

FRANKLIN IN THE MIDDLE

By Carla Nordstrom

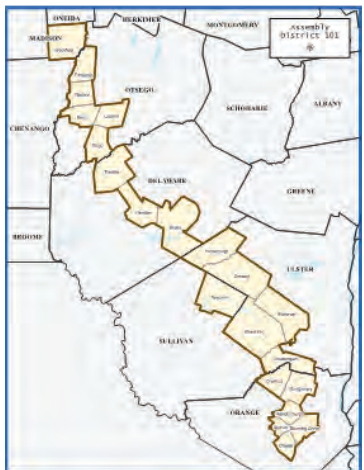
Every ten years, following the U.S. Census, states redraw the lines for federal and state election districts. This is needed to address demographic changes that occur as people move around during each decade. Some places gain population while others lose it. A small town like Franklin is just thrown into the mix and can end up in a different district with far-away places in every direction. Back in 2002, Franklin was in a congressional district referred to as “the

backwards L” - it stretched from Oneonta to Plattsburgh along a patchwork of state roads.

While two of our districts - Congressional District 19 and NY Senate District 51 - are the same, the boundaries have changed. CD 19 stretches from Columbia County, through Franklin to Binghamton and up to Ithaca in Tompkins County. The 51st Senate District is similar to the old district, though it doesn’t reach as far west. The wild card is our new Assembly District 101. I call it the Can’t get There from Here district. If there is ever a contest for the most gerrymandered election district, I suspect the 101 would be a top contender.

For most people, it doesn’t really matter what the district maps are. But if you live in a small town, sometimes you need to create alliances with other towns in the district to get the attention of elected politicians. This is hard to do

See **MAPS**, con’t on Page 16



Map of new A.D. 101

TOWN BOARD, CLOSED AS A CLAM

Part II: Finances

By Brian Brock

Part I appeared in the spring issue, examining the claim by Supervisor Taggart that the town board is open to the townspeople during town meetings.

What is more important to governing our town than managing the town’s finances? But learning about the finances has not been made easy.

Central to financial management is the annual budget document, but the one for the Town of Franklin is confusing. For example, labels are uninformative. Before objections by this newspaper, the major funds were referred to only as General A, General B, DA, and DB. Appropriated fund balances were mislabeled as unexpended fund balances, leaving the misimpression that these were all funds that were carried over from the previous year. To this day, individual appropriations are labeled PS and CE without any footnote explaining that these labels

See **CLAM**, continued on Page 19



Eric Ball

LOCAL CANDIDATE

By Alexis Greene

He’s a life-long Democrat, born and raised in Walton, and now Eric Ball, the 34-year-old Village of Walton Trustee, is running for the New York State Senate from the new 51st State Senatorial District, which includes all of Delaware and Sullivan Counties.

As Ball wrote in an email, “I am running for State Senate to represent the people who work hard to raise their families, make a living, and contribute to their communities. As a local government official, I have built consensus to lead our community forward. I want to bring that experience and commitment to the New York State Senate so that state government can work for you and lift up the voices of the forgotten, underserved, and underrepresented.”

Indeed, throughout his comparatively young life, Ball has demonstrated his

See **BALL**, con’t on Page 18



Brian Brock and Don Hebbard volunteer at the 2021 Annual Franklin Village Park and Edible Trail Clean-up Day
Photo by Tony Breuer

REZONING FOR BUSINESS

Staff Report

Zoning ordinances for the Town of Franklin have long prohibited the siting of new commercial structures within 1,000 feet of residences under Section 538, Commercial and Industrial Location Limitations. Most businesses would look for locations along the highways, but this restriction leaves few possibilities.

No maps have been presented to show what land is open for commercial and industrial use under the current setback. Franklin is the only town in the county with so large a setback (a fifth of a mile). The reason for it is not in the record. One resident suggests it could have been from concern about wind turbines falling on neighboring properties.

But any business can apply for a variance from this regulation. In recent years, several businesses have been permitted in our town, but only because Section 538 was overlooked. Its existence was called to the attention of the planning board by lawyers for Dollar General, so now must either be enforced as is, or amended. Speculation is that if a prospective business were to sue the town, this restriction would be overturned by the courts. At the moment, there is no such project in the pipeline.

Our planning board has proposed shorter setbacks of 250’ along high-

ways (Zone I), 500’ along year-round town roads (Zone III), and 700’ along seasonal town roads (Zone V). Distance would be measured from the closest corner of the residence to the closest corner of the business building, storage area, or parking lot. In addition, the revised ordinance would remove a setback between the business and the home of the business owner.

An elephant-in-the-room is if these revisions would allow the siting of a Dollar General store in Franklin. Dollar General wants a town site along a highway, close to the village. Twice the company proposed such a site but

See **ZONING**, con’t on Pg. 17



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

REGULAR FEATURES:	
Your Neighbor’s View	Pg. 2
The Mayor’s Corner	Pg. 3
Kitchen Basics	Pg. 5
Inside Local Realty	Pg. 6
Green Banks Garden	Pg. 7
Real Estate Sales	Pg. 20
LOCAL NEWS:	
Old Franklin Day!	Pg. 3
New Business Opens	Pg. 3
Kim Smith Sworn In	Pg. 4
Rotary Plants Trees	Pg. 4
Town Board Meetings	Pg. 4
Sidney Ctr. Park News	Pg. 4
Hanford Mills Event	Pg. 5
Church Pie Sale	Pg. 5
Pandemic Report	Pg. 19
SUSTAINABILITY:	
Steely’s Land of Plenty	Pg. 8
Birdsong Gardens	Pg. 8
Can Tech Save Us?, III	Pg. 9
Franklin Solar Project	Pg. 10
Birds vs. Climate	Pg. 10
LOCAL ARTS:	
Sugar House Cane	Pg. 11
Book Reviews	Pg. 12
Poetry Shelf	Pg. 12
Catskill Cats	Pg. 13
Paint the Point!	Pg. 14
Skinny Cow III	Pg. 14
Film Focus	Pg. 15

Your Neighbor's View...

A LETTER THAT OFFERS A HISTORY LESSON

To the Editor:

I write in appreciation and support for the letter by Carla Nordstrom in the latest issue of the New Franklin Register, in which she talks about how offensive it is to sell and display Confederate flags in Delaware County, given how many young men from the county fought and died in the war to defeat those who waved that flag. I have felt this way for many years, and it bothers me to see a large Confederate flag painted on a barn near our house in North Franklin.

I can offer evidence to document how strong the support in Delaware County was for the Union and how the Confederate flag was considered the flag of the enemy, of those who fought to preserve slavery; and why display of the Confederate flag should still be seen as offensive in Delaware County.

From *The Franklin Visitor* of February 10, 1863:

"Re: EC fraternity reunion in Civil War

"Dispatch from Camp Bliss, Virginia, Jan 27, 1863

"Dear Readers: As most of you are friends or acquaintances of the 'E.C.' Fraternity of Delaware Literary Institute [in Franklin], it may not be amiss to give some account of the first regular meeting of its branch at Upton Hill, Virginia.

"The large representation of the Fraternity in the Union army is well known. The soil of several rebel states has already been moistened with their blood, shed freely in the cause of the country. Until now it has not occurred that enough of the brothers were present at a particular camp to hold a meeting...But yesterday, on the arrival of Capt. A. N. Baldwin of the 20th N.Y....it was decided to hold a festive meeting...It was both a feast of reason and a reasonable feast.

"...Capt. Baldwin alluded most touchingly to those who have found early graves in the service of the Repub-

lic, and most cheerfully of the scores of the brothers now in the field."

I found this article particularly interesting because it documents the early history of the EC fraternity, founded at DLI in 1844, only eight years after the school itself, and which claimed to be the oldest secondary school fraternity in the U.S. A photo of members from years ago hangs today in Sean Scherer's antique and interior design shop in Franklin. EC members over the years also left a lot of writing on the walls of the brick building next door, but I worry they will get covered up in the current restoration, which otherwise is much to be desired. I hope at least there are photos of these graffiti to be preserved in the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum. There are also pictures of the ECs in the Liberanni yearbooks from my high school years in the 1950s, as well as many other years before and after.

As further documentation, I offer quotations from the splendid 1880 history of Delaware County (p. 91). The comparison of battle flags of the county's regiment at the beginning of the war and at the end is particularly telling and moving:

"In response to President Lincoln's call in July 1862 for 300,000 more men for the suppression of the slaveholders' rebellion, the patriotic fires of old Delaware were again kindled to full blaze. With that promptness that the exigencies of the occasion demanded, war meetings were again held, bounties provided for, and men enlisted. The clouds that hung over our nation at that time were dark and alarming, and the conquest of, or submission, to the slave power was the only alternative, conciliation having been put far out of the question. The demand of the hour was men..."

"The flags presented to the regiment at its departure were formally returned to the ladies of Delaware County on Tuesday, August 22nd, 1865, at Delhi, where they were received...Three years before, the ladies of the county had presented them, glossy and shining, and as perfect as skillful artisans could make them,

into the hands that were to bear them in the face of the foe. Now they were brought back, the gilding gone, the State flag having only the fringe and the center remaining, the national colors reduced to a tattered remnant of rags. And yet they had gained in value by the change; for every rent in them was a memorial of hardships endured, every lost fragment to the difficulties of the march and the perils of the field and the brave men who laid down their lives, either in the fervid enthusiasm of battle, or in the tediousness of the hospital... When the regiment received them, the great contest seemed comparatively doubtful—it brought them back as symbols of a redeemed and regenerated country, delivered from a deadly and imminent peril and purified from a deep and damning wrong."

Another passage is still more relevant to the struggle against the confederate flag and in favor of racial equality. This is from a speech eulogizing Lincoln, delivered by Congressman Samuel F. Miller in Franklin, NY, on June 1, 1865. Miller was a lifelong resident of Franklin, a graduate of Delaware Literary Institute. Although he had a law degree, he did not practice law, but was instead a farmer as well as politician. The Victorian house he built on his farm (a station on the underground railroad before the Civil War) still stands in North Franklin. The whole, long speech is memorable, but I offer just this especially relevant quote where Miller warns against allowing the effects of slavery to survive in any form:

"[Lincoln] died for us. He had not a single personal enemy. He died because he represented and carried out our principles. That insignificant villain Booth is not the assassin. The [foul] spirit of slavery, that so long distracted our country; that has set neighbor against neighbor, and torn friend from friend; that has put violence above law; that has mobbed peaceful citizens; that has struck down our senators in the council halls of the nation; that has muzzled the pulpit, and shut the book of life; that has filled our homes with mourning; that has starved Union prisoners; that has desecrated the graves of our dead heroes; that has drenched our country in blood; that has ridged our land all over with new made graves; this demon Slavery has murdered our president.

"Oh, let us not in our desire to punish the accomplices and tools, allow the great criminal to escape."

But the great criminal Slavery did escape. The effects of slavery and racism persisted in many forms - in the enforced segregation of Jim Crow, in the imprisonment of African American men, in the terrorist lynchings in the South - and they still persist today.

The Confederate flag cannot be separated from its tragic history. To display it can only be seen as an expression of sympathy for one of our nation's most shameful flaws, the failure to support freedom and equal opportunity for all Americans.

Jack Schwillie
Franklin

HEBBARD FENCE

**558 Otego Road
Franklin, NY 13775
607-829-8664**

donhebbard44@gmail.com

"Your Livestock Fence Specialist"

Spay.
Neuter.
Love.



LOVE & HOPE

ANIMAL SANCTUARY

607.829.2082 • www.loveandhopeforanimals.org

Our low cost spay neuter clinic for cats has openings! (\$65 for females, \$55 for males, including vaccinations). To schedule this surgery for your kitty or for further information call

607-829-2082

Love and Hope Animal Sanctuary, Inc.
25 Stewart Road, Franklin, NY 13775



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



OLD FRANKLIN DAY IS BACK! Returning August 27th!

By Connie Martin

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 27th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Institute Street off Main Street. Franklin's traditional summer festival is kicking into high gear this year, with something for everyone.

Shop Local

To date, we have nearly thirty local artists, crafters, and vendors signed up. If you're looking for that special antique, artwork, artisanal glass, pottery, ceramic ware or woodcraft, along with home décor, clothing, jewelry, and accessories, this is the place. Delicious locally made treats, including maple syrup products, baked goods, chocolate and more will be for sale. Make a memory with a special photo by Annadale Farms Photography.

Sales and Deals

Franklin Free Library will have its traditional big-tent book sale. Grab a bagful of great books and help fund the library's educational programs.



And don't miss the town-wide lawn sales – you may find the deal of a lifetime!

Party with the Bands

Thanks to the generosity of Tom Morgan and Erna Morgan McReynolds, two popular local bands will perform live:

Eric Haight's band, Off the Record, will be performing rock, country and jazz classics from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Charlie and the Roomers will be playing blues, funk, soul, rock, country and New Orleans music from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

I've been struggling for several days to write something newsworthy for the Mayor's Corner.

I've been bummed by the fact that the village has lost three businesses this spring. I've been so keen on Franklin's post pandemic prospects that I wasn't prepared for this type of setback. This, coupled with unsettling world news such as the battles in the Ukraine and the ongoing slaughter of innocent adults and chil-

dren in this country, has made it difficult for me to write anything that might bolster confidence in the prospect of brighter days to come.

Then two days ago, someone posted the following on Facebook:

"So today I stopped and filled up my car and was thankful. Thankful that I have a car. Thankful that I have money to buy gas. Thankful that there are no warplanes flying over me. Thankful that

Kids' Activities and More

We will have our popular Bounce House, balloon art, glitter tattoos, make your own sand art, and other kids' activities. We're planning other fun happenings, too!

Yum Eats

A Twee-Dee Treats food truck will be on site with a choice of menu items. The Tulip and the Rose will be grilling on site. On Main Street, both Yokel and the Tulip and the Rose will be open.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church will have a pie sale starting at 9 a.m. Have a slice with a cuppa joe and grab some pies to take home. Go early -- pies sell out quickly!



Fashion Show

Join us in the Franklin Central School Auditorium at 1 p.m. for a fashion show featuring antique and vintage clothing, modeled by your local friends and neighbors!

Around the Village

Stroll along Main Street and visit our local shops. The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum will be open with historical exhibits.

Happy 75th to Franklin Rotary!

Franklin Rotary is celebrating its 75th birthday this year! Rotarians are planning fun activities for adults and kids alike.



See OFD, continued on Page 6

I will be eating soon. Thankful that all my loved ones are safe and sound. Thankful that I live in a country where I have the freedom to do so many things. Thankful that the air I breathe is not filled with smoke and gunpowder. Thankful that I will sleep in silence and wake up to a beautiful day. I think it's time that we all become a lot more thankful and definitely more grateful."

By reading this simple paragraph, I was able to put things back into perspective and recapture the sense of optimism needed to combat a bit of disappointing news. I reposted this and shared it with my Facebook friends. It was well received by most and was then shared on-



The storefront at 438 Main Street

Photo by Andy Bobrow

438 MAIN STREET

By Carla Nordstrom

Meg Lavalette, an interior designer, and her partner Matt Formato moved to a stone house in Franklin three years ago. They fell in love with the area and decided to make this their permanent residence.

As a businesswoman, Meg looked around to figure out how she could use her talents to create a multifaceted business in Franklin. She thinks big, and when half of 438 Main Street building came on the market, she realized the best way to create the types of businesses she had in mind was to buy the entire building. So she did.

Last year, she purchased the large brick building in the village center as well as the workshop behind it. The building was originally built in 1869 to replace a structure that was damaged by fire. One storefront was a feed store, the other sold stoves.

"It's about tracking down what the history is," Meg said, "documenting it, and telling it to other people. That is the whole point of this building - to preserve the history, to restore the building, and to keep telling the story, so hopefully one day I will be part of that history."

The spaces in the building will be divided into five separate businesses, three of which will have a lava theme taken from Meg's last name. The first to open is Lava Wellness, a community space for wellness classes. Wellness trainers will be able to rent the space on the second floor for a nominal fee to hold classes in disciplines such as yoga or meditation. A Qi Gong instructor held the first class during the Memorial Day Weekend.

In keeping with her interest in history and the building, one of the ground level storefronts will host Lava atelier, a retail hub for the types of vintage and antique furnishings Meg

See 438 MAIN, continued on Page 17

ward. Unfortunately, there were others so entrenched in their respective political (or otherwise) positions that this was perceived as a threat - that by allowing themselves to adopt a posture of thankfulness, they would somehow betray their cause.

That's their choice, of course.

Today, I talked with Mark Burgin and he stated that by the time this issue of the Franklin Register hits the streets, Burgin's Auto will be under new ownership. I also talked with Meg Lavalette (owner of the brick buildings on Main Street) recently and she informed me that there will be a new business setting up in the back of the com-

plex and that there will be wellness activities in the upstairs of one of the buildings. The owners of Kabinett & Kammer are tastefully restoring the storefront of their building, and new owner Chris Downin is removing the unsightly yew trees from in front of his building, located next to Sarah's Classic Cuts. I'm certainly grateful for these new developments.

We're all holding our breaths as we watch the stock market downturn, increasing gas and heating fuel prices, higher interest rates, and a myriad of other challenges attached to inflation. But this is life. We can cry about it, or we can batten down the hatches and deal with it.

SIDNEY CENTER TO UNVEIL NEW MURAL
Sunday, July 3 – Noon to 4:00 p.m.

The Sidney Center Improvement Group invites the public to view and enjoy the new improvements to the S.C. Park & Playground: the walking trail, activity stations, and new mural “Sidney Center Blooms,” celebrating our native plants and animal species.

We will start off with a welcome and dedication, then unveil the new mural. A community art panel is part of the mural, and the public is encouraged to participate. No artist skills necessary, everyone can be a part of beautifying the park.

There will also be:

- Kids’ activities, crafts and goodies.
- Watershed education tent with interactive display and information about how to take care of our streams and rivers.
- Live music throughout the day - bring a chair or blanket. Tents will be set up for shade as well.
- Food available - hot dogs/chips, snow cones, popcorn, cookies, fruit and more.

- Here’s the schedule for the day:
- 11:30 a.m. – Welcome, dedication and mural unveiling.
 - 12:00 p.m. – Community art panel opened up to public.
 - Kids’ crafts with Selinda begins and continues for the rest of the day.
 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. – Music: Mike Hawver
 - 12:30 p.m. – Food opens to the public.
 - 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Music: Tributary, a Traditional Irish Music Trio.
 - 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Music: Drum Circle with Audience Participation.



Aerial view of Sidney Center Park

TOWN BOARD, FRANKLIN NY
MONTHLY MEETINGS 2022

4 th January	6:00 pm/Zoom 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’s legal notices 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](https://www.town-of-franklin-ny.org)

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

KENNETH L. BENNETT
FUNERAL HOME

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

GREENING FRANKLIN

By Jack Siman

Franklin Mayor Tom Briggs and Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District Program Technician Jessica Moore decided more trees and bushes were needed where they’d planted the year before, along Franklin’s three mile stretch of Ouleout Creek flood plain, just outside the northwest bounds of Franklin Village. They submitted a list of 260 trees and bushes to Trees for Tributaries, a program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The request was granted. Now, the challenge: where to put them all?

When they asked me to help place these 260 trees and bushes, Mayor Briggs and I walked the flood plain, and soon realized how lovely those three acres are. We discovered access roads that could be lined with Black Cherry trees (*Prunus seratina*), White Swamp Oaks (*Quercus bicolor*), and Silver Maples (*Acer saccharinum*), and a drainage channel pointed out by village caretaker Jason Kingsbury, just fit for plants who love wet feet, such as Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), service berries (*Ilex amelanchier*), and Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*). We found a special hill just for the Mayor’s grove of Black Walnuts (*Jugans nigra*). Many plants find the soil around Black Walnuts to be toxic, but here the walnuts could grow without harming other plantings.

I drew a map of the potential plantings, designating roadsides for cherry trees, swampy areas for Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), shady areas for tall shrubs like Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), and for some of the loveliest of native flowering trees like Shadblow, Redbud, and Tulip Poplar, open fields where they can be admired unobstructed.

See GREENING and photo essay, continued on Page 17

St Paul’s Annual
Pie Sale
Old Franklin
Day

Saturday August 27th
9am until sold out!

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
307 Main Street, Franklin



Smith and DuMond
Photo courtesy of The Reporter

SERGEANT
SMITH
SWORN IN

Staff Report

This May, Sergeant Kim Smith was sworn in by Sheriff Craig DuMond as the undersheriff of our county. As his second in command, she is the first woman in that position in the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office since it was formed in 1797. In 2020, Ms. Smith was likewise the first female member of the New York State Sheriffs’ Institute to be awarded the Sheriff Carl Draxler Award - see NFR issue # 39.

Since beginning her career in 1997, Smith has served in positions throughout the department: corrections officer, road patrol deputy, evidence technician, field training officer, certified school resource officer, director of the Delaware County Law Enforcement Academy, agency accreditation manager, director of training, director of public relations, assistant press information officer, operation safe child coordinator, quartermaster for road patrol division, grant coordinator, road patrol equipment/inventory manager, agency seal order coordinator, agency convicted offender DNA collection, and submission coordinator.

ADVERTISE
IN YOUR
HOMETOWN
NEWSPAPER

THE NEW
FRANKLIN
REGISTER

CONTACT
MANETTE
BERLINGER

manette.berlinger@gmail.com

kitchen basics

By
Carla
Nordstrom

HOMEMADE YOGURT

I was thrilled when local supermarkets began to carry quart containers of plain Greek style yogurt. A creature of habit, my breakfast go-to is yogurt, fresh berries or frozen wild blueberries, sliced almonds, and ginger syrup. (I posted the recipe for ginger syrup in the 2021 Spring NFR).

My only problem with this was that I ended up with too many plastic quart-sized containers. Considering that I eat a quart a week, I'd have fifty containers by the end of a year.

I was visiting my sister recently and she said, "I have something to show you." She pulled out a silver urn and considering that she is the president of her local cemetery, I thought: *she's going to show me another ecologically sound way to be buried*. But it wasn't an urn at all, it was a yogurt maker. She took a glass quart jar from her fridge and showed me plain, thick, Greek style yo-

gurt. I tasted it and it was as smooth as velvet.

She described how she makes the yogurt with powdered whole milk.

"It's thick just the way I like it," I noted, thinking: *Great! No more containers!*

To sweeten the deal, she sent me my own yogurt maker with jars and powdered milk. All I needed to get started was a quarter cup of plain yogurt to use as the culture.

Basically, the process for making yogurt is to heat milk to 194° just below the boiling point, allow it to cool to 113°, stir in the culture (plain yogurt), and let it sit in the yogurt maker for eight hours to ferment.

I mix it up in a 4-cup glass measuring cup. By using powdered whole milk, the yogurt comes out thicker than when using regular milk. I use between 1 1/3 to 1 1/2 cups powder for 3 1/2 cups of water. They recommend heating the milk in a microwave, but my small college dorm variety doesn't heat

fast enough to reach 194 degrees F. in a timely manner. Instead, I bring water to a boil separately, slowly stir in the powder in batches and when combined, put the mixture in the microwave for two minutes.

At first, I used a candy thermometer to make sure the milk rose and fell to the right temperature. Accuracy is not one of my skills. I realized if I had to bring out a thermometer and later wash it every time I made yogurt, this would become a short-lived project. I was particularly frustrated by waiting for the temperature to drop to 113° and anyway why 113? After a couple experiences with thermometer frustration, I thought back to bread baking. Like yeast, yogurt culture is a living organism, and it needs to be in an environment that is warm but not too hot which will kill it and not so cool that it becomes dormant. I realized that my finger was the best judge of when to add the culture. If you can stick



Home-made yoghurt and yoghurt maker Photo by the author

your finger into the heated milk straight through to the bottom without screaming "ouch," it's just about the right temperature.

Instead of worrying about when the milk has cooled enough, I put on a timer for 30 minutes in the dead of winter when my kitchen is cold or 35 minutes in warmer seasons. Then I stick my finger into the milk to make sure the heat is right. Stir in the culture (1/4 cup yogurt), pour the liquid into a mason jar, close the top, and put the jar into the yogurt maker to let it sit for 8 hours. The yogurt then needs to be chilled in the fridge.

By the way, this type

of yogurt maker is a great housewarming present for people who like to make things for themselves and fret over saving plastic containers.

I use a Culture Cupboard yogurt maker which can be ordered online: <https://countrytradingco.com/collections/homemade-yogurt/products/homemade-yogurt-maker-and-recipe?variant=36283456520341>.

Powdered whole milk is also available online: https://www.amazon.com/s?k=powdered+whole+milk&crd=3CAZAH5B8YV51&srefix=powdered+whole+milk%2Caps%2C78&ref=nb_sb_noss_1.

FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET UPDATE

By Trish Tyrell

The Franklin Farmers' Market, now in its 16th regular season, is open for business every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Columbus Day weekend. An outdoor market sporting fifteen or more local farm and craft vendors, as well as a seating area for visiting and snacking, the Franklin Farmers' Market is a community gathering spot and a pleasure for visitors to explore.



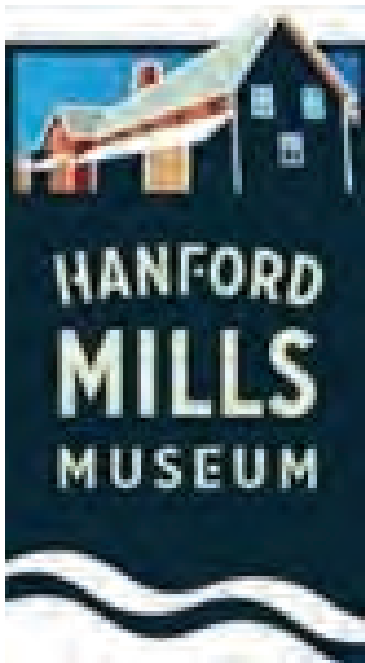
Newly added to the vendor list are Chubby Bunny Confections, featuring homemade flavored marshmallows; Pome-roy Jones Farm, featuring locally-raised goat meat; Thistlemint Farm, featuring a variety of seasonal, fresh produce and original artwork postcards; The Wandering Wagons, featuring

Awestruck Cider products; and Wild Acres Farm, featuring locally-raised pork, seasonings, and rubs.

Returning vendors include Fokish for certified organic breads, Catskill Lily's, Off Road Maple, Empire Angus Farm, Skytop Springs Fish Farm, East Brook Farm, Izzabon, Trollbok Farm, Cordwood Acres Farm, and Hare and Feather Farm. Shoppers will find an assortment of meats, fruits and vegetables, preserves, syrup, freshly baked goods, and handmade jewelry and crafts every week.

Available exclusively at the Franklin Farmers' Market are prints of original artwork by local artists. This year's artwork, donated by Frank Anthony, joins fourteen years of generously provided pieces, each taking an original perspective on farmers' markets.

As always, a special thanks to all the volunteers who pitch-in to make the market happen, to our vendors who are our reason for existence, and to our community and patrons who make the market feel like home.



EXPLORATION DAYS AT HANFORD MILLS

Staff Report

The 2022 Exploration Days at Hanford Mills will give visitors a chance to explore the mill and engage in a variety of activities and programs offered by local presenters and the museum staff.

The July 16th Exploration Day is titled *Rhythm and Music at the Mill*. Performers will include Tim Iversen and Will Walker, known as Thumbs and the

Professor, as well as Katie Boardman.

Thumbs and the Professor are a songwriting duo who play a wide range of blues, traditional, and original tunes on a variety of instruments.

Katie Boardman will help visitors explore the ways wood is used to make music - on mandolin, guitar, hammer dulcimer, and percussion instruments. Katie has performed traditional, historic, and young people's music around New York State for many years, at museums, historic sites, and community venues. She especially enjoys inviting listeners to participate in making music.

Bernd Krause, a luthier for over forty years, will have his instruments on display. Krause began building mountain dulcimers in 1978, and he also builds guitars, ukuleles, mandolins, and kalimbas. He is a member of the Guild of American Luthiers. He also offers workshops in dulcimer building and the history of the Mountain Dulcimer for festivals, schools and historical societies.

The July 16th mill tours will focus on the sounds and rhythms you can hear as we operate the water-wheel and other wood-working machinery from the milling era.

Hanford Mills Museum preserves an authentic water- and steam-powered sawmill, gristmill, and woodworking shop. Our mission is to inspire audiences of all ages to explore connections between energy, technology, natural resources, and entrepreneurship in rural communities, with a focus on sustainable choices. The museum is listed on the National and New York State Registers of Historic Places.

Hanford Mills is located at 51 County Highway 12 in East Meredith, at the intersection of Delaware County Routes 10 & 12. For more information, visit www.hanfordmills.org or call 607-278-5744.



The water wheel in action

INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

MULTIPLE OFFERS

By Susan Barnett

This is a competitive time to buy – or sell - a house.

The best description of the current market is *transitional*. Demand is still high. The inventory is still low. But mortgage rates are up, and buyers are growing cautious. Overpriced houses are not moving faster than they ever did. And anyone who overpays for a house should accept that, at some point, a softening in the market may be due.

Our area is still in demand. The pandemic certainly started the fire that has driven many people out of the city, but it's not the only spark. Our new neighbors are coming from all over the country. These buyers describe themselves as “climate refugees.”

One couple I worked with moved to Delhi to escape the increasingly stifling heat in Washington, D.C. More than one of my clients has left California, citing both heat and wildfires. Another family from New Mexico says the combination of heat, fires, and drought drove their decision to leave. The yearly rainy season in the Southwest, they say, just hasn't arrived for the past few years.

And interest rates are going up, putting pressure on people who are toying with the idea of a big change to make the move now.

The other force driving up prices is lack of inventory. Just not much for sale right now. Which means that for every good, sensibly-priced property, there are many, many buyers.

Which leads to multiple offers.

Multiple offers have become the norm in the Hudson Valley. A lovely historic home in Kingston that I listed got twelve offers within a week. It sold for cash, well over the asking price.

But this isn't limited to Ulster County anymore. It's here.

Sellers are raising their asking prices, and landlords are showing houses for rent at one price, then upping the price, saying “it's the market.” One buyer client made a full price offer on a high-priced Delhi property. The inspection showed a major roof issue, but the sellers refused our request for a price concession and someone else made a higher offer. Another Delhi house had multiple offers within days. Other clients made a full price offer on a Delaware County property just on the market that already had multiple offers on the table.

In most cases, once there's more than one offer on the table, realtors in our area are advising sellers to set a hard deadline for highest and best offer.

What does that mean?

“Highest” is obvious: the highest amount a buyer can pay, along with proof of ability to buy.

“Best” covers a number of possibilities. It may mean a cash offer. Cash is not only fast, but it eliminates the need for a bank appraisal. And when you're in multiple offer territory, prices can sometimes exceed what a bank appraiser would agree to as the value of a property. Cash is a sure thing.

Some buyers offer to pay in cash the difference between the sale price and how much the bank will mortgage. This makes an offer with a mortgage contingency look stronger.

Best may also mean a smaller bank loan, more money down, and a conventional loan rather than an FHA or VA, which tend to add paperwork and demand more repairs prior to closing.

Best can also mean waiving inspection contingencies. That's risky, as it can mean the buyer is taking the house as is, without getting a licensed inspector to confirm its condition. But another option is to retain the right to inspection but spell out that it is for the buyer's information only and will not be used to renegotiate the price. I'm seeing this more often as demand continues in a low inventory market.

Best can also mean flexibility about closing dates.

And it can mean adding an escalation clause.

An escalation clause is an addendum to the purchase offer that indicates the buyer's willingness to increase their offer by certain increments up to a certain amount, to beat any better offer.

For instance, the buyer offers \$150,000, but their realtor tells them there's a lot of competition. They add an escalation clause that says they will beat any competing offer by \$1000, up to \$175,000. It doesn't mean they'll automatically pay \$175,000 – it means that if the seller's agent can prove there's a *bona fide* higher offer, the buyer will beat it by \$1000. And they'll keep escalating until they hit their ceiling of \$175,000. It's not a guarantee of success, as other buyers are probably doing it, too. But it's a stronger strategy than making an offer and wishing really hard that it's high enough.

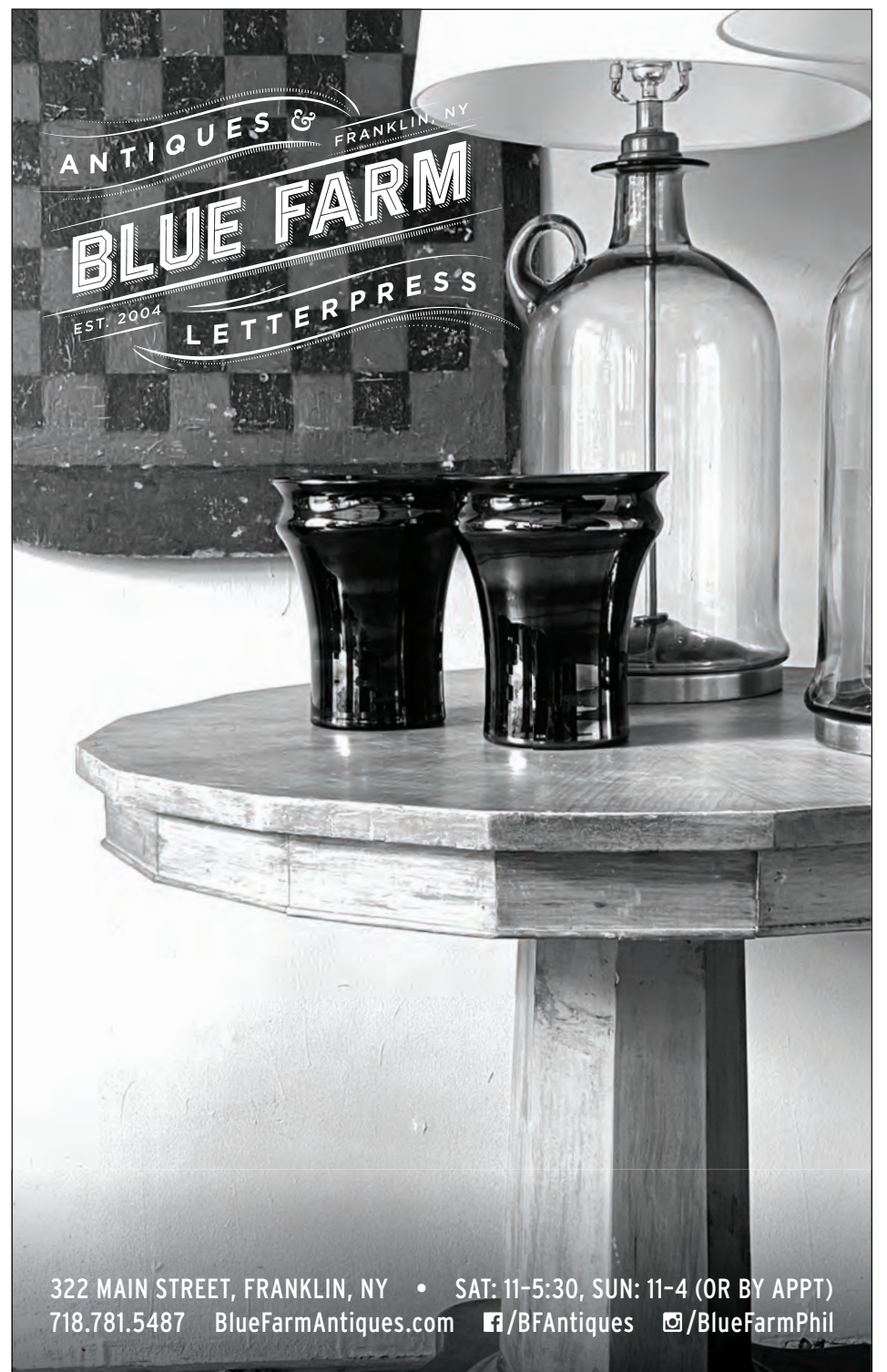
But it's not a sure bet. I just saw a couple who offered well over full price, cash, for a Delaware County home lose out to another offer. Why? We don't know. That's not something the listing agent is required to divulge.

If you're the seller comparing multiple offers, your local realtor will be an invaluable ally and a confidante you can rely on. There are so many little wrinkles to understand -- you want to pick the offer that best suits

your needs, and your realtor will help you determine that.

If you're a buyer, your best strategy is to find a realtor you like, one you trust, and listen to his or her advice. They've been navigating this market for a couple of years now. They'll improve your odds of winning a competition if the odds seem to be stacked against you.

Susan Barnett is Principal Broker and Owner of Upstate Country Realty, LLC



322 MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NY • SAT: 11-5:30, SUN: 11-4 (OR BY APPT)
718.781.5487 BlueFarmAntiques.com f/BFAntiques i/BlueFarmPhil

OLD FRANKLIN DAY, continued from Page 3

A Big Thank You to Our Old Franklin Day Sponsors*

Tom Morgan & Erna Morgan McReynolds

Wayne Bank

Chen-Del-O Federal Credit Union

Hebbard Fence

Franklin Rotary

Franklin Eyewear

Kaatirondack Senior Solutions

Classic Cuts by Sarah

Polar Bear Homemade Ice Cream & More

Rich's Auto Body

Dutch Can & Bottle Return

White's Farm Supply

*Sponsor list as of June 15th

To Contact Us:

Contact Connie Martin and Hanna Van Deusen at ofd@franklinny.org or 201-414-1684 to participate as a sponsor or vendor, or with suggestions or questions. Watch Facebook and [franklinny/ofd22](https://www.facebook.com/franklinny/ofd22) for updates.



WILD ABANDON

Some gardeners like the well-groomed, formal look, with clipped boxwood hedges, paths aligned to axes with mathematical precision and the planting scheme carefully curated. I am at the other end of the gardening spectrum, embracing the look of wild abandon. Soft clouds of umbellifers filled with bees and butterflies. Sweeps of penstemons and veronicas taking the hillside by storm (er, seed). Lupines populating the edges of the garden. This is an ode to the self-sowers I love.

One of my favorites is *Anthriscus sylvestris* ‘Ravenswing’, with its dark chocolate-colored ferny foliage topped at three to four feet by white froths of flower. It is a cow parsley, blooming here in late May. Its cloud of dark leaves is lovely when punctuated by early alliums like ‘Purple Sensation’. Ravenswing seeds around, but its small taproots can be yanked out when editing the garden to have just the right amount. The lower foliage remains handsome for the summer after you cut back the spent stalks.

Foeniculum vulgare ‘Purpureum’, also known as bronze fennel, is another

self-sower with umbel-shaped flowers. I adore the foliage early in the season; it’s soft and furry with that gorgeous bronze color. Later in the summer when it reaches five feet tall, has fading foliage, and sports gold flowers, I am not so taken with it. However, instead of cutting it down, I watch for the yellow-black caterpillars of the black swallowtail butterfly and of course for the seeds.

Lupinus perennis, the lupine species native to the northeast, has distinctive early summer blooms in shades of blue and purple. The Russell lupines are a showy hybrid that come in all the colors of the rainbow. Lupines are in the pea family, so they fix nitrogen on their roots, benefiting nearby plants. They spread easily by seed, and the young plants are easily recognizable with six or more rounded leaflets radiating from a central point. In my damp garden, the lupines attract lots of slugs after they have bloomed, so it’s difficult waiting to cut them back until they have set seed.

Aruncus dioicus, or goat’s beard, looks like an astilbe on steroids. Its white feathery plumes in mid-summer rise to five feet

or more. It prefers moist soil and partial shade and spreads by seed if happy. A stand of goat’s beard at peak bloom at the edge of a woodland is a memorable sight. *Verbena bonariensis*, *Thalictrum aquilegifolium purpureum* (meadow rue), Penstemon, and Veronica are other tall charmers that may seed themselves around the garden.

On a smaller scale, I think every gardener has seen or grown *Myosotis* (forget-me-not), a prolific self-sower that provides a haze of blue throughout the garden in spring. *Lobelia siphilitica* (great blue lobelia) appears in spring as small rosettes of leaves that fit easily in the gaps between other perennials. In late summer its spikes of blue flowers rise two feet just when the garden needs the change. *Aruncus aethusifolius* is a dwarf goat’s beard that reaches one foot in height. It has the beauty of *A. dioicus* and can happily fill a wet, shady spot.

My favorite hardy geranium is Geranium ‘Espresso’, with its dark purple-brown leaves and pale lilac flowers in spring. It seeds around the garden modestly. *Euphorbia dulcis* ‘Chameleon’ is another dark leaved plant of small

GREEN BANKS GARDENING



With Deborah Banks

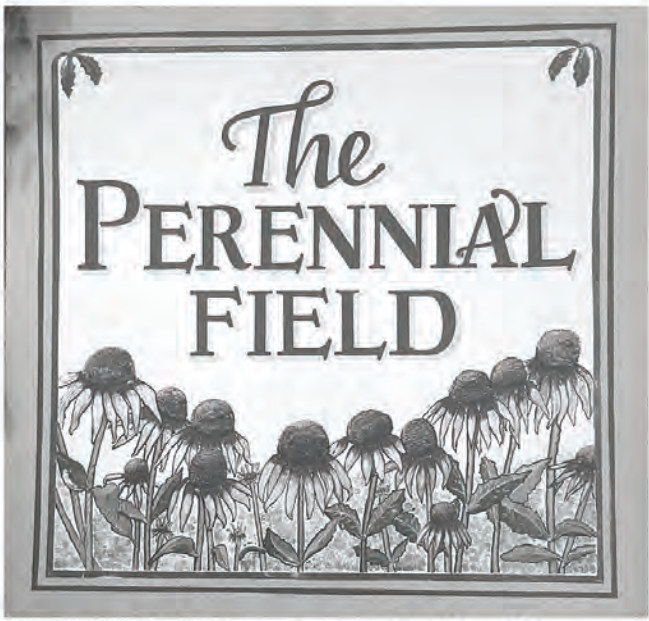
stature that appears in many locations in my garden. Its burgundy leaves are most beautiful in spring.

Another spring-blooming volunteer in my garden is *Aquilegia* (columbine). Different purple varieties grace my shade garden. Their presence is much appreciated by the hummingbirds and bumble bees. I also have the native *Aquilegia canadensis*, the eastern red columbine. *Aquilegia* blooms for a month or more and then forms vase shaped seed pods. When the pods turn brown and the seeds rattle inside, you can spread the small black seeds in other garden areas or share them with a friend. Or leave them on the plant and let their future locations be a welcome surprise.

There are many other perennial, biennial, and annual plants that are welcome self-sowers in my garden, and can be in yours

if conditions are right. Others to seek out include *Agastache* (hyssop), *Digitalis* (foxglove), *Papaver* (poppy), *Lathyrus vernus*, *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia bluebells), *Echinacea purpurea* (coneflower), *Nigella damascena* (love-in-a-mist), *Primula japonica* (candelabra primrose), *Astrantia* (masterwort), and *Campanula persicifolia* (peach-leaved bellflower).

If you dress your garden with a thick layer of mulch every year, you may not be able to benefit from the largesse of these self-sowers. Many seeds cannot germinate without light. If you do grow some of these plants, cut them back or pull them out later in their season. That is especially true for Forget-me-nots, Lupines and Lobelia, which look pretty ratty after they finish blooming. Just remember to wait until after they have set seed!



Growing Environmentally Since 1986

HARDY, FIELD-GROWN PERENNIALS

Ornamental grasses | Natives | Deer Resistant

Tools - Pottery - Hats - Gloves
Garden Consultation and Design

25 Main Street, Otego, NY

SUMMER HOURS

10 am- 4 pm Wed thru Sat
(OR by appointment)

CLOSED: July 1st-7th for holiday

(607) 353-2106 www.perennialfield.com

perennialfield@gmail.com

KAATIRONDAACK SENIOR SOLUTIONS
Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement and Part D
Prescription Drug Coverage

Do you or someone you know need advice with:

Medicare Supplements
Medicare Advantage Policies
Prescription Drug Programs?

We eliminate the confusion and answer your questions to
assist you with
the best plan to fit your personal needs.

Your Local Consultant offers no cost, personal
consultation services.

Contact :

Daniel Branigan
Kaatirondack Senior Solutions
4 Oneida Street, Oneonta NY 13820

607-267-4481
607-434-5762



THINK SUSTAINABLY

LAND OF PLENTY

By Bill Steely

If you've ever wondered what Heaven tastes like, put your cup under the lip of an apple press on a chilly afternoon in September. Or dip a spoon into the pot as you draw off that sweet gift from the maple trees in late February. Perhaps it's a light dusting of sea salt over chanterelle mushrooms fried in butter at the peak of summer. These and plenty more delights are available to you right here, from the land in and around Franklin.

When our family first bought our farm some twenty-eight years ago, I was looking for a hunting cabin. I had been coming to the area to hunt with friends in Unadilla for several years and enjoyed learning how to harvest, dress, and cook my own game. But my non-hunting realtor showed us a farm. To my good fortune, we ended up buying it. And so we learned how much more the land has to offer than just game.

The woods were rich with hickory nuts, ramps, ginseng root, and chanterelle mushrooms. Blackberries and raspberries grew wild, to be turned into pies and jams. We learned to can almost anything, even venison. My wife's garden provided generous amounts of tomatoes, squashes, and herbs, among other things, and there were always a couple rows of sweet corn that were shared by the neighbors.

Even before my twin sons, now twenty-three, were born, our family visited The Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown in early spring. There was snow on the ground, and I remem-



Apple juice fermenting into cider

ber a demonstration of how the Native Americans used to make maple syrup – by putting sap in a bowl and adding hot stones to reduce the sap until it eventually became syrup. The process seemed long and tedious (because it was), so I quickly learned that you could achieve the same result by boiling the sap in a steel pan over a fire and adding more sap as the liquid evaporated.

That is how we made our maple syrup for the next fifteen years. Outside in the firepit, in all kinds of weather, usually the last weekend of February or the first in March. It's a careful process of feeding just enough cool sap into the pan so as not to kill the boil, which is needed to reduce the sap and turn it into syrup. If not enough new sap is added, you run the risk of burning the syrup, and ruining the entire batch. It takes only a moment's lack of attention, as I learned the hard way; it happened to us twice over the years. With minor differences (accounting for sugar content of the sap), it takes forty gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.

Today we have a modest but more efficient way of making syrup. About five years ago, we purchased a small evaporator and moved the operation inside the woodshed. Since the firebox is not open to the elements, we burn far less wood, and we are protected from the wind, rain and snow. This year we almost filled a five-gallon bourbon barrel. The barrel should impart a nice bourbon flavor to the syrup after it ages for about five months. We will bottle it in August.

Beginning in September, there's another new adventure to be excited about – making apple cider. Most people today refer to fresh-pressed apple juice as *cider*. But originally, *cider* was the term given to fermented apple juice, which today we call *hard cider*.

Last year, with the generous help of friends at East Brook Community Farm, we pressed six gallons of juice. This was the taste of Heaven I mentioned earlier. We drank a gallon of juice and turned the rest into hard cider by adding a little yeast to get the fermentation started, then following a few simple instructions. Again, with heavenly results. Inspired by the success of that first batch, we bought a press and intend to make a much larger batch this year.

It's surprising how easy cider is to make. We gathered apples from trees on our and our neighbors' properties. You don't even need to cut out the imperfections, or core, peel or otherwise trim them, although I highly recommend not using apples with worms in them. The apples are ground and fed into the press with a large bag as filter. What comes out is juice as perfect as it gets.

None of what we make is produced commercially – it's purely for our enjoyment, and for that of family and friends. We gather in the woodshed or in the kitchen, catch up with each other's lives, sample our wares, and take pride in knowing that nature has offered her bounty and we have gratefully accepted.

But we do hope to have some fresh apple juice for you to sample this fall at the Franklin Farmers' Market, along with a simple demonstration. Stay tuned!



Bill Steely and Brian Brock at the evaporator. Photos by the author



The Birdsong Farmers' Market

BIRDSONG COMMUNITY GARDENS

By Carla Nordstrom

Photos by Georgia Hilmer

When you drive from Walton to Delhi along Route 10 a huge white mansion surrounded by stone walls and large outbuildings appears just after you pass the Delhi town sign. I've been curious about this property for years. At times the complex looks quietly empty but recently it seems to be livelier. When Birdsong Community Garden was listed on last year's West Kortright Garden Tour, I jumped at the chance to get a peek at what's going on there.

The tour was held on a very rainy summer afternoon, but our guides greeted us with enthusiasm and were thrilled to share their

knowledge about the vegetable and flower gardens. When I learned they were volunteers, I sent an email the next day to see if I could volunteer too. Luckily, I got onto it fast because I

was one of the last to be accepted during the 2021 season.

Five years ago, Richard Lamson, the owner of this property, reached out to Carla Hegemen Crim, Horticulture & Natural Resources Extension Educator at Delaware County Cooperative Extension. Richard told Carla that he had a horse arena and spaces that he wanted to put to good use for the community. Carla suggested a community garden and designed the garden of her dreams with twenty-four raised beds for vegetables, four smaller beds for ornamentals and herbs, a greenhouse, and public spaces. Richard has a background in construction so once the plans were agreed upon, he got to work building raised beds.

The first year, a few volunteers planted, weeded, maintained, and harvested the beds. During the second season, Carla attracted more volunteers through marketing and holding a pre-season orientation. Carl and Elyse Segelken from Delhi volunteered weekly and used the opportunity to deliver fresh produce from the garden to the Delhi Food Pantry.

The vegetable beds are located on the upper level next to the horse barn. In 2020, new beds were added on the lower level to grow cut flowers. Due to COVID and a concern for food security, these lower beds were used for vegetables. "The roaming chickens," Carla said, "really tore up the cherry tomatoes and any vegetable we tried to plant down in the flower garden, so that just solidified the fact that the flower garden should be there." Chickens, ducks, and friendly pets wander freely through the property. Bees pollinate the knotweed. It's surprising that such a troublesome plant produces such sweet honey.

The number of volunteers increased in 2021 due to the easing of some COVID restrictions, as working outside among the plants was relatively safe. In 2022, ap-

proximately thirty volunteers are working during the five sessions held each week. Because Birdsong Community Garden is sponsored through Delaware County Cooperative Extension, it's not just a garden but also a place where you can learn about gardening. Mary Lou Oliver, a third year volunteer, says she likes being outdoors and having the opportunity to learn so much. Many of the volunteers are avid gardeners, and like me enjoy going there to learn what we have been doing wrong in our own gardens. Carla is a phenomenal teacher, knows the names of every plant, is not shy about advising you how to do something, yet forgiving if you mess up.

This year Carla's intern, Lila Shafer from Kortright, is focusing on flowers. She is a student at SUNY Cobleskill and plans to work eventually with cut flowers. Birdsong has become a training ground for cut flower farming education. Flower bouquets and arrangements are sold at their weekly farmer's market.

Last summer, Birdsong opened a farmer's market in the parking area outside of the gardens. The market operates from the middle

See BIRDSONG, con't on Page 16



Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties:



The longtime leader in Catskill Region Real Estate
More than \$900 Million in Sales since 1971

OFFICE LOCATIONS:

3998 Route 28 BOICEVILLE (845) 657-4177	74 Main Street DELHI (607) 746-7400	75 Bridge Street MARGARETVILLE (845) 586-3321	109 Main Street STAMFORD (607) 652-2220	19 Union Street SIDNEY (607) 604-4394
-----------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------



Integrity/Leadership/Innovation Since 1971 TimberlandProperties.com CatskillPremier.com

CAN TECHNOLOGY SAVE THE PLANET?

Part 3: How do we get out of this mess?

By Don Hebbard

In previous NFR articles, I outlined how the greenhouse gas (GHG) crisis developed, the environmental impact, the major sectors of the economy creating those impacts, and the volume of gases currently being released to the atmosphere – *51 billion tons per year*. A growing population coupled with increased per capita consumption will only increase GHG emissions. Global warming will worsen in the next decades unless actions are taken. Ultimately the carbon already present in the atmosphere must be removed.

How do we get out of this mess? First step: reduce, then stop consuming fossil fuels.

This will not be an easy transition. Fossil fuel consumption touches every aspect of our daily lives. The first step was outlined in the last article: identify the sectors of world economies that consume the most fossil fuels and thus create the most greenhouse gases.

In the last article, it was noted 73.2 % of global greenhouse gases are created by the energy sector alone - a logical area to start reducing fossil fuel consumption. Here are several global sub-areas within energy where emissions need to be addressed:

- 24.2% energy is used in manufacturing
- 17.5% energy is used in heating and cooling – housing, commercial, public buildings
- 16.2% energy is used in transportation – moving people and things
- 5.8% energy is lost in fugitive emissions - from energy production and distribution
- 5.2% energy is used in direct industrial processes – creating GHGs as byproducts of

production.

The technologies to reduce GHGs in some sectors already exist, only needing to be implemented:

- Manufacturing – substitute non-polluting electrical energy for fossil fuel energy where possible.
- Heating and cooling – retrofit existing buildings and build to higher energy conservation codes.
- Transportation – raise fuel economy standards, build smaller autos, ship goods by rail.
- Fugitive emissions – stop flaring, install available emission controls, fix leaks, mine less coal.

It is logical to address the sectors creating the most GHGs and seek opportunities to cut-back the use of fossil fuels in those areas first. This will give us the best “bang for the buck” over the shortest timeframe. Reducing fossil fuel consumption in other areas will be very difficult.

Manufacturing is a major contributor. For industries requiring high temperatures, it will be difficult to reduce fossil fuel consumption. Making steel, iron, and cement for concrete create a total of 10.2% of global GHGs. Few alternatives exist that create the high temperatures needed for these processes. But we must seek solutions.

Out of the 17.5% energy used globally for heating and cooling, 10.9% is consumed in residential buildings. The remaining 6.6% is consumed in businesses, shops, and public buildings. Much of this energy could be switched from fossil fuels to electricity: LED lighting, energy efficient appliances, air-to-air or ground-source heat pumps for heating and cooling, better windows, doors, and insulation.

Out of the 16.2% energy used globally for transporting people and goods, 11.9% is consumed on highways transporting passengers. The United States is the largest contributor, creating 25% of the global GHGs from transportation. 45% of Americans do not have access to

public transportation, so increased availability of public transportation and limiting autos in metropolitan areas would significantly reduce GHGs in this sector. Only 1.86% of energy globally is used to transport freight on highways, but even some short distance hauling could come from electricity.

The shipping industry uses 1.7% of global energy to transport huge quantities of goods great distances around the world. Large container ships and oil tankers could be powered similar to aircraft carriers and submarines using nuclear reactors to replace fuel oil consumption.

The most prevalent idea at present for reducing GHG emissions is to switch as much of the world's economy as possible, as fast as possible, from fossil fuel consumption to electricity. Many sectors of the economy could readily be adapted for electricity. We should:

- Substitute electric motors wherever possible in manufacturing and construction
- Convert to heat pumps for heating and cooling residential and commercial buildings.
- Convert to electric cars, light duty trucks, and buses, and build public EV charging stations (like current gas stations) on every corner, as well as increasing mass transportation options – both in metropolitan and more rural areas.

Of course, adopting electrical energy to replace much of the fossil fuel energy creates another issue. The amount of electricity consumed will double and major additions to the electrical distribution system will be required. This additional electric generation cannot be met with fossil fuels or we just make the emissions of GHGs greater. The biggest concern at present is how can large quantities of non-emitting “clean” electricity be generated?

I will address this in the next issue of the New Franklin Register.

EAT LOCAL!

weekly pick-ups of farm fresh veggies, herbs, & flowers

SIGN UP FOR OUR 2022 CSA

Sliding Scale Pricing: \$20-\$40 per week. We take SNAP!

locations in Andes, Franklin, & Walton

Monthly Work Parties & Potlucks all Summer



Make a Donation to our Food Access Fund!

BUILD COMMUNITY!

* EASTBROOKFARM.COM *

(607) 865.5529

* EASTBROOKCOMMUNITYFARM@GMAIL.COM *

FRANKLIN SOLAR

A Primer
By Brian Brock

The State of New York has set an ambitious goal for the energy that it consumes, with seventy percent to be generated from renewable sources by 2030. Albany is pushing hard for construction of the necessary power facilities. There are hundreds of solar arrays in the pipeline for a total of over six gigawatts of power. One might come to Franklin.

Two sizes of projects are regulated separately. Community-scale projects generate less than 25 megawatts of power, and these require less than 150 acres. Utility-scale projects generate more than 25 MW, and these can range up to 2,000 acres. Community-scale projects are regulated by towns, like other construction projects. However, utility-scale projects are considered a priority, so the state government has taken oversight from towns and given it to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting. There are dozens of these projects awaiting approval.

New York state leads the nation in community-scale solar capacity with over one gigawatt installed from over 700 arrays and another 1.3 GW in the pipeline. (Early projects were small - before 2014 mostly 0.2 MW, and between 2014 and 2018, mostly 2 MW.) Many of these have benefited from the NY-Sun program, a solar grant program for distributed generation. Since this was launched in 2011, New York has paid-out over \$1.3 billion. The

closest such solar project already online is Delaware River Solar's 2.7 MW array on Pool Brook Road, Town of Laurens, Otsego County. Its output is offered at a ten percent discount from NY-SEG rates but it is fully subscribed already.

Already this year, municipalities in New York approved many community-scale projects and the state approved a dozen utility-scale projects. In Delaware County, one community-scale project is proposed for Walton and one utility-scale project for Meredith. In Walton, construction of a 2.25 MW array by Inovateus Solar should begin this summer. In Meredith, Stonewall Solar (145 MW on 800 to 1,100 ac) is doing surveys and planning but has yet to apply for a permit from ORES. Also, there is a commercial array on 23 acres providing 7.5 MW of power to Amphenol Aerospace in Sidney.

Solar arrays are sited where a high-voltage power line crosses enough cleared land that is level or sloping gently to the south. In Franklin, there is one such site where the distribution line crosses over the hill from a substation just southwest of Otego village and then down to Franklin village. Along this route, there are several cleared fields on the hill north and west of Otego Road. A developer from ClearPath Energy has contacted some of the landowners along Van Tassel and Bissell roads about leasing their land.

This array is planned for five to seven megawatts

See SOLAR, con't on Pg. 18

BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

By Susan O'Handley

As a co-president for the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, I cannot count the number of email, phone or Facebook messages we have received in the past few years about changes that members and friends in our area are seeing in their backyard birds. Birds often seen in the past may not be there this year. These observations are generally made during the summer breeding season or in the fall months when the weather is typically good, and can be explained by birds shifting their focus to raise young or by the availability of nearby natural food sources. But certain birds can be indicative of population changes or shifts that are a result of climate change, so are worth closer tracking and study.

Surveying for birds like the Eastern Bluebird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, and Eastern Towhee during specific times of each year can provide information about range changes and can add important data to predictions about the impacts of climate change.

Over 50% of our New York bird species are considered to be vulnerable. In our upstate regions, in addition to warming, changes in the agricultural landscape threaten bird populations, as do drought, heatwaves, false spring and heavy rains.

One example: if we see a 3.0°C increase in global temperature, Red-breasted nuthatches are expected to face a 66% loss in summer range. Our updated regional bird checklist (rev. 2020: <https://bit.ly/3rgugcD>) indicates that both Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches are common in our region throughout the year, so watching this species closely should present a good indication of range changes.

The National Audubon Society provides tools for an in-depth look at predictions about the impacts on birds from climate change. The data used are from a 2019 report called *Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink*. Taking action now can help improve the chances for 76% of species at risk. A good deal of work focuses on mitigating the reduction of available moisture that will affect vegetation, causing a ripple effect impacting plant and insect communities, and thus influencing food and habitat availability for birds.

These National Audubon Society tools can be found online at <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>. Users can browse the data and view the predicted outcomes based on temperature rise, as well as look up predictions for specific bird species.

I fear that we are very likely to lose

the Bobolink from our area in the coming years. These birds nest mostly in our hay-fields and have seen significant population declines due to habitat loss over the past few decades. Their range has remained stable, but the climate data predictions indicate that we could lose this bird from our region even at a +1.5°C change in global temperatures, which is the ideal target at this point in time. Bobolinks are expected to shift their territory northward, but it is likely they will be a rare local sighting in the future. Using the Audubon tools to view a +3°C warming scenario, the Bobolink loses 88% of their current southern range and gains only 56% in the north. Coupled with other stressors, Bobolink populations are likely to continue to decline.

Providing habitat that will support insects and birds is one of the most important things we can do right now to help our birds through the challenges of a changing climate. Planting hyper-specific native plant gardens in lieu of or as part of our lawns is one action homeowners and municipalities can take.



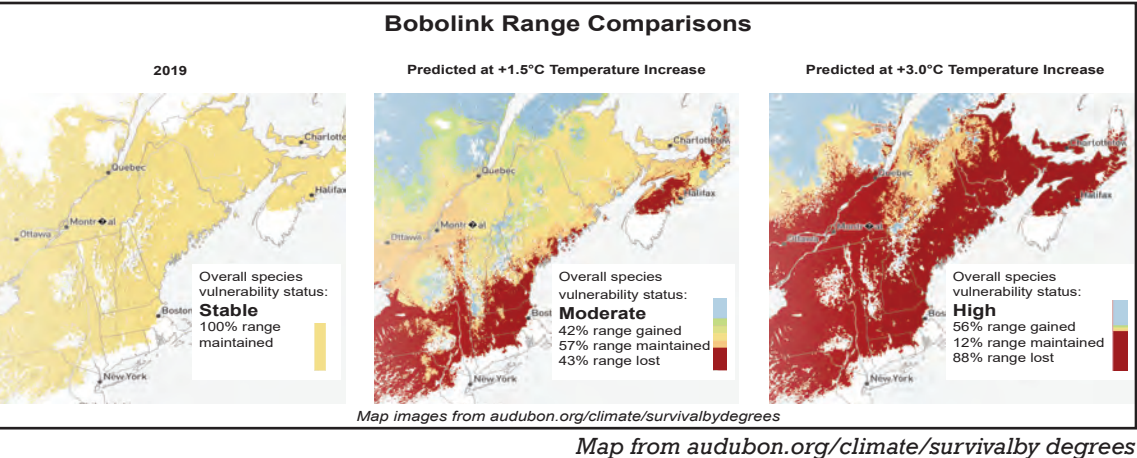
Bobolinks
Photo by Ruhikanta Meetei
Audubon Photography Awards

Another is to work systematically on decarbonizing our lives to get as close as to net zero emissions as possible by 2040. Start with simple things like recycling, composting food and yard waste, or adding a few non-meat meals each week. When it's time to buy a new car, consider a hybrid or electric vehicle. If the furnace needs replacing, consider installing heat pumps instead. There are many incentives available in New York State to encourage homeowners to improve their home insulation, install solar systems, and transition their home heating. Visit <https://www.audubon.org/climate-action> for additional ways to take action.

We are all familiar with the canary in the coalmine. Birds are indicators. When we see declining populations due to environmental stresses, we can be certain that the impacts to people are not far behind. As demand for fossil fuels decreases in the coming years, our carbon emissions will also decrease. Less carbon equals lower warming equals a better chance for our birds...and for ourselves.

For information about ways to reduce household carbon impacts, and how to track progress towards net zero, please visit <https://doas.us/category/climate-series/> or contact Susan at info@doas.us.

Susan O'Handley is a career environmental education professional and digital marketing services provider.





THE SUGAR HOUSE CANE

The Story of Levi Hanford

By Tim Duerden

As the main repository of historic items relating to the history of Delaware County, the Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA) in Delhi cares for hundreds of thousands of 3-D objects, paper documents, photos, and ephemera.

One prized object in this collection is not in itself particularly prepossessing - it's only about three-and-a-half feet long and an inch or so in diameter. Turned by lathe from a length of oak, the "Sugar House Cane" is, however, one of DCHA's prized possessions.

The cane relates to a not-so-sweet chapter in the history of the Revolutionary War, for it was fashioned from an old beam that once made up the structure known as the Sugar House Prison in lower Manhattan.

Prior to the war, the Sugar House Prison had served as a refinery for sugar imported into the northern colonies from the Caribbean. One of at least three such structures in Manhattan, this particular one was located on Crown (now Liberty) Street. Built in 1754 by the prominent Livingston family, the Crown Street refinery was converted into a prison for captured colonists when the British held New York City during the revolution.

But how did the cane end up here in Delaware County?

The story relates to Levi Hanford, who died here in Walton, Delaware County, at the venerable old age of 95 in 1854. Hanford was born in Norwalk, Connecticut in 1759. By the time he turned sixteen, the war between the colonies and the mother country had broken out and young Levi joined a local militia unit under the command of Captain Seth Seymour. Beginning in September 1775, he saw active duty fighting against the British in and around Long Island Sound. Unfortunately for the young soldier, on the cold wet night of March 13, 1777, his unit of thirteen Patriot militiamen was surrounded by the British and

their Tory sympathizers at South Norwalk, Connecticut, and taken captive. Levi Hanford was just seventeen years old.

The next fourteen months would be the most harrowing of Levi Hanford's life. Indeed, he would consider himself extremely fortunate to survive imprisonment at the hands of the British. Levi and his fellow captives were brought from Connecticut to New York City and incarcerated in the Sugar House Prison which, since the American loss at the Battle of Brooklyn in the summer of 1776, was already morbidly over-crowded and rife with disease, human suffering, and death.

Levi Hanford's memories of his imprisonment and the revolution were written down towards the end of his life by one of his sons, William B. Hanford, a practicing lawyer in Franklin. Levi recalled that the Sugar House was a stone building, six stories high, with very low ceilings and narrow porthole-like windows. Enduring damp and miserable conditions, no furnishings but straw bedding on which to sleep, and

were collected for hasty, makeshift burials beyond the prison walls.

Later, Levi Hanford told of the prisoners' relief at being transferred, toward the end of 1777, out of the purgatory of the Sugar House. Hoping for release or at least a transfer to better confines, their joy was short-lived. Instead of freedom, Hanford was sent to the rotting hulk of a prison ship, *The Good Intent*, where he clung to life in New York Harbor for some months until being returned to the Sugar House



Plate on the head of Levi's cane in early 1778.

But this time, his stay would be brief. On May 8, 1778, he and a handful of other inmates were exchanged by the British for prisoners held by the Americans. Levi was one of only two of the original thirteen militia captives from March 1777 to survive.

Levi Hanford, bedraggled and malnourished, returned home to Connecticut to be reunited with his parents and siblings, who had given him up for dead. Recovered by the summer of 1778, he was once more on active duty, serving in Captain Seymour's militia unit until the close of the war.

In 1782, Levi Hanford married Mary Mead, daughter of Revolutionary War General John Mead. The couple would have nine children, all of whom survived into adulthood. In 1808 the family moved to Walton to continue their lives as farmers.

Meanwhile, the Sugar House resumed its intended function as a storage facility for Caribbean sugar. When it was torn down in 1846, a three-foot-long oak beam from the near century-old building was acquired by New York merchant David Barker. From this beam, Barker had several canes made.

Over the next few years, Barker gave away all the canes, except one. In December 1851, wonder-



Rhineland's Sugar House Prison in lower Manhattan

ing what to do with the final cane, Barker read an obituary of a Revolutionary War veteran. Realizing there might be some old soldiers still alive, Barker put out the word in the January 1, 1852 edition of the *New York Journal of Commerce* that he would give his remaining cane to any veteran still living who had been incarcerated in the Sugar House Prison. William B. Hanford (Levi's son) wrote to Barker on January 15, 1852, informing him of his father's history and noting his elderly father's lament that soon no one with any direct memory of the War of Independence would still be alive.

Four other elderly veterans responded, but Levi Hanford's name was the one drawn at random by David Barker. The merchant wrote to the old soldier in Walton, explaining how he came to procure a piece of the Sugar House and about the several canes made from it, all given away but for this final one. Barker wrote, "I hope it may form a staff to support you in your declining years," and that he took "as much pleasure in handing it over to you as you will in receiving it."

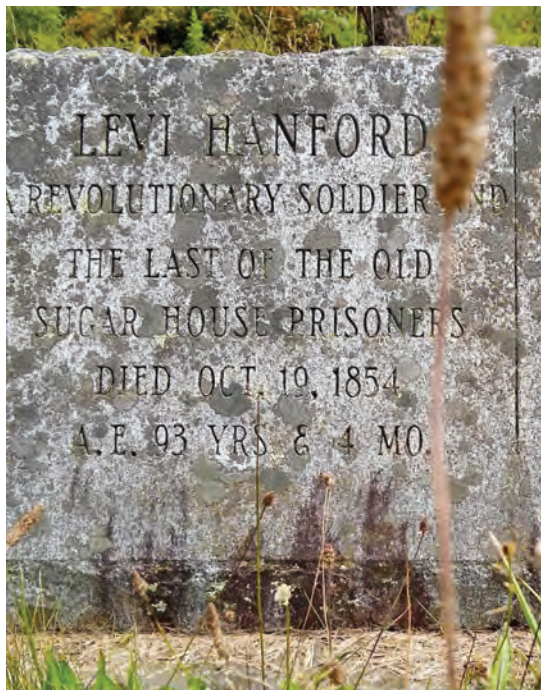
Before sending off his gift, Barker had a brass plate affixed to the head of

the cane, engraved with the words "Old Sugar House Cane, D.B. to L.H." Hanford treasured the memento for his remaining time on earth. He died two-and-a-half years later on October 19, 1854, at the age of 95, some seven years after the passing of his wife Mary. The couple is buried on Dunk Hill Road in Walton, NY.

Levi is of course long gone. But the cane has endured. After his father's death, William B. Hanford had it displayed at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition along with a chair from revolutionary days, also in the possession of the Hanford family (now also at DCHA). After William's death in 1898, the cane was passed down through the family until Levi's great-great granddaughter, Jane VanDyke Hanford Morgenstern, donated it to DCHA in 1980.

It's a sweet ending to this tale of hardship, deprivation and selfless sacrifice in the cause of freedom. The cane, although slight and not of itself particularly noteworthy, endures as a visceral connection to our nation's foundation story.

Tim Duerden is Director of the Delaware County Historical Association. He lives in Franklin.



Levi Hanford's gravestone in Walton

overrun with vermin, Hanford miraculously survived mistreatment and a bout of smallpox.

The prisoners subsisted for long months on pork and moldy, worm-ridden sea biscuits, plus occasional food sent in from outside. In cold weather they sometimes rummaged together enough material to build a warming fire. But for many of them, starvation and death were an all-too-common end. Indeed, rare was the day when no bodies



Heathen Hill Yoga

Weekly community class - Sundays 3:00PM-4:15PM
Proof of Vaccination Required

810 Heathen Hill Road, Franklin NY

SUSAN "LIP" OREM
Franklin 607 829 5328

All levels Welcome!

visit my web site at www.heathenhill yoga.net

music
literature
education

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

fine arts
poetry
holiday fun

AT THE LIBRARY

BOOK REVIEWS

THE BOYS IN THE BOAT By Daniel James Brown

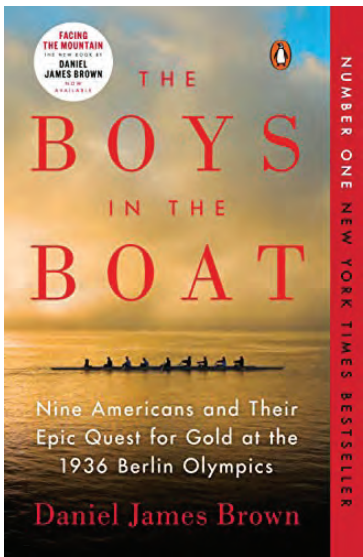
Reviewed by Alexis Greene

Recently I had the pleasure of rereading *The Boys in the Boat*, Daniel James Brown's enthralling epic about the nine American young men who rowed to gold at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. A film adaptation of Brown's celebrated 2013 book, directed by George Clooney, is scheduled to be released in 2023.

In our current era we are passionate about baseball, football, basketball, hockey. We cheer SUNY Oneonta at the Red Dragon Baseball Field, visit Cooperstown to roam the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and attend the annual Induction Ceremony. Maybe we even drive to the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey to watch the Giants (well, maybe not).

But back in the 1920s and '30s, baseball and football were not yet so enormously popular. Back then, competitive rowing was a nationally revered sport. As Brown describes in lively detail, the Poughkeepsie Regatta - the annual races of the U.S. Intercollegiate Rowing Association - drew hundreds of fans every June to the west and east banks of the Hudson River. Even during the Great Depression, when the events of *Boys in the Boat* take place, people stood cheek-by-jowl on an observation train that rolled into Poughkeepsie from New York City, and they rooted for crews from Cornell, Columbia, Syracuse, Rutgers, and Pennsylvania. Sports reporters for radio networks and newspapers all over the country eagerly covered the event.

But Brown is not interested in the crews of the elite Eastern colleges. Much of the allure of *The Boys in the Boat* is that Brown takes us out West, to Seattle, where young men working their way through college, at the University of Washington, use muscle



and brain and heart to become a winning crew, competing in Poughkeepsie and ultimately at the 1936 Summer Olympics.

Indeed, as anyone who has watched the General Clinton Canoe Regatta on the Susquehanna can attest, rowing is an intense sport. Brown's descriptions of eight men rowing with single oars in a racing shell, following the directives of a coxswain who sits aft, illuminate the tremendous demands of the sport: extreme concentration; the will to overcome lacerating muscle pain, especially when trying to pull ahead toward the end of the race; and, of course, skilled control of your oar, so that you synchronize perfectly with your fellow rowers.

At the center is the story of one particular young man, Joe Rantz, who tries out for crew in 1933, when he's a freshman at the university. From a poor and barely functioning family, Joe finds self-esteem and wholeness while learning to row on Lake Washington, defying freezing rain, wind, and pain to become one of a close-knit group of boys who must support each other emotionally as well as physically if they are to win.

As Brown entwines Rantz's personal story with the losses and triumphs of his crew, the book reads like a novel. Through vivid, naturalistic descriptions of people, their actions, and surroundings, Brown's narrative flows and gently builds. You are with Joe and his fellow freshmen as

their coach enjoins them to dip their oars in unison. You strive with Joe and the boys as they struggle to pull ahead during a Poughkeepsie Regatta and lose, to their humiliation and sorrow. And you are there, climactically, as they row against the Germans and Italians on the Langer See, a lake on the outskirts of Berlin, as a disgruntled Adolf Hitler watches from a balcony nearby.

Ultimately, *The Boys in the Boat*, is a celebration of American determination and unity, amid the struggle to survive the Great Depression and the intimations of war in Europe.

If there is one weakness in Brown's narrative, it is his treatment of Joe Rantz's romantic relationship with Joyce Simdars, whom Brown describes as "a pretty slip of a girl" and whom Joe eventually marries. Although Brown depicts Joyce as lovingly supportive of her boyfriend and notes when Joe and Joyce spend time together, he tends to keep the relationship in the distant background.

Perhaps Clooney's eagerly awaited film, which stars British actor Callum Turner as Joe, will integrate Joe and Joyce's romance more fully with this enduring story of the boys in the boat.

THE BOYS IN THE BOAT
by Daniel James Brown
(ISBN 978-0-670-02581-7)
is available from Amazon in paperback, hardcover, or as an ebook:

https://www.amazon.com/Boys-Boat-Americans-Berlin-Olympics/dp/0143136968/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?ncoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Editor's Note: The Four County Library System has an excellent audiobook of **THE BOYS IN THE BOAT**, sympathetically and energetically read by beloved American actor Edward Hermann before he passed away in 2014.

From ENDYMION, by JOHN KEATS A Poetic Romance (excerpt)

BOOK I

A thing of beauty is a joy forever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms:
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

John Keats (1795 - 1821) was one of the great English Romantic poets. He died of tuberculosis at 25, but his poems, particularly the Odes, live on today. This excerpt from *Endymion* is about the power of beauty. We Delaware County residents know all about beauty!

- Bertha Rogers

BEARTOWN By Frederik Backman Read by Marin Ireland

LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND By Rumaan Alam Read by Marin Ireland

Reviewed by M. B. Kellogg

Two recent audiobooks, performed by the same excellent book reader, both take on issues of class, ethnicity, and gender. Both were enthusiastically reviewed in their hardback version. But one draws the listener deeply into the dark heart of adolescence and toxic masculinity, unwinding a suspenseful story of small-town ice hockey teams and the damage wreaked by obsessive competition. The other substitutes thinly veiled stereotypes for character, and unexplained events and random hints at disaster for suspense, leading to a self-consciously inconclusive ending.

In **BEARTOWN**, by Swedish writer Frederik Bachman, a young boy dreams of supporting his immigrant mother. A teenager finds solace in her



guitar. A young man assumes hockey stardom to mean he can get away with anything. His teammate is desperate to conceal his gender identity. Parents discover that even small-town life cannot keep their children safe. The book offers a rich community of fully developed individuals, young and old - as well as detailed insights into the game of ice hockey - giving book reader Marin Ireland a chance to put her wide range of vocal and acting skills to work as she brings each person to convincing life and tightens the narrative as it barrels toward the inevitable consequences. A compelling and provocative listening experience. See **REVIEW**, con't on Pg.13

CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES
BY JOHN O'CONNOR

LIVE MUSIC RETURNS!

Depending on who your favorite epidemiologist is, the pandemic is over, or almost over and entering the endemic stage, joining a half dozen other corona viruses circling the earth. Live music, though not a disease, for some more of an addiction, was endemic until the spring of 2020 when the pandemic wiped it out. But it is, thankfully, coming back, heralded by two beloved institutions in our region, the Glimmerglass Opera Festival in Cooperstown and the concert series at the West Kortright Centre.

Glimmerglass, in its first full season in three years, returns with six productions, the most prominent being one or the world's most popular operas and one of the world's most popular Broadway musicals, *Carmen* and *The Sound of Music*, respectively. In addition, Glimmerglass offers four other productions: *Taking Up Serpents* and *Holy Ground* (a double bill of new operas), *Tenor Overboard*, *The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson*, and *Jungle Book*, featuring the Glimmerglass Youth Chorus. (<https://glimmerglass.org/festivals/2022-festival/>)

For the unacquainted, Glimmerglass is a renowned summer

festival situated in an idyllic setting on Lake Otsego, north of Cooperstown. If you have never been to the opera, this is an excellent way to be initiated. Incidentally, the orchestra musicians enjoy wages and working conditions bargained for by their union, Local 443, in Oneonta.

Speaking of idyllic settings, if you have never been to a concert at the West Kortright Centre, prepare to walk into the unbelievably picturesque scene of this church in the dale. Its first concert on June 26 is sure to raise the roof with Kaleta & Super Yamba Band. Kaleta, a singer/guitarist, lived his adolescent life in Lagos, Nigeria, where Afrobeat was born. Kaleta's guitar skills resulted in years of touring and recording with Fela Kuti, King Sunny Ade, and Lauryn Hill, among others.

On July 9, the scholar and practitioner of American traditional music, Jake Blount, the first Black person to make the finals in any category in the traditional band contest at Clifftop, WV, will take the stage with his banjo, fiddle, and songs.

If you are into joyfully nostalgic American swing, you are sure to enjoy the revivalist act, Rachael and Vilray. Vilray is a master guitarist and the duo perform impeccable harmony singing, mingling tightly on every syllable. They per-



form on July 24. Also known for their harmonies are The Brother Brothers, who take the stage on August 4. Singing in close harmony, the exceptionally talented twins Adam and David Moss incorporate bits of Appalachian, traditional folk, and bluegrass music with their own original songs and approach.

On August 6, you will have to surrender your "Let's Go Brandon" paraphernalia at the door for the performance of The Resistance Revival Chorus. This group of women, singing songs of freedom, liberation, and justice, was founded in the wake of the 2017 women's march, following Trump's inauguration. This particular grouping, the New York City chapter of the Chorus, has been taking the resistance on the road ever since.

Those who know me are aware that I am a passionate devotee of Appalachian string band music. The new revival of this music over the past couple of decades produced one of my favorite bands, the Foghorn String Band, based in Oregon. I'm delighted that one of the band's founders, Caleb Klauder will join Reeb Willms for WKC's Summer Benefit Party on August 20, performing their infectious original and traditional music.

Another show not to be missed is Les Filles de Ilighadad on September 17. This is an all woman Tuareg band from Niger. Absolutely mesmerizing and gorgeous "tende" music, "asserting the power of women to innovate, using the roots of traditional Tuareg music".

On October 9, Kittel and Company will perform. This is the quartet of violinist Jeremy Kittel, whose vision straddles a wide range of musical foundations from Celtic to classical to jazz.

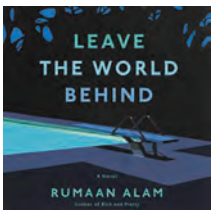
West Kortright Centre's season ends with the Argus Quartet on October 15. This dynamic string ensemble won first prize at both the 2017 M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition and the 2017 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition.

So, get out there and enjoy this revival of life and music. You never know when the next pandemic is going to hit.

REVIEW, con't from Page 12

In *LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND*, something dire has happened to New York City, and perhaps the world. But confined to a posh rural estate on Long Island, we never find out what. Nor do the book's characters. The writer seems more focused on displaying his minimalist style and on dropping colorful bombs of innuendo: flamingos in the swimming pool! Is it the end of the world or not?

The sketched-in cast and the smoke-and-mirrors plotting leave Ms. Ireland little to work with to create a credible emotional dynamic and fleshed-out personalities, leaving this listener more irritated than curious about the outcome.



FOR SALE
A selection of
the egg tempera paintings of
GAIL BUNTING

Contact John Ott
JHOTT727@gmail.com
607-723-0728



Wood Anemone



Night Heron

Aural Gratification Studios
MAKE YOUR
NOISE !!



- Professional Full Service Audio Production
- Custom Music for Film, TV, Video, Advertising
- Full Song Recording, Mixing, Mastering
- Audiobook Production, Voicing and Talent
- Tape/Vinyl Transfers to Digital Formats.
- Zoom, Facetime, Skype Sessions Available

845-679-5674
auralg@gmail.com
Consultation, Rates, Bookings

2022 SEASON

JULY 1 - AUGUST 21

JUL 1-17 SHAKESPEARE'S TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA
JUL 21-24 VICKI KRISTINA BARCELONA BAND
JUL 29-31 FLAMENCO VIVO CARLOTA SANTANA
AUG 5-21 BRICKTOP, LEGEND OF THE JAZZ AGE

ALWAYS ADMISSION FREE



**FRANKLIN
STAGE
COMPANY**

PROFESSIONAL THEATER OF
THE GREAT WESTERN CATSKILLS

**Limited
Seating!**

.....
**Visit Us Online for
Showtimes and
Reservations!**

25 Institute Street, Franklin, NY
FranklinStageCompany.org
f /FranklinStage



**Council on
the Arts**

SKINNY COW III Songwriters' Workshop Returns

By Bill Steely

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, songwriters will again convene at the Steely farm in Franklin. This year's songwriting retreat will take place between August 11th and 15th.

Afternoons will be spent attending workshops on the songwriter's craft, and co-writing in small groups. Evenings will be spent playing the songs



End-of-the-day guitar pull at the farm

written that day on a stage set up in the hayloft of the three-story barn. During this time, the writers will share rooms dormitory-style, eat meals together, and go on group excursions, such as morning

picking at North Star Blueberry Farm.

The four-day event will culminate on Sunday, August 14th, with two public performances: one mid-day at the Franklin Farmers' Market and the other in the evening at the Steely



Performing on the porch at the Franklin Farmers' Market

farm. The evening concert begins at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the community. The farm is on the corner of Route 21 and Oak Hill Road, two miles south of the village: 11200 County Highway 21, Franklin.

Need more information?
Email bill@skyad.com

Photos by author



Skinny Cow 2019 with their haul of blueberries

PAINT THE POINT!

A PLEIN-AIR GATHERING AT
BROOKWOOD

Paint the Point! A Plein Air Event August 6-7, 2022

Artists and art lovers are invited to join the Otsego Land Trust for the First Annual "Paint the Point" Plein Air Event at the Brookwood Point Conservation Area near Cooperstown. As part of Otsego Land Trust's mission to connect people with the land, this event is an opportunity for artists to draw inspiration from the natural landscape, scenic lake views, and historic formal gardens. Visitors are welcome to stop by to enjoy the site and observe the artists at work.

Brookwood Point is a publicly accessible twenty-two-acre historic site on the west shore of Otsego Lake, just two miles north of the village of Cooperstown. Since 2011, the Otsego Land Trust has been restoring its stream corridor and the formal Italian-style gardens.

In early August, the landscape will be at its peak with views across the lake to the hills beyond. Artists will be free to choose their own vantage point and focus on elements large or small.

To register as an artist or for more information on the event, visit www.otsego-landtrust.org



Photo by Abby Rodd

FILM FOCUS

with
MICHAEL PAXTON



LIFE'S A BEACH!

Okay, kids. It's summertime! And what could be more glorious than a day at the beach?

But we live in the mountains, so an ocean isn't easily at our disposal.

The remedy? Park ourselves in front of the TV for a beach movie!

To beat the heat in my youth (the '60s), we were herded by our parents to the local Drive-In to quench our thirst for ocean waves. Those summer-fun dinosaurs of yester-year are mostly extinct (except for the few still beloved as nostalgia destinations, such as our local Unadilla Drive-In). Instead, let's ride the wild surf of modern television technology, and savor every crashing wave and musical note from the heyday of rock and roll.

But let's be clear: most of the movies mentioned here are not great (or even good) films. They represent a particular sub-genre of romantic, screwball, and surf comedies, the low-to-high tides of the genre. But isn't that part of the fun? Here we go...

First it was *Gidget*, the novel, by Frederick Kohner (1957), then *Gidget*, the movie (1959), *Gidget Goes Hawaiian* (1961), and *Gidget Goes to Rome* (1963), all directed by Paul Wendkos. Finally, there was *Gidget*, the TV series (1965-1966), directed by William Asher.



Dee & Darren

Sandra Dee took the first plunge as Gidget. The name "Gidget," according to Kohner's book, was a combination of "girl" and "midget." Although hardly a politically correct name, Kohner modeled the character after his daughter's adventures growing up in the surf culture at Malibu beach during the 1950's. Sandra Dee gives Gidget a girl-next-door, tomboy exuberance. James Darren as her surfer suitor became an instant singing heartthrob. The story spoke to the conflict between the steady job/status quo approach vs. life as a free spirit, a hot topic as the uptight '50s turned the corner into the early '60s. Cliff Robertson, as the attractive older

man who wants to surf with no constraints, knows it's a lonely life and not for the faint of heart. His good deed is to discourage the kids not to follow in his footsteps.

When translating the story to '60s television, Screen Gems found the perfect actress to fill the bill. Sally Field was as plucky and wholesome as you could get. She made a big splash, but unfortunately, *Gidget's* high Nielsen ratings didn't register until the summer reruns were aired, and the network canceled the series after the first season. oor Sally had to abandon the Malibu shore for a convent in Puerto Rico, where she became airborne as *The Flying Nun*. Still, more TV Gidgets followed, well into the '80s with sequels and remakes.

Frankie & Annette:

Beach Party (1963)

Muscle Beach Party (1964)

Beach Blanket Bingo (1965)

How to Stuff a Wild Bikini

(1965) William Asher, Director

They were no Fred & Ginger, but Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello made a good tongue-in-cheek team for a series of beach movies whipped up on the California sands in the early to mid-sixties. These films are cheeky/cheesy, played mostly for simple "fun-in-the-sun" whimsy, but at the same time letting the world know that sexual mores were about to change...big time. These entries were all directed by William Asher, best known for *I Love Lucy* and *Bewitched*, and starred two of America's sweethearts from the '50s.

At first a Walt Disney darling on *The Mickey Mouse Club*, Annette Funicello, as the "Let's wait until we get married" Dolores, was allowed by Walt to be in these films as long as she didn't show her navel (the same requirement Barbra Eden had to abide by initially in *I Dream of Jeannie*).

But Asher took Walt's restriction and ran with it, having Annette wear unlikely frocks that covered her completely while all the other girls wore belly-button-bearing bikinis. It's pretty funny seeing her lying on the sand in a moo-moo as barely-clad kids gyrate around her. Even the guys showed more skin!

But if you're looking for diversity in these movies, you're out of luck. Eccentric and wacky, yes, but each film had an all-white cast. The only exception was the cameo musical appearances of Stevie Wonder (*Little Stevie Wonder*, back then). Of the series, the first installment—*Beach Party*—is the best...almost a solid "B" movie (!), with some good laughs, a "nice" song from Annette ("Treat Him Nicely") and a Vincent Price

cameo. It became the template for all the rest, which included lots of surfing, silent film parodies (some with Buster Keaton), a motorcycle gang led by Eric von Zipper (Harvey Lembeck) parodying Marlon Brando, strolls on the beach in front of a process screen, and some breaking of the fourth wall (just to be sure no one was taking it too seriously). And, of course, a string of star cameos: Paul Lynde, Bob Cummings, Don Rickles, Keenen Wynn, Boris Karloff, Peter Lorre, Elizabeth Montgomery, and even a mermaid played by Marta Kristen (Judy Robinson in *Lost in Space*) long before *Splash* hit cinemas. All in all, not a bad way to spend a hot afternoon in front of the TV.

Back to the Beach (1987)

Lyndall Hobbs, Director

If you make it through any of the beach movies, be sure to check out *Back to the Beach*, a satire of all of them. Showing what became of our beach blanket heroes twenty-five years after their hay day, this movie is a surprisingly good reunion for Frankie and Annette. He has become an insufferable car salesman, and she is a housewife who can't stop making peanut butter

sandwiches (with Skippy peanut butter, as Annette was their commercial spokesperson).

Their son is a wannabe punk/hoodlum who makes fun of his father's hair and sarcastically comments on his parents' inane conversations. Frankie and Annette lampoon themselves with earnest glee, and there are cameos galore: Bob Denver and Alan Hale, Jr. (*Gilligan's Island*), Kookie Burns (*77 Sunset Strip*), Connie Stevens (*Hawaiian Eye*), Don Adams (*Get Smart*), the cast of *Leave it to Beaver* and Pee Wee Herman.

Honorable Mentions: Amidst the beach movie bonanza in 1965, Paramount rode the crest with the release of *The Girls on the Beach* (1965 – William Witney, Director), which boasted pop-rock acts (The Beach Boys, Lesley Gore, Martin West and The Crickets), and an industrious brood of beach-going gals. In 2000, *Psycho Beach Party* (Robert Lee King, Director) went from stage to screen as a satire/parody of beach movies and slash-films. It included a Gidget-type with multiple personalities, a serial killer, and a drag detective (Charles Busch) who solves the case.

Where the Boys Are (1960)

Henry Levin, Director

Finally, let's go back...back...back to the apex of beach movies: *Where the Boys Are*.

It is, to say the least, nothing short of a cinematic surprise, packaged as a light-hearted romp - not on west coast sands, but on Florida's Fort Lauderdale beach. Joe Pasternak, who groomed such luminaries as Judy Garland and Deanna Durbin, produced the film with a lot of TLC. The story seems simple enough: four girls from a

mid-western college decide to ditch the snow and head south for sun and fun at Easter break - to go, well, where the boys are. However, our lead character, Merrett (Dolores Hart), is only interested in the sun part, in order to get in more studying. She is behind in all her classes, and in trouble for touting her unorthodox views of sex before marriage in class. For a beach movie, this one gets to the point quickly when, after Connie Francis warbles the memorable theme song (written by Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield), Merrett confronts the professor in her "Courtship and Marriage" class. What follows is an MGM class act: great location shooting, mid-century set design, subtle but compelling camera moves and lighting that tell a much deeper—and darker—story, including a well-handled instance of date rape. It tackled issues confronting many late '50s kids who couldn't buy into the package deal of love and marriage like their parents did.

As for the cast, it's a great mix of unknowns, contract players, and soon-to-be stars. George Hamilton, a mere kid in this film, got his tan going here and never let it fade. Jim Hutton eventually became TV's *Ellery Queen* and produced an Academy Award-winning son, Timothy Hutton. Frank Gorshin turned green as the Riddler in TV's iconic *Batman* TV show. Connie Francis, along with being one of the top female singers of the '50s, went on to star in *Where the Boys Are* sequels, which didn't repeat the success of the original. Paula Prentiss, already married to future actor/director Richard Benjamin (*Westworld*, *Goodbye Columbus*), continued her acting career into the 2000's (*The Stepford Wives*). Ironically, Yvette Mimieux was the first to display her belly button on television in 1964 playing a surfing teenager in an episode of *Dr. Kildare*, while Dolores Hart threw in her beach towel and her Hollywood career for the convent, becoming a Benedictine nun (unfortunately, one that couldn't fly) in 1963.

In spite of what you might think of teenage hijinks in the sand brought to the screen in bygone days, do check out *Where the Boys Are* (Warning: NOT the 1984 remake!). You will discover that the issues kids were unpacking about love/sex/marriage are still alive today. Merrett and her friends articulate the conundrum well, even shed some light on it. It's a great way to "shoot the curl" into human relationships without getting all wet... and have a few laughs along the way.

Have a cinematic summer!



BIRDSONG, continued from Page 8



Carla Hegemen Crim in a Birdsong greenhouse

of May until September on Saturdays between 10am and 2pm. According to Market Manager, Elizabeth Kaden, this year’s market has twenty vendors who sell produce and meats from local farms, baked goods, plants, herbs, cider, soap and beauty products, oils, crafts and of course cut flowers from the gardens. Live musicians perform and local food trucks will be at some of the markets. One of the nicest things about the farmers’ market is that the gardens are open, offering a chance to walk through the gardens to see what’s growing.

Birdsong Community Garden is located on Rte. 10 in the town of Delhi. To see what’s going on there, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/birdsongfarmcommunitygarden>

MAPS, con’t from Page 1

when similar towns are far away from each other.

This year, a judge ruled against the proposed congressional and state senate maps. They were redrawn by an appointed special master late in the process. Due to this kerfuffle, there will be two primaries this year. State-wide offices such as governor and assembly members will have their primary on June 28th. The primary for congressional and the state senate candidates will be on August 23rd. But guess what: here in the 19th CD, we will be treated to an additional layer of crazy.

Antonio Delgado resigned from Congress on May 25th to become New York State’s Lt. Governor. Because six months remained in his term, a special election will be held. County Democratic and Republican Chairs selected candidates to run in the special election. Just after they made their choices, a new congressional map was approved for the 2022 election with different boundaries for the 19th CD. The Democratic candidate to fill Delgado’s term does not live in the new 19th CD so he will run in the 18th CD in Novem-

ber. The special election to fill the remainder of Delgado’s term in the old 19th CD and the primary for the new 19th CD will take place on August 23rd. The Republican candidate will run in the special election and the general election. Democrats will vote for one candidate to fill out the term in the old district and choose between three different candidates in the primary. The winner of the primary will run in the general election. You can’t make this stuff up.

As with Congress, the district lines for the State Senate were redrawn and there have been some changes of the candidates who are running. In the first map, Franklin was included in the 44th SD. Now we’re in the 51st district, and Democratic and Republican candidates will be running in the general election on November 8th.

Assembly District 101 has always been a whack-a-doodle gerrymandered district, but Franklin is new to it. It splits down the middle of New York State from Madison County to the outer suburbs of New York City in Orange County. The district meanders through towns that share borders but may not have direct

road access between them. In Delaware County only three towns are in the 101st district: Franklin, Hamden, and Andes. Speculation is that the changes were made to draw the current incumbent out of the district. He took the hint and left, so it is now an open seat.

The 2022 congressional and state senate maps were released in the middle of May. Due to this happening so late, accurate maps and candidate information has been hard to come by. So, stay tuned. There still may be changes. As of June 20th, here is what I could find:

CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL OFFICE:

- Assembly AD 101:
Democrat: Matthew Mackey; Republican: Brian Maher
- Senate SD 51: Democrat: Eric Ball; Republican: Brian Maher
- Congress CD 19: Special Election: Democrat: Pat Ryan; Republican: Marcus Molinaro
- Primary: Democrats: Josh Riley, Osun Zotique, and Jamie Cheney
- General Election: Democrat: winner of the primary; Republican: Marcus Molinaro

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

Bright Hill Press and Literary Center of the Catskills

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



Word Thursdays | Arts Education Workshops

The New York State Literary Map | The Word and Image Gallery

Featuring world renowned master teaching artists and more than 20,000 poets and writers

Seeing Things with Robert Bensen | After the Beginning: What's Next? with Georgia Popoff | Ekphrasis Creative Writing Workshop with Mark Blickley | Photography & Ekphrastic Writing with Lynne Kemen and Nick Kelsh

National and International Poets and Writers

and so much more in 2022

www.brighthillpress.org

GREENING, con't from Page 4

But digging 260 holes, staking 260 trees and bushes, then protecting each with pale green plastic tubes until they establish themselves? A lot of work!

Enter our community-minded friends and neighbors: eager home-schooled highschoolers from Delhi, Franklin high schoolers, Franklin Rotary members, and helpful Franklin village residents.

All was set. The planting was scheduled for April 22nd, from 9:00 to 11:30. Then Mother Nature played a trick on us! SNOW! We waited. The snow fell deep and wet, taking down trees and electric lines. Some of us had no electricity for many days! But by the weekend, rain had washed the snow away, things were getting back to normal, and we felt safe to reschedule for Arbor Day, April 29, 9:00 in the morning. And our helpers all came.



Working harder than ants and faster than bees, they'd finished by 11:30.

Mayor Briggs and I stop by often to check on the work. The trees and bushes the gang planted are doing well. In fact, they're doing terrific. If you walk down Otego Road to the bridge over the Ouleout Creek, you can look down and see those hundreds of light green tubes. Each one protects a little tree growing inside.

438 MAIN, con't from Pg. 3

favors in her designs for Lava Interiors. She thinks this store will complement the other stores in Franklin that sell antiques and home furnishings. It will also be a way for her to bring her design collection from New York City to Franklin.

On the second floor, Meg is creating a two-bedroom, loft style Airbnb. If you have ever stayed in an inn and wanted to take the furniture home, this will be the place for you. She calls it a shoppable Airbnb because guests will be able to purchase items that are on display in the apartment. The furnishings will be curated by Meg and swapped out on a regular basis.

The workshop behind the Main Street building will become the Good Taste Epicurean Food Market. Mark Handelman from Gilbertsville and Jeff Killmeier of Otsego will be opening a specialty food store which will offer local and imported artisanal cheeses, smoked and cured meats,

gourmet cooking ingredients, and basic grocery items. Fresh roasted coffee will be available. They also plan to have an educational component with cooking demonstrations and tastings.

Meg mentioned that she eventually plans to landscape the driveway and create an outdoor seating area where people can enjoy the food that they purchase at the market.

There is one last business that Meg envisions as part of the 438 Main Street complex: a restaurant that serves dinners. Several people with retail businesses have approached her about setting up a retail business on the ground floor but Meg's heart is set on a restaurant that will be open at least four nights a week and will not only serve delicious dinners but will also offer wine and beer.

Meg sees this building as an opportunity to fill basic needs of both residents and visitors to Franklin.

She began the project by asking, "What is Franklin missing and what are the business pillars that a community needs?" What she came up with was, "Someone needs a place to eat - that will be the restaurant. Someone needs a place to shop - that will be my storefront. Someone needs a place to stay - that will be Lava Loft. If you need a place to take care of yourself - Lava Wellness. And finally, you need a place to get your provisions, so you'll have the market." She continued, "So you are hitting all of those notes for a well-balanced building to have businesses to support the community."

As mentioned, Lava Wellness has already begun to offer classes. Throughout the next few months, the other businesses will begin operation. It will be fun for us in Franklin to watch these new businesses take flight. You can check out the progress by visiting the website: <https://www.438mainstreet.com>



The mill pond and historic mill buildings at Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith



Photos by Tony Breuer



REZONING, continued from Page 1

was defeated by the existing setback. Both were neighboring the town garages: the first on State Highway 357 and the second on County Highway 21. Dollar General applied for a variance for the first location. This proved controversial with the townspeople, and the closest neighbor was decidedly against it. The variance was not granted. Without maps, we cannot know where sites would become available under the new revisions.

The required public hearing on these revisions was held on Tuesday, May 24th. Present were town board members Bruno, Ross, Smith and Taggart; planning board members Howland, Schlafer, and Storey; zoning board of appeals member Kiraly; and town clerk Johns, with almost three dozen townspeople attending. Years can pass between such a show of interest. After a few hours of discussion, little consensus was reached on how a revision should be structured, let alone the final wording. The hearing was clearly premature.

The Town of Franklin adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2006. Under NYS Town Law Section 272-a, "all town land use regulations must be in accordance with a comprehensive plan." One of the goals of the Franklin plan is to "allow for growth while maintaining rural character." At this hearing, there was broad support for that goal, but disagreement on the specifics of how to achieve it. One proposed option was to leave the setback at 1,000' and deal with the siting of any business through a variance. Another was to adopt some reduction in the setbacks, but retaining setbacks greater than those favored by the planning board. This was favored by members of the town board and planning board. The third was to change how the town zones for businesses. Instead of setbacks, an overlay of districts would specify which types of businesses would be permitted in which areas. The towns of Otego and Middletown use this method.

On one issue there was general consensus - that a landowner should be permitted to site a business on their property without a setback from their own residence.

A second meeting was scheduled for the evening of June 21st at the town hall but was held after this newspaper went to press. Its purpose was for general discussion.

BE INFORMED!

Check out the new election district maps online: https://newyork.redistrictingandyou.org/?districtType=cd&propA=current_2012&propB=congress_specialmastermay20_20220520&select=-map=6.73/42.606/-74.981

New York 101 Assembly District:
https://latfor.state.ny.us/maps/2022assembly/New_York_101_Assembly_District
<https://latfor.state.ny.us/maps/2022assembly/asm101.pdf>

SOLAR, continued from Page 10



of power. The company would lease between 25 and 50 acres, depending on the quality of the land available. Typically, these leases run 25 to 45 years.

The project developer, Robert Romine, attended the May meeting of the town board to ask what would be necessary to begin the permitting process. ClearPath is a small company with a dozen staff that develops community-scale solar projects, mostly in Massachusetts and New York. It was started in 2017 and is headquartered in Brighton, a district of west Boston.

In New York, the company has partnered with Castillo Engineering on six projects with a total of 38 MW: one in Little Falls township, Herkimer County; two in New Bremen township, Lewis County; and three in Tully township, Onondaga County. All six use bifacial collector panels, half of those mounted on solar trackers and the other three on fixed-tilt racking. ClearPath has a dozen more projects in development.

ClearPath is not involved with the Clean Path project, an \$11 billion renewable-energy project to transmit annually more than 7.5 million megawatt-hours of output from hydroelectric plants in Quebec to downstate.

ClearPath Energy plans to sell the electricity generated to local subscribers at a discount from NYSEG rates. A credit would appear on your monthly bill. Additional benefits for Franklin could include reduced-rate EV charging stations and a site for emergency charging during power outages.

The first step in the regulatory process would be an evaluation of the high-voltage power line that crosses over the hill to determine how much power it could handle. Then ClearPath would place the project in the queue for connection to the grid, which is managed by the New York Independent System Operators.

The Town of Franklin does not have laws on the books that apply specifically to solar arrays as it does for wind turbines. The neighboring towns that could host solar arrays do. Walton has a local law for permitting solar (2-2019) and Meredith is enacting a similar one (1-2022).

As a legacy of the Constitution Pipeline, Williams Companies owns utility easements across potential sites for the solar arrays. Its ROW parallels Van Tassel Road just to the south of it and includes additional land for a 100’ tall communication tower and access road.

A solar generating facility would pay property taxes unless the town board agrees to Payments in Lieu of Taxes. Both the town board and planning board are opposed to a PILOT in this case. The land on either side of Otego Road is in the agricultural district, but not the land on either side of Bissell Road. Should this solar array take farmland out of production, then the full value of the land could be on the tax rolls.

The developer has raised the possibility of farming beneath the panels. If enough land is leased, then the panels can be spaced forty-five feet apart to allow farming between. With less space, arrays could be on ten-foot-high posts, allowing farm equipment to pass beneath. Most proposals mention hay, sheep, and bees. ClearPath Energy wants to partner with a local farmer.

Typically, construction of so small an array takes only three to six months, although all the electrical work can take another year. As with other utility projects, the company would hire local contractors as available. Solar panels last twenty years or more. ClearPath would post a bond for the cost of disassembly and restoring the land should the facility be decommissioned.

Burning fossil fuels is cooking our planet. Many solar generation facilities will be needed as replacements. The only question is where to put them.

BALL, con’t from Page 1

dedication to the people of our community. A former member of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), Ball has worked as a Direct Care Aide, and he co-chaired the Walton committee on police reform, in compliance with New York State’s Executive Order 203 to reform policies, procedures and activities in the wake of numerous incidents of dysfunction and brutality in American police departments. He has served on the Village of Walton Board for four years.

In addition to protecting the safety of the people he hopes to represent, Ball’s priorities include strengthening the infrastructure of our roads and highways, and our fiber-optic systems; expanding affordable healthcare; bringing in funding for small businesses and farms; protecting the environment, and investing in renewable energy sources. Along those lines, as I’m sure we’ve all experienced, the price of regular gas is rising toward the \$5-per-gallon mark, and Ball wants to thwart oil and utility companies from

gouging their customers.

“As I continue to travel throughout this district,” Ball wrote, “I’ve learned that our rural communities are vastly underserved when it comes to things like public transportation, high speed internet, as well as access to in-network healthcare and dental providers or even access to affordable healthcare in general. We continue also to struggle to have affordable housing options for seniors who are looking to downsize or working-class people whose wages simply can’t compete with the rising costs of rents, utilities, gas and groceries. Even though our communities have experienced a ‘renaissance’, there is a large portion of our population who are finding it more difficult to remain in the communities that they’ve always lived in.”

Ball’s remedies? “We need a local economy that works for everyone. Our area has been rightfully recognized for its beauty and charm...but there is more to our local economy than tourism....We can address the rising inequality in our communities by up-

lifting those who need the most support.”

Ball has been endorsed by the Working Families Party, and by the Democratic Committees of Delaware, Orange, and Sullivan Counties.

They seem to agree with Kim Van Atta, Walton Democratic Committee Chairperson, who emailed that “Eric was born and raised in the heart of this new Senate District, including graduating from both high school and college within its boundaries, and he understands the needs of our community better than anyone. Eric is not a typical politician, and this is a new experience for him, but his dedication to actual public service, which is all too rare these days, makes him the ideal person to ensure that our community is well represented.”

For more news and information about Eric Ball, visit his campaign website: <https://www.ericballforsenate.com>

Alexis Greene is an author, biographer and arts journalist. Her most recent biography is Emily Mann: Rebel Artist of the American Theater (Applause Books).

FRANKLIN 2.0

After a few months absence, the Town of Franklin website is back in a new and improved version - <https://franklindelco-ny.gov/>

Currently this website is a work in progress with some topics lacking content, but it offers some resources of use to townspeople.

The uncredited photo is a placeholder. It is popular stock photo from the Getty collection of a barn in York County, Pennsylvania.



SOURCES OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

The town clerk keeps the records of the town, including: budgets, Annual Update Documents (aka annual financial reports), and the current assessment roll. They are available during office hours Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The town website <https://franklindelco-ny.gov/> is a work in progress. Currently the only financial information are assessment rolls for 2021 (final) and 2022 (tentative).

The NYS Office of the State Comptroller posts annual financial reports of municipalities for the past 14 years. It allows the past budgets of a town to be compared six years at a time, and for one year to be compared to other towns three at a time.

<https://www2.osc.state.ny.us/transparency/LocalGov/LocalGovIntro.cfm>
NYSOSC provides an explanation of municipal budgeting *Understanding the Budget Process (2016)*

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/publications/pdf/budgetprocess.pdf>

NYSOSC audits of the Town of Franklin
Town of Franklin – Financial Condition, 2018M-8
<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/audits/town/2018/03/23/town-franklin-financial-condition-2018m-8>

Town of Franklin – Financial Operations, 2014M-32
<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/audits/town/2014/05/09/town-franklin-financial-operations-2014m-32>

CLAM, con't from Page 1
distinguish salaries from expenses.

Budgets for other towns include a schedule of salaries, a listing of how much each official is paid – something of particular interest to townspeople. Not in Franklin.

Like other towns, the Franklin budget document begins with a summary page. Unlike other towns, Franklin does not make clear that the levy for the fire department, which is collected by the town billing, is not part of the town budget.

Graphs are easier to understand than columns of numbers. The budget for Franklin has no graphs. None to summarize how the two pies of revenues and expenses are divided. None to compare the proposed budget to those of previous years. None on how Franklin's budget compares to those of similar towns. It is a bare-minimum document, written for the convenience of the board, not for informing the townspeople.

Copies of the budget are available from the town clerk, but few townspeople bother. By law, the budget should be posted on the town website as well, but it never has been. Hardly surprising that the annual public budget hearing has closed in minutes without a single question being asked.

Never discussed at budget time is what the unexpended balances are expected to be, i.e. the cash on-hand at the start of the fiscal year on January 1st.

In recent years, the appropriated funds in the

budget have been less than \$200,000. However, in the annual financial report that the town is required to submit to the Office of the State Comptroller, the cash that is carried to the next year is over twice as much. For a few years in the 2010s, this cash was close to a million dollars.

While it is important to inform the townspeople how the board plans to spend next year's tax dollars, it is even more important how last year's was actually spent. For eight years in a row, the board did not report on spending, in violation of state laws. This was not an oversight. In those years, the OSC sent four letters to the supervisor each year reminding him of this obligation. The third letter was copied to the town clerk, and the fourth to other members of the town board. Even after the state audited the financial operations of Franklin in 2013 and the five members agreed to resume auditing and reporting in 2014, the board did not.

The Town of Franklin did not resume lawful operations until 2018 after a second audit by the OSC, which was in part instigated by exposes in this newspaper. The existence of the initial audit was kept from the townspeople by avoiding any discussion of it during open meetings. Had not a town official revealed the first audit to this newspaper in 2016, the board might not be reporting to this day.

And how IS taxpayers' money being spent? Any expense not foreseen in the budget should be dis-

cussed in a public meeting. Resolutions may be required. But this does not happen. In 2019, a tax *certiorari* lawsuit was settled after years of wrangling over an assessment of the not-for-profit Love & Hope Animal Sanctuary on Stuart Road. The resulting legal costs could reach the low five figures, but have never been made public. At the time, a request for an accounting from the board was deflected with the claim that the bills had not been paid yet.

At the June meeting of the town board, Supervisor Taggart boasted that with the closing of the sale of the excess property above the town garages, Franklin had broken roughly even. In reality, the sale was the conclusion of a years-long and unsuccessful project to build a town office building, during which Delaware Engineering was hired to evaluate three sites and produce several sets of plans. Costs must be at least in four figures and more likely five, but there has been no accounting of this to the public.

These are just two that we know of. What of the unknowns? There is another tax *certiorari* lawsuit for a rural residence on Stuart Road, but this one has yet to be acknowledged in a public meeting.

The townspeople deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent. However, an informed electorate does tend to ask questions.

See Page 18 for sources of Town of Franklin financial information.

THE PANDEMIC IN DELAWARE CO.

By Brian Brock

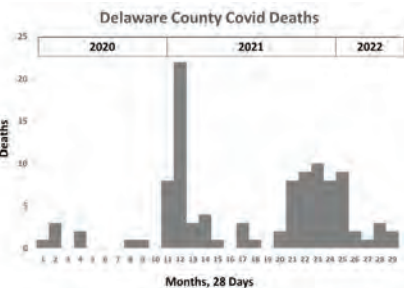
Our country of 330 million people suffered over 1,000,000 dead from COVID, whereas our county of 44 thousand suffered over 100 dead. The average death rate for the United State is three per thousand, whereas Delaware County has done a little better at two per thousand. In Delaware County, there were 38 deaths in the winter of 2020/2021 and 48 in 2021/2022, over eighty

percent during the indoor third of the year. The first wave of deaths was caused by the original version of SARS-CoV-2. The second wave was broader, with the late-fall deaths caused by the Delta variant and the winter deaths by the Omicron variant.

Our COVID dead remain mostly a mystery because Delaware County Department of Public Health has not released a demographic of them. Also, rarely do obituaries list COVID as the cause of death. If we are anything like the rest of the country, our dead were mostly the old and the poor, which might explain why they have been so little noted. In the United States, people over sixty-five years old were 74% of the dead but are only 17% of the population.

The older the subpopulation, the greater this skew. Those over 85 were 25% of the dead but only 2% of the population. The elderly have weaker immune systems and poorer health. In addition, many lived in residential facilities with crowding and insufficient staffing. Deaths there were 21% of the total, 210,000.

The connection between death rates and incomes is harder to know because a death certificate does not list annual income. Looking at deaths by zip codes: the higher the death rate, the lower the average income. The poor had fewer options to distance themselves such as working remotely and shopping off-hours. If they do fall ill, then the poor often lack the health care for early intervention.



The Newsletter of Franklin Local

Editorial Board

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

Editor
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register
P.O. Box 258
Franklin, NY 13775
or by email: nfr@franklinlocal.org

What are we about?

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

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

We generally meet once a month, at 7 P.M. at the Franklin Free Library. The date is 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
- EV Charging Station
- Ride sharing bulletin board and/or website
- Farm to School Program for school lunches
- Community Greenhouses
- Community Energy Production
- Community Health Network

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

PLEASE JOIN US!

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

franklinlocal.org

Printed in Norwich NY by Sun Printing, Inc.

The New Franklin Register is an independent entity funded by our local advertisers and contributions from interested friends. We have no granting organizations to answer to, no rich sponsors pay our tab, and no taxpayer dollars come our way.



Where else but in Franklin Village can a person enjoy a marching band with his or her morning coffee break!
- Tony Breuer

It's Better Upstate



DATE	ADDRESS	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS.	SALE	SELLER	BUYER	
1/25/22	470 Bowers Rd	155.30	Rural Res	440,000	430,000	Scholz, Nancy	Nationstar REO Sub 1B LLC	(F)
2/2/22	716 Main St	0.37	1 Family Res	63,000	120,000	Cassinelli, Gary	Meredith, Lillian	
2/10/22	12024 State Hwy 357	77.50	Rural Res	121,000	1,000	Knapp, Roy G	Knapp, Roy	(R)
2/26/22	6488 State Hwy 357	3.80	1 Family Res	114,000	179,699	Defee, John	US Bank Trust	(F)
3/7/22	7955 County Hwy 16	1.00	1 Family Res	155,000		Kerekes, Laura	Ruff, Jason	(R)
3/7/22	Ed Klug Rd	10.24	Rural Vac >10 ac	35,000	26,500	Piacente, Nina Maria	Ed Klug Barren LLC	
3/7/22	668 Bennett Hollow Rd	1.00	1 Family Res	115,000	225,000	Gardner, Craig	Winkler, Joseph Anthony	
3/15/22	Henry Edwards	2.10	Vacant <10 ac	10,000	4,500	Campoli, Joseph	Harkin, Matthew	
3/17/22	4585 County Hwy 14	1.50	1 Family Res	112,000	185,000	Tuthill, David	Navojosky, Matthew	
						(F) Foreclosure	(R) Relative	