

LET'S CASH MOB!

By Nick Albaugh

One of the sadder events in daily life is the closing of a local business for which we have some affection.

Whether it's a third-generation hardware store or a start-up crafts shop, the closing is too often a loss to the community. When the business is a casualty of a big box or chain invading the area, the impact on our general well-being is doubled. Just as demoralizing is the sense of guilt the failure sometimes instills - did I do enough to support that business?

The rise of the Cash Mob movement over the past year or so offers an organized way to support local enterprise. In its simplest form, a cash mob is

just a group of consumers who select a local business and converge upon it on a scheduled day to spend purposeful money.

Cash Mobs turn the usual operation of consumerism on its head. By rejecting our roles as targets of powerful top-down merchandising and consumers of increasingly unnecessary and unsatisfying products, we can exercise a radical influence on the market.

Beyond the instant infusion of cash for a worthy enterprise, a number of other benefits and opportunities emerge. Cash Mobs can promote the use of local dollars. They can acquaint us with businesses that might escape our individual attention. They can leverage valuable free publicity for cash-strapped

See CASH, continued on Page 13



Tennessee Gas pipeline under construction in Waywayanda State Park, West Milford, NJ

PIPELINE FEVER

By Brian Brock

The Northeast Exchange Project (almost half again the size of the Millennium Pipeline) would run through Franklin itself and neighboring towns -- if Route B is approved.

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company wants to build this line between two of its existing west-to-east natural gas pipelines: the Tennessee Pipeline #300 in Pennsylvania south of the Millennium Pipeline, and the Tennessee Pipeline #200 in New York along Route 20. Gas would then travel northeast from near South Montrose, Town of Clifford, Susquehanna County to near Central Bridge, Town of Wright, Schoharie County. The final destination for the natural gas is New England.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of El Paso Corp. Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, LP plans to buy El Paso this spring, forming the largest domestic natural gas pipeline company. All three companies have their headquarters in Houston, Texas.

See PIPELINE, continued on Page 7



Sugar at Handsome Brook
See Page 3
Photo by Betsy Babcock

THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER
CONGRATULATES
BRIGHT HILL CENTER
for
TWENTY YEARS OF SHINING
THE LIGHT OF POETRY
ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

WHAT DRILLING WILL COST US:

The Economic Impact of Shale Gas Development

By Jannette M. Barth, Ph.D.

Our decision makers in Albany and Washington are relying on misinformation regarding the economic impact of shale gas development. Independent researchers not funded by the natural gas industry reach vastly different conclusions from industry-funded studies.

President Obama has been quoting a study done by IHS Global Insight, which was prepared for America's Natural Gas Alliance. This study exaggerates benefits and ignores significant costs. In fact, all of the studies funded by the gas industry have done the same.

They often use exaggerated reserve and production estimates, thereby overstating projections of jobs, income and tax revenue. They ignore costs to communities such as the costs associated with increased truck traffic, costs associated with increased

demands on fire departments, police, hospitals and social services, the loss of jobs in other industries that are not compatible with an increased industrial landscape or with the risk of water and air contamination. They also ignore job losses due to crowding out and the costs of a long-term, after-the-boom bust that is typical of extractive industries. A rarely mentioned ignored-opportunity cost to upstate communities is the loss of future development as mazes of gathering and transmission lines and larger pipelines are built, ruling out future building and economic development after the gas industry leaves the area in a few years.

These studies tend to use a methodology known as input-output analysis, which in this case, results in inaccurate and incomplete impact estimates. This methodology does not capture the cost of environmental degradation, wear

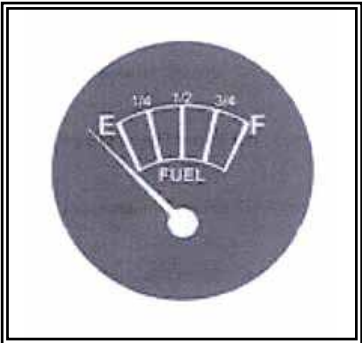
FRANKLIN SCHOOL FUNDING CRISIS

By Carole Marner

You do not expect to open the Franklin Central School newsletter and find a shocking story. But in the February issue, there is a school funding chart that will boggle your mind. It shows that this year, our school lost three times more state aid per student than a school of similar size in a wealthy Long Island community with a local tax levy more than four times that of Franklin. The chart is part of an article, "Inequity in School Funding," written by School Board President Linda DeAndrea. She makes an eloquent plea to Franklin residents to write to their state legislators, demanding a change in the current unfair aid formula so that all school districts will receive the same funding per pupil. She includes several eloquent sample letters to help people compose their messages.

Linda DeAndrea has served on the Franklin Central School Board since 2000, and became its president in 2004. She and her husband both attended FCS, as have their three children. DeAndrea's convictions are as passionate as her dedication to

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Your Neighbor's View...

I read with interest Jim Thompson's recent opinion piece outlining what he feels is unfair treatment of property owners who cannot lease their land for gas drilling because their property lies within the NYC Watershed.

As a landowner (my husband and I own a 167 acre farm in Bovina), I have studied and worked on the issue of HVHF for the last three years. Everything I have learned leads me to define property rights quite differently than you do.

I wish Mr. Thompson would explain to me why every discussion of property rights deals only with the property rights of current or prospective gas leaseholders? What about the rest of us who live here? In a survey of Delaware County residents several months ago, 73%

said they oppose allowing hydrofracking in their towns. Do those people also have property rights? I guess if I decided to site a nuclear waste facility (arguably less damaging to health than fracking) on my land and was denied permission by the town or by NYC, I could say that they are "taking" my property rights. How dare they ask me to forgo all that money just to keep the air and water safe for my neighbors?

By the way, the one point on which I am in complete agreement is the hypocrisy demonstrated by NYC Mayor Bloomberg. He opposes shale drilling in the watershed, but favors converting power plants to gas drilled in the Marcellus. This is a lousy policy and since methane is a more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂ (so much for

"clean" natural gas) it's not even sound environmental thinking.

Since we supposedly live in a democracy and not a dictatorship run by Chesapeake Energy, ExxonMobile, Cabot Oil & Gas, Range Resources and the rest of the oil and gas industry, I assume that the property rights of ALL the citizens must be taken into account. Travel to the 34 states where HVHF has been going on for the past 3-10 years and talk to the homeowners and landowners whose health has been affected or whose water has been contaminated and who, as a result, cannot sell their homes. I'd say that they are suffering not only a loss of property rights, but a loss of human rights.

Sincerely,
Heidi Gogins



Walter Riesen and Richard Kathmann work a Time Bank exchange while building the Kortright Creamery at Stone & Thistle Farm.
Photo by Denise Warren

CATSKILL TIME BANKING

By Eugene Marner

On a chilly Sunday afternoon in January, a friendly crowd of about forty gathered at Fable, the on-farm restaurant at Tom and Denise Warren's Stone and Thistle Farm in Meredith, to enjoy a potluck lunch and hear a presentation from the organizers of Catskills Time (<http://www.catskillstime.org/>).

"What's a Time Bank?" asked the flyer that brought me to the January gathering. The flyer answered its own question: "a community-run, free and fair labor-exchange network."

"What's the Point?" continued the flyer, then answered: "Save money; get things done; strengthen ties in our community."

The Catskills Time website tells us:

Time banking is now experiencing a renaissance all over the country and abroad. In sim-

ple terms, time banking allows members to perform services for other members in exchange for hours, which they can then "spend" by having other members perform services for them.

Time banking is built on the idea that each of us has unique gifts, talents and resources to share, and that everyone's time is of equal value. One hour of labor is equal to one hour of labor, no matter how the marketplace normally values the labor in question (in the time bank, a doctor's hour is worth the same as a babysitter's hour or a janitor's hour).

Exchanges within Catskills Time can include nearly any skill or trade: computer or office assistance, home repair, painting, cooking, running errands, yoga classes, massage, tutoring, yard services, moving help, haircutting, housecleaning, language translating, ditch-digging, harvesting, etc. - any service that one would generally pay or barter for.

When a Catskills Time member offers a trade or skill to another member, the individual providing the service earns Catskill Hours, the unit of credit exchanged within the Catskills Time Bank. Regardless of the service provided, each member's hour of service is seen as being of equal value.

There is no physical trading of Catskill Hours; members' accounts are tracked on a members-only website. Members can develop a profile, list their services, review the requests and offers of other members, and record exchanges. As with traditional online banking software, the program allows members to observe activity on their account and keep track of their balance. Catskill Hours can be saved indefinitely or spent on any service that another member of the Catskills Time community has to offer.

Catskills Time members currently offer services in the following categories:

- artisan trades
- building & construction trades
- car & tractor repair
- children and childcare

Heathen Hill Yoga

Community class on Sundays: see times below

810 Heathen Hill Road, Franklin, NY

SUSAN "LIP" OREM
NYC: 917 697 0540
UPSTATE: 607 829 5328

All levels Welcome!
visit my web site at www.heathenhillyoga.net

Community Class on Sundays: Feb. thru April: 10:30 AM
May thru October: 4 PM

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CONTACT JIM MULLEN: 607-829-5044 or jmullen@frontiernet.ent

- computers and office work
- consulting
- education
- events
- farm, garden, general labor, yardwork
- food
- health and wellness
- household, home organization
- media
- music & entertainment
- pet and livestock care
- transportation
- writing – editing – translation

Hours earned through the Time Bank are not taxable. The IRS has ruled that time bank work is community service.

For more information or to join the Time Bank, visit the website listed above. Or come to the orientation meeting and potluck at Russell's General Store in Bovina Center on March 25th, 4 to 7 pm.

PARK NEWS

By Kim Hyzer

The park looked, and sounded, so nice for Christmas! Soon our spring flowers will be displaying their beauty and the fountain will be running! Such a nice place for a rest or a picnic lunch or supper at the picnic table!

The kiosk is pretty much complete and will soon have local history and pictures on display in it. This useful asset is Dillon Costello's Eagle Scout project. His Eagle Scout Award Ceremony will be held at the park this spring.

And now, it is time to get started on this year's work in the park.

The main project is to install a blue stone oval path in front of the fountain. This path will eventually have some small trees and maybe a bench or two around it. There will also be a skirt or apron of some kind installed to direct the over splash from the fountain back into the fountain pool.

We are looking for contractors to submit bids on these projects. If interested call Kim at 607-829-8820.

And...we would like to see some activities in the park this year. If you have any ideas, call Kim.

Meanwhile, come enjoy the park!



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



FRANKLIN NEEDS A COMMUNITY GARDEN!

A win-win approach to sustainability and community development

By Patricia Knapp-Tyrell

"We are living in a world where lemonade is made from artificial flavors and furniture polish is made with real lemons."

- Alfred E. Newman

Food is said to be a great unifier. Throughout history, people have worked together to produce their food and have eaten together following a harvest. Food has a way of crossing boundaries and connecting even the most diverse populations. Food is something we all need and celebrate.

Communities across the country are rapidly re-discovering food production and each other through community gardening. This growing gardening trend is part of an even larger movement, in which individuals are taking hold of both their food supply and their financial situations through small farms and gardens. Janet Aldrich, horticulturist of Delaware County Cornell Cooperative Extension, states: "People in our region are re-defining agriculture through gardening and small livestock farming."

Community gardening is a transformational idea, converting a town of residents into a community of neighbors, and helping the internal economy to thrive. Adding to the broad benefits to communities as a whole, these gardens also allow individuals to reclaim control over the food they eat and where it comes from.

In New York State, Ithaca Community Gardens is a prime example of the multiple and significant effects that community gardening can have. This hugely successful program is entering its fourth year, having grown in numbers and locations of gardens, gardeners, and organizations at an astounding rate. There is hardly a person or group that isn't getting their hands "dirty."

Here in Delaware County, many of the existing community gardens are connected to a school and have been facilitated through Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). Jeanne Darling, Executive Director of Delaware County CCE, reports that there are at least five ongoing school community gardens, with at least another three planned. These gardens are primarily dedicated to the learning experience of the students, and in some cases, their eating experience in the cafeteria as well.

The size, type and purpose of a community garden is completely reliant upon the needs of the community. Church organizations participate to help stock their food pantries and aid their members. Students learn principles and skills applicable throughout adulthood, and youth groups engage as a community service. Persons with low or fixed incomes augment their diets, and everyone stands to improve their nutrition.

Public and private lands can be dedicated to community gardening with the understanding that every person wins. Volunteers gravitate to such projects, as they provide vision, hope and stability in an increasingly uncertain global environment. Individuals reap the satisfying and tangible rewards of their hard work. Children may freely participate, absorbing life skills such as cooperation, collaboration, discipline, and patience. In community gardening, unlike so many occupations or pass-times, the philosophy is congruent with the reality.

So, what could this gardening concept mean for Franklin and its residents? The possibilities are endless. Franklin is a town of two villages, each unique and blossoming with po-

tential. We have the necessary land resources available. We have an existing network of agricultural savants and organizations to assist. We have a diverse population capable of contributing in a myriad of ways. We have, without doubt, the need.

But...do we, as a community, have the desire? Do we have what it takes to lay the groundwork today, in order to ensure the survival and sustainability of our town tomorrow?

I get excited every time I think about what we, in little ole Franklin are capable of. We have an opportunity not only to redefine agriculture, but to redefine success. We have all the means to reach an end which is limited only by our imaginations.

So I ask:

Do YOU have the desire to create the WE of OUR future community garden?

Let's get this going!

Please write to me at tkty21007@hotmail.com with any interest, experience or ideas in creating a Franklin Community Garden.

For more information about community gardening and small livestock farming contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (607) 865-6531 or visit www.ccedelaware.org.



PARK PROGRESS IN TREADWELL

By Brian Brock

Residents of the hamlet of Treadwell have reached agreement with the Delhi Board of Education to transfer to the Town of Franklin the fields, playground, and tennis courts on the flood plain behind the new school building. These fifteen-plus acres would come with \$920,000 to be put in trust for related expenses. The school property has been surveyed for subdivision, splitting off five acres including the building. Delhi will retain this smaller piece and attempt to sell it.

The Franklin Town Board held a public meeting on this transfer and its terms on January 10th at the Town Garage. A dozen or so residents attended and raised questions about the details of the transfer. If the trust becomes exhausted, can the Town sell the property? The northwestern boundary is along the creek, but will it be the ever shifting creek itself or some fixed line? The access road will be shared with the owner of the school building, so how will that work? With these and other issues unresolved, the Board has yet to vote on accepting accept this gift. Assuming the Board agrees, then the residents of the Delhi school district will vote on the transfer.



Bryan Babcock, Chief Syrup Boiler, tends his new evaporator

SUGARING AT HANDSOME BROOK FARM

Brian and Betsy Babcock have a new sugar shack, built last summer from a former chicken coop (earlier, a milk house), plus lumber from a backyard spruce tree. The coop houses the syrup evaporator. The windows in the new section are vintage 1800's, salvaged from the basement of the Franklin Free Library. The working cookstove in the cozy kitchen was saved from a neighbor's old farm house.

Photos by Betsy Babcock



SCHOOL, con't from Pg. 1
our school. Every decision, every vote taken by the school board, she insists, must meet two criteria: Is it good for the child? Is it good for the community?

"Franklin is an excellent school," says DeAndrea. "It is a small school in a small community where people look out for one another, where every staff member knows all the students well and feels a personal commitment to help children achieve."

Under DeAndrea, the school board's purpose is to provide opportunity and incentive: "A rigorous course load is a high priority for the board." Participation is encouraged in extracurricular activities such as music, sports and drama, all of which have been proven to improve academic achievement. In the elementary grades, a study hall is held for one period every day. This stimulates independent work habits and provides a window for teachers to work one-on-one with children who need extra attention. Franklin has consistently had a hundred percent graduation rates, with no tradition of failure as in larger schools where drop-outs are expected. DeAndrea says, "We have had the experience of seeing an angry, unfocused child, coming here from a larger school, blossom with attention."

Later, I sat down with Superintendent Gordon Daniels and School Treasurer Kelly Renwick. The NY State 2011-2012 Executive Budget eliminates a ten billion dollar deficit without raising taxes or borrowing. Its "School Aid Proposal" includes a \$2.8 billion Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) for the

2011-12 school year in order to "achieve a balanced budget through reductions in school aid on a progressive basis, accounting for each district's wealth, student need, administrative efficiency and residential property tax burden."

Kelly Renwick explains: "Two years ago, the state implemented the GEA in order to get rid of the funding disparities between schools. But now that is exactly what it does not do. This year, because of the huge budget deficit, a lot of the money that should have gone to filling the gap between schools has been taken back by the state."

Catch 22: The greater the proportion of your budget that comes from state aid, the more you are expected to give back, and, unlike those wealthier school districts, the less likely you are to raise property taxes to pick up the difference.

These formulas do not deal with real kids in real situations, so they create real problems. The budget gap that Franklin faces this year due to aid cuts is \$400,000. The GEA is \$367,000. Ordinarily, the state would have provided that amount, leaving a \$33,000 deficit for the school to fill. Now Franklin will receive \$33,000 toward its deficit and have to find \$367,000 or do without.

There are two plums each school district can reach for. One is the Race to the Top. To help achieve the Governor's goal of encouraging efficiency and results, the Executive Budget allocates \$250 million to be awarded on a competitive basis to school districts that demonstrate significant improvement in their student performance

outcomes.

But Franklin has consistently rated in the top third of state school districts. When you are already doing so well, you can't compete for that "significant improvement" funding.

The other plum is \$250 million to be awarded on a competitive basis to school districts that undertake long-term structural changes which reduce costs and improve efficiency. This is a race to the bottom, hoping that you can cut enough to be competitive without cutting too much and ruining your school.

Among "structural changes" is the supposed cure-all of consolidation. "As a cost saving measure, it is a proven fallacy," DeAndrea says. "At first the state gives money to poor districts to help consolidation get going. But as we have seen in nearby districts, when the extra money ends, a school may be forced to slash courses. Also transportation costs can spiral out of control. In the long run, it is less expensive to keep students close to the schools they attend. And more humane. Should children commute three hours a day? Many think a larger school can offer greater curriculum variety, but now that distance learning is made possible by inexpensive technical advancements, there is nothing we cannot provide.

"Here a small school provides what children need, and it works. And that fact is being ignored by a government funding system that discriminates against us. With this new budget, wealthier schools may face cutting out a language. FCS faces cutting out the basics."

SCHOOL FUNDING COMPARISON CHART

	Franklin (Delaware Cty)	Shelter Island (Suffolk Cty)
# Students	270	250
2010-11 Budget	\$6,200,000	\$10,300,000
Local Tax Levy	\$2,000,000	\$8,600,000
State Aid Cut	\$405,000	\$119,000
CWR	75	9.8
Free and Reduced	48%	11%
Cuts as % Levy	19.5%	-1%
Aid Cuts/ Student	\$1,502	\$476
1% tax increase	\$20,000	\$86,000

March 1, 2012

To all Franklin Residents:

On February 27, 2012 a group of citizens met to discuss concerns about the future of Franklin Central School.

We all feel that our school is a very important part of our community and we must work hard to ensure that it is here for our children and our grandchildren in the years to come.

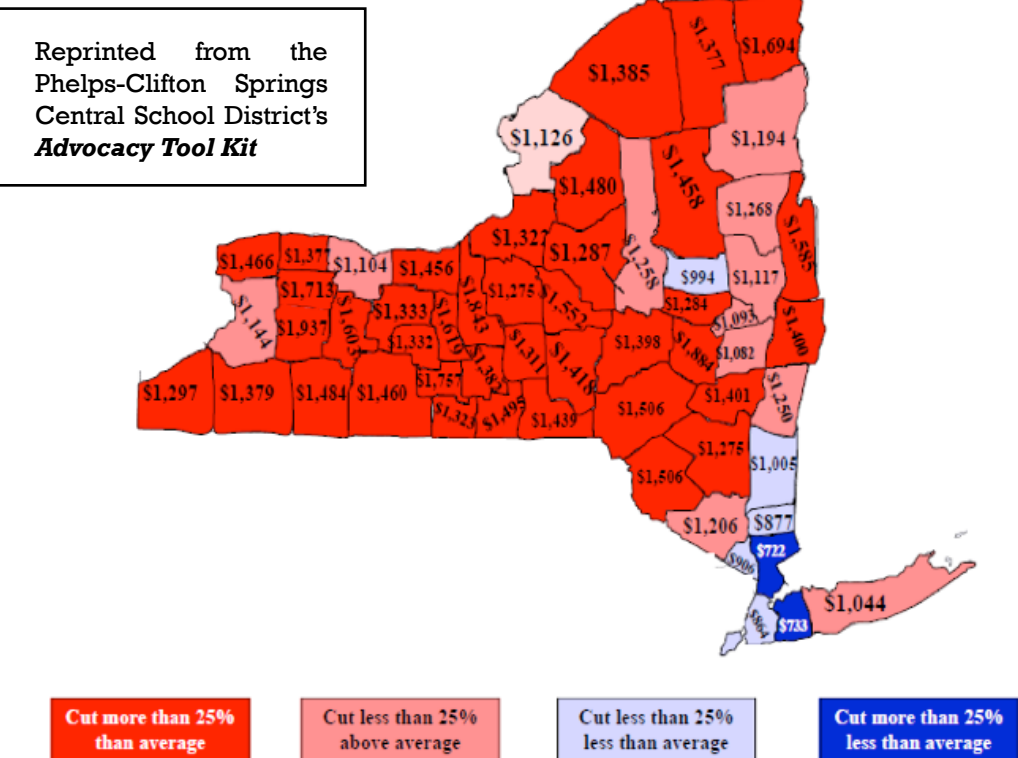
We are calling our effort SOS (Save Our School) and we are asking for community support in this effort. Our first plan of action is a letter and petition blitz to our Legislators with as many of our signatures as possible.

We are also going to have a public meeting at Franklin Central School on March 15, 2012, at 7 PM. This meeting is to get all interested residents involved and to get information from our School Superintendent and hopefully our Legislators. We need support from everyone in this effort. Please come out and show our Legislators that we mean business. If we don't get their support, they won't get our votes at election time.

Our school is very important to the Franklin Community, our children and our grandchildren. Please come out and help save it!

Anyone with questions can contact John or Kathy Campbell at 607- 829-5890 or any of the other SOS Committee members who are: Erna McReynolds, Gordie Daniels, Kelly Renwick, Janice Stalter, Jim Mullen, Tom and Linda Worden, Matt and Susan Campbell, Darryl and Terri Beers, Wendy Brown, Nancy and John Cloonan, Andrew Serrao, Bruce Goddard, Leanne Taggart, Jeff Taggart, Linda DeAndrea, Laura Gregory, and Carmela Marner.

Average Per Pupil Loss in State Aid
under the Governor's Proposal – February 2011



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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: 607- 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.

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FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

February 7 th	3:00 p.m.	
March 6 th	3:00 p.m.	
April 3 rd	7:30 p.m.	
May 1 st	7:30 p.m.	
June 5 th	7:30 p.m.	
July 3 rd	7:30 p.m.	
August 7 th	7:30 p.m.	
September 4 th	7:30 p.m.	
October 2 nd	7:30 p.m.	Budget Workshop
November 13 th	7:30 p.m.	Budget Hearing
December 4 th	7:30 p.m.	
December 28 th	7:30 p.m.	Organizational

Meetings are held at the Town Garage, located at the intersection of County Route 21 and NYS Route 357.
Meetings may be rescheduled. To confirm, call the Town Clerk at 607-829-3440.



PET TALK

Hello, Readers,
I have had a question regarding *diabetes mellitis* in dogs and cats.
First, just what is diabetes?
This is a disease where the pancreas is not producing enough insulin in the body, or not producing it at all. Insulin is needed to help digest the sugars the animal eats. Without it, the dog or cat show the following signs: increase thirst, increase hunger, weight loss, and or excessive urination. A urinalysis, or testing of your pet's urine, would show glucose in the urine, and a blood test would show high glucose in the blood. Obesity is related to diabetes in the cat because excess body fat leads to insulin resistance in cats. In obese cats, fifty percent have a decrease in insulin sensitivity. Most dogs with diabetes have insulin-dependent (in humans, type I) diabetes, so diabetic dogs need to be given regular insulin injections, while with cats, there are some medications and foods that can be tried instead.

There are also some trace minerals that may help. Vanadium is a trace mineral that has insulin-like properties, although alone, it is usually not enough. Chromium piconate is another mineral supplement that can make insulin stronger, so you may not need to give as much insulin.
For a cat, diet can make a big difference. Foods low in carbohydrates and high in protein can help your cat to a more normal life, injection free. If your dog or cat is showing signs of diabetes, take them to your veterinarian right away.

Spring is coming, and so are the ticks. We are seeing more and more Lyme disease, which is spread by deer ticks, in dogs from the area. In fact, I've seen three cases in the last four days. Lameness, swollen joints, fever and

CALL FOR WATER MONITORS

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter needs volunteers for local waterway monitoring.

By Scott Lauffer
(Reprinted by permission from *Susquehanna Sierran*)

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter is participating with the Alliance of Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) out of Dickinson College, to monitor streams and waterways in New York regions impacted by hydrofracking. Since we are within miles of hydrofracking in Pennsylvania, and share the Susquehanna watershed with northern Pennsylvania, there is a critical need to both establish a baseline for water quality and to monitor for occurrences of hydrofracking chemicals in our watershed.

We are trying to get twenty volunteers who will commit a few hours a month to collecting samples in local waterways. ALLARM will provide a day of training and tools, so that we are equipped to follow an established scientific protocol in collecting and analyzing data. Barium and strontium are the two signature chemicals that will be checked for when Total Dissolved Solid (TDS) indicators are high. We will serve as early detection volunteers, and will be expected to notify the DEC when contamination is discovered. There is a lot more to the process, but be assured that true and tried methods are going to be implemented.

If you would like to participate in this or have questions, contact Scott Lauffer at lauffer.scott@gmail.com or 607-341-3746. You do not have to be a Sierra Club member to participate. A training date can be set up in a few weeks. This is a long term commitment, so be prepared for that before signing up. We will be the second group established in New York with ALLARM. One was just set up in the western part of the state. There are several groups currently operating effectively in Pennsylvania.

For more information about ALLARM, visit <http://www.dickinson.edu/about/sustainability/allarm>.




McDowell & Walker, Inc.

lethargy are the usual signs. There are tick repellants and tick repellant collars that your veterinarian can prescribe for your dog. There is also a Lyme vaccine. Just be prepared.

Since spring is in the air, so is cat mating season. There are so many unwanted stray cats around. Please remember to spay and neuter your cat. They are not at fault if they get pregnant, but it is preventable. Please be mindful of this before you let your cat outside.

Well, that's all for now. Please keep your questions coming. I look forward to hearing from you .
Sincerely
Joan Puritz DVM

Pet Talk Readers, please note!
Dr. Puritz loves to answer your questions about dogs or cats, or any other creatures. Please send your queries directed to her at thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com, so that she can answer them in future columns.
Remember, she promises that no question is too complex or too silly!

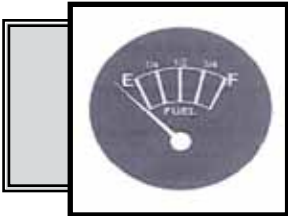


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PEAK OIL FOCUS

DEMOCRACY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL:



Butternuts Town Board Members at fund raiser: L to R, Michele Farwell, Heather Covington, Valerie Elbrick. Photo by Teresa Winchester

COST, continued from Page 1 and tear on roads, health impacts and the negative impacts on other industries. It also assumes that all populations have identical spending patterns, which is not the case in an industry where as many as 70% of the workers are from out of state, sending the bulk of their wages to their families in their home states.

Even the economic assessment done for the NYS DEC revised draft SGEIS suffers the same fatal flaws. Benefits are exaggerated and costs are ignored.

To quote one of the many studies not funded by the industry, Headwaters Economics concluded: "Counties that have focused on energy development are underperforming economically compared to peer counties that have little or no energy development." In a peer reviewed academic article, Professor Freudenberg states, "The areas of the United States having the highest levels of long-term poverty, outside of those having a history of racial inequalities, tend to be found in the very places that were once the site of thriving extractive industries." And, a recent, academic piece by Bucknell Professor Thomas Kinnaman states, "Several reports sponsored by the

gas industry have estimated the economic impacts of shale gas extraction on income, employment and tax revenue....Due to questionable assumptions, the economic impacts estimated in these reports are very likely overstated."

In addition to their overstated projections of jobs, income and tax revenue, the shale gas industry touts both energy independence and the economic benefits of low gas prices as positive impacts of shale gas development. The reality is that foreign corporations are buying more and more of our shale gas assets and the gas industry is gearing up to export our domestic supply of Marcellus gas abroad where they can get higher prices. This is likely to raise domestic prices, as recently confirmed by research done by the US Energy Information Administration. In addition, it has been reported recently that major shale gas companies have curtailed production due to the low prices.

The oil & gas industry spends huge amounts of money on lobbying, political contributions, public relations, advertising, and even economic impact studies, in order to spread falsehoods and hide the truth. The truth is that extractive industries are known for their boom and bust cycles and communities in upstate New York are likely to be worse off economically in the long-run if we allow shale gas development. Multiple economists have pointed out that the oil & gas industry is a highly capital-intensive in-

A View from Butternuts

By Charlotte Zoe Walker

For most of my life, I thought of politics as a national thing - an often discouraging process where the major corporate contributors had the biggest voice, one that seemed to grow louder with every passing decade. But the past two years of watching politics in a small rural township have offered new hope and understanding of how vibrant democracy can be at the local level. What a remarkable thing: to endure several hours of a town board meeting, in a room filled with fellow citizens, to summon the patience to sit through all the small issues that local government must tend to - reading of the minutes, complaints about road conditions, a truck for the dogcatcher - until at last, the issue our lives depend on comes up. Will we get a moratorium on

hydrofracking? Will our drinking water be contaminated by fracking fluids?

In the three years since upstate New Yorkers first heard that we are living over a "gold mine" called the Marcellus Shale, we have seen citizens respond to the threat with a determined democratic effort to fight off the gas drillers and protect their communities. Thanks to the wonderful energy of many thoughtful and well-informed people, there have been information sessions and meetings throughout the area, and a new political activism fed by a growing realization of the dangers of hydrofracking.

The town of Butternuts, where I live, is a good example.

Before last November's election, the town board was divided and uncertain about the issue of fracking. But in the spring of

See LOCAL, continued on Page 8

A Balance Sheet for New York State: What is New York State's Net Equity from Shale Gas Development?

Prepared by Jannette M. Barth, Ph.D., January 4, 2012

Assets*

Tax Revenue:

- Direct from the gas industry based on future legislation
- Increased income tax based on Royalty income to leaseholders
- Lease income to landowners
- Stimulation of industries based on byproducts of natural gas
- Climate benefits from decreases in green house gases from burning shale gas
- Indirect benefit to NYS from improved Balance of Payments assuming substantial shale gas exports
- Short-term job gains in the gas industry and related industries
- Increased spending by leaseholders in New York State
- Lower cost of energy as long as it lasts

TOTAL ASSETS ???

Liabilities*

Tax Revenue Loss:

- Income tax losses by leaseholders who vacate properties and relocate out-of-state
- Income tax losses caused by decreases in tourism and other industries negatively affected by drilling
- Property tax losses caused by negative impact of drilling on property values and financing
- Decreased spending by leaseholders if they move out of state, or buy second homes out of state
- Human health costs associated with:
 - Water contamination from frack fluids and wastewater
 - Air pollution from compressors, leaks, gas released at well-sites
- Costs due to impacts on animals (domestic, agricultural and game) of water, land and air contamination
- Climate costs associated with increases in greenhouse gases from methane leaks and venting
- Costs associated with declining quality of life due to the creation of an industrial landscape
- Costs associated with declines in tourism industry
- Costs associated with declines in organic farming and other agriculture and food manufacturing
- Costs associated with declines in outdoor recreation
- Costs associated with increased air pollution from increased truck traffic
- Costs associated with declines in fisheries and trout fishing industry
- Infrastructure costs due to use of and damage to roads and bridges from increased truck traffic
- Costs due to declines in numbers of retirees and retirement housing market
- Costs due to declines in numbers of second home owners and second home market
- Costs due to crowding out (loss of jobs to existing businesses and governments)
- Costs to communities due to increased demand for police, fire and first responder services
- Social costs associated with the gas drilling industry
- Costs to the mortgage industry and housing market, and related declines in property values and property tax revenue
- Costs associated with increased homelessness
- Costs associated with the postponement of investment in renewables
- Opportunity costs due to the prevention of future building and economic development
- Costs associated with a long-term bust, characteristic of extractive industries

TOTAL LIABILITIES ???

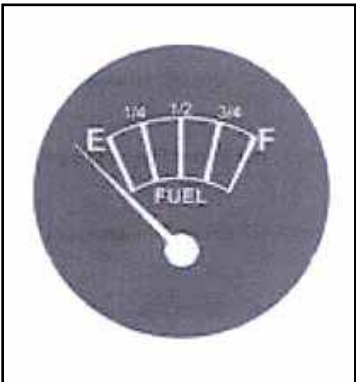
NET EQUITY ???

Is the Discounted Present Value of Total Assets minus the Discounted Present Value of Total Liabilities a positive value?
This question cannot be answered until a comprehensive risk assessment and economic analysis has been conducted.

dustry and such industries are not major job creators. With the industry curtailing production at the same time that energy users are being encouraged to convert to natural gas, supply will be reduced at the same time that demand increases. The domestic price of natural gas is therefore un-

likely to remain low. The only parties likely to benefit in the long run from shale gas development in the Marcellus Shale are the gas companies and a very few lucky and large landowners, while serious long-term costs will be borne by the public and local communities.

Jannette M. Barth, Ph.D., an economist who has been developing economic models and conducting economic analyses for over 35 years, writes and lectures frequently on the subject of the economic impact of shale gas drilling. Several of her writings may be found at www.catskillcitizens.org/barth.



PIPELINE, continued from Page 1

The Northeast Exchange would be a 36 inch pipeline with a carrying capacity of 650 million cubic feet per day and with a compression of 14,000 horsepower. Initially, new compressor stations would be built only at each end. As throughput increases, booster compressor stations could be built along the length -- possibly one in Franklin. This project could cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Currently the company is fine-tuning possible routes. Once this is finished, Tennessee Gas Pipeline would begin the approval process by pre-filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, possibly in May. The schedule is for all permits to be obtained by late 2013. If so, ground breaking will begin in the first quarter of 2014 -- only two years from now. Construction is scheduled to take less than a year, with the pipeline beginning to carrying gas by the end of 2014. However, deadlines could slip.

In selecting routes, the company examines topographic maps and air photos, and takes helicopter surveys of the landscape. Franklin residents have reported numerous overflights. Also, Tennessee Gas Pipeline is consulting with the Department of Environmental Conservation.

To date, there are two possible routes (see map). The initial route (Alternative A) is 122 miles long (92 in NY) in a crooked line to the northeast. North of the Pennsylvania border, it would cross the towns of Hancock, Colchester, Hamden, Delhi, Bovina, and Stamford. Once in Schoharie County, it would turn north northeast across Gilboa, Ful-

ton, Middleburg, Schoharie, and Wright,

That route would have to pass through the watershed of the NYC Cannonsville Reservoir, cross over a NYC aqueduct, and under the Delaware River. After consulting

with the DEC in early February, Tennessee Gas Pipeline proposed a second route (Alternative B) to the north of the first. This route would run 115 miles (87 in NY) north northeast across the towns of Sanford, Deposit, Masonville, and Sidney. To avoid the developed lands around Sidney and Oneonta, it would turn northeast and run below the East Sidney Dam

and along the northwest slopes of the Ouleout Valley through Franklin and Meredith before jumping the ridge into Charlotte Valley, crossing Davenport and Harpersfield. The pipeline would enter the Susquehanna Valley at Richmondville and continue northeast across Summit,

Richmondville, Cobleskill, Schoharie, and Wright.

Nothing is set in stone. These routes could be modified by the company, FERC, or local activism, as we saw with the Marcy South power line. Yet a third route could be

proposed for the Northeast Exchange.

Nevertheless, surveyors are already asking permission from landowners for ground surveys. Once the route is certain, landmen will begin obtaining easements along the route. Easements for pipelines are nowhere as profitable as leases for gas wells. In Pennsylvania, landmen are

paying a one-time fee of \$5 to \$25 per foot, the lower amounts being for rural land. There is little room to negotiate: when it cannot reach agreement with a land owner, Tennessee Gas Pipeline can use eminent domain to seize the easement.

Some Town Supervisors in Dela-

ware County have been briefed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline, including those whose towns could be crossed by the pipeline. Franklin Town Supervisor Don Smith was present, as was Franklin Mayor John Campbell. The company is handing out a color brochure to announce the project to landowners.

The value of the pipeline infrastructure would increase property tax revenues. For the Town of Franklin, this might be a few tens of thousands of dollars annually. This might be partially offset by decreases in property values along pipeline. Staff at DEC have proposed to Tennessee Gas Pipeline that "host communities" receive some benefits in return, such as gas distribution lines, but this is unlikely.

The preferred route, which goes through Franklin, avoids the watersheds of New York City reservoirs, thereby giving NYC water special protection once again.

While the primary purpose of Northeast Exchange is to transport natural gas from Pennsylvania to New England, it could be used to collect gas from local wells. Should drilling for natural gas come to our neighborhood, typically the first wells would be sited along pipelines. Then a network of gathering lines will be laid to bring gas from wells to the pipeline, and more compressor stations must be built in Franklin, wherever gathering lines feed into the pipeline.

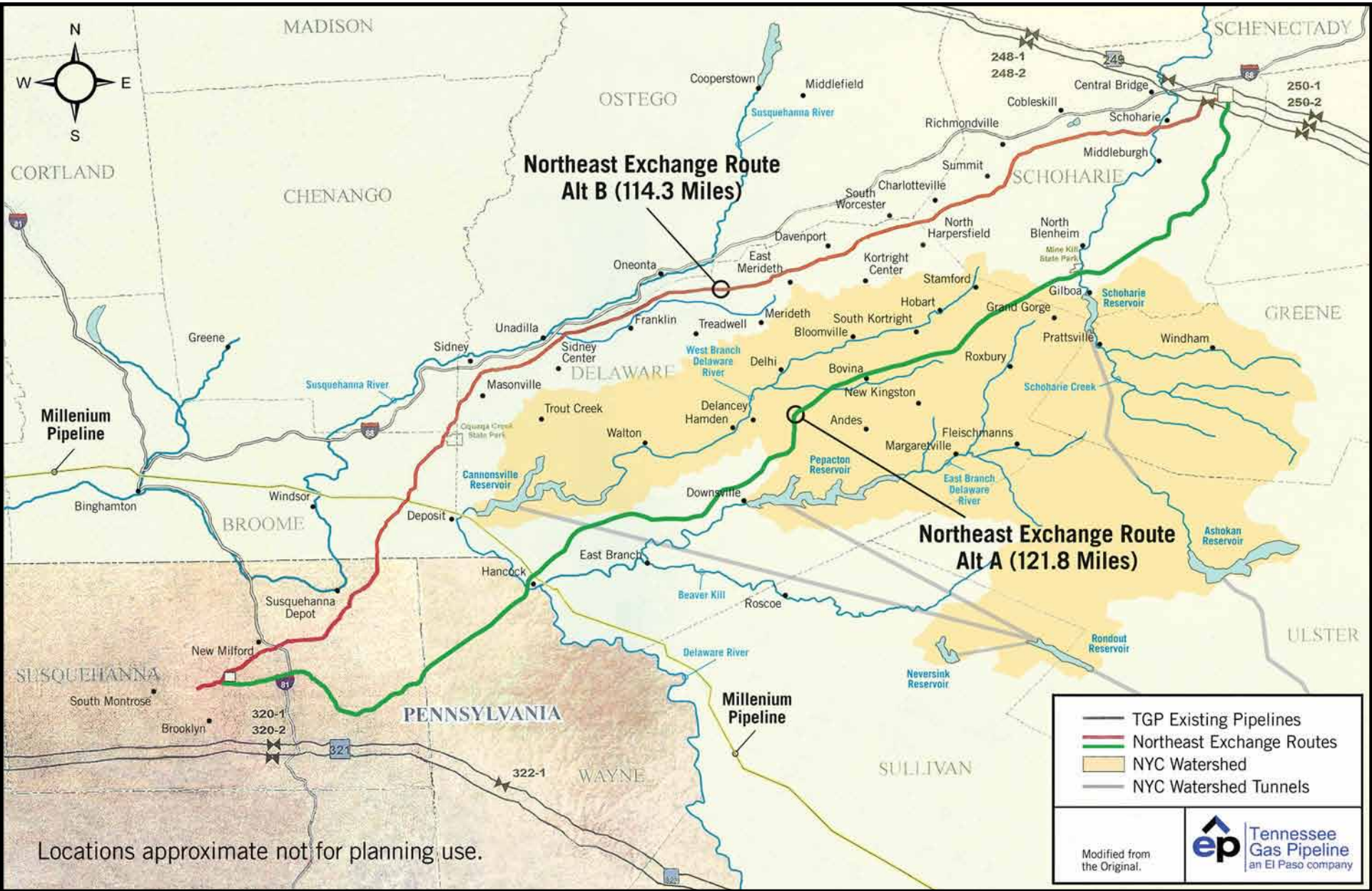
If built, the Northeast Exchange could have a huge effect on the Town of Franklin for decades to come, and be far more consequential than the Marcy South power line.

Brian Brock is a geologist and Associate Editor of this paper.

In late February, Cabot and Williams announced a second pipeline that would follow a similar route to Tennessee Gas Pipeline's pipeline from Susquehanna County PA to Schoharie County NY. Running a bit west and north of the Northeast Exchange, this Constitution Pipeline would skirt most of Delaware County, crossing eastern Broome, southeastern corner of Chenango, western corner of Delaware, and southern Otsego Counties.

To date, this Constitution Pipeline exists only as a press release and a request for "shippers, potential shippers, and interested parties." This proposal decreases the certainty about where a pipeline would be built, but increases the odds that one will be built somewhere.

El Paso has reacted by shifting resources from ground work to commercial development.



The Northeast Exchange project has yet to be filed with FERC and proposed routes could be changed by El Paso before then. In the regulatory process, additional changes could be made by FERC.

LOCAL, continued from Page 6 2011, the board appointed a bipartisan Comprehensive Plan Committee to study the town's existing plan, compare it with other towns' comprehensive plans, and explore the views and hopes of residents regarding the town's future. This hardworking group held two community workshops and distributed a lengthy survey to all residents. These efforts showed that a clear majority was against fracking.

Around the same time, a group of residents, the Friends of Butternuts, collected 800 signatures on a petition to ban fracking, and presented it to the Town Board. Somewhat reluctantly, the board accepted and acknowledged the petition. But after a public meeting at which at least three fourths of the speakers were in favor of a ban on hydrofracking, the board failed to pass either a ban or a moratorium.

Friends of Butternuts decided that their only recourse was to elect new anti-fracking members to the open seats on the board. Ably led by Carol Ralbag, with enthusiastic help from Caroline Wilson, Norman Farwell and many others,

the group held regular meetings at the Empire House in Gilbertsville, where people volunteered their skills and energies for a variety of tasks. (Catherine Barr continues to edit our newsletter, and Eddie Rodriguez is our representative with the Otsego 2000 coalition of anti-fracking groups.) Two young mothers, Michele Farwell and Heather Covington, committed to protecting their communities and their children's future, ran intelligent, well-informed campaigns, going door to door to talk with voters - and were elected. This victory was bittersweet, as our candidate for county representative, Teresa Winchester, was unable to unseat the pro-fracking incumbent. But Teresa's early commitment and tireless effort in alerting people to the dangers of fracking made a crucial difference to the Town of Butternuts.

The campaign was exhilarating for people newly discovering the importance of a local election, but it also brought home how painfully divided the community is between those who are concerned about the dangers of fracking and those who have sold their

drilling rights, hopeful of economic relief in a time of hardship. We now have a town board that is more responsive to the wishes of the citizens of Butternuts (every measure taken in the past year indicates a majority are against fracking), but each step towards a moratorium is met with ingenious efforts to delay or obstruct the process. At a recent board meeting, I was touched to hear Town Supervisor Charles Ecklmann respond to more delaying tactics from the floor by saying, "The cry from the residents is they want to see something from us right now, to ensure that they're safe."

At the first meeting of the new Butternuts Town Board in January 2012, a motion was passed to begin the process of drawing up a moratorium on gas drilling in our township. At the February meeting, the board voted to have a public hearing on the moratorium. After objections by the pro-drilling faction in the audience, they also agreed to a special meeting in which a pro-drilling attorney could make a presentation.

As a result, there is still a nervous feeling in the air. Will all the efforts and



the success of the election still somehow fall short? Will citizens, wearied after so many previous efforts, remember to attend the hearing and state their concerns? The recent court decisions letting stand the gas drilling bans in the towns of Dryden and Middlefield are encouraging, as we move forward in Butternuts to our moratorium. With luck, we will be joining over seventy other townships in the Marcellus Shale region that have enacted bans or moratoria - huge accomplishments brought about by friends

and neighbors who discovered they *could* do something to protect the world around them, by involving themselves in local politics.

Charlotte Zoe Walker is the editor of two books on John Burroughs published by Syracuse University Press: SHARP EYES and THE ART OF SEEING THINGS.



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FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT...

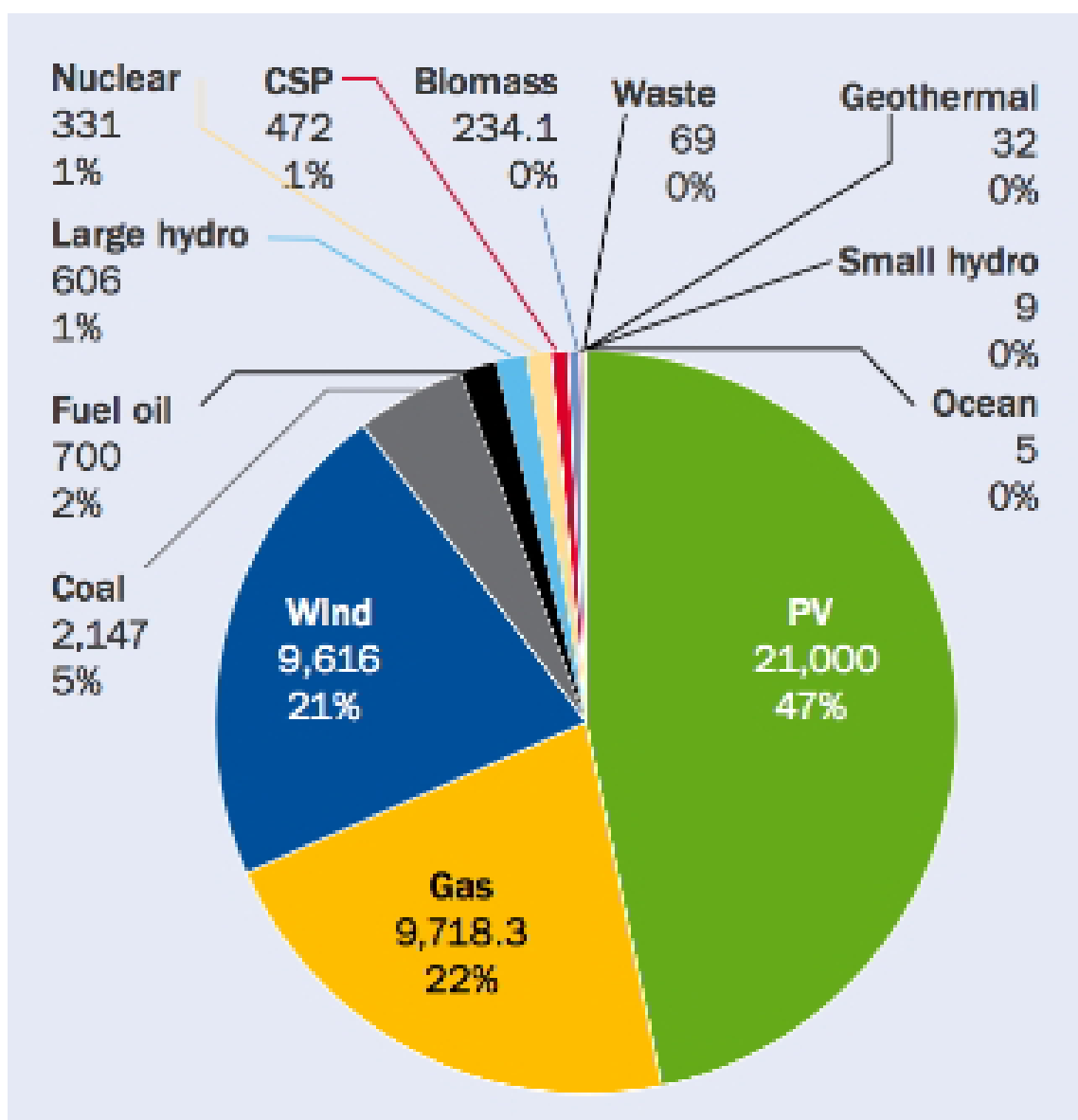
In my west London garden, the azaleas all came into bloom at the end of November, at least six weeks early. They provided a wonderful display until mid-January when winter finally took hold across the whole of Europe and it snowed even on the Algerian coast. Further east in Russia, gas demand rocketed and Gazprom for a while reduced its exports westwards to minimal contractual levels. Meanwhile many of us in the UK came to realize that more than forty percent of our gas imports come from Qatar, through the Straits of Hormuz.

So it was especially cheering to read that Europe is now investing much more in renewable sources of energy. More renewable generating capacity was installed in the EU last year than ever before: 71.3% of all new installations in 2011, producing 32GW. Since 2008, renewable capacity installations in the EU have represented more than half of all new installed capacity. In general, the EU power sector has been moving

away from fuel oil, coal and nuclear while continuing to increase its total installed capacity with wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) and, less wisely, gas. The net growth since 2000 of gas power (116 GW), wind power (84.2 GW) and solar PV (47.4 MW) was at the expense of fuel oil (down 14.2 GW), nuclear (down 13.5 GW) and coal (down 10.3 GW). Last year, a sharp decrease in nuclear capacity was due to the early decommissioning of a number of reactors in Germany. The other renewable technologies (hydro, biomass, waste, concentrated solar power (CSP), geothermal and ocean energies) have also been increasing capacity over the past decade, albeit more slowly than wind and solar PV.

Meanwhile, I am debating whether I should retreat from the new technology of synthetic garden fleece (row covers) to the old technology of the wooden greenhouse.

- Stephen Morris
London, England



New energy capacity installed in the EU 2011 (in MegaWatts)

RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY GROWS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (along with non-renewable gas)

THE FLATLANDER DIARIES SPRING 2012

By Sunny Hill

Transformation: an act, process, or instance of transforming or being transformed.

Synonyms: changeover, metamorphosis, transfiguration, conversion.

Thinking about returning to Franklin for Spring. Recalling the symphony of birds, the budding trees, tulips sprouting from the newly defrosted earth. Wondering what this summer will have in store for us. We will listen respectfully as our friends relive their fantastic winter travels in far off lands. We will discover losses to that great thief, Mr. Winter, who claims the lives of branches too weak to bear the weight of frozen water. We will learn with horror of homes caught up in a blaze from a woodstove, ironically meant to be economical. Winter can devastate.

As Spring arrives, Mother Nature chases away Mr. Winter. She brings warm sun rays that penetrate all within her grasp. We welcome Spring. We think about planting again. It's a time of renewal. Many of us have the perfect hideaway and are content to arrive and just do nothing. To do

as little as possible. If you know someone who can open your house for you, pack up the moth balls, make the beds, put the battery back into the car, the ATV, the lawn mower and the tractor, so much the better. Refill the refrigerator with butter, eggs, cheese, wine, fruits, nuts, grains and things we did not store over winter, but would like to have when we arrive.

Spring is a time of awakening, renewal and transformation. Some of us started out as seasonal hunters and eventually were transformed into full-time residents. Some were visiting relatives in the Catskills, and became Highlanders themselves. Many sought to transform the Earth into gardens, fields, animal farms, or run a store of some sort. We came to Franklin with many

grand ideas. Some to escape, others to profit.

The more we tried to change Franklin, the more we appreciated it just as it was. We cherish its history and celebrate it annually on Old Franklin Day. We learned to slow down. We learned about hard work. We learned how to depend on our neighbors. Some of us became more spiritual, creative, artistic and inventive.

In our Flatlander home, we may have all the modern conveniences: dishwashers, oil heat, mass transportation. Funny how on the weekends in Franklin, we prefer to bake our own bread, ride a horse or wash the dishes in our farm style white porcelain sink.

Yes, we came here to make changes, but it seems that Franklin has changed us more than we have changed her. And, I would add, for the better. Let us love our town and cherish our pristine land while we still can.



*We appraise
items for
insurance
and other
purposes.*



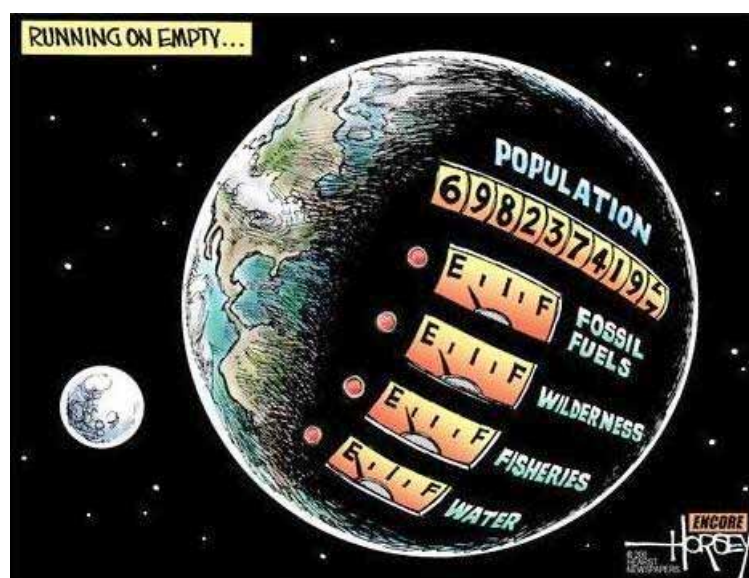
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JIM MULLEN REVIEWS NEW BOOKS

THE PRIZE

By Daniel Yergin

The first hundred pages of this twenty-year-old, eight hundred page book on the history of the oil business are about the 1859 discovery of oil in Titusville, PA. You might ask: what did they do with oil in 1859? There were no cars, trucks or airplanes. Ships and trains wouldn't switch from coal to oil for another fifty years.



The answer? They made light, that is, kerosene lamp oil, the product that made Rockefeller rich. Titusville and the nearby village of Pithole (and they called it that *before* they found oil) became the original lawless land rush towns, long before there was a Wild West (Wyatt Earp was eleven years old when Colonel Drake drilled his first well). Farms that sold for ten dollars one day, sold for a million the next. They'd pull three murder victims a night out of the newly named Oil Creek. The mud on Main Street was "thigh high" because all the trees had been cut down to make thousands of derricks. At its height, Pithole had 54 hotels. And look at it today.

Oh, right - you can't.

It doesn't exist. The oil ran out ten years later.

ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE: *The Hidden History of the Financial Crisis*
By Bethany McLean and Joe Nocera

The title comes from a line in *The Tempest*, "Hell is empty, all the devils are

here." So as you might have guessed, this book is about the un-indicted conspiracy of brokers, bankers, rating agencies, regulators, their lobbyists and the various political enablers who caused the current economic crisis. None of them are in jail, none have been prosecuted. How could they be prosecuted? They wrote the laws.

Free as birds, these stock-pushing kingpins are now roaming the country in their private jets, claiming that other people are to blame. Like a child caught with a hand in the cookie jar, the first thing out of their mouths is "I didn't do anything." The real puzzle is why anyone believes them. "Oh," goes one common meme, "it was that law that made us lend money to people without jobs or income." There is no such law. Notice, please, that none of our *local* banks went out of business, because they didn't give mortgages to people who had no way of paying them back.

"We have a responsibility to our stockholders," is another common excuse for reckless gambling with the stockholders' money. Guess what? The stockholders made chump change, the executives made fortunes, in good years and bad. Today, many big corporations pay their CEOs outrageous sums even when those companies are losing money. Who knew losing money took that much skill? You'd think anyone could do it.

As this book points out

ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE
THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS



BETHANY McLEAN
BESTSELLING COAUTHOR OF
THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM
AND JOE NOCERA



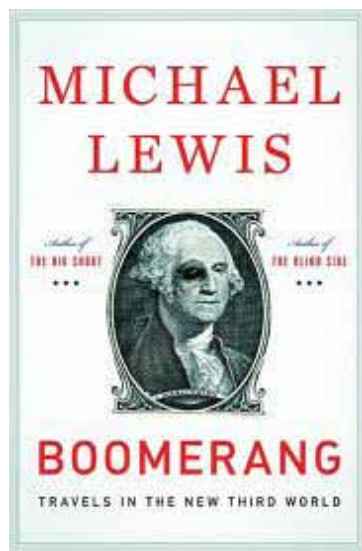
over and over, again and again, this debacle was a process, not an event. It took thirty years of hard work on the part of Goldman Sachs, Citibank, Lehmann Brothers, AIG, etc., to dismantle every single law or regulation that would have prevented this disaster. Then the executives walked away with hundreds of millions of dollars, dollars that they will pay less taxes on than you and I because -- they wrote the tax law.

Nice work if you can get it.

BOOMERANG

By Michael Lewis

This is the scariest book I have ever read. It's as if Stephen King wrote a page-turner about a world-wide, all-consuming economic Armageddon, where ev-

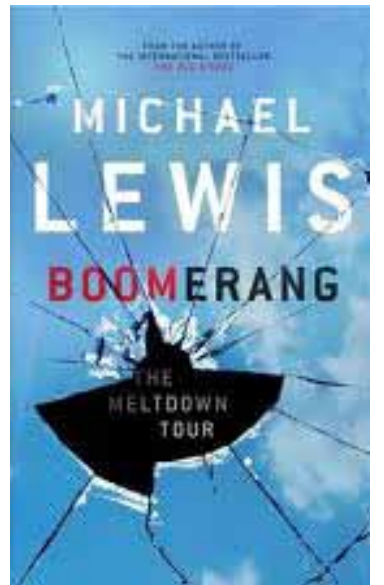


everything you have is worth half what it used to be and everything you want to buy costs twice as much. No one sees it coming except a few propeller heads that no one will listen to, crying in the wilderness. The difference is, this story true. One of the propeller heads, Kyle Bass, made \$500 million in 2008 by betting against the Wall Street "experts." More recently, Bass flagged the Greek bankruptcy long before anyone else. He shorted their bonds and made a few hundred million more. Because Greece is in the news, people forget that Iceland and Ireland have already collapsed. Italy, Spain and Portugal are on the brink. Europe may print more Euros to save

them, which makes all Euros worth less and less. We have inflation and deflation happening at the same time, cats and dogs living together....well, you get the picture.

Michael Lewis has a gift for making the things that interest him interest his readers. This is the guy who wrote "Moneyball" and "The Blind Side." He knows how to tell a great story and this is a great non-fiction whodunit.

Unfortunately, the clubbed to death victim is us.



UpState Arts

By Christopher Lloyd Wright

Think of the world we live in. Think of your everyday life and the items you use.

Now think of our world without artists. In a world without artists, you'd have only the natural world, nothing else. When most people imagine an artist, they picture a painter at an easel or a sculptor chipping away at marble, in a romanticized sort of view. In Art History, the artist may be exactly that, but we forget that our everyday tasks are also touched by thousands of artists.

Think of a pen. Someone had to design that pen. They had to ponder it, draw it, solve its engineering problems and in addition, make it a beautiful object. There are pens in the collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art. The artists who design everything from pens to cereal boxes to vehicles are known as industrial designers. Every man-made thing in our lives was designed by some artist, somewhere. How many artistic minds did it take to create all the items in your living room?

Artists not only design the world we live in - they also create the future of humanity. They may not control it, but they do influence its course. Think of music, created by artists who paint with sound, who express ideas, thoughts and emotions that affect us on deeper levels than we can know or articulate. Think of fashion.

Artists, industrial designers, architects and musicians are building our future as you read this. They design the tools we will use tomorrow, the cars we will drive, the buildings we will live and work in, the new sounds we will hear, the paintings and sculptures we'll see. Most of all, the artist's mind is fixed on endless possibilities, on new ways of looking at problems and finding creative solutions. The artist doesn't settle for today's solutions. The artist shows humanity the way forward, helping to drive progress and giving us the variety we enjoy today.



"And it grew both night and day"

- William Blake

Painting by Christopher Lloyd Wright

THE GARDEN GATE

By Penelope R. King

March, 2012.

I have been thinking a lot about how oil-based products will be more and more expensive as they become scarcer. The food we buy in supermarkets comes about 1500 miles to get to us - in trucks. And trucks run on oil products. So food is going to be more expensive. If we can eat locally, we will save money. A further advantage is that we may have much more impact on how our food is grown, not just our meat, but our vegetables and fruits, too. You and I know that organically grown food is certainly healthier for us. Plus, producing it doesn't require oil-based products. (Many pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used by agribusiness are oil-based.) We do have lots more organic products in our supermarkets these days. But how do we really know what we are getting? Here is some help:

Organic foods are supposed to be grown without pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, or genetically modified organisms, and do not use irradiation during processing. Organic meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products come from animals that do not receive antibiotics or growth hor-



mones. Since 2002, the USDA has established national standards for foods labeled 'organic.' They use categories.

100% Organic: must contain only totally organic products, excluding salt and water.

Organic: must be 95% organic, excluding salt and water. Both 100% organic and organic products may carry the USDA organic seal along with the name of the government accredited certifier.

There are two other categories but they aren't organic or not much.

If you are trying to save a buck, think about buying only the foods you use most in the organic section. Also, if you eat the peels of fruits such as apples, grapes, etc., you may want to buy organic ones. Fruit with peels you don't eat (bananas, avocados, etc.) could be from the conventional section.

When you buy non-organic foods, you can wash off at least

some of the topical chemicals with water and a scrub brush, if peels are tough (cantaloupes, potatoes, citrus, etc.). But don't use soap - you might not get it all off. Feh!

I keep wondering if the current epidemic of auto-immune diseases and cancers is partly the result of the food we eat. Yes, we are just living longer, so maybe we are getting diseases we didn't live long enough to get in years past. But you know the old saying, "you are what you eat!" So eat well until you can grow your own in the spring, and when you do, grow your food organically. It's not hard, it will be cheaper, and you know you can go out into the garden and graze with confidence, even before you get the produce into the kitchen.

SPRING PRUNING:

If you are as itchy as I am at this time of year, get your outdoor fix by pruning any trees or shrubs that have been damaged during the winter. We haven't had much of a winter so far, but check for breakage and animal damage, too. Sharpen your tools so the job will be easier and your cuts will be clean. Dip tools in alcohol between cuts if you suspect diseases, and between plants for sure. Don't prune maples or birches, as they will bleed. Prune those in autumn.

Wander around and start planning the growing year. At my age, I have to pace myself as to what I can accomplish, so I clean and sharpen tools now so I don't have that job to do later. I look at my budget and make notes on what to move where. I am never satisfied and always want to re-arrange at least some of my perennials each year.

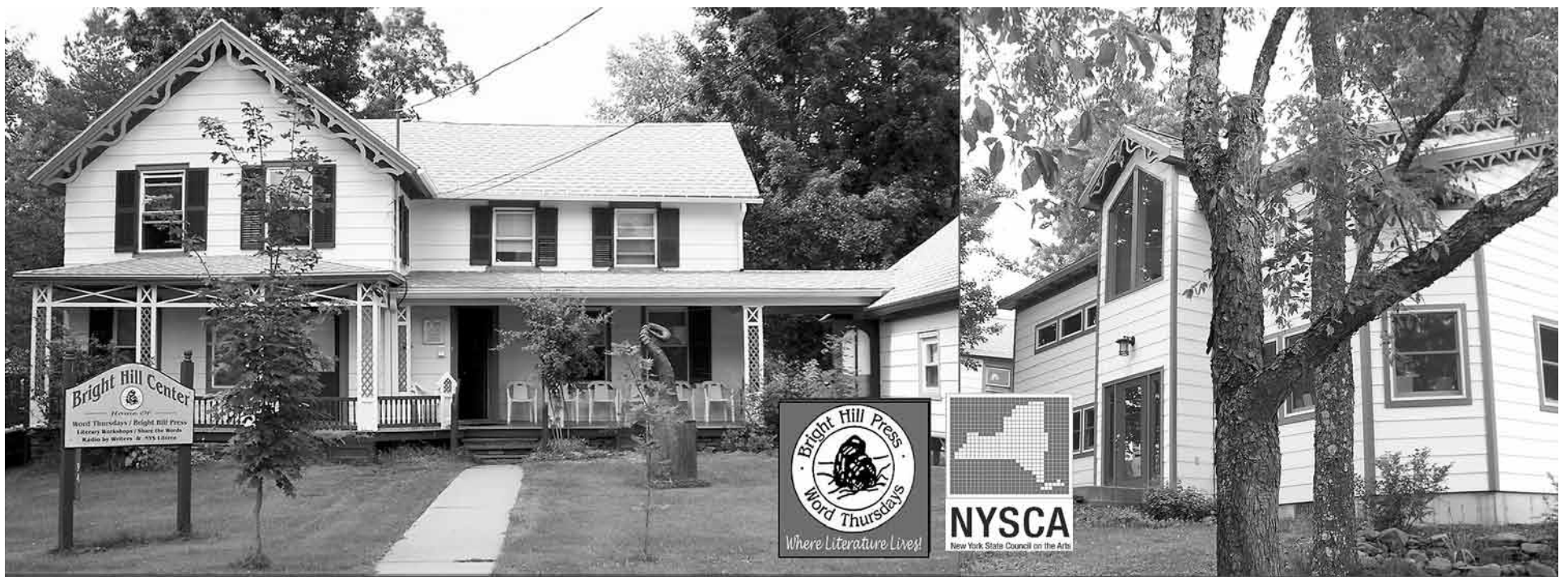
Finally, give your dusty and stressed houseplants a shower. If all your plants are clearly bug free, fill the bath tub with as many of them as will fit, close the curtain, and then turn on the shower head with tepid water. Move the head so all the plants get a shower. Leave them in that humid air for a couple of hours. They just love it. You can then open the shower curtain, let them dry naturally and put them back in place. March is a great time to do this. They are stressed, you are bored with being inside, so have a plant party. Waa-hooo!

Penny King has been a professional organic gardener for 28 years, designing, planting and maintaining gardens along with small trees and shrubs.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

QUICK!
CONTACT JIM MULLEN!

JMULLEN@FRONTIERNET.NET
OR 607-829-5044



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UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA: PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



The Franklin Farmers' Market
will open on
Memorial Day weekend,
Sunday, May 28, 2012

Come one, come all
for another season of fresh
local products and produce!

Missed an issue of the
New Franklin Register?

Visit our archive at www.archive.org/details/TheNewFranklinRegister

(Specify season and year)

Issues posted by courtesy of Brendan O'Connor

MAYWOOD ARTS – FULL MOON FUNDRAISER

INVITATION

Maywood Arts cordially invites you to join us for an evening of art, music and chance.

Maywood Arts is a cooperative of local artists working in collaboration with the Greater Maywood Rural Community Services in Sidney Center, NY. Our organization is dedicated to building connections between area artists, creative people from all over the country and the local community.

Proceeds from the Full Moon Fundraiser will benefit the new Maywood Arts website. Please join us for a night of intrigue, music and a bit of lunacy under the full moon. Let's have a howling good time as we celebrate the arts in our community!

April 7th, 2012 7:30pm - 10:30pm
3479 Pine Swamp Road, Sidney Center, NY

For Directions & Info, Contact: 607.369.3059 or www.maywoodarts.org

Donations: \$20 - Includes: hor d'oeuvres, cocktail, live music, fortune/tarot
\$50 - Includes: hor d'oeuvres, cocktail, live music, fortune/tarot, and the opportunity to take home a unique **ARTWORK!**

Chance Drawing: For a \$50 donation, join in a bit of moonlight mystery and leave with an original artwork. All art will be wrapped. Guests will draw a chance ticket for a surprise piece of art to take home!

Dress: Casual to creative... masks, hats and costumes are highly encouraged.

Art Donations: Artists, we thank you for your generous donation. Please supply information on you and your work! We welcome your thoughts and ideas. Consider joining Maywood Arts! (Call Jessica Farrell 607.369.4916 to donate art to this fundraiser. Spread the word!)



The West Kortright Centre's Roberts Room Gallery is proud to present **Michael Milton**. Running May 25th through July 8, 2012 with an opening reception on Friday, May 25th from 5-7pm.

Michael is a painter, sculptor, & performance artist who graduated from the School of Visual Arts in NYC and with an MFA from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

This exhibit is sponsored by Brewery Ommegang.

AND...

Take a Mom to the Theater on Mother's Day Weekend!

Performance Plus of Stamford will present Roald Dahl's fantasy adventure for the whole family, "James and the Giant Peach."

Live at the West Kortright Centre, May 11th and 12th at 7pm and May 13th at 2pm.

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CASH, continued from Page 1

stores, and help grow their customers.

If Cash Mobbers meet afterwards to critique their experience, they can share useful consumer information with the merchant. We might even interface with units of local government and commerce whose policies otherwise seem contrary to our interests. Cash Mobs could reinforce other grass-roots organizations concerned with related issues.

Consumers benefit from gaining a wider understanding of retail operations and services that may be available. Last summer, a Cash Mob in Buffalo featured a local wine merchant who advertised the personal sampling of every shipment, so that he could advise customers knowledgeably with details about the products. For the non-connoisseurs among us, this would be a great value when confronted with an intimidating wall of bottles. But something else happens here - a personal exchange that infuses an otherwise mechanical transaction with acknowledgement that two human beings are sharing information and appreciation, meanwhile establishing a relationship of trust, encouraging the customer to return.

We are so abused by the anonymous retail transactions of literal warehouses - where the chain store's army of part-time workers hardly know what's on the shelves from day to day - and by the assault of exploitive advertising campaigns - that we forget how the local market place once depended on values like the merchant's personal trustworthiness.

A Cash Mob may stumble upon more serious themes, even touch on historical issues. Eureka's *Times-Standard* reported last month on what may be the nation's oldest family-owned five-and-dime, Emery's 5 & 10 Store of Knoxville, Tennessee. With operations already under stress from the recession, the store was left virtually isolated when traffic was re-routed due to bridge construction. A simple Cash Mobbing of the premises - plus the incidental publicity - offered some relief.

We often fail to appreciate the frailty of small retail businesses. Often they start up capitalized with little more than the owner's personal savings and inspiration. To help them succeed and endure, we can use our leverage as selective consumers to compensate for the advantages held by large corporate retailers, both on site and, increasingly, on line. Organized attention can help promote local enterprises ranging from craft and antique shops to galleries, cafés and restaurants, farmers' markets, food and book stores, a range of services, and venues of entertainment.

The greatest contribution of Cash Mobs may lie in their social aspects, by heightening our awareness of how we satisfy our common need to feed and clothe ourselves and enrich our lives, and by encouraging us to shop *together* - at least on an occasional basis - thus enlivening an activity that is more often lonely, routine, and directed by faceless corporate interests.

Cash Mobs are apparently the invention of engineer Chris Smith of western New York. You can Google the term for more information. In their developed forms, cash mobs involve a bit of organizing, to nominate and select appropriate businesses, schedule activities, and set guidelines. But there's no reason a number of local residents - say, twenty of us - communicating through existing media, can't settle on a date and place to invite a nascent mob.

The Delhi Fair on the Square closed with an invigorating Flash Mob last season. Can we inaugurate the spring with a Cash Mob?

Nick Albaugh and family have lived at their Hamden farm since 1972. He writes a monthly column for The Walton Reporter.

Time for a recap:

A dead body is discovered on the grounds of the Farmers' Market. Jack, one of the vendors, uses clues, memories, instinct, confusion, his friends, scotch and random guesswork to investigate, though it almost kills him. Hold tight, now. It's...

MURDER AT THE FARMERS MARKET!

Dion in the next town is obsessed with 50's retro. He drives a '57 Chevy and keeps his cellphone rolled up in his sleeve as if he still smoked.

The first restaurant he opened featured roller-skating parking lot waitresses, but his employee health insurance went up too high when everyone kept falling on the ice.

I took Jeanie to his second effort. It featured telephones at each jukebox booth for calling in orders.

We checked the menu.

I picked 'Hardly Hummus.' Jeanie wanted 'Out-source Soup'.

I picked up the phone. A pleasant young lady with a heavy accent answered. I gave her our order and asked where she was from.

Mumbai, she said.

No, I said, where are you now?

Mumbai, she said.

I hung up the phone.

Dinner's gonna be awhile, I said.

Afterwards, I took Jeanie to the local high school to see *'Of Mice and Men; The Musical'*. Couldn't wait for the ending. In this one George missed, and Lenny beat the crap out of 'im.

Jeanie laughed all the way home.

We got back to Jeanie's house. Her kid Tara was watching TV and eating tofu pups with organic mustard.

Out of the blue Tara started talking about far distant memories of some other kid in the bathtub with her when she was little. Kinda big and fat and pink and very quiet.

Who was that kid, Mom?

Jeanie was totally puzzled and staring blankly. Then she started laughing so hard she fell on the floor, gasping for air, rolling around. I looked at Tara and shrugged.

When Jeanie finally calmed down, she explained how she used to defrost the Thanksgiving turkey in Tara's bath.

So that's why Tara is vegetarian.

My truck futzed out in a parking spot on main street. Couldn't get it started. Sometimes you have to bang on the starter with a wrench. So there I was on my back underneath my

truck, checkin the wires.

Four feet pulled up and leaned against the truck. Two male, two female. Their voices said it was Donna and Mayor Jimbo.

I held my breath. And the wrench.

OMG. As they say.

Donna found out that Tommy Tomato was putting small doses of Belladonna into his Tommy sauce (some people call it ketchup) and giving it free to the wildcatters working on the drilling pad behind his greenhouses.

Nice goin', Tommy.

Well, they'd been having problems with workers getting sick and drilling not progressing fast enough to satisfy the investors. So Donna took things into her own hands, so-to-speak.

Tommy go bye-bye.

But he knew she knew.

Now, I knew it too.

Don't dare Donna.

So that's what he was saying when they found him, not 'Belladonna' and 'Bloody Butcher'. He was saying, 'Tell Donna she's a bloody butcher.'

They say each hole costs a million bucks. If a drill site doesn't produce, they seal it up and walk away.

If they're so unsure about a million-dollar drilling effort, how can they be so sure they're not causing toxic migrations underground when fracking?

Doesn't make sense.

Hydrofracking is not a totally controllable technology. It's not an exact science. Even diamond cutters mess up sometimes.

Let's be sure. All of us.

No gambling. Too much at stake.

We're sure millions of gallons of fresh water will be turned into toxic waste.

We're sure such toxic waste is untreatable in both formulation and quantity. No facilities yet exist that can handle it.

We're sure rural roads can't handle such heavy equipment movement.

We're sure the state doesn't have the budget or manpower to properly regulate so many drill sites.

We're sure property values plummet, insurance companies don't, and mortgage companies won't.

We're sure the gas companies shouldn't be exempt from the federal Clean Air

and Safe Drinking Water Acts. They're who the laws are meant to regulate.

But most of all, we're sure that if accidents happen, THE DAMAGE CANNOT BE REPAIRED.

Dead, gone, goodbye.

It's too good to be true. Something for nothing. Free lunch.

The gas isn't going anywhere. What's the rush?

There are thousands of documented accidents related to fracking. You think because you don't see them, they don't exist?

Think again.

The town boards are inviting them in. Open door. Dollar bills in the eyes of the living, pennies in the eyes of the dead.

We all want the best for our communities, so let's do the best we can together; citizens and drillers alike. Let's get the procedures and protections in place.

What's the hurry?

Whoever has the most stuff when they die, wins?

It's too true to be good.

A new vendor at the Farmers' Market. Fish. Tilapia and pirhana. Raised locally. Not together of course.

But I can't figure out the sign on their farm stand next to the Monsanto one.

What's an organic GMO?

My great uncle was a steel-fitter on the Titanic. He and his crew were very proud of that ship and their work on it. I have his diary.

The night before the ship's maiden voyage, he's sitting on the wharf, drinking beer and bad whiskey into the late hours. Suddenly, a scurrying noise. High volume. Rodents in close single-file climbing down the guy ropes, the anchor chain, the bunting, the gangway. Hundreds of them.

The rats were abandoning ship. Did they know something?

Do the Woolly-Bears disappear when the drillers are coming? There weren't any this past fall.

Where were the ladybugs when NYRI was approaching?

What if the cows start to walk?? If we won't pay the real cost of milk, why should they stick around?

To be continued...



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DEBORAH ROGERS TO SPEAK AT ONEONTA THEATRE

Wednesday April 25th at 7pm



In 2003, on her family's farm near Fort Worth, Texas, Deborah Rogers founded Deborah's Farmstead, an artisanal goat cheese-making operation. From a small herd of 40 milkers, Ms. Rogers quickly established the company as one of the premiere artisanal cheese dairies in the U.S. Her cheeses—which she makes herself—have won several national awards in the prestigious American Cheese Society Competition, which attracts competitors from around the world.

In 2009 she learned that Chesapeake Energy planned 12 high impact wells next to her dairy pastures; she began to worry about toxic pollution from the wells and how it would affect her animals and cheese production. Concern turned to urgency once gas production began in 2010, when some of her kids and chickens died inexplicably and she herself began to suffer headaches and massive nosebleeds. "The nose bleeds," Deborah said, "are spontaneous and very frightening because the blood flows copiously and within seconds you are covered in blood, your face, your hands,

your clothes."

She decided to find out if her land had been contaminated. The following compounds were detected on Rogers' property: benzene, chloroform, toluene, methyl ethyl disulfide, and many other toxic and carcinogenic compounds associated with fossil fuel extraction.

When her inquiries got no response from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, she knew she had a fight on her hands—but a fight for which her life had prepared her. Rogers is the great grand-daughter of an early Texas oil wildcatter; her family history in oil and gas made her question the continued frenzy of drilling activity despite the severe economic downturn and collapse of natural gas prices. Before becoming a cheese-maker, Rogers had worked in investment banking in London during the Thatcher years. Upon her return to the U.S., she worked as a financial consultant for nearly a decade for several major Wall Street firms, including Merrill Lynch and Smith Barney. Her financial background gave her the tools to examine the financial records of vari-

ous public gas and oil companies. She uncovered discrepancies in their public reporting that called into question the claims of economic benefits trumpeted by the companies. Since that time, she has given presentations on shale gas economics around the country and was featured prominently in a June 2011 New York Times article challenging the economics of shale gas.

Her Oneonta talk is entitled "In Their Own Words: Examining Shale Gas Hype."

"Spin and aggressive public relations campaigns by the natural gas industry have been the hall mark of the 'shale gas revolution,'" says Rogers. She examines statements made by industry and compares them to subsequent events. Have their statements matched their actions? Have their financial results matched the hype?

The presentation at the Oneonta Theatre on Wednesday, April 25th at 7pm is free and open to the public. Sponsors of the talk include Omegang Brewery, Ed & Vicki Lentz, Franklin Local Ltd, and Sustainable Otsego.

For further information, contact Gene Marner at 607-829-8451.

FRANKLIN STAGE OFFERS SIXTEENTH SEASON

Franklin Stage Company is delighted to announce its 16th season of professional Admission-Free theatre in Chapel Hall.

The season will kick off in mid-June with benefit performances of all new material from beloved local humorist Jim Mullen, and carry on into September.

Treats in store include FSC's production of the rollicking comic masterpiece *The Way of the World* by William Congreve and a third consecutive summer visit from the magical Mettawee River Theatre Company, whose giant figures and live music will again mesmerize audiences on the playing field at Franklin Central School.

Remember to check in later on in the spring at www.franklinstagecompany.org for the season's full details.



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and re-
size rings.*

FROM OUR MAIL BOX:

To the Editor:

I know some people in New York State would like the issue of hydraulic fracturing - better known as fracking - to go away. Personally, I hope it stays in the forefront of conversations when industries, such as natural gas companies, use over 596 chemicals in the process, and then expect the public to want this next to our food chain.

And don't get me started about ground level ozone impacts to our crops from air pollution!

My main reason for putting pen to paper is the fact that my dear friends and neighbors of 22 years, Summer's End Orchard, will be put out of business if fracking is allowed in New York State.

The following is a quote from Joe Holtz, general manager of Park Slope Food Coop, Inc., Brooklyn, NY:

"I want to alert you to a less obvious effect that hydrofracking will have on us and on the NYS farms whose products we make a great effort to buy. We are very responsive to the needs of our shoppers. If hydrofracking is allowed to go forward, our shoppers are certain to be asking us if the fruits, vegetables, dairy products, eggs and meat from New York State are produced in areas where hydrofracking is taking place. It will not take many inquiries for us to start reaching for alternatives to NYS products."

Here is the million dollar question: why will Summer's End Orchard and everyone else in Otsego county that sells products to the Park Slope Coop and Lexington Cooperative Markets (Buffalo, NY) not be allowed to sell their products to these markets? We live outside the protected Syracuse and New York City watersheds!

SOS!

Mrs. Tammy Reiss
Unadilla, NY
Town of Butternuts

To the Editor:

Mr. Brock's article in your summer edition ("HOME RULE OVER GAS DRILLING")

is an extremely well informed and useful overview of the law and current developments regarding the feasibility of local communities resorting to Home Rule powers under the NY Constitution and statutes to limit the impact of hydrofracture natural gas extraction mining operations. For a geologist, Mr. Brock is very well informed on matters beyond his principle expertise and has done your readers and the broader community of interest a timely and valuable service.

Thank you also to NFR for providing this article.

P.S.:

I got the latest NFR and thought it was terrific. I love the look of it and the articles, particularly the one about the history of the DEC regulatory process were very fresh and well done.

Just imagine if the rest of the media actually covered this issue this way, properly, instead of just writing their predispositions as news.

Robert Funicello
Mamaroneck, NY

To the Editor:

I picked up the latest edition of the NFR this weekend at the Walton Big M and I want to congratulate you on such a wide-ranging, excellently written and informative issue.

Here's to a 2012 without fracking.

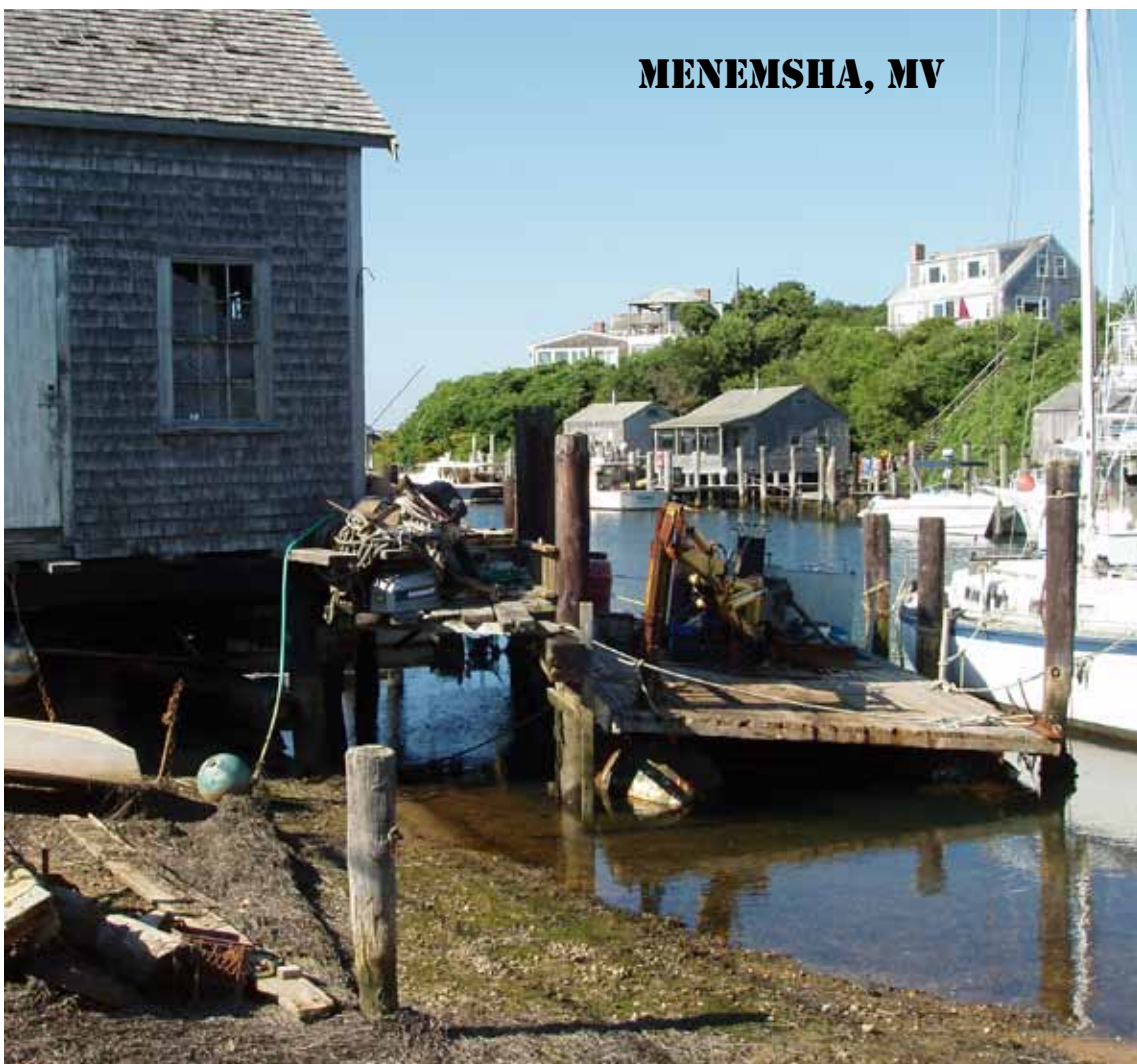
Alexis Greene
Public Relations Director
Community Environmental Center
Long Island City, NY

To the Editor:

Outstanding, very readable, well written, relevant and fun!

Just what a local newspaper should be!

Pam Peters
Franklin, NY



MENEMSHA, MV



The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil

Editorial Board

Ellen Curtis Carole Satrina Marner
Eugene Marner Hank Stahler
Associate Editor: Brian Brock

Editor
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register

P.O. Box 258

Franklin, NY 13775

or by email: 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.

Printed in Syracuse, NY, by the Scotsman Press, Inc.

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

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY...

No Man is an Island

By John Donne

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
Each is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thine own
Or of thine friend's were.
Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
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RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	ADDRESS	ACRES	CLASSIFICATION	ASSESS	PRICE	SELLER	BUYER
9/14/11	8667 Cty Hgwy 21	96	Rural Residence	265,000	270,000	Evreinov, Alex	Brown & Davis Ex.
9/20/11	6075 Cty Hgwy 21	11.77	Rural Residence	127,000	135,000	Gibbons, Michael A.	Wilmington Savings *
9/29/11	787 Franklin Heights Rd	4.74	1 Family Residence	119,000	80,000	Gonzalez, Carol A.	Hatterich, Thomas
10/06/11	322 Tara Ln	61.61	1 Family Residence	147,000	158,000	Lacorte, Joseph	Brown & Davis Ex.
10/31/11	4308 St Hgwy 28S	108	Rural Residence	270,000	484,000	Preidel, Frans	Gouy, Chantel
11/02/11	2520 Tupper Hill Rd	1.9	1 Family Residence	97,000	60,242	Bartow, Clinton	Bartow, Keith D. +
11/09/11	Echo Acre Rd	292.8	Dairy Farm	366,000	247,000	Ceresna, Steven M.	Starcher, Cheryl A. +
11/29/11	6476 Cty Hgwy 16	24.81	Rural Residence	178,000	250,000	Denson, Virginia E.	Marciano, Edward
12/05/11	13120 St Hgwy 357	5.1	1 Family Residence	110,000	45,000	Ben. Home. Service	Nunez, Jane *
12/12/11	846 Walley Rd	4.9	1 Family Residence	102,000	82,000	Benjamin, Brian K.	Barse, William C.
12/16/11	Freer Hollow Rd	9.5	Rural Vacant <10ac	19,000	5,000	Gioe, Paul	Kujawski, Gregg
12/18/11	1169 Fleming Rd	25	Rural Residence	175,000	240,000	Petraglia, Joan	Salig, John
1/06/12	4487 Cty Hgwy 14	0.19	Det. Row Building	57,000	110,000	Mitchell, Joseph C.	Gaetano, Glen G. #
1/15/12	272 Center St	0.32	2 Family Residence	107,000	97,000	Hyzer, Rita	Mason, Peter

* Government agency + Between relatives # Includes business