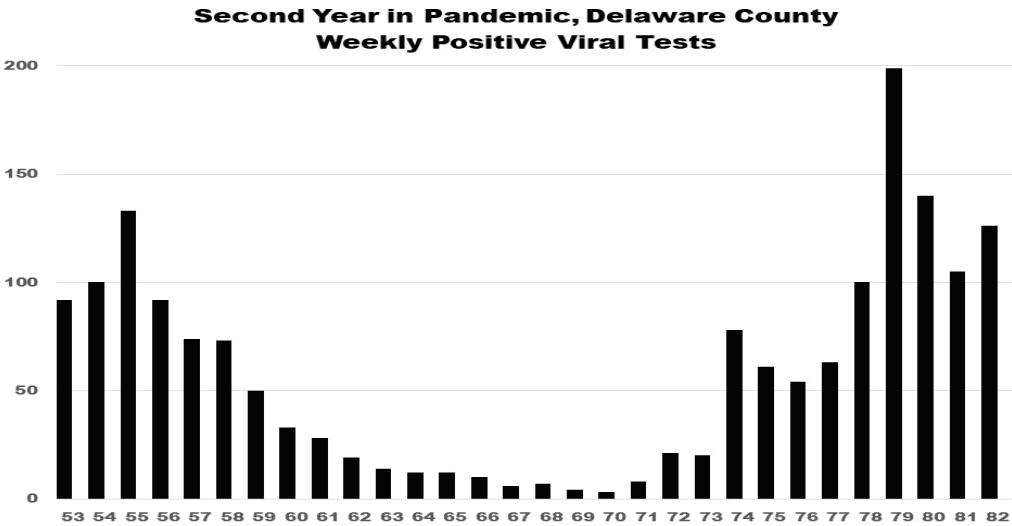
This did not last. Soon the weekly numbers of positive tests in Delaware County began trending upward again. The Alpha variant of SARS-CoV-2 was being replaced by the more-

transmissible Delta. It is now responsible for over ninety-nine percent of new cases in New York.

Delta found fertile ground here due to the small percentage of county residents who are vaccinated. Less than half of county residents are fully vaccinated, even though the general population of New York is among the ten states with the highest rate of vaccinations. If Delaware County were a state, it would be among the ten with the lowest rate.

By mid-September (week #79), weekly positives had climbed to 199, the highest in the year and a half of the COVID pandemic. Since then, the rate of infections is down a bit but hovers between 100 and 150. Winter is coming. Last year, a wave of infections started to rise in October and lasted until spring.

What will this winter bring?



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PANDEMIC POEM

By R.H.Ackerman

So many problems with the visible  
And now the invisible  
Turning the tables  
Emerging as death and misfortune  
As if “Fate, like the phases of the moon,”  
Reaches forward  
From the Middle Ages  
To remind us of our vulnerability  
Seizing what is dear  
In flesh and in sustenance  
From the lowly and the privileged  
Yet the order is for most retained  
And those who fall from a lower perch  
Must climb back from a deeper trench





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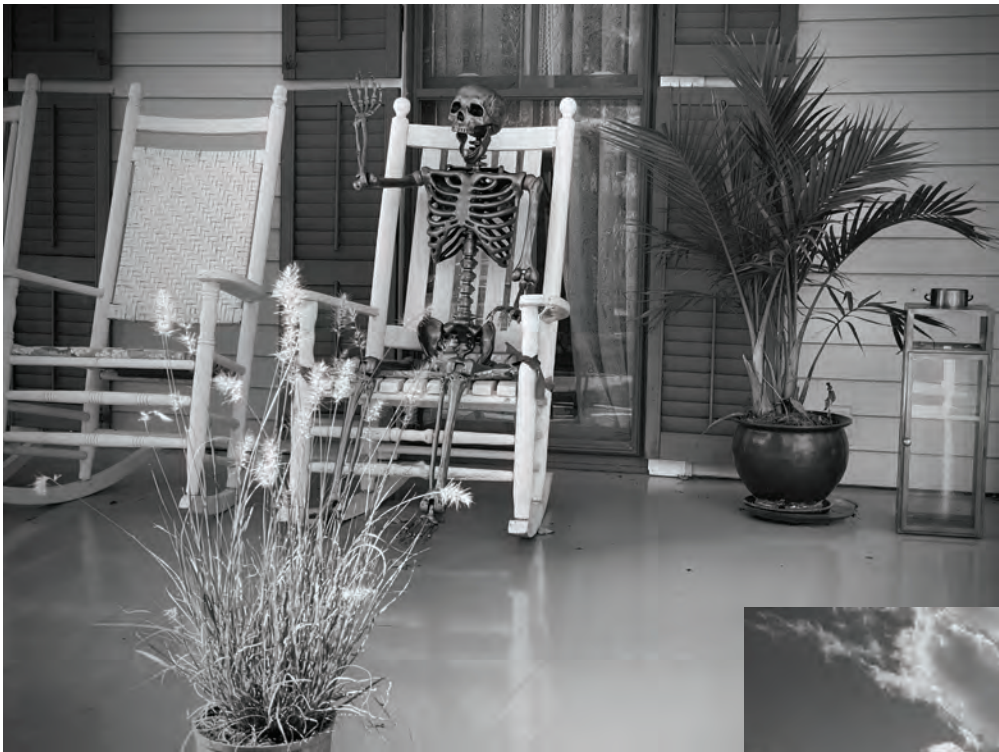
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SCARES IN  
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PHOTOS BY TONY BREUER