



Photo by Tony Breuer

MONEY FOR MANURE

By Jan Mulroy

Remember those bucolic paintings of yesteryear with the cow drinking in a creek? These days, it is a best management practice or BMP to keep cows out of the creek.

Why?

Because cows can excrete 100 pounds of manure a day which contains nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Daily, a herd of twenty cows excretes a ton of manure containing 12 pounds of nitrate and 16 pounds of phosphate.

Too much of these nutrients in the Ouleout at the headwaters of the Susquehanna River results in eutrophication of the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the river.

There are a host of BMP systems that deal with manure management in an effort to keep manure, admixed soil, and run-off from going into the water. Locally, the Ouleout Creek Watershed (OCW) is in the Chesapeake Bay Program Total Maximum Daily Load (CBP TMDL). Practices implemented in this program are designed to reduce the load of nitrogen and phosphorus in water bodies.

Agriculture remains a persistent contributor of these nutrients to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. As part of the CBP, New York State's Watershed Implementation Plan describes how BMPs will reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and soil erosion, and provides funding for the BMP implementation. This plan is overseen by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Funding comes from but is

See MANURE, con't on Pg. 18



IT'S BACK! : JULY 1 & 2
See Page 15



OPEN FOR THE SEASON!
See Page 13



Exciting Summer Programs
at the Franklin Free Library

HISTORIC ORGAN FOR SAINT PAUL'S

By Connie Martin
with Daniel Branigan

'Listen, and for organ music thou wilt ever, as of old, hear the Morning Stars sing together.'
-- Thomas Carlyle

With players, pipes and pedals, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Franklin will soon boom out joyous celestial song. The historic church, built by noted architect Richard Upjohn, will once again have an antique pipe organ where its original organ sat at the church's opening in 1856.

The organ was gifted to St. Paul's by the Episcopal Diocese of Syracuse and came from St. George's Episcopal Church in Chadwicks, which closed in November 2021. The organ was built and placed at St. George's in 1891 by renowned Utica organ builder John Gale Marklove.

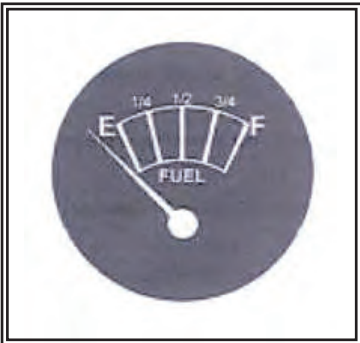
Dan Branigan, St. Paul's



The organ in its original home Church Senior Warden, is managing the project. He said, "John Gale Marklove built 250 organs and only 20 remain in existence today. This organ is a very rare instrument...And this gift is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Branigan noted that he discovered the antique

See ORGAN, con't on Pg. 16



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WHITHER WASTEWATER?

By Brian Brock

When John Edgerton laid-out the settlement of Franklin in the 1790s, he picked a good spot. The village is situated on the top of a glacial delta along the southeast side of Ouleout valley. This is more than 40 feet above the creek, well beyond the reach of floods.

The creek provided a ready source of water while the underlying sand and gravel provided good drainage for the outhouses



The village sewer outlet into the Ouleout - Photo by the author

— as long as the well was far from the crapper. In the early 1800s, the settlement prospered and grew as a stop on the turnpike from Catskill on the Hudson River to the frontier at Wattles Ferry (now Unadilla) on the Susquehanna River. As residences crowded together, there was contamination of

water by waste.

By the 1880s, some villagers decided to assure a supply of potable water. They tapped into a spring on the Samuel Smith farm to the north. The water had enough hydraulic head to reach the reservoir, which was built on the hill south of the village at 1,420 feet. From there it was piped down to the village some 100 feet below. This system was completed by 1890, and 20 houses were connected.

Having secured a municipal supply of clean water, waste disposal was left to individual homes and

businesses. For most of the village, this worked well with tens of feet of porous aggregate beneath. However, this layer thins out against the hillside southeast of Main Street. This problem is compounded by many springs along the base of the hill, which results in what little sand and gravel is there being saturated only a few feet below the surface. This was not much of a problem when sanitation was an outhouse in back which could be moved as needed.

However, indoor plumbing produced great—
See SEWER, con't on Pg. 19

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Your Neighbor's View...

3-29-23

To the Editor,

Each time the 'Register' arrives, it's an amusing read. People move here because of the village, town and area. They soon learn it's nothing like they thought. They want all the things they moved away from ie gourmet grocers.

Now it's more town roads. If you knew you'd be "cut-a-ways" and would have to maintain the road yourself, why did you buy and build there? And why do you now want it changed?

You supposedly liked it here enough to move; leave it alone.

Ev Rogers

FRANKLIN ROTARY: FOCUS ON YOUTH

By Amber Gray and
Connie Martin

The Franklin Rotary Club will host an inbound exchange student from Italy during the 2023-2024 school year. A 17-year-old female student will be attending Franklin Central School and staying with local host families – which is why we need your help.

At press time, we have two host families and are seeking one additional family interested in providing a safe home for the inbound student for three short months with support from the Franklin Rotary Club. Host families are expected to include the exchange student in daily life, family trips, and special occasions.

Host families benefit from building lifelong, international relationships with their exchange student and their family, by learning more about another culture, and by sharing their American life with the student. Incoming exchange students have passed several stages of applications and interviews and must have English speaking skills to ensure communication between themselves and their host community. Hosting a student is a fun, rewarding and life-changing experience for all involved.

Franklin Central School District families with students who are interested in becoming outbound exchange students during their junior year are especially encouraged to apply to be a host family either before or after their student studies internationally. Hosting an exchange student can give your family a sense of what it's like for your student abroad living in someone else's home.

In mid-June, Franklin Central School junior Griffin Leddy returned home from his exchange student adventure in Silkeborg, Denmark, where he has been

hosted by two different families since last August. He actively shared his hosts' Danish family life while attending school. Griffin, who has some Danish heritage, also had the opportunity to meet his relatives living in Denmark when his American family visited the country this spring.

"What a great adventure!" Griffin said. "My host families really showed me what Danish hospitality is all about. I felt like I had

known everyone for years!" Griffin added, "I made new friends the world over and memories that will last forever."

On the education front, Griffin noted that he very much enjoyed attending school and experiencing a new perspective on education with the Danish system. Griffin also became very active in bicycling with his new friends. "We traveled everywhere in the Danish way," he said.

If you are interested in learning more about being a host family for our inbound exchange student, or want to know more about the outbound student exchange program, please reach out to our Youth Exchange Chair Gary Orton at 607-287-8827 or another member, attend a club meeting, or message us on Facebook.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is for students ages 15-19 and is sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries. Learn more about the program at <https://www.rotary.org/youth-exchange>.

FCS Students also receive Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Franklin Rotary selected and sponsored two Franklin Central School District high school students, Tamara Wright and Sara Rosenbusch, as par-

See ROTARY, con't on Pg. 14



Griffin Leddy and friend

FCS ALL-CLASS REUNION

By Connie Martin

The Franklin Central School Alumni Dinner Committee has put plans in place to celebrate alumni of Franklin Central School with an All-Class Reunion. Formerly known as the Alumni Banquet and held closer to FCS high school graduation in June, the date has been moved to Saturday, August 26, which happens to be this year's Old Franklin Day. Alumni will celebrate from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm with a barbecue under the tent on the lawn of St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 307 Main Street in Franklin.

The Alumni Dinner Committee members are: Janet Branigan, President; Eileen Donnel, Secretary; Sonja Johns, Treasurer; and members Nancy Bedford, Katherine Bouton, Ernest Kroll, Colleen Law, Connie Martin, Cathy and Rich Michelitsch, Betsy Ott, and Bob Wisse.

President Janet Branigan said, "The committee felt that there is no better way to top off Old Franklin Day. Many FCS alumni will be on site to enjoy Old Franklin Day and see family, old friends, and neighbors. We're just expanding

the day's festivities with our reunion!" Eileen Donnel, Secretary, added that the barbecue offers "a more casual vibe" to enjoy one of the last days of summer. "After missing out on several reunions with the pandemic, we are all looking forward to this celebration," Donnel said.

FCS alumni from any graduating year, along with their guests, are invited to attend. In the event of rain, the party moves to the Franklin Fire Department Hall. The O at Otego will cater a sumptuous barbecue dinner, featuring barbecued pork and chicken, potato salad, macaroni salad, tossed salad, beans, rolls, and coleslaw. There will also be a special reunion celebration cake. BYOB is approved on the event premises.

Reunion entertainment will include dancing in the street to the music of Randy Hulse, who will play oldies, rock and country favorites.

Cost is \$25 per alumnus/a and \$22 per guest. RSVP to Sonja Johns, Alumni Dinner Committee Treasurer, by August 12 at kljohns@citlink.net or 607-434-7120. Make checks payable to Franklin Alumni Association and send to: Franklin Alumni Association, 1403 Otego Road, Franklin, New York 13775.

We look forward to seeing you!

REUNITED!

AND IT FEELS SO GOOD!

Franklin Central School All-Class Reunion

Saturday, August 26, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm

Under the tent on St. Paul's front lawn!

307 Main Street, Franklin, New York

(Rain Venue: Franklin Fire Dept. Hall)

BBQ dinner catered by The O

BYOB approved on premises

Street dancing to the music of Randy Hulse

RSVP to Sonja Johns by August 12: kljohns@citlink.net

Cell 607.434.7120

with names (include maiden name/class year)

\$25 per alumnus (includes dues)

\$22 per guest

Reserve a class table!!

Send check payable to: Franklin Alumni Association

1403 Otego Road, Franklin, NY 13775



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



OLD FRANKLIN DAY IS AUGUST 26TH

By Connie Martin

Get ready to party on Old Franklin Day! Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 26th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Institute Street. Franklin's traditional summer festival features two popular local bands, the annual fashion show, kids' activities, great food, St. Paul's famous pie sale, and a broad array of artisans and crafters. And later that day, there is a Franklin Central School all-class reunion, too.

Shop Local

To date, we have over 30 local artists, crafters and vendors participating. Offerings include vintage and antique items, artwork, artisanal glass, woodcraft, home décor, clothing, jewelry, accessories, and more. Delicious local maple syrup products and other treats will be for sale. Make a memory with a special photo by Annadale Farms Photography.

Boogie with the Bands

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

Back by demand, Eric Haight's band, Off the Record, will play rock, country and jazz classics from 10 a.m. to noon.

Terri Whitney and the Country Express Band, another local favorite, will follow at 1 p.m. with country and popular hits. Just in: The Oneonta Dance Club Square Dancers will perform with the band.

Take In Our Fashion Show

Close to 150 people attended last year's popular Fashion Show in memory of the late Lois Stalter. This year's show, *Everyday Fashion in the 20th Century*, will take you on a 100-year journey to see what families wore for daytime, school, special occasions, and bedtime, starting at 2 p.m. in the Franklin Central School Cafetorium. The show will be curated by Linda Hovey, owner of Threads Past and Present, a vintage clothing boutique at the Green Giraffe Antique Shop in Unadilla. Linda's co-curator is Johanna Marr of The Vintage Closet. Free admission.

Kids' Activities and More

We will have our popular bounce house, balloon art, glitter tattoos, and other kids' activities. The Delaware County Sheriff's Department will bring their K-9 unit. We're planning a morning yoga class in the park with Trish Tyrell, and other fun happenings!

Food, Glorious Food

The Ty's Taco-Ria food truck will be on site with a choice of menu items. Marshall's Pizza will serve sausage and peppers, burgers, hot dogs, and pizza. The American Legion will sell barbecued chicken halves. Marshall's Pizza and the Tulip and the Rose will both be open.

The pie bakers at St. Paul's Episcopal Church will offer homemade apple, cherry, blueberry, peach and much more for the traditional pie sale fundraiser, on the church lawn starting at 9 a.m. Grab some pies to take home for Labor Day weekend. Last year, the St. Paul's pie bakers baked and sold 243 pies. Go early -- pies sell out

See OFD, continued on Page 6

IT'S MARKET TIME AGAIN!

By Vicki Davis

The Franklin Farmers' Market opened its 2023 season on the bright and beautiful 28th of May. The jaunty rainbow of tents on the Franklin Stage Chapel Hall lawn is a welcome invitation to the summer. First up in the fundraiser spot was the Franklin Central School Ladies Softball barbeque. They grilled, they raffled, they hawked soft drinks and chips. If these ladies play ball anything like they sell snacks, it is going to be a terrific season.

The big surprise for most folks looking for the large yellow awning was the news that Hank and Katarina have retired Fokish. Although there was sadness over the missing cardamom twists and croissants, people were happy to find Hank and pastry as the subject of this year's Market poster by Bruce Goddard. Posters and postcards are available at the green Market office

tent. General area information, local business cards, and back issues of The New Franklin Register can be found on the brochure table. Please stop by and say hello.

Welcome, new vendors!

Maria's Upstate Kitchen from Andes brought an assortment of baked goods: cookies, small cakes, and both sweet and savory scones. She may be adding some cardamom flavors to her blue tent in the near future. You asked. She listened.

Vesucre serves a variety of plant-based ice creams from her bicycle cart parked in the shade of the maple tree.

Willow & Birch Apothecary offers skincare, bath and body products with a Victorian air. Anna will be happy to help you find your signature scent.

Soap by Nature offers vegan soaps in a wide variety of scents and colors. See Allison for more information.

Oak Hill Farm has lamb, leather, and fleece.

It was a big day to sample new offerings. In addition to their NYS maple

See MARKET, con't on Page 14

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

With Tom Briggs

The Franklin Memorial Day Parade this year was an eye opener for me. By its very brevity, it may have been one of the more understated events I've seen. There were no scouts, no 4H clubs, no bicycles, no ponies or horses, no four-wheelers, no doodlebugs, no floats, no fire companies from other communities, no fire queens or dairy princesses. I find no fault with the organizers - they did what they could with what they had. The times simply have changed, and many of us who were there to watch shared a collective sense of surprise and concern.

Parades have taken place since prehistoric times when hunters proudly returned to their clans with the bounty of their efforts. There were magnificent parades that celebrated the ancient Olympic games, and military parades like that which took place in 223 BC when Marcus Marcellus returned to Rome with his army, having defeated the Gauls in the north. In this country, George Washington organized parades during the Revolutionary War to lift the spirits of both his soldiers and the residents of the colonies. There were torchlight parades in the 19th century to energize the crowds be-

fore elections. At the completion of the Civil War, the famous Grand Review of the Army of the Republic took place in Washington DC. On August 14th 1945 (VJ Day), the victory parade in Times Square was observed by more than two million celebrants.

Today, many of us watch the Rose Bowl Parade and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and possibly the St. Patrick's Day Parade from the comfort of our living rooms.

For children, the drums beating, horns blaring, sirens wailing, people in uniforms marching, horses clopping, beauty queens waving, flags flying and adults clapping, parades offer a unique introduction to community life. For adults, parades offer a stage where all can come together to enjoy those things that we appreciate in common. In this "melting pot" country, parades have often helped create a better understanding between cultures and ethnic groups, though at times they have also created the opposite effect. Memorial Day parades tend to be both somber and joyful, as we pay homage to those whose lives were lost yet celebrate in a manner that vindicates all that was sacrificed in order to secure our ability to freely congregate and celebrate.

In Franklin we need to take ownership of this event...all of us. We need people to step forward to assist the parade organizers. We need to revive or invent children's clubs that function outside of school, like scouts or 4H or something similar. We need younger parents to step up, as their predecessors did before them, to provide leadership for these organizations. We need

floats, horses, convertibles, clubs, businesses, and other components of the village and town to march along as well so that parade watchers can see how wonderful the greater Franklin community is. We need to do this because we have a patriotic responsibility to "carry on" for those who sacrificed on our behalf, and this is a good way to make it happen.



"The Grand Procession of the Wide-Awakes for Abraham Lincoln"



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kitchen basics

with
Carla Nordstrom

CHOCOLATE CHIP MINT ICE CREAM SANDWICHES

When summer comes and the mint in my garden is up, my first thought is of chocolate chip mint ice cream. Recently at the farmers’ market, you might have overheard me admitting that I am a total ice cream snob, thrilled to see a new vendor selling ice cream until I learned it was nondairy. To each her own. I like my ice cream smooth and creamy and have no taste for creative flavors like bacon and peanut butter. I complained that it is impossible to find good ice cream these days. But I do like Jane’s ice cream from Kingston, will travel to Cooks Farm in Amherst, Massachusetts for a cone on a winter’s day, and lust for that adorable ice cream stand in Goshen, New Hampshire.

My flavor of choice is chocolate chip mint. Needing ice cream to satisfy my cravings, I started making it a number of years ago. I make it into ice cream sandwiches because homemade ice cream does not have the emulsifiers to keep it silky. Sandwiches not only give exact portions but don’t end up in half eaten containers at the bottom of the freezer.

Making ice cream sandwiches is not a quick process so give yourself plenty of time. This recipe also requires an ice cream maker. Instead of using chocolate cookies, I make thin brownies, usually from [Katharine Hepburn’s brownie recipe](#).

- Brownie recipe**
- 1 stick of butter
 - ½ cup cocoa
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
 - ¼ cup flour



Preheat the oven to 325°. Slowly melt the butter in a heavy saucepan. Take it off the stove and stir in the cocoa and sugar to cool it down. Mix in the eggs and vanilla, then stir in the flour. I make 24 brownies in muffin tins with paper liners and bake them for 10 to 15 minutes. Let the brownies cool. Put them in the freezer, keeping 12 in muffin tins.

Ice Cream Recipe

- 1 large handful of fresh mint, preferably picked from the garden and washed.
- 1 pint or 2 cups of half & half
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup sugar
- ½ pint or 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup of chopped semi-sweet chocolate put in the freezer

Put the washed mint into a saucepan with the half & half. Heat until the milk is bubbly around the edges, not quite boiling. Turn off the heat, cover it with a plate and let it sit for at least a half hour.

Using a mixer, combine the eggs and sugar in a bowl until smooth. Strain the half & half into it and stir the ingredients together. Put the mixture back into the saucepan and simmer at a low heat to make a light custard. This will take some time and it is a good idea to keep stirring it. Once the egg mixture starts to coat the back of the spoon, the custard is ready and can be put into a bowl to cool. Refrigerate until very cold. Mix in the heavy cream and put into an ice cream maker. Follow the directions for the ice cream maker and once it has begun to look like ice cream, dump the chopped chocolate in to mix it thoroughly.

Place the mixture back into the freezer to firm up before you make the sandwiches. It needs to be pliable but not solid.

Scoop the ice cream onto the brownies in the muffin tin and place a brownie on top. Put them back into the freezer until you are ready to serve them. The recipe will make 12 sandwiches.

You can make an ice cream cake by baking half of the brownie batter in a spring form round cake pan. When everything is cold, spread the ice cream on top.



The
Finished
Product

Photos
by
Andy
Bobrow

WAGE SLAVES?

By Brian Brock

In the last decade or so, the economy has been like a roller coaster. How has the Town of Franklin provided for its officials and employees over that interval of time? For most, their pay raises met or exceeded inflation.

Both salaries and expenses have increased. Our town budget has gone from \$1.55 million in 2010 to \$1.84 million in 2022, an increase of 18% which is less than the rate of inflation. Now payroll makes-up about 25% of the Franklin budget, up only about a percent since 2010. Staffing has remained steady with 20 employees and paid officials.

Since the Great Recession, inflation has dropped the purchasing power of the dollar by approximately 26%. One dollar in 2010 would buy the equivalent of 1.26 dollars today. Therefore, to have the same buying power, a salary today would have to be that much more than in 2010.

The Franklin Highway Department has eight men working full time and then some. Over three quarters of the Franklin payroll goes to them. Their supervisor aside, these seven employees have seen their combined pay go from \$252K to \$320K, an increase of 27 percent. Salaries for department workers are set by negotiations with the IBT union.

Among the elected officials, those who did best had salaries increased by about a third: highway supervisor, justice, and clerk/collector/registrar. His pay rising from \$39,800 in 2010 to \$52,000 in 2022, the highway superintendent has been one of the big gainers with an increase of \$12,200 or 31% in a dozen years. Maybe not a coincidence that Mark Laing has been superintendent the entire time and able to advocate for himself.

The salary of town justice increased 33% but it started at a low \$5,000. Even today with an annual salary of \$6,500, Franklin is paying Arndt significantly less than other similar towns. For example, Davenport pays \$8,700 and Harpersfield pays \$10,200.

The town clerk received the largest percentage increase from \$12,800 to \$17,025, an increase of \$4,225 or 33%. Ms. Johns receives this compensation for her labors as town clerk, tax collector, and registrar of vital statistics.

The guy who watches over all this money did manage to break even, as you might expect. Bookkeeper's salary rose from \$10,485 to \$13,000, an increase of \$2,515 or 24%.

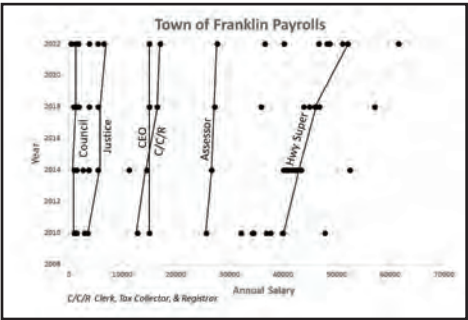
By contrast, the elected officials who set the salaries for everyone did less well. In the dozen years, Franklin councilmembers' salary increased \$225 and the supervisor's salary increase \$300. For the council, the percentage increase is so large (20%) because they started from so low a salary of \$1,000.

For the supervisor, what Franklin pays him is a minor part of his compensation. In the last dozen years, his pay from Delaware County has gone from \$9,892 to \$13,645, an increase of \$3,753 or 38%, an order of magnitude greater than the increase from Franklin (3.8%). Over these years, the county fraction of supervisor's pay has increased from 74 to 78%. Does he work for Franklin or the county?

Our Franklin assessor did not do even as well as the council members, with an increase from \$25,650 to \$27,658, an increase of \$2,008 or 7.8%. Mr. Basile received a salary from the Town of Hancock as well.

The official who did the worst is the code enforcement officer. Today, the CEO is paid the same \$15,000 as in 2010, which is worth 26% less. The Town of Davenport pays their CEO \$17,365. This position has turned over a few times in the intervening years in contrast to the highway superintendent. This spring, the town board searched yet again for a new CEO.

Of course, if overall the salaries have kept pace with inflation, but the budget total has not, then it is expenses that have suffered proportional decreases.



Note: Data for this article comes from town budget documents and Salaries Open Data, a database of municipal corporations including states, counties, towns, cities, villages, and school districts at <https://govsalaries.com/>

GARDEN AS SANCTUARY

In my twenty-plus years living on this northern Catskill land, I have witnessed many changes. Year-round temperatures are warmer and summers are often dryer. Warm spring-like temperatures come early, followed by freezes that are devastating to the plants that have broken dormancy. We have more invasive plants and lots of ticks where there used to be none.

What I have not been paying enough attention to is the alarming fact that the populations of many of our bird species have plummeted. More than half of all U.S. bird species are dwindling. In the past fifty years, says the National Audubon Society, over ninety species not yet listed as endangered have lost over half of their breeding population.

Even more alarming is the fact that more than forty percent of world insect species are in decline, and a third are endangered, according to a study published in the journal Biological Conservation. A 2014 study in *Science* found a forty-five percent worldwide decline in insect and invertebrate species over the last four decades. These declines have been primarily caused by the widespread use of pesticides, the spread of monoculture agriculture, and the loss of habitat due to development and wildfires.

Why do we care about bugs? Insects and invertebrates support the many birds, amphibians, fish, and mammals that eat them. Bees, wasps, moths, and other insects pollinate many of the crops that we eat. Beetles, slugs, millipedes, and ants are a few of the insects that work as decomposers to create the organic matter that plants depend on. Our lives are endangered by these losses.

Gardeners can be an important part of the solution. Our gardens can provide shelter, food and water for birds, other wildlife and the insects they depend on. We can support wildlife by avoiding the use of pesticides, mowing less grass, planting a diversity of native plants, and trying to root out the invasive species that crowd them out. We can provide a sanctuary in this time of rising temperatures, diminishing food sources, scarcity of places for nesting and overwintering, and long-

GREENBANKS GARDENING



With Deborah Banks

lasting pesticides.

Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware and author of *Nature's Best Hope*, wants us all to restore habitat in our yards for the creatures that share this land with us. He envisions a national network of gardeners creating a home for wildlife that stretches across the continent, as described on his website Homegrown-NationalPark.org.

Tallamy describes the concept of keystone species. These are the native plants critical to a region and needed by many species in order to complete their life cycle. For example, his team at the university has found that fourteen percent of the native plants in an ecosystem support ninety percent of the butterfly and moth species. Caterpillars are needed by many bird species to raise their young, even if the adults are primarily seed eaters. The idea is to grow plants that provide insects for birds instead of just decorative plants that perhaps have nectar and edible berries.

In our area, white oaks are a keystone species, supporting a whopping 436 species of caterpillars. If you have the space, white oaks are the best tree you can plant in order to support wildlife. Other valued keystone species include wild black cherry, chokecherry, river birch, aspen, Eastern cottonwood, sugar maple, silver maple, crabapple, highbush blueberry, and black willow. This selected list is from the National Wildlife Federation website (nwf.org). Nurseries in our region that focus on native plants include The Fernery in Hartwick, Catskill Native Nursery in Kerhonkson, The Plantsmen Nursery near Ithaca, and Amanda's Native Garden near Sparta.

In addition to adding more native plants to our gardens, there are other ways to provide sanctuary. Leaving a brush pile at the edge of the garden or behind the garage gives insects a place to overwinter. Leaving leaves in place under shrubs and perennials provides protection for the plants as well as for the insects and native bees burrowing in for the winter. Waiting until mid-spring to clear away autumn's garden debris gives those insects time to awaken.

Gardening to provide sanctuary is more than a list of plants to purchase and new practices to follow. It's a mindset. A belief that we must support the other creatures that share this earth with us, because we are all interconnected in ways we don't really understand. The extinction of another species of frog or dung beetle leaves a hole in the world that cannot be filled. Admittedly, when we try to provide habitat, we are creating a poor imitation of the wild and beautiful complexity that was here before us. But it is important to try. We need to garden as if their survival matters... because it does.



ADULT-USE RECREATIONAL CANNABIS STORES
LICENSED BY NEW YORK 2022/2023

Retail Store	Location	Opening
Housing Works Cannabis Co.	NOHO, Manhattan	Dec. 29
Smacked Village LLC	SOHO, Manhattan	January 24
Just Breathe	Binghamton, Broome County	February 10
Union Square Travel Agency	Union Square, Manhattan	February 13
William Jane Dispensary	Ithaca, Tompkins, County	March 16
Good Grades LLC	Jamaica, Queens County	March 30
Upstate Canna Co.	Schenectady, Schenectady County	April 1
Dazed Cannabis	Union Square, Manhattan	April 19
Essential Flowers	Albany, Albany County*	April 20
Gotham	Bowery, Manhattan	May 11
Elevate ADK	Saranac Lake, Essex County*	May 13
The Cannabis Place	Richmond Hill, Queens County*	May
Stage One Dispensary	Rensselaer, Rensselaer County*	June 7
Strain Stars	East Farmingdale, Suffolk County	June

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DOOBIE DISPENSARY DROUGHT

Staff Report

Over two years now since the Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act law became law and New York has opened only a baker's dozen of dispensaries (aka stores) for the 15 million adults in the state and all those tourists. The Office of Cannabis Management has been so slow in its rollout of legal stores due to its insistence on decentralization of the industry, social justice for the store owners, and a lack of the promised financial support. Therefore, OCM seems to be prioritizing opening stores in the largest markets. The closest stores to Franklin are over an hour drive. It is likely that a store in Oneonta is far in the future, to say nothing of one in the village.

The first store opened on the last Thursday in 2022, thereby fulfilling governor Hochul's promise to open stores that year. Now, OCM is managing to open only two or three stores each month. This has left farmers with substantial unsold inventory from last year just when they needed to finance their plantings this year. Two farms have opened in Delaware County: Raven View Farm in Delhi and Township Valley Farm in Hobart. A third is planned for Walton.

Because of these difficulties, four of the last five dispensaries started without a storefront, being limited to deliveries. Delivery services are not banned under town law such as Franklin passed last year. In early June, OCM made a commitment to improve its practices.



A farm's overstock awaits its legal customers

OFD, con't from Page 3

quickly.

Want cake and other bakes? Stop by The Franklin Central School Student Council bake sale!

Learn About Community Organizations

Visit the Franklin Rotary Club table to enjoy some homemade blueberry ice cream from Polar Bear, with blueberries from North Star Farm. Learn about Rotary's educational and environmental programs and how you can get involved. Travel back in history at the Franklin Railroad and

Community Museum table. Learn about the Franklin Community Education Foundation's programs over homemade lemonade.

Get Deals at Surplus Sale and Town Lawn Sales

Great prices for vintage metal and wood desks and other items at the Stone Hall Surplus Sale on the school lawn, plus town-wide lawn sales. Maps will be available on Facebook and at the event.

Around the Village

Visit our Main Street shops: LAVA ATELIER, Good Taste, Kabinett & Kammer,

Gary Graham 422, Blue Farm Antiques, and Mercantile on Main. The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum will be open with historical exhibits.

FCS All-Class Reunion

Franklin Central School alumni from any graduating year and guests are invited to party under the tent on the St. Paul's Church lawn from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. See article on Page 2 for details.

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FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD MEETINGS
2023

3 rd January	6:00 p.m.	Franklin Town Hall Organizational Meeting
7 th February	6:00 p.m.	Franklin Town Hall
7 th March	6:00 p.m.	Treadwell Fire Hall
4 th April	7:30 p.m.	Franklin Town Hall
2 nd May	7:30 p.m.	Franklin Town Hall
6 th June	7:30 p.m.	Treadwell Fire Hall
5 th July*	7:30 p.m.	Franklin Town Hall
1 st August	7:30 p.m.	Franklin Town Hall
5 th September	7:30 p.m.	Treadwell Fire Hall
3 rd October	7:30 p.m.	Franklin Town Hall Budget Workshop
8 th November*	6:00 p.m.	Franklin Town Hall Budget Hearing
5 th December	6:00 p.m.	Treadwell Fire Hall

Meetings are on Tuesday evenings except as noted on Wednesday (*).

A meeting can be rescheduled at any time or a special meeting scheduled, so check town website <https://franklin-delco-ny.gov/council>

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INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

NEGOTIATING IN A CHANGING MARKET

The past three years have completely transformed the real estate market in the western and central Catskills. A pandemic, a sudden transition to remote work, and the short-term rental market explosion have brought the Catskills roaring back into the public consciousness. We are, in a word, hip.

And Franklin is particularly hip, thanks to some of our new businesses and the continuing appeal of Franklin Stage, the Stagecoach Run Art Festival (back this year July 1 and 2) and our popular Farmers’ Market. Sellers have been delighted to discover that their properties are commanding much more than they did even five years ago. The resulting issues are predictable.

I saw it happen in the Hudson Valley. First, artists moved into the Kingston area in the early 2000s. Their friends followed. Investors moved in, and bought every available building in uptown, midtown, and the Rondout. Today, rents have soared, home prices are in the stratosphere, and the community faces a serious affordability problem. The good news is there are a lot of new businesses. But at what price? The communities around Kingston

are dealing with an echo of urban problems, while people who bought before the rush are sitting on incredibly valuable real estate.

Woodstock was always a bit pricey, But prices there are now mind-boggling, and locals complain that it’s becoming a short term rental town with a fast loss of community and full time residents.

Now it’s here. The village of Franklin took action to limit short-term rentals. It was a smart step. Sales to investors might slow, as so many buyers today require that their homes also make them money. But overall, interest in this area hasn’t diminished. Good properties will sell, and the short-term rental restrictions may encourage buyers who can’t be here full time to create needed full time rental opportunities for a while.

Buyers who want to be here must take the new market into consideration when negotiating. This means being realistic about both price and contingencies.

For instance, buyers who found a solid, original Arts and Crafts home in Oneonta knew if they didn’t offer close to full price, they didn’t have a chance. They were also smart enough to ask about the market, learning not to expect the seller to make concessions

based on the age of the systems or the appliances. So they headed off the competition by accepting the house as is. They did their inspection, asking only that the major systems (heat, hot water, electrical) still functioned. Yes, they need replacing, but as long as they worked, the buyers were willing. So they got the house. It’s a beauty, and could never be built today for the purchase price.

I was asked by the owner of an old farmhouse on the Ulster/Delaware border to give a price opinion. The house is in rough shape, but it offers old-house character, country views, and it’s not too far from a village. Her neighbor has offered well under what it will likely sell for on the open market. Her neighbor is unlikely to get it if that offer doesn’t improve.

A picture-perfect property in Delaware County got a low offer its first week on the market. The sellers countered with a number very close to asking price, and got it. If the buyer hadn’t budged, someone else would have gotten it.

Buyers can be more particular with properties in less desirable areas, or properties that have been on the market for six months or more. But new listings that are clearly going to tick everyone’s



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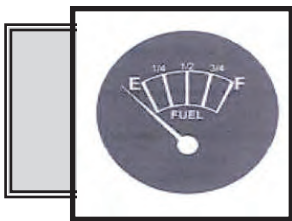


boxes do not have to negotiate much, and they don’t.

Sellers who are realistic about their properties and the market are doing well. If they do the small repairs that can add up to big concessions **before** they list, and price realistically, they can stand pretty firm on their price. But refusing to make basic repairs, to clean out clutter, and spiff up inside and out will cost at the closing table. Buyers don’t want to use their imagination – they want to see how nice a house can be on first viewing.

One client has a Unadilla property that was left in a bit of a mess by the former owners. He wants to flip it. For the cost of a dumpster and a couple of days’ work, he’s going to increase his sale price by at least ten thousand dollars, and probably more.

I know of a great house with a really spectacular view that has been for sale for more than a few years. It is clean and well kept. It is also cluttered, top to bottom, with stuff – furniture, bric a brac, small stuff everywhere. Buyers simply



FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

BRIDGING BROOKWOOD

By Anne Wilfer

Brookwood Point Conservation Area in Cooperstown is one of a dozen public access properties owned and managed by the Otsego Land Trust (OLT). Its 22 acres along the shore of Lake Otsego were part of a much larger estate whose mansion was demolished a decade ago. But its circa-1920 terraced Italianate gardens and charming garden house remain, as do hundred-year-old specimen plantings, gorgeous lake views, and a mature forest.

The property is bisected by a creek that runs through the forest to the lake, hence the name Brook-



The new western bridge, looking north

wood. The original driveway meandered gracefully through the landscape to the house site, crossing the creek via two bridges. These had fallen into disrepair in recent years and had to be closed, putting the verdant north side out of reach for most visitors.

But soon the bridges will be back, reopening the entire proper-

ty again for public use.

Fortunately, the bridges' existing concrete footers and steel trusses could be safely repurposed to support the new wooden beams, decking, and railings of pedestrian bridges wide enough to accommodate lawn-care and maintenance equipment. The design was

inspired by photographs of the original spans. Local contractor Luke Wyckoff suggested using environmentally friendly rough-hewn and untreated larch instead of pressure-treated wood, to keep harmful chemicals from seeping into Otsego Lake.

Once access to the north side

is restored, a new walking trail will trace the path of the historic driveway, looping around the old mansion's front lawn and back through the woods to complete the circle. Other proposed improvements include the creation of a defined gathering space on the former house site, along with interpretive signage, benches, and a wetland boardwalk offering access to the lake shore.

OLT, based in Cooperstown, opens just over 300 of its approximately 560 acres to the general public. At Brookwood, visitors can stroll through the gardens, walk the wetland or lake access trails, rent canoes and kayaks, and glimpse our resident pair of nesting bald eagles. Brookwood Point is also available for educational programs and event rentals. For more information, please visit: www.otsegolandtrust.org

FRANKLIN'S SOLAR FUTURE

By Brian Brock

New York State has proposed that in less than two decades, 70 percent of the electrical power we consume should be generated renewably. The government is pushing hard for the necessary generating facilities, both large and small. There are dozens of utility-scale solar arrays in the pipeline, for a total of over six gigawatts of power, although it is not clear how many will be built. In addition, our state leads the nation in community-scale solar capacity, with over one gigawatt installed and another 1.3 GW in the pipeline from over 700 arrays.

These two sizes of projects are regulated separately. Utility-scale projects can range up to 2,000 acres. To speed the approval of these huge projects, the state has taken oversight from towns and given it to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting. However, regulation of community-scale projects remains with the towns. These community distributed generation projects each produce less than 25 megawatts of power and require less than 150 acres.

Stonewall Solar in Meredith (145 MW on 800 to 1,100 ac) is do-

ing surveys and planning but has not yet applied for permits from ORES. Currently, the array is in the queue to be connected to the electrical grid at the end of 2026. There are rumors of prospecting for a utility-scale array in Franklin adjacent to the Marcy South power line.

Many of the small arrays have benefited from the NY-Sun program, a solar grant program for CDG. Since 2011, New York has granted over \$1.3 billion in subsidies. The closest is a 2.25 MW array on 17 acres of bottomland along East River Road in Walton. It was built by Inovateus Solar from South Bend, IN and is managed by Sun-Central of Santa Clara, CA.

These solar arrays are sited where a high-voltage power line crosses enough cleared land that is level or sloping gently to the south. A substation should be no more than two miles away. Good road access is desirable. In Franklin, there is one such area, which is where a distribution line crosses over the hill from a substation just southwest of Otego village and then down to Franklin village. Along this line, there are several cleared fields on the hillside along Bissell and Otego roads.

A community-scale project may be coming to Franklin. In spring of last year, ClearPath Energy of Brighton, Massachusetts proposed a solar array, but property owners in the area were uninterested in leasing land to them. This spring, a different company, Delaware River Solar (DRS) of Callicoon, New York was negotiating with Mike Miller and Tom Morgan for three arrays. The array off Bissell Road would be on 14 acres and the two off Otego Road would be



Drone photo of Baer Road Solar Farm, Delaware River Solar's 2.7 MW array in Callicoon, NY

on 20 acres each.

Utility-scale solar projects feed the generated electricity into the pool of power on the grid, whereas community-scale energy is subscribed by individual consumers, with a guaranteed discount of up to five percent from the NYSEG rates. Depending on size, community-scale array generates power for 200 to 1,000 homes, typically 500. Subscriptions to DRS arrays are through Meadow, a dedicated customer acquisition and management platform. Franklin residents would receive priority for subscriptions to the arrays here.

Since 2016, DRS has completed 75 community solar projects totaling 300 MW of capacity, most of them in upstate New York. An additional 70 MW are scheduled for construction in 2023. Its first project was the 2.7 MW Baer Road Solar Farm in Callicoon, Sullivan County, completed in 2018. Closer to home the 2.7 MW Pool Brook Road array in Laurens, Otsego County, was completed in 2019.

Construction of an array would provide 20 to 30 temporary construction jobs and maybe one per-

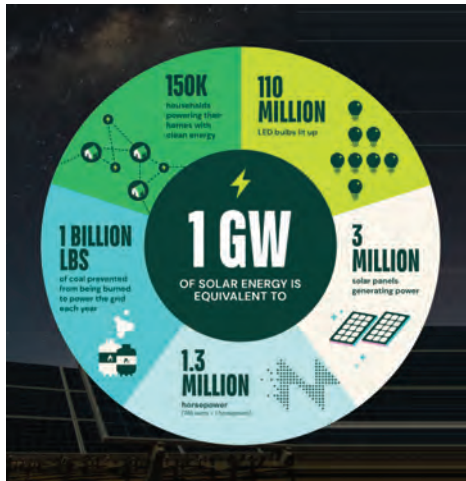
manent job.

The first step in the regulatory process is a study of the high-voltage power line that crosses over the hill to determine if it could carry additional load from an array. Then the company 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 zoning ordinances that specifically apply to solar arrays as it does for wind turbines. Last year, the neighboring town of Meredith passed two local laws for the permitting of solar energy projects and approving PILOTs. Solar arrays, like any other utility, would otherwise owe property taxes.

School, town, and county governments are partly supported by taxes on real property. DRS has approached them about a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for their two projects. For companies, PILOTs provide for a fixed annual payment rather than property taxes which depend on ever-changing assessments and levies. For gov-

See SOLAR, con't on Page 11





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GLAMOR CAMPING

Staff Report

An investor from downstate, Nick Fernandez, is considering developing 151 acres of fallow farmland at the top of Oak Hill Road into a three-season glamping campground. About half of the land is fields, although some of that is wetlands. As a commercial operation on a town road, there would have to be a 500-foot setback from any neighboring home to all new construction. Also, building in the wetlands likely would require a permit from the DEC.

Currently, the proposal includes 35 or more domes or yurts on wood platforms. They would be on a spacing of about two acres, and most would be visible from the rest. Units could have heating from wood stoves but not plumbing. The domes are canvas and clear plastic stretched over a metal geodesic frame.

Much more would be involved than simply erecting the three dozen units. At

the minimum, the developer would be required to provide water, sewer, and access for emergency vehicles. A central sanitary facility would have to meet New York State Department of Health standards. And because outlying sites cannot be more than 500 feet from a bathhouse, multiple bathhouses might be needed. (No porta-potties allowed.)

There is also the question whether the NYSEG line to the top of the hill has the capacity to power a commercial operation. Service for cell phones is available only at the top of the property from the broadcast tower above Unadilla. However, a repeater could be added.

This site is almost a mile and a half from County Highway 21 at the end of a dirt road. Improvements to Oak Hill Road might be required to handle the additional traffic. At the lower end, there is a one-lane stretch of a few hundred feet with steep embankments on either side. Above that is a blind curve. And would the road's dirt surface bear the extra load or would paving be necessary?

The planning board may require bonding for a clean-up, should the resort be abandoned. Unlike permanent structures, such domes or yurts on platforms would not add value to the property.

While Mr. Fernandez has made some plans, the property has yet to be purchased. The asking price is \$365K or about \$2,400 per acre, which is a premium of hundreds of dollars over what large parcels of vacant land have sold for in Franklin. In June, an Arabia farm of 296 acres sold for \$1,380 per acres. The Oak Hill parcel has no water feature such as a stream or pond, although there is some marshy ground.

This proposed campground would be much larger than the existing six-unit glamping on the Stony Creek Farmstead at the junction of Freer Hollow and Dunk Hill Spur roads and the proposed four units on 10 acres by Ed Klug Barren LLC.

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Glamping geodesic dome, 20 feet in diameter.
Photo by Jumei Tent Technology Co., Ltd



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FRANKLIN ROTARY ROUNDUP

By Connie Martin

Healthy Delaware

The US Army will be partnering with Delaware County on a joint mission called *Innovative Readiness Training* at Walton Central School District from July 11 through July 19. The mission is called Healthy Delaware and is open to anyone wanting to attend. Military personnel will provide physicals, eye and dental exams, behavioral health screenings, and veterinary care at no cost to attendees. Delaware Opportunities Inc. is calling for volunteers to assist at the event. Franklin Rotarians will be volunteering. You can sign up to volunteer at:

<https://signup.com/go/iipKdhv>

To learn more, visit Healthy Delaware on Facebook.

Rotary Intermission Refreshments

Franklin Stage Company's terrific 2023 season begins on Friday, June 30 and continues through Sunday, August 20. Please support Franklin Rotary by visiting our refreshment table before performances and during intermissions. Enjoy delicious home-baked cakes, cookies and more from talented home bakers, along with other snacks and beverages. Baked goods can be packaged to go, too. We look forward to seeing you.

Congratulations, Franklin Central School Class of 2023!

Franklin Rotary Club recognized FCS graduates with a commemorative pin and special certificates at their graduation ceremony on Friday, June 16. Rotarians will also plant a tree in honor of the Class of 2023 at the Franklin Village Memorial Park.

June 11 Bake Sale Sold Out

Thanks to everyone who visited the Franklin

Farmer's' Market on Sunday, June 11, to support our bake sale fundraiser. Our baked goods were sold out and we appreciate the community support. Rotary also thanks our talented local bakers and volunteers who made the bake sale a success. All sale proceeds will be used for programs to benefit the Franklin community.

Flowers for Main Street Plant Barrels

The Franklin Garden Club has donated the majority of flowers and plants for the barrels along Main Street, and Rotarians assisted with planting. A big thank you to all who donated funds, shopped for plants, and did the planting. If anyone is interested in adopting a barrel to water and care for the plants, you can speak to the business owner or homeowner, or contact Jane Hebbard at 919-616-4872.

Highway Cleanup, Park Maintenance and Tree Planting

A small but mighty army of Franklin Rotarians, outside volunteers, and Franklin Central School students from the FCS Clay Target Club assembled on Thursday, April 27 for cleanup of Main Street/State Highway 357. And on Saturday, May 20 and Saturday, April 22, Rotarians joined members of the Park Committee, Garden Club, and other volunteers at a Work Party to conduct shrub and plant maintenance and cleanup at the Franklin Village Memorial Park and Edible Walking Trail. Franklin Rotary and Tree Committee members also planted 25 new trees on the tree plantation off Otego Road this spring, with a total of close to 300 trees planted to date. Thanks to everyone who participated in helping make Franklin beautiful.

Welcome, New Members

The Franklin Rotary Club welcomes new members Mark Handelman, owner of Good Taste Epicurean Market; Jonny Williams, manager of North Star Blueberry Farm; and longtime local residents Jane Hebbard and Bill Moon.

Interested in joining Rotary? Contact any Rotary member or message the Franklin Rotary Club on Facebook. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the first and third Wednesday of every month, most often at the Franklin Community Center and Food Pantry at 574 Main Street. Lunch meetings are also held on the last Wednesday of the month at noon, with locations to be posted in advance on Rotary's Facebook page. Members of the Franklin community are invited to attend any meeting.

Guest Speaker Volunteers Wanted

Franklin Rotary is seeking program guest speaker volunteers in the areas of health and human services; mental health; substance use disorder prevention and recovery; child and adult education; environmental sustainability. Please message Franklin Rotary on Facebook or contact any Rotary member if you are interested or know an interested party.

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THE WONDER OF LANGUAGE

By Eugene Marner

Words, words, words. Most of us speak them all day long. You are looking at a printed version of many of them right now. Some of them describe actions, others label things, still others describe the things or the actions, and there are other words that tie all that together into the system of communication that we call *language*. This is not breaking news, of course, but I've been thinking a lot about language recently and would like to share some of my thoughts. Some may even profit from my observations.

Just four years ago (it seems ages longer with the years of COVID in between), I thought that it would be both fun and profitable for my aging brain to brush up the little French I had learned years earlier. I found some collaborators for a French conversation group and asked the Franklin Free Library if they would host us. Retired Walton French teacher and Franklin resident, Sylvie LeCompte, enthusiastically agreed to be our guide and teacher and, for several delightful months, our little group gathered weekly in the downstairs meeting room of the library. We read stories and poems, struggled gamely to converse, and slowly found our French language skills improving. After a few months, COVID entered our lives and we switched over to Zoom meetings. We carried on for a while, but it wasn't the same, some participants dropped out, and the project came to an end.

During the many

months that we met both in person and on Zoom, I noticed something very interesting going on in my brain. I already knew a little of several other languages - none fluently - but as our French conversation group progressed, I found coherent sentences popping up in my head in Italian, German, Yiddish, Hebrew. *How did I know that, I would wonder. Where did those words come from?* It seemed that by exercising the French in my brain I was stimulating some foreign language muscle or opening the door on an archive. It's amazing to think that so much can be stored in our brains for years and years just waiting to be dusted off and put to use again.

My adventures with language didn't end there. I continued to read occasionally in other languages, sometimes even taking a chance at conversation. Then, last summer, I decided to learn Arabic - something I had wanted to do for a long time. A series of happy coincidences led me to a young man, Zach Aldridge, an Oneonta native who had studied Arabic. I recruited my grandson, Felix Bridel, to join us and we started meeting at a picnic table in Wilber Park in Oneonta where I now live. Meeting in the park in summer was pleasant and helped dispel COVID concerns. As the weather turned cooler, we moved to Zoom. At the end of November, Zach returned to Kathmandu, Nepal where he is studying Buddhism. In order to continue, all we needed to do was deal with the 9 3/4-hour time difference and find an hour convenient for all of us. Now, Felix in Kingston, Zach in Kathmandu, and I in Oneonta meet on Zoom weekly to study Arabic.

Arabic is difficult: it's

a new alphabet, with new sounds, ones we don't make in English, and a different way of forming and using words. As a result, it gives that foreign language muscle a great workout and I find that my French is profiting from the workout just as earlier our French conversation group had stimulated my memory and my competence in other tongues.

I continued to be curious about why that might be happening, tried to research the question on the internet but didn't find anything that addressed that question. I thought that I would ask a linguist and, as I didn't know any, figured I had nothing to lose by going to straight to one of the best. So I sent an email to Professor Suzanne Flynn of the very prestigious Linguistics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She responded promptly and generously agreed to speak with me. (Another lesson of this adventure is that many academics, far from hiding away in their ivory towers, are happy to share their knowledge with non-specialist members of the public.) My experience with one language stimulating others is common, Professor Flynn told me. We don't know exactly why that happens, but we do know that all languages, including our native tongues, are stored and accessed in the same parts of the brain and using the brain strenuously to access a foreign language not surprisingly gets the synapses firing.

I told Professor Flynn that often, when I speak to people about my experiences with languages, they claim that they just can't learn other languages. Not so, she said - and I hope that readers may be inspired by what she said

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next - everyone can learn foreign languages at any age if you are willing to put in the study and can overcome your self-consciousness about struggling to express yourself. I'm just as work-shy and self-conscious about languages as anyone else but, when you take a chance to speak to a native speaker, usually they are delighted by your effort. Immersion helps, of course. If you found yourself unable to leave a village where no one spoke English, you'd pretty quickly learn how to ask for help, food, drink and a place to sleep.

All languages use the same basic materials, Professor Flynn explained: subject, verb, object (SVO). In some languages the verb comes before the object - SVO - in others afterwards - SOV - but, in all cases, it's about humans interacting with other humans and the world around them.

There are today about 7,000 languages in the world, many of them sadly going extinct, and no doubt there were many more not that long ago. Languages are - or used to be before travel got going a few hundred years ago - specific to

population groups living in a particular geographic area. As recently as 1960, when I visited Italy for the first time with my wife who had grown up there, many Italians still spoke mainly the local dialects of their cities and regions. Natives of Naples and Milan did not speak the same language in their homes and in their daily dealings, although the standard Italian used on radio and television was eroding local differences. The same process has been going on for decades all over the planet.

The ability to use language is common to all humans but the specifics of their languages vary greatly and those differences clearly emerged from the circumstances of their lives. It's much of what we mean by distinct cultures. The word *language* is derived from the Latin word *lingua* - tongue - and, of course, we use the words *language* and *tongue* interchangeably. The fact that we speak at all is amazing, of course, and made more amazing still by the fact that identical organs - tongues and vocal cords - have produced so much cultural richness.



SOLAR, continued from Page 8

ernments, PILOTs eliminate the common practice by utility companies of reducing their taxes by appealing assessments.

Our town is one of the few in Delaware County that has opted out of PILOTs, concerned that they would be unable to negotiate sufficient compensation. However, NYSERDA and IDA have data and spreadsheet tools to assist in determining the optimum return.

Developers of solar projects have raised the possibility of farming beneath the panels, but rarely actually carry through. Only a few community-scale arrays are installed on high posts that allow farm equipment beneath. Otherwise, what could be grown is limited. Most proposals mention sheep and bees, but is there

enough demand for lamb and honey from the hundreds of thousands of acres of solar farms to be built in New York?

The land on either side of Otsego 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 returned to the tax rolls.

The company will post a bond for the cost of disassembly and restoring the land, should the facility be decommissioned. Experience with such performance bonds for orphaned oil and gas wells is that they are woefully inadequate. Governments have little experience with obsolete solar arrays.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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NFR REVIEWS BOOKS

BUILDING

A Carpenter's Notes on Life & the Art of Good Work

By Mark Ellison

Reviewed by Alexis Greene

Random House ISBN: 978-0-593-44912-7

Alexis Greene



Photo by Charles Chessler

"I am a carpenter. I build things."

A straightforward statement, and the beginning of Mark Ellison's extraordinary memoir about his life as a carpenter, a trade to which, for forty years, he dedicated his skills, his creativity, and his thoughts about humankind.

I was drawn to Ellison's book originally because my oldest stepson has been a carpenter and a cabinet maker for all his working life. Chris has constructed buildings, cut and nailed boards for siding, built roofs and installed shingles. Inside these sturdy structures, he has built rows and rows of cabinets. Labors of love as well as consummate craft.

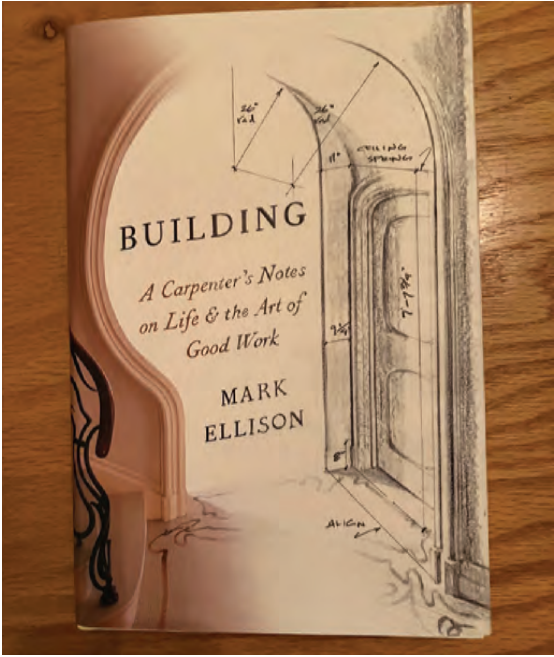
Mark Ellison's craft was honed among the high-end apartments of New York City. Yet despite, or perhaps because of, that remote, exclusive arena, he developed philosophies about building. Building, in Ellison's memoir, is not only about constructing staircases and kitchens and bathrooms. It is also, and perhaps more importantly, about building your life.

The chapters in which Ellison describes his work in specific apartments are often both amusing and enlightening. As any carpenter who reads this book may appreciate, Ellison discovered that owners, architects, and project managers sometimes do not know as much about renovation and construction as the people who have been hired to do the work.

In this regard, one of Ellison's most illuminating chapters is aptly named "Absurdity." Hired for a job at a New York City penthouse, he happily joined the team, only to find that "For a job that had been actively running for two years, very little appeared to be done." The crew was in a bad mood. One carpenter was blasting music on a portable tape player, music that another workman described as "vomiting in my ears."



The situation improved, but when it came time to renovate the penthouse deck, on the thirtieth floor, a small disaster ensued. The crew laid out "thick black slates in semi-circular rectangles...separated by the thinner crisscrossing steel channels." The channels were filled with soil and planted with grass, and a miniature brook was created. But it was summer in New York: the grass died, and "slimy algae" flourished in the brook. So-called experts recommended that snails be dumped therein, supposedly to feed on the algae. Instead, the snails died and rotted, and the entire site had to be evacuated. Absurdity, indeed.



To be sure, many of Ellison's carpentry jobs ended successfully. For those unacquainted with the physical tools of Ellison's trade, some of the work he describes may feel a bit obscure. But generally, his descriptions are illuminating and written conversationally. Never before have I read about the creativity needed for building a staircase. "Staircases," Ellison writes invitingly, "are one of the few remaining architectural elements that inspire inventiveness and pizzazz."

Ellison's love of the work, plus the closeness he forms with fellow carpenters, metal workers, engineers, and others on a crew make an enticing read. Yet, as he intended, *Building* goes beyond the memories of his carpentry jobs over the decades. Ultimately, he is saying that we are all builders. We are builders of our lives, our work, our world.

Yes, the building of a life, a trade, or the world around us may take time. Ellison himself explored other occupations, as he writes with some humor early in the book. Before falling in love with carpentry, he explored being a bindery worker, an animal food delivery driver, even an ice cream server and cake decorator.

But freedom to choose, and most significantly, the will to do - or as Ellison writes toward the end of his memoir, the will's ability "to transform how and what we are" - that is true building.

THE GLADNESS OF NATURE

By William Cullen Bryant (1794 -1878)

Is this a time to be cloudy and sad,
When our mother Nature laughs around;
When even the deep blue heavens look glad,
And gladness breathes from the blossoming ground?

There are notes of joy from the hang-bird and wren,
And the gossip of swallows through all the sky;
The ground-squirrel gaily chirps by his den,
And the wilding bee hums merrily by.

The clouds are at play in the azure space
And their shadows at play on the bright-green vale,
And here they stretch to the frolic chase,
And there they roll on the easy gale.

There's a dance of leaves in that aspen bower,
There's a titter of winds in that beechen tree,
There's a smile on the fruit, and a smile on the flower,
And a laugh from the brook that runs to the sea.

And look at the broad-faced sun, how he smiles
On the dewy earth that smiles in his ray,
On the leaping waters and gay young isles;
Ay, look, and he'll smile thy gloom away.

William Cullen Bryant, one of my favorite American poets, was born in Cummington, Massachusetts on November 3, 1794. He was not only a nature poet; he was also a journalist and champion of workers' and immigrants' rights. I love the way he looks at the world—with such joy and love.

- Bertha Rogers

This poem is in the public domain.



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4CLS SUMMER ROAD TRIP CHALLENGE

Staff Report

The Four County Library System (4CLS) is excited to announce its Road Trip beginning on July 1. This summer, local residents are invited to engage in a two-month challenge to visit the 42 member libraries of 4CLS throughout Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Otsego Counties. Participants will discover the unique buildings, valuable resources, and innovative programs and services



Moore Public Library, Greene

available in their local and neighboring communities. Begin your 4CLS Road Trip by picking up a brochure at your local library. When you visit each additional library, ask a staff member to add a stamp to document your trip. As you reach milestones throughout your road trip, you will have the opportunity to receive various fun prizes!

A list of libraries, along with a map and other road



New Berlin Library & Museum trip information, can be found at 4cls.libguides.com/roadtrip. Use this digital guide to plan your trip to visit as many of the 4CLS member libraries as you can. Each library is the beginning of your journey to a new community, so remember to explore local attractions, restaurants, parks, and businesses.

Participate in the 4CLS Road Trip from July 1st to September 2nd, 2023. For more information, visit 4cls.libguides.com/roadtrip



Unadilla Public Library

CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES

BY JOHN O'CONNOR

TRADITIONAL MUSIC OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

My favorite music since I was a teenager was American traditional music. Over the years, that passion has extended to traditional music everywhere. For me, nothing is more exciting in this age of lost traditions than hearing its remnants in unexpected places at unexpected moments.

I recently returned from six weeks in Europe, where my first sampling of traditional music was from not an unexpected place. It came from a fado club in the Alfama district of Lisbon. My sister, who now calls Lisbon her home, treated me to dinner at this club as an early birthday present.

Fado originated in the early eighteen hundreds in the very neighborhood we were eating in. The name translates as "fate" in English. It's a haunting song tradition, often composed in a minor key and supported by two or more traditional stringed instruments. My

first exposure to fado was at Town Hall in New York, a concert by an artist named Misia. I have been a devotee of the music ever since. I don't speak a lick of Portuguese, but anyone who has listened to a fado singer doesn't need to know what the lyric means in order to hear the tragedy and drama in the music. Fado is the art of the singer and each one is thought of as a singular champion of the form, almost as if it were a competition. On this night, there



were three singers, taking the stage one at a time. Two of the singers had waited on us earlier in the evening. In the states, you often find musicians and artists work-

ing as waiters, but not on the same night in the place where they just served you dinner. Something fado about that, I would say. Life is a struggle. And that's where art comes from.

Two weeks later I was in Barcelona for a few days. On my last morning there, I took one more walk around the labyrinth of the medieval Gothic Quarter. On a narrow street, just about to head back to my hotel, I heard the sound of some sort of band wafting from around the corner. A familiar sound, but distinctive in a way I had never heard. A couple of hundred feet later, I found myself in a square where Barcelonians were dancing in circles of a dozen or more, accompanied by two rows of musicians, brass in back, reed players in front, and one stand-up bass.

This, I came to find out, was *cobla*, an eleven-piece ensemble (always just eleven) playing to the Catalan tradition of the Sardana, the dance I was witnessing. The dance is not all that technical, and anyone, Catalan or otherwise, is invited to join in. But what really grabbed me was this music. It was joyful and slightly regal, in-

See MUSIC, con't on Page 16

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FSC 2023!

Staff Report

The Franklin Stage Company opens its 27th season on June 30th.

"We've got some returning favorites," said Artistic Director Patricia Buckley, "and some new and exciting programming."

First up is David Lindsay-Abaire's comedy *Good People* (June 30th – July 16th), a funny and powerful play about trying to make the American dream a reality.

On July 21-23, FSC presents *A Palo Seco*, a flamenco company directed by Rebeca Tomás. "People loved Rebeca's work last year with *Flamenco Vivo* Carlota Santana," said Buckley, "and when we found she had her own

company performing contemporary flamenco, we had to get her back."

July 28 - 30 welcomes the return of audience favorite **Julian Fleisher and Band**. With his 4-piece band, Fleischer will per-



Rebeca Tomás

form both original tunes and classics from the Great American Songbook.

The season's finale is a world premiere play by Kyle Bass, commissioned

by FSC. Set at the start of the American Civil War, *Toliver and Wakeman* dramatizes the experiences of two historic local residents. Toliver Holmes was a young black man born into slavery in Virginia. He escaped to New York, changed his name to avoid capture, and mustered into the Union Army's 26th Regiment of Colored Troops (NY), later settling in Delhi, NY. He is also the playwright's great-great grandfather. Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, a young woman born in Bainbridge, New York, disguised herself as a man and mustered into the Union Army - the 153rd New York State Volunteers - using the alias Lyons Wakeman.

For schedule and reservations, visit www.franklinstagecompany.org or call 607-829-3700.

ROTARY, continued from Page 2

ticipants in the 40th Rotary District 7170 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference held at SUNY Oneonta from June 25th to June 28th, 2023.

Tamara and Sara joined 85 other students from south-central New York high schools who lived, worked, and studied together at the RYLA Conference. Aimed at developing the leadership potential of young people, the conference featured speakers, programs and workshops fo-

cused on decision-making, critical thinking, effective communication, time management, ethics, career development, public service, contemporary problems, and other challenging issues.

Congratulations, Tamara and Sara!

For more information about RYLA, visit <https://rotarydistrict7170.org/>, contact the Franklin Rotary Club at franklinrotary7170@gmail.com, or visit us on Facebook at Franklin NY Rotary Club.

MARKET, continued from Page 3

syrup, maple products and beeswax products, **Off Road Maple** had honeycomb to taste.

Skytop Springs Fish Farm added fish cake samplings to their trout spread, smoked and fresh trout, and Harpersfield cheeses under the blue tent.

Chubby Bunny Confections introduced crèmesicle marshmallows for tastings. Check out their Facebook page, and vote for the next flavor of the Month.

If you are wondering where's the beef? Look to the **Empire Angus Farm** orange tent for the Shivers family's USDA inspected Black Angus Beef.

Wild View Farms has added new sausage varieties and cottage, Canadian, and jowl bacons. They also have pasture-raised pork, meat rubs, and seasonings from their regenerative farming practice.

At **Hare and Feather Farm**, Karen is stocking at least sixteen flavors of homemade jam, salsa, pesto, cashew crunch, coffee cake or brownie squares, and at least two kinds of homemade fudge for your sweet tooth.

Cordwood Acres Farm will be expanding their vegetable offerings as the summer progresses. See Bruce for cultivated mushrooms, eggs, fresh herbs, garlic, and goat's milk soap.

Wild Horse Gardens returns with original photos, stories, paintings, and nature inspired etched glass.

Izzabon is a treasure trove of handmade jewelry and dyed silk scarves.

East Brook Community Farm CSA pick-up is available. See the Market Manager if you have questions.

The popular Ty's Taco-Ria food truck will return July 9th and 23rd and August 18th.

As always coffee, tea, and beverages may be found at the Market Café. These were much enjoyed by the crowd congregating at the tables and chairs under the big tree. After the long winter, it was good to see our neighbors and friends in communion enjoying the fresh air and sunshine.

There are many fundraisers and special events scheduled for the summer Market. Please see the Franklin Farmers' Market Facebook page for current posts and updates. Welcome Back!



"Hollow Man" by Steff Rocknak



Untitled by Steff Rocknak



Portrait by Bruce Goddard



"Seascape" by Bill Lee

THE WEDNESDAY PAINTERS

By Jane Carr

A group of artists meeting every Wednesday to make art first got together in the middle 1990s at Patsy Breiling's studio in Treadwell NY. The original group consisted of Kathryn Hyack, Jane Carr, Bill Lee, Alice Hall, Laura Hussey, and Patsy Breiling. After Patsy died in 2011, the group rotated among each other's homes for a year until finally landing at Jane Carr's studio in Treadwell. This became the permanent meeting place for over eight years of Wednesdays, adding a new member, Bruce Goddard, to the originals: Laura Hussey, Bill Lee, and Jane. Guest artists were often invited.

During COVID's first year, we did not meet but worked independently on a political project to be presented after COVID.

(See article at right.)

Bruce Goddard notes that we moved to his studio by mid-December of 2019 but with the worsening of COVID, everyone went back to working at home. In April of 2021 we resumed "in person" Wednesday meetings at Goddard's studio in Franklin and have been working there every Wednesday since. We have a very cohesive group, with new member Steff Rocknak, and the originals, Carr, Hussey, Lee, and Goddard.

Four of the Wednesday Painters will participate in the 25th annual Stagecoach Run Art Festival at Carr's Studio in Treadwell, Venue #2, on July 1 and 2.

For nearly thirty years, Wednesday has been a great time for art.



Untitled by Jane Carr



"Sky 9" by Jane Carr

OH, SAY, CAN YOU SEE?

By Jane Carr

Nine local artists are mounting a political art exhibit to be shown at the Bremer Gallery during the last two weekends in July.

The idea for the show came out of a long period during COVID when several of the artists were inspired by the political climate here and around the world. The group has been working on paintings, sculpture and prints for the past two years. The artists include Frank Anthony, Charles Bremer, Jane Carr, Bruce Goddard, Joseph Kurhajec, Bill Lee, Steff Rocknak, Dennis Thomson, and David Wilson.

The show will open to the public on Saturday, July 22, from 4 to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The exhibition continues on

Sunday, July 23, and the following Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29. The open hours are from 4 to 8 p.m.

The Bremer Gallery is located at 498 County Highway 5, Otego, NY 13825. For more information: cbremerstudio@gmail.com or rocknaks@hartwick.edu



By Charles Bremer

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(Mark your calendars now for 2024! July 6 & 7)

MUSIC, continued from Page 13

voking the festivity of a peasant fair. The reed instruments were new to me. Four double reed instruments known as shawms and five brass instruments, more familiar looking, and a bass. But the most enchanting and fascinating of the instruments was the *flabiol*, a short, small whistle or flute, which, in its tiny fashion, leads the band. In the hand that is not holding the flute, the flabiolist also holds a tiny drum, setting the tempo for the rest of the much larger instruments. Each dance starts with the flabiolist playing a few solo bars (to announce the dance) and tapping on the drum with a small wand to set the tempo and thus the pace at which the dancers will prance.

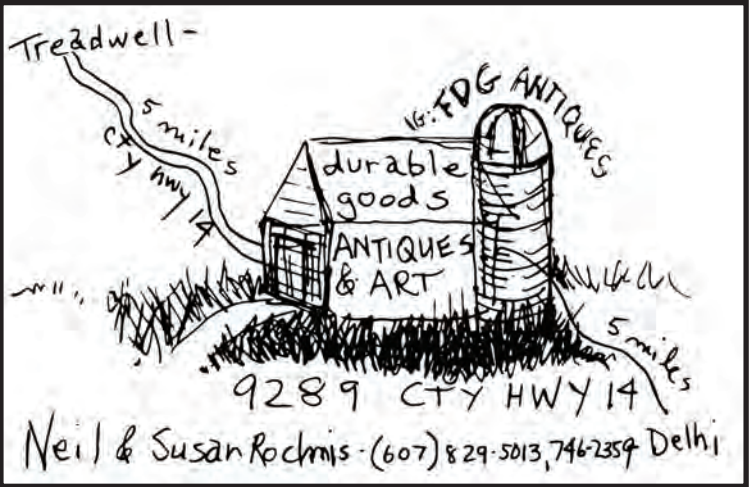
By this sound and spectacle, I was completely, to use the technical term, blown away! My face stretched by an uncontrollable smile, I became completely entranced by the flabiolist, who happened to be a small and slender young woman of remarkable skill. It was immediately clear to me that this instrument would not be easy to master. On some of the pieces, I swore I heard both eighth notes and sixty-fourth notes coming from her flabiol simultaneously, much like skilled harmonica players produce chords at the same time they play the melody. Barcelona is a remarkable city, but if you miss the *cobla* while you are there, you have not fully experienced the city.



In Naples two weeks later, I sat eating one of the city’s fabulous pizzas at an outdoor table, when an accordion player approached, busking for change. He was playing the melody of the Italian folksong “Bella Ciao,” and after a short while, the staff of the restaurant shooed him away. In Italy, the tune seems ubiquitous and maybe to some Italians, overworn, but I love it and am especially attached because of the song’s origin, an Italian textile strike in the mid-nineteenth century. I heard other accordionists playing it as well. The tune rolled around in my head the entire time I was in Italy. It’s perfect for the accordion, an instrument, I am not ashamed to say, I quite like, as much for its huge variety of music styles around the globe as for anything else.

The song was revised in the early twentieth century with new lyrics expressing the passion of an Italian partisan fighting against fascism. Perhaps the accordion player was shooed away because of politics. After all, the newly elected prime minister is a member of the political party descended from the National Fascist Party, run by Mussolini during the time of the Nazis. A few years ago, Tom Waits recorded an English version of the “Bella Ciao,” with the marvelous Mark Ribot playing a penetrating guitar part. Waits, as is his wont, sang it in a way to make you believe he wrote the song. Google it. If it doesn’t send chills up your spine, I know who you voted for in the last election.

Photos by the author



DON'T FORGET!

The Honest Brook Music Festival in Delhi celebrates its 34th season of concerts in The Barn this summer with another stunning line-up of exciting, young musicians.

The season opens with Saturday evening concerts on July 15 and July 22 at 7:30 P.M. and on Sunday afternoons on August 6 and 13 with concerts at 3 P.M.

The July 15th concert



Pianist Chaeyoung Park

will feature pianist Chaeyoung Park, followed on July 22nd by baritone John Moore with pianist Adam Golka. On August



The Balourdet Quartet

dren K-12 are admitted free. For reservations and directions, call 607-746-3770, visit the website at HBMG.org, or email HBMF@aol.com.



Baritone John Moore

6th, the Balourdet Quartet will perform, with a final concert on August 13th with the Naeve Trio.

Tickets are \$25 per concert. Seating is first come, first served. Chil-



The Naeve Trio

ORGAN, continued from Page 1

organ by sheer serendipity. Last year, he contacted noted organ restorer Sidney Chase of Chase Organ Company in Worcester, NY to repair the church’s 40-plus year-old electric organ, in preparation for the Hometown Christmas concert. Chase, who has restored countless rare organs for churches in our area, said he could no longer obtain parts to repair it.

But Chase suggested that St. Paul’s might be interested in a rare antique organ similar to one removed from the church in the early 1960s. The organ required a full rebuild and restoration, refurbished pipes, and a new motor for the bellows. Chase gave the vestry an estimate of \$9,350 to do this work and install the organ. Chase also offered to facilitate contact between St. Paul’s and the Episcopal Diocese of Syracuse.

Branigan jumped on the opportunity. When the project was presented at last year’s Hometown Christmas concert, it garnered widespread community support. Once the Syracuse Diocese approved the gift, fundraising began. The church applied for and received grants from the O’Connor Foundation and several other anonymous donors, along with individual contributions.

“Thanks to our donors’ generosity,” Branigan said, “We have full funding to complete this historic restoration. St. Paul’s has been

very fortunate to receive overwhelming community support.” He added, “The restoration cost is an excellent value by any standard. Sid Chase told me that once the organ is rebuilt, its value will be about \$200,000.”

Meanwhile, the restoration work has begun. The majority of the organ pieces were transported to St. Paul’s Church on April 25th. The remaining pieces were moved to Chase Organ Company’s shop for restoration. Branigan said, “St. Paul’s extends a big ‘thank you’ to the Franklin Fire Department, which donated the use of their enclosed trailer for transportation. We also want to thank Franklin residents Don DeSilva and Vincent Speranza, who moved the pieces into the church.”

Restoration is expected to be completed by or be-

fore the fall, Branigan said.

Note: organists wanted. St. Paul’s vestry plans to hold an open concert in the fall and is seeking qualified organists interested in performing on the newly restored organ. Branigan noted that Alfred Fedak, renowned organist and composer, has ‘enthusiastically endorsed’ the preservation of the rare organ and plans to perform at the Hometown Christmas concert with the Catskill Brass this year.

To learn more, contact Dan Branigan at 607-434-5762 or at danbran49@yahoo.com. And be sure to visit the church at 307 Main Street on the first Thursday of each month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the popular community dinners (by donation).

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FILM FOCUS

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between Ariel's "I want" song ("Part of Your World") and Dorothy's "Over the Rainbow" in The Wizard of Oz. Ironically, almost the same exact thing hap-

pened to these songs in their respective production histories. The powers that be at MGM thought "Over the Rainbow" slowed the movie down and that kids would be bored during the song. They also thought no one wanted to see their rising young star - Judy Garland - singing in a "dirty barnyard!" Fortunately, when they cut the song in previews, it became clear that the film now lacked what it needed most - a strong, thematic statement from the protagonist. The sequence was replaced, and the rest is history.

As for Mermaid, an executive at Disney wanted to cut "Part of Your World" for the same reason. But, in this case, the production had two wise and talented men on board: Ariel's animator, Glen Keane, and producer/lyricist Howard Ashman, who was quoted as saying, "You'll cut that song over my dead body!" So, along with composer Alan Menken, directors Ron Clements and John Musker, and voice actress Jodi Benson, they made the song come alive - with Ariel (Benson) matching Dorothy's (Garland's) passion and pathos - convincing Disney to leave it in the film.

But the real strength of Ariel's signature song is that she is way more specific than Dorothy. Dorothy merely longed for a place without trouble:

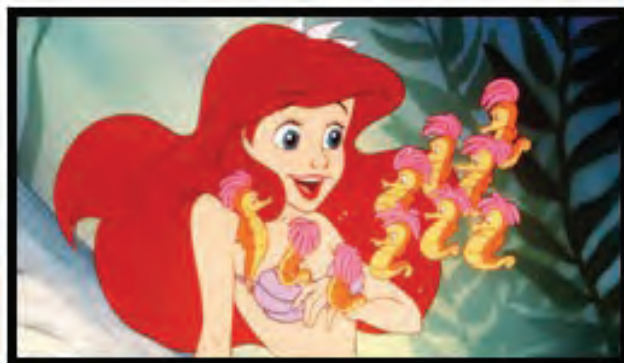
*Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to
dream
Really do come true
Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds
are far behind me
Where troubles melt like lemon
drops...*

But Ariel sings of a more complex and contemporary desire:

*What would I give if I could live
Out of these waters?
What would I pay to spend a day
Warm on the sand?
Betcha on land, they understand
Bet they don't reprimand their
daughters
Bright, young women sick of
swimmin'
Ready to stand
Ready to know what the people
know
Ask 'em my questions and get
some answers...*

Ariel doesn't only want to escape; she wants to know more about the world beyond the sea. For a young girl growing into an independent woman, this is a personal statement having nothing to do with romance, as she hasn't yet met her soul mate, Eric. Of course, meeting him provides further motivation to escape her circumstances. But her song tells us who she is and where she wants to go.

This is to say, the animated film covers some new territory for a



Disney main character. With this strong foundation, you would think the live action version wouldn't have too far to go to be as coherent a film. Unfortunately, Rob Marshall - a very talented director (Chicago, Memoirs of a Geisha) - got caught at the very outset in a number of sticky nets that the film can't get free from:

All the scenes under the sea are so dark and gloomy, it's no wonder Ariel wants to escape! In the animated version, life under water is beautiful, as Sebastian sings to remind Ariel why she should appreciate where she lives:

*The seaweed is always greener
In somebody else's lake
You dream about going up there
But that is a big mistake
Just look at the world around you
Right here on the ocean floor
Such wonderful things surround you
What more you lookin' for?*

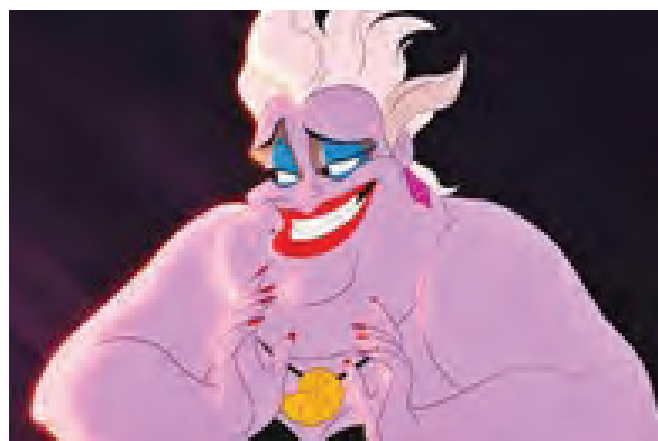
Although Halle Bailey is good at playing the ingénue, she's too young to be believable as a woman in love. However independent she might be, she's still too inexperienced to really know what love is or how to be in a relationship - spiritually or physically - with a man and another species at the same time! Eric, although given more to do - and even his own song - barely gets his feet wet in terms of character development. He's as bland as he is good looking. Needless to say, the romance falls flatter than a trout on a plate. In the animated film, Ariel seems more mature and relationship-ready, while Jodi Benson's vocal performance lent a certain maturity to Ariel's character, a subtle but essential element in making her romance with Eric believable.

The CGI supporting characters are superfluous and cringe-worthy. The jokes from the animated film need the exaggerated facial expressions of their cartoon counterparts to work. It would have been more endearing to have them around Ariel like "pets" that she interacts with without them actually talking back to her.

Although Melissa McCarthy does a very good job filling Pat Carol's shoes with her voice and performance, it's unfortunate that she never stops moving long enough for us to appreciate it. Working to 'become' an octopus/squid, she slinks and squirms her way through her scenes (along with the camera), undermining her screen presence and reducing the dynamics of her scenes. Add to that her constantly flowing hair and it's enough to make you seasick!

As sometimes happens in operetta-style live action musicals, the songs (other than "Part of Your World") aren't organic to the story and stop the action instead of enhancing it. As an example, film realism betrays the exuberant, colorful antics of "Under the Sea" that worked so well in the animated film. The rap song (a Lin-Manuel Miranda addition to the score) is absurd and annoying. The only song with impact and entertainment value is "Kiss the Girl." Except for this and "Part of Your World," the songs are a letdown as the cast imitates some of the well-placed-and-executed numbers from the animated version. As a musical, the live action film is a fishy mess.

In conclusion, the live action version of Mermaid is more realis-



tic but less believable for adults and children alike. Movies are complex, and there is a lot to unpack when making a film from existing material. Adapting an animated film for live action is even more challenging. To put it in a clam shell: the live action Mermaid is too dark and serious for kids and too implausible for adults. Just spend a day at the beach, warm on the sand, listening to the tunes from the animated version instead.

MOVIE REVIEW: "The Little Mermaid" 2023

A MURKY MESS

Dear Readers,

On May 26th, Disney released a live-action version of their now-beloved animated classic, The Little Mermaid. I don't usually do reviews, but having worked at the Feature Animation Department from 1989 to 1990 while the original animated feature was being made and released, I was interested to see the new live-action film.



To say the least, it was an historical and fortuitous time to be at Disney when the original film was made. The Feature Animation Department was then at a crossroads: after a string of commercial and critical failures (The Fox and the Hound, Black Cauldron), the studio had all but given up on feature animation, and there was little hope that The Little Mermaid would make the slightest ripple in a positive direction. But the combination of an excellent concept, terrific songs, and skilled filmmaking made it a resounding success, and initiated what we now call the "animation renaissance." A documentary was made about this pivotal time at the Disney studios (Waking Sleeping Beauty) and another excellent documentary (Howard) was made about Howard Ashman, the creative genius behind Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, and Aladdin.



In 1989, I remember seeing the pencil tests (the rough animation before ink and paint) for the "Part of Your World" segment, and hearing the song for the very first time. I can't tell you what a catharsis it was for me. It was as if a glorious past and promising future converged into one cinematic, musical moment.

I immediately saw a connection

HOMES, continued from Page 7

can't see past it. And sellers have refused to pack it away, so it remains unsold.

Storage space matters, whether it's closets or usable attic space. Bedrooms matter. In our house, we turned a bedroom into a dressing room because it works for the way we live. But if we ever sold (and we hope we never, ever do), we'd make it a bedroom again. Three bedrooms are much more valuable than two bedrooms and a dressing room.

Bonus space matters, too. Is there a great outbuilding available? That adds value. Buyers picture studio space, or even in-law/income apartments for the future. Cleared out, it's a solid selling point that buyers are willing to pay extra for.

Here are my top five negotiating tips for sellers and buyers – they apply to both sides of the deal.

1. *Don't take it personally.*

Buyers try to get a property as cheaply as they can. Sellers want top dollar. Somewhere in the middle is where they will meet, in most cases. Don't be insulted when they do what they do. Just work to try to get to a number that works for everyone.

2. *Read between the lines.*

If a seller is firm on the asking price, maybe there's a big mortgage to pay off. Or maybe the sale of this house is their retirement nest egg. Knowing what's at stake helps a buyer make an offer that works.

If timing is the sticking point, maybe the seller is overwhelmed by the idea of moving. Or they're not sure where they're going. Giving them extra time, or even offering to let them rent back for a short time after closing can give them the breathing room they need.

If a buyer is adamant that they need to close within a certain period of time, they may have a hard deadline on the sale of their current home. Offering a storage solution for their stuff might free them to find a short-term answer that makes the deal work. Sometimes an extra, non-refundable deposit is enough to let sellers begin their own moving process while waiting for the closing.

3. *Think creatively.*

If the offer is strong but you can't quite come to terms, this is where a realtor can make all the difference. If everyone wants the same result, then a little creative thinking to find answers to stumbling blocks and get both sides to a closing. Having a negotiator without a personal stake in the outcomes makes a difference.

Are there necessary repairs that need to be done before a buyer can move in? If the seller isn't willing or able to tackle them, I've had sellers who've allowed buyers to do them before closing, with a written agreement that, if the sale falls through, sellers will reimburse them for that work.

4. *Be flexible.*

If both buyer and seller are happy with the agreement, but hitches pop up (and they do!), bend a little. Don't pitch a fit if the title search delays the closing. Neither side has control of that. If the mortgage company turns out to be the slowest in history, just keep pushing. It's not the buyer's fault. If the seller's moving company announces that its trucks have all broken down on closing day, it's a nightmare, but work together to find an answer.

5. *Keep your word.*

Oh, the pleasure of working with people who mean what they say and say what they mean! Be one of them. It untangles a million complications and leaves everyone feeling like, despite the stress of it all, it was a good, fair transaction.

MANURE, con't from Pg. 1

not limited to the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (Ag & Markets) as well as federal monies from US EPA Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG), US Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Ag & Markets funds the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM), a voluntary, incentive-based program available to all farmers. It is administered by their county Soil and Water Conservation District. To start or continue with AEM, a local farmer would connect with Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DelCo SWCD) to progress through the five confidential AEM conservation tiers:

Tier 1 – Inventory current activities, interests, and potential environmental concerns of the farmer.

Tier 2 – Document current environmental stewardship and assess and prioritize areas of concern.

Tier 3 – Develop conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to farm goals.

Tier 4 – Implement plans using available educational, technical, and financial assistance.

Tier 5 – Evaluate practices and plans for conservation and farm viability.

Working through the AEM tiers helps DelCo SWCD to identify which BMPs are to be implemented. In January of 2023, the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee published their Agricultural Best Management Practice Systems Catalogue, listing 20 different system descriptions, each system containing component BMPs.

There are several funding assistance opportunities through programs in the

AEM framework. Ag & Markets explains that grants can cost-share up to 75 percent of project costs or more if farmers contribute in the following two areas:

Planning: funds awarded to conduct environmental planning.

Implementation: funds awarded to construct or apply management practices.

The Agricultural Non-point Source Abatement and Control program provides funding to implement BMPs for water quality issues that stem from farming activities. Ag & Markets awarded \$8,988,120 to projects for Grant Rounds 21 - 28 in Delaware County.

The Climate Resilient Farming program, Ag & Markets explains, is intended to reduce the impact of agriculture on climate change (mitigation) and to increase the resiliency of New York State farms in the face of a changing climate (adaptation). Grant Round awards 1-6 in Delaware County totaled \$159,160.

Since 2009, the EPA has tracked BMP Implementation and monies spent in the CBP TMDL. DelCo SWCD has provided numbers for this article for BMPs and monies spent in the OCW north of the village and then all of the OCW in Franklin.

Agricultural BMP Systems:

Access Control System
Agrichemical Handling and Storage System
Composting System – Animal
Erosion Control System – Structural
Feed Management System
Integrated Pest Management System
Irrigation Water Management System
Livestock Heavy Use Area Runoff Management System
Manure and Agricultural Waste Treatment System
Nutrient Management System – Cultural
Pathogen Management System
Petroleum and Oil Products Storage System
Prescribed Rotational Grazing System
Process Wash Water Management System
Riparian Buffer System
Short-Term Waste Collection and Transfer System
Silage Leachate Control and Treatment System
Soil Health System
Stream Corridor and Shoreline Management System
Waste Storage and Transfer System

It reads like this:

“An approximate total of BMPs implemented (from 2009 to present) within the Ouleout Valley (excluding BMPs below the Village) located within the Town of Franklin is \$1.6 million which consists of about 60 BMPs. An additional \$150,000 worth of BMPs, which consists of about 10 BMPs, were implemented within the Ouleout Creek Watershed (including Treadwell Creek) located within the Town of Franklin.”

If you live in the village, you already know that together, farmers and DelCo SWCD have been doing something right. That's because the village does not have to filter its water for nitrogen and phosphorus. The village gets its drinking water pumped from the underlying aquifer of the Ouleout Creek. A kind of proof in the pudding.

Larry Underwood, Executive Director for DelCo SWCD, was asked, “What's the one thing you would want everyone to know about DelCo SWCD?” His reply: “It's true that the NYC watershed gets a lot of focus but we are doing very well in our other watersheds, especially the Susquehanna.”

HOW TO SPEND \$200 K? DO YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?

THE BACKSTORY:

A year and a half ago, the Town of Franklin received almost \$198,000 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Our share of the \$350 billion State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds amounts to more than a tenth of our entire annual budget.

Since then, our board has not made use of a single penny. A plan to use these funds must be submitted to the feds by the end of 2024, and then the funds must be spent by the end of 2026. Otherwise, the money must be returned.

The funds are ear-marked to fight the pandemic, to maintain vital public services, to support families and businesses struggling with its

impacts, and to support recovery by investing in long-term growth and opportunity. In particular, for growth and opportunity, money can be spent on infrastructure for water, sewer, or broadband. See <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>

The Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker (funded by NACo, Brookings Metro, and the National League of Cities) shows that as of the end of last year, 75 percent of SLFRF dollars for large cities and counties have been obligated and budgeted.

THE CHALLENGE:

Why not help get this process going?

How do you think this \$200K should be spent

to most benefit the townspeople of Franklin?

For example, the water system in the hamlet needs major improvements, there are unaddressed problems with the sewage in the village, and there are still homes that are beyond the reach of the fiber-optic network — water, sewer, and broadband.

What does Franklin need most?

Give it some thought. But don't sit on those thoughts, take action! Make a suggestion. Propose a project. Let your voice be heard. Maybe you can make something happen!

Reach out with your ideas to supervisor Taggart at 607-829-8590. or townsupervfranklin@gmail.com.

SEWER, con't from Pg. 1

er volumes of sewage to be disposed of. The first innovation was a cesspool, into which sewage was piped. Essentially, it is a large, covered outhouse pit. But these eventually fill up, requiring periodic pumping of the residual solids. Many homes and businesses in the village had one. Like privies, the ground beneath becomes clogged and so a new one is needed. But unlike privies, this is not so easy, and without enough land, it might not be possible.

An improvement was the combination of a septic tank and leach field or pit. Sewage goes first into the tank. Solids remain in the tank while the wastewater goes to a network of perforated pipes or tanks. While much of the solid matter is digested anaerobically (without air), eventually the tank needs pumping. With regular pumping, the leach field should keep working indefinitely. This system is more expensive than a cesspool and requires more land.

Cesspools and leach fields work by trickling wastewater into the soil where aerobic chemical and biological action cleans it up. However, if the ground is saturated with water, then the waste pollutes this shallow groundwater, which can flow to the surface. Some of this dilute sewage might be reaching the storm drains in Franklin.

When the NYS Department of Transportation improved Rt. 7B, now Rt. 357, workers installed stormwater drains along the streets in the village. Enough water springs from the base of Roundtop that storm drains were extended to several of the wetter spots, such as beside Franklin Community & Railroad Museum and behind Kabinett & Kammer and Campbell Insurance.

Only spring and rain

waters should flow through the storm drains. However, the odor of sewage wafts from the drains along Main Street. Either it is leaking from failed leach fields into the drainage ditches that feed the storm drains or landowners have illegally connected their waste pipe to a storm drain. The mix of waters and raw sewage flow into the Ouleout Creek from the pipe that ends above the northwest corner of the athletic field.

While the existing systems do manage to dispose of sewage, NYS Department of Health will not permit expansions of businesses without plans for the proper disposal of increased sewage. This limits the growth of the business district.

Over the years, solutions at various scales have been considered: the whole village, southeast of Main Street, business district, or individual homes and businesses.

A whole village solution would involve building a waste treatment plant (WTP). This is the standard solution for villages in the Delaware River basin, but not so in the Susquehanna River basin. Connecting all the homes and businesses would require trenches down every street and up to every building. The project would be expensive and disruptive, although there are grants and low interest loans to help finance it. But there would also be the endless expenses of operating and maintaining the plant. This option has never been seriously evaluated.

Because the problems disposing of sewage are confined to the southside, an alternative solution would serve just those homes and businesses. Instead of a complex WTP, a simple leach field would suffice. Each building would have its own septic tank. From

there, the leachate would have to be pumped to a central tank and then to the field. A study of this option estimated the need of 1.5 acres for just the business district and a few adjacent houses -- double that to include a spare field. There are only a few parcels of that size within or neighboring the village. When the village had this option studied in 2002, Delaware Engineering did not identify suitable properties.

The village is revisiting this 2002 study. The officials have been in discussion with business owners, local engineering firms, and the DelCo Office of Economic Development on engineering and funding options. The Village of Odessa in Schuylar County has a similar problem with waste and has recently completed a hybrid sewage dispersal system. After a zoom meeting with Odessa officials and their engineer, Mayor Briggs visited there in June to see it for himself.

The smallest scale solution is for each property owner to look after him or herself. This is a problem for parcels that have little or no yard space to locate a leach field. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation does not allow outflow to go directly into surface waters. There are several options for reducing the size of the field, but they are expensive. With no space for a field, one option is hold & haul. A large storage tank is buried, which must be pumped regularly.

Some of the existing cesspools and leach fields have failed. In effect, the village has a combined sewer system that delivers raw sewage to Ouleout Creek, even if in small amounts. If the residents cannot find a solution, then the village risks New York State imposing one.



The Newsletter of Franklin Local

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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

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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.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Interested in working on The New Franklin Register, but not ready to be chasing down news?

Needed: a Circulation Manager to handle the distribution of three hard-copy issues a year.

Responsibilities include picking up sixty bundles of fifty papers each from our printer in Norwich, arranging the pre-paid EDDM postage, printing out labels for each bundle, and mailing the bundles at the Franklin, Oneonta, and Sidney Center post offices, as well as distributing loose copies to selected locations in Franklin and surrounding towns.

(Note: this task cannot be accomplished remotely.)

The NFR is staffed entirely by volunteers, so this is an unpaid position, but postage, gas, and materials expenses will be covered.

**If interested, please email
Marjorie Kellogg, Editor: nfr@franklinlocal.org**



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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pcinsurance@frontiernet.net 607-865-4666

REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSES	SALE	SELLER	BUYER
12/14/22	70 Walley Rd	15.71	Rural Res	190,000	441,000	Rinnooy Kan, Edmond	Seabright, Amaranta Medina
01/23/23	81 Center St	3.60	1 Family Res	213,000	326,000	Sonia deFrances Family Trust,	Campbell, William
02/10/23	1760 Gay Brook Rd	5.00	1 Family Res	115,000	177,100	Devin Doenges Supp Needs Trt	Hochbrueckner, Caitlin E
02/14/23	3221 Russell Rd	0.50	1 Family Res	78,000	113,000	Taggart, Leanne	Howe, Christian
02/15/23	12100 County Hwy 21	9.00	1 Family Res	116,000	195,503	Jones, George E	US Bank Trust Nat Assoc
02/17/23	3349 Freer Hollow Rd	7.29	1 Family Res	325,000	325,000	Haralampoudis, Gregory	Pitula, Gregg
02/28/23	State Hwy 28 S	28.50	Rural Vac>10	New	100,000	Nydam, Ruth E	Downin, Chris J
02/28/23	4028 State Hwy 28 S	100.00	1 Family Res	120,000	110,874	Nydam, Kenneth C (R)	Nydam, Kenneth
02/28/23	7225 State Hwy 357	1.00	Mobile Home Pk	100,000	120,000	Hebbard, Sally	Woodin, Skylar
03/01/23	272 Center St	0.32	2 Family Res	126,000	100,000	Mason, Peter	Lambrecht, Joshua James
03/02/23	State Hwy 28 S	43.60	Rural Vac>10	82,000	125,000	Ordmandy, Eugene S	Conrow, Earl M
03/05/23	700 Stewart Rd	100.38	Rural Res	160,000	160,000	Miller, Robert L	Miller, Robert L
03/06/23	2676 E Handsome Bk Rd	72.58	Rural Res	194,000	225,000	Pizzirusso, Carmine	Rocco, Stephen D
03/08/23	2771 Carey Rd	1.00	Mfg Housing	36,000	70,000	Seymour, Kelly C	Larrabee, Nicholas
03/09/23	397 Main St	0.50	2 Family Res (C)	121,000	159,000	Downin Properties LLC	The Lonely House Guild LLC
03/28/23	726 Christian Hill Rd (2)	29.80	1 Family Res	233,000	420,000	DeMauro, Joe T	Wyman, Montana
03/31/23	698 Round Top Rd	1.00	Mfg Housing	-	-	Schiffner, George	County of Delaware
04/07/23	418 Bissell Rd	9.14	1 Family Res	97,000	29,000	Maurer, Louise K	Fed Nat Mortg Assoc
04/10/23	60 Leland Hull Rd (4)	79.72	Rural Res	183,000	300,000	Walker, Frank	Robinson, Timothy Lane
04/11/23	138 Church St	5.48	Other Storage	900,000	380	American Ginseng Pharm	Shaw, Jonah (S)
04/13/23	Freer Hollow Rd	4.08	Rural Vac<10	16,000	36,000	Miller, Russell P	Shirpour, Fatemeh
04/18/23	63 Rod & Gun Club Rd	0.64	Mfg Housing (C)	47,000	6,000	Zintel, Timothy	Cornwell, William
04/18/23	9253 State Hwy 357	1.70	1 Family Res	125,000	180,000	Hotchkin, Christopher R (R)	Hotchkin, Ethan
04/25/23	6992 Dunk Hill Rd	7.58	1 Family Res	200,000	235,000	Fundaro, Samuel	Dalen, Rena

(#) Number of parcels

(C) Changes

(R) Relatives

Government
(S) Sheriff's Sale