



Yokel's front entrance on Main Street

YOKEL LOCAL MARKET & DELI

By Carla Nordstrom

Andrew Decker noted that his first job was at the Franklin Diner. His aunt Sue Decker was the owner and she hired him to wash dishes when he was fifteen. He smiled as he referred to himself as a local yokel. He would have given his restaurant that name if it had been available.

Yokel Local Market and Deli opened last spring on Main Street in Franklin, offering a variety of comestibles including breakfast, lunch, and local foods and crafts.

For breakfast, try imaginative egg dishes such as the Logger - sausage, fried eggs, and swiss cheese served between slices of French toast - or steak-n-eggs, and silver dollar pancakes. Fresh coffee, regular

See **YOKEL**, con't on Page 6

OPT-OUT COP-OUT

By Brian Brock

“What a long strange trip it's been.”

Truckin' – Jerry Garcia et al

This particular trip began on March 31st when Governor Cuomo signed the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act into law. Among other things, this legalized the retail sale of cannabis for recreational use by adults as well as its consumption on-site. However, this act granted municipalities nine months to opt-out of one or both permissions by passing a local law. Four months later, our board first discussed opting-out at the monthly meeting in August, and all present were in favor.

A law was drafted by the town attorney, and the required public hearing was



held before the October meeting. Despite the rising number of COVID infections from the Delta variant, the back half of town hall was packed shoulder to shoulder. Over thirty attended. No provision had been made for more than a handful. An earlier caution that a larger venue might be needed - such as the school auditorium or garage bays - was ignored.

Of those who expressed an opinion, those in favor of a free market outnumbered those for continued prohibition by 3:1. (Perhaps not coincidentally, in 2019 the prohibition of serving beer and wine in restaurants was

See **COP-OUT**, con't on Pg.15

2022: ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE RETURNS

And we could use your help!

By Donald Hebbard

The Franklin Rotary Club has participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program (RYE) almost yearly since 1962. The world-wide COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the program for 2020 and 2021, but we are optimistic that the program can restart in August of 2022.

What is Rotary Youth Exchange? Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) provides an opportunity for a local high school student - referred to as an “outbound” student - to spend a school year in another country. In exchange, Franklin Central School students get to host a foreign student - an “inbound” student - visiting Franklin for a school year. Rotary International's vision is to create a more interconnected and understanding world, promoting world peace “one student exchange at a time.” This follows the logic that as more people experience different cultures and meet



Students help Rotary plant trees in October '21

other people from around the world, they will be more understanding of unfamiliar cultures and people in the future.

How does RYE work? It is a study-abroad experience in another country where the “outbound” student lives with two or three families and attends the local school. The “inbound” student lives with two or three Franklin families and attends FCSD. This multiple-family model allows the students to experience family life and culture from more than one perspective. It also eases the commitment for host families, as the usual length of stay with any

See **ROTARY**, continued on Page 10

VANISHING VILLAGERS

By Brian Brock

The U.S. Census 2020 revealed that the population of our state is up, of our county is down, of our town outside the village is almost the same, and of our village is way down.

In the last decade, the population of New York State increased by 820,000 residents (+4.2%) to 20,200,000. However, the population of several other states grew faster than ours at an average rate of +7.4%. As a result, our state lost a congressional seat to Minnesota by only 89 residents. The Urban Institute estimate of the undercount in New York is 220,000.

Our county did not see growth. Delaware County was down 3,700 residents (-7.7%) to 44,300. This continues a downward trend from a peak of 48,100 in the 2000 census.

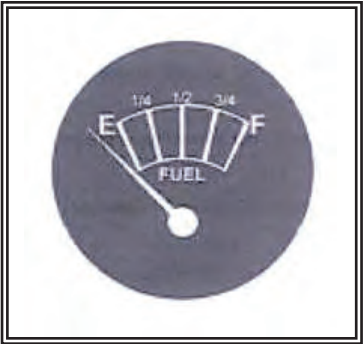
This drop was dominated by decreases in the three largest towns in the county which collectively make up a third of the population: Delhi (-6.3%), Sidney (-5.2%), and Walton (-5.5%). The county

average was pulled down by the smaller towns, with half of them suffering double-digit drops: Roxbury (-10%), Middletown (-11%), Stamford (-12%), and Andes (-14%), Colchester (-14%), Hancock (-14%), Meredith (-14%) and Deposit (-16%). The only towns that gained population were Tompkins (+3%) and Bovina (+4%).

By comparison, the Town of Franklin did relatively well, being down only 120 residents (-5.3%) to 2,290. We are among the quarter of towns in our county that were most attractive to newcomers. Also, we did well compared to our drop in the 2010 census of -8.0%.

What is extraordinary is that a steep decrease in the village population accounts for nearly all the decrease in the town. The Village of Franklin lost 116

See **CENSUS**, con't on Pg. 15



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IT'S APRIL 1ST.
Be on the alert.
Can you tell the fake
news from the real?



Your Neighbor's View...

To the Editor:

DRIVING WHILE WHITE
The front-page article "Driving While Black," an interview of author Gretchen Sorin by Alexis Greene in the NFR's Summer 2021 edition, highlighted the relative freedom the automobile provided to Black Americans once they were allowed to own and drive one. Even today the car offers people of color the ability to travel within the USA more freely, but still not without risk. In addition, Ms. Sorin shared personal experiences as a black woman and a parent. It prodded me to consider both the obvious and the subtle inequalities still existing in our society today for any people of color – black, yellow, brown, or red.

By pure happenstance, I was born white. Full disclosure: my Hebbard ancestors were immigrants, albeit in the late 1600's, from Dover, England. I have never been worried about being pulled over while driving, though indeed I have been pulled over and have been given tickets. But it was always due to some issue with the automobile or with my driving - not my skin color.

I likewise have never been concerned about how to act in public or in the presence of law enforcement, even when I participated in protest movements and public demonstrations. I have never been refused educational opportunities, housing, loans, or employment, based upon my color.

So, have I been the recipient of white privilege?

I think so.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776 with the premise: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these are life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."*

Yet our country did forcefully remove native Americans from their land from colonial times to the trail of tears in 1830, and as recently as 1926 in Osage County, Colorado. It did condone slavery and count blacks as three/fifths of a white man in the census for nearly 100 years. It did and still does restrict opportunities in education, employment, housing, investment, and voting rights for people of color. These restrictions impact daily life and family income.

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. constitution were the first new amendments made in sixty years. Known collectively as the Civil War Amendments, they were designed to ensure equality for recently emancipated slaves. I offer a summary of the intent of each amendment:

The 13th Amendment (1865): *Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States.*

The 14th Amendment (1868): *All persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens of the United States. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall*

any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The 15th Amendment (1870): *The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.*

With the Preamble to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and these lofty, legal amendments long in place, does racial inequality by discrimination and privilege still exist in the US today?

I think so.

In fact, a trend of increased inequality in race and wealth is spilling over into many areas of American life. This trend has been amplified by the pandemic and the political divide we are currently experiencing. The wealthy are getting wealthier on a rising stock market and recovering economy. The middle-income sector is shrinking as living costs outpace earnings. The low-income percentage of any color is growing, people often working two or more part-time jobs to earn a living wage.

Take a look at the news from around the country. For example, "essential worker" status during the pandemic has included primarily positions in service, supply, manufacturing industries, and health care – often lower income workers who only get paid if they show up in person. Virtual offices or working from home is less of an option for many people of color. Access to medications and health care during the pandemic is reduced by cost barriers as well as the need to take time off from work.

People are unnecessarily dying of COVID because of disinformation campaigns, political ideology, and distrust. There are political actions in several states to restrict voting rights, largely impacting people of color and low-income communities. There is a lack of bipartisan support for the Freedom to Vote Act (S.2747). Efforts to align voting districts with political party membership, a.k.a. gerrymandering, continue apace. Poorer and more rural communities of any color are disproportionately burdened with health-threatening infrastructure projects like highways, landfills, energy generation facilities, and energy transport systems.

And the list goes on.

I believe color-bias has persisted in our social, political, economic, and judicial systems. This bias has shaped the development of the United States of America from colonization to the present and continues to bolster inequality today.

Discrimination can be tied to one's experiences at the individual level, but it also can be embedded in our core principles. Racial bias in the U.S. is enabled by our culture and our society, protected by our legal system, sustained by wealthy individuals and corporations for financial gain, and legalized by political action.

Perhaps it can be summed up by catch phrases such as "the winner writes the history," or "might makes right" or "money talks, others walk."

We must find a way forward to counter this systemic and pernicious inequality.

Donald Hebbard
Franklin NY

To the Editor:

COUNTY BOARD GETS WOKE!
Ha-ha, let's be real!
April Fool!!

So...actually...Franklin Supervisor Jeff Taggart and the Delaware County Board of Supervisors had an opportunity to do something positive for the people of Delaware County. They let this opportunity slip and made sure that many residents' discomfort continues to plague the Delaware County Fair.

The Delaware County Fair, a private organization, allows the sale of Confederate flags. Due to public pressure, they no longer permit vendors to set up public displays of this flag, but they are still sold. It's not hard to see them through vendor's tent openings.

The Fair applied to the Board of Supervisors for \$265,000 in federal ARPA funds to update their bathrooms. The Board could have stipulated that they

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would grant the funds if the fair stopped the sale of Confederate flags. This requirement would have been the right thing to do. We all pay into federal funds, and they should be used for institutions that are welcoming to all.

Selling Confederate flags at this county fair is particularly disrespectful since it sits across the street from the Walton cemetery where soldiers who died in the Civil War are buried. Have we the people of Delaware County no sense of patriotism? Are we really the kind of people who go to a county fair to buy the treasonous flag of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia? Keep in mind this was the enemy's flag.

Had Jeff Taggart and the Board of Supervisor stipulated the fair would be required to stop selling these flags (basically the fair can use the same policy used for sex toys), we all would have been able to breathe a sigh of relief, end the bickering, and go back to enjoying the fair.

I'm not going to let our congressman Antonio Delgado off the hook on this one either. When I contacted his office, they said it's a First Amendment issue. Nonsense, if the presence of this flag does not offend him or make it uncomfortable to take his family to the Walton Fair, I know of a bridge in Franklin that he might be interested in buying.

So, Supervisor Taggart and Rep. Delgado, I think we are owed an explanation of why you are spending our money so irresponsibly, and might I add, unpatriotically.

Carla Nordstrom
Franklin, NY



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FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

Commerce:

Even before the onset of the COVID pandemic, Franklin Village was seeing an increase in property sales. But over the past two years, this uptick has become a trend. Not only are there young families moving into the village, but the business sector is seeing a significant rebirth.

Last year, interior designer Meg Lavalette purchased the brick building complex owned by Tim and Jan Mulroy on one side and Neil Rochmis on the other. Meg hopes to have a restaurant, a retail space, and possibly a brew pub in operation after renovations are completed. The vintage clothing and antique shop, The Squire's Tankard, has moved from that location to 318 Center Street in the village.

On Main Street, a new restaurant, Yokel, opened last August in the old Dawn's Deli, and has already become a favorite of locals and visitors as well. Yokel joins the interior design emporium Kabinett & Kammer, Gary Graham's fashion design studio, Bea's 422 Cafe, the popular The Tulip and The Rose restaurant.

Down the street, Two Brothers Restaurant has taken advantage of the newly relaxed liquor laws and is now serving wine and beer. Blue Farm Antiques grows in renown as word of its stylish inventory spreads across the region. We're also fortunate to have Rich's Autobody just off Main Street, performing top quality work. Two other village businesses, Classic Cuts by Sarah and the very unique Botanical Treasures, should be mentioned as well.

Infrastructure:

A most gratifying observation is the significant increase in foot traffic in the village. Even in the coldest part of winter, residents are up early and taking to the sidewalks (when clear). I see this as one sign of a healthy community. For a small village, Franklin has ample walking opportunities on its aging but decent sidewalks. We have limited funds to replace decaying flagstone and concrete walks but are fixing what we can with what we've got. We plan to complete the removal and replacement of the old flagstones within the next five years and have made arrangements with a stone company to purchase and remove these stones as we go along.

A grant is being written for funding to improve the edible walking trail in the park. Also in the planning stage is the creation of a trail along the Ouleout Creek and another on village property between the Otego Street bridge and the village sheds.

Last year, to improve street lighting and reduce costs, the Village Board contracted with NYSEG to replace all of the street light bulbs with LEDs. This has re-

2022: THE STATE OF THE VILLAGE

duced the village's electric bill and made it safer to take evening strolls.

The village board learned that Center Street is too narrow to accommodate parking on both sides, a special concern as fire trucks and emergency vehicles might have difficulty getting through, especially under winter conditions with cars pushed out from the curbs by snowbanks. So, the village put up signage restricting on-street parking to the east side of the street.

Three years ago, the village discovered that the property at the end of Water Street at the turn-around was unclaimed and untaxed. After a lengthy search, the village located a relative of the original owner, unaware that they were now the owner (and thus 60 years in arrears). In order to have control of the turnabout, the village purchased and surveyed the property. Because the property was not on the tax rolls before the purchase, there was no impact on the tax levy by transferring ownership to the village.

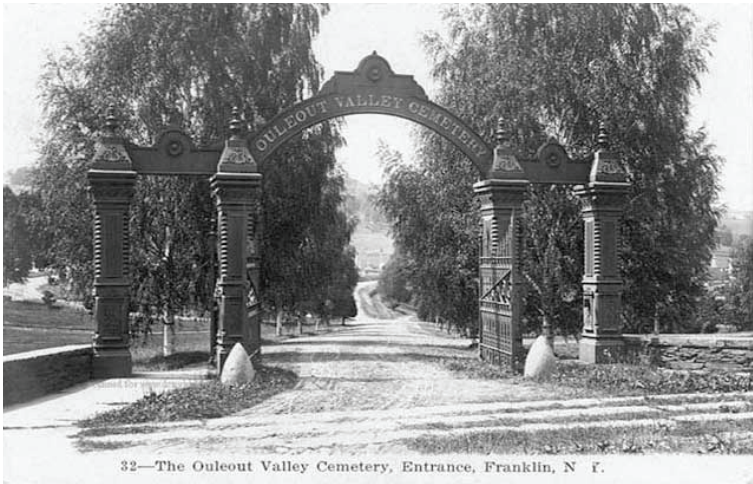
Two years ago, the Village and Town Recreation Committee was faced with a major challenge when it was discovered that the swimming pool had developed a leak. The pool was shut down for the remainder of the summer and a contractor was hired to repair the damaged pipes. This proved to be very expensive and much of the "rainy day" funding held in contingency was used up in order to get the pool in proper shape for last summer's swimming season. The Recreation Committee will be fundraising again this year to replenish the fund. We are in need of volunteers for our recreation committee and would welcome members of any age to pitch in.

Three years ago, the village board decided that the reservoir - a 19th century barn-like structure covering two cells surrounded by laid-up stone - was in need of replacement. One cell had developed a significant leak, the roof needed repair, and there was concern that, though unlikely, some misguided person could light the building on fire, leaving the entire village without potable water. The village contracted with a planning and development firm to apply for a Community Development Block Grant. This past fall, we were awarded funding to build a steel silo-like structure to contain the village water supply. Construction will begin later this summer, to be completed toward the end of 2023. The Village will use funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to serve as local match for the almost \$800,000 project.

Quality of Life:

In the fall of 2020, the Village of Franklin was approached by the Delaware

See MAYOR, continued on Page 18



32—The Ouleout Valley Cemetery, Entrance, Franklin, N. Y.

The Gates to the Ouleout Cemetary - old postcard

TOWN BOARD: CLOSED AS A CLAM

Part I: Meetings

By Brian Brock

At the biennial Franklin Candidates Forum last fall, Supervisor Taggart boasted of the openness of the town board.

No way.

This reporter has covered board meetings for The New Franklin Register since our inception in 2007 and has followed the meetings of other local town boards through the daily and weekly newspapers. On the contrary, the Franklin board is exceptional in how close they hold all information. At least Mr. Taggart deserves credit for attending the forum, the only town board member with the mettle to do so.

Our board has remarked that few townspeople attend public town meetings. Yet the board discourages participation. Without a published agenda or access to documents, people have no idea what will come up and if the meeting is worth an hour or two of their time. To cite a recent example, the planning board came

unannounced to a special meeting in mid-October, making a presentation on shrinking the setback between existing residences and new businesses. This would facilitate the siting of a Dollar General store, but anyone wanting to weigh in on this proposed rezoning missed the opportunity.

But how many townspeople even knew of the meeting?

Open Meeting Law requires that notices shall be "conspicuously posted in one or more designated public locations at least seventy-two hours before such meeting."

According to Town Law, one location shall be "on or near the main entrance to his or her office on a sign-board with the name of the town followed by the words 'town clerk's office' in plain characters thereon with sufficient space immediately below for posting thereon the legal notices of the town."

Instead of outside, the notices for Franklin are posted inside the clerk's office, which is open only two days and one evening a week, and visited only by people who have business there. What is more, the location(s) should be specified "by resolution or through the adoption of pol-

See CLAM, continued on Page 17



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Wood Anemone



Night Heron

ITS A MYSTERY...

By Susan Barnett

According to Franklin lore, our town was once best known for two industries: whiskey and sheep. Not cows. Sheep. It seems ironic that things have changed so drastically – both on the alcohol and the livestock front. What’s more, one of those livelihoods disappeared overnight.

Distilleries did much more than make alcohol. They fueled the local economy. Distilleries needed up to forty bushels of grain a day to keep production going, making grain a winner for local farmers. And the alcohol wasn’t just kept here. Our distilleries shipped thousands of barrels of whiskey to Philadelphia and New York.

The mash by-product from those distilleries was fed to pigs, growing yet another industry. But philosophically, Franklin had conflicted opinions of its alcohol. As an adage of the day ran, “Franklin votes dry and drinks wet.”

According to the Ouleout Historical Society’s “Through The Years In The Town of Franklin,” taverns were first licensed in the town in 1797. In 1798, eight licenses were issued. Most of those businesses were catering to the busy Catskill Turnpike trade. After 1812, distilleries were thriving in Franklin as well.

Chickens, cows and pigs were common on local farms, but for

profit, sheep were the animals most favored for large scale farming up until the mid-1800s. Long haired sheep were hardy and well suited to the hilly, rocky terrain, and their wool was considered top notch. Franklin wool had a statewide reputation for excellence.

We know what happened to the whiskey – the Temperance Movement. But the sheep?

They vanished almost overnight, to be replaced by the dairy herds we know today. By 1900, dairy was the primary industry of our town.

The culprit was said to be an unusually ferocious winter wind storm in 1857. Wind storms in Franklin can be sudden and strong, focused by the river valleys in Unadilla and Otego, and roaring across the hills toward the valley in Walton.

But what, exactly, happened?

There are no eyewitnesses to that 1850 winter storm left alive, but one old diary, yellowed and crumbling with age, may offer a clue.

Flora Hunt lived in an old farmhouse that still stands today. She was a girl in the winter of 1857 and kept a secret diary. It was hidden under an attic floorboard, forgotten for decades until a construction project revealed it.

In her neat cursive with many exclamation points, Flora describes “the Great Storm” that swept



through town.

“Father is beside himself! When he went out after the storm, *all the sheep were gone!* Just yesterday they were grazing on the hillside, and what a pretty sight it was. But now, not a sign of them! I fear Father will never be the same!”

Copies of vintage Walton newspapers, discovered near Flora’s diary, remark on the success of sheep farming in that town, and note that the wool industry took hold in the mid-1800s.

Were those perhaps the lost Franklin sheep? It might seem a stretch to think so, until you consider the sad history of the Bartlett brothers.

Asa Bartlett was a successful farmer and respected member of the Franklin community. A serious man, he supported his church and the local school, and kept his Franklin sheep farm neat and prosperous. His brother, Calvin, was best known for his membership in the Sons of Rest, a group of men who met in the village every day, and played dominoes. If alcohol was part of the gathering, it was kindly not mentioned.

In 1850, Calvin married, and settled with his new bride on a farm in Walton. But whether it was poor planning, lack of skill, or sheer bad luck, Calvin’s farm did not thrive. In one of the old newspapers, there is a notice of intent to foreclose on

the Calvin Bartlett farm to settle his debts. But the records show Asa bought the farm, and Calvin continued to work it. This appears to have created a rift between the brothers, which culminated in a very public falling out between them in the summer of 1856. Calvin was charged with assault and released on his own recognizance. Months passed, and Calvin’s resentment had time to fester.

And here is where the mystery of Franklin’s disappearing sheep may lead.

Flora Hunt’s diary mentions an unusual number of wagons seen on the roads at the height of the storm. She worried for the safety of the drivers and their horses. Why were they out in such a blizzard? The snow was blowing so hard it was almost impossible to see them! But the bells on the wagons could be heard as they passed by.

Ask yourself, now...could a brother’s resentment run so deep that he would risk life and limb to steal the main livelihood of his former friends and neighbors?

That answer is lost. But the Walton sheep industry bloomed that very spring. And the carding mills in Walton and Andes no longer needed Franklin wool. Plenty of wool coming right from Walton.

But maybe those sheep just flew away. After all, the wind can be a powerful thing in Delaware County.

Gotcha?

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RESOLUTIONS FOR A NEW GARDENING YEAR

In early spring the garden changes daily, with bulbs and perennials awakening. The distant hills have a reddish haze as maple buds develop. Emerging leaves are bright green. It's an exciting time for gardeners. However, during mud season, there's actually not much I should be doing in the garden. If I walk on a wet garden bed, it compresses the soil. If I dig in those wet beds, my lovely soil compacts into a concrete-like hardness. It's better to use this time for reflection and planning.

This spring at the start of the gardening year, I am making my New Year's resolutions, based on a winter spent reading books and web sites. One of those books is *New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden* by Kelly D. Norris. This book describes how natural plant communities function and what we can learn from them to make our gardens more sustainable and less in need of large infu-

sions of time and materials. Norris writes that plants do not exist in isolation; they interact with each other and their environment. A plant community is more stable as plant diversity increases and the ecological niches are filled. Planting the layers of the garden with inspiration from nature can create a more resilient garden. Norris provides plant suggestions for different types of environments.

So I vow to up the quotient of native plants in my garden and to increase plant diversity. In particular, I want to make more use of ground-covering plants to exclude opportunistic weeds, but not those that are so aggressive, they exclude everything else. Not all groundcovers spread by running. Many smaller ferns and short perennials such as coral bells (*Heuchera americana*) and wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) make great groundcovers for shade.

There are sedges and short grasses that also make a great addition to the garden. Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) is a clump-forming grass that forms mounds two feet in height that arch over to sweep the ground. Little bluestem grass (*Schizachyrium*

scoparium) is an upright species that ranges in height from two to four feet. It has a lovely blue-green color in summer that changes to shades of red and copper in fall. Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*) and Appalachian sedge (*Carex Appalachia*) are fine-textured low growing groundcovers.

One of the finest local sources for native plants is Catskill Native Nursery in Kerhonkson, NY. Their plant offerings emphasize native plant species and cultivars. They do not have a mail order option, but the wide variety of plants offered at their site makes the 80-mile drive well worth the time. I plan to make a pilgrimage there in April after they open for the season.

I also resolve to add more edible fruits and nuts to the landscape. A couple of years ago we planted a hedge of hazelnut bushes sourced from the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation plant sale. Last year I planted two young pawpaw trees I found at the Landis Arboretum fall plant sale. You see, I have been reading Lee Reich, who cultivates many types of fruit and other edibles.

Reich's book *Uncommon Fruits Worthy of Attention* is a wonderful reference and yet interesting enough to be read cover to cover. He discusses pawpaws, gooseberries, currants, Nanking cherries and many other hardy fruits that you probably aren't growing. You can sign up to receive his weekly column at www.LeeReich.com/

blog to learn what he's up to at his "farmden" in New Paltz, NY.

Thanks to Reich, I want to grow pawpaws, currants, mulberries and more. The pawpaw is an understory tree that is hardy and tolerant of moist soils. Reich says a good pawpaw tastes like a banana with hints of vanilla custard. For good fruit production, I need at least two different varieties.

I have long been interested in growing currants, but did not because they are the alternate host for white pine blister rust, a disease devastating to white pines. However, there are now rust-resistant currant cultivars worth planting. Reich recommends specific varieties of both black and red currants. Black currants fruit well in shade, and Reich grows them in the shade of his pawpaw trees. Red currants have a longer season of fruiting.

What interests me about the mulberry is that it fruits at a similar time as blueberries, and I have read that birds prefer mulberries. I like the prospect of getting the birds out of our blueberry patch, but maybe we will love mulberries too. Reich recommends the black mulberry as having superior tasting fruit over the white and red mulberry species. However, it is the least cold-hardy of the three. He notes there are cultivars of the red mulberry that are also very tasty.

I'm ready to try them. Maybe you should too.

kitchen basics

By
Carla Nordstrom

CHOCOLATE BABKA

- Ingredients:**
- 2 tsps. yeast
 - ½ cup of lukewarm milk
 - 2 cups flour
 - ¼ cup of sugar
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 2 eggs at room temperature
 - 6 Tbl. softened unsalted butter

Combine yeast, milk, and 1 Tbl. sugar and let it proof for 10 minutes until bubbly.

Note: if you have a stand mixer, you will want to use it. Otherwise, this dough can be mixed by hand. After mixing, it will be soft like a batter but will firm up for rolling out after a night in the refrigerator.

Combine the flour, sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Mix in the yeast mixture and then add one egg at a time. When these are well combined, mix in the softened butter a tablespoon at a time. Beat it for 5 minutes until well combined.

Set aside in an oiled bowl to rise for approximately 2 hours. Cover with wrap. If you are pressed for time, you can skip this step. I like

to give the yeast a chance to get working before chilling the dough.

Punch the dough down in the bowl, cover, and refrigerate overnight.

Chocolate Filling:

- 3 ½ oz. dark chocolate
- 4 Tbl. unsalted butter
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- 2 Tbl. cocoa

Place chocolate and butter in a small saucepan and melt over low heat. Sift in the powdered sugar and cocoa and blend together until smooth and spreadable.

Grease one 9-inch or two 6-inch loaf pans with butter. For easy removal, I usually put a piece of greased parchment paper along the length so that the sides come over the edge.

Retrieve the dough from the refrigerator and roll it out on a floured surface to about an 18 x 10 inch rectangle. Spread the filling over the entire surface. Roll the dough into a jelly roll along the short edge. (This part is messy.) With a floured sharp knife, cut the roll in half along its length. Plait the two

sides into a braid with the filling side facing out. You can make two small loaves by cutting the braid in half to fit into a 6-inch pan. Tuck the edges underneath to help it fit into the pan.

Cover the pan with wrap or a damp towel and let it rise in a warm spot for 1½ to 2 hours. Pre-heat the oven to 375 degrees. Place the bread pans in the oven on a lower rack. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until the top and bottom are golden, and an inserted toothpick comes out clean. If it starts to brown too much on the top, cover it lightly with a piece of foil. The entire top should be golden.

Syrup:

Bring ½ cup of sugar and ¼ cup of water to



Photo by Andy Bobrow

a boil and cook until the sugar has dissolved. Set aside.

Brush the syrup over the babka while the loaf is still hot from the oven. Let cool before cutting into slices.

If I'm making two babkas for a brunch, I usually make one chocolate and one cinnamon. The cinnamon filling is made by combining ¼ cup brown sugar, 4 Tbl. softened butter, and 1 Tbl. cinnamon until it is spreadable.

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INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

LET'S TALK CONTINGENCIES

Last year's sellers' market is clearly coming back around this spring. The buying season started early, everyone wants an upstate house, but there are slim pickings.

According to the local Multiple Listing Service, prices are up 32%, sales are up 35%, and inventory is down 31%. So if you want to buy, you've got competition. And if you're a seller, when you're considering offers, maybe several offers, the devil is definitely in the details.

Let's discuss some of those details.

First, when you see a property listed online as "contingent," that generally means there's an accepted offer but conditions still need to be met. Inspection is almost always one of them. So is lawyer review. But maybe there's a mortgage contingency. Or even a contingency that the buyer needs to sell their current home.

A full-price offer should be exciting news. But if it is accompanied by a contingency that the buyer needs to sell their current home and their home doesn't have an offer yet, or isn't even on the market, that may be an offer you're not ready to take. A realtor would call that a *major* contingency.

However, you should weigh the

market where the house to be sold is located.

When we moved to Franklin, we had to sell our property in Ulster County to make it happen. The hot market was already there. We had a contingency on our contract with sellers here that our house had to sell, but we got an offer from the very first people who saw it. That was just a week after our offer was accepted in Franklin. So, accepting that contingency turned out to be a good decision by the people we were buying from. I'm very grateful they did it. We probably would have gotten this house anyway, but knowing we had a place to go made accepting an offer on our former house a lot less stressful.

If you're selling, you can always put a time limit on that contingency. You don't have to lock in to wait months for them to get an offer. But here's the other thing you should know – once YOUR house is marked contingent, most buyers stop looking at it. They figure it's gone. So consider carefully.

A cash offer is always more of a sure thing than an offer with a mortgage contingency. Banks can slow up the closing process. But a larger dollar amount and a mortgage that looks like a safe bet may be worth it if this house is financing your next move. And if you think a

cash offer means a quick closing, wait till you hear about title delays.

Ever since this rush began, title searches are taking a LOT longer than they used to. Local companies say it's a backlog. The fact that there are limited local companies doing that work could be a factor, too. So even a cash offer can be slowed down if the title search takes longer than expected.

Next thing to consider: how much money is the buyer putting down? If they're not putting at least five percent down when they sign the contract, that's unusually low. And most buyers put down ten percent and sometimes more, if there are multiple offers and they want to be chosen.

Are they willing to skip any of the inspections, or at least put in writing that the inspection is for their information only? They may walk away if the inspection shows major problems, but they won't try to renegotiate. That's definitely a plus for a seller.

How soon do they want to close? Does their timeline fit with yours? Do you want to sell some furniture or lawn equipment, and do they want to buy it? You can have your realtors negotiate that on the side

for you, and make it part of the final closing package.

By law, your personal feelings about a buyer aren't a factor – fair housing laws require the property to be available to anyone with the means to buy it at the price you set.

However, you, as a seller, can be one of the good ones and I hope you will be.

I still have warm feelings toward the people who sold us their family home when my children were small. They not only left a bottle of champagne in the refrigerator, but they left a notebook with explanations about the quirks of the old house, who their favorite contractors were, where the best shopping was, and all kinds of information that was incredibly helpful. Their home had been in their family for four generations and they told us how happy they were that it would have a young family in it again.

That house welcomed us from day one, and the sellers set the tone.

When you sell, I hope you do the same.



YOKEL, continued from Page 1

Andrew Decker in the kitchen

or decaf, is brewed throughout the day. For lunch, Yokel serves generous sandwiches such as the Local Yokel or the Turnpike Turkey with stuffing and cranberry mayo. The sandwiches come with house made dressings and chips. Fresh soups and salads are also on the menu.

In addition to breakfast and lunch, Yokel has a selection of fresh produce, local beef, Clark's milk, eggs, maple syrup, and honey. These are all sourced locally from friends and family. Bread, bagels, and hamburger buns. (Yes, Facebook friends, you heard it here! You can purchase hamburger buns at Yokel.) Other grocery items are also available. In fact, Andrew says, "Anything you don't see, just ask, and we'll try to accommodate."

Yokel is a family affair, Andrew does the cooking, his wife Courtney runs the front of house, and when it is busy, Andrew's mother comes in to help. The idea of open-

ing Yokel came about after Andrew and Courtney bought kitchen equipment from the Farmhouse in Oneonta when it closed. They put it in storage for a year while they looked for the right location for their restaurant. Andrew was committed to opening a place in a nearby small town. He and Courtney settled on Franklin, coming home to the town where he grew up. Andrew said, "One of things I liked about Franklin was that they denied the dollar store from coming into town. I live in Unadilla, and they have a dollar store, but I loved the Great American that it replaced, a little family-owned business, and there is just a need for it in a small town. I hate to see the big corporate businesses take all the small mom and pop stores out."

Andrew grew up in Franklin but went to Unatego High School. From there he went to Paul Smith College to study culinary arts. He started out as a butcher at Steiner's



Yokel's friendly interior

in Otego, then worked in restaurants in Oneonta. He helped to open Sloan's New York Grill, where he was head chef for three years.

Andrew is not only a talented chef; he is also very handy. Yokel was an empty space when they took it over. He built out the kitchen as well as the booths and tables with wood from Quality Hardwoods in Bainbridge, owned by a family member.

Yokel also provides a place for local artists and artisans to show their work. The walls and shelves are lined with paintings and crafts created by people from the community. It is truly a pleasant space to eat a meal, have some coffee, and enjoy the company of friends.

A back room is available for small private gatherings but be mindful: they are trying to avoid large evening gatherings. Being open six days a week is exhausting, and Andrew and Courtney need some time for themselves.

In the future, Yokel might be open for dinner a few nights a week, but for now they will see what works.

Andrew has been really pleased with Yokel's reception. "We were just as happy to be here as they are to have us here. We were very welcomed, and everyone was excited and there was a buzz about us. Everyone is thanking us for coming to Franklin, which I thought was pretty unique."

Yokel
458 Main Street
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(607) 230-4001
Yokel458@gmail.com

Hours:
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Photographs by Andy Bobrow

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PUBLIC NOTICE: ANNUAL BURN BAN

The statewide ban on residential brush burning went into effect March 16th and continues for two months through May 14th. Small cookfires, campfires, and bonfires are allowed. These fires may not be left untended and must be completely extinguished, wet and cold.

In New York State, spring is the wildfire season, after snows melt and dead grasses dry out, but before grasses regrow. Open burning is the single greatest cause of wildfire in our state. Since the ban was introduced in 2009, it has reduced wildfires by almost half. Wildfires endanger property and life and add to the work of our fire departments.

For the rest of the year, brush fires are allowed but not garbage fires. Also, the burning of treated wood is banned.



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THINK SUSTAINABLY

CAN TECHNOLOGY SAVE THE PLANET?

A Short History of Energy Exploitation

By Donald Hebbard

How did we get into this mess? Man has discovered, adopted, and then exploited technology for millennia. Use of technology is one of the main characteristics defining the human race. Adapting existing objects for use as tools and creating new tools to address his needs would have been early man's first use of technology.

Specifically, technology involving sources of energy has had a profound effect upon mankind. Evidence exists of early man using naturally occurring fire by about one million years ago, followed by examples of controlling and maintaining a fire: charcoal in fire pits, remnants of meals and crude utensils. Current evidence suggests that it was not until about 40,000 years ago that flint and other items were used to actually *start a fire*. Fire has been, and still is, essential to man's social and cultural development. It has provided heat for dwellings and cooking, a means to clear land for agriculture, an energy source for labor-saving devices and countless other applications.

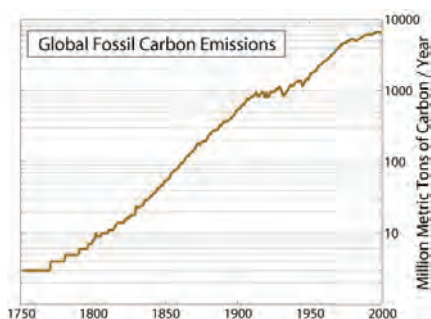
Technologies to create, harness, and maintain energy sources developed slowly over centuries. Ener-

gy for heating and cooking came from burning wood, animal dung, and plant materials. By three thousand years ago, coal was put to use, primarily for cooking and heating. Animal fats, candle wax, whale oil, and kerosene provided indoor lighting. Manpower, horses, oxen, mules and other domesticated beasts of burden powered production of food and fiber. Wind moved ships transporting large volumes of goods over great distances. Water powered grist and sawmills for manufacturing.

In the 1800s, man discovered how to harness the energy from burning coal

gines replaced horsepower. Steam engines replaced waterpower. Electricity was harnessed. Coal-fired electric plants enabled light bulbs to replace candles and kerosene. Electric motors powered labor-saving devices. In many societies, the quality of life was improved. Physical labor was reduced. Time spent just producing enough to feed the family could be focused on other pursuits, such as the arts.

These changes did not come without major disruptions to society, the workforce, and family life. Whole industries disappeared. Craftsmen like buggy makers, blacksmiths, coopers, and farm laborers were not needed. Many people had little choice but to seek other occupations. Following generations migrated to cities to seek employment. The industrial revolution caused a major shift in society, and the effect on each family was heavily dependent upon their willingness and opportunity to accept change or remain in a dying industry.

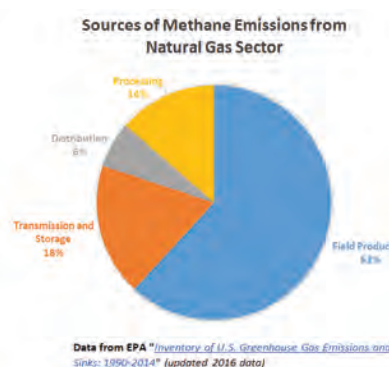


to power steam engines. Oil was discovered in the 1850s. Other technologies to utilize the concentrated energy provided by fossil fuels were rapidly developed. In just *one hundred years* from 1800 to 1900, fossil fuel use and the industrial revolution changed the world forever. Societies moved from a limited population burning minimal quantities of carbon-based fuels and creating small amounts of greenhouse gases, to one dependent upon burning massive quantities of fossil fuels and creating tons of emissions yearly.

Internal combustion en-

The effects of fossil fuels and the industrial revolution remained obscured, covered up, or ignored for one hundred and fifty years. The result was the gradual degradation of the environment, caused by fossil fuel mining and drilling, processing, transporting, and subsequent burning for energy. In addition, the concentrated energy of fossil fuels enabled new energy-dependent industries that made steel, concrete, and plastics with their own resultant pollutants.

We now face the potential for a world-wide cultural disruption. Over one hundred and fifty years of reliable weather records indicate a strong correlation between fossil fuel burning, resultant greenhouse gas emissions, and the gradual warming of the planet. We have observed



Data from EPA "Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2014" (updated 2016 data)

first-hand evidence of glacial retreating, icepack melting, tundra thawing, and sea level rise. We have experienced weather patterns becoming erratic, storms more frequent and severe, more pronounced flooding, more destructive tornados and hurricanes. These events are expected to get worse if the earth keeps warming. The outlook for the next thirty to fifty years projects an accelerated rise in earth's ambient temperature, even if we hold greenhouse gas emissions to the current level.

Evidence exists of many societies developing remarkable systems and infrastructures, only to eventually collapse. Examples are Easter Island, the Aztecs, Incas, the vanished Anasazi of the southwest United States, even the Roman Empire. These and other ancient societies were regional entities, rarely even encompassing whole continents.

But climate warming is a *global concern*: a world-wide threat to not just humankind, but also other species of flora and fauna. Hundreds of species have gone extinct within the last millennium. So many more are on endangered lists. Our current path could result in world-wide social collapse if action is not taken.

To slow and then reverse global warming, we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions dramatically. A target of zero emissions combined with actions to remove carbon dioxide, methane, and other pollutants from the atmosphere will be necessary. Simply holding emissions to some arbitrary level, such as that in 1990, will not work.

Technological advances got us into our current global warming crisis.

Can new technologies get us out?

Maybe.

The consumption of fossil fuels must be drastically reduced and allocated to industries requiring very high temperatures. New technologies must exploit other concentrated energy sources, replacing fossil fuels. Heating, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and food production systems must lower emissions, based on a life-cycle analysis accounting for extraction and processing of raw materials, manufacturing, distribution, use, recycling, and final disposal.

The move from a fossil fuel economy will be demanding, and will require hard choices, but there is hope. It depends upon personal, governmental, and international decisions and actions. We will discuss the extent of the challenge and options available to address global warming in the future issues of the NFR.

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MARKET DATES:

May - 5/29
June - 6/6, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26
July - 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31
August - 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28
September - 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25
October - 10/2, 10/9

2022 Poster Artist: **FRANK ANTHONY**

MARKET INFORMATION:

FMNP participating market and vendors. Public seating and rest rooms, coffee and beverages available for purchase. Dog friendly. Tobacco-free and smoke-free.

Meats (Beef, Chicken, Pork, Lamb, Goat, Trout), Eggs, Fresh Baked Breads and Baked Goods, Scandinavian Baked Goods, Fresh and Seasonal Vegetables, Herbs, and Fruits, Cultivated Mushrooms, Garlic, NYS Maple Syrup, Local Honey and Beeswax Products, Fermented Foods, Jams, Jellies, Preserves, Fudge, Pesto, Salsa, Farmstead Cheese, Handmade Jewelry, Goat's Milk Soap, Decoupage Gifts, and More.

2022 VENDORS:

Fokish, Off Road Maple, EastBrook Farm, Empire Angus, Skytop Springs Fish Farm, SaJoBe Farm, Pomeroy Jones Farm, Thistlemint Farm, Cordwood Acres, Trollbok Farm, Izzabon, Catskill Lily's, Hare and Feather Farm.

STILL SEEKING:

Cider/Beverage Vendor, Goat/Sheep/Cow Cheese Vendor, Other Dairy Vendor, Other.

Contact market manager **Trish Tyrell** at ffm@franklinlocal.org



EastBrook Community Farm's winter offerings



Mike Sellitti (and friend) selling his fabulous fresh and smoked trout

OTSEGO LAND TRUST WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Staff Report

The Otsego Land Trust has hired Gregory Farmer as its new Executive Director, as of November 15th, 2021, after a national search.

“Being a native upstate New Yorker with an innate love for our region, Greg’s deep expertise and connections in the land trust and preservation communities across the northeast will be a great asset to all OLT’s benefactors, conservation easement donors, stakeholders, and partners,” says Carla Hall, OLT board member.

Farmer was born and raised along the Erie Canal corridor. An early interest in the landscape and history of the region led him to complete a degree in American Studies (Interdisciplinary) from SUNY Brockport and a master’s degree in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program at SUNY Oneonta. His initial focus on American material culture



Gregory Farmer

evolved into an emphasis on community development, affordable housing, and historic preservation in Western Massachusetts, eventually expanding into Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maine. He worked for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation in addition to managing community-based projects as an independent consultant.

“Partnerships are the basis of every successful project,” says Farmer. “Research and field documentation can tell us what we have, but only conversation in the

community, paired with careful listening, can tell us what is possible.” Farmer has secured project funding from a variety of private and public sources and has worked hand in hand with regulatory agencies to ensure funding transparency for the greatest public benefit.

Farmer’s favorite projects have been those that link communities to the natural landscape, such as farmland, forests, and waterways. “Farming in the Northeast has never been easy, but the landscape is defined by the relationship between farmland and villages. Sustainable agriculture that maintains the quality of the soil and provides a reasonable economic return is key to the preservation of the area’s rural character.” In Farmer’s view, “healthy forests and clean waterways are shared amenities that improve the quality of life for everyone.”

“I am delighted to be returning to central New York and to be working with the talented staff, board, and partners of the Otsego Land Trust,” Farmer enthused. OLT’s strong history of

land protection through collaboration with landowners and other nonprofits attracted him to the position. “The generational challenge for everyone who appreciates the exceptional beauty of the Upper Susquehanna region is to address the effects of climate change on our local ecosystems. The legacy of farmland, forests and waterways is at risk unless we act together.”

Founded in 1987, the Otsego Land Trust has conserved in perpetuity over 11,000 acres of woodlands, farmlands, and waters in the headwaters of the Susquehanna Watershed. OLT’s work sustains communities, encourages wildlife diversity, and supports the collective health of Otsego, Delaware, Herkimer and Schoharie Counties. This mission is carried forward via conservation easements on privately owned lands, eight public access sites with a wide variety of recreational uses (such as Brookwood Point in Cooperstown), trade lands, and educational programs that connect kids to nature, building a next generation to champion a sustainable landscape.

OLT ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Staff Report

The Board of Directors of the Otsego Land Trust have approved the addition of two new members, Alison Lord and Allen Ruffles.

Alison Lord has served on the boards of Phillips Academy, Andover (from which she graduated in 1985), and of St. Hilda’s & St. Hugh’s School in New York City. She and her family started The Cameron & Hayden Lord Foundation to advance medical research and palliative care for families with critically ill children. Alison has worked in advertising, as a recruiter, and for the last eight years at Google where she is the human resources lead for a spe-



Alison Lord

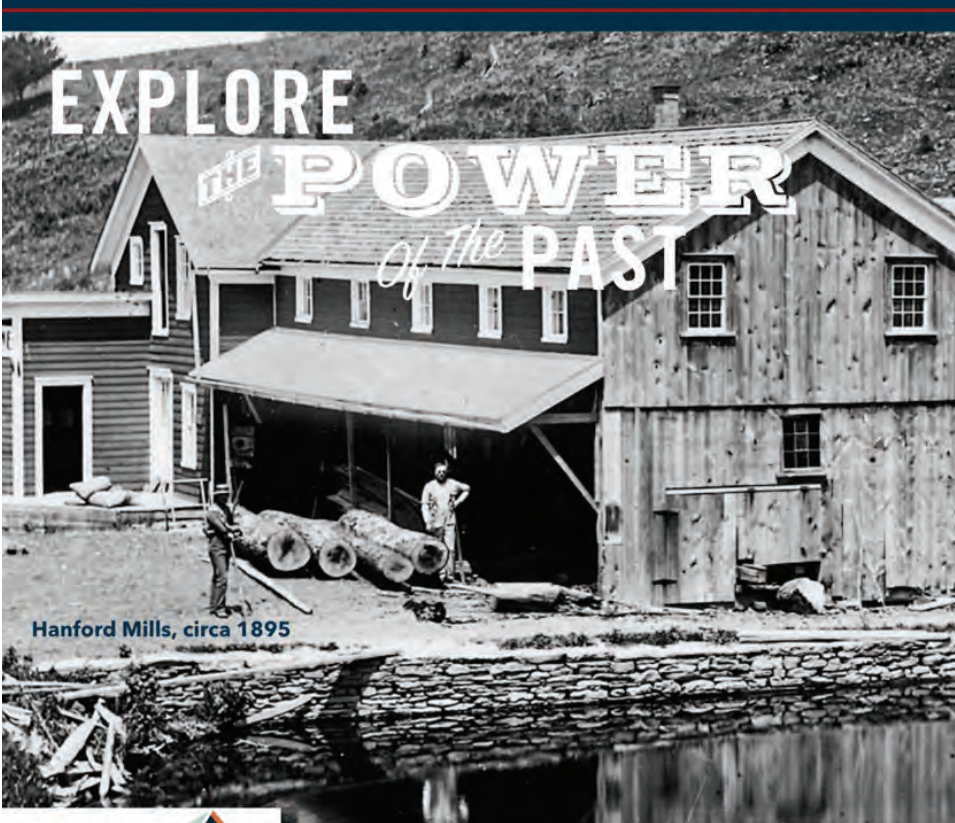
cialized creative innovation team. Alison graduated from Yale University with a BA in Comparative Literature in 1989.

Allen Ruffles, a well-known face in local government, is an Otsego County native who has long had an interest in conservation and environmental issues. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and a master’s degree in Geosciences. He started in education, then moved to insurance and banking. Ruffles currently serves as the Otsego County Treasurer.

“Protecting and conserving our amazing area has always been a part of my life,” Ruffles noted. “Land is an important and finite resource and I’d like to help conserve it for future generations.”



Allen Ruffles



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ROTARY, continued from Page 1

rotary youth exchange

Rotary

family is three to four months instead of a full school year. Both inbound and outbound students stay with host families approved by the exchange program. Students are expected be a part of the family dynamic and to participate in host family activities, thus broadening their encounter with daily life in a different culture. After all, there are no “typical” American or foreign families!

Outbound students 15 to 18 years of age can apply through the Rotary website or contact a local Rotary member. [See contact information below.] Preference is given to students completing their sophomore or junior years. Inbound students arrive late August and stay the school year, returning home after FSC graduation in June. The extended stay often results in life-long friendships and volunteer commitments toward a better world.

How can you help?

Becoming a host family is one of the most rewarding experiences of a lifetime. The visiting student be-

comes part of your family, sharing your family experiences. Host families come in all shapes and sizes.

Families do not need to be affiliated with Rotary to host Rotary Exchange Students.

Families with small children make great host families because young children get the experience of having a big brother or sister and the exchange students often enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of practicing their language skills with a younger child.

Families with high school age



Students help Rotary clear trails in the Village Park

children are ideal because host brothers and sisters can quickly get the student involved in school and community activities.

“Empty Nesters” or retired couples are good too because they can have more time to spend with their student than younger parents do. They often enjoy having a young person around the house and sharing the exchange experience with their grandchildren.

The host family is responsible for the student’s room and board,

for guiding the child through the cultural adjustment, and overseeing schoolwork. Generally, you will treat this child just as you would your own. Host families are not reimbursed or paid for their efforts, and there is no charge to become a host family. The parents of an outbound student are encouraged, but not required, to host an incoming exchange student. It often is more fulfilling to host a student prior to your child going abroad, or the year following their return.

You can also participate in RYE by supporting Rotary fundraising activities ear-marked for the youth exchange, or by making a donation to Franklin Rotary Club with “Youth” written in the memo line. Rotary does fund training sessions, events that the exchange students are expected to attend, and offers a monthly stipend to inbound students for incidentals.

Outbound students receive a stipend from the sponsoring Rotary club in the country they visit.

A supporting role critical to the future of RYE is to encourage your children to investigate this life-changing opportunity for personal growth – the chance to learn a new language, live in a different culture, meet people they might not otherwise meet. Youth Exchange encourages the development of leadership skills and a world perspective. And participation in RYE

as an outbound student or hosting an inbound student is a positive addition to future college or job applications.

History of RYE: Youth exchanges between Rotary clubs began in Europe in 1929. The first United States exchanges were in 1939 as short-term programs between clubs in California and Latin American countries. Youth exchange spread to the East Coast in 1958 and instituted the extended school-year long exchange format. The first multi-district youth exchange program was formed in 1962, involving several East Coast Rotary districts. Franklin Rotary Club was part of that expansion in 1963, sending our first outbound exchange student to Switzerland. The youth exchange program became an official Rotary International project in 1972. Prior to the COVID pandemic disruption, the program had grown to include over 80 countries and 9000 students annually.

Rotary Contact Information
Gary Orton, RYE Chair 287-8827
franklinrotary7170@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/franklinnyrotary>

Photos by Tony Breuer

Franklin Rotary Club

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FRANKLIN STAGE COMPANY

FSC AWARDED COMMISSION GRANT

By Patricia Buckley

The Franklin Stage Company (FSC), Delaware County's primary professional summer theater, has been awarded a Support for Artists Grant for the commission of a new play by Kyle Bass. Mr. Bass is the author of *Possessing Harriet*, produced by FSC during their 2019 summer season. The new play's working title is *Wakeman* and *Toliver*.

"We're thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Kyle Bass again," said Co-Artistic Director Leslie Noble. "*Possessing Harriet* was one of our audience's favorite shows, and this new piece is such a wonderful exploration of local and historical facts and imaginings."

The commission is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). Because NYSCA's Support for Artists grant requires a NYS non-profit arts organization to sponsor an individual artist, the Franklin Stage Company will act as a sponsor for the play. The final component of the grant is a public offering such as a reading, presentation, or performance of the work in progress.

Set at the start of the American Civil War, *Wakeman* and *Toliver* will poetically dramatize the Civil War experiences of two actual historical characters from two very different (and not so different)

backgrounds. Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, a young white woman born in Bainbridge, New York, disguised herself as a man and mustered into the Union Army's 153rd New York Infantry Regiment (Volunteers) using the alias Lyons Wakeman. Toliver Holmes was a young black man born into slavery in Virginia who escaped to New York, changed his name to avoid capture, and mustered into the Union Army's 26th Colored Infantry Regiment (NY), later settling in Delhi, New York.

"In real life, their paths did not cross. But in my play, poetic license in service to a poetical dramaturgy will bring them into each other's lives—the imagined jazz of shared experience,"



Playwright Kyle Bass

said Bass. "Theirs will be a shared narrative drama and a drama of identity."

The play is an exploration of what two very different characters have in common, as each has escaped something they find untenable and each has cloaked their true identity. Each lives in Delaware County, New York, before joining the Union Army; and each is looking to define freedom on their own terms.

is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.



Further news will be shared this spring about a reading to be staged at FSC once the first draft is complete. Information will be available on the FSC website and social media accounts.

NYSCA's guidelines state that the Support for Artists grant seeks to, "Enhance the vibrant and diverse artistic voices of New York State-based art makers, invest in projects that represent significant growth in the artistic development of individual artists, and strengthening of the relationships between individual artists and the artistic goals and mission of the sponsoring or commissioning organization."

For more information on Franklin Stage Company, visit www.franklin-stagecompany.org or call 607-829-3700.

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4 th January	6:00 pm/Zoom	Organization meeting
1 st February	6:00 pm/Town Hall	
1 st March	6:00 pm	
5 th April	7:30 pm	
3 rd May	7:30 pm	
7 th June	7:30 pm	
5 th July	7:30 pm	
2 nd August	7:30 pm	
6 th September	7:30 pm	
4 th October	7:30 pm	Budget workshop
1 st November	6:00 pm	Budget hearing
6 th December	6:00 pm	

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, at an earlier time in winter.

A special meeting may be scheduled at any time. Notice should be posted on the town website. If there is sufficient time, then notice should be printed in The Reporter classifieds as well.

Due to the uncertainty of pandemic risks, meeting venues will be announced on the town website.

For Zoom, ID code of meeting is posted on the town website, town-of-franklin-ny.org

Password is available from town clerk, 607-230-0900 Ex 4 or townclerkfranklin@gmail.com

UFR SPOTTED AT 2022 HAWKWATCH

Staff Report

Veteran birder M.J. McKenzie reported an unusual sighting while observing the annual spring raptor migration at the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Sanctuary on Franklin Mountain.

"It was the metallic flash that caught my eye," she noted. "Gold! Winging by just above a big flock of Canada geese."

"Shhh!" hissed a nearby colleague.

"Take a look! See how it's all sparkly in the dawn sunlight, like fish scales! Four legs and a long, snaky tail, I swear! And...

is that smoke trailing from its mouth?"

The colleague, who refused to give his name so as not to soil his reputation among his fellow birders, trained his old sailor's spyglass on the sky and reluctantly confirmed the sighting. "Yep. A definite UFR."

"A what?" an eager eavesdropper asked, surprised he could see anything through such a battered antique.

"Unidentified Flying Reptile. We get 'em up here now and again. But don't tell anyone."

The reporter held up her phone. "Too late."

The old man shrugged. "Don't matter. No one'll believe you anyway."

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APRIL FOOL'S GOLD:
Unearthing a cinematic treasure

By Michael Paxton



Doris Day (born Doris Mary Ann von Kappelhoff, 1922 – 2019) was not only a triple threat in Hollywood - dancer, singer and actor - she was also born just after April Fool's Day on April 3rd. After her car was hit by a train in 1937, the damage to her legs ended a promising dancing career at the age of fifteen. While convalescing, Doris spent her days listening to the radio and emulating the voice and singing style of Ella Fitzgerald. She performed on local radio shows, and her natural vocal talent caught the attention of bandleader Les Brown, who helped launch Doris' successful career as a big band singer. Her film career began in 1948 when she was discovered by director Michael Curtiz (*Casablanca*) who heard her sing at a party. Curtiz had been hunting to replace a pregnant Betty Hutton in *Romance on the High Seas*. Though she'd never taken an acting lesson, Doris' debut in that film was a big hit—and the rest is history.

It was the '50s and along the way, Doris earned the image of the eternal virgin. But she was no slouch in the sexual experience department. As her four troubled marriages would prove, Doris learned about relationships the hard way. In 1975, she stated, "You don't really know a person until you

live with him, not just sleep with him. Sex is not enough to sustain marriage. I have the unfortunate reputation of being Miss Goody Two-shoes, America's Virgin and all that, so I'm afraid it's going to shock some people for me to say this, but I staunchly believe no two people should get married until they have lived together. The young people have it right. What a tragedy it is for a couple to get married, have a child, and in the process discover they are not suited for one another!"

She turned down the part of Mrs. Robinson in *The Graduate*, but also turned down the celebrated part of Maria in *The Sound of Music*. Doris, who often played a wife and mother in her films, stated that she didn't think anyone would buy her as a nun, and about Mrs. Robinson she said, "I could not see myself rolling around in the sheets with a young man half my age whom I'd seduced." It seems that neither end of the spectrum was right for the "girl next door," who was ultimately an independent, sexually responsible woman.

Doris Day made a total of thirty-nine films. Though she only garnered one Academy Award nomination, she won four Golden Globes, two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (for Motion Pictures and for Recording), the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004, and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

So, in honor of Doris Day, whose life and career represents a true April Fool's joke on anyone who reduces her work to the "eternal virgin" image, here are some cinematic gems from the treasure chest of her most innovative, genre-busting movies (in chronological order). I'd recommend any of these to introduce (or re-introduce) you to her talents.

My Dream is Yours (1949)



Animation met live action when Bugs made his first appearance in Doris's second musical for Warner Brothers. Combining

animation with live action was challenging back then, and the results are less than perfect. But, overall, this is a very entertaining, warm-hearted rags-to-riches musical with great songs from the pen of Harry Warren.

Calamity Jane (1953)



One of the handful of musical-western films, *Calamity Jane* is Doris Day at her exuberant, tom-boy best. This movie was way ahead of its time, confronting male-female stereotypes and gender role reversals. *Calamity Jane* was Doris' favorite film—not only because it's first-rate entertainment, but because she claimed the character of Calamity was the closest to her own personality.

Love Me or Leave Me



(1955)

One of the best backstage musicals ever made, *Love Me or Leave Me* is based on the true story of Ruth Etting—a singer who married an infamous mobster (played by James Cagney) and navigated through an abusive relationship. When watching this film, note how each time Doris sings, it is in the context of either performing on stage or when shooting a film on camera. Not one false moment here. And Doris's singing voice is superb. At the same time, it's a gut-wrenching performance of a flawed character. This performance deserved an Oscar.

Teacher's Pet (1958)



Not many movies can convey a message and be entertaining at the same time. *Teacher's Pet* does this in spades. The theme, plot, and relationships are complex and sophisticated. If you can get past the age difference between Day and Cagney, you'll love the banter between the two. The supporting players are truly funny, and Gig Young (nominated for an Oscar here) gives one of the best performances of a man with a hangover...ever.

Pillow Talk (1959)



Pillow Talk gave Doris Day her one and only Oscar nomination. It also became the template for quite a few romantic comedies for Doris throughout

Mthe Mrs.'60s. She gives a sterling performance as a single, working gal who's a real romantic. But to be clear, she doesn't need a man, and she's certainly not a virgin. Refusing to give in to the advances of a client (Tony Randall in a funny turn as a neurotic suitor and friend), she finally falls for Rock Hudson who is posing as a Texan farm boy. Thelma Ritter does a wonderful turn as her constantly hungover housekeeper, and the chemistry between Doris and Rock is palpable.

One can see why this kept Doris at the top of the box office for most of that decade.

In closing, I'd like to advise you not to be fooled by what you've heard about Doris Day.

There's no fool's gold here, just one talented blonde with a cinematic legacy that's worth unearthing on April Fool's Day...or any other day!

A HYMN TO THE EVENING

- Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)

Soon as the sun forsook the eastern main
The pealing thunder shook the heav'nly plain;
Majestic grandeur! From the zephyr's wing,
Exhales the incense of the blooming spring.
Soft purl the streams, the birds renew their notes,
And through the air their mingled music floats.
Through all the heav'ns what beauteous dies are spread!

But the west glories in the deepest red:
So may our breasts with ev'ry virtue glow,
The living temples of our God below!
Fill'd with the praise of him who gives the light,
And draws the sable curtains of the night,
Let placid slumbers sooth each weary mind,
At morn to wake more heav'nly, more refin'd;
So shall the labours of the day begin
More pure, more guarded from the snares of sin.
Night's leaden sceptre seals my drowsy eyes,
Then cease, my song, till fair Aurora rise.

Phillis Wheatley Peters was brought, as a seven-year-old, from Senegal/Gambia. She was purchased by the Wheatley family of Boston. Mrs. Wheatley and her son and daughter taught Phillis to read and write; she was the first African American and second woman (after Anne Bradstreet) to publish a book of poems. She used her poetry to fight against the inequality brought about by slavery. She married John Peters and was freed about three months before Mrs. Wheatley died on March 3, 1774.

- Bertha Rogers

CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES

BY JOHN O'CONNOR

REPEAL "SAFE HARBOR"

Restore Justice to Musicians & Composers

Over the past twenty years there has been a slow drip of loss of income to musicians and composers by virtue of changing technology and the resulting listening culture in the realm of recorded music. It wasn't that long ago when performers at the top of the food chain would go on tour almost solely to promote their latest CD and then sit back and watch the money roll in from sales. Musicians further down on the chain had come a long way since the days of commercial LPs, when only the few who could land record deals had recorded music to sell to their fans. The costs of producing a record album on one's own was all but prohibitive. This changed with the introduction of the compact disc and the proliferation of independent labels, eventually reducing costs so that almost anyone could afford to put out a CD to sell at their

performances.

Then the digital streaming world began to creep in. Musicians tried their best to keep up, touring more, selling digital downloads and appealing to their fan base by pleading with them to pay for their music. As the loss of CD revenue increased, artists began selling T-shirts and other "merch" to help make up the difference. But the hole in the dike was widening and the stream of lost income became a flood. Performers could no longer rely on recordings as a significant percentage of their income. It was back on the road, competing with others who were also touring more or vying for local and regional engagements.

Two years ago when composers, songwriters, performers and musicians were struggling in the lifeboat of ever-decreasing income sources, the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Now, with live engagements closed off, suddenly musicians lost all their income. They began to patch together survival in-



come from government grants, unemployment, streaming concerts, and online teaching. But the scene was pretty dismal. For many, it

took months to navigate the necessary application process for newly legislated unemployment income for musicians and performers who had been classified as independent contractors. Had the pandemic hit fifteen years ago, many musicians could have appealed to their fans to buy the CDs. Now most of their fans don't own CD players.

Most recorded music is now being streamed on platforms like Spotify and YouTube. Spotify pays royalties of \$0.0038 per stream. Assuming a performer got 470,000 streams a month, she would barely make minimum wage. The market allows such a low amount because, among other reasons, due to an exception in the copyright laws (known as "safe harbor"), YouTube doesn't pay anything. Spotify has 365 million viewers, but YouTube has six billion. So Spotify pays so little because the largest streamer in the universe pays nothing. If there is ever going

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to be a just distribution of streaming revenue to the people who create the music, the first step is to repeal the safe harbor clause in the copyright law that allows YouTube to stream for free without the artist's permission.

US copyright law forbids users to exploit intellectual property like musi-

cal compositions without the permission of the copyright holder. But a 1998 law created Section 512, which protects online corporations from being legally responsible for hosting copyrighted files posted by others ("3rd parties"). In other words, YouTube can't be held accountable

See CATS, con't on Page 15



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PEINTURE AU DOIGT

Valeur Marchande

April 1, 2022

As one of New York's premier galleries, we feel duty-bound to address the low market value of *peinture au doigt*, currently one of the most overlooked forms in the art marketplace. This undervaluing of *peinture au doigt*'s significance parallels the art world's dismissal of photography as a "serious" art - until 1971 when Art Forum magazine ran a piece on Diane Arbus' photographs, with one of her images featured on the cover. In 1970, Arbus produced *Box of Ten Photographs*. The original intention was to publish an edition of fifty portfolios containing ten different prints of Arbus' photographic images. The portfolios were to be sold for \$1,000 each. But Arbus never completed the edition, only printing eight complete portfolios, and selling only four while she was alive. Forty-eight years later, in 2018, an intact *Box of Ten Photographs*, with an esti-

mated value of \$500,000 to \$700,000, sold at auction for \$792,500. Our gallery's intention is to introduce *peinture au doigt* to the art market and raise the market value of this undervalued form. We soon will offer an exhibit of works which maximize the expressive potential of this technique.

Histoire:
Peinture au doigt was formally introduced in 1931 by Ruth Faison Shaw. Inspired by a child she saw who, having been given a bottle of iodine to treat a cut, was smearing the iodine onto a wall. Shaw realized that children like to smear. In 1931, she patented a gelatinous *base d'eau* paint medium with the consistency of mud - one of the requisites of *peinture au doigt*. Shaw's *peinture au boue* also met another requisite - that *la boue* can be safely licked or eaten by children, as well as adults.

Methode:
 Artists working in this medium judge *la boue* by its "smear" factor - dexterity in handling is determined by the consistency of Shaw's mud paint. One drawback, due as much to the all-fingers-and-thumbs method of

application as to the consistency of the medium, is *le doigt*'s disinclination to allow for delicacy and variability in line. Expressively, this technique responds best to the most aggressive and brutal approach.

In *peinture au doigt*, the creative impulse travels through to *le doigt* (the finger) in a direct physical manifestation of creative thought from mind (the creator) to digit (the carrier of the medium) and thence to the work surface, laying down the smear (the artist's mark). Each hand has five digits, each to hold one pure color - five pure colors in total, or up to ten pure colors if the artist is ambidextrous.

Here we should mention the secondary variations of *peinture au doigt*, which depend on the body part employed in the making. The most famous example is the artist Yves Klein's use of *peinture au corps*: inking a model's body with blue *peinture de boue* and dragging her, prone, along a length of unrolled paper.

Le Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc:
 Anthropologists have found examples of *peinture au doigt* in cave art dating as far back as the neolithic

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period - 30,000 BC. It is believed that the large, adult *peinture au doigt* hands on cave walls were purposeful. In some cases, the adult hands had been applied to the cave walls pointing in several directions, some in such awkward positions as to imply a deliberate effort to point. Perhaps the hands serve as sign posts, guiding the cave dweller along the path to be taken.

By comparing the size of these handprints and their height from the cave floor, anthropologists presume that many cave *peinture au doigt* handprints were

made by children. They seem random and unsupervised, but their haphazard placement might represent mischievous attempts to confuse adult cave dwellers who were dependent on the wall's *peinture au doigt* hands to offer clear and unmolested routes through the labyrinthine caves.

Watch for our announcement of time & date -

PEINTURE AU DOIGT

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CENSUS, continued from Page 1

residents (-31%), down to 258. Therefore, the population in the town outside of the village remained constant over the last decade, similar to our neighbor Davenport (-0.3%). Both towns are the suburbs of Oneonta. Now villagers are less than 12% of the population of our town.

Matching this drop in population, the fraction of unoccupied housing in the village rose to 35%. In this respect, the village is catching-up with unoccupied housing in the town at 32% and in the county at 36%, with all three having about one third of houses unoccupied. Delaware County has one of highest non-residency rates in the state.

The only counties with a higher rate are Hamilton (68%), Sullivan (39%), and Essex (36%). Both Delaware and Sullivan offer relatively inexpensive parcels within a few hours' drive from the New York City metro region. Recently, Franklin real estate has been a hot market with over a hundred sales in the last year. Annually, this is a 5% turnover of the 2,200 parcels in the town.

In the last decade, the village lost 30 occupied housing units, down to 123. The number of unoccu-

pied units rose from 47 to 65, a gain of 18 for second homes and Airbnbs. This leaves a loss of 12 units unaccounted for.

In addition, the population of our county and town grew slightly older. Average age of adults in Delaware County increased from 80 to 82 years and in towns from 80 to 81. In contrast, the village grew slightly younger with adults from 78 to 76. In the village, Franklin Central School is within walking distance.

At all levels, our municipalities became less white: county from 93 to 88%, towns from 95 to 90%, and villages from 95 to 92%.

In Delaware County, the smaller the village, the greater the drop in population: Fleischmann (201 residents, -40.2% change), Franklin (258, -30.1%), Hobart (351, -20.4%), Margaretville (514, -13.8%), Hancock (908, -11.9%), Stamford (1,040, -7.1%), Delhi (2,721, -11.9%), Walton (2,885, -6.5%), and Sidney (3,697, -5.2%). The exception is Delhi, which is the county seat and a college town where a lot of the land is owned by the town and county governments.

This is the result of the small villages all having lost about 100 residents (+/- 20) each. The largest

three lost about twice that.

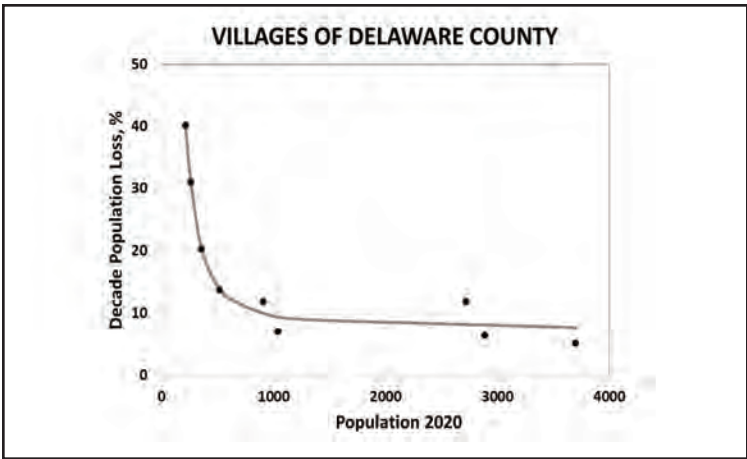
Most of those nine villages showed a larger drop in population than the surrounding town: Delhi -11.9 vs -6.3%, Fleischmann -40.2 vs -11.0%, Franklin -31.0 vs -5.1%, Hancock -11.9 vs -14.3%, Hobart -20.4 vs -11.8%, Margaretville -20.5 vs -11.0%, Sidney -5.2 vs -4.1%, Stamford -7.1 vs -11.8%, and Walton -6.5 vs -5.5%. Hancock and Stamford are the exceptions.

If there is any good news in the last decade, it's that the decrease in the population of our town is smaller than the decade before and less than the county as a whole. What is more, the population of Franklin outside the village held its own. Also, that the village population is getting younger. While sharp decreases in population and occupied housing units for the village seem anomalous, this is of a piece with trends in the rest of the region.

What does this mean for the future of our village that a third of the homes are now empty or temporarily occupied by strangers? How will the community fare now that the population has been cut by more than half since the 1950s and 60s?

http://wwel.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/2020-census-interactive-dashboard.htm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/publications/excel/new-york-state-local-government-census-lookup-table.xlsx>



In honor of Franklin legend Robert “Bob” Cronauer, who passed away on March 16th, the New Franklin Register reprints this affectionate profile which appeared in our spring issue in March, 2020. NFR staff and writers extend their deepest sympathy to the Cronauer family.

JOAN AND BOB CRONAUER

By Susan Barnett

Joan and Bob Cronauer were born and raised in Franklin. They raised their family in the house where Bob grew up, on what is now Cronauer Road.

“He was born in that room behind me,” Joan said, as we sat in the living room of their farmhouse. “I grew up in the village and I always wanted to live on a farm.” She laughed. “Until I got on one. You could write your name in the frost on the window here. We had an oil furnace where I grew up!”

Their house used to be “right on the main road,” before County Route 21 was rerouted and improved.

“It was a four way intersection,” Bob remembered. “And there were a lot of accidents. One Thanksgiving night we had to go help a fellow get his car out of our field. Then there was the truck loaded with storm windows that went into

the creek. Windows all over the place.”

“We were always helping people who’d crashed their cars,” Joan said.

When they moved the road, she remembered, the clouds of construction dust drove her inside with her children.

“But I love it now,” she admitted.

The name of the new road was a surprise to them, Joan said. “I was working at the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) when they started assigning 911 addresses and I heard them say, ‘Cronauer Road.’”

“First we heard it,” Bob agreed.

Bob farmed his family’s land, and gradually transitioned into his own plumbing and electrical business. His wife of sixty-five years taught in the Franklin School for three decades. They were both active on the Franklin Emergency Rescue Squad.

Franklin, they said, always had a strong community spirit.

“When I was really small, 1935 or ‘36,” Bob said, “there was a huge flood. The water came

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CATS, continued from Page 13

when somebody uploads our work. A campaign has begun to pass legislation to fix this “safe harbor” law so that YouTube can no longer upload music without paying its creators.

If you want to help the campaign and your favorite starving artist musician, you can send a letter to your Representatives: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/streaming-justice-tell-congress-we-need-to-get-paid-for-our-work/>.

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COP-OUT, con't from Page 1

overturned by the same margin.) Strangely, no one on the board would engage with the residents. Instead, supervisor Taggart said repeatedly that they were there just to listen. After an hour, the audience had had its say, but the board did not vote. They did not even discuss the costs and benefits of opting-out, let alone state their position, unlike at their August and September meetings.

Stranger still, only two weeks later the board held a special meeting just to vote on Local Law 1-2021, this time in the garage bays. The board members restated their position from August and September: they could only opt-out before January 1st and could opt-in later. All five voted against retail sales and service.

MRTA provided that any local law to opt-out may be overturned through a permissive referendum under Municipal Home Rule Law Article 3, Section 24. This requires that within 45 days of the board's vote, a petition to hold such a referendum be submitted to the town clerk with signatures equal to at least ten percent of the voters in the last gubernatorial election. In Franklin, that meant a minimum of 108 signatures.

Unfortunately, the MRTA does not provide the exact legal wording for the petition question. After Carla Nordstrom consulted with various sources and settled on the wording, she requested that the town attorney pre-clear it to avoid a waste of effort. Strangely, this courtesy was refused by supervisor Taggart. To be clear, the town attorney represents the interest of the town government, not the townspeople. However, this courtesy has been extended in other towns.

More than a week ahead

of the deadline of December 3rd, a petition with ten percent more than the required number of signatures was presented to town clerk Johns by Ms. Nordstrom, who had witnessed the vast majority of them herself. A clerk is legally required to check that the wording fairly represents the question, there are a sufficient number of signatures, and these signatures are properly witnessed. In her review, Ms. Johns consulted with the town attorney.

A mere three days later (with Thanksgiving in between) the notice of a second special meeting was posted on the town website for the purpose of scheduling a special election on the question of opting-

said of a special election. The strangeness continued. Town boards have no legal authority to approve a voters' petition; it is entirely under the authority of town clerks. What is more, Ms. Johns did not sign the Certification of Petition Form until December 7th, a week later.

Now we wait until November for the question of prohibition of retail sales of cannabis to be decided by you the voters. In the interim, Local Law 1-2021 is suspended, meaning that retail sale would be allowed in Franklin after April 1st once regulations are codified by the state. All this could have been precluded had the Franklin board placed the question on the November 2020 ballot.

The board in the Town of Guilford in neighboring Chenango County did just that. Guilford voters chose to support the free market by remaining in with a 2:1 majority. Likewise, in December, the mayor and trustees of the Village of Franklin placed this question on the spring ballot. On March 15th, villagers voted for permitting retail sales of cannabis to adults by 27 to 21 but against on-site consumption 28 to 20.

A market could be good for farmers. Half of all cannabis licenses will be reserved for "social and economic equity applicants." One of the four groups in this category is distressed farmers. However, under Local Law 1-2021 they would be prohibited from opening a store in Franklin.

MRTA provides for nine types of cannabis businesses: nursery, cultivator, processor, delivery, distributor, cooperative (wholesale), microbusiness (retail), retail dispensary, and on-site consumption. Municipalities may prohibit licensing of only the last two. A microbusiness license in Franklin would allow a small vertically-integrated business to grow, process, sell, and deliver door-to-door. Arguably, this would allow less oversight than sales in stores.

What is more, towns may prohibit the storefront sale and serving of only cannabis. This prohibition does not extend to cannabinoid products such as CBD. Currently OCM is accepting licenses for sales of such, with a license fee of \$300.

Is there a business opportunity here for Franklin?

"Confusion has its cost."
Helplessly Hoping
— Stephen Stills



Mayor Tom Briggs and Paula Niebanck, Franklin Village Clerk, at recent village elections
Photo by Tony Breuer

out. This was variously strange. First, a monthly meeting was called only a week later. Second, MHR § 3-24(1) provides for a voter referendum during a general election unless specified in the petition, which it is not. Third, the voter referendum in November will be at no additional cost to the taxpayers whereas a special election would have cost hundreds of dollars to rent a voting machine and pay the poll workers.

The special meeting was held on the following Monday when the supervisor announced that the town had approved the petition, but not one word was

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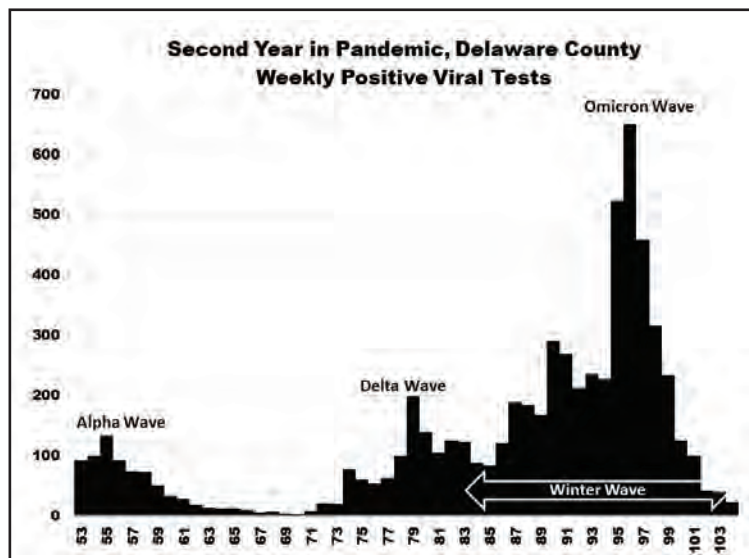
In Delaware County, the Town Board of Bovina opted-out of cannabis sales and service as did the board in Franklin. Also as in Franklin, the voters petitioned for a referendum on this local law. Unlike in Franklin, the Bovina town clerk denied the petition on the basis of a difference of one word. Ms. Hewitt decided that the use of the word "address" rather than the preferred "residence" on the petition form was a fatal flaw.

Really?

Residents submitted an appeal of this denial to the Supreme Court in Delhi last December. Election law is clear that what is required is only substantial compliance. For example, NY CLN Chapter 17 Elections § 6-134(10) Designating petition, rules: *The provisions of this section shall be liberally construed, not inconsistent with substantial compliance thereto and the prevention of fraud.*

The New York State Board of Elections in its guide, *Election Law Update 2021*, elaborates on this principle in the section titled "Form and Contents of Petitions" on Pg. 20: *The test of compliance is whether the petition form contains the required information. A slight rearrangement as to how the information is presented or an insignificant deviation in the wording is not a fatal defect.* Not one of the 58 voters who signed the Bovina petition provided an address other than their legal residence.

The Bovina appeal was reviewed by the Honorable Brian Burns on January 18th, but no decision has been made public yet.



SECOND YEAR IN PANDEMIC
Bad, Worse, Worst

By Brian Brock

Last spring, we were coming down off a wave of infections from the Alpha variant. By June, positive COVID tests in Delaware County had dropped to only a few each week because our socializing had moved outdoors. Unlike in 2020, this return-to-normal did not last all summer long. Starting in late July, we suffered three successive waves of infections due to the Delta variant, indoor socializing, and the Omicron variant. Each wave brought more infections than the last because more than a third of our residents were unvaccinated. In particular, the Omicron wave was so large that in three months it accounted for one third of all

positive test results in the entire pandemic. Delaware County Department of Public Health has recorded a total of 8,100 positive tests, and by an estimate of the Center for Disease Control, there was an equal number of infected but untested cases. In two years, over a third of county residents suffered from COVID.

Along with these infections, the Grim Reaper came calling for the unvaccinated. In only half a year (last September through February), our losses were over four dozen people — half of all our deaths in the pandemic. Roughly one person died from COVID for every 160 county residents who were infected.

Now we are down to levels of infection not seen since late last summer. With the BA.2 subvariant on the horizon, we can hope that spring's rebirth brings something close to a return to normal life.

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Walton, NY 13856-0210

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CLAM, con't from Page 3

icy or a directive" so that the townspeople know where to look. Instead, the location has floated around Franklin. For a few years, it was on the counter of the deli.

Then there is the withholding of documents. Open Meeting Law requires all documents to be discussed in open meetings must be made available to the townspeople at least a day ahead: "Agency records available to the public pursuant to article six of this chapter [Freedom of Information Law], as well as any proposed resolution, law, rule, regulation, policy or any amendment thereto, that is scheduled to be the subject of discussion by a public body during an open meeting shall be made available, upon request therefor, to the extent practicable at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting during which the records will be discussed.... If the agency in which a public body functions maintains a regularly and routinely updated website and utilizes a high-speed internet connection, such records shall be posted on the website to the extent practical at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting."

Our board does none of this, not printed hand-outs nor online postings. As a rule, the only printed documents that are provided in the clerk's office are those required for public hearings. Without reading documents in advance, townspeople come unprepared. Neither are documents available at meetings, although occasionally a presenter brings an extra copy or two which the audience can share.

During board meetings in other towns, reports are regularly presented by elected and appointed officials to keep townspeople informed on what is going on. Most of the Franklin elected officials do report. The highway superintendent Laing has reported regularly, vital given that he is responsible for over three quarters of the town budget. Supervisor Taggart regularly reports on the progress of the planning board, on which he served before becoming a board member. Member Smith reports on the Kellogg Trust, for which the board has responsibility. Member Ross has taken on reports on the Recreation Committee, for which the town appropriates \$12,370. We can hope for regular reports on that

committee now.

However, there has been no regular reporting from the elected clerk and tax collector or from the appointed assessor, BAR chairman, code enforcement officer, dog control officer, etc. The new CEO has been attending, and we can hope that Mr. Weber continues.

Of more import is that lack of a monthly report by the supervisor himself of how he has represented the town on the Delaware County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Taggart earns over three quarters of his salary with this work, yet townspeople could attend board meetings for months without hearing a mention of his responsibilities in Delhi.

After the meeting, townspeople should be informed of what happened. The official record of a town meeting is the written minutes of the town clerk. Since the pandemic, the town has had a website, but minutes have not been posted. Instead, you have to request a copy. The board does post videos of meetings on the town website – sort of. Since the town took over videorecording the meetings in 2020, over a third are missing.

The power of the purse is the most consequential responsibility of the board. Consolidate Law, Chapter 62 Town, requires that finances to be managed in three public meetings. Before October 6th, the board reviews and amends the tentative budget from the supervisor for the next year and then accepts it. Before the first Friday after the general election, they hold a public hearing on this budget. (The board may vote then, but must before November 21th.) And finally, before January 21st,

they audit the books of the year past. Currently, the board holds this audit but not in public – an improvement over the eight years when it did no audits at all.

Open meetings are intended to let the people see their government in action. Yet in Franklin, some of the board's discussion take place out of view. Take the notorious example of when the town was audited by the NYS Office of the Comptroller in 2013. This audit found that the board had been operating illegally for years by neither annually auditing the town books nor releasing a report to taxpayers and state. In response, the board agreed with this conclusion and committed to reform. However, none of this was discussed in open meetings. Even the official letter of response submitted to the OSC was sent without the usual motion to approve. This whole matter was kept from the townspeople for years until someone in town government informed this newspaper of the audit, and we began an investigation.

The townspeople have a right to be kept fully informed of town business. Sadly, the Franklin town board has a long history of keeping its own council.

Part II is planned for the summer issue, detailing the board's less-than-open handling of town finances.

Correction: In the winter issue, the article "Tentative Town Taxes '22" cited the county salary of Supervisor Taggart as \$12,100.

However, he makes at least \$14,159 from the county and \$3,800 from the town, for a total compensation of \$17,959.

We regret the error.

CAUTION: WORK ZONE

A notice on the homepage of the website for the Town of Franklin advises that the site would be "deprecated" as of February 19th. It reads, "Keep watching for announcements of a new official website for the Town of Franklin!!"

At the March meeting, our town board unanimously resolved to hire GovOffice Web Solutions of Minneapolis, Minnesota. An example of their handiwork is the website for the Town of Sand Lake in Rensselaer County, New York, <https://www.townofsandlake.us/>

Board members Bruno and Smith have championed this upgrade.

Thanks are due to Assessor Jim Basile, who built and maintained our original town website when no one on the board thought one was necessary.

CRONAUER, continued from Page 15

working farm kid who was a star athlete in basketball and baseball, and a talented trumpet player.

"Her dad took us to see the Dodgers at Ebbets Field," Bob remembered.

"After seven innings I was ready to go home," Bob said.

"It was so dirty," Joan exclaimed. "The bathrooms were disgraceful!"

They agreed on that. And after they were married, they seemed to agree on what their lives together would be. They both worked, they both took care of their children and Bob's parents, Alex and Martha, who lived with them. Bob's dad was bedridden for fifteen years, and stubbornly resisted the increasing mechanization of farming.

"He didn't like machines. He didn't believe bigger was better," Joan said. "And even when he couldn't do the work and his wife was doing it, he insisted on us doing it his way. In the end, maybe he was right. All those machines and the big farms are putting small farmers out of business."

And they agreed on the value of education. They both are proud of their own education, and the achievements of the younger generations of Cronauers.

"I worked different jobs and then decided to go back to school to become a teacher. I got my Masters," Joan said. "Education is the thing. I'm still on the School Board. And Bob went to school at Delhi Tech to take electrician



Joan and Bob Cronauer

courses, but of course he could already do most anything because he'd been helping out people with odd jobs for years. And when we had to study to do advanced EMS training, that was equivalent to two years of med school."

Bob now smilingly refers to himself as the CEO of Cronauer Plumbing and Electric. His grandson, Jason, who started working with him when he was ten,

after school, now does the work while Bob occasionally checks in.

The Cronauers remember when Franklin was a thriving market town. They ticked off the names of four groceries, three department stores, two garages, a hairdresser, a creamery, two slaughterhouses, a hardware store and two feed stores.

"It's gone from agrarian to a tourist town," Joan noted. "There were five hundred kids in the Franklin school in the sixties. Now there are about 250. Franklin seems to draw retired people, college professors, families who want their children to go to the Franklin School. And there are the weekenders, the people who come here part-time. There's a divide now."

"I think the school is the industry here now," Joan continued. "And we've got a great library. You see people who haven't had access to the Internet using the computers there. Education is the world."

Joan said the local divide isn't political; it's philosophical – a growing progressive worldview smacking hard into a deep-rooted conservative one.

"I think there's a resentment of people seen as 'elites,'" she said.

But she also described a frequent tendency of so-called elites to be very rigid in their thinking, unwilling to hear any views that aren't their own.

"If everyone could get together, we could get things done," she said.

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THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER

Contact Manette Berlinger
manette.berlinger@gmail.com

RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS.	SALE	SELLER	BUYER
8/20/21	2696 State Hwy 28 S	0.54	Vac w/Imprv	14,000	6,000	Woodard, Todd	Horee, Peter
8/21/21	213 Center St	0.23	1 Family Res	175,000	175,000	McHale Family Trust,	Hunt, Robert
8/24/21	2907 Case Hill Rd (N)	2.00	1 Family Res	165,000	195,000	Bird, Kenneth J	Sullivan, Michael J
9/2/21	Chamberlain Hill Rd	71.79	Rural Vac>10	105,000	115,000	Evreinov, Alex	Axtell, Nicole
9/23/21	2278 Jackson Hill Rd	108.12	Rural Res	340,000	-	Crane, John R	Vealey, Renee A (R)
9/23/21	2312 Jackson Hill Rd	5.00	1 Family Res	82,000	-	Crane, John R	Crane, Dorothy V
9/24/21	Jackson Hill Rd	30.50	Vacant Rural	26,000	23,000	Perna, Elizabeth K	Dzamko, Emma
9/28/21	9179 County Hwy 21	5.18	2 Family Res	105,000	115,000	Duke, Joshua	White, Tyler
9/30/21	County Highway 14	45.00	Rural Vac>10	79,000	65,000	Cabano, Jamie M	Manley, Jennifer E
10/4/21	29 Water St	0.23	1 Family Res	116,000	170,000	Alice G Hall Trust,	Cohen, Mark J (R)
10/5/21	9095 State Hwy 357	1.40	1 Family Res	113,000	180,000	Tarbell, Tracy	Mrakovcic, Vlada
10/5/21	1304 Sherman Hill Rd	18.80	Rural Res	200,000	206,000	Arroyave, Nelly E	Persico, Kevin
10/10/21	State Highway 28 S	0.74	Rural Vac<10	2,000	3,800	Elia, Matthew	Tromblee, Kenneth
10/15/21	County Hwy 21	31.31	Rural Vac>10	84,000	85,000	Dunbar, Daniel F	Delatorre, Marcel A
10/18/21	15 Second St	0.41	1 Family Res	140,000	265,000	Siman, Jack	Aaron, Shauna
10/19/21	4975 County Hwy 14	1.00	Mfg Housing	44,000	40,000	Lynch, Emilienne N	Williams, Glenn
10/20/21	Russell Rd (N)	9.75	Rural Vac<10	26,000	14,500	Terry, Walter L	Community LD LLC
10/22/21	6504 County Hwy 21	23.00	Rural Vac>10	58,000	90,000	Simpson, Jason	Sanchez, Faustino
11/22/21	131 Jackson Hill Rd	1.00	1 Family Res	120,000	219,000	Cleary, Patricia	Kostova, Anna
11/23/21	249 Center St	0.25	1 Family Res	165,000	250,000	Lemieux, Francis J	Lavalette, Megan M
11/24/21	125 Case Hill Rd (2)	2.65	1 Family Res	142,000	188,000	Weerheim, Elwood W	Johnston, Eric David
12/1/21	10660 State Hwy 357	14.20	Rural Res	185,000	257,000	Plevritis, Rosalie	Stuit, David L
12/2/21	3351 Merrickville Rd	1.30	Housing	30,000	40,000	Taylor, Kenneth A	Komenda, Kellen J
12/3/21	6809 E Handsome Bk Rd	0.28	Seasonal Res	40,000	118,000	Davidson Fitch, Rosalyn	Polley, Douglas C
12/6/21	Stewart Rd	23.41	Rural Vac>10	36,000	40,000	Kops, Myron S	95 Stewart LLC
12/9/21	1837 Rich Rd	223.09	Rural Res	700,000	799,000	Palms Crest Foundation	Rich 1837 LLC
12/10/21	2059 Rich Rd	2.50	1 Family Res	76,000	44,500	Kaplow, Robert	Dragos, Darren Dolph
12/15/21	Campbell Estates Rd	10.41	Rural Vac>10	22,000	31,500	Schroder, Richard	Massaro, Joseph
12/15/21	Campbell Rd	7.00	Rural Vac<10	21,000	21,000	Schroder, Hildegard	Massaro, Joseph
12/15/21	742 Campbell Rd (N)	5.52	1 Family Res	178,000	368,000	Schroder, Richard	Massaro, Joseph
12/20/21	White Hill Rd (2)	14.65	Rural Res	Walton	406,000	Connors, Joanne	Lewis, John Donaldson
12/21/21	946 Thoroughbred Rd (2)	31.35	Rural Res	Hamden	334,000	Shurte, Jason H	Schwark, Anrea Lynn
12/28/21	Poet Hill Rd	9.27	Rural Vac<10	40,000	31,500	Goudelias, George K	D'Aguilar, Jennifer J
1/6/22	County Hwy 14	14.15	Rural Vac>10	33,000	42,000	Ferretti, Philip	Leibig, David
1/6/22	2739 County Hwy 14	1.10	1 Family Res	53,000	50,000	Ulmer, Leon	Leibig, David
1/26/22	748 Swart Hollow Rd (N)	0.72	1 Family Res	107,000	150,000	Heinz Rumenapp (Est.)	Simonds, Justin R
2/2/22	Campbell Estates Rd	11.92	Rural Vac>10	25,000	42,000	Hernandez, Wilmer	Wuhrer, Monika
2/10/22	Pomeroy Rd	57.70	Rural Vac>10	81,000	120,000	Mancuso, Louis P	Osterhoudt, Tammy
2/11/22	964 Finch Rd	73.50	Rural Res&Ag	340,000	350,000	Bevilacqua Joint Rev.	Brandt, Laurie
2/11/22	1446 Douglas Hall Rd	56.30	Rural Res	185,000	470,000	Lordi, Mario and Phylis	Deluca, Philip Carl
2/15/22	4353 County Hwy 14	0.44	1 Family Res	76,000	115,000	Tait, Harold J	Santos, Richard
2/22/22	499 Main St	0.32	3 Family Res	150,000	160,000	White, Paul A	Mamfas LLC
2/25/22	1496 Bennett Hollow Rd	68.70	Rural Res&Ag	140,000	165,000	Sobolewski, Bernard A	Wrixon, Robert

(2) Two parcels

(N)NotWarranty

(R) Relative

MAYOR’S CORNER, continued from Page 3

County Soil and Water to see if the village would be interested in developing a “riparian buffer” on village property skirting the Ouleout Creek near the Otego Road bridge. A riparian buffer consists of a variety of trees and shrubs planted to retain soil during floods and to assist in filtering ground water as it passes into the creek and eventually to the Susquehanna River. The village contacted Franklin Central School and the Franklin Rotary Club to assist in planting the saplings. In the fall of 2021, an environmental class, honor students from FCS, and Rotary members assisted Soil and Water workers in planting 189 saplings. In April we will plant a similar number of saplings, this time following a design prepared by a landscaping professional.

People walking on Main Street may have noticed that several of the stately old but dying maple trees have been cut down and removed during the last few years. The all-volunteer village tree committee continues to replace these trees with low-growing varieties that will not grow into the power lines above. Last fall, fifteen trees were planted in the village.

One concern yet to be properly addressed

is the chronic speeding problem within the village, especially on Main Street. We have contacted the county sheriff’s office several times about this. They set up speed monitoring devices and placed patrol cars within the village to catch violators, but this has had limited success. Some residents took it upon themselves to post signs on the medians in front of their houses, begging drivers to slow down. No doubt this topic will continue to surface in village board meetings.

We will be working with the Rotary Club to host at least one meet-and-greet activity this summer, similar to the ice cream social that we had last year. We also encourage residents to avail themselves of the Railroad and Community Museum, the Franklin Free Library and our wonderful theater, the Franklin Stage Company.

All in all, the Village of Franklin is in good shape fiscally, functioning within its means, and keeping up with the day to day demands typically faced by a micro-municipality. As always, we welcome input from our village residents. Together we will retain the good qualities that were passed down by prior generations and improve on those things that need adjusting to make way for future generations.



“Reflections of Franklin”
Photo by Tony Breuer

SOLAR SEARCHING:

NEWYORK STATE RENEWABLES

Staff Report

Our burning of fossil fuels is cooking the planet. Sources of the replacement for essential electrical power include nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar. Solar is gaining.

Nuclear power has fallen out of favor. The federal government never settled on a standardized design for power plants, as France did, resulting in each plant requiring decades to design and approve, costing billions. In each design, unique flaws are discovered. What is more, the government never built a national repository for nuclear waste as Norway did.

No new nuclear power plant has been built in New York in half a century, and none are on the horizon. In fact, the reactors at Indian Point in Westchester Co. are being decommissioned. Only three nuclear plants continue to generate electricity in New York State: James A. Fitzpatrick in Oswego Co., R. E. Ginna in Wayne Co., and Nine Mile Point in Oswego Co.

Our state government has set a goal of generating seventy percent of our electricity from renewables by 2030 and one hundred percent by 2040. The Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (2020) created an expedited permitting process (Section 94-c of Public Service Law) for large-scale renewable energy projects to supersede the Article 10 process that applies to all other sources of electricity. A decision will be made within one year of the application by a project.

In addition, New York State Energy Research & Development Agency has been subsidizing renewables. In the first three years of the program, it provided \$3.9 billion for 67 projects – an average of almost \$60 million each. Hydro has limited potential left to be developed. NYSEERDA supported only two small projects, Lyons Falls Mill Redevelopment in Lewis Co. and Chasm Falls Hydro in Franklin Co.

Wind projects offshore in the Great Lakes and the Atlantic have great potential, but on land not so much. There are scattered good locations in the high peaks of the Adirondacks and Catskills, but those are protected areas. In the first three years,

ten wind projects were funded, but none the fourth year.

Of the projects that NYSEERDA has funded, eighty-five percent are solar. Of the 75 solar projects, most are community-scale of less than 20 MW power, but about a third are utility-scale projects as large as 500 MW. There is a land rush to stakeout the best sites in New York. “Best” means having an existing high-voltage distribution line, land that is flat or gently sloping to the south, and hundreds of acres of cleared fields.

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (2019) mandates the deployment of 6 GW of photovoltaic generation by 2025, 3 GW of energy storage by 2030, and 9 GW of offshore wind generation by 2035. Just the utility-scale solar projects being reviewed would generate over 6 GW of power.

These projects have been proposed in half of the 62 counities. While more than three dozen solar projects have begun the regulatory process, only two modest photovoltaic arrays have been built, both downstate: Long Island Solar Farm in Suffolk Co. (32 MW) and Shoreham Solar Common in Nassau Co. (25 MW). A much larger one is under construction upstate, Horseshoe Solar in Livingstone and Monroe counties (180 MW).

In Delaware County, no utility scale-solar project has applied to the NYSEERDA for funding or NYPSC for permitting. However, the Stonewall Solar project has been proposed east of Meridale on hundreds of acres straddling County Highway 10 (Meridale – Davenport Center Road), which is east of State Highway 28.

The Walton planning board has approved a special permit for a community-scale solar array of 2.25 MW covering nine acres off East River Road. It will be built by Inovateus Solar of South Bend, Indiana. Once completed, solar power will be managed by SunCentral, a subsidiary of Pivot Energy. This project has received funds from NYSEERDA.

A solar project could be sited in Franklin. The high-voltage distribution line to the village comes over the hill from Otego. There is another that comes south from Oneonta to the top of Franklin Mountain.

A MESSAGE FROM RESIDENTS OF THE NEIGHBORING YOWN OF MEREDITH:

Be on the lookout for more information about the proposal by Stonewall Solar LLC to build a 145MW, 800 - 1,100-acre utility scale solar facility in Meredith.

[The NFR hopes to have a full report in our summer issue – the Editors]

While you’re waiting, consider the following:

Does your town have a solar law?

Towns can write laws for the permitting of utility solar projects under 25 MWs (which can still be huge - anywhere from 6 to 10 acres per MW).

How big a set-back would you want from your home?

In the absence of a town law, developers can use the minimal state setbacks required by the state law, which allows a mere 250-foot setback from residences.



The Newsletter of Franklin Local

Editorial Board

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Eugene Marner Manette Berlinger
Associate Editor: Brian Brock

Editor
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register
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Franklin, NY 13775
or by email: nfr@franklinlocal.org

What are we about?

Franklin Local Ltd, the parent organization for The New Franklin Register and of the Franklin Farmers' Market, is a not-for-profit corporation made up of Franklin residents.

Our mission statement: to work to preserve the rural character of Franklin, to build the local economy, to encourage volunteerism, and to raise awareness of economic and social challenges that may result from climate change and the transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy.

We generally meet once a month, at 7 P.M.; the date and location are posted on our website. All are welcome, to offer questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas, to make things happen.

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

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

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

PLEASE JOIN US!

For meeting times, location and directions, as well as lots of other information about our town, check our website:

franklinlocal.org

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New Trail Opening & Forest Hike

APRIL 24th
1 - 2 p.m.

Lordsland Preserve

Doc Ahler Road, Town of Roseboom, Otsego County

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MEMORIES OF UKRAINE

By Manette Berlinger

In 1995, when my mother was in her eighties and becoming frail, my husband and I took her to her birthplace in Ukraine, which she had left at sixteen and had never seen again.

Originally in Romania, the town was annexed to Ukraine by the Soviet Union in 1940 and later invaded by the Nazis. All I knew of it as a child was its name, Novoselitz, a word that evoked in my mind the mythical lands in fairy tales. My mother did not speak much of her childhood, only of the struggle to subsist, the dangers that loomed, and the beauty of the River Prut. My eldest aunt, the first to emigrate to America, had returned to Novoselitz only once before history made it a neverland.

On an early morning in May, my mother, husband and I flew to Bucharest, the capital of Romania. We were met at the airport, on the strong advice of an experienced friend, by a former head of the local KGB, who would arrange the trip north and across the border. My memories are tinged by the grey dust of Bucharest at that time, its beautiful, worn-out buildings and sombre streets, and the train station filled with quiet travelers and darting children. We boarded a heavy, bare metal train that screeched and banged as it hurtled through the night. In the morning, people pointed us to a spot of dry ground where a bus would arrive to take us to the border. I remember a kind woman who found a piece of cardboard, laid it on a concrete step and invited my mother to sit down. The bus, filled with silent men and women, labored along the road. We stopped once to rest where the women crowded around a fountain with a single spigot. At the border, we waited for over an hour. My elderly, foreign mother

was then escorted, along with us, embarrassed by the privilege, to the front of the line as the travelers were slowly checked. One hundred yards across the border, the identical process was repeated.

We had reserved rooms in a large, empty hotel near Novoselitz, the most comfortable in the area, where hot water was brought to us in buckets and the restaurant served one dish. We had five days to find my mother's town, the place where her house had stood, the ancient cemetery, and a street in Czernowitz where

she had gone to school. My mother's memories were misted with time and emotion but she remembered many Russian and Romanian phrases, and chatted congenially with the young driver whom the hotel had provided. He spoke no English, did not know the places my mother named, but was game to search for them. We drove toward Novoselitz, passing fields where mule-drawn carts slowly pulled their loads as they had done for centuries. In the middle of our reverie, a sign appeared on the road with the word Novoselitz, a dream that was real. My husband and I sat mute as our car wove through the streets of the rebuilt town, my mother and our driver asking questions and following uncertain roads until they miraculously found the cemetery. The respectful caretaker showed us

where our relatives were buried. We wiped the dust from the stones and read the worn inscriptions. My mother was quiet. I took a small stone and a shell that now rest on a shelf of memories.

Our only guidebook was a memoir written by my mother's youngest brother who had passed away a few years before. He had traveled to Novoselitz while the Soviets still controlled it, in search of our family's history, and had located the hill where their house had stood. We followed his words to the spot, gazed at the house that had replaced it, and tried to imagine what had been. My uncle also mentioned a man he'd met. In the Post Office, we dialed every person in the telephone book with that name, until someone answered who was, in fact, a distant cousin. Within minutes, three men appeared and took us to the house of a woman who was born in Novoselitz and had returned after the war. She had somehow saved her high school album. Hunched together, she and my mother pored over the pictures for a long time, murmuring shared recollections. She was living on a government pension of \$10 a month, and still had an outhouse.

The next day we drove to Czernovitz, where my mother had lived with an aunt and uncle in order to study in business school. My uncle's book guided us to their house. An elderly woman was sitting in front of the door. My mother approached her and asked if, by chance, she remembered her relatives. To our amazement and joy, she did, her memory bringing closure to our journey.

Undoubtedly, my impressions of the poverty and sadness we met in Ukraine more than twenty-five years ago were shadowed by my mother's poignant, dream-filled memories. Today, as I watch the shattering loss of life and home for millions of Ukrainians, I think of how the survivors will long to return.