

A SUPERVISOR'S DILEMMA

By John Salka
Town Supervisor of Brookfield, NY

The proposal to drill for natural gas in New York State has become one of the most important and far reaching issues to confront our region in a very long time. It is an extremely complex, polarizing, and highly technical issue, and has residents in many communities pitted against one another. Some see it as a hedge against increasing property taxes and protection of their properties from the auction block. Others fear the possible environmental, social, and economic implications.

Industry reps are making promises of clean natural gas being provided to a nation heavily dependent on foreign sources, while those who are concerned about the environment are working to protect irreplaceable natural resources like clean water, air and land. Both sides are willing to expend any and all of the resources at their disposal to prove their point.

As towns are faced with this issue, many of the elect-

ed officials of those municipalities are in a quandary as to how to approach this hot potato. Some have gone as far as outright bans, where others have embraced drilling and are convinced that this can be a major source of revenue for their towns and their local schools struggling to make ends meet. In some instances, there has been an increase in scarce funds,



but the jury is still out as to what extent.

In the Town of Brookfield, NY (Madison County), where I serve as Supervisor, and where better than 60% of our properties are leased, we have tried to take a proactive approach. This means that we have instituted a road use agreement, which is now a

See **DILEMMA**, con't on Page 13



A Pennsylvania farmer's plea

COME HELL OR HIGH WATER!

The Walton Community Garden Continues Despite All

By Rebecca Morgan

At their annual pot-luck dinner, the Walton Community Gardeners decided to forge ahead with the garden despite the devastating flooding that wiped out most crops two years in a row. "During the season, we were still able to get a lot of food out of the garden," said Margaret Bazura, who grows vegetables in her community plot to eat, put away, and sell at the Franklin Farmers' Market. "Flooding is a risk of farming in a flood plain," remarked another gardener, Gale Sheridan, "but it's also what makes the soil so great and rock-free."

One young gardener - Luke Schnabel, age 7 - had

See **WALTON**, continued on Page 5



Allison Rae Smullen and Saije Ney at Occupy Delhi on October 29th

REGS OR RIGS? RELUCTANT REGULATOR

By Brian Brock

The oil and gas industry in New York State is only barely regulated.

The Division of Mineral Resources (DMN) of the Department of Environmental Conservation is using regulations written largely in 1972, shortly after it was created. The only new regulations since then were written in 1986, dealing with the unusually high gas pressure found in the Bass Island Trend in westernmost New York. There were also revisions in 1985 in response to the oil and gas pollution of many water wells in western New York. But no new generally applicable regulations have been written into law in forty years.

The existing Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) and the work-in-progress Supplemental GEIS are only guidance documents, and their recommendations are unenforceable unless codified into regulations.

The GEIS finalized in 1992 was never promulgated into regulations. The IOGCC/EPA review of DEC oil and gas regulatory programs faulted the DEC for this: "DMN rules require substantial upgrading to reflect current statutory directives, program policies, and state-of-the-art improvement in E&P waste management. Some of these areas requiring improvement are discussed in the GEIS ..." (Finding I.1).

Subsequently, regulations were proposed and public workshops were held in October of 1997, but nothing was finalized. These proposed regulations were revised in 2000, but again failed to make it into the code book.

[See **TALES OF ALBANY** on Page 8 for the story of this paper's attempt to obtain a copy of those proposals.]

See **REGS**, continued on Page 7



The Walton Community Garden is destroyed by flooding during the August 2011 hurricane. Photo by Leslie Kauffman

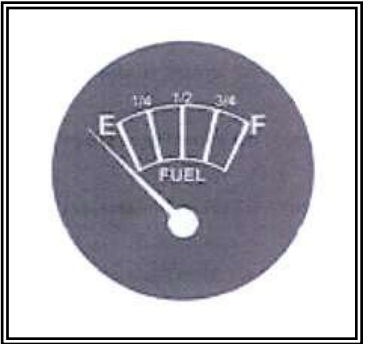
RESIST APATHY!

By Patricia Knapp-Tyrell

When first being asked to explore the aspirations of youth in Franklin, I thought, "Really? Write about wanting to get the heck out of town and move away?"

A split-second later, I realized this could be a huge opportunity to discover what the "youth" of Franklin really are thinking about their current local and global environments and how they foresee their futures. Besides, there still is appeal and promise to this place, considering the number of diversely successful people it has produced and attracts.

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DO DROP IN

Unexpected Guests!

By Tom Morgan

We were enjoying a glass of wine with an urban guest near sundown at our pond, which looks out over the Ouleout Valley.

"What's the sound?" asked the guest. "Do you have mountain lions in your woods?"

I assured him we did not. But the sound was ominous - a half-gush, half-roar. We could hear it from the direction of our wooded hillside, and it was clearly moving.

All became clear when we caught sight of a vividly colored hot air balloon descending toward the road below. I explained to our guest that we try to arrange this sort of excitement whenever the city folks come visiting - we invite our local balloonists to drop in for a sip of Pinot Grigio.

Once on the road, we watched the balloon settle into a field alongside. Erna grabbed one of the ropes to help guide it. A number of people stopped to watch. One of them was a woman from Oneonta who we have known for 40 years. She used to be married to our friend Gene. It seemed odd to me that she would show up from Oneonta just to watch a balloon. But next I saw Gene's current wife. "Gene's with the balloon," she explained. Along with Gene were two of his adult children who I had not seen for 30 years. Gene claimed they were planning to bring the balloon down on our front lawn...and maybe they were.

Turns out the son had gotten married the previous weekend. Apparently, the balloon ride was a wedding gift. Where did they launch? I dunno. In the midst of the excitement, I forgot to ask.

Our friend sent the photos to his wife in D.C. "Here's what people in Franklin do every other night for entertainment," he wrote. "Feel like moving here?"



GOODBYE TO OLD FRANKLIN DAY

By Kim Hyzer

Saturday, August 27, 2011, was the last Old Franklin Day.

Several factors led to this decision. There are a number of such community days in our area throughout the summer. In recent years, the Old Franklin Day Committee has looked for ways to make our day unique. We

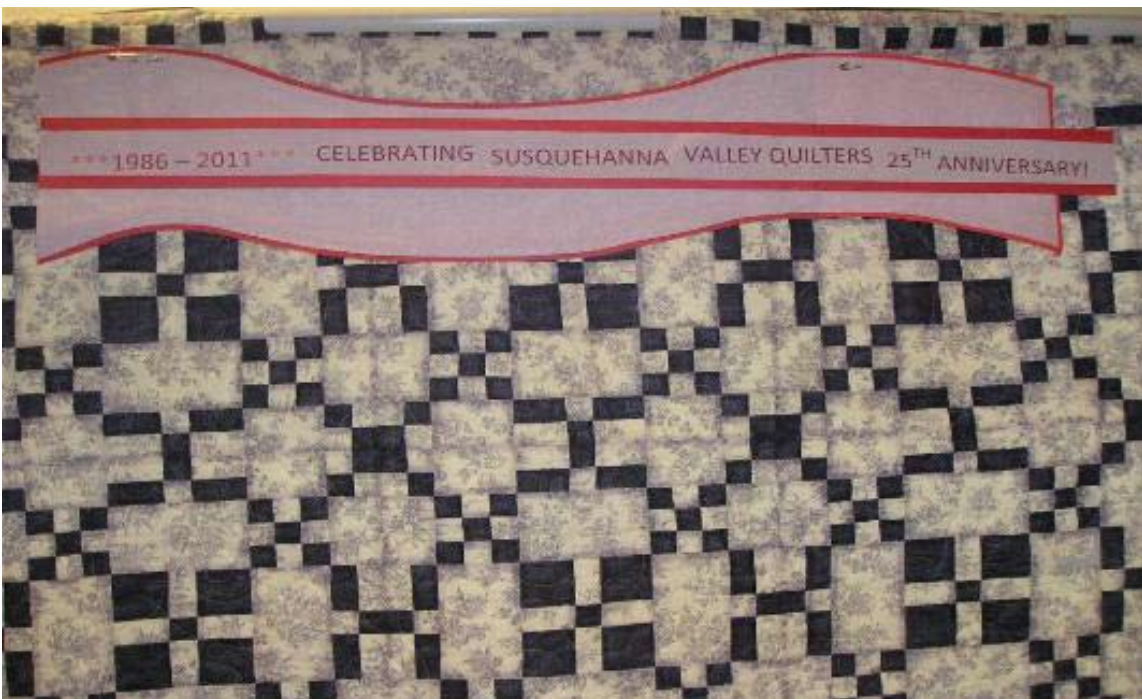
have tried different styles of entertainment, Civil War re-enactment activities, etc. But our attendance and the number of vendors kept dwindling.

We also looked at different dates, but found that from the Dairy Fest through August, there are local activities every weekend.

And financially, it had become unfeasible. In

2009 and 2010, we barely broke even. This year, after paying for advertising and entertainment, we lost about \$300.

At the September meeting, the Old Franklin Day Committee voted to discontinue the event. Because the celebration was started 32 years ago as a benefit to save Stone Hall, the balance of our treasury has been given to the school for any work that needs to be done on Stone Hall.



Irma Ellsworth's navy and white quilt

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY QUILTERS SHOW AT OLD FRANKLIN DAY

By May Miller

Photos by Kay Cronk

The quilt show at Old Franklin Day on August 27th observed the Susquehanna Valley Quilters' 25th anniversary. Visitors to the show were first greeted by Irma Ellsworth's beautiful navy and white quilt, along with a list of the guild's founding members (including Irma) and a banner celebrating the 25th Anniversary.

Twenty-eight SVQ members shared 26 quilts, 26 wall hangings, six table runners, eight purses, eight jackets, a vest and a Christmas tree skirt. In addition, two Franklin ladies displayed antique quilts, and Jim Bryden of Masonville shared a quilt and four wall hangings.

A TALE OF TWO SANLYS

By Brian Brock

It was best of roads, it was the worst of roads. Sanly Road runs some three miles from near the eastern end of Franklin Depot Road northward up the hill and then down five hundred feet to the middle of Merrickville Road. From Franklin Depot Road, it is a broad dirt road for 0.2 miles until past the only two permanent residences on the southern end. For the next 0.5 miles, it is a curving country lane up to a wide turn-around used by the snowplows. The middle two miles are narrow, rutted and often steep. At the northern end, the trail becomes a road again, running 0.3 miles down to Merrickville Road.

No one lives along these middle two miles, and Sanly has been a seasonal road (i.e., not plowed in winter) for many years. In a time



of tight budgets, the Town Board worried that if a permanent residence was built along the middle section, the Town might have to pay to upgrade the road.

Property along this section is owned by John and Bertha Greschak, Ori-tam Rod & Gun Club, Justin Wyka, Richard Yards, Adolph Vogel, Jason Quackenbush, and Carol Ann Decker. They were invited to comment on the fate of Sanly Road at a public hearing in September. County Supervisor of Highways Wayne Reynolds reported that there is minimal public traffic on Sanly and that abandoning the

road would cause no hardship to these land owners.

In October, the Town Board voted unanimously for a qualified abandonment. The Highway Department no longer has any responsibility to maintain it. Signs will be posted at the turn-arounds. Franklin still retains the easement of the roadway, and the public may still travel along it. Land owners can put a gate across the roadway, but it may not be locked. Should a home be built along this stretch, the owner would be required to upgrade the road before requesting Town services.

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FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



LIFE OFF THE GRID



Bruce Zimmer at home

Photo by Eugene Marner

By Carole Satrina Marner

The first thing you notice at Bruce Zimmer's Cordwood Acres is the attention given to aesthetics. A young orchard and walnut grove, a fenced and arbored market garden, and a goat pen border the drive as you approach the cordwood house. Potted flowers bloom across the wide front deck. A small windmill turns on the roof peak. Ducks, chickens, turkeys run free.

Eight years ago, these eight acres were just a gentle slope with a southern exposure, the front half meadow, the back woods. Owner Bruce Zimmer has created everything you see today: house, barn, sheds, greenhouse, fences, garden.

Bruce has no monthly bills. No electricity, no phone. He collects rain water in a cement cistern. In

up water from his cistern. A hand-cranked blender is attached to the counter. A solar panel charges his single electric reading lamp set next to an easy chair.

Once upon a time, Bruce Zimmer was a successful chef with two upscale restaurants, one with a blues nightclub. He grew up in northern New Jersey. In high school, the only thing he cared about was the wrestling team. In his senior year, as the Vietnam war was ending, his guidance counselor asked what he was going to do after graduation. Bruce did not have a clue. He had liked working at a pizzeria, so the counselor suggested colleges with hotel/restaurant management training. Bruce picked Paul Smith's in upstate New York. His first job after graduation was at a Marriott theme-park hotel.

Later, working for a fancy restaurant in Parsippany, NJ, he remembers being astonished the first time he saw the chef mix lemon juice and cream. Eager to learn, he apprenticed in the kitchen during the day. At night, he changed into a tuxedo and worked until eleven. He learned all the stations, starting in the pantry, moving

into salads, pates, then entrees. He moved on to a job as chef of a senior complex dining room, and then, to cook at a Lake Harmony resort which was not doing too well. He became an equity partner and ultimately owned forty-nine percent of the business. He had turned it around, raising its annual receipts from one quarter million to over 1.2 million.

Then something happened that made him question everything he was doing. He fell in love with a woman who had two daughters. They were planning a life together when the older daughter got leukemia. For a year, Bruce spent every spare minute giving his girlfriend

to work. Investigating sustainable building techniques, he decided on cordwood construction: equal lengths of pine stacked and mortared together to form sixteen inch thick walls. He bought the wood and let it dry for two years. In 2003, he dug a foundation; in 2004, he put in a slab foundation; in 2005, he built the walls. The pattern of wood in mortar is visually stunning inside and out. Friends helped him put up the roof. "When you know you have to get away," Bruce says, "you also should know that you will always have to rely on other people." Bruce's stand at the Franklin Farmers' Market is very popular. His garden is not huge,



A View of Cordwood Acres

Photo by Eugene Marner

and her children the support they needed. The child, aged eight, died. Both he and his girlfriend were devastated. The relationship failed under the strain of their grief, but Bruce remained haunted by an eight year-old dying of cancer.

"Does it have something to do with how we live?" He began to think more about how food is produced. "What kind of stewards of the earth are we?"

He spent six summers as counselor in a camp for kids with cancer, finally realizing that he would not find peace unless he gave up commerce and lived a different life. A very simple life. He looked for land and worked in construction - to learn how to build a house.

When he bought his land in the Butternuts Valley, the first thing he did was dig a garden. For the next four summers, Bruce lived in a tent while he built his house. In winter, he went back to Pennsylvania

but he is disciplined about successive plantings, so he always has a variety of produce available. He takes time to describe to his customers the attributes of a vegetable and how to prepare it. He also sells eggs and homemade herbal soaps. He brings his little black dairy goat "Dusty" to the market for children to pet. On sunny days he often bakes bread or cake in a solar cooker in front of his stand.

His life might be easier if the fifteen hundred dollar batteries hooked up to the windmill atop his roof had not frozen last year. He plans to put the windmill back to work with money earned this winter. Next year, he will extend his twelve foot green house another twenty four feet, and expects to start milking Dusty.

Right now, he looks forward to preparing his own Thanksgiving turkey.



Bruce checks on his goats

Photo by Eugene Marner



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FUN AND FRIENDS AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

By Gloria Banks

The Franklin Farmers Market is an experience like no other. I volunteered to help out with Judy Gabey's coffee stand for two reasons. Reason one: Judy needed the help. Reason two: I needed credits for a school program. But it turned into so much more. Working there was AWE-SOME!! When I first got there, I knew maybe two people. I came back the



next week and I felt I was a part of something bigger than myself. I was a member of this incredible family. The family consisted not only of the vendors, but also the regular customers. Being part of the farmers' market, you feel loved.

When you miss one day... one day... and people ask **constantly** where you are... you feel loved. Of course, in every family there are the funny moments, whether you are being dared to eat a **HOT** pepper, wearing a hat made of burdock, or catching some amazing live music. We do have fun. That's what it's like to work at the Franklin Farmers' Market. That's what it's like to be a family with these people. That's why I will most definitely be coming back next year.



Brian and Gloria - pals

O or T?

By Brian Brock

Last year, the New York State Department of Transportation studied traffic running through the intersection of Routes 357 and 28 at the bottom of Franklin Mountain. In the last decade, there were 35 accidents (excluding collisions with deer) -- ten times the accident rate at similar intersections. Contributing to these accidents is the limited visibility toward the intersection from the tight curves of Route 28 heading north, and Route 28/357 heading west.

The DOT has proposed two safer reconstructions: a T-intersection, with Route 28 coming down the mountain to end at Route 357, which would curve into Route 28 going toward Delhi. Or a one lane roundabout - see the diagrams at right.

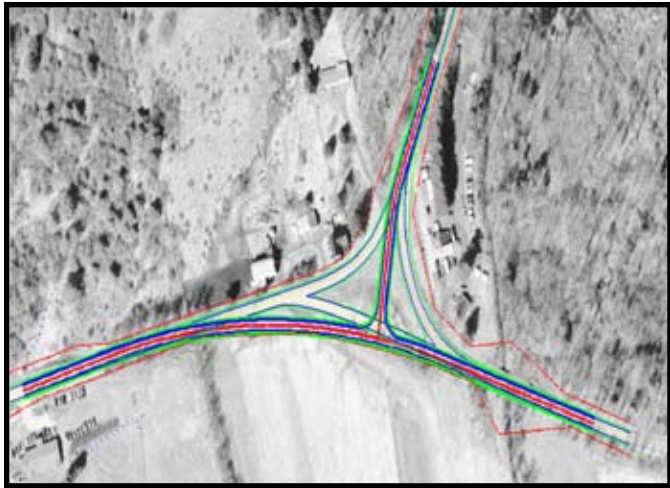
Roundabouts are smaller than traffic circles, and vehicles circulate at the slower speed of 15 to 25 mph. Vehicles entering must yield to those already in the roundabout. There would be an inner truck apron for oversized loads. Examples of local roundabouts can be found on Riverside Drive in Broome County and Elmira Road in Tompkins.

Cost is estimated to be \$800,000, with 80% coming from federal funds and 20% from the state. The T-intersection would be slightly less expensive and slightly less safe than the roundabout. Flashing warning lights were considered, but while considerably less expensive (\$150,000), they



Wally Woodshop: a joke with every purchase - maybe two

have proven less effective. Either option should fit in the existing right-of-way. Planning for the North Franklin intersection began in 2009. A meeting to inform the public and solicit comments was held this summer at the town garage. Additional comments are welcomed and suggestions will be incorporated into tentative designs, to be presented at a second public meeting next year. The design is to be finalized in 2013, followed by bidding and a contract. Construction is to begin and be completed in 2014. Work is expected to be done without closing either route. A group of Franklin residents feel this money could be better spent, and have started a petition objecting to the reconstruction and requesting further study. They have collected a few hundred signatures.



T-intersection Design



Roundabout Design

To comment, go to R09-PIN901858@dot.state.ny.us



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C'mon, Phil - crack a smile



The cool cat in the hat

PARK NEWS

By Kim Hyzer

There have been more additions to the park since June: More perennials have been planted by The Franklin Garden Club. These include plants in the bed behind the fountain, four rose bushes to block the stone walls by the ends of the fence, and a hydrangea. A blue spruce was planted behind the monuments. This tree will be our permanent Christmas tree. We look forward to seeing it lit this year! Lilacs have been planted along the border of the top right half of park. Three more were also planted along the top of the fence. The kiosk is done and

looks great! Clematis has been planted on each end of it. Thank you, Dillon! Two garbage cans have been purchased and placed in the park. We thank the Garden Club for flower bed and planter maintenance and watering this summer. Work on the oval blue stone path in front of the fountain has been delayed until next Spring. We are also looking to have a concrete apron poured around the fountain so that the overspray will drain back into it. If you are, or know of, a contractor with expertise in these areas, please contact Kim at 829-8820 for information. We invite you to come to the park, eat a meal at the picnic table or sit and reflect.

FEELING OUT OF

FOKISH

??????????

MAKE SURE THE KIDS ARE IN BED
& THE DOG HAS WATER
BECAUSE

THE BREADMOBILE
IS COMING!!!

WALTON, continued from Page 1
two ideas to throw into the discussion: “What about putting a roof over the whole garden?” and “Let’s build concrete walls around all the plots!” Of course, the land is under a Watershed Agricultural Council easement, forbidding any sort of building or permanent structure. But the idea of finding a very large greenhouse elsewhere (i.e., a roof) for the gardeners to use is under serious consideration.

While the flood in August wiped out the crops at the community garden, the fence, irrigation system, and tool shed still stand. Some gardeners were concerned about the new material that was deposited on the garden site, but others reassured them that the new silt and soil are what contributes to the garden’s rich dirt. Samples will be taken early next spring to clearly identify the new soil’s contents.

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(Specify season and year)

Issues posted by courtesy
of Brendan O’Connor

KIDS, con’t from Page 1

Using the networking capabilities in Facebook Events, in addition to face-to-face interviews, I set up a forum to elicit information through a series of questions that included basic demographics (age, location, education, employment) as well as queries of a more abstract nature. Responders ranged from ages 14 to 30 years, all having lived or are now living in Franklin.

The results were certainly interesting and diverse, often noting a particular lack of conviction and a longing for people to care more deeply - about what didn’t really matter. After all, if you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything.

One participant, when asked what she would change in the world, answered that she’d change how her generation “felt so defeated.” Another, when asked what scared her most about the world today, said it was “people’s lack of compassion and motivation.” Yet another reported that she would change the human race’s level of apathy. A palpable dispirit- edness and indifference was cited by many who weighed in on the survey.

Additionally, there is the issue of the necessity of action beyond thought and words. Another responder stated that to change

And some gardeners are considering giving up their plots for next season. “We have spent too much time, work, and money for two years in a row, only to get totally wiped out,” said Becky White. “It’s just too disappointing.”

During the annual dinner’s discussions, the community gardeners recognized the risks involved, but also acknowledged the rewards – personally, politically, and culturally - of growing their own food.

The Walton Community Garden is aligned with the national trend toward eating more locally, and developing a greater understanding of what’s involved with growing food from start to finish. Community gardens throughout the country are contributing to more robust local food systems, including growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, market-

ing, consumption, and disposal of food and food-related items. Community gardens teach people how to grow food, give people an opportunity to incubate a small food business, provide people with new growing techniques, and connect community members and families around a healthy and life sustaining pursuit.


The educational component of the Walton Community Garden remains a priority as well. The group is eager to get youth involved, particularly high school students looking to fulfill their required community service hours, as well as younger students for whom it’s still a mystery that carrots grow underground and peas grow in pods. The efforts to connect the community garden to the schools will continue to be a focus in the next season.

In the past, the community

garden has been fortunate to get AmeriCorps Service Members through the Rural Health Network to help make some of the linkages to the schools as well as provide hands-on support to the gardeners. But even without the good work of the AmeriCorps volunteers, some community gardeners stay committed to making these connections.

At the end of the annual dinner, there was a palpable sense of hope and excitement, often to be found in conversations with people who love to grow and eat good food. Such folks tend to be resilient, understanding that growing seasons are not always counted in months, but often in years, decades, and lifetimes.

To reserve a plot for 2012 in the Walton Community Garden, or for more information, contact: rebamacmorg@hotmail.com.



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RAIN

By Bertha Rogers

I.

Late spring, precipitate summer,
long day’s end.
A roan doe coolly grazes,
her flank eclipsing twilight.

The old dog wakes,
pushes to the pane, barks once.

Meanwhile the cloud stalls—
moisture taps the night,
faint raiment draping roof.

Like a lost, limned drawing
we advance beneath our own matter,
waiting the sting of notice.

Meanwhile vapor continues.
The old dog moans.

Now the doe lifts her easy head,
glances at the glass,
and hoofs away. Now—
only the chiaroscuro of dusk.

II.

Great friendly beast,
large dog of the sky
hunkering down,
searching
some obscure, grounded cosmos.
He noses open his own door,
slips his collar,
sniffs the wide-open air,
ranges and ratchets
the streets
until he finds true happiness.
Then does the sainted beast’s
mouth open
on his glorious white teeth.

the world, he’d “end laziness.” But laziness is not the only contributor to inaction; rather, it reflects an absence of the motivation and passion that lead to action. Action follows caring as a further step, requiring commitment and sacrifice.

Plato the philosopher said, “The price of apathy towards public events is to be ruled by evil men.” As our survey showed, apathy is perceived as a serious contemporary problem. With regard to politics and those in charge of government, one called them an “important joke.” Another complained that it’s “no longer about the people,” but rather “the power and money.”

None the less, despite bad politics and a seemingly numb citizenry, the survey also offered windows of inspiration and hopeful ideas, plans and pursuits. Several people noted they would like to do something for their community, but did not know what or where to start. Others indicated that they would like to work in afterschool programs designed to educate, support, engage and encourage. Personally, I would like someday to set up a community garden or farm, involving multiple community organizations and institutions. Others reported that they are already actively involved in activities that

they believe important to their life, communities and futures. These ideas and activities, even those as yet unspecified, are reflective of visions of a better world.

One very interesting point is that all of these responses came in prior to the start of the Occupy Wall Street movement, so they were not influenced by all the (much deserved) publicity. This means that even the youth of Franklin, particularly those in their early-to-mid-twenties, do have their fingers on the pulse of the nation.

So, to the youth of Franklin who responded to the survey as well as those who may be reading this: I urge you to look around. While many of you feel that no one cares and no one acts, there are many who do. You do not have to yearn in isolation, searching for a path, for the rhythm and purpose of life. You are all companions on the same journey, with the same concerns and hopes for the future. Beware of becoming victims of apathetic beliefs and the negativity of naysayers. Press yourself to engage with others, both like-minded and otherwise. Discover how you may influence your world. Make the transition and capture your moment.

Dare to be great!



PEAK OIL FOCUS

REPORT FROM THE FRONT: SIDNEY TOWN BOARD PASSES LEATHER- STOCKING PIPELINE

Dysfunctional Democracy?

By Patricia Knapp-Tyrell

The issue of horizontal hydraulic fracturing is probably *the* hottest local topic in New York State right now, next to the ongoing Occupy Wall Street movement. And with good reason. Areas of New York, particularly along the Pennsylvania border, rest upon parts of the Marcellus Shale, which some pro-drilling advocates have referred to as the "Saudi Arabia of America." While there may be possible, if limited, economic advantages to horizontal hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" in our area, there are far more possibilities for danger and disaster.

As the threat looms over our own backyards here in Delaware County, it is easy to understand why people of all persuasions are ruffled and riled. Compounded by accusations of governmental incompetence and corruption, the recent decision by Town of Sidney officials on October 13th only increased speculation about the future role of natural gas in Sidney.

Now, those in charge of the October 13th meeting (i.e.- Supervisor Robert McCarthy and council) would have you believe that the recently approved fifty-year franchise and natural gas pipeline have nothing to do with anything more than Leatherstocking LLC bringing the good businesses and people of Sidney "cheap" energy at "no" cost to the tax payer. Doesn't this sound a little like one of those "too good to be true" notions? What can one really believe about the future role of natural gas in Sidney, based on the information provided by government and Leatherstocking LLC?

Well, it's hard to say. Leatherstocking LLC, a joint business venture between Corning Natural Gas and Mirabito, provided a public presentation to a packed meeting room during the August 11th Sidney Town Board meeting. At this meeting, Leatherstocking executives discussed the reasons for placing this pipeline in Sidney, provided pipe samples, explained Public Service Commission regulations, and took questions from the audience.

Both Town Supervisor Robert McCarthy and Leatherstocking stated that the main reason for bringing the pipeline to Sidney is to provide cheaper energy to major employers Amphenol and Mead

West Vaco. No representatives from either company were present at the meetings of August 11th or October 13th to provide confirmation or comment. McCarthy maintains his position despite Amphenol's potential move out of Sidney, due to major losses after catastrophic flooding in 2006 and 2011.

Both McCarthy and Leatherstocking executives asserted that the proposed pipeline had absolutely nothing to do with fracking. However, during the August 11th meeting, it was admitted that there were possible areas in Sidney, including one to the southeast of the village, that may accommodate horizontal fracking in the future. It is not a far stretch to imagine a distribution line being converted into a collection line, the moment fracking commences.

Neither Town Supervisor McCarthy

or Leatherstocking could or would pinpoint exactly where the pipeline would run, what particular residents might benefit from the venture, and what the pipeline's ultimate purpose would

be. As was true for many citizens at the August 11th meeting, it is difficult to understand how any entity can enter a fifty-year commitment without a physical blue-print for the "wheres", "whats", "whos" and "hows." Common sense says this is bad business.

So, why did Sidney Town officials rush a vote on October 13th to approve the pipeline despite public protest and requests to delay it? A good question, in light of other questions looming prior to this forced and controversial vote. For instance: If Amphenol is considering leaving Sidney because of floods - and we all know floods will happen there again - wouldn't it be more logical to wait to see if the company stays before we put a pipeline in for them? And where is Amphenol's public contribution to this whole conversation, anyway?

At the October 13th meeting, Friends of Sustainable Sidney presented to the Town Board approximately 1,264 signatures on a petition against the Leatherstocking pipeline and heavy industrialization, albeit after the vote (which was called earlier than its scheduled place in the meeting agenda). Yet this strong show of public opinion met with little more than the sigh required to receive and set them aside.

After witnessing the August 11th mockery of democracy, and then hearing and reading about - and watching - the atrocities of the October 13th meeting, I ask: Why wouldn't I, or anyone else, believe that fracking is just that much more closer to threatening my home, my children and my life?

Patricia Knapp-Tyrell is a native of Franklin, and an advocate for sustainable and healthy communities.



Xander and Corbin Tyrell

Photo by the author

THE PEAK OIL BOOKSHELF

THE END OF GROWTH: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality

By **Richard Heinberg**
New Society Publishers, 2011

Reviewed by Gene Marner

When we discuss Peak Oil, we tend to frame the discussion around energy scarcity. It might be better to think of the Fossil Fuel Age as a temporary energy flood, a great glut of energy resources that has allowed us to overshoot the carrying capacity of the earth in both population size and resource consumption. As we slow down and move towards sustainability, relocalization, and de-mechanization, we shall have to learn again to live with the rhythm of the seasons and of daylight. Richard Heinberg's new book, **THE END OF GROWTH: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality**, offers precisely the sort of big picture understanding that we need in order to envision the transition without panic and fear.

"Economic growth as we have known it is over and done with," he asserts in his introduction. "There are three primary factors that stand firmly in [its] way: the depletion of important resources including fossil fuels and minerals; the proliferation of negative environmental impacts arising from both the extraction and use of resources (including the burning of fossil fuels)...; financial disruptions due to the inability

of our monetary, banking, and investment systems to adjust to both resource scarcity and soaring environmental costs..."

Heinberg is an interesting man. Without ever graduating from college, he became a member of the core faculty of New College of California at Santa Rosa and one of the world's foremost educators on the subject of Peak Oil and its probable consequences. Heinberg has studied widely and deeply. In this book, he helps us to understand our present circumstances in the context of history and of human nature and culture. Unlike our politicians, TV pundits and economic commentators, most of whom are at pains to peddle the delusion that growth will return, Heinberg is not selling anything, but only trying to help us understand our world. A wry and often funny stylist, Heinberg is a passionately curious man who cares deeply about the fate of the planet and of his fellow humans.

After explaining clearly and convincingly why economic growth will not be returning, and instead, what we now call economic life will be contracting for a very long time, Heinberg turns to the question of what to do about it.

He warns that "Many people assume that solving our problems means being able to continue doing what we are doing now. Yet it is what we are doing now that is creating our problems...All of the solu-

See **REVIEW**, continued on Page 7

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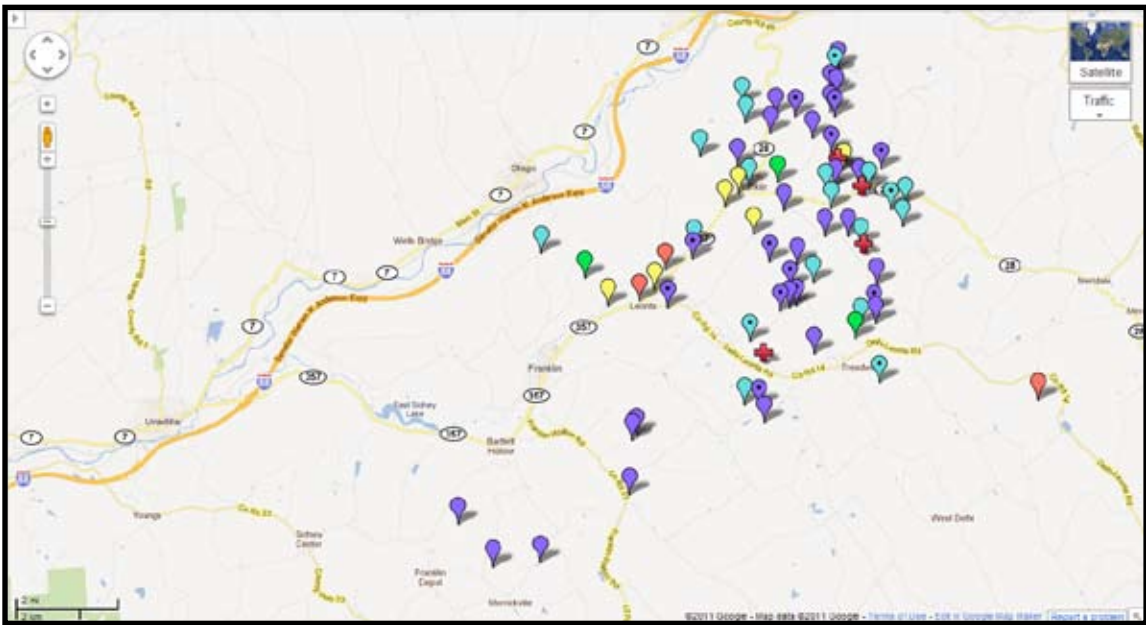
visit my web site at www.heathenhillyoga.net

Franklin Lease Map

The location of 67 gas leases in and around Franklin are marked with tabs. They range from 6 to 450 acres and total 7,876 acres or 12.3 sq mi -- 15% of our town. Five abandoned gas wells are marked with crosses, although the northern two overlap. In our part of Delaware County, most of the leases and wells are in Franklin, and most of those are in the northern third of the township.

An interactive version of this map is available at:<http://tinyurl.com/c6mqngn>. Clicking on a marker shows the specifics of each lease. Almost every lease was signed between 2001 and 2004 for a ten year period, and thus could soon be subject to termination.

A more detailed map is being prepared that shows the boundaries of each lease.



REVIEW, continued from Page 6

tions to our growth-based problems involve some form of self-restraint. That’s why most of those solutions remain just good ideas.” What Heinberg is saying is that the game of running up ever more private and public debt while creating ever worse environmental damage cannot continue. The self-restraint he calls for is the same we teach our children, yet sadly seem to lack as a society. Fantasies of keeping the game going by such loony schemes as poisoning our water forever in order to extract a few years of natural gas will be familiar to upstate readers. “The sustainability revolution will occur,” he continues. “The depletion of nonrenewable resources ensures that humankind will eventually base its economy on renewable resources harvested at rates of natural replenishment. But that revolution will be driven by crisis... [So,] how should we be preparing?”

In 2005, Heinberg came to Oneonta to speak at Hartwick College about a subject that was then more obscure than it is today: Peak Oil. At the time, crude oil was trading for \$63 a barrel and we were paying about \$2.50 a gallon for gasoline. The point of Heinberg’s Hartwick talk was to alert his audience to the fact that

global oil production would soon reach a peak and, not long thereafter, would begin to decline. That prediction was soon confirmed. We now know that conventional oil (like the cheap and easy stuff that used to come from Texas, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and the North Sea) peaked in 2005-2006 and that all fuel liquids (including deep-sea, oil sands, natural gas liquids, etc.) peaked in 2008. The market turmoil that has ensued had been predicted by oil industry observers, among them Heinberg in his 2003 book **THE PARTY’S OVER: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies**.

Of course, political and economic factors beyond the simple geological availability of oil affect the price: hoarders hoard, speculators speculate, important stuff gets blown up in wars, economic activity expands and contracts. The inescapable reality, however, is that we live on a finite planet with only so much stuff on it, every bit of which has limits.

“We can survive the end of growth, and perhaps thrive beyond it, but only if we recognize it for what it is and act accordingly,” writes Heinberg.

This book can help us to do just that.

REGS, continued from Page 1

Back in the 1980s, the DMN was required to write the GEIS by passage of the State Environmental Quality Review Act in 1978. In 2008, the act setting the size of drilling units for the Marcellus shale was passed without a SGEIS. At the time, the DMN assured the state legislature that “adequate state regulatory programs [are] already in place.” The DMN undertook writing the SGEIS only after Governor Paterson demanded it, imposing an informal moratorium until it was completed.

The SEQR Act provides that a government agency can attach conditions to a permitted action. For example, to accommodate a particular problem. Since 1986, the DMN has issued no regulations applicable to the gas industry statewide but instead attached a growing list of such conditions to each and every drilling permit issued for individual wells.

From the public’s perspective, regulations are much better than permit conditions for overseeing the oil and gas industry. Preliminary regulations are reviewed in public hearings before they are adopted; permit conditions are not. Final regulations are all published in New York State Codes, Rules, and Regulations. Again, permit conditions are not. Existing regulations can only be changed with public review – not so, with permit conditions. Industry and the DMN may prefer permit conditions for these very reasons.

On the DEC website, scattered permit conditions are posted, but nothing like a comprehensive list. With permit conditions, the public can not be sure what is being required of industry, nor can we judge how successful the DMN has been in protecting our environment.

State regulation is vitally

important. State statute preempts local governments from any regulation of the operation of the oil and gas industry under Environmental Conservation Law Article 23, Section 0303(2). Most shocking of all, federal statutes exempt the oil and gas industry from federal regulation by part or all of numerous statutes including the Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Resource Conservation & Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, & Liability (Superfund) Act, and Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act. Therefore, state regulation is virtually all that’s left to protect us from the oil and gas industry -- and that is the way the industry wants it: a letter of September 2nd from the Independent Oil and Gas Association of New York to the DEC requests that the status quo continue without new regulations.

How effective has the DMN been with this hybrid application of older regulations and newer permit conditions? No one knows, at least not outside of the DMN and industry. Although both claim an excellent environmental record, neither presents data either to support those claims or to refute the many public complaints.

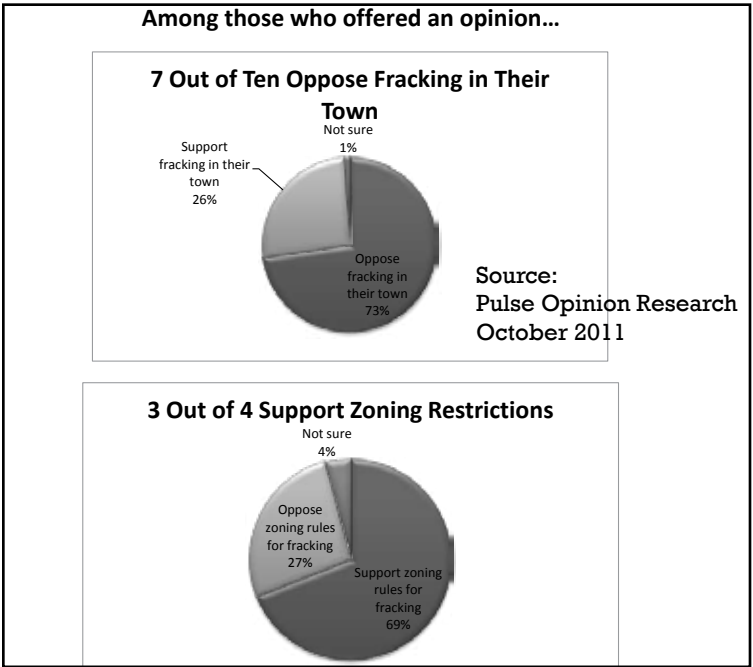
The DMN publishes an annual report of several dozen pages. Nowhere within that sea of statistics is even a mention of incidents of oil and gas pollution that year. The DMN has records of responses to “non-routine incidents,” but attempts to obtain copies under the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) have been rejected because the records are “on paper in dead storage and impractical to retrieve,” according to the Office of the General Council. By contrast, the DMN maintains searchable

databases, accessible on the internet, for wells, formations, fields, production, companies, and transfers. (Ironically, this Risk-Based Data Management System was financed by DOE through the Ground Water Protection Council to protect and conserve underground sources of drinking water.) While the most recent annual report (2009) cites \$40,000 in fines -- in an industry that grosses a hundred million in New York -- it lists neither what incidents caused these fines nor which companies were responsible.

The DEC maintains a database of all reports to its spill hotline. Since 1978, there have been over 350,000 reports. The DMN has never issued a compilation of incidents caused by the oil and gas industry. An environmental consulting firm, Toxics Targeting, has done a search of those spill reports and found 270, and that search did not include the early years, 1978 to 1985. There are more than a dozen reports of aquifers polluted by oil or gas since 1985 - when regulations were last revised – even though the DMN insists this has never occurred.

On October 28th, the DEC finally released proposed regulations to codify the SGEIS -- there was no mention of them in the initial draft of 2009. (DEC is holding hearings on these proposed regulations before finalizing the SGEIS on which they are based.) These new regulations should have encompassed the guidelines of the earlier GEIS as well. Exactly when the regulations will be finalized is unstated. But unless regulations are finalized before the rigs begin to drill, as it has been, so it will continue to be: we may never see those necessary regulations, and will be left with scant protection against the industry.

DELAWARE COUNTY FRACKING POLL



HAVE YOU BEEN *FLEASED*? Lessons in dumping your gas lease

By Ellen Harrison

Do you have a gas lease or are you considering signing one?

Many landholders in New York have entered into gas leases, usually without fully understanding how those leases affect their property rights. Certainly, when my husband and I signed a lease in 2008, despite having consulted an attorney, we had no idea what we were signing away.

Based on the information presented by the landman who came to our door, we pictured "old-fashioned" gas development, not the vastly higher-impact new methods of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," as it has come to be known. Realizing that many people were in the same situation, I started Fleased, to provide a voice for landholders who leased mineral rights before Marcellus (and Utica) shale gas exploitation was known about.

Most of us find it very painful to examine our lease. As an environmental scientist, I feel ashamed to have signed it. But the landman was trained in how to dupe

a landholder, and he did a good job. He didn't tell us about the heavy industrial activity that would go on for years. He didn't tell us that they would be using toxic and hazardous chemicals and would be pumping them into the ground. He didn't tell us that the lease gives the gas company the right to use any part of our property and trumps our own rights to use our land. He didn't tell us that we were violating the terms of our mortgage by signing the lease. He didn't tell us that the industrial activity and use of hazardous chemicals means that our homeowner's insurance is no longer valid.

People wanting to sell or buy leased properties are having trouble getting mortgages or loans. Banks are concerned about the value of the property. They are also concerned about their ability to sell the mortgage on the secondary mortgage market, since that market requires a distance of at least 200 feet between any structure on the property and any drilling activity. Most leases don't provide for that. Neither do the current or proposed rules for drilling in

New York State. Landholders subject to compulsory integration (whereby the government forces a landholder to sell their gas and to allow drilling and fracking under their land) may also be subject to those constraints if a drill hole extends under their property.

Some leases are expiring. Check your lease carefully. Many have a primary term of 5 years and then an extension clause that gives the gas company the right to renew for another 3 or 5 years by simply sending a check. Examine the terms of the lease to see if yours contains such a clause.

Some gas companies have been sending "force majeure" letters, claiming that the moratorium on fracking established by the Governor's executive order allows them to extend the lease. For various reasons, many lawyers believe that these claims are bogus, but landholders receiving such a letter do need to respond, telling the gas company that they dispute the claim (a template letter and instructions are available at fleased.org).

If you have not received a *force majeure* letter and you are at the end of any primary or renewal term, you might think you are

free and clear. Not so. Under state law (GENERAL OBLIGATIONS LAW § 15-304), the gas companies are supposed to clear your title, filing notice in the land records at the county clerk's office. However, because there is no penalty if they fail to do this, it doesn't happen. That leaves it up to the landholder, who can either do nothing - which leaves a cloud on the title - or go through a lengthy process. First, you need to find out who currently owns your lease, by going to the county land records. The gas company is not required to tell you when they sell or "assign" your lease. For instance, in addition to a gas company, 8 individual investors currently own my lease. The landholder then must write a certified letter to *each owner*, stating the facts and asserting that the lease has come to an end. The gas company and investors then have 30 days to disagree. If they don't contest it, the landholder can file an affidavit at the clerk's office and clear the title. If they do contest it, the landholder must go to court. An informational packet put together by an attorney working through GDACC (Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County) spells

all this out and is available at fleased.org.

Some people whose leases are expiring may be tempted to negotiate a new lease, since the money being offered is far greater than what was offered several years ago. Having become familiar with the gas company power and tactics, I don't think there's a way to outsmart them. But some landowner coalitions are trying to develop leases that pay more money and address some of the negative impacts to the landholder.

What can you do if your lease is not expiring soon? Let Governor Cuomo know your concerns. Or send comments about the draft SGEIS (supplemental generic environmental impact statement on gas drilling) to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, telling them it is does not protect your land and or your health. Write to Attorney General Schneiderman to let him know you were misled. Band together with others through Fleased. **Our email address is: fleasedny@gmail.com. Our website is fleased.org.**

Ellen Harrison is an environmental scientist and founder of Fleased.

(WEIRD) TALES OF ALBANY

By Brian Brock

Once upon a time in the far kingdom of Albany, the Division of Mineral Resources was required to write a guidance document on how to drill safely: the GEIS of 1992. (From its beginning, DMN had been charged with only maximizing production, minimizing waste, and protecting the rights of lease holders and land owners.) However, they were not required to write regulations based on this guidance document, and none made it into the code books: the New York Code, Rules, and Regulations.

Research by this newspaper found in the response by DMN to a questionnaire of 2009, a mention that these regulations were in fact written but never finalized. Further, DMN stated that these proposed regulations were the basis of public hearings -- actually informal workshops in October 1997. Therefore, they are part of the public record and should be available.

Unfortunately bureaucracies do not readily give up information, and you are rarely successful simply asking for their files. Requests from this newspaper to DMN have never been successful. Fortunately in New York State, there is a formal procedure under the Freedom of Information Law. So The New Franklin Register submitted a

request to the Record Access Officer. Under the law, response is required in ten business days. The DMN, claiming that it was busy writing the SGEIS, delayed their response for two months.

Then with only two days before their belated deadline, they denied the request, saying only that it was not public record but "intra-agency materials." Fortunately FOIL provides for an appeal. The Appeals Officer was able to compel from DMN an explanation for their denial. According to them, they searched high and low, but not one copy could be found. All that remained was a copy of revisions of these proposed regulations from 2000, possibly a draft -- hence "intra-agency materials."

Here the tale gets hard to believe. Granted that the DMN moved its offices in 2001, when much was discarded. And yes, staff have retired since 1997. Nevertheless, these proposed regulations were no minor memo. The purpose of the GEIS, which took several years to complete, was to establish safe drilling practices. Public workshops based on these proposed regulations were held in three cities, requiring stacks of copies. And the permit condition, that were substituted for formal regulations, must have been based on them.

See TALES, con't on Page 15



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**Gas and Oil Leases
Impact on Residential Lending**
by Greg May
VP – Residential Mortgage Lending Tompkins Trust Company

March 24, 2011

NOTICE
The information in this presentation is general in nature and is to be used only for informational purposes.

Consult with a Real Estate Attorney to address specific issues as they relate to a specific property or lease.

No opinion is being expressed or implied on the practice of leasing mineral rights, environmental impact or regulations surrounding gas and oil leases.

Summary Points

- 1) There is not a cost effective or reliable way to determine if a residential property has a gas lease to allow an Appraiser to establish an appraised value. Title examinations of each property would add significant cost to each transaction in NYS.
- 2) Surface or sub surface rights within 200 feet of a residential structure would not be acceptable for conventional financing in the Secondary market.
- 3) NYS title insurance gas endorsements specifically void title insurance coverage if the premises are used for any commercial venture.
- 4) Lenders are responsible to warrant several items to the investor in the Secondary market that can not be done leaving lenders with significant liability.
- 5) NYS licensed Appraisers are not able to consider the impact on value if a gas lease exists as noted it item #1 above and hence their Appraisals would not meet Secondary market requirements.
- 6) Surface or sub surface rights within 300 feet of a residential structure OR within 300 feet of property boundary lines would not be acceptable for FHA (Department of HUD) financing.

Gas and Oil Leases as they relate to Residential Lending
Greg May, VP, Residential Mortgage Lending – Tompkins Trust Company
March 24, 2011

1 of 4

No opinion is being expressed or implied on the practice of leasing mineral rights, environmental impact or regulations surrounding gas and/or oil leases (referred to as gas leases or leases hereafter) by Tompkins Trust Company or myself. The issues listed are summarized to highlight potential conflicts for residential mortgage lending in an effort to facilitate consideration of these issues.

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LAND GRAB FOR GAS

TAXPAYERS SET UP FOR FRACKING FALL-OUT

By Elisabeth N. Radow

Reprinted with permission of *The Sound & Town Report*, Marquette, NY

Stormy waters are brewing. It begins in upstate New York and could spill over into the rest of the state, and across the country.

The storm has its source in residential “fracking” – high-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing for natural gas under people’s homes. Gas drilling companies, which covet the underground gas deposits in New York’s Marcellus Shale, have executed an aggressive land grab for gas leases across the state’s Southern Tier from unsuspecting homeowners for the purpose of fracking. Dangling promises of royalties that can go unfilled, the leasing brokers fail to inform homeowners of the heavy industrial, uninsurable risks fracking en-

tails. Based on decades of conventional vertical drilling, homeowners signed preprinted lease agreements without negotiation. Today, these homeowners are trapped indefinitely by leases that give strangers free rein to take over their property while relinquishing basic home ownership benefits they once took for granted.

Since upstate homeowners did not know about the hazards of fracking when they signed the gas leases, it did not occur to them to check their mortgage. Home mortgage loans prohibit heavy industrial activity and hazardous materials on the property. Fracking brings both.

The mortgaged property needs to stay safe and uncontaminated because lenders sell 90 percent of all home mortgage loans to the secondary mortgage market in exchange for funds to make new home loans. Gas leases allow gas companies to truck in tankers with chemicals, transport flammable gas and toxic waste, operate heavy equipment 24/7 and store

gas underground, for years, all in a person’s backyard.

Gas leases also create easements which continue after the gas company leaves, with no long-term funds for upkeep. Gas drillers can sell the lease to anyone they choose without telling the homeowner, so there’s no way for a family to control who comes onto their property to drill or the quality of the work they perform. Homeowner’s insurance doesn’t cover the types of industrial risks fracking brings and neither does the gas lease. Homeowners can get slammed with risks for the dangerous activity they don’t even control.

Environmental scientist Ellen Harrison, for example, signed a gas lease in 2008 for her home in Tompkins County, then discovered that she had jeopardized the safety of her home, her family’s health, and the very property values that were the financial foundation of their existence. The lease broker made no mention of fracking, which news reports blame for methane leaks, chemical spills, blowouts, and more. The result is to send property values crashing. Since homeown-

er’s insurance doesn’t cover casualties from fracking, Harrison would have to successfully sue the gas company, a burden few homeowners can financially or mentally handle.

Plus, legal loopholes might let the gas company off the hook. Industrial-sized risks are so expensive, even gas companies can’t get fully insured for them. Residential fracking brings heavy industrial risks and the ripple effects could be of hurricane proportions. As fracking spreads across 34 shale-rich states, the \$6.7 trillion secondary mortgage market – which holds 90 percent of the nation’s home mortgage debt – could get left bearing the liability; American taxpayers are next in line.

Armed with new resolve in the wake of the last mortgage meltdown and common sense lending guidelines, a growing number of banks won’t give new mortgage loans on homes with gas leases because they don’t meet secondary mortgage market guidelines. This is so even before the drilling begins. As a result, homeowners with a gas lease can be out of luck selling

their homes since the lease impacts stick with the property. Banks wouldn’t lend to their buyer either. The impact of this perfect storm falls not only on homeowners and taxpayers but also affects the banking, housing, insurance and secondary mortgage market interests and their investors. New construction, the sign of economic recovery, won’t start where residential fracking goes on, because construction loans require a property to be free of the very risks that gas drilling brings.

For all New Yorkers seeking the return of a healthy state economy, this shift of drilling risks from the gas companies to the housing sector, homeowners and taxpayers begs for immediate attention.

Elisabeth Radow, Esq practices law in White Plains, NY. Radow chairs the statewide League of Women Voters’ hydraulic fracturing committee. Radow’s in-depth article on this topic appears as the cover story of the November/December issue of the New York State Bar Association-NYS-BA Journal Magazine.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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THE CHRISTMAS STROLL

By Kim Hyzer

Christmas is coming, and the recent snow proved it!

This year's Christmas Stroll will be Saturday, Dec. 10. We have these events planned so far, and are working on more:

11 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. Grandma's Pantry at the Methodist Church, corner of Main and Water Streets. Soup and sandwich lunch, homemade crafts, baked goods, homemade candy and gently loved treasures.

2 – 7 P.M. Several houses will be open for touring: \$6 per person or \$12 for a family of up to 4. You must have a map to see the houses. Maps may be purchased at the Fire House after 1:45 P.M.

1– 6 P.M. A Christmas Market of local farmers and craft vendors will be held in the Fire House.

In the afternoon the Community Bible Church on Center St. will perform a live nativity. Come take part in the Christmas Story!

4 – 7 P.M. The Senior Class will be hosting a lasagna dinner at the school: \$7.50/adult, \$4.00/children



Guess who's already got the Christmas spirit? Photo by John Cronk

under 12. This year they will also be having a Chinese auction.

6:15 P.M. Tree lighting in the Village Park, which will be decorated for Christmas. Santa will arrive to greet the children, who are invited afterwards to the Fire House with Santa and Mrs. Claus for free pictures, as well as a craft and snack program.

A Christmas Shop of hand crafted jewelry and homemade Christmas articles will be open at Monica Wilber's (154 Main Street).

Hometown Pizza will be offering a couple of different dinner specials.

The Railroad Museum will host an open house during the Stroll.

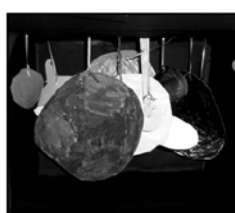
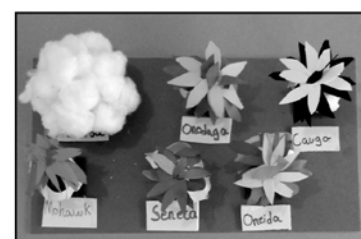
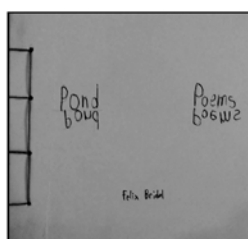
If you have something you would like to present for the day, please call Kim at 829-8820.

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94 Church Street, Treadwell, NY

How Looking Becomes Seeing II



Bright Hill Literary Workshops for Kids
Museum Program 2011 Exhibit
November 13 - December 16



Opening Reception
Sunday,
November 13
2 - 4 PM



Bright Hill Literary Center's Literary Workshops for Kids Museum Program 2011 & Exhibit are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; A. Lindsay & Olive B. O'Connor Foundation; Otis A. Thompson Foundation; Tiansderrah Foundation; A. C. Molinari Foundation, Delaware Youth Bureau, Stewart's Shops, & BHLIC members & donors.

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UpState Arts

By Christopher Lloyd Wright

What is art? A frequently asked question. But better to ask: what is art to you?

If the history of art teaches us anything, it is that art can be just about anything. For example, I would not apply the same definition to Leonardo Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Duchamp's *Fountain* (a urinal signed by Marcel Duchamp's alias, R.Mutt). A central difference between these two works is the artist's motivation.

We don't know the whole story of Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, but we do know he thought out all his work meticulously, through many drawings and studies. Duchamp's *Fountain* also had a lot of thought behind it, but with a very different intention. The *Fountain* was part of Duchamp's *Ready-Made* series, in which he took everyday objects, like a shovel or a urinal, signed them and exhibited them as art works. His intention was to challenge the art world and the classic definitions of what is art.

Must art always carry a message to make it art? Certainly, a work of art can be more interesting when there is a story to go along with it. But in my own work, what matters most is the feeling I get from it, sometimes just a mood, other times an idea I wanted to work out on canvas. As an artist, I strive to be original without distancing myself from my inspi-

ration. I make a point of leaving clues about what got me to pick up the paint brush into the first place. It can be as complicated as an orchestra, or simple as a glance, but like so many artists before me, I draw much of my inspiration from the human form. I don't see my art as controversial, nor do I intend it to be. Yet here in our rural area of central New York, many consider my work to be exactly that. Can it be that the nude in art is still a taboo in rural America?

Nearly half my work depicts the nude human form, therefore half my work is not allowed into our local places of exhibition. For centuries, male and female nudes have inspired celebrated works of art throughout the world, yet for most of rural America, the nude in art has been shunned or prohibited.

Why is the human body considered objectionable? Art that uses nudity for shock value can indeed be offensive, and yet, it has a place, even if not for the general public or this particular debate. My real concern is with the classic nude, with depicting the human form as beautiful and intriguing. One of the main arguments against the nude is that children will see it, and somehow be corrupted by the sight of the natural human form. By this prohibition, during the most impressionable years of their lives, rural American chil-

See UpState, con't on Page 15

AT THE LIBRARY

MOONWALKING WITH EINSTEIN: *The Art and Science of Remembering Everything*
By Joshua Foer

At an event called the USA Memory Championship where memory “athletes” compete by reciting three pages of single-spaced random numbers that they have only studied for an hour or by repeating the order of a shuffled deck of cards they have only seen once, magazine writer Joshua Foer asked the win-



Joshua Foer

ner what it was like to be a genius. The guy protested that he was not a genius, that anyone could learn the tricks of having a super memory. A year later, 24 year-old Joshua won the USA Memory Championship using the techniques his new friends had taught him. This is the story of how he did it - the title of the book is one of the tricks - and how it works. For each chapter on his progress, there is a matching chapter on the psychology and science of memory written in a friendly, colloquial style that is the opposite of a lecture. Why, he wonders at one point, are they not teaching these techniques to students in our schools? We tell kids to study but we don't teach them how to study. I wish I'd read a book like this when I was in high school. I might have graduated.



THE INFORMATION: *A History, A Theory, A Flood*
By James Gleick

This is the biography of information -- how it is made, stored, transmitted and used from pre-history to today. It goes from send-

ing messages on African tribal drums to storing our digital lives in the Cloud. It covers semaphores, code breaking, transistors, flash drives and everything in between -- even our human selves. It seems we humans are made of information, our DNA is simply (or complexly) the coded information that tells our dividing cells to become our individual selves. And what is all this information doing to us? An iPod can hold 5,000 songs. Are there 5,000 songs worth listening

to? Add to that Craig's List, Google, Facebook, Twitter, eBay, time-shifting DVRs, iPads and smart phones--and it's a wonder we can move through all the information we have hoarded. *The Information* is also a wonderful biography of all the tinkerers, thinkers, philosophers, inventors and scientists who made the leaps and jumps that got us from words to word processors, from letters to emails, from smoke signals to the Kindle Fire.



LIFE
By Keith Richards

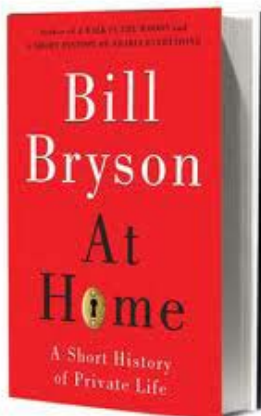
Keef will turn 68 in December. It's all that clean living, I guess. Not that he doesn't have any bad habits. Throughout the book he casually refers to women as “bitches,” he sleeps with a gun under his pillow and he is under the impression that he is a large black man. Then it starts to get weird. He and Mick haven't spoken in twenty years except to write songs whenever they need to raise some quick cash. Accidental tidbit: it seems that most of the time, Keith writes the music and Mick writes the

JIM MULLEN
reviews new **BOOKS**

lyrics. What else? They all hated Brian Jones because he was a girlfriend-beating, needy, selfish, egotistical piece of excrement. Manager Allen Klein ripped them off. Bill Wyman quit because he was afraid of flying. Fifty percent of the book is about rehab and re-getting hooked, with many police raids thrown in for good measure. Funniest line: “I don't have a drug problem, I have a police problem.” He'll out-live us all.

AT HOME
By Bill Bryson

Humorist and professional explainer of almost everything Bill Bryson here tackles the history of his own home, an English rectory, and how it, and



everything in it, came to be. It is a primer on winning “Trivial Pursuit, Who Invented the Fork Edition” as no detail of domestic life goes undocumented. He explains why it wasn't as churlish as it sounds for Shakespeare to will his wife “his second-best bed.” It is fascinating to learn that there used to be a tax on windows in England, keeping them tiny until the Royal Family found easier ways to steal from their subjects - like, say, the Stamp Act. He includes a massive chapter on the history of landscape gardening and tells the story of why we all put salt and pepper on our tables rather than salt and cinnamon, or some other combination of spices. There's nothing short about this book except the title, but it is an entertaining reminder that most common things, the chair we sit in, the desk we sit at, the carpets we walk on, the paint on our walls did not just magically appear with Adam and Eve - we had to invent them.

Jim Mullen gets all the books he reviews from the Franklin Free Library.

THE FLATLANDER DIARIES FALL 2011

By Sunny Hill

Closing up the summer home is a sad and painful annual ritual. The veteran Flatlander knows how to drain the pipes and fill sink traps with RV anti-freeze. Rookies should avoid making fatal mistakes which result in the all too familiar frustration of burst pipes. Using a compressor to blow out the pipes prevents those pesky little puddles of water from forming in their winter hiding place, such as shower faucets.

If you have a 2-cycle engine, like your weed-eater, chain saw, lawn mower, or even your ATV, you either drain all the gas or fill it up with a gas stabilizer. Some add gas stabilizer agent directly into the gas can. Steve at Hodges Outdoor Power Equipment in Walton uses a new gas stabilizing product, just out this year. It is a clear or blue enzyme that helps protect the neoprene carburetors' fuel ejectors, thus avoiding costly repairs.

What's the secret to keeping mice from nesting in your air filters? Moth balls? Cloves? A sign that reads: “Beware...hungry cat!” One solution to your motorcycle or snow mobile

storage problem it to drop it off at Klinger's in Walton. Klinger's stores your bike and charges your battery for a reasonable fee.

Pack up the clothes, the food, the furniture. Board windows, cover the garden, fence the rhododendrons, clean the refrigerator and say farewell to your Catskill friends before heading south for the winter. We all have our check-out lists, but there is always something new to add to it. Pause and ask yourself, “Did I forget anything?” Don't worry. By the time you lock up the house, lock your gate and give your mail a last check, you will remember.

Surprisingly, Winter came about two weeks too early this year, with a four inch snowfall. It was fun looking at the small animal tracks and seeing where the deer come and go to. With most of the leaves off the trees, we get a glimpse of what the inner forest life is like.

The last drive home of the season. Making plans for our winter. We may travel to some strange far off place for Winter break, but nothing feels like our second home in Franklin. It was a great year 2011, but 2012 will be even better!

A Chamber Christmas

Mark the start of the holiday season in Franklin on the first Saturday of December, the 3rd. At 6 P.M., the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce will host their annual lighting of the **Christmas tree** on the front lawn of the United Methodist Church. Following carols, Santa Claus will visit Dawn's Deli, across Main Street, with hot chocolate and cookies for all.

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pet talk

By Dr. Joan Puritz, DVM

Hello, readers.
No one has written in with questions this time, so I have decided to answer a question that I encounter frequently in my office, one you all may be wondering about: why do animal get cancer?

The answer is both easy and difficult. Cancer is not restricted to human beings. As a disease it is indiscriminate and unbiased when it comes to affecting different species. None of our beloved pets are immune but dogs bear the brunt of the disease, being affected by tumors twice as often as people. Cats on the other hand develop tumors only half as frequently as humans. Cancer occurs most often in older pets and is



in fact the leading cause of death among cats and dogs. If you suspect that your pet has cancer, it is vital to get him or her to a vet immediately. The earlier the cancer is detected, the earlier treatment can begin and the better are the chances of survival.

Cancer can be difficult to detect in animals, especially as they can't describe their pain or show you exactly where it is. Here are 10 of the most common

signs to look out for:

- 1) Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
- 2) Sores that don't heal
- 3) Weight loss
- 4) Loss of appetite
- 5) Bleeding or discharge from any orifice
- 6) Offensive odor (not normal pet odor)
- 7) Difficulty eating or swallowing,
- 8) Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina, that is not laziness or due to heat
- 9) Persistent lameness or stiffness and
- 10) Difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating.

Should you see any of these signs, you should take your pet to a vet straight away so that the correct tests can be carried out and a diagnosis can be made.

Animals get many of the same types of cancers as we do. They even get

breast cancer, although spaying your female pets when they're between the ages of 6-12 months significantly decreases their risk. Breast cancer is also one case where cats are more at risk than dogs, with more 85% of all tumors being malignant in cats and only 50% malignant in dogs. Skin tumors are very common in dogs but quite rare in cats. However, in the case of cats, skin tumors are more often than not malignant, while in dogs they are benign. The treatment for animals with cancer is the same as that for people and includes surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, cryosurgery (freezing), hyperthermia (heating), or immunotherapy. Treatment will depend on the type of cancer, its severity, and the breed of dog/cat and its size, but also on you,

the owner, and on what you want to do. I hope this information is helpful to you and your pet.

Another subject I would like to bring up is animal overpopulation. As you all probably know, there are too many cats and dogs being born every year, without enough homes to go around. Just about everyone I know has had a stray cat turn up on their doorstep or barn. Animal shelters are full to overflowing and the only answer is to have all animals spayed or neutered before they breed accidentally. So, if you find a stray, get it spayed or neutered before you find it a home. If everyone got the neighborhood stray cat spayed or neutered, there would be much less of a problem than there is now.

Thank you and have a great winter.

THE GARDEN GATE

By Penelope R. King

What a year we've had! No frost since April 16th, until mid-October. Tons of rain. Not very hot.

These conditions have resulted in a banner year for perennials and an almost scary year for apples. I have two clients who have had limbs break off their apples trees, as the branches are so loaded with fruit. I had to remove half the apples from one branch to get it up off a shade garden beneath it. The wild critters will have plenty to eat this winter. Never seen anything like it.

Yesterday I went for a walk and took a bite from an apple on every wild apple tree in my path. Over half of them tasted good. Remember that each apple seed produces a brand new type of tree, so every apple tree could be the next winner. Most of the famous varieties in our markets today were discovered by browsers like us, and then reproduced by grafting (and now cloning). So take an apple walk this fall.

If you have the room in your freezer or are a canner, this is the year for making apple sauce. I am going out today to buy containers so I can freeze some apple sauce for the winter.

Though we have had a cool and rainy fall, most of us still had perennials blooming in mid-October, which is really unusual and very lovely. I have had three flushes of flowers on my perennial Bachelor But-

tons (*Centaurea Montana*). I never had that before. If you like them, toss some spent blossoms ready to drop seeds into the rough around your yard. They may take hold and grow right there in the weeds. So will Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis*), the wild perennial that blooms in phlox-like drifts all over our area in late spring. In the bulb department, as long as the ground hasn't frozen, you can still plant spring-flowering bulbs, but plant them deeper than recommended so they can grow roots before it gets too cold.

Re-edge and clean out your flower beds if you haven't done so already. They will look more crisp during the winter. While you are at it, make a list of all the changes you want to make next year. That way you won't forget your ideas over the cold months and will be ready to begin moving plants around when it warms in spring. If you have planted evergreens or have good looking rocks in the garden, you will have "winter interest." What do you need to add to the garden next year to improve your winter interest?

Your vegetable gardens should be cleared by now, except for those edibles you are trying to save for late eating. You can keep kale and parsley and even beets and carrots for a while by tucking straw around them and lightly over them. Brussels sprouts need a few frosts to turn sweet, so you can still be eating them in November, weather permitting.

Now is the time to prune

maples and birches as they will bleed in the late winter or spring when you will be pruning most woodies.

The holidays will be upon us before you know it: time to think about decorating. Fill window boxes or decorative pots with a mixture of evergreens found in our area. Add color using seed heads from Sumac and evergreen cones. Wire some onto twigs to add height for a better display. Add some Teasel seed heads as well. It grows wild all over our area in waste places and has large thistle-like heads. If you are so inclined, you can spray paint the heads silver or gold, and add painted twigs from birches as well. If you have Winterberries in your landscape, add some of them to the mix. Don't use Hemlock branches, though, as the needles fall off rapidly. Use local holly rather than store bought, since that comes from the South and will turn black with the cold.

In the live plant department, make sure you protect any plants from the cold by keeping your car warm and wrapping plants up well during transport across cold parking lots. Be careful with Poinsettias as their branches are very brittle and break off easily. Any blooming plant is festive and makes a great gift. Start planting forced bulbs like paper-white narcissi immediately as they take 6-10 weeks to bloom and Christmas is just a few weeks away.

I wish you a safe, warm, loving holiday season and sweet dreams of next year's gardening season.



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The Elijah Thomas Gallery
Delaware County Historical Association

All the Good Dogs
Dogs' Lives in Delaware County
Images & Words in Two & Three Dimensions

An Exhibit by Bertha Rogers

Saturday, December 3, 2011 - Friday, January 27, 2012
Museum / Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm
Opening Reception
With Reading & Dog Discussion (Dogs Welcome!)
Saturday, December 10, 2 - 4 pm

DCHA Museum
46549 State Highway 10, Delhi, NY 13753
607-746-3849 - dcha@delhi.net; www.dcha-ny.org

This exhibit was made possible in part by funding from The New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered in Delaware County by The Roxbury Arts Group and with support from DCHA. Bertha Rogers's Reading was made possible in part with funding from Poets & Writers, Inc., & DCHA.



DILEMMA, continued from Page 1

local law, to protect our infrastructure from potential damage from increased use of our highways. We have also formed a committee to work on a comprehensive plan for the future of our town that will hopefully incorporate the protections that gas drilling may require.

Drilling is heavy industry. This is something even the proponents of drilling admit. How this is handled by a town *before* it happens may be crucial to how the long range effects are dealt with. No doubt, there will be property owners who will profit from drilling, but a town must do some soul searching to decide if a minority of the population of their town, even if they own a majority of the land and pay taxes accordingly, are going to be fully accommodated.

Recently, I attended the hearings held by the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation in Albany. There committee members had an opportunity to question a number of highly qualified individuals, ranging from the commissioner of the DEC and his lawyers, to geologists and members of the NYC water board. There was testimony from scientists and economists, and all made their point.

I walked away with the impression that maybe this

is going a little too fast, that questions still remain to be answered, that the rush to extract natural gas from the ground may be interfering with rational and constructive dialogue regarding the future impact to a community. As to the reason for the haste, I never really caught a clear answer.

The bottom line, in my opinion, is that this is going to happen, that the issue of drilling has gained a momentum that will be extremely difficult to turn back. I am sure there are those who disagree; I respect their position and wish them luck in their fight. Do I agree that we should drill? As an elected official, my job is to mirror the voice of the people of my community, something we do not see in Albany and Washington, and the opinions are all over the map. No easy answer with this one.

The best approach is to become informed, to expect action from your local and state representatives, and to be involved. This will assure that when decisions are made, they are done with the citizens' input, with all the facts on the table, and with a community's best interests in mind.

John Salka is Brookfield Town Supervisor. He can be reached at Brookfieldsupervisor@frontiernet.net

Three years you've been waiting for answers. Will this installment be your reward? It's...

MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!

...in which Jack sums up, gears up, suits up and bottoms up. Time for a little help from his friends.

Jerry and I buried the second body under one of the mutilated deer so the dogs wouldn't pick up the scent. Nobody was likely to poke around a mutilated deer, right?

I didn't even care what killed this guy. It really didn't matter.

But first I had to check the hands. Sure enough, two fingers missing from the right hand.

Later, I let the group of seven know what had happened. Again, no one knew who the victim was or where he came from.

That was the good news.

The bad news was that we were all in terrible danger for our piece of the market land trust.

It was time to clue the seven into my suspicions and get some help with my plans.

All in favor?

Nary a nay.

First, I had the distinct feeling that my brother-in-law and Donna had something to do with my sister losing the farm and dying. There's no way she committed suicide.

Second. Donna poking around the Temple porch and slipping what seemed to be a payoff or bribe to Small Potatoes? Certainly pointed to their involvement somehow.

Third. What was Jimbo's involvement anyway?

Fourth, why had two out-of-towners turned up dead? One of them mutilated or possibly tortured. The fingers were obviously meant to scare me off.

Fifth. What was the deal with the benzene and the embalming?

Sixth, attempted murder. Coffin and me.

And seventh, maybe real murder. Poor Tommy Tomato. And my sister.

Somebody wanted something and would stop at nothing to get it.

What did we have that someone wanted so badly?

Real Estate & Natural Gas.

Rural areas are where energy needs are starting to hurt as much as help. The kids are leaving, the farmers have been quitting for years.

First you suck other countries dry, then you start sucking your own country dry. The neocon 'Iraq' plan failed miserably.

And it ain't going to get

better until the people with the real goods get busy.

Wilson said he'd been talking with a geologist colleague about the area. Apparently, the Farmers Market, the Temple property that really belonged to Coffin, covered the mother lode of Marcellus Shale gas. Not just big but accessible. Easy money. Easy big money. Real easy big money. For a long time. Okay. We got motive.

I went to talk to my brother-in-law, pretended I needed work. He said they weren't hiring - already had all the specialists they needed from outside the community.

I bluffed that I could prove my sister didn't kill herself.

He told me to report for work on Monday.

Down by the river, taking stock. What have we got?

Sally can take the head off a squirrel at fifty yards with a golf ball.

Danny can build a city with silicone, duct-tape, and dynamite.

Jeanie is a championship gambler and computer hacker. She also cheats.

Jerry's a maintenance wizard, a locksmith, and can clean the devil off of anything.

Wilson's a geologist and that crazy dog might come in handy.

And Steve. Steve is a master electrician as well as a vintner and an alchemist.

Oh, and one other thing.

Everybody hunts.

Not exactly the Seven Samurai, but we can do this.

One of the best parts about the Farmers' Market is the barter-fest chaos that happens after closing time. The public never sees this. Nobody wants to take home what he or she didn't sell. It's like Filene's Basement.

How many asparagus equal a pumpkin? Does garlic equal pie?

What's it worth to ya' takes on a whole new meaning.

So does 'food fight'.

One Sunday we had to give up the Market. Some chemical odor was so strong we could barely breathe, let alone sell produce.

Wilson's dog started sneezing so violently he had to be taken home.

That gave me an idea.

Time for a little retaliation.

I felt like Jim Phelps of Mission Impossible. The plan was to make our invaders feel as uncomfortable and unwelcome as we could.

Tar and feathers for the technical age.

We had to watch our step because we'd already acted as accessories by hiding two of the bodies. If we could connect all four bodies to the murderers, it would help. If we could raise the cost of doing business beyond reason, it would at least slow them down. If we could set them in opposition to each other, it would be ideal

I imagined declaring 'Plague' and handing out HAZMAT suits to everyone in town with roadblocks at either end and quarantine signs all over.

Nah, too difficult to sustain. And it might bring down the greatest, most expensive and inefficient behemoth of them all; the American Health Care System.

So, I had Jerry order a drum of undiluted hydrogen sulfide and another of hydrogen peroxide with his regular church maintenance order.

I sat down with Danny to discuss the relative advantages of trebuchets, onagers, and catapults.

I told Sally to clean up her Pings and pick up a dozen cases of used golf balls.

I had Wilson gather up all the dog poop from his backyard into a big brown paper bag.

I told Jeanie to see if she could get into their computers and locate their maps and plans.

Steve had to size some electrical cable and build some hydrogen sulfide bombs.

I checked around local farms to see when milking time was and when I might offer some 'alternative grazing'.

And I gathered up a bag of Jimbo's potatoes, borrowed some syringes from Coffin, and started hanging out with my new coworkers, picking up details.

I also had a little talk with Bobby about his home-school ethics studies.

We're having fun now.

To be continued...

We buy gold, silver and coins.

Land Owners Beware!

If you own land, you should be aware that once your land is leased for gas drilling, there is a lien on it and it is no longer entirely yours. And because there is a claim against it, the FHA and banks will not grant a mortgage on your property. Furthermore, your land is now a gas company asset because your lease is what gives the gas company value. A gas company's stock value and its attractiveness to investors depends on how many leases they have. So not only is it no longer your asset to do with as you wish, you have added to the gas company's wealth by surrendering your own.

- Carole Satrina Marner

FRANKLIN CHURCHES

Aldrich Baptist Church
Route 28, North Franklin
Phone: 607-829-5502
Pastor: Pat Judd
Sunday Service: 9:30 A.M.
Location: 1/2 mile east of the Ouleout Golf Course

Franklin United Methodist Church
Main and Water Streets
Franklin
Phone: 607-829-2956
Pastor: John Hill
Sunday Service: 10:45 A.M.
Coffee hour following
Sunday School for children following Children's Time
Holy Communion, first Sunday of each month.

Treadwell United Methodist Church
68 Church Street,
Treadwell
Pastor: John Hill
Sunday Service: 9:15 A.M.

St Paul's Episcopal Church
307 Main Street, Franklin
Phone 829-6404
All faiths welcome
Service every first Sunday of the month at 1:30 P.M. followed by fellowship dish-to-pass dinner.
Service every second thru fourth Sunday at 9 A.M.
First Thursdays Soup Dinner every month, by donation, to benefit roof replacement fund. 5-7 P.M. Join your friends for homemade soups, chili, salad and conversation!

Community Bible Church
89 Center Street, Franklin
Pastor: Dr. Walt Schlundt
Phone: 607-829-5471
Sunday School (Sept. Through May): 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 10:45 AM
We are a church that faithfully teaches the word of God and seeks to glorify Him through worship, service and in all that we do. We seek to fulfill the great commission through evangelization, missions and training. We offer two Ladies' Bible Studies and one Men's Bible Study.

Our local outreach is Angel Food, a low cost help with your grocery bill. All can participate, there are no income requirements.
Visit www.angelfood-ministries.com for more information.

This space sponsored by Handsome Brook Farm.

Have you spotted a Mountain Lion around here?

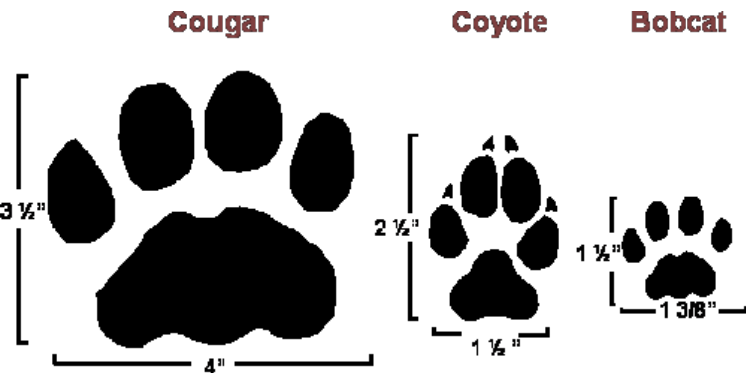
The official story is that the Eastern Cougar is extinct, but a mountain lion was recently killed by a car in Greenwich, CT.
The New Franklin Register has heard of local Mountain Lion sightings - **see our first report below.**
If you've seen one - or any other unusual wild animal - please let us know by completing this questionnaire and returning it to us. We will prepare a map of sightings in our area.

Description of Mountain Lion:
Estimated size _____
Sex _____
Tail length _____
Track Length _____
Track width _____
Coloration _____
Other Descriptions: _____

When:
Date _____
Time _____

Where:
Township _____
Nearest village _____
Nearest Intersection _____
Direction & distance from intersection/village _____
Habitat _____
Other comments: _____

Please send completed form to:
Editor, The New Franklin Register, P.O. Box 158, Franklin, NY 13775, or email us at thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com



The Mountain Lion Report...so far

We have had a modest response to our request for big cat sightings in the summer issue of the NFR. Not everyone will be lucky enough to spot a Mountain Lion, but we hope you'll be keeping your eyes open.
We received four reports, ranging over a year in time, from July 2010 to July 2011, in late spring to early fall. Though one report came from Gilboa, the other three shared a general location around the Treadwell area, two of them on or near Case Hill Road. The third and longest viewing occurred last May on East Handsome Brook Road near the intersection with Derke Road. In that case, two adults in broad daylight watched for several minutes as a big tan critter with a long tail walked along the tree line of a grassy backyard hillside.
All reports described a large tan-colored cat, four to six feet in length with a two-foot tail. The other na-

tive large cats, the Bobcat and the rarer Lynx, have very short, bushy tails, pointed ears, and a longer, more variegated coat. Both share a squarish body shape, and are about half the size of a mature Mountain Lion.
July 2010: Our Gilboa spotter said, "It was slowly walking along the stream, looking for game, probably beaver."
Fall, 2010: "I thought it was a deer, then I realized it didn't move like a deer. It moved like a cat," wrote one of our Case Hill spotters.
July, 2011: "It walked across my lawn at the back side of the house, then disappeared," wrote the other.
The poor lion in Connecticut was killed in June, 2011, so we know he wasn't OUR Mountain Lion. According to DNA studies, he came from South Dakota.
Who knows, you could be the next lucky person to see one. Let us know when you do!

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Fox Hospital Friday, Dec.2
Bassett Hospital Clinic , Cooperstown
Tues. Dec.6 and Friday, Dec 16
Oneonta Specialty Services:
1 Associate Drive, Oneonta Tues., Dec. 13

Farmers' Markets:
Cooperstown Farmers' Market:
Pioneer Alley Sat. Dec.3, Dec.10, and Dec 17
Farmers' Market @ Bassett Clinic,
Cooperstown Friday Dec. 9, and Dec. 23 (9 - 3)

Call for other places and dates
Laura Haney -2060 Otego Road, Franklin, NY 13775
607-829-5625



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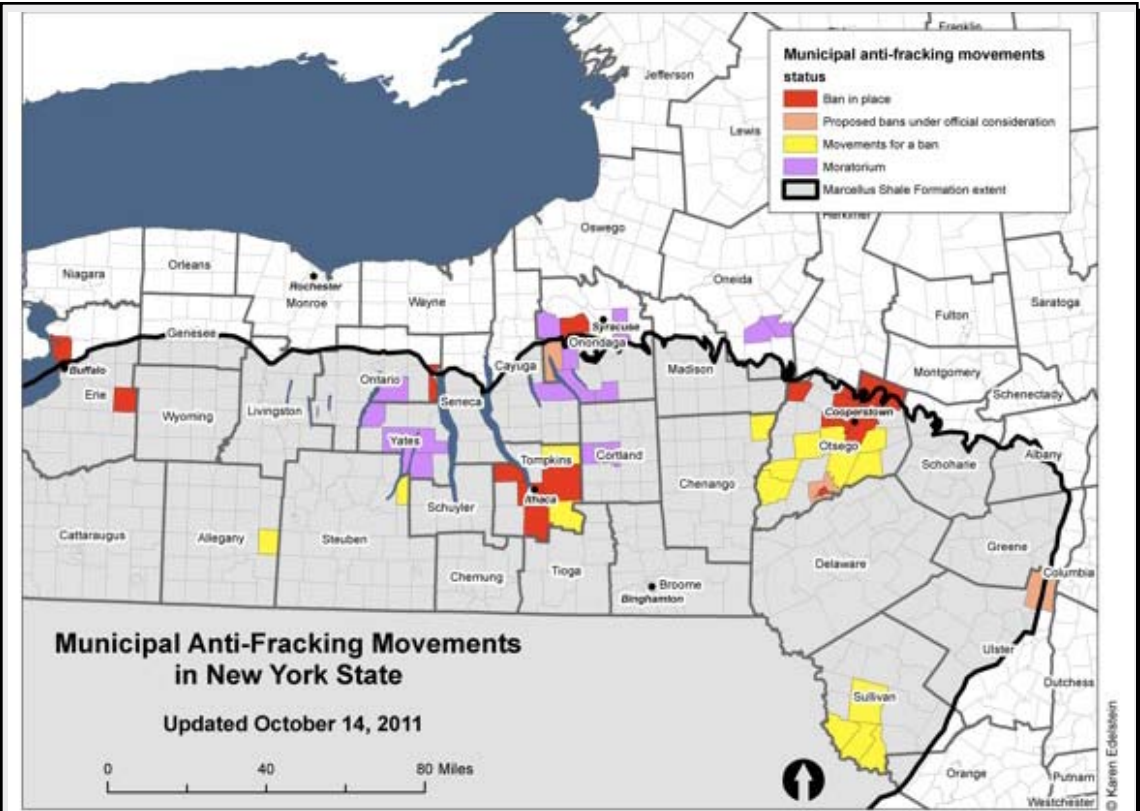
UpState, con’t from Page 10

dren are led to believe that the human body is bad or dirty, and that nude equals sex, therefore all nudes must be pornographic. In other countries and our own cities, sculptures of nude figures can be found in public squares, parks, in front of corporate buildings and even on government property. Are children who happen to see these works of art more likely to have body image issues, or to become sex offenders? All because they saw a piece of art that celebrated the nude human form? I know of no studies proving this to be true. In fact, the history of art suggests that cultures which celebrate the human form are more in tune with nature and their own bodies, and therefore cherish life more fully and comprehensively, instead of labeling children as “sinners” before they can walk and talk. The censorship of the artist is the censorship of the people, and a culture does not progress when freedoms are held captive. So, what is art to you?



Painting by Christopher Lloyd Wright

We appraise items for insurance and other purposes.



Movements for a ban		Proposed bans under official consideration		Ban in place	
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Columbus	Chenango	Skaneateles	Onondaga	Buffalo	Erie
Butternuts	Otsego	Oneonta	Otsego	Wales	Erie
Hartwick	Otsego	Saugerties	Ulster	Camillus	Onondaga
Maryland	Otsego			Geneva	Ontario
Milford	Otsego			Cherry Valley	Otsego
Morris	Otsego			Middlefield	Otsego
New Lisbon	Otsego			City of Oneonta	Otsego
Westford	Otsego			Otsego	Otsego
Wayne	Steuben			Plainfield	Otsego
Bethel	Sullivan			Springfield	Otsego
Highland	Sullivan			Danby	Tompkins
Lumberland	Sullivan			Dryden	Tompkins
Tusten	Sullivan			Ithaca	Tompkins
Caroline	Tompkins			Ulysses	Tompkins
Groton	Tompkins				
		Moratoria		Bans on all county-owned lands	
		Town	County	Dutchess	
		Niles	Cayuga	Onondaga	
		Cortlandville	Cortland	Ontario	
		Kirkland	Oneida	Sullivan	
		New Hartford	Oneida	Tompkins	
		DeWitt	Onondaga	Ulster	
		Elbridge	Onondaga		
		Marcellus	Onondaga		
		Spafford	Onondaga		
		Tully	Onondaga		
		Gorham	Ontario		
		Barrington	Yates		
		Jerusalem	Yates		
		Middlesex	Yates		
		Milo	Yates		

The NEW Franklin Register

The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil

Editorial Board

Ellen Curtis Carole Satrina Marner
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Editor
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!
At: The New Franklin Register
P.O. Box 258
Franklin, NY 13775
or by email: thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com

What are we about?

The Franklin Citizens’ Commission on Peak Oil was authorized on December 6th, 2005 by a Town Board Resolution. Our purpose was to assess the needs and resources of the Town of Franklin in the face of Peak Oil, and to report back to the Town Board and to the people of Franklin.

Renamed as Franklin Local, we are a group of Franklin residents who meet for one evening a month at a member’s home. We begin with a pot luck supper before we get down to actual business. All are welcome, to ask questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas. Please join us!

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

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

In a nutshell, we propose to imagine a more energy efficient habit of living, and to put it to work here in Franklin, for a brighter, more sustainable future..

We hope you will join us!
For meeting times, location and directions, email us at thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com

You can also join our Peak Oil AwarenessYahoo Group.
It’s POA_CNY@yahoogroups.com.
That is, Peak Oil Awareness_Central NewYork.

This group fosters discussion of local efforts, potential or ongoing, to deal with the effects of Peak Oil on our communities.

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The NFR thanks Seathrun O’Corrain for his unflagging support.

TALES, con’t from Page 8

On the 25th of October, after almost four months of delay, we received a copy of the 2000 revision of the proposed regulations based on the 1992 GEIS. Parts of the 140 page document, which is merely a listing of regulations, has been blacked out or redacted.

Perhaps the DMN withheld these proposed regulations because they did not want evidence of their past failure to regulate based on the GEIS to show up while they are trying to sell regulations based on the SGEIS.

CREATIVE VOLUNTEER WANTED

FRANKLIN LOCAL seeks a creative and dedicated volunteer to design, build and maintain a regularly updated website, providing news and information about Franklin and Franklin Local’s several projects, which include the Franklin Farmers’ Market and The New Franklin Register.

Interested?

Contact us at thenewfranklinregister.com

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IN FRANKLIN:

To have your event listed, contact us at:
thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

22nd	Tues.	7:30	Treadwell Fire Dept. Auxiliary Treadwell Firehouse
23rd	Wed.	9to3	Bake Sale, Little Clovers, 4H National Bank of Delaware County
24th	Thurs.		THANKSGIVING DAY
28th	Mon.	6:00	Ouleout American Legion Post 1689
		7:30	Washington Reading Circle
30th	Wed.	6:00	Greater Franklin Chamber of Com- merce Dawn's Deli

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

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FRANKLIN REGISTER

CONTACT JIM MULLEN

607-829-5044
OR

JMULLEN@FRONTIERNET.NET

RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	ADDRESS	ACRES	CLASSIFICATION	ASSESS	PRICE	SELLER	BUYER
04/29/11	13120 State Hwy 357	15.3	1 Family Residence	\$76,000	\$136,920	DeBoer, Michael F.	Beneficial Homeowner Ser
05/09/11	12187 State Hwy 357	118.33	1 Family Residence	206,000	210,000	Farm Credit East	Sitts, Garrett
05/13/11	East Brook Rd	3.48	Rural Vacant, <10 ac	8,000	10,000	Okelly, Magdy	Apple Mansion Estate LLC
06/06/11	2116 Bennett Hollow Rd	1.5	1 Family Residence	110,000	181,667	Prentice, James	Callari, Charles
06/15/11	Tara Lane	294.19	Private Forest		603,380	Heartwood Forest.	Kaplan, Betty #
07/07/11	Bookhout Rd	77.85	Private Forest	62,000	234,000	Whitcher, Charlotte	Pentacles Reality LLC
07/18/11	7375 State Hwy 357	9.47	1 Family Residence	109,000	122,500	Law, Harriet (Estate)	Cleveland, Sarah T.
07/20/11	128 Center St	0.25	1 Family Residence	73,000	42,000	Angle Property Con.	Tilton, Alberta
07/27/11	27 Drayton Rd	0.25	1 Family Residence	50,000	2,500	Delaware County	Lamb, Robert @
07/27/11	County Hwy 16	4.2	Rural Vacant <10 ac	12,000	1,493	Delaware County	Caputo, Ciro @
07/27/11	6844 Dunk Hill Rd	23.87	Mfg. Housing	69,000	5,978	Delaware County	Reese, Kenneth @
07/27/11	Otego Rd	0.26	Rural Vacant <10 ac	1,000	700	Delaware County	Smith, William J. @
08/03/11	3879 Freer Hollow Rd	1.5	Mfg. Housing	36,000	16,000	Alexander, Autumn	Nascimento, Celso
08/31/11	1350 Wally Rd	5	1 Family residence	126,000	159,000	Garner, Sheryl G.	Schorono, James
09/02/11	6552 E Handsome Bk Rd	269.3	Rural Residence	340,000	80,000	DeMaria, Angelo A.	DeMaria, Alfonse A. +
09/06/11	759 Main St	1	1 Family Residence	52,000	79,900	Roefs, Ben	Ross, Christopher W.
09/06/11	9609 State Hwy 357	1	1 Family Residence	65,000	55,000	Ross, Christopher W.	McNaughton, John

Includes parcels in neighboring town @ Foreclosure Auction + Between relatives